

**MADELIA HIGH SCHOOL**  
**Alumni Newsletter**  
**May 2017**  
**Nothing is impossible to the willing mind!**

**A message from Alumni President, Christine Lensing**

Dear Alumni,

The Alumni Association preserves the history of Madelia High School and recognizes the accomplishments of its graduates, so I would be remiss to not acknowledge Priscilla Helgo Severson, '40, who passed away last fall. Over the years Priscilla served on the board of directors and was a valued resource person. Her commitment to documenting the history of Madelia High School was exceptional. She will be especially remembered for leading the project to compile, write, and publish the first three books in the series, '*A Sentimental Journey*', depicting the history of our schools and the Alumni Association 1889-2001. Her presence, knowledge, and spirit will be missed.

While I am incredibly proud of our community and school, the past and present, I have an even deeper appreciation for the many alumni who strive to ensure its FUTURE. I am particularly impressed by the alumni response to the February 2016 fire that destroyed a significant portion of our Main Street. Early on, individuals and classes contributed generously to aid in the recovery. More recently, through the coordinated efforts of Margaret Murphy '86 and a large group of alumni, many of whom live in the metro area, plans were made for a Twin Cities Alumni Event to help restore Madelia's main street. (see page 2) How wonderful that so many individuals are willing to share their time and talents to host an event with the intent to celebrate and rebuild our hometown!

The Alumni Association helps coordinate All-School reunions, with the 2020 reunion fast approaching! That, too, will require significant planning and fundraising. We are grateful for the support offered in years past, whether financial contributions or service on the Alumni Board or event committees. We hope that support for this next All-School reunion will remain strong. If you are able to help in any way, please contact a member of the board of directors.

With class reunions this summer, and especially as the All-School Reunion draws near, I encourage you to stay connected through the Alumni Association's website [madeliaalumni.com](http://madeliaalumni.com). Send comments and inquiries to [madeliaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:madeliaalumni@gmail.com). You can also "Like" us on our Madelia High School Alumni Facebook page for updates and photos.

Finally, all graduates of Madelia High School are invited and encouraged to attend the 127th annual meeting of the Madelia High School Alumni Association. It will be held on Tuesday, July 18th at 6:30 PM in the Elementary School cafeteria.

Congratulations to the class of 1967 as it celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

Christine Shaw Lensing '93

**Welcome to the Class of 2017!**



## **Main Street Fire Recovery Update**

From the Madelia Chamber of Commerce

Brick by brick Madelia is rising from the ashes! On February 3, 2016 during a snow storm with all roads closed to Madelia in the heart of our main street eight buildings were destroyed by a fire. The nine businesses and one apartment destroyed were *Culligan Soft Water Service, Kay's Upholstery, EZ Medical Wraps, American Family Insurance, Hope & Faith Floral & Gifts, Tressa Veona Salon, La Plaza Flesta, Flesta Market, Dr. Reed Gethman's Dental office, and Matt Gunderson's apartment*. Not only were eight buildings lost in the fire but buildings across the street were damaged by smoke, water and flying debris adding 7 more businesses affected by the fire.

Before the fire was completely out the property owners made a commitment to rebuild. The slogan "Madelia Strong" was born the very next day when a sign was placed next to a burned building! Numerous organizations, community neighbors, friends came to support us financially and in kind.

Brief Timeline of events:

-March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Despite losing everything, most businesses are temporarily relocated and operating, or will be soon. The outpouring of generosity from our community and all over the county has been truly amazing.

-April - The demolition and clean up began. Three things need to happen to reopen the lost businesses successfully... about one million dollars to cover the excess clean-up and construction costs, tax abatements from Watonwan County and the city of Madelia, and property tax relief from the state to keep that tax burden from falling on the city and county.

-April 1<sup>st</sup> - Kay's Upholstery and EZ Medical Wraps reopened in its new permanent location at 225 Benzel Avenue NW.

-May 6<sup>th</sup> - Tressa Veona Salon reopened in its new permanent location at 11 West Main.

-August 24<sup>th</sup> - The exterior is up, and from the outside, it would appear the restoration of Madelia is well on track. But as business owners look ahead toward getting back to business, the new buildings are far more valuable than the old ones, meaning property taxes will be much higher, 8-10 times higher in fact. Money for property tax abatement was in legislation last session, but that bill got vetoed.

-January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - Culligan was the first one to move back and reopen at its original site on 103 West Main.

-January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 - American Family is the second business to open at the original site, 21 West Main.

-After traveling many times to the Capital this was finally the day on March 10, 2017. Governor Dayton signs the Madelia Bill! The legislation contains financial relief for the city, county, property owners and businesses affected by the fire.

-May 4, 2107 Hope and Faith Floral & Gifts officially launched its reopened business at 23 West Main in its original location back home on main.

-Two more businesses are to reopen in permanent sites back on Main; La Plaza Flesta and the Flesta Market. The opening date will be soon.

Madelia has traveled on an amazing journey and as with any project there is more to do. There are many to thank. There is more to tell. Information on the fire can be found on the Madelia Strong and Madelia Chamber Facebook Pages or online under Madelia Minnesota Fire, February 3, 2016.

Margaret Murphy class of 1986 and several other Madelia alumni will host a fundraising event to help rebuild Madelia's main street. This event is on Sunday, June 11, in Bloomington, MN. For details please email [margaretmurphy34@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmurphy34@gmail.com) (phone 612-354-2582), or [chamber@madeliamn.com](mailto:chamber@madeliamn.com) or go to [www.madeliastrong.com](http://www.madeliastrong.com).

Look for the *Madelia Strong* booth at the Madelia Park Days celebration, July 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

Madelia *is* Strong with amazing people striving to make a difference.

Karla Angus, Executive Director  
Madelia Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau  
Off: [507-642-8822](tel:507-642-8822)  
[chamber@madeliamn.com](mailto:chamber@madeliamn.com)  
[www.visitmadelia.com](http://www.visitmadelia.com)

## HAPPENINGS

April 2016-March 2017

MHS alums class of 1966; Joe McCabe, Bruce L Nelson, Doug Gappa, Ron Welp, and Larry Trullinger, were among county veterans who attended an event in St Paul marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Wayne Feder '58, author of *'He'll Never Amount to Anything...A Farm Boy's Story'* was guest speaker at the Madelia Friends of the Library annual meeting.

Dave Smith '68 honored for 21 years of service upon his retirement from the Madelia Rescue Squad.

Knutson-Casey opens law office in Madelia. Attorney, Margaret Johnson Koberoski 87', previously with Kakeldey & Koberoski, is now a member of the new firm.

Mark Kunz '74 has retired after 38 years delivering mail for the Madelia office of the USPS. He walked more than 77,520 miles and drove over 110,000 miles in that time.

Staff members and students showed their appreciation to retiring school district nurse Connie Arduser Miller '69.

Dave Lehman '77 named Bus Driver of the Year at the State VFW Convention in Rochester, MN.

Thirty-three students in the class of 2016 participated in commencement exercises in May. High school counselor, Meghan Halverson Ward '03, presented awards to members of the class. The Alumni Association induction was given by Christine Shaw Lensing '93.

Vi Peck Johnson, who taught at Madelia Elementary for 28 years, passed away in June.

Cindy Colebank Chatleain '75 opened a new business on the south side of Main Street, Madelia. Her shop, *'No.28 on Main'*, carries antiques, unique, retro, and specialty items.

Erwin E Schuldehsz, MHS Social Studies teacher from 1954-1989 passed away in July.

The 126<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the MHS Alumni Association was held on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Elementary School Cafeteria.

Members of the class of 1966 held a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Madelia Golf Course in July. Forty-four members and guests attended the event.

Elaine Pitts Midtbruget '63 has written, *'Memories of a Time Gone By'*, about her childhood. The story is included, along with stories by other southwest Minnesotans, in the book, *'Victory Gardens and Long Handled Dippers'*.

Duane Anderson '62, owner of Anderson Plumbing and Heating for 50 years, has retired and sold his business to brothers Ryan '94 and Brad Tatro '99. They intend to open under the name Tatro Plumbing and Heating.

Brooke Elkins Forstner '02 recognized as a *'Rising Star'* by Eide Bailly. Recipients are employees who have a positive impact on both their customers and colleagues.

Madelia Municipal Light and Power employee, Darren Gifferson '87, is plant general maintenance foreman for three utilities; Madelia, Truman, and Lake Crystal.

MHS alums Krista Cerny Lunz '04, John Eager '87, Jay Lunz '79, Ben Odegard '06, and incumbent Jen Larson McLaughlin '96, are candidates for the Madelia School Board. Andy Gappa '97 is a candidate for Madelia City Council. County Commissioner for District 1, Ray Gustafson '78, seeks reelection.

Korean War Veteran, Phil Hodapp '51, was awarded Mankato's Jefferson Good People Award. For the love of his country, Phil has served as part of the American Legion's Rifle Squad at military funerals for the past 47 years.

A news article noted that three members of the class of 1961, Larry Blickem, Sharon Brandt Tebben, and Harley Jorgenson, passed away on the same day, November 5, 2016.

Jim Lawrence '52 was awarded a plaque from the Madelia American Legion. Jim has been a member for 62 years, making him the longest active member.

The family of Tom Eager '56 donated new flags to the American Legion in Tom's honor. Grandson, Brandon Eager '16, is in the US Marine Corps continuing the family tradition of military service.

MHS athletic director, Paul Carpenter '77, received a certificate of appreciation for acknowledging our veterans at a Blackhawks football game.

Jessica Becker '04 is the new Executive Director of Nicollet County Historical Society.

Dr. Steve Anderson '54 retired from Watonwan County Historical Society board of directors following 23 years of service. Future WCHS plans include naming its new farm machinery building in Steve's honor.

Jennifer Klinkner Hagen '94 hired as new special education teacher at MHS.

Steve Cooling '78 is named President of Pioneer Bank Central Market Unit which includes Madelia and Lewisville branches.

Brenda Sill Christensen '00 hired as second grade teacher at Madelia Elementary School.

Ted Peterson '74 served as District Governor for the Lions Club International in District 5M-8 east central Minnesota.

Lyle Jacobs '72 honored for serving 20+ years on the Madelia School Board.

Jim '86 and Marisa Tatman Ulmen '92 have purchased the Madelia Feed Mill and operate as Ulmen Custom Feed.

Thomas Ackerson, English teacher at MHS from 1962-1991, passed away in February 2017.

Adam Cooling '13, student at MSU Mankato, named a Myles Brandt All-Academic with Distinction Award. Also, as a member of the Maverick's wrestling team, Adam won third place in the NCAA Division II national championship competition.

Denise Klinkner, M.D., M.Ed. '93 recently assisted in treating a young patient from Martin county who was accidentally shot in the chest with an arrow. The child has since recovered.

Dan Gudahl '73 is the new executive director of Whiterock Conservancy in Coon Rapids, IA. The Conservancy is a non-profit which balances public recreation, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource protection on its 5,500 acres of land.

Taylor Thomas '14 was inducted into Alpha Chi National Honor's Society at GCU in Phoenix, AZ

Laura Pace Sorenson '04, a past MHS National Honor Society member, spoke at the 2017 NHS ceremony at the high school. Thirteen girls from the Junior class joined the membership.

## **Madelia Alumni Association 2016-2017**

### **Officers:**

President. - Christine Shaw Lensing '93  
Vice President - George Cunningham '71  
Past President - Scott Kirchner '90  
Secretary - Brenda Sill Christensen '00  
Treasurer - Steve Cooling '78

Historian: Chris McCabe '64  
Computer Tech: Steve Tatro '68  
Newsletter Draft: Linda Hogan '73  
Web Managers: Julie Halvorson '77, Kathy Guyer '68  
Website: Kemske  
Printing: Preferred Printing Company

### **Directors:**

Brenda Peterson Ruch '75  
Lori Feder Pietsch '85  
Cindy Bachman Lehman '76  
Tom Byro '83  
Linda Peterson Kunz '74

## WE REMEMBER

Anita Skewis Rosendahl - 1929  
Catherine Osborne Guyer - 1936  
Esther Griffith Shelley - 1937  
Elizabeth Lickfett Johnson - 1939  
Priscilla Helgo Severson - 1940  
Charles Haug - 1941  
Ruth Smith Gag - 1941  
Kathleen Goodburn Luiken - 1942  
Judith Johnson Smith - 1943  
Adeline Osborne McCabe - 1943  
Shirley Bonderman Hagen - 1944  
Litana 'Toni' Ikier Hoescht - 1944  
Henry Melzer - 1944  
Theoris Thormodson Christenson - 1945  
Arlys Bonderman Tharp - 1946  
Marian Faulkner Roberts - 1947  
Leo Splinter - 1947  
Eldon Tharp - 1947  
Elmira Thompson Doering - 1947  
Lewis Archerd - 1948  
Myrtle Ellingsberg LuConic - 1948  
Joyce Oates Pettersen - 1948  
Jean Anderson Raabe - 1949  
Kathleen McCarthy Anderson - 1949  
Betty Bachmann Peterson - 1951  
Harold Carstensen - 1951  
Robert Hennis - 1951

Richard Davis - 1952  
Robert Elletson - 1952  
Ernest Lehman - 1952  
Tom Quinn - 1954  
Robert Haycraft - 1955  
Sherry Davis Mehle - 1956  
Jim Breiter - 1957  
Bruce Chase - 1959  
Lynn Abraham - 1960  
Carol Harris Coult - 1960  
Sharon Stordahl Simpson - 1960  
Larry Blickem - 1961  
Sharon Brandt Tebben - 1961  
Harley Jorgenson - 1961  
Dean Hawes - 1963  
Pat Simpson Schmidtke - 1963  
Larry Benzel - 1964  
Kaye Haugen Nelson - 1966  
LaVonne Dahl Grassel - 1968  
Carla Nelson Mador - 1968  
David Roberts - 1973  
Jennifer Anderson - 1986  
Bruce Hansen - 1986  
Patrick Coult - 1988  
Anna Saldana Romero - 1995  
Daniel Trullinger - 2000  
Bryon Forstner - 2013

## MEMORIALS

The Alumni Association gratefully acknowledges Memorial donations (July 2014-April 2017).

In Memory	Given by
Gayle Hoefft	Louise Anderson
Bruce Hansen	Wendy Hennager
Kaye Nelson	Connie Miller
Rose Gunderson	Paul Seibert
Eileen Russell	Family of Eileen Russell
James Stephenson	Stephenson Family Trust
Eileen Russell, Willard Russell, Fr Ramon McCabe, Kathleen Carstensen, Jean Raabe	Lynn and Pat Abraham
Eileen Russell, Gayle Hoefft, Theoris Christenson, Priscilla Severson, Harold Carstensen, Addie McCabe, Jean Raabe, Kaye Nelson	Roy and Chris McCabe

Memorials (and donations) are welcome and appreciated. Memorials are used for All-School Reunion expenses. Gifts in the form of a check can be made to MHS Alumni Association and mailed to Wendy Hennager, P.O. Box 443, Lake Crystal, MN 56055. A sincere thank you to all who have contributed in this way.

## 2017 CLASS REUNIONS

- 1947 – Friday, July 7, Noon, Madelia American Legion. Contact: Bonnie Jessop 507-375-4968.
- 1950 – Thursday, July 27, Noon, La Plaza Fiesta, Madelia. Contact: Bonnie Viland 507-375-4564.
- 1951 - Saturday, August 12, 11 AM – 3 PM, Jake's Stadium Pizza, Mankato  
Contact: Donna Jean Peterson 507-388-3776.
- 1952 – Friday, October 13, 11 AM – 3 PM, Jake's Stadium Pizza, Mankato  
Contact: Ettie Palmer [ettiepalmer52@gmail.com](mailto:ettiepalmer52@gmail.com)
- 1956 - Thursday, July 6, 11 AM, Madelia American Legion.  
Contact: Jan Ulmen for reservations; 507-642-8678.
- 1957 - Thursday, September 21, Noon, Madelia. Contact Don Quass [dquass@comcast.net](mailto:dquass@comcast.net) or  
Maynard Kelsey [mskelsey@comcast.net](mailto:mskelsey@comcast.net) if you plan to attend. Classmates should  
watch for an email with further information.
- 1958 - Tuesday, September 19, Noon, Madelia American Legion  
Contact: Elsie Pace [pacede@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:pacede@sleepyeyetel.net)
- 1961 - Friday, July 7, Meet at Drew Ave & Main St for parade, after meet at GrandStay Conference  
Room. Saturday, meet at Watona Park, then 5:30 dinner at American Legion.  
Sunday, 10:30 AM, breakfast at Madelia Lanes.
- 1962 – Saturday, June 24, La Plaza Fiesta, Madelia. (Questions – contact Winky Taylor)
- 1967 - Friday, July 21, 4 PM reception at Bill and Judy Feder home, 224 Mayan Way, Mankato.  
July 22, 2 PM downtown Madelia followed by tour of the high school. 4 PM social hour 6 PM  
dinner at Madelia Golf Course. Contact: Bill Feder [williamfeder@gmail.com](mailto:williamfeder@gmail.com)
- 1972 - Saturday, August 12, 5 PM, GrandStay Hotel, Madelia. For room reservations  
call 507-642-2004, mention '72 class reunion'. More details to follow. Contact Judy Hruby  
or Jan Christenson [mjchris208@hotmail.com](mailto:mjchris208@hotmail.com)
- 1977 – Friday, July 7 after parade, gathering at the home of Deidre & Pat Hruby.  
Saturday, July 8 gathering at the home of Jeff & Julie Halvorson. Details mailed to  
classmates. Go to *Class of '77* Facebook page for updates.
- 1982 - Saturday, July 8, 8 PM, Madelia Golf Course clubhouse. Details on  
Facebook page *Madelia Class of 1982*.

## SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY BOOKS

The “Sentimental Journey” series of books document the history of education, the students, and the MHS Alumni Association in three parts. Written by Priscilla Helgo Severson, '40, the first book, “**A Sentimental Journey**”, is a well-researched and detailed history of education in Madelia that begins in 1865 and follows our graduates to 1990. Two additional books have been added in two smaller editions outlining a short summary about each graduating class for that decade, hence the supplements: **1991 – 2000 “A Sentimental Journey Continues”**; and **2001- 2010 “The Journey Continues”**.

To order, check the item you are purchasing and mail payment to:

Julie Halvorson — 20149 473rd Ave, Madelia, MN 56062. Include your name, address and phone number (in case there are questions).

- Book 1** – Through 1990: \$15 + \$4 S&H, total \$19       **Book 2** – Through 2000: \$5 + \$4 S&H, total \$9  
 **Book 3** – Through 2010: \$8 + \$4 S&H, total \$12       **All 3 books**: \$28 + \$4 S & H, total \$32

If you have questions, contact Julie at 507-642-8993, or [jeffjulieh@gmail.com](mailto:jeffjulieh@gmail.com)

**Madelia High School Alumni Association Annual Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 6:30 PM**  
 Madelia Elementary School Cafeteria

**Financial Report**  
 July 1, 2016 – May 10, 2017

INCOME:		EXPENSES:	
Annual Dues	80.00	Advertising	51.80
Fundraiser	245.00	Computer	154.50
Lifetime Dues	600.00	Dues and Subscriptions	100.00
Memorial	220.00	Operations Printing and Copying	428.29
Miscellaneous	225.00		
Books	43.00		
Total Expenses		734.59	
Net Ordinary Income		678.41	
Net Income		\$678.41	

**Change of Address**

Please send all changes of home address, email address and questions or comments to Chris McCabe.

Email: [madeliaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:madeliaalumni@gmail.com)

Mail 83661 300<sup>th</sup> St., Madelia, MN 56062

Phone: 507-642-3752 (landline)

**Alumni Dues**

Clip and Save -----

The next MHS All-School Reunion is only three years away (2020). The success of this exceptional celebration depends upon support from alumni. Payment of dues is the primary source of income for the Association.

Please send \$5 per member for annual dues **OR** pay Lifetime Membership according to the following:

- Those graduating up to 24 years ago: \$75/person
- Those graduating 25 to 49 years ago: \$50/person
- Those graduating 50 + years ago: \$25/person

Graduation Name (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Current Name (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_

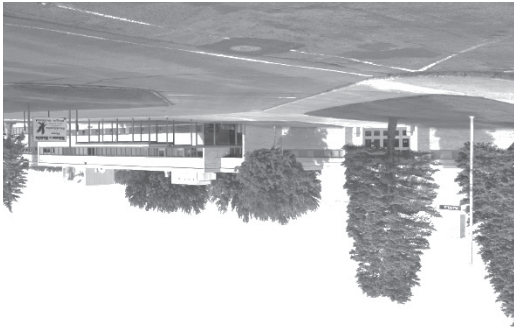
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ *If uncertain if you have paid lifetime dues, contact  
 madeliaalumni@gmail.com*

**Send payment to: Wendy Williams Hennager - P. O. Box 443 - Lake Crystal, MN 56055**

MHS Alumni Assoc.  
83661 300<sup>th</sup> St.  
Madelia, MN 56062



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