





Senior History

After sailing another nautical mile on the educational sea, we pause and view before us the sea of life and success, while looking back we see behind us the deep waters of history. Our Senior Crew, which consists of eight mariners, all climbed aboard ship in the fall of '47 and together we've sailed our last mile of high school. Four of us: Ethel, Darlene, Cleo and Ada, began our voyages from other ports and the other four--Junior, Glen, Fred, and Helen, attended I. M. S. three years, and having taken the equivalent of one year by correspondence, will graduate with us in the first graduating class of I. M. S.

When we entered I. M. S. as sophomores, our group of eight, which was entirely different from our present group of eight, immediately took up the responsibilities of being upper classmen and have continued until this day. Being young and carefree and not completely willing to give up our childish ways, we were at that time poor examples for the inexperienced freshmen that had entered I. M. S. with us; but after some practice and persistent pursuing of more perfect patterns and ideals, we, through the weeks and months, have become the model senior class of I. M. S. history.

Our junior year, with our group increased to eleven, proved to be very successful, and it is here that we learned the real thrill of working together as a group. With parties and a class trip we had many opportunities to put our organization to work. It was here also that we learned class loyalty.

Organizing our class was the first undertaking of our class in this our senior year. Choosing Elizabeth Showalter, as our sponsor, we began our class activities in the Home Ec. kitchen. Heavier matters now weigh on our shoulders -- our biggest projects being the making of the school annual, "The Reverie", and plans for commencement. We meet every Tuesday noon in the Home Ec. kitchen for lunch and to discuss any current matters of importance, after which we have a short fellowship meeting. This has become very much a part of us and we seem like a big happy family. We look forward to a class trip to Chicago and additional class activities.

Whether we take up life's work from here or whether we enter college, we feel dependent on a Higher Power, therefore with Christ as our Pilot and the Bible as our compass we are certain that "Though the billows roll -- we will sail on."



1948



Senior Will

We, the Senior Class of the Iowa Mennonite School, being of sound mind and benevolent mood do hereby declare this to be our last will and testament, and herewith dispose of such privileges and prerogatives as we have enjoyed during this eventful period of our lives.

We do hereby order that from our fund of gratitude and appreciation ample sums shall be paid as follows: To the men of conviction and vision who conceived the idea of this school and who by their prayers and untiring efforts have made it a reality; to the Conference Board and the Local Board who have carried the responsibility of providing and maintaining this school; to our parents who have seen fit to sacrifice so that we might attend this Christian institution; and to the faculty who have guided us through these years.

To the Juniors we leave our cherished right to be excused from various and sundry duties and requirements on the ground of being busy Seniors. We request that the privileges be confined within the bounds of common honesty and be used with due consideration for even the most glibble of teachers.

To the Sophomores we leave the thrill of growing up. Having realized in our latter days the significance of this normal and thoroughly enjoyable human experience, we implore of the said Sophomore Class that they speedily avail themselves of this legacy, not allowing themselves to be hindered therein by any false notions or thereby showing disrespect to the departed.

To the Freshmen we leave the prospect of all the opportunities that three more years at I. M. S. can hold. We trust that they may so cherish this gift that they may be spared all regrets for not having used it wisely. To all those who in future years will attend I. M. S. we will and bequeath the real, if not apparently desirable, privileges of pioneering. Knowing that not all Senior classes shall have the dubious privilege of holding their meetings in a musty basement, nor experience the need of building with their own hands, walks through seas of mud, we yet believe that as long as I.M.S. shall stand there will be improvements to be made, convictions to be upheld, ideals to be striven for. Therefore, to such as follow, we leave the joy of building into Iowa Mennonite School a part of themselves, their personality, and their talent.

To our Alma Mater we leave our regrets for those times when we have not given our best, and our promise that even when without her walls we shall give her our support and our prayers. Having hereby provided for all our debts and disposed of all the privileges of which we now possess, we hereby affix our signatures on this the last day of March, 1948.

We hereby certify that this document was declared to be the last will and testament of the above and was signed in our presence.

SIGNED:

Ada Christner
Darlene Bronneman
Ethel Schwartzendruber
Junior Hochstetler
Helen Warner
Cleo Snaggs
Fred C. Schraack
Glen Hershberger

Johnny Bug
Almer Jerome

REVERIE 75 YEARS

The 1947-48 school year produced the school's first official yearbook, the Reverie. The word means to daydream or a condition of being lost in thought. The foreword to the book stated, "Every ship which leaves port is sent forth with purpose. In like spirit we launch the IMS Reverie. That friends of IMS in port and on distant shores, may be informed of her progress and activities. That the crew of the Reverie, in working together, may learn cooperation and loyalty to a common cause. That the students may have a record of their voyage to stimulate reverie in years to come. And that those who hope to come to IMS in the future may know her opportunities and ideals. With faith and hope we bid the Reverie Godspeed!"

The book, which featured a nautical theme with hand drawn pictures of clipper ships and helms was dedicated to "Those whose vision, means, and prayers have made our school possible." Some seventy-five years later, those prophetic words still hold true. As our school continues to move forward, we will sail our ship though new waters, carrying our rich history, with God as our skipper.

REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1948 75 YEARS

Besides the Reverie celebrating 75 years, 2023 also commemorates the 75 year anniversary of our first graduating class, the Class of 1948. **ETHEL (SWARTZENDRUBER) MILLER** is the only living class member from our school's first graduating class, the Class of 1948. The eight students began their academic careers in White Gables when the school was founded in 1945. We were honored to have Ethel and some of her family on campus for Homecoming. They enjoyed eating together at the Pork Supper and listening to *The Hymn Project* concert afterward. Here is Ethel, Homecoming Weekend with children **Jolene Weaver '77**, **Kim Miller '76**, and **June Hershberger '74**.



1958 | The Class of 1958 gathered on August 26, 2023 to celebrate their 65th graduation anniversary. Fourteen classmates were able to attend and seven spouses joined us. Colorado, Wisconsin and Iowa were represented. We met at Bethel Church Fellowship Hall close to Wayland, Iowa. The catered lunch was delicious as we reminisced at tables decorated with figurines reminding us of days gone by. We spent several hours conversing and recalling memories of the days now long past. Larry Roth reminded us of our class motto, "Enter to learn, depart to serve," and we shared around the circle accounts of how that was accomplished in the intervening years. We missed those who have left us and those who were unable to attend. Thanks to Larry and Mary Lou Roth for planning and facilitating an enjoyable day. Submitted by Erma (Yoder) Edwards



Front left: Karen Gingerich, Helen (Slaubaugh) Lindstrom, Doris (Schrock) Thirtle, Shirley (Bender) Yoder, Erma (Yoder) Edwards
Back left: Jim Brenneman, Bob Yoder, Lynn Graber, Eldon Yoder, Delbert Schrock, John Arthur Yoder, Larry Roth, Daniel Keith Yoder, Ed Miller

1963 | The Class of 1963 was joined by Jeremy Ours, in the Amanas on a Thursday morning in late September, for his presentation about changes in the current school year as well as answering our many questions. Of special interest was the new Iowa legislation that allows around \$7,500 for student tuition costs. Most of us thought this was a voucher payment plan, but Jeremy clarified that this legislation was different. The Education Savings Account is where money is placed, which families can then apply towards their non-public education, mostly for tuition costs. Both the infusion of State monies and the rebranding of IMS to Hillcrest Academy, Jeremy told us, has helped recruit 26 students to the newly formed sixth grade this year. Submitted by Marlene (Troyer) Miller



Front left: Marvin Marner, Bette Kauffman, LaVerta (Yoder) Butterbaugh, Janet (Yoder) Schulz, Sheryl (Yoder) Miller, Charlene (Yoder) Rhodes Second left: Keith Troyer, Ron Guengerich, Bob Yoder, Marlene Troyer Miller, Bob Miller, Dale Rhodes Back left: Fred Roth, Jay Brenneman, Leon Graber, Patty (Mishler) Roswell, Dan Miller, John Gingerich, Wayne Beachy, Arlen Hershberger

REUNIONS

1968 | Homecoming Weekend, a good number of classmates and spouses participated in a day of activities, wishing that all of our classmates could have joined us! We began the day at the Iowa Mennonite Museum and Archives in Kalona, where Gloria Yoder (Galen's wife), Dean Rhodes and Firman Gingerich introduced us to the museum/archives. We boarded a Hillcrest Academy school bus for a tour of the area, stopping at the sites of numerous one-room country schools many of us attended prior to IMS. Many memories were shared from those days long ago! We enjoyed an Amish lunch and the Pork Supper at Hillcrest. At lunch, Susan Gingerich shared a document establishing an **endowment fund** at Hillcrest in the name of our class. Many thanks to Loren Fisher for launching the idea and making a very generous gift of \$5,000 to initiate the fund. All of us are invited to contribute to the endowment through current gifts and/or estate commitments. *Submitted by Susan (Yoder) Gingerich*



Front left: Dori Yoder, Firman Gingerich, Susan (Yoder) Gingerich, Pat Swartzendruber, Karen (Miller) Albrecht, Marietta (Miller) Fowler, Linda (Hershberger) Cole, Jim Gingerich, Becky (Guengerich) Rhodes, Rosie (Yoder) Miller, Linda (Chupp) Stoll, Wilma (Swartzendruber) Miller
Back left: Galen Yoder, Tom Yoder, Loren Swartzendruber, Steve Lowry, Larry Hershberger, Wayne Hershberger, Dean Rhodes, Eldon Miller, Kerstin (Matsson) Abramowski, Dennis Miller, Kathy Brenneman, Gretchen Fisher Not pictured: Karen (Miller) Kahler, Steve Yoder

1978 | On July 8, 2023 the Class of 1978 met together for our 45th class reunion! It was a perfect hot summer evening filled with a lot of reminiscing and laughter. We started the evening with a spirited round of miniature golf at Barn Lot Putt-Putt, north of Kalona. We then proceeded to Hillcrest to enjoy a delicious dinner from the Island Vybz Jamaica food truck from Iowa City. We had 13 class members and a few spouses who came out for the evening! There were several prizes donated to us from local businesses to reward winners of our trivia contests, proving we all are still in our right minds after 45 years! Dessert was also a blast from the past as we finished off our evening with Kalona Bars from Yot-ty's! All in all it was a wonderful evening with great fellowship! Looking forward to the 50th! *Submitted by Carol (Bender) Bates*



Front left: Pam (Brenneman) Miller, Dawn (Schlabaugh) Schrock, Lori (Mullet) Eash, Carol (Bender) Bates Back left: Merle Hostetler, Lee Miller, Steve Brenneman, Sanford Miller, Donna (Swantz) Miller, Diane (Hochstetler) Miller, Ross Nisly, Tony Miller, Carrie Miller

1983 | The Class of 1983 celebrated 40 years of graduating on Saturday, September 9, 2023 with several events. To start off the day the women from the class gathered for brunch at Ruth Brenneman's home in rural Wellman. Early afternoon all were invited to Barn Lot Putt-Putt in rural Kalona for some friendly competition on the 18-hole putt-putt golf course. In the evening, a total of 19 class members (out of 35) plus 6 spouses gathered in Kalona and had a catered meal and lots of fun and laughter. Class members traveled from near and far, with Deb Murray and Kurt Roth getting the prize for coming the furthest; Deb from Idaho and Kurt from Virginia. Others traveled from Indiana and Kansas. Other prizes were given to Monica Robeson for coming to her first reunion and to Joe Castellano for having the best putt-putt score. There was a lot of reminiscing as we looked over old yearbooks and photo albums and shared stories. There were also lots of laughs as we took turns reading the five year predictions we had written about each other from our senior year advanced writing class. It was interesting to see where life has taken us and a good thing some of those predictions were way off! *Submitted by Ruth Brenneman*



Front left: Craig Gingerich, Kendal Gingerich, Mike Litwiller, Tony Stutzman, Elroy Shetler, Joe Castellano, Kermit Bender
Back left: Karleen (Kauffman) Uitermark, Norma Miller, Kurt Roth, Sherie Swartzendruber, Brian Herschberger, Beth (Yoder) Schlabaugh, Forrest Miller, Ruth Brenneman, Monica (Rediger) Robeson, Heather (Blosser) Herschberger, Lori (Miller) Bender, Deb (Yoder) Murray



1988 | The Class of 1988 threw together a last-minute, 35th-year class reunion on Homecoming Weekend. Our turnout will be much better in five years when we plan ahead a little better! A few local couples met Friday night at the Kalona Brewing Company in Kalona, and were treated to a fascinating and informative tour led by Warren Yoder, head brewer. Our meal, of course, was delicious and the company was very enjoyable. Plans for a putt-putt golf outing were scratched due to poor weather, but we were able to enjoy the annual pork supper together. The best thing is that our contact spreadsheet has been updated for next time, and many classmates were able to share updates and keep in touch, even if we weren't all able to be together. *Submitted by Robin (Schlabach) Schrock*

Left: Troy Roth, Greg Gingerich, Jenny (Gingerich) Roth, Robin (Schlabach) Schrock, Warren Yoder, Chris Rhodes

1993 | The Class of 1993 decided that one event was not enough to commemorate our 30th anniversary, so we had two separate events. In September we traveled to Wisconsin for a relaxing weekend at our classmates' Adam and Brigette (Nisly) Ingersoll's lake house. After spending the first evening doing a lot of reminiscing and laughing, we decided that Stacy and Angie have the best memories of specific high school events. In October we gathered locally for the evening and enjoyed catching up with some classmates who couldn't come to the first event. To our classmates who couldn't join us for either event, we hope you'll consider coming in five years, because we truly had a good time hanging out and reconnecting. *Submitted by Anita (Miller) Beachy*



Left photo, front left: Nicole (Yoder) Miller, Angie (Miller) Shaw Middle left: Anita (Miller) Beachy, Denise (Hochstetler) Litwiller, Brigette (Nisly) Ingersoll, Sheila (Bender) Ours Back left: Stacy Gingerich, Adam Ingersoll, Tim Beachy

Right photo, left: Andrew Yoder, Tim Beachy, Bethany Gingerich, Dave Stoltzfus, Sheila (Bender) Ours, Stacy Gingerich, Kari (Kemp) McGaffey, Rebecca Beachy Miller, Ryan Shetler, Nicole (Yoder) Miller, Denise (Hochstetler) Litwiller, Anita (Miller) Beachy



1998 | Seventeen members of the graduating Class of 1998, as well as many of their family members, came together on July 28 - 30, to celebrate our 25-year class reunion. On Friday evening, adults gathered for dinner at the Kalona Brewery. Saturday afternoon and evening we enjoyed a family picnic at the farmstead of Dick and Donna Swartzendruber, parents of classmate Rachel Swartzendruber Miller. In addition to wonderful hosts and a lot of great conversation, laughter, and children's activities, we spent time providing updates on what we're all up to, with class members representing a wide variety of professions, credentials, and interests. Other picnic highlights included a "life-sized" unicorn sprinkler for the kids, a taped recording of our senior year concert choir (played in a tape player!), excellent food, and closing fireworks. We ended our time together with some of the class members attending East Union Mennonite Church on Sunday morning where Joel Beachy, pastor, provided the sermon and Charletta Erb (both classmates) played special music with part of her bluegrass band, *Whole Hog*. *Submitted by Rachel Swartzendruber Miller*

REUNIONS



Front left: Freddy, Liz, and Zadi Yoder, Oliver, Ames, Rachel, and Tyson Swartzendruber Miller, Charletta Erb, Addison Miller, Sarah, Omar, Ruby, and Mona Smith Baber, Brandi and Delaney Okenfels 2nd row Left to Right: Devin Yoder, Rachel, Ryan, Jake, and Angie Lamb, Grant & Jennifer Creighton Beachy, Annette, Clara, and Ledru Miller Back Row Left to Right: Isaac, Lucas Beachy, Christine Maust Beachy, and Joel Beachy, Clark Oswald, Kevin Zook, Kara Westerbeek, Amy Chupp Kratzer Not pictured: Galen Bontrager, Nathan & Amy Piper, Jacob Huber, Kim Droz & Winston Leaton, Jon, Maggie, and Mathilda Hartzler, Erin Kempf

2003 | On Homecoming Weekend, the Class of 2003 had an informal time to reconnect over pizza and kids' gym activities. It was a good time of reminiscing, and some enjoyed a tour around the school. Submitted by Erika Detweiler

2013 | The Class of 2013 was able to get together at Ila Miller's for a delicious meal and then went off to a bonfire at the Miller family pond. It was great to catch up and see friends we haven't seen in a number of years. Submitted by Naomi (Miller) Gingerich



Left: Courtney [Lily] and Cody Miller, Naomi (Miller) [James] and Brandon Gingerich, Chance [Julian] and Jasmine Miller, Hannah Gingerich, Keilah (Brokaw) and Shelby Graber, Nikhil Thacker, Tommy Rhodes, Thaddeus Yoder, Joel Shetler

2018 | Members of the Class of 2018 gathered together at the Kalona Brewing Company on Homecoming Weekend. Everyone in attendance was local, but it was good to hang out together again and catch up with each other. Submitted by Avery (Blauvelt) Schrock

Left: Mitchell Schmieder, Cole Ours, Isaac Miller, Reggie Borntreger, Alyssa Hershberger, Avery (Blauvelt) Schrock, Levi Geyer, Allison Moreland



Front left: Kenton Miller, Kidron (Brokaw) Miller, Taylor (Miller) Goemaat, Ramona (Beachy) Miller, Tanna (Yoder) Boshart, Erika Detweiler, Nicholas Stoddard and Jared Widmer Back left: Denton Nissley, Brylee Miller



LIFE MOMENTS

FUTURE ALUMNI

VAUGHN LESLIE to **ABBIE (MILLER '09)** & **BENJAMIN ADAMS** | MAY 11, 2023
CAULYNS CHRISTINE to **AMBER (SLAUBAUGH '07)** & **CARSON MILLER '07** | JULY 2, 2023
VANESSA AMBER to KRISTINA & **MARK GINGERICH '00** | JULY 18, 2023
MAVERYCK JOHN to **NICKI (SLAUBAUGH '01)** & **CLINT MILLER '01** | JULY 16, 2023
SAVANNAH ARIE to **SARAH PIPER '03** & **ZACH ZORN** | JULY 27, 2023
JUDAH RAY to **KEILAH (BROKAW '13)** & **SHELBY GRABER** | AUGUST 2, 2023
BIRDIE MAE to **JESSICA (MILLER '12)** & **RYAN WERTZ** | SEPTEMBER 2, 2023
HOLLAND GRACE to **NICOLE (HERSHBERGER '10)** & **MATTHEW COSTELLO** | SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
RHETT CARTER to **KYLIE (MILLER '11)** & **MICHAEL NETTINGA** | SEPTEMBER 13, 2023
PETE DANIEL to AMANDA & **LUKAS YODER '11** | SEPTEMBER 25, 2023
WYATT JOHN to LIBBY & **MATT STUTZMAN '05** | OCTOBER 18, 2023
TIGRIS JOY to ELORA DIAZ-NEY & **JESSE NEY '09** | OCTOBER 23, 2023
GABRIELLA TERESA to SAMANTHA MILLER & **GERARDO MENDOZA '18** | NOVEMBER 25, 2023
BARRETT RYAN to **KELSEY (BRINNING '10)** & **BRYCE STOUT** | NOVEMBER 26, 2023
VINCENT ANDREW to RACHEL & **TRAVIS COBLENTZ '06** | NOVEMBER 29, 2023
SOPHIA LYN to **JESSICA (BENDER '16)** & **BILL KNEBEL** | DECEMBER 5, 2023
RUBY JANE to **MADELINE MILLER '12** & **JESSE REIST** | DECEMBER 17, 2023
PAXTON ELLIOT to **ERICA (HOSTETLER '04)** & **FRANK SLABAUGH** | DECEMBER 28, 2023
MELODY JOY to **BETHANY (NYE '06)** & **BRIAN ROBERTS** | JANUARY 11, 2024

WEDDING BELLS

MIRANDA OBERMAN '09 to DAN LAAVEG | OCTOBER 15, 2022
MIKAYLA FISHER to **JACKSON BROKAW '11** | JANUARY 16, 2024

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN BONTRAGER '67 | MAY 25, 2023
NANCY (BENDER '63) SWARTZENDRUBER | JUNE 24, 2023
DONNA (BRENNEMAN '49) HELGENS | JUNE 30, 2023
JOHN MILLER '62 | AUGUST 2, 2023
ROSE (HUBBEL '65) CHENEY | SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
PAUL ROPP '55 | OCTOBER 13, 2023

YOUR LIVES ARE IMPORTANT TO US!

Please send announcements, change of address, or other communications and updates to us. Drop us a note at contact@hillcrest Ravens.org.

WHITE GABLES was the name given to the frame house which was acquired from Roy L. Yoder for \$400 and moved onto the two and one-half acres of land directly south of Lower Deer Creek Mennonite Church. That ground donated in the summer of 1945 by Clarence and Edna Swartzendruber would become the school's campus. The eight members of the Class of '48 would conclude their academic careers in that building, as the newly constructed Administration Building would not be completed for another year or so.



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BRUIT | bruit: /broot/ noun 1. a report

THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF HILLCREST ACADEMY

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PUBLISHER: Jeremy Ours

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OPERATING BOARD: Joel Beachy '98, Heather Bender '02, Nick Detweiler-Stoddard '03, Connie Ebersole, Allison Goertz '02 | *President*, Troy Roth '88, Sid Rowland, Ella Walker, Gretchen Yoder '99, Sarah Yoder

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SAVE THE DATE

Homecoming Weekend / October 4-5

WE LOVE when our alumni get together for class reunions To reminisce and remember the time they had in high school together! **This year the classes scheduled to have a reunion are the classes with graduation years ending in 4 and 9.** If alumni have questions about Homecoming Weekend on October 4-5, 2024, or they need information for their reunion, please contact the Office of Advancement at jours@hillcrestravens.org.

THE COVER

The first graduating class of (then Iowa Mennonite School) was featured in the first few pages of the newly published, *Reverie*. The senior class composite included photos and creative captions for each member.

ADA CHRISTNER | Artistically inclined, dresses neatly, "Penelope", slim figure, lady-like.

JUNIOR HOCHSTETLER | Ambitious, friendly to all, has the ability of leadership, likes to talk, "Mose", future under-taker.

DARLENE BRENNEMAN | Bookkeeper in the making, brisk and efficient.

ETHEL SWARTZENDRUBER | A giggle all her own, doesn't let her studies interfere with her education, spunky, cheerful.

***Ethel (Swartzendruber) Miller is the class' last living member. She lives in Kalona.**

CLEO GNAGEY | Studious, seen but not heard, courteous, sincere, gentlemanly.

GLEN HERSHBERGER | A good athlete as well as a good sport, witty sense of humor, correspondence student, good natured, easy going.

HELEN MARNER | Conscientious Christian, athletic inclinations, dependable, definite ideas of living, blonde.

FRED SCHROCK | "Tall dark and handsome," strong determination, industrious, business-like, honest.

ELIZABETH A. SHOWALTER (sponsor) | Virginian, slight southern drawl, original, firm decisions.