



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

The Rome Sports Hall of Fame and Museum has seen significant improvements over the past few years, thanks in large part to your continued support. To recap, past improvements included a new roof, new siding, new windows, new doors and exterior lighting to make our building more attractive and energy efficient. The facility looks greatly improved and we encourage everyone to make the time to come down to “The Hall” and see these improvements.

Due to a scarcity of funds, we have had to slow down our progress in 2018. As you are aware, our organization ran a deficit of over \$42,000 in 2017 in order to complete these much needed improvements. We are aggressively seeking grants and funding for the next big project that is desperately needed to protect our valuable artifacts and displays: a complete climate control system! This is a very pricey but necessary system that will preserve our valuable memorabilia for years to come. Other projects include a new storage building, new exterior signage, and drainage work the length of the building on the Rome New London side.

We continue to seek new grants and other funding opportunities and 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.

Our facility is 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!

43rd 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 29, 2018 at the Beeches Inn and Conference Center. One of our largest audiences ever (over 270) turned out to show their appreciation to Tom Barry, Jr., Kelley Commerford Cobb, Tom Neidl (deceased), Thomas E. Pugh, Ronald Whitey Schultz, and Gerry Staudmeyer 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.

Tom Barry, Jr. enters the Rome Sports Hall of Fame as a **Contributor** because of his more than forty years of service to the Rome sports community as an athlete, a coach, a mentor, an administrator, organizer, role model and volunteer.

Little League baseball was the beginning of Tom's athletic career, which included intramural sports at Transfiguration, being named captain of both his football and basketball teams at RCH, and a combined total of more than 25 years of coaching at RCH and RFA, wherever he was needed.

He helped organize and run the Rome City Recreation department's summer and fall basketball leagues. In 2001, Tom became part of the Rome Lady Rebels, an AAU basketball program, and over the years has served as board member and president. He also helped to start the annual Shamrock Shootout girl's basketball tournament. He served for three years as president of the RFA Girls Basketball Booster Club while his daughters played. Tom has also served as President of the Michele (Adey) Fund which has raised tens of thousands of dollars for the families of local children suffering from serious illnesses or injuries. Tom was a very active fund raiser for RCH too.

Kelley Commerford Cobb becomes the third member of her family to be inducted into the Rome Sports Hall of Fame.

Kelley was a four-year starter in Field Hockey where she was a two-time league first team all-star, Team MVP and team captain her senior year, a member of the 1985 Empire State Games, a four-year starter at Miami of Ohio, first team MAC league all-star and team captain her senior year at Miami, and twice invited to the national Olympic Development program.

Kelley also excelled in volleyball as a league all-star and was named to an all-tournament team. She was recognized in 1989, as a Sports Personality by the Rome Sports Hall of Fame as well.

Kelley served as President of the more than 2,100 member Junior League of Charlotte, a philanthropic, issue-oriented and social organization made up of the most successful women of the Charlotte area.

Tom Neidl's stellar athletic career began with winning the Rome Punt, Kick and Pass competition in 1970 as a twelve year old. He went on to be a star, three sport athlete at Rome Catholic High School, a standout football player at SUNY Cortland, and a physical education teacher and highly successful football coach at Cazenovia High School for more than 30 years.

Coaching varsity football at Cazenovia for 25 years, Tom's teams went 178-54-1 winning seven Section Three titles and more than a dozen league championships. Tom also served with great distinction and integrity on the Section Three football committee for more than 20 years. Tom was idolized by his friends, his family and especially by his fellow coaches who all agreed that they learned a great deal from him and that he made them all better coaches and better people by his conduct, temperament and professionalism. He died in 2016.

Thomas E. Pugh helped lead RFA and Wagner College to some of their all-time best football seasons.

Tom's first school was Harvey Alter and then Clough, where he was introduced to football and basketball. Tom went on to be was a three-year starter for RFA playing both fullback and tailback

His senior year (1984) Tom, at 6'1" and 220 pounds, rushed for 1537 yards, averaging 5.7 yards per carry and scored 16 touchdowns as RFA won the Section Three football championship. In the Carrier Dome title game, a 14-13 win over ESM, Tom rushed for 139

yards. He was recognized by the Syracuse Herald as the Central New York Player of the Year, and was also named first team All-State running back.

Tom attended Wagner and was described as a “punishing blocker and a bruising runner.” The Seahawks posted a 13-1 season on their way to the NCAA Division Two National Championship. The two previous years, Tom and his teammates were ECAC league champs. As a four-year starter, Tom’s teams went 39-7 as he rushed for 1883 yards and 26 touchdowns.

Tom earned his Wagner degree and returned to Rome to work for the Oneida County Sheriff’s Department. Along the way, he has been a volunteer Valentine league basketball coach, AYSO soccer coach and the head coach for the Rome Select basketball team.

Ronald “Whitey” Schultz was an exceptional baseball and football player. He started on the football team as a two way lineman for the Black Knights.

His baseball career was outstanding as he was invited to attend the then New York Baseball Giant’s tryout camp in Sanford, Florida. His batting average record was certainly long lasting, winning the Central Oneida League batting title with a .515 average his senior year playing for the Black Knights baseball team.

His non-league games batting average for that year was .535. Whitey was a catcher with an amazingly strong arm and a fleet-footed outfielder for the RFA baseball team, and also the number 4 hitter during the summer months for the Rome American Legion baseball squad. Following his RFA graduation he did play some baseball for the Rome State School and had a year with the Rome Colonels. He went to work for the Rome Sentinel in the press room retiring as press foreman some 30 years later.

Gerry Staudmyer was one of RFA’s all-time leading scorers, as he posted a number of “Hat Tricks” during his long hockey career. He also played soccer during High School.

Packing a powerful wallop and precision into his stick work, Gerry was a prolific scorer for his RFA hockey teams from the late ‘60s through early ‘70s. The name Staudmyer is still listed in the top ten all time RFA leaders for a single season and career. In several categories, most points and most assists in a season.

After high school, Gerry played four years of hockey at SUNY Oswego, where he continued to be a standout performer. Even after college, Gerry always found time for hockey playing for the Ithaca Stars and the Copper City Chiefs. His only no hockey years were in the mid ‘80s when he served four years and three months with distinction, in the United States Navy.

Gerry continues to work as an IT Specialist for the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration in College Park, Maryland a few miles from his home in Waldorf, Maryland. He works even though it cuts into his hockey playing time with an adult program called appropriately, the GeriHatTricks.

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: Tyler Baker, Katherine Balog, T.J. Behlin, Gianna Capoccia, Madison Cudhea, Marian Draper, Haley Griffin, Olivia Griggs, Justin Hoke, Tristan Hunzinger, Maria Keeney, Sydney Lewis, Kaitlyn Mastracco, Dan Mecca, Katherine Migliori, Spencer Pisaneschi, Ethan Powell, Victoria Sestito, Jackson Sorbello and Sydney Stamboly.

In the adult female and male categories, Teresa Anken, Brooke Miller and Justin Hussey were honored.

Sarah Crockett and Amanda Wilbert were recognized as the Female Sports Personalities of the Year while the Male Sports Personality was Ryan Swavely.

In the Team Recognition category Vescio's Franklin Hotel bocce team won the women's division championship in the World Series of Bocce. Team members were Cheryl Iacone, Anne Marie Zakala, Dianna Cianfrocco and Irene Panara.

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 recipient was Pamella Spencer. Pamella was recognized for her longtime service to the Rome Women's Bowling Association and both the Rome Men's and Women's Amateur Golf Tournaments.

Congratulations Pamella!!

The Ellie Bruce Exceptional Team of Excellence

This year's recipients of the Ellie Bruce Exceptional Team of Excellence Award RFA's 1985-86 and

1987-88 Ice Hockey teams--NYS Champs under the tutelage of Coach Dick Meiss!!

There were eleven members that were on both of the championship teams. Those players were: Pat Calandra, Jerry Closinski, Randy Denton, Terry Denton, Rob Galluppi, Peter Mastracco, David Petrelli, Jim Pinti, Peter Previte, Mike Welch and Steve Zanon.

Congratulations to all of the Rome Sports Hall of Fame award winners in 2018!

Golf Scramble

Our Annual Golf Scramble was held again in July of 2018. This year brought 19 teams with 77 players and was held at Rome Country Club. The shotgun start included both men's and co-ed teams. The winning men's team was Mark Bahr, Kevin Coe, Jim Korpela and Matt Vitalone. Our winning women's/co-ed team was Olivia Evans, Vie Evans, Kelly Jones and Neilan Lawrence.

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. Also, this year we hosted two golf challenges sponsored by Dixon and Aurelius as part of the tournament.

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

- Ukrainian Club - Cal Ripken League Minor Division, League Champions
- Athmedics -Cal Ripken League Minor Division, Tournament Champions
- Police -Cal Ripken Major Division, League Champions
- Bobby Page -Cal Ripken Major Division, Tournament Champions

Youth Softball

- CNY Heat -Summer 12U Division, Tournament Champions
- MV Vipers -Summer 14U Division, Tournament Champions
- Rome Spirit -Summer 19U Monday Division, Tournament Champions

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

William Valentine Girls Youth Basketball

- The Bulldogs- 3rd and 4th Grade Division & Tournament Champs
- Crush- 5th & 6th grade Division & Tournament Champs
- Crush- 7th- 12th grade Division & Tournament Champ

Stan Evans Boys’ 5th & 6th Grade Youth Basketball

- Denti Lions undefeated League & Tournament Champs

John DellaContrada Boys 3rd & 4th Grade Youth Basketball-

- Staley Black- League Champions
- Denti Lions- Tournament Champions

*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 2018

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 - Scott F. Adams, Everett & Kevin Aldridge, Kathryn Atkinson, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Barnes, Gary Bartell, Donna Ciotti, Norma & Gerald Dite, Ann Frasca, Ron Kaplan, Juanita Mae Tyler

Family membership- \$30- Marie Mastracco, Shirley Early, Phil & Livia D'Antonio, Tom & Marli Adams, Kevin & Cristyne Parker

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

Gold - none

Silver -M & L Worldwide Logistics

Bronze - Bailey’s Karate Schools, The Beeches of Rome, Inc., Greg Ellinger Collision, First Source Federal Credit Union, Nunn’s Home Medical Equipment, Scott Pitoniak, 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

Corporate Donations

Athmedics

CA Kaplan Companies

CH Insurance Brokerage

Nunn and Harper Funeral Home

2018 Donations

Jim & Sue Cusak, Anthony Mariano(HOF) Anna M. Frasca, Frank Vivianni(HOF) Anonymous, Peter Arnold(HOF) Gerald T. McDonald, David Montoya, REM Fire Systems, Inc, Gary Bartell, Francis & Doris Badolato

In Honor of Donations

Coach Evans's 80th birthday by Judy & Dale Rashford

In Memory Donations

Rick, Tom, & David Adams by Sally Adams

Diane Baker by Mark Hinman

Jack Bean by Amy & Bob Van Meter

Lee & Tom Clifford by Chuck Clifford

John Domagal by Jeanette Dominic

Jack Early by Shirley Early

Frank J. Parsons by Jim & Sheila Parsons

Armand Securra by Patricia Destito

Don "Booty" Smith by Employees of Insight House, Dale & Judy Rashford, Alex & Cora Howe, Linda Daley, Kevin & Barb Hoehn

Friends of the Museum- Greg Ellinger Collision, Bill Herrig's Auto Parts, Joe Cavano of Tech Bridge, Spectrum, Luis Prieto, Chris Carinci from Adirondack Insurance Services, Jerry and Sue Cook, Our Anonymous Donor, Mazzaferro's, Athmedics, Mark Vacca Financial Services, Oneida County College Workforce Development, Michael Grogan Sr.

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.

We thank the Stewart's Foundation again this year for their donation of \$1,200 for our student programs from the Holiday Match Program.

A special thank you for the \$5000 grant we received from The Oneida County Board of Legislators. Special thanks to Chairman Gerald Fiorini.

A special thank you to our Summer Intern Michael Grogan, a senior at SUNY Plattsburgh, for his assistance during our season at the Hall, our Golf Tournament and Parade.

A special thank you to Jerry & Sue Cook for providing a replica of a Pontiac J2000 modified on loan, for the Hall to display throughout the summer months. This car has never been raced.

We truly appreciate all that you continue to do to support the Rome Sports Hall of Fame & Museum!

New Events Established

- The 2nd Annual Ruth Demers Memorial Scholarship at Rome Free Academy was presented in June. 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 2018 recipient was Anna Loso.
- On April 7th, 2018 we were very fortunate to be able to celebrate National Girls and Women in Sport with a breakfast sponsored by: Carla Till, Carolyn Leach, Delta Lake Inn, Dr. Mitchell Wilbert, Dr. Patricia DeMatteo, Gerald T. McDonald, Jeannette Dominic, Lake Delta Kiwanis Club, Linda Harjung, Ocuto Blacktop/Paving, Photo Shoppe/Fusion Art & Gift Gallery, R.F.A. Girls Tennis, Rome Federal Credit Union, Rome Teacher's Association, Rubicon Recycling, Seasonal Sports Sales, Shoppers Service, Inc. and Stewart's Shoppe Foundation. A huge thank you to all who helped to support this event!
- Our guest speaker was none other than ERIN HAMLIN, the first U.S. Olympian (male or female) to ever medal in the Luge Event. What a down-to-earth and extraordinary speaker who captivated more than 90 students and adults with a message of perseverance, hard work, commitment, character and the pursuit of a dream!
- Erin Hamlin signed autographs for every person who asked for one and posed for numerous pictures with everyone from grades 5-12 including adults. She also brought her medal from Sochi and gave our students an opportunity to try it on and have photographs taken with it.
- The RSHOF is hoping to make this event an annual celebration to highlight female opportunities in athletics and to encourage the City of Rome students to never give up on your dreams!
- Therefore, the 2nd Annual Ruth Demer's Breakfast of Champions for grades 7-12 female athletes will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2019 at Delta Lake Inn. This is another

wonderful 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.

- A reception was held to congratulate and celebrate Rome's Female New York State Champions over the past couple of years and the RFA Track Program.
 - Sarah Crockett, RFA Junior, 2018 Outdoor Division 1 NYS Champion, Shot Put
 - Gianna Capoccia, RFA Freshman, 2018 NYSPHSAA Indoor Track and NYS Federation Champion, competing in the Interscholastic Medley Relay
 - Mariah Mays, RFA Graduate, 2012 NYS Federation Discus Champion, 2015 NYSPHSAA and NYS Federation Discus Champion
 - Girl's Track Program and Head Coach Brett Couchman, Throwing Coach Ted Swavely, and Assistant Coaches Diane Stevenson and Matt Downs were honored for their continual success in producing NYS Champions in several events; undefeated and 8 consecutive years as League Champions, and an impressive 51 (and counting) consecutive dual meet winning streak.

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
- We are actively seeking a Grant writer who can volunteer their time to search for eligible grants for our for non-profit organizations
- *Yearbooks needed from RFA:*
 - Sr. Annuals- 1891-1901, 1909-1911, 1914, 1918
 - Deowainstas- 1992, 2009-2016
 - SAA: Up to 1937, 1940-1943, 1945-1962
- *Yearbooks needed from Strough:*
1964-65, 1974-1975, 1979, 1985
- *Yearbooks needed from Staley:*
Up to 1979, 1981, 1983-1992

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

New RSHOFM Board Members Always Welcome

*If you would like to become MORE involved with the Rome Sports Hall of Fame Board, we always welcome new members!! The following is a list of responsibilities and expectations of an active RSHOFM Board Member:

- Volunteer at events throughout the year
 - o July - golf tournament
 - o July - induction weekend/Honor America Days
 - o Thanksgiving Day run
- Participate and assist with special events, clinics and awards ceremonies (generally 3-5 times per year)
- Attend monthly meetings (the second Thursday of each month)
- Help with fundraising
- Join committees
- Please contact any Rome Sports Hall of Fame member if you are interested in offering your services to our organization in any way.

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 Saturday 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 2019!!

Rome Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors

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**THE ROME SPORTS
HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM
WISHES EACH OF YOU AND
YOUR FAMILIES
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY
AND PROSPEROUS
2019!**