



Unatego Alumni Association

Letter from the President

By Keith Bachman

As our association continues to grow, we look to the future with the expectation of some new and exciting developments. We are reaching out to community groups and individuals with whom we can establish mutually beneficial relationships and create opportunities for collaboration.

Dick Downey, one of our board members, recently had an enjoyable and informative meeting with the Unadilla Rotary Club. Don Tuttle, Unadilla Historian, and Mary Butler, Otego Historian, have generously offered to provide articles for our newsletters about local history. Although we are all saddened by the loss of the Tri-Town News, we are pleased that Allison Collins has generously offered to stay on as editor of our newsletter. We are also glad to hear of efforts to re-establish Tri-Town News as an online publication.

Our commitment to the mission of supporting alumni friends, the students of the Unatego Central School, and our communities remains strong. We welcome all attendees and graduates of Unadilla, Otego, and Unatego Central School districts to join us. We are grateful for our current members and supporters and we thank you all for your support and interest in the association.

We continue to experience growth in alumni membership and interest in our all-classes reunion weekend festivities. We support more students with more scholarship funds, thanks to your support and the generosity of the Unadilla Central School Alumni Association, in which I hold membership.

We are having a great response to our appeal for candidates for the Unatego Central School District Hall of Distinction, a program we support, but with a selection committee separate from our board. New candidates are always welcome; the deadline for the 2021 induction is the end of February 2020.

Our alumni all-class reunion will be held the weekend of July 19, kicking off with a Friday night meet and greet at the Long River Inn in Unadilla. We are pleased to announce that the classes of 1974 and 1999 will hold reunion celebrations in conjunction with our all-class reunion activities this year.

The future looks bright for the Unatego Alumni Association and, with confidence and commitment to growth, I welcome your support for our alumni, students, school, and community. I hope you will join us at one of our events in the coming months and that you might consider new or renewed membership and ways to support our association.

“Try to be a rainbow in someone else’s cloud.”— Maya Angelou



The Class of 1983

Save the Date:

July 19: 4th Annual All-Class Reunion

Unatego Alumni Association Membership News:

The Unatego Alumni Association Board is working to grow the association in two related ways.

First, we are reaching out to all alumni to encourage them to support the association by becoming dues-paying members. Second, we are asking alumni to consider further aligning themselves with the association and its mission through service on standing committees.

Officials are seeking eligible candidates for the following committees:

- Finance Committee
- Membership Committee Alumni Programs
- Committee Awards/Scholarships Committee
- Newsletter Committee
- Archives Committee

If you believe you have the talent, energy and desire to step into a role of leadership within any of these committees, please consider exploring these options for serving the association.

We are also seeking class captains for every class. Find more information on page 3.

We welcome you to join us and help support the association’s mission to serve Unatego students, alumni, school and community. It is true that the wealth of our heritage and legacy can be found within the hearts, minds and deeds of those dedicated to making a difference.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Your Association Board of Directors

Unatego 'Thought Exchange'

To reach out to all stakeholders, the Unatego School District recently conducted a survey using Thought Exchange software. Participants answered questions anonymously online, then other participants saw responses and rated them according to personal importance.

There was one key question: What do you value most about Unatego and what would you like to see improved?

More than 300 teachers, community members and parents participated, along with 320-plus students in grades 5-12. Top thoughts were calculated, organized and shared with staff, students, community and the Board of Education.

Using survey results and other data, board members worked with district administrators to develop goals to help guide the district as it moves forward.

Here are the top thoughts regarding upcoming district goals.

Things adult participants most appreciate about Unatego:

- Teachers and staff
- District culture
- Student support and learning
- Curriculum and programming
- Communication

Top areas where adult participants would like to see improvement:

- Curriculum and programming
- Discipline and bullying
- Building and facilities
- Staff supports and improvements
- District culture

Student respondents appreciated:

- Curriculum and programming
- Interscholastic athletics
- Extra help periods during the school day and after school
- Free breakfast and lunch for all students
- Teachers and staff

Students would like to see improvements in:

- Bullying
- Building and facilities
- Quality of food in the cafeteria
- Quantity of tests
- School funding



Association Officers

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The full results of the survey are available at
<http://unatego.thoughtexchange.com/march-2019/>.

All-Class Reunion News

Please remember to save July 19 for the fourth annual All-Class Reunion. If your class is going to be celebrating a milestone reunion next year, please consider having your event on the Saturday/Sunday of the UAA All-Class Reunion Weekend.

Every class should have a "class captain" or "captains" to lead and represent her/his class and gather the details of their class' reunion activities. A class reunion committee, made up of a group of classmates, is advisable for reunion planning. A class captains handbook will be forthcoming, and guidance available from the board's Alumni Programs Committee.

Please feel free to contact the board president at keith.e.bachman@gmail.com as well as any board officers/members. Also, contact unategoalumniassociation@gmail.com or find "Unatego Alumni Association" on Facebook. Hope to see everyone in July!

Don't forget: Find us on Facebook at Unatego Alumni Association!



Unatego Hall of Distinction

From left, Bob Bard and Joe Bard stand with past inductees Michael and Don (Andre) Ouimet and Scott and Sherry Herring.



From left, Bob Bard and inductee Joe Bard stand alongside Scott and Sherry Herring, accepting for their father, Charles Herring.

Otego Historian's report

It is a pleasure to introduce the Otego Historical Society to the Unatego Alumni Association. We began as a society in 1976, with a room in the Harris Memorial Library.

Today, you can find us at 6 River St. in the Historical Room, a space filled with Otego artifacts and information about Otego families. The Historical Room is open from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays in June through August.

The following is a report of my activities as town/village historian last year:

JANUARY: Our historical society has been blessed with the generosity of Otego citizens. An example of this is the pipe organ donated by the Hyatt Family. The organ was used by Otego's Order of Odd Fellows (organized in June 1911). When they disbanded in 1969, the organ was returned to the Hyatt family.

FEBRUARY What an undertaking it was for volunteers from the historical society to begin cleaning out house on the corner of Main and Willow streets. The house was donated by Malcolm Ross and it took several months to thoroughly clean it out. Sales were held in the garage, with household furniture and items sent to auction houses. There has been interest in the house and it is in the process of being sold.

APRIL: I went to a Partners in Preservation meeting on April 21. This was sponsored by Otsego County Historical Association. They partnered with the Greater Milford Historical Association. While there, I presented a display detailing the life of Adelia Gates. Adelia was born in 1825 in Otego and led a very colorful life. I included her paintings of botanical objects from Northern Africa and the Middle East, which I photographed from a collection of her work stored in the Smithsonian Institute. A colorful tour of the Sayre House in Milford was included in the day's events.

JUNE: I worked with the Evergreen Cemetery Board to select roughly 21 headstones for restoration. We applied for and received a grant from the Department of State's Division of Cemeteries to have a company repair the stones sometime this year.

OCTOBER "Voices from the Grave" – Visitors toured the cemetery and listened to stories of Otego's historic families. We heard from Dasa Harris, Celestia Lewis, Chris Connor, Vincent Fuller, Timothy Sheldon and Tim Place. I enjoyed working on this program.

We were contacted via email by people from many areas last year, mainly seeking information about relatives having lived in Otego. I was able to assist some of the folks by research or directing them to another person.

Thanks to the officers of the Otego Historical Society: Carolee Byrnes, President; Sandra Curry, Vice President; Emily Longtin, Secretary; and Jan Lloyd, Treasurer.

Sincerely, Mary E. Johnson-Butler



Unatego Alumni Association Membership Form

Name (include maiden name): _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

Telephone: _____

Year of Graduation: _____

Annual MEMBERSHIP Fee/person \$10.00 _____

Paid by Check _____ or Paid with Cash _____

Lifetime MEMBERSHIP Fee \$250.00 _____

Paid by Check _____ or Paid with Cash _____

Additional Donation for Scholarship Fund _____

Paid by Check _____ or Paid with Cash _____

Would you like to be contacted to join a committee or be a class captain?

YES _____ NO _____

*Mail this completed form and your check made payable to **Unatego Alumni Association***

To: Betsy Shultis, 7 Diane Drive, Otego, NY 13825