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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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# Alumni News

VOLUME III

ISSUE I

OCTOBER 2009

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## DEAR ALUMNI,

### Greetings Lewiston-Porter

#### Alumni and Friends

August 2009 marked the second anniversary of our LPAA. And what an exciting, productive two years this has been. Our organization has blossomed with over 200 members, a full slate of programs, and an energetic, hard working Board of Directors. At our annual meeting September 10<sup>th</sup> we welcomed new board members Terry Collesano '59, Rachel DeMayo '09, and Judy Jarvis '58. Norma Marshall '57 was elected Treasurer. John Mac Arthur '68 and Harold Shippy '56 were reelected Secretary and Vice President respectively and I am honored to continue as President. Our Distinguished Alumni, Mini-grant, Freshman Orientation, Scholarship, Newsletter, Website, Peach Festival, Strategic Planning, and 5-K Run activities have been highly successful due to all Board of Directors and many other members being actively committed. Bob Pelletier, Bill Vrooman, Pauline Gregg, Sully Fitzgerald, and Tom Szczes have returned from CA, MD, FL, Syracuse, and NYC area to work on these events in person or participate via teleconference. Members Ann Johnston, Cindy Bullis, and Joe Lauzonis are on site at Lew-Port working with Principal Paul Casseri daily. This noteworthy dedication is what makes your Alumni Association an integral part of Lew-Port being an award winning

school. Elsewhere in the newsletter you will read about the Jason Raby Memorial 5-K Run and Walk, an event we proudly sponsor to honor deceased alumnus, Jason Raby. 62 local community business sponsors and patrons joined with the Alumni Association providing financial and in-kind support to the 142 runners and walkers. LPAA was again at the Lewiston Peach Festival September 11-13 greeting alumni, reminiscing over yearbooks, and highlighting school programs with a Power Point show. Alumni financial stimulus for the Class of 2010 finds six \$1,000 scholarships being made available by LPAA directly, and through collaboration with Class of 1958 and several families. The LPAA is available to work with other alumni classes, families, and businesses to help develop and administer additional scholarships. More alumni financial stimulus is on the table for Lew-Port students at all three schools this year in the form of Mini-grants being made available to teachers for high impact, innovative classroom activities. LPAA support is also available for alumni classes planning 2010 reunions or special events. 2007-2009 have been very good years. LPAA is aiming even higher in 2009 and beyond. We will continue to "make a difference" at Lew-Port for students, teachers, and alumni.

### Dear Alumni,

Well, another school year is now upon us. The 2008-2009 school year ended very well. On Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, we said good-bye to the Class of 2009 at our 58<sup>th</sup> commencement. When I meet with the various classes over the course of the school year I often remind them of the fact that the ceremony so often referred to as "graduation" is also known as a "commencement exercise". I remind them that the word commence means to begin or start anew, for the end of students' high school years marks the beginning of the rest of their lives. High School years are a formation and preparation for college or university or perhaps military service or the world of work. I believe Lewiston-Porter High School prepares students very well. I believe we have developed programming that makes a difference in the lives of our students and hopefully prepares them for the rigors of the next phase of their lives.

We have thoughtfully made adjustments in curriculum programming like the addition of more new advanced placement courses, or the development of our significant International Exchange program, or our International Business Academy all in an effort to better prepare our students for the world they will face after LPHS. It appears that we are making a difference. Our New York State Department of Education school report card and our Business First rankings have never been better. In fact, in Business First, our local WNY business newspaper which carefully ranks all schools and school districts in WNY, Lewiston-Porter High School has seen a dramatic rise in its rankings (2007 - #47, 2008 - #33, 2009 - #22). As a district, we have also made tremendous gains (2007 - #20, 2008 - #14, 2009 - #11). We will continue to strive to make Lewiston - Porter the #1 high school in Western New York.

*(Continued on page 3)*

Jack James '58 President

# Getting to Know Your LPAA Board Members



Cindy Bullis,  
Class of 1976

I am so honored and proud to be able to be a part of the Lewiston-Porter School District...

## **Cindy Bullis, Class of 1976.**

Cindy took on the huge role as Treasurer of the LPAA in 2007. In this position, Cindy had to develop and maintain the financial records and membership lists of the organization. This was not a simple checking account as LPAA has 503 status and a philanthropic account that is used as the LPAA investment account. LPAA appreciates the effort and work that Cindy has put into this position. As Cindy's role at Lewiston-Porter is offering her new challenges, she now turns the reins over to Norma Marshall.

Cindy has served Lewiston-Porter in many different areas. She is currently a physical education teacher in the Intermediate Education Center and is the Physical Education Department Chair & Director of Physical Education. In this position Cindy is responsible for the Lew-Port physical education

curriculum and evaluation of Lew-Port's physical education programs at the state level. She also serves as the Section VI Executive Committee and Athletic Council Girls Representative as well as the Executive Committee and Section VI Girls Rep to the State Athletic Central Committee with New York State Public High School Athletic Association. The Executive Committee of the NYS Athletic Administrator Association, Chapter Six recognized Cindy with the 2009 Distinguished Service Award. Before coming to Lew-Port, Cindy taught at North Tonawanda Spruce Elementary and at Grand Island Middle School.

Sports has always played a major role in Cindy's life. While at Lew-Port Cindy played varsity volleyball, basketball, and softball. She furthered her education at Central Community State University where she partici-

pated in volleyball and basketball. Her coaching roles at Lew-Port have included boys and girls volleyball, boys and girls track & field, and boys and girls swimming.

On a personal note, Cindy said, "My family is the most important part of my life and I love spending time with them. I am lucky to be able to play golf with my Mom whenever we can. Golf is the one sport that I decided to not play competitively; it is strictly for my enjoyment and relaxation. Spending time with my nephews and niece is the greatest blessing. We have taken many trips together and we all enjoy roller coasters and the ocean so we have lots of fun."

When speaking of Lew-Port Cindy said, "I am so honored and proud to be able to be a part of the Lewiston-Porter School District that gave me such an excellent start to my future. I am proud to represent Lewiston-Porter not just at the local level through my teaching and coaching but at the Sectional and State Level as well.

## **ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS for LEW-PORT CLASS OF 2010**

**Lewiston-Porter Alumni Association**, for the second year, is offering scholarships. Two scholarships, each for \$1,000, are from the Alumni Association directly. These are available to all graduates continuing studies at either community colleges or four year schools. A third award, the **Margaret Tower James Memorial Scholarship**, also for \$1,000, is offered to graduates going on to major in education. This scholarship is offered in collaboration with Lewiston-Porter Alumni Association.

**Class of 1958 Memorial Scholarships** are being offered for the eleventh year. They are open to all students continuing their studies at either community colleges or four year schools. Three scholarships are being offered, each funded at \$1,000.

Scholarship criteria and application forms for all six scholarships are available at the Lewiston-Porter Guidance Department. Applications are due April 30, 2010.

Lewiston-Porter Alumni Association can assist other Lew-Port alumni classes, families, or corporate sponsors with development and administration of new scholarships. This support can include development of scholarship criteria and application forms. We can assist with tax exempt funds management via our Lewiston-Porter Alumni Association Philanthropic Fund. We can also assist by jointly collaborating with Lew-Port Guidance Department on scholarship announcements, selection, and awards. For further information contact Lew-Port Association Scholarship Chair, Robert Pelletier at [robpelletti@aol.com](mailto:robpelletti@aol.com) or (301) 929-4378.

## Casseri Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

The 58<sup>th</sup> Commencement ceremony at Artpark was a beautiful event. This year we started a new tradition by honoring those students headed off for military service. In our uncertain world, making the decision to enlist in a branch of the armed forces is a noble commitment. We proudly honored these young men and women for their gallant undertaking. Also at the event, Daryl “Moose” Johnston, Class of 1984, delivered an outstanding commencement address. His inspiring words focused on the importance of goal setting and commitment to excellence, which have been a strong part of his high success. Daryl spoke to the class in a most heartfelt and authentic way. His words gave great meaning to the night. All of us at Lewiston-Porter offer a special thanks to Daryl for his commitment to our school and our community.

As we move into summer, things normally slow down here at school; however, this year looks to be different. Many teachers will be in doing significant summer planning, as part of our push for excellence. Teachers by department and grade level will begin an extensive review of curriculum as we look to take our “game” to the next level. Here at Lewiston-Porter High School we strive as an organization to view ourselves as a Professional Learning Community. Three questions drive the Professional Learning Community – “What do we

want the students to know?” – “How will we know they have learned the curriculum?” – “What do we do when students show learning gaps?” Response to these questions requires administrators and faculty to take a long hard look at curriculum, assessment and instruction. These will be core areas for teacher summer curriculum work.

Also this summer, major upgrades are taking place in our library and third floor. When school begins on September 9<sup>th</sup>, we will have a brand new, state of the art, library for our students to do research, study, and focus academically. Several new classrooms are also being created on the third floor math-science wing. The famous library stairs are now gone. This has created much more floor space in the library and allowed us to create for new rooms on the third floor. These improvements will significantly impact teaching and learning in a positive way.

Once again, the Alumni Association will aid us with our Freshman Orientation on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Our incoming freshman class will be on campus to gather strength and understanding for their step into High School. The Alumni Association was a great support to last year’s event both financially and with a strong presence. It was great to see our incoming freshmen interacting with graduates from the

1950’s and the 1960’s and beyond. The Lancer legacy and tradition was alive and well at the event. This year alumni will also help out. If you are interested in offering a hand, please contact John Evert, Assistant Principal, at the High School at 286-7263.

We are so proud of the strong support our alumni association shows our school. In early June, we hosted the distinguished Alumni Awards. It was a great event and offered to our students an opportunity to meet some great role models and envision their own futures after Lewiston-Porter. A special thank you to all our distinguished inductees from all of us at LPHS your presence on campus that day was very special for all of us.

Well, I hope all of you have a great summer. Summer goes by so quickly. Take time to enjoy relaxation time with family and friends. I hope to see you at an Alumni event this fall.

Go Lancers!

Paul Casseri, Principal

## Alumni Briefs:

**Joy Adamson Khatib, Class of 1980**, has been nominated for a 2009 YWCA of Niagara’s Niagara Award. Each nominee was asked to give advice to young women on eliminating racism and empowering women. Joy is a teacher at Lewiston-Porter Intermediate Education Center in the multi-age grades 4 and 5. Joy is an active volunteer for Community Missions Soup Kitchen, Heart & Soul Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Youngstown Story Hour and a nursing home volunteer. Joy’s advice was “Look past color, social status and gender. Look inward; live a purposeful life that makes a

difference that you lived at all. That kind of power no one can ever take from you. It can only grow and touch the lives of all who come in contact with you.”

**Louis Palmeri II, Class of 2003**, was chosen for a “reality” television show competition on E! Entertainment channel. The episode aired on Sunday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. This show was described as a show that turns the tables on reality-star wannabes by staging a show where the whole cast is in on the act to set up one unknowing reality-show contestant. If you guessed, Lou was the one being duped—

you’re right!

**Harold Shippy, Class of 1956**, is being inducted into the Niagara Falls Old Timers “Sports” Hall of Fame on October 24, 2009 at the Como Restaurant. Congratulations! Harold.

**Marilyn Lozzi Harbison, Class of 1958**, was recognized by the Ransomville Volunteer Fire Company for achieving 50 years of service in Ladies Auxiliary. She was congratulated for her dedication and service to the fire company.

*(Continued on page 11)*

## Notes:

Thank you to Lewiston-Porter and Nicole Krawczyk for the help in publishing the Alumni newsletter.

Find us on the Web: [www.lew-port.com/alumni](http://www.lew-port.com/alumni) with our dropdown link for the LPAA thanks to Joe Lauzonis.

If you have an article you would like to see in our newsletter or comments, please contact Ann Johnston at [annjohnston@verizon.net](mailto:annjohnston@verizon.net).

# Jason Raby Memorial Race

used to sponsor future alumni events at Lew-Port.

LPAA would like to thank the following sponsors:

**Platinum Sponsors:** Barton Hill Hotel and Spa, Brickyard, Inc., The Ontario House "The Jug," Waste Management, & Pepsi.

**Gold Sponsors:** A-1 Land Care, American Secretarial Services, Inc. Destino's Pizza & Pasta, Hardison Funeral Homes, Inc., International Chimney Corporation, Saint Gobain, Sentrex Security Systems, Inc

**Silver Sponsors:** Bandana's Bar & Grill, Main Street Gas & Grill, Stuart Sports.

**Bronze Sponsors:** AppleGranny Restaurant, Arrowhead Spring Winery, Greg's Pool, HSBC, Johnston's Summertime Blooms, Ki-Po Motors, Northern Customs Services, Olde Time Barber Shop, Ransomville Bus Lines, Youngstown Village Diner, Inc.

The following Lewiston and Youngstown businesses generously donated door prizes for the 5K race.

Artzee, Ashker's Coffee House & Sandwich Shop, Cheri Amour, Inc., Enchanted Florist, Favorites Pizzeria, Heritage Auto, Inc., Lewiston TOPS, Road ID, Smith Brothers Pizza, Snow Park, Villa Coffee House, Whirlpool Jet Tours, Willow Brook Golf Course Restaurant, & Worry-Free Winter, Duffy Johnston.

**Patrons:** Bob's Bookstore, Johnny Green Grass, John Tower, Rich and Betty Profeta, and James and Peggy Shear.



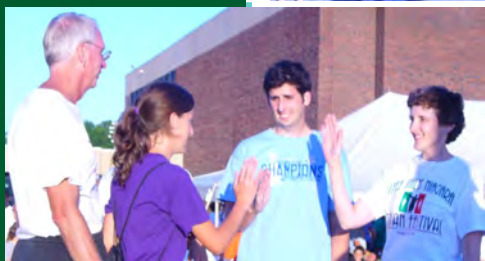
The 1st Annual Jason Raby Memorial 5K Race and Fun Walk on August 26, 2009 was a success with over 120 participants. The 5K race route started at the Senior High School with ninety-three racers participating. Seamus Degain (14) was the overall winner with a time of 18:24. Seamus is the grandson of **Harold, Class of 1956** and **Nancy Shippy, Class of 1959** and son of Jack and **Jill Shippy Degain, Class of 1982**. The overall female winner was Tatyana Sappalena with a time of 21:07.

Many Lew-Port alumni participated in the 5K race or fun walk while others came out to help to make the event run smoothly. **Mike Smith, Class of 1986**, was the DJ for the event.

In looking forward to next year, the LPAA is considering an earlier date and a later start time in the hopes that they can draw even more participants. This was considered a very successful endeavor for a first time event. Thanks to the help of our many local sponsors and patrons, the Jason Raby Memorial 5K Race made approximately \$1800 to be

## The Raby Family

Gary Sr., Jennifer, Gary Jr. and Darlene Raby



Seamus Degain



Tatyana Sappalena



Alumni Runner Pat Krawczyk and Gary Raby

## Alumni Runners

Rick Sweeney with Gary Raby  
JoAnn Johnston Allender with Tiffany Breniser



**Lew-Port Distinguished Alumni Award  
Nomination Form**

Do you have a classmate or fellow alumni that you would like to see as a Lew-Port Distinguished Alumni?

Please use this form to nominate your candidate, the induction will be held homecoming weekend of October 2010.

Nominee \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

-----  
Briefly describe the accomplishments of this graduate in the field of endeavor (attachments welcome) \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of person submitting nomination:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lew-Port Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Please feel free to duplicate this form and send in as many nominations as you like. We want to recognize as many deserving alumni as possible.**

**Return this form to: Harold Shippy  
739 Youngstown-Lockport Rd  
Youngstown NY 14174**

# Jason Salfi Goes Green



**Jason Salfi, Co-founder and  
CEO of Comet Skateboards**



***“The future is finding the right number of movements in a day, mastering the speed at which they occur and improving the quality of our interactions...”***

Jason Salfi, Class of 1988, graduated from Cornell with a degree in Natural Resource Management in 1992. Jason is the co-founder and President of Comet Skateboards which distributes a line of stylish skateboards made from bio-friendly materials such as e2e biocomposite TM, FSC certified maple and water-based glues and paints. Comet was started in San Francisco, California with fellow Lew-Port graduate, Jonothan Reese, Class of 1987. Jason returned to Ithaca after hearing about a Cornell professor who was making a sustainable and biodegradable adhesive from a soy-based material, which is now found in all of Comet’s boards. The boards are manufactured in Ithaca, NY. “I was interested in starting a business that had ecological goals and a mindset that would transform the industry as we knew it to more sustainable practices,” Salfi said.

While skateboarding is the sixth most popular sport in the nation and third most popular in the six to eighteen year old age group, traditional skateboards and skateboard parks are not sustainable. In 2008, all Comet skateboards will be certified “cradle-to-cradle,” a designation indicating that the company takes responsibility not only for where the materials to make the boards come from and how they’re made, but also how they can be disposed of. Comet has dedicated itself to investing in the local community and along with Oakland High School visual arts teacher, Keith “K-Dub” Williams and pro-skater Karl Watson, produces the annual Hood Games, Oakland’s version of the X-Games. Williams’ students design artwork for Comet skateboards, which are sold at Oakland High School and at the Hood Games.

When Jason was asked where the name Comet Skateboards came from, he replied, “the sky, a crazy old wooden roller coaster, comets are said to have delivered material

essential to life as we know it on the planet, one comet could easily end it, I don’t know really maybe it was a dream. Follow your dreams.”

When asked if bio-friendly boards would be as sturdy as regular skateboards, he answered, “We have worked with everything from carbon fiber to Elmer’s glue. We mastered aerospace composites to see what they have to offer. Our goal when making that choice was to create high performance eco-intelligent materials that could replace petroleum based resins for applications. We don’t compromise performance for anything. When we offer something bio friendly, it is going to be amazing. Some Bio products got a bad rap because of good intentions and poor execution early on. If you use materials properly one can achieve great things but first you must have that intention.”

The Comet factory is currently powered from conventional sources but Salfi is excited to see what options arise as Central New York gets more wind and geothermal power online. “We have a long way to go until we are 100% clean energy. There is a huge network of youth pressuring municipalities, and campuses for broad sweeping energy reform. Clean energy will only make an impact when it is everywhere.”

Jason has consulted with several companies on sustainable business strategy and ran a program that nurtures progressive youth activism. “The future is finding the right number of movements in a day, mastering the speed at which they occur and improving the quality of our interactions with each other and the world around us.”

Jason and his wife, Kadie live in Ithaca with their five year old daughter, Lucia.

# LPAA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation/Attendance Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lew-Port Alumni? \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names \_\_\_\_\_ Lew-Port Alumni? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Lew-Port Alumni? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Lew-Port Alumni? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Lew-Port Alumni? \_\_\_\_\_

Dues Contribution: 1 year \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 years \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime \$150.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Husband & Wife Lifetime \$250.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Exempt Contribution to support LPAA programs at Lew-Port \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Unrestricted Contribution to be applied to LPAA where needed most

Restricted Contribution to be applied to: \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Sports Hall of Fame \_\_\_\_\_ Mini-grants  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Distinguished Alumni \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify)

*Mail to: Lew-Port Alumni Association, Senior High School, 4061 Creek Road, Youngstown, NY 14174*



Saturday, September 26th former soccer players from Lew-Port held their 20th Annual Alumni Soccer Game at Harry K. Blakeslee Field.

The organizers are always looking for additional former soccer players to come out and join in the fun of this annual event which occurs the third Saturday of September. Pictured above are players from this year's alumni game and their families. This event raises money for a scholarship awarded annually to a deserving Lew-Port senior. Gary and Nancy Rose hosted a post game party for players and non-participants. This year the members of the first girls' soccer team from Lew-Port were present to celebrate their 30th anniversary of their sport's first season at Lewiston-Porter. If you are interested in getting more information on this event, contact Brian Elniski @ belniski@supercoups.org. Pictures from this event are courtesy of Susy Elniski. More pictures on page 11.



### Class of 1964 Reunion

Left: Jackie Foss Sutherland, Bruce Sutherland, Cindy Frame and Dave Miller

Below: Chorus Line:

Gretchen Goodwin, Kathy Mansfield Dewey, Cindy Frame, Ruth Worthley Slepian, Ann Turgeon, Val Kierman Caldwell

### Class of 1969 Reunion

This class made a very generous donation of \$3,000 to LPAA to be used for alumni projects.



Colleen Finley, Arne Becker and Steve Campaigne



Boathouse: Louise Pfeifer, Sharon Gillick, and Holly Dunbar, organizer of 1969 reunion



Brickyard: Cathy Ardan, Arne Becker, Bill Lawson, Jeff McBee, Linda Bergey, Vince Scherber, Cathy Baker, Patty McKinney, Tom Brennan, and Tom Venne



1. Mike Duckett    2. Colleen Finley & Barbara Guaik    3. Mark La Rue    4. Mary Staton, Nancy & Mike Curtis



## Lew-Port Girls Soccer Team Memories from 1979

Sitting on my patio this summer, I asked myself “Which summer was the best summer of my life?” It did not take me long to answer that question, the summer of 1979. When I listed the things that made it so great, the one that stood out was that we had our first school soccer season ahead of us. Then it hit me that was 30 years ago! I knew then that this was an anniversary that could not go unobserved.

I then wondered if the team taking the field this year felt the pride and anticipation we felt when we walked on that field thirty years ago. Or do they just take it for granted and may not know of the struggles that ensued to get them on the field. Did they know that Mr. Mel Baker argued with Niagara Pioneer board members on getting the girls teams established two or three years later than the boys? (At the reunion, Mel said, “I had reservations.”) It was Dee Dee and Tim Booth that saw potential in a group of girls and formed the first Niagara Pioneer Girls travel team. Do they know that Ann Johnston fought with the Lew-Port school board for three years before the girl’s team was added to the budget. Do they know that Lew-Port Girl’s Soccer did not always

exist.

I take great pride in being one of the tri-captains of that first team along with Joy Adamson and Karen Oddy. We were a rookie team on paper to the other schools, but on the field we were a team that had played together for three or four summers. So when we took the field that first game at Kenmore West, I had to laugh when their coach told them not to embarrass us—that we were “new” to the league. Five minutes and two goals later, I told him that he had not been properly informed about our abilities.

**Our team accomplished in that rookie season what no other team before or after us has done.** We won the league championship! With a final record of 10-1-3, we were undefeated through our first five games. Four of us were selected to the Niagara Frontier All Star Team and another five to the second team. We were at the top of the standings in the categories of goals for (42), +/- factor (+27), shots on goal (354), corner kicks (79), shots against (105), and shutouts (5). Seven girls on our team appeared on the top 25 league scorer’s list, Robin McGrath tied for the top spot. I think these statistics alone make the team of 1979 a great candidate for the Lew-Port Sports Hall of Fame, for those

who are looking for nominees.

There were no stars on this team. We all shared in the victories as well as the defeats, in the accolades, and the criticism. We had each other’s backs on the field as well as off. This was the definition of what a team should be. I consider myself a very blessed person to have been a part of this team. Many great memories and friends were made because of it. Memories and friendships that no one or nothing life throws at me can take away.

I hope those who are taking the field this year can say the same thing about their team thirty years from now, that they know the spirits of those girls from thirty years ago are with them as they walk on the field each and every time. We share in their pride as soccer players and as athletes.

Ellen Morris-Halstead  
Class of 1980

Some of the members of this team attended the annual alumni soccer game and then met at the Brickyard in Lewiston. The Alumni Soccer game is held the third Saturday of September at the stadium.



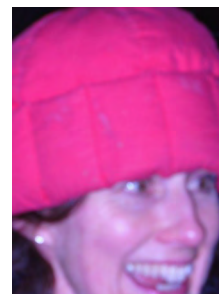
Karen Oddy, Ellen Morris-Halstead, Liz Oddy Broomfield, Liz Kahn, Coach Dena Elia Armstrong, Robin McGrath Sufio, Joy Adamson Khatib, Jane Baker, and Janice Johnston Previte



## Freedom Crossing

### Sculptor, Susan Geissler

Freedom Crossing, based on the book of the same name written by Margaret Goff Clark and read by Lew-Port's 4th grade students was unveiled Wednesday, October 14, 2009. Lee Simonson called the statue a second Statue of Liberty, "another gateway to freedom right here on the opposite side of the state." Margaret Goff Clark's daughter from California and Lezlie Harper Wells, a descendant of slaves who crossed the Niagara River also spoke at the well attended event.



**Susan Geissler** beaming at the unveiling of her magnificent sculpture at Lewiston landing.

Lewiston-Porter can certainly be extremely proud of one of their distinguished alumni demonstrated on Wednesday, October 14, 2009 at the unveiling of Freedom Crossing. **Susan Geissler, Class of 1971**, who is an acclaimed sculptor and known internationally for her work, was commissioned by the Lewiston Historical Society to portray the runaway slaves and the volunteers who helped them escape through the Underground Railroad. Susan's work can also be seen at her studio in Youngstown, a butler who greets patrons at the Barton Hill Hotel on First Street in Lewiston, and the Adam's Marks Hotel in Buffalo. Susan's work is well known out west as well. There is a ten-foot bronze sculpture of Spartans for San Jose State and one of an old man enjoying nature in three different parks in Wyoming and Colorado. Another depicts a teacher and two students at a library in Oklahoma City.

This bronze sculpture portrays Josiah Tryon, Lewiston's Underground Railroad "station master" helping a family of slaves escape to Canada. Another figure in the monument is a fictional character, Laura Eastman, taken from the pages of Margaret Goff Clark's children's novel "Freedom Crossing." This book is set in Lewiston and as in many of her books has historically correct aspects.

The most frequently heard comment on the statue is the expression on their faces. When asked how she was able to recreate such realistic expressions Susan said, "I just tried to imagine what it was like to be a slave or a person helping a slave...I felt their fear." Pam Hauth, director of the historical association, commented, "The buttons on Laura Eastman's coat have threads in the hole." This attention to detail has helped to spread Geissler's reputation beyond American borders.

Susan is being inducted into Niagara County Community College's Hall of Fame at their annual Foundation Dinner on Saturday, October 17, 2009.



The new look in the Senior High School Library with construction completed on removing the circular staircase giving the library much more space.

# Alumni Soccer Game



## Alumni Briefs cont.

*(Continued from page 3)*

**Pat Haight Lloyd, Class of 1949** Youngstown Red Brick was in Youngstown recently visiting family and friends. She gave an update on her son, **David Lloyd, Class of 1984**. David is now Chief Master Sergeant stationed at Scott Air Force Base.

David and his wife, Julie Warner have three daughter: Jessica (21), Sarah (17) and Laura (15).



**William Hockaday, Administrator at Lewiston-Porter** for many years was inducted into the Wilson Wall of Fame the first weekend in October as a member of the nationally-ranked 1949 Six-Man Football Team. This was the third year of football at Wilson and the third consecutive undefeated season under Coach Walter Hutchison.

In another October weekend event, **Mark Johnson, Class of 1975** was one of five alumni inducted into Niagara University's Hall of Fame. With the same determination it took to create the club football program at NU the alumni have succeeded in getting the football program recognized by the Purple Eagles' Athletics Hall of Fame. Mark said, "It's kind of humbling and quite surprising. I think it's long overdue recognition for our program as a whole. We had many winning seasons and brought a lot of publicity to Niagara University."

**Congratulations!! To Tom Oddy, Class of 1977** as he recorded his third hole-in-one Saturday, September

**Brian Elniski, Class of 1980** and Organizer of the LPAA Alumni Soccer Game

26th at Willowbrook Golf Course in the Town of Lockport. Tom used a 5-iron to ace the 160-yard seventh hole.

The Lewiston Village Pub hosted **2010 Variety Kids Celebrity Child, Sarah Kopasz** of Lewiston, a 4th grade student at Lewiston-Porter. Sarah is the daughter of David and **Theresa Krell Kopasz, Class of 1986**.

**Jason Salfi, Class of 1988**, was in Niagara Falls as the Keynote speaker at the Niagara Expo '09. Jason has been featured in INC. Magazine's "Green 50," He talked to the area businessmen and women about running a "purpose driven business." "It actually does make a huge economic difference for your communities to stay connected," he said. "For every dollar spent locally, 30 cents stays in the community," he added. Jason supported a cast on his right arm, "yes, I did break it skateboarding," he laughed. "I was going about 40 mph down a hill and had a terrible crash.



**Ron Gonder, Class of 1952, and 2009 Distinguished Alumni** met with classmates at a dinner at the Bistro in Youngstown.

Pictured are: 1st Row: Mary Joan Hannah, retired math teacher from Lew-Port, Joanne Pletcher Harms, Nancy Hiddie Widdowson, 2nd row: Mary Buttery Furnace, Ron Gonder, and Jerry Condren.

**Lewiston-Porter Alumni Association**

Lewiston-Porter Central School  
4061 Creek Road  
Youngstown, NY 14174

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Do you know an  
alumni you would  
like to see as a  
Distinguished  
Alumni?  
Nomination  
Form on page 5

If you would like  
to help support  
alumni projects,  
please join LPAA.  
Application on  
page 7

Next Alumni Meeting  
Wednesday, October 28, 2009 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Lewiston-Porter Senior High