

2025 Groton Alumni Association Newsletter



President's Welcome Message

Dear Groton Central School Alumni,

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 2024 Annual Summer Reunion Picnic and to those who helped plan this special gathering. Your continued enthusiasm and support make these events meaningful and memorable.

As we evolve, our traditional newsletter has taken on a fresh look—focusing more on photos and quick updates shared through digital and social platforms. We've been thrilled by the positive feedback and are grateful for your kind words!

This year, we're excited to announce a change in venue for the reunion. While we remain grateful to the Groton Rod and Gun Club for their past hospitality, we thought it would be nice to expand our wings a bit. The 2025 gathering will be held at Stonehedges Golf Course. We're looking forward to the new setting and the memories we'll make together!

We also appreciate your patience and understanding as we operate as a small but dedicated group of volunteers—many of whom are actively involved in other community efforts. There's always room for more helping hands and friendly faces!

Our monthly meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the new Village Building on Main Street.

We hope to see you there!

Warmly,
Flo Butts Allen, President, Class of '73

Groton Alumni Association Officers:

- Lisa Shurtleff, Class of '83
Vice President
- Phyllis King Boyden, Class of '68
Secretary
- Nan Metzgar Farkas and
Mary Meeker, Class of '75
Co-Treasurers

Supporting Committee
Members:

- Betty Tompkins Conger
- Sophia Brashear Darling
- Mary Ann Batzer Smith
- Joy Trescot
- Coretta Smith
- Audrey Griffin Aloï
- Doreen Griffin Miller
- Buddy Belonsoff

**New
Venue!**



GROTON'S MAIN STREET: BRIDGING THE GENERATIONS

By Lee Shurtleff '83, Village Historian

As alumni traverse Main Street this August, they will notice signs of rejuvenation to this iconic thoroughfare.

After many years of planning, a new municipal building and fire station opened last August at the site of the former Dates and Walters Chevrolet-Oldsmobile dealerships. Late last summer, Chris Clare Brennan (Class of 1970) assumed ownership of the Groton Hotel, embarking on a bottom-to-top renovation of the landmark structure. Others have begun to rehabilitate and enhance various homes, business sites, and pathways at points both in between and nearby.

Further supporting these local efforts is a \$4.5 million 2024 "New York Forward" grant to the Village, which has been designed to assist and enhance such downtown revitalization.

Various generations will remember our downtown in differing ways. Commerce, industry, education, and community have influenced and defined these places throughout Groton's 230 years of post-Revolutionary history. Our first settler, John Perrin, built a cabin and tavern on the Hotel site in 1797, leading to the current structure's rise in 1858. Also in 1858, the (now) American Legion home was built to house a village school, where the institution remained until 1872 when it was moved to the former Groton Academy on the hill bordering Church Street.

Throughout the 1860s and 1870s, the Perrigo brothers expanded their iron works and foundries on the very grounds where the municipal building now resides. They laid the physical and inspirational foundations of the Groton Bridge Company, whose iron truss bridges were manufactured thereon and sent for assembly throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Construction of the South Central Railroad through the very center of the community in 1870 provided Groton's enterprises and agricultural endeavors with a gateway to worldwide markets, spurring enormous growth and nurturing local innovation.

Although the railroad was essentially conceived to move coal from the Lehigh Valley to awaiting barges at Fair Haven, for further shipment across the Great Lakes, the emptied cars returned to the Groton railroad station to reload with lumber, eggs & farm commodities, bridge components, iron agriculture implements, horse drawn carriages & buggies, steam engines & road rollers, and, most substantially, typewriters.

While those who inhabit the old brick blocks, wood frame buildings and grand old homes that line our main corridors are ever changing, the histories encompassed within these structures will perpetually testify to the pride and industriousness of those whose own beginnings linger here. We hope you will return to these foundations to see the community as we progress.

Red Hawk Happenings

Groton Elementary School has many new programs, but one in particular showcases the students' talents. "We are Groton Elementary-Where Every Student Takes Flight" is a newscast commentated by students. It highlights "positivity" and "leadership." The feeds include a review of sports calendars, fun facts from history, and students throughout the grades achieving awards or just a pat on the back!

Way to Go!



The Lady Red Hawks Wrestling team made history in February by sending three young athletes to the first-ever NYS Tournament for girls, which was also the first-ever freestyle High School Tournament in the country. Groton finished 13th out of 108 teams. Congratulations, Phoebe Bishop, Carmen Bishop, and Leontine Evans!

Reunion Weekend Tours and Memorabilia

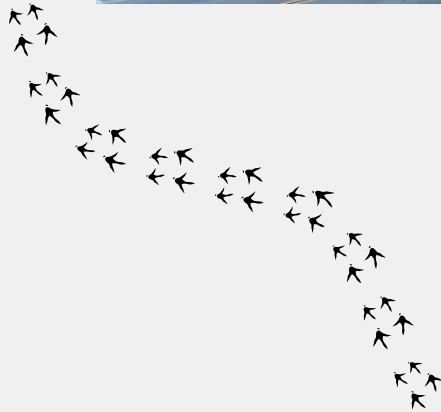
Reunion Weekend Breakfast



*Walk our
current path*



Take a walk on Main Street the week prior to the reunion to see all the class displays for the anniversary classes that will be in the businesses' windows.



The Groton Historical Association will be open on Friday afternoon, 8/1, from 3 pm to 6 pm and Saturday, 8/2, from 9 to 11 am.



Take a guided tour of the Junior/Senior High School and STEAM Center with Nick Darling, Class of '93. The tour begins at 11 a.m. Take a walk to see the Memory Bricks that are adjacent to the north end of the track next to the high school.

FUNDRAISING & CONTRIBUTIONS

YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SELLS RAFFLE TICKETS AT THE ANNUAL ALUMNI REUNION AND ACCEPTS DONATIONS WHICH ALLOW US TO SUPPORT THE ANNUAL PICNIC AND CONTRIBUTE TO STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

OUR FUNDRAISING ALLOWS US TO HONOR THE STAFF AT GROTON CENTRAL SCHOOL AND SUPPORT OTHER SCHOOL-RELATED EVENTS AND PROJECTS. OVER 4,000 NEWSLETTERS ARE MAILED AND YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

RAFFLE WINNERS WERE:
\$25 SHERI SHURTLEFF (DONATED)
\$50 CHARLES O'HARA (DONATED)
\$100 BEN MORE

GROTON MEMORY BRICK

ARE YOU CONSIDERING ORDERING A BRICK FOR THE MEMORY BRICK GARDEN AT THE HIGH SCHOOL? AN ENGRAVED BRICK IS A THOUGHTFUL WAY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO A TEACHER OR ADMINISTRATOR, HONOR A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER, OR HAVE IT IN MEMORY OF THOSE FRIENDS/ALUMNI WHO HAVE PASSED FROM YOUR CLASS. THIS MEMORY BRICK GARDEN EFFORT IS ALSO A FUNDRAISING AVENUE FOR OUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

CHECK OUT THE OPTIONS USING OUR GAA WEBSITE:

<https://grotonnyalumni.com/memory-brick>

THE ALICE SINCERBEAUX HOUSTON AWARD

This award honors **Alice (Sincerbeaux) Houston (Class of 1926)** for her many years of service to the Groton Alumni Association. If you would like to donate to the award, make your check payable to Groton Central School and mail it to: Groton Central School, 400 Peru Road, Groton, NY 13073. Please note on your check: Alice Sincerbeaux Houston Award. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Delaney Ayer was the 2024 Alumni Award recipient. Congratulations, Delaney!

GAA LEADERSHIP AWARD

The GAA Leadership Award honors the exemplary leadership and hard work of former GAA Presidents Meredith Wells and Betty Conger.

The 2024 recipient was Megan Cute. Congratulations!

If you would like to donate to this award,
please direct your donation to the Groton Alumni Association at PO Box 42, Groton, NY 13073.

GROTON EDUCATION FUND

Are you interested in making a tax-deductible donation to benefit the students of Groton Central School? Consider the Groton Education Fund. This fund was established in 2008 to provide financial support for education initiatives that supplement and enrich the GCS. Projects selected for this funding would be outside the district's general operating budget and evaluated based on their ability to support our students, demonstrating a focus on academic excellence, support for innovative ideas, opportunities for collaboration and partnerships, and financial efficiency. The fund is managed by The Community Foundation of Tompkins County (www.cftompkins.org). Feel free to take a look at their website (search "Designated Fund" Groton Education Fund) and, if interested, arrange for a one-time donation (or a longer-term RMD or a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Please contribute to providing more opportunities for our students during the next school year!

Thank you for your consideration! Questions can be directed to the Groton Alumni Association (GrotonNYalumni@gmail.com).

Alumni Connections



**Stephanie (Stevie) Short Nicholas
(Class of '68)**

"Thanks to GHS, Mr. Gary Smith, and his physics class, I enrolled in the Broome Community College radiological technologist program. I have now worked in the medical imaging field for 53 years."

Stevie worked at Cortland Memorial Hospital in the radiology dept for 22 years and was considered a valuable member of the department, the hospital, and the community. **Just a reminder, Stevie grew up as the daughter of our beloved Dr. Willard Short, who cared for our community for decades (birthing who knows how many graduates). For the last 15 years, Stevie has been a dedicated Mammographer in NY and Virginia.

For relaxation, Stevie's husband, Rick, and she had spent 30 years getting away from the daily rat race by going wilderness canoeing in Minnesota, Canada, northern Maine, and the not-so-remote Adirondacks.

Now living in northern Virginia, Stevie likes not having to shovel snow.

"Life has been good."



**Kimberly Bombard-Pearlman
(Class of '87)**

Kim and her husband, David, spent 26 years in Penfield, NY (a suburb of Rochester). Kim worked as a customer service representative at Staples for 10 years. With David out of town frequently for work, Kim opted to stay home to raise their three children (Airiel, Lindsay, and Cameron). Kim immersed herself in school functions, volunteering for 14 years with elementary school activities, including the PTA, and being a leader for her daughter's Brownie and Girl Scout Troops. When the opportunity was there, Kim would magically turn one of her husband's business trips into a family vacation, loading up the mini van and heading out for adventure,. "I fondly look back on those years as the 'crazy' years." "It was a wonderful and busy time in our life that I would not trade. We are so thankful that we were able to raise our family in this way."

Kim, David and Cameron recently moved to So Carolina's "low country", living in Bluffton near Hilton Head Island. The girls remain in NYS. "Semi-retired", Kim loves her time outdoors, spending time exploring their new surroundings and picking up Pickleball. "It's good for the soul." Future plans include more travel. Per Kim, "I am looking forward to the day we can all 5 travel together again."



**Jessica Ellis Sheedy
(Class of '93)**

Jessica Ellis Sheedy (Class of '93) has dedicated the past 13 years to coordinating various research studies at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. After her sister Sara Allen (Ellis class of '96) passed away from breast cancer, Jessica decided to focus exclusively on cancer research.

Experiencing the disease's tremendous impact on patients and families, she felt compelled to contribute to improving their quality of life. For the past four years, Jessica has been the Cancer Care Delivery Research Coordinator, managing multiple cancer research studies at over 100 sites nationwide.

Jessica and her husband David have two sons, both Mountaineers. Evan is a junior at West Virginia University, and Alex is a freshman at Appalachian State University. The family recently adopted a new pup from AARF in Winston-Salem, NC, who keeps them thoroughly entertained. Jessica loves spending time with family, traveling, hiking, biking, kayaking, and attending concerts and sporting events

Community Sponsors



Gifts, Home Décor, Hallmark & More
WELCOME ALUMNI
Brittany Station, 152 Main St, Groton
607-898-4994

DAVE'S
AUTO SERVICE

Owners: Paul & Jennifer McCarty

COMPLETE COLLISION REPAIR & RESTORATION

607-898-5240 or 607-279-3309

548 State Route 222 • Groton, NY 13073

CLASS of 1 9 8 0



REUNION

Friday, August 1, 2025

Picnic at 12 noon

Evening get together at 5 pm

Contact Julie Hubbard Scaravillo at
(315) 447-8190 or email:
scaravillo@hotmail.com for details.

PROUDLY SUPPORTING

GROTON ALUMNI

CUSTOMER DRIVEN AND FOCUSED ON OUR COMMUNITIES

MAIN STREET, GROTON
607-898-5871



FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF
GROTON
GROTONBANK.COM

MAIN STREET, MORAVIA
315-497-2707

Community Sponsors



Lee Shurtleff
Licensed Funeral Director
www.shurtleffservices.com

**Plan Ahead for the 2026 Reunion Picnic
Saturday, August 1, 2026**

See you there!



**Groton Fire Department will be
hosting an all you can eat
Pancake Breakfast
7 am to 11 am**

**Come, have a great meal and tour the
new facility!**



Embracing Our History and Our Future



Christopher Dempsey '79
Diane Devlen Dempsey '80
Terrie VanBenschoten Talbot '80
Nora Walpole Moore '81
Kevin Senter Jr. '03
Mitchell Dempsey '09
Meegan Marvin Dempsey '10
Malory Metzgar Brunet '12

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

102 Main Street
PO Box 97
Groton, NY 13073
P: 607-898-5134
F: 607-898-4347
www.rcdempsey.com

Reunion Memories





****New Location****

We're excited to celebrate this year's reunion at a new venue: Stonehedges Golf Course! We remain grateful to the Groton Rod and Gun Club for their years of support and hospitality, and we look forward to making new memories in this updated location.

PLEASE CHECK IN AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE!

Check-in begins at 1 pm.

The main meal will begin at 2:00 pm with the program to follow at approximately 3:30 pm.

Meal Details:

Appetizer Tray

Pulled Pork Hofmann Hot Dogs with Rolls & Condiments

Salt Potatoes Macaroni Salad Pasta Salad

Cookies

Beverages included with your meal: Beer, Iced Tea, and Lemonade

A cash bar will also be available.

****Our caterer is happy to accommodate dietary restrictions or preferences. Please indicate any allergies or dietary needs on the registration form.**

Meal Pricing:

\$20 for Lifetime Members

\$25 for Non-Lifetime Members (includes annual dues) and guests

If you're not a Lifetime Member yet, we encourage you to consider joining—your support helps sustain our efforts and events.

New This Year – Social Participation Option:

Want to stop by and mingle without a full meal? For just \$10, Lifetime members can enjoy appetizers, beer, iced tea, and lemonade. Simply check the "Social Participation" option on the registration form. Cost is \$15 for non-Lifetime members and guests.

We look forward to reconnecting and celebrating with all of you!

We will be honoring Classes Ending in '0' and '5'

Photographer Buddy Belensoff '88 will be present again this year to capture our memories



Alumni Reunion Registration Form

Your Name (please print):	
Mailing Address:	
E-mail address:	

If you received this via regular mail, please check your mailing label to make sure your name and address are correct. If not, please contact us so corrections can be made.

SECTION A RESERVING A MEAL

Lifetime Member(s) reserving a meal (\$20 each):		
NAME:	YEAR	\$
NAME:	YEAR	\$
Non-Lifetime Alumni Member(s) reserving a meal (\$25 each)		
NAME:	YEAR	\$
NAME:	YEAR	\$
Number of non-alumni (guests) reserving a meal (\$25 each)	# times	\$
\$25=		
Any Dietary Restrictions? Please email OR use back if you need to provide more information		TOTAL \$
SECTION A:		

SECTION B SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OPTION (No meal reserved)

Lifetime Alumni Member (\$10 each)		
NAME:	YEAR	\$
NAME:	YEAR	\$
Non-Lifetime Alumni Member and Guests (\$15 each)		
NAME:	YEAR	\$
NAME:	YEAR	\$
NUMBER OF NON-	# times \$15=	\$
ALUMNI GUESTS:		
TOTAL		\$
SECTION B:		

SECTION C LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

I AM A LIFETIME MEMBER	\$ 0.00
I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER	
(to check your membership, see mailing label, or email grotonnyalumni@gmail.com)	\$25.00
	\$
TOTAL SECTION C:	

SECTION D	TOTAL	\$
Donation to the Alumni Association operating funds	SECTION D:	

SECTION E	TOTAL	\$
RAFFLE TICKETS \$5.00 EACH	SECTION E:	

TOTAL ENCLOSED Add Sections A+B+C+D+E, and please make checks payable to "Groton Alumni Association" **\$**

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:

GROTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 42, GROTON, NY 13073

**REGISTRATIONS NOT RECEIVED BY JULY 15, 2025 WILL BE CHARGED AT THE DOOR,
\$35 PER MEAL OR \$20 FOR SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OPTION**

Groton Alumni Association
PO Box 42
Groton, NY 13073



Golf Tournament



Do you enjoy golf and want to help support GCS Sports?

For the last 16 years, GCS alumni, coaches, and fans have golfed together to raise money for Groton High School Sports. To date, they have donated over \$20,000. Last year, the tournament donated \$1800 to support GCS High School Sports (boys and girls).



A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated!

Plan to participate in the 17th Annual G.I.F.T. Golf Tournament on Saturday, August 2, 2025. Four-person Captain 'N Crew, Men's Flight, and Women's/Mixed Flight are \$200.00 per team, *not* including cart rental.

The tournament begins at **8:00 a.m.** with a shotgun start and concludes by **1:00 p.m.** **You need to register by July 25, 2025**, as the tournament fills up fast. For more info and to get signed up, contact **Seth Walpole at 607-279-3532 or Stonehedges Golf Course at 607-898-3754**. The more teams, the more money will go to our sports programs. If you cannot play, consider donating to the tournament.

While this is not part of the reunion registration form, the Groton Alumni Association encourages participants.

Like us on Facebook: GiftGolftournament