



ROME SPORTS HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM

WINTER NEWSLETTER – 2017

**P.O. Box 774
Rome, NY 13442-0774**

The year 2017 has seen a continuation of very much needed renovations for our aging building. The Board of Directors has continued to move forward with updating our wonderful facility. To recap, we have a new roof, new siding, new windows, new doors and exterior lighting to make our building attractive and energy efficient and the large garage door on the parking lot side was removed. We encourage everyone to make the time to come down to “The Hall” and see our improvements. You will NOT be disappointed!

As you are aware, these much needed improvements have come with a cost. Our current operating budget is in a deficit of over \$40,000! With our eyes focused on the future, your Board of Directors made the difficult decision to move forward with these improvements for the long-term health of our organization.

We have been blessed with very generous donations that have helped ease some of the financial pains we are feeling but we have a long way to go. We continue to seek new grants and other funding opportunities. We are very grateful for the past financial support we have received from all of you as well as the entire community. Without continued support we will not be able to keep our organization financially solvent and we hope that you will continue to keep us in your financial thoughts and giving as we approach the holiday season.

Please remember that we are a 501(c) (3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

As you well know, we have a gem here in Rome, New York as we are New York State’s only sports hall of fame and museum. All donations that we receive are earmarked to maintain our quality facility and to continue to celebrate and promote our athletic Roman heritage. We sincerely thank each and every one of you!

A Look at the Rome Sports Hall of Fame & Museum in 2017

On August 18, 2017 the Rome Sports Hall of Fame dedicated the flagpole in memory of President Dave Sbaraglia’s daughter Kimberly Sbaraglia Russo. Dave Roberts from Compassionate Friends of the Mohawk Valley spoke a few words in memory of Kimberly, on behalf of the family.

The Rome Sports Hall of Fame presented a plaque in honor of Rob Manfred, Commissioner of Major League Baseball, 1976 RFA graduate and 2015 Rome Sports Hall of Fame Inductee. A brief presentation was made to the school and the plaque now hangs in the RFA lobby.

Members of the 2017 RFA Football Team combined under the direction of Head Coach Ted Swavely, in a work party that resulted in the spreading of landscape stones around the foundation at the Hall. A special thank you to all who helped! It looks great!

The Rome Sports Hall of Fame and Museum was recently awarded a grant from The Rome Community Foundation. The grant in the amount of \$ 1,815 was used to replace the original windows.

41st Annual Awards Banquet

The Rome Sports Hall of Fame inducted another extraordinary class of athletes, coaches and contributors into its hallowed halls of distinction on July 30, 2017 at the Beeches Inn and Conference Center. One of our largest audiences ever (over 270) turned out to show their appreciation to Bob Carrier, Robert Dixon, George Flood (deceased), John "Moe" Herbst, Shannon Corigliano McPheron, and Steve Telander for a Lifetime of Excellence in the sporting life of Rome, New York.

Earlier in the day, the plaque presentations were made at the Rome Sports Hall of Fame and Museum, located on the Rome-New London Road, and adjacent to the Erie Canal Village. The museum houses an incredible number of artifacts representing over 100 years of sports' history in the city of Rome.

Robert M. Carrier was an outstanding high school and college hockey player. Carrier grew up near Franklyn's Field, where he worked on his game on the outdoor skating rink. He was an all-star hockey player for RFA, coached by Rome Sports Hall of Famer Charlie Dain, and was named team captain in his senior year. He went on to continue his hockey career at the college level at Clarkson University.

Carrier later returned to Rome and was instrumental in the Kennedy Arena building project. He was a certified hockey referee and was also active in other sports, including sailing and golf. He served in leadership roles with the Lake Delta Yacht Club and Teugega Country Club.

Robert C. Dixon was an all-star athlete at RFA in basketball and track and field. Dixon went on to become a successful coach in both sports in Syracuse, where he was a physical education teacher for almost 40 years. He was also a certified basketball referee.

His coaching resume includes stops at Cortland, Brockport, Dutchess College Community College, Hamilton College and Syracuse University, where he earned his master's degree and was a graduate assistant under longtime coach Jim Boeheim. He was also a pro basketball coach and player in England and Scotland.

In recent years Dixon has been involved in the First Tee program designed to bring the game of golf to inner city youngsters while teaching them core values.

George W. Flood was a native of Peekskill, where he was an all-star high school athlete. He was the captain of his football, basketball and baseball teams. He then moved on to play at Springfield College, where he was a member of the football and baseball squads.

After a two-year stint in the Marine Corps, Flood was hired as RFA's football coach in 1957 with the help of fellow Springfield graduate and Rome Sports Hall of Famer Charlie Dain. During his seven years as the head football coach, Flood led the Black Knights to two undefeated seasons, four Central Oneida League championships and a 34-16-4 record. His 1961 team was ranked No. 1 in the state.

Flood became the head football coach at Union College in 1964 and held the position for seven years, his best season coming in 1967 when he led the team to a 7-1 record. He later was the offensive football coordinator at UMass-Amherst, the athletic director at Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the associate athletic director at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. He died in 2008.

John Michael (Moe) Herbst was inducted as a "contributor" for his devotion to Rome sports over many years. Known by many as "Stadium Moe" for his work at RFA Stadium, he has been a fixture in Rome

athletics for decades.

Herbst served as supervisor of grounds for Rome public schools for more than 40 years and continues to be active in a part-time role and as a volunteer.

The scope of his work at the Stadium extends beyond sports, as he has also helped in the preparation for other events such as the popular Drums along the Mohawk show.

Shannon Corigliano McPheron was a three-sport standout at RFA as a member of the school's field hockey, basketball and softball teams. But her most accomplished sport was field hockey, as she was a key player for the 1994 state championship team coached by Linda Harjung that finished with a record of 23-0.

A four-year varsity player, McPheron was an all-state player three times and finished with 59 goals and 20 assists and was honored as RFA's Female Athlete of the Year in her senior year.

She continued her success at Central Michigan, where she was a four-year starter who wound up with 28 goals and 14 assists and was an Academic All-Metro Atlantic Conference player in 1999.

McPheron has gone on to enjoy an outstanding high school coaching career. After one season as the junior varsity coach at RFA under Harjung, she has been the varsity coach at Camden for the last 17 years. Under her direction, the Blue Devils have won eight Section III championships, and McPheron has posted a record of 193-86-16. Her 2007 and 2011 teams reached the state semifinals.

She is a special education teacher at Camden.

Steve Telander was part of a military family, who arrived in Rome as a 13-year-old when his father was stationed at Griffiss Air Force Base. He quickly established a name for himself, going on to become a four-sport athlete for RFA. He also played baseball and track and field, but his best sports were football and basketball. He was an all-star linebacker and team captain for the football team, and he was a member of the championship basketball team.

Telander earned a football scholarship to Division I University of Massachusetts, where he was a four-year starter who played on three Yankee Conference championship teams. A knee injury in his senior year at UMass ended his playing career, but he embarked on a long coaching career that would see him serve as an assistant at UMass, the University of Texas-El Paso, the University of Missouri and Bowling Green. He worked alongside several future NFL coaches, including Andy Reid, Marty Mornhinweg and Steve Spagnola.

Telander later became a successful businessman.

Congratulations to all of the newest inductees! You make us all very proud and honored to know you!
(Hall of Fame selection committee member Carl Eilenberg contributed information for this story.)

Sports Personalities Recognition

At our annual ceremony in July, the Rome Sports Hall of Fame continues to recognize outstanding contributions to Rome Athletics from several of our current and former RFA High School athletes. This year's athletes included: Jadon Barton, Sarah Crockett, Gino DeBlasiis, Deven Desai, Marian Draper,

Robert "Remy" Edwards, Olivia Griggs, Mattison Hunt, Tessa Hunziker, Sydney Lewis, Kaitlyn Mastracco, Derrick Miller, Tekitha Posey-Barry, Ethan Powell, Tyler Redpath, Madisynn Reilley, Tyler Schoff, Ryan Swavely, Amanda Wilbert, and Jenna Zakala.

In the adult female category, Mariah Mays was honored.

Olivia Deraway was recognized as the Female Sports Personality of the Year while the Male Sports Personality was Matt Campbell.

In the Team Recognition category Legend's of Rome won the open division championship in the World Series of Bocce. Team members were Joe Bartolotti, Bernie Froio, Paul Louis Jr., and John Rodriguez.

Frank Clark Service Award

The service award is named in memory of Frank Clark, the long time board member of the Hall of Fame who was active in numerous community organizations. This year's recipients were:

Jeanette Dominic for her outstanding service and dedication extended to the RFA Touchdown Club and several other community agencies. During her thirty-five plus years affiliated with RFA Football and the RFA Touchdown Club she has sold tens of thousands 50-50 tickets in addition to other fundraisers.

Pat Hetherington was honored for his outstanding service and dedication extended to the town of Lee baseball program and several other town agencies. He started as a player in the league from 1972 through 1980. Pat has spent a lifetime giving back to his community.

The Ellie Bruce Exceptional Team of Excellence

This year's recipients of the Ellie Bruce Exceptional Team of Excellence Award were the 200 yard medley relay and the 400 yard freestyle teams, both from the 1977 RFA Boys Swim Team. These two incredible teams set School, Section, and State records and were selected as All Americans. Members of these two teams included:

200 yd. medley relay team, with a time of 1:38:90- Andy Arthur, Tim Early, Joe Sherman, Rich Wells
400 yd. freestyle relay, with a time of 3:15:23- Andy Arthur, Tim Early, Murray Saxton, Joe Sherman

Congratulations to all of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame award winners in 2017!

Golf Scramble

Our Annual Golf Scramble was held again in July of 2017. This year brought 22 teams with 88 players (our best ever), and was held at Rome Country Club. The shotgun start included both men's and co-ed teams. The winning men's team was Roy Barnes, Stan Evans, Mark Hinman and Dave Petrelli. Our winning co-ed team was Audrey Copperwheat, Roger Perta, John Rossi and Jim Tims.

Prizes were awarded to the top 3 teams in each division. Also awarded were prizes for the longest drive, closest to the pin and skins. In total, over 30 people went home as winners in some way.

Our Annual Golf Scramble continues to be one of our most successful and critical fundraisers each year. Our heartfelt thank you's go out to all who continue to support this event and congratulations to all of our winners!

Sports Clinics and Athletic Recognition Receptions

The Rome Sports Hall of Fame & Museum organization continues to support sports clinics for “Rome Youth” and to recognize their excellence in local sports activities at a reception in their honor at our museum. Local teams from the fall ceremony have been recognized for their achievements and include:

Youth Baseball

- Cal Ripken League Minor Division League Champions- *Nicky Doodles*
- Cal Ripken League Major Division League Champions- *Varflex*
- New York State District 9 Champions (9-10 yr. old)- *Lee Little League All-Star Team*
- New York State District 9 Champions (11u)- *Lee Silver All-Star Team*

Youth Softball:

- Rome Girls’ Softball League Champions (Spring 12U Division)- *Rome Fire*
- Rome Girls’ Softball League Champions (Summer 12U Division)- *Westmoreland Softball*
- Rome Girls’ Softball League Champions (Summer 14U Division) - *PeterPaul’s*
- Rome Girls’ Softball League Champions (Summer Monday Nights 19U Division) - *Adirondack Wildcats*
- Rome Girls’ Softball League Champions (Summer Wednesday Nights 19U Division) –*Blue Crew*

Local teams from the spring ceremony were recognized for their achievements as well. Those teams included:

- William Valentine Girls Youth Basketball
 - 3rd and 4th Grade League Champs- *Orange Crush*
 - 3rd and 4th Grade Tournament Champs- *Bellamy Bull Dogs*
 - 5th and 6th grade League and Tournament Champs- *The Eagles*
 - 7th & 8th Grade League Champs- *Fire*
 - 7th & 8th grade Tournament Champs- *Orange Crush*
 - 9th-12th Grade League & Tournament Champs- *The A’S*
- Stan Evans Boys’ 5th & 6th Grade Youth Basketball
 - League & Tournament Champs- *Smith Post 24*
- John DellaContrada Boys 3rd & 4th Grade Youth Basketball
 - League & Tournament Champs- *Bellamy Bull Dogs*
- Rome Grizzlies Youth Hockey
 - Snowbelt Squirt White Tournament Champs- *Rome Grizzlies Squirt White*
 - Snowbelt Pee Wee Red Tournament Champs- *Rome Grizzlies*
 - Snowbelt Pee Wee White Tournament Champs and Oswego “Girl Power” Tournament Champs- *Rome Grizzlies White*

*If you have a team or know of a team that deserves recognition by the Rome Sports Hall of Fame, please contact us at any time!

Memberships for 2017

Memberships to the Rome Sports Hall of Fame are available in several categories. Please consider one or more of several methods of support.

General membership- \$25 (Tony & Rosemary Abone, Everett Aldridge, Mrs. James Atkinson, Roy Barnes, John Kahler Jr., DDS, Ron Rakowski, Barbara A. Smith)

Family membership- \$30 (Jim & Sue Cusack, Phil & Livia D'Antonio, Kelly Hoke)

Corporate Membership- Gold- \$550, Silver- \$350, Bronze- \$195

Gold - none

Silver -M & L Logistics Trucking

Bronze - The Beeches, Birnie Bus Service, Inc., Dippin Donuts, Greg Ellinger Collision, Felice Moving & Storage, REM Fire Systems, Inc., Rome Teachers Federal Credit Union, Strong, Burns & Sprock Funeral Home, Toccolana Club

Donations

We are very grateful for the continued and much needed donations to the hall that includes:

- Glass jar donations at our entrance
- Donations in memory of a deceased family member, a loved one or friend
- Outright gifts to our organization
- Commemorating someone's birthday or anniversary
- In memoriam
- As a tax deduction
- Bequests through a will or living trust
- A beneficiary for your retirement accounts
- Assets and IRA's
- Life insurance
- Organizing and operating a youth sports clinic through the Rome Sports Hall of Fame
- Service to our organization: either by giving volunteer hours at our fundraisers, working a concession stand, event registration, mowing, snow plowing, cleaning, computer work in scanning documents, etc.
- Event sponsorship for our Golf Scramble, banquet, youth receptions, or a number of other events

*Please contact any Rome Sports Hall of Fame member if you are interested in offering your services to our organization in any way.

Donations for 2017

Anonymous Donors, Peter Arnold, Charlie & Phyllis Clifford, Bill & Leslie DeHimer, Joseph DiBella, John Kahler Jr., DDS, Ron & Cheryl Kaplan, Arlene Kiser, Rome Sign & Display, Frank Viviani.

Friends of the Museum 2017

Anonymous Donor, Joe Cavano, Rick Fiorini, Sam & Santino Guiliano, Nunn and Harper Funeral Home, Oneida-Herkimer Community Foundation, REM Fire System, Inc., Roman Runners Organization, Stewart's Shops, Terry Stanwix, The Printed Word, Spectrum, Al & Sandy Williams Snowplowing

Grateful Acknowledgements

The Hall of Fame would like to extend a special thank you to Perry Nizzi, who continues to offer an annual soccer clinic in July, with proceeds going out to the Hall.

A huge thank you goes out to the Roman Runners Organization who hold their Thanksgiving Turkey Trot annually, with proceeds going to the Hall.

Also a huge thank you goes out to the RFA Girl's Lacrosse program for their clinic donation this year.

We thank the Stewart's Foundation again this year for their donation of \$1,000 for our student programs from the Holiday Match Program.

We wish to also thank the Oneida-Herkimer Community Foundation for their donation of \$250 recommended by Carla Till, provided by the Anne and Carl Panasci Family Fund- a donor advised funds match for organizations that make an impact in the community and are a unique partner to the Foundation's mission.

We are grateful for the donations from Nunn & Harper, CH Insurance Brokerage Services and Nunn's Home Medical Equipment.

We truly appreciate all that you do.

Memorial Contributions

Several memorial donations were made to the Rome Sports Hall of Fame in memory of our former Executive Director Ruth Demers. Donations came from:

Ethel Abbott, Tony Abone Sr. & Jr., Francis & Doris Badolato, Tara Anne Baker, Roy Barnes, Tom & Crystal Barry, Gary & Marion Bartell, Cathy Clem, Jeanette Dominic, Stan & Gail Evans, Bill & Joan Fleet, Anna Frasca, Linda Harjung, Tom & Lorraine Hoke, George Homokay, Mr. & Mrs. John Hosp, Barbara Kassel, Fran & Peggy Lisewski, Cathleen McConaghy, Alberta Menickelli, Duane & Phyllis Niemi, Janis Norelli, Bob & Cindy Reynolds, Mary Ann Rizzo, Ruth Sloan, Barbara Smith, Bill & Elizabeth Stevens, Carla Till, Mr. & Mrs. Spencer Tracy, Shirley Wikiera.

We are extremely grateful for considering our organization to remember your loved ones.

In memory of James Adams from Dale & Judy Rashford

In memory of Jack Early from Shirley Early

In memory of Don Henderson from Patricia Henderson

In memory of Pat O'Shea from Sheila VanDeveer

In memory of Jim Parker from Louis & Carol Ceci

In memory of Jim Parker from Patricia Henderson

In memory of Bertha Perry from John & Eileen Urtz

In memory of Bertha Perry from Sudan Fruin

In memory of Barbara Swanson from Shirley Wikiera

New Events Established

- A scholarship in memory of Ruth Demers has been established at Rome Free Academy. This memorial scholarship will be given to a female senior athlete who demonstrates the outstanding

leadership and dedication that Ruth possessed her entire lifetime. The 2017 recipient was Olivia Deraway.

- A Breakfast of Champions for 5th grade girls will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Delta Lake Inn. This is an opportunity to recognize and promote athletic participation for young females in honor of National Girls & Women in Sports Day, an annual event celebrating Title IX's influence over the years.

Rome Sports Hall of Fame Wish List for 2018

- Additional folding chairs for ceremonies held at the Hall
 - Lightweight folding tables
 - High volume industrial printer
 - 3 standalone video kiosks
 - Laminator for newspaper articles
 - A professional quality, high resolution scanner
 - Industrial strength vacuum cleaner
 - Fire proof file cabinets
 - A system for our current building that would protect the artifacts and supply heat and air conditioning (climate control system)
 - Any artifacts from Richie Evans or Jerry Cook or any of our local Olympians
 - NASCAR programs, local racing programs, (with Jerry or Richie's names in them)Olympic programs with our Olympians names in them
 - A designer who could offer ideas about creating more interior space with our displays at the Hall
-
- Yearbooks needed from RFA:
Sr. Annuals- 1891-1903, 1909-1911
Deowainstas- 1914, 1918, 1992, 1997 (2007-present)
SAA: Up to 1937, 1940-1943, 1945-1962
Strough:
1974, 1975, 1979, 1982, 2003-2006

Ways to help us

Please remember that we are a 501(c) (3) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

- If you have any of these archived item(s) or artifacts and you wish to donate them
- If you would like to make a monetary donation to purchase a specific item(s) on the list
- If you wish to purchase the item(s) on your own and donate them

Any of these things would be extremely appreciated!!

Please contact any Hall of Fame Board Member

Please check out our website for more specific information on the Rome Sports Hall of Fame & Museum located at 5790 Rome-New London Rd, in Rome, NY. Our phone number at the Hall is 315-339-9038. Our operating hours are Memorial Day through Labor Day, Wednesday through Sunday, 10am-5pm; Sunday 12-5pm. We are closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. PLEASE come see us when we open up again in the Spring!!

Our contact e-mail is: <http://www.when-in-rome.com/romesportshalloffameandmuseum>

We ask that you please address ALL correspondence to the Rome Sports Hall of Fame to this address only: P.O. Box 774, Rome, NY 13442-0774.

Please don't forget about donating your sports memorabilia. Our visitors are always truly impressed with the many pieces of personal memorabilia honoring our athletes. If you have articles you would like to donate, please call 315-339-9038, and we will be very happy to give your treasured pieces a new home!

Please help us continue to honor all of Rome's heritage and legacies! See you in 2018!!

Rome Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors

President- Dave Sbaraglia
Vice President- Thomas Barry
Recording Secretary- Jan Norelli

Corresponding Secretary-Lenni Beer
Treasurer- John Nash

Doug Arthur
Mike Badoloto
Tara Anne Baker
Gary Bartell
Chris Bouton
Brittany Bruce
Ellie Bruce
Jeanette Dominic
Carl Eilenberg
Stan Evans
Bill Fleet
Paul Gigliotti
Sam Guiliano
Linda Harjung

Ryan Hickey
Fran Lisewski
Peggy Lisewski
Greg Mattacola
Jodi Evans Meola
Valerie Mezza
Art Newman
Rosemary Pisaneschi
Bob Ryan
Mary Ann Summa
Darrell Thomas
Carlton Van Ornum
Sandra Williams



**THE ROME SPORTS
HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM
WISHES EACH OF YOU
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY & HEALTHY
NEW YEAR!**