

# AOSHS TAX INFORMATION

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ANNIVERSARY

COMMITTED  
TO THE PAST,  
PLANNING  
TOWARD THE  
FUTURE

# aoshs Quarterly

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

Fall 2019

[www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)  
316.265.6837



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. GAYLE VAUGHN-WILES

We had another *GREAT DoDDS Reunion* in Albuquerque. **Harry Stine** and his committee continue to plan and execute fantastic reunions for the DoDDS folks. The **Germaines, Kelley and Bob**, as well as a few AOSHS members assisted the reunion committee with the registration packets prior to the opening. They put stickers on the name tags of each AOSHS member. The stickers designated the membership category – either regular membership or life membership. They also included in each packet an American Overseas Schools Historical Society Letter that welcomed each participant and invited them to attend the **Annual AOSHS Meeting**. What a job!

This year there were many first-time attendees. I thoroughly enjoyed reminiscing with people I had not seen in 20 plus years. The first things friends mentioned, knowing my Maine man has Alzheimer's, were "How is Dean? Does he still remember you? Is he mean?" Bottom line: Dean is declining mentally but that is to be expected with Alzheimer's. Although he needs close supervision, he is hanging in there and my Maine man remembers me. On most days he is kind, gentle, and courteous, but there are days when I am ready to put up my hands and say, "I quit!" Laugh out loud (lol).

I often greeted people in or near the hospitality room. In that room the AOSHS corner was decorated with a variety of things such as the stand-alone posters compliments of **DODEA** and informational signs designating work-stations provisioned by **Monica Tiller**. **Rebecca Dunn** and **Jackie Kelly**

had their large group of volunteers for the **AOSHS Raffle**. The volunteers worked effectively to accommodate those participating in the raffle. Each year I have donated Maine lobsters (lobstahs). I do not know the recipient of the winning ticket from the drawing this year in Albuquerque. I have another outstanding recipient from a previous year as well. I am expecting the calls and or reminders. **Doug Kelsey** continued getting folks excited about yearbooks. The emphasis had been placed on scanning high school yearbooks but now more time will be spent scanning elementary and middle school yearbooks. Just think they will be on the new website and you will be able to access the yearbooks any place in the world. If you have a yearbook you would like to donate to our collection, please contact Doug at **dskelsey@hotmail.com**, or the AOSHS office at **office@aoshs.org** for more information.

*Continued On Page 2*

Our membership always increases at the reunions. Fortunately, **Linda Connelly**, former Membership Chair, worked the membership table in the hospitality room, and assisted with related questions and information. Unfortunately, our recently elected Membership Chair, **Joel Hansen**, was unable to join us in Albuquerque. He worked diligently with Linda composing a letter for all DoDDS retirees. The letter informs the retirees of a free membership to AOSHS for ONE year. Tell a DODDS retiree and have them notify our office.

**Kevin Frutiger**, contract employee, joined the board at the reunion because Monica Tiller, Operations Manager, was unable to attend this year. Kevin was very busy with all the things we had for people to purchase. Nancy Bresell assisted Kevin, Linda, and others wherever necessary. Each year Chris Kyrios has the German license plates to sell.

As the kids would say, "They were really kool." **Ron Harrison** carefully managed and assisted with all financial transactions. Hopefully participants saw the **Historical Books** and the various changes! How many of you were able to log into our new website at the reunion? In slang terminology, "We are moving uptown!"

The Annual AOSHS Meeting was well attended and we completed our business in record time even though we had more slides than previous years. The information related to the new museum is remarkable. The work is aligned with **Dr. Thomas Drysdale's** original vision. The launching of the new website speaks volumes as we transition to our virtual aspects of the organization. Each board member has individually made an imprint.

**Mr. Thomas Brady**, Director of DODEA, addressed the group and

provided us with information about the current status of the system. It is amazing to me how schools open and close but DoDEA continues to move forward with an exemplary educational program.

AOSHS has also had the support of **Dr. Linda Curtis** during her tenure as the Principal Deputy Director and Associate Director of Academics for DoDEA. We want to wish her well as she transitions from the workforce to retirement.

The imprints, positive impressions, and most importantly, the historical legacy are made possible by the current partnership with DoDEA and our members. These people are the ones who annually donate to AOSHS. We diligently attempt to manage our resources, preserve our memorabilia, and perpetuate the legacy that makes us proud!



## **DoDDS Worldwide Reunion XXXI - July 17 - 21, 2019**

**NANCY BRESELL**, Secretary

When **Harry Stine**, Director and organizer of the **DoDDS Reunions** for the past six years, announced that the location of **Reunion XXXI** would be **Albuquerque, NM**, the audience broke out in loud applause. Many attendees in Buffalo resolved to sign up immediately and did so following breakfast on Sunday morning. At one point in the beginning of the Reunion week, there were 763 registered attendees, and by the night of the

Banquet, there were over 800! If Reunion XXXI was not the largest in DoDDS history, then it was surely among the biggest. Congratulations to Harry Stine and the **Reunion Committee** for organizing such a wonderful DoDDS Reunion.

*Continued On Page 3*



Wednesday and Thursday started off slowly as DoDDS alumni drifted to Registration to pick up their packets and nametags. It seems that every year the volunteers who staff the Registration tables have to remind participants, sometimes over and over, that the registration fee they paid only covers the basic three food events – the Thursday reception, the Saturday banquet, and the Sunday breakfast. By the way, AOSHS membership is not included in the registration fee either! There is a separate, small membership fee for AOSHS.

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 the Reunion were fabulous and exceeded everyone's expectations. This year the Reunion Committee got out of the tour management business and had attendees sign up directly with the "**Tour New Mexico**" company for absolutely fabulous tours and activities. Highlights were the ride on the **Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway** – 15 minutes



through several biological life zones revealing deep canyons and an awe-inspiring view; and the tour of New Mexico's capital city, Santa Fe, with its unusual charm and historical significance. This unique community offers many eclectic shops and history is everywhere. There were also tours of the city of Albuquerque and attractions in the area. I think we all felt the rich historical traditions and the magic of the Spanish and Native American heritages.

Thursday evening brought us to the reception. **Joy Morgen** organized the entertainment and served as MC for the evening. Joy introduced the first speaker, **Ms. Denise Suttle**, Assistant Director of Conference Services, **VISIT ALBUQUERQUE**, and thanked

several hotel employees who assisted with the event planning and execution. Joy introduced **Dr. Circe Olson Woessner** and her father, **Dr. Allen Dale "Ole" Olson**, the creators of the **Museum of the American Military Family**. Circe established this one-of-a-kind museum to celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of



**Drs. Circe Olson Woessner and Ole Olson.**

America's military families. Ole is a former teacher and veteran, who later worked for DoDDS when the Army HQ was located in Karlsruhe, where Circe attended school.

Albuquerque and the **University of New Mexico** are the home of the **National Institute of Flamenco**.



*Continued On Page 4*



Flamenco, the combination of guitar, song and dance, is unique in its beauty and passion. The Institute was established by **Señora Eva Encinias** in 1985 and developed into an internationally significant Arts organization through performance, education and presentation. The University Department of Theater and Dance is home to the only accredited dance program in the United States with Flamenco as a major concentration. We were treated to a grand performance.

The reception itself was well organized, with cash bars and food enough for the entire 750 plus attendees. Drinks and plates in hand, the DoDDS revelers continued their search for old friends and along the way met many new ones.

AOSHS always has its annual meeting for members during the Reunion, but in addition the AOSHS Board of Directors met several times while in Albuquerque. 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 presents 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**. One of the highlights of this year's meeting was recognizing the hard work and dedication of **DoDEA's**



Communications Director, **Mr. Frank O'Gara**, with the **Flame**

**Award** for his outstanding support of AOSHS over the years. The Flame Award is presented to an individual or organization that has helped AOSHS reach a greater level of recognition in the public sector or has provided AOSHS with goods or services which have allowed us to take a step closer to our goals. The recipient may or may not be a member of AOSHS and is selected by the Board. This year the Board was unanimous in its endorsement of Mr. O'Gara.

Following the AOSHS meeting, Gayle introduced the DoDEA 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 announced that she would be retiring and leaving the organization in the fall. He also talked about the partnership between DoDEA and AOSHS and indicated his strong support of the organization. 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. As participants left the hall they were offered a beautiful, tasteful AOSHS pin to commemorate our 30th Anniversary.

*Continued On Page 5*



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 scholarship fund. The AOSHS tables were manned for purchase of polo shirts, caps, and bags, and the AOSHS Historical Books capturing our history were on display. The Membership Table was a beehive of activity! Hundreds stopped by to join, renew, or join AOSHS for the first time. **Kevin Frutiger** from our AOSHS office met every visitor with a smile and important information.

Thanks to our partnership with DoDEA, and due largely to Frank O’Gara’s efforts, we had several inviting posters mounted throughout the area depicting DoDDS history, inspirational quotations, and photos of AOSHS over the years. There was also a marvelous poster showing the current renovation of the AOSHS buildings in Wichita. The star of the hospitality room was the raffle table manned by **Rebecca Dunn** and **Jackie Kelly** and their many volunteers. The raffle had been run by **Tom** and **Denise Smith**, and **Bob** and **Kelley Germaine** for several years and was always one of our best fundraisers, a solid moneymaker for the archives. The Smiths and Germaines passed the torch to Rebecca and Jackie. This year the raffle brought in some \$2,290.00.

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

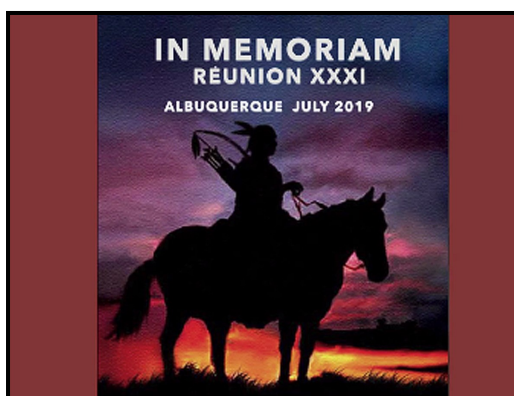
Finally, AOSHS continued its presentation in the afternoon Focus Group Q & A, presenting information on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of AOSHS, providing updates on the renovation of the office and museum, and responding to members’ questions on a variety of subjects.

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. This may have been a perception due to a lack of oxygen as the room was so packed it was nearly impossible to move from table to table. We couldn’t wait to catch up on what happened over the years and even over the three 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 Albuquerque 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.

**Suzanne Bachman**, a member of the Reunion Committee, works tirelessly during the year to gather

photos and information on deceased colleagues for this part of the program. 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 moving display. Each one of us had someone we loved and miss because he/she is no longer with us.

Finally, the moment we had all been waiting for arrived – the Teaser for 2020 and the announcement of the location of **Reunion XXXII**. Attendees were most pleased to learn that **Omaha, Nebraska**, had been selected as the host city. Reunion XXXII will be held **July 15-19, 2020**. Get ready for it by regularly visiting the webpage: [mydoddsreunion.com](http://mydoddsreunion.com).

*See you in Omaha!*



# THE TIES THAT BIND US



# Our Lasting Friendships

LINDA CONNELLY, Vice President

Once again this year, I had the distinct pleasure of working at the AOSHS Membership Table at the DoDDS Reunion. While the obvious purpose is to assist people renewing their membership or to enroll new members, the benefits of “working the table” go far beyond that. It’s wonderful to watch folks reacquaint, when they may not have seen each other for years... possibly decades! It’s great we all wear a nametag, because we may sometimes remember the face, but the name may be more challenging.

With thirty-three years in DoDDS, I was fortunate to meet and work with many wonderful people. During the latter part of my DoDDS career I served as a school administrator. One of my favorite responsibilities as a Principal was hiring new employees.

This provided the opportunity to bring new teachers, as well as support personnel, into the school. It allowed the faculty to move forward and to grow, to experience new points of view, and to “stay young”...because many people willing to take the first step into our DoDDS world were younger people. They brought new ideas, outlooks, and dare I say it... technology...into our world.

Over the years and thanks to social media, I’ve been able to keep in touch with many of these folks. While my hiring responsibilities happened in Asia and Guam, these “young teachers” are now working all over the world. Many of them remain in touch with each other and happily...with me. Additionally, former school secretaries and supply personnel are also among

those I keep in touch with. They are all special people, indeed.

I believe there are important lessons to be learned through these relationships which have lasted over the years for all of us. As educators, we know that we impacted our students in ways both seen and unseen. We should never forget and indeed we should cherish the relationships with fellow professionals and support personnel. We have impacted the lives of colleagues both professionally and personally. Volunteering through AOSHS at the DoDDS Reunion has made me keenly aware and more appreciative of these lasting relationships. I hope to see many more friends at next year’s Reunion.

Omaha, here we come!

## AOSHS Annual Meeting Presentation

KELLEY GERMAINE, Records and Technology

This year’s AOSHS annual meeting presentation was full of exciting news and developments. Here’s a brief overview if you were not able to attend the DoDDS Reunion in Albuquerque and, in turn, the AOSHS Friday morning meeting that is open to everyone. The presentation will be on the website after the board meets in Wichita this September. It entailed –

- Refresher on the AOSHS Mission Statement and Goals
- Current listing of volunteer Board of Directors and Responsibilities
- Approval of last year’s meeting minutes (July 20, 2018)
- Treasurer’s Report
- Office Updates on Operations Manager and two contract employees
- Membership Updates
- Reinforcement of efforts to gain memorabilia, artifacts and yearbooks for archives and digitization
- Memorial Program Update and Commemorative Tiles
- Four Historical Books Update (previously called ‘Black Books’)
- Two winners of Tom Drysdale Scholarships (Daegu HS, Korea and Vicenza HS, Italy)
- Renovations to 704 and 708 W. Douglas to house archives, museum and digital studio
- *AOSHS Quarterly* online for everyone without password
- Unveiling of new website ([www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org))
- Accomplishments in this 30<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary
- Thank you to AOSHS Members, Volunteers and DoDEA
- AOSHS Recognition of Donors Program
- Volunteers of the Year – **Jan Cropsey** and **Paula Schelhamer**
- AOSHS Flame Award – **Frank O’Gara**
- Reminder on AOSHS Raffle event
- President’s Closing Remarks
- Time and location for AOSHS Forum Friday afternoon



# NEW ON BOARD



## MEET JOEL HANSEN

### *Greetings Everyone!*

My name is Joel Hansen and I am your new Membership Chairperson for AOSHS. It will be a privilege and an honor to serve you for the next few years. Not having much information about The American Overseas Schools Historical Society, I was a little skeptical about getting involved, not to mention be the Membership Chair. However, the more I thought about it, the more interested I became. Being a part of the “DoDDS Overseas Organization” has had a great impact on my life, as well as my whole family. Many of you most likely feel the same way. Remembering and honoring the past of all Department of Defense Schools is an important

historical tribute. Ever since the first time our family stepped off the plane onto that dry, hot tarmac in Sigonella back in 1984, I have met new friends and renewed old friendships from all over the world. Not too many “jobs” can boast of this opportunity and life-changing experience.

The “*Each One - Reach One*” campaign of AOSHS revitalizes the relationships that have been built and continues to build new ones. The AOSHS “family” has a reason to grow and thrive. Keeping relationships, connections and history alive fosters strong bonds that will never die.

Reach out to your “distant family” and encourage others to explore



their past and rekindle the friendships of your earlier lives.

***Cheers!***

### **AOSHS BOARD OF DIRECTORS TERMS 2019** **(According to By-Laws July 27, 2017)**

<b><u>Executive Committee</u></b>	<b><u>1st Term</u></b>	<b><u>2nd Term</u></b>	<b><u>Office</u></b>
Gayle Vaughn-Wiles	2014-2017	2017-2020	President
Linda Connelly	2017-2018	2018-2020	Membership Vice President
Nancy Bresell	2015-2018	2018-2021	Secretary
Ron Harrison	2017-2020		Treasurer
Doug Kelsey	2016-2019	2019-2022	Asst. Treasurer
.....			
Chris Kyrios	2010-2013	2013- *	BRAT Rep/ Scholarships
Kelley Germaine	2013-2016	2016- *	Records/Tech Liaison
Bob Germaine	2016-2019	2019-2022	Fiscal Advisor
Rebecca Dunn	2017-2020		Historian
Jackie Kelly	2018-2021		Memorial Program
Joel Hansen	2019-2022		Membership

\* Term presently extended for projects



**FROM TOP LEFT TO LOWER RIGHT:**  
Rebecca Dunn, Jackie Kelly, Linda Connelly, Ron Harrison, Joel Hansen, Bob Germaine, Kelley Germaine, Gayle Vaughn-Wiles, Nancy Bresell, Doug Kelsey. *Not Pictured: Chris Kyrios (BRAT Rep.)*

# YEARBOOKS, PUBLICATIONS, ARTIFACTS & MEMORABILIA

**DOUG KELSEY**, Assistant Treasurer

## Current Status

AOSHS has almost 3,000 yearbooks in its archives, hundreds of publications and 40,000 to 50,000 artifacts and memorabilia. Some of the yearbooks are only digital copies, so we still need the actual books to help complete the collection in our archives.

## Current Initiatives

AOSHS' goal is to have all yearbooks, publications, artifacts and memorabilia in our archives available online through the AOSHS website ([www.aoshs.org](http://www.aoshs.org)) within the next four years. There are currently almost 2,000 yearbooks available online and AOSHS is scanning additional yearbooks daily. All 3,000 yearbooks in the archives should be online by July 1, 2020. Beginning this winter, AOSHS will begin taking digital photographs of all artifacts and memorabilia. As soon as the photographs are taken, they will also be available online through the AOSHS website. It will take several years to complete this initiative to photograph 40,000 to 50,000 items. Publications will also be scanned and placed online after all yearbooks have been scanned.

## Critical Needs

AOSHS needs additional yearbooks, publications, artifacts and memorabilia to enrich and expand our archives. Although we currently have almost 3,000 yearbooks in our archives, we are missing at least 3,000 yearbooks. For example, we have yearbooks from Goose Bay Labrador HS for 1958 through 1960, 1963, and 1965 through 1973,

but we are missing yearbooks from 1974 through 1976, 1964, 1962, 1961 and prior to 1958. AOSHS knows which yearbooks are missing for high schools but are uncertain how many are missing for elementary and middle schools, as all elementary and middle schools did not necessarily have a yearbook. With respect to publications, artifacts and memorabilia, the sky is the limit. There is not a finite number of items missing. It is at least another 40,000 to 50,000 items. Our goal is to have at least 100,000 items online by 2030.

## Where Are These Missing Items?

These items are in your basement, in your closets, in your storage areas and in the DoDEA schools that are still in existence. AOSHS is desperately seeking yearbooks, publications, artifacts and memorabilia from YOU! Please consider donating your items to AOSHS. If you are not ready to donate, please loan your items to AOSHS to scan or to photograph and we will return them to you.

## Donations

AOSHS will accept all donations of yearbooks, publications, artifacts and memorabilia immediately. Please send them to: AOSHS, 704 W. Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS. 67203. They will be scanned or photographed and placed in the AOSHS archives.

## Loans

If you would like your items returned after we scan or photograph them, AOSHS will return them to you. The entire process from when you send them to when AOSHS

returns them takes approximately three weeks. Please send them to: **AOSHS, 704 W. Douglas Avenue, Wichita, KS. 67203.** They will be scanned or photographed and returned to you. Please include a note stating you would like them returned and include your return address. Please do not loan artifacts and memorabilia until after January 1, 2020, as that is when we will begin the digital photograph process. Publications and yearbooks may be loaned immediately.

## Late 1940's, 1950's and 1960's (URGENT)

The window of opportunity to collect items from the 40's, 50's and 60's is rapidly closing on students and teachers who attended and worked in our schools during those time periods. The following shows the current age of a 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student and a teacher (40 years old) for each year shown:

### 1947

6 <sup>th</sup> grader	84
12 <sup>th</sup> grader	90
Teacher (35 years old)	112

### 1950

6 <sup>th</sup> grader	81
12 <sup>th</sup> grader	87
Teacher (35 years old)	109

### 1960

6 <sup>th</sup> grader	71
12 <sup>th</sup> grader	77
Teacher (35 years old)	99

## Questions?

Please contact **Doug Kelsey** by text at **404-664-9128** or by email at [dkelsey@hotmail.com](mailto:dkelsey@hotmail.com).



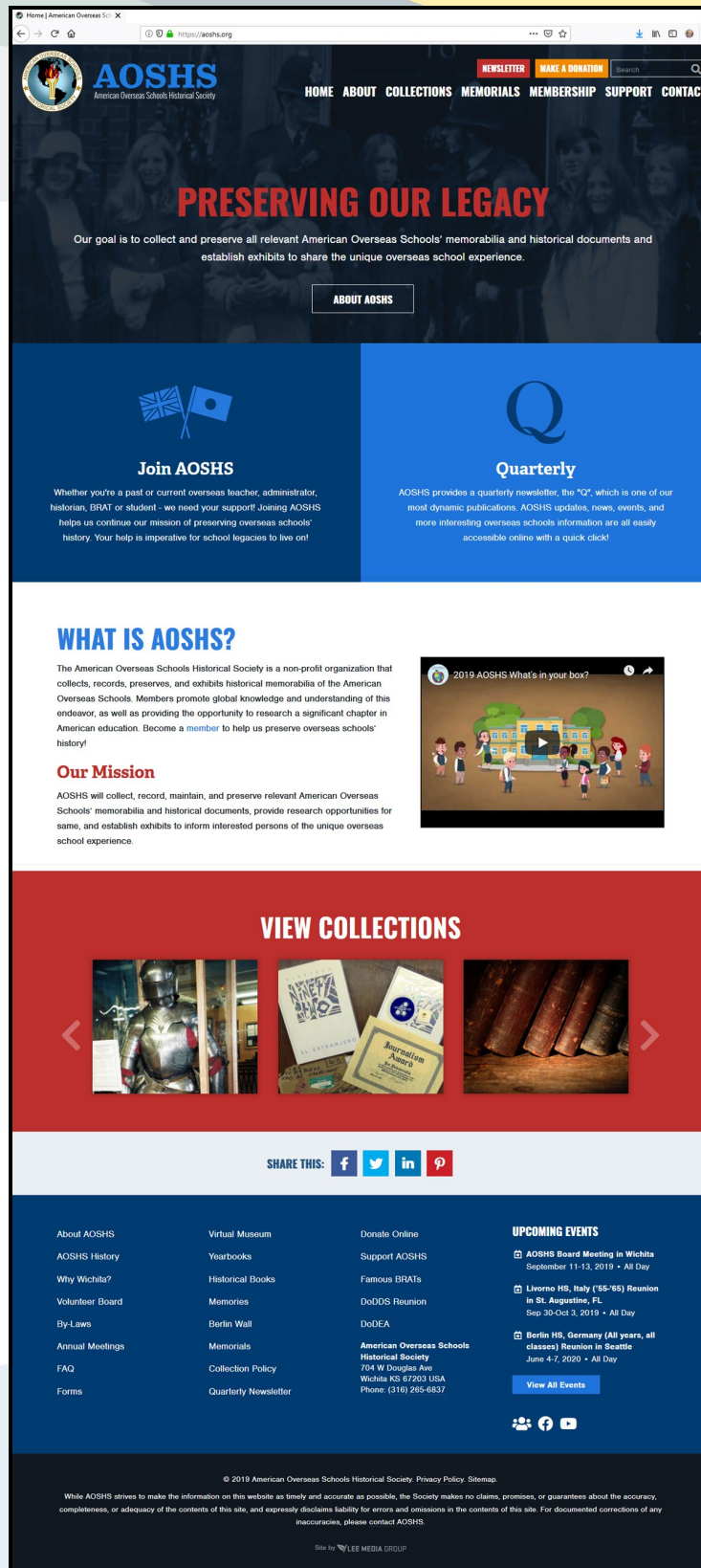
# AOSHS WEBSITE UPDATE

KELLEY GERMAINE, Tech Liaison

The unveiling of our new website was announced to our members just before the **DoDDS Reunion XXXI** and was featured during this gathering. **Phase 1** in the development was completed and the initial work on **Phase 2** has started. Specifically, we are in the process of downloading the digitized versions of the yearbooks to the website. On the Yearbook pages, you can find those that have been loaned to us, those that we house in the AOSHS archives, and the many locations/years that we are missing and need to find. Soon we will initiate the process of digitizing the artifacts and memorabilia for placement on the website.

Please take the time to look at this new website. Not only are there many layers of content in it, there is valuable additional information located in the footer of every page. To peek your interest in looking at it, below is a list of different components. If there is something of particular interest to you, just put it in the search bar...

- **Home page** – links to About AOSHS, Joining AOSHS, *AOSHS Quarterly*, the Mission, Viewing Collections (visual museum to come), and a DoDEA video emphasizing what to send to AOSHS archives
- **About page** – has an article ‘about’ AOSHS,



History, Why Wichita, Dr. Drysdale, Our Mission and Volunteer Board

- **Collections page** – encompasses Virtual Museum (to come), Yearbooks, Historical Books (4), Memories and Berlin Wall
- **Memorials page** – are still under construction and presently have nineteen pages of dedications from the original kiosk
- **Membership page** – makes easy access to renewing your membership or joining AOSHS the first time
- **Support page**– allows anyone to Donate Online plus provide Archive Donations, Monetary Donations or shop for AOSHS merchandise at our *AOSHS Emporium*
- **Contact page** – Directs you to either AOSHS contact information or other Affiliations

If you haven't already been motivated to look at the website, now is the time.

Also, please spread the word about ‘preserving your/our legacy’. Our goal is to collect and preserve all relevant American Overseas Schools’ memorabilia and historical documents and establish exhibits to share the unique overseas schools experience.

# Expansion & Remodeling UPDATE

MONICA TILLER, Operations Manager

As was mentioned in the Summer 2019 issue, we have begun the renovations for the new museum.

The old wood subfloor in #704 was completely demolished and a new concrete floor was poured once the electrical outlets in the floor for the future exhibit cases were laid.

This was followed by the complete demolition of the area between what was our front and rear archive spaces where we had a breakroom, a restroom, and a back office. This space now houses a Men's and Ladies restroom, all new concrete flooring after the plumbing was diverted, new walls where the old restroom was located, a new entryway between #704 and #708, and fire doors leading to #704's rear storage room and into #708. We also installed a large pocket door leading into the Digital Room in #708 where we will transport items for digitization that will be featured on our website's future Virtual Museum.

Walls have been painted, a new security system installed, the lighting installation has begun, and we are awaiting the new carpeting for the main public areas and vinyl flooring for the back rooms.

Next will be the furnishings that our committees choose to exhibit our treasures, contain our yearbooks and other library items, and outfit our reception and seating areas, and finally, deciding on our new façade and outdoor signage. We will keep you updated as we progress further!



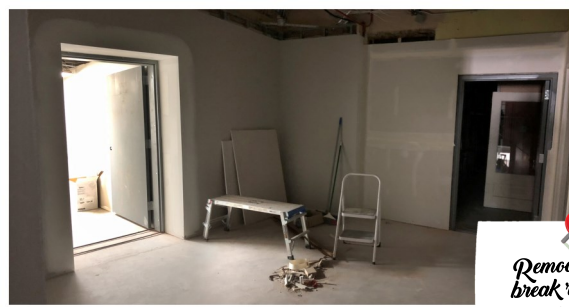
*Old floor  
demo and  
new concrete  
floor*



*Old break  
room and  
restroom*



*Break room  
demo and  
new  
passageway*



*Remodeled  
break room,  
new passageway,  
and two new  
restrooms*





# 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 annual recognition program runs from the beginning of the current DoDDS Reunion (Reunion XXXI – July 17, 2019) to the beginning of the DoDDS Reunion the following year (Reunion XXXII – July 15, 2020). 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 issues**, 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

Vidabeth Bensen  
Judy Buffa  
Jamie Crowley  
Rosanna Currier  
Karen Dickie  
Kathleen Dobrzycki  
Marcia Edwards

Christine Gardner  
Margaret James  
London Central High  
School Alumni  
Ronald Malooley  
David Markewitz  
Jane McNulty

Paola Meimaris &  
The William Penn  
Foundation Matching  
Gifts Program  
Audrey Oates  
Margaret Petrovich

Margaret Roehl  
Martha Steinman  
Linda Strandberg  
UNKNOWN (Reunion-  
No Form)  
Sharon Wylie

## FRIENDS

Jill Abbott  
Stephen Abbott  
Donna Alvah  
Beth Cornell  
Linda Curtis  
Marty Dickey  
Robert Dixon  
Carole Ernst

Horst Goede  
John Hedges  
Charles Helmstetler  
Barbara Holman  
Jeffrey Martin  
Patricia Matthias  
Linda McCauley  
Daniel Mitchum

Harleen Mitchum  
Jane Mohr  
Ruth Osborn  
Wade Owen  
Lynda Simmons  
Buddie Stewart  
Carole Stone  
Glynn Turquand

UNKNOWN (Reunion-  
No Form)  
Margaret Varshock  
Jane Ware  
Arnold Watland  
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Youngman  
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*Thank  
You!*



# AOSHS Memorial Program

JACKIE KELLY, Memorial Program

## FIRST ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LINDA HIEBERT SEKIGUCHI**

**June 12, 1945 - May 15, 2019**

When **Linda Hiebert Sekiguchi** passed away May 15, 2019, the world lost an advocate for education and compassion for all, especially women.

Coming from a rather closed Russian Mennonite community outside of rural Newport, Washington, she was one of the most global thinking and acting personalities many of her friends had ever met.

Despite physical limitations which might have led others to give up, Linda was known as a determined woman who stood up for those who had no voice and advocated for women's issues, especially education. She never wanted to miss out on anything.

Linda was overtaken by blindness in her early thirties, but if a cause meant enough to her, she would just get on an airplane and go—whether it was to the United Nations in New York City or to an international symposium in South Africa. She trusted that others would help her.

Staying close to her roots, Linda graduated from Mennonite Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas. She went on to teach elementary school in Topeka, Kansas, then joined the Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DODDS) in Mannheim, Germany. She also taught with DODDS in the Philippines.

After teaching in private schools in Hawaii, she again taught with DODDS in Frankfurt, Germany. She also taught and worked with medically fragile students in California.

Linda met her husband, Christopher Sekiguchi, while teaching in the Philippines. They traveled throughout the far East before deciding to go to Germany. Chris passed away after a heart transplant while they were living in California.

It was while she was in California that Linda met her best friend and partner of 28 years, Bruce Mitchener. They have lived in Minden, Nevada, for quite a few years where they developed many friendships and interests.



Knowing how Linda's life began and all the things she had to conquer it is absolutely amazing what she accomplished and the people she impacted and the places she went by herself and with Chris and with Bruce.

Between the two of them, Bruce and Linda travelled to 90 countries. They made multiple trips throughout the world with Friendship Force. They stayed in homes of other members in Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and numerous other countries.

Linda always took things along to give to children and to schools everywhere she went. She made hundreds of school kits every year for the Mennonite Central Committee to give to children in third world countries.

*Continued On Page 14*

Linda gave generously to her church and groups and organizations she was associated with—not just to any charity. She and Chris set up a large scholarship fund for women of the world to get a higher education in the United States.

She was a dedicated member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). She was on the board of VGIF which advocates for women's



education worldwide. She went to meetings at the United Nations a couple of times a year. After AAUW got out of the world organization, Linda worked with the World Association of University Women, attending meetings worldwide.

She went to Israel and Palestine on a Compassionate Listening Project. She even bought a bus for Palestinian school kids so they wouldn't be harassed at the border on their way to school.

Linda's years of teaching, along with wise investments and selling the home she owned with Chris in San Jose, helped her have the money to do so many things. It wasn't handed to her. She worked hard for the things she believed in. She was also a strong supporter of the Reno Philharmonic.

Linda was very active in the Carson Valley United Methodist Church where she sang in the choir, attended the United Methodist Women and was a lay representative for CVUMC at annual conference. She was always concerned about others.

Linda is survived by her best friend and partner of 28 years, Bruce Mitchener. Linda was a loving grandmother (Lola) to Bruce, Stephanie, Jack, Daniel and Joshua Mitchener, Kayla, Cassie and Kenny Wood and loved by Bruce's children Michelle, Cheryl, Leslie, Edward and Kevin. She also leaves behind her sisters Eva Klink, RuthAnn Hiebert, Elsie Dickerson and Erna Haskins and brother David Hiebert. She is survived by nieces and nephews Lisa, Lorenzo, Melissa, LeAnn, James, Adeline and Phyllisa. And, she is cherished and remembered by friends worldwide.

Sponsor: Linda Nary

## SECOND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Mary E. Phelps** has had one announcement in the Summer 2019 *Quarterly*. This is her second announcement. The fund was opened by her husband, William M. Phelps. Currently the account has a total of \$110.

### CLOSED ACCOUNTS

**Patricia Steinkueler**, sponsored by Cynthia Johnson

**Takashi Suyama**, sponsored by Nancy Bresell

**Gwendolyn Demps**, sponsored by Gayle Vaughn-Wiles

**Leland "Lee" Davis**, sponsored by Nancy Bresell (October)

### NEW ACCOUNTS AWAITING FIRST ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Vernon Kohout**, sponsored by Glynn Turquand

**Don Devona**, sponsored by Glynn Turquand

**Kay Nissen**, sponsored by Glynn Turquand

**Rita Wells**, sponsored by Roxanne Ferry

**Fred Drath**, sponsored by Glynn Turquand



# COMMEMORATIVE TILE PROGRAM

We have **58** tiles available for sale in assorted sizes:

<b>22</b> 4"x8" Red Quarry Tiles	\$100.00
<b>19</b> 8"x8" Beige Quarry Tiles	\$250.00
<b>14</b> 8"x8" Polished Granite Tiles	\$500.00
<b>1</b> 12"x12" Polished Granite Tiles	\$1,000.00
<b>2</b> 18"x18" Polished Granite Tiles	\$2,500.00

Once these remaining physical tiles have been sold, the Memorials page on our new website will then feature our new digital commemorations.

Forms for the tiles are located at the end of this newsletter.



REBECCA DUNN, Historian

## Installment Three of Memories from France

Here are a few more memories from students and educators who were stationed in the schools in France during the fifties and sixties. We are so pleased with the number of people who took the time to share their memoirs with us. If you worked in France or attended school there, we would love to have your memories. We can still post them on our website or use them in a future edition of the *Q*.

## MEMORIES OF FRANCE

By Kate Anne

These memories are from when I was 6-8 years old. My family arrived in Paris in early August 1950. We lived in a hotel until about October. My father went to work in a big office building each day and my mother took me and my three-year-old brother to The Bois de Boulogne every day. I had just turned six and so excited to be in first grade. September arrived but there was no American school in Paris. My mother taught me to read with Dick and Jane materials supplied by a correspondence school called the Calvert Course. By the time a school was established (in my father's office building) I was ahead of the other first-graders. By

then we'd moved into a two-story house with two other families. My dad made bunk beds for the kids with army cots, one turned upside down, with dowels in the legs to hold them together. All five kids in the three families slept in one room.

The school bus ride was very scary. At one point the bus turned by backing over a huge steep cliff. I was terrified we'd go over the edge. Who knew that Paris had huge, terrifying cliffs? In the middle of the school year we moved to Verdun. The school in Verdun was in a basement or first floor room at one end of the hospital. The school was one large room with another

much smaller room at the side. There were 28 kids in that one room in first to eighth grade. Eight were first-graders. The other grades had varying numbers, some two or three, some more, some none. The teacher moved around the room assigning work to each group then leaving them to work and moving on. Quite often some of the older girls would work with the first graders. Or the first graders would sit with the older kids and learn along with them. I remember doing geography with the fifth or sixth graders. The first graders sat in two

*Continued On Page 16*

groups of four with an oatmeal box in the center of the table for trash. A couple of the older boys went exploring in a minefield that year and were quite badly injured. One came back to school with his arm in a sling and cuts healing on his face. The whole school had French class together and I think we did other things like Social Studies and Science as a group.

During second grade I was in and out of school in Verdun quite a bit because we spent a lot of time in Germany. I do remember the school had grown and second and third grade (and maybe first) were together in one room. My teacher was from

the Bronx and I picked up a pretty good Bronx accent that year. I think her name was Miss Lemon. We had French once a week and the teacher gave me a little Asian doll made of ceramic. I think that was the year all three teachers in the school were very nearly killed by carbon monoxide poisoning. Much of what happened was hidden from young ears or went over my head. I do know we heated with coal stoves and housing for everybody was old and had just gone through a war period so both may have been factors. I think my brother and I may have had carbon monoxide poisoning that year too because kids were commenting on how bright red our lips were.

Third grade and the school had grown again. I think they had kindergarten by then in a small separate building so my brother could start school, too. My best friend and I were separated for the first time because she was a year ahead of me. Her teacher was named Grace Hildebrand and the kids called her Miss Grace. They were so lucky to have the prettiest and nicest teacher in the world! I don't recall my teacher's name!

I know my memories are disjointed, jumbled, and probably faulty, too. It was 68 years ago!

## MEETING IN VERDUN

By Rita Indresano

We met on a train to Paris. It was September 1961. Joe, in Boston, and I, in Kansas City, had each responded to notices on college bulletin boards offering opportunities to "teach overseas". The song "Far Away Places" was popular back then, and we both, separately, dreamed of seeing some of those places "with strange-sounding names, far away over the seas". Eventually, we both were ready to go, applied to the Department of Defense Schools (USDESEA back then) and were accepted. My interviewer asked if I would be willing to go anywhere, "even Ethiopia"?

Although I had never flown in an airplane and knew no one who had been overseas, I trusted the government and put aside any misgivings. I was happy when told I'd "probably" be assigned to a school in Germany. Teachers bound for Europe were processed initially at McGuire Air Force Base, where they spent the night, were given a boxed lunch, boarded a turbo prop airplane, and then were flown by Military Air Transport (MATs) to the country of their assignment. In August 1961 Joe was flown to France. At Orly Airport he received his assignment, dorm counselor at Verdun American School, and boarded a bus that would take the teachers to Verdun.

I joined a group of 60 teachers for a 19-hour flight to Germany, with stops in Newfoundland and Ireland. We were all young and excited about this new venture. During the trip, the pilot invited each of us to the cockpit. When my turn came, we were just starting over the European continent, a spectacular view! Upon arriving at Rhein-Mein Airport in Frankfurt, the teachers gathered to hear assignments. Most were going to Heidelberg, Wiesbaden, Stuttgart, Baumholder etc., but, "oops", I am assigned as a high school librarian at Verdun, France. I was given a train ticket to Metz and told I was on my own to get there. Fortunately, after a moment of panic, I ran into another "mistake". Janet Hodges knew she was going to France but had been put on the wrong plane at McGuire. Together, we headed for Verdun. Janet had studied French and I had audited a summer school course in German. We shared a compartment with a delightful older gentleman and his wife. He spoke French and a little German. An American soldier who had purchased Irish whisky at Shannon entered our compartment, and the Frenchman opened a large bottle of Coca Cola to share. It was a

*Continued On Page 17*



convivial, entertaining, and memorable 4-hour trip. When we arrived at Metz there was no one to meet us. Luckily, we discovered a military ticket office. The agent called the Verdun base and asked them to dispatch a staff car.

Verdun American Schools were located on the outskirts of the small city then called Verdun-sur-Meuse (on the Meuse river) and shared a building with the American Military Hospital. The school's dormitory housed students from various U.S. bases, including Chambley, Chateauroux, Dreux, Laon and Toul. Joe was one of three counselors in the men's dorm. It was a 5-day dorm requiring twenty-four-hour supervision. I taught inside the school and lived in the BOQ in town. That's why our paths didn't cross until that fateful train ride in September. Victor Davis, who taught history, introduced us, and the two of us chatted during most of the four hours to Paris. Joe and Victor were going to Paris to pick up their new Austin Healy Sprites at the car dealership. Janet and I were going sightseeing. Notre Dame, of course, was a major site for everyone, and the following morning Joe and I happened upon each other again, inside the Cathedral. Back in Verdun, Joe found the school library, invited me out for dinner, and many of our subsequent dates were spent chaperoning dorm students.

Everywhere in and around Verdun were reminders of World War I and the Battle of Verdun: an Ossuary containing remains of more than 100,000 soldiers; Forts Douamont and Vaux with their network of tunnels; a "Trench of the Bayonets"; WW I Cemetery; weapons and unexploded munitions discovered in farmer's fields, and still occasionally causing explosions. One of our students visited a farmer who had sheltered his grandfather and recovered guns left in the barn. During our two years in Verdun we learned a great deal about the Great War and this longest battle in world history.

In addition to it being an interesting location in itself, Verdun was a convenient center from which to travel throughout France, Germany, Luxemburg, Belgium and the Netherlands. In addition, Joe and I drove, alone or with friends, to Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Spain and Morocco. By Christmas we were engaged to be married. We wed in June 1962 at the Verdun Army Chapel and honeymooned in Denmark. At the end of our two-year commitment we decided to return to the States - but not for long. In less than a year, Joe reapplied to the Dependent Schools. We both retired from the system in 1992, having enjoyed our careers as educators and raised four children in Japan, Germany, and Spain. It was a rich, wonderful life.

## MEMORIES OF A DORM STUDENT IN POITIERS AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL, FRANCE

By Iva Guiden Yoeman

One's vision is not always clear when trying to remember events that happened many years ago. As I recall my experience as a "dorm student" at Poitiers American High School in France began in September of my 11th year in high school 57 years ago. High school students from military kasernes in southern France such as those at La Rochelle, Rochefort, and surrounding areas lived in the school dormitory because their sponsor was stationed too far for

them to commute each day to school. I was one of those students.

Each Sunday we would meet at 1:00 pm and ride the big green army bus four hours to Poitiers. On Friday at 3:00 PM, the big green bus took us back to our central locations to go home for the weekend. I was excited about living away from home, yet anxious because I didn't know anyone. When we arrived at the dorm, we carried our luggage to our rooms. The rooms were large

and barely furnished. There were four army bunk beds--- stacked, four desks, four lockers, and lots of room in the middle of the floor.

Our day started with breakfast at the mess hall for students. The meal was served on metal trays. After breakfast we had time to go back to our rooms and prepare for class or linger in the hall, as most of us did, until the bell rang. The high school

*Continued On Page 18*

was located in old hospital. We could walk directly out of the dormitory into the school. In the evenings we had time for socialization and a mandatory study time from 7-9 pm. Lights were out at 10 pm. Of course, there was bed check.

As I look back, I am thankful for the unforgettable memories of making new friends, sharing with each other about our families both in France and the states. As we got to know each other we developed a special bond. This experience taught us independence and responsibility. Most importantly, we learned to respect and appreciate diversity while living in a close dormitory environment.



**Our information regarding the opening and closing dates of the French schools is very limited. Listed below is the information we have about the opening and closing of the French schools. If you have any other details, please contact Rebecca Dunn at [simplydunn@comcast.net](mailto:simplydunn@comcast.net).**

### FRANCE

Bar le Duc ES	?	?
Joshua Barney ES, Beaulieu	?	?
Bayonne ES	?	?
Bordeaux ES	?	?
Braconne ES	?	1966
Brienne-le-Chateau ES	?	?
Bussac ES	?	?
Captieux ES	?	?
Chambley ES	?	?
Chateauroux Deauls ES	?	1966
Chateauroux JHS	?	1966
Chateauroux HS	1952	1966
Chateauroux Dormitory	1952	1966
Chaumont ES	?	?
Chinon ES	?	?
Chize ES	?	?
Croix Chapeaux ES	?	?
Dreux ES	?	?
Dreux JHS	?	?
Dreux HS	1961	1967
Dreux HS Dormitory	1960	1967
Ecole Lafayette ES	?	?
Etain ES	?	1966
Evreux ES	?	?
Evreux JHS	?	?
Fontenet ES	?	?
Fontainebleu ES	?	1966

Fontainebleu JHS	?	1966
Ingrandes ES	?	?
La Baule ES	?	?
La Chapelle ES	?	1966
Laon ES	?	?
Laon JHS	1952	1967
La Rochelle ES	?	?
La Rochelle JHS/HS	?	?
Mason Fort ES	?	?
Merignac HS	?	?
Metz ES	?	?
Orleans ES (aka La Foret ES)	?	?
Orleans HS	1955	1967
Orleans HS Dormitory	1966	1967
Paris ES (aka Orly ES)	1946	1967
Paris ES, Garches	1954	1967
Paris JHS	1952	1967
Paris HS	1950/51	1971
Paris HS Dormitory	1952	1967
Perigueux ES	?	?
Pessac ES	?	?
Pessac JHS	?	?
Phalsbourg ES	?	?
Poitiers ES	1948	1966
Poitiers HS	1948	1966
Rochefort ES	?	?
Rochefort HS	1953	1958
Sampigny ES	?	?
Saumur ES	?	?
SHAPE ES, Paris	1963	1966
Soulac-sur-Mer ES	1953	1956
St. Jean de Angeli ES	?	?
St. Michel PS, Evreux	?	?

*Continued On Page 19*

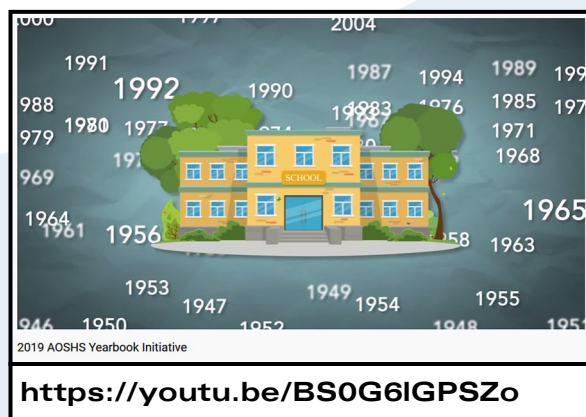


St. Nazaire ES	?	?	Trois Fontaine ES	1952	1967
Toul ES	?	1966	Vassincourt ES	?	1966
Toul JHS	?	1966	Verdun ES	12/1950	1967
Toul HS	1962	1965	Verdun HS	1958	1967
Toul HS Dormitory	?	?	Verdun HS Dormitory	?	?
Toul-Rossieres ES	?	?	Villefranche ES	?	?
Toul-Rossieres JHS	?	?	Vitry La Francoise ES	?	?
Touvent ES, near Chateauroux	?	?			

— ❖ FIN ❖ —



Check out DoDEA's videos about AOSHS from their Communications Department on YouTube





# AOSHS

## ARCHIVE & MUSEUM

How many of you have a will in place, or an estate plan? Have you thought about where your personal overseas school(s) memorabilia will end up once you've departed to the great beyond? Did you know you can donate your overseas school memorabilia to the **American Overseas Schools Historical Society (AOSHS) Archive** (and soon to include their new museum!) for permanent preservation just by adding AOSHS to your will or estate plan as the recipients of said memorabilia?

Whether you decide to donate them before or after you're gone, AOSHS has a **Property Donation Form** that you can use to itemize your belongings and prepare them for donation (in this newsletter), and we do have a collection policy as well.

### AOSHS COLLECTION POLICY

Boxes arrive weekly at the Archive full of items that AOSHS catalogues to preserve the history they reflect. We look forward to receiving any of the items below to add to the AOSHS Archives and collections.

#### **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
- School 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

#### **DO NOT 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 call the **AOSHS office** at **316-685-6837** or email at **office@aoshs.com** to verify if the item(s) you want to donate are appropriate for the archives.

You must include a completed and signed **Property Donations Form** inside the box(es) of items sent to AOSHS headquarters in Wichita. All donations become the property of AOSHS.

Make sure YOUR history is preserved at AOSHS.

Please visit **YouTube** to see the new video that DoDEA has made to share our property donation program:  
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# American Overseas Schools Historical Society

704 West Douglas Avenue, Wichita, Kansas 67203

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Name of the person who had these items: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of item(s) and/or overseas location(s):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

Description of item(s) being donated:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
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6. \_\_\_\_\_

*If more room is needed, please use the backside of paper.*

**NOTE: Photographs should have Location, Date taken, Description (Names of individuals/groups), Activity if applicable, School, Name of original photographer, Source of photo (if not original photographer)**

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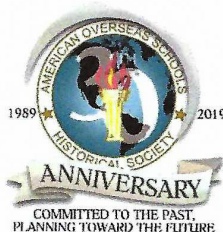
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## FOUNDER EMERITUS

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

## The AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY (AOSHS)

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