

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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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
ROSELAND CUMMINS MOLLOY

by *Stephanie Keehfus*



Roseland at her desk, 1959

In 1959, Wheeler Elementary School opened, accommodating students from kindergarten to fifth grade. The new building was named after former OCS principal and superintendent Walter

Wheeler. Superintendent Warren Moore made the wonderful decision to hire Roseland Molloy as the first secretary of the new school. Her first annual salary was \$2,000.

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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.onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1733>

WALL OF DISTINCTION

GARY KEEHFUS

CLASS OF 1962



Gary, his wife (Jean) and their grandchildren at OCS Homecoming

CONGRATS

Gary Keehfus (Class of 1962) and Latavius Murray (Class of 2008) are the 2019 OCS Wall of Distinction inductees.

Gary is the successful owner of several businesses and valued member of the OCS alumni community. Latavius is the record-setting running back in his 7th season in the NFL. Aside from their successful professional careers, both Latavius and Gary have given back to Onondaga in the form of funding toward scholarships for OCS graduates.

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.

Latavius playing for the New Orleans Saints of the NFL



LATAVIUS MURRAY

CLASS OF 2008

Forever
IN OUR
MEMORIES

Earl Scott
Class of 1959

September 7, 2019

Kathleen Balenski
Class of 1971

April 5, 2019

HOMECOMING 2019

by Dylan Price

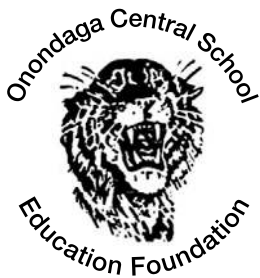


Homecoming is an important part of who Onondaga is. Every fall, students and the community come together to watch the football team play. Classes and teams raise funds, alumni return home to visit, and students show their school spirit. As always, alumni were welcomed with the massive "Welcome Alumni" banner. This year, Homecoming was Friday, October 18th, and Saturday, October 19th.

Friday's festivities included the Homecoming Pep Rally, soccer games, spaghetti dinner, and the homecoming dance with the announcement of the Homecoming king and queen.

On Saturday, the main event was the football game vs the Sandy Creek Comets (a victory!). Before the football game, there was a parade featuring floats from each high school class 9-12, as well as floats from the community.

One of the new Wall of Distinction inductees, Gary Keehufus, was there to receive the honor from English Teacher Janet Ferris. A time capsule from the class of 1994 was opened. As usual, there were many food options at Homecoming.



OCSEF UPDATE

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

To learn more, visit onondagacsd.org & click **Educational Foundation** under the District tab!

Annual Fund Drive
February 2020

Golf Tournament
June 20, 2020

Tile-by-Tile Program
Ongoing

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ROSELAND CUMMINS MOLLOY

by *Stephanie Keehfus*

Continued from page 1

On Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2019, Roseland (“Rosie”) C. Molloy turned 99 years old. I had the honor of spending time with her recently, and she reflected on her years at Walter Wheeler Elementary School with such fondness, humor, and a little twinkle (of mischievousness?) in her eye. Listening to her speak of days gone by, colleagues that became friends, and admiration for her fair yet authoritative principal made me nostalgic for a place I’ve never been. Within Principal Anne Kuppel’s small office, Roseland’s desk sat facing the hallway. There, she happily saw hundreds of children pass by her desk throughout her years at OCS. Realizing that “kids can evaluate you pretty darn fast,” she developed such affection for the students and had such a jovial rapport with them that they fondly nicknamed her “The Prince-of-Bull,” a comic variation of ‘principal.’

Roseland’s most vivid memories and anecdotes from Walter Wheeler Elementary include the time she answered the office phone saying “Murphy’s Wet

Wash” as a joke only to discover it wasn’t a teacher calling but the superintendent! She also laughingly remembers having to call a mom telling her that her son filled his lunch box thermos with hard cider! Another (less amusing) moment in particular that left an impression on her was the day she wept after reprimanding one little boy in school.

Joking with faculty and students aside, Roseland enjoyed her job and her many duties as secretary to Miss Kuppel. Roseland manually ordered supplies for the teachers and staff, maintained inventories, and was responsible for stamping and processing all new textbooks and library books. As she was also the one to deliver those books to the appropriate rooms, Roseland was “scolded” one day by Gordon Cameron, the District Business Manager, and was told to have the custodians deliver the books in the future! Keep in mind this was all before computers were the mainstay of any well-run office.

Roseland Molloy’s tenure at Walter Wheeler Elementary School came to an end in June 1967, when her husband,

Chuck, accepted a promotion and was transferred to Manhattan. Saying goodbye to friends such as Lillian Linsky and Jane Engstler Woods, the Molloy’s began their new adventure in NYC!

Seemingly, as with anything Roseland does, she wholeheartedly embraced Manhattan. She loved their condo in Ossining, NY. She enjoyed exploring all of NYC while Chuck worked on Park Ave. She loved walking around the Garment District, exploring and learning, always comfortable traveling alone, always happy to be where she was.

Chuck retired a few years later and they moved back to Upstate New York, back to their home on Makyes Road, where their two sons, James and Chuck had continued to live so James could finish his senior year, graduating from Onondaga Central in 1968.

Roseland and Chuck’s children - Carol (OCS ‘60), Charles (‘62), William (‘64) and James (‘68) - can all claim alumni status, as can Carol’s husband John Pierce (‘61), Williams wife, the former Linda Six (‘67), and Jim’s wife, the former Mary Russell (‘69).

When their youngest son, James, graduated from OCS, most would think that would have been the end of the Molloy family gracing the halls of Onondaga Central, yet many of Roseland's 25 grandchildren and 52 great-grandchildren also walked through the doors of Onondaga Central, including all nine of Carol and John Pierce's children! The Molloy-Pierce family has certainly left its mark within the Onondaga Central School District, but I believe the Onondaga Central School District has also left its mark on the Molloy-Pierce family.

“FAMILY FIRST AND THE REST LET GO.”

Roseland Cummins was born in Oblong, Illinois. As the granddaughter of a Methodist minister, Roseland was the fifth born of six children in her family, having four brothers and one sister. At just two-and-a-half years old, she and her family moved to the Westcott area of Syracuse, NY, otherwise known as “The Hill” due to its proximity to Syracuse University.

Roseland's home was a happy home filled with a love of music. If their radio wasn't on, the family's own voices would float throughout the home as they sang church hymns together. Growing up in Dewitt, she was an active member of her church-connected community and enjoyed playing the piano as well.

After Roseland graduated from Fayetteville High School, she would earn \$5.00 each Sunday for playing the piano during church services. She thanks her music teacher at Fayetteville, Mr. Sackett, for enhancing her love of music.

When Roseland was 18 years old, she and a girlfriend were each set up on blind dates. Roseland's date just so happened to be Chuck Molloy, a young gentleman who had spent time as a child living in Denmark



Roseland enjoys embroidery and reading historical fiction, stating, “Reading is the best thing I can do for myself.”

and then attended Vocational High School in Syracuse. Roseland reminisces it was a simpler time, an easier time. There weren't any of the issues teens today face with dating apps and the influx of information about a potential beau at your fingertips.

Chuck and Roseland enjoyed getting to know each other, going out for the occasional \$0.10 soda. In 1941, just a few short years after meeting, they were married and had a happy 65-year marriage.

Their four children completed their family, and in 1948 they bought their first home on Makyas Road on Onondaga Hill.

As the proud matriarch of her family, Roseland boasts of 25 grandchildren and 52 great-grandchildren! When asked what she was most thankful for, she quickly replied “family.” And she certainly has a lot to be thankful for. It is clear to me, after having the good fortune to meet and spend time with Roseland, that she lives by her motto, one that I will carry with me and remind myself of often, and that is to put “family first and let the rest go.”

MEMORIAL

ANITA BLACK MURPHY

CLASS OF 1968

A Note From the Editor: On October 5, 2019, Anita Black Murphy, OCS '68, died from complications of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Anita's passing hit her classmates particularly hard: she was the organizer/chairwoman of Class of '68 reunions; the primary provider of email news and photos for the class; and the individual pushing hardest for a new OCSEF scholarship named for the Class of '68.

Some of Anita's classmates got together and decided that the best way to honor her would be to share their memories in this profile:

SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP

When I was in the third grade, I spotted another little girl in my class that I wanted to get to know. Brazenly, I walked up to her, told her my name, asked for hers, and asked if she wanted to be friends. We walked home from school together that day and were never far apart in all the days that followed. That's how our special friendship started, and it lasted 61 years with love and respect for each other.

Anita was like no other friend I ever had—never a dull moment, never a harsh word and always there for each other. We shared in times of “hysterical fun,” summers camping, sorrow, sharing secrets, joy, long walks, and any other occurrence that called for a true friend. We were godmothers to each other's first-born child and even after I moved to Boston, we managed to connect via cards, letters and phone calls. Every January I looked forward to receiving a birthday card from her, followed by a harassing phone call on the 21st letting me know that I was officially a year older than she (although it was only eight months).

Anita, my dearest friend, not a day goes by that I don't stop and think of her and smile - her life

touched me as it did so many others. We are all so blessed that she was, and still is, a part of our lives.

- Barbara (Abend) O'Leary, OCS '68

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Someone can come into your life and make a difference, and often we don't even know it at the time. Anita was one of those persons. We all graduated from Onondaga Central together in 1968. As often happens over time, some of us drifted apart and lost contact with one another. Anita changed that. Since then we've had memorable reunions, most recently at 50 years.

Anita was responsible for the initial thoughts, planning, and organizing of the events. After our 50th, many of us have reconnected—all because of her work and caring. Many of us now see each other at least monthly to share conversation and laughs. We all owe Anita a debt of gratitude. She made a difference.

- Kevin Fitzpatrick, OCS '68

HIGH-FIVE

I know it's a cliché, but this one expresses the truth: Anita Black Murphy was someone about whom nobody had a bad word to say. She offered friends an immediate quick and accepting smile and then a sincere greeting—“How are you doing? What have you been up to?” I saw that smile last summer when Anita asked me for songs to be included on the play list for our 50th class reunion. I nominated “Paint it Black,” by the Rolling Stones. “Well, of course,” Anita replied with that smile—and then I realized the irony of my choice: “Black” was her maiden name.

When Tom McDonald and I wrote a one-act play in our senior year, we needed a fearless free spirit to be a “plant” in the audience,



someone who would jump out of her seat on cue and finish the final scene. Anita was the perfect fit for that role.

Anita and I had been friends since junior high, and for the last seven years we attended the same church, St. Michael's on Onondaga Hill. Anita sat about two-thirds of the way back on the right near the end of a pew. Occasionally the ushers would draft me to pass the collection plate, and I'd take the outside right. When I got back to Anita, she always gave me a not-overly-boisterous high-five, two old friends crossing paths. I would smile and notice the folks in nearby pews look a little surprised—and then happy at the same time. If the service hadn't yet enhanced my spiritual self, the high-five always did.

We are diminished, and we will miss her, but we are thankful for the smiles and memories she left us.

- Jim Molloy Sr., OCS '68

CHEERLEADER

Just a passing thought. In school, Anita was a cheerleader. Little did I know at the time, that was exactly what she was—a cheerleader for our school, our class, our get-togethers, and our reunions. She was tireless and always took the task at hand no matter how large. And always with a smile. The world lost a little something when she passed. And our class and friends lost a lot. An awful lot . . . You will be missed but always remembered. Rest in Peace.

- John Barmonde, OCS '68

ANITA...GIVING

Anita...giving of her musical talent, her school spirit, her humanity, her humor, her silliness, her advice, her compassion, her love for all she touched.

Her hard work culminated in so many reconnected and new friendships. We're over our cliques and we are more the same than we were different. She opened our eyes and our hearts. If you knew Anita, you were lucky indeed.

- Patty (Delaney) Mattucci, OCS '68

BACK TOGETHER

After being out of high school 50 years, Anita brought us back together with our reunion in 2018 and after. A group of us still get together once or twice a month. We go on day trips or meet for drinks and a meal—all because she brought us back together. She is missed.

- Sue Ramsden, OCS '68

PERFECT CLASSMATE

I was so looking forward to my 50th reunion. The perfect classmate put it all together. Anita worked so hard to make it a success and asked us to try hard to stay together as a group. We have done just that thanks to Anita.

- Carolyn Duncan Holmes, OCS '68

ESSENCE OF SCHOOL SPIRIT

Anita was the essence of Onondaga Central school spirit! She spent countless hours organizing our high school reunions as well as letting our classmates know about other class reunions we were invited to. Thanks, Anita.

- Patty (Gleason) Hourigan, OCS '68

NEDROW KIDS & SOUTH ONONDAGA KIDS COMBINED

Seventh grade—the Class of '68 was complete. Nedrow kids and South Onondaga kids combined to make our wonderful class—lots of memories and new friends. I sat with Anita for an overnight while she was in St. Camillus, and we talked about OCS, reunions, and our recent get-togethers. She asked me if I'd hold her hand. She also asked me whether I remembered the Halloween party and the

skating party at my house back in eighth grade. Amazing! And because of her, a group of us meet quite often. Some of us didn't really know each other in '68, and it's been great to reconnect and get to know one another. Thank you, Anita! We love you!

- Linda (Auborn) Fay, OCS '68

GRATEFUL TO HAVE NKOWN YOU

Anita was one of those people who grew up exactly like you thought she would. She was successful in her personal life, and she was successful in her professional life. I was amazed how many friends she had stayed in touch with through all phases of her professional life. And her family – what a tribute to the job Anita and Barry did in raising two beautiful souls in Colleen and Ryan, who are now going on to build their own beautiful families and futures.

Anita, you are physically gone from us, but you will never be forgotten, and we are oh so grateful to have known you and to have been able to call you our friend.

- Cathy Tracy Nichols, OCS '68

AMAZING STRENGTH

Over the course of my 30-year career as an R.N., I have had the honor to assist many of my patients and their families in the last weeks, days, and hours of their lives. There have been a few people over the years that will always be special to me and remain in my memory and heart. I have added a new name to this list of special people: Anita Black Murphy.

She displayed amazing strength of character and grace during her journey. Her keen sense of humor was evident often, along with her courage and dignity. Anita, you will be forever missed and in our hearts.

- Terry O'Laughlin Morga, OCS '68

KIND AND GIVING HEART

Anita always found time for family and friends. She was a woman of faith with a kind and giving heart. Mother Theresa of Calcutta said, "God has created us to do small things with great love. I believe that great love comes...

from our hearts...and it starts at home, with my family and neighbors." That's where it started for Anita.

I found the sacred scripture selections for Anita's funeral celebration very moving. These ancient words all said something about Anita. "She is clothed with strength and dignity."—"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."—"No one lives for oneself."—"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." Just as important were the words from family and friends. "Dedicated, loyal, forgiving, compassionate, organized, trustworthy, and loving."

I will miss her presence. However, I believe that her power of inspiring me and watching over me is strengthened and continues.

- Father Henry Pedzich, Pastor, Church of St. Michael and St. Peter

OCS IS A PART OF US FOREVER

My family was asked if we wanted to put together a little something about the life of my amazing mother, Anita Louise Murphy. I wish I could type until my fingers fell off about the wonderful things she did for our family, her friends, and her beloved OCS classmates, but that would take a long time.

We just wanted to let everyone in the OCS community know that my mother loved to talk about her time as a student in the OCS district. She took a lot of pride in being a Tiger. She loved planning the class reunions and making sure that her classmates always stayed in touch. Because of this, while my mother was in her most time of need, her OCS crew came to the rescue. There were so many of you that helped us in so many ways, and we are forever grateful. Clearly the OCS staff had taught you all well and made you all amazing people. We just want you to know that OCS is a part of us forever.

- Ryan P. Murphy (Anita's son) and Family

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.onondagacsd.org/districtpage.cfm?pageid=1733>

O N O N D A G A

J O Y F U L

Echoes