

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.

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:**  
**DR. CHARLES MOORE**  
**CLASS OF 1983**

*by Traci Cothran, Class of 1986*

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Dr. Charles Moore (Class of 1983) is driven to make a difference. In his role as a physician at a major public hospital, he saw the health disparities that many poor, urban people face—which can lead to a delay in getting necessary health care and the increased possibility of suffering a bleak outcome—and he decided to take action. He started by offering one-man healthcare out of his car in impoverished neighborhoods after work; soon after, he set up a clinic with help from like-minded colleagues. Then in 2012 Charles founded the HEALing Community Center in Atlanta, a joint effort with multiple local organizations that provide comprehensive health services as well as health education to provide a holistic



approach to better living, all offered on a free or sliding-scale basis.

The HEALing Center's goal is to meet people in their community, remove the barriers to getting healthcare, and craft a plan that meets each patient's individual needs. No transportation to the doctor's office? No specialist for your issue in your area? No insurance? No healthy eating options at your supermarket? HEALing can and will help – the center even offers fresh food from its garden.

The HEALing Center's staff makes it a goal to know their patients' names and assess their circumstances individually for the best treatment and outcomes.

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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>

# 2017 HOMECOMING

by Taylor Featherstone, Class of 2018 President

Onondaga Central's Homecoming 2017 was a huge success! It began on September 29th with the annual Spaghetti Dinner hosted by the Senior Class. Immediately following the dinner, the Girls Varsity Soccer Team took the field, enduring cold, rainy weather to eventually claim a 3-1 victory over Bishop Grimes in

The Class of 2018 brought home the trophy for the best float, called Rolling into Victory! The float borrowed a student's car with a student in a tiger costume driving and a magician (the opposing team's mascot) in the back with the students. Before the game, Nancy and John Hourigan, along with the late Sherman Saunders,



## "HOMECOMING 2017 WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!"

overtime. The rain put a damper on neither the giant bonfire held in the parking lot nor the annual Homecoming Dance following the game to wrap up the night.

were honored with spots on the Wall of Distinction for their many contributions to the community.

There was substantially better weather the next afternoon, perfect for all of the students, families, and alumni who came out to enjoy the day. The parade kicked off the day, with several classes and clubs showing off their creativity on floats they created.

Fans came out in droves to cheer on the Varsity Football Team in the big event of the weekend. The Tigers came out on top, crushing the Herkimer Magicians 46-0, and continuing their undefeated record of 5-0. (Ultimately, the boys ended their season with an overall record of 7-2 a few weeks later.)





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW? LYDIA BUZA

by Margaret DeNeve, Class of 1985

Tonight I had the opportunity to have dinner with a wonderful teacher of ours – Lydia Buza! I remember “Buza,” as we all called her, always made us smile and laugh all the time and was a joy to be around! And the laugh! I love her laugh! It hasn’t changed.

Lydia taught business courses and always remarked that she loved her job and that she couldn’t wait to get to work to spend time with her students! She took them seriously and loved to teach

**“SHE WOULD URGE US NOT TO LET ANYTHING HOLD US BACK, ENCOURAGE US TO KNOW THAT WE WERE FREE TO EXCEL AND SEEK ANYTHING WE WANT IN LIFE.”**

them, encourage them, and help them know that they can become anything they want to be. She

would urge us not to let anything hold us back, encourage us to know that we were free to excel and seek anything we want in life.

As Buza and I were talking, I have never seen anyone so happy, a person who thoroughly enjoys life and all it has to offer. She is passionate and truly understands how life works, and she wants it to work for everyone else. She may be retired, but she is still helping people today as a counselor at her church. She loves what she

is doing because this is what she has done all of her life, starting with her students! Buza loved her

students for 32 years, and though it was hard for her to say goodbye, she retired in 1989.

She amazed me with how many stories she could remember as well as her students’ names. She mentioned one student that she

**“BUZA, AS WE CALLED HER, ALWAYS MADE US SMILE AND LAUGH ALL THE TIME AND WAS A JOY TO BE AROUND!”**

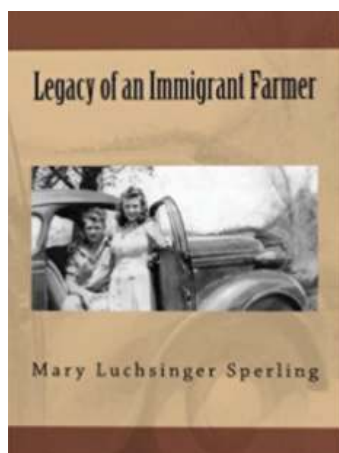
helped and still remembers to this day. She asked this student to go the administration office to help out. The student was very scared, but she encouraged him to go, and since then his confidence has grown. This former student is working in administration today and thanks Buza for pushing him to help out. This is just an example of the many students that she has encouraged and motivated through the years.



Today when she is not counseling people at her church, she loves to meet with past teachers for lunch, dinner or breakfast to keep

in touch! She also loves to travel to see family any chance she gets! She may be 86 years old, but she is still the wonderful, funny and loving Ms. Buza we had back when we were in school! Thank you, Buza, for many years of enjoying you—and still enjoying you today!

As she said to all her students and repeats today, “LOVE YOU LOTS!”



## TIGERS ON THE BOOKSHELVES

### MARY LUCHSINGER SPERLING

is a class of 1964 OCS graduate, a retired OCS teacher (1993-2008), and the parent of four

OCS graduates (Dan, 1990; Steve, 1992; Matt, 1997; Tim, 2001). She recently published a book, Legacy of an Immigrant Farmer, in which she tells the story of the Luchsinger family, starting with the travels of Swiss immigrant

Joachim Luchsinger in 1900. The book contains many references to the early years of Onondaga. It is available in paperback on Amazon.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DR. CHARLES MOORE

## CLASS OF 1983

by Traci Cothran, Class of 1986 *Continued from page 1*

Charles was interested in medicine from a very young age, practicing bandaging up family members as a toddler in his Nedrow home. He recalls his elementary school teachers Ms. Crippen and Ms. Raymond fondly, and counts Mr. Littlefield as one of his favorite teachers at OCS. He played saxophone in Jazz Band,

starting when he was eight. In fact, it was witnessing various speech and hearing difficulties at Pioneer that got him focused on his medical specialty.

After graduating from OCS as valedictorian, Charles went on to attend Union College as a biology major and music minor, and

### “HE SAW THE HEALTH DISPARITIES THAT MANY POOR, URBAN PEOPLE FACE AND DECIDED TO TAKE ACTION.”

ran track, sang in the chorus, worked on the yearbook, and even tried football for a season. His good deeds began early, too, as he tagged along with his sister as a volunteer at the Pioneer home for the deaf, blind and handicapped,

earned his MD from prestigious Harvard University. Today he is Chief of Otolaryngology (specialty in ear, nose and throat) at Grady Memorial Hospital as well as Professor of Head and Neck Surgery at Emory University

School of Medicine. Charles' accomplishments are many – including singing background for Michael Buble! - and a quick web search will lead you to his research papers and an informative video about the HEALING Center! Check them out!

You might spy Charles around town on occasion, as he visits upstate NY a few times each year to visit family, and he continues to enjoy fishing and being active in his church as he did as a youngster in Syracuse.

Charles sets a great example, as his work is making a positive impact in the lives of over 9,000 people who visit the HEALING

Community Center every year. Charles has advice for today's OCS students thinking about medicine: “Be passionate about this choice because it's a lot of work, but worthwhile if you truly love it. You can help many people in a lot of ways.” And no matter what field you choose, “Everyone has something to contribute – even small actions can lead to bigger and better things. Take that step to make a difference in people's lives.”

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## OCSEF UPDATE

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

## 2017 GOLF TOURNAMENT

### Annual Fund Drive

February 2018

### Golf Tournament

June 29, 2018

### Tile-by-Tile Program

Ongoing

The OCSEF held its annual golf tournament on June 30, 2017. Golfers withstood some rain showers, helping the Foundation raise \$4845 to help support the OCSEF mission to fund scholarships for graduating seniors.

# WALL OF DISTINCTION



## JOHN & NANCY HOURIGAN

CLASS OF 1964

John Hourigan and Nancy (Joyce) Hourigan were honored for their many years of success and service in the agriculture community.

Starting with a rented farm and just 100 cows shortly after graduation, they now oversee 2500 head of cattle and 7500 acres of farmland. Always willing to try new technology, John and Nancy

have mentored numerous young men and women in agriculture and hosted visitors from all over the world to study their success.

They have been recognized by several organizations for their contributions to the community and have served as members of the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. Nancy was also chair of the NYS Farm Service Agency for eight years. They currently own and operate Bailiwick Market and Café, which utilizes local talent and serves fresh food from local farms.



## SHERMAN SAUNDERS

CLASS OF 1937

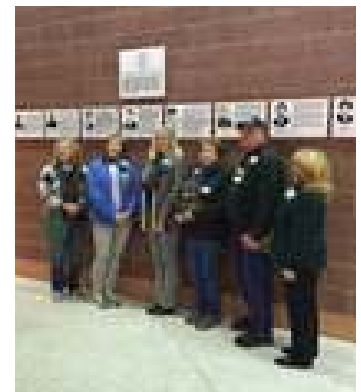
Sherman Saunders began his career with W. F. Saunders & Sons and the Saunders Companies in 1942. The Saunders business

grew under Sherman's leadership from the original plant on South Onondaga Road to 13 plants across New York. The W. F. Saunders companies were responsible for numerous cutting-edge concrete mixes over the years. His innovative stone crushing and plant designs and vision for the future helped move the concrete business into the 21st century.

"Sherm" was well known for his generous contributions to the community including local little leagues, Boys and Girls Club, the South Onondaga and Nedrow Volunteer Fire Departments, and local parks, playgrounds and memorials.

*At this year's Homecoming, Nancy and John Hourigan, along with the late Sherman Saunders, were honored with spots on the Wall of Distinction for their many contributions to the community.*

*Left to Right: Janet Ferris, Wall of Distinction Committee Chair; Sherman Saunders' Daughters Gail, Judy and Sandy; John & Nancy Hourigan*



# ALUMNI NOTES:

## PETER GUCKENHEIMER

### CLASS OF 1959

Greetings: I am a person who likes to relive my past memories! I have an unusual past, being born in Palestine (now called Israel) on 2/20/1940 and coming to America in 1947 to NYC. My father was 47 years old and for the third time had to start his working life all over again. His first new start occurred when, being Jewish, he ran away from Nazi Germany. The second

small homes. I went to Rockwell School to start in 5th grade, but essentially was a first-grader: I was seven years old and did not even speak English when we landed in NYC.

I started at Onondaga Central when I graduated from 6th grade. Another irony was that our OCS school guidance counselor, Ms Robinson,

#### **“I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD AND DID NOT SPEAK ENGLISH WHEN WE LANDED IN NEW YORK CITY.”**

occurred when war was coming to Israel from all the Arab Nations bordering it, and my father came to New York. Shortly after that, he got a new start as an electrical engineer at Syracuse General Electric in North Syracuse.

My Father was a genius with a master's degree in electrical engineering and was the last Jewish graduate from college in late 1932 when Hitler proclaimed that Jews were not allowed to go to college or practice their skill set. Fortunately for us, he left Germany in 1933 to go to England to get a job and apply for his visa paperwork there.

We bought our first house in Nedrow in 1950 on Lindbergh Road in one of the first house tracks of prefab

told me shortly before graduation that I better find a trade school and learn a trade for a living.

I tried to enter the Architectural School at Syracuse University, but without math I could not get in. I got into Mohawk Tech which is now called Oneida Junior College.

To shorten this story, I felt like a “slow student” at OCS until I went to Mohawk Valley Tech, a two-year junior college in Utica, N.Y., from 1959 to graduation in 1961. From there I transferred to Syracuse University and earned a four-year degree in Graphic Design and a minor in Industrial Design in 1964.

I got married to my wife on campus at the Syracuse University in a non-



denominational wedding service because my Jewish parents would not attend a Catholic service. (My wife was a Catholic at the time.) On Sunday of our wedding weekend, we jumped into our used 1962 Corvair and drove to California with

and almost completed my Master's Degree at Stanford University.

My life has been a great run, being married over 53 years to the same woman. We have one daughter, Alicia, born in 1968, and

#### **“I HAVE AN UNUSUAL PAST, BEING BORN IN PALESTINE...AND COMING TO AMERICA IN 1947”**

\$200—and neither of us had a job. It was, ironically, 20 years after the Normandy Invasion of France on 6/6/1944!

a granddaughter Sophia, 18, who today had her first class at San Diego State University.

**BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL!**  
Peter Guckenheimer, Class of '59

I ended up working up my skill set to a level of a mechanical engineer at Hewlett Packard for 22.5 years



# Forever IN OUR MEMORIES

## Janine Group Matteson

Class of 1965  
August 20, 2017

## John Burton

Class of 1961  
September 24, 2017

## Dennis Dole

Teacher and Administrator  
August 15, 2017

## Charles Lyden

Class of 1965  
September 25, 2016

# CLASS OF 1972

## *Reunion*

by Duane Coughenouer



The OCS class of '72 held its ninth consecutive quinquennial reunion on Saturday, July 22, 2017. This was our forty-five year reunion and the class of '72 is proud that we have had a reunion every five years since graduation. Thanks go to the many classmates who have been instrumental in keeping this tradition going. A number of the classmates attended a Friday afternoon tour of the OCS high school hosted by Tim Pierce. The tour was followed by refreshments at Beak & Skiff and Tanner Valley Golf Course. We also

enjoyed blueberry muffins made from an original recipe from Mrs. Krick, long-time OCS home economics teacher.

Thirty-six people attended dinner at Barbagallo's. The attendees comprised 25 classmates with 11 guests. It was enjoyable to see everyone again. We also wish to remember our classmates who have "graduated" from this earthly realm. We have fond memories of you.

## CLASS OF 1968 – TIME TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS!

A two-day celebration will be held on Friday, July 20, and Saturday, July 21, 2018. More details will be shared in the next issue. Time now to put these dates on your calendar, make plans

to attend, and share the news. To receive more information or help us find our fellow classmates, send a message to Anita Black Murphy at [albm1950@aol.com](mailto:albm1950@aol.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

J O Y F U L

*Echoes*