

AOSHS TAX INFORMATION

501(c)(3)

FEIN 71-0904488

Public charity status 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)

Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) #360748763



Qaoshs Quarterly

The American Overseas Schools Historical Society
704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104

Fall 2018

www.aoshs.org
overseasschools@aoshs.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. GAYLE VAUGHN-WILES

We had a great time in Buffalo! Accolades to **Harry Stine** and his committee for another great reunion. The annual meeting of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) was well attended and was highlighted by the presence of **Mr. Tom Brady**, Director of the Department of Defense Educational Activity (DoDEA), **Dr. Linda Curtis**, Principal Deputy Director, **Frank O'Gara**, DoDEA Communications Chief, four AOSHS Past Presidents—**Dr. Ann Bamberger**, **Dr. Scarlett Rehrig**, **Jan Mohr**, and **Tina Calo**—as well as a host of members and nonmembers. Many folks help us behind the scenes throughout the year and were also present at our meeting, such as **Linda McCauley**, **Suzanne Bachman**, **Dick Nell**, **Winanne Murray**, **Denise Smith**, **Glenna Harrison**, **Myrna Margraf** and **Les**

Burch. **Stephen** and **Jill Abbott** as well as **Jim Onoprienko** have helped in the hospitality room. I am grateful to have an opportunity to interact with all of you. Some may say it is schmoozing, but I say it is taking time to reminisce, to enhance old relationships, and develop new ones.

I want you to know that the AOSHS board is an awesome group of people. They have worked together to move the organization forward. I am starting my fifth year as President of the AOSHS Board of Directors. Although my Maine man, **Dr. Dean C. Wiles**, is declining mentally, he remains ambulatory and provides support to me personally and professionally...what a guy!

I want to highlight a few things about board members. We have a returning member who will take on new responsibilities. **Linda Connelly** is now the Vice President and President elect. **Jackie Kelly**, new to the board, will work with the Memorial Program.

I want to delineate a few things the board has done during the last 4 years within the context of this message. ALL of the items listed have been accomplished because of your dues, donations, contributions, wills, or estates. We have in turn used the monies wisely.

In the office we have:

- a new plumbing system
- a fire suppression system that will spray foam in the event of a fire, which will save our documents and memorabilia and prevent water damage with the things that we currently have stored
- painted various parts of the building and repaired the ceiling
- purchased and installed commemorative tiles on different walls
- purchased a book scanner and scanned more than 100 yearbooks as we prepare for digitization
- inventoried and classified

Continued On Page 2

seventy-five percent of our boxes that had memorabilia mostly from closing schools; the information has been put into our computer system using PastPerfect

- upgraded our server that backs up our files automatically
- began using Square which permits us to take credit cards for various transactions outside our office
- implemented various social media such as Facebook, YouTube, and webpages thanks to our Operations Manager, **Monica Tiller**
- built a website that contains a variety of information, e.g., you

can go online and find the PowerPoint presentation that was presented at the annual meeting in Buffalo

- put CafePress online where you can purchase our memorabilia
- put the *AOSHS Quarterly* online, accessed with passwords to members and it is absolutely beautiful; it contains interesting and essential information, the photos are colorful, and the articles are written by different board members and other AOSHS members

This list of things we have done is just a partial listing of our accomplishments. The exciting thing is we have done these things

because of your dues, donations, estate gifts, and rental of the space we own adjacent to the office. Our donors program coupled with our partnership with DODEA will help us tremendously. We work hard to focus on our mission and our goals!

Now you will believe me when I say, "*The AOSHS Board of Directors is an awesome group of people.*"

In the next edition I will highlight what we have done with our outreach programs, museum project, and our partnerships. Until then enjoy the pleasant fall weather and the beautiful foliage. I certainly will here in Maine.

DR. TOM SMITH LEAVES THE AOSHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Smith spent eight years as a member of the AOSHS Board of Directors. The first three were as a member and the last five as Vice President to our president, **Dr. Vaughan-Wiles**. He said he stepped down at this time because he felt that a younger person should succeed to the presidency.

The current by-laws indicate that the Vice President should become the next president. When Tom first became a member of the board, he told the president, **Tina Calo**, that he wanted to be an active member and see the organization thrive. During his time on the board, he has been part of the flourishing and growth of AOSHS. Though his assignment was to be a supportive



agent for the president, he actively sought other responsibilities.

Three of his initiatives he leaves for the new board to fulfill. He believes these three actions must be completed within the next two years if our organization is to continue into the future:

- 1) The employment of a full-time archivist,
- 2) Building a \$1,000,000 endowment for sustainability, and
- 3) The building of a museum both physical and virtual.

The new museum will have display areas, library, and a facility to complete digitization of the artifacts we currently have and will receive. These can then be shared with all future generations of researchers at the click of a button any place in the world through the internet or/and unknown future technology.

Tom leaves hoping that the board will take on these challenges. If it does, he believes that the future is bright for AOSHS.

On behalf of the AOSHS membership, we want to thank Tom for his eight years of service to the organization and his devotion to the cause.

Membership

Update and Looking Ahead

LINDA CONNELLY, Membership

The Fall Season is upon us and with that many of our colleagues are back in schools around the globe. We wish them all a successful school year! Know that our efforts in AOSHS will continue as we document the history of our overseas schools each and every school year.

Our recent endeavors at the DoDDS Reunion in Buffalo resulted in membership growth and we are proud to report that to you. The membership table in the Hospitality Room was open for business from Wednesday afternoon through Saturday morning. Multiple volunteers enjoyed meeting with various interested DoDDS retirees and current members. Our membership drive efforts at the reunion

resulted in 62 new and/or renewed members. We are very pleased to have reached so many people at the reunion!

After discussion and approval by the AOSHS Board, it was decided that members with whom there has been no contact in eight or more years would be dropped from our AOSHS membership rolls at the end of **October 2018**. Contact through snail mail, email, and phone calls has been attempted by a group of dedicated AOSHS volunteers, given the information that we had on hand. Any updates that were found through these efforts were made in our database. Spreadsheets of these out-of-date members were also available at our membership table at the Reunion, for those in attendance to peruse and update for us. It is important to note that we will maintain the most recent information available to us on these deleted members in our files in Wichita.

Our membership currently stands at 864. We continue to ask that *"Each One, Reach One"*. Let's all do what we can to help our membership grow! Our mission is so important!

financialMATTERS

DOUG KELSEY, Assistant Treasurer

Our current financial status is shown in the financial statement which follows this article. The good news for 2018 is that donations to AOSHS in conjunction with DoDEA's support and AOSHS's membership dues will allow AOSHS to break even for the first time in several years. Operating costs have significantly exceeded income the past few years. The membership dues collected annually is approximately \$8,750 (350 members times \$25 annual dues = \$8,750). Donations year-to-date are \$44,000. AOSHS's total operating costs are projected at \$75,000. Fortunately, our

collaboration with DoDEA is allowing us to proceed with establishing a museum, contracting an archivist, and contracting the digitization of yearbooks, artifacts and memorabilia. The non-personnel operating costs are also being supplemented by DoDEA's support. The bottom line is that AOSHS needs to raise approximately \$50,000 per year to pay for personnel costs and 20% of non-personnel operating costs.

There is a reserve available that will allow AOSHS to continue to operate for a few more years if

expenses in the future once again exceed income. The AOSHS Board will strive to increase membership and to request members to generously donate to the organization. The collaboration with DoDEA will allow AOSHS to move forward with our aggressive efforts to establish a museum and to professionally archive and digitize the collection.

The AOSHS 2018 Annual Financial Report will be published in the first edition of the *AOSHS Quarterly* in 2019.

Continued On Page 4

AOSHS ASSETS (As of 7/31/2018)		
UNFENCED FUNDS	Amount	Notes
Operating Funds	\$35,000.00	Generated from dues, donations and contributions
Reserve Funds	\$90,000.00	
FENCED FUNDS	Amount	Notes
Muehring Library Funds	\$71,000.00	
Archivist Funds	\$57,487.00	For archivist contract
Digitization Funds	\$19,979.00	For contract to digitize memorabilia, artifacts, yearbooks
Museum Funds	\$80,000.00	For establishment/enhancement of library/museum/digital studio
Memorial Funds	\$10,000.00	After expenses, funds in excess of \$10,000 transferred to Reserve Funds
Scholarships	\$4,400.00	These funds are to be used exclusively for scholarships.
Wichita Beautification/Endowment Funds	\$172,000.00	These funds may be used to create the AOSHS museum and digital studio.

AOSHS and FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

BOB GERMAINE, Fiscal Advisor

“The property, business and affairs of the Society shall be vested in and managed by a Board of Directors...” per the Bylaws. In saying this, the entire Board carefully analyzes all expenditures for the organization. In doing so, we are required to physically meet at the Annual Meeting normally held during the DoDDS Reunions and in our Wichita, Kansas, headquarters. During the Reunion, we meet multiple times prior to and during all the activities. Additionally, we have lengthy teleconferences four or five times throughout the year.

Our commitment is of our own doing. We do not receive any compensation or reimbursement for our expenses, including airfares, hotel expenses, car rentals, meals or other. All of our members can be assured that the Board of Directors embodies a passionate, dedicated and focused group of individuals working for the betterment of the American Overseas Schools Historical Society.

As a member of this Board, I want to thank all of our members that volunteer their time and effort and generously give to the Society. Our financial demands continue to grow with ever increasing closing schools and downsizing personnel issues. Without your assistance, we could not continue our mission with the same zest. Yes, we are receiving some assistance from DoDEA for our future archiving and digitization of our artifacts; however, we still have numerous other expenses that will continue to need financial support. We look forward to sharing more of these needs in current and/or future issues.

If you are like my wife, **Kelley**, and me, some of our fondest and most joyous memories involve our lives residing overseas working for DoDDS. To ensure the continuity of the archives, please consider making AOSHS a part of your estate planning.

ESTATE PLANNING – WHAT IS IT?

KAY GALLOWAY

Nearly everyone has an estate, and there are horror stories of charlatans stealing from estates.

Your estate is simply everything you own: your car, home, bank accounts, life insurance, personal possessions, etc. Some estates are large, some are small, but just about everyone has one. What do they have in common? You can't take it with you when you die.

We have all heard the old adage, *"Only two things in life are certain – death and taxes."* Estate planning has something to do with both. A good estate plan or trust carries out your wishes and instructions and makes it happen with the least amount paid to taxes, legal fees, and court costs. That is estate planning in a nut shell—planning in advance and naming who will receive your things after you are gone. But it is more than that. An estate plan or Revocable Living Trust should also:

- Include instructions for your care if you become disabled before you pass.
- Name a guardian for your minor children/grandchildren.
- Provide for loved ones who may be irresponsible with finances.
- Provide for family members with special needs.
- Include life insurance, disability, and long-term care insurance, and
- Be an ongoing process reviewed and updated as your family and financial circumstances change over a lifetime.

Many people go through life and never make an estate plan or trust,

but everyone should. People tend to think of estate planning at key times during their lives. At our advanced ages, it is incumbent upon us to have a prepared estate plan/trust as we are retired, might become ill or a spouse may be ill-or-deceased. The truth is, the right time to create your estate plan is now before something happens.

A basic estate plan or trust begins with a will. A will is a document that provides you instructions on how to distribute your property when you pass on. Not everything you own is controlled by your will. Joint property and assets that allow you to name a beneficiary (life insurance, ITAs, etc.) will usually transfer. A will has to be probated upon your death. There are ways to avoid probate, which your estate planner will review with you.

Next comes the Powers of Attorneys or POAs and there are several types of these. Some allow a person to make a medical decision for you if you are unable to make them for yourself. Others let a person make financial decisions for you under the same circumstances. POAs can be limited in the powers they authorize to your agent, or they can be rather broad, depending on your needs and wishes.

Last comes the "Living Will." This is sometimes called a Medical Directive to Physicians. This document is where you outline your wishes in case you become terminally ill and need to be put on life support.

This is just an example of a very

basic estate plan. You may need other documents depending on your estate and your situation. For example, you may want to include all the things you want and need. Another example: You may want to include funeral and burial instructions for your loved ones to follow. Also pay attention to the words and definitions used in your estate planning documents as they vary from state to state, and if you own property in more than one state, you will have to register your plan in each state. Some of the definitions may not fit your situation, especially if you have a blended or non-traditional family. Be sure that general terms like "spouse", "heirs," and "children" are clearly defined to fit your situation and your requests.

There are plenty of do-it-yourself estate planning services on the internet these days and that is certainly better than nothing, but the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones is to consult with an experienced attorney. Then you can be certain you have addressed every possible concern and left nothing to chance.

In conclusion, your estate plan should include a will, a revocable living trust, provide for special needs and divorce protection, asset protection, retirement planning, long-term health care, creditor protection, structured buy-out plans, trust administration, advanced planning, probate assistance, updating documents, and tax planning.

Continued On Page 6

If you have a well-drafted estate plan in place, you'll ensure that your estate passes to whom you want, when you want, and is carried out in the manner you've chosen. You can rest assured that your family won't have to endure the public process and costly matter of probate. The government won't be able to take what you've spent a lifetime building. You need to be aware of the many options that exist in estate planning, and you must choose your attorney wisely.

Now that you have the basics, are you ready to get started? Each state has different laws. Check around and find an attorney that specializes in estate planning and with whom you feel comfortable. If you have a plan, when is the last time it was reviewed with your attorney? Have you made your funeral arrangements and written your obituary, and the church service you would like to have? I have.



Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs

REBECCA DUNN, Historian

Several people at the annual AOSHS meeting asked me to include another article on making charitable contributions from your IRAs in light of the changes in the tax code. Thanks to **Matt Jones**, matthew.jones@nationwide.com, from **Staples Financial**, part of **Nationwide Financial Network** for his assistance with this article.

The Pension Protection Act of 2006 allowed taxpayers age 70½ or older to make tax-free charitable donations directly from their IRAs. Technically, these taxpayers were allowed to exclude from their gross income otherwise taxable distributions from their IRA. These direct donations are referred to as Qualified Charitable Distributions or QCDs. An individual could contribute up to \$100,000 annually if the contributions were paid directly to a qualified charity. AOSHS is a qualified charity for these funds. These gifts were also known as “Charitable IRA Rollovers.” The law was originally scheduled to expire in 2007, but was extended periodically through 2014, and finally made permanent by the Protect Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015.

Several things to remember to make these tax-free deductions:

1. You must be 70½ or older to make QCDs.
2. You must direct your IRA trustee to make the distribution *directly* from your IRA to a qualified charity.
3. The distribution must be one that would otherwise be

taxable to you.

4. You can exclude up to \$100,000 from your gross income each year. If you file a joint return, your spouse can exclude an additional \$100,000 of QCDs.
5. QCD contributions avoid taxation on the amount of the QCD up to \$100,000.
6. You don't get to deduct QCDs as a charitable contribution on your federal income tax return since that would be double-dipping.

Without this special rule, taking a distribution from your IRA and then donating the proceeds to charity would be a bit more cumbersome, and possibly more expensive. You would need to request a distribution from the IRA, and then make the contribution to charity. You'd receive a corresponding income tax deduction for the charitable contribution if you choose to itemize your taxes; however, the additional tax from the IRA distribution could be more than the charitable deduction, due to the limits that apply under Internal Revenue Code.

The increase to the standard deduction in 2018 will prevent many individuals from itemizing charitable contributions. The QCD will allow individuals to have their age based (age 70½ or older) required distributions from an IRA forwarded to their preferred charity or non-profit. In doing so, the required distribution is excluded from gross income. This allows the individual to satisfy their distribution requirements in a tax-efficient manner while continuing to fulfill their philanthropic efforts.

Continued On Page 7



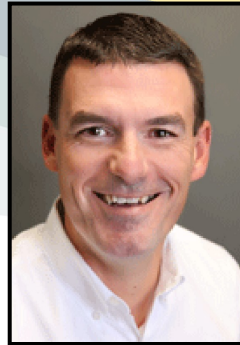
Qualified Charitable Distributions from IRAs

-continued

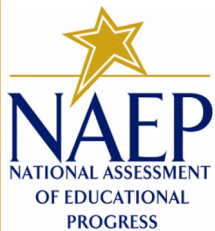
QCDs avoid additional taxes on required distributions, by providing an exclusion from income for the amount paid directly from your IRA to charity. You don't report the distribution in your gross income, and you don't take a deduction for the QCD. The exclusion from gross income for QCDs also provides a tax-effective way for taxpayers who don't itemize deductions to make charitable contributions.

DISCLAIMER—The information provided here is being provided for informational purposes only and is not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual. For specific advice on how to apply

this information to your particular circumstances, you should contact your insurance, tax, or financial professional.



Thanks to **Matt Jones**
Staples Financial
Nationwide Financial Network



NAEP RECRUITMENT FOR STATESIDE POSITIONS

Over the years many former DoDEA teachers have enjoyed working with the **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**. While there are no positions overseas we are still seeking motivated individuals all across the country to proctor in-school assessment sessions with 4th-, 8th- and 12th-grade students for the NAEP 2019 program. NAEP is seeking candidates for **stateside positions only**. Candidates must be available to work January 28 – March 8, 2019. Pay includes training, work time and mileage reimbursement for local driving. Payment will be weekly. This is a part-time, temporary position. For more information, visit <http://www.workNAEP.com> and provide your name and email. You will be contacted with a link to our online application. Questions? Email: NAEPrecruit@westat.com.

REMEMBER,
WE NEED
YOU!
TO MAKE
IT
HAPPEN



On **FACEBOOK** at
www.facebook.com/groups/169980156354700/
and
www.facebook.com/AOSHSArchive/

On **TWITTER** at <https://twitter.com/aoshsoffice>
On **YOUTUBE** at <https://youtu.be/SmBE9u1eIAM>
VISIT AOSHS at www.aoshs.org

DoDDS Worldwide Reunion XXX

Buffalo, NY - July 19 - 22, 2018

NANCY BRESELL, Secretary

The build-up for **Reunion XXX** began with the announcement at the banquet in Tulsa, Oklahoma last summer. Sounds of excitement rippled through the hall as **Harry Stine**, Chairman of the Reunion Committee, told the audience that **Buffalo, New York** was the site for 2018, and the venue was the **Hyatt Regency**. I can assure you—no one was disappointed!



The reunion got off to a great start as emails went out every month with references to the DoDDS Reunion website, providing information about the reunion and the tours being offered in Buffalo and Niagara Falls. Registration began on Wednesday for those who arrived early. One item we need to stress is that the registration fee paid by participants only covers the basic three food events—the Thursday reception, the Saturday banquet, and the Sunday breakfast. AOSHS membership is not included in the registration fee.

Harry and his team did everything possible to make the days and nights in Buffalo enjoyable, stimulating, and fun for everyone. Reunion attendees expressed satisfaction with our hotel, the Hyatt Regency, and its location right in the downtown area. Thanks to the great locale, there were many things to do and a plethora of



80th Birthday celebration for Elena Valenzuela at the Pearl Street Grille & Brewery. With Jackie Kelly, right, in blue top.

restaurants within a few blocks of the hotel. The hotel itself boasted two excellent restaurants as well.



Jan Cropsey and Jackie Kelly at Niagara Falls.

Continued On Page 9



-continued

Thursday started off slowly as DoDDS alumni drifted to Registration to pick up their packets and the critically important pass to all activities—the nametags! There was a constant hum as old friends renewed their acquaintances and compared notes on the past year or years. By all accounts, the tours set up for this reunion were fabulous and exceeded everyone’s expectations. There were three buses booked for Niagara Falls and Park on Thursday and Saturday, and there were many short walking tours within the city that were easily accessible. There was a table in the Hospitality Room with information and brochures available. Thank you to the Reunion Committee for their outstanding work setting up these tours.

Thursday evening brought us to the reception, preceded by a theatrical program. The **Paul Robeson Theatre** and **African American Cultural Center** presented an inspirational story depicting the role that the city of Buffalo played in the Underground Railway, helping slaves flee their bondage and live as free men and women in Canada. The reception itself was very well organized, with a cash bar and food enough for the entire 575 attendees. Drinks and plates in hand, the DoDDS revelers continued their search for old friends and along the way met many new ones. DoDEA Director, **Mr. Tom Brady**, and other DoDEA representatives dropped in to greet reunion attendees.

AOSHS always has its annual meeting for members during the reunion, but in addition the AOSHS Board of Directors met several times while in Buffalo. We began Wednesday afternoon with a board meeting, followed by another on Thursday. The Annual Membership Meeting Friday morning is always a highlight of the Reunion, and this year was no exception as some 150 AOSHS members heard the annual report on the organization and **President Gayle Vaughn-Wiles’** message on our future. The board presented a year’s worth of information about its activities in support of the mission and goals of the organization in a well-designed, informative, and professional PowerPoint presentation developed by board member **Kelley Germaine**. We said good-bye to **Dee Edwards**, Memorial Program Chair, and **Tom**



Smith, Vice President and board member for the past eight years. The president thanked them for their service to the organization. A long-time AOSHS member, **Helen Kay Galloway**, shared information on estate planning through some personal stories.



Following the AOSHS meeting, Gayle introduced the DoDEA (Department of Defense Education Activity) Director, Mr. Tom Brady. Attendees had the opportunity to learn more about DoDEA, past, present and future as he took command of the microphone and presented his overview of the state of the school system. Mr. Brady introduced **Dr. Linda Curtis**, his Deputy, and **Mr. Frank O’Gara**, head of communications for the agency.

Continued On Page 10



-continued

The morning concluded with presentations on FEHB and Medicare Benefits from a subject matter expert. These presentations are always very informative, and members are most appreciative of the presenter's efforts to attend the reunion and provide critical insights on these topics.

The Hospitality Room was a busy place throughout the course of the reunion, but especially on Friday following the AOSHS meeting. Vendors provided beautiful hand-made jewelry and books designed to appeal to this audience. Anyone who has ever lived in Germany was sure to appreciate the "license plates" **Chris Kyrios** had on display. Chris donates a portion of his proceeds to AOSHS for the Dr. Tom Drysdale Scholarship Fund. Thank you, Chris! The AOSHS tables were manned for purchase of polo shirts, pens, bags and pins, and the Black Books capturing our history were on display. Attendees could also become members or renew their memberships in the Hospitality Room. It was inspiring to see photos of the bricks and pavers we purchased on display. These are being mounted in the Wichita office



The mini-reunions, where BRATS and educators get together to reminisce about their time in various locations throughout the world, are always a highlight of every reunion. Over the years, as the U.S. military reorganized and transitioned to a smaller, focused force overseas, more and more of these sites have made their



as long as we have space for them. The star of the Hospitality Room was the Raffle table manned by AOSHS volunteers. The raffle has been one of our best fundraisers, a solid moneymaker for the archives. This year the raffle brought in some \$3,167.00, thanks to a member's offer to match parts of the donations.

Monica Maack, 1973

Mr. Leslie Burch, 1967
CHS Junior High
English
U.S. History

Mr. Paul Ristow, 1996
LCHS Principal
1993-1997

**London Central High School, England at the DoDDS Reunion
(along with Tina Calo)**



-continued

way onto the closure list. From France to Iceland, and Japan to Germany, DoDDS educators had tales to tell and memories to share.

Finally, AOSHS continued its presentation in the afternoon Focus Group Q & A, responding to members' questions on a variety of subjects, such as how AOSHS handles donations and what our financial picture is, among others.

Cocktails were served in the Ballroom Foyer Saturday evening. By the time we entered the Ballroom for the banquet, there was excitement in the air. We couldn't wait to catch up on what happened over the years and even over the 3 days of the reunion! Harry Stine, Master

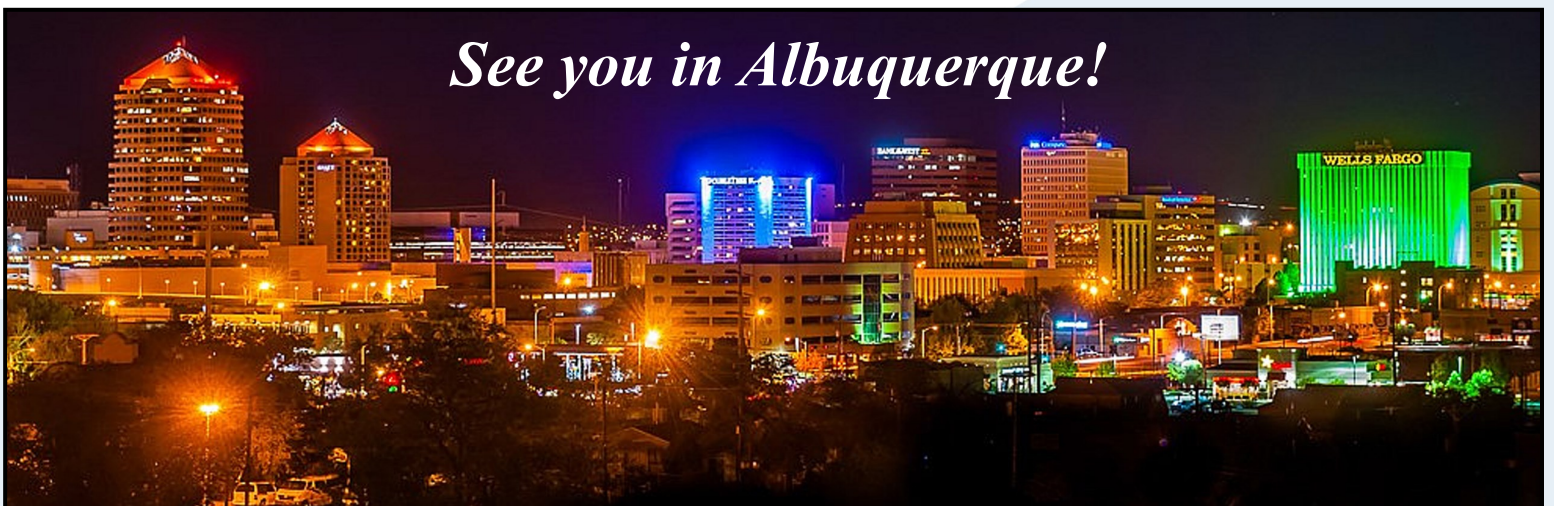


of Ceremonies for the banquet, spoke about DoDDS, past and present, and thanked the Reunion Committee members for the time and effort they put into making the Buffalo Reunion so successful. The most poignant event of the banquet—and indeed, of the reunion itself—is seeing the friends, acquaintances, and former DoDDS educators who passed away during the previous year. When Harry introduced the “In Memoriam” part of the program, the Grand Ballroom fell into total silence as names and pictures of past DoDDS educators were displayed in a tasteful, musical, and moving display.



of Ceremonies for the banquet, spoke about DoDDS, past and present, and thanked the Reunion Committee members for the time and effort they put into making the

Finally, the moment we had all been waiting for arrived—the Teaser for 2019 and the announcement of the location of **Reunion XXXI**. No one outside of the Reunion Committee members had any clue since Harry's hints were appropriately vague, but all were most pleased to learn that **Albuquerque, New Mexico**, had been selected as the host city. Reunion XXXI will be held **July 17-21, 2019**. Get ready for it by regularly visiting the webpage: mydoddsreunion.com.



RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO TO AOSHS

NANCY BRESELL, Secretary

AOSHS wishes to recognize this quarter's donors who support the Archives and our Operating Fund. While membership fees are definitely the backbone of our funding, member donations are vital to carrying out and expanding the work of the Society.

The Board has agreed to once again run the annual recognition program from the beginning of the current DoDDS Reunion (Reunion XXX – July 19, 2018) to the beginning of the DoDDS Reunion the following year (Reunion XXXI – July 17, 2019). The names of donors within the Support Levels will have their names published in the 'Q' the quarter that their donation was received, or if missed, the following newsletter. **All donors for the year will be recognized for a final time in our Fall 2019 issue, and to all of you who found it in your hearts and pocketbooks to support the AOSHS mission, *we thank you.***

DONOR SUPPORT LEVELS

Supporters

Those who donate from \$25.00 to \$99.00

Friends

Those who donate from \$100.00 to \$249.00

Pacesetters

Those who donate from \$250.00 to \$499.00

Sponsors

Those who donate from \$500.00 to \$999.00

Patrons

Those who donate from \$1,000.00 to \$1,999.00

Benefactors

Those who donate \$2,000.00 or more

SUPPORTERS

Sue Alldaffer
Del Allen
Judy Buffa
Marcia Edwards
Beret Herzig

Lilyann Hoyt
Mary Kane
Douglas Kittelson
Vidnan Kittelson

George Lewinski
Ronald Malooley
Ethel Murphy
Susan Pleiss

Judith Pritchard
Rick Rushing
Eleanor Stoll
Mary Swinehart-deville

FRIENDS

Elizabeth Bridges
Les Burch
Helen Crouch
Kathleen Dobrzycki
Joan Frey
Darleen Gee

Jeff Martin
Patricia Matthias
Linda McCauley
Jan Mohr
Winanne Murray

Joan Oak
James Onoprienko
Gloria Osborn
Ofelia Plante
Miriam Robinson

Joan Sprague
Mildred Starwalt
Linda Strandberg
Glynn Turquand
Roger Youngman

PACESETTERS

Lani Allanson-Donoho
Gene Knudsen
Susan Martz-Cothran

SPONSORS

Martha Duncan
Emma Espinoza
Carol Haines
Robert (Lucky) Moore
Judith Smart

PATRONS

John Hedges

BENEFACTORS

Theresa Barba
Jeanne Leach
Dottie McCarthy



JULY 2017 - JULY 2018 DONORS

SUPPORTERS

Lorene Adkins
 Mary Allen
 Frankfurt AHS Alumni
 Beth Bishline
 Joyce Boyd
 BRATS: Honoring Our Heritage/
 Melissa Corrales
 Judy Buffa
 Ruth Burton
 Paul Child
 Gerry & Evelyne Christich
 Linda Curtis
 Ruth Dengrove
 Steve & Kym Denmark
 Carol DeWaard
 Richard Dickie
 Dale Drysdale
 Marcia Edwards
 Betty Ellis
 Margaret Felkay
 Helen Govaars
 Linda Greer
 Joyce Holland
 Marcia Howard
 Dorothy Johnson
 David Kelts
 John (Buddy) Leavitt
 Marvin Lindroth
 Kristofer Lopes
 Robert Lykins
 Terrence McCaughey
 Paul McCulloh
 Maxine Mehlhaff
 Lois Mitchell
 Joyce Muis
 Linda Nady
 Richard Nell
 Bernard & Trudy O'Neill
 Karen Pearce
 Thomas Pearson
 Jerry Penningroth
 Noreen Pyne
 Scarlett Rehrig
 Ruth Reynolds
 Miriam Robinson
 Barbara Rudometkin
 Ronald Sacco
 Alice Sanderson
 Linda Santoro
 Judith Schuh
 Marcia Sivesind
 Kathleen Sweeney
 Valerie Tiller
 Carol Tomlinson
 Sharyn Van Epps
 Denise Winston

FRIENDS

Renee Brassard
 Kathleen Z. Brown
 Tina Calo
 Beth Cornell
 Patricia Currie
 Mary Deheck
 Marty Dickey
 Kathleen & Leonard Dobrzycki
 John Dolan-Heitlinger
 Barbara Dubnick
 Nina Elliott
 Carole Ernst
 Darleen Gee
 Diane Gesick
 David Grunow
 Cinde Hale
 Martha Haseley
 Gladys Haynie
 Charles Helmstettler
 Ruth Herrman
 Barbara Holman
 Susan Jackson
 Doug & Darlynn Kelsey
 Vicdan Kittelson
 Chris Kyrios
 Norma LeDe
 Jeff Martin
 Patricia Matthias
 Linda McCauley
 Robert (Lucky) Moore
 Jim Onoprienko
 Gloria Osborn
 Patricia Pickens
 Nancy Pittman
 Thomas Smith
 JanaLee Sponberg
 Joan Sprague
 Carole Stone
 Linda Stone
 Elaine Strickland
 Marilyn Taylor
 Miriam Trumbull
 Glynn Turquand
 Margaret (Peggy) Varshock
 Arnold Watland
 Kathryn Welter
 Mary Lee Wright
 Janet Yell
 Roger Youngman

PACESETTERS

Ann Bamberger
 Rebecca Dunn
 Winanne Murray
 Mick Plummer
 Mary Quinn

SPONSORS

Les Burch
 Susan Martz-Cothran

PATRONS

Theresa Barba
 Joanne Bhatta
 Nancy Bresell
 Kay Galloway
 Linda Joseph
 Jeanne Leach
 Gayle Vaughn-Wiles

BENEFACTORS

James & Susanne Lenz
 Dottie McCarthy
 Joyce Reust

*Thank
 You!*

YEARBOOK INITIATIVE CONTINUES YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED

DOUG KELSEY, Assistant Treasurer

AOSHS made significant progress in obtaining additional yearbooks through the efforts to contact BRATS through Facebook and appealing to attendees at the DoDDS Reunion in Buffalo. Those efforts have yielded at least 200 more yearbooks to the AOSHS collection, but we still need 500-700 more to complete the high school collection. The goal is twofold: AOSHS will have a yearbook for each year each school was open, and all yearbooks will be digitized and placed online. The initiative is beginning with high school yearbooks and then will progress to middle schools and elementary schools.

LOAN or DONATE

As always, AOSHS will happily receive any yearbooks you wish to donate to our archives. After a digital copy is made, the yearbooks will be placed in our permanent archives. If you are not ready to donate your yearbooks to AOSHS, then we encourage you to loan us your yearbooks to copy and we will return them to you immediately. The entire process should take less than three weeks. Please encourage your fellow DoDDS acquaintances to also loan us their yearbooks. We are not just contacting former DoDDS teachers and administrators, but former students will be a valuable asset to help AOSHS complete our collection, too.

EXAMPLES OF WHAT IS NEEDED

ENGLAND: Upper Heyford High School, which became Croughton High School

AOSHS has copies of the Upper Heyford High School yearbooks from 1971 through 1987, except we are missing 1974, 1977, 1984 and 1985. We have yearbooks for Croughton High School from 1988 through 1995. If we can find the '74, '77, '84 and '85 editions, we will have a complete collection from 1971 through 1995. The 1978 through 1982 editions were just obtained through AOSHS' recent efforts.

LIBYA: Wheelus High School

AOSHS has copies of 1963, 1968, 1969 and 1979. We are missing all of the other years the school was open. The 1969 edition just arrived this past month.

TURKEY: Incirlik High School

AOSHS has many yearbooks starting with 1974 through 2015, but we are missing 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1982, 1983, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 2002, 2003, and 2005. As you can see, we have 25 yearbooks from Incirlik, but we are missing yearbooks from seventeen years of the school's existence.

PHILIPPINES - George Dewey High School (Subic Bay)

AOSHS only has yearbooks from 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1969 and 1972 from George Dewey High School. As you can see, we have nothing from the 70's and 80's.

HOW DOES ONE KNOW WHICH YEARBOOKS ARE MISSING?

At this time there are two ways to determine if the yearbooks you have are needed for the AOSHS digital archives.

- 1) You may contact **Doug Kelsey** via email at dskelsey@hotmail.com or you may text or call Doug at **404-664-9128**.
- 2) You may contact the AOSHS office at **316-265-6837** or via email at aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net.

Continued On Page 15

In the future we hope to be able to list the needed yearbooks on the AOSHS website, but we are not ready to do that yet. Thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide in helping AOSHS complete this important initiative.

WEBSITE, WEBMASTER and ARCHIVIST

KELLEY GERMAINE, Records and Technology

Our website at **www.aoshs.org** continues to be revised and updated. The membership database changes are about 80% complete. Our current webmaster is working to create some of the relationships and data migration.

During our Annual Membership Meeting presentation on July 20 at the DoDDS Reunion in Buffalo, we alluded to future changes. Our website will be the location where you will be able to access our yearbook database as well as the ‘dashboard’ for issues. Additionally, we will be locating our digitized artifacts and memorabilia on our website location. These will include documents, awards, publications, 3D artwork and more. If you have items you would like to donate, please refer to the **“Do Send”** and **“Don’t Send”** listing at the end of this article from the **AOSHS Collection Policy**.

Before we can load these treasures on our website, we will be searching for and contracting an Archivist who will work on the multitude of boxes we have at our headquarters in Wichita. The Archivist will systematize the AOSHS archives and prepare the collection for digitization. Unfortunately, we have received some items that cannot be considered because they don’t meet the requirements of our collection policy. This type of sorting must be part of our system before we embark on digitizing. As this is performed, we will also be revamping a part of our building to house a digital studio as well as a small exhibit area for some of the memorabilia.

We kindly request that all property donations be accompanied by completion of our AOSHS **Property Donation Form**, found on our website under *About Us*, and to the *Donations* pull down. We look forward to displaying our archives online in the near future.

DO SEND...

- Artwork with location and date on it

- Awards, class rings, diaries of school events, dissertations, school journals (not vacation)
- Letter jackets or other discernible clothing (cheerleaders, mascots, band, etc.)
- Magazines that feature student accomplishments; either military or host nation
- News clippings with details of publication and date
- Pennants
- Photographs with identification of person(s), location and date
- Presentations to visiting dignitaries
- School records
- Documented information about the mission of a School, District or Region
- Trophies with specific details of school, event, year
- Yearbooks
- Videos or like of school functions and/or events

DON’T SEND...

- Items that are readily available elsewhere, such as commercially published magazines or textbooks
- Broken artifacts, unreadable documents and other materials that are too damaged to be of historical value
- Personal diaries, videos or disks of holiday or summer vacations
- Personnel documents that are disparaging to an individual(s) or that contain any personally identifiable information
- Souvenirs from foreign countries unless school or educationally related

If you are in question regarding the property donation, please email the AOSHS office at **aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net** or call **316-265-6837** to verify if the item(s) you want to donate are appropriate for the archives.

Mystery Solved?

REBECCA DUNN, Historian



In a previous *AOSHS Quarterly*, we included an article about a **Gutenberg typeset** that had been given to **Pirmasens Middle School** in Germany. We asked our members if anyone knew the history behind this presentation. We did not hear from any members and our efforts to learn about the typeset were fruitless. Therefore, we decided to take the item to the annual meeting and ask our membership. We offered a one-year free membership to anyone who could solve the mystery. **Mary Swinehart-deVille**

told us that she thought the item was a replica that was sold at the Gutenberg Museum in Mainz, Germany. **Kathy Welter**, who still resides in Wiesbaden, Germany, offered to visit the museum to determine if they knew if a typeset had been presented to Pirmasens Middle School. We should have our mystery finally solved by the next publication of the 'Q'. We will be looking for an Asian artifact in our archives for our next mystery to be solved.

Typists Found



REBECCA DUNN, Historian

As those of you who attended our annual meeting in Buffalo, New York are aware, the **AOSHS Black Books** that contain our history need to be retyped. At this time, Books 3 and 4 have been redone. During my presentation to the reunion group, I

asked for volunteers who were willing to type 5 to 10 pages so we could have Books 1 and 2 completed and editable. As usual, our DoDDS family rose to the occasion. I had several individuals approach me before the end of the reunion and

two people each offered to retype a book. I would like to thank **Paula Shelhamer** who volunteered to redo Book 1 and **Jan Cropsey** who will be typing Book 2. Six other people generously volunteered to type several pages and I will be keeping in touch with them in case we need their assistance for another project. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and a special thank you to Paula and Jan. Hopefully, our Black Books will be done by the next reunion and will be in a format that can be amended as needed.

AOSHS Memorial Program

As a reminder, Individual Memorial Funds can be opened with a 100- to 300-word obituary and \$25.00. Each fund is held open for a period of six months which would include a first and second announcement in two consecutive *AOSHS Quarterly* newsletters, during which additional members can make contributions. After six months from the first

announcement, the sponsor is asked to write an inscription for the honored individual's brick tile if the fund has reached \$100.00 or more. Too often, an individual's account does not carry the minimum of \$100.00 for an individual tile to be created. The amount, if less than \$100.00, is added to the Memorial Fund under the title, **"Those No**

Longer With Us", or the sponsor can opt to add the difference to the fund to bring it to the \$100.00 mark.

Our goal is to give you ample opportunity to help make each fund have contributions of at least \$100.00 so an individual tile can be purchased. The tiles are displayed on the walls of the AOSHS Archive office in Wichita, Kansas.



IN MEMORIAM

BARBARA JEAN (WHELAN) WILLIAMS

July 31, 1931 - Oct. 10, 2017

Barbara passed away at her home in Welches, Oregon in 2017, leaving behind her husband, John, daughter Alison, 3 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and close friends who were like family. She grew up in San Diego, where legend has it she rode a horse before she could walk. She received B.A. and M.A. degrees in education from SDSU, modelled, and spent time with her mother (a DoDDS teacher) in Bitburg, Germany. After returning to the U.S. she taught, and spent 3 months with an archeological program in Mexico. She traveled through the jungle to Chiapas in a dugout, returning through Palenque on horseback. In 1961 she married John, a fellow teacher. Barbara was also an amateur architect (designed 3 homes), poet, and avid collector of fine art and antiques. The couple adopted 2 children (Tom died in 2002), then moved to Asmara, Ethiopia in 1970 to teach for DoDDS. From Ethiopia they moved to Bamberg, Germany, then Spain (Madrid and Sevilla), and back to Germany (Nurnberg, Bitburg, and Wiesbaden). The Williams retired in 1993, but returned to DoDDS in 2000 for another 8 years... in Misawa, Japan. Barbara had a big heart; she loved animals and children and was an eternal optimist with an infectious smile. In retirement Barbara was known for her charity, volunteer work, and devotion to her church. Above all she is remembered as a loving wife and mother, whose maternal instincts often spilled over to



her students. She published a poem in 2005 that also describes how most felt about her:

To You

My heart is full of love
Because you come to me with understanding.
You come with peace
To comfort me.
When you are near
There is no sadness,
And comfort fills my soul.

Sponsor: Glynn Turquand

EDWARD LEE "ED" DAVIES

May 23, 2018



A Memorial Fund has been established for **Ed Davies**, but we still need someone to sponsor his fund. This will entail providing us with an obituary for Ed that can be printed in the next *AOSHS Quarterly*, and furnishing us with an inscription for a memorial tile if his fund provides for one.

If you would like to sponsor Ed's memorial, please contact our office via email at: aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net.

Thank you!



THE AOSHS EMPORIUM

[Home](#)[Clothing](#)[Drinkware](#)[Office](#)[Auto](#)[Misc](#)

Shop by Design

- Clothing
- Drinkware
- Office Accessories
- Auto Accessories
- Miscellaneous

[Home](#)

Purchase AOSHS-themed merchandise.

Help raise funds to support the American Overseas Schools Historical Society Archive, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

A small portion of proceeds from all sales goes to fund our Archive.



Clothing

T-Shirts, Polo Shirts, Sweatshirts, Hoodies, Hats, Baseball and Football Shirts



Drinkware

Mugs, Travel Mugs, Glasses, Steins, Shot Glasses, Water Bottles



Office Accessories

Laptop Sleeves, iPad Covers, Mousepads, Stationary



Auto Accessories

Bumper Stickers, Auto Magnets, License Plates, Keychains



Miscellaneous

Jewelry, Bags, Clocks, Buttons, Magnets



This shop is powered by [CafePress Inc.](#) Copyright © 1999-2018 CafePress.com. All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#) | Non-US currency rates are updated daily and may fluctuate.

WANTING MORE AOSHS GOODIES? VISIT OUR NEW AOSHS GIFTSHOP ONLINE!

www.cafepress.com/aoshsemporium

Overseas MEMORIES

STORIES and PHOTOGRAPHS from OVERSEAS EDUCATORS,
ADMINISTRATORS, and STUDENTS



*Thanks for the Memories and Farewell!
FRANKFURT AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL
You've been a big part of all our lives.*

JUDITH A. McDONALD	TEACHER 1975-1995
TERRESSA COEN	GRADUATE 1978-1980
DIANNA (JAN) COEN	GRADUATE 1979-1981
REBECCA COEN	GRADUATE 1985-1987
GERRIANNE McDONALD	GRADUATE 1990-1992

Phil. 4:7

By Judith McDonald

I posted on Facebook a picture of myself and my four daughters about our time in DoDDS. Former AOSHS Board Member Dee Edwards saw it and suggested I send it to AOSHS for inclusion in the newsletter. Here is my family's history:

In 1975, I begin teaching at Frankfurt American High School, Germany, as a Social Studies Teacher. I brought with me my 4 little girls:

Terressa Coen/McDonald was 13

Dianna (Jan) Coen/McDonald was 12

Both girls started school at Rhein Main AFB at Tunner Jr. High.

Rebecca Coen/McDonald was 5

Gerrianne McDonald was 1

Both younger girls started at Halverson Elementary at Rhein Main AFB. All four graduated from Frankfurt American High School—Terressa in 1980, Jan in 1981 (actually at the end of first semester, December 1980), Rebecca in 1987, and Gerrianne in 1992.

Then my next generation of DoDDS students came along. My second daughter, Jan, met an airman, Steven Ricar, who was stationed at Rhein Main AFB and they were married in 1980 in Denmark. Their first child, Briana Ricar began her education in DoDDS at Alconbury AFB Elementary School in England. Then second child, Shay Ricar, was born and Dad got a new assignment back to Rhein Main AFB and both Briana & Shay went to Halverson Elementary. Both would finish in New Mexico where their dad's last assignment was before retiring from the Air Force.

So, my four daughters and my first two grandkids were DoDDS BRATS.

I continued teaching for DoDDS after Frankfurt American High School closed in 1995 by going to Lester Middle School in Okinawa, Japan. Then I went to Seoul American Middle School, Korea. My final teaching position was at General H.H. Arnold HS in Wiesbaden, Germany. I finally retired in 2007 with 32 years as a DoDDS Educator.

The Great Alaskan Earthquake of 1964, Kodiak Naval Base, Alaska

By Monica Maack Tiller

From the United States Geological Survey:

On March 27, 1964 at 5:36pm local time (March 28 at 3:36 UTC) a great earthquake of magnitude 9.2 occurred in the Prince William Sound region of Alaska. The earthquake lasted approximately 4.5 minutes and is the most powerful recorded earthquake in U.S. history. It is also the second largest earthquake ever recorded, next to the M9.5 earthquake in Chile in 1960.

The earthquake produced strong ground motions and caused more land surface deformation than any previously recorded earthquake. The earthquake was accompanied by massive local tsunamis and a trans-oceanic tsunami that swept across the Pacific. At several places in Port Valdez, Alaska, tsunami run-up was more than 100 feet. This great earthquake and ensuing tsunamis took 131 lives and caused about \$2.3 billion in property loss (equivalent to \$311 million in 1964).

This is my personal account of the earthquake, along with my family's photographs of downtown Kodiak before and after the quake, and the flood aftermath of the tidal wave areas around the Naval base.

I was nine years old on the evening of the earthquake. My dad was a Chief Petty Officer stationed at the Naval Base on Kodiak Island, now the U.S Coast Guard Air Station,



Kodiak. We had just finished with dinner, and I remember my dad sitting in his easy chair reading the newspaper while my mom finished putting away the dishes when the

first tremor started. I had just walked into the living room and stopped dead in my tracks. My dad looked up at me and I looked at him when the big quake came. I just stood there watching him as he grabbed onto the lamp next to him and my mom was shouting from the kitchen, trying to hold the cabinets shut so that the dishes wouldn't fall out. At the time I didn't know how long the quake lasted, but it seemed like forever. Once it stopped, dad jumped up and turned on the television and radio to see what was being reported.

Soon we were packing belongings and leaving to stay with the families who lived on higher ground because there was the threat of an oncoming tsunami. We stayed the night with a family we didn't know as did other



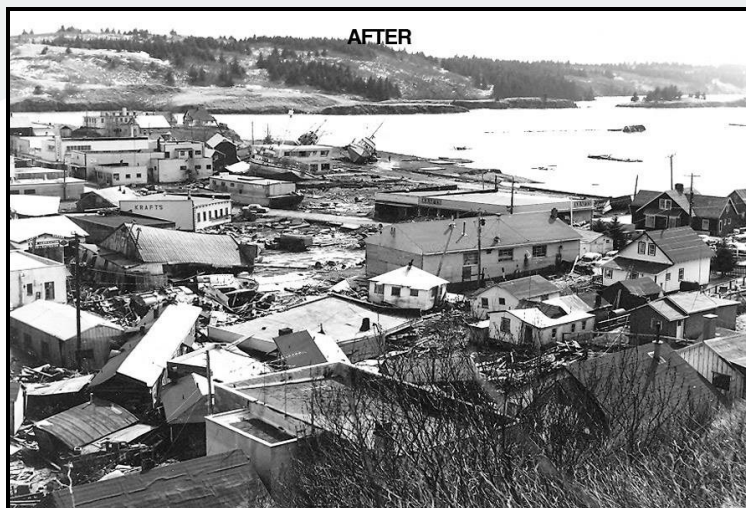
Continued On Page 21

The Great Alaskan Earthquake —continued

families that night, the children sleeping while the parents stayed up all night gleaning news and waiting to see if we would have subsequent quakes or tidal waves.

didn't lose any lives to the earthquake, the tsunami did take the lives of 13 people, among the highest death toll in the State.

As it was Easter, my mom had fortunately already boiled the Easter eggs, so the children decorated the eggs with crayons. Some of the people on the Base put together an Easter party for all the kids with baskets and stuffed animals for each of us. Yet even with these special treats, the gravity of the situation was all around us as we saw the



The day after the major quake (several smaller quakes would follow in the weeks to come), those whose homes we shared the night before had to come down to stay with



Luckily, our housing area did not suffer any damage from the quake or from the tectonic tsunami, but the coastal areas of the Base did get hit with the tidal wave, while downtown Kodiak was severely damaged by the 30-foot waves of the tsunami, washing ships ashore into the township and destroying many businesses, the shipping fleet, and homes. Tsunami waves came ashore at Kodiak about every 55 minutes for almost 10 hours. While Kodiak

the families in our neighborhood as we had all lost our electric power, but our homes had big gas furnaces in the living room to keep us warm, and we were able to cook small meals on its top. Bigger meals would be cooked on outdoor grills and hibatchis.

huge cracks left in the roads and Base runway, and the high water lines on the buildings where the tidal wave came ashore. The memory of those days will always be with me.



Upholding Reputations: American Kids in London**September 1954 – August 1955**

By Elizabeth Leah Reed

We're huddled on the center line of the high road to Golder's Green. A bunch of American kids. It is a dark, gray London day. Double-decker buses whiz by in front and in back of us. *Whew—that was a close one!* We all think it but no one says it. We have no zebra crossing, but at least most of us know which way to look. A break opens up in the traffic, and we dash to safety. Now begins our mile-long walk home in the quickening dark.

After one year at a British school, I'm back with Americans again. I'm attending the school at Bushy Park Air Force Base. It is a long way from northwest London where we live in Hampstead Garden Suburb to Teddington and the air base, which is in southwest of London. Our bus ride is an hour and a half each way. The bus is plush—the type used for tours. I make friends with the other American kids as the bus winds its way right through the center of the city—Marble Arch, the Royal Guards, the shops.



On the daily ride, my sister, who is in eleventh grade, sits in the back of the bus with Robin and Jane, who are sisters, and the other high schoolers. Don and I and the other seventh and eighth graders are in the middle. I usually sit in seat 21 with Dexter Hill in seat 22. Another plus of the American school—boys! One day I work the number label off the seat and put it on my key ring to keep forever.

We totally ignore the grade school kids who ride up front. Don's sisters and brother are among them. My brother is at home. Being only six, he continues school at Bryon House school in Highgate, which is nearer to our house.

“Wakie, Wakie” Cedrick cries as he shoves his pimpled face into the face of whomever has fallen asleep as their stop nears. Poor Cedrick—a British kid whose mom married an American—tries so hard to fit in.



By four o'clock it's dusk. The sun has given up its feeble attempt to shine through the smog of coal smoke. By five it's dark. It's at 4:30 p.m. each day that we make the dash half way across the road and pause amidst the whoosh, rumble and flash of red. Later in life, my friends marvel as I boldly stride into traffic. I learned to have no fear whilst jaywalking on Golders Green Road.



This is a great year. The five or six American kids who get off at our stop live near enough to one another to pal around. All good kids, really, but we delight in the disdain the Brits have for us and do what we can to live up to their expectations to be, well, American kids. We cannot hold back

Continued On Page 23

Upholding Reputations: American Kids in London-continued

our natural mischievousness after years of suppression by our military fathers. In England, we can be “bad,” and we enjoy it—until we’re caught. Then the respect we’ve been trained to surfaces, and embarrassed guilt casts down our eyes as we mumble humble apologies.

During our first year in England, my sister and I were oddities in our proper British schools. We were those different kids with the funny accents. Liked or disliked by our English classmates because of the land of our birth and assumed wealth in an England still recovering from the war.

But this year, we toss off our Henrietta Barnett School uniforms and with them the required wool beret in winter and the Panama straw in spring—both with the school crest. Our Mackintoshes and Wellingtons we keep—still serviceable and necessary on the many days of rain and the long walks to and from the bus stop. But I would just die of embarrassment if I had to wear my button shoes to Bushy Park; the shoes that I wore as outdoor shoes with my school uniform.

We all make it across the street and start up Litchfield Way, climbing the long hill past the graveyard on the left and the crematorium on the right. We usually walk on the the cemetery side, sometimes daring each other to dance among the tombstones on our way home.

The crematorium has a high stone wall and equally high wooden gates. Over these we can just see the peaked roofs with their chimney pots. Some days we gaze at a parade of black cars of mourners leaving the grounds after services for the newly departed. We wonder about what goes on inside. Years later I opened Graham Greene’s book *Travels with My Aunt*, and thanks to his vivid writing, those wooden gates swung wide, giving me a glimpse inside Golders Green Crematorium.

On days when we spot a couple of ladies approaching, we glance at each other. Don rolls his eyes. We follow his gaze up to the ominous smoke spiraling from the chimney pots and disappearing in the darkening sky. We know what to do.

“Sniff sniff.” We exaggerate the sound, wrinkle our noses, turn our heads up and around until our eyes rest on the crematorium chimney pots. The ladies get closer. “I smell meat!” says Nancy. “No, chicken roasting” says I. “Phew! Definitely meat,” says Don a bit louder, just in case our British matrons didn’t hear. “Seems a bit charred.”

Down the street they go, black felt hats atop their tight gray curls that encircle their round rosy faces. They wear beige tweed princess-line coats and appear to be sacks stuffed full of flour supported by two logs stuck in sensible walking shoes. The ladies look properly shocked as they trundle past us. Ah, the power of being Americans!

Once past the crematorium and out of earshot of the ladies, we double over in gales of laughter. As it subsides, we reach the circle, where my sister and I say goodbye to the others and continue on to Gray Close and our house at the very top of that street.



As November approaches, my sister and I are quite happy with our daily bus rides, our American school, our teachers and our new friends.

Continued On Page 24

Upholding Reputations: American Kids in London-continued



Mr. Shermer

I don't see my friend Jenny anymore. And her parents don't seem to recognize me as I walk down the street to go to the shops on a Saturday. Maybe they don't care to. Maybe it's my rolled up blue jeans, my father's big white shirt, bobby sox and loafers. Somehow, even though we are across an ocean from home, we always know what they're wearing back home in the States.

Mr. Shermer is my seventh-grade teacher. I think that he's wonderful. Everything he says I believe. His hair is silver. His voice is strong. His stories fascinate. He walks around with a map pointer and SLAM! Down it comes. He cracks it across a desk (sometimes mine) if anyone talks. I don't mind. He tells stories about the war. He tells how to commit the perfect murder. (Really—two ways, or was it three? I remember ice was involved.) He tells us about a young Army woman who now has a white streak of hair. A Communist wielding a sickle struck her across her head during the May Day parade in Paris.

During the school year, Mr. Shermer takes us on field trips to Hampton Court and the Tower of London. We visit the British Museum, where a few of us take a quick look at the Rosetta Stone and split. We spend the rest of the day traveling all over London on the underground. We emerge at some stops then head back down again. We go into a bank and ask the teller to exchange some script (U.S. Government-issued "money" we use in the military PX and commissary) for British pounds. We pretend we found it and don't know what it is. How funny we think we are.

We make it back to the museum just in time to catch the bus, and Mr. Shermer doesn't know we ever left.

Or does he?



The long bus rides every day gives us time to kid around and talk and plan. And we do have a plan. Guy Fawkes' Day is coming—the only annual holiday when the Brits set off fireworks. Soon the young English schoolboys will be pulling their wagons around the shops with their child-size effigies of Fawkes: "Penny for the Guy? Penny for the Guy?" they'll call out as they show off their poor rag dolls created for burning in a grand bonfire on November fifth as they shoot off fireworks. We buy a good supply of rockets and fountains and sparklers but celebrate the Guy at our neighbors' homes. Our fireworks are safely hidden for another day.



"We're off to the movies, Mom" we call on many a night as we head out the door to meet up for an evening of chatter, kidding around, and generally being teenagers. TV isn't an option, because none of our families owns one, and if we did, the only entertainment on the tellie is government-controlled BBC programming, which is nothing like American TV.

We American teenagers are always going to the movies together. The powerful *Colditz Story* keeps the war alive as we watch British POWs plan their escape from Germany's ultimate castle prison. We howl with laughter at the classic

Continued On Page 25

Upholding Reputations: American Kids in London-continued

comedy *The Belles of St. Trinian's*, where the horrid British school girls are wonderfully satirized as they smoke, scream, and drink. My sister and I laugh as much at their antics as at the uniforms that a year ago made up our daily attire. We are so clever to fool the cashier into believing that we're all over eighteen, so we can see the R-rated (or was it an X?) *Barefoot Contessa*. We never got what the fuss was about.

We girls saw an absolutely dreadful film about a Norwegian boy and his otter. "Ottie, Ottie," the boy calls over and over when Ottie decides to be a real otter and go back to the wilds. "Let's get the boys and see it again." We anticipate an evening of jokes and sarcasm. As the movie ends, we hear sniffing. Our American boys' sobs are drowning out the final "Ottie, Ottie where are you Ottie?"

Springtime arrives and so does *Dragnet*. We meet at the local cinema and troop up to the window to purchase our "1 and 6" (one shilling and sixpence—about eighteen cents) tickets for the cheap seats in the first six rows of the theater. As usual, we string ourselves out across the second row. We get up. We sit down. We put our feet on the seats in front of us. Out spill our laughter, jokes, and stories. "Remember the one when . . ." starts us reminiscing about all the *Dragnet* TV shows we saw before we left the United States for this innocent land of cops with whistles instead of guns.

An old lady comes down the aisle. She sits in the row behind us. Thinking better of it, she moves back a row, gaining a little more distance. She teeters down to the first row clutching her purse tight to her body. She's right in front of us. She moves over a couple seats to the right. Finally, she turns and says, "You *will* be quiet when the show starts, won't you?" Embarrassed, we quiet down.

She stands. Hands gripping the seat to steady herself, she leans over: "I lived in America once, and I do really so want to hear the show."

Our youthful exuberance wilts to shame. We promise her we'll be quiet. We want to hear it too. "We're Americans you know," as if she hadn't guessed. Then the "where and when" conversation starts, and of course one of us has lived where she lived. As the lights dim, we slump down in our seats and look practically straight up. The LAPD badge looms above us. *Dum de dum dum* begins the theme, and for 90 minutes we're back in America with Jack Webb—the "just the facts, ma'am" Sergeant Friday.



"Let's have a snipe hunt," my sister calls out one day on the bus. "My father's out of town, we'll have a slumber party—come by my house tonight." So shortly after dinner, "we're off to the movies" rings out in the nearby American homes. We head to Hampstead Heath for an evening of fun. The girls know the game and give one poor boy—David I think it was—a paper bag and salt. Carefully they give the instructions to cry out "here snipe, here snipe" and salt the tail once the snipe is caught. As he begins, we girls run back to the house. While we were on the heath, Don, having got the time wrong, shows up at our doorstep. He remembers well my mother at the door and her "So that's what they're up to," as well as his embarrassment as he slunk home, having missed all the fun.

"Just you wait until your father comes home!" Mother calls after us as we head upstairs. Our slumber party continues with no thought to the poor boy left out on the Heath calling "snipe, snipe, here snipe."

Continued On Page 26

Upholding Reputations: American Kids in London-continued

With July comes a heat wave—in the 80s—Fahrenheit. Everyone in London suffers. Even we suffer, although we laugh at the reports of people sticking to the tar in the streets. We remember two years ago when we lived in day-after-day 90 degree heat in South Carolina with no problem. Sitting in our back garden, we drink our tea iced to get some relief. But we definitely are not ready for the New York City August heat wave that will greet us when we return to the United States.

But before we leave England, one last time we call out “Going to the movies, Mom!” We leave the house with bundles tucked under our arms and meet Don, some other boys, and Robin and Jane on Hampstead Heath. We gather round and sort out what we’ve brought. What a variety we have of the Guy Fawkes fireworks we saved and hid since last November. We are ready for a real Fourth of July. It’s still light so we wait for dusk. And wait. And wait. The sky is dark enough at 11 p.m. It’s time.

First one blast and then another begin our celebration of getting rid of Parliament’s rule in 1776, one hundred and seventy years after the Gunpowder Plot failed to do the same. We light the fuses and jump back to enjoy the rockets and Roman candles, never thinking of the racket we’re making.



**The Reed’s back garden, 9 Grey Close, London NW 11 in 1955.
Nancy, Lt .Cdr. Tom, Nancy, Jim, Elizabeth.**

Eventually out she comes—our ubiquitous little old lady. She takes careful steps toward us as the dark closes in on the Heath. Her brow is wrinkled, her lips drawn tight, her hands clutch her purse. “We’re Americans!” “It’s Independence Day!”

“Oh dear!” she says. “I thought it was the blitz again. Scared me so. You know it was a terrible thing, the blitz. I’d hear the siren, go into my back garden, huddle in my shelter, and listen to the buzz as the bombs came down. You never knew where they would land. Then the all clear would sound and back into the house I’d go. You will stop soon, won’t you?”

“Oh, we only have a few more.”

So, we continue.

After a while Robin and Jane’s father joins us. We call him “the colonel.” And soon a British bobby wanders onto the Heath. “And what do you think you’re doing?”

The colonel explains: “It’s our Fourth—our Independence Day. You might remember.”

“Carry on,” says the bobby—and we do.



London Central High School legends. There is easily in excess of 100 years of dedicated teaching and counseling time, here in London holding the letters that used to adorn the side of Building 902 where the Principal's Office was.

Left to Right (Ralph Ensz - the longest serving teacher at LCHS (1959-1995), Suzanne Burke (Dorm Counsellor), Jim Charles (Dorm Counsellor), Peg Wernette (1960-1993), Jack Wernette (1959-1993) and LCHS Principal Bill Kilty (1975 - 1987).



The letters make their way from London to their new home at the American Overseas Schools Historical Society Archive.



Do you have a story to tell about your personal or professional experiences working and/or living overseas? Please consider sharing your story with others through the "Memories" section in the *AOSHS Quarterly*.

We are appealing to all of you to help us preserve the memories of the past. Not only do our educators and BRATS have stories that are interesting, poignant, and meaningful, so do spouses. Through their work in the communities and volunteering in the schools, they saw the overseas adventure through other eyes. Please share this with your spouse if you believe she/he has such a story to share.

Take the time to think about your experiences overseas. Pick something meaningful to you, about yourself or others, and send it in to our office for inclusion in the 'Q'. You may submit it to aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net or by mail to: AOSHS, 704 W. Douglas Ave., Wichita, KS 67203.

Whether you choose to write about local national events that impacted you and the school, experiences within the school, field trips, or historical events that occurred during your service overseas, our members will be interested. Go ahead... tell us a story!

aoshs DIRECTORY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AS OF AUGUST 2017

Gayle Vaughn-Wiles	President	gayle.aoshs@gmail.com
Linda Connelly	Vice President	llcmkc@yahoo.com
Nancy Bresell	Secretary	nancy.aoshs@gmail.com
Ron Harrison	Treasurer	pelleting@aol.com
Doug Kelsey	Asst. Treasurer	dkelsey@hotmail.com
Rebecca Dunn	Historian/Collections	simplydunn@comcast.net
Kelley Germaine	Records/Tech Liaison	kelley.aoshs@gmail.com
Chris Kyrios	Relocation Research, BRAT Rep	kyriosc@yahoo.com
Jackie Kelly	Memorial Program	jackiekellyvt@gmail.com
	Membership	
Bob Germaine	Fiscal Advisor	bob.aoshs@gmail.com

STAFF, CONTRACTORS and ASSISTANCE

Monica Maack Tiller	Operations Manager	aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net
Ron Harrison	Archive Associate	
Adam Gossman	Contracted Archivist	
Kevin Frutiger	Contracted Yearbooks	
Pete Lundrigan	Webmaster/IT Support	
Eric Engstrom	Lawyer	
Monica Lange	CISR	
Lesley McLeary	CPA/	
(with Walter Pikul)	Personnel Accountant	
Joe Condrill	Overseas Brats	joeosbpres@sbcglobal.net

KEY VOLUNTEERS and WICHITA CONNECTIONS

Tina Calo	Past President
Rita Wells	Advisor
Lee Davis	Advisor
Scarlett Rehrig	Advisor
Ann Bamberger	Advisor
Jan Mohr	Advisor
Linda McCauley	Deceased List
Richard Nell	Overdue Memberships
Les Burch	Schools List Historian
Myrna C. Margraf	Wichita Volunteer
Monica Maack Tiller	Quarterly Editor

OVERSEAS CONTACTS

EUROPEAN AREA	Buddy Leavitt	buddy.leavitt@eu.dodea.edu
PACIFIC AREA	Todd Schlitz	todd.schlitz@pac.dodea.edu
HAWAII	Linda Connelly	llcmkc@yahoo.com

FOUNDER EMERITUS

Thomas T. Drysdale, May 4, 1921 - February 28, 2013

The AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (AOSHS)

AOSHS is a Kansas non-profit organization that collects, records, preserves, exhibits, and provides research opportunity about historical memorabilia of the American overseas schools. Members promote global knowledge and understanding of this unique endeavor, thus adding a critical chapter to the history of American education.

This AOSHS Quarterly is published four times a year by the Society to enhance public understanding of the human effort, service, reward, and sacrifice in educating our American children and youth abroad.

AOSHS MEMBERSHIP is \$25.00 annually and includes four issues of the newsletter. Two years for \$45.00. To join, send dues to AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104. A membership application form is provided elsewhere in this newsletter for your convenience.

DONATIONS to help preserve the American Overseas Schools Archives (AOSA) for posterity and historical research are appreciated and are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS. Donations may be sent to the above address.

READERS are ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT short, factual **ARTICLES** of human interest regarding their experiences overseas. Articles printed may or may not reflect the opinions of AOSHS. Please submit articles preferably by e-mail to overseasschools@aoshs.org, or by snail mail to: AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS 67203-6104.

The AOSHS Policy

The Directors realize that to obtain all AOSHS objectives:

- 1) the strong support of the membership is absolutely essential and must be recognized;
- 2) that although the Society greatly appreciates and recognizes all donations and gifts, it will neither recommend nor encourage its members to obtain the services or products of any company; and,
- 3) the Society will not discriminate on the basis of lifestyle, race, sex, religion, or political affiliation.

AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY ADDRESSES

Office Manager/Archives Director
Archives: Alumni Database Info
Educator Database Info
Memorabilia
Contact the President
Membership
Memorial Program
Office/Archives Assistant/Wichita Office
Web Site & Internet
Email & Change of Address

aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net Phone (316) 265-6837
AOSHS Alumni Database, aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net Phone (316) 265-6837
AOSHS Educator Database, aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net Phone (316) 265-6837
AOSHS Archives, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
President, aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net Phone (316) 265-6837
AOSHS Membership, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
AOSHS Memorial Program, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
AOSHS, 704 West Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67203-6104
www.aoshs.org
aoshsoffice@sbcglobal.net Phone (316) 265-6837



American Overseas Schools Historical Society
704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, Kansas 67203

MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

CHECK ONE: New Member _____ Renewal _____ Life _____

Printed full name: _____ Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____
(Street or Box No.) (City/APO/FPO) (State) (ZIP)

Telephone: _____ *Email: _____

I am a Former _____ -or- Current _____ Educator; also a Former Student _____

\$25 for 1 year dues and 4 issues of the newsletter \$ _____

\$45 for 2 years dues and 8 issues of the newsletter \$ _____

Donation for the AOSHS Discretionary Fund. \$ _____

Donation for the Drysdale Archive Endowment Fund. \$ _____

Donation for the AOSHS Operating Fund. \$ _____

THANK YOU!

VISA/Mastercard [] Expires ____/____

3-digit Security Code on back of card _____

Name on credit card _____

Check enclosed: _____ Check Number: _____
(Make check/money order payable to AOSHS)

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

I have included AOSHS in my estate planning _____

Can we list your email address in our Directory? YES _____ NO _____

Send to: **AOSHS**
704 W. Douglas Ave
Wichita, KS 67203-6104