



The Brick & Mortar Board

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

Volume 7, Number 4

April, 2018

RSVP Now for the HHSAA Annual Meeting on May 4!

Are you planning to attend the Annual Meeting on May 4, with John Mattix as the guest speaker? You can make your reservation by emailing us at dinner@hobartalumni.org, and letting us know how many people are in your party, and their names. You can pay your \$10 per person at the door. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner will be served at 6:00, and the program will start at 6:30. The meeting is in the Great Hall at Hobart High School, 2211 E. 10th Street in Hobart.

Or, you can also reserve and pay for your tickets online ahead of time using this EventBrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hobart-high-school-alumni-association-annual-meeting-tickets-43479935658?aff=es2>. One way or the other, we need you to reserve your seats ahead of time, so that we can prepare dinner accordingly.

John Mattix, Class of 1963 and Hobart High School football standout, will be the guest speaker. His talk is titled "The Mattix/Hobart Legacy". John will be talking about his football experience at Hobart High School and the well-known Mattix family, among other topics.

The HHS Alumni Association will be announcing the recipients of the 2018 scholarships. Board members for the next two years will be elected. Entertainment will be provided by the talented high school singing group Wolfgang, starting around 5:40. Dinner will include fried chicken, mostaccioli, potato wedges, salad, rolls, beverages, and dessert. Check our website, www.hobartalumni.org, for updates.

Alumni Spotlight

Sam and Wilma Preissler, '53 Hobart Brickies, Married 60 Years



Sam and Wilma at their wedding in 1957, and in Carmel in 2017.

Sam Preissler and Wilma Hasse graduated from Hobart High School in 1953. They were married in December 1957 and have just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They were featured in a recent issue of the "[Current in Carmel](#)" newspaper.

Sam and Wilma share their memories with us in our *Alumni Spotlight*.

Where do you live now, and what have you been up to lately?

In 2012, we sold our first home, here in Indianapolis, where we had lived for 43 years. In 2014, we moved into a new Senior Retirement Community, called The Barrington of Carmel (Indiana).

(continued on page 2)

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)



Wilma and Sam on their 60th anniversary cruise in 2017.

Currently, we are very active in the Barrington's Masterpiece Living Process. This process is devoted to promoting "successful aging", in (4) main areas, social, intellectual, physical and spiritual. This activity keeps us going strong in all (4) areas. In December, 2017, we celebrated our 60th wedding anniversary by taking a three week cruise throughout the Caribbean Sea.

How and when did you meet, and what happened between high school and when you got married?

We met in the fall of 1951. Wilma had transferred from Horace Mann high school in Gary, Indiana that year. We "just happened" to have lockers across the aisle from each other. Sam offered to carry her books from class to class. After graduation in 1953, Wilma entered nursing school in Chicago, Illinois. This school was a nationally accredited by the National League of Nursing, and that held many benefits as compared to a state accredited school. Also, all courses were given college credit through the University of Illinois. During this first year in nurses training, Sam came every weekend to Chicago, and we would go out to dinner in the "Loop" and take in a movie and stage show at the Chicago Theater.

After graduating from nursing school in May of 1956, where Wilma earned her Registered Nurse degree, she was employed by the Santa Fe Railroad as a Courier Nurse, traveling to California and Texas three times a month. Many exciting times were spent meeting many celebrities from Hollywood, sewing a button on Frank Sinatra's



Wilma as a Courier Nurse in Santa Fe, 1956.

sport coat, and even having a dessert with President and Mrs. Eisenhower. In November, 1954, Sam enlisted in the Army. He spent time in Germany and Italy. This enlistment assured him of the G.I Bill benefit. His three year enlistment was over in October, 1957.



Sam in the Army electronics school at Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey, 1954.

Sam, how did you propose, and where and when did you get married?

I proposed on Halloween night, October 31, 1957, just three weeks after returning home from the Army. Wilma and I were taking her small nieces and nephew, "trick or treating". After her sister's family returned to their home, I proposed. At first, Wilma thought I was just joking, but quickly realized my sincerity. Wilma had always wanted to be a "Christmas Bride", so we were married on December 21st, 1957 at Hobart's First Baptist Church. After a brief honeymoon, we settled into a small apartment at 626 Main Street in Hobart. Sam worked at Indiana Laminated Wall, a drywall company. In May of 1958, we moved to Valparaiso where Wilma worked for Dr. James Brown, who had his medical practice in the Farmer's State Bank building, on the square.

What kind of jobs and careers did you have over the years?

Sam was slow to get on board the "Education Train", but in 1958, five years after graduating from Hobart High School, he enrolled in Valparaiso University, then transferred to I. U. Northwest in Gary in 1959, and on to I. U. Bloomington in 1960, graduating in January

Alumni Spotlight (cont.)

1962. By this time in August of 1960, they welcomed their first son, Scott, into the family. After a short 18 months in retail management, Sam transferred to the automotive industry. Cars were Sam's second love, and he joined Ford Motor Company in 1963, in Indianapolis. Sam spent a total of 32 years between wholesale sales to dealers and then in manufacturing management. Wilma spent eight years at home with our preschool sons, born in 1960 and 1963. When it was time for the boys to go to school, Wilma went with them, becoming the school nurse at Heritage Christian School for 20 years, retiring in 1986.



Wilma at the Heritage Christian School in 1980, a few years before her retirement.

Tell us about your children and their families.

We have two sons, and five grandchildren. Our eldest son, Scott, has a PHD in ministry, and lives in Georgia with his family. Scott also married his high school sweetheart. Our younger son, Christopher, graduated from LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Christopher and his family live near us in Fishers, Indiana. Our grandchildren are at the age where they are branching out on their own.

Were there any teachers or experiences in the Hobart school system that you particularly remember, or that especially interested you?

For Sam, the fondest memories of Hobart High School are all wrapped up with the HHS band, where he played alto saxophone. In the 1950's, both the concert band and the marching band were ranked as one of the best in the country. The band never placed below first place in any contest. Sam also participated in local and state Solo and Ensemble contests. The annual "Band Tours" went to such places as New York City, and throughout the south, down to Florida. These were outstanding events for a bunch of kids of the "50's" that had not traveled much. Only a band with Hobart's reputation could gain invitations to perform across the country.



Sam in his high school band uniform.

Do you have any advice for high school students today, or for adults, about having a happy marriage?

It is important that you strive to complete your higher education before marriage. It is also important that you understand your likes and more importantly your dislikes. Make it a priority to communicate openly and honestly. Trust and fidelity in and to each other produces a lasting and happy marriage. Sharing a deep commitment to your faith is essential.



Sam "city fishing" in a pond in a neighborhood near Carmel.

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](#).

CLASSES OF 1952 AND 1953 COMBINED REUNION (September 14-16, 2018)

The classes of 1952 and 1953 will celebrate their 65th and 66th year on Homecoming weekend, September 14-16. Here is the brief schedule:

- Friday, 9/14: PIZZA PARTY, Krull Towers, 4:30 to 8:00 pm
- Saturday, 9/15: REUNION, Ambassador Banquet Hall, 12:00 to 6:00 pm
- Sunday, 9/16: BREAKFAST, Paragon Restaurant, 9:30 am

To see the complete schedule, including the registration form, [download this document](#), then print it out and send it in with your check or money order, as soon as possible, but by September 1 at the latest.

There is a list on the website of [classmates who have not been located](#). If you have contact information for any of these classmates (address, phone number and/or email), please call Joyce (Dommer) Coleman at 219-464-2635.

CLASSES OF 1972 AND 1973 COMBINED REUNION (September 15, 2018)

Save the date! The classes of 1972 and 1973 will combine their reunion this fall, during Hobart High School's Homecoming weekend. The reunion will be September 15, 2018 at Hobart American Legion Post 54, 208 S. Linda Street in Hobart. Cocktails at 6:00 with cash bar. Dinner at 7. Cost will be \$20 each person. Please contact Leigh Huminsky, 219-942-5721 or send payment to Leigh Huminsky, 106 N. Illinois St., Hobart, IN 46342.

CLASS OF 1978 40th REUNION (September 29, 2018)

The Class of 1978 will be holding their 40th class reunion on September 29, 2018, at the Moose Lodge at 5:00. Planning meetings are under way with the next one being held at the Moose Lodge on August 23, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Classmates interested in planning the reunion are welcome to attend. Kristy Rosenbaum is the contact person for the class and questions can be emailed to her at lkcrose@comcast.net.

REGULAR CLASS GET-TOGETHERS:

CLASSES OF 1952 and 1953: These combined classes meet every 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:00 am at the Paragon Restaurant. Contact Martha Jordan Nichols at nurse56.1@netzero.net.

CLASS OF 1956: We meet on the last Saturday of every month at 9:00 am, at the Paragon Restaurant. Contact Mary Jo Hopkins at mjhoppy@comcast.net.

CLASS OF 1958: We have a luncheon on the 3rd Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant on Old Ridge Road in Hobart at 1:00 PM. Hope to see more HHS1958 alumni there. Contact Larry Koziol at lkoziol@ameritech.net.

CLASS OF 1960: We have a luncheon on the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant on Old Ridge Road in Hobart at 1:00PM. Hope to see more HHS1960 alumni join us. Contact Linda Quinlan Koziol at lkoziol@ameritech.net.

CLASS OF 1964: We have a breakfast brunch on the second Saturday of every month at the Lake Park Restaurant, 7 E. Old Ridge Road in Hobart, from 11am to 1pm. Hope to see more 1964 alumni there. Contact Marsha Longacre Shabi at marbi22@juno.com.

*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.*

**Don't Forget: BrickieFest Homecoming Picnic
Saturday, September 15 at the Brickyard, 12 noon to 3 pm**

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 2018 newsletter)

ANNUAL MEMBERS

- Mona Moll Lundahl-Ciastko (1938)
- Sam Preissler and Wilma Preissler (1953)
- Ronald F. Smith (1951)
- Marcia Peck Speer (1952)
- Phillip Speer (1952)
- Beverly Benson Troumouliaris (1967)

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

- Holli Smith Kostbade, Class of 1998..... *President*
- Paul Addison, Class of 1970 *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, *Dean of Students, Hobart High School*
- Lynn Sheets Kostbade, Class of 1966

STUDENT MEMBERS

- Danielle Hill, Class of 2018
- Cade Brumley, Class of 2018
- Lillian Kollross, Class of 2019
- James Corgan, Class of 2019

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

Recent Obituaries

(since our February 2018 newsletter;
in PDF form, these are links to each classmate's In Memory page)

MARCH 2018:

[Terry Overturf, Class of 1973](#)

[Lois Blackman Uzelac, Class of 1948](#)

[Eleanor "Rexine" Choisser Johnson, Class of 1948](#)

[Virginia Wilson Lucas, Class of 1964](#)

[Jo Anne Workman Williams, Class of 1954](#)

[Janie Sue Ayers Marchuk, Class of 1965](#)

[Nancy Bryan Geleott, Class of 1958](#)

[Patricia Scaparro \(Staff\)](#)

FEBRUARY 2018:

[Nancy McLennan Walker, Class of 1964](#)

[William Hughes, Class of 1953](#)

[Mary Loggie Jones, Class of 1946](#)

[Valeria Mayes Sleeper, Class of 1958](#)

[Warren Garner \(Teacher\)](#)

(Older Obituaries Recently Received)

JANUARY 2018:

[Sandy Spencer Jones, Class of 1968](#)

DECEMBER 2017:

[James Lichtenberger \(Teacher\)](#)

SEPTEMBER 2017:

[Richard Wesley, Class of 1949](#)

AUGUST 2017:

[Andrew \(Andy\) Cupka, Class of 1981](#)

JULY 2017:

[Ruth Williamson Bianco, Class of 1952](#)

[Pauline Sandala, Class of 1952](#)

APRIL 2017:

[Beverly Coleman Craidon, Class of 1952](#)

NOVEMBER 2015:

[Bernice Trager Johnson, Class of 1941](#)

[Dennis Fowler, Class of 1965](#)

SEPTEMBER 2015:

[Donald Pavy, Class of 1956](#)

FEBRUARY 2015:

[Larry Kostbade, Class of 1952](#)

[Crystal MacNeil Jackson, Class of 1964](#)

APRIL 2014:

[William "Tom" Mitchell, Class of 1952](#)

SEPTEMBER 2013:

[Tonya Bowman Freels, Class of 1973](#)

AUGUST 2013:

[George Darling, Class of 1952](#)

JULY 2013:

[Michael Ksenak, Class of 1943](#)

JUNE 2012:

[Vivian Herring Earles, Class of 1952](#)

SEPTEMBER 2011:

[Dorothea Kurth \(Teacher\)](#)

FEBRUARY 2011:

[Jacquelyn Wilfong Kuznicki, Class of 1950](#)



THE OLD HOBART MILL, from the 1918 HHS Aurora Yearbook

Anyone who studies the history of Hobart knows about the Old Hobart Mill, built in 1846 and 1847 by Hobart founder George Earle, and destroyed by fire in 1953. The Northwest Indiana Times ran [a special feature on the mill](#) in 1997 (Hobart's Sesquicentennial), with information provided by Elin and Dorothy Ballantyne of the Hobart Historical Society. The article also discusses the brickyards, and the Strand and Art Theaters.



Membership Application Hobart High School Alumni Association, Inc.

Check one: New member ___ Renewal ___

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!

**Membership is \$10 per year, or \$100 for a Life Membership
(proceeds go towards 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