The Class of 1971


**Class of 1971 Reunion Plans:** No solid plans yet

**Your Alumni Association Officers (2020-21)**

**Officers**
- President: Theresa Clark-Switzer, ’82
- Vice President: Charlotte Summerville DeGaetano, ‘59
- Corresponding Secretary-Barb Mathison Pulvermiller, ‘80
- Rec. Secretary: Shawn Doyle, ’84
- Treasurer: Tammie Frank Wilson ‘82

**Executive Committee**
- Judy Schreiner Parker, ’59
- Margaret Mathison Weigel, ’67
- Ted Williams, ’77
- Lisa Hilton, ’97
- Ellen Wansink Lowery, ’83
- Jill Watson Truax, ’85
- Grace Gibbs Friot, ’86
- Robin Warren Philips, ’88
- Jordan Fahnstock, ’04
- Gina Petrocci Brandano ’02.
- Tiffany Hax Craig, ’04
Pandemic Lessons 101

As a PACS graduate from the Class of 1985 and an educator in the district for almost 30 years, I thought I had seen it all, but then it happened. Unfortunately, we all know what “it” is, because COVID-19 has impacted all of us profoundly and altered our lives in a variety of ways.

On March 16, 2020, it seemed so surreal that we would be saying goodbye to our students for what we thought was a three-week hiatus. Little did we know that those three weeks would be just a drop in the bucket and that PACS and the world as we knew it would forever be changed.

When we think of COVID-19, the words anxiety, sadness, and uncertainty immediately come to mind. Over the course of the pandemic, several local families lost loved ones to COVID-19, and numerous others were negatively impacted physically, emotionally, and/or financially. At PACS, we tried to do our best to reach students and families by providing quality instruction, counseling, meals, transportation, and whatever support could be offered, both in person and from afar. While we don’t know at this point the lasting impact that a global pandemic will have on our children, my hope is that when our kids look back on the years of 2020 and 2021, that they remember not only the tragedies that occurred, but the triumphs as well.

For instance, I will remember our healthcare workers, the real heroes of 2020-2021. I had the absolute honor of interviewing several PACS alums who are healthcare workers for a series that we created called “Leaders of the PACS.” The pure dignity and bravery displayed by each and every one of these graduates was awe inspiring to say the least. In addition, I will remember our local healthcare heroes testing, treating, vaccinating, and supporting a school and a community in need. We can only hope that these individuals realize that we are forever in their debt, and how grateful we are to them for going above and beyond to provide comfort and hope during some of our darkest days.

I will remember how our administrators, faculty, staff, school board members, parents, community members, and students worked together to balance safety concerns, academic ramifications, and emotional considerations to make the most of the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. There were absolutely highs and lows, agreements and disagreements, and good times and bad, but through it all, everyone kept the mantra of doing what is best for kids close to their hearts. Ultimately, we are all in this together, and will undoubtedly come out stronger and better on the other side when all is said and done.

I will remember how individuals and groups of people stepped up to create change and put smiles on so many faces sorely in need. Many examples come to mind, but there are a few that exemplify the many. There was the Lobdell Family from HealthWay Family of Brands, who donated $250 to each member of the Class of 2020 to show support and provide a boost to young adults who were entering a world filled with uncertainty. There were members of student organizations and individuals from the senior class who organized community service projects based on the desire to help others and make a difference. There were also students, advisers, and coaches who found ways to bring small pieces of normality and hope back to our school and community by creating virtual charity events, performing in top-notch theatrical productions, and bringing the thrill of competition back to the courts and fields of PACS.

If you ask me what I will remember the most about the past couple of years, the answer is easy. I will absolutely remember the resiliency, flexibility, kindness, compassion, and genuine magnificence of the children in our PACS community. As an educator, I am so blessed because my students teach me lessons and find ways to utterly amaze me each and every day. I remember being anxious prior to the first day of in-person instruction this year, and Superintendent Tom Jennings wisely gave me some advice. He said, “Once you see the kids, everything will be fine.” Truer words were never spoken. My hope is that if we’ve learned anything from this experience as a school district, a community, and a society, it’s that we should always remember to use the hearts of our children as our guiding lights, as there is nothing that we won’t be able to overcome, including a global pandemic, if we do.

Jill Watson Truax, PACS Class of 1985-Literacy/ELA Teacher
The Return of Athletics

The return of athletics during the 2020-2021 school year has been a welcomed challenge. A challenge in the sense that there have been many obstacles to overcome daily to guarantee that safety measures are met while also providing as close to a normal experience for the student-athletes. The logistics surrounding participation in sports have been altered drastically. Mask wearing is mandatory, regular sanitation of equipment throughout practices and contests takes place, and coaches have been tasked to alter practices to keep contact limited and group sizes reduced to limit exposure. Athletic schedules were created to keep students within their region, bringing back the old Oswego County league for Fall and Winter sports. Outdoor sports have been allowed a limited number of spectators while many Indoor sports were not all.

All this has been welcomed though because of the clear importance the experiences play in our student athletes’ life. Since athletics were approved by New York State and Section 3 for the 2020-2021 school year, the energy in the building changed drastically. Attendance increased, students changing from remote learning to in-person learning increased, and with all of that, providing a sense of normalcy for the students has continued to increase. We have adjusted and accepted the protocols that have been thrown our way because we understand the importance these experiences play in the students’ lives. While all of this has been different and at times stressful on the coaches and athletes, everyone has done a tremendous job following procedure and performing at a high level.

Jordan Fahnestock, Class of 2004 Social Studies Department Chair; Varsity Boys Basketball Coach and Varsity Girls Track Coach

Reflections of a member of the Class of 2021

Covid has made for a difficult school year. The news that we would be separated into two cohorts and only be in school two or three days a week was nothing short of heartbreaking. Our senior class that had grown so close since kindergarten was split in half and we no longer saw many of our friends. We had no Homecoming, no Pep fest, no Devil’s Den, no concerts, no Washington DC parade. Online learning has been a struggle. It has not been the senior year we dreamed of.

Despite all of this, what stands out most to me about this school year are all the moments of normalcy and togetherness that we were still able to share. We may have been socially distanced, but I still got to enjoy mornings playing the trumpet at band, and if all goes as planned, we will still get to march in some parades. Wearing masks didn’t stop my teammates and me from making the most of our soccer and track seasons. And even though it wasn’t the same, we could still cheer for our PACS teams on livestream. Things will look different this year, but we will still have a prom. Most importantly, on days when my cohort is in person, I still get to enjoy the everyday banter that takes place between lessons and I still get to feel a part of the PACS community.

This year has taught me the importance of being together in person. I feel grateful for these moments and for the help of outstanding healthcare workers, caring teachers and staff, and Pulaski’s supportive community. I see no reason not to acknowledge how hard this year has been, but I think we have every reason to be thankful for what we were still able to accomplish, and for all the little things that make Pulaski so special.

Zoe Eisel, Class of 2021 Valedictorian
Greater Pulaski Community Fund

The Greater Pulaski Community Endowment Fund is a union of gifts contributed by the people of the Pulaski community that makes grants to support programs and projects of importance to the area. The Pulaski Fund is a component fund of the Central New York Community Foundation. Since its inception in 1992, the Fund has provided more than $300,000 in grants to benefit the Pulaski community. People can learn more about the fund and contribute at www.cnycf.org/Pulaski. The Greater Pulaski Community Endowment Fund annually awards over $15,000 in grants to qualifying Pulaski-area nonprofit organizations:

New Web Site through Pulaski School will help Alumni keep informed year-round

We now have migrated over to a new website address at www.pulaskicsd.org/alumni

Special thanks to School Superintendent Tom Jennings, ’90, as well as Gina Petrocci Brandano, ’02 for working on this. The site contains past banquet photos as well as a transcription of the 1938 History of Pulaski Schools formatted and uploaded by Kevin Stewart ’94.

As we continue to update this site we will ensure there is a registration form to update addresses. Look for new enhancements to the site in the future.

We are also on Facebook! “Pulaski New York Alumni Association” It is a page that you have to like not a group. We encourage you to share photos and reunion plans with us on our Facebook page.

Neighboring Alumni Societies and their 2021 Plans

Sandy Creek Central- The 129th annual Banquet and Meeting of the Alumni Association of the Sandy Creek Central School District has been cancelled due to the Pandemic. The annual newsletter has been prepared and sent out. For more details, contact Mary LaVeck Hicks, Corresponding Secretary, 315-387-3961, 240 Miller Rd., Lacona, NY 13083, 315.387.3961; or President Sharon Turo, PO 256, Sandy Creek, NY 13145 email: slturo@earthlink.net scalumni@marysneedleart.com; www.sandycreekcsd.org, click on “Site map” then Alumni.

Altmar-Parish-Williamstown- The banquet again has been cancelled due to the pandemic. The committee is working on a short newsletter and also trying to raise money to incorporate and to gain tax exempt status. For more details contact Rhea Russell at the APW Alumni Facebook page

Camden Central- The annual banquet has again been cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Contact Sherry Souva at 315-245-5048, or by email at registrar@camdenalumni.com for more information. www.Camdenalumni.com

Mexico Academy- 195th Annual Alumni banquet is set for Saturday June 12, 2021 at the Eis House Restaurant, 144 Academy St., Mexico. Social hour 4pm, Turkey dinner to follow and meeting afterwards. $18.50 cost of reservation. For more information: Contact President Jim Emery for more information: jemery@twcny.rr.com website can be found at mexicocsd.org select community and the Alumni under the letter “A”
Class of 1946


Pulaski and Half-Shire Historical Societies work to keep history alive

Returning alumni are encouraged to visit our two vibrant historical societies and their museums.

The Pulaski Historical Society at 3428 Maple Ave. in Pulaski is the custodian of many alumni archives, along with being a repository for local history of all types. Located in the former Ben Snow home on maple Avenue in Pulaski, the Society has a carriage house annex from which many programs our conducted.

The Society conducts tours by appointment, and can be reached by email at: PHSPulaski@aol.com. PHS conducts interesting monthly program meetings and produces a monthly newsletter and Facebook page. Weekly teasers on the Facebook are quite popular!

Half-Shire Historical Society, located in the former Richland School, represents the surrounding eleven towns of northern Oswego County, the Lewis County towns of Montague and Osceola, the Oneida County towns of Florence and Camden. The Society concentrates greatly on genealogical research and assists with Ancestry DNA test interpretations. Half-Shire produces a 12-page quarterly newsletter, a 16-page quarterly Literary Review, and conducts monthly lunch program meetings in Richland, and annual spring and fall dinner dances that are open to the public. A new addition to the facility is a classroom dedicated to the history of our schools in Pulaski and surrounding districts. For more information or to join ($15 annual dues) contact the Society at P.O. 73, 1100 County Rte. 48, Richland, New York 13144 or www.halfshire.org or “Half Shire Mary White” on Facebook. Half-Shire offers free 1-year memberships to all members of the 50-year class from Pulaski, Sandy Creek, APW, Mexico and Camden School Alumni.
Message from Superintendent Tom Jennings, ‘90

May 2021

The first days of school each year are always a time of excitement and anticipation about the year ahead. We celebrate previous accomplishments, plan new initiatives, and prepare for the coming year. The optimism is palpable.

This year, we found ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic that has been a hundred years in the making and an economic crisis almost as unprecedented. We talked about how there would be uncertainty and anxiety, but there would also be joy and laughter, and many things to celebrate. It would be easy to despair over the many challenges we faced. Instead, we remained optimistic.

Since those first days, I have watched the PACS community come together, stay positive, and lift each other up. Collaboration with ConnextCare, Oswego County Health Department, CITI BOCES, Pulaski Teachers Association, PACS CSEA, and numerous other local partners helped us implement our plans effectively and provide the best possible learning experience for our students. Our successes look different but they have been numerous and I hope you are as proud as I am of our Board of Education, staff, students, parents, and community for all we have accomplished together.

Some highlights:
- Our safety protocols have been effective and PACS remained open for students.
- Our elementary students received in-person instruction five days per week for the entire school year.
- Our secondary students received more in-person instruction throughout the year than any school in the region.
- When students were required to work remotely, 100% had access to chrome books and the internet so they could continue learning.
- Our students were able to participate in athletics, clubs, music, physical education, art, and drama.
- Our staff received COVID vaccinations as soon as they were eligible.
- Sound, long-range financial planning has helped us maintain and improve programming while keeping taxes flat for the 21-22 school year.

Despite the many challenges we continue to face, I am optimistic about where we are and where we were headed. For more information about our response to the COVID-19 pandemic or our academic programming and student successes, please visit our website at www.pulaskicsd.org or our Facebook page Pulaski Academy & Central School District.

Sincerely,

Tom Jennings, Class of 1990
Superintendent
Class of 1996


Class of 1996 Reunion Plans:
The Classes of '95 and '96 are hosting their 25th (+1) Reunions together on Friday, June 25th at Taco Bob's Wayside. More details will be available on each class's respective Facebook pages or via email: pulaski95@gmail.com. Invitations to follow.
Reunion notices, Class Lists and news

One of the services your Alumni Association offers is class reunion organization assistance. If you are a Pulaski graduate and are thinking about a class reunion, contact us by mail or email and we will assess what we have for your class in the way of photos, names and addresses.

Since the Corona Virus Pandemic, many classes have cancelled or postponed their reunions. **New or additional Reunion dates and information will be posted on the website, and Facebook as we receive. Email spdinpul@hotmail.com to submit information or questions.**

**Class of 1956**- Contact Doris Halsey Lyng at ehlyng@live.com or 860.307.0423 for more information

**Class of 1960**- There will be a dinner at Half-Shire Historical Society in Richland (old school) Friday June 25th beginning at 6pm. Saturday we are planning a school tour in the morning at 9:30, and then we are welcome to return to Half Shire for the afternoon where we are asking other classes in our era to join us. Light lunch provided. On Sunday the 27th Half-Shire will host a breakfast beginning at 9am. Contact Donna Thornhill Ireland for more information at: turtlenozz@embarqmail.com

**Class of 1961** - The class is invited to join the class of 1960 at Half-Shire Historical Society in Richland for a light lunch on Saturday the 26th before the banquet.

**Class of 1965** - no information

**Class of 1966** - no information

**Class of 1970** - no information

**Class of 1971** - no firm plans

**1982-86**- “Mid-Eighties Reunion”—July 31, 2021 at Half-Shire Historical Society in Richland see the Facebook page established for “Quest” the band reunion. Quest members included Rod and Jack Jennings, Dan Myers and Bryan Luce. Contact Shawn Doyle at spdinpul@gmail.com for more information

**Class of 1991** - no information

**Class of 1995 and 1996**- See page 7

**Class of 2001** - no plans known

Superintendent Tom Jennings, ‘90 (far right) poses with members of the 1980s local band “Quest” which included Dan Meyers, ‘84, Jack Jennings, ‘85, Rod Jennings, ‘84 and Bryan Luce, ‘84 at the old Richland School on May 1st after doing a walk through for the planned “mid-80s” reunion to be held there on July 31, 2021. For more information contact Shawn Doyle, ‘84 at spdinpul@gmail.com
The Following deaths have been reported to us since June 2019. Please contact us with any names we may have missed, bpulvermiller@yahoo.com

Dorothy Smith Gallagher ‘23
Grace Yorkey Kunz ‘34
Jean Bentley Jones ‘38
Virginia Polczak Doviak ‘39
Ruby Ivans Smith ‘40
Helen Crocker Bishop ‘41
Mildren Ivens ‘41
Ronald Potts ‘44
William Howlett ‘45
William Barr ‘45
Richard Parker ‘45
Bob Thomas ‘45
Mary Julia Pawlus Carson ‘46
Marilyn Cleveland Mathison ‘46
Vaughn Caufield Poidomani ‘46
Jean Howe Mogavero ‘46
MaryLou King Morrow ‘47
Charles Skinner ‘48
Clyde VanArsdale ‘48
Joan Potts Ferguson ‘48
Evelyn Davis ‘51
James Thompson ‘51
Janice Wansink Beck ‘51
Jim Johnson ‘52
Elizabeth Vincent Matterson ‘53
Donald Keator ‘55
Sid Hitchcock ‘56
Shirley Schryver Readman ‘56
Jack Thomas ‘56
D. Richard Randall ‘57
Nancy Tilkins Reynolds ‘58
Lewis Ewart ‘59
Joanne Cronk Burritt ‘60
Joan Wilder Spink ‘61
Joan Nutting McNitt ‘61
Nancy Stainton Conti ‘62
Barbara Lloyd ‘66
Adelbert Higby ‘67
Shirley Row North ‘68
Cathy Hager Crocker ‘70
Christine Gregg Switzer ‘71
Kevin Tuttle ‘72
Geoff Miller ‘72
Harold Smith ‘72
Joseph Rose ‘73
Sheila Zufelt Frazier ‘78
Randy Curry ‘78
Richard Waters ‘79
Tracey Stewart Raymond ‘79
Misty VanDuzer Goodnough ‘80
Tammy Southwell Isham ‘93
Jack Wood ‘12
Ciaya Horning-Cole ‘14
H. Douglas Barclay – honorary

Our sincere condolences to the families of these departed Alumni.

Half-Shire Historical Society has digitized all yearbooks from 1893 forward, and maintains a database on all graduate’s past and present. They welcome information on these honored alumni for the files in the new Alumni record room.
Dear Fellow Alumni,

I hope that this letter finds you safe and well. As you may know, the Alumni Association established a committee to recognize distinguished Alumni and develop a Wall of Distinction in connection with Pulaski Central Schools. I would like to take the time to introduce our committee and elaborate on the project we are embarking on.

The Pulaski Alumni Wall of Distinction Committee is composed by Alumni, current and former Pulaski faculty, and the current National Honor Society President. The current committee is as follows, Margaret Weigel (‘67), Mike Pettingill (‘84), Jack Jennings (‘85), Andrea Gibbs, James Carnes (‘73), and Holly McCarty (‘21).

As you may have seen, last year was our first year seeking nominations for the Wall of Distinction. Included again in this year’s newsletter, and on the back of this letter, is the nomination form. We ask that when submitting a nomination you include as much relevant and accurate detail as possible. This may include any awards or recognitions received, descriptions or examples that align with Pulaski School’s values, details on how they got to where they are today, as well as any messages they would want passed down to current students. To be eligible for consideration, the nominee must have graduated from Pulaski Academy and Central Schools at least 10 years before the date of nomination, and must have demonstrated noteworthy or outstanding achievements.

Each year our committee will solicit nominations for this honor. We ask that all nominations be submitted by September 30th of this year. This will allow us time to select and notify nominees and prepare for a ceremony in March of the following year.

Thank you for your consideration of this project and I look forward to reading the nomination form you submit. If you have any questions or feedback for our committee, please feel free to reach out at PACSWall@gmail.com.

Best regards,

Nicholas Allen ‘15
Chairman
Wall of Distinction Committee
Pulaski Alumni Association Inc. 2020 Financial Report

**Community Bank, Pulaski**

Balance Brought Forward (12/31/19) $586.58

**Receipts:**
- 279 Dues @ $7. Each 1,953.00
- 15 Dinner Res. @ $15.00 15.00
- Wall of Distinction Donations 437.00
- General Donations 704.50
- Distribution from CNY Foundation 1,000.00
- Interest on working account 37.00

Total income, working account (12/31/20) $4,109.87

**Expenses:**
- Post Office Box Rent ($57.00)
- Postal Costs (newsletter) (867.34)
- Office Supplies (239.98)
- Banquet Costs (500.00)
- Website (799.87)
- Promotional (90.64)
- Donations (200.00)

**Working Bal in Pulaski 12/31/2020** $2,441.62

**CNY Community Foundation**

Balance Brought Forward (12/31/19) $474,424.41

**Lura M. Sharp Memorial Scholarship**

Balance Brought Forward (12/31/19) $52,977.51

**Harold Youker Athletic Award**

Balance Brought Forward (12/31/19) $25,565.05

**General Fund Investment**

Balance Brought Forward (12/31/19) $3,282.19

*NEW* **JBS Community Fund**

Balance on 12/31/20 $44,969.96

**Summary of monies managed by Central New York Community Bank**

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<th>Account</th>
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<tr>
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**Local Alumni Scholarship**

Balance on 12/31/19 $54,219.47

Interest & dividends to 12/31/20 336.44

Realized Gains 831.95

Unrealized Gains 5,547.36

Grants Paid (1,000.00)

**Administrative fees paid to CNCF-2020** (389.97)

Balance on 12/31/19 $5,954.25

**CNY Community Foundation**

Balance on 12/31/20 $58,410.00

**Lura Sharp Scholarship Fund**

Balance on 12/31/20 $52,977.51

**Harold Youker Memorial Fund**

Balance on 12/31/20 $25,565.05

**JBS Fund**

Balance on 12/31/20 $3,282.19

**Total with CNCF 12/31/2020** $186,339.96

**Community Bank, working capital** $2,441.62

**Community Bank Scholarship funds** $14,840.48

**Total Local Assets 12/31/2020** $17,282.10
To the 2021 Annual Meeting

Due to COVID restrictions there will be NO FORMAL BANQUET. The 131th Annual meeting of the Pulaski Alumni Association and social gathering has been set for Saturday June 26th at the Ringgold Fire Department. Social gathering will begin at 6pm. Meeting at 7pm. We will honor the Classes of: 1945/6, 1970/1 and 1995/6 as well as the current graduating class. We are limited to the first 150 pre-paid reservations. Please watch our website and Facebook pages for updates and possible changes. No walk-ins will be accepted. All checks MUST BE MADE OUT TO: PACS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION—NOT to your class representative.