

# MADELIA HIGH SCHOOL

## Alumni Newsletter

May 2016

**Nothing is impossible to the willing mind!**  
**Colors: Purple and White**

**A message from Alumni President, Scott Kirchner**

Greetings to all alumni of Madelia High School,

Formed in 1890, the Madelia Alumni Association preserves the history of Madelia High School as well as recognizing past graduates and their achievements. The Alumni Association also works to coordinate and celebrate the "All School Reunion" every ten years. The next reunion is coming up in 2020.

The 126<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of our association will be held on **Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Elementary School cafeteria**. Everyone is welcome to attend.

As we continue to preserve and celebrate Madelia High School, we are grateful for your past, current and future monetary support. With the All School Reunion fast approaching, any financial support is greatly appreciated.

We are currently looking for alumni who want to share their time, talents and a passion for our history by serving as an active member of the board of directors. If you have an interest or know someone who does I encourage you to contact us via email ([madeliaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:madeliaalumni@gmail.com)) or on Facebook.

Finally, stay connected through our website [madeliaalumni.com](http://madeliaalumni.com) for news, updates and happenings and remember to "Like" us on our Madelia High School Alumni Facebook page.

Scott Kirchner '90

### **2015-16 Alumni Association Officers**

President: Scott Kirchner '90  
Past President: Scott Kirchner  
Vice President: Jan Helling '78  
Secretary: Julie Flicek Halvorson '77  
Treasurer: Jan Helling '78

Historian: Chris Jacobson McCabe '64  
Book Historian: Priscilla Helgo Severson, '40

### **Directors**

Christine Shaw Lensing '93  
George Cunningham '71  
Tom Byro: '83  
Julie Flicek Halvorson, '77  
Jan Helling '78  
Steve Sorenson '83

Computer Tech: Steve Tatro '68  
Website: Kemske

**Welcome to all new MHS Alumni!**

## **Madelia Main Street Fire**

**A devastating fire destroyed several buildings and businesses** on the north side of Main Street on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. The following businesses were destroyed: Culligan (Jim Pettersen, '76), Kay's Upholstery (Kay Vee Gunderson, '67), EZ Medical Wraps (Nancy Vee, '74), Hope & Faith Floral & Gifts (Ryan Visher, '93), American Family Insurance (Tom McCabe, '68 and Brian McCabe, '99), Tressa Veona Salon (Summer Holden DeLaCruz, '99), La Plaza Fiesta Mexican Restaurant, Reed Gethman Dental Office, Mexican grocery store, and an apartment dwelling (Matt Gunderson '95). At this writing, the rebuilding process has begun.

**Those wanting more information about the fire** should contact the City of Madelia, 116 West Main St, Madelia, MN 56062 or Madelia Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 171, Madelia, MN 56062. Photos, articles, and updates are posted on the Alumni website ([madeliaalumni.com](http://madeliaalumni.com)), Chamber website ([visitmadelia.com](http://visitmadelia.com)), the Internet, and on Facebook.

### **Madelia Fire Department MHS alumni firefighters who fought the fire:**

Marcos Aguilera '00, Bill Crowley '77, Mark Denn '87, Mike Denn '88, Dustin Forstner '05, Grant Halverson '98, Greg Hruby '07, Pat Hruby '76, Chad Jacobs '95, Keith Kilmer '91, Adam Lawrence '00, Ben Lehman '99, Lana Lopez '94, Dana McCabe '93, John Nelson '05, Mike Pace '12, Brian Schultz '93, Don Smith '87, John Tierney '10, Dustin VanHale '09, Ryan Visher '93. Retired fireman: Gary Forstner '73 and Vinny Forstner '80.

### **Madelia Rescue Squad MHS alumni who assisted:**

David Smith, '68, Mike Sorenson, '13, Sarah VanHale, '09

*It is impossible to list the names of all of the MHS alumni who were directly or indirectly affected by the fire and those who have helped in the aftermath in any way. Many of those individuals' names can be found on the Madelia Chamber Website, in the Madelia Times Messenger and on the Facebook page, "You Know You're From Madelia When You Remember..."*



## HAPPENINGS

April 2015 – March 2016

Carissa Cunningham Spencer '93, Natural Resources Conservation Services, spoke at the annual Ag Night hosted by Madelia Chamber of Commerce.

MHS foreign exchange student, Juri Sanoska of Germany, enjoyed a trip to Las Vegas with host family Phil '72 and Margaret Carstensen '73 McCabe.

1975-76 foreign exchange student, from Austria, Markus Holas, and two sons, visited friends in Madelia last May. His host family at the time was the Ray '54 and Marie Ulmen family.

Jim Stordahl '64, spoke at the Watonwan County Library, St James and Madelia Branch Library on the challenges of living with Bipolar disorder. Jim has written several books as a way to help others deal with this illness.

The Class of 1970 held a 45<sup>th</sup> year reunion in May at the American Legion. Forty-two classmates and 16 guests were present.

Twenty-nine MHS seniors graduated Friday, May 29. Meghan Halverson '03, high school counselor, presented the names of scholarship recipients. Megan Anderson '06 welcomed the graduates to membership in the Alumni Association.

Kathy Christenson Guyer '68, teacher at MHS for twenty-two plus years, retired in 2015.

Jordan Henry '15, placed fourth at the state golf tournament in June. Eighty-eight golfers participated in the tournament.

Forty members of the class of 1965 celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> year reunion in June at the Dick Selland farm.

Alumnus, Mike Teigum '78, pursuing a new career, is attending University of South Dakota Law School in Vermillion.

The class of 1950 met at the Hometown Cafe, St James, to celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

Twenty-two members and eighteen guests of the class of 1955 enjoyed a 60 year reunion in July at the home of Pat '55 and Steve '54 Anderson in Madelia.

The Furniture Clinic, owned by Rick '78 and Lisa Hoeft Elkins '81, housed in the former Vet Clinic building, was severely vandalized in July. Family and friends of the couple helped clean up and restore the site.

Andy Hennis '94, Christensen Communications, and others, met with representatives of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to discuss Watonwan County technology, housing and education needs.

A 40<sup>th</sup> year reunion was celebrated by the class of 1975 at the Madelia Golf Course in July.

Steve Anderson '54 one of two citizens named Watonwan County Senior Volunteer of the Year.

Members of the class of 1985 held a 30<sup>th</sup> year reunion during Park Days, 2015.

Military veteran Roger Pederson '65, accompanied by his family, raised the American flag during a ceremony at a Minnesota Twins baseball game at Target Field. Steve Kelsey '71 nominated Roger for the honor.

Wayne Feder '58 has written a book about his memories of growing up in rural Madelia titled *'He'll Never Amount to Anything: A Farm Boy's Stories'*.

The MHS football field is renamed *Bell-N.A.P. Field* in honor of the following: C. E. Bell – Supt 1929-1947; Don Nehowig – Head Track Coach 1957-1995; Terry Arduser '66 – Head Football Coach 1984-2000, 2009-14; Bruce Paulson – Head Football Coach 1949-1960.

The class of 1951 held its annual reunion in August at Jake's Stadium Pizza in Mankato.

Todd Keech '84 named Chairman of the Board of Iowa Grocery Industry Association.

BM Builders, Bill McMullen '72, and A.R.R. Construction business merge.

MHS' first (1934) Homecoming Queen, Muriel Tande Walsh '38, passed away in 2015. Muriel often participated in Madelia Homecoming and All School Reunion events through the years.

Todd Wihlm '93 is 2015 champion at the Madelia Golf Course Club. Winner of the men's first flight honor was Gary McCabe '80.

Several members of the class of '58 met for a mini-reunion in September.

Madelia Ford, owners Jim '61 and Jan Jose, son Mike '83, held an open house celebrating 70 years in business.

Roseanne Parker '77, Australia, was welcomed by her AFS family and friends during a visit to Madelia last fall. Roseanne's AFS host was the Lee and Della Byro family.

Felicia Pineda '13, Homecoming Queen candidate at Southwest State University, Marshall.

The class of 1952 held a reunion in October at Jake's Stadium Pizza, Mankato.

Karen Johnson Hopman '68, RN, retired after thirty plus years of employment at Luther Memorial Home, the last 15 years as director of nursing.

Retired city employee, Bruce L Nelson '66, was honored at a city open house event and received a plaque noting his thirty years of dedicated service to the community.

Representatives of the Madelia Community Hospital Foundation board, Traci Wihlm Henry '87 and Wendy Williams Hennager '86, presented the Madelia Police Department with a donation for automated external defibrillators for use in squad cars.

Jenna Goodburn Culhane '09, is new special education teacher at Madelia.

A donation from Elsie Anderson Pace '58 to the Madelia Fire Department was used to purchase safety vests, worn by walkers and bikers, part of a campaign called, 'Stay Safe and Stay Seen'.

Former MHS teacher, Joe Paffel, passed away in July, 2015. Larry Breen, who spent some time teaching Ag classes to returned veterans in Madelia, died in September, 2015.

Guest speaker at the Veteran's Day high school assembly program was Terry Arduser '66, former MHS teacher/coach and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mark Christenson '69 was recognized for 15 years' service on the Madelia Community Hospital/Clinic board of trustees.

MHS alum Julie Johnson Tatro '94 has joined the faculty and will teach junior high science.

Gloria Harris Eager '59 and Ethel Laingen Schultz '57, acting on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary, gave gifts to students at the public and St. Mary's elementary schools during American Education Week.

Marnie Jacobson Kortuem '91 and Katie Odegard '11 are coaching the girls' junior high basketball team.

Duane Anderson '62 owner of Anderson Plumbing and Heating, has retired after 50 years in the business.

Madelia Bus Service driver, Dave Lehman '77, used his driving skills and experience to avoid a serious student bus/car accident. Superintendent Ames honored Dave at a special event held at the school.

Chuck Slocum '65 wrote an article for the Times Messenger detailing a trip he and his wife took to Cuba.

Krista Cerny Lunz '04, RN, and Stacy Piepgras Uhde '98 joined the staff at Luther Memorial Home as Director of Nursing and Unit Coordinator respectively.

Todd Stevensen '80 recognized for 21 years of service to the fire department.

Stacy Swenson Wihlm '93, Executive Director at Monarch Meadows in North Mankato, honored at the Leading Age Minnesota Institute and Expo for her graduation from Leading Age Leadership Academy.

Brad Becker '05 was the featured speaker at MHS National Honor Society's ceremony honoring its new members.

The class of 1965 donated \$5,000 to a community fire recovery fund set up to help those persons directly impacted by the Main Street fire.

Josh Henry '07 has started his own company in Madelia called Elite Electrical Innovations LLC.

Julie Blaufuss Melzer '91 featured for her work with military veterans. Julie, a counselor at ASC Psychological Clinic, is Administrator of Veterans Programs.

## MARRIAGES

Errol Stillings '61 and Shari Feder-Roehmildt '61  
Dusty Forstner '05 and Ashley Kunz '08

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## WE REMEMBER

Lorna Cooling Mosel Cooling – 1931  
Esther Lee Munson – 1932  
Elvaina Helgo Nelson – 1938  
Muriel Tande Walsh – 1938  
Clement Gronewold – 1940  
Jean Smith Stringer - 1942  
Philip Gronewold - 1943  
Patricia Osborne Trembley - 1944  
Bonnie Franke Sorbel - 1946  
Duane Day - 1947  
Gerhard Lokre - 1947  
Bonita Elkins Mickelson - 1947  
J. Marvin Smith - 1950  
Willis Hannifen - 1951  
Richard 'Mike' McLean - 1951  
Lawrence Peterson -1951

Dorothy Thompson Rieke -1951  
Maxine Blickem Oates - 1952  
Patricia Jansen Madson - 1953  
Vincent Brackelsberg - 1955  
James Hoeft - 1955  
Gayle Halvorson Hoeft - 1956  
Sonja Martinson Mosel - 1958  
Erling Schmiesing - 1958  
Karen Thurston Thormodson Dauer - 1958  
Sheryl Hansen Jacobson - 1964  
Clifford Harrison - 1964  
Vivian Osborne Peyman - 1964  
Joseph Smith - 1970  
Richard Ruch - 1974  
Ronald Simpson - 1974

## Madelia High School Alumni Association Annual Meeting

Tuesday, July 19, 2016, 6:30 PM

Madelia Elementary School Cafeteria

### Financial Report

July 1, 2015 through May 1, 2016

Checking Account balance: \$6082.30

Savings Balance: \$1016.45

#### INCOME:

Annual Dues 65.00

Lifetime Dues 450.00

Fundraiser 228.75

Memorials 100.00

Books: 138.00

#### EXPENSES:

Advertising 25.00

Computer 224.42

Website 570.00

Total Expense 819.42

Net Ordinary Income 162.33

Net Income \$162.33

### Alumni Dues

The next MHS All School Reunion is only four years away. The success of this exceptional celebration depends on support from all alumni. Payment of your dues is very important. It is the primary source of income and supports the following: All School Reunions; printing and mailing; website maintenance; payments to the Historian and Computer Technician; membership in the Chamber of Commerce; annual purchase of MHS Yearbook given to the Watonwan County Historical Center Madelia Museum; to name a few.

Please send \$5 per person for annual dues payable to MHS Alumni Association by August 1, 2016

Or pay Lifetime Memberships according to the following:

Those graduating up to 24 years ago pay \$75.00 per person

Those graduating from 25 to 49 years ago pay \$50.00 per person

Those graduating 50 + years ago pay \$25.00 per person

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grad Yr \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Wendy Williams Hennager, P.O. Box 443, Lake Crystal, MN 56055

If uncertain that you paid Lifetime Membership dues, contact [madeliaalumni@gmail.com](mailto:madeliaalumni@gmail.com)

### Memorials

Memorials (and donations) are welcome and appreciated. Memorials are placed into a savings account and used for All School Reunion expenses. A sincere thank-you to those who have already contributed in this way. 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

### 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).

## 2016 CLASS REUNIONS

1950 – Wednesday, June 22, 12:00 Noon, Hometown Café, St James, MN Contact: Bonnie Olson Viland

1951- Friday, July 22, 11AM – 3PM; Party Room, Jake’s Stadium Pizza, Mankato.  
Contact: Harold Carstensen [htc1974@sbcglobal.net](mailto:htc1974@sbcglobal.net)

1952 – Friday, October 14, 11AM; Jake’s Stadium Pizza, Mankato. Contact: Ettie Palmer [palm43e@yahoo.com](mailto:palm43e@yahoo.com)

1956 –Wednesday, July 6, 12:00 Noon; American Legion. (Each classmate responsible for own meal)  
Contact: Jan Ulmen [countrygalmn@msn.com](mailto:countrygalmn@msn.com)

1958 –Tuesday, September 20, 12:00 Noon; American Legion Contact: Elsie Pace [paccede@sleepyeyetel.net](mailto:paccede@sleepyeyetel.net)

1961 – Friday, July 8 (after Parade) 8PM – 12PM, Madelia Hotel Community Room.

Come and go. Treats to share are welcome.

Saturday, July 9, 5:30PM VFW – meet and eat dinner together.

Contact: Sherry Tebben [sherry.tebben@northern.edu](mailto:sherry.tebben@northern.edu) 817-454-8488

1966 – Friday, July 15, 5:00PM Steak Dinner, Stone Shelter, Watona Park.

Saturday, July 16, (time NA), Buffet Dinner at Blue Shelter, Watona Park. (Additional details at Friday gathering.)

Contact: Phil McMonagle 651-231-2122

1971 – Saturday, August 6; (time NA) Steve & Sue Kelsey farm.

Contact: Dale Ellingsberg [dwberger@gmail.com](mailto:dwberger@gmail.com) 952-445-1488 cell- 612-718-2429

1976 – Saturday, September 17, 5:00PM Madelia Golf Course Club House.

Contact: Sue Hahn [sahahn076@gmail.com](mailto:sahahn076@gmail.com)

1981 –Saturday, September 17, Bruce & Julie Pace farm.

Members should watch their mail and email for more information.

Please send current email address to Loralee Di Lorenzo [loralee@dilorenzo.com](mailto:loralee@dilorenzo.com)

1986 – Saturday, July 9 – Park Days, 4:00PM Jim and Marisa Ulmen farm; 34235 850<sup>th</sup> Ave, Madelia.

Details at Madelia Class of ’86 FB page.

Contact: Lisa Urban Lee [leegle@hotmail.com](mailto:leegle@hotmail.com) 507-828-3376 or on FB.

1991 – Friday, July 8 (tentative)

Class members should check the FB page “Madelia High School Class of 1991 Reunion” for details.

1996 – Saturday, July 9, 8:00 PM, Madelia Golf Course Club House – outdoors. Cash bar, hors d’oeuvres, games!

Contact: Pat Eiselt [peiselt@eisinc.com](mailto:peiselt@eisinc.com) 651-783-2501; Mark McCabe 651-307-1389

### 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 to the first book in two smaller editions outlining a short summary about each of the graduating classes 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 473<sup>rd</sup> 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 3** – Through 2010: \$8 + \$4 S & H, total \$12

**Book 2** – Through 2000: \$5 + \$4 S & H, total \$9

**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)

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

**MHS Alumni  
NEWSLETTER**