



NEWSLETTER of the Joliet Township High Schools

RETIRED TEACHERS

Vol. 48 - January 29, 2018

News Notes

- From our September 2017 Newsletter which featured pictures from the Building renovations at Joliet West Campus. The Grand Opening of the finished project on the Main Entrance will be held on Thursday, February 22 from 5 to 6 p.m. All are invited to join the ceremony for brief remarks and refreshments. No RSVP required

JTHS Foundation

News of activities of the JTHS Foundation are always of interest to retired JT faculty and staff as the group raises funds to assist projects as submitted by students and faculty.

Kevin Gordon, JTHS alum, has accepted both the secretary and treasurer positions on the executive board of the Foundation. Trust accounts have been placed with a variety of investment agencies so our large trust accounts are no longer at the First Midwest Bank. On November 6, 2017, \$22,700 in grants were awarded to staff and students and in May \$27,550 in scholarships will be awarded to JTHS students.

Some of the big fund-raisers coming up are the Annual Trivia event on March 11, 2018, the annual Wadsworth golf outing on June 18, 2018 and the raffle of a painting of JT Central in June 2018. Participation in any or all of the events would be welcomed. More information can be found by contacting Mark Turk at mlturk05@comcast.net or (815) 922-4065 or by visiting the JTHS foundation web site (jthsfoundation.org) or its facebook page.

The trivia event has become a very popular activity. This year's event is "Trivia Event XIII". The theme of the March 11th event is "Back to the 90's". It will be held at 176 West at 1100 NE Frontage Road in Joliet. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. Games begin at 3:00. The cost is \$150 for a table of ten. Prizes will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place high scores and best themed table décor and costumes.

The Wadsworth golf outing will be held at Wedgewood Golf Course. More information can be obtained by contacting Mark Turk.

Charles Carman Pierce, JTHS Class of 1960, has created a beautiful piece of art depicting the iconic doors of what is now Joliet Central High School. This painting is currently hanging at Joliet Central. Mr. Pierce has graciously donated an original 11" x 14" artist's proof, suitable for framing. A drawing for this proof will be held in June, 2018. Here's your opportunity to win this original work of art. Raffle tickets are being sold for \$10 each with proceeds funding the Mr. & Mrs. Charles Carman Pierce Memorial Art Scholarship. **ONLY 1000 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!**

A couple members of the Foundation board have had to resign because of their busy schedules so there is a great need for volunteers to serve on the board. Please contact Mark Turk if you are interested.

- About 30 JTHS retired teachers and staff showed up for an informal reunion at 2:00 p.m. on January 20, 2018 at Kuchie's Bar (near JJC on Houbolt Road). The reunion was initiated by Mike O'Connell and information was forwarded to you by our E-mail list. There was non-stop conversation and a good time was had by all.



Left: Charles Pierce's art piece to be raffled by the JTHS Foundation. Picture of the Joliet Central front doors.

Deaths

- **Herman J. Jongsma** aged 86, of Jenison, MI went home to be with his Savior on Friday, September 29, 2017. He was a combat infantry veteran of the Korean War. He served in the U.S. 15th Infantry Regiment Liaison with the Greek Expeditionary Forces. In addition to the CIB and eight other U.S. medals he earned he also received a medal from Greece and from the President of South Korea for his service.

Herm was a graduate of Calvin College and the University of Michigan. He held a MA in Biology/Physiology. He had additional graduate work at the University of California - Berkeley, Long Beach State University, University of Chicago, Southern Illinois University, Northern Illinois University and Illinois State University. Herm was hired by the University of Michigan in 1964 for research on cell ultrastructure using electron microscopy. He was a scientific advisor at Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, IL.

His lifelong career was in education, as a teacher, coach and administrator at both secondary and college level, the majority of which were associated with Joliet Township High Schools. Besides teaching Physiology and Biology at West Campus for many years, he also served as a Department Chairman and Assistant Principal at Central Campus and Principal of the district Summer School at West. Herm served the JTHS District as the first Director of Technology. Under his leadership all of the student records and payroll/business computing were brought in-house from the Educational Data Center at Lewis University. He was also instrumental in the planning and installation of the computer networks and television delivery systems at all of the JTHS campuses and writing labs at both Central and West Campus. These systems were the state-of-the-art in educational technology in the entire country.

In retirement he moved back to Michigan where he was active in the Korean War Veterans Association's national program "Tell America" in which vets visit local high school History classes to describe and personalize for the students the US's involvement in the Korean War. Herm was Vice-Commander of KWVA, Chap 306 of this organization. He served as the Sunday school Superintendent and Elder in Winfield, IL CRC. He was also an Elder in the Joliet First Presbyterian Church.

Many of Herm's students fondly recall his teaching abilities and retain a great deal to this day of what they learned in his classroom.

• **Joseph Michael Baltz** passed away on November 4, 2017, peacefully, surrounded by his family and a few friends.

Everyone was busy talking and no big fuss was made, the way he would've liked it. The past 5 years, Joe battled ALS, a cruel fate for someone who could make just about anything with his hands, and who once walked by himself from Joliet, IL to the Black Hills of South Dakota.

He attended St. Raymond Elementary and Joliet Catholic High School. He later went on to study at Joliet Junior College, Stephens College, University of Washington-Seattle (B.A. in Theater), **University of Illinois** (M.A. in Theatrical History), and Governor's State University (M.A. in Photography).

Joe had several careers over his life, and his most recent was his favorite - photography teacher at Joliet Central High School. Prior to that, he worked as a professional actor in Chicago and New York, touring with the Goodman Theatre, and several other productions, including his own one-man show about his favorite poet, Robert Service. For twenty years, he owned his own picture frame store in Joliet, Jewel Frame Shop. In 2000, he followed his lifelong hobby of photography into his most passionate profession: teaching. He adored his students at Joliet Central and championed them by revealing the powerful creativity every single one of them held. Joe was also an incredibly skilled writer who leaves behind a trove of essays, projects, short stories, and correspondences.

• **Patricia P. Sample**, 93, of Rockford, passed away Saturday, October 7, 2017. She was born December 23, 1923, to O.B. and Nellie (Walton) Pownall. She married Rev. Darrell D. Sample on April 14, 1945, and they were blessed to share 67 beautiful years together. Patricia enjoyed being a pastor's wife and was a gracious hostess in her home to many visitors and church groups. In addition to all of her church activities, she was a Cub Scout leader, active in P.T.A., delivered Meals on Wheels, a member of P.E.O., chapter NJ, and a past member of Delta Kappa Gamma and Retired Teachers Association. Patricia loved flowers and while living in Joliet, IL, she was a part-owner and designer in a florist shop. She enjoyed giving programs, reading, sewing, music, and theater. During WWII, when just out of high school, Patricia was given an Emergency Teaching Certificate due to a shortage of teachers. She taught all grades in a one-room school along with responsibilities of stoking the fire, sweeping, dusting, and carrying in a fresh pail of water each day. After raising her children and caring for the household, she went back to school and earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Speech and English from **Northwestern University**. Patricia taught English at Auburn High School in Rockford and Joliet West High School. Patricia was preceded in death by her husband; parents; brothers, James W. Pownall and Walton Pownall; sisters, Charline Pownall and Valeria Elam; nephew, Jon Darnell. She is survived by her son, Allen Sample; daughter, Karen (Tom) Hill; grandchildren, Dane (Mallory) Sample, Devan (Chadd) Pfeiffer, Darci (Trevor) Thompson, John Hill, Drew (Cindy) Hill, Kara (Eric) McMahon,

Kalli Hill; great-grandchildren, Reed Sample, Claire Sample, Liam Pfeiffer, Samuel Pfeiffer, Noelle Thompson, Norah Hill, Jonathan Hill, Ellie Hill, Bryn McMahon, Knox McMahon, Kane McMahon; sisters, Jane Markarian, Jo (Jack) Elam, Kay (Ralph) Guy; sister-in-law, Ruth Pownall; nieces, nephews, and cousins.

• **Jean M. Wolz**, (nee Stefanich) (1933-2018) age 84, passed away peacefully on January 9, 2018, at Our Lady of Angels in the company of her family.

She was born on June 24, 1933, to Peter and Anna Stefanich. A lifelong Joliet resident, she was a graduate of St. Francis Academy, Class of 1951. Jean was employed by Globe Aircraft Corp. and U.S. Steel as a secretary before marrying Robert J. Wolz on May 7, 1955 and raising a family.

Her husband of 58 years, Robert J. Wolz who passed away in 2013 was a teacher for JTHS.

• **Rose M. Gresser** (nee Aimone) (1924-2017) passed away peacefully at the age of 93 on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home.

Rose was born on July 8, 1924 in Joliet and was a lifelong resident. Retired from Joliet Township High School after 25 years of service where she was a baker at both East and West campuses. She worked previously at D'Amico's 214 in downtown Joliet for 10 years. She was a member and volunteer for Joliet Moose Lodge #300, Ladies of the Moose Chapter #84, the Joliet Seniors Club and St. Mary Magdalene Church. Rose loved baking, decorating cakes, camping, traveling and waitressing.

• **Arlyne Nuti**. Word was just received of the death of former JTHS vocal music teacher, Arlyne Nuti on Monday, January 22, 2018. In her JTHS career she taught at all three campuses. Most notably, however, was her work at East Campus where she produced outstanding productions of musicals and founded and led the pop musical group, Collage. Condolences/letters/notes can be mailed to her brother, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Nuti, 604 Carleton Drive, Lancaster, WI 53813. Services for Arlyne will be on Saturday, March 3rd at St. Clement Church, 135 S. Washington St., Lancaster, WI 53813. Visitation from 9:30 until 11:00, Mass at 11:00 with luncheon following.

We have received information of several other deaths but to date we have not been able find any particulars to verify them. There are no obits listed in the newspaper or on the internet. Anyone who has information should let us know at the addresses below.

• **Peggy Crum**, wife of former JT Journalism teacher, Clive Crum and a long-time secretary at JTHS on January 3, 2018.

• **Loren Dean Marlowe** on October 14, 2017.

• **Tom Burkhart**, Driver's Ed teacher at West Campus on November 4, 2017.

The next issue of this newsletter will be published at the end of April, 2018. It will only be available in a PDF version or on-line. If you are not on the e-mail list, send us your address. The newsletter will also be available on the JTHS home page (<http://www.jths.org/alumni-and-community/jths-retired-faculty/>). If you do not have an internet connection please send \$4.00 to Alice Henderson to cover mailing costs for two years. Keep the news and feedback coming as we all like to hear from and about former colleagues. Please send information to:

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