



COHOES HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Summer 2023

NEWSLETTER

Volume 23 Issue 1

Officers and Board:

Newsletter published annually by

Cohoes High School Alumni Association
P.O. Box 115
Cohoes, New York 12047

Website:

cohoeshighschoolalumniassociation.org

Newsletter Editor:

Sharon A, Mitchell

Officers and Board of Directors:

President: Jude Sweeney Pingelski
Vice President: Sharon A. Mitchell
Secretary: Elizabeth Duma
Treasurer: Margaret Santoro Claflin

Board Members:

Arianna Grego Hirschman
Fran Santoro Kellogg
Kathy Kawka Santoro

Mission Statement: The Cohoes High School Alumni Association strives to promote and to foster fellowship and loyalty among the alumni and to provide financial assistance, through its scholarships and awards, to graduating seniors of Cohoes High School to encourage them to pursue their personal goals.

What's New...

Fortunately, we have several items to share with you under the heading of "What's New". We have made progress in reaching out to alumni with a social gathering at Table 41 on Remsen Street in the autumn of 2022 and with a "meet the Alumni Association Board" informational meeting on May 2, 2023 at the Cohoes Middle School. We are planning to have another social event in the Fall of 2023. Please continue to check our website for details.

We have also changed the vendor for our Alumni logo merchandise shop. Our new vendor is a local company, Wicked Smart; there will be a summer 2023 ordering window from July 14 to August 4. To order, just go to our website (cohoeshighschoolalumniassociation.org) and click on the "CHS MERCH SHOP" link to go to the store, and shop around. Check it out! Show your alumni pride.

We are also thrilled to announce that we added three new Awards for our 2023 graduates due to the generosity of three new sponsors--the Johnston family, the Mroczkowski family, and Joyce Vellutino. We deeply appreciate that these sponsors have chosen to support our Awards Program in such a special way.

Please remember to check our website often for news and updates. Also, keep in mind that the Venmo option is the easiest, secure method for paying dues and for making donations.

~~~~~  
**\*\*\*CLASS OF '73 ---50th REUNION\*\*\***

The Class of '73 will be celebrating its 50-year reunion on Saturday, October 28 at the Ukrainian Club in Cohoes. Festivities will begin at 6:30 pm and will include live entertainment by EJ Hopek and other surprise guests. Food will be catered by the Old Daley Inn, served buffet style, and there will be a limited open bar. The planning Committee wants the event to be totally informal, so please dress for comfort. The cost of tickets is \$45 per person and may be purchased with a Visa or MasterCard through the reunion's website: <http://chsclass73.reunionmanager.com>. Keep checking reunion and Alumni Association websites for updates!

The Committee wants all of the "students" of the Class of '73 to register on the reunion website. Registering **WILL NOT** be a commitment to attend the reunion, but it will include you in an alumni database for future mailings and information updates.

#### **The Committee's contact people are:**

Kevin Kelenski      [kjkelenski@gmail.com](mailto:kjkelenski@gmail.com)  
Lynda Hebert O'Connor      [locroc@nycap.rr.com](mailto:locroc@nycap.rr.com) or 518-813-3531

### **The President's Report...**

It's hard to believe that this is our third newsletter! Let me start by saying that we are proud of all of our accomplishments.

The newsletter, with Sharon Mitchell's vision and guidance, has turned out to be a source of Association news and of interesting historical information. We have heard from many alumni that they look forward to the newsletter arriving in their mailboxes. The "Did you know..." article is my favorite. Thank you, Sharon, for your time, talent, and hard work to make our newsletter something that we can all be proud of.

All of our alumni should also be proud of our Alumni Awards; they reflect the pride that we all feel for our alma mater. Each year the number of awards has grown because of donors who want to help our seniors and remember their loved ones. If you are interested in sponsoring an award, please let us know.

Updating the Association by-laws last summer was necessary to insure that our organization will be with us long into the future; those by-laws have always required an annual general membership meeting to be held in May. Sadly, none of our alumni attended the meeting on May 2, 2023. Maybe we need to rethink how we meet this requirement; if you have an idea to share, please contact us.

Looking to the future, our main goal is to reach more of our younger alumni. We have identified two ways that we believe will work for us now. The first is to become more active on social media. We are looking for someone who would be willing to guide us in this process. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping us, please contact us through our website. Our second idea is to ask our currently-active alumni to talk to their children and grandchildren who are also alumni to encourage them to become active members. Many hands make light work, and the long-term survival of the Association depends on the involvement of these younger generations of alumni.

I appreciate the notes that some members include with their checks; they tell us that we are on the right track. It is amazing that we have been able to cover 90% of the cost of the Awards that we fund and of the newsletter through yearly dues and donations. Thank you also to everyone who has sent us notes that help us to update our mailing list. Keeping the list current is an ongoing, but important, task. Please remember that you can always contact us through the website with any changes or comments that you want to share with us.

In closing, we are trying to be realistic about what we are able to do, and we know that it will take time to accomplish all that we have envisioned. If you would like to help in some way or have an idea that you want to share, again, please let us know.

### **The Treasurer's Report**

Financially, the Association can be proud of several notable accomplishments in this past year. First, we received dues and donations totaling \$14,416, a wonderful response to our last newsletter and post card mailings. Next, on June 20, 2023 we awarded a grand total of \$55,750 to our graduating seniors, which includes the funding of three new awards sponsored by the Johnston family, the Mroczkowski family, and Joyce Vellutino.

### **Treasurer's Report (continued...)**

We are happy and honored that these sponsors have chosen to support our Awards Program in such a meaningful way.

Also, for the past two years, our annual dues and donations have provided more than 90% of the money needed to fund the Founders' Awards for our seniors. Our ultimate goal, of course, is to fund these Awards completely from annual dues and donations. We are well on our way to achieving that goal; with continued alumni support, we will succeed.

Finally I can report that the Venmo option is working well for payment of dues and donations. This is certainly a fast, easy way to give us your financial support. Simply go to our website.

As treasurer, I appreciate and thank our alumni for their continued support.

### **From the Editor...**

This third issue of our newsletter has a feature that is personal for me and, I believe, for many of our alumni. In the first two issues of our newsletter, we have given profiles of the generous, caring people whom we proudly call our founders; in this issue, we feature a profile of the amazing woman whose selflessness, works, and vision led directly to the Cohoes High School Alumni Association as we know it. Madelon K. Hickey was an educational force of nature whose name is forever synonymous with Cohoes High School. Everyone who attended or taught at CHS between 1946 and 1966 has a Principal Hickey story to tell--whether she "discussed" your attempts as a student to sneak up the marble "down" staircase, to surreptitiously open your locker door during class time, or your attempts as a teacher to share a "cold one" with other teachers at a local neighborhood tavern after school on a Friday. She knew every student by name and his/her family tree; she had a gift for recognizing potential in every student and for working to help him/her realize that potential. Ms. Hickey practiced "tough love" before it even had a name! When her remarkable foresight told her that future students would need more advanced course offerings, better science labs, a proper gymnasium and athletic programs, etc., she knew that the "old" CHS would not be able to meet those demands and Cohoes children would suffer for it. She began her crusade to build the "new" school on Elm Street; many Cohoesiers have long believed that CHS should wear her name. One of the greatest gifts of my life was to be a student during her tenure at CHS.

Most other high school alumni associations exist primarily to maintain and increase communications among their alumni. Our purpose, as set by our founders, has always been to provide financial support to our graduating seniors; we have succeeded because of the incredible generosity of our alumni. I would like to extend a personal "thank you" to my fellow alumni for their support, and to the Board members with whom I am privileged to serve. They are an amazing group of devoted, caring, and supportive women who give freely of their time and talent to help the children of CHS. We truly appreciate alumni contributions and the notes with positive feedback; please continue to share with us. If you have any questions or ideas for future "Did you know..." pieces or articles, please send them along.



\*\*\*\*\*

**June 2023  
Scholarship, Award and Donations  
Newsletter Supplement**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Board of Directors:**  
President: Jude Sweeney Pingelski  
Vice President: Sharon A. Mitchell  
Secretary: Elizabeth Duma  
Treasurer: Margaret Santoro Claflin

**Editor:**  
Sharon A. Mitchell

**Board Members:**  
Arianna Grego Hirschman  
Fran Santoro Kellogg,  
Kathy Kawka Santoro

**Awards Ceremony 2023...**

On Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 6 pm, Cohoes High School held its annual Awards/Honors Ceremony in the auditorium to honor and recognize the achievements of the Class of '23 in the presence of graduates' families, friends, and guests. The program began with opening remarks by Superintendent Peggy O'Shea and Board of Education President Margaret Giller. Principal Laura LePage Tarlo introduced this year's valedictorian, Quincy Hytko, salutatorian, Carissa Shanahan, and honorable mention graduate, Jaylynn Bariteau. Honor medals and awards/scholarships were presented by Principal Tarlo, Assistant principal Robert Santarcangelo, Athletic Director Jeffrey Huneau, sponsors and officers of the Alumni Association, and special guests. The total amount of monies dispensed to seniors this year was \$88, 137; of that amount, \$55,750 was made available by and through the Cohoes High School Alumni Association. These funds were awarded to 63 of the 111 members of the Class of 2023.

***Congratulations to the Class of 2023!***

**2023 Scholarship and Awards Recipients**

**Historical/Founders Scholarships  
(sponsored by the CHS Alumni Association):**

| <b>Alumni Award:</b>                   | <b>Recipient:</b>             | <b>Sponnsor:</b>       |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Alumni Memorial Award                  | Alfonso Peraza                | CHS Alumni Association |
| Jean Tessier Bartnick Award            | Jonathan Martinez-Peraza      | CHS Alumni Association |
| Miriam Newell Biskin                   | Isyss Meyers                  | CHS Alumni Association |
| Alumni Memorial Award                  |                               |                        |
| Mildred B. Donk, Class '48 Mathematics | Quincy Hytko (Valedictorian)  | CHS Alumni Association |
| Dorothy A. Gilcrest Award              | Shelby Dawe                   | CHS Alumni Association |
| Mabel Gilman Memorial                  | Jaclyn Benedetti              | CHS Alumni Association |
| Madelon K. Hickey Memorial             | Quincy Hytko (Valedictorian)  | CHS Alumni Association |
| Agnes Holleran--English Award          | Melody Hadley                 | CHS Alumni Association |
| Beatrice Poinsetl--Global Studies      | Quincy Hytko (Valedictorian)  | CHS Alumni Association |
| Marie Tessier--French                  | Jaylynn Bariteau (Honor Grad) | CHS Alumni Association |

## June 2023 Scholarships and Award Recipients

| <b>General Awards:</b>                                                        | <b>Recipient:</b>                                               | <b>Sponsor:</b>                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Joan Andrejko Honorarium                                                      | Angelia Fernandez                                               | Tracy & Andy Andrejko,<br>Rosemary Zandri, Joyce Vellutino<br>Steve Napier Jr.    |
| Joseph & Sally Archambeault<br>Memorial Scholarship                           | Julia Marcil                                                    | Cohoes Savings Bank Foundation                                                    |
| Cohoes Savings Bank Foundation<br>Scholarship(s) (2)                          | Quincy Hytko (Valedictorian)<br>Carissa Shanahan (Salutatorian) | Colleen & Jeremy McDonald<br>Ms. Catherine Duclos<br>James F. & Catherine A. Gero |
| John David Desmond Award                                                      | Kevin Mancy                                                     | Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Hirschman                                                       |
| Dr. Donald Duclos Memorial<br>Engineering and Technology<br>Achievement Award | Samantha Huelle<br>Sierra Eaton                                 | Ms. Joan Friedel<br>Ms. Regina Grego                                              |
| For the Love of the Arts Award                                                | Carissa Shanahan (Salutatorian)                                 | Paul Van Buskirk<br>Johnston Family                                               |
| Henry W. Friedel Memorial Award                                               | Malka Syed                                                      | Marra's Pharmacy<br>Rosemary Zandri & Joyce Vellutino                             |
| Diane T. & John D. Grego<br>Education & Science Award                         | Maya Buchanan                                                   | Mroczkowski Family<br>Shea Family                                                 |
| Leo Heslin Award                                                              | Malka Syed                                                      | Mrs. Vincent St. Onge<br>Mrs. Vincent St. Onge<br>Joyce Vellutino                 |
| Jonathan Johnston Hustle and Heart<br>Memorial Scholarship                    | Crista Spizowski                                                | Adam Biggs                                                                        |
| James V. Marra Memorial Award                                                 | Alleda Hawron                                                   | Thibodeau Family                                                                  |
| Barbara J. McDonald "I Love Cohoes"<br>Community Service Award                | Madison Bullock                                                 | Colleen & Jeremy McDonald<br>Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Hirschman                          |
| Anna A. Mroczkowski Award                                                     | Christopher Perry                                               |                                                                                   |
| James T. Shea Memorial Award                                                  | Ava Hotaling                                                    |                                                                                   |
| Francis St. Onge Award                                                        | Lily Brennan                                                    |                                                                                   |
| Vincent St. Onge Award                                                        | Nicalis Williams                                                |                                                                                   |
| Sister Laura Palka O.S.B.M.<br>(Lillian Mary Palka) Music Award               | Andrew Saunders                                                 |                                                                                   |
| John & Lillian Sturgeon '49 Palko<br>Memorial                                 | Daniel Hanafin                                                  |                                                                                   |
| Jean Ann (Green) Thibodeau '72<br>Health Care Award                           | Amanda Opalka                                                   |                                                                                   |
| Trade is a Thing Award                                                        | Ellen Spence                                                    |                                                                                   |
| Women in STEM Award                                                           | Jaylynn Bariteau (Honor Grad)                                   |                                                                                   |

### CHSAA 2023 Donor Levels List

#### **Platinum Level (\$100+)**

|                        |                             |                         |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Bakay William          | Flatley Gerald              | Pingelski Judith        |
| Beeler Margery D.      | Frank Jr. Maureen & Michael | Powers-Ferguson Rosalie |
| Belanger Timothy       | Gariepy Beverly             | Rock Yahna              |
| Blackrock Giving Fund  | Geleta Leo                  | Santarcangelo Kathleen  |
| Bogdanowicz Gerald     | Gooley-Sebastian Gloria     | Schramm Harold C.       |
| Clark-White Antoinette | Grego John                  | Sorel Stacie & Bill     |
| Colley Jerry           | Guresz Caroline             | St. Onge Joanne         |
| Cotch Mark             | Guyette Thomas              | Starin Gaylord G.       |
| Dooley Lisa            | Hervieux Marilyn            | Steenrod Constance      |
| Dudek Paul & Tara      | Laranjo William             | VanValkenburg MaryAnn   |
| Fisher Diane M.        | Mitchell Sharon             | Waz Debra               |
| Flannery Harry         | Patrician Paula             | Weismann Mildred        |
| Flannery Harold C.     | Philipson Warren            |                         |

## CHSAA 2023 Donor Levels List Continue

### Gold Level (\$50+):

|                        |                    |                       |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Callanan Genevieve     | Gorsky Anne M.     | Rourke Edward         |
| Chico-Francolini Carol | Hebert Steve & Kim | Szmyr Ellen           |
| Comley Richard         | Knapp Barry        | Tanner Paul & Marcia  |
| Dooley Lisa            | Lefebvre Robert    | Tofte George          |
| Flavin Donald          | Mastalong Anthony  | VanBuskirk Michael J. |
| Frank Michael          | O'Conner Lynda     | Winkowski Richard     |
| Geleta Ronald          | Plantier Bernard   |                       |

### Silver Level (\$25+):

|                           |                      |                           |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Aveta Fran                | Gignac Gloria        | Nolan Arthur D.           |
| Blessor Sandra            | Guthrie Lucille      | Philipson Howard M.       |
| Bolton Ellen              | Hennessy Jane        | Plantier Bernard          |
| Boprey Marlene            | Jette William        | Ramroth Col. & Mrs Albert |
| Burns Kevin               | Killian Connie       | Rumsey Mary               |
| Carter Thomas             | King Michael         | Ward-Russo Mary Ellen     |
| Ceccucci Roger & Mariann  | Koval Carolyn        | Semenick Shirley          |
| Ceccucci Gary             | LaForest Rebecca     | Spadoni-Cadwallader Carol |
| Cicarelli Mary Jane       | Mastalong Anthony J. | Szmyr Sandra              |
| Coleman Joan              | McDonald Barbara     | Szozda Timothy            |
| Coutu Ethel               | McMillan Phyllis     | Toscano Audrey & Jim      |
| Dawkins Michael & Cynthia | McOmer Barbara A.    | Turner John               |
| Favreau Jean              | Melita Steven        | Valenti Charles           |
| Forgette Ernest J.        | Miller Mary          |                           |

### Bronze Level (donation in excess of dues):

|                          |                      |                     |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Blanchard Shirley        | Glasheen Jack (John) | Reese Edith         |
| Brennan Grace M.         | Hennessy Jane B.     | Russo Anthony       |
| Caldarella Joan          | Hildreth Barbara     | Russo Patricia G.   |
| Carboni Edward           | Hrynezuk Robert      | Simonds Joan        |
| Carnevale Arlene         | Jette William        | Smith Donald        |
| Charlebois Patricia      | Kehn Margaret        | Sorel Joe           |
| Church Maria             | Klippel Margery      | Spofford Holly M.   |
| Cochrane Samuel          | Lavigna Bob          | Myrtle Mary         |
| Coleman Joan             | Lindeman Mary Gail   | Toma Dawn & Ron     |
| Comi Thomas              | Long Mary Jane       | Turcotte Alice      |
| Comley Lois J.           | Maswich Mary Maureen | VanBramer Thomas F. |
| Connelly Sheila          | McAllister Robert    | Vautrin Alice       |
| Corbeil Muriel           | Mosteller Joann      | Walsh Peggy         |
| Dangelico Anthony        | Nealand Margaret     | Wason Norman J.     |
| DeChiaro Anita           | Nolin Marilyn        | Welcome Joan        |
| Delorimier Calvin        | Obzud Mary Anne      | Wheland Doreen      |
| Ensel Peter              | Okonski Raymond J.   |                     |
| Fitzgerald- Cirilli Erin | Paskin Carol         |                     |
| Feldman Irving M.        | Patrician Paula      |                     |
| Gawdiak Natalie          | Peterson Gwen        |                     |

## July 2022-June 2023 Honorarium/Memorial Donors

### Donors:

### In Honor/Memory of:

Backay, William  
 Beeler, Margery D.  
 Blackrock Giving Fund  
 Blanchard, Shirley

Blessner, Sandra  
 Bogdanowicz, Gerald  
 Bolton, Ellen  
 Brennan, Grace M.  
 Burns, Kevin  
 Caldarella, Joan

Carboni, Edward  
 Carnevale, Arlene  
 Carter, Thomas  
 Ceccucci, Gary  
 Ceccucci, Roger & Mariann  
 Charlebois, Patricia  
 Chico, Carol Francolini  
 Church, Maria  
 Ciccarella, Mary Jane  
 Clark-White, Antoinette  
 Colley, Jerry  
 Comley, Richard  
 Connelly, Sheila  
 Cotch, Mark  
 Coutu, Ethel  
 Dangelico, Anthony

DeChiaro, Anita  
 Delorimier, Calvin  
 Dooley, Lisa  
 Ensel, Peter  
 Favreau, Jean

Feldman, Irving

Fisher, Diane M.  
 Flannery, Harry  
 Flannery, Harold C.  
 Flatley, Gerald  
 Flavin, Donald  
 Frank, Michael  
 Gariepy, Beverly  
 Gawdiak, Natalie  
 Geleta, Leo  
 Gignac, Gloria  
 Gooley, Gloria Sebastian

Gorsky, Anne M.  
 Grego, John  
 Guresz, Caroline  
 Guthrie, Lucille  
 Guyette, Thomas  
 Hebert, Steve & Kim

Hennessy, Jane  
 Hervieux, Marilyn

Alumni Association Scholarship  
 Mildred Donk  
 Donation from Epic Games  
 Gil Blanchard '54,  
 Mary (Senez) Thomas (KMA '56)  
 Mr. & Mrs. Durward Henderson  
 Madelon K. Hickey & Class of '57  
 Katie (Bolton) Pinke  
 Sylvia R. Bartolomeo (KMA)  
 Gary Burns Class of '64  
 Three Joan's: Safe, Stopiello,  
 Jacobson  
 Marie Daley, Phil Ryan  
 Dennis Francesconi  
 The Carter and Moak Families  
 Class of 1961  
 Daniel Ceccucci '94  
 Marching Band Booster Club  
 Jeannie Zandri Francolini  
 Daniel R. Mencucci '48  
 Class of '66  
 Robert Clark, Sr. '55  
 Dr. Richard Costantini  
 Madelon K. Hickey  
 Patricia Bowen Moryl  
 Ann Cotch '45  
 Mildred Donk  
 Deceased members:  
 Class of '58 and '59  
 Joan Clark O'Hara '59  
 Deceased classmates  
 Cortland and Joan Seguin  
 Peter Ensel, Jr. '46  
 Dr. Metro & Helen Myresko,  
 Steve Sturgeon  
 Class of '48 and Joyce, Bill, Ron,  
 Al, Sandy Feldman  
 Class of 1968  
 Amy Parsley Orton  
 Bob Patrician '63  
 Mrs. Monica Flatley  
 Class of 1946  
 Founders Awards  
 Gloria Dame  
 Ihor Gawdiak  
 Class of 1941  
 Class of 1946  
 Roy Sebastian,  
 Joyce & James Tokryman  
 Judy Gorsky VanCampen '59  
 Victor & Edith Grego  
 Deceased siblings  
 Class of 1949  
 Marie Tessier  
 Sherry Cuva '75, Mark Hebert '74,  
 Wendy Quintal '79  
 Ted Bresee  
 Roy Hervieux, Helen Berlin,  
 Elaine Hobbs

### Donors:

### In Honor/Memory of:

Isabelle, George & Lois  
 Jette, William

Killian, Connie  
 Knapp, Barry  
 Koval, Carolyn  
 Laranjo, William  
 Lavigna, Bob  
 Lindeman, Mary Gail  
 Long, Mary Jane

Mastalong, Anthony  
 McMillan, Phyllis

Melita, Steven  
 Miller, Mary  
 Mitchell, Sharon  
 Mosteller, Joann  
 Nolin, Marilyn  
 Obzud, Mary Anne  
 O'Connor, Lynda  
 Paskin, Carol  
 Patrician, Paula  
 Philipson, Warren  
 Philipson, Howard M.  
 Plantier, Bernard  
 Powers, Rosalie Ferguson  
 Reese, Edith  
 Rourke, Edward  
 Rumsey, Mary  
 Russo, Mary Ellen Ward  
 Russo, Anthony  
 Santarcangelo, Kathleen  
 Semenick, Shirley  
 Simonds, Joan  
 Smith, Donald  
 Spadoni, Cadwallader  
 Sorel, Stacie & Bill  
 Starin, Gaylord  
 Steenrod, Constance

Szmyr, Sandra  
 Szmyr, Ellen  
 Tofte, George  
 Van Bramer, Thomas F.  
 Wason, Norman J.  
 Waz, Debra  
 Weismann, Mildred  
 Wheland, Doreen  
 Winkowski, Richard

Keveny Class of '62  
 Cohoes Veterans &  
 Deceased '65 classmates  
 John & Ida Kusaywa  
 Leo Patnode '59  
 Joe Koval '55  
 Phyllis Adamczyk Laranjo '59  
 Deceased members Class of '63  
 Mildred Donk  
 Jean & Stan Wells '55, Shirley  
 Stay Einhorn '52, Phyllis Stay Steivater '57  
 All Alumni  
 Brothers: Robert ('44) & Edward ('48)  
 VanValkinburg  
 John Melita '51, Ric Tombari '47  
 Alice English  
 Edmond & Josephine Mitchell  
 Frances V. Derocher  
 Paul Nolin  
 Patregnani, Schwartz, and Surzyn Families  
 Sherry Cuva (Hebert) '75  
 Deceased classmates '56  
 Bob "Bloop" Patrician '63  
 Miriam Biskin  
 The "Old" High School  
 Madelon K. Hickey  
 Sisters Alice, Joyclyn, Janet, Marydoll  
 Mildred Donk  
 Lois Santspree Rourke  
 Margaret Santarcangelo Sala '56  
 Class of '64  
 Mary Archambeault  
 Michael V. Santarcangelo '69  
 Carol St. Onge '58  
 Deceased classmates '55  
 Bill Reu  
 Deceased Alumni  
 Sandra B. Gillie, Class of '57  
 Miss Ross, Class of 1940  
 Friedel family members: mother,  
 brothers, sisters  
 Richard Szmyr  
 Stephen Szmyr  
 Coach Bob Gullie  
 Mike Donnini, Tommy Shannon  
 Class of '61  
 Danny Potyrala  
 Deceased members Class of '57  
 Dorothy Marcil Amyot  
 Joan Pratt Winkowski

*"Your life is your story, and the adventure ahead  
 of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose  
 and potential."*

—Kerry Washington

## **Madelon K. Hickey---a profile**

Anyone who knew Cohoes High School between 1930 and 1970 recognizes the name "Madelon K. Hickey", which came to be synonymous with the High School itself. Miss Hickey embodied the life spirit of the School, the aspirations and accomplishments of its students and its teachers. She was a constant advocate for quality, innovative education in Cohoes and for instilling in students and teachers a strong sense of their own worth and capabilities. Any Cohoesier of those decades can readily recall his/her favorite Miss Hickey story; she was definitely a "force to be reckoned with". She held her students and staff to very high standards, but those were the same standards to which she held herself.

A lifelong Cohoesier, Madelon K. Hickey was born on July 7, 1910, and was a lifelong communicant of St. Bernard's Church. She graduated with top honors from St. Bernard's/Keveny Memorial Academy and graduated magna cum laude from the College of St. Rose with a triple major in Latin, English, and Education. Later, she earned her Master's Degree and certificates of administration and supervision from New York University and New York State College of Teachers (now State University at Albany). Miss Hickey began her educational career in 1930 in the Cohoes school system, teaching elementary grades; in 1936 she began to teach English and then Latin at the High School, in addition to serving as coordinator of language instruction. In 1946 she was named principal of Cohoes High School and served in that role until 1966 when she assumed the newly-created position of Curriculum Coordinator of Grades K-12. Even in this new role, she continued to be a driving force in the District and provided much of the leadership for the building of the new high school on Elm Street. Ill health forced her to retire in 1970.

In the educational world of Madelon K. Hickey, there was no doubt that teachers were to teach, and students were to learn. Miss Hickey always projected her unswerving belief in the capabilities and potential of both students and teachers. Often, she had more confidence in people than they had in themselves, and she inspired them to see life's obstacles as merely that--obstacles to be overcome, not permanent barriers to success or happiness. Many Cohoesiers benefited from her secret generosity as she anonymously paid for necessities from school supplies to haircuts to sneakers to college application fees, tuition and books. She was never slow to criticize a student's bad behavior, but she never demeaned the person committing that behavior.

Madelon K. Hickey died on October 12, 1972 at the age of 62, but her spirit and inspiration continue in the hearts of all who were privileged to know her.

*Note: Some of the source material for this profile originally appeared in an article written by Miriam Newell Biskin that appeared in an early newsletter of the CHS Alumni Association.*

## **Did you know...**

For today's CHS alumni, our alma mater was that stately building "on the hill" of Columbia and Bevan Streets, or the more modern structure further west, on Tiger Circle at the end of Elm Street. Did you ever wonder, though, where "high school" classes were taught before those buildings existed?

According to Masten's *The History of Cohoes*, and *Images of America: Cohoes Revisited*, and other sources, the first actual high school in Cohoes was the Egberts Institute which was established in 1864. A Cohoesier named Egbert Egberts, a prominent industrialist and philanthropist, rented one of his buildings on the corner of White and Mohawk Streets to the trustees of the Egberts Institute. In 1868 the facility was renamed the Egberts High School, whose first class graduated in 1872. Growing student population and educational needs led to the building of the first Cohoes High School which opened in 1919 on a parcel of Lansing family real estate at the corner of Columbia and Bevan Streets. The first principal was Charles "Pop" Wheeler who had served as principal of Egberts High School since 1914. The main entrance of the first CHS faced Columbia Street and was proudly topped by a beautiful clock adorned by an eagle with outspread wings. Two stone plaques also marked this entrance and greeted visitors to the "old" high school. One plaque reads: "Through letters, arts and science to citizenship"; the other reads: "Dedicated to all the children of all the people". This building served as Cohoes High School until 1969 when the "new" High School opened on another parcel of Lansing family land at the end of Elm Street. This CHS provided a larger capacity and a design structure better-suited to the needs of the newer generations of students. Even this "new" CHS has since undergone further renovations and entrance redesign in 2010-2011 in order to continue to meet safety and curricular demands and energy efficiency.

The "old" CHS, of course, became the current Cohoes Middle School. In 1997-2000 that building underwent extensive renovations to better serve its students; the remodeling included expansion of the library space and moving the main entrance to the Bevan Street side of the complex.

Source materials include:

*Masten, Arthur H. The History of Cohoes, New York. Albany: Joel Munsell, 1879. Reprinted for Cohoes Historical Society, 1969, by Eric Hugo Printing, Schenectady, NY Images of America: Cohoes Revisited. Spindle City Historical Society. Chicago, IL: Arcadia Publishing, 2005.*



COHOES HIGH SCHOOL  
alumni association

P.O. Box 115  
Cohoes, New York  
12047

**Cohoes High School Alumni Association Dues/Donations 2023**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address-Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY\*\*\*\*\***

Donation in memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: CHS Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 115  
Cohoes, NY 12047

Dues paid (\$10): \_\_\_\_\_  
Donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Payments/donations may also be paid via: Venmo@CHS Alumni

Website: [cohoeshighschoolalumniassociation.org](http://cohoeshighschoolalumniassociation.org)

Would you like to continue to receive a paper copy of the newsletter in the mail?

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No