

Echoes

October/November 2020

The Haddonfield Alumni Society Newsletter

Online at hmhsalumni.org



The Haddonfield Alumni Society (HAS) newsletter shares information about the alumni community and their continued good work on behalf of the Haddonfield Public Schools.

President's Message

Dear Alumni/Alumnae,

The year 2020 has exposed us to a plethora of dramatic events and forces that have reshaped our world. The COVID-19 global pandemic, a related economic downturn, social and political unrest, violent storms and raging wildfires: They have transformed daily life, slowed commerce, highlighted injustice, and altered landscapes. Collectively, these events have made 2020 a year the likes of which very few of us have experienced or could have imagined.

All of us are working to adapt to these challenging circumstances that have changed our way of living. Whether working or retired, we have been called on to make sacrifices during this past year. While certainly not on the scale of the personal sacrifices that you have had to make, the HAS made adaptations this year as well. We have had to cancel our fall and spring happy hours and our annual pig roast. We have had some classes arrange virtual reunions or postpone their reunions for a year. We have tried to be creative and introduce some new events such as a virtual beer and wine tastings. Over the next few months, we hope to have some additional virtual events featuring alums Chris Giudice and Kit Giordano.

Through all of this, you have continued to support our schools by contributing to the HMHS Beautification effort, by purchasing "Washington Ave" prints to finance the class of 1971 scholarship, by your financial assistance to this organization and by your attendance at our virtual events. My fellow trustees and I sincerely appreciate your support of all these endeavors. We look forward to the time when we gather again face to face, share a handshake or a hug, and simply enjoy one another's company. We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving. Be safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Joseph Serico
President, Haddonfield Alumni Society

Important Dates



*Please visit our website:
hmhsalumni.org
for information on upcoming events
and reunions.*

**Classes 2010, 1971, 1958 and 1951
have current postings.**

Fall Happy Hour Cancelled

HAS Annual Meeting Postponed
additional details will be forthcoming

Find Us Online

We are on the web at hmhsalumni.org and also on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn





HMHS Beautification Project Guided to Success by Alumni Groups

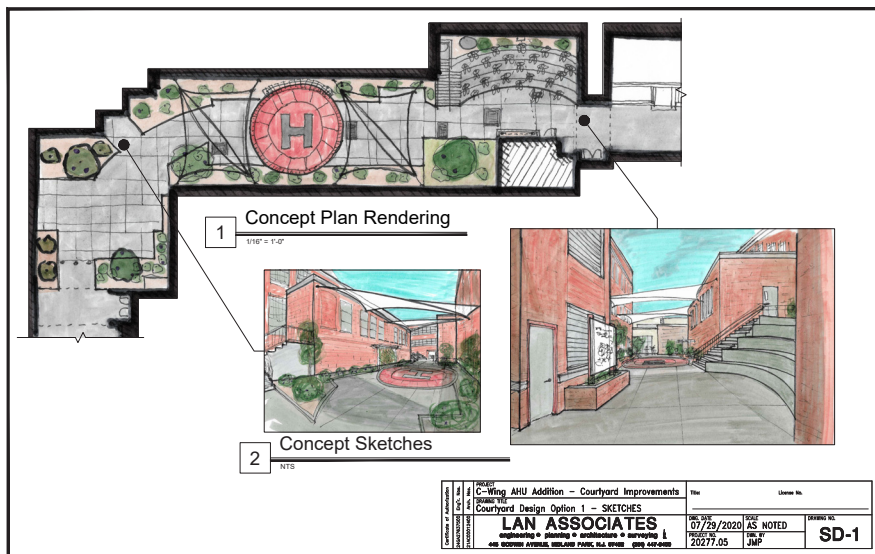
The HMHS Campus is undergoing quite a transformation and much of that transformation can be attributed to the hard work and generosity of our graduates. On campus three major projects are near completion, the entry gardens on Kings Highway, the main courtyard and the stadium courtyard. A fourth project, the Sarah Tarditi Gallagher Garden is currently under construction and should be completed by the spring.

Superintendent Chuck Klaus in his recent newsletter commented on the Stadium Courtyard project. Mr. Klaus said, "With the help of the Haddonfield Educational Trust, the area behind the stadium has been upgraded. What was once an expanse of black-top is now a showpiece for spectators to experience at school events." This space is highlighted by the beautifully rendered Haddonfield Bulldog tile installation, and the Legacy Walk which honors HMHS Hall of Famers, Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients, alumni, coaches and community members. The Haddonfield Alumni Society through the Annual Pig Roast was chiefly responsible for making the gifts that provided the pavers for the Lifetime Achievement recipients and Hall of Fame honorees.



HMHS "curb appeal" has been enhanced significantly by the renovation and replanting of the garden beds at the front entry to the high school. With direction from landscape architect, Lynn Raus, volunteers have been planting the new material and maintaining the beds throughout the summer heat. Ms. Raus, parent of a current HMHS student, donated her time and her designs for all three areas being renovated. In the main courtyard, all the garden beds have been replanted and four brick sitting walls are currently being constructed that match the two sitting walls at the entrance to the courtyard. The newly renovated courtyard played a feature role in the virtual graduation held in June. Graduates received their diplomas and processed through the courtyard.

The final phase of our project, the Sarah Tarditi Gallagher Garden is being incorporated into a larger renovation of the largely unused space between the A and C buildings. The Board of Education, seeking opportunities to better utilize campus space are creating an area that will serve multiple uses. One area will serve as an outdoor classroom with stadium seating, a second space will have multiple uses for outdoor study and seating and a third area will function to support the overflow from lunch.



If you are interested in making a gift to purchase a brick for the Legacy Walk, you can still do so. Benches and small garden areas may also be donated for the Tarditi Garden. You can use the link below or call Dr. Joseph Serico at 609-314-1958.

<https://www.haddonfieldeducationaltrust.org/brick-fundraiser>



Superintendent's Message

October 2020

Dear Members of the Haddonfield Alumni Association:

What a year 2020 has been! In January, none of us could have envisioned the dramatic changes in family life, in our town, state, country and the world. The pandemic affected our jobs, our mobility, our health, and, of course, our schools.

In the future, when we look back on this trying period of time, I hope we will also remember the collaboration and creativity that all members of our community poured into solutions and alternatives. I am particularly reminded of one part of our district's mission statement that states "we empower each other to be inclusive, flexible and critical thinkers in a global community." There is no doubt that we have exhibited those traits during these last many months.

Although I can't deny that my job as Superintendent of Schools has brought extraordinary challenges this year, I must also say that I have never been prouder of every single member of the Haddonfield School District community. Teachers, aides, administrators, nurses, buildings and grounds staff, secretaries, the PTA, parents, students, school volunteers, and all other staff have adapted to each new obstacle in the most positive and productive way possible. Because of their commitment, diligence and passion, we continue to teach, learn and grow.

Finally, I appreciate all that the alumni do for our students and our schools, especially beautification of the high school courtyard and stadium entrance. How wonderful to see the names of our Athletic Hall of Famers and those who earned Lifetime Achievement awards engraved in the new pavers!

Here's wishing for better days ahead.

Sincerely,

Charles Klaus
Superintendent of Schools

HAS Postpones Fall Happy Hour

After careful consideration our Fall Happy Hour scheduled for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving has been postponed. We have made this decision after thoughtful consideration regarding possible venues and our ability to provide an environment that would ensure maximum safety for our alumni.

It was hard not to be influenced by the experts in these matters. Consider the following statement by Dr. Anthony Fauci regarding Thanksgiving holiday get togethers. "Given the fluid and dynamic nature of what's going on right now in the spread and the uptick of infections, I think people should be very careful and prudent about social gatherings, particularly when members of the family might be at a risk because of their age or their underlying condition," Fauci said. "You may have to bite the bullet and sacrifice that social gathering, unless you're pretty certain that the people that you're dealing with are not infected."

Despite our inability to meet face to face this fall, we will continue to make every effort to schedule some events via zoom in the coming months and hopefully, outdoors during the spring.

Haddonfield Alumni Society

c/o Haddonfield Memorial High School
401 Kings Highway East
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Email: president@hmhsalumni.org

Website: www.hmhsalumni.org

Facebook: "Haddonfield Alumni Society"

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HMHSalumni>

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HAS Virtual Wine Tasting: A Fruitful Experience

Haddonfield Alumni Society hosted our first Virtual Wine Tasting on Friday night, October 16th. The event may have been virtual, but fortunately the wine was very real and brought to us by Artisan's Cellar, a local distributor specializing in organic and natural varieties.

Our guest hosts and wine experts were fellow alumna Kit Giordano (class of '99) and Sean Faeth, who kept the discussion fun and informative. Sean's background in stand-up comedy made him the ideal host.

Kit curated an eclectic variety for us to sample including a bubbly Spanish white blend, a white from a Certified Biodynamic family run farm in Austria, and a bright and delicious red blend of Carignan and Merlot.

The event was well attended and a great way to connect with each other in a fun way while staying socially distanced! We hope to host more of these in the future so keep an eye out for future events!

Haddonfield Alumni Society Trustees

Benham (Ryan), Lynne ('61)

Erdner, Kyle ('02)

Holman, Jeffrey (Jeff) ('70)

Hunter, Wayne ('59)

Hyde, Justin ('99)

McGonigle, David ('93)

Mervine, Thomas ('60)

Morris, Benjamin ('97)

Serico, Joseph (Staff Alumni)

Trojan, Joan ('66)

As the coronavirus pandemic forced students to stay home, unable to attend school face to face, New Jersey's teachers have had to find innovative ways to reach students to continue their education. Part of this expansive initiative has been NJTV Learning Live, a program featuring lessons taught by New Jersey teachers, hosted by Haddonfield's own Kimberly Dickstein Hughes, New Jersey's 2019-2020 State Teacher of the Year. The article below features Kim speaking about the challenges of virtual learning for teachers and students

Local Educators Reflect on Virtual Teaching *Lessons learned during the previous school year's lockdown.*

By Steve Aduato | | September 12, 2020 |
Appears in the September 2020 issues

In March, as New Jersey went into lockdown, school districts across the state went into triage mode, quickly revising their curricula for the virtual-learning environment. By midsummer, with the lingering threat of coronavirus, it was clear that, come fall, at least some districts would return to remote learning at least part of the time.

For the state's K-12 teachers, it's been a time to reflect on the challenges of virtual teaching and ponder which methods worked best during the forced experiment of the previous school year.

Kimberly Dickstein Hughes, 2020 New Jersey State Teacher of the Year, teaches 9-12 English Language Arts at Haddonfield Memorial High School. Hughes emphasizes the need for teachers to adjust to students' individual needs and abilities in the virtual setting. "Equity is paramount," says Hughes. That means, "talking about fairness, access and opportunity, and how we ensure that our students receive the best possible instruction while balancing the health concerns of the pandemic."



Teachers must remember, says Hughes, that while some students may quickly adapt to remote classes, others struggle. "For the student that excels in a remote environment, [teachers] can have tasks ready to go when they complete an assignment," says Hughes. "But then for students who are struggling to meet their level, setting a pacing guide will assist in meeting their individual comfort levels."

Additionally, educators agree it is essential to remember the social and emotional needs of their students. According to Valerie G. Lee, a professor at the College of Education at Rowan University, one of the biggest concerns for the fall is ensuring student access to counselors, a school nurse, special education services and other services like interpreters to assist families.

"Students with special needs have access to modifications in the classroom, but those modifications work differently online," says Lee. "Teachers need resources and training on what those modifications look like in a remote setting." Lee says that we are in "emergency mode" figuring out all of this.

Hughes agrees that meeting the needs of special education and marginalized groups should be a top priority for the fall. "Schools need to have supports ready for educators to meet the needs of all students," says Hughes.

Another concern is that many teachers are also parents of young children. They are teaching remotely and have children who are at home learning remotely. "For many teachers it feels like a 24/7 job," says Lee, "because there is no clear delineation of when the work day begins and ends."

Looking on the positive side, Lee says teachers are discovering through remote learning how children can demonstrate their abilities in a variety of ways. For example, some children who are shy in a classroom setting display more confidence communicating remotely. Also, says Lee, "Teachers are getting very creative and are finding ways to interact with children using traditional techniques like puppets and picture boards, while also using online books and other digital platforms and tools to engage their students."

Adds Hughes, "We need to think about protecting our educators, students and communities, while also educating our youth. With the right resources, we can do that in a remote setting until it is safe to return to the classroom."



Haddonfield Memorial High teacher Kimberly Dickstein Hughes says "equity is paramount" when teaching remotely. Courtesy of Kathryn Coulibaly/NJEA



WE NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

While the Haddonfield Alumni Society trustees volunteer their time and energies without compensation in efforts to serve the interests of former HMHS students, costs are incurred in providing some of these services. These services include:

- Annual Scholarship
Monthly Newsletters
Spring & Fall Happy Hours
Lifetime Achievement Awards
Misc.- Postage, fees, etc.
Participating in Fall Festival
Participating in the Annual Pig Roast
Maintaining Databases
Providing email contacts
Responding to inquiries

In recent years, costs have exceeded donations that the Alumni Society has received. We firmly believe that these activities are worthwhile endeavors and would like to continue to offer all of them. However, we will not be able to do so without adequate funding.

We ask that you donate generously to help us to continue to serve you and the friends that you went to school with. We also welcome your input on ways to provide higher and broader levels of service.

Mail donations to Haddonfield Alumni Society, c/o Haddonfield Memorial High School, 401 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, NJ 08033
OR to donate now, go to hmhsalumni.org

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