



Groton Alumni Association

Annual "All-School - All Class Reunion"

Saturday, August 5, 2023 at the Groton Rod & Gun Club

Volume 26 May 2023

Hello to Groton Alumni and Friends,

It is time to make plans to attend the 26th Annual All-School Groton Alumni Picnic, to be held at the Groton Rod and Gun Club on Saturday, AUGUST 5, 2023. Each and every Groton alumnus and friend is invited to attend this reunion. The anniversary years that we will recognize are those ending with 3 & 8. Also, be in touch with your Class Representative for the plans that your class may be making to celebrate.

The Alumni Reunion is a great time to reconnect with classmates and friends and to reminisce about our school years and accomplishments.

In addition, your Alumni Association is arranging for open visitation hours at the Groton Historical Museum and at the Junior-Senior High School. Details are given in this newsletter. Also, we are looking forward to hearing DJ Logan Wannall again.

Below you will see that there are new officers of this year's Alumni Association. MANY THANKS to Betty Tompkins Conger, (1960) and Rosemarie Palmer Tucker, (1966) for their years of dedicated work as President and Secretary, respectively.

The Alumni Association meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at Groton Village Offices in Cortland Street, at 7:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend. Your ideas and thoughts are valuable! To verify a meeting, please check our website or contact an officer.

We hope to see you all at the 26th Alumni Reunion. Please read this newsletter carefully and contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

Flo Butts Allen, class of '73 - President

Phyllis King Boyden, class of '68 -Vice President/Secretary

Nan Metzgar Farkas & Mary Meeker class of '75 - Co-Treasurers

Support Committee Members: Bonnie Royce Leitch, Betty Tompkins Conger, Mary Ann Batzer Smith, Rosemarie Palmer Tucker and Joy Trescott Vivencio

www.grotonnyalumni.com



Photographer: Buddy Belonsoff, '88 takes great pride in getting the best pictures every year.

Reunion Picnic

@ Groton Rod & Gun Club

Saturday August 5, 2023
Check-in begins at Noon
Munchies and beverages 12:00
Main meal at 2:00PM

Program to follow at Approximately 3:30PM
The Rod & Gun Liability insurance does not allow alcohol to be brought on the premises from the out side. Water, soda and beer are available.

Entertainment by Epiq Entertainment, DJ Logan Wannall, 2010. If you have any favorites, Logan takes requests.

PLEASE CHECK-IN AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE

As you arrive at the Rod & Gun Club, please check in at the Registration Table located under the large tent at the front of the Clubhouse. You will need to pick up your name badge and wristband. If you did not send in your pre-registration form (included in this newsletter), **expect to pay \$30.00 per person.**

Groton Distinguished Graduate Hall of Fame

Here is the link for information to this important part of our alumni world. All graduates are eligible for nomination to the Wall.

[Link to our Wall of Fame application:](https://www.grotoncs.org/tfiles/folder1365/Distinguished%20Graduate%20Hall%20of%20Fame%20Nomination%20Form.pdf)

<https://www.grotoncs.org/tfiles/folder1365/Distinguished%20Graduate%20Hall%20of%20Fame%20Nomination%20Form.pdf>

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

The Groton High School Chapter of the National Honor Society began its Distinguished Graduate Hall of Fame in 2010. The following are those who have been inducted into this Hall of Fame:

2010: Steve Gobel, Class of 1966

2011: Jane Halladay Goldman, Class of 199 and Ryan Slocum, Class of 2003

2012: Grant Bonavia, Class of 1989 and Katheryn O'Konsky, Class of 2004

2013: Gary Watrous, Class of 1967 and Dr. Russell LaFrance, Class of 1998

2014: Gregg McCrary, Class of 1963 and Dr. Benjamin Ballard, Class of 1991

2015: Dr. David Palmer, Class of 1988 and Brendyn Alexander, Class of 2002

2016: Dr. Richard Hastings, Class of 1991 and Jeffrey Corcoran, Class of 1991

2017: Chad Higgins, PhD; Class of 1995

2018: Darryl Volpicelli, Class of 1994

2019: Sam MacKenzie, PhD; Class of 2001

2020: No Selection

2021: Elizabeth (Tompkins) Conger, Class of 1960

2022: CDR Michael Brown, USN, Class of 1999



REUNION WEEKEND TOURS, & MEMORABILIA

The following will be open to welcome alumni

TOWN OF GROTON HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

168 Main Street
Friday: 2:00 -4:00pm
Saturday: 9:00-11:00am

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF GROTON

161 Main Street
Saturday: 9:00am to 12:00 Noon

GROTON JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

400 Peru Road
Tour: Saturday: 11 am only
PLEASE BE ON TIME

BRICK MEMORY GARDEN Groton High School Track area

**@grotonnyalumni
.com**



REUNION WEEKEND BREAKFAST

BENN CONGER INN

206 West Cortland Street
Breakfast Buffet (about
\$15.00/person)
Saturday: 7:30am to 10:30am
**Call by July 31st for
Reservations: 607-898-5817**

@ benncongerinn.com

ANNIVERSARY YEARS

The 2023 Reunion event will be honoring graduating years ending in “3” and “8”. The Alumni Association will furnish a year-indicator card with the anniversary graduating year for these tables. **Any class banners, other markers and/or items should be furnished by your class organizers.** We encourage the Class Reps for each of these anniversary years to plan for a Friday night gathering or a Sunday event. Class members should receive plans directly from the Class Rep.

Order A Memory Brick

Have you considered ordering a “Memory Brick” for the GCS Memory Brick Garden located on the High School track, but just haven’t followed through? It’s never too late. Bricks can honor someone special or be in memory of someone special (a teacher, coach, administrator, special friend, a classmate who has passed away, a winning sports team, etc.). Each order of 10 bricks allows us free shipping. Now is a great time to place an order, as they would arrive by early summer and could be installed in the Garden prior to Alumni Weekend. Use the link above or go to the Alumni website: www.grotonnyalumni.com.



DO YOU LIKE TO GOLF AND WANT TO HELP SUPPORT GCS SPORTS?

Come join us! For the past 15 years Groton Central School (GCS) alumni, coaches, and fans have golfed together to raise money in support of Groton High School Sports. To date they have donated over \$15,800. The 2019 tournament donated \$1400 to support GCS High School Sports (boys and girls).

A BIG thank you to all who have participated!

Plan to participate in the Groton Indians Football Tournament (GIFT) on Saturday, August 5, 2023. Four-person Captain 'N Crew, Men's Flight, and Women's/Mixed Flight is only \$200.00 per team. Cart rental is not included. The tournament begins at 8:00am with a shot gun start. It is concluded by 1:00pm. **You need to register by August 1, 2023.** For more information and to get signed up, contact Seth Walpole (Class of 1974), at 607-898-2230 or Stonehedges Golf Course at 607-898-3754. The more teams, the more money goes to our sports programs. If you cannot play, consider donating to the tournament.

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

Like us on Facebook: **Gift Golftournament**

Pictures from 2022 Reunion. We honored classes ending in 0, 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7!!



Registration Workers



Registration Workers



Registration Workers



Part of the crowd -Aug 6, '22



Registration Workers



Tending the scrapbooks



Class of 1951



Veterans- Thank you for your service!



Class of 1955 and 1956



Class of 1952



Class of 1957



Class of 1960 and 1961



Class of 1962



Class of 1965



Class of 1966



Class of 1970



Class of 1967



Class of 1971



Class of 1975



Class of 1972



Class of 1976



Class of 1977



Class of 1986



Class of 1982



Class of 1980



Class of 1981



Class of 1983



Class of 1987



Class of 2012



Class of 2016



OPERATION RECOGNITION

Veterans who left high school for military service before graduating are eligible to earn NYS high school diploma. *Operation Recognition*, created by Section 305 of NY's Education Law, recognizes the devotion & sacrifice of Veterans who left school early. For additional information, contact:

The New York State Education
Department
518-474-8940

www.acces.nysed.gov/aepp/high school
diploma veterans

2022 Raffle Winners

\$25.00 Bill Adams (Class of 1972)

\$50.00 Paul Koekebacker (Class of 1966) - donated back

\$100.00 Sharon Dickerson (Class of 1971)

50/50 Steve Gobel (Class of 1966) - donated back

FUNDRAISING & CONTRIBUTIONS

Your Alumni Association sells raffle tickets at the Annual Alumni Reunion. Our fundraising allows us to contribute to the annual Cabin Fever, honor staff at Groton Central School and other school-related events and projects. Over 4,000 newsletters are mailed and your donations are appreciated.

Alice Sincerbeaux Houston ALUMNI AWARD

This award honors Alice (Sincerbeaux) Houston (Class of 1926) for her many years of service to the Groton Alumni.

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.**

Emma Kennett was the 2022 Alumni Award recipient. Congratulations, Emma!

The recipient for 2023 will be announced at graduation awards night in June and invited to this year's reunion.

New Alumni Award Coming - The Alumni Association has determined to create a second award for a deserving Groton HS senior, to be given for the first time this year. It will be called the "GAA Leadership Award" and it is in honor of the exemplary leadership and hard work of former GAA Presidents Meredith Wells and Betty Conger. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE in support of this award and/or the Alice Houston Award, please do so at any time, separately from your picnic registration, using our Association address. PO Box 42, Groton, NY 13073.



2012 - VP Lee Shurtleff, Sec, Rosemarie Palmer Tucker, President Meredith Erickson Wells 1996-2015, VP Laura White Butts, Treasurer Jane Davenport Rutledge



2019 - Betty Tompkins Conger, President, 2016-2022



This is the new Ross Field. It is REAL!



The field runs north and south.
The old field was east and west.

There is also a softball diamond to the left.
Photo courtesy of John Brehm.



There are 2 paved parking lots, one on South Main and the other is off from Baken Ave.



Hometown Highlights



Starting in 2023 the GAA is highlighting our HOMETOWN and what makes it special. Our premiere family is the Adams Family, from "Dog Hill" (West Cortland Street).

Helena K. Donegan and Wilfred R. Adams were married June 18, 1913 in Cortland, New York. They moved to Syracuse and later to Groton, where they lived out their lives. They had 8 children, 6 of whom served in WW II.



Adams Siblings WWII Veterans
Left to Right: Bob, Ward, Helen, Dick, Russ, Don

Robert (Bob) Francis Adams – Aug. 26, 1926
Tec. 4 U. S. Army 14th Constabulary Reg. 1
Enlisted: Jan. 22, 1945
Discharged: Feb. 16, 1947

Leo Ward Adams – Sept. 29, 1924 – Aug. 6, 1968
Sgt. U. S. Army 36th Infantry Div.
Enlisted: Sept. 24, 1943
Discharged: Dec. 31, 1945

Helen Marie Adams – April 6, 1921
1st Lt. U. S. Army Nurse Corps. – Hospital
General and Administrative duty.
Enlisted: Jan. 15, 1943
Discharged: March 13, 1946

Donald (Don) Joseph Adams – March 17, 1915 – Sept. 19, 1987
Tec. 4 U. S. Army – 125th Ord. Heavy
Maintenance Co.
Discharged: Feb. 6, 1946

George Richard (Dick) Adams – April 4, 1919
Lt. Colonel U. S. Air Corps. – Participated in
all air-borne operations in European theater
starting D-Day Invasion.
Enlisted: April 3, 1941
Retired: July 1, 1964

Wilfred Russell (Russ) Adams – May 2, 1917 – Nov. 28, 1988
Sgt. U. S. Air Force 6th Emergency Rescue
Squadron
Enlisted: May 1, 1942
Discharged: Jan. 13, 1946

2 School-aged daughters remained home.
Marian Alma Adams – April 25, 1928
Barbara Anne Adams – Aug. 29, 1

The information was provided by Groton Town Historian, Rosemarie Palmer Tucker.
The display above is on loan from Helen's Sons Jack ('66) and Rich ('74) and can be seen at the Groton American Legion.



In 2021, the **Groton Public Library** completed an ambitious \$1.3 million expansion and renovation which doubled our space and renovated the 1981 addition. Financial support for this expansion came from a myriad of sources including two State Assistance for Municipalities grants advocated for the library by former New York State Senator Jim Seward and former New York State Assemblywoman Barbara Lipton. The Groton Public Library also received significant funds through New York State Library Construction Aid grants. What cannot be overstated is the tremendous financial support the Library received from the community, especially from Groton High School alumni from multiple classes. Through the Friends of the Groton Public Library's capital campaign, these donations along with those from local businesses and organizations helped raise over \$170,000.

The expansion and renovation have proven to be a wholehearted success and has forever transformed the Library's capacity to hold events, distribute resources, and impact the community. Our weekly food giveaway at the Library, which during the Covid-19 Pandemic was limited in scope and impact, has grown to help over fifty local families a week thanks to the space provided by the expansion. Additionally, the expansion has helped the Library resume its in-person after-school programming. And we have plans to host more programming aimed at helping young people in the community become lifetime readers. But we do not stop at just youth programming, we host a wide assortment of adult programming from author visits to cooking classes to sewing lessons and much more. In the expansion, we also added a full kitchen that has helped us host free community meals and offer cooking classes which have proven to be wildly popular.

We renovated the stacks area (where the main book collection lived) into our new larger children's area. We were able to salvage wooden bookshelves to complete the area and the Groton Central School's woodworking students built us three lovely bookshelves and two benches out of fancy wood donated by Gary Wood. The new children's room is a colorful space that rings with laughter on a daily basis.

Also, during this period, local antique dealer Barry Siebe restored the original circulation desk and all the original round tables. We were able to relocate the original cast iron bookshelves to their original location in the main portion of the Library. The front two areas of the Library are now restored and have become our quiet, traditional portion of the Library.

This whole time period has been a labor of love and the results are not only lovely to look at but so useful. It truly took a village and a town to complete. We are so grateful to everyone who donated funds, time, and support. Next time you visit the area, be sure to stop, say hello and ask for a tour. The Library is open from 2:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Tuesday 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday. The library website is <https://grotonpubliclibrary.net>. There is a virtual tour of the library on the website.

**Please remember that the reunion event is for adults only, no children or pets.
Thank You.**

For those of you attending any Friday or Sunday Class events, please remember that the fees you pay for those events do not include the Saturday Reunion. You need to complete the registration form attached and mail it with payment to the Groton Alumni Association. Any question can be directed to the Co-Treasurers Nan Metzgar Farkas, nan.farkas1@gmail.com or Mary Meeker, hiker5741@gmail.com

Submit this form

ALUMNI REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
PRE-REGISTER NO LATER THAN JULY 15!

GENERAL INFO:

Your Name (Please Print): _____ Graduating Year: _____

Mailing address: _____

E-mail address (optional): _____

*If you received this via regular mail, please check your mailing label to make sure your name and address are correct.

ATTENDEES: [Section A]

Names of all alumni attending (write additional names/years on back of sheet):

Yourself: _____ Year: _____

Alum #1: _____ Year: _____

Alum #2: _____ Year: _____

Alum #3: _____ Year: _____

Number of **NON-ALUMNI** guests attending: _____

TOTAL COST of all attendees pre-registration using this form:

(number of attendees) _____ x \$25.00 each person = \$ _____

DUES: [Section B] (LIFETIME MEMBERS SKIP THIS SECTION)

[To check membership status, see mailing label, or
email: grotonnyalumni@gmail.com]

☐ I would like to become a LifeTime Member

\$25.00

☐ NOT a LifeTime Member, pay \$2.00 for annual dues

\$ 2.00

DONATION: [Section C]

Donate to the Alumni Association's operating funds

\$ _____

MONEY RAFFLE TICKETS: [Section D]

(number of tickets) _____ x \$5.00 per ticket = \$ _____

***After July 15th ALL attendees will be charged \$30.00 at the door**

TOTAL ENCLOSED (Add totals from sections A thru D above):

\$ _____

Make check payable to:

GROTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 42

Groton, NY 13073

GROTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 42
GROTON, NY 13073