



Chagrin Falls Alumni Association  
400 East Washington St.  
Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

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## CHAGRIN FALLS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the CFAA, we would like to thank all our alumni that have taken a front line role this past year. It has been a challenging year for all, but we are fortunate to have fellow Tigers that have continued to work in the most challenging professions to help get us through this time.

We look forward to getting back to reunions, the hall of fame induction ceremony, and the 2nd CFAA Euchre Tournament soon. Until then, we will enjoy catching up with fellow alumni via social media and sharing as well in the Tiger Tales.

The spring issue will be in April when we hope to have more to share on impending events.

We hope that you and your family have a safe and healthy 2021.

Keep the Tiger Pride Alive!

Brian McKenna '88, Alumni Director



Top Left - 1955 senior year picture

Top Right - 2010 Achievement Hall of Fame

Bottom - At the 2010 Hall of Fame with son John sand wife Linda



## THE PASSING OF OUR LEADER

The CFAA is saddened by the loss of our founding Alumni Director, **Mr. Tom Mattern '55**. He guided us through the inception of the alumni association in 1989 and established it as the premier public school alumni group in Northeast Ohio. He gave countless hours to bringing the rich history of our schools for all to share. His 31 years of teaching, with 25 at CFMS, instilled in us a high standard to reach as a student. His time as a coach and working at the Rec Center guided young people to play with effort and, most important, integrity. He volunteered for many years at the Methodist Church, Main Street of Chagrin Falls, and Meals-On-Wheels not content on where we were as a community, but where we could be if we continued to strive for the bettering of our fellow neighbor.

With over 50 years given to our community he would rightfully be honored for his efforts. He was named the 1st Chagrin Falls Schools "Teacher of the Year" and the Ohio Outstanding American History Teacher of the Year by the Ohio Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Tom was named the 1996 Citisun of the Year by the Chagrin Herald Sun/West Geauga Sun. The Chagrin Valley Jaycees honored him with the Distinguished Service Award and selected him to be Grand Marshall of the Blossom Time Parade. He was also inducted into the Chagrin Falls Schools Achievement Hall of Fame in 2010. Further, several awards have been named in his honor for outstanding 8th grade history student, CFHS Athletic Department Service Award and CFAA Alumni Scholarship. Our historical room, which the memorabilia was amassed through years of Tom's time, also bears his name. This past summer he was recognized once again with the Chagrin Falls Alumni Association Tom Mattern Alumni Victory Bell, which is now rung after each varsity victory in C.S. Harris Stadium.

As the current Alumni Director, I am often reminded at how special Tom has been to so many and, in this case, to the CFAA. I have worked with many local schools in Northeast Ohio to give them guidance on how to start an alumni association for Tom established the standard that other young alumni groups want to reach. I have yet to see any of these groups or other established associations in our area that have the success that we do. We will forever be indebted to Tom's vision and efforts to "Keeping Tiger Pride Alive."

To my teacher, mentor, and friend, I will miss you as I know my fellow Tigers will as well.

# History of Chagrin Falls

**John Bourisseau '64** is President of the Chagrin Falls Historical Society Board of Trustees. In 2020 he has shared the history of our community in a series of articles published in the Chagrin Valley Times. We would like to thank him for letting us share it as well. This is the first article of the series.

## THE ABOLITION MOVEMENT IN CHAGRIN FALLS

By **John Bourisseau '64**, Chagrin Falls Historical Society President

In discussing the history of Chagrin Falls, one remarkable aspect not to be overlooked is the impact of the Abolition movement on the village. The first reference we have to Abolition is in the correspondence of Lorenzo Dow (L. D. ) Williams who moved from New York State to Chagrin Falls in 1837. The son of Methodist minister Benajah Williams who moved his entire family to Chagrin a few years later, L.D. was one of the first teachers in the village and, although not ordained, he presided over funerals and weddings in the area. He was active in the Methodist Conference. In a letter to his father in 1838 he asked that copies of *The Watchman*, a Methodist Episcopal anti-slavery newspaper, be sent to him. He noted in his letter that while the Abolition movement was small in the village, it was dedicated to the cause.

We know from the memoir and diaries of Austin Church, whose family moved to the village in 1834 from Massachusetts, that the Church household was a stop on the Underground Railroad, assisting fugitive slaves to make their way to Canada. The diaries contain references in 1858 and 1859 to slaves arriving at the house on West Orange Street to spend the night before moving on their way. But Henry Church, Sr. was not the only Abolitionist in the village. Deacon Thomas West was reputed to operate a stop on the Underground Railroad, as was John Williams, the younger brother of L.D. Dr. Harvey W. Curtiss was an ardent Abolitionist who harbored fugitive slaves and entertained William Lloyd Garrison at his home in Chagrin Falls. Before attending medical college, Curtiss organized meetings for the Western Abolition Society, including an early meeting in Chagrin Falls.

We can identify some of the other Abolitionists in town by viewing the lists of subscribers to the *Anti-Slavery Bugle*, a reformist newspaper published in Salem, Ohio from 1845 to 1861. The *Bugle* was a radical paper that published speeches and letters from Abolitionists across the country, including Sojourner Truth's "Ain't I a Woman" speech, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and William Lloyd Garrison. The *Bugle* listed booksellers who specialized in Abolition publications, including Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. It also announced fundraising events and anti-slavery meetings. It was the voice of the Ohio Anti-Slavery Society, later the Western Anti-Slavery Society. Its columnists supported Temperance and Women's Rights in addition to Abolition. Resident Simeon Dickinson was the agent for the paper in

Chagrin Falls for several years. There are many familiar names in the list of subscribers between 1848 and the paper's demise in 1861. These include W. W. Vincent, Lyman Hatfield, M.A. Earl, J. N. Bliss, Polly Saunderson, M. Soule, J. Griffith, Dr J. H. Vincent, Henry Church, Sr., Adin Gaunt, Milton Bliss, Jonathan Earle, William Waldron, John W. Williams, Hezekiah Russell, Charles Waldron, A. Frazer, O. Nettleton, George Fenkell, and Hannibal Goodell.

Occasionally, residents of Orange Township and Newbury Township, including future Chagrin Falls resident John Ober, are listed as subscribers.

There were several Anti-Slavery meetings held in Chagrin Falls prior to the Civil War. The first meeting of which we have a record was held in August 1846. A two-day meeting was held in July 1848. One of the first meetings held at Library Hall was an Anti-Slavery meeting. Another meeting was held in the village in 1854 featuring leading Abolitionist Charles C. Burleigh.

Organizational meetings were announced for Bainbridge and Auburn Corners. A meeting was scheduled to be held in Bainbridge on Aug. 30 and 31, 1850 to organize a District Anti-Slavery Society. An Anti-Slavery Convention was to be held in Bainbridge the following year. Several Abolitionists of national renown were scheduled to appear including Abby Kelley Foster, Parker Pillsbury, J. W. Walker, Samuel Brooke and H. C. Wright.

The *Anti-Slavery Bugle* ceased publication in 1861 with the outbreak of the Civil War. The complete abolition of slavery was a few years down the road but it is fair to say that the residents of Chagrin Falls did their part in support of Abolition.

## Laura Gorretta Archivist

Receipts (subscriptions) to the *Anti-Slavery Bugle*

4 Sep 1846 E.W. Vincent, A.P Burroughs

21 Jan. 1848 Lyman Hatfield; M.A. Earl

17 May 1848 Wm. Jean

28 Apr 1848 John Huston, J. N. Bliss, Calvin Able, E. Haughton, Polly Saunderson

28 Jul 1848 M. Soule, J. Griffith, C. Plasteridge, L. Hatfield, Dr. Vincent, Henry Church, A. Gaunt, M. Bliss 6 Apr 1849 E. Houghton, S Dickinson

28 Jun 1849 C. B. Vincent

25 Aug 1849 Alfred White (Orange)

13 Oct 1849 A. K. Butler

2 Mar 1850 J. Vanocken, Jno. Earle

22 Jun 1850 H. Church, W. A. Earle

*Editors note : Laura spent a fair amount of time searching the Anti-Slavery Bugle online*



# CLASS & REUNION NOTES

At this time we are unsure if Blossom Weekend and its typical festivities will go on as planned, which has been the most popular time to host a reunion. We also see some classes choose a summer weekend or even around Homecoming. Once there is confidence that in-person reunions can be held again, we would like to make sure that the class representatives have your most recent contact information. If you have a new home address or email address, then please share it with us at [alumni@chagrinschools.org](mailto:alumni@chagrinschools.org). We also want to recommend joining your classmates on your class Facebook group. Most classes have one. We hope to have more news on upcoming reunions in our April newsletter. Below are some tentative plans or news from some classes.

**Class of '71:** While we hope we can still have a Reunion on Memorial Day weekend, we will play it by ear until we know what will be open in 6 more months. We have reserved the Village Martini & Wine Bar for that Saturday night, May 29, 2021, and have our fingers crossed. When plans are certain, they will be posted. Please make it easy on us & send Ruth your current email at [ruthcav@cebridge.net](mailto:ruthcav@cebridge.net) Thanks!

CFHS **Class of 1972** plans Marvelous 50th reunion for Memorial Day weekend 2022. Plans are percolating for the 50th reunion of the CFHS class of 1972 for the weekend of Memorial Day 2022. Committee Members for the 45th reunion have agreed to serve on the reunion organizing committee again, including Christina (Langer) Barrow, Andy Sworan, Sarah (Stratton) Kesselm and Class President Dwight Woodward.

"We are getting started early as we really want to attract classmates from around the world, particularly since some have not returned to Chagrin Falls since graduating high school," Woodward said. "We also hope other classmates who live outside Ohio will participate planning the reunion if they are interested. With Facebook, email, Zoom and text, anyone can offer their ideas."

The class held a delightful 45th reunion at Sarah's Bratenhal home on the Lake Erie shore and is considering holding the 50th there, but also looking at all options. The committee hopes out-of-town classmates will plan to return for the 50th and spend a long weekend to attend other events, including the Friday All

Class Reunion at the Chagrin Falls Township Hall, the Sunday Blossom Time Parade and the Cleveland area's recreational opportunities.

"With the development of Coronavirus vaccine on the horizon, we anticipate life and travel will have returned to a semblance of "normal" in 18 months and classmates can start planning now and look forward to this milestone reunion," Woodward said.

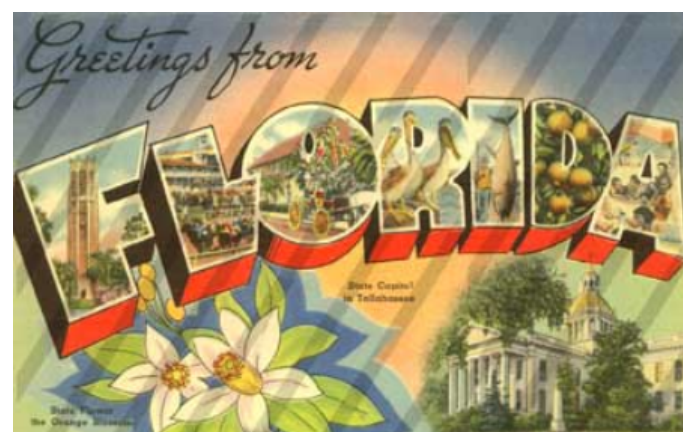
Info. on the reunion will be posted on the class Facebook page: Classmates interested in offering input or serving on the planning committee may contact Andy ([aasworan@gmail.com](mailto:aasworan@gmail.com)) or Sarah ([Sarah.Kesselm@gmail.com](mailto:Sarah.Kesselm@gmail.com)).

If ANY CFHS graduates reading Tiger Tales has contact information for long, lost classmates of the class of 1972 email Woody at: [dwight.woodward@gmail.com](mailto:dwight.woodward@gmail.com). Go Tigers!

Memorial Day weekend plans in Chagrin Falls are still uncertain. Whether or not the annual Blossom Time festivities are a go or not, the great **Class of '80**, plans to gather at the Lake Louise Pavilion and celebrate our 41st! Saturday evening, May 29, we'll join together and get caught up. Details to follow.

The **Class of 1996** will not be celebrating their 25th reunion this year (thanks, COVID-19!), which will make our 30th reunion in 2026 even sweeter! Perhaps we'll have an informal reunion gathering during Blossom Time 2022. Email or text Julie @ [julie.dimatteo@gmail.com](mailto:julie.dimatteo@gmail.com) or 312-218-5600. Cheers to the Class of 1996!

If Blossom Time 2021 is a go, the **Class of 2000** plans to celebrate our 21th reunion over Blossom Weekend. Event details are still in the works. For more information, visit the CFHSClass of 2000 Facebook page or contact Lisa (Laufik) Nelson at [LML113@yahoo.com](mailto:LML113@yahoo.com).



## FLORIDA ALL-CLASS REUNION

Please be advised that the Florida All Class Reunion for CFHS is taking on a new look. Due to the uncertainty of our status here in Florida related to the Covid 19 virus we have decided to meet in various venues throughout the state of Florida where we will have lunch in small groups eating outside at various restaurants. I will be contacting Alumni in specific areas to choose a venue and will post times and dates on FB Alumni page and other Chagrin Falls social media. It is our hope to keep our tradition of gathering and visiting safe until we can meet again in a large group. Hope you all had a wonderful holidays and Be Well as we are TIGER STRONG in FLORIDA.

# Chagrin Falls Schools - In the Year of the Pandemic

Across the nation public education has been handling the pandemic in a variety of methods. What may be happening in your current school district could be vastly different than what is happening at your alma mater. Here is a recap of where we have been and what 2021 is starting to look like at Chagrin.

It seems like most states shut down in person learning roughly around the same time last March. Chagrin would go fully virtual until the end of the school year. Much of the learning at the secondary school level was done asynchronous, while the younger students experienced more of a mix with scheduled zoom classes and assignments to complete.

Over the summer the School received a generous donation to help outfit the buildings and staff with the technology and equipment needed for in-person and virtual learning. The school started around a week later to give staff additional time to prepare for the transition to the changes ahead.

The school year began hybrid for all the K-12 students. Cuyahoga County students would go to school in the morning, while Geauga County students would attend classes virtually. Students would have lunch at home and the two counties would switch in the afternoon. Classes would go to block scheduling and grades 7 - 12 would end up going all virtual on Fridays during the Fall where each class would meet for a shorter duration.

With transmission rates lower for younger students and K-6 on a trimester schedule, Gurney Elementary and the Chagrin Falls Intermediate School would go all in beginning on November 17th. Throughout this first semester students did have the option to be fully virtual, which was chosen by over 10% of the student body.

With a rise in cases throughout Ohio and in Chagrin Schools, students in grades 7-12 shifted to full remote learning in the middle of December. K - 6 students went fully virtual for their

last two days before winter break. After the winter break the first week has already been scheduled for remote learning for all students. If transmissions look to be going down, then students will begin to physically return to the classrooms.

Besides the classroom, extracurricular activities have had to adjust as well. Training in the summer for sports was limited with a gradual phasing in from individual to group practices. The Fall sports included an initial pause in activities to assess the best course of action. Football was able to play a reduced schedule, while other sports participated in most of their regular season events with some cancellations. Spectators were limited to primarily the immediate family. Cheerleading and marching band still continued on, but did not travel to away football games. Contact winter sports have been paused during December from competitions with a hope that all winter sports can begin competing in January. Some winter sports teams have had to quarantine due to positive cases.

Events like Homecoming, Meet the Teams, the Fall play and banquets were not held. Our award winning speech and debate team has participated in some virtual competitions throughout the year. The winter holiday concert was done online. The non-sanctioned Pumpkin Roll did go on, but with far less numbers and masks worn by the students.

A unique challenge to the school system is that it lies within two counties. Directives have differed between the two over the past year. Although the case numbers have been much higher in Cuyahoga County, the portion of Chagrin in that county has been considerably lower and is more in line with Geauga County.

The hope is that spring will start to permit all of our students to attend physically if they choose.

## FALL SPORTS RECAP

CFHS athletes appreciated the opportunity to take to the field this past fall. The girls tennis team went 6-9 and came in 4th place in the CVC. The volleyball team finished with a 8-9 record, finishing in 2nd place in the CVC and made it to the district semifinals. The football squad had a record of 6-4 and came in 3rd place in the CVC. The boys soccer team went 18-3 and won the district championship and were regional runners up. The girls golf team finished with an overall record of 4-6. The team also had a district qualifier. On the boys side, the golfers went 7-4 and came in 4th place in the CVC. The boys cross country runners came in 8th in the CVC, 3rd in the District, and 15th at the regional meet. The girls came in 7th place in the CVC, were district champs, and were 8th at regionals and they had 2 state qualifiers. The girls soccer team went 13-4-1 and were also district runners up.

## FLORIDA ALL-CLASS REUNION

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# Coach Q's Christmas Story

*By Tom Quesinberry '70*

A foreword by Brian McKenna -

When I first started in the alumni association, I continually heard about the triad of high school teachers that would help mold and shape a generation of Chagrin graduates. Miss Elsa Jane Carroll taught English, while Mr. Norm Fry was the shop teacher. However the one I heard the most on was Ralph Quesinberry, who served in a number of roles from gym teacher, coach, and athletic director. The stories would recall his tough, but firm love that he had for his students, players, and colleagues. So often they would end with his famous line “and take your brother with you.” For those of us lucky enough to graduate in the late 1970s or into the 1980s, we were able to get two Qs in our education. **Dave Quesinberry '67** would be our introduction into physical education at the elementary level where he would make fitness fun and made all the students feel important no matter their skill level. For those that graduated later, we hope the background shared in the below story gives you a better understanding of why the CFHS gym is adorned with Ralph Quesinberry's name. To Dave, **Tom '70**, and **Sue '74**, we thank you for sharing your father with us in making a generation of CFHS graduates stronger in body, but more importantly in character. For those that had Coach Q, we hope you enjoy Tom's background on his father's upbringing.



By the time my Dad turned six-years old in 1926, both his parents had passed away. There were eight kids born into the Tennessee family. Two older boys (Harry and Buster) had died before Ralph was born, the youngest of the eight siblings. Two of the older sisters, Blanche and Naomi, were already married with families in 1926, Margret was 13-years old, and she was followed by Jim, Glenn and then Ralph, who were 10, 8 and 6, respectively.

The Tennessee state officials wanted the three boys to go to a state-run orphanage. But my Uncle Carl and Aunt Naomi intervened, and suggested they be sent to the Junior Order Orphanage in Tiffin, Ohio. Their Dad, the grandfather I never met, had been a member of the Junior Order of Mechanics (much like the Eagles and Elks are), and the organization's main charity was running two orphanages, in Tiffin and one in North Carolina. Uncle Carl, a Junior Pastor, and the folks of the Grace Baptist Church in Bristol, Virginia, convinced the State of Tennessee to send the boys to the Junior Order's Tiffin orphanage. Aunt Margret, who was 13 years old at the time, was told to quit school and get a job, or go to the orphanage with the three boys. She chose to quit school and stay in Johnson City, TN, where she lived her entire life. (Aunt Margret's life is a story in itself, but I will not get into it now).

The Junior Order Orphanage in Tiffin, Ohio, was on 800+ acres of land, bordered by the Maumee River. There were between 300 to 500 kids, ranging from infants to 18-year olds. The high school provided vocational education, as well as general education, to its residents. Spiritual education was run by a committee of Tiffin-area Protestant ministers who rotated doing weekly Sunday services at the orphanage.

The residents over six-years old were divided into two groups. Half of them worked the farm on the property while the other half went to school in the morning, then at mid-day they switched activities. The kids in the orphanage called themselves “Hometown Kids,” and were totally loyal to each other, and proud of their home.

Christmas at the orphanage was, of course, very different from what most of us are familiar with. Local Tiffin's residents were great at helping out during Holidays, and doing what they could for as many as 500 children with no parents. Festive activities were all group-based, and there were no individual presents for the kids.

When Ralph turned 18, he was allowed to stay at the orphanage until his class graduated, then he would be out on his own. The family of one of his friends growing up owned a junkyard in Tiffin. Ralph moved in with them, got a job at the Heinz Ketchup plant in Tiffin, and helped junk cars in the evening to cover his rent. He lived that first summer in a room above the junkyard office.

Ralph received a football scholarship to Kent State, and reported for training camp in 1938. He stayed one week, decided he didn't like it, and returned to Tiffin (where his brothers lived). As it happened, he ran into the new football coach at Bowling Green State University (BGSU), who had previously been the football coach at East Sandusky High School. The Junior Order played East Sandusky all four years Ralph was there, the coach remembered him and offered him a football scholarship to BGSU.

He joined Alpha Tau Omega and lived in the fraternity house his first year. During his sophomore year, Ralph and several other football players were allowed to build a dormitory room underneath the football stands, and was where he lived the rest of his time at BGSU. He was Captain of the BGSU football team his Junior and Senior years, and is a member of BGSU's Sports Hall of Fame.

Shortly after the fall, 1941, football season ended, Pearl Harbor was attacked and America went to war. Ralph and his two brothers had agreed that if the U.S.A. entered World War 2, the three of them would enlist together. They were orphans and could leave right away. The Junior Order had provided all three with vocational educations the U.S. Army needed (Uncle Jim was a car mechanic, Uncle Glen was an electrician, and Ralph was a baker, with 3 ½ years towards a college degree in HPER.)

When Ralph heard Pearl Harbor was attacked, right away he hitch-hiked to Tiffin. The next morning (December 8, 1941), the three brothers went down to the Tiffin recruiting station and joined the U.S. Army.

The poor Sergeant at the recruiting office hadn't yet been given any instructions on what to do when all these men started arriving to enlist. So he took their names and contact information, and sent them home, as he did with several hundred other guys. Ralph was called to active duty on March 11, 1942, and spent the next 4 Christmases in the U.S. Army (including being with General Patton's 3rd Army at Bastogne in 1944).

When WWII ended, he was sent to Fort Bragg. In Mid-December, 1945, his commanding officer called him into his office and told him that the sooner he could get to Indian Town Gap in Pennsylvania, the sooner he would be discharged. He called my Mom in Rocky River, Ohio (they were engaged), told her the news, and got a train ticket to Indian Town Gap. When he was discharged, he got a train ticket to Cleveland and called my Mom with the arrival time. He was discharged on Christmas Day, 1945.

My Mom and Grandfather met him at the Terminal Tower train station and took him to Rocky River for his first non-institutional Christmas in 1945.

He went back to BGSU and finished his last semester. He had a job as an assistant football coach and was going to start graduate school. At practice early in training camp that year (1946), the head coach came out on the field and told Ralph that there was a guy on the phone in his office named Carlyle Harris from Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and he was looking for a high school football coach. Why didn't he go in and talk to him?

Chagrin hired him as a U.S. History teacher, football coach and track coach. \$2100 a year to teach and \$250 for each sport he coached.

He rented a room from C.B. and Lydia Briggs in Chagrin in 1946. They, along with Carlyle Harris and family in Rocky River showed him a small town Christmas the next two years. He was hooked.

During his 30+ years at Chagrin Falls High School, he was:

- Elected to the Ohio High School Football Coach's Hall of Fame;
- Elected to the Ohio High School Track Coach's Hall of Fame;
- Elected to the Ohio High School Athletic Director's Hall of Fame;
- Elected the Greater Cleveland Football Coaches "Coach of the Year" twice (1948 and 1962); and
- National Athletic Director of the Year in 1973.

Christmas became his favorite Holiday and Chagrin Falls became his hometown. He and my Mom are buried at Evergreen.



MARRIAGES



David Bruno ‘03 & Krystal Loewe, Sept. 26, 2020.

Lindsay Laufik ‘03 & Sein Leibin ‘03, Sept. 12, 2020.

Brent Axthelm ‘06 & Melanie Mohn, May 24, 2020.

Julie Leary ‘08 & Evan Welch, June, 2020.

Nathan Lelonis ‘11 & Megan Mignogna ‘10, Aug. 29, 2020.

DONATIONS

Joann Honeywell Roeder ‘48 has given memorabilia to the Chagrin Falls Schools Tom Mattern Historical Room.

Gary '53 & Trudy Toso Matthews '54 recently made a donation in memory of John Miller ‘54.

Jean Gurney Hutt ‘59 has made a donation in memory of her father T.C. Gurney, who was a teacher, coach, athletic director and high school principal in his forty year career at Chagrin Falls.

Kathy Stull Cotten ‘69 has donated several yearbooks to the Chagrin Falls Schools Tom Mattern Historical Room.

Andy Hitchcock ‘97 donated videos of past plays and musicals to the Chagrin Falls Schools Tom Mattern Historical Room.

IN MEMORIAM



Retired CFMS teacher, coach, CFAA Alumni Director Tom Mattern '55

Geraldine Larker Fisher '60

Barbara Wheeler Paterek '60

Barbara Lindsay Petherbridge ‘77

Dr. Sean Kay ‘85

Matt O’Hearn ‘10

Retired CFHS English teacher Gayle Nemeth

### ALMA MATER

As the mist lifts high above us  
In the valley view,  
There you stand, our Alma Mater  
Clear and brave and true.  
May we always keep your honor,  
Keep your standards high,  
Hold your memories always with us  
As the years go by.

Tho in time our paths may lead us  
Far across the sea,  
Still our love will bind us ever  
Hand in hand with thee.  
Proudly singing of your honor,  
Cry above the din  
Praise to thee, our Alma Mater  
Praise to thee, Chagrin.

SUPPORT YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$250

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$100

ADDITIONAL GIVING OPTIONS:

☐ Yearly Alumni Association Membership - \$10

☐ Other - \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name (incl. Maiden Name):\_\_\_\_\_

Class

Year:\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to CFAA if not an alumnus (circle):

Parent

Faculty/Staff

Other:\_\_\_\_\_

Street:\_\_\_\_\_

City:\_\_\_\_\_

State:\_\_\_\_\_

Zip:\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail:\_\_\_\_\_

News About

You:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My Donation Honors:\_\_\_\_\_

Your Tiger Pride membership (\$250 or \$100 if you are over 70) will go to the Scholarship Fund and Dues to the General Fund. Other donations will go to the General Fund unless you specify a different fund. Make checks payable to: Chagrin Falls Alumni Association.

Mail to: Chagrin Falls Alumni Association, 400 E. Washington St., Chagrin Falls, OH 44022

# IN THE NEWS

While gathering items for this section, the CFAA reached out to the Class of '59 to see how they were doing and to highlight some of their significant life events. We hope we can feature other classes in future issues.

**Suzie Class Feick '59** - After college Suzie and her husband were able to settle in Chagrin to start their family with three sons. They especially enjoyed redecorating and upgrading the Tambling house, which was built in 1854 and is located at 349 Bell Street. Her husband Paul's work took them to Italy, back to Chagrin, Troy (Ohio), and Tucson (Arizona). For the past 30 years they have enjoyed living in Irvine, California. They still enjoy travelling and visiting family, their 8 grandchildren and friends they have made along the way.

**Karl '59 and Sally Gilson Haecker '59** - After raising two great kids, Sally was able to finish her BA and worked in offices both small and large over the years. Over Memorial weekend in 1999 her life changed with seeing classmate **Karl Haecker**. They were able to rekindle a relationship from 40 years ago and they were married in 2005 at the Federated Church. They now enjoy their time in Columbus where Karl has been a family physician for the past 50 years.

**Jean Gurney Hutt '59** - Since her retirement twenty years ago, Jean has been active with the DAR at the local and state level in Florida. Currently she is working with her daughter in North Olmsted, who is a glass jewelry artist (debydesigns.net).

**Perry Petersen '59** - Since graduating from Cornell Engineering in 1965, Perry had been working from home in San Francisco and doing a lot of travelling. He has worked on planning, design and construction programs and projects from small to very large. Perry and his wife Toni moved to Fernandina Beach, FL, two years ago to live closer to relatives. They now have Golden Retriever #7, Dexter (retrievers 1 to 6 have passed).

**Richard Stillman '59** - Richard and his wife Mary just celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary. They continue to live in Upper Arlington, their residence for 35 of the past 40 years. Richard is long retired from a 44 year career in the investments and banking profession. He keeps busy researching, writing and gardening. He is a Master Gardener Volunteer, Emeritus. Richard and Mary also enjoy spending time with their two sons and grandchildren.

**Meta Strick '59** - Meta is quite busy as an artist where you can see her work online (metastrick.com) and in a handful of galleries. She also will do some art fairs throughout the year. She also teaches studio art, art history, and English classes at Vermont Community College.

**Jack Schron '66**, owner of Jergens Inc., has been selected as the 2020 Harvard Businessman of the Year. This annual award is given by the Harvard Business School Club of Northeast Ohio.

Kent State University Men's Soccer program has announced its all decade teams. **Scott Miller '74, Harry Jacob '74, and Joe Burwell '74** were all selected for the 1970s Team. Harry and Joe

played on defense, while Scott was on the offense.



(L to R - Scott, Joe, and Harry)

**Mark Vedder '75** became the Fire Chief at the City of Solon, Ohio. Mark originally retired in 2013 from a 34-year career with the Solon Fire Department. He was a battalion chief in Solon for about 12 years. Mark has also worked part time for the Chagrin Valley Fire Department in Chagrin Falls since 1974, most recently as assistant fire chief. Additionally, he has been an instructor and trainer in hazardous materials and weapons of mass destruction for the Ohio Fire Academy and Director of the Chagrin/Southeast Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team.

**Donna Gross '88** is the owner of Relevé barre studio in Tiffin, Ohio and is also Professor of Dance and Movement at Heidelberg University.

**Tyler Davidson '93**, an independent film producer, has his new feature, CRYPTOZOO, being recognized by being admitted to Sundance 2021 where it will have its world premiere at the festival. It will be online but also at select in-person venues including drive-ins, in January. This rare Sundance animated selection about a zoo for mythological creatures stars Lake Bell, Michael Cera, Angeliki Papoulia, Zoe Kazan, Peter Stormare and Grace Zabriskie.

**Casey Christopher '98** was recently promoted to Chief Empowerment Officer at Quontic Bank. Quontic Bank is a \$1.4B asset bank headquartered in New York City. She loves hearing from other Tigers in the Big Apple and New Jersey and would love to get together once we are all able to. She can be reached at [CaseyAChristopher@gmail.com](mailto:CaseyAChristopher@gmail.com)

**Kerry Varnum '99** recently had her work as an interior designer featured in *Architectural Digest*. Although based out of Chagrin Falls, her past client NBA star Kevin Love, had her design his new apartment in the Tribeca neighborhood of New York City. Kerry is the Principal of Grey Designs Inc.



**Kim Leary ‘05** lives in Columbus, Ohio where she works for Nationwide Children's Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders.

**Dr. Julianne McCall ‘02** has co-authored California's first-ever Surgeon General's Report, which was published in December, focusing on Adverse Childhood Experiences and life-long health impacts. Julianne’s position is Science Officer in the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research and is also the Co-Director of the California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine.

**Brent Axthelm ‘06** is a software engineer at Flatiron Health, a health technology company in New York City.

**Nathan Spagnola ‘06** is the Director of Business Development and Associate Director of English at Kooyaya. Kooyaya is an online educational enrichment program. Nathan is also teaching grades 3 - 5.

**Robert Fury ‘08** is Vice President and **Settaire Fury ‘07** is the Office Manager at KMSR Enterprises in Northeast Ohio. KMSR is a home renovations company owned by **Michael Fury ‘76**.

**Brandon Schneider ‘08** served as an executive producer on the short film "Significant Other," which had its premiere this past Fall at Telluride Horror Show Film Festival, in Colorado. It is also scheduled to screen at the FilmQuest Film Festival in Utah next year.

**Megan Mignogna Lelonis ‘10** is a scientist with Master Builder Solutions in Beachwood.

**Nathan Lelonis ‘11** is a Regional Sales Manager at Intelligent Actuator - IAI America, Inc. in Cleveland.

**Jack Deignan ‘18** has authored the book, *An American Family*, that is set to publish in April. “An American Family is a tale of unconventional heroism in the distant future of our world. The story follows Leslie Ratley and her family traversing a multiverse in hopes to find a new world for humanity, while the long standing ideologies of human purpose stand in the way.” To preorder, you can reach out to Jack at [deignanjack11@yahoo.com](mailto:deignanjack11@yahoo.com).

# COACH I RETIRES

Mark Iammarino, head football coach of Chagrin Falls High School, has decided to retire as the head coach of the Tigers after 26 years. Coach Iammarino will leave the program being the all-time leader in wins. Only Head Coach John Piai coached more seasons than Iammarino (29).

Coach Iammarino compiled a record of 185-101 and won the conference championship eight times. Under Iammarino, the team made the OHSAA playoffs seven times, reaching the state title game twice in 2009 and again in 2010. Coach Iammarino has been named Coach of the Year numerous times. Along with having terrific teams on the field, he also helped coach multiple all academic teams recognized by the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association. He has coached high school and middle school girls basketball, and high

# LITTLE TIGERS

To Patrick and **Hilary (Duncan)**

**Kennedy '98**, a daughter, Raelyn

Kennedy, Sept. 2, 2020.

To **Jimmy ‘99 & Kristine Hageman Leffler ‘01**, a son, Hudson Grey, Oct. 26, 2020.

To **Marc ‘99 & Kathryn McCourt Wise ‘02**, a daughter, Ireland Davis, Sept. 20, 2020.

To **Jeb ‘01 & Mary Masek Howard ‘03**, a son, John Paul “JP”, Oct. 13, 2020.

To **David '02 & Alexa Leone Stecker '07**, a son, Leo Jordan, Dec. 26, 2020.

To Angie & **Adam Ripley ‘02**, a son, Luke Ryan, Oct. 11, 2020.

To Brian & **Liza Bloomfield Adams ‘04**, a son, Gavin Daniel, Sept. 3, 2020.

To Mike & **Kimmy Wilson Sheehy ‘04**, a daughter, Rylee Joy, Dec. 3, 2020.

To Bill & **Holly Jacobs Cunningham ‘05**, a son, William James, Sept. 23, 2020.

To Kyle & **Lindsay Street Kepreos ‘05**, a daughter, Chloe Ann, Dec. 13, 2020.

To Ryan & **Sara Stricker Catanese ‘05**, a son, Archibald “Archie” James, Dec. 25, 2020.

To Dale & **Kristin Pinkett Foust ‘11**, a son, Oliver, Nov. 17, 2020 To TJ & **Wesley Donoghue**

**Heginbotham ‘12**, a son, Everett Thomas, Oct. 10, 2020.



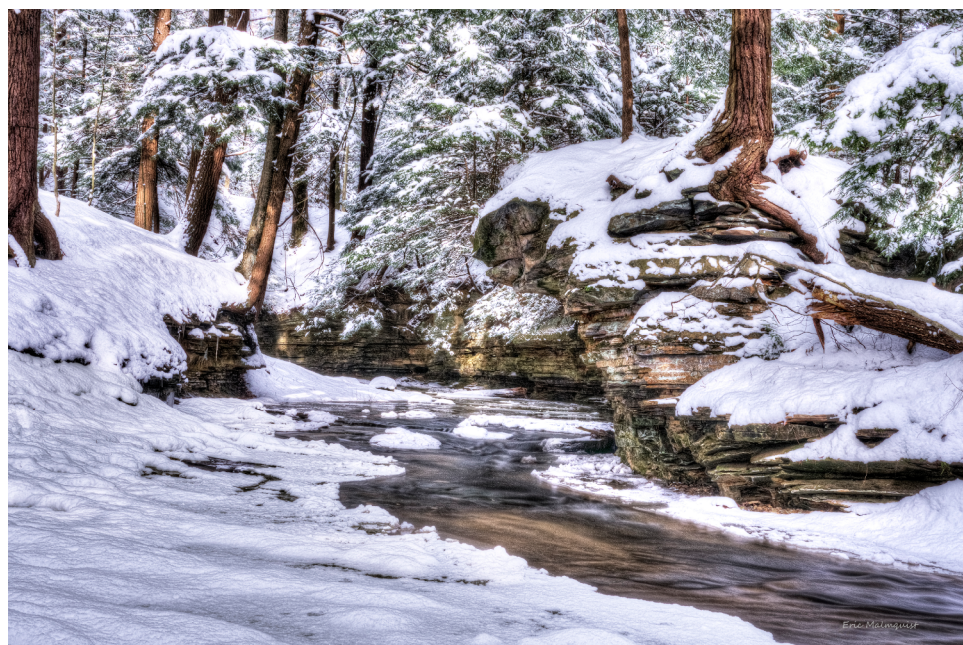
school track and field at Chagrin Falls.

“Coach Iammarino has been such a tremendous coach for the Tigers,” said Athletic Director Charlie Barch, Chagrin Falls Schools. “When I began in 2010, I was excited to work with Coach Iammarino. The team just got to the state championship game the previous year and I was excited to see how his program ran. He was nothing but helpful and always open to suggestions. His retirement is a big loss for us, and whoever takes over has huge shoes to fill. He was very supportive of all the teams and we appreciate all the time he has spent with our student-athletes.”



# A WALK THROUGH CHAGRIN FALLS

We would like to thank **Eric Malmquist '75** for sharing his beautiful photography of Chagrin Falls. He has had his work of Chagrin and other Northeast Ohio sites exhibited locally. His work, which is available in prints, calendars, puzzles and more can be found at Etsy (<https://www.etsy.com/shop/MalmquistPhotography>).





# 1960 ZENITH

An interesting look to see what extracurricular activities were available to our CF students and what they did, and who were members of each. Other clubs listed in the yearbook, but without a description, were Drama, Prism, Spanish Club, German Club

## National Honor Society

The students of the senior class possessing a B average for the first three years of high school are eligible to belong to this national organization. The faculty chooses the members. At Christmas time the club sent money to our former Japanese exchange student, Ned. The Honor Society each year is responsible for presenting the Honor’s Banquet held in May. All students with scholastic honors are then recognized.

Officers

President: Ron Hallstrom

Vice-president: Jeffrey Harp

Secretary-Treasurer: Mary Greenway

Advisor: Miss Carroll

## Student Council

Class representatives meet for the purpose of presenting the students’ views to the administration. They coordinate the time for club meetings and dates for school events such as dances and plays. We are a member of Sowmac Student Council and set the rules for friendly competition among these schools. This year with our new school we have tried to instigate new and better pride and good sportsmanship among the students.

Officers

President: Judy Jones

Vice-president: Jim Salisbury

Secretary: Jo-Ann Johnson

Treasurer & Finance Committee: Kathy Alcorn

Club Co-ordination: Vicki Odenweller

Publicity Committee: Kathy Frew

Student Relations: Cindy Hurst

Advisors: Mr. Frebault and Miss Warner

## Junior Council of World Affairs

Once a week current issues and events are discussed in this club. In the spring the members prepared for the model United Nations General Assembly. All the Cleveland area high schools represented one, two, or three countries at this day long meeting. Chagrin’s chapter represented Argentina, Lebanon, and Yugoslavia. Several members participated in weekly discussion groups with members of the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. The members are carefully selected on the basis of their interest and what they have to offer the club.

President: Al Pettibone

Vice-president: Karin Knutsen

Secretary: Jane Lackey

Treasurer: Anne Bowers

Advisor: Mr. Richmond

Committee Chairmen

Program Committee: Karin Knutsen

House Committee: Mike Hastings

Membership Committee: Lewis Davis

Publicity Committee: Missy Brown

## Future Teachers of America

This year the club has offered much for those considering teaching as a career. We have covered all the fields of teaching through speakers, movies, and two field trips. Also the members have had the opportunity to student teach weekly in any class in the Chagrin Falls School system. Therefore we have seen teachings a profession and have been with the age students we would like to teach.

Officers

President: Linda Kreycik

Vice-president: Susan Murley

Secretary: Gayle Epperson

Treasurer: Marjorie Kuhn

Advisor: Miss Carroll

## Leader’s Club

The purpose of this club is to promote an interest in physical education among high school girls. It is composed of girls from the sophomore, junior, and senior years who are chosen after they try out by showing their athletic ability in basketball, volleyball, and soccer. Their teams participate in various play-days with girls from other schools throughout the year.

Officers

President: Barbara Tenny

Vice-president: Jane Lackey

Secretary-Treasurer: Phyllis Hope

Advisor: Mrs. Calhoun

## Varsity Club

Varsity Club is an organization in which all boys who have earned letters in one or more sports may participate. During the past year they conducted a newspaper collection which was extremely successful. The club volunteered to hold the ropes at the basketball games and guard the doors. They also publish the basketball programs.

**Red Cross**

Although this club is now known to be the busiest of the school, they have many varied service activities throughout the year. Their representatives conduct the United Fund in the homerooms. These members assist the bloodmobile in the fall and spring each year. Two people attend monthly meetings in Cleveland with other Red Cross chapters from Cleveland area high schools. Unknown to many, they are organized for service in case of a disaster or urgent help. Teachers and students can be called upon through this club to serve for their country.

**Officers**

- President: Phyllis Hope
- Vice-president: Judy Miles
- Secretary-Treasurer: Mary Lynn Vincent
- Advisor: Mrs. Hensley

**Tiger Rag**

Our school newspaper, the Tiger Rag, is published six times a year. It contains news of each class, club, and athletic event as well as other general news. The issues are published by the students with cooperation of the advisor, Mrs. Coates.

**Y-Teens**

The Y-Teens are an organization of girls who are primarily dedicated to giving happiness to others. As an annual project each girl made a tote bag for Christmas and filled it with gifts. These were then given to hospital patients. The club also sponsored the Y-Teen Christmas Formal which is an annual affair. Both the formal and the tote bags were well planned and gave pleasure to many people over the holidays.

**Key Club**

This club is comparable to the Y-Teens in its service activities. They assisted the Junior Chamber of Commerce in decorating the town with Christmas lights. The Key Club conducted an extremely successful newspaper drive in the fall. They also run a coat check at each home basketball game.



The Chagrin Valley Little Theatre has been a staple in the Chagrin Falls community for close to 100 years, most of those years in the location we all know it in today. Over the years it, like many other arts organizations in the area, has gone through its ups and downs. Its struggles and success have kept it fighting, and now, in these times of Covid, is no exception.

When the crisis hit, those at the Little Theatre rallied together to figure out what the short and long term looked like for the theatre’s future. It didn’t take long to realize things were going to be very different than any previous season they had had before. Streaming content and out of the box experiences were now the norm for patrons.

This past Spring one of our own, **Thomas Schleper '03**, moved back to Chagrin, like so many do, with now-husband, Robert, and daughter, Josephine, in tow. Thomas, who has volunteered at the Little Theatre for years, jumped at the chance to put some creativity to work by way of figuring out how to assist the theatre in connecting with their audience members. One of the experiences they came up with was a socially distanced viewing of one of their streaming shows ‘The Dixie Swim Club’. Offering up his front yard as a venue they ran the video on a projector and screen.

For the most part it was ‘bring your own’. Bring your own chairs, blankets, snacks etcetera to cut down on interactions. There were canned sodas and microwave popcorn at the ‘concession stand’, as well as two stations of Purell, hand wipes and extra masks.

This Fall the Little Theatre extended an offer to Thomas to join the board, and he gladly accepted. The Little Theatre just wrapped a robust and successful holiday streaming season. They have a full line-up underway for the coming months leading into the spring and summer. Keep an eye out for fun and continuous content coming your way.



***PLEASE HELP  
KEEP TIGER PRIDE ALIVE  
AND  
PAY YOUR DUES FOR 2021***