



The Brick & Mortar Board

the newsletter of the HHS Alumni Association, Inc.
www.hobartalumni.org

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April, 2026

Reserve Your Spot for the May 11 Dinner Meeting And Meet Our Scholarship Winners

The Hobart High School Alumni Association has awarded three scholarships this spring to Hobart High School seniors Aalliah Otero, Joseph Huizar, and Sadelia McKinley. You are invited to meet them at our Scholarship Dinner Meeting on May 11 (see below for details).

Aalliah Otero will be attending Indiana University in Bloomington, where she will be studying Professional Sports Management and Operations. She a business of her own, delivering professional-level presentations and being an active member of Business Professionals of America.

Joseph Huizar will be attending Purdue University Northwest to major in Elementary Education. He has served as a cadet teacher, helping students from kindergarten through 5th grade.

Sadelia McKinley will be attending Purdue University in West Lafayette and has not declared her program of study yet.

PLEASE RSVP if you will be attending our Scholarship Dinner Meeting on Monday, May 11, at 6:00 pm at The Paragon in Hobart. The cost is \$15 per person. Email the number and names of those attending to info@hobartalumni.org by Monday, May 4. You can pay at the meeting. The family-style menu includes: roast chicken, roast beef, Italian sausage, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, vanilla ice cream, coffee, tea, and soft drinks. We hope to hear from you soon!

BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic Is September 19

The annual BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 19, at the VFW in Hobart from 12 noon to 3:00 pm. Mark your calendars!

Alumni Spotlight

Sharon Kienitz, Theater Costume Designer



Our spotlight for this issue is on Sharon Copp Kienitz, Class of 1968, who designs costumes for theaters in LaPorte and Michigan City.

Where are you living, and what are you doing these days?

My family and I live in La Porte, Indiana, where we built a home on my husband Dennis's family land in 1974. I am now retired after 27 years as an administrative assistant for Indiana Legal Services in South Bend. I stay very active as a costume designer with the La Porte Little Theatre and Footlight Players.

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

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

After the death of my parents, I moved to Hobart to live with my brother and his family. My niece, Tracy McCullough, introduced me to Carolyn Day and her family; we have been like sisters ever since. I transferred to Hobart High School for my senior year and, with the support of my family and my "adopted mother," Wanda Day, I successfully transitioned from a small town in Ladysmith, Wisconsin, to a much larger school environment.

After college, I lived in Chicago for a few years before returning to Hobart for a position at Prudential Insurance. I married Dennis in 1973, and we have three children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. My interest in sewing was encouraged early on by my mother, Helen Copp, and Wanda Day. After moving to La Porte, I began costuming for Michigan City High School and eventually got involved with community theater when my granddaughter, Josie, made her debut in *Oliver!*. Since then, I have designed costumes for over 50 productions, receiving five Best Costume awards and the Hall of Fame award at Footlight.

Were there any teachers or counselors in the Hobart schools who had a special impact on your life?

Yes, Mrs. Howell and Miss Todd were instrumental in helping me navigate an overwhelming senior year.

What advice do you have for students thinking about going into theater costume design?

Costume design is an excellent way to be involved in theater without being on stage. My advice is to get involved! Beyond making costumes, being an active member of two community theaters has allowed me to meet talented actors, choreographers, and stagehands. Everyone in theater gains a sense of pride in their accomplishments and receives accolades from the community. I also stay involved by ushering and baking for fundraisers.

I would like to thank my niece, Tracy McCullough, for nominating me for this honor. As Tracy says, "Once a Brickie, always a Brickie."



Just a few of the many costumes that Sharon Kiemitz has designed for theater performances.

We Still Need a Treasurer!

The election of board members and officers for the HHS Alumni Association is planned for June, with the new officers and board members starting their terms on July 1. However, at this point, no one has come forward as a candidate for the Treasurer position. According to our Bylaws, we must have a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If we do not, the Alumni Association will be required to dissolve, and the assets turned over to another organization.

As announced early last year, Paul Addison and Debra Opolski are retiring from the HHSAA board (as President and Treasurer) after 16 years of service.

Are you interested in the position? The duties include managing the financial accounts, filing required tax documents, and reporting our financial position regularly.

If you would like to be our next Treasurer, please contact Paul Addison at info@hobartalumni.org, or any other board member. Thank you!

Class Reunion Roundup

Please send reunion information to us at 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.



UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS:

[none currently listed]

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.

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.

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 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>.

*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. The editor of The Brick & Mortar Board is Paul Addison.*

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

APRIL 2026:

[Phillip Carrol, Class of 1968](#)

[Fred Larson, Class of 1944](#)

[Kaitlyn \(Kaitlin\) Carter-Watkins, Class of 2006](#)

[Pauline Erwin Mergl, Class of 1955](#)

MARCH 2026:

[Ronald Gaydos, Class of 1958](#)

[Patrick \(Pat\) Seitz, Class of 1967](#)

[Patricia \(Patti\) Smith Keating, Class of 1977](#)

[Barbara \(Barb\) Fraley, Class of 1976](#)

[James \(Jim\) Daniels, Class of 1987](#)

[Jo Ann Wilfong Coates, Class of 1974](#)

FEBRUARY 2026:

[Charles \(Chuck\) Wells, Class of 1971](#)

[Norman "Buzz" Kenniger, Class of 1953](#)

[Joyce Newman Frechette, Class of 1960](#)

[David \(Dave\) Grabczak, Class of 1968](#)

[Laura Mochan Hollister, Class of 1973](#)

[Dennis Leonard, Coach and Bus Driver](#)

[Bridget Schoppa Henderson, Class of 1959](#)

[Richard \(Rick\) Davis, Class of 1976](#)

[Betty Middleton Porter, Class of 1968](#)

[Steven \(Steve\) Metz, Class of 1980](#)

JANUARY 2026:

[Barbara Brown Langendorfer, Class of 1952](#)

[Andrew \(Andy\) Strayer, Class of 1998](#)

[Steve Kiraly, Class of 1977](#)

[Theresa \(Tess\) Brazauskas Bartos, Class of 1945](#)

[Dorothy "Cookie" Rowley Wilson, Class of 1971](#)

[Kathy \(Kathryn, Kay\) Winter Walton, Class of 1977](#)

[Monica Ksenak Wiley, Class of 1953](#)

[Sandra Donelson Fussell, Class of 1966](#)

DECEMBER 2025:

[Vince Gabriel, Class of 1988](#)

[Richard Draschil, Class of 1959](#)

[Marie \(Martha\) Iwan Silich, Class of 1948](#)

[Cecelia Fleck Kenney, Class of 1959](#)

[Herman Rosenbaum, Class of 1953](#)

[Jocelyn Hahn Johnson, Class of 1958](#)

[Rudy Kuechenberg, Class of 1961](#)

[Carrie Cox Savage, Class of 1984](#)

OLDER OBITUARIES RECENTLY RECEIVED:

NOVEMBER 2025:

[Julie Korpac Beal, Class of 1955](#)

[Michael \(Mike\) DeVault, Class of 1986](#)

OCTOBER 2025:

[Guileen Lindsey Manuel, Class of 1945](#)

[Michael \(Mike\) Randall, Class of 1996](#)

SEPTEMBER 2025:

[John Bryan, Class of 1959](#)

AUGUST 2025:

[David Spitzer, Principal](#)

[Sharon Kyger Cannon, Class of 1966](#)

JUNE 2025:

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

MAY 2025:

[Deborah \(Debby\) Osiel-Viet, Class of 1967](#)

MARCH 2025:

[John Zack, Class of 1969](#)

FEBRUARY 2025:

[Linda Gotheridge Baran, Class of 1961](#)

JANUARY 2025:

[Verlin Eugene "Gene", "Geno" Frazier, Class of 1956](#)

OCTOBER 2024:

[Roger Lysiak, Class of 1971](#)

MAY 2024:

[Robert \(Bob\) Tenorio, Class of 1957](#)

DECEMBER 2023:

[John Mochan, Class of 1970](#)

NOVEMBER 2023:

[Herman Loving, Class of 1954](#)

AUGUST 2023:

[Dorothy Rastovski Lewis, Teacher](#)

MAY 2023:

[Thomas \(Tom\) Greener, Class of 1973](#)

FEBRUARY 2023:

[Rae Mitchell Black, Class of 1940](#)

FEBRUARY 2022:

[Patricia \(Patsy\) Swan Krulik, Class of 1944](#)

JANUARY 2022:

[Lottie Krawczyk Kupiec, Class of 1953](#)

JANUARY 2020:

[Theodore \(Ted\) Chenoweth, Class of 1947](#)

DECEMBER 2019:

[Daniel "Junior" Flores, Class of 2019](#)

DECEMBER 2017:

[Amelia "Bump" Olson, Class of 2024](#)

FEBRUARY 2015:

[William \(Bill\) Chenoweth, Class of 1957](#)

NOVEMBER 2014:

[Mike Donelson, Class of 1967](#)

[Steve McKuhen, Class of 1965](#)

JANUARY 2014:

[Shirley Samples Carriedo, Class of 1948](#)

DECEMBER 2013:

[Norma Steen Cook, Class of 1947](#)

JUNE 2013:

[Nancy McIlrath Carlisle Fas, Class of 1950](#)

MAY 2011:

[Marlene Hughes, Teacher's Aide](#)

JUNE 2010:

[Frances Rhoades Carver, Class of 1939](#)

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, 2024) are:

OFFICERS

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

AT LARGE MEMBERS

Shaun Zoladz, *Dean of Students*, Class of 2006
Beth Scott Barney, Class of 1970

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

Our Newest Supporters (since December 2025)

NEW LIFETIME MEMBERS

Ashley McCullough Koble (2002)
Theresia Lipke Larimore (1978)
Angela McCullough Manolas (2012)
Aaron McCullough (2011)
Adam McCullough (2004)
Andrew McCullough (2009)

NEW OR RENEWED ANNUAL MEMBERS

Linda Jackson Bakos (1967)
Allen Blanchard (1954)
Bill Clingan (1963)
Terry Fasel (1965)
Lorelei Callaway Flood (1954)
Melinda Redmond Franzwa (1970)
Alan Govert (2019)
Elizabeth Govert (2017)
Richard Govert (1987)
Judy Hood (1960)
Mary Ellen Routes Hutnick (1966)
Larry Joliff (1958)
David Jordan (1969)

Donald "Rik" Kapica (1978)
Tom Kerr (1957)
Bob Kostbade (1966)
Lynn E. Sheets Kostbade (1966)
Larry Koziol (1958)
Linda Quinlan Koziol (1960)
Martha Hartman Liechty (1960)
Steve McGriffin (1970)
Katherine Karageorge Miller (1959)
Mary Siddall Newcomb (1970)
Hubert Olis (1965)
Michael Petkovich (1981)
Sam Preissler (1953)
Wilma Hasse Preissler (1953)
Kimberly Berry Rujevcan (1979)
William Rujevcan (1979)
Henry Sanak (1953)
Reneé Shannon (1961)
Ronald Smith (1961)
Vicki Small (1961)
Robert (Bob) Sowinski (1963)
Janis Palmer Vonderhaar (1957)

Your Brickie Stories: What Do You Remember?

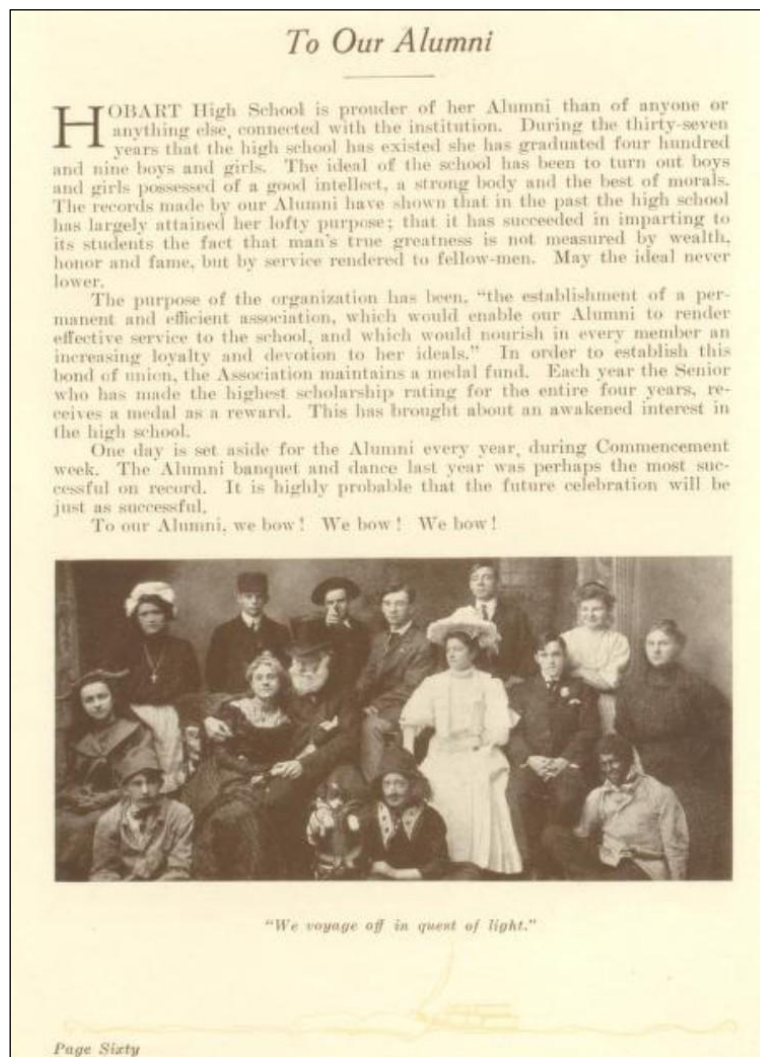
Pen and Ink

From Lyle Hatten, Class of 1958: Throughout the years since attending Hobart schools, often I have come across situations that would remind me of school memories. Last week, while reading the newspaper on Sunday, I read the Peanuts comic about using pen and ink in school. Sure enough, this particular comic brought back a memory of being in the classroom at Roosevelt grade school. In the classroom, our desks had a hole near the top of the right desk corner for a small bottle of black, blue, or red ink to be used with an ink pen for classwork, and the teacher would give us directions on how to use the ink pen and bottle of ink.

We used this pen and ink for writing during my time in the 1940s, but slowly the ball point pen took over. Can anyone remember when this pen and ink system stopped and the ball point pen took over? During your school years, what items have you read or seen that bring back school memories to you? Looking forward to reading your stories that you send to Paul Addison, at: info@hobartalumni.org.

100 Years Ago

In the 1926 *Aurora* yearbook, available at <https://archive.org/details/HOHS1926images/>, Hobart High School pays tribute to its alumni.





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