



Camden Alumni News from the Camden Alumni Association

Quarterly News and Events

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Camden Alumni Association Board of Directors



President
John E. Gerber
1987



Vice President
Barbara O'Rourke Young
1957



2nd Vice President
Tonya Cole Smith
1999



Secretary
Melissa Hardy Sullivan
1989



Treasurer
Deanne VanDresar Suits
1979



Registrar
Daisy Ross Brady
1937



Past President
Michael Littler
1979



Scholarship Chair
Chelsea Mellon
2004

Board of Directors

Banquet Committee



W. John Higham
1953



Anita L. Narolis
1972



Michael Waterman
1973

Membership Committee



Helen Miller Dick
1966



Kenneth W. Ferris
1953



Lance Williams
1979



Janet Hamner Albrecht
1971



Stewart Hatzinger
1993



Virginia Jacobs Schuelke
1965

2009 Alumni Banquet

Saturday, June 20th

Katie & Karl's Restaurant

Reception

3:30pm - 5:00pm

Business Meeting

5:00pm

Dinner & Program

Immediately Following
the Business Meeting

2008 Annual Alumni Banquet – A Grand Event!



Class of 1958, 50th Reunion Attendees: (L to R) **Front Row:** Janice Walker Alvord, Donna Theobald Cluse, Patricia Hale Pekola, Carol Emper Grant, Sally Griffin Ferris, Carol Murlin Abbott, Nuretta Hamner Seymour; **Row 2:** Henry Hedgecock, Donald Conniff, Alan Palmer, Richard Fuller, Gordyne Slover, Bruce Ferris, Gale Sheetz Hedgecock, Virginia Audas Niciu, Darlene Tanner Maloney; **Row 3:** Sherman Lovelace, Nathan Olmstead, James Kingston, David Brown, Francis Kelley, Nancy Meagher Comins, Mildred Coonrod Evans, William Walker. Present at reunion but missing from photo: Lena Ammann Brown.

The Camden Alumni Association held its annual meeting and banquet on June 14th this year at Katie and Karl's, Harden Blvd., Camden. Total attendance at the banquet was 235, with total alums at 181. Total guests and non alum spouses were 54 and total classes represented numbered 55. Those who traveled farthest were from Republic of Panama, Florida, Maine, North Carolina, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

This year's banquet followed a different format, and hopefully began a new tradition. A reception with appetizers kicked off the event at 3:30 PM (This was partially supported by the Class of 1953). Following a brief business meeting, Katie and Karl's served us a family style meal featuring Ham, Roast Beef, and Turkey.

After dinner, six scholarships were awarded to six graduates whose parents or grandparents were also Camden Central School graduates. Scholarship winners were Chelsea Bourgeois, Amanda Brown, Taylor Clifford, Lindsey McEntire, Heather Yager, and Scott Zahas. The scholarship winners then passed the basket to collect funds for next year's scholarship awards. Thanks to all who contributed.

Pictures of this year's Alumni Banquet are now available on the website at: www.camdenalumni.com/banquet

A Special Thank You to All Scholarship Contributors!

The Board of Directors of the Camden Alumni Association would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the Camden Alumni Association Scholarship Fund this past year. Thanks to everyone's generosity, be it through a memorial contribution, a mailed contribution, giving during the passing of the basket at the annual banquet,

President, John Gerber presented fifty-year Certificates and the Class of 1958 received special recognition. Janice Walker Alvord, Class of 1958, presented a brief synopsis of her class outlining some of their accomplishments over the years and commending their contributions to this year's scholarship fund. Following the 50 year honors, special recognition for classes over 50 years was duly noted. Members present from the classes of 1953 (55th), 1948 (60th), 1943 (65th), 1938 (70th), and 1933 (75th) were applauded. President, John Gerber honored Roy Miller with a moment of silence. Roy, who was the oldest active member of the alumni association, Class of 1930, passed away the previous week.

President Gerber offered concluding remarks. Everyone sang the alma mater, Gayle Sheetz Hedgecock, 1958, delivered the benediction, and the Class of 1958 invited everyone to join them on the dance floor as a DJ played appropriate music of the fifties and other eras.

The banquet committee did an outstanding job, and hats off to Katie and Karl's for great refreshments and a tasty meal. Kudos to all involved in a most successful evening.

or buying 50/50 raffle tickets at the annual banquet, we have raised a total of \$4,373.00 for the scholarship fund.

With these generous contributions, we have decided the 2009 Camden Alumni Association Scholarship awards will be raised to \$1,000 per winner to keep pace with inflation over the past several years.

Once Again, Thank You to Everyone Who Contributed to the Camden Alumni Association Scholarship Fund This Year and Years Past!

Class of 1933: 75th Reunion Reminiscing

Alice Fitzgerald Taylor



After graduating from Camden High School, Alice Fitzgerald attended Mercy Hospital School of Nursing in Watertown, NY. Graduating as a R.N in 1937, she accepted a position with the Rome Murphy



Memorial Hospital where she worked for four years. On September 14, 1940 she married William J. Taylor of Rome, NY where she lived for many years.

Alice is the mother of eight children, seventeen grandchildren and seventeen great grand children. She enjoys traveling to visit her children and their families and they enjoy her visits. She has traveled extensively and is especially thrilled to have spent time in Ireland visiting the old sod.

The Taylor family spent every summer happily at their camp on Oneida Lake and upon her husband's retirement they built a permanent home there where she still spends her summers. Winters are spent in Tampa, Florida with her daughter.

She was thrilled to be with friends at the Camden Alumni Banquet and especially to have had dinner with the other graduates of the class of 1933.

Neta Turk



After graduating from Camden in 1933, Neta started working for a high school principal as a nanny for several years. She lived with the family in Little Falls, and while she was there she attended 2 years of college.



Neta moved to Connecticut with the Ring family and worked as a nanny for this family for 2-3 years. During summers she came home and worked at the North Bay canning factory.

She came back from Connecticut before the war started and babysat for a family in Rome who had adopted a baby boy.

Neta moved to Fulton in 1947 where she got a job at Nestle's. She worked on the line for 15 years and then was promoted to Inspector, which she held until she retired in 1978. She was there for 33 years.

Neta has been very active and supportive of her church - State Street United Methodist Church, and has been a member of the Rebecca Lodge, Fulton Women's Club, and Church Women United for 40 years or more.

Though she never married she had been very supportive to her parents before their deaths, making their later years more enjoyable and exciting. She was always available to help with her 5 brothers and their families. She has 27 nieces and nephews, who always received birthday cards, anniversary cards and Christmas cards. While Nestle was still in Fulton, they all received Nestle products along with those cards. She continued this as the family grew with great and great-great nieces and nephews. Since her retirement, remaining single has afforded Neta with great opportunities for travel.

Merva Martz Walasek



The graduating class of CHS 1933 had very few options for employment. The U.S.A. economy was in a deep depression. That summer Merva did housework for a living and in September 1933 entered



Oswego Normal School, again doing housework for her board and room. She worked in the College Library for forty cents an hour, which paid for her books and student fees.

After graduation from O.N.S. in June 1937, Merva taught in a rural school near Arena, NY, in the Catskills, for one year. She taught in District 14, Florence, NY, for four years, and is still friends with some of her students.

When New York State made funds available for tutoring children who were too ill to attend school, Merva did this for sixteen years. She says "what a rewarding experience it is to read in the *By-Gone-Days* column that a former student had graduated from college, or had an excellent job, or had earned military honors. You know you must have contributed something to help them accomplish their goals".

[N.B.: Merva married Stanley Walasek, Class of 1935, in 1938. They have raised four children: Dawn, Class of 1957, who passed away in 2004; Lyndon, Class of 1963; Norayne Walasek Rosero, Class of 1969; and Caroline Walasek Richardson, Class of 1971.]

Camden Alumni Association Active Membership Application & Scholarship Donation Form

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Maiden Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ ZIP: _____

Email: _____
Spouse's Name: _____
Graduating Class: _____
Home Phone: _____
Dues are \$5 per year. # of Years Paid: _____
Alumni Scholarship Fund Donation: \$ _____

Return This Form and Dues Payment To:

Camden Alumni Association
35 Fourth Street
Camden, NY 13316

Make Your Check Payable to:

Camden Alumni Association



Class of 1933, 75th Reunion Attendees: (L to R) Neta Turk, Keith Watkin, Alice Fitzgerald Taylor, Merva Martz Walasek

Keith Watkin



Keith attended high school during the recession, so he didn't do many of the things that later classes were able to do. During his high school years and even while he was attending college,

Keith spent many evenings playing drums at the Grange dances with Mildred Forward, Bert Drought, Roy Williams, and Johnny Smith as caller. He also played in Ted Mellon's band with Mildred, Clarabel Remington, Roy Williams, Harlan Pinney, Clarence Fox, Oliver Treyz, John Albertson, Lynn Prichard, Carleton Herman and others, with Laura McLaughlin as singer.

After graduating from Camden in 1933 and taking a PG course, Keith attended two years of Forestry College at Syracuse and then transferred to Cornell, graduating from the School of Agriculture in 1938. He had a NYA job at Syracuse that paid 35 cents an hour, and at Cornell he worked in the Household Arts Department for 50 cents an hour. Keith's greatest pleasure in college was being a drummer in the Cornell Marching Band. He also was the drummer in a jazz band. They were signed up to play one summer on a French cruise liner going to Paris, but the *Ile de France* burned the summer before so their "gig" was canceled. After graduating from Cornell, Keith continued his drum playing with several small bands in the area.

When Keith graduated, he was assigned as the Farm Adjustment Administration agent for Washington County starting work in August 1938. While working there he became interested in raising Bird'sfoot Trefoil for seed. It was growing on the 200 acre farm he had purchased.

In August of 1941, Keith married Ruth Mary Steele and she often played piano with the bands as well as teaching school. One night they

were playing a late gig and she fell asleep on the piano keyboard. This ended their band work and prompted Keith to sell his drums, because he was also milking 25 cows by this time, too. They returned to Camden in 1942 where he helped establish Harden Farms.



In 1944, they moved to Sherrill where he was farm manager for Lyle Conde Milking Machine Company. Their first son was born in 1945. They moved to Brattleboro, Vermont, when Keith was offered the position of Supervisor of Registration at the Holstein Association. All Holstein cattle in the United States with Registration papers were processed there by a staff of 150 women. Two more children were born while there.

Because of migraine headaches, Keith finally left there in 1950, joining two friends in a cattle classification business. This did not work out for Keith and his family, so he went to Fairdale Farms in Bennington, Vermont, in 1952 as Manager of the Holstein herd. Later, he became Farm Manager that included crop management and both Holstein and Ayrshire herds. Two more children were born there and after 17 years, Keith built up enough equity so that he could buy his own farm in Oriskany Falls, New York, where he farmed with his two sons from 1969 until he sold the farm in 1986.

Keith's first wife died in 1974 and he married Jane Curtiss (CHS class 1940) in 1980. She retired from Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York, in 1985 after 40 years and joined him on the farm, where they had "fun" raising beef cattle. They moved back to Camden in 1995, living in a house built by his father. They have both enjoyed returning to their roots meeting old friends and making new ones.

2008 Alumni Association Scholarship Award Winners



L to R: Scott Zahas, Chelsea Bourgeois, Amanda Brown, Heather Yager, Lindsey McEntire and Taylor Clifford.

Six graduating Camden High School seniors were awarded scholarships in the amount of \$750.00 at the Camden Alumni Association Annual Banquet held at Katie and Karl's Saturday, June 14, 2008.

Chelsea Bourgeois, Camden, is the daughter of Mark Bourgeois and Tamara (Lundrigan) Bonomo (class of 1985) and will be attending SUNY Cortland as a Special Education major.

Amanda Brown, Camden, is the daughter of John (class of 1979) and Teresa (Spink) Brown (class of 1983) and will be attending SUNY IT with a concentration in Finance and Accounting.

Taylor Clifford, Blossvale, is the daughter of Peter F. (class of 1972) and Catherine (Carpenter) Clifford (class of 1978) and will be attending Morrisville State College with a concentration in

Equine Science and Business Management.

Lindsey McEntire, Camden, is the daughter of James R. (class of 1969) and Gail (Buffaloe) McEntire (class of 1974) and will be attending Cazenovia College as an Environmental Studies major.

Heather Yager, Camden, is the daughter of Todd (class of 1985) and Melissa (Smith) Yager (class of 1983) and will be attending SUNY Potsdam as a Studio Art and Dance major.

Scot Zahas, Blossvale, is the son of Scott (class of 1982) and Joni Deperno Zahas and will be attending Binghamton University to study Computer Engineering.

The Camden Alumni Association congratulates this year's winners!