



the Alumni Connection

News & Information for Ticonderoga High School Alumni and Friends

February 2017
Vol. 14 Issue 1

Looking Back

I am so very proud of the Ticonderoga Alumni Association and our ongoing growth and success! What began with a group of teachers/alumni who wanted to see scholarship awards made available to all graduating THS seniors has become a state and IRS approved not-for-profit Corporation well-recognized in our communities.

Following the 2001 Extravaganza and 100 Charter Member Fund Drive, a group of alumni met in the fall of 2002 to discuss formalizing the Association. I was asked to be the first president. I must admit I had my doubts we would be able to raise enough money to give scholarships annually. Our generous donors have proven me wrong! Giving \$170,000 in awards to over 400 students has been possible because our alumni and friends have opened their checkbooks to help us achieve our

present goal of allocating \$20,000 annually for scholarship awards to graduating seniors.

Our first few years were tedious as we worked to set standards, procedures and develop by-laws, burning out a few board members and officers with frequent and long meetings. As the 2005 Extravaganza and 2006 date for awarding the first scholarship awards approached, we were recharged. A board member had asked why awards are given to former outstanding THS athletes but none to alumni recognizing their career success and community service. Acting on this suggestion, the Association held the first Ticonderoga Alumni Association Awards Ceremony in 2005. Since then we have awarded 28 Distinguished Alumni Awards, 24 Special Service



Awards (for community service in Hague, Putnam and Ticonderoga), and recently 7 Friend of Ticonderoga Schools Awards (for significant contributions to our school community by non-alumni). No longer willing to let bad weather interrupt our ceremony, the event is now held in the ballroom of the Ticonderoga Best Western. I am especially proud of this event. It touches me to celebrate the goodness of mankind through the lives and accomplishments of some extraordinary THS alumni and friends of our schools. Our newsletter has grown over time also. We are

especially happy to present alumni activities and school news through our full-color "shiny" editions!

I want to recognize a few people who have helped us achieve our goals and expand our horizons: Steve Boyce (our idea man) who is taking us to the next level; Mike and Sally Hayes for their generosity and support in our early years; Sue Liddell and George Mackey for their continuing work on our golf tournaments; Pat and Chris Ida for helping us organize and report our finances; Non-alumni Paul Ingrey and Ed Konikowski for supporting our golf tournaments; and all the officers and board members whose service has helped make us the vibrant organization we are today. I am honored to have been your President!

—Joyce Gallani Cooper '59
Past President

Looking Forward

I would like to thank Joyce Cooper for the wonderful leadership she has provided the Alumni Association these past fourteen years. Under her guidance, the Alumni Association has become a vibrant organization that has had an impact on the school, community, and ultimately the graduates of Ticonderoga High School. Joyce's high standards and close attention to detail have helped to create an alumni association that we all can be proud of; I look forward to working with her and relying on her advice as we continue to maintain our past accomplishments and prepare our organization for the future.

We need to become relevant to newer alumni by increasing our presence in social media. Our Facebook page and Website will be as important as our Newsletter as ways to keep alumni informed of and involved in Association activities.

We need to work closely with graduation

classes to maintain and strengthen their identity. To this end, the Board will ask individual alumna to serve as representatives of their class as Facebook "friends". The Board also stands ready assist classes with their reunion planning, member recognition, and other projects that will unite class members.

We need to continue to support Ticonderoga Central School District's efforts to achieve their strategic goal of becoming a "Model



School for Rural America." We are proud of the Ticonderoga High School we attended; we must do all we can to insure future students graduate with that same love for their Ticonderoga years.

As you can see, the maintenance of excellence is not easy, nor is it the work of one person or board. It is a team effort that will require the involvement of every one of us who are part of an organization dedicated to, "Supporting Students, Serving and Honoring Alumni".

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank you for your past support and look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions for keeping the Ticonderoga Alumni Association strong. If we can't talk in person, give me a call at 518-585-7735 or e-mail me at steveboyce@nycap.rr.com.

—Steve Boyce '64,
President Ticonderoga Alumni Association

Eleventh Annual Awards Ceremony

An enthusiastic audience of friends, family, and former awards recipients enjoyed our 2016 Annual Awards Ceremony at the Best Western. A hors d'oeuvres reception was followed by the ceremony honoring the 4 outstanding people whose accomplishments are highlighted below. We continue to marvel at and be touched by the career successes and/or community service of our alumni and non-alumni friends of Ticonderoga High School. Please join us for the 2017 Awards ceremony to be held on Friday, July 28.

Distinguished Alumni Awards Joseph M. Hiro



Joseph Hiro is the second youngest person to be honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award. Still in his thirties, he has accomplished more than many can in a lifetime. At THS Joe did it all: sports, music and academics. Notable activities included Key Club (a Kiwanis high school service club) and YMCA's national program Youth and Government. He made history when he became the first "North Country" student to be elected Governor of the New York State Youth in Government organization.

After graduation from Ticonderoga High School in 1998, Joe attended the College of the Holy Cross and graduated Cum Laude with a BA degree in 2002. At Holy Cross he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. He earned his MBA from the University of Massachusetts in 2011.

Joe began his career as an Admissions Counselor at Holy Cross managing student recruiting efforts in several states. He entered the pharmaceutical and medical device field as a Sales Representative with Novartis Pharmaceutical Corporation in 2004. In 2007 he accepted a position with Adheris, Inc., an Inventive Health company where he held 4 different positions including Director, Strategic Business Development. He then accepted a position at NXStage Medical, Inc. where he was Senior Marketing Manager. He returned to Adheris Health last year and is currently consulting with pharmaceutical marketing teams on brand loyalty with companies such as Merck and Squibb Pharmaceuticals.

He has earned numerous awards in his short career including 9 Novartis "Tiger Awards" and Medisystem's US Marketing Innovation Award. These showcase his skills in Business Analytics, Business Development, and Strategy and Planning.

Married with a young child, Joe still has been able to find time to serve others. He serves as a cantor at his Parish church. He also has been involved in the annual American Airlines Celebrity Events and the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for more than 10 years. He has assisted his father-in-law at multi-million dollar fundraisers from coast to coast to benefit the foundation as well as the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Foundation.

Joe Hiro's career success is admirable and his ability to still find time to help and serve others is remarkable, especially when we consider his age. We were proud to honor Joseph M. Hiro with a 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award!

C. Walter Lender



Walter Lender believes strongly in the philosophy of not-for-profits organizations and has worked his entire career in this sector. He graduated from Ticonderoga High School

in 1984 and received his BA in English from Hartwick College. A Master's in Administration from ST. Michael's College followed.

His non-profit positions include Adjunct Instructor and Student Services Coordinator for North Country Community College. He left this position to become Executive Director of PRIDE of Ticonderoga, a Rural Preservation organization. He held this position for 7 years until he was recruited to be Director of Development and Government and Corporate Relations Officer for Fort Ticonderoga.

He then accepted the position of Executive Director of the Lake George Association, a position he has held for 13 years. The LGA, established in 1885, is the nation's first lake association and one of the first organizations to address such issues as conservation and ecology. His major accomplishments in this position have resulted in Walt's name being well-known in the area for his efforts to protect Lake George's exceptional water quality. To ensure this quality, stream bed improvements to reduce storm water run-off were implemented. To combat invasive species, the LGA Lake Steward program was established under his leadership, leading to the present Boat Inspection Program. First focused on Lake George, this program is now expanding to other Adirondack Lakes. He also wrote the necessary grant application to secure funding to replace Ticonderoga's old Black Point Beach building which was in poor condition and no longer had running water and working bathrooms. Thanks to his help Ticonderoga now has a most attractive "green" facility which fits its beautiful setting.

Walt's community service is extensive. It includes membership on Ticonderoga's Parks and Recreation Committee, Economic Development Committee, and Planning Board. He serves or has served on many local area boards, including Inter-Lakes Health, Kiwanis, Silver Bay YMCA and Lakes to Locks Passage as well as many regional committees.

Although his adult life has been filled many career and community service accomplishments, Walt would tell you that his most important job is that of a father to his six children. He rarely misses an event! An outstanding career, extensive community service, a strong family man: Walter Lender is truly a Ticonderoga High School Distinguished Alumnus!

Do you want to nominate someone for the Distinguished Alumni Award?

Download the Nomination Form on www.ticonderogaalumni.org and follow the instructions on the form.

Special Service Awards Wendy Marie Shaw



Special Service Award recipient, Wendy M. Shaw, has been a life-long resident of Ticonderoga, graduating from Ticonderoga High School in 1978. Her enthusiasm, love of her community and desire to help others are obvious to all who know her.

Wendy's footsteps did not take her far from her alma mater as she began working in the Central Office of the Ticonderoga School district, continuing there until she retired several years ago. When serious illness left her unable to do this job, she moved on to what appears to be a full-time job: helping others.

As a cancer survivor with personal knowledge of the challenges a cancer patient faces, Wendy was soon busy helping these patients as her own health improved. In December 2014 she founded Friends Comforting Friends, Inc. This organization has grown by leaps and bounds. Originally she requested help obtaining gas cards for area cancer patients' travel expenses. To date, 200 gas cards have been distributed.

Her mission soon expanded to include the distribution of Comfort Bags to address the special needs of those suffering from serious illness and related treatment. Items include personal products, hard candy, socks, throws, etc. All items are donated and have been received from around the country. Bags have been received by over 182 people already.

All communications regarding this organization are accomplished through word of mouth and the organization's Facebook page. When posts on the website revealed those with other serious illnesses needed support, the organization expanded Comfort Bag distribution to include those undergoing major surgery. Simple posts on Facebook trigger an outpouring of support and allow Friends to continue helping adults and children.

The Alumni Association valued her help as

a Board Member and her acknowledgement and recording of annual donations to our Scholarship Fund. We were saddened when her illness made it too difficult to continue serving. Wendy's strong spirit and desire to help others are admirable. We were proud to award her a 2016 Special Service Award!

Martin H. Fitzgerald II



Last July for the first time we honored a THS alumnus for service to the community of Hague as well as to the school district. Martin Fitzgerald was one of the last generation to attend school in Hague until that school closed in 1979. He graduated from Ticonderoga High School in 1981 and continued his education at Delhi College earning an Associate's Degree in Construction. Marty has worked for the Warren County Planning Office as a Construction Cost Coordinator for 31 years and has also conducted fire inspections for the county.

Marty's commitment to his hometown Hague is most evident. For thirty five years Marty has served as a volunteer fire fighter and has been an important volunteer. During these years he has served as Assistant Chief of Hague Fire Department as well as Vice President and presently the long-time President of the Department's Board of Directors. He also played an important role in the design and construction of Hague's beautiful current Fire Station, serving as the Project Chairman, raising funds, and working with town government to accomplish its construction. Marty has also been a member of The Hague Town Board since 2012. He currently serves on the Buildings and Grounds, Planning and Zoning, and Highway Committees and formerly the Planning Board.

As the only Hague resident currently on the Ticonderoga Central School Board of Education, Marty represents his community and children of Hague well. He has been a member since 2011 and has had a role in several important projects during his tenure. He has served on the Facilities Study/Building

Committee whose work undoubtedly led to the recent school improvements. He proudly emphasizes the current athletic field project and high school auditorium revitalization are being accomplished with no major increases to taxes.

We thank Marty Fitzgerald for all his work to make Hague and Ticonderoga School District safer and better places for citizens and our children!

Friend of Ticonderoga High School Award

The 2016 Friend of Ticonderoga High School Award will be presented at our 2017 Awards Ceremony on July 28. Ed Konikowski, the 2016 awardee, was unable to attend the ceremony last year. Another recipient will also be presented the 2017 Friend of Ticonderoga Schools Award at the ceremony.

2016 Fall Scholar-Athlete Teams!

(A Spotlight Story found at www.ticonderogak12.org)

At the end of each sport season, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association honors those teams that excel on the field and in the classroom. For the fall 2016 season, all Ticonderoga Central School District athletic teams met the state standard and were awarded with Scholar Athlete team distinction. This honor is bestowed upon those teams whose GPA (from at least 75% of the roster) is greater than or equal to 90.00%. The teams receiving this award are:

- Varsity Cross Country Boys
- Varsity Cross Country Girls
- Varsity Football
- Varsity Girls Soccer

The members of those teams who meet this standard should be commended for their efforts within the classroom and dedication to academic excellence. These athletes truly embody the meaning of the term student-athlete, and as such they are recognized by pins marking this distinction. Congratulations to these athletes on a wonderful fall season!

*Editor's Note: THS was the only school in the region to receive Scholar-Athlete for all Fall Sports Teams. Great season Sentinels!





Thank You Sharon!

Sharon (Vilaro) Maneri '60 retired from the Alumni Board last June and will be missed. Sharon was a Charter Board Member and served as Secretary from 2004 until 2016. During our early years Sharon's service was invaluable as she helped guide us through the development of procedures of other organizations. As our secretary she was extraordinary, recording

detailed minutes, maintaining excellent records, and keeping us on task. I envied her ability to participate in discussions while taking notes at the same time!

What makes her service more remarkable was Sharon's willingness to drive from her home in Schenectady to Ticonderoga for evening meetings for 14 years. She approached her role with enthusiasm and demonstrated true love of Ticonderoga High School, the Alumni Association, and her hometown Ticonderoga. We will miss Sharon at Board meetings but know we will be seeing her again soon. She and her husband Chuck, a non-alumnus, are already planning to help with our next fundraiser.

Class of 2016 shares \$20,000 from Alumni Scholarship Awards

Forty one members of the Ticonderoga High School of 2016 received Alumni Scholarship Awards totaling \$20,000. The awards ranged from \$329 to \$602, with an average award of \$487. Twenty six of the graduates plan to use their awards to study at four year colleges, twelve plan to attend community colleges, two have enrolled in technical schools, and one student will pursue a career in the military.

The Class of 2016 is the eleventh class to be eligible for the awards, which now total \$170,000.



Norrel Meehan and Dr. John McDonald hold an early 1900's handmade Ticonderoga pennant. Mr. Meehan recently donated the pennant to the school district. It has been framed and will be displayed in the High School for all to enjoy.

Sentinel Support Fund Helps Ticonderoga Schools

The Alumni Association's Sentinel Support Fund continues to help faculty and students develop projects and activities that improve the school program and develop the essential skills of leadership, team work, and planning.

Since the publication of last year's Newsletter, the fund has:

- helped two students, Sam Shelmidine and Colvin Chapman, obtain materials for the construction of a Tesla conductor. The conductor was part of their Senior Project and was donated to the high school Science Department upon their graduation
- helped with the purchase of LEGO Mindstorm EV3 kits for the school's Robotics Club
- provided funds for 12 Alternative High School students to have a community based learning experience
- provided money to help establish a First Tee golf/mentoring program at the elementary school

The Support Fund is a matching grant program that provides up to \$250 per grant for educational projects. The program is open to school personnel and students. Applicants must provide a project description and matching funds plan to an Alumni Review Panel. The Alumni Associated has budgeted \$1000 annually from its administrative budget to fund this initiative.

Ticonderoga Alumni Association is on Facebook!

Please like our Facebook page and join the more than 350 people who are following the page.

Visit often for information about upcoming activities, our Scholarship Awards, and School District news.



Ticonderoga Alumni Association Scholarship Award Recognized in New Book

The efforts of the Ticonderoga Alumni Association to raise students' aspirations were recognized in A PRACTITIONER'S GUIDE TO BUILDING COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS, a 2016 publication by College for Every Student.

In the GUIDE, authors Rick Dalton, President and CEO of College for every Student (CFES), and Edward St. John, Professor of Higher Education at the University of Michigan, used the Association's Scholarship Award program as an example of programs that can help rural students.

After providing a history and detailed description of the award program, the authors quoted Ticonderoga School Superintendent, John McDonald, as to the impact of the awards.

In Dr. McDonald's words, "It shows our students that there are many factors to success, not only good grades, and shows them that their school and community are committed to helping them succeed after high school."

Spotlight on Reunions



The Class of 1976 held their 40th reunion last summer during Alumni Weekend. This reunion caught the attention of the whole town as evidenced by the photograph of their banner which was displayed over Montcalm Street. Reunion activities included a Friday get-together

at Adirondack Lanes and a Saturday night Barbeque and Dance at the KOC. The group photo shows class members in attendance for the Saturday night event at the Knights of Columbus. The class has held well-attended reunions every ten years, starting in 1986. These great turnouts are due in no small part to the efforts of their Reunion Committee consisting of Dixie (Mero) Thorpe, Wayne Taylor, Cherie (Dolback) Anderson, Mary (Lonergan) Scott, Marie (Granger) Moore, Beth (Jordan) Iuliano, Sue (Russell) Snider, Meg (Laundree) Haskell, Linda (St. Denis) Whitford, May (Drinkwine) Schiell and Bill Bessette.

You can't beat the Spirit of 76!

Check us out on our website: www.ticonderogaalumni.org



TICONDEROGA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Would you like to join us as we continue our mission? Volunteers to help us on our various committees and events are always welcome and appreciated. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Steve at 518-585-7735

*Board Member Joan Charboneau '59 not present for photograph.

Thank You 2016 Donors!

Sentinel Honor Circle (Cumulative Donations)

\$10,000-\$19,999

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2016 Donations

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*Indicates those who have been donors 3 of the last 4 years.
The Ticonderoga Alumni Association is especially appreciative of all the donors who continue to support our Scholarship Fund.

Every attempt has been made to correctly list our donors. Please contact Joyce Cooper (518 585-2640) should there be an error.

Memorial Donations

In Memory of Pat Armstrong
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and Richard (Dick) Arthur
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In Memory of Deceased Members of
the Class of 1959
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In Memory of Margaret "Peg" Shaw
– SARA GUYETTE
RICHARD & SUSAN LIDDELL
WENDY AND ELLIOTT SHAW
DONNA VAN WIRT

In Memory of Gertrude
and Elmer Smith
– CAROLYN MORRIS

In Memory of William (Bill) Smith '59
– KENNETH & PATRICIA SMITH

In Memory of Vincent Scuderi
– RICHARD & SUSAN LIDDELL

In Memory of Carlton Stacy
– MAUREEN STACY

In Memory of Dr. William & Helen
Beers Vilardo, Dr. Ray C. Beers
– CHARLES & SHARON VILARDO
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In Memory of
Judy Gonyeau Walrond '59
– JOAN CHARBONEAU

In Memory of Geri White
– KIMBERLY ARMSTRONG POWERS

In Memory of Kraig White '65
– JOE & KATHY (WHITE) LIDDELL

In Memory of Nancy Yaw
– MARTIN & DEBORAH YAW

In Memory of
Rolland and Agnes Yaw
– NATE & EVE YAW

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In Honor of the Class of 1960
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In Honor of Ruth Granger
– EDWARD MOORE



2016 Alumni Golf Tournament



Mother Nature smiled again on Ticonderoga Alumni Golf Tournament in 2016. The excitement began as 103 players lined up to begin play. It continued after play began, and the smell of hotdogs, sauerkraut and Michigan sauce (all free and available at the 10th tee) spread on the course. Playing the greens was especially exciting as you can see in two photos below. Also pictured are the oldest and youngest alumni to play in the tournament: George Wendell '51, Connor Lauzon '16, Tom Burleigh '52, and Sam Shelmidine '16



Winners included: **Champion Flight-** Justin Duncan, Paul Ingrey, Nick Lemma, Dave Mielke; **A Flight-** Mike Graney, Jeff Miller, Ryan Sherman, Ryan Volkeman; **B Flight-** Allan Moore, Chuck Moore, John Woods, Rob Woods; Women's Flight- Suzanne Chalkey, Linda Osborne, Amy Russell, Pat Trudeau.

However, the true winner was the Alumni Scholarship program. Thanks to our generous sponsors and players, over \$8000 was realized to help continue the Ticonderoga Alumni Association's mission. Don't miss out on this fun tournament! Mark Saturday, July 29 on your calendars for this year's event. We look forward to seeing many of you there.



Six Inducted into Hall of Fame



The 2016 Ceremony honored 5 outstanding Class of 2006 male athletes and one Class of 2003 female athlete. The ceremony took place at the Homecoming Game at the new (and just completed) Sentinel Field. Honored was **Jesse Berube** an outstanding runner in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track. A Section Champion in all 3 sports, he also qualified multiple years for States in each. **John Dreimiller** played both basketball and baseball, manning 1st and 2nd base and the pitcher's mound. His skills helped the 2006 team become the first THS team to appear in the state baseball championship game and resulted in him being named to the First Team All-State and regional All-Star Teams. **Lee Gabler** participated in Cross Country, Indoor, and Outdoor Track and Field. He medaled at the State Championship

level and holds school records in 4 track events. **Thomas Jebb** participated in football, basketball, and baseball while in high school and contributed to multiple Section 7 championships and appearances in State Regional Finals. He was undefeated as a pitcher during the 2006 regular season. **Douglas MacAlpine** played football and participated in track at THS. He was an outstanding halfback and was named to the All-State Football Team in 2006. He broke THS records in 3 track relay events. **Tasia Osier** played varsity soccer and softball for THS and was a standout in varsity basketball as a forward. She received numerous Section 7 Awards for basketball and helped her team win 2 consecutive Championships.

2016 Bowling Tournament

The fifth annual Alumni "Strikes For Students" Bowling Tournament was held Sunday, March 13. Fiftytwo participants enjoyed the tourney. Winners were the All-Adult Team: Donna Fleury, Anne Michalak, Samantha Patnode and Jackie Gijanto; Mixed Student/Adult Team: Mo O'Connor, Dakota O'Connor, Gavin Fleury, Derrick Fleurry; Student Team: Connor Lauzon, Gavin Fleury, Duncan Bain, and Cheyanne Tuthill.

Proceeds from this tournament benefit the Ticonderoga Alumni Association's "Sentinel Support Fund". This fund was created by the Association to enable student and school groups to apply for a matching grant for unfunded or under-funded educational materials or activities. See the article on page 4 for more information.

Plan to be in Ticonderoga July 28 & 29!

Scheduled events include the Alumni Awards Ceremony on Friday the 28th & the Alumni Golf Tournament, the Downtown Streetfest, and the Fife & Drum Corps Muster at Ft. Ticonderoga on Saturday the 29th.