

J O Y F U L  
**Echoes**

*Welcome!*

Joyful Echoes is an Alumni Newsletter published by the Onondaga Central School Education Foundation for the purpose of keeping alumni and friends of OCS engaged with the Onondaga community and informed of current activities happening at OCS.

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?  
 RONALEE COOK**

OCS ENGLISH TEACHER

*by Margaret DeNeve, Class of 1985*

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On March 1st, I had the opportunity to meet with Mrs. Cook after having graduated from OCS 31 years ago. We had wonderful visit! Plus she remembered me as Peggy (as I mostly go by Margaret now)!

Mrs. Cook worked at OCS for 38 years and retired in 2004. Why so long? Because she loved to teach! As we discussed teaching, I asked her why she chose to use the same books over and over each year? Her response was that once she closed the door to her room, she was with a whole new group of students than the year before. So each year brought new ideas, answers, adventures and relationships.

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**About the OCSEF** The Onondaga Central School Education Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, all-volunteer 501(c) charitable corporation whose purpose is to provide support to students, staff and academic programs at Onondaga Central through charitable donations. The OCSEF was founded in 1984 with a vision of growing an endowment over the years. Please visit our web page: <http://www.ocs.cnyric.org/community.cfm?subpage=40046>

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

# RONALEE COOK

## OCS ENGLISH TEACHER

by *Margaret DeNeve, Class of 1985*

*Continued from page 1*

When I was in high school, I did not do as well as I could have and I do regret that today. I had Mrs. Cook for 11th grade English, as most of us did, and I did not enjoy reading books. I didn't like it so I didn't do it. I was the Cliff Notes queen because I didn't want to read a book. One day, Mrs. Cook was at the front of the class and was giving us yet another book to read. In front of the whole class she said, "No one is to use the Cliff Notes for this book and then she looked directly at me!" I was scared! But what did I do? I ran out and purchased the Cliff Note once again! I knew that since I

chose not to read, I was going to fail 11th grade English and that is exactly what I did. Obviously, the Cliffs Notes did not work for me. So I spent the summer at

for truth, to stand up for their beliefs, and then to make choices so the future can be better because of them." What did I want students to leave with after

**"I HOPE I HAVE HELPED STUDENTS TO ENTER THE OUTSIDE WORLD AS AN EQUAL TO OTHERS, ABLE TO USE THEIR TALENTS TO BECOME ACTIVISTS TO MAKE CHANGE TO CURE, TO CREATE, TO ADD BEAUTY, AND TO BETTER HARMFUL CONDITIONS."**

Corcoran High School taking 11th grade English again. I wish I listened and knew then what I know now. Mrs. Cook said motto is to DO something and to ACT to help advance the world so the future is better for those who come after us. What better way to ensure the future of our society than to focus on positive growth. Mrs. Cook also stated, "I was privileged every day to have an adventure with plus or minus 126 young people to help them take steps further in their growth to learn more about themselves and their unique gifts/abilities, to embrace the outside or the unknown in order to adapt, to learn to enact positive choices that will help us all become better people. It is my hope that I inspired some young people to follow their talents/strengths, to search

being in my class? I hope I have helped students to enter the outside world as an equal to others, able to use their talents to become activists to make change to cure, to create, to add beauty, and to better harmful conditions."

In the end, I have to say, I told Mrs. Cook I was scared of her in high school. I realize now I should have listened because she truly had the desire and passion for her students to learn and to always continue learning. She also tried to instill in her students the desire to do what they could to leave a unique footprint behind for all of us to live in a better world.

## WHERE IS MRS. COOK TODAY?

*Mrs. Cook lives off of Oneida Lake with her husband, Ron. She loves to keep busy with golfing, bowling, and even sells real estate! She is with Hanna Howard, so if you are thinking of buying or selling a house, look her up!*

# HAPPENING NOW



## THANK YOU

The OCSEF Board would like to thank Taylor Featherstone, the 2018 Class President and Salutatorian, for her contributions to Joyful Echoes over the last two years. Taylor took time away from her extracurricular activities and leadership roles at OCS to provide a special student's touch to some of our articles, and her talents will be missed. We wish Taylor the best as she navigates the college selection process with a goal of attending law school.

## OCC ADVANTAGE

On Monday, January 22nd, Onondaga Community College and Onondaga Central celebrated their partnership in a college-readiness and scholarship program, "OCC Advantage". Current OCS freshman were eligible to enroll in the program and have the opportunity to build student skills to succeed in high school and college and earn a scholarship covering 4 semesters of full-time enrollment at OCC if requirements are maintained. Congratulations to the 37 Onondaga Central students who signed up for OCC Advantage!

## SUBSTITUTES NEEDED

Bus Driver • Bus Monitors • Teaching Assistants • Teachers • Nurses

Link to Application: <http://www.ocs.cnyric.org/district.cfm?subpage=3533>



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Rockwell school is celebrating its 200th anniversary in 2018. There will be activities and celebrations planned in the Fall which we will announce to those in the alumni database. When in town, please stop in for a visit!

## COMMENCEMENT

OCS Commencement will be held on June 24 at 1:00pm. The ceremony will be held on the front lawn, weather permitting.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KEITH HAWKINS

## CLASS OF 1948



*by Taylor Featherstone, Class of 2018 President*

The quote next to Keith Hawkins' yearbook picture states, "A little shy, but just the same, no doubt this boy will rise to fame." That is exactly what Keith Hawkins did.

While at Onondaga Central, Keith was active in football, basketball, and baseball. He was the treasurer of his class and participated in the Senior Play. Keith attended Syracuse University and graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1952. While at S. U., Keith received the Marketing Award from the Syracuse chapter of the American Marketing Association.

After Keith graduated from S. U., he turned his father's farm into a very successful business. What started as a fruit and vegetable stand in 1934 became

given to the marketing man of the year of Central New York. Keith also owned a variety of other businesses, served on numerous boards, and received many awards.

Keith, however, has never forgotten his roots. With his farming background, values, intellect, and personality, he created what is considered an icon of the Valley community. Keith continues to give back to the community in numerous ways through his involvement and generosity. Whether it has been sponsoring youth sports teams, providing local employment opportunities, or donating food for various school functions, the OCS community is deeply appreciative of the past, and ongoing, support from Green Hills Farms. What makes Keith a distinguished

Today, Keith is now 86 years young and resides with his lovely wife Cheryl in Skaneateles, New York. They continue to actively support the OCS Community, our schools, and students with their generosity and kindness. Thank you Keith for not only being a positive role model, but epitomizing the spirit of Tiger Pride!

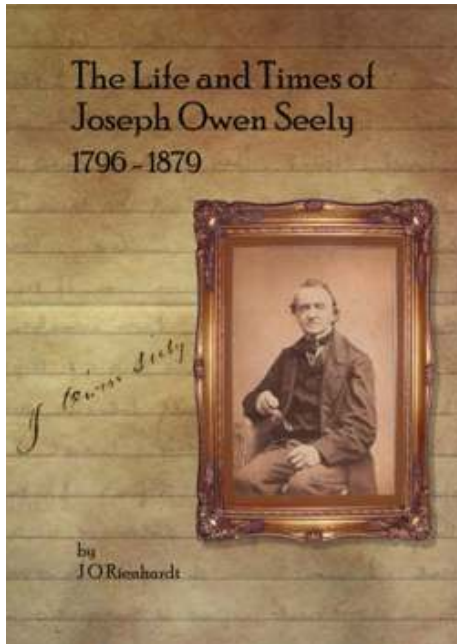
**"A LITTLE SHY, BUT JUST THE SAME, NO DOUBT THIS BOY WILL RISE TO FAME."**

an award winning supermarket, Green Hills Farms Grocery Store. In 2001, Inc. magazine named Green Hills Farms, "The Best Little Grocery Store in America." In 1978 Keith won the "Crystal Ball Award,"

alumnus, however, is the man who came from his South Onondaga farm. He considered himself "Just a farm boy who loved business and people."



# TIGERS ON THE BOOKSHELVES



## JAMES REINHARDT

CLASS OF 1969

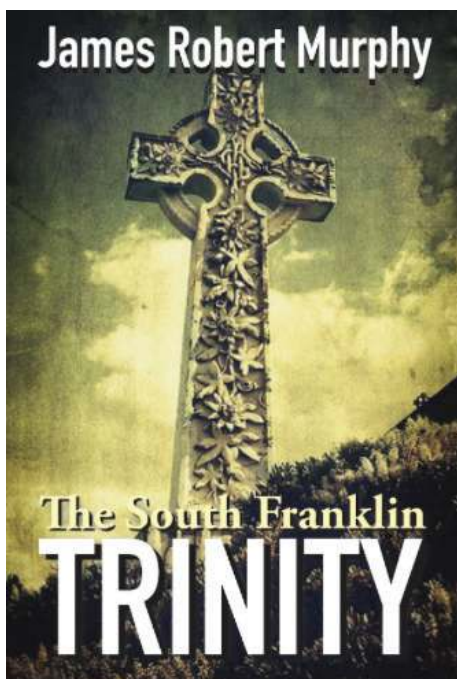
### THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOSEPH OWEN SEELY

James wrote about his great-great grandfather Joseph Owen Seely. There are many family names of the South Onondaga, Cardiff, and Navarino areas mentioned.

With information from an autobiography written by Joseph Owen Seely, letters, and research, the times of the author's great-great grandfather comes to life. The life in

up-state New York in the early to mid 1800's is mixed with Civil War, the California gold rush, and a developing nation. The letters and diaries give an intimate view of life in these times and are woven into the story of Joseph Owen Seely.

This and James' other books he has written can be found here: <http://scimuze.com/RisingRiver/bookstore.htm>



## JAMES MURPHY

CLASS OF 1972

### THE SOUTH FRANKLIN TRINITY

James Murphy's new novel, *The South Franklin Trinity*, takes place in El Puente, TX. A far-west Texas community nestled in the Franklin Mountains. Three signature characters are absorbed in their own personal search for the meaning of life. Their unpredictable

destinies cross a fiery path on the third Tuesday of April, 2016.

Visit [www.jamesrobertmurphy.com](http://www.jamesrobertmurphy.com) to view Jim's collection of written works as well as some blues recordings by "Austin Jimmy Murphy".



# OCSEF UPDATE

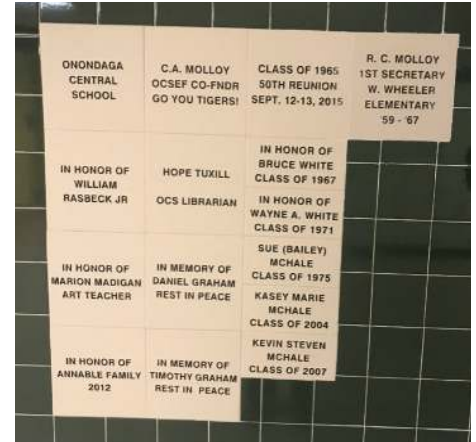
## U P C O M I N G • F U N D R A I S E R S

### TILE-BY-TILE PROGRAM

The OCSEF Tile-by-Tile program is a wonderful way to recognize individuals and groups in the OCS community by commemorating them on the walls of OCS. The Tile-by-Tile program was established as a way to provide funds for scholarships while recognizing

outstanding contributors to OCS. Please see the order form on the OCSEF page on [www.ocs.cnyric.org](http://www.ocs.cnyric.org).

For questions regarding the Tile-by-Tile program, please contact Rick Brunelle at: [rbrunelle2@twcny.rr.com](mailto:rbrunelle2@twcny.rr.com).



### GOLF TOURNAMENT



#### ONONDAGA CENTRAL SCHOOLS

Education Foundation

#### The Charles Molloy OCSEF Annual Golf Tournament

**When:** Friday June 29, 2018

**Cost:** \$75.00 per golfer

**Where:** Orchard Vali Golf Club

**Includes:** Golf, Cart, Lunch, Dinner Buffet & Prizes

**Times:** 11:15-11:45 am Registration  
12:00 noon Shotgun Start  
Buffet & Prizes to follow

For more information, please contact  
John Pierce 315-492-1974  
[jcpierce43@gmail.com](mailto:jcpierce43@gmail.com)

### FUND DRIVE

The OCSEF Annual Fund Drive is in full swing. With the help of generous donations from our alumni and friends, we are on target to exceed last year's total contributions. To make a donation, please send a check payable to the Onondaga Central School Education Foundation to the District Office:

4466 South Onondaga Road  
Nedrow, New York 13120

For more details visit:  
<http://www.ocs.cnyric.org/community.cfm?subpage=40046>

## Forever IN OUR MEMORIES

### Leda Radway Stopyro

Class of 1936  
November 10, 2017

### Margery Roder Pernisi

Class of 1938  
November 22, 2017

### Donald J. Crabtree Jr.

Class of 1982  
November 24, 2017

### Barbara Britten Molesworth

Class of 1963  
November 20, 2017

### Marjorie White

High School Cafeteria  
December 23, 2017

### Andrea Bistrovich Marsh

Class of 1967  
January 17, 2018

### Jeff Greabell

Teacher, Administrator & Coach  
January 27, 2018

# CLASS OF 1968 *Reunion*



The CLASS OF 1968 has plans in place to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their graduation from “own dear Alma Mater”. The two-day event will take place on July 20 and 21. For details, contact Anita Black Murphy at [albm1950@aol.com](mailto:albm1950@aol.com) or 315-663-6417. Classmates from other years are welcome to join the celebration after 7 pm on Saturday, July 21 at Tanner Valley Golf Course. DJ Todd Gardner will be providing music and entertainment for everyone. It’s a cash bar and food event.

If you have leads on any of these “missing” classmates, please contact Anita:

Nancy Abert Walsh / Diane Betsinger

Roger Bishop / Faith Clum Watney

Charles Gilbert / Larry Lawrence

Patricia Parrish Towne / John Soule

Richard Stephens / Gary Van Slyke

David West / Sandra Bistrovich McDonald

## T H E • A N N U A L

# ALUMNI LUNCHEON

The annual alumni luncheon for those who graduated in 1968 and prior is scheduled for May 25, 2018 at Orchard Vali Golf Club. Cost is \$18 per person.

To RSVP, please contact John Pierce at 315-492-1974, [jcpierce43@gmail.com](mailto:jcpierce43@gmail.com).

# REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS & INFO

This newsletter is a product resulting from submissions made by our alumni. Please send us your stories and news! Do you have a favorite memory? An interesting story idea? Or an alumni announcement - wedding, birth, obituary - you would like to share?

For submissions of news, ideas and/or stories, please contact us at [ocsalum34@gmail.com](mailto:ocsalum34@gmail.com) or send to:

**OCSEF Alumni Coordinator**  
**2598 Kamm Road**  
**Marietta, New York 13110**

The OCSEF has established an Alumni Database. It contains contact information of OCS alumni, community members and current and former staff members. If you know of someone who would like to receive future issues of Joyful Echoes and other alumni-related

communications, please forward the Alumni Data Form to him or her. You can find it on the OCSEF Web Page: <http://www.ocs.cnyric.org/community.cfm?subpage=40046>

O N O N D A G A

JOYFUL  
*Echoes*