



The Brick & Mortar Board

the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.

www.hobartalumni.org

Volume 5, Number 4

April, 2016

Brickie Bowl is Coming Back! Order Tickets Now for our May 13 Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting of the HHS Alumni Association will be held on Friday, May 13, in the Great Room of Hobart High School. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner will be served at 6:00, and the program starts at 6:30.

Speakers will be Paul Throne, Tom Kerr, and Lino Maggio. All three will talk about the "Bring Back Brickie Bowl" activity, including the big event on May 21. Entertainment will be provided by Wolfgang.

We will also recognize our scholarship winners and elect new board members and officers for the upcoming two-year term. (The slate of members and officers is on page 4 of this newsletter.)

You must reserve your tickets ahead of time, but you can pay at the door. Call Jane Woodruff McDaniel at 219-688-7573, or email dinner@hobartalumni.org, with your name, the number of people in your group, and a phone number where we can reach you. (No tickets will be sold at the door.)

Our website has the latest information, at www.hobartalumni.org.

Alumni Spotlight

Sharon Wozniak Palmeri: Writer, Teacher and Radio Personality



Sharon Palmeri at the Write On, Hoosiers Party in 2009

Our interview this issue is with Hobart High School Class of 1966 alumna Sharon Wozniak Palmeri, a charter member of the HHS Alumni Association Board, a writer who founded Write On, Hoosiers, and much more.

What are you up to these days?

Busy – I have always been a busy person. Whenever I get overloaded and mention slowing down, a new project appears.

How do you spend your time?

Currently I'm teaching a class on Writing Children's Books this spring, and will teach a Creative Writing class in the fall. I also work part-time for two Internet radio stations: one at Indiana University Northwest Campus in Gary as well as The Breeze in Crown Point.

(continued on page 2)

Alumni Spotlight (continued)

I'm heavily involved in computers and electronic media communications. Besides teaching and radio, I currently work as webmaster and/or administrator for websites, blogs, Facebook pages, and group pages for individuals and organizations – twelve in all. In addition, I serve on a couple committees, including this year's 1966 Class 50th anniversary committee, where I'm compiling a 50th commemorative anniversary book for our October event.

In 2009 I served on the Hobart High School Alumni Association's founding board of directors, worked on the bylaws and 501c3 committees, helped plan and execute BrickieFest 2011; and I continue to be an association member.

Could you tell us about your personal, educational and career path from Hobart High School to the present?

Wow, now that is a journey! Sometime back in high school or junior high, I recall taking a vocational test. The results said I would serve best in the field of communication and social services. I recall saying to myself: "Communication? What is that all about? I want to be a nurse." A few years later, to my surprise, I discovered that the test was indeed accurate.

In 1966, after graduation, I started work at Methodist Hospital in Gary. I soon moved into the student residence and enrolled in an Obstetric/Surgery Technician course. After I successfully completed the course, I soon earned enough money to move into a nearby apartment.

It was at the hospital where, though a fellow employee, I was introduced to my "to be" husband. The short story is that I wanted to learn how to snow ski, and John was my instructor. I never learned to ski well, but he obviously didn't care. We married in 1969.

After the birth of my daughter Reneé, I was a stay-at-home mom until she started school. In 1976, I returned to the new Methodist Hospital in Merrillville, shortly after its grand opening.



Sharon and her family at a dock party at North Point Marina in Winthrop Harbor, IL, where they kept their boat "Impulse"

After a few years of working in Labor and Delivery, I decided to go back to college to get a bachelor's degree in nursing -- but that never happened. I kept taking more and more English and writing classes -- until just before entering the nursing program, it dawned on me that I was about to embark on a new career: teaching.

Tell us about the writing classes, organizations and publications you've been involved with.

Before I received my bachelor's degree in Secondary Education/English in 1991, I had already been writing a weekly health column for The Lake County Star, and also was helping with IUN's new "Spirits" magazine. In addition, I began teaching non-credit writing classes at Merrillville Community Education. By that time, quite a few of my articles and poems had been published in the IUN newspaper, literary magazines and other journals.

The first writing class I taught was in 1989. I was a nervous wreck all through the class, but at the end of the course, the students were so excited about their craft that they wanted me to start a writer's club. Those first students were the beginning of the organization Write-on, Hoosiers, Inc. The organization, now in its 28th year, provides support, education, information, and friendship to fellow writers, and promotes literacy and the creative art of writing in all its forms.

Alumni Spotlight (continued)



Sharon in writing class in 2013

I enjoyed teaching these classes so much that instead of teaching high school after I earned my degree; I continued to teach writing classes on my own. I taught all over Lake and Porter Counties, to people between the ages of seven to 87 years old. I continued working part time at Methodist

Hospital S.L.C., but I was able to teach evening classes. Meanwhile, Write-on, Hoosiers grew larger, and in 1992 gained 501c3 status.

Also in 1992, while bringing a blurb about the organization to the Post Tribune newspaper, I was offered a job as a reporter. I worked at the Post for a year before moving over to the Times to write feature stories, and later a weekly column.

After many years of teaching and promoting W.O.H., in 2007 I fulfilled a long-time dream when I founded Indiana Writers' Consortium. I.W.C. is an organization which inspires and builds a community of writers. It acts as an umbrella to smaller writers' groups, and hosts many educational and literary events in northwest Indiana.

In 2014 I decided to retire from teaching after 25 years. This lasted only two years. I don't think teachers ever really retire. Do they?

You've done quite a bit with radio lately. Can you tell us about that, and how you got interested in radio?

It's odd how opportunities seemed to unexpectedly fall into my life. Although I was intrigued with radio equipment back in the '60s when I had a tour of a radio station, I never really gave much thought about ever working in the radio field.

In 1995, while working for the Times, I went to IUN to interview a Communication Department's professor about a new streaming radio station that would be launching soon. Being such a

computer nerd, I was captivated by the advancement of Internet radio, the music and encoding software, and the recording equipment. I was so taken in by the excitement the professor showed that it prompted me to take a radio class. The class turned into volunteer job to help keep the radio station software up to date, manage music media, and schedule music in-between courses. My volunteering and on the job training eventually turned into a paying job. I enjoy working with the music and have learned so much about music history from the 1940 to present time.

In 2015, I stopped in at The Breeze radio station in Crown Point, mostly out of curiosity. I was wondering what software and radio equipment they used. The conversation with the station owner turned into another part time job starting up a second radio station called The Seabreeze.

Can you tell us a little about your family?

My husband John and I have lived in Lakes of the Four Seasons now for 43 years, and have been married for 47 years. We have one daughter, Reneé, who also entered the medical field and became a Pharmacy Technician. She met her husband Michael, a registered nurse, while working at Methodist – so I guess history sort-of repeats itself. They have given us two beautiful grandchildren, Allison, 12 and Christian, 9.

It's funny -- back when I was in high school it seemed to be an eternity to get from Monday to Friday, while weekends sped by. Now entire years go by at warp speed.



Write On, Hoosiers' 25th anniversary and Sharon's 25 year retirement party.

Among the many hobbies I've had throughout the years, sailing and photography were two hobbies that both John and I shared. We owned a 33.5' Hunter sailboat for 12 years and sailed every weekend from spring until fall.

Most recently, we both enjoy gardening, and our two Labradors Samantha and Nyssa keep us company. They're our "fur babies."

Alumni Spotlight (continued)

Do you have any advice for high school students today who would like to write for a career?

- Write a little every day.
- Keep a journal. Journals are gold mines of information and ideas for later writings. (I kept a journal since third grade, and have often returned to it for writing ideas.)
- Be creative with your journal. For example: Write poems; this is good practice to help with keep unnecessary words out of your writing.
- Write notes to yourself; this will help get the feel for writing dialogue.
- Write and describe the weather and the seasons. It's hard to write a winter scene in the summer, but your journal can help.
- Keep your journal tone "real" to your personality. You can refer back to it in later years for characterization. For example, it's hard to write like a 16 year old when you are 45. A journal will help you remember those times.

- Above all, never give up, and never think you are not good enough -- because you ARE good. Just keep writing, learning the craft, and keep repeating to yourself: "I will NOT be discouraged, I AM good and I WILL get better and better...."

Anyone wishing to contact Sharon about writing can e-mail: sharon_palmeri@comcast.net.



Sharon at the Methodist Hospital Labor and Delivery Department in 1989

Slate of HHSAA Board Members and Officers for 2016-2018

Board members and officers will be elected for a two-year term (2016-2018) at the HHSAA Annual Meeting on Friday, May 13. This is the slate to be presented. If HHSAA members wish to add anyone to the slate, please submit your nomination **no later than Tuesday, May 3**, to HHSAA President Paul Addison, paulhaddison@gmail.com.

PROPOSED SLATE OF HHSAA BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR 2016-2018:

OFFICERS

Holli Smith Kostbade (1998), President
Paul Addison (1970), Vice-President
Debra Broker Opolski (1970), Treasurer
Lynn Hasza-Heintz (1967), Recording Secretary
Tracy Estabrook McCullough (1978), Corresponding Secretary

AT-LARGE

Tracy Petruska-Brumley (1991), *Dean of Students, Hobart High School*
Lynn Sheets Kostbade (1966)
*Jane Woodruff McDaniel (1969)

*Note: Jane's term began in 2015 and expires in 2017. The rest expire this year.

Class Reunion Roundup

Here is the current list of upcoming class and all-class reunions. If your class is having a reunion, send the information to us at info@hobartalumni.org, and we will publicize it on our website and in our newsletter! More information on all these reunions can be found on the [HHS Alumni Association website](#).

Class of 1971, 45th Year Reunion (August 6, 2016)

To members of the Hobart High School Class of 1971: The reunion will be on August 6, 2016, at the Ambassador Hall. Cost will be \$20 for a single, and \$35 for a couple, and there will be a cash bar. Please save the date! For more information, contact Patty Brown Helminski at Tricia.Helminski@gmail.com.

Class of 1986, 30th Year Reunion (August 20, 2016)

SAVE THE DATE! Our 30-year reunion will be on August 20, 2016, from 6-12 pm at the Hobart Elks Lodge in Hobart. More dates and times and event information to come in the next few months. We will be having a meet and greet on Friday night at Hobart's Lakefront Festival, a golf outing on Saturday morning, and a dinner/dance/party at the Elks that Saturday evening. Ticket prices and times and hotel details will be posted soon. We would like to get all of you to help us with reaching some of our classmates who are not on Facebook. If you know of anyone from our class NOT on FB, please email Janis their name and address (if you have it) at: ppd106@aol.com. Check out the Hobart Class of '86 Reunion page for more information.

Class of 1956, 60th Year Reunion (August 20, 2016)

There will be a 2016 class reunion organized again with Terry and Pat Shaw, on August 20, 2016 at the Innsbruck Country Club in Merrillville (not the Hilton Garden Inn in Hobart). Further plans are being made at this time.

Class of 1981, 35th Year Reunion (October 7-8, 2016)

The reunion committee headed by Betsey (Schroeder) Kimpan wanted to give everyone some details so we could all plan ahead :) We are also asking for updated addresses and to PLEASE get the word out! The plan is to attend the football game on Friday, October 7 which will be a home game, a school tour of "our" high school (now Hobart Middle School), a golf outing (weather permitting) and our dinner/dance will be held Saturday October 8, 2016. Contact Betsey at bkimpan1@yahoo.com.

Class of 1966, 50th Year Reunion (October 8, 2016)

The Hobart High School Class of 1966 Reunion has been set for October 8, 2016. Place: Innsbrook Country Club, Merrillville, IN. We are still in the planning stage, but we (the committee) can tell you that the event will be on the same weekend as the Hobart High Homecoming game and the All-Class Alumni Homecoming Picnic, so there will be plenty to do that weekend. Contact Sharon Palmeri at sharon_palmeri@comcast.net.

BrickieFest All-Class Reunion Picnic (October 8, 2016)

BrickieFest is back at Brickie Bowl! This all-class reunion will be held from 12 noon to 3:00 pm on the Saturday of Homecoming Weekend, October 8. Free hot dogs and brats will be served, courtesy of the Hobart High School Alumni Association. Come to Hobart for the Friday night football game (at the Brickyard at the new high school), and stay in town for BrickieFest on Saturday!

Class of 1961, 55th Year Reunion (October 22, 2016)

Ron Smith has posted that the Class of 1961 55th reunion will be held October 22, 2016, at the Hilton Garden Inn in Merrillville. A block of rooms is being held at the Hilton Garden Inn under "Hobart High School Class of 1961." To be sure you are on the mailing list, please email Ron at hhsclass61@yahoo.com.

HHS Alumni Association Board

The Hobart High School Alumni Association was officially incorporated on July 17, 2010. The current members of the Board of Directors are:

OFFICERS

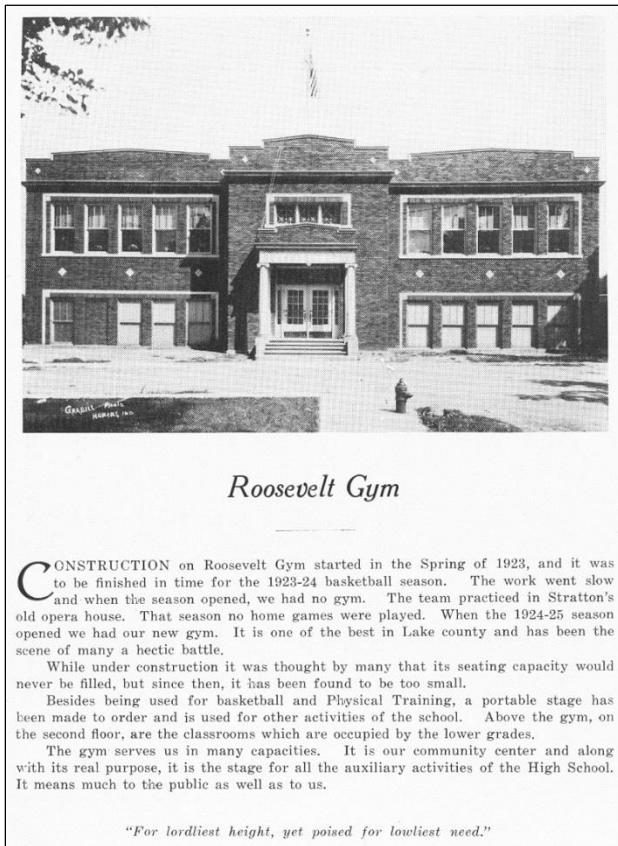
Paul Addison, Class of 1970 *President*
Holli Smith Kostbade, Class of 1998 *Vice-President*
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970 *Treasurer*
Lynn Hasza-Heintz, Class of 1967 *Recording Secretary*
Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978 *Corresponding Secretary*

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Tracy Brumley, Class of 1991, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School*
Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966
Dawn Briney Krull, Class of 1968
Michael Trammel, Class of 1967
Jane Woodruff McDaniel, Class of 1969

STUDENT MEMBERS

David Kostbade, Class of 2016
McKayla DeLeon, Class of 2016



Hello and Goodbye to Roosevelt Gym

The picture at the left is from the 1926 Hobart High School yearbook, *The Aurora*. Roosevelt Gym opened (a year behind schedule) for the 1924-25 season, and was considered one of the best in the area. Many alumni remember it as "their" gymnasium for Hobart High School, and later the Junior High School.

Roosevelt Gym was torn down in August of 2010. This [article by Bruce Webber in the Northwest Indiana Times](#) mentions among other things that the upper floor classrooms were used as an elementary school until 1955.

The Hobart Historical Society Museum, on Fourth Street has most of the Hobart High School yearbooks from 1900 on. The yearbook was known as *The Aurora* until the 1940s, when its name was changed to *Memories*.

The Lake County Public Library also has [numerous Hobart High School yearbooks online](#). No library card is required, and you can download the yearbooks as PDF files and print out pages.

The Brick & Mortar Board is a publication of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc., a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation. It is an electronic publication, delivered by email to members of the Association, and made available on our website.. Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership, and donations are tax-deductible. Make your check payable to: **HHS Alumni Association**, and mail it to: HHSAA, PO Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342. Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org, and you can reach us by email at info@hobartalumni.org. The editor of *The Brick & Mortar Board* is Paul Addison.

Recent Obituaries

(since our February 2016 newsletter;
in PDF form these are links to the obituaries on the HHSAA website)

MARCH 2016:

[Gordon Huges, Class of 1953](#)

[Cindy Gaedtke Kurpis, Class of 1969](#)

[Steve Flick, Class of 1973](#)

[Betty Marler Pratt, Class of 1945](#)

[Herbert "Herb" Johnson, Class of 1958](#)

[Ben Hasza, Class of 1971](#)

[Maryann Ahlgrim Duddleston, Class of 1950](#)

[James "Jim" Grudzinski, Class of 1990](#)

FEBRUARY 2016:

[Harold "Hal" Goodwin, Class of 1944](#)

[Earl McDowell, Class of 1964](#)

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hobart High School Alumni Association is to develop and maintain a close relationship between Hobart High School, its constituents, and its alumni for their mutual benefit. The Association is committed to, and involved in the support and well-being of Hobart High School and its alumni.

OUR GOALS

- To assist Hobart High School in communication with its alumni
- To convey to Hobart High School the views, attitudes, and needs of the alumni in seeking to preserve, advocate, and promote alumni interests
- To strengthen alumni activities and programs
- To support educational programs through teacher grants and student scholarships

Our Supporters

The HHS Alumni Association is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation, and our entire financial support comes from membership dues and contributions. We recognize our supporters by listing the names (not the amounts) of those who have contributed to HHSAA, including memorials, donations, and new and renewed members. Membership in the HHS Alumni Association is \$10 per year, and life memberships are \$100.

NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS (since our February 2016 newsletter)

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Jim Addison, Class of 1965 (Lifetime)
Shirley Robbins London, Class of 1967 (Lifetime)
Patrick McEuen, Class of 1986 (Lifetime)
Sandy Sarris McEuen, Class of 1986 (Lifetime)
Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970 (Lifetime)

ANNUAL MEMBERS:

Sandra Scott Casperson, Class of 1953
Sandra Yover Haas, Class of 1974
James Marler, Class of 1961
Linda Linoski Marler, Class of 1964
Katherine Karageorge Miller, Class of 1959
Sylvia (Ellen) Campos Schenk, Class of 1947
Dennis Schuman, Class of 1963



Membership Application and Renewal Form Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Check one: New member ____ Renewal ____

Check one: 1-year membership (\$10) ____ Lifetime membership (\$100) ____

Additional donation for scholarships _____

First Name _____

Last Name (in high school) _____

Married Last Name _____

Your class graduating year at HHS _____

(For renewals, fill out below only if your information has changed)

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email address _____

Home phone _____

Cell phone _____

Work phone _____

"Once a Brickie, Always a Brickie!"

Thank you for your support!

**Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership
(proceeds go toward student scholarships and teacher grants)**

Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association

Mail to: HHSAA, P.O. Box 68, Hobart, IN 46342

Our website is: www.hobartalumni.org