

# CHAZY CENTRAL RURAL SCHOOL



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER MAY 2025

### Alumni Association Executive Committee 2025

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

### *Honoring the Class of 1975*



#### **Alumni Association Tea**

Friday, June 27

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Alice T. Miner Museum

Refreshments will be served.

#### **Alumni Banquet**

Saturday, June 28, 2025 - Blue Room

Rainbow Banquet Hall (Pecks), Altona

Social Hour 4:15 – 5:00 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m.

Program following immediately after dinner.

A cash bar will be available

Class Day – June 16, 2025

Classes enter 12:30 – Ceremony 1:00 p.m.

Graduation – June 27, 2025

7:00 pm

## CLASS OF 1975 BIOS

**RICK BECHARD:** After receiving a degree in Physical Education, I worked for the 1980 Winter Olympics in Lake Placid. That summer I did a stint as Assistant to the Cruise Director on the Russian Cruise Liner, Alexander Pushkin. I moved to NYC where I taught and owned/operated a gay night club in Westport, CT. In 1991, I moved back to NYC and worked for the Metropolitan Museum of Art for several years and the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Battery Park City near the World Trade Center. In 1999, I moved back to the North Country and established Lucid Productions. I produced The Pioneer of Rural Schools as well as Love's Journey, a film about the nature of love and the inherent ego complications of human relationships. In my memoir, From Pain to Peace, I convey how the things we've done and the experiences we've had help us recognize who we are on another level.

**KATHY BEGGS-RUSSELL:** After graduation, I married Mike Russell on September 11, 1976, and had 3 children; Warren, Sarah, and Thomas. We have 4 grandchildren: Morgan, Owen, Logan, and Eliette. I worked at odd jobs but mostly helped Mike on the farm. I was 4-H leader for the Milk Dippers for 29 years. My passion is spending time with grandchildren, quilting and I love going on quilt retreats.

**DIANA BOIRE:** In 1980 I graduated from Syracuse University with a Fine Arts degree in Commercial Interior Design. After working for several companies in both New York and Vermont, including Architect Jeremiah Oosterbaan. I opened my own commercial interior design firm in September of 1999. February of 1996 marked the beginning of a long-term relationship with my soul mate Alan Adorisio. I currently make my home in beautiful Essex, Vermont nestled between Lake Champlain and Mount Mansfield.

**GARY BOIRE:** I have been lucky enough to travel to many countries around the world. Linda and I have been married for 44 years. Linda is a Registered Dietitian and retired from her job as a college professor this past year. We have two sons, Nick and Chris. Nick is a forensic pathologist at the Maryland Chief Medical Examiner's Office and an Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins Medical School. Chris is a Special Projects Librarian at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC. We have a home on the water on the south shore of Long Island, spending much of our free time on the ocean, traveling, and enjoying our retirement. We also have a log cabin in the Adirondacks which affords us the ability to get back to the North Country more frequently.

**JACK BOUYEA:** After graduation, I went to BOCES for 1 more year and worked at Vincent Jerry and Sons for 3 years. In 1978, I moved to Reno, Nevada. I hung out with Ron Trombly, Dan Trombly, Terry LaDue, and Liz Rovers and it didn't take long before I was financially broke. I went to work at a body shop and ended up owning it for about 20 years. I then transported mobile homes and set them up until I retired at 62. Got married in 1985 to Rebecca, and had 3 girls: Kim, Kat, and Katelyn. I also have 6 grandchildren, and I am separated. That's pretty much it.

**KEVIN BUSHEY:** Life hasn't been too exciting during the past 50 years. After graduation, I worked for Chazy Orchards, which was not a good fit, so I went to work for Reynolds Well Drilling for 5 years. I also worked on many farms including Rover's, Gregware's and Mike Russell's. That was hard work and very tiring. From there, I worked for Lake Champlain Pools until I retired at the age of 62, with 28 years there. I ran the yard, unloaded trucks with a forklift, maintained all trucks in the morning getting them ready for the day, loaded crew trucks with tools and loaded inground pools on the trailers. I also took care of the above ground pool crew. They called me "SUPER TRUCKER" because I did all the dump truck driving for both crews. I'm still in Chazy on a quiet road with lots of deer and turkeys.

**YVONNE BUSHEY LADUE:** After graduation, I joined the workforce in healthcare. I worked at Cedar Hedge Nursing Home, then CVPH for 10 years. In 1983 I married Brian LaDue. After the birth of our son Jordan, I became a stay-at-home mom. In 1994 our daughter Abby was born. On April 7th, 2000, Brian was killed in a tragic car accident, our life would never be the same. Left to be a single parent, the luxury of being a stay-at-home mom ended. I landed a job at CCRS as a Special Education Aide. In my 20 years there I made some awesome friends and worked with amazing teachers and Administrators. I met a wonderful guy named Paul Seguin and we have been together ever since. I have 4 grandchildren, Landon, Lincoln, Vaida, and August. During retirement we purchased an RV and enjoy traveling and camping with our kids and grandkids.

**DEBORAH DALEY-RENNER:** I left Chazy and attended college at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. I graduated with a BS in Horticulture. While in college I met my husband, and we married shortly after I graduated. We moved to Tennessee, and I started helping in a flower shop which I purchased less than a year later. In my time off, there is fun on our lakes with paddle boarding (joined an amateur race circuit), playing my flute in various Community Playhouse Orchestra settings, and playing in a local big band. I managed to go on a paddle "retreat" in Key Largo, Florida where the door opened to paddling in the Canadian Rockies, the Pacific Ocean south of Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and surfing in Costa Rica. I also got scuba certified in Cozumel. Being in the south, I speak with a bit of a drawl and picked up southern cooking.

**COLLEEN DEVOID-RECOR:** I went to college for business for two years. After graduating college. I met my husband-to-be, Bob. We married in July of 1977. We have two boys and six grandchildren. I worked in Plattsburgh at A. Schonbeck Worldwide Lighting, for twenty-one years. Bob worked in New York State Corrections for twenty-six years at Dannemora and Altona. We retired, and moved to Port Saint Lucie, Florida in 2009. Each summer we travel to the North Country and stay at Twin Ells Campground with our four pugs. We get to see the local classmates and family members.

**GARY DRAGOON:** I left Chazy in 1977 to serve in the United States Navy. During my time in the Navy, I spent one and a half years in Boston while our ship was undergoing a massive overhaul. I left the Navy in 1981 and returned to Boston. There, I met my first wife, Nancy Alliegro. We had a son named after my father, Gordon Dragoon. I lived and worked in Boston from 1981 to 2019 in the financial services sector. I worked for Fidelity Investments and Financial Engines. In 2002 I married Diane Young (the love of my life) who had two children Jessica and Jonathan. In 2019 we moved to Bonita Springs, Florida. In the Bonita Bay Community, we enjoy wonderful weather, pickleball, tennis, biking, and a plethora of friends/activities. I have made many return trips to Chazy through the years to see family/friends and to visit my parents at the cemetery.

**DIANE DUCHARME-MENARD:** After graduation, I attended Plattsburgh State University College where I graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Education, Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Reading Specialization. Before I started my teaching career, I backpacked through Europe for 3 weeks with my brother. I taught Health Education at Peru Central School for 36 years where I was also Middle School Student Council Advisor, Lip Sync Producer and I wrote a grant for a climbing wall and afterschool healthy snacks. Besides my children Micere and Brandon, and my husband Steven, my biggest reward in life was being able to donate a kidney in 2012 to my sister. Since my retirement, I have been a volunteer ambulance driver/attendant for Champlain-Mooers EMS, continue to substitute, love to exercise, helped with my dad and now my mom and travel. Steve and I are planning a cross-country trip within the next 2 years.

**LORNA EARL:** My journey has been one of transformation, resilience, and reinvention. I earned degrees in Sociology and Counseling from SUNY Plattsburgh while drinking enough vodka to amaze a depressed Russian. Marriage and motherhood, however, sobered me up. My 30s were a blur of parenting, marriage, teaching, research, home renovations, and earning a Ph.D. in Sociology. I was exhausted. In my 40s, my career as a college professor flourished, but trying to do it all took a toll. Chronic illness, high-powered meds, and eventually brain surgery forced me into disability retirement. Then, after 27 years, my husband left. It was time to find my voice. As Lorna Lee, I wrote a memoir and a historical fiction novel. An old college flame reignited, and we moved to the Pacific Northwest. Now, between editing indie authors and embracing the joy of being "Grammy," my story continues.

**JEFF GREEN:** After graduation I attended Canton ATC receiving a degree in agricultural engineering. I then married Kim Congleton, and we had two sons, David, and Evan. I worked at our family business, Chazy Orchards, for 22 years. Kim and I separated and were divorced in 1996. I was fortunate enough to meet Rini and we married in 1996. With our marriage I gained two bonus children, Tia and Nick. My brother Tre' returned to the Orchard in 1995 and after 4 years Rini and I found it necessary to leave. In 1999, I found employment at Wyeth where I continued to work until they closed in 2018. With Wyeth/Pfizer's closure I returned to Chazy Orchards which was now owned by the Giroux family. I remained there for 5 years and decided to retire fully in 2022. We are now enjoying our four, almost five grandkids and RV camping.

**LEO GUAY:** In 1974, I enlisted in the Army in the delayed entry program with official entry in October 1975 and served 3 years active duty. As a civilian, I started working at Harris Graphics as a machinist and was promoted to machine tool supervisor. When the company moved, I then worked for Velan Valve in Williston. VT for 2.5 years then moved to Georgia Pacific. In 1998, I left the area to work at Orgichem in Rensselaer. NY as a mechanical maintenance supervisor for 6.5 years. In my next adventure, I worked for Crystal Clean as branch manager for 14.5 years. I finally went to work at Bimbo Bakery as a maintenance supervisor in the bread plant. Shortly after starting there, I was diagnosed with IPF lung disease and had a lung transplant on February 6, 2022, which has been successful. During all this time, I married my soulmate and love, Bernadette.

**KIM HOBSON-GRAVES:** I went to Plattsburgh State and in May 1979, I quickly discovered a 4-year degree in psychology required additional education. I figured I would work for a year and save up to get my Masters, but life has a way of veering off course. In 1981, I married Tom Graves and in 1986 we had a son, Thomas. When Tommy was ten, we started a small lawn mowing and garden business, "Mother & Son Lawn & Garden" which we ran successfully for 9 years until Tommy went off to college, so I headed back to an office job. When I was 18 and leaving the security of a small school, I wanted lots of excitement. Fifty years later, I have come to realize that an ordinary life with adventures is enough when you have family and friends to go through it all with, which is what life is all about.

**KAREN HUGHES-ANDERSON:** After graduation, I started working at Merkel's Department store and graduated from Clinton Community College. I married my high school sweetheart and began working at Eye Care for the Adirondacks. I remained there for 23 years as their clinic manager. We built a home in West Chazy and purchased Liberty's Garage Inc. in Peru in 1995. We sold our home in West Chazy in 2015 and built a new home on Lake Shore Road. I lost Jim shortly after moving in. I successfully ran the business in Peru after his death for 7 years with great staff. I sold it in 2023 and retired. Met my second husband in 2022 and was introduced to travel. We have traveled extensively domestically and internationally in the past two years. I also acquired two adult children and a charming granddaughter. I am enjoying retirement reading, boating, hiking, travel, and trips to visit the "California kids."

**KAREN KELLEY JENNETTE:** After graduation I took the position Bookkeeper at North End Repair Shop for 2-1/2 years. Dale Jennette and I got married in November 1977. In 1978 I started working at Mousseau Pharmacy, Inc. where I remained until they closed in 1998. While at Mousseau's I became a Certified Mastectomy Fitter and Orthopedic Appliance Tech as well as the Home Health Care Manager. I also worked in AP/AR, as a Pharmacy Technician, handled third party insurance billings, retail and pharmacy stock ordering. After the pharmacy closed, I took numerous small jobs while searching for my niche. In 1998 I began my career as an Administrative Assistant at The ARC of New York, Clinton County Chapter and retired in June of 1998 due to Dale's illness. Dale passed away on November 15, 2022. I now spend my time between tending my property and gardens and volunteering at CVPH Surgical Waiting.

**DIANE LAURIN:** After graduation, I attended SUNY Morrisville. While there I was an associate editor for both the yearbook and college magazine. I graduated with degrees in Journalism and Natural Resources Conservation. Both majors provided wonderful opportunities and experiences. After graduation, I returned home where I worked with my parents in their business. Shortly after, I was offered a position in Oneida, NY and I moved to Rome and worked for a newspaper as a reporter/photographer. Later, I moved back to the area and took a position at CVPH Medical Center. I held several positions at the hospital. My last position was as a financial advocate in the Fitzpatrick Cancer Center where I met some of the most courageous, compassionate, and positive people. I retired in 2020 after 40 years.

**MARK LAURIN:** After high school, I attended Albany College of Pharmacy. In 1978, I married my best friend and true love, Lynda Bechard. In 1981, we moved to Queensbury, NY. I accepted a position with Rite Aide Pharmacy. November of 1987, I went to work for Price Chopper Supermarkets as they were just starting to add pharmacies to some of their stores. I spent the next 33 years working at Price Chopper holding many different job titles until I retired in April 2020. During those years, Lynda and I traveled with our favorite spot being Disney World. We took many cruises and camped in our RV. On July 1, 2024, Lynda passed away after fighting a long illness with Interstitial Lung Disease, just prior to our 46<sup>th</sup> wedding Anniversary, which broke my heart. I still travel, visit family/friends, camp and play golf. I look forward to seeing everyone after a quick 50 years.

**SHARON LAURIN:** I joined the workforce right after my January graduation. I married Dominic. My best job was becoming a mom to my 2 wonderful sons, Dan and David. Dominic and I parted ways after 10 years. Dan and I started school the same day. BOCES LPN program began my nursing career. CVPH was my home for many years. I became an RN at CCC while continuing to work. My career consisted of hospital, office, and home care nursing. Special thanks to Mrs. Bordeau for guiding me toward a special career. I am retired now due to an injury that sidelined me. Things sometimes happen beyond our control. I became a caregiver, along with my three sisters, to our parents at the end of their lives. I am now enjoying retirement crafting, attending concerts, being a grandma and spending time with family and friends. Life has been a rollercoaster, but I survived the ride!

**DENNIS LAVALLEY:** After graduation, I attended Clinton Community College in the fall for accounting. After Clinton Community College, I started working for the Green family at Chazy Orchards to learn the Apple business. I worked there for 18 years. I then tried a new adventure and started working at Georgia-Pacific in Plattsburgh for 15 years. In 2011, I returned to Chazy Orchards working for the Giroux family. In 2024, I semi-retired, and I am still working for Chazy Orchards. I met my wife Gail Reyell in 2012, and we got married in 2016. I have two daughters, Ashley who is deceased, Lindsay, husband Jon and their daughter Harper. A son Garrett, wife Cara, their son Everett and daughter Mavery. We are enjoying our extra time with our family, the grandchildren, and traveling as much as possible. Our latest adventure was Hawaii. We are fortunate that we can travel and enjoy life!

**SUE LEZON:** Since 1975 I've had the opportunity to study theater and art with mentors that I can never adequately thank, gotten a couple of college degrees, taught fine art photography at several universities in New England, worked as an archaeological photographer in Tunisia, Israel, Turkey, and Egypt, driven an old Land Rover somewhat recklessly in the Sahara, avoided being bitten by an angry cobra, exhibited photographs in galleries around the world, and fallen in and out of love several times. I recently retired from teaching photography for over 20 years in the art department at SUNY, Plattsburgh. My life, so far, has been rich and full. I still travel to Egypt several times each year to work on an archaeological expedition there. The best part of all of this? None of the above. My family of friends is what truly feeds my soul. May we all be so fortunate.

**JAMES LUNDY AND NICOLE VILLAMAIRE LUNDY:** You might remember, Nicky and I met in our senior year. Little did we know that would turn into a lifetime of love and adventure. In 1977 we got married at Sacred Heart and three weeks later moved to Santa Barbara, CA for college. In December of 1979, with a Bachelor of Arts, we returned to Chazy. In March of 1980 we had our son, Greg. In 1981 we welcomed our daughter Meghann. 1984 brought us back up North - we moved to Pittsford, Vermont where I worked as Marketing Director of Pico Ski Resort, and Nicky continued nursing in Rutland. In 1986 I was offered the job of Marketing Director of Chittenden Bank, and moved to Underhill, Vermont. It was a wonderful time of our lives: it's where our kids went to school, where we skied and spent summer days on the lake, and where we all grew up together. In 2000, following the death of Nicky's dad, we moved back to Chazy to be closer to her mother. During that time, our kids went to college - Greg at Maine Maritime Academy and Meghann at the UNH. Nicky and I were very involved in the North Country Mission of Hope. We both did several trips to Nicaragua experiencing the sadness and joy of the poor of Managua. In 2003 both Meghann and Greg graduated. Greg was commissioned an Ensign in the Navy and Meghann went to the Department of Defense in Washington. In 2010 we moved to Virginia to be closer to the kids. Meghann married in 2009, Greg in 2011. Meg has two daughters. Greg has three children. Our life truly has been one of adventure. When we dated, we would dream of traveling and seeing the world, and thanks to God we have been able to.

**PAUL MATOTT:** After graduation, I stayed working on the family farm. In August of 1978, I got married and divorced in 1985. We had two children, Leo (46) and Jamie (44). I moved back in with my parents and raised my kids. I now have four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. In 1990 I took over the farm, retiring in 2002. I now help my sister with her vegetable garden and green house.

**ROBERT (BOBBY) MENARD:** I married my wife Jacqueline Castine, better known as Sandy, in 1983. Our first daughter, Sarah, was born in 1981. After I married, I bought my father's farm and my wife and I took on the business. We had our second daughter, Victoria, in 1988. As of February 2023, I sold my cows, and I am now raising beef and doing crops. Although I am not as busy anymore, I was gifted six beautiful grandchildren: five girls and one boy. My two daughters are very successful women and are pursuing their ideal careers as a nurse practitioner and an elementary school teacher. My oldest granddaughter is starting her journey with a new car and job. I love my wife, daughters and grandchildren and can't wait to spend more time with them. Life has been good

**GAIL PERRY BOWMAN:** After graduation I worked at Grand Union as Cashier. In June 1977 I married Steve Bowman, an active-duty member of the Air Force. In March of 1979 we welcomed our son Eric. In September 1981 we welcomed our daughter Alyse. In 1983 we began our travels. We went to Japan, Florida, and Virginia. When Steve retired in 1994, and we returned to the North Country to build our life here. Our children graduated from CCRS. After working for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals for 14 1/2 years, I resigned to pursue my dream of owning and operating a family diner. Steve retired in August 2021 after 18 years serving as Director of the Veterans Service Agency for Clinton County. After 16 years of owning “Best Friends” diner, I retired. We enjoy traveling, especially visiting our daughter and her family in Maryland. In June 24 of this year, we will celebrate 48 years of marriage.

**TOM RICE:** After graduation, I attended SUNY Plattsburgh to pursue a BS degree in Business Administration and to continue my basketball career on the men's team. I graduated in 1979 and was hired by the State Bank of Albany into their Management Training Program in Albany, NY and pursued a career in commercial finance. Forty years later, I retired as SVP and Regional Commercial Real Estate Loan Manager. During my tenure, I primarily worked for three banking organizations that, through mergers and acquisitions, are now known as Bank of America, TDBank and NBT Bank. My entire career was spent in the Capital Region of NYS. I am blessed with two children, Kristen and Eric, and four grandchildren. My grandkids and my special needs dog keep me busy in retirement. I kept myself active during my adult years playing basketball in various men's leagues in the Capital Region and skiing with friends and family at many NYS and Vermont ski centers.

**JAMES RILEY:** After graduating in 1975, I spent 3 years in Sugarloaf, Maine, setting up racecourses on the mountain, working in restaurants, skiing as much as possible, and eating lots of lobster! I then attended SUNY, Oswego and received my B.A. in Industrial Arts. I've had wonderful times traveling in England, Scotland, France, and Egypt. While in Egypt, I worked with Sue Lezon in Luxor for the University of Chicago on an archaeological expedition. I assisted with photographic documentation of two temples and helped design and build storage for stone blocks belonging to ancient Egyptian monuments. I feel fortunate to have had that eye-opening experience. I have also been a building contractor in Chazy, Boston, and Florida and have designed and built several homes. I am now retired and living a quiet life in Chazy, doing woodwork and recovering from a knee replacement. Looking forward to seeing you all at the reunion.

**KATHY RUSHFORD:** After graduation I worked at HL Greens Dept Store. I got married in 1977 and divorced in 1982. I purchased three lots on Dunn Road and built my log cabin. I worked at Imperial Wallpaper for almost 13 years until they closed. My daughter was born in 1994. Since then, I worked small jobs until hired at Wyeth in Rouses Point but ended up in Chazy. When Pfizer took over, I took a severance package. I worked there for 14 years. Rented my home on Dunn Road and moved to my parents' place when they passed. My boyfriend of 35 years and I bought 4 more lots on Dunn Road. We are both retired and enjoy our separate hobbies. I go camping with the girls, love to kayak and purchased a lightweight canoe. My precious granddaughter was born in 2023 and I plan on traveling with her when she is older.

**RALPH SOUZA:** After high school, I went to Canton ATC and graduated in 1977 and then spent one year at Cornell University. While working various jobs, I was involved in Chazy and Black River Fire Departments. In 1985, I moved to Westfield, MA. In 1988, after a couple of different jobs, I became the physical plant manager of Bridgeport National Bindery, retiring from there in January 2023. During my time in Westfield, I was a member and involved in Westfield Evangelical Free Church for many years. Now I am a member of Hope Community Church where I continue to be involved. I got married in 1981. My wife and I have six boys, and 10 grandchildren. Now that I'm retired, I enjoy spending time with my wife and working on my hobbies including reading, cooking, catering, puzzle making, and woodworking.

**SKYE SPIEGEL-HARRINGTON:** In 1975, I attended Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. Brian LaDue and I obtained Associate of Art degrees from Lake Placid School of Art in 1978. I married in 1978, moved to June Lake, California, returned to NYS Alfred University as a photography assistant, earning a BFA in 1981. I separated and returned to Alfred for a teaching degree. My many jobs included photographer at Miner Institute, Elementary Art in Vermont, Wedding Photographer, a 2nd sabbatical and opened Out of the Blue Tanning Salon in Rouses Point. In 1990, I was engaged to Olin Harvey and we had a beautiful son, Dana Jamison Spiegel. Dana has a lovely wife Kayla and my four amazing grandsons: Jayden, Ian, Jackson, and Maverick. I worked at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals for 19 years. In 2007 I received Masters in Teaching and Learning with Technology; and in 2012 CV-TEC (Cont.)



Cosmetology degree: opening Skies Cutting Edge Design Studio. I met Nate Harrington in 2003, married, bought a home, recently retired to Lady Lake, Florida and will summer on our fishing boat "Bourbon & Cohibas".

**HEATHER STEVENSON:** After graduation, I attended SUNY New Paltz for 2 years. I withdrew in late 1976 and moved to San Francisco. I moved back to NY in 1979, to be closer to my family and finish my BA. That done, I bought a tent and a backpack and backpacked my way through Europe. Upon arriving back in the US, I took a job with a permit service in Manhattan. In 1992, I went back to school and got a degree in programming for business applications and became the IT and finance manager for a healthcare company. Over the years, I worked for St. Vincent's Hospital, NY Presbyterian, and the New York Foundling Hospital. I bought a condo in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina in 2014 and retired at 63, selling my NY house and moving to South Carolina. My health has been very good, and I am enjoying retirement.

**KATHY THIBAUT BARNES:** Rick and I were married September 18, 1976. I then attended Our Lady of Victory Business School. After graduation I worked at Condo Pharmacy in Plattsburgh until our first son Jim was born in 1980, followed by Tom in 1982. I was a stay-at-home mom until the boys started school. I then went back to work, eventually ending up at Delagar/Belcam Inc. where I stayed for 29 years until retiring in 2018. Rick is still working with no plans on retiring any time in the future. We remained in Chazy and are fortunate to have both our sons and their families living close by with our four granddaughters ages 9 to 18. They make life interesting!

**JAN TROMBLY:** How blessed were we to grow up in Chazy? Always surrounded by friends and cousins, ready to ride bikes, play baseball, volleyball, or tag. My brothers challenged me to play basketball in the driveway, my parents pushed me into trying a camp and the rest is history. After graduation I attended Old Dominion University and received an undergraduate and graduate degree in education. I've traveled the world, won three national basketball championships, won a gold medal in the Empire State games and World Championships, competed in the 1984 Olympics and loved every minute of it. I am now retired from my personal training business and own two gyms. I plan to spend my summers in Chazy, riding bikes and enjoying life.

**BRENDA TRUE-PHANEUF:** This Air Force brat transferred to Chazy in my Junior year. I began teaching riding, with 22 horses and 18 students. As this dream became reality, I became an instructor at Miner Institute teaching Plattsburgh State students, or shall I say "they taught me" for eleven years. I married my high school sweetheart "Bo Bo" Bruce Phaneuf, was an EMT and firewoman for Chazy Fire Department, bought a partially burnt home on 4 acres and obtained my RN degree. I worked at Wyeth Pharmaceuticals in animal research for 2 years which I did not like. So, I went to Rouses Point working in Microbiology, then Premarin Investigation team finishing my career with Pfizer. I went back to school for my Vet. Tech degree becoming a "Nurse for All Species." With our Class B van, we are heading to Texas, Omaha, and discovering our country.

**JERRY VALADE:** I'm a graduate of SUNY Canton and Clarkson University with an Engineering degree. I worked in construction for a few years after college and joined the Army in 1982. I served for thirteen years and retired in 1995. I joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1996 as a Civil Engineer and worked in New Jersey and Thule, Greenland. In 2005 we moved to Adams Center, NY and worked on Ft Drum until I retired in December 2024. I also operated a custom cabinet and furniture shop.

**BARRY WEEDEN:** After graduation, I went into farming at my uncle's farm. During my time there I met my wife-to-be, Julie Duve. We were married in September of 1979 and will be celebrating 46 years of marriage this anniversary. We have two children, Nathan and Gabrielle, and 3 grandchildren. I stayed in farming until 1994 when I answered God's call into the ministry. I went to work at UPS while growing in what the Lord had called me to be and eventually was ordained a minister of the Gospel. I retired from UPS in 2020. Now I go around helping my son and daughter along with others while continuing to grow in what God has called me to be, which I've come to realize is a lifelong venture.

#### **IN MEMORIAM FROM THE CLASS OF 1975**

**JOAN BOYD-BUSKEY: (1956-2003)** After graduation, Joan, married James Buskey on November 15, 1975. They had 4 children, James, John, Jerrard, and Joline. Joan was a stay-at-home mom until Joline started HeadStart in September of 1983. Joan became employed for several years (1983-1992) through JCEO HeadStart as a cook and teachers' aide. She also worked at the JCEO outreach center in Saranac. Joan worked until she became very ill in 1992 with diabetes and several heart attacks. In 1988, she also became a member of the Knights of (Cont.)

Columbus Lady's auxiliary in Dannemora. Joan left there in 1993 when her family moved to Schuyler Falls when she became disabled. During this time, she spent precious time with her 2 grandsons Zackery and Adam. On February 3, 2003, Joan succumbed to her illness and passed away at home with family and Hospice by her side. She is survived by her 4 children, grandchildren and 2 brothers Gary and Bruce.

**JEAN LUCIEN DIONNE: (1957-2008)** After graduating from CCRS, "John" attended Plattsburgh State majoring in English and Psychology while working at Georgia Pacific. After receiving his B.A., he worked at Upward Bound and various nursing homes. He accepted a position in Chicago, IL for the department of Social Security and Railroad Retirement. After several years, he requested a transfer to Michigan for the country life. He worked in North Bay, WI and Gladstone, MI where he had a country home by a river for kayaking. There he met his wife, Cheryl, and they got married in 1984, and moved to Scotia, NY to be closer to his family. There, he changed jobs to working for the US Postal Service. In 1990, they were blessed with twins, Thomas and Laura. They made a final move back to Michigan and their third child, Cara, was born. Ever the mountain climber, he took vacation in the Smokey Mountains but never forgot his Adirondacks.

**JAMES DRAGOON: (1957-2001)** Jim was a proud graduate of CCRS and BOCES. He was always good with his hands and knew how to fix things. This served him well with jobs and hobbies. If it had a motor, he was on it - snowmobile, motorcycle, or jet ski! He moved to Boston to work and live with his sister, Jan. Needing a change of scenery, he moved to Jacksonville, Florida. There he met Arlene and became a father to their daughter, Angel, and stepson, Kirk. They moved back to Chazy where they welcomed another daughter, Devonne. His relationship with Arlene ended, however, the children lived with him on Lake Shore Road. He continued to learn to become a licensed welder. The last years of his life he worked at Bombardier Corporation. He was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 2001 and passed away, age 44, on Dec 27, 2001.

**GARY DUCHARME: (1957-2013)** After graduation he moved to Texas and worked in an Auto Parts store. He returned to Chazy a few years later and worked at NAPA and then in the service department of an auto dealership for a few years before heading south to Florida, once again working at an auto parts store. He returned to Chazy in 1990 or 1991. After working for a cleaning service company, he decided to start his own cleaning service. He enjoyed camping and loved his Rottweilers. In April 2013 he entered his final journey to the other side.

**NEIL HUGHES:** I could write a book about Neil because he was the life of every party. Neil loved to have a good time and his love of history, music and humor was infectious. After graduating, Neil relocated to Manhattan and lived most of his adult life there where he attended more rock and roll concerts than anyone I've ever known. Neil worked as a horse and carriage driver in Manhattan and then worked for the Javits Center where he eventually retired. He moved to Plattsburgh, NY to be closer to his sister and passed away shortly after in 2011. When I was a teenager, Neil was left with the task of babysitting me (his niece). I wanted to throw a party in which Neil immediately obliged indicating he only had three rules: one, I was not allowed to break any windows, two, I could not set the house on fire and three, nobody could touch his beer. You can't forget an uncle like that.

**DALE JENNETTE: (1957-2022)** After graduation Dale took a position at Bay View Dairy where he worked his way to Plant Manager and remained there until 1986. He married Karen Kelley in 1977. In 1986 he accepted a position at NYSDOCS at Clinton Correctional Facility eventually transferring to Altona Correctional where he remained until his retirement in 2016 due to severe medical issues that prevented him from performing the duties of his job. Dale was always very involved in Chazy and then West Chazy Volunteer Fire Departments. He was awarded Clinton County EMT of the Year in 1994 for his part in "renewing a man's lease on life". He also taught EMT and Life Saving Skills at Clinton Community College in the late 80's and early 90's. He was also a recipient of CCRS Alumnus of the Year Award in 1994. From April 2015 to November 2022 Dale spent most of his time in hospitals and rehabs until his untimely death in 2022.

**BRIAN LADUE: (1957-2000)** After graduating from high school, Brian went to Lake Placid School of Art for 2 years and got a degree. He then went on to Alfred University and continued his love for art, earning another degree. After graduating, Brian moved back to Chazy to join the family business, Chazy Hardware. Together with his brothers and parents they grew the business and opened a store in Rouses Point. Through all this Brian crossed paths with Yvonne. They got married and had a son, Jordan and a daughter, Abby. His love and passion for his family was second to none. He strived for perfection in everything he did. He was a man of many talents. (Cont.)



On April 7th, 2000, Brian was killed in a tragic accident. His death left a very big hole in his family's lives. He will always be remembered as a loving husband, father, son, and brother.

**GEORGE POISSANT: (1957-1987)** Laughing every day makes you want to get up in the morning. This describes exactly how George Poissant lived his short life. From holding Billy's hand when Billy thought it was Jan's, to teaching his older sister Brenda to drive (straight into the garage door), to tormenting his siblings Joe (Mike) and Lynn, to stuffing curly Cheetos up his nose, George always had a grin on his face because he was always up to something. George loved sports and excelled in them all and loved being part of a team. After graduation, George had a few odd jobs but finally settled into Corrections. While living in the Glens Falls area he met his beautiful sweetheart, and future wife Kelly Hayes. He later transferred to Dannemora. George and Kelly had a beautiful baby girl, Brittany. Brittany now has four children: twin teenage girls, and two sons. George loved his family dearly and they carry him always in their hearts.

**Additional members of the class** – Thomas Bechard, Linda Bourgeois, Allan Favreau, Deborah LaPier, Kimberlee LeClair, Lynn Legault, Peter Parker, Dominic Perry, Donna Rock, Dixie Smith, Diane Stratton, Sandra Stratton, William Sweet, Marcie Trombly, Cheryl Trombly



Rita Trombly Fessette 1945  
Ann West Ryan 1952  
Jane Fulton Hess 1953  
Nancy Ladue Linney 1954  
Mary Lou Russo McKinney 1954  
Nancy Cheesman 1956

Richard Dodds 1957  
Joanne P. Trombly Calkins 1961  
Patricia Gray Coulombe 1962  
William J. Gregware, Sr. 1965  
Irene Ackey Wray 1966  
Alan D. Bechard 1967

Nancy Hubbell Lay 1972  
Maureen F. Riley Karig 1974  
Eric Russell 1997  
Jay Anderson 1999  
Nicole Pankhurst 1999

## THE CCRS DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The 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. The Annual Newsletters are up to date on the website from 2014-present. [www.ccrsk12.org](http://www.ccrsk12.org) click on Community>Alumni>Newsletter Visit any time. There is a great deal of history available at your finger tips. Take a stroll into the past today.

## CHAZY LIONS CLUB 58<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OLD HOME DAY

Sunday July 27, 2025 - Starts at noon

Chicken or Barbecued Beef Dinners – Take out available  
Live music, vendors, hamburgers, sausages, fries and more.



### Alumni Association Financial Report 2025

#### REVENUE

Dues.....	\$1,920.00
Dinner.....	\$3,090.00
Scholarship.....	\$1,620.00
<b>Total Income.....</b>	<b>\$6,630.00</b>

#### EXPENSES

Rainbow Banquet Hall....	\$2,525.00
Yearbook and Ads.....	\$87.40
Stamps.....	\$89.76
Stationary.....	\$293.21
Print Newsletter.....	\$796.56
Alumni Tea.....	\$68.90
Thank you gifts.....	\$200.00

#### DONATIONS

Presbyterian Church for Jane Hess Memorial.....	\$100.00
CCRS Model UN.....	\$100.00
CCRRS After Prom Party..	\$100.00
Scholarships (2 @ \$750).....	\$1500.00
<b>Total Expenses.....</b>	<b>\$5,860.83</b>

### 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 find 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 the annual school budget.

[www.ccrsef.com](http://www.ccrsef.com)



#### 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 Trombley '15

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

## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

*The Alumni Association is looking to share any and all news from our illustrious graduates.*

*Please share your news by emailing [AlumniAssociationCCRS@outlook.com](mailto:AlumniAssociationCCRS@outlook.com).*

SUNY Fredonia Coach PJ Gondek (1989) presented a sweatshirt to his former coach and mentor George Brendler on the occasion of Coach Brendler's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Ava Mcauliffe (2024) set a running record in track and field for Iona University.

Richard West (1954) is honored by NYS Representative Billy Jones with a proclamation from the New York State Assembly for service.

Janice A. (Trombly) Merry (1972) published her third and fourth book in 2024.

Kyle Congleton (1981) was promoted to Academy Director of Augusta United Soccer Club.

Lee Munson (1991) was named Firefighter of the Year for Morrisonville Fire Department.

Nancy (Powers) Vesco (1977) retires with her husband from their business Vesco Ridge Vineyards.

Saania (Duprey) Brindisi (2005) was the subject of an article about her employment at CCRS in the Chamber of Commerce's magazine *Strictly Business*.

Stephanie (Brown) Manor (1976) opened a new business in Champlain, NY.

Tim Doran (1976) announced his retirement from Customs and Border Protection.

Questions??? Need to contact the Association??? We're always available  
at: **[AlumniAssociationCCRS@outlook.com](mailto:AlumniAssociationCCRS@outlook.com)**

# REGISTRATION FOR ALUMNI WEEKEND

## PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE!

RSVP BY JUNE 11, 2025

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 \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CHOOSE ONE (X): ☐ I AM ENCLOSING ANNUAL DUES (\$20.00)  
☐ I AM ENCLOSING A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (\$100.00)  
☐ I AM ALREADY A LIFETIME MEMBER

AMOUNT INCLUDED FOR DUES

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

**DUES FOR EACH ALUMNI MUST BE PREPAID (EITHER ANNUAL OR LIFETIME) TO ATTEND THE ALUMNI BANQUET. ALL IN ATTENDANCE AT THE BANQUET MUST PRE-PAY. WALK-INS CAN NOT BE ACCOMMODATED AT THE BANQUET AS PER THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FACILITY.**

NUMBER ATTENDING THE BANQUET:

\$30.00 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of alumni

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of guests

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL NUMBER ATTENDING X\$30.00 =

AMOUNT INCLUDED FOR BANQUET

DONATION TO THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND - **Note to parents regarding scholarship eligibility:** In order to apply for an Alumni Scholarship the parent/guardian of the student must be a paid member of the Alumni Association of CCRS for three years prior to the student's application and be a member in good standing the year of graduation. All dues must be paid by December 31 of the four years.

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

AMOUNT INCLUDED FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

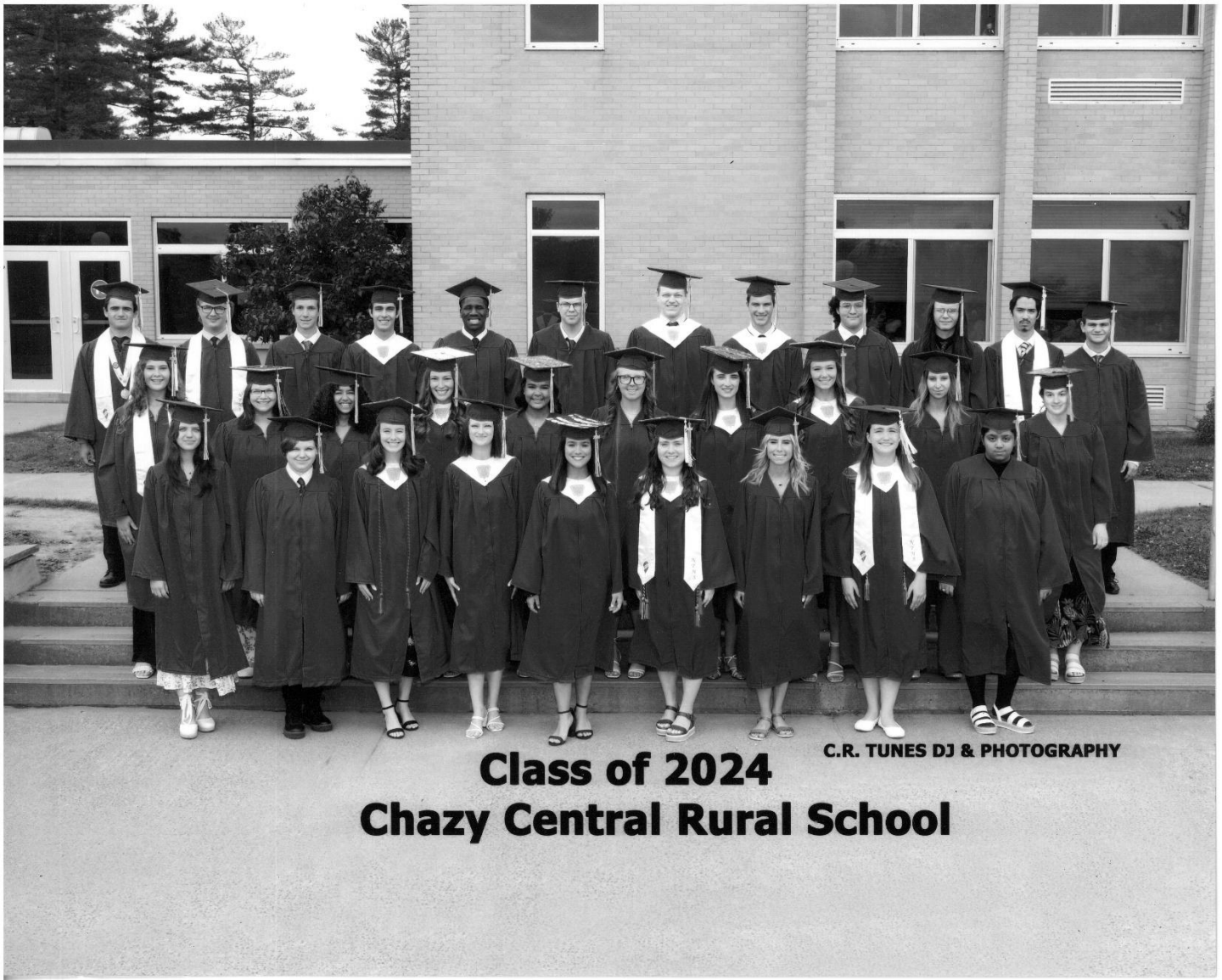
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

# 2024 Alumni

Tess Blair  
Avery Bochart  
Rayna Boutin  
Gabrielle Braun  
Abigail Bushey  
Shyloh Carroll  
Gisselle Castro  
Lexi Clark  
Caden Columbus  
Chase Dickerson

Evan Dwyer  
Zamir Foster  
Landan Frenyea  
Samantha Gonyo-LaFountain  
Elexia Hunyor  
Jordan Juneau  
Audrey Langlois  
Yasmine Lawrence  
Tayla Lewis  
Julia Lynch

Chance Mayo  
Dylan McAfee  
Ava McAuliffe  
Payton McIntyre  
Shawn McKinney  
Isaac Merrill  
Hannah Rabideau  
Hailey Reynolds  
Robert Trombly  
Kassidy Turek  
Isabelle Vesneske



**Class of 2024**  
**Chazy Central Rural School**

C.R. TUNES DJ & PHOTOGRAPHY

## ***ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BANQUET 2024 AWARDEES***

**Alumna of the Year Award – Kim Neverett Howley '74**

**Alumnus Service Award – John Saxe '80**