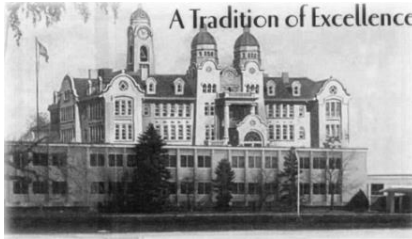


# CHAZY CENTRAL RURAL SCHOOL



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER May 2024

### Alumni Association Executive Committee 2024

Cindy Jensen Bruneau '78

Laurie West Miller '80

Michele Carpentier '73

Margaret Ryan '79

Cathy Munson Devins '73

Nancy Powers Vesco '77

Rhonda Trombly O'Hagan '77



### Alumni Association Tea

Friday, June 28

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Alice T. Miner Museum

Refreshments will be served.

### ALUMNI BANQUET

Saturday, June 29

Blue Room, Rainbow Banquet Hall (Pecks), Altona

Social Hour 4:15 – 5 p.m. Dinner 5 p.m.

Program following immediately after dinner

A cash bar will be available.

# Class of 1974 Biographies

## James Baker

*"The last 50 years have gone by so fast. A wise woman once told me that some of the best time and memories would be from our high school days. She was right. Not long after graduation I met the love of my life, Susan. We dated for five years, and after some college, got married and will celebrate our 45th wedding anniversary this year. We live in Chazy and own a home on the shore of beautiful Lake Champlain. We raised one son, Jason, and we were happy to add his wife Tonya and two grandsons Leo and Colden to our family which includes their dog, Dixi. After some college I joined the workforce. I have been employed as a supervisor or manager most of my career. I have worked in the Cosmetic, Plastic, Medical, Post Press Equipment and Agricultural businesses. I am currently semi-retired and work part-time at Giroux's Poultry Farm Inc supervising cleaning crews for their packaging plants. I also coordinate the transport of some of our workers home which includes driving done by yours truly. I enjoy fishing, boat rides and visiting with family and friends, traveling, and performing volunteer work. I spent a collective 37 years coaching your sports in Hockey (25 years), Soccer (6yrs) and Baseball (6yrs). Sometimes the sports seasons were back-to-back to back. I enjoyed all the traveling, tournaments, and the many nice people I have met over the years, but mostly the kids. I have had some health challenges over the years. I required several types of surgeries for various body parts, but everything seems to be working well again so I guess I am on the mend. I really look forward to seeing everyone again."*

## Terry A Bechard

*"After graduation, I started to work for the Clinton County Highway department, doing various jobs. I drove snowplows and cut trees when there was no snow. I did this for seven years out of Mooers. In the last eight years I took a transfer to the Plattsburgh garage where my new job was a stock clerk position, ordering parts for the trucks, etc. In 1990 I left the Country Highway Dept. to become a New York State Correctional officer. After the academy, I was assigned to Sing Sing prison for six months then transferred back up north to Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora and stayed there for 26 years until I retired in 2016. In 1980 I married Alexandra (Brunelle). We had two children. Our first born was son Chad is also a Correctional officer at Clinton Correctional Facility. Our daughter, Kelly moved to Colorado and is a manager of her husband's*

*dental practice. We have three beautiful grandchildren, Jace, Max and Ella. Throughout the years we as a family have enjoyed four-wheeling, karate, biking, boating, traveling and other numerous activities. Also, the most important thing is my acceptance of Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and thank him for everything!"*

## Shelley Bechard Wiles

*"With my humble beginnings on Stetson Road in Chazy and my 13 years at CCRS, it gave me a strong foundation developing an unwavering work ethic in my work career in business administration and throughout life. I was fortunate to have degrees in criminal justice from Canton ATC and a social work degree from Rochester Institute of Technology. Having student intern experiences proved to me that it was not the right career path for me. When I left Chazy for college, I aspired to be a sheriff in a small town; however, life changed. I learned there was a big world out there! So, my business adventures began in 1978 and continue today. For the last five years, I have been working for Sandia National Laboratories, a national defense contractor, in Human Resources. I am hoping to retire in 2026. I lived in 7 states and moved 27 times since I graduated college. I owned 5 homes - 2 in Virginia, 2 in Michigan, 1 property in Michigan, and now own a home in northeast Mesa, Arizona (fondly calling it my death house). Living in many corners of our country, I enjoyed learning about each area and the cultural differences. My husband, Stu, and I have been together for 25 years. We have a great partnership with shared interests in nature walks, photography, traveling, cooking, good food and health. My personal goals and aspirations are cultivating balance, nurturing relationships, being healthy, and surrounding myself with positive energy and finding calm, while being curious and kind."*

## Karen Bentley Rager

*"We currently live in Queensbury, NY and love our ADK foothills set near Lake George, inside the blue line. After high school, I attended SUNY Potsdam as an art major. I majored in intaglio, (printmaking), which I loved. As many of you know our family musical background, I was also in the dorm that housed many "Cranies" or students in the Crane School of Music. I took as many Music classes as I could to keep up on my music and piano studies as a non-major. My RA and her fellow field hockey team members were searching for women who could ice skate to form the FIRST SUNY Potsdam Women's Ice Hockey Team. We were the "Cubs". We had no equipment, most had to buy used.*

*Of course, growing up on the lake and our neighborhood pond, skating was learned like swimming, walking and bike riding. Because I could skate backwards, I was put on defense, however my speed in drills made me a winger. The last game of our second season, I was starting as center against Cornell. Within a few minutes of the game "she", who looked like a giant, came at me mid ice, checked me, breaking my left clavicle thus ending my hockey career AND my college degree as it was near the end of the semester, and I had to drop out. A dorm friend and I travelled to Ogdensburg to take the ASVAB test for the military. She was to go into the Army (biology major), and I, Navy. I entered the delayed entry program and entered RTC Orlando (boot camp) February 24, 1978. After, I went to Photo school in Pensacola, FL. I ended up as a Photomate in the Norfolk area at three commands. The next summer I met my future husband Scott, a Gunner's Mate. We were married on March 1, 1980, and celebrated our 44th anniversary this year. We have two children, Rhiannon and Nathan. Rhiannon, (Las Vegas), has her PhD in educational psychology. Nathan, (Chicago) is a school trained Chef. He and his wife Esther, also a chef, gave us our only grandchild, Luke. He turned 4 in April and is the light of our eyes. I separated from the USN in 1983 after my 5-year obligation. We moved to Pittsburgh and lived off minimum wage jobs, bought a house, WITH two small children and survived while Scott went to gunsmith night school!!!!!! Amazing, but we did it! I worked for a commercial photographer in Pittsburgh, running a processing lab by myself. We have always been risk takers and so we picked up and moved to NYS. I got a job as a graphic artist at a local newspaper in Bennington VT. We bought a small farm in West Hoosick that came with three geese already in the chicken coop! Fortunately, I came into the design field at the very beginning of computer graphics (think the old late 80's MacPlus) and stayed in that field until I retired to work as self-employed/freelance contractor. I continued my artwork, (portraiture mainly) and my music. We then moved to Queensbury and have been here since. I went back to SUNY Adirondack in 2006 to major in music and graduated in 2008 with an AS in Music, summa cum laude, with a major in flute. I currently play in local groups, concert bands and a college orchestra, plus private gigs. I now fill my days working as a volunteer for various nonprofit organizations, including our local Lions Club and District, which we are very involved in, as the District Editor. Fortunately, it has reconnected me with many of my 1974 classmates as they are Chazy Lions members! Scott ended up retiring with 27 years of service, from the NYARNG after multibranch service. (USN, USNR NYARNG), and then this year after 24 very successful years as a self-*

employed Manufacturers Representative for most of NYS selling equipment in the Water and Wastewater Industry. We have traveled extensively to all 50 states, South and Central America, the Caribbean, and several European countries. We now look forward to more travel and time with our kids and grandson."

### **Grace Benware**

"After graduation I attended SUNY Plattsburgh as a Biology major. My plan was to eventually become a Physical Therapist, but plans changed and I graduated in 1979 with a degree in Child and Family Services. I then worked through special grants in Plattsburgh at the Red Cross in Disaster Services and the Crisis Center. I returned to SUNY Plattsburgh and earned a master's in education and a Certificate of Advanced Studies in School Counseling. Beginning in 1985 I worked for 30 years as a Guidance Counselor with at risk students. I spent a little over 25 years at the George Junior Republic Union Free School district near Ithaca, NY. GJR is a special act school district that provides educational services for students placed by the courts in residential treatment. I was part of many changes. The school grew from 100 students and one special education class to 230 students and all classes being (6:1:1) special education classes. About 10 years into working as a guidance counselor I left to go to school to become a licensed Therapeutic Massage Therapist. This was sort of a return to my high school dream to be a physical therapist. I completed the training and worked a couple of years but decided to return to education. I was lucky and was able to return to GJR in 1998 where I worked until I retired in 2019. I still live in Ithaca and enjoy having large garden of vegetables to eat and can for myself and my mother."

### **Karen Bouyea Russell**

"50 years, so time does not stop for anyone and a lot to add to one bucket. So many things in life have changed. Life is like a roller coaster with many ups and downs. I always wanted to be a nurse and I even passed and gave up a government job to pursue starting nursing in the fall, but that was short lived. I was a Business Major and I had to take extra classes for nursing, and they were not all recommended by our guidance counselor for my nursing career. Strange how I met my husband, Tim, who I introduced to one of my friends. We all went out, but she did not care for him, so we started dating for a couple of years then married. I took a job at Phentex as a receptionist and running their yarn store. In September 1976 our first son, Jason, was born. I stopped working to be a full-time mother. In 1979 our second son, Eric was born and then in 1985 our last son Nathan was born (on my

30<sup>th</sup> birthday). I was involved with the kids through their years. I coached soccer for many years and was score keeper for hockey. PTO officer, I worked at Chazy Orchard back in the day when we had summers off, and my kids really enjoyed me being home. I left there after 10 years and went to work as an Admission Coordinator at Meadowbrook Nursing home. I was then a Kelly Girl and worked at a variety of places which I loved and met some great people. I was offered a job as a medical biller at the Plattsburgh Base Hospital until it was torn down (sad day). I worked for four different doctors doing their billing. I then went for an interview at Tower Group international (Broker Business) now known as FedEx Trade Networks and have been there for over 26 years. One day I will retire, but not yet. My love is for my family, Jason is my rock and does so much for me, he does drywall and Sheetrocking. Eric gave me my first grandson Reid, who is in 4th grade and loves soccer and is a gamer. Nathan married his sweetheart, Leah Trombley and they gave me Lincoln who is in 4th grade and love hockey and soccer. Then finally a girl in our family Ella. She is a 2nd grader and loves hockey and soccer. Even with working 40 hours a week, I am very active in the community. Secretary for the Chazy Lions Club, President and Treasurer for the Chazy Senior Citizens, PTO's Frosty workshop. In 2013 I lost my husband Tim very suddenly and life took a different turn. Too short, so live your life to the fullest. All of this brought back my old classmate Sue Laurin LaBelle. We have shared so crazy "Road Trips" New Orleans, Montreal, Buffalo, concerts, spur of the moment rides just to name a few. On to great things now in my life. Old friends and New Friends, Susan Laurin LaBelle, Karen Bentley Rager and Scott, Diana Valade Castine and Jim, Gayle Bechard Woodruff and Kevin and new friends, Jr and Robin Demaris, Tom, and Sonia Dragoon, Denise Bechard Mosher, Ken Mosher, Cecile Boire Miller and Charlie. These are my coffee ladies and cruising friends. We have been to the Bahamas, St Thomas, St Marten, Alaska, and soon to Bahamas, Puerto Plata, and San Juan, then finally to Hawaii to end 2024. Best times at Myrtle Beach with Bobby and Debbie Laurin. Never know where I will end up "Where's Karen Now?"

### **Francis Bushey**

"After graduation I entered the workforce in automotive repair then construction. In 1979 I teamed up with George Hubbell building pools which evolved into Lake Champlain Pools, Spas and Woodstoves. As seasonal employment in the early years, winters were spent skiing on the east and west coast and snowmobiling. In 1984 I purchased land and built a home on Lakeshore Road in Chazy. One year later, my daughter Hilary was born. In 1998 I met my

wife Mary and in 2002 we were married. I retired from LCP after 40+ years of construction, technical support and service management. I have many hobbies that keep me busy in retirement. An avid collector and enthusiast of vintage cars, tractors, and machinery, I enjoy restoring them back to life. My wife Mary and I enjoying traveling, skiing, snowmobiling, boating and spending time with family friends and plan on extended sunny vacations in the near future."

### **Kris Cote**

"It's hard to believe so much time has gone by. A lot has happened in my life during the past 50 years. The summer after graduation I worked for Giroux's Poultry. In the fall I enrolled in the Criminal Justice Program at Clinton Community College. I graduated with honors and was offered a job doing police work in Burlington, VT, but chose to stay in Chazy and work for Giroux's. I worked there part time while in school, as well as during the summer, and while attending college. I'm still working there; it's been over 50 years. I joined the fire department and became an EMT. We lived so close to the fire station that I responded to almost every ambulance call we received. I also played in a men's soccer league and a softball league. In 1978 I married Elizabeth Melvin from Jeffersonville, VT. We have two children, Jaimie and Frank. Jaimie is an elementary school teacher, married to Geoffrey Marsden, and they have two daughters, Lilly and Isabella. Lilly graduated from CCRS and is attending Plattsburgh State University. Isabella is a junior at CCRS. Frank is married to Jenifer Provost and works at Giroux's maintaining their computer systems. We enjoy boating in the summer and have vacationed in the Dominican Republic many times in the winter. Almost every Sunday night Liz and I cook dinner for the four generations of our family. After Sunday night dinner I play cards online with my brothers and sister. We all live in different states, so it enables us to stay in touch and have some fun together. I've taken up playing golf, and recently went to Florida with my three brothers to play golf and relax. I'm adding golf to my list of things to do in my retirement. In my spare time, I like to do woodworking in my shop. I have made anything from hardwood flooring to home furniture and cutting boards. I will continue to work in my woodshop during retirement. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the reunion."

### **Marie Donnell Miller**

"Can't believe it's 50 years! Well here goes. Long story short and sweet! After graduation and at 20 years of age I married Thomas Dragoon (Class of 72). Unfortunately, we separated, but we were lucky enough to have a beautiful son Mark Thomas Dragoon. We both

remarried and glad to say I'm still close to both Tom and his wife Sonia, and the family. I married Ken Brodeur who owned Photo Royale Studios (currently Blair and Webber) we were married 12 years and had two amazing daughters: Kris Marie Brodeur and Kimberly Alexis Brodeur. Husband #3 came along (whew I am red, lol) Joe Miller and before Christmas in 2011 my husband passed away lying next to me. I thought he was sleeping. Talk about scary. And the worst part of my life was the loss of my son Mark on June 5, 2006, the day before his birthday. Kayaking with three of his friends on the AuSable River. He made it to safety, but tried to save his friend Mark lost footing and was swept away. It took us 3 days to find his body. We buried him on Father's Day. (Poor Tom) Due to Tom's hard work we have made a Golf Drop Memorial each August and commence to get money for The Keeseville Swift Water Rescue Team. My life will never be the same, but I live for my girls, (both still single and no grandchildren) Now the good memories. Our class was so full of fun. Apple Orchard trips and prom breakfast at my house. "Mom and Dad to all were the best." I am still working at CVPH as a switchboard operator and hospital dispatch for going on 32 years. Me and my cat "Pinky" are living our best life. I hope all my classmates are doing well and we will talk again at the 60th... love to all."

### **Jan Dragoon Haughey**

"Off to PSUC I went in January 1974 with the help of Mr. Kirby to get a jump on my degree in Health Education. While I'm sorry I missed those last few months with my classmates, but at the time I was anxious to get started. Upon graduating in 1977 I was unable to land a teaching position until 1978 in the Canton Public School system just outside of Boston. I found it hysterical to see the locals buy out the local markets of all milk and bread at the first sign of snow that winter (they were still traumatized from the Blizzard of '78.) Three years later an awful lot of new teachers (including me) were losing their jobs and in many cases ending their careers. For me, it created my first career twist which came in the form of retail. I owned a video rental store (before Blockbuster!) that morphed into a Commodore brand computer store. I enjoyed owning the store in Norwood, MA's downtown and being active in the local business community. What wasn't as enjoyable were the 80-hour work weeks that went along with being a small business owner. Next career shift- a job in sales with an Audio-Visual integrator in Boston and with a client base from the educational and cable access markets. I really enjoyed working with my many clients, attending industry events (NAB in Vegas for many years) and working at the booth for my employer at regional events. In 1997 I helped a

group of teachers form a professional organization (Video Educators of New England) and organized conferences for them. That eventually grew into a side gig for me, organizing and executing a New England Regional Broadcast and Cable Expo (NEBCE). I had decided to call that a wrap in the fall of 2019, not having any idea that a few months later Covid would have put an end to it if I hadn't! Meanwhile my sales career had taken off and it just became too much. There weren't enough hours in the day and the demands just kept piling on. I just decided to get out of the insanity. Next career twist- I switched to meeting planning, as it felt like it was in my DNA and I truly enjoyed it. The stars aligned and I landed a position in 2008 as the assistant meeting planner for ECOG-ACRIN, a non-profit that runs adult cancer clinical trials out of Boston and Philadelphia. A few years later I stepped into the lead planner's position and have had a wonderful 15-year run. We hold two main group meetings a year in various cities (Chicago, Orlando, Baltimore, Washington DC, Ft. Lauderdale, Boston, Philly) that have around 1000 people attend over a 2 ½ day span. In January 2024 I left my full-time role to take a part-time position as I ease into the new world of retirement. I met my husband Mike in the late 80's and we were married in May 1991. The best thing in my life happened on December 19, 1994, when our daughter Kelley was born. She's a smart, beautiful and an independent young woman living in San Francisco for the last two years. I love visiting her there (early trips have included Yosemite, Muir Woods, Alcatraz, Golden Gate Park, and more) and look forward to more frequent and longer trips in my part-time role. I joined the Congregational Church of Canton in 2001, with my first service being the Sunday after the 9/11 attacks. I felt the draw to become more fully involved and have spent time in many roles within the congregation. I'm currently a few years into serving as the moderator and take great joy out of volunteering to work our Senior Suppers, various events and outreach programs as well as singing in the choir. I serve on the denomination's state Executive Committee and help plan workshops, annual meetings, and social events. Mike and I enjoyed camping as our get away during our early dating period and through Kelley's school years, and settled on Hermit Island, ME as our all-time favorite location. Other trips we've enjoyed include St. Thomas, England/Scotland/Ireland and spots in Florida. We still enjoy our trips to Chazy to see family and our annual Dragoon Clan Picnic. Our pup Rocco provides endless hours of entertainment and companionship."

### **Christina Earl Trombly**

"Life is an adventure. After graduation, I got a steady, temporary summer job to save money for my maiden voyage as an amateur adult going off to war. Well, not war so much as college. In the fall, I headed for SUNY Brockport to earn a BS in Oceanography. I had an aquarium as a child. The direction of my career was inescapable. Brockport was about 325 miles or six hours away from Chazy, depending on the weather, and the condition of one's jalopy, if there was a parade or funeral on the route, the weather, progress on perpetual construction, and (most importantly) the weather. I went home when the campus closed for long breaks between semesters. My journey took an unexpected hairpin turn after two years in the Brockport program. The Class of 1975 knew how to throw a graduation party. I attended Lorna's (my sister's) party because, let's face it, there wasn't anything else to do that night. It wasn't like I was looking for Prince Charming in Chazy, but I found the love of my life that night. He was bogarting the keg. Jim Trombly (1971) and I became an "item" that summer. Going back to Brockport seemed foolish. Long-distance relationships don't even work out in the movies, right? So, before the Fall 1976 semester began at SUNY Brockport, I transferred to SUNY Plattsburgh. I wasn't homesick. I was boyfriend sick. Plus, communicating with anyone far away required expensive long-distance phone charges or the U.S. snail-on-sedatives mail system. I graduated in 1978 with a degree in Biology. My tropical-fish-tank-infused goal of being an oceanographer had sunk. I realized that the most compelling research question driving my oceanographer dreams was, where are the best seafood restaurants on the East Coast? I finally made an honest man of Jim in 1979. We had two beautiful and talented daughters, Tara (2001) and Tiffany (2004). We still have them. My work journey has included these employers: Cooperative Extension, Clinton County Health Department, Lowes, Hudson Headwaters, and the Town of Chazy (historian). I could have chosen to be a social influencer, but my garden and family demanded too much of my time. No matter what kind of work I was doing, I felt satisfaction because I knew I was helping others (but didn't always have to feed them or do their laundry). I enjoyed most of the people I met along the way. But, sheesh, some of them .... The closest I've ever gotten to oceanography is ocean photography while vacationing near the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. I retired in 2018. Jim and I like to travel, explore, entertain family and friends, and play with our three wonderful grandchildren. I garden, volunteer, go for walks, cook, read—I'm always busy. I've also been seen hauling brush and doing DIY home improvement projects. The years since we graduated have passed quickly. So much

has changed in me and around me. What hasn't changed, however, is my love for my home, community, family, and friends. The adventure continues..."

### **Donald Gravelle**

"After graduation I started dairy farming full time with my Uncle Bob and continue to farm. In 1982 I married Donna Ducharme, Class of 1977. We had two sons, Mark and Matthew. Mark farms with me. Mark was married in 2023 adding a daughter-in-law, Brianna to the family. Matthew is a Corrections Officer working at Dannemora Correctional. He married in 2018 adding Lizzy to the family. They have one child, Remington, who is three. I'm looking forward to retiring."

### **Richard Guay**

"Fifty years, where do I start? I got out of high school and started working the summer on the farm and was accepted at CCC for Criminal Justice degree. I spent two years and graduated. I looked for work and found none, in that time I worked on the family farm again. At this time, I was accepted into the Peace Corps in the Philippines to set up a co-op. However, I got sick, lost 30 pounds, and was sent home. I enlisted in the Army Combat Arms, from 1977-1980 and was sent to Germany for three years as a forward observer or scout. Spent most of the time out in the field. I was treated quite well by both the infantry and artillery. I got out on Christmas Eve and surprised my folks at 1:30am knocking at their door. We talked until 6am. That was the greatest Christmas present for all of us. I was lucky enough not to do chores that morning. I was back to my old farm work and collected unemployment. While on the farm I had and passed an interview for Ayerst. During this time my parents gave me four acres of land to build a house. I attended a workshop for earth-sheltered houses with cord wood fronts. So, I started my third job building a house. This was in 1980. In this time, I worked at the farm, began to build my house, and still worked at Wyeth. In 1984 I met my wife (Lisa Arnold). We dated and fell in love. When my brother bought the farm, I quit farming. I married Lisa and moved into our house on November 31, 1986. Our daughter was born in 1987, we later found out she had autism and we spent plenty of time with doctors for her, but we never gave up on her. Monique still has Autism but lives on her own in Plattsburgh. We see her every week to help her out. Wyeth later had a name change to Pfizer, but I still had a job. I was honored to be sent to Singapore to help start up a plant there. I spent two months there until my mom had serious dementia. I came home to take care of her. She died a few weeks later at Cedar Hedge Nursing Home. It was a three-day death watch! After the burial I was promoted to foreman at

Pfizer in the coating department. I worked there until 2001 and left in a buyout. I retired after 30 years. One of my hobbies is knitting for hospice and the Methodist Church making over 200 shawls in 16 years. I spend time fishing when able. Doing housework takes up most of my time. This is a never-ending job. My hope is to live a long-life having fun. If I can, it is my wish. So, there you have it 50 years of my life."

### **Bruce LaDue**

"After graduation I attended SUNY Canton college. I graduated in 1976 with an associate degree in machine design. Canton is where I met Gloria, my wife of 47 years. I had several job offers after graduating, including one from Eastman Kodak in Rochester, NY. Gloria was from Rochester; you can guess where this is headed. Gloria and I were married in 1977, purchased a home and pursued our careers. I worked for Kodak for a few years and then the John L. Kluge Corp. Kluge went out of business, and I returned to Eastman Kodak as a machine design engineer. In 1983 we had our first daughter, Erin. Back in Chazy my uncle wanted to retire from the family business, Chazy Hardware. By this time, I had enough of the corporate world and city living. My brothers, Brian and Brent, and I took the opportunity to go into the family business with our parents. I packed up my family and returned to Chazy. In 1983 we had our second daughter, Kerry. Gloria and I decided to try for a son the next time. In 1989 we had our third daughter, Dana. Consequently, I no longer gamble, money or otherwise. In 1990 my brothers and I opened a second store in Rouses Point. Life was good until the untimely death of my brother Brian. His death changed my perspective on things. My brother and I decided to close the Chazy store and operate solely out of the new Rouses Point location. My daughters all graduated college, married and have since given Gloria and I six grandchildren. We sold our business in May 2023, and I retired. Life is what you make of it. I have few regrets. I hope the same for you."

### **Susan Laurin LaBelle**

"After graduation I worked at the Grand Union. I married David LaBelle from Champlain on September 9, 1978. We started our family in 1980. The same year we started to work on the family farm Laurin Crest Fam with my parents. David and I together have four daughters. Our first daughter, Nadine and husband Leo who have two boys Seth and Wyatt. Doreen and Matt have two girls Jolie and Rowan. Jamie has a daughter Hunter Rose, along with two stepdaughters Haley and Ana. My youngest Miranda and her husband Josh are expecting their first on or about May 6, 2024. I started working at Peter Pan Play School in 1989 at

the Presbyterian Church in Chazy. I worked there for many years. Until Carol (Willard) Martin and I purchased the business. We continued to run the school until 2013. David and I have three great grand kids. Two girls Aralea and Gracie and a boy Oakland. David and I made the decision to sell the dairy cows in 2011. We received 23 acres in the sale. In December 2014 Dave was diagnosed with lung cancer. We fought it until December 21, 2017 when he passed. My family has had five generations that have attended CCRS. My father, Francis Laurin and my brother Robert, sister Jeannine and myself, All of my kids, My grandsons and my great granddaughter Aralea who will be in the class of 2036. You can still find me in my family farmhouse. Where I am enjoying my family and traveling with some of my classmates Diana, Jim, Gayle, Kevin, my wifey Karen and new friends Robin, Jr, Tom, and Sonia."

### **Ricky Laurin**

"I was born February 25, 1956, in Plattsburgh, NY. Growing up on a farm in Chazy and going to school at CCRS, I did graduate in 1974. There were a few keg parties between Bechard's & Laurin's many weekends which helped pass the long school year. In the fall of 1975, I did attend Clinton Community College that lasted for one year. Then I went to work for Lakeside Container for a year. 1975 was one of best years in my life, I started coaching youth hockey in Chazy. Which became a big part of my life. I coached in a very different way than most coaches; every player was a starter and played in every situation. I was a very vocal coach, our teams always knew I cared about them, I would correct their play not the player. In 21 years, I had a couple players that were challenging, but the team usually corrected the issue. I was told by one of my players, who was 13 or 14 years old, that my teams won so much is all the players believed every time they stepped on the ice they were going to win. They did win a lot. I only had one losing season in those 21 years. Back to my other life now. I met Priscilla at a party at my parents' house in March. When she graduated college in May 1975, most of our dates were at many of the area's hockey rinks. We got married on April 16, 1977; I think. After working at Lakeside for a year I went to Builtrite Furniture a new company and in 6 months I became Foreman. Then an opportunity came to buy a business 2 1/2 years later. We bought a hardware store in Rouses Point and owned it for 7+ years but had to sell it due to my health. We had our two children at this time, our daughter (Jana born 1981) actually grew up in the office of the store. My son Jerrod (1979) also started skating at this time he was 3 years old. Jerrod owns Grandpa's Attic in Mooers, NY and Jana

has her own Jewelry Business (and has been a host on both Jewelry Television (3 yrs.) and Home Shopping Network as a Professional Consultant) I then worked for Duty Free Stores doing maintenance, a couple of years. After I became the Production Manager at Common Wealth Curtains and was let go by the boss because I cared too much about the employees. I then managed a company that printed & distributed tutorial workbooks for computer training at medium size companies. I found a job at the other end of the building, working for World Warehouse in the old Sheridan building in Champlain. During this job I studied to become an Efficiency Expert and went to the course of Thinking Outside the Box. I then started to reinvent myself for the second time, by reading & listening to tapes Seven Habits of Effective People, Les Brown, Successful Time Management, Dale Carnegie, Zig Ziglar etc. The best way to learn anything is to share and teach others. I knew I needed to improve, but now I am almost excellent -" I strive for perfection in what I do but accept excellence". After that I was recruited to go to Deringers because of the good reputation I had built working with great people and my efficient management style. I remember the interview, there were 6 people in the room and I knew 3 of the interviewers from hockey. I said 75% of the way through the interview you three know me, if you're looking for someone to kiss your ass, I am the wrong guy. The VP of the company looked at the Warehouse Manager and the manager said he is the best at what he does, yes. A year and a half later they asked me to leave. My next job was Famous Home Fashions as US Distribution Manager. After 9 years of being there my life changed very quickly in an instant. I was cutting logs at Don Gravelle's and suddenly had chest pains, I called Priscilla to come and get me ASAP. It was the first time I took my new phone with me to cut wood. Priscilla picked me up in about 10 minutes and took me to CVPH fast. Everything was in its place that day. The lady doctor sent me right to get a CT scan, they did not print the scan, they went and got the doctor as soon as she saw they called in a heart team. My aorta was the size of a 20 oz Pepsi bottle, I got the first & best Dr. CVPH had at the time (Dr. Abott was only in Plattsburgh 3 yrs.). He talked with Priscilla about having him do the emergency surgery. After 13 hours of surgery getting me down to 60 degrees and stopping my heart for 48 minutes, I went to ICU in a coma for 9 days. If you are out longer the 55 minutes you could have brain damage, but when I woke up, I said, "no one would notice if I did". Survival rate is 18% but baby Jesus kept me around to help other people (Lions Club & Museum volunteer). The doctor told me I could never work again, but I do drive tractor part time. I had to reinvent myself a third time. I studied to learn about

non-profits & museums. I started the Babbie Rural and Farm Learning Museum in Peru, NY with my uncle. Served on the board for 3 years and joined the board at the Alice T Miner Museum in Chazy, NY. Still being a workaholic, I needed stuff to do so I started designing and cutting out quilts for Priscilla to sew. I also gave tours at the Alice T Miner Museum, this is when I started writing Activity/Coloring books, four so far - Miner Legacy, History of Champlain Valley Farming, 200th Anniversary for the Battle of Plattsburgh, and a book about Lions Clubs. I did have editors and help with the drawings. The last co-writer and editor was Karen (Bentley) Rage. She knew what I had for a Chazy Edjumacation. I now work a lot with fellow Lions and at museums. In 1976 I join the Fire Department and Lions Club. The Lions Club has been a big part of my life for 39 years. I still work on projects, we remember from our school days (winter weekend, turkey night, old home day etc.). After serving as president in Chazy Lions for several terms, I also served at the next level. The next level is District 20W which is from Chazy to Watertown to Utica to Albany and back to here. I worked my way up to District Governor (22-23) for this area. Also, I am President of the Lions Eye Institute of Albany, and an Executive Trustee of the New York State and Bermuda Lions Foundation. Also, I have been awarded the Melvin Jones Fellowship, which comes from Lions Clubs International in Chicago, IL. Enjoy each day of your Life they are precious!!!!"

### **Beth LaValley Kissel**

"After graduation I worked part time. I could not find a full-time job, so I moved to Massachusetts and stayed with my great Uncle. I found a job as a nurse's aide and worked part time as a waitress, bartender, and short order cook. Then I started working at Williams College full time in 1975. What a great job. Met a lot of interesting people, George Steinbrenner (Yankees Owner) Spiro Agnew, Max Gail (Barney Miller Show), Joy Rockefeller, Ted Kennedy to name a few. I met my husband, Woody while working at Williams College. He had just returned home from Germany. He was in the Army. He stayed in the reserves after returning home. We moved back to this area and were married in October 1979. We have two beautiful girls, Brandi in 1982 and Kristean (Kris) in 1985. Brandi now lives in Tampa, FL and is a college graduate and went to Ohio State for her Masters. Her title is Brandi E Kissel CIH, CSP which is Certified Industrial Hygienist and Safety Professional. She is well known in her field. Kris went to MCLA and after her graduation she joined the USCG and is still active duty. Her husband Stephan is also an Active-Duty Coast Guard. I am very proud of my girls and so is my husband. I went back to school in 1993 and became an LPN. I was

already working at CVPH when I went back to school. I retired in 2012 from working 22 plus years at CVPH. I left CVPH ER due to an injury. My husband retired in 2022 from the Village of Champlain as a water/sewer operator. Now we are enjoying retirement and planning a trip to see the girls, life is good."

### **Peter Lyons**

"After graduation I moved to Plattsburgh, NY and started working for Church Oil where I worked till retirement a few years ago. In 1989 I married Carol Latremore and moved back to Chazy. We have two children, Alys and Victoria. They have given us six grandchildren. I spend my time now repairing things for the family and friends and spending my time with the kids and grandchildren."

### **Mary Faye McWhinnie**

"After graduation I spent a fun summer off. In the fall I entered Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam. That didn't work out so well and in January 1975 I went to Harvard on the hill aka Clinton Community College. In the spring I was employed at several jobs. Then in 1976 I attended Our Lady of Victory Secretarial School, graduating in 1977 with a medical secretary certificate. I then held a few jobs, and, in the fall, I was back at Clinton. In 1980 I went to work at Champlain Valley Federal Savings and Loan. I worked there for 19 years until my position was eliminated in a merger. During this time, I also got married and in 1984 had my son Todd. After losing my position it was back to Clinton from which I graduated with a human services degree. I never got employment in that field (after two and a half years I no longer wanted to help people haha) I then spent my time with and helping my mom. In 2007 I met and married my second husband and moved to Paul Smith's. I was employed by Community Bank in Saranac Lake. I also worked photographing sporting events with my husband Pat. During this time, I was fortunate to visit Italy and Ireland which was amazing! In 2016 I divorced once again and moved back to good ole Chazy. I lived there until May of 2023 at which time moved to senior housing in Ellenburg. I cherish my years at CCRS and am proud to be a second-generation graduate...both my parents graduated from CCRS. I'm pretty amazed I made it these 50 years. Am I really that old?"

### **Kim Neverett Howley**

"And just like that! Where did the time go...guessing I'm not the only one asking this? After graduation I attended freshman year at Concordia University in Montreal. I had majored in English - what was that about, I hated English? Guess that decision was more about experiencing the city than my studies at the

time. So now what? Looking back, it seems this question and my curiosity lead me on a journey going places I'd never been before, meeting new people, with a willingness to try anything once. I vacillated for several years between traveling, numerous short-lived jobs, and various random career ventures. This trend began when classmate Liz and I took off abroad, backpacking and U-Railing around Europe. We partnered again a few years later meeting in Nevada for a road trip south of the border, this time exploring the west coast of Mexico. Between these travel adventures I enrolled in the Communication Arts and Media program at PSUC, deciding quickly this subject didn't interest me. Shortly thereafter, I stumbled on to a grant program offered by NYS and attended a vocational LPN program in Utica. This was another opportunity to try something different, in another town and was paid for. I had nothing to lose! During these years and my forever love of horses, I continued to ride and show registered Morgans. I became an EMT at some point, as well as a certified scuba and ice diver. I even took sky diving lessons. With my LPN license, I worked for couple of years at CCF on their Mental Health Unit tending care to the likes of Son of Sam, eventually concluding that prison life was just not for me. My interest in the mental health field continued and after that experience I found myself working on MHU at CVPH. It was during this time that I met my husband Tim. A chance encounter at the Monopole after a 3-11 shift. We soon discovered our moms were old friends and that we had known and played together as kids. We dated, then lived together for the next 8 years. Much of that time was spent taking an extensive drive in an old Volkswagen Squareback through Mexico into Central America eventually returning to the US and touring about out West. It was getting time to resume gainful employment due to our intentions of heading north to Alaska next. Tiring of cold showers, sleeping in hammocks, roadside fare, little cash, and a great job offer for Tim back east, we returned to the North Country. We bought our home in Chazy, I attended CCC and became an RN while working at the ARC Sheltered Workshop. Tim and I married in 1988 and started a family soon after. I'm so proud of our two adult children! Caitlin lives in Saratoga Springs, has her MBA and is the Director of Programs, Partnerships and Events at NYSADA. Shea bought a house a few years ago and lives in Chazy. He has recently started his own business O'Shea's Excavation and Concrete. How's that for a plug? Lastly, not to forget our family's spoiled Springer Spaniel named Maisie. When the kids started school, I became involved and enjoyed many years volunteering and serving on the boards of several CCRS and

other community clubs or organizations. Participating in the schools CASP, CAA, and the CCRS 100 Years of Excellence Celebration. I am especially fond of all the memories that were created during my 18 years committed to many roles behind the scenes that brought the community CMT'S annual spring productions. Also, I was honored to have hosted the BOP Bicentennial Celebration and British Encampment at the Scott House and the many "cannon shooting" reenactments and encampments that followed. Having too much fun this year was an understatement when teaming up with a small group who planned for months and decorated for the first to be annual Victorian Christmas Event held at The Alice T. Museum this past December. I will mention that I'm a Beartown widow every winter and still mourn the loss of The Weathercock. I've joined the recent craze and ride an E-bike and play pickleball regularly. Alaska is still on my bucket list! It's no surprise by now that nursing has become my career. I was the PRO's nurse at BHSN, a community mental health clinic for 27 years, retiring in 2017. This was a very challenging and rewarding experience. The following year, I returned as a part time RN to work at Champlain Valley Family Center. CVFC is a local organization that provides a variety of services for the treatment of substance use and addiction disorders. Shhh, Tim thinks I only volunteer there... it's really my TJ Maxx money! I will close expressing how grateful I am for a husband who continues to put up with me, and our amazing children. I cherish my many friends and family, feel so fortunate to live in this little town by the lake and nearby mountains. I look forward to seeing all my "74" classmates and celebrating 50 years!"

### **Bruce Phaneuf**

" Since graduating in 1974, I worked residential construction building houses for 9 years in Chazy. I loved this job. While living with my high school sweetheart, (Brenda True) I learned quickly that making a living, I would have to find a job that had a good retirement. So, I entered the NYS Corrections in 1982. I left my hometown of Chazy for 12 months and 20 days: downstate. Brenda and I bought a house that had been gutted by fire with four acres of land in West Chazy, I would remodel and rebuild on my days off when I came home. In 1993, I purchased the land I grew up on the Ratta Road, same year we bought the house and land next to us, we then got married. After 20 years and doubled the size of our home. We have traveled to Hampton Beach every year. Cruised to Alaska, Caribbean Islands. We have seen the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, California Red Woods, Texas Alamo, Omaha Nebraska. We have traveled from the tip of Florida to the tip of Maine and the entire East Coast. In 2007, I retired from Corrections and enjoying what I

love; going to flea markets, garage sales in search of vintage, used tools. In 2021 I built a Quonset Hut to sell vintage tools. I love to hunt, clean and polish tools for resale. Now 50 years later, we are growing old in the house we built. I enjoy skiing with my friends and a little slower pace of life.

### **Julie Pickard Burnell**

"Gosh - I don't know about you but it seems like not that long ago the scene was Miss Wing's first grade at the old school and we were impressing each other with our Dick and Jane reading skills and artistic napkin coloring! I think the best way to begin a summary of my last 50 years since CCRS graduation is to say it has been a combination of "But for the Grace of God" and "Thanks" for the love and support of wonderful people and canines sent into my life. Looking back, I was quite immature and lost during my freshman year at UVM. Good fortune located me in the Jeanne Mance dorm (named after a French nurse) and surrounded by nursing students. By sophomore year I was determined nursing was a good "life fit". A solid family and academic foundation, hard work, plus my innate goal orientation saw me through. 1979 was an eventful year. I earned my BSN, passed the nursing boards, married the best guy in the world and got my 1st RN role at Albany Medical Center in the neonatal ICU. Eventually we found ourselves back in Chazy building a new home on the Brunell family farm and working at CVPH. Starting as a staff RN, my eyes were shocked wide open to the "real" world of healthcare. Even being told I had "too thin a skin" for the environment I was able to grow and thrive. In the years that followed I learned many clinical areas from operating room to cardiology and moved into many new roles/levels. In my 39-year career at CVPH I was able to recreate myself so many times while earning first a master's degree and eventually a doctorate. What a gift to work, learn and be mentioned by gifted colleagues in so many professions all at one place. I ended my career as Chief Learning Officer! At almost 50 years old, Dennis and I adopted our daughter Kayse. How she changed our lives. Those years were full of wonderful family time, vacations, ski trips, cooking together, etc. In 2004 we moved to Plattsburgh and built our current home. Kayse keeps Denny and I young at heart coaching Gen Z mindsets/lingo/tech/music and has also prompted our cross-country trips to visit. I'm sure many of you remember my mom and our music teacher - Mrs. Pickard. In the 10 years after my dad died, "the girls" (Kayse, Dee Dee, my niece Kate, and I) created great memories with Mom, going on many fun overnights and boat rides. Mom died peacefully in 2013 at 93. Turns out she and my dad were wonderful life models. I retired to per diem status in 2019. Dennie and I now work on our

#1 goal - to stay healthy and active. I still occasionally do a bit of work at the hospital and was glad to help with vaccination of the essential staff when the SARS COVID vaccine came out. I remain an avid lifelong learner, love to read, bike, sew, ski, spend time with family and friends and participate in a variety of groups. My 50-year summary would also be incomplete without thanking my Chazy friends who opened their homes to this Vermonter during our CCRS years. All the best to each of you and yours."

### **William Rathbun**

"Wow, What!? 1974!!! I live in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Recently retired as a School Counselor in a Mandarin Dual Language Elementary School in Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools. I have two children and two grandsons. My daughter, Liza, husband Matt, and son Aiden (4 in November '23) live very close by in Carrboro, North Carolina. Liza is a Family Physician and Teaching Fellow (Med School students and Interns) with UNC Hospitals. My son, Tyler, wife Megan and son Hawkins (7 in November) live in Cary, NC (about 40-minute drive). Tyler works for Mind Point Group, a cybersecurity consulting firm. I am so grateful to be so close to both of my children and grandsons! After high school I attended SUNY Binghamton for a year and then a small rural college in northern California for a year and finished my degree at PSUC. While at Plattsburgh I was fortunate to have the opportunity to spend a life changing six weeks in rural Ecuador with Dr. Peter Gore and five other students. We each lived with a family in the village of Huaca, Ecuador (elevation 10,000') and had individual rural development projects we were working on. The following year after graduating, I was able to return to Huaca for 6 months and continue some of the project work. Before returning from South America, I took a fantastic trip to Machu Picchu in Peru. I married Mary Gibbs in 1979 and we later worked and lived at Northfield Mount Hermon School - a prep school in Massachusetts from 1980 - 1984. We then moved to Westport, NY where I taught high school Technology (read Shop :- ) for a year. That first summer I worked for some friends in residential construction and enjoyed it so much I went to work for them full time and later became a partner in High Plains Carpentry, a small design/build residential building company in Westport, NY from 1984-1993. Oh, I loved that work and am so grateful for all I learned and the friendships I made. We started a family during those years in Westport - Tyler in 1986 and Liza in 1988. Wonderful memories from that time - lots of cousins nearby, Lake Champlain, the Adirondacks and not far from Mom and Dad in Chazy. After an amicable divorce in 1994, the kids and I landed in

Lavina, Montana - a very small, rural town north of Billings, MT. Beautiful Big Sky Country. I started my own small business - High Plains Carpentry - doing mostly residential renovations and additions. In 2000, we moved to Wilmington, NC where I took a teaching job in a middle school. Having the same weekly and year-round schedule as the kids made life for all of us so much easier and more fun. While teaching I took courses in the evenings and summers and got my Masters in School Counseling. My first counseling position was helping to open a brand-new middle school in Wilmington where I worked from 2010 - 2014. By this time, my daughter Liza was living in the Carrboro/Chapel Hill area and my son Tyler was in Cary, so I decided to look for a counseling job in that area. I was offered a counseling job in an elementary school in Chapel Hill where I worked until I retired in 2021. That was such a rewarding experience - great staff, students and parents! After living in Carrboro for 8 years I purchased a house in Chapel Hill in 2021 and have kept myself busy adding on "the deck that never ends" and other projects to make it feel like home - a never ending process. I continue to do small residential building jobs part time and also enjoy doing pottery. Dad, Robert Rathbun died peacefully at home in 2013 and Mom, Priscilla stayed in the family home until 2021. Mom is 94 now, as vibrant as ever and lives at 260 Lake Street, a Senior Resort Community in Rouses Point.

### **Janet Ratta Bouyea**

"After graduation, I attended Plattsburgh State where I received a BS in Elementary Education N-9 (7-9 Math) and later a master's degree for the same. I taught for two years at St. Joseph's Elementary School in Dannemora until the school closed in 1980. I then worked for a small electronics firm for four years and then F.W. Myers for six years, where I obtained my Customs Brokerage License. After that, I worked for Schonbek Worldwide Lighting for 22 years in various positions and was able to travel to several countries including Italy and Lichenstein. I married Stephen Bouyea and have been married for 44 years and living in the Plattsburgh area. I have two wonderful children, Christopher and Stephanie, who also live in the area with my three grandchildren, Blake, Olivia and Isabella. I am retired and spend most of my time with family, which is the best way to spend life. I hope everyone is living a happy and healthy life and look forward to seeing them."

### **Glenn Reynolds**

"After graduation I remained on the family farm, married, and had two boys-James and Daniel. This marriage was short lived. I broke my foot during a volleyball session while

attending Plattsburgh State. This led me to the ER where I met my wife, Christine. We married and added two more children to our family, Jeremy, and Katrina. I changed careers and have no plans to retire. We have been married 35 years. Our children are grown now and have done very well for themselves. We have six grandchildren. We couldn't be prouder. Since my wife grew up in Europe, we visit when we can. We love to travel and have travelled a great deal. The ocean, whether it's in Normandy or Cape Cod, seems to call."

### **Catherine Ryan Trombly**

"After graduation I attended Plattsburgh State. I married my husband Jeff Trombly in 1979. For about 7 years we moved back and forth between Albany, NY and Knoxville, TN as Jeff attained his Masters and a few years later his PHD from the University of Tennessee. We were living in Albany when our daughter Caitlin was born in 1985. At this point I became a stay-at-home mom. Our son James was born in 1990. In 1993 we moved to Oak Ridge, TN when Jeff took a job there. We have enjoyed living in Tennessee for the last 30 years. Our daughter attended the University of Notre Dame and Carnegie Melon and is a chemical engineer here in Oak Ridge. Our son attended West Point and is a civil engineer with the General Services Administration in New York. He has two daughters. I enjoy spending time with family and attending the gym daily."

### **Christopher Seller**

"I graduated on January 25, 1974, and am torn between 1973 and 1974. I moved to New Jersey shortly after graduation and went to work at an Exxon station as a mechanic. While there, I attended Lincoln Technical Institute for Automotive repair. Later I went to work for a Volkswagen dealership and had to go to school to repair the computers on these cars. While in this school, I looked at the equipment I was working with and decided to go to school for computer repair. While working as a computer technician for 40 years I have attended a plethora of training programs to keep up with the industry. I got married to the love of my life in 1979 and am still with the same woman today. Her name is Terry, and she has blessed me with five children. We now have seven grandchildren. We are both retired and have recently purchased a new motorhome and plan to do some traveling in our future provided gas prices stay where they are."

### **Robert Thibault**

"After high school I spent the next 10 years or so bouncing around all sorts of jobs, working at the quarry, assistant manager of Dame's Liquor store in the mall, warehouse maintenance at Phentex, and a few others. All of this while



involved in various degrees with helping at the Skeetfield. In 1983 I married Pamela LaPoint (80). We just celebrated our 40th anniversary last year. We raised 2 smart, hardworking daughters, Jessica Rae (09) and Ali Rae (16) right here on River St. And in 2020, just as Covid was keeping us all at home, Pam and I tore down the old trailer and moved into a new house on the same lot. It was during the late 80's that brother Danny asked me to help him in Lake George at the resort he worked at. Three days of washing pots turned into flipping eggs for 120 people, turned into opportunities to work with some wonderful chefs, turned into a 25-year career of cooking at and even running some fine kitchens. I spent a few seasons with Danny at Canoe Island Lodge, trained, cooked at and occasionally managed the kitchen at the Anchorage, worked for Art's Place, The Butcher Block and a few others. But it was also during these 35 years that I found myself often restless, irritable, and discontented, rarely staying at any job for a year or 2 before finding a reason to leave. I probably quit and was later rehired at the Anchorage at least half a dozen times. I also spent a lot of time sitting on barstools after work, complaining about life to the local bartenders. Finally on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, I was blessed with a DWI at the Rouses Point parade without even moving my car. It was the night I took my last drink. It was also the beginning of a journey that led me to a fellowship of like-minded people who found a solution for those feelings of being restless, irritable, and discontent by living one day at a time. At the same time, I began the best job I have ever had, working for the Sacred Heart Church here in Chazy. What started as a few hours of mopping floors turned into cooking harvest dinners and fish fries, teaching religion to 6<sup>th</sup> graders, reading at mass, fixing any and everything, mowing grass and shoveling snow. And rescuing Noreen from spiders and bats. And I'm still mopping floors 15 years later. I love it! And I still make coffee for that fellowship every Friday evening at the Chazy Town Hall if you ever want to stop by."

### **Jill Tremblay Bombard**

"50 years "WOW" a lot of living has happened, and it certainly went by fast. I thank God and His son, Jesus, my Lord and Savior for all His blessings along the way. After graduating from CCRS I went to work as a bookkeeper. During that time, I met my wonderful husband, Mark. We've been married nearly 46 years. God blessed us with two beautiful daughters (inside and out) and two wonderful grandchildren. After starting our family, I chose to stay home and raise our girls. I eventually went back to

work in the Saranac Central School District where I very much enjoyed the school atmosphere and the students. I retired a few years ago as a Librarian Aide. My husband and I mainly travel to the East Coast, spending a lot of time in Virginia. We also enjoy biking, hiking, kayaking, etc. in our native Adirondacks. I love horseback riding and joined a local riding stable where I continue to ride frequently. But, most of all we enjoy being with our family. I will be away during the 50th reunion but wish you all God's blessings!

### **Thomas Trombly**

"After graduating I attended JCC in Watertown where I met my future wife, Diane. We returned to Chazy where we were married in September of 1976. Soon after I accepted a job with Chazy & Westport Telephone/Westelcom Communications where I worked for 30 plus years. During my time with them I held several different positions from technician to Operations Manager. I ended my career with C & W in 2010 as Sales Manager. In 2012 I accepted a position with Mountain View Equipment as manager of their Plattsburgh John Deere store, where I also became the IT/Network administrator for their four stores in New York and Vermont. During that time Diane worked at SUNY Plattsburgh until we both retired in April of 2020. We have three children, Nicholas, Adam, and Jennifer, and three grandchildren. Jenny is married with one child and lives in Rouses Point. Adam is also married and has two children and lives in Sugar Hill, Georgia. Our oldest son Nicholas sadly passed away in 1999, one year after graduating from CCRS. Over the years I have stayed involved with Chazy/ CCRS community, where I served two terms on the CCRS board of education as well as coaching many youth sports. I was also a member of the Chazy Lions Club for several years. In our retirement we stay active with our family and traveling."

### **Lila Tyler Simpson**

"Who knew that 50 years would go by in what seems like the blink of an eye, yet in many ways so much longer. I remember being so excited to jump out into the great big, beautiful world, with my first stop being University at Albany. I had great adventures, dated the son of a State Assemblyman and did almost everything; ok everything my mother warned me against, and more ☺. After I graduated from college, I was done with school and wanted more adventure. I packed my car with whatever fit and moved to Virginia Beach, where Karen Bentley Rager was stationed in the Navy. We had such a blast, and that is where I met my first husband. We had a

daughter, Leah. After the Navy we made the move to his hometown Fort Worth, TX. I lived and worked in the Dallas Fort Worth area for over 30 years. During that time, I divorced, remarried, worked for Aetna, retired, owned a business, and right before I moved to Florida, I got divorced again. After reconnecting with a long-lost love, I packed my car with whatever fit and moved to Florida. (Seems I do that every few decades!) Although it was not a match made in heaven, we remain friends. Mitchell Stein and I live in Boynton Beach, FL. We are still working and are fortunate to work from home. We are hoping to work for a couple more years. Mitch and I love our life in Florida. While Leah and her 4 children are still in TX, almost everything else in my life is more than I could have ever wished for, because I have faith, love, friendship, community, joy and peace. Growing up in Chazy gave me a firm foundation and a solid education. I rarely get back now, but I think about my family, my friends and the community often and with a grateful heart."

### **Frances "Diana" Valade Castine**

"Frances "Diana" Castine married James Castine on Dec. 28, 1974, in Coopersville, NY. Together they raised four fantastic children, Michelle Anthony who is employed as accounts receivable manager for Schluter Systems, Amy Castine who is employed in Charleston, South Carolina as a physical therapist, Jason Castine who is a special education teacher at Saranac Central School, and Jessica O'Brien-Moore who is a school psychologist at Colchester High School in Vermont. Diana also has two wonderful granddaughters, Ella, and Harper. Diana's professional journey spanned various roles, from working on the Castine dairy farm and the Lakeview Pavilion followed by working at the North Country Golf Course and then Old Tymes Café in Rouses Point. After her time as a waitress and manager, she was employed by Pfizer with her career finally culminating at the CVPH Radiology Department, where she brought her skills to the healthcare field before finally retiring. Diana and her husband, along with her family, moved back to Ratta Road in Chazy, NY in May 1996. Since retiring in 2017 she now enjoys the pleasures of retirement. She fills her days with what she loves most, curling up to a good book, tending to her plants and garden, and finally embarking on exciting travel adventures with friends and family, especially cruises. Diana is a member of the Chazy Lions Club and secretary for the Chazy Senior Citizens Club."



# The CCRS Digital Archive

All CCRS yearbooks from 1921, 1951, and 1962-2018 are viewable online! Go to our website, [www.ccrsk12.org](http://www.ccrsk12.org). Click on Community > Alumni > Yearbooks.

All available copies of *Our Inheritance*, a booklet/newsletter printed in-house at CCRS from 1925-1931 were digitized and added to our website. Click Community > Alumni > Our Inheritance. These booklets are filled with CCRS history and give us a window into the early activities of the school, including classes, sports, graduation, Class Day, music, and much more. Several have messages from William H. Miner himself. Student writing is included, with the name of the student writer. Many familiar local names are represented. Take a look!

The annual newsletters are up to date on the website from 2014 – present. On our website, [www.ccrsk12.org](http://www.ccrsk12.org), click on Community > hover on Alumni > click on Alumni Newsletter.

## CHAZY LIONS CLUB 57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLD HOME DAY

Sunday, July 28, 2024

Starts at noon

Chicken or Barbecued Beef

Take-out available!

Live music, vendors, hamburgers, sausages, French fries & more.



## Alumni Yearbook Partners

are graduates of CCRS and others who value the creation of a quality yearbook enough to donate to the Aquila. We GRATEFULLY list their names and graduation years here!

### EAGLE PARTNERS - \$200 and above

Molly E. Mentzer (parent of future alumni '26 & '28)

### GOLD PARTNERS - \$100 - \$199

William H. Brunelle '71

Mary Jo LaDue Goff

### SILVER PARTNERS - \$50 - \$99

Jan Dragoon Haughey '74

Cindy Jensen Bruneau '78

### BRONZE PARTNERS - \$1 - \$49

Nancy Powers Vesco '77

Sequoia McChesney '23

Luke Moser '23

CCRS graduates! Please consider representing your graduation year and helping our yearbook with a donation to the Aquila. Even a small donation will get your name and year of graduation listed!

### FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

#### REVENUE

Dues \$1,480.00

Dinner 2,130.00

Scholarship 688.00

**Total \$4,298.00**

#### EXPENSES

Rainbow Banquet Hall \$1,960.00

Yearbook & ad 87.40

Scholarship (no complete applications submitted)

After-Prom Party 100.00

Border Press 44.00

**Total Expenses \$2,191.40**



## IN MEMORIAM

Donald Sausser 1955

Charles E. Harvey 1955

Caroline Trombly Tetreault 1956

Arthur E. Gonyo 1956

Linda Reynolds Philips 1959

Jeffrey T. Hausdorf 1960

Judy Bechard Pombrio 1965

Harold C. Scriver 1965

Walter H. Favro 1967

Rev. Alfred "Skip" Tremblay 1970

Denise Y. Bouchard Wood 1970

Joyce LaValley Chambers 1971

Laura Fairchild Cabrera 1977

Karen Lynch Yaakey 1983

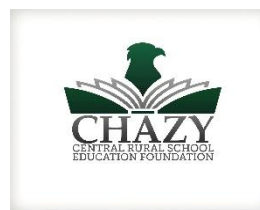
# CCRS EDUCATION FOUNDATION

## Greetings CCRS Alumni!

Again this year we express our gratitude for your help this past year—your donations and enthusiasm have helped the CCRSEF continue to fund projects that our teachers need for their classrooms and students.

We are proud to have funded grants of all kinds over the years, including scientific calculators, comfort seating to help students focus, musical instruments and cases, 3D printers for STEM classes, mats and weights for the gym, assistance to our global-award-winning Harvard Model UN team, and so much more.

Your generosity has helped us to provide crucial educational materials that are above and beyond what the annual school budget can. **THANK YOU!**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Lori LaFave '87 **Vice President:** Chris Keuleman '89

**Treasurer:** Rosemary Souza Botten '81 **Secretary:** Michaela Barkla '13

Kevin LaPierre '68 Nancy Vesco '77 Maura Trombly '15

Would you like to help? Please contact [loriblafave@gmail.com](mailto:loriblafave@gmail.com)

# PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE!

**RSVP by June 13, 2024**

**Make ONE check payable to: ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF CCRS**

**MAIL TO: Margaret Ryan '79, 1 Bison Street, Chazy, NY 12921**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
First MAIDEN Last Graduation Year  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

**CHOOSE ONE (X):** Yearly Dues: \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Membership: \$100 \_\_\_\_\_  
Already a Lifetime Member? Check here: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your dues help to cover the cost of preparing the newsletter, expenses toward alumni weekend, and other costs. Thank you for continuing your membership and support.*

**DUES (EACH ALUMNI) MUST BE PREPAID (IF NOT A LIFETIME MEMBER) TO ATTEND THE ALUMNI BANQUET. WALK-INS TO THE BANQUET WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

NUMBER ATTENDING the BANQUET:  
\$30 each person attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of alumni  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of guests  
\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL NUMBER  
ATTENDING**

**ALUMNI BANQUET**  
Saturday, June 29  
Blue Room, Rainbow Banquet Hall (Pecks), Altona  
Social Hour 4:15 – 5 p.m. Dinner 5 p.m.  
Program immediately following dinner.

NUMBER ATTENDING the TEA: \_\_\_\_\_ (no charge)

**View the newsletter online on the school website at:**  
<https://www.ccrsk12.org/alumni/alumni-newsletter>

*To view only online and have no paper copy mailed to you), please X here: \_\_\_\_\_*

**Donation for Scholarship Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**To Parents Regarding Scholarship Eligibility:**

The parent/guardian must be a paid member of the Chazy Alumni Association for the preceding three years prior to and the year of the applicant's graduation. All dues must be paid by December 31 of those four years.

**Please contact the CCRS Guidance Office for the complete scholarship eligibility requirements.**

# 2023 Alumni

Georgia Jean Belrose  
Landon Michael Castine  
Katana Jayde Coon  
Austin Daniel Doser  
Reagan Michael Dudyak  
Gunner Cole Frenyea  
Kayden Wayne Garrow  
Nasir Jahmek Gordon

Peter Aron LaBarge  
Hailey Elizabeth Laurin  
Lilly Elizabeth Marsden  
Jadin Jaequon Marshall  
Camdyn Lee Mayo  
Sequoia Marie McChesney  
Dejane Marlaik Minto  
Luke James Moser

Kylie Mae Parah  
Alaina Ann Pilon  
Parker Colden Pratt  
Landon Noah Mack Salimando  
Amelia Noelle Smith  
Michael James Smith  
Petru Sebastian Thirtheu  
William Christopher Ryan Upton



## **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BANQUET 2023 AWARDEES**

**Alumna of the Year Award: Michele Carpentier '73**

**Alumna Service Award: Jill West Beeman '77, Laurie West Miller '80**

**Alumna Appreciation Award: Cathy Munson Devins '73**