

CPS Foundation Alumni Association

Linking the Past, Present and Future



# The Anchor

Summer 2021

# THANK YOU

Thank you to all of our Lifetime and Annual Alumni Association Members. Your support has allowed us to grow the number of newsletters that we can produce as well as offer new engaging events such as the Discoverer Dash and the Lighting of the Anchor. As we continue to grow our membership we look forward to adding additional events both in and out of Columbus.

View current Lifetime & Annual members online at: [www.cpsanchor.com/alumni/current-anchor-alumni-association-members/](http://www.cpsanchor.com/alumni/current-anchor-alumni-association-members/)



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**Megan Valorz**, Class of '03

On your  
 marks.  
 Get set.  
 ... GO!



## District retires decades of service

Columbus Public School alumn through-out the years may recognize a few of these retiring teachers.

More than 100 years of combined teaching experience was honored during a convocation in late May.

Visit our [Facebook page](#) and share your memories of any of these retirees!

### High School



**Peggy Meyer**  
*Math*



**Trudi Noonan**  
*Science*

### Middle School



**Susan Donoghue**  
*FCS*



**Kelly Loschen**  
*STEM*

### Centennial



**Carolyn Hofferber**  
*3rd Grade*

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**Lorraine Paprocki**  
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**Doris Augspurger**  
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## Get The Latest

The Columbus Public Schools Alumni Association wants to help link the past, present and future alumni and students by keeping in touch.

You can find a variety of posts on our accounts including throwback pictures from past graduating classes, accomplishments by present students and upcoming alumni events.

Show your support for the Columbus High School, Kramer High School and Columbus Public Schools by engaging in posts and providing us feedback on what you would like to see.

We are proud of our school and want to display our past successes, present achievements and future efforts involving our alumni.

Check out our pages for an easy way to stay connected daily.



@The\_Anchor\_CPS



@TheAnchorCPS



@CHSAnchorAlumni

[www.cpsanchor.com](http://www.cpsanchor.com)

## In Memory of ...

Memorials received by the Columbus Public Schools Foundation Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021:

**In memory of Joyce Dohmen,**  
teacher North Park Elementary  
Dan Miller, Class of '72

**In memory of Paul Gilmore,**  
Class of 1972

Dan Miller, Class of '72  
Richard & Cindy Kant,  
Class of '72 & '73

**In memory of Joyce Odey**  
Fred & Renee Bellum  
Lawrence & Katherine Brenner

**In memory of Laurie**  
**Nielsen Singer, Class of '86**  
Anna Castner Wightman,  
Class of '85  
C. Lloyd & Kay Castner

**In memory of Judy Temme,**  
math teacher Columbus High School  
Bob Shively, Class of '78  
Alice & Charles Ward, Class of '75

# Primary Color

## Brewer's passion for art grew at CHS, continues as professional endeavor

By Isaiah May

For The Foundation

**I**n a single-car garage south of Duncan, NE, 2019 graduate Megan Brewer has taken over.

A work bench, current projects and countless supplies fit around gardening tools and a BBQ grill. A large studio light replaces the overhead fixtures and a boombox echoes off of storage shelves.

But in the space typically reserved for a four-door sedan, what fills the room is Megan's passion for art.

"I was super into drawing with crayons," she said, smiling. "My mom would always have stuff sitting on the counter waiting for us after school. It was how my siblings and I kept busy."

Brewer didn't become serious in art until her sophomore year at CHS where she credits the faculty in finding her confidence.

"The way Ms. (Megan) Danner would talk to me about my art, she made more confident about it," she said. "And I learned a lot from Ms. (Jamie) Stodola. Her and I just clicked right away," Brewer said. "(Stodola) was always super helpful and she was really the one who pushed me to pursue my art as a career."

Brewer's CHS career culminated in winning the 2019 Senior Artist of the Year. But the lasting impression from her time was more personal.

"They really made me see what I could do. I realized that I was good and paid attention to detail, but they really really pushed me and kept pushing me to better myself," she said of her art teachers. "I learned a lot from them."

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**



Columbus High School graduate ('19) and professional artist Megan Brewer paints signage that was used in the CHS production of "Bye Bye Birdie."

# “Primary Color”

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

While most of Brewer’s work is confined to paper and two dimensions, her most noticeable piece is something larger than life.

In August of 2020, she was commissioned to paint the giant cowboy boot that sits outside T-Bone Truck Stop in Columbus.

“I definitely thought it was a great opportunity to step out and do something in the community,” Brewer told the Columbus Telegram in an Aug. 2020 article. “Interestingly enough, I was nervous at the start because I didn’t want to mess up. My nerves were definitely a big part at first, but once I picked up my paintbrush, I was good.”

Her ties to Columbus High continued as Brewer was recruited by CHS theatre director Sean McDonald to create set pieces for the staging of “Bye, Bye Birdie.”

Brewer volunteered her time to the production and worked to capture the time period in color and style. As well as added her own touches.

“I took the general ideas from reference images,” she said of the locations, “but I tried to break it down as much as I could to make it still feel fictional and feel original.”

She watched a version of the musical and used a color palette that any classic car owner would recognize.

“I know pastels were big during the ‘50s, when this play is set,” she said. “So I added those colors into it some. I also am using a lot of black and white. That contrast and bold lines help it stand out on stage.”

Stage construction was a new thing for Brewer.

“This is a way to get out of my comfort zone. My dad is a contractor so I might know how to do it,” she said, emphasizing the ‘how.’ “But that doesn’t mean I’d want to do it.”

Brewer’s art catalog continues to grow and features portraits, digital art and custom clothing.

“I’ve been doing custom jeans and painted shoes for someone,” she said. “Really, anything I can paint, I’ll say yes to.”

Brewer’s work can be found at [www.artbymeganbrewer.com](http://www.artbymeganbrewer.com).



Photo courtesy of [artbymeganbrewer.com](http://artbymeganbrewer.com)  
Professional artist Megan Brewer (‘19) poses in front of the large cowboy boot outside T-Bone Truck Stop in Columbus. One of Brewer’s most notable works, the boot was completed in August of 2020.

Megan Brewer (‘19) works on stage pieces for the Columbus High School staging of “Bye, Bye Birdie,” out of her family’s single-car garage. Brewer volunteered her time to the production and worked to capture the time period in color and style. “I know pastels were big during the ‘50s, when this play is set,” she said. “So I added those colors into it some.”



## “Bye, Bye Birdie”

Portions of this story were first featured online at [columbuspublicschools.org](http://columbuspublicschools.org)

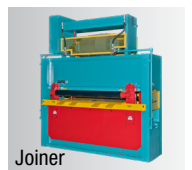
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**Blayze Standley**

**Senior - Wrestling**  
 With his uncle and coach Adam Keiswetter in his corner, the senior took home the title at 170lb. Blayze is the 27th state-champion in CHS history.



**Madison Henderson**  
**Senior - Bowling**

Despite it being the inaugural season of CHS Bowling, Madison has already established a bit of a legacy. The senior won the first-ever girls state championship in May and hopes to continue her success signing to bowl at Hastings College.



Watch 'Explore' - A Conversation with Discoverer Alum today - feat. **Larry Novicki**, Class of '56  
<https://www.cpsanchor.com>

**26th Annual Discoverers Sports Booster Club Golf Tournament**  
**August 7, 2021**

For more information or to reserve a team contact  
**Kurt Shevlin,**  
[kurt@smbyshevlin.com](mailto:kurt@smbyshevlin.com) or 402-564-9192

Follow the Link To Register Today!

**Prepare to leave a legacy**

Include CPS Foundation as beneficiary in will



Consider including the CPS Foundation in your will. By naming the CPS Foundation as a beneficiary of your will you can leave a legacy that will have a lasting impact and enjoy the knowledge that you

have helped preserve CPS' future financial security.

Our foundation's legal name is: School District of Columbus Foundation, Inc.



**DO THE BEST YOU CAN UNTIL YOU KNOW BETTER. WHEN YOU KNOW BETTER Do Better.**

-MAYA ANGELOU



Kara Asmus (402)-564-2769  
[kasmus@columbuschamber.org](mailto:kasmus@columbuschamber.org)

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Players, student managers, coaches and friends;  
You are invited to a reunion with basketball coach  
Jack Johnson on Aug. 11-12, 2021, in Columbus, NE.

### Wednesday, August 11, 2021

■ Social starting at 7 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres  
at Elks Country Club, 5113 63rd St. Columbus.

Cost \$17/person. Cash bar.

### Thursday, August 12, 2021

■ Golf 4 Man Scramble (Teams will be as-  
signed) at Elks Country Club, 5113 63rd St.  
Columbus. \$65/person. Golf fee, cart and prizes.  
Shot gun start at 10 a.m.

■ Meal and program starting with cocktails  
at 5:30, dinner buffet at 6:30 and program at 7.  
Cost \$25/person. Cash bar.

#### Register online:

[https://www.cpsanchor.com/news-events/  
jack-johnson-reunion.html](https://www.cpsanchor.com/news-events/jack-johnson-reunion.html)

Can't attend the events but would like to make a  
donation in Coach Johnson's name?  
Contact Nicole Anderson at  
402-563-7000x12847 or andersonn@discoverers.org.

## Reunion Information

**1956** – Meets at 10 a.m.  
the first Wed. of every  
month at Stack & Steak  
for morning coffee. All  
classmates welcome.

**1958** – Class lunch the  
first Wednesday of  
every month at noon at  
Maximus. All classmates  
and spouses welcome.

**1959** – Meets the sec-  
ond Thursday quarterly  
(January, April, July and  
October) at Stack n'

Steak at 11:30 a.m. for  
lunch and conversation.  
Classmates and spouses  
are welcome.

**1960** – Meets the first  
Tuesday of each month  
at Maximus at 11:30  
a.m.

**1962** – Meets the first  
Friday of every month  
at 9 a.m. at Picket Fence.  
All classmates and  
spouses are welcome.

## Let us help you plan your reunion

#### WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU:

- Class list and mailing labels
- nonprofit bulk rate for qualifying mailings
- tours of CHS and CMS
- tips on planning reunions

**Contact:** Jen Augustin

PO Box 947, Columbus, NE 68602-0947

**Phone:** 402-563-7000 ext. 13033

**Email:** AugustinJ@discoverers.org

## Time to mark you calendars! 2021 Summer Reunions

### Classes of 1965 and 1966 - June 25-26

Classes of 1965 and 1966 will be having a joint reunion Friday, June 25, and Saturday, June 26. Friday evening at the Isaac Walton and Saturday night at the VFW. Other activities during the days will be announced later. For more information contact:

Carol Loshbaugh Syslo (65) @ 308-550-0451 or Janie Peterson Thomas (66) @ 402-606-9844. Or visit our Facebook pages: Columbus Nebraska High School class of 1965 or CHS class of 1966

### 1970 & 1971 - August 13-14-15, 2021

Rescheduled 50-Year Reunion in conjunction with Columbus Days  
Activities to include "class bonding" on Friday evening; golf and school tours on Saturday with the CHS Class of '71 followed by a joint banquet and dance featuring "Freedom Road"; and a Sunday farewell. Details will be included with invitation. For more information, please contact Terri Drozd Hoesly at thoeshly@hotmail.com or Leta Oppliger Greene at lmaegreene@hotmail.com.

### Class of 1990

30 (+1) Class Reunion ... coming this summer!

Plans TBD – Please contact juli.thelen@outlook.com or Facebook Group CHS Class of 1990 to be part of the planning process and/or to be updated on Event Dates/Times.

### Class of 1982 - CHS 40th Reunion coming 2022

Contact: James Tarnick at jimtarnick@gmail.com or Cathy Lococo at studiovoce@sbcglobal.com Please provide your updated contact information - email, address and phone or fill out the updated contact information link on the CHS Alum Page.

**1960 - August 14** - For more information, contact Gayleen Hingst at 402-563-2109 or fghingst@gmail.com

### 61st Reunion! - Saturday, August 14, 2021 - 2-10 p.m.

The committee has made plans, and now looks forward to seeing you at our class reunion this summer. Spouses or other guests are welcome. The Friedhof Oak Room, 1270 27th Ave (Old Schwesers building downtown). <https://theoakroomofcolumbus.com/>  
2 - 5:30 p.m. (socializing) 5 - 6:30 p.m. (cocktails) 6:30 p.m. (dinner)

*Other things going on this weekend:*

Columbus Days (Friday - Sunday) [www.thecolumbuspage.com/events/columbus-days](http://www.thecolumbuspage.com/events/columbus-days). We will have brochures at the reunion.

Platte County Museum open 1 - 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday

NEW Columbus High School Tour at 1:30 p.m. on August 14th.

Old Nielsen Chevrolet building - now a display of antique fire engines.

### 1961 - 60-year Reunion - Sept. 26 2021.

Friedhof Building Oakroom and Brick Patio Side  
(Newly renovated old 1918 Schwerers Building)

<https://theoakroomofcolumbus.com/>

Open All Day 10:30am-Noon ... come and go as you please. Open beverage bar & open dessert bar! Memorabilia Display Table  
Brunch 11 a.m.-Noon - History of the Friedhof building 1 p.m.  
Social Hour 5 p.m. - Dinner 6 p.m.

*Optional Daytime Tours:*

New Columbus Middle School (our old CHS building) 2 p.m.

New Columbus High School 3 p.m.

### Class of 1980 - CHS 40+1 Reunion thanks to COVID

Will be reserving tables at the Columbus Days bands on Saturday, August 14, 2021 (night). 26th Avenue (between 13th and 14th street)

# Gifts of any size make an impact

Often times there is a misconception that gifts to the CPS Foundation need to be large in order to make an impact for our students.

When thinking about giving a gift consider this:

**\$5** can buy a paperback book for a classroom.

**\$10** can buy replacement supplies for a lesson in the STEM on the GO trailer that serves our K-6 students.

**\$20** can help to sponsor a student in need to attend 1 STEM summer enrichment camp.

**\$50** can help sponsor the 4th Grade College & Career Day.

**\$75** can help sponsor students who attend the Close-Up program in Washington DC.

**\$100** can get you a legacy brick at the CHS Anchor. All funds raised from the bricks purchased are used for Dual Credit Scholarships and Classroom Grants.

To purchase a brick visit: <https://www.cpsanchor.com/what-we-do/projects/anchor-project/anchor-your-legacy.html> or contact the CPS Foundation at 402-563-7000 X13033 for a form.

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The CPS Alumni Association has strength in numbers. Just think what a donation by each of us could do to help fill the gaps in funding that the School District cannot meet. Together we as Discoverers can make a significant impact.

If you would like to give a gift you can do so online at <https://www.cpsanchor.com/get-involved/donate.html>

or by sending a check made payable to the:

**CPS Foundation**  
Attention: Nicole Anderson  
PO Box 947  
Columbus, NE 68602

7

EDUCATOR
OPERATIONS

2021 Columbus Public Schools Educator/Operations Employee of the Year

The Educator and Operations Employee of the Year awards were selected from applications by students, staff members and Columbus citizens and businesses. The winners will be recognized on the Wall of Fame at the CPS Administration Building. The operations winner receives a \$500 cash award. The Educator of the Year award runner-up and winner receive \$500 and \$1,000 cash prizes, respectively. The Educator of the Year will go on to apply for the Nebraska Teacher of the Year Award from the Nebraska Department Of Education.

Jim Feldhaus

Custodial Services - Centennial

OPERATIONS  
EMPLOYEE OF  
THE YEAR

EDUCATOR OF THE  
YEAR RUNNER-UP

Chelsea Werner

Speech Language Pathologist - Lost Creek

EDUCATOR OF  
THE YEAR

Carolyn Hofferber

Third Grade - Centennial

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SHALYNN SPITZ  
SHANNON RAITT  
TRAVIS RUNGE  
TRENT STEMPEK

HYBRID TECH  
POWERED HUB

# The Class of 2021

## Congratulations to our newest alumni!

The Columbus High School gymnasium was filled with family, friends and that familiar feeling of camaraderie and community during the 2021 CHS Commencement. CHS returned to a single program and the stands were filled for the May 30 ceremony.



Photos by Jenee Bethune



# LET'S GET SOCIAL

We're ready to connect with you!



[columbushosp.org](https://columbushosp.org)



Watch **The 2021 CHS Graduation** - in its entirety and on-demand at - <https://striv.tv/channel/Columbus/>