

ALUMNI NEWS

S. H. Calhoun High School Alumni Association

Join Us!

To join the S. H. Calhoun Alumni High School Association online, go to calhounalumni.com

OR

Complete and mail in the membership form on page 5.



A Welcoming Note from our Co-Presidents

Welcome to the first issue of the S. H. Calhoun High School Alumni Association's newsletter. We officially came into existence almost 4 years ago when a group of dedicated alumni from the early '60s, the 70s, and '80s banded together to create the association. In addition to officers and a board of directors, we have volunteers who help on various committees so we can all continue to create a vibrant alumni community.

Each year we have presented scholarships to graduating seniors. The CAA also sponsors two events every year: the FAT (Friday After Thanksgiving) Party and the Day at the Races, which is usually held every spring. We have also been part of, and have supported, a variety of events at Calhoun, which we hope to expand as our Alumni Association grows.

Visit us on Facebook or on our website (calhounalumni.com). Membership is \$25, with the option to make an additional donation. Whether you live locally or are thousands of miles away, you can help us with your time and talent. In order for us to succeed, we need alumni to join, provide contact information, volunteer and support the association in any way you can. Spread the word and get back on the Calhoun Colts Trail.

We would love to hear from you. Send us your stories and pictures! Email us at calhounnewsletter@gmail.com.

We look forward to adding you to our Alumni Family!

Phyllis Guttilla '73 and Donovan Berthoud '75

Alert: There are other sites that want you to believe that they are associated with the Calhoun High School Alumni Association by offering membership and memorabilia.

CalhounAlumni.com is the official site of our alumni association.



Alumni News

Volume 1 March 2015

Publisher

S. H. Calhoun High School
Alumni Association
56 State Street
Merrick, New York 11566

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Marcia Laskin Gould '61

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From the Principal's Desk

(Editor's Note: Nicole Hollings was appointed principal July 2014)

Students who are engaged in their school perform better academically — and Calhoun provides the opportunities for this to happen. When I first joined the Calhoun community five years ago as assistant principal, I was impressed with the strength of the diverse learning experiences students have here. Academic opportunities span the range from very rigorous college preparatory courses to support services for special needs students— all aimed at helping students reach their full potential. The quality of the fine and performing arts programs are arguably among the best that exist anywhere. The athletics program encourages students to excel at sports, be a part of a team and learn the importance of teamwork, cooperation, determination, and dedication. And, after-school clubs help students find community service opportunities, share common interests, and further their leadership skills.

I hope that you, our alumni, look back on your Calhoun experience with fondness and also support our desire to continue to give students a wide range of learning experiences. I was very involved when I went to high school; I was very involved as a teacher at Mepham for sixteen years; and when I came to Calhoun, I quickly became involved in helping to further improve the diversity of learning experiences offered to our students. Now, as principal, I want students to graduate with a tremendous sense of pride in their high school and feel that they are a part of something great.

As a result of the bond proposal passed last year, many improvements in the physical plant have already taken place, and more are to come in the next three years which will assure that our students get the best educational experience possible. Our commitment is to make sure that students have the high school experience that supports them academically, socially, and emotionally. We can say with confidence that our students will graduate ready for the next part of their life's journey. I look forward to working with the alumni association to further our common goals.

Nicole Hollings, Principal

Attend Our Annual Events

The CAA sponsors two events each year. In the fall, the **Annual Friday After Thanksgiving (FAT) Party** is held in a venue in the Merrick area. The entry fee is always low and the party informal.

In the spring, it's off to **A Day at the Races** held either at Aqueduct or Belmont Race Track. The cost of the day includes lunch and a tour of the stables.

Check back at CalhounAlumni.com and visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/SH.CAA.

Let's Expand Our Membership : Join US!!!!

We did it! The S.H. Calhoun High School Alumni Association started when a group of us from the first graduating classes of '60 and '61 joined forces with graduates from the mid-70s to create a common mission and to become a not-for-profit organization.

Our first goal is to publish a newsletter twice a year, to get our new website up and running, to greatly expand our database, and to increase our membership. Our second goal is to increase the number and the dollar amount of our alumni awards to graduating seniors and to create scholarships. And our long-term goal is to help underwrite special projects in the high school that ordinarily would not be in the school's operating budget. These are ambitious plans.

And that's where you come in! Your annual membership will make a tremendous difference!!! With your help we can accomplish all of this. The more quickly alumni join, the more quickly it will happen.

We want to get the word out about what the

CAA and its membership are doing, alert alumni about reunions, and include information about what is happening at the high school. We will use this newsletter, Facebook, and our our soon to be completed new website to do this.

Once a year we hope to mail the Fall issue of the newsletter. (A much longer Spring issue will be on our new website.) It may be hard to believe that in this age of electronic communication we want to use "snail mail", but that is the best way to keep in touch and update our database. (Email addresses change all the time; home addresses are usually stable for years on end.)

The CAA wants to raise most of its funds annually through membership and donations to be made at the time of joining. By donating \$25 or more over the cost of membership, you will be mentioned in following year's Fall issue which will be sent out to everyone on our database. Please use the enclosed form and envelope to join the S.H. Calhoun High School Alumni Association and get on the Calhoun Colts Trail. Thanks for your participation!

Our Thanks to...

The Classes of 1960 and 1961 who provided \$3,000 in seed money for the establishment of the Association....**David Seinfeld**, former Principal at Calhoun and currently Assistant Superintendent in Instruction, for his support and assistance with our Association from its inception and for giving us the opportunity to reach out to the Calhoun community.... **Gary Contessa '75**, who has worked with the Association to help organize and defray the costs of the CAA's annual "Day at the Races" event, held at either Belmont or Aqueduct Race Track ...

Terry Karl '73, for creating and submitting all the

documents, by-laws, and paperwork necessary for incorporating the CAA in New York State and for obtaining our 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status from the IRS, a process that has become more complicated since 9/11. Terry also absorbed some of the fees associated with this process... **Richard Stoecker**, who served as our Recording Secretary for the past three years... **Lauren Johnson-May '87** who designed the CAA logo and to **our Officers, Board of Directors, and volunteers** who continue to work with the S. H. Calhoun HS Alumni Association, Inc.

What's New at School

Calhoun High is undergoing approximately \$10M in renovations, repairs, and improvements to its infrastructure over a three-year period which started in the summer of 2014. Part of a larger bond proposal of \$49.864M (approved in December 2013) bringing improvements to all five schools in the district, almost 54% of this funding (\$26.984M) will be paid by the New York State School Building Program.

This is the first time since 1966 that the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District has issued a bond, and the first solely devoted to improving the infrastructure of its schools. Phase I, now completed at Calhoun, addressed three major areas: security, repair of classroom and the gymnasium floors, and the installation of artificial turf on the playing fields.

Expanded security measures will allow greater control over who enters the building. This includes card access control for all staff; a video intercom to screen visitors; increased video surveillance; a “door ajar” notification which will prevent doors from being propped open; a one-button lock down system; and the installation of strobe lights on the outside of the building to be used should there be a lock-down.

The asbestos floor tiling in fifteen class rooms was replaced with new vinyl tiles and the gym floor was sanded, damaged areas repaired, its lines repainted and then resealed — all ready for the new school year.

The most talked about upgrades in Phase I were the improvements to the playing fields at all five schools. Poor drainage resulting in muddy fields and the inability to effectively grow grass were the majors factors leading to the decision to upgrade to artificial turf.

Maintaining grass (and there was very little left in a wide and long swath of the football field at Calhoun) had become more difficult to do because many chemicals — fertilizer, herbicides and pesticides, once in common use — are either banned outright or their application severely limited by the NY State Education Department.

To see the Calhoun field, go to <http://www.bellmore-merrick.k12.ny.us>. Click on “Capital Projects Updates” and then click on the “September 2014 Capital Bond Project Slide Show”. Click on the July and August 2014 links for good visuals depicting what went into this project in photos of the same work at the other fields in the district.

Class Note: A Reunion and Romance Too

Reunions are a great place to rekindle old friendships, but they also can be where the unexpected occurs as well. Romance was the last thing on their minds when Jim Burdeshaw '74 and Denise Landi, who went to Brookside Middle School and now lived in upstate New York, attended the pre-party for the Multi-Year '70s Reunion in October 2011. Neither had known the other at Brookside, but after being introduced they danced (almost all night), chatted and found that they had many things in common — both were in the health field and shared many interests.

But the next night at the reunion, things seemed to slip away and they barely spent any time together at all. It seemed that this might turn out to be the romance that never was. But all of that changed a few weeks later when Denise emailed Jim, and this soon escalated to exchanging daily emails, to long phone calls and to making plans to get together. Soon after the FAT Party, the annual get-together of Calhoun alums the Friday After Thanksgiving Party, they were seeing each other regularly. By February 2012 they were engaged and in October 2012 they married!



SANFORD H. CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Membership Form

Join Us! Please fill out this form to join and support the efforts of the S. H. High School Alumni Association. Mail the form and your contribution to the S. H. Calhoun Alumni Association, C/O Calhoun High School, 1786 State Street, Merrick, NY 11566. **Please print clearly.**

Date _____

Name _____
(first name) (last name at graduation) (current last name if different)

Address _____
(street address) (apt no.) (city) (state and zip code)

Class of _____ Admin./Faculty Member (years) _____ Phone # _____

E-Mail _____

Membership Dues and Donations:

- **Membership dues are \$25 per year.**
- **Dues may be paid any time during the year. Your membership is good for one year from date of payment.**
- **Your check made out to S. H. Calhoun High School Alumni Association is your receipt.**
- **New graduates will be entitled to a free Membership good for one year after graduation.**
- **Additional donations of \$25 or more will be listed in the Alumni newsletter. This will help support the CAA and allow us to provide graduating seniors with scholarships.**

Additional Donation: \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 Other _____
Dues and donations are tax-deductible.

Send Us: Are you in touch with other alumni (any graduation class)? Please send us their names, addresses, phone #s and email addresses. Any information you can send is helpful. If you have reunion lists of names and addresses, please share it with us! Send to calhounnewsletter@gmail.com. Thanks!

**S. H. Calhoun Alumni Association
c/o Calhoun High School
1786 State Street
Merrick, New York 11566**



Service Change Requested

PLEASE HELP US

To The Resident:

If this addressee no longer lives at this address, please make the correction on the on this page and give to your mail carrier.

We thank you for your help.

Class Notes

We want to create a "Class Notes" section in our forthcoming issues. Please send us a short description of what you are doing these days, about 3 or 4 sentences in length to calhounnewsletter@gmail.com.

Spotlight on Our alumni

This would be a longer version of a class note, no more than 300 words, and could be accompanied by a photo. Here we are interested in your accomplishments, whether in your career, in community work, or a unique project in which you are involved. Send to calhounnewsletter@gmail.com.

A Walk Down Memory Lane

Share with us a memory from Calhoun/Merrick days. Max length is 300 words. Again, send to calhounnewsletter@gmail.com.

Upcoming Reunion

Tal's Music Program Reunion honoring S. Talbot Thayer to be held on Saturday, June 27th, 2015 at the Cure of Ars social hall. Cost is \$25/person. Send your check made out to Charlie Greco and mail to Charlie Greco, Select-A-Home, 324 Merrick Avenue, Merrick, New York 11566. Be sure to include your name, address, email address and phone number. Join "Tal's Choir Reunion" page on Facebook.

The Mephram/Calhoun Classes of 1960 and 1961 are having their 55/56th reunion in July 1016. Email Mep/Cal6061in2016@gmail.com for more information.