

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.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
ARLENE FARRANCE
POLLOCK

by Stephanie Keehufus



Sitting with Arlene in her kitchen on a Friday morning in August, I am transported to the early days of the Onondaga Central School District as her story unfolds.

Growing up in South Onondaga, Arlene began her school career in a two-room school house that educated children from Navarino, Valley, and Onondaga Hill. There was one classroom for grades 1-4 and another classroom for grades 5-8: no pre-school, no kindergarten, no Facebook, no social media. Students didn't know each other and never played together.

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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>

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

As a follow-up to the spring issue school improvements update, the bus garage renovations have transformed the bus garage into a new facility that will last many years and serve our buses while keeping them safe for transporting our children. We are very appreciative of the community support for this project.



OCSEF UPDATE

Tile-by-Tile Program Homecoming Sale! For the month of October, including homecoming weekend (October 18-19), commemorative tiles will be sold for 25% off. Sale prices are \$75 for an 8" x 8" tile and \$37.50 for an 8" x 4" tile. See the OCSEF web page for ordering details: <http://www.ocs.cnyric.org/community.cfm?subpage=40046>

HAPPENING NOW

2019 VALEDICTORIAN



KATELYN MARCY

Katelyn is the daughter of Duane and Patricia Marcy. She graduated with a cumulative grade point average of 100.07, 12 credits from Tompkins Cortland Community College, and 14 credits from Onondaga Community College. She earned a qualifying score of 4 on both the AP World History and AP United States History exams. Katelyn was a recipient of the Bausch & Lomb Science Award from the University of Rochester. Katelyn was a two-sport varsity athlete as captain of the Varsity Soccer Team and member of the Varsity Volleyball Team. She was secretary of National Honor Society, Secretary of the Class of 2019, President of Art Club, and a member of Key Club. Katelyn is studying information management at Syracuse University.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Homecoming will be held October 18th and 19th. This is always a wonderful community event, including a parade, athletic contests, food and fun. Please stop by the OCSEF table by the gym/cafeteria entrance to see what we've been up to over the past 35 years.

2019 SALUTATORIAN

CARLY SMITH

Carly is the daughter of Bridget McCormick and John Smith. She graduated with a cumulative grade point average of 99.81, 12 credits from Tompkins Cortland Community College, and 22 from Onondaga Community

College. She also earned a qualifying score of 4 on the AP World History exam in May 2017 and a qualifying score of 3 on the AP United States History exam in May 2018. Carly was a member of the Varsity Volleyball team and captain



of the Varsity Softball team. She has volunteered countless hours with the Salvation Army, including working at a soup kitchen. Carly is studying biology at the University of Vermont.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ARLENE FARRANCE POLLOCK



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There were no organized sports, lessons, or play groups. They met each other and made friends the old-fashioned way: through the art of conversation and daily class time, and possibly on the long walks to and from school each day.

From there, in 1935, Arlene went on to become 1 of 27 students who would

make up the first official, four-year high school class to graduate from Onondaga Central. Congratulations class of 1939!

After graduation, if young women were to pursue higher education, they were generally expected to follow the path of nurse, secretary, or teacher. Arlene's mother was eager for her daughter to become a nurse. Fortunately for her many future students, Arlene chose teacher.

Arlene went on to Syracuse Normal School, a teacher preparation school. After three years at the Normal School and one year at Syracuse University, her credentials in education would guarantee her a teaching job anywhere, anytime. Her journey into the world of education had begun.

With the economy back on track after the Great Depression, Arlene started her teaching career back at her old stomping grounds, Onondaga Central, happily completing 10 weeks of practice (student) teaching in the one building campus that now housed grades K-12, one classroom designated for each grade.

She then went on to teach full-time in Onondaga Central School District starting out at roughly \$6.00 a day. Spending the majority of her teaching career in the third grade, Arlene loved teaching math, insisting on no finger counting. Her students were expected to know their math facts! She also enjoyed teaching writing and penmanship as well as teaching children to tell time on the old analog clocks, all of which, she laments, due to such advances in technology, are almost no longer necessary skill sets.

**“HER JOURNEY INTO THE
WORLD OF EDUCATION
HAD BEGUN.”**

Arlene Farrance Pollock stopped teaching in 1952 to start a family with her husband, Ralph Pollock. Her family of six, including three sons and one daughter, lived in Marcellus, NY. Arlene returned to Onondaga Central School District in 1964 and held many long term substitute teaching positions before officially retiring from teaching in 1979 after 20 years of dedicated service to Onondaga Central.

To say that Arlene has embraced retirement is an understatement. At 97 years old, Arlene seems busier than ever! Not one to sit around and wait for life to happen, she is making things happen, specifically in her volunteer group called The Ugly Quilters. Arlene has been a part of this quilting group for the past 20 years and has been diligent in her contributions. This quilting group makes sleeping bags for the homeless, baby quilts, lap blankets, hats, mittens, and scarves; all made specifically from donated blankets, sheets, and yarn. (For more info on this wonderful group, visit www.thesleepingbagproject.org.)

Being a part of local history as a member of the first four-year graduating class of Onondaga Central and then building her professional career there as well, Arlene is still very proud of the road she has traveled. Seeing the many generations of families come through her classrooms, it only makes sense that students would seek her out, as was the case not too

“SPENDING THE MAJORITY OF HER TEACHING CAREER IN THE THIRD GRADE, ARLENE LOVED TEACHING MATH, INSISTING ON NO FINGER COUNTING.”

long ago. Two former students, one from Skaneateles, NY, and one from South Onondaga, looked her up and arranged a visit. These two students were members of Arlene’s very first third grade class! Why limit your reunions to two former students when you can catch up with so many more!? In nearly 50 years, Arlene has never missed an OCS reunion, enjoying the day with her friend and former classmate, Francis Pegula.

Always giving and helping others, the families in her quaint Marcellus neighborhood enjoy being on the receiving end of her generosity, specifically in the form of her chocolate cakes and warm coffee rings.

When Arlene is not baking, quilting, and catching up with former students, she

can be found taking some time for herself exercising a couple days a week at a local sports facility.

Arlene’s four children have built fulfilling lives for themselves and live in different areas of the country. Her daughter Margaret, an occupational therapist in Santa Barbara, CA, has two children. Her eldest son, Richard, lives in Maine and is a social worker and family counselor. Her son Ralph, retired from IBM, lives in Skaneateles, NY, and her youngest son, Bruce, lives in Marcellus, NY, with his wife. Bruce has two children and one grandchild and is the owner of B&C Storage.

Next time you attend an OCS reunion, be sure to look for Arlene. She would love to say hi!



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

DENNIS & ADDIE RAE DOLE



Mr. Dole, as we all knew him, taught mathematics and science at OCS for 28 years. He was originally hired by Walter Wheeler. He served as an administrator for eight years, but his passion was for teaching.

Mr. Dole taught a variety of different subjects. In some years he would teach ninth grade general science; in other years he was assigned plane geometry and biology; and in addition he taught chemistry, physics, intermediate algebra, and trigonometry.

The vast majority of his subjects ended the year with the New York State Regents

exam. His ability to prepare each and every student for all Regents exams was renowned. He cared about each student, and he even made an effort to go to a student's home to provide tutoring if he or she were unable to attend school for an extended period of time.

Dennis, as we called him after we graduated, received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from SUNY Albany after he served in the Army Air Corp during World War II. He subsequently served 32 years in what was renamed the U.S. Air Force and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

He and Mrs. Dole were married in 1955. We all remember Mrs. Dole as Miss Courchaine, teaching instrumental music and directing the orchestra and marching band. Mrs. Dole was a graduate of the Crane School of Music at the State University College at Potsdam.

“THE BEST TEACHER THEY EVER HAD”

Many of us from those OCS classes have fond memories of the Dole family, and just about everyone in my class remembers Mr. Dole's 1955 yellow Buick Skylark convertible. It was a beauty.

It was impossible to be at OCS in the late '40s, through the late '60s and not be favorably impacted by this special man and his ability to deal with students. What is not surprising is how many former students still refer to him as “the best teacher they ever had.”

Sadly, Mr. Dole passed away at age 99 on August 15, 2017. Happily, Mrs. Dole will be celebrating her 100th birthday on October 24, 2019.

Editor's note: Mrs. Dole loves to receive cards or notes from her former OCS students. You may mail correspondence to:

Mrs. Addie Rae Dole
The Nottingham, C-222
1301 Nottingham Road
Jamesville, NY 13078

If she was your band director, please provide your maiden name, the instrument you played in the band or orchestra, and the years during which you performed.

This profile was submitted by a member of the Class of '53.

Forever IN OUR MEMORIES

Thelma Mead

Class of 1953, OCS Secretary
August 22, 2019

Nancy Hahn Annable

Class of 1961, OCS Bus Driver
September 23, 2019

Mary Barrett Bramer

Class of 1966
May 26, 2019

Nancy Tart

Class of 1966
July 4, 2019

Sharon Ashby Rensey

Class of 1967
August 19, 2019

Bonnie Bex Oliver

Class of 1967
March 8, 2019

Jerry Hart

Class of 1968
August 29, 2019

Marybeth Pike Brunelle

Class of 1968
April 12, 2019

Deborah Speich Abbott

Class of 1972
March 9, 2019

Tim Wunsch

Class of 1978
September 10, 2019

Richard Naughton

Class of 1984
March 23, 2019

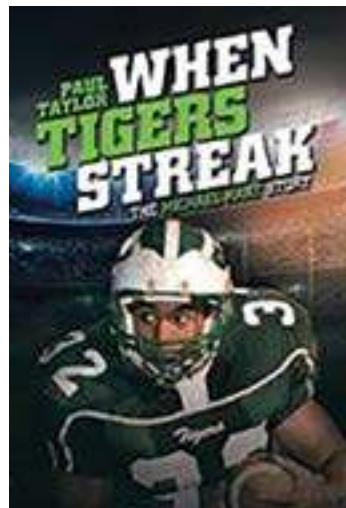
Travis DeOrdio

Class of 1992
June 21, 2019

CLASS OF 1994 *Reunion*

The class of 1994 is happy to announce we are having our 25th reunion on Saturday, October 19, 2019. This is also homecoming weekend at the school. We will be breaking out the Time Capsules at the school after the parade, around 1:00. Bill and Lisa (Tuxill) Spencer will be hosting a potluck at their home after the football game, around 5:00 p.m. They live at 4435 South Onondaga Road, just down the street from the school. We hope you will be able to join us. If you have any questions you can reach Lisa at (315) 380-5841 or Kitty (Stanton) Senn at (315) 430-2897.

TIGERS ON THE BOOKSHELVES



Long time OCS Social Studies teacher and football coach Paul Taylor documents the story of Onondaga Football as it rose from the brink of extinction to statewide domination and the emergence of record-setter Michael Hart. When Tigers Streak can be purchased on Amazon or other sites where books are sold.

Thomas Riddell, class of 1975, has published a series of two books: Nedrow New York The People and History 1750-1920 & 1920-2020. This is an interesting walk through time of our hometown. These can be purchased through Lulu.com.



REQUESTS FOR SUBMISSIONS & ALUMNI CONTACT INFORMATION

The 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 stories, please contact the OCSEF Alumni Coordinator at ocsalum34@gmail.com.

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 please fill out the Alumni Data form found here: [Alumni Data Form](#)

