



the Alumni Connection

News & Information for Ticonderoga High School Alumni and Friends

February 2013
Vol. 10 Issue 1

Ticonderoga Creates Alternative HS

In an effort to help at-risk students get a diploma and better prepare for their future as productive citizens, the Ticonderoga School District launched an alternative high school in the fall of 2012.

The school is located in the Armory Building and has a maximum enrollment of 15 students. The morning portion of the program consists of classes designed to help students catch up on their graduation requirements and is taught by four teachers who are also assigned classes at the regular high school. In the afternoon, the alternative high school students are assigned to internships, where they learn career and life skills. The program is partially funded by a grant from Work Force for America.

Sherrie Burleigh (class of 1965) is the Director of the project and has had experience with alternative high schools in Warren-Saratoga-Washington-Hamilton-Essex BOCES system.

Sherrie points out that, while the primary goal of the alternative school is to integrate students back into the regular high school program in order to graduate, the district also saves the cost of tutoring students after school.

Since the beginning of the program, there has been a marked improvement in the attitude of alternative high school students and a more positive climate in the regular high school.



Ti begins Merger Study with Crown Point

In January, the Ticonderoga CSD in partnership with the Crown Point CSD began to explore the concept of a school merger. This study is funded by a municipal cooperation grant from New York State, and will take place during the course of the 2012-13 school year. It is important to point out that this is just a study to explore the feasibility of such a move, and does not commit either district in any way.



John McDonald, Jr.

Both Boards of Education have appointed committees that represent different stakeholder groups within the community. The committee will examine the financial, programmatic, and cultural impact of a merger and present their findings to the public in September 2013. The report will also be submitted to NYS Department of Education and Department of State for review. Once the report is issued, both Boards of Education must decide how to proceed and ultimately each community would need to vote in the affirmative to proceed with a merger.

Both school districts support the study given the difficult financial climate facing schools today. Ticonderoga Superintendent John C. McDonald Jr. points out that declining enrollments coupled with increased mandates have created an unsustain-

able environment for public schools. The study may provide insight on better ways of providing a solid education for our students, even if a merger does not take place. However McDonald does acknowledge that even if the study shows that a merger would benefit both schools, this is still a very emotional issue as the identity of small communities often resides in the school.

The committee meetings are open to the public and all are welcome to attend. Each district has set up a link on their website which will contain all information regarding the study including meeting times and location, presentations, committee minutes and community feedback. Castillo and Silky consultants, who specialize in these types of projects and have conducted them all over New York State, are conducting the study.



New Venue for 2012 Alumni Awards

On Friday, July 27 after 3 years of torrential rain and winds, the annual Alumni Awards Ceremony was moved indoors to the Ticonderoga Best Western. Festivities began with an appetizer reception for friends and families of the recipients and members of the public. During a special ceremony 4 THS graduates and 2 non-alumni were honored by speeches. Excerpts of the speeches follow:

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Cari Boyce

Cari is the daughter of Steve and Sylvia (Special Service Award 2007) Boyce. After graduation in 1988, she received a degree in political science and international business from Siena College and a Masters in Education from North Carolina State.

Taking a most interesting career path, she worked for another THS Distinguished Alumnus, General James P. King, first as an intern then as office manager and legislative assistant. After moving to North Carolina, she worked for state Attorney General Mike Easley becoming his senior policy and communications advisor. When Mr. Easley was elected governor, she remained part of his team for 6 years and rose to the position of Director of Communications and External Affairs for the state. In this position she was on call for all natural disasters in the state. This included several hurricanes which found Cari traveling throughout the state to help facilitate immediate and long-term responses to help those hardest hit get the assistance needed.

Cari presently serves as

Vice President, Corporate Communication, for Progress Energy, a Fortune 250 regulated electric utility. She manages a staff of 53 as she implements a communication plan for the merger between Progress Energy and Duke Energy.

She is also presently serving on the regional board of Teach For America, a non-profit organization "working to ensure that kids growing up in poverty get an excellent education." The daughter of 2 educators and recipient of a degree in education, Cari understands the impor-

ance of education to propel our country forward and to help break the cycle of poverty. Because of this, she continues to volunteer her time to help engage students with high quality educators.

We proudly recognize this young woman of many accomplishments as a 2012 Distinguished Alumna.

Dr. Marilyn Moses Meserve

Marilyn Moses graduated from THS in 1942 at the age of 16. Her grandfather's brother, philanthropist Horace Moses, set high standards for her as he supported her pursuit of a college education. She earned a degree in biology from Boston University and went on to receive her M.D. degree at the University's School of Medicine.

In 1952 she moved with her general surgeon husband, Dr. Edwin Meserve, to Southborough, MA where she established her family practice, later limited to pediatrics, in her home. She practiced medicine there for 38 years. The Meserves also raised six children there. Dr. Meserve was a beloved part of the community, always available when needed, reminding many of us of former Ticonderoga physicians who touched our lives and hearts.

However, Dr. Marilyn Meserve's commitment to her community did not end there. She was a cofounder and member of the Board of Directors for the local area Mental Health Assoc. which provided services on a sliding fee scale for many problems. She also was a founder and board member for the Teen Canteen. This organization provided leadership opportunities and activities for drug and alcohol-free teens. She helped found the FISH program which provided meals, companionship, transportation, and babysitting for people in need. Both Dr. Meserves also found time to attend town



Award winners, from left: Scott Hearburg, Dick Nadeau, Dr. Marilyn Meserve, Cari Boyce, Bob Palandrani, Mark Barber, EMT

and school meetings and community functions over the years as advocates for young people and their families. Along the way Marilyn was named Citizen of the Year by the Rotary Club.

Dr. Marilyn Moses Meserve is an outstanding role model for Ticonderoga students. It is most fitting she was presented a 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Special Service Awards

Richard A. Nadeau

Dick Nadeau has a long history of service to the community of Ticonderoga. After graduation in 1956, he went to work for International Paper. He moved through the ranks and was serving as Data Processing and Telephone Administrator upon his retirement 40 years later. He also served his country as a member of the local National Guard unit.

During his work years and in retirement, Dick has been active in many civic organizations. He was an organizer and officer of the Ticonderoga Jaycees and through this group a founding organizer of the Ticonderoga Junior Miss Pageant. He supported the arts as a board member of the Ticonderoga Festival Guild and as a founding member of the Champlain Chorale. Moreover, he served as a board member of our Alumni Association.

All will agree Dick is best known for his service to our local Elks Lodge. A leader in the lodge for 26 years, he is an Honorary Life Member and has served as Exalted Ruler twice, treasurer, and pres-

ently as a trustee in charge of equipment and finance. He has been involved in the Elks' Dictionary Project for 10 years and its chairman for 6. This project puts a dictionary in the hands of every area 3rd grade student annually. His proudest achievement is the Elks' Elevator Project. This elevator now provides handicapped access to the building's heavily used second floor meeting and dining room. All of this would not have been possible without Dick's tenacity and fundraising. The project earned him the Elk's Distinguished Citizen Award.

Dick's dedication to community service makes him a respected and important member of the community of Ticonderoga and a deserving recipient of the Special Service Award.

Ticonderoga Emergency Squad

The Emergency Squad is an indispensable organization in our community. Founded in 1947, this group of volunteers is dedicated to serving fellow citizens through work that is often gut-wrenching, upsetting and unpleasant. Today the 25 active members of Ticonderoga's EMS, the majority of whom are 40 or younger, have endured the long educational process needed to become a member. Almost an equal number of men and women make up the team of 11 drivers, 12 EMTs, and one paramedic. The squad provides 24 hour coverage and responds to calls in 10 minutes or most often less. Ticonderoga has the second largest call volume in the county and last year responded to 538 calls. With an average of 1 hour spent on each 2-person response, the squad spent more than 1,176 hours on these calls.

The squad took a giant leap of faith a few years ago and decided a new squad building was needed. The former building was too small and its location dangerous for the squad and citizens

when ambulances were exiting onto Champlain Ave. Their new building located on the site of the former Central School is an attractive addition to the neighborhood and provides space for local training and meetings. This is especially remarkable considering the fact that the squad did not receive any grants for the new building and does not receive any kind of government funding. This small non-profit and self-supporting squad raised the down payment through donations and fundraising and today faces the challenge of making payments on a large mortgage.

The Ticonderoga EMS has been a critical organization in our community for 55 years. The Ticonderoga Alumni Assoc. commends this group for their unending service to our town and is proud to have awarded it our 2012 Special Service Award.

Friend of Ticonderoga Schools Awards

Scott Hearburg, owner of the Ticonderoga McDonald's restaurant, was given the Friend of the Ticonderoga School Community Award for his dedication to and his work on the outstanding new elementary school playground. The old elementary playground had been removed during school construction, and there were not enough funds to replace it. Believing in giving back to the community, Scott helped raise money for the project. This help included his generosity in hosting 3 McTeacher Nights at his restaurant and providing paid staff and all the food served at these events. His full staff along with teacher volunteers helped raise \$13,000 for the playground. He also organized

and managed the work parties who constructed the playground, making this fantastic playground a reality. Scott is to be commended for his generosity and dedication to local children.

Robert Palandrani, Sr., high school vocational education teacher, received the Friend of Ticonderoga High School Award. He is to be commended for his work guiding and mentoring students, particularly those at risk, as he encourages them to work on projects which improve the community. Bob was instrumental in the implementation of the Champlain Valley Educational Services' Marine Academy at THS which will open the door to career and employment opportunities for students. He is also now involved with the alternative education for at-risk students which began at the Armory last September. It is obvious he feels teaching is a privilege when he states: "It is our job to love and care." It is no surprise Bob was selected as the local WalMart Teacher of the Year a few years ago. The Alumni Association is proud to recognize him for his outstanding work with students.

To access the complete speeches honoring these 2012 award recipients, please visit our website.

How To Nominate Distinguished Alumni

Any graduate of Ticonderoga High School prior to 2003 is eligible. Nominations for this year's candidates will be accepted until May 6, 2013.

To receive nomination forms you can call Joyce Cooper at (518) 585-2640 or write to the Alumni Association at PO Box 644, Ticonderoga, NY 12883. A form may also be downloaded from the Association's website at www.ticonderogaalumni.org.



Dick Nadeau and daughter Heather

In Remembrance

The Ticonderoga Alumni Association notes with sadness the passing of Jane Morhouse Breiseth (class of 1958) after a valiant struggle against cancer.

Classmates will remember Jane as a smart, friendly, and fun-loving young woman who not only was chosen prom queen, but also served as president of her class and student council. Jane finished her high school career as Salutatorian of her class.

After graduation, Jane earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Cornell University. She and her husband, Christopher Breiseth, led a rich life in academia and public service in Williamstown, Mass, Washington, D. C., Springfield, Ill., Deep Springs, Calif., Hyde Springs, N.Y., as well as serving as President and First Lady of Wilkes University from 1984-2001 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. In 1968, while serving on the staff of Wilbur Cohen, Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, Jane played a pivotal role in creating, "Toward a Social Report," a study to develop social indicators of a nation's health to be used in conjunction with economic indicators.

She is survived by her mother, husband, daughters, Abigail, Erika and husband William F. Brockman of Baltimore, MD, and Lydia and husband Marco Vargas of Arlington, VA; grandchildren Warner and Annika Brockman; siblings, Wendy Sanborn, Thomas Morhouse and Sanford Morhouse.

To quote from a memorial written by Jane's daughters, "We're so glad that Mom got to enjoy Lake George and Ticonderoga for the last four years. She lived all over the country and traveled all over the world, but home was Ticonderoga...." Jane's celebration of life, family, and community serves as a model for us all.



Jane Breiseth Memorial Donations

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We thank the Breiseth family for directing memorial donations in Jane's name to the Ticonderoga Alumni Scholarship Fund.

From the President

Your Alumni Board of Directors is proud of our organization and especially our fundraising efforts.

According to a recent article in the Los Angeles Times, charitable organizations who use commercial fund raisers on average receive just 46 cents of each donated dollar. This is not the case with your donations to the Ticonderoga Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. Every dollar that is received as a donation to the scholarship fund is deposited in our savings account earmarked for our scholarships. Money is transferred from this account to our Scholarship checking

account annually to pay our scholarship awards when recipients' first semester transcripts are received in December or January. All of our financial transactions are reviewed annually by our Finance Committee which continues to make recommendations regarding financial practices and management of all our funds.

So how do we run our organization? We are an all-volunteer organization with an annual operating budget of about \$5,000. This budget provides the money for our annual newsletter and mailing, supplies, and our annual Awards

Ceremony which features a public appetizer reception, speeches, and a beautiful plaque to honor each award recipient. This money is raised primarily through the Alumni Golf Tournament. If you have any questions regarding our policies, please feel free to contact me through our website or by phone at 518 585-2640.

If you would like more information regarding donations to Charitable Organizations, visit <http://nonprofit.about.com/od/fundraising/a/fundproduct.htm>

Joyce Gallant Cooper '59

Be Web Aware!

A recent web search for Ticonderoga Alumni Association had upsetting results. Google provided the following site option: Ticonderoga High School Alumni-AlumniClass.com. A visit to this site revealed a page with advertising, outdated information, and options for 2 levels of membership, one a paid level. It appears to have some connection to Classmates.com.

If you read the disclaimer on the bottom of the page, you will discover this site was launched by AlumniClass.com and is not affiliated with and is independent of the Ticonderoga Alumni Association and our official website. Please visit our website at www.ticonderogaalumni.org to learn more about our organization including our mission, scholarship program, annual awards, and newsletter archives. Every graduate of Ticonderoga High School is a member of the Ticonderoga Alumni Association. We do not collect membership fees.

Forty-one Seniors Share \$16,000

Forty-one college bound seniors in the Class of 2012 shared a total of \$16,000 in Alumni Association Scholarship Awards. The awards ranged from \$468 to \$274; the average award was \$390. The Alumni Scholarship Award program began in 2006, and since then has made \$94,000 available to college bound graduates of Ticonderoga High School.

The awards are determined by the points that students earn during their four years at the high school and are based upon GPA, attendance, good behavior, family involvement, extracurricular activities, and community service. Seniors must successfully complete one semester of college to receive their award. The Scholarship Award program is funded by donations from friends and alumni of Ticonderoga High School.

Matching Grants

Does your company offer matching grants for employee or retiree donations to nonprofit organizations? In 2012 an additional \$600 was deposited in the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund thanks to company matching grant programs. These grants resulted in the doubling of the respective donor's original contribution.

Please remember we have been designated a 501(c)(3) public charity by the Internal Revenue Service. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

New Inductees

During Homecoming activities on September 19, 2012, four graduates were inducted into the Ticonderoga High School Hall of Fame. These inductees were Jamie Rockhill '90, Kristin LaVallie '02, John Reale '85, and Rick Liddell '84. Inductees were honored at an awards ceremony dinner and recognized again during halftime of the homecoming football game.

For more information on these outstanding former high school athletes, check the September 22, 2012 edition of the Times of Ti or our website www.ticonderogaalumni.org.

Thank You 2012 Donors!

**Sentinel Honor Circle
(Cumulative Donations)
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2012 Donations

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*Indicates those who have been donors 3 of the past 4 years.

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 Carol La Tour Alteri
and Mary Ann Porter Clark
Joan Charboneau

In Memory of Kim and Michelle Arthur
Dick & Betty Ann Arthur

In Memory of Francis and Norma Barber,
Glennis & Aletta Barber, Jennifer Ann
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Keith Barber

In Memory of Ray C. Beers, DDS,
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In Memory of Lorraine Boardman
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In Memory of T.C. (Tom) Cronin
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*Jim and Stephanie Frazier,
Michael Gunning*

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and McKeown Alumni
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Members of the Class of 1957

In Memory of Donald
and Bob W. Dedrick
Joyce Barker

In Memory of Robert W.
and Anita Dedrick, Rene Hamel
Robert and Annette Dedrick

In Memory of David Diskin
Mary and Dean Mattison

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In Memory of Ethel Dumas
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In Memory of Gertrude
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In Memory of Michael Hayes
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Carl and Naomi Bevilacqua, Sr.

In Memory of Jane A. Kuhl
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In Memory of Edward LaRock
Betty Jean LaRock

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In Memory of James M. Lonergan
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Vincent and Bonnie Perry

In Memory of John and Betty McDonald
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In Memory of Dr. and Mrs.
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In Memory of Evelyn Mischenko
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Patricia Dziuba

In Memory of Francis, Romaine,
and Jane Nadeau
Richard A. Nadeau

In Memory of Guy Dan Pozzouli
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In Memory of Theodore (Ted) Reale,
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In Memory of Mary Gail Russell
Andy and Julianne Russell

In Memory of Jeffrey Francis Shaw
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In Memory of Carlton Stacy
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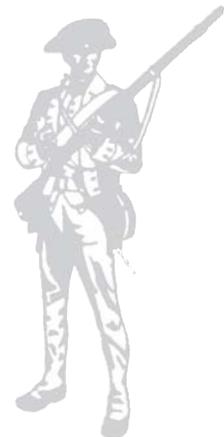
In Memory of Dr. and Mrs.
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Joe and Kathy (White) Liddell

In Memory of Nancy A. Yaw
Martin and Deborah Yaw

Honorary Gifts

In Honor of Joyce Gallant Cooper
Barbara Cooper & Mark Hendricks



2012 Golf Tournament

Early morning clouds gave way to a beautiful sunny day for the 12th annual Ticonderoga Alumni Golf Tournament at the Ticonderoga Golf Course. Eighty four golfers enjoyed the competition and opportunity to win numerous prizes as teams came together in a type of annual mini reunion. Purple and white were everywhere on the course.

A huge thank you to our generous patrons, Paul Ingrey and Ed Konikowski, who donated over \$1600 to the alumni fund for all eagles and birdies scored during the tournament. The longest drive contest, which comes at the conclusion of the tournament, is sponsored by Marty Laughlin, another generous patron of the tournament. This event always adds interest for the long ball hitters.

The alumni association would also like to thank George Mackey, the pro at TCC. George always spends extra time and effort organizing the teams and encouraging participation. There are over 40 individuals and local businesses who have also come alongside the alumni association as sponsors who support this event with their donations.

Mark your calendars for this year. The 2013 tournament will



Dieter Schmidt and Tony Bartolomeo

be an 8:00 am shotgun on Saturday, July 27th. Come and play as a friend and/or alumnus. We guarantee a good time. More details will be available closer to the event on our web site@ www.ticonderogaalumni.org



Alumni Association Board of Directors

Seated: Sally (Wickes) Hayes '58, Vice President; Joyce Gallant Cooper '59, President; Sharon (Vilardo) Maneri '60, Secretary; Anne (Van Hoesen) Charboneau '83, Treasurer

Standing: Steve Boyce '64; Jay Wells '98; Margo Foley Bartolomeo '58, Betty Anne (Pond) Arthur '59; Michelle (Clark) Hood '90; Charles (Chuck) Moore '68. Not pictured are Sue (Roark) Liddell '63 and John McDonald, Jr. '84 (Ex-Officio Member)

Hebert Wins State Championship!!!

THS's Jay Hebert won the 110 meter hurdles at the 2012 New York State Championships. Hebert, a sophomore at the time of his victory, joins the likes of Jeremy Hall, Lee Berube, and Andrea Steapal as Ticonderoga's state champions. Even more impressive Hebert emerged as the fastest 110 meter hurdler

in the state regardless of school size winning the New York State Federation Championships. In addition to those impressive victories Jay also posted a season best time of 14.07 seconds at the prestigious William F. Eddy Invitational breaking school and section records. These impressive performances also

qualified Jay to compete in the New Balance Outdoor Track and Field National Championship. He finished the season with the 4th fastest time in the 110 meter hurdles in the country. Already off to a great 2013 indoor track season, the future looks bright for Jay. Keep up the great work and way to go!

Strikes for Students Tournament

The first annual Strikes for Students Bowling Tournament was held in March 2012 at the Adirondack Lanes in Ticonderoga. Four-member teams of adults, children, or a combination of both competed for prizes with adults playing a 9 pin no tap format.

An enthusiastic crowd of children and adults enjoyed the 2-day tournament with some participants bowling both days. Along with prizes for the top-scoring teams, players also won strike pool money as well as On the Spot prizes in each of the 4 sessions. Bowligans, a tournament novelty, were very popular purchases which allowed bowlers to score a spare once in the 3 games when the player was unable get the spare on their second ball.

The Alumni Association was very pleased with the results of this first tournament and plans are being made for the 2013 2nd annual tournament to be held March 9th and 10th. We are most thankful for the prize donors and all the volunteers who made the tournament possible. Special thanks go to Derrick Fleury, Anne Michalak, and Tricia King who donated back their Strike Pool winnings. All proceeds from the tournament benefited the Ticonderoga Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.