



Arkport Alumni Association Newsletter

May 2023

Alumni Members,

I hope this 2023 newsletter finds you in good health, enjoying your family and friends and getting ready for a wonderful summer with light rain, no storms and lots of sunshine! We can only hope!!

The 58th Arkport Alumni Banquet was a great success and we enjoyed visiting with the 168 alumni members and their guests in attendance from 15 states, MD, PA, WA, CA, NV, AZ, TN, MA, NC, SC, VA, OH, GA, FL and of course NY. Beverly Karr Lyons, Class of 1972, gave our invocation before a delicious dinner provided by John Carbone, Infinity Catering, and served by his staff.

It is always our privilege to honor classes from the 75th (1947), 50th (1972) and 25th (1997) graduating years and recognize classes from 1942, 1952, 1962, 1982, 1992, 2002, 2012 and the new graduates from the class of 2022.

Lois Benning Dungan from the class of 1947, the last member from her class, was honored with flowers and recognized for her years of service at ACS and her work in Ministry. Lois at her "young" age, is still active and going strong! Eighteen members from the Class of 1972 and guests attended and Larry Jones spoke on behalf of his class and provided us with fun-filled memories of their years at ACS and also in the Village. There were also three (3) members from the Class of 1997 in attendance.

The oldest attendee (well until a last minute change of plans) was to be Jack "Bing" Howe, Class of 1943. At the age of 98, plans change quickly, but we provided his family, Jack '66 and Donel '69 with an alumni T-shirt to wear in the parade and a little something for cold winter days! Traveling the furthest, receiving T-shirts, were two (2) members from the Class of 1972, James Piatt from Bremerton, Washington and Mark Preston of Lake Forest, California. We need to thank Sarah Sawczyn Platt, '03 and John Burch, '02 for providing hand-crafted alumni mugs and also Jamie Burdett Stamey, '01 for alumni shirts and plaques.

This year we decided to honor alumni members who have or are now providing service at ACS. This would be teachers, aids, food service workers, maintenance workers, bus drivers, BOE members, coaches etc... Seventeen such members were in attendance and presented with wooden plaques thanking them for their service. Check out our alumni page at arkportalumni.org for a listing of many but, we are sure there are more, Please help us update our records if we missed someone.

Scholarship awards are always a big part of our program. This give us an opportunity to meet new alumni members and honor them for all their hard work and dedication in academics/sports at ACS. We will provide a complete listing in this program, but want to take this time to thank the families who provided scholarships in memories of loved one and also the many alumni members who donated scholarship dollars.

A complete Financial Report and the Secretary's Report will be provided at the 59th Banquet! We hope to see you all in July!

Arkport Alumni President

Scholarship Winners 2022

Each year we ask alumni members to help us support our graduating seniors with scholarships from the Alumni Association. Every dollars received goes directly into our scholarship fund and is passed on to those who submit an application and provide us with a 300 word essay. In 2022, we were able to provide 18 seniors with scholarships for \$500 each, totaling \$9,000!

We are also very fortunate to have alumni members provide scholarship dollars in memory of family members. The Wolfgruber Family Scholarship, The C. Jack Wraight Memorial Scholarship, The Kemp Family Memorial Scholarship, The Canisteo Valley Historical Society, The Jess Dwyer Memorial Scholarship and the Donald Stauring Service Award. Total awards announced at ACS graduation - \$12,900. Also these seniors were invited to the annual banquet to be honored and were provided dinner.

Arkport Alumni Scholarships

Madison Pestle, Caitlin O'Dea,
Trent Tibbits, Valerie Miller,
Daniel Thompson, Nicholas Haraty,
Naomi Haraty, Sara Hedges,
Phillip Chamberlin, Joseph Bauch,
Julia Flaitz, Alyssa Gruenke,
Patience Gruenke, Isaac Helles,
Emily Pfaff, Kiehlen Steiner,
Abigail Van Oder, Emily Fuller

Memorial Scholarships

\$1,500 Madison Pestle (20th Wolfgruber)
\$500 Caitlin O'Dea (J. Wraight Memorial)
\$400 Trent Tibbits (Kemp Family)
\$500 Valerie Miller (CVHS)
\$500 Nicholas Haraty (Stauring Memorial)
\$500 Daniel Thompson (Dwyer)



Honoring our Veterans

This year alumni officers decided to honor alumni members at our 59th annual banquet who have or are currently providing service in our military. We have been researching those members and have a list on our website at arkportalumni.org. This list is not complete and we could use your help in adding names. Please drop us a note, reply on our FaceBook account or on your reservation form attached. We hope many will attend the banquet and be honored! Thank you for your service and hope to see you! Give me a call if you have any questions or concerns! Linda - 607-368-8222



Canisteo Valley Historical Society

P O Box 123
Arkport, NY 14807

Yearly memberships available at \$10
Join today and enjoy reading four (4) historical
newsletters a year!

We received a e-mail from Richard P. Chubon, former Superintendent of Arkport Central School, with a short story regarding his move to Colorado. This e-mail not only tells us a great story about alumni member Patrick Mahany Jr., but also reminds what a small world we live in and how people from our small community and school have actions across the United States and abroad.

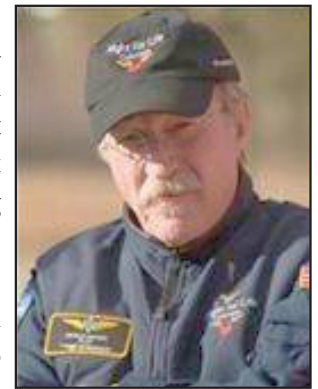
Pat Mahany Jr Memorial Park

Shortly after Donna and I moved to Colorado last fall daughter Linda informed us that there was a memorial for Pat Mahany Jr in Frisco, Colorado, about 70 miles from where we live here in Arvada. I had Pat as a student during my early days of teaching at Arkport Central. We agreed that we needed to visit Frisco to see the memorial. This past Friday the three of us drove to Frisco and located the memorial at the hospital parking lot. It was an impressive and sobering visit.

Pat, a Vietnam veteran, was a helicopter pilot for Colorado's Flight For Life organization. On July 3, 2015 he took off from the Frisco hospital helipad with two medical staff aboard. As he took off there was a hydraulic system failure that caused the 'copter to crash in the hospital parking lot where it was engulfed in flames. Pat died in the hospital emergency room. The two passengers were seriously injured but survived after long hospitalizations. As it turned out, Pat and the others were victims of loopholes in the safety requirements for helicopter design and construction. The fuel tank was not crash resistant due to a loophole and burst, thus engulfing the 'copter in flames. Another loophole involved the hydraulic system and contributed to the crash. Pat's wife, Karen, and others spearheaded a campaign to close the helicopter safety loopholes. In 2018 Congress finally took action. Since then, all emergency helicopters are required to have crash resistant fuel tanks and there is a tax incentive to retrofit older helicopters that do not have them. The symbolic park to honor Pat's memory is adjacent to the hospital parking lot where the crash occurred. The area is beautifully landscaped and the actual memorial includes several components connected by stone walking paths.

In addition to the memorial park the Frisco community petitioned Congress and was successful in having the Post Office building named in honor of Pat. I've included a few photos that we took. We all need to take a moment to remember an ACS grad who was dedicated to serving his country, both in the military and as someone who helped save many, many lives during his 17 years as a Flight For Life emergency pilot. He gave his life serving others.

Dick Chubon



A Tree and a Time to Remember!

During a storm in 2022, the large Oak tree behind the school was damaged and showed dangerous rot and it had to be removed. With the aid of ACS maintenance, Joe Pollinger and Village DPW, Logan Sliter (also 2014 ACS graduate), ACS Alumni officers planted a 18 foot Maple tree in memory of past alumni members. This year a stone marker will be placed near the tree as a remember of the many who grew up playing under and around the tree. A following article was in a recent ACS newsletter and we thought we would share.

Be Safe, Be Responsible, Be Respectful

MARCH 2023

www.arkportcsd.org

Dear ACSD Families,

The phrase "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it" is commonly known, but there is no corresponding quote that suggests when it is desirable to repeat history.

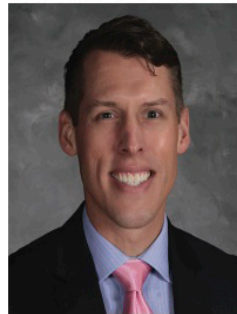
Recently, the experience of observing a century-old oak tree fall on the school grounds and seeing the community's response has reminded me of the unique qualities that make the Arkport Central School District so extraordinary. The fallen oak tree, located on the mesa outside the current bus garage and above the track and soccer field, was well-known and remembered by all current and former faculty, staff, and students. The tree was massive, measuring over three feet wide at just one foot above the ground, and estimated to be over 125 years old. The event sparked memories and nostalgia among the community, showcasing its deep history and roots.

In response to the fallen tree, the Arkport Alumni Association stepped in and offered to plant a new tree, ensuring that future generations of students would build their own memories. This action aligns with two attributes outlined in Arkport's Journey of a Learner (JOL) program, which emphasizes the qualities important for the future success of ACS students. JOL is not a revolutionary idea, but rather a reaffirmation of the values that have always been valued in the Arkport community. The actions of the Alumni Association exemplify the importance of resilience and responsibility, two of the JOL attributes.

The oak tree's story does not end with the dedication of the new maple tree planted by the Alumni Association. The commitment of the Alumni Association to the students of Arkport runs deep, and even after spending 15+ years in the district, I am still discovering the extent of that commitment. During the dedication ceremony, Alumni Association President Linda Burdett shared with me not only the oak tree's history, but also the history of the school land in general. Included was a poem written by Juanita Hill, granddaughter of John Lisman, about her family's farm. The poem expresses Juanita's feelings of seeing the Arkport Central School on the land where her grandfather's farm once stood—a farm that was central to her childhood and home to the school's famous oak tree. Juanita's poem conveys her love for her grandfather's farm, but also clearly demonstrates her resilience and sense of responsibility to the next generation, specifically the students of the Arkport Central School District.

It is no wonder that our school, community, and Alumni Association are so strong. The attributes outlined in the JOL program are ingrained in everyday life in Arkport. Since I couldn't find a quote that was the opposite of "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it," I rephrased it to "Those who do not learn from history have no chance to repeat it."

Sincerely,
Jesse Harper, Superintendent of Schools



2022-23 Board

Patrick N. Flaitz,
President

Jennifer L. Swarts,
Vice President

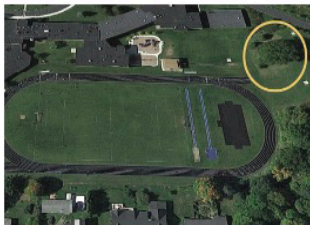
Michelle Chamberlin

Julianne W. Merry

Tracie McCarthy

John Lisman owned a farm where the Arkport Central School now stands. His granddaughter, Juanita Hill, at the age of 95, wrote this poem:

*To glimpse the very land I trod
Over fields of stone and vines
Just took me very far back in time
The scenery now, only stone and brick
Can't help but make me sadly think
For this was my Grandpa Lisman's land.
He planted this with his gnarly hands
Then harvested the potatoes big and white
And Grandma served them to our delight
But selfish not I must not be
For the world today has got to see
Time must find a way
To erase our feelings of utter dismay
May each child use their eager mind
To help us all, a better world to find
Tho' Grandpa's potatoes are not there
May this land, a group of students bare
Read to study, eager to learn
As they reach Life's Crossroad
May they take the right turn.*



Alumni Deaths 2022-2023

The following death listing is for Arkport Alumni members and area friends. We hope we have not missed anyone, but if we did, please send an e-mail to help us keep our records up-to-date. Our condolences go out family and friends of these Arkport classmates and friends.

2022-2023 Alumni Deceased

Class of 1953	Carolyn Wehling Baker	March 20, 2023
Class of 1949	LaGrande Dean McCarthy	February 12, 2023
Class of 1976	George Ackley	February 7, 2023
Arkport Friend	Bertha "Babe" Sherner	February 4, 2023
ACS Staff	Jennifer Brewster Kilbury	February 1, 2023
Class of 1953	Thomas Kinnell	December 19, 2022
Class of 1963	Thomas Auckland	January 25, 2023
ACS Staff	Janet Sliter	January 20, 2023
Class of 1952	Dean Piatt	January 9, 2023
Class of 1976	Diane Davis Viera	December 28, 2022
Class of 1971	Barbara Doan Nilson	December 26, 2022
Arkport Friend	Bruce Glover	December 24, 2022
Class of 1963	Otto William Berg	November 25, 2022
ACS Staff	James Bill, Sr.	November 21, 2022
ACS Faculty	Martha Kelly Shafer	November 16, 2022
Class of 1963	Francis Eugene Howe	November 6, 2022
Class of 1962	Esther Henry Brein	November 5, 2022
Class of 1957	Linda A. Haynes	November 2, 2022
Faculty/Coach	Gilbert W. Yates	October 30, 2022
Faculty	Betty Minemier	October 17, 2022
Faculty	Elizabeth "Ibbie" Haynes	October 13, 2022
Class of 1980	Christopher Lasnick	October 11, 2022
Class of 1953	William R. "Bud" Phelps	October 5, 2022
Class of 1996	James E. Ellis	October 2, 2022
Class of 1967	Pamela Mahany Best	September 30, 2022
Arkport Friend	Patricia Henry Guthrie	September 16, 2022
Arkport Friend	Carolyn "Jean" Brunskill Lunn	September 9, 2022
Class of 1951	Thomas George Loree	September 6, 2022
Class of 1957	Sandra Pierce Stevens	August 26, 2022
Class of 1957	Henry J. Wulforst	August 20, 2022
Class of 1975	Kevin Dungan	August 9, 2022
Class of 1954	Graham Barnes	August 7, 2022
Class of 1963	Jack Horner	August 6, 2022
Arkport Friend	Ambrose James Zahradnick	August 6, 2022
Arkport Friend	Melford Greene, Sr.	August 2, 2022
Class of 1954	Irene Phelps Floyd	July 23, 2022
Class of 1954	Floyd Pettibone	July 10, 2022
Class of 1960	Gerald Prentice	July 9, 2022
Class of 1964	Nancy Karns Fitzmaurice	July 9, 2022
Class of 1979	Susan Davis Gowiski Mohommad	July 2, 2022
Class of 1972	Barbara Burgess Stuckey	June 26, 2022
Class of 1948	DuWaynes "Dewey" Howe	June 14, 2022
Class of 1981	Robert Osmin	June 2022
Class of 1948	Phyllis Polmanteer Cox	June 19, 2022
Class of 1981	Henry Briggs	June 1, 2022
Class of 1977	Robin Fuller Greek	May 17, 2022
Arkport Friend	Donald E. Lang	April 3, 2022
Class of 1968	Terry W. Dunham	April 3, 2022
ACS Teacher	Earl C. Levensgood, Jr.	March 30, 2022
Class of 1957	Richard L. Smith, Sr.	March 16, 2022
Class of 1958	Rosalie Meyers Jamison	March 12, 2022
Class of 1968	Kaye Goodwin	March 2022



Class of 1982



Class of 1972



Class of 2002



A few of the alumni/ACS honored!



*Four Jamison Graduates!
Madison Pestle '22, Jessica Shinebarger '00
Jamie Jamison '79, John Jamison '57*



*Twining!
Lorraine & Loretta McMichael '52
Barbara & Beverly Karr '72*



Bing!

Remember Pay Your 2023 dues!

\$10.00

Without your dues, we cannot pay for alumni mailings, website hosting and other expenses. You can also include scholarship donations!

You can use PayPal to Arkport Alumni Association or send your check to Arkport Alumni Association
P. O. Box 28
Arkport, New York 14807



Do Your Part!

- Update your mailing address!
- Let us know the passing of family members or friends!
- Share any memorabilia with us!
- Check out our Facebook page at Arkport Alumni Association!
- Check out our website at www.arkportalumni.org!
- *Pay your dues and donate to the scholarship fund!*

59th Annual Alumni Banquet

**“The Main Place”
251 Main Street
Hornell, New York**

Friday, July 7, 2023

Social Hour 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Dinner and Program 6:30pm - ?

Served Dinner Includes:

Stuffed Chicken Breast • Mashed Potatoes with gravy • Vegetables
Garden Salad • Rolls & Butter • Cake

or

Cajun/Lemon Haddock • Rice Pilaf • Vegetables
Garden Salad • Rolls & Butter • Cake

Cost:

\$25.00 per person (includes meal,
gratuity and use of facilities)

The 2023 graduating seniors and the Classes of 1948, 1973, and 1998 will be honored.

The Classes of 1943 1953, 1963, 1983, 1993, 2003, and 2013 will be recognized.

Reservations

Name _____ Class of _____

I will _____ OR will not _____ be able to attend.

Amount enclosed for dinner # _____ @ **\$25.00** \$ _____

_____ Chicken

_____ Fish

Alumni Dues **\$10.00** per alumnus \$ _____ @ **\$10.00** \$ _____

Scholarship fund donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Reservations are due by Tuesday, June 26, 2023

Please provide information if you are a military veteran. We will honoring all alumni members who have served.

Name _____ Branch _____ Dates Served _____

Payable to Arkport Alumni Association, P. O. Box 28, Arkport, NY 14807

Thank you to those who have given generously to the scholarship fund.

Your donations are greatly appreciated!

Arkport Alumni Association

P. O. Box 28

Arkport, New York 14807

Email: arkportalumni@arkportcsd.org

President: Linda Wellington Burdett, Class of 1969

Vice-President: Brenda Smith Porter, Class of 1987

Secretary: Tracie Hoyt McCarthy, Class of 1997

Treasurer: Cathi Crossett Van Iderstine, Class of 1976

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE AT WWW.ARKPORTALUMNI.ORG
FRIEND US ON FACEBOOK AT **ARKPORT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
DROP US AN EMAIL AT ARKPORTALUMNI@ARKPORTCSD.ORG

Update My Information

Name _____ Class of _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Married to an ACS Alumni? Name _____ Class of _____

Let us know your thoughts! Have a picture you would like to share? Scan it and send to our email address:
arkportalumni@arkportcsd.org or post on our Facebook page at Arkport Alumni Association.
