

JOYFUL
Echoes

ISSUE 7

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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.

P1 & 4 Alumni Spotlight: Wesley Aske

P2 & 3 Superintendent's Message
by Rob Price

P5 Wall of Distinction

P5 OCSEF Update

P6 Where Are They Now?

P7 Forever in Our Memories

P8 Request for Submissions & Info

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
 AN ADOPTED ALUMNUS
WESLEY ASKE



Wes at 23

Typically, people become members of the Onondaga community when they were raised in or live in the district. Or perhaps they have family members living in the district. The story of Wesley Aske, who is not a typical “alumnus,” is an excellent illustration of the special community we have at OCS.

Wes was born and raised in Albert Lea, Minnesota. His school system included students from a small city of 20,000 as well as the many surrounding lake and farm communities of Freeborn County. Maybe this sounds familiar to Onondaga alumni.

Continued on page 4

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>

SUPERINTENDENT'S

by Rob Price,

Onondaga Central Superintendent

M E S S A G E

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE

In March of 2016 voters approved the Capital Project we are now finishing. Voters overwhelmingly approved a multiple-part

the bus garage facilities, instituting energy performance projects throughout the District, and renovating a few areas

“VOTERS OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED A MULTIPLE-PART PROJECT, WITH THE MAIN AREA OF RENOVATIONS HAPPENING AT THE BUS GARAGE.”

project, with the main area of renovations happening at the bus garage. Major parts of the project include upgrading

in each of the building facilities that are used by students. These areas include the Family Consumer Science room and

the library at the Jr./Sr. High School, the Wheeler Elementary School computer lab renovation to STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) Lab and a small area in the Rockwell library as well. The capital project was approved by the State Education Department in February 2018. Contractors were hired, and work began on the bus garage at the beginning of May 2018 and in the educational buildings at the end of June.

We will highlight some of the renovations in this issue and follow up with others in future editions of *Joyful Echoes*.

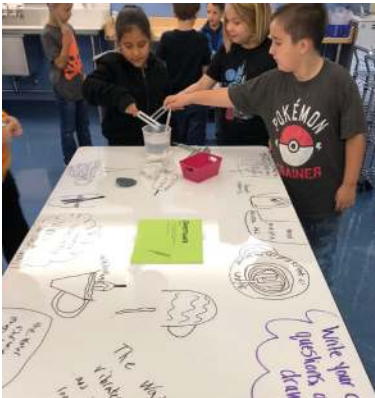


Jr/Sr HS Family Consumer Science Room Before

Career and Technical Education Room After



Wheel ELS Computer Lab Before



STEM Lab After



Jr/Sr HS Library Renovations

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

AN ADOPTED ALUMNUS

WESLEY ASKE



Continued from page 1

After high school, Wesley served his country in Germany and Vietnam. In Vietnam, Wes corresponded with a pen pal, a woman named Dale, who would become his wife of now 53 years. Dale was from Albany, and that is how Wes ended up in New York. They raised their son, Jennings, in Central New York, where he graduated from Liverpool and SUNY Albany. Jennings earned his Juris Doctorate and did his graduate work in Public Health Policy at Boston University. Jennings lives in Ridgefield, CT with his wife and daughter and is Senior VP/ Chief Information security Officer at NY Presbyterian Hospital.

After retiring from the retail furniture business, Wes wanted to attend some high school football games. After attending several in the Syracuse area, he read a story about Onondaga C. S. in

game. I decided I wanted to make a financial contribution to the alumni group. I feel blessed that you have “adopted” me in this group. I hope anybody who has a chance to contribute will do so.

“THE FIRST NIGHT I ATTENDED A GAME I MET A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE CONNECTED TO THIS SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND I WAS HOOKED.”

the newspaper and decided he wanted to take a look at the OCS campus. He was quite impressed with the real country atmosphere of the location, perhaps reminiscent of his childhood hometown. Seeing the names Hart and Murray on the bleachers was another draw, considering how impressive it was that such a small school could produce two athletes and outstanding community servants of that caliber. This would be the school that Wes would follow.

The sense of school community had the biggest impact on Wes: “The first night I attended a game I met a number of people who were connected to this school community and I was hooked. It was at the Homecoming game I walked by the alumni table you had set-up. I enjoyed the games I have attended and the wonderful welcome I received at each

The alumni’s contribution to the school community is very important. Schools hold communities together and give them vitality. The joy I have witnessed and felt at Onondaga games has given me back some of my youth. I am looking forward to the fall and hope to meet more people at the games.”

So if you Wes at a football game, give him a warm Tiger welcome, and maybe thank him for his sacrifices for our country. We’re proud to have Wes as an “Adopted Alumnus.”

**ONONDAGA
THANKS YOU FOR
YOUR SERVICE, WES!**

WALL OF DISTINCTION

The inductees were presented at homecoming 2018. There were two honorees this year:



CLASS OF 2003

CAPTAIN DAN ROACH

Captain Dan Roach attended Geneseo, and after graduating, received a commission in the United States Air Force. A Bronze Star recipient for exceptional service, he has served in multiple locations across the United States and internationally as an Air Force Security Forces Officer, and in a variety of positions including flight commander, operations officer, and antiterrorism officer for multiple Air Force units around the world.



DUANE HITCHINGS

The established songwriter, producer, and musician was featured in the Summer of 2017 issue of Joyful Echoes.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DAN & DUANE!

Plaques honoring all Wall of Distinction honorees can be seen in the high school hallway across from the cafeteria. This is quite an impressive list of accomplished OCS graduates.



OCSEF UPDATE

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

The annual **OCSEF FUND DRIVE** is underway. In 2018, over \$24,000 in scholarships was awarded to graduating seniors resulting from generous contributions from our community members.

To make a donation, please send checks payable to OCSEF to: OCSEF, 4466 South Onondaga Rd, Nedrow, NY 13120

If you would like to donate online, see the OCS Education Foundation page on the Onondaga website (www.ocs.cnyric.org). We're under the "Community" tab.

The 2019 **OCSEF GOLF TOURNAMENT** will be held on June 28, with a noon shotgun start. Details will be forthcoming on our web page.

The **OCSEF TILE-BY-TILE PROGRAM** is a nice way to honor a person or group on a tile on the wall of our school. The order form can be found on our web page.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

R.H. NILES

MATHEMATICS TEACHER

In 1958 Mr. Niles entered his first classroom in the city of Geneva and in 2018 stepped away from his last classroom in the LaFayette Junior-Senior High School.

During the years of the mid 1960's until his official retirement in 1995, he was part of the Onondaga Central School Mathematics Department. He so very much enjoyed the exciting ages of junior-high students, and Mr. Niles employed certain methods which insured that his students responded to their responsibilities! His "reward system" was so important for insuring students that upon entering the upper level math courses they would experience gratifying success due to being organized and having a good foundation in the basics. If a student was perhaps neglecting the completion of the homework, forgot the textbook, writing utensils or momentarily forgot class was not a place of socializing - the reward of a mathematics card was "earned". Today when he meets a former student he is often told by the former student that he or she still has one of his math cards!

In addition to his junior-high mathematics classes, he kept involved in extracurricular activities including class advisor to the Class of 1992. The advisor duty commenced when the class of 1992 entered the high school as seventh graders, and remained until graduation day. The 1992 class instituted spaghetti dinners on election day, and continued until the class graduated. Parents were an integral part of those undertakings. Throughout their "budding years" the advisors planned many different outings in which students participated, including Putt- Putt golf, Haunted hayride at the fairgrounds, visiting a pre-school facility in Onondaga Hill "modeling"

creative Halloween costumes, and parading throughout the two elementary buildings also while displaying their scary creations. Advisors also helped organize the senior picnic, spirit week displays, the November spaghetti dinner and the junior and senior proms.

Another one of his extracurricular activities was that of ONONDAGAN faculty advisor. Mr. Niles and his staff devoted many hours to organizing and directing the multiple tasks involved producing a successful publication, which captured the various activities the students engaged in throughout the year. Of course, the students comprising the staff were phenomenal. Often you would view one of the student photographers capturing a Kodak moment. Students would visit the area businesses encouraging them to buy an

“TODAY WHEN HE MEETS A FORMER STUDENT HE IS OFTEN TOLD BY THE FORMER STUDENT THAT HE/SHE STILL HAS ONE OF HIS MATH CARDS!”

advertising space. Saturday mornings often found the staff working on naming picture participants, writing articles for the various club activities and reporting the highlights from sporting events.

Orchestrating the front lawn graduation ceremony was another one of his responsibilities. Little things—such as ties for the gentlemen, no flip-flops, gum in the wastebasket, and no extra 'paraphernalia' to exit the door with the graduate—were just a few of his behind-the-scenes responsibilities. It was Mr. Niles who first introduced the faculty wearing of the graduation robes during the ceremony. Due to the heat, it was always of

*Pick a
Card...
Any
Card*

paramount importance the actual ceremony was complete in one hour!

Additional activities for him included various roles in the Faculty Association. He served on the interviewing committees for the high school principal as well as vice-principal and superintendent. It was also an honor for him to serve on the Education Foundation's scholarship committee.

For ten years following his retirement he served as a volunteer at the main desk at Community General Hospital.

Throughout the years at Onondaga, Mr. Niles asked if he could make reference to the many TRULY wonderful families that became his close friends. To this day he remains

close to them and is often included in their family celebrations. He has also shared their good times and in some cases their sad, sad goodbyes to one of their siblings or one of their parents.

To "close out" his educational career he was on the substitute list for a period of 22 years at Lafayette, making a total of 60 years in the classroom. What? 60 years?!

The Onondaga community would like to thank Mr. Niles for his many years of service to our students. As they enjoyed success in the years after Jr High, many students realized the value of earning their "math cards."

Forever IN OUR MEMORIES

Harold "Pop" Annable

Class of 1942
February 26, 2019

Marie Miller

Teacher
February 27, 2019

Grant Powell

Class of 1955
December 7, 2017

Jack Shinnick

Class of 1956
August 11, 2018

Earl Abbey

Class of 1959
August 25, 2018

Lewis Brunelle

Class of 1967
February 24, 2019

David Brown

Class of 1972
November 9, 2017

James Hawley

Class of 1972
November 10, 2017

Phillip Reed

Class of 1972
January 16, 2019

Tim Greer

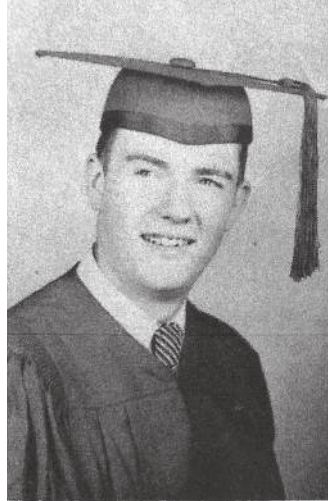
Class of 1978
November 18, 2018

Keith Molesworth

Class of 1986
March 12, 2019

Gary VanLeuvan

Class of 1987
December 26, 2018



Jack E. Shinnick

Class of 1956 • August 11, 2018

For its readers who may not have received the news, Joyful Echoes reports that Jack E. Shinnick, a member of the OCS Class of 1956, passed away peacefully at home on August 11, 2018.

Jack was one of the twenty graduates of the OCS class of 1956. Classmates included Charles Hart, William Menkins, Robert Arinsen, Francis Linsky, Alice Bronner, Harriet Kelly, David Spath, and Linda Lakins, among others. Jack grew up on Tucker Rd. and later resided with his wife, Joan Radway Shinnick, on both lower and upper Makyes Rd, Onondaga Hill, for over 58 years.

Joan reminds *Joyful Echoes* that in 1956 the Supervising Principal was Walter Wheeler and Vice Principal was Warren E Moore. Members of the faculty included Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Christensen, Mr. Gilbert, Mr. Metcalf and Mr. Dole, to name a few. The bus driver was Neil Hull and the custodian was Ken White.

Jack was very fond of his school days at OCS, and often referred to them. Jack was known for his quick wit, and said back then that to be on the sports team the only requirement was that "you just had to be able to hold a ball."

After graduation from OCS in 1956, it was mandatory for men to register for the draft or enlist in the military. Jack served in the US Army Reserves from 1956 to 1964. He graduated from Powelson Business Institute in 1960, and after completing several electrical correspondence courses, Jack pursued his dream and opened the Mr. Fixit Shop at South Salina and Colvin Street. His foundation of hard work, the support of his family, and old-fashioned business ethics gained from his time at OCS enabled Jack to operate a successful and well-known small-appliance, lamp, and lampshade business. Jack retired in 1991 after serving customers for 31 years.

Jack's family has a long history with OCS dating back to 1936. Leda Radway Stopyro, Jack's wife's Aunt, was in the first OCS graduating class of 1936. His sister Laura Shinnick Ireland was the salutatorian of her class in 1948. Jack's sister Nancy Shinnick Smith and his sister-in-law Cheryl Radway Flannery were members of the classes of 1964 and 1970 respectively. Jack's father-in-law, Harry Radway, was the OCS Transportation Supervisor from 1965-1975.

If any of Jack's friends or acquaintances would like to send a gift in his memory, Jack's family recommended Amber Congregational Church, 2366 Otisco Valley Road, Marietta, NY 13110.

Joyful Echoes thanks Joan Shinnick for sharing her memories with us and our readers.

SCHOOL EVENTS



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The 2019 commencement ceremony will be held on the front lawn of the high school on June 30. As always, the community is welcome to attend.

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 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

J O Y F U L
Echoes