



# The Brick & Mortar Board

*the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.*  
[www.hobartalumni.org](http://www.hobartalumni.org)

Volume 13, Number 3

March, 2024

## Teachers, Please Join Our Website! (It's Free!)

We are reaching out to current and retired teachers of Hobart High School to join our website. We have always considered faculty and staff of Hobart schools to be alumni, as well as students who attended Hobart schools at any time. You don't have to be a paying member of the Hobart High School Alumni Association to register for free on our website. If you haven't already joined, here's how:

- Go to the website, [www.hobartalumni.org](http://www.hobartalumni.org), and select Current and Retired Teachers.
- If you find your name, click the link to go to the JOIN HERE page. In addition to your preferred email address, you just need to select a password. We also invite you to share profile information, such as the years you taught at Hobart, what subjects you taught, and anything else you'd like to share with other Hobart alumni.
- If you do NOT find your name, click on the [Contact Us](#) link, enter your name and email address, then enter "Teacher: please add me" as the subject. You can skip Regarding Year, and the message is optional. Send it, and we'll add your name to the Current and Retired Teachers page, and we will email you so that you know you can register on the website.

The All Teachers page includes teachers who are deceased, but the Current and Retired Teachers page is just for living teachers, past and present. Some have already joined, but we want you to know you are ALL invited. It's an easy way to find out what alumni are doing, and a great way to renew old friendships!

---

### Alumni Spotlight

## Amanda Stillwell, Newest HHSAA Board Member

Our Alumni Spotlight this issue is on Amanda Loy Stillwell, HHS Class of 2000, owner of Mandy's Circle. Amanda is the newest member of the Board of Directors of the Hobart High School Alumni Association.



*What is your favorite high school memory? And who was your favorite teacher?*

In high school I was in marching band and color guard. Being on the flag team was my favorite part of high school, so many great memories and friendships were made there.

In 1998 we traveled to Ireland and marched in the St Patrick's Day parade in Dublin. I'm so thankful to have been a part of that, and I will always strive to visit Ireland again one day.

*(continued on page 2)*

*Alumni Spotlight (cont.)*



My favorite teacher was Mr Bartlett, our band director. We spent a lot of time with him, especially during marching band season. He always made things fun, even on long hot days he had a way of keeping our spirits up.

*Can you trace a path from Hobart High School to where you are now?*

After graduating high school, I earned my medical assisting degree from Commonwealth Business College. I

worked for a family doctor in Chesterton until 2005 when I moved to Illinois and had my first son. I lived in Illinois for 14 years, and while I was mostly a stay-at-home mom, I spent two years working for the City of Blue Island, Community Development Department. I was also Secretary of the Blue Island Historical Preservation Commission for 4 years. In 2019, I moved back to Indiana to be closer to family.

*Where are you living now, and what do you do most days?*

I live in Portage, and I'm a stay-at-home mom. I have three boys ages 18, 17, and 9, and two dogs. I have been with my fiancé, Mike, since 2021. I teach Sunday school twice a month at Bethel

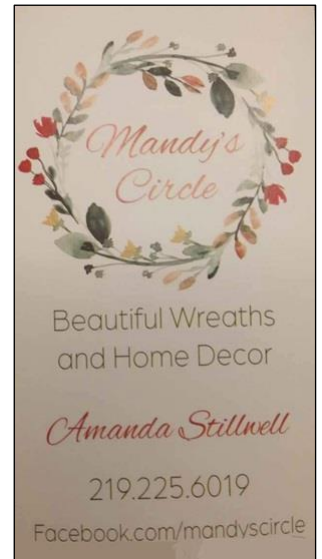
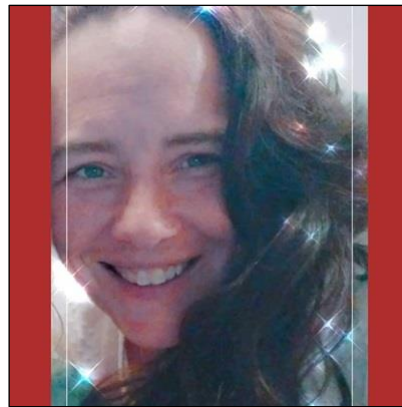
Church, and I have a small wreath and home decor business called Mandy's Circle. I am also the newest board member of the Hobart High School Alumni Association.

*Can you tell us about your business, Mandy's Circle?*

I started Mandy's Circle during the pandemic to keep my hands and mind busy. I mostly make wreaths and other home decor items, but I also make custom t-shirts, earrings and hair bows. It has been a lot of fun for me, and it satisfies my need to create.

*Do you have any advice for students who are interested in starting a business?*

My advice for any students interested in starting a business is not to give up. Learn as much as you



can about your target market and competition. Take full advantage of word of mouth and social media platforms. Find something you really enjoy, and make sure you are having fun!

## 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 (as of October 1, 2023) are:

### OFFICERS

Paul Addison, Class of 1970 ..... *President*  
 Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966..... *Vice-President*  
 Debra Broker Opolski, Class of 1970 ..... *Treasurer*  
 Tracy Estabrook McCullough, Class of 1978..... *Secretary*

### AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Shaun Zoladz, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School, Class of 2006*  
 Beth Scott Barney, Class of 1970  
 Debbie Scharbach Vega, Class of 1971  
 Amanda Loy Stillwell, Class of 2000

## HHS Alumnus Josh Miracle Is Appointed Head Coach at Westfield High School



Josh Miracle, HHS Class of 2007 and assistant coach for Westfield (Indiana) High School for the past 13 years, has been named the head coach, replacing Jake Gilbert, who is returning to his alma mater, Wabash College. Josh also graduated from Wabash College.

Read the full story on the [Hamilton County Reporter website](#). This information and this picture were obtained from the website.

---

## Our Newest Supporters (since December 2023)

### NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Bill Clingan (1963)  
David Horn (1972)  
Kimberly (Kim) Rhode Milner (1976)  
Terry Milner (1973)  
Bruce Tisdale (1968)  
David Vinzant (1975)  
Ken Zoladz (1966)

### NEW AND RENEWED ANNUAL MEMBERS:

Linda Jackson Bakos (1967)  
Allen Blanchard (1954)  
Terry Fasel (1965)  
Lorelei Callaway Flood (1954)  
Christiam Gielow (1967)  
Alan Govert (2019)  
Elizabeth Govert (2017)  
Richard Govert (1987)  
Mary Ellen "Midge" Routes Hutnick (1966)  
Larry Joliff (1958)  
Donald "Rik" Kapica (1978)  
Leslie Schulz Kapica (1977)

Tom Kerr (1957)  
Larry Koziol (1958)  
Ashley McCullough Koble (2002)  
Linda Quinlan Koziol (1960)  
Angela McCullough Manolas (2012)  
Aaron McCullough (2011)  
Adam McCullough (2004)  
Andrew McCullough (2009)  
Katherine Miller (1959)  
Mary Siddall Newcomb (1970)  
Sherry Oswald Peterson (1965)  
Michael Petkovich (1981)  
Sam Preissler (1953)  
Wilma Hasse Preissler (1953)  
Kimberly Berry Rujevcan (1979)  
William Rujevcan (1979)  
Henry Sanak (1953)  
Reneé Shannon (1961)  
Vicki Small (1961)  
Celeste Wiseman Ux (1972)  
Janis Palmer Vonderhaar (1957)

---

## Class Reunion Roundup

Please send reunion information to us at [info@hobartalumni.org](mailto:info@hobartalumni.org). Updates are posted on our website, at: <https://www.hobartalumni.org/ClassReunions.htm>. These events are listed in order of their occurrence.

### CLASS OF 2004:

The Class of 2004 reunion is booked for **August 2-4, 2024**. August 2nd pool party at HHS aquatic center, Saturday brew fest at Hobart Community Center. Sunday in memory gathering and memorial bend dedication. Location TBD. Contact Katherine Galka Rinas at [HobartHS2004@gmail.com](mailto:HobartHS2004@gmail.com) for more information.



### **CLASS OF 1974:**

The Class of 1974 will hold its 50th year reunion on Saturday, **August 17, 2024**. There will be a get-together at the Hobart Lakefront Festival Park Festival on Friday, August 16 and Sunday, August 18, 2024. Contact Martha Fick Osten for more information at [marketingmartha@comcast.net](mailto:marketingmartha@comcast.net).

=====

### **REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:**

**CLASS OF 1960:** The Class of 1960 is having their luncheon the second Saturday of each month at the Paragon Restaurant at 1:00 PM. Any questions, contact Linda (Quinlan) Koziol at [larry58koziol@gmail.com](mailto:larry58koziol@gmail.com).

**CLASSES OF 1952 AND 1953:** The classes of 1952 and 1953 are having breakfast the second Thursday of each month at the Paragon at 8:30. Any questions, call Marlene (Baier) Krawcyk (Class of 1952) 219-942-6301, or Martha (Jordan) Nichols (Class of 1953) 219-942-3062.

**CLASS OF 1970:** The Class of 1970 usually meets for breakfast on the third Saturday of the month. To check the latest information, go the Facebook page for the HHS Class of 1970, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/110625168719>.

---

## **Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?**

### **A High School Student on the Payroll**

In 1956, as a Hobart High Sophomore, I started a job at school while being on study hall time. This job was to empty trash cans from the offices and teachers' lounge, and take the trash to the basement janitorial room for drop-off. I also refilled the teachers' lounge soda machine and organized empty bottles for pick-up by the delivery man. In the teachers' lounge, occasionally a teacher would catch me and give me extra trash to dispose of, which led me to have a conversation with them, and get to know many of the teachers better.

When taking the trash to the basement, I would walk the school halls, visit with the hall guards and stop by the home ec room. There the home ec students would pass me goodies they had made. After that, I would visit the cheerleaders during practice; however, the girls always confiscated some of my goodies from home ec. This forced me to alter my route and visit the home ec room last, after which I would return to Study Hall. Some Study Hall teachers also would take a goodie or two (this was good p.r. for me).

When payroll day arrived, I observed the male teachers getting a check out of their mailbox and some would walk around the rest of the day with this check showing out of their shirt pockets. As I saw this, on payday I made sure to wear a shirt with a pocket so I could also walk around with my check sticking out of my shirt pocket. Some teachers thought I was teasing them (and I was!).

Our principal, Mr. Moody, offered me this job. I believe this was because several years before, as a "middleschooler" I helped him and his family move into their home. It was a cold winter day and nobody in his family knew how to build a coal fire in their furnace. I showed them how, and his family really appreciated this.

This job ended in 1958, as the school office advised me that students weren't allowed to work during the school year, but only in the summer.

*Okay readers, who was this student??? Send your guesses to Paul Addison, at [paul@hobartalumni.org](mailto:paul@hobartalumni.org). The answer (and names of those who guessed correctly) will appear in the June newsletter.*



## Recent Obituaries (since our December 2023 newsletter; in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

### FEBRUARY 2024:

[John Pavlakovic, Class of 1951](#)

[Roy Dixon, Class of 1951](#)

[Douglas \(Doug\) "Chopper" Perney, Class of 1975](#)

[Thomas \(Tom\) Wright, Class of 1955](#)

[Bernard \(Bernie\) Smith, Teacher](#)

[Treva Dallas Flowers, Class of 1966](#)

[Marjorie Gunderson Talmadge, Class of 1957](#)

### JANUARY 2024:

[Steve Rice, Class of 1958](#)

[John Dziubla, Class of 1957](#)

[Anton \(Tony\) Malmquist, Class of 1958](#)

[Lawrence Thomas \(Tom\) Dooling, Class of 1956](#)

[Bruce Eden, Class of 1970](#)

[Keith Coons, Class of 1975](#)

[Linda Parrish, Class of 1965](#)

[April Nelson, Class of 1975](#)

[Robert \(Bob\) Weith, Teacher](#)

[John Adams, Class of 1957](#)

[Barbara Baker Burkland, Class of 1967](#)

[Betty Bellar Wojtysiak, Class of 1971](#)

[Mary Peters, Teacher](#)

[Frances Fleming Sapper, Class of 1942](#)

### DECEMBER 2023:

[Sharon Nariss, Class of 1969](#)

[Mary Alexander Nariss, Class of 1957](#)

[Diane Floros Black, Class of 1981](#)

[Robert \(Bob\) Bielewicz \(Blair\), Class of 1964](#)

[Robert \(Bob\) Popaditch, Class of 1961](#)

[John Chirila, Class of 1966](#)

[Marlene DeBoy, Class of 1951](#)

[Michael \(Mike\) Benka, Class of 1966](#)

[Thomas \(Tom\) Coates, Class of 1963](#)

[Sharon Spero Bailey, Class of 1962](#)

### NOVEMBER 2023:

[Dennis King, Class of 1971](#)

### OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED:

#### OCTOBER 2023:

[Terry Bennett II, Class of 1999](#)

### JULY 2023:

[Sharon Coulter Rippe, Class of 1969](#)

### JUNE 2023:

[Terry Sawicki, Class of 1981](#)

### MAY 2023:

[Christopher Marvin \(Marv\) Stewart, Class of 1968](#)

### JANUARY 2023:

[Betty Greene Landis, Class of 1941](#)

### OCTOBER 2022:

[Helen Lute Rieck, Class of 1941](#)

### AUGUST 2021:

[Leonard Aguilar, Class of 1981](#)

### JULY 2021:

[Nanci Hunt Vasilko, Class of 1985](#)

### NOVEMBER 2020:

[Samuel \(Sam\) Kosich, Class of 1981](#)

### OCTOBER 2020:

[Marcy \(Marcie, Marcelline\) Szymanski Fukuda, Class of 1981](#)

### AUGUST 2020:

[Greg White, Class of 1981](#)

[George Skomp, Class of 1981](#)

[Zachary \(Zach\) Banasiak, Class of 2014](#)

### JULY 2020:

[Rosalind Marjanian Howell, Teacher](#)

### APRIL 2020:

[Robert Davis, Class of 1941](#)

### MARCH 2020:

[Marlynn Fleck O'Keefe, Class of 1941](#)

### JANUARY 2020:

[Michael \(Mike\) McGriffin, Class of 1981](#)

### OCTOBER 2018:

[Pauline Potts, Class of 1981](#)

### SEPTEMBER 2017:

[Kenneth Rieck, Class of 1941](#)

### JUNE 2017:

[Sandra \(Sandy\) Jamison Chambers, Class of 1981](#)

[Ruth Henschel Koeller, Class of 1947](#)

### MARCH 2017:

[Olive Rees Gibson, Class of 1939](#)

**OCTOBER 2016:**

[Anna \(Ann\) Mihich Kvortek, Class of 1941](#)

[Thomas \(Tommy\) Rees, Class of 1942](#)

**SEPTEMBER 2016:**

[Alice Vincent Gromble Whytock, Class of 1941](#)

**JUNE 2016:**

[Marilynn Baumer Graebner, Class of 1941](#)

**MAY 2016:**

[Nick Sweigart, Administrator](#)

**MARCH 2016:**

[Jean Walker Turner Graham, Class of 1941](#)

**DECEMBER 2015:**

[Eric Harshbarger, Class of 1981](#)

**AUGUST 2015:**

[Carmen Whisler Anderson, Class of 1934](#)

**APRIL 2015:**

[Betty Cuson May, Class of 1941](#)

**DECEMBER 2014:**

[Lillian June Voke Klahn, Teacher](#)

**APRIL 2014:**

[Joyce Schavey Crowe, Class of 1947](#)

**MARCH 2014:**

[George Hawke, Class of 1934](#)

**DECEMBER 2013:**

[Glenn Palmer, Class of 1960](#)

**SEPTEMBER 2013:**

[Shirley Hoff Gronlund, Teacher](#)

**JUNE 2013:**

[Aileen Fleck Williams, Class of 1941](#)

**MAY 2012:**

[Henry Emden Rippe, Class of 1934](#)

**FEBRUARY 2012:**

[Lorene \(Lorraine\) Schavey Olsen, Class of 1949](#)

**JANUARY 2012:**

[Ruth Nelson Claussen, Class of 1932](#)

**JULY 2011:**

[Walter Nabhan, Administrator](#)

**NOVEMBER 2010:**

[Margaret Rees Zeman, Class of 1936](#)

**OCTOBER 2010:**

[Richard \(Dick\) Adams, Class of 1929](#)

**SEPTEMBER 2010:**

[Ramah Byall Smith, Class of 1934](#)

---

## The 2024 BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic Will Be Saturday, September 21

Mark your calendars now for the 2024 BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic. It will be held on Saturday, September 21, from 12 noon to 3 pm, at VFW, 540 S. Indiana Street in Hobart.

Hot dogs, brats, chips, and bottled water will be provided by the Hobart High School Alumni Association.

The picnic is free, and all alumni of Hobart schools and their families are welcome!



*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. 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](http://www.hobartalumni.org). The editor of The Brick & Mortar Board is Paul Addison.*



## Membership Application Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

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

Check one: New member \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Scholarship donation only \_\_\_

If membership, check one: 1-year membership (\$10) \_\_\_ Lifetime membership (\$100) \_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name (in high school) \_\_\_\_\_

Married Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your class graduating year at HHS \_\_\_\_\_

*(Renewing members only need to fill out the following if anything 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!**

**Make your check out to: HHS Alumni Association**

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

**Our website is: [www.hobartalumni.org](http://www.hobartalumni.org)**