

MORRIS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER  
2019-2020

**Please share with the Alumni Association in Morris anything you have of interest.**

**You can email Deb Newell at [morriscsalumni@gmail.com](mailto:morrisalumni@gmail.com)**

**This year has been interesting to say the least. In March 2020 the Corona virus visited the US and consequently everything from schools to major corporations were shut down. I am sure most of you were thinking come on 2021 we are so done with 2020. Even though things are beginning to open up there are still things that are closed. Our hearts go out to the ones that lost loved ones to the virus.**

**Current** - With the cancellation of this year's Otsego County Fair it was decided to have a Fair Food Weekend. So on August 8th & 9th the fairgrounds hosted the first ever drive thru fair food event. Several people mentioned how much they enjoyed it and thought it was a good idea.

It has been determined that there will be cell phone coverage added to the 911 tower on Bourne Hill Rd outside of Morris. According to the article there is no timetable for construction. Hopefully it will happen

soon as this area badly needs cell phone coverage. So we'll see when it happens.

Our local Rotary Club has started a "Fourth Monday Service Project" the Fourth Monday Service Project will happen on the Fourth Monday of each month during the summer months. The first project chosen was to clean up the landscape features around the bus loop at MCS. Sixteen Rotarians showed up to work on a very hot and humid evening. President Mike Virgil (retired MCS Superintendent) set a limit of 1 hour to complete the project. The Rotarians weeded, trimmed, and mulched. MCS provided mulch and cleaned up the debris after. The next project will be sprucing up the pavilion and the surrounding area behind the firehouse. Great job Rotarians.

**CLASS 1945** - Madoline Littlewood Wells wrote that she is adjusting well to her retirement apartment. It has been almost a year since she moved in there. She has a great-granddaughter who is now 2 years old and another great-granddaughter on the way due in September.

**CLASS 1953** - Marjorie (Barley) Toomath writes she was in the graduating class of 1953, long long ago. She and Jim Toomath married in

1955, Jim passed away November 2011. Jim is buried in the military cemetery in Florida. Marjorie's parents owned land on Ellis Rd, she would like to reconnect with people that she went to school with, and that remembers her family.  
**Marjorie's address is 369 Bennington Lane Lake Worth FL 33467.**

**CLASS 1956** - Dora (McWilliams) Cooke, Member of the Fly Creek Quilters Club, showcased a quilt made by the club celebrating 40 years of Pathfinder. Dora was one of 5 involved in the creation of the quilt. Pathfinder proudly displays the quilt in the Program Office.

**CLASS 1959** - Michael Fay wrote that he has a new address.

**CLASS 1962** - Henry Rehrmann has been elected to the Otsego County Fair board for a 3 year term.

Barry Frederick's (and Elaine (Wright) Frederick - Class of 1963) grandson Matthew Frederick of Oneonta is still writing for the Daily Star in Teen Talk. Matthew is a senior at Oneonta High School.

**CLASS 1965** - The Otsego County Fair named Royce Webster as Person of the Year. Royce used to take his vacation when he worked for the

village and worked at the fair. He has been a huge supporter of the fair over the years.

**CLASS 1968** - Darlene (Gregory) Whitaker is a member of the Tired Iron of Butternut Valley. Tired Iron of Butternut Valley presented the Oneida Health Cancer Care with a check for \$5,370 at the annual tractor fest at the Farmer's Museum October 2019.

**CLASS 1969** - Sophie Wagner Liberatore was elected as sixth district president for the local VFW in Norwich.

**CLASS 1970** - There was a scholarship in honor of Joanne Burdick created in 1997. The scholarship is awarded annually to two area high school graduates who are pursuing majors in the health care field. At least one of the recipients must declare a major in nursing. Since the beginning of the scholarship the AO Fox Auxiliary has awarded \$96,000 to 49 students.

**CLASS 1972** - Diane (Camp field) Youngs wrote that she retired the end of July 2018 after teaching 40 years. Nineteen years were in Special Education and 21 years as a college professor preparing future teachers. She also reported that she and her husband Bill celebrated their 35th

anniversary the end of June 2019. Congratulations Diane and Bill on your 35th anniversary.

**CLASS 1976** - Bill Whitaker is a member of the Tired Iron of Butternut Valley. Tired Iron of Butternut Valley presented the Oneida Health Cancer Care with a check for \$5,370 at the annual tractor fest at the Farmer's Museum October 2019.

Janann (Harrington) Phillips is living back in the area. Welcome home Janann.

**CLASS 1984** - Jennifer (Parmalee) Mattocks is working at MCS as a special education teacher. Welcome to MCS Jennifer.

**CLASS 1985** - Jim Benjamin and son JJ (CLASS 2023) were photographed by the Daily Star in Hillington Cemetery Morris putting American Flags on military graves before Memorial Day 2020.

**CLASS 1989** - Matthew Frederick of Oneonta, son of Bryce Frederick writes a column for the Daily Star the Teen Talk column. Matthew is a senior at Oneonta High School.

**CLASS 1995** - Rebecca Joy Barringer was present at the Otsego County Fair while her youngest daughter

Kristena went through the taste testing process with gluten-free peanut butter chocolate chip cookies she made and entered in 4H Club division.

**CLASS 2004** - Crystal Postphone has her own glass blowing business and teaches classes at her home. She is quite good at it and enjoys what she does. You can contact her for more information on this at [crystalglassworks.com](http://crystalglassworks.com) or email her at [crystalcustoms@gmail.com](mailto:crystalcustoms@gmail.com)

**CLASS 2007** - Kelly Darragh has been elected Secretary of the Otsego County Fair Board. Kelly was also named Director of the Year for the Otsego County Fair. In 2017 she started as an Entry Clerk and now serves as a director and secretary.

**CLASS 2015** - Stacey Benjamin was listed in the "WHO'S NEWS" of the Daily Star for receiving the Cazenovia Excellence in Leadership Award. The school described her as playing various roles and contributing in ways to creating a positive campus-life environment. Stacey was also named to the Spring Semester 2019 Dean's List.

**CLASS 2017** - Congrats to Meghan Brigham. Meghan was on the Dean's

List for the 2019 Spring Semester at SUNY Delhi.

**CLASS 2019** - Congrats to Gabrielle Eklund. Gabrielle was on the Dean's List for the 2019 Spring Semester at SUNY Delhi.

**CLASS 2020** - Monica Dugan; Anastasia Edwards, Elizabeth Ilarraza and Scott Strain received Clark Foundation Scholarships. The Foundation Scholarship was awarded to 188 first year college students totaling \$740,700. According to the article the scholarship is renewable for the next year. The scholarship has awarded more than 12,500 students since its inception in 1961.

Monica Dugan was named Valedictorian and Brian Holt was named Salutatorian for the class of 2020. Monica will be attending Marist College in Poughkeepsie to study communications. Brian has joined the National Guard. After his military obligations are met he will return and attend SUNY Oneonta to study family and human services. Congratulations to Monica and Brian.

This year's "**The Daniel B Swift Scholar Recognition Honorees**" were profiled in the June 3, 2020 Daily Star supplement. Monica Dugan, nominated Julene Waffle. Monica

stated she chose Mrs. Waffle for her mentor. Monica stated Mrs. Waffle always motivated and encouraged her in the classroom, on the softball field or any time she had the chance. Monica further stated Mrs. Waffle always believed in her talents and abilities and has never doubted her success, even when she was discouraged herself.

Kyle Blake was listed in the "**WHO'S NEWS**" in the Daily Star for High School Peer Leader in Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership program.

**CLASS 2021** - Kate Morano writes for the Daily Star. Kate wrote an article in February telling about the All County Festival she attended in Worcester and her experience there.

**CLASS 2026** - Grace Wing was listed in the "**WHO'S NEWS**" in the Daily Star for Student Participation in Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership program.

Hailey Canfield reached the Spelling Bee Regionals. What an accomplishment. The winning word was - *withers*.

**CLASS 2029** - Kristena Barringer entered a homemade pottery bowl she made and gluten-free peanut butter chocolate chip cookies she

baked in 4H at the Otsego County Fair (2019). She described to the judge how she sculpted the bowl and the process of her cookie making. The judge told her to keep cooking.

**CLASS 2032** - Jayce Burdick and his 4 year-old sister Nora and their mom made front page news. They were photographed by the Daily Star doing chalk artwork outside the Methodist Church in Morris on a nice sunny day in April.

#### **THE EARLY FILES -**

**Thirty years ago** - 7/26/1990

The Morris Junkies softball team won their first ten games, then went into a slump, losing the next five.

9/27/1990 - David Matson is stationed in Saudi Arabia.

10/11/1990 - Morris librarian Kathleen DiStefano has announced her retirement.

**Forty years ago** - 8/28/1980

Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Lasher attended a Polka Festival at Hunter Mountain.

10/9/1980 - Forty years ago The Pathfinder Village was formally opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Pathfinder is located on Route 80 east of Edmeston and is the

only residential home to Down Syndrome children in the US.

12/28/1980 - Carl J Smith born in Dimock Hollow 1896, was employed by the bank in Morris for 50 years and was Morris Village Clerk for 40 years.

**Fifty years ago** - The 1874 Morris Chronicle states that the new fence around Hillington Cemetery was completed, being a welcomed improvement. In 1970 the fence was painted for the Morris Centennial.

10/8/1970 - A cup of dried mustard mixed with a gallon of warm water should remove skunk odor from a car.

10/28/1970 - Fifty years ago on this date the Butternut Valley Arts and Craft Center in Morris was opened by Mr. Roy Bartlett. As the article in the Daily Star says I am sure Mr. Bartlett is smiling very big on this day.

10/29/1970 - Members of the Morris United Methodist celebrated the 100th anniversary of their bell installation.

**Sixty years ago** - 9/1/1960

Robert Klindt is drilling a well for Clyde Southwick.

10/14/1960 - A new US record of 64 billion pieces of mail was set in 1960.

**Seventy years ago - 7/27/1950**

The Oneonta Star, the only paper in Otsego and Delaware counties has moved to a new location on Chestnut Street.

**Eighty years ago - 7/26/1940**

The state game farm will be renamed Rogers Game Farm.

10/10/1940 - Otsego County Supervisors went on record as opposed to the Copes Corners federal flood project. The dam would take over the Butternut and a large part of Gilbertsville.

**Ninety years ago - 7/24/1930**

A medical man says we are not eating as much as our grandfathers. Maybe not, but we are paying twice as much for it.

**100 years ago - 7/25/1920**

Dr. Naylor's daughter Alma and Miss Cobb of Morris called on Griselda Spurr's home.

EC Linn moved his household goods to Morris and will open a dry goods store in the opera house block.

The Morris Chronicle announces a raise to 25 cents an inch flat for local

advertising and 35 cents flat for foreign advertising.

The Morris Fair has about completed its racing (horse) program for the fair. October 5-8 there will be \$1,500. in prizes.

**Garrattsville Past** - Garrattsville's first settler was Robert Garratt who purchased 1,500 acres including the current site of the hamlet. The Garratt homestead was sold to L Rockwell and then to his son, followed by others. The house burned recently and the barns torn down. The land now is used by Dave Galley for crops.

**2019 Sherburne Pageant of Bands -**

Morris placed 3rd in Concert Band; and 3rd in Parade. The parade in 2020 was cancelled due to COVID 19.

**2020 Alumni Association Scholarship awards** - Freshman - 1st Hannah

Swayer and 2nd Thomas Pondolino; Sophomore - 1st Alexander Page and 2nd Mackenzie Graves; Senior - Kyle Blake and Monica Dugan.

The New Berlin Boy Scout Troop 61 hosted the 2019 Soap Box Derby. The top 3 finishers of the day were from PA Troop 89, NYC Troop 5 and Morris Troop 3. Congratulations to Morris Troop 3.

On January 25, 2020 there was a big get-together held in honor of Fred Lemister. Fred called the "Father of EMS" who trained many EMT's through the years. Anyone through the years from Morris Central School that played sports or just went to watch would see Fred at many MCS sporting events. He once told me he just loved Morris and the students there. Fred had 48 years in EMS teaching and going on calls for Cooperstown. Congratulations Fred I am sure Cooperstown misses you, and I know the rest of the county misses your teaching skills and just seeing you on calls.

In keeping with the Corona Virus regulations the Cardiff Giant at the Farmer's Museum was fitted with a mask. Masks are required at the museum and they thought it was only right that he have one too.

**FUN FACTS** - The Great Lakes account for 20% of the planet's fresh water supply; Most the water in the Great Lakes comes from ancient glaciers, only around 1% is renewed by precipitation each year; stretched end-to-end the shorelines of the Great Lakes would span roughly half of the earth's circumference at the equator; the Great Lakes contain

enough water to cover the entire mainland of the United States 9/5 feet deep; and Lake Superior is the world's largest freshwater lake. With a volume of 2,900 cubic miles, it could easily accommodate all of the other Great Lakes combined.

This year Rockefeller Center in NYC was graced with another Christmas tree from this area in West Oneonta. When the tree arrived in NYC they found a stowaway when they were unwrapping the tree, an adult male owl was found safe but dehydrated and hungry. They named him Rockefeller, after being fed and checked out he was returned to the Oneonta area and released.

**A STEP BACK IN TIME** - 25 Years Ago  
June 15, 1994 - three properties have been picked as possible sites for a housing complex for retirees and low-income families. The properties looked at were the Lull Farm; property adjacent to Broad Street, the Quintin Farm (across from the school). Needless to say Morris did not get this housing built.

October 30, 1995 - Amphenol Corp workers ended their weeklong strike Saturday by voting in favor of a revised three-year contract.

June 5, 1995 - About 150 Otsego County residents learned life-saving skills known as Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Students were from Oneonta, Otego, Cherry Valley, Cooperstown, Worcester, Richfield Springs and Morris.

**2020 FACULTY** - There were 6 new faculty added to the MCS faculty. Jennifer (Parmalee) Mattocks, Special Education Teacher; Beth Collins, Art Teacher; Claire Fraser, Third Grade Teacher; Emily Thomsen, Speech-Language Pathologist; Heather Powell, Band Director and Music Teacher; and Valerie Joern, First Grade Teacher. Welcome all.

Julene Waffle wrote in the Guest Commentary of the Daily Star entitled "What I have learned so far during this outbreak". She wrote the Corona Virus made her feel like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Feelings of anger and guilt lined the book shelves of her heart. I think we can all relate to those feelings and many more probably.

Bertha George 1st Grade Teacher at MCS celebrated her **100th** birthday recently. Mrs. George resides in Groton NY. Her address is Groton Community Health Center c/o Bertha George 120 Sykes Rd Groton NY 13073

## **THANK YOU'S -**

- Thank you from Nate Edwards thanking the Alumni for the monetary award he received. Telling us the money would help out with college.
- Thank you from Nick George (Class of 2019) . Nick wrote that the money would come in very handy in his education.
- Thank you from Monica Dugan (Class of 2020) for the generous gift from the Alumni Association. She wrote she is getting ready for college and that the gift was very meaningful to her. She wanted to thank the Alumni for everything we do throughout the school year to support the MCS students. She is very excited to be part of the Alumni.
- Thank you from Kate Morano(Class of 2021) for the Alumni Association award. She wrote our generosity and confidence in her abilities means a lot to her.
- Thank you from Alex Page (Class of 2022) for the Alumni Association Award he received this year. He wanted us to know it meant a lot to him and he greatly appreciated it.
- Thank you from Mackenzie Graves (Class of 2022) for the Scholarship Award she received at the end of the 2020 school year. She wrote that she had already purchased school supplies for the 2021 school year.
- Thank you from Hannah Swayer (Class 2023) for the Scholarship



Award she received for the Freshman Class. Hannah says she was very happy and appreciative to be selected for the award. She is proud to be a Mustang!

### **MCS ALUMNI CONDOLENCES -**

The following list are alumni that have passed since our last newsletter. If I have missed anyone please send me an email at:

[morrisalumni@gmail.com](mailto:morrisalumni@gmail.com)

3/5/2019 - Alice (Rehrmann) Bowie - Class 1953

6/25/2019 - Betty Martin Blanchard Hoag - Class 1943

6/27/2019 - Rachel Caroline Southern Gould - Class 1936

7/5/2019 - Carl H Matson - Class 1962

7/22/2019 - Donald M Wilber Sr

7/24/2019 - Philip Gregory (graduate of MCS - Class 1947 and teacher at MCS)

9/7/2019 - Carl Eccleston

10/6/2019 - Keona Crawford - Class 1997

10/14/2019 - Joseph Lukeman - Class 2005

12/4/2019 - John Pegg - Class 1966

1/19/2020 - Beatrice (Gage) Merzig - Class 1940

2/3/2020 - Robert Van Wormer - Class 1950

2/26/2020 - Barbara Jean (Johnson) Parker - Class 1961

3/4/2020 - Audrey Irene (Morehouse) Teed - Class 1952

3/14/2020 - Douglas Nelson Coon - Class 1948

3/22/2020 - Diane Wilson - Class 1968

3/26/2020 - Brenda (Mitchell) Utter - Class 1974

4/11/2020 - Karl Jacobsen - Class 1949

4/13/2020 - Eva (Harrington) Joy - Class 1958

5/24/2020 - Marjorie (Lamb) Benjamin Wild - Class 1942

6/7/2020 - Harold Peter Sorenson - Class 1974

6/30/2020 - Gary R Talbot - Class 1959

7/1/2020 - Donald L Alger - Class 1982

7/17/2019 - Shirley Mary Fisher - kindergarten teacher

8/9/2020 - Lee Peters - Class 1962

8/11/2020 - Margaret Edna (Perrigo) Foster - Class 1957

8/13/2020 - Kathleen (Tracy) Hungerford - Class 1974

8/17/2020 - Janet C (Haug) Miller - Class 1957

10/24/2020 - Avis S (Stephens) Waite - Class 1958

10/25/2020 - Pamela Louise Wilson

12/18/2020 - Henry Page Decker III - Class 1959

12/25/2020 - Sophie C Dixson (Kindergarten and 3rd grade teacher MCS)

The following is a list of Morris Residents that passed away since our last newsletter.

- Condolences to Maeve Kranbuhl - Class 2016 - on the loss of her brother - 6/12/2019 - Max Gabriel Edell Kranbuhl
- Condolences to Anthony Cleary on the loss of his dad 6/21/2019 - Donald Joseph Clary
- Condolences to Mike Laubmeir - Class 1974 and Jim Laubmeir - Class 1976 - on the loss of their mom 6/28/2019 - Chloe C Laubmeir
- Condolences to Helen (Wagner) Hoag - Class 1967 - on the loss of her sons 8/3/2020 - Tony R Hoag and 9/1/2020 - Rodney L Hoag.
- Condolences to David Sorenson - Class 1977; Frank Sorenson - Class 1982; Alan Sorenson - Class 1983; Christian Sorenson - Class 1988; and Karl Sorenson on the loss of their dad 7/11/2019 - Harold Peter Sorensen
- Condolences to David Moore (Class of 2000) wife Jenn and girls Madison and Hannah on the loss of their daughter and sister 10/19/2019 - Baby Isla Sofia Moore
- Condolences to Audrey (Palmer) Gregory - Class of 1953 and Stacia (Gregory) Norman - Class 1980; and James Gregory - Class 1986 on the loss of their husband and father - 3/12/2020 - Peter Burnham Gregory
- Condolences to Kathryn Pasternak and kids Donna (Pasternak) Monroe Class 1976; Tom Pasternak Class 1977; Ron Pasternak Class 1978; Ann Pasternak Class 1980; Carolyn Pasternak Class 1982; and James Pasternak Class 1983 on the loss of their husband and dad - 3/12/2020 - James Edward Pasternak
- Condolences to Cliff Costello - Class 1972; Keith Costello - Class 1975 and Janice Costello - Class 1977 on the loss of their mom - 4/8/2020 - Barbara Ruth Costello
- Condolences to Cliff Hoag - Class 1970; Fred Hoag - Class 1992 and Winn (Hoag) Wolfe - Class 1997 on the loss of their wife and mom - 4/30/2020 - Eim Hoag
- Condolences to Doroles (Decker) Armstrong - Class 1958) on the loss of her son 4/13/2020 - Michael Douglas Bell
- Condolences to John Tol on the loss of his companion - 5/4/2020 - Dawn Julia Weiss
- Condolences to the family of 5/13/2020 - Doris Jean Gage
- Condolences to Mary (Walter) Breuninger - Class 1964 on the loss of her husband - 6/13/2020 - Richard Arthur Breuninger
- Condolences to Joshua Zachow - Class 2004 on the loss of his dad - 6/15/2020 - James M Zachow

- Condolences to Zelpha (Card) Hoyer  
- Class 1946 on the loss of her  
companion - 7/21/2020 - M Alan  
Champlin  
- Condolences to Barbara (Hansen)  
Holden - Class 1969; Bill Hansen -  
Class 1972; Rich Hansen - Class 1973;  
Kathy (Hansen) Wilber - Class 1974;  
Sue (Hansen) Pylinski - Class 1976;  
and Ron Hansen - Class 1977 on the  
loss of their mom 9/6/2020 -  
Kathleen M Hansen  
- Condolences to Arlene Forgit;  
Christine (Forgit) Maricle - Class  
1981; Brian Forgit - Class 1984;  
Catherine Forgit - Class 1985; and  
Darlene Forgit and Grace Forgit on  
the loss of their husband and dad -  
10/12/2020 - Ron Forgit  
- Condolences to Joshua Narr - Class  
2013 on the loss of his grandpa -  
10/24/2020 - John C Birdsall  
- Condolences to Tim Jacobsen - Class  
1979 on the loss of his mom  
11/17/2020 - Lois F Jacobsen

**\*\*\*\* FINALLY IF YOU HAVE  
AN EMAIL ADDRESS AND  
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ME  
ADD IT TO MY LIST OF  
ADDRESSES SO THAT YOU  
GET THINGS FROM THE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
EMAILED TO YOU INSTEAD  
OF THROUGH THE MAIL,  
PLEASE EMAIL ME AT:  
morriscsalumni@gmail.com  
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