



# The Brick & Mortar Board

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

Volume 14, Number 4

June, 2025

## HHSAA Honors the 2025 Scholarship Winners



*Scholarship winners Grace Krejci and Isis Fleming*

On Monday, May 19, the Hobart High School Alumni Association honored the two 2025 scholarship winners, Grace Krejci and Isis Fleming, at a dinner at the Paragon Restaurant in Hobart, accompanied by parents, board members, former board members, and other HHSAA members. Congratulations!

Grace Krejci will be attending Butler University in Indianapolis and studying to become a data analyst. Isis Fleming will attend Purdue University in West Lafayette with a double major in Engineering and Business.

HHSAA scholarships are awarded on the basis of school activity, community service, and character. From the application, "The applicant must have

qualities of good citizenship, favorable attitudes and habits, and a desire to succeed."



*Grace and Isis with the HHSAA board*

## Hobart Band Program Celebrates 100 Years! *(see page 3)*

### Alumni Spotlight

### Susan Bartlett, Community and Theater Musician

Our spotlight this issue is on Susan Demmon Bartlett, Class of 1970. Susan played clarinet in the Hobart High School band and has remained an active musician in her community, The Villages in Florida.

*Where do you live, and what are you doing these days?*

I live in The Villages, FL, and I'm super busy here (all the activities were the draw for me to come here). Some of these are: clarinet in the Pops Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, and pit orchestras (latest was Fiddler on the Roof); tuba in a British style brass band and for the Salvation Army; recorder and piano groups; singing in a chorale as well as musicals (Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor



*Susan Bartlett with her tuba*

*(continued on page 2)*

*Alumni Spotlight (cont.)*

Dreamcoat and Pirates of Penzance recently); golf, Pilates classes, dance groups, and lots more!!!



*Could you trace the path from Hobart High School to where you are now?*

Hobart had a fantastic band program, plus a really good choral program. I had always been heavily involved in music, so it was an easy choice to get a music degree at IU. After that, I spent over 24 years of teaching ALL aspects of music, from kindergarten to college, getting a masters in music education along the way. After that, I switched careers and worked for the Federal Government for over 15 years (can't talk about that...) Then, retirement!!!



*How did you get involved in community band and community theater?*

I had played in a community band in MD for many years, but had no theater experience at all until retiring here. So of course I joined as many musical groups as I could manage, and jumped at the chance to do musical theater, both onstage and in the pit.

*Were there any teachers or coaches in the Hobart schools that inspired you or helped shape your adult life?*

My music teachers in Hobart weren't particularly inspiring, but were demanding and strict, which was a good thing for me! I just wished they had insisted on us learning more than just ONE MAJOR SCALE. I was at a huge disadvantage going into such a prestigious and demanding music school. I did enjoy Herr Wuchner for German classes, and of course Mr. Scarborough for history (probably the best teacher I ever had).



*Do you have any advice for young students today to help them prepare for their futures?*

Get a good BASIC education in key subjects: English (grammar, spelling and WRITING) math, sciences. Try to learn as much as you can about as many topics as possible. It will help you figure out what you want to do with the rest of your life, as well as allowing you to try out new jobs. Develop social skills so you have no trouble chatting with strangers, this will come in handy! Stay physically fit (you'll thank me when you're in your 70's). Enjoy life, but keep the crazy stuff in check!



**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.

# High School Band Program Celebrates 100 Years!



Class of 1962 HHS band alumni: Doug Davis, Arlin Guess, Carl Carlisle, and Dwayne Hallman

The Hobart program celebrated its 100th anniversary on Thursday, May 15, with a special concert and reception. Four band alumni from the Class of 1962 attended (pictured at left). The concert included the world premiere of “Centennial”, written specifically for the Hobart Band by William Owens. A video of this performance is on the Hobart Bands Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/hobartbands](http://www.facebook.com/hobartbands).



A contest plaque won by the 1962 HHS Band, led by Robert Webb.

The Hobart High School Band program was started in 1925 by William Revelli. Within just a few years, the band was winning national championships. The band performed at the prestigious Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago three times.

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## Paul Addison and Debra Opolski Will Retire in 2026

At the HHSAA dinner meeting on May 19 (see page 1), Paul Addison and Debra Opolski, the president and treasurer of the Hobart High School Alumni Association, announced their intention to retire from the board after 16 years of service, when their eighth two-year terms expire in July of 2026.

As a result, the board is looking for new members to take over tasks which include website management, newsletter editing, and financial activities. Do you have a talent for any of these? There are currently four open spots on the board, so new members can start right away and get some hands-on training. Please contact any board members or email [info@hobartalumni.org](mailto:info@hobartalumni.org) with questions or comments. Thank you!

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## BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic September 27 Will Feature Class Competitions and Awards



The 2025 BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 27, at the VFW in Hobart, from 12 noon until 3 pm. All Hobart High School alumni are invited, and that includes former students, teachers, staff, and their families. Hot dogs, brats, chips, and bottled water will be provided by the HHS Alumni Association.

Awards will be presented at the picnic for: Class With the Most People Attending, Class Cornhole Champion, and Classmate Traveling the Farthest to Attend BrickieFest. Get the word out to your classmates!

The Homecoming football game will be the night before the picnic, against Lowell (again), at 7:00 pm.

We suggest that your class make a weekend of it by coming to the football game on Friday night, attending the picnic on Saturday, and getting together on your own after the picnic or in the evening.



# 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.



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## UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS:

### CLASS OF 1980 45th YEAR REUNION:

A reminder to classmates of the Class of 1980 who have signed up for the 45<sup>th</sup> year reunion: It will be held on **Saturday, June 21, 2025** from 6pm to 11pm at Gino's Banquets, 1967 E 37th Ave., Hobart, IN 46342.

- Meal/Open Bar/DJ
- Jeff Galovic is planning a golf outing for Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>
- Classmates, please join our Facebook group, Hobart High School Class of 1980!

Any questions, contact:

Tracy Pavese Robinson, 326 N. Ohio St., Hobart, IN 46342, email: [tracypavese@comcast.net](mailto:tracypavese@comcast.net)  
Laura Bull, 120 N. Illinois St., Hobart IN 46342

### CLASS OF 1965 MEET-AND-GREET:

Classmates from 1965, mark your calendars for **Friday and Saturday, September 26 and 27, 2025**, marking the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Class of 1965's graduation.

- Friday night will be a pizza meet and greet
- Saturday will be a family style meal to meet and greet our classmates
- For more info contact Barb Phillips Rowley [mnbrowley@comcast.net](mailto:mnbrowley@comcast.net) or Sherry Oswald Peterson [rnspterson@gmail.com](mailto:rnspterson@gmail.com)

Notice that this is Homecoming weekend, and there will be an all-class picnic at the VFW on Saturday at from 12 noon to 3 pm.

### CLASS OF 1975 50th YEAR REUNION:

The Hobart Class of 1975 will celebrate their 50th reunion on **Saturday October 4, 2025** at Gino's Banquets. Please look for information to come in the Facebook group Class of 1975 HHS or contact Donna Rebeck at [donnarebeck@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donnarebeck@sbcglobal.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).

**CLASS OF 1958:** The Class of 1958 is having their monthly luncheon the third Saturday of each month at the Paragon Restaurant at 1:00 PM. Any questions, contact Larry 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.

*(continued on page 5)*

**CLASS OF 1970:** The Class of 1970 usually meets for brunch 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>.

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## **Recent Obituaries (since our April 2025 newsletter; in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)**

Many thanks to Bill Spiller, Class of 1990, for continuing to supply me with obituary links, and for finding the 1943 HHS yearbook. We have added over 100 photos to the memorial pages for alumni of that class.

### **MAY 2025:**

[Dr. Edward \(Ernest\) Husarik \(Wilson\), Class of 1959](#)

[Shelby Jester, Class of 1961](#)

[Patti Pullins, Class of 1974](#)

[Tamara \(Tammy\) Hiestand, Class of 1988](#)

[Perry Q. Bonner, Class of 1947](#)

[Carmen Rodriguez Hanna, Class of 1958](#)

[Marie Debiase \(De Biase\), Class of 1972](#)

[Sally Adams Tipton, Class of 1971](#)

[Paul Palichuk, Class of 1967](#)

### **APRIL 2025:**

[Robert \(Bob\) Gravel, Class of 1958](#)

[Thomas \(Tom\) Noesges, Teacher](#)

[Patricia Wengel, Class of 1959](#)

[Brendan Black, Class of 2017](#)

[Mary Halkitis Handley, Class of 1959](#)

[Brian Frank, Class of 1992](#)

### **OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED:**

#### **NOVEMBER 2024:**

[Darry Michael \(Mike\) Dickey, Class of 1961](#)

#### **APRIL 2024:**

[Robert \(Bob\) Irick, Class of 1952](#)

#### **FEBRUARY 2024:**

[Katherine \(Katie\) Carnell Myers, Class of 1949](#)

#### **NOVEMBER 2023:**

[Mark Wegmet, Class of 1970](#)

#### **DECEMBER 2022:**

[Barbara Ball Marler, Class of 1948](#)

#### **NOVEMBER 2021:**

[Marilyn Toscani Aimutis, Class of 1953](#)

[Don Bell, Class of 1947](#)

### **SEPTEMBER 2021:**

[Eugene Walter Trumbo, Class of 1952](#)

### **FEBRUARY 2021:**

[Karen Kuyachich, Teacher](#)

### **2020 (MONTH UNKNOWN):**

[Vona Joyce Sullivan Degenais, Class of 1953](#)

### **NOVEMBER 2020:**

[Patricia Kennedy Krieter, Class of 1949](#)

### **FEBRUARY 2020:**

[Gregory \(Greg\) Swain, Class of 1973](#)

### **SEPTEMBER 2019:**

[Patricia Vranka \(Uranka\) Trumbo, Class of 1955](#)

### **AUGUST 2018:**

[William \(Bill\) Low, Class of 1943](#)

### **NOVEMBER 2017:**

[Katherine Dujmovich Richardson, Class of 1943](#)

### **DECEMBER 2014:**

[Don VanVleet, Class of 1955](#)

### **DECEMBER 2013:**

[Robert Kostbade, Class of 1943](#)

### **NOVEMBER 2013:**

[James \(Jim\) Toscani, Class of 1957](#)

### **MARCH 2013:**

[James Melnick, Class of 1953](#)

### **FEBRUARY 2013:**

[Henry \(Hank\) Stozek, Class of 1943](#)

### **SEPTEMBER 2012:**

[Grace Commer Vensel, Class of 1943](#)

### **OCTOBER 2011:**

[Betty Hugueley Rose, Class of 1952](#)

### **JULY 2011:**

[William \(Bill\) Isakson, Class of 1943](#)

### **DECEMBER 2010:**

[Calista Bussie Gorman, Class of 1949](#)

# 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 July 1, 20) 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*, Class of 2006  
Beth Scott Barney, Class of 197024

Debbie Scharbach Vega, Class of 1971  
Amanda Loy Stillwell, Class of 2000

## Our Newest Supporters (since April 2025)

### NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Jim Reha (1969)

### NEW AND RENEWED ANNUAL MEMBERS:

Angela McCullough Manolas

## Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

### Reply to: The HHS Band Program: What Memories Do You Have?

**From Barbara Bayless Quinlan, Class of 1961:** I read Mr. Webb's obituary and remembered him from Jr. High, where I played the flute. I was surprised to read his funeral was in Janesville, Wi. I actually lived there 1984-1988.

### Shop Classes and Print Shop: What Do You Remember?

**From Paul Addison, Class of 1970:** I'm not much of a handyman, and certainly not a mechanic, but I learned a lot from my 8<sup>th</sup> grade shop teachers. I printed some business cards in Mr. Vinson's class for the James Bond Fan Club (which I founded at the time), and I think I still have the Batman paperweight that I made in the patternmaking and foundry part of Mr. Crowder's class (right).

Do you remember anything from your Industrial Arts classes, like shop, print shop, auto mechanics, or any others? Send your stories to Paul Addison at [paul@hobartalumni.org](mailto:paul@hobartalumni.org).



To read more first-hand stories, buy a copy of "Growing Up in Hobart" or "Hobart: As It Began and As We Knew It", by Howard Oaf, Class of 1965. Copies are available at the Hobart Historical Society Museum, 706 E. 4th Street in Hobart (open Saturdays from 10 am to 12 noon), call them at (219) 942-0970, or email them at [hobarthistory@gmail.com](mailto:hobarthistory@gmail.com).

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## 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)**