



Litton BLAST

Isaac Litton High School - Nashville, TN

Volume MMXXIV Issue 3 October 2024

The MISSION of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association is to preserve the rich heritage of our former school, to provide support to the present Isaac Litton Middle School, and be a positive influence in the lives of ALL the children in our community. We do this with effective communication that continually reaches out to bring the Alumni and the community together to promote our programs and services.

Save this date:

Veteran's Day Breakfast - 11/11/24 - 9AM

**RSVP necessary. - To honor our veterans,
but open to all Litton Alumni.**

**For more details, see included article, our FB page, future emails
from Class Reps and website, isaacitton.com.**

**Please continue to show your support financially through donations
and by paying your annual dues (\$15).**

Thank you for your generosity!

MAIL CASH OR YOUR CHECK (payable to ILAA) to:

ISAAC LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 752

MADISON, TN 37116

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By Mickey Collier, class of '65

The fourth quarter of 2024 will be a busy time for the Isaac Litton Alumni Center. The class of 1959 will have a 65th reunion. The class of 1962 is holding an 80th birthday party. We will host a Focus Group to discuss various programs and plans with Alumni groups from other Nashville High Schools.

The annual Veterans Day event will take place on November 11th. The class of 1970 will have a Friendsgiving event and a Christmas gathering.

Backfield In Motion uses Lion Hall five days per week for their after school programs. They have added 85 new students this year from 8 different schools. The Titans T'Vonte Sweat will greet students and provide backpacks filled with school supplies. Jeffery Simmons, Titans defensive tackle, will participate in a celebration after the 9 week report cards are released.

We are grateful to those involved in the initial fund raising efforts to restore this terrific facility. It is blessing for us all.



Veterans Day: November 11th 2024

by Don Clark, Class of 1970

Once again, we plan to have a breakfast and time of fellowship on Veterans Day. Your Alumni Board will provide a free breakfast for those who attend. We will begin a 9 AM and meet in the Lion's Hall for this time together. We want all our Veterans to attend this year if they are able so that we can recognize them. This year Tessa Berger, the middle school band director, is planning to have several of the band members come and perform for us. I hope you can make it this year so we can have a good turnout for the band.

Please sign up for this event so we can make sure we have enough food and name tags for everyone. This event is open to all our Alumni and not just our Veterans. Veterans Day this year will be on Monday, November 11th. Please email me at dc925@comcast.net or text me at 615-305-8067 with the following information:

Your Name

Your Class

Branch of Service (if you served)

Name(s) of Guest that will attend with you

I look forward to seeing you on Veterans Day!!

Don Clark

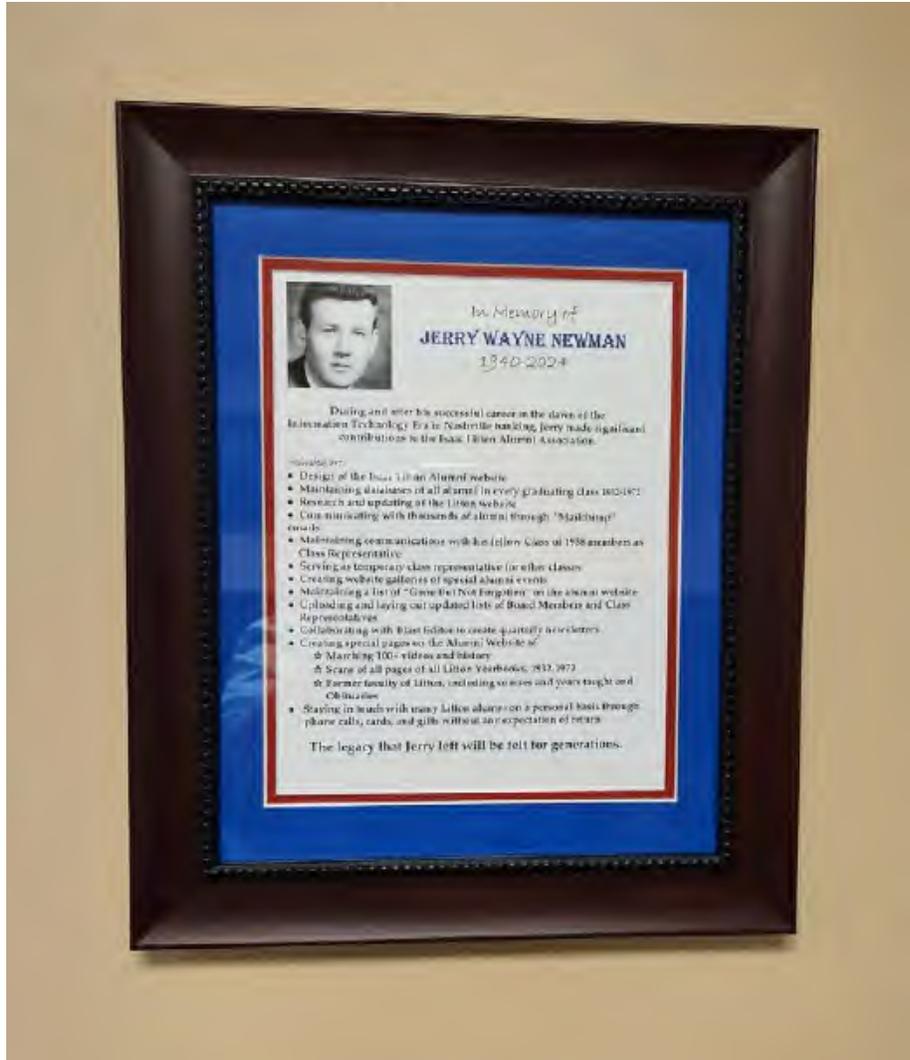
Class of 1970

E-mail: dc925@comcast.net

Cell Phone: 615-305-8067

JERRY NEWMAN TRIBUTE

Thanks to a generous donation by David Balthrop, class of '58, we were able to create this lovely tribute to Jerry Newman, also class of '58. It is hanging in our Boardroom, beside photos of many of our Association founders and others who have been significant in our history. Jerry was our webmaster and friend. He will be sorely missed.





SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI: BARBARA WOOD NOVOVICH, CLASS OF '54

Barbara Wood Bright Novovitch (Germany, Sweden, Bulgaria, Ireland, Pakistan, England, 1968 – 1970), a journalist for major news publications who helped open the profession to women, died September 1, 2022, of heart failure, her husband Luc Novovitch said.



Barbara was a staff writer at *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek* and Reuters, with foreign postings in Germany, Hong Kong, London and Paris. She was a founding editor of *Woman's World* weekly magazine.



Fresh from her ICWA fellowship following student protest movements across Europe and Pakistan in the early 1970s, Barbara joined a sexual discrimination class action lawsuit brought against her new employer, *Newsweek*. Her role is documented in the book [*Good Girls Revolt*](#), later developed into an Amazon Prime television series.

On her fellowship, Barbara reported about student protests that rocked late 1960s establishments, including in Czechoslovakia, where she visited Charles University soon after the 1969 Soviet invasion had put down the Prague Spring.

The death of the student Jan Palach from self-immolation—which prompted parallels with the medieval martyr Jan Hus—had shocked and depressed Czechoslovaks, as Barbara described. Still, she saw strength in the students' tactics despite the seemingly iron resolve of the country's occupiers.



“The student movement in Czechoslovakia is ideologically more diffuse but popularly more firmly rooted than that of West Germany or of the United States,” she wrote. “By going to the factories and explaining to the workers the reasons behind their strikes and protests, the students have won a common basis.”

ICWA was important to Barbara at a time “when women were not given the support or respect necessary to grow and succeed in the profession,” her daughter Elizabeth Bright said. “She loved reporting, and the years she traveled to

different places in Europe to get *the story* were probably her happiest,” she added. Barbara “was intrepid and proud of her ability to get all kinds of people to tell their stories. She was able to see issues objectively, which is essential to good journalism.”

Barbara continued her involvement with the institute and advising fellows after her fellowship.

A native Tennessean, she loved both Bluegrass and Country music. She performed frequently, singing and playing various stringed instruments with bands that included other journalists.

Barbara married the photojournalist Luc Novovitch in 1989. They moved to the town of Marathon in west Texas, where they launched the *Marathon Gazette* in 2000. The Dallas Press Club honored the monthly paper as an awards finalist for best community/neighborhood newspaper. After they sold the publication, it became *The Big Bend Gazette*, current publisher Mimi Smith said.

Barbara devoted “tremendous time, skill and inspiration to the region,” Smith told the institute, “from training up volunteer naturalists to show off the region’s mountain treasures, a tiny digital start-up in furious reaction to bad local journalism, and writing occasional features for a slick seasonal publication dedicated to the natural wonders of the Big Bend.”

MUSIC CITY, USA

by Kaaren Frazier Andrews, class of 1959



In the 1950s whenever relatives came to visit, my folks would take them to the Grand Ole Opry downtown to see the musicians there and hear their wonderful music. As the years passed, the popularity and diversity of this music grew so much that Nashville earned the title of Music City, USA, and its music became famous world-wide. But did you know that many Isaac Litton High School graduates had a strong influence in causing this popularity? Listed here are several (but certainly not all) of these students.



Almost everyone interested in the music field has heard of Harold Bradley, a Hall of Fame guitarist who recorded with Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Ernest Tubb, Hank Williams, Perry Como, Conway Twitty, Alan Jackson and many other famous artists. He was a member of the A Team of 12 highly respected musicians who did the bulk of

Nashville recordings for over 30 years. Over his career he received many awards, including country music's highest honor, induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2006 and became famous nationally. Harold was a 1944 Litton graduate.

John Benson, who graduated in 1946, had much influence in the Gospel Music Hall of Fame into which he was inducted in 2006. He had a long and successful career in the gospel music industry and was president of the John T. Benson Publishing Company for many years.





Aubrey (Audie) Ashworth, class of 1954, touched the lives of many aspiring musicians by encouraging those interested in a musical career. He published many hit songs, including “The Gambler,” the Song of the Year, in 1979. He began his radio career at WKSR in Pulaski, TN, and later became one of the WKDA “Good Guys” in Nashville, where he held the distinction of capturing the highest individual ratings ever accorded a Nashville radio personality. He directed placement of material written by Ferlin Husky, Eddie Arnold, Kris Kristofferson, Bill Anderson and others, and was credited as music director of three country music-oriented motion pictures.

James (Buzz) Cason graduated from Litton in 1957. Buzz got his start in the music business in 1956 when hanging out at WSIX, a local TV station where Noel Ball hosted the “Saturday Showcase” program. He wrote his first song---



“My Love Song for You”—in 1957 and at age 16, Buzz became a member of “The Casuals” which was a backing band for Brenda Lee. In 1962 Buzz was in LA where he and an associate produced the Crickets in a version of “La Bamba” and he later filled in as a singer with that group. He started his Creative Workshop publishing company and over the next decades he became Jimmy Buffet’s publisher, as well as publishing the works of Brenda Lee, Roy Orbison, Emmylou Harris, Jerry Reed, Kenny Rogers, John Denver and other notable artists. He was also honored by the Country Music Hall of Fame and received many other awards.

These are just a few of Litton graduates who had a deep impact on the development of the music industry in Nashville, this country and the world. Aren’t you glad you share a connection with such talent?

Postscript: While not directly involved with the music industry, several Litton alumni had parents who were, such as Gwendolyn Hill, class of 1959, and Eddie Hill, class of 1964, whose dad was Smiling Eddie Hill, a musician, songwriter, Country Music Disc Jockey Hall of Fame inductee, and DJ for "Country Junction" on WSM radio in Nashville.



**We all know
mirrors don't lie...**

**I'm just grateful
that they don't
laugh.**



From Vicki Hall Neal, class of 1966: Of course it has to be Mr. Swor. I have never seen a teacher be able to get what he did out of a bunch of teenagers. I believe we would have done anything he asked of us - and we certainly did. On top of that he made us proud, and our self-esteem was through the roof. Kids today should have that feeling of accomplishment.

From Bob n Ann Smith, Class of 1960: I can add to Mr. Swor: when we entered the band room, rambunctious and rowdy, he was usually sitting at his desk in the back, engaging with students. BUT, if he was on his seat up front with baton in hand, we all knew he had one of his migraines. We quietly got our instruments out, sat down and waited for “class” to begin. I could not play a note or even read music when I signed up for band in the 7th grade (so as not to have to take gym). Mr. Swor somehow imparted these two skills that I still have today. I might not use them, but I have them.

I also have Mr. Arthritis in my left hip from all the marching practices.

Norma Sullivan Jeroutek, class of 1958: Yes, Mr Swor would have to be my favorite teacher at Litton. Not only did he run a “tight ship,” but he also instilled so many wonderful traits in us as teenagers.

I remember one day in the band room, as we were all in our seats playing a song (Mr Swor was on his podium and I played the flute on the first row), all of a sudden, with baton in hand, he motioned for us to stop playing. He looked down AT ME, with that look only he could give. He leaned forward, thrusting his hand with the baton at me, and shook it. All of a sudden, I realized I had gum in my mouth (which was a no-no). I took the gum out of my mouth looking at him, and he leaned a little further toward me, waving the end of the baton. I couldn’t believe I actually put my gum on the end of that baton. He raised his hands (gum on baton) and indicated for us to continue. I have never been so embarrassed, but you know what? I never entered that band room again with gum in my mouth!! I loved you, Mr. Swor!!



Thoughts on Life

"Don't limit yourself. Many people limit themselves to what they think they can do. You can go as far as your mind lets you. What you believe, remember, you can achieve."

— **Mary Kay Ash**

"If you love life, don't waste time, for time is what life is made up of."

— **Bruce Lee**

"Life is very interesting... In the end, some of your greatest pains become your greatest strengths."

— **Drew Barrymore**

"Be nice to people on the way up, because you may meet them on the way down."

— **Jimmy Durante**

"You can't put a limit on anything. The more you dream, the farther you get."

— **Michael Phelps**

"I enjoy life when things are happening. I don't care if it's good things or bad things. That means you're alive."

— **Joan Rivers**

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."

— **Maya Angelou**

"When I was 5 years old, my mother always told me that happiness was the key to life. When I went to school, they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wrote down 'happy'. They told me I didn't understand the assignment, and I told them they didn't understand life."

— **John Lennon**

"Life is ten percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it."

— **Charles Swindoll**

"Everybody wants to be famous, but nobody wants to do the work. I live by that. You grind hard so you can play hard. At the end of the day, you put all the work in, and eventually it'll pay off. It could be in a year, it could be in 30 years. Eventually, your hard work will pay off."

— **Kevin Hart**

"Turn your wounds into wisdom."

— **Oprah Winfrey**

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain." — **Dolly Parton**



"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma— which is living with the results of other people's thinking."

— **Steve Jobs**

"Life is what we make it, always has been, always will be."

— **Grandma Moses**

"Today, you have 100% of your life left."

— **Tom Landry**

Faculty Inservice Breakfast for ILMS Teachers

On Friday, August 2, 2024, the Isaac Litton Alumni Association hosted a breakfast for the faculty of Litton Middle School during their inservice. Food was provided by the ILAA Board of Directors and teachers were also given \$50 Amazon gift cards to help them with out-of-pocket expenses they might have as they begin the school year.



Teachers enjoyed touring the Alumni facilities and learning more about our history. Several of them weren't aware of the heritage they are helping to continue.

The event was well received and we will certainly do it again next year!



THE JELLYBEAN LEGACY CONTINUTES!

From the ILMS band director to all Litton Lions:

We would love for you to come to our concert if you still are close by!
Monday, October 21st at 6 pm in the gym at Isaac Litton Middle School!



ILAA 2024-2026 Board of Directors

President Mickey Collier, Class of '65, 615-347-7839, mickey4vols@comcast.net

President-Elect Don Clark, Class of '70, 615-305-8067, dc925@comcast.net

Past President Judy Butler Cline, Class of '70, 615-804-3453 clinejb@gmail.com

Secretary Alice Stewart Shehane, Class of '65, 615-516-9287, shehane64@gmail.com

Treasurer Buddy Jones, Class of '68, 615-779-8513, rljonescpa50@gmail.com

Kaaren Frazier Andrews, Class of '58, 615-448-6438, kaarena81@comcast.net

Jerry Bean, Class of '69, 615-804-5726, bjbea202@bellsouth.net

Terry Bumpus, Class of '70, 615-708-3182, terrybumpus@comcast.net

Dr. Wil Clouse, Class of '55, 615-545-9461, Drwil.Clouse@gmail.com

Pat Collier, 615-812-6862, mickeypat.1@comcast.net

Franklin Davis, Class of '70, 615-420-0342, wfdjr@aol.com

John Halliburton, Class of '68, 615-390-0901, johndhalliburton@att.net

Mike Riggins, Class of '69, 615-945-7160. Captnmike69@gmail.com

Rita Solomon, Class of '72, 615-351-2426, rsolomon.tn@gmail.com

Marisue Stalker, Class of '70, 615-337-6865, marisuestalker@yahoo.com

Sammy Swor, Class of '64, 615-218-7507, svsv@comcast.net

Kitty Kincaid Woodson, Class of '65, 615-957-3587, kittywoodson@gmail.com



Litton Legacy Donors 3rd quarter, 2024

The Isaac Litton Alumni Association is taking this opportunity to thank our supporters and benefactors for their continuing support and encouragement. Listed here are the names of those to whom we extend our deepest gratitude for gifts received through September 27, 2024. Please note that gifts received after this date will be recognized during the following quarter.

This list will also be posted on the Alumni Association website, isaaclitton.com.

Distinguished Donors (\$20,000 or over)

Diamond Donors (\$1000 and above)

William W. Benz III – class of '70

Sapphire Donors (\$500-\$999)

Jay McDonald – class of '64

Gayle Batey – Bailey Family Trust – class of '53

Ruby Donors (\$100-\$499)

Linda Flippo – class of '69

Jim Smartt – class of '69

Nancy Utter Terry – class of 54

David Brawner (50/50 tickets) – class of 68

Louis Hines – class of 53

Gary & Virginia Derryberry – class of '70

Nancy Stackhouse Wilson – class of '54

Charles V. Smith – class of 64



We encourage all alumni to continue to contribute to our Association to help support the organizations with which we work!

BLAST / COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Alice Stewart Shehane '65, Chair

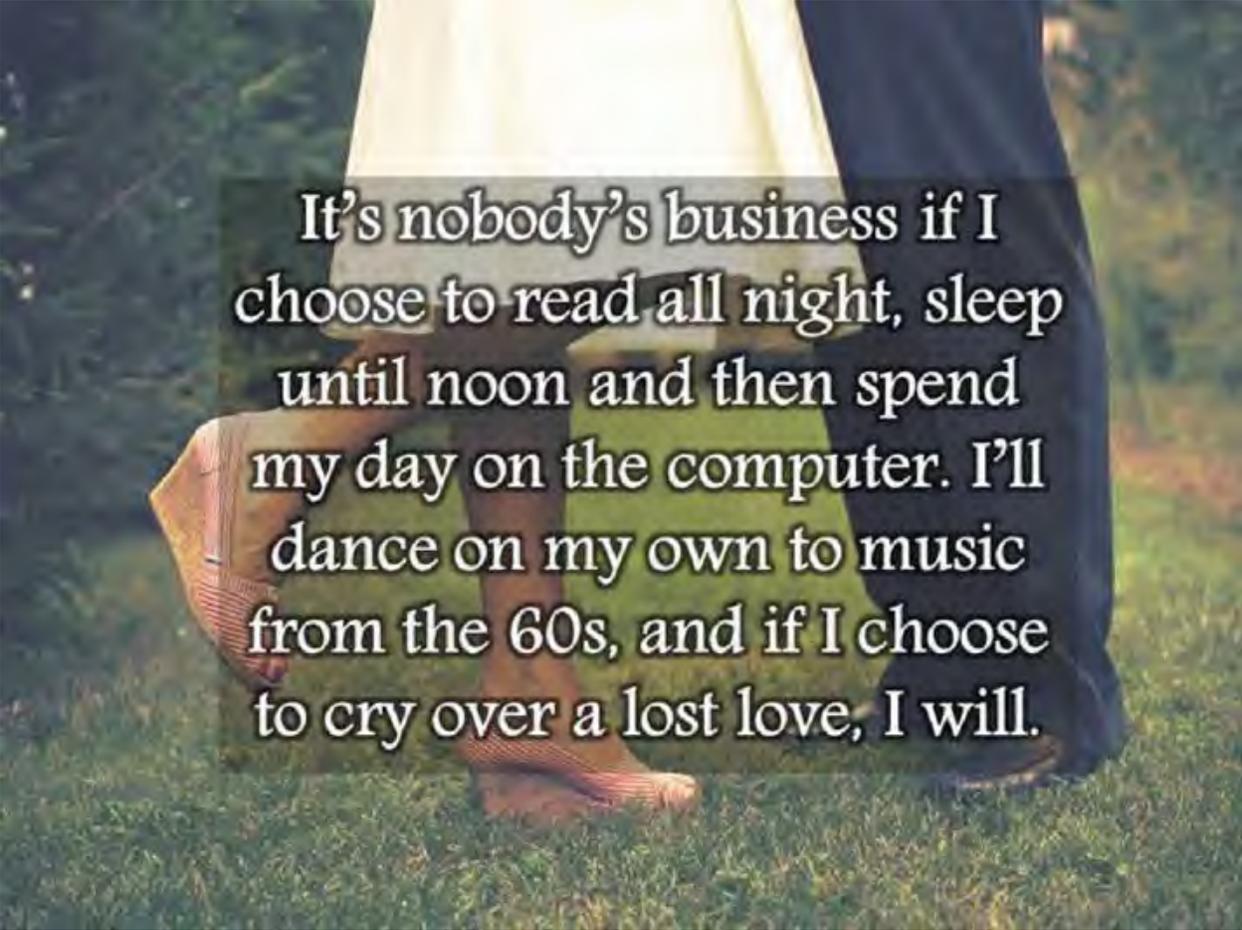
Kaaren Frazier Andrews '59

Judy Butler Cine '70

Larry Collier '69

Mickey Collier '65

Marisue Meador Stalker '70



It's nobody's business if I choose to read all night, sleep until noon and then spend my day on the computer. I'll dance on my own to music from the 60s, and if I choose to cry over a lost love, I will.

GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



Reported July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024

James Robert (Jimmy) Gardner, class of 1970; died 07/20/2024
William Terry Comer, class of 1970; died 07/23/2024
John Floyd Hamilton, class of 1955; died 11/10/2011
Dan C. Moseley, would have been class of 1945; died 07/10/2024
Beverly Jane Beiger Meece, class of 1968; died 05/28/2024
Don Edison Good, class of 1960; died 08/01/2024
Ann Kay Jackson Hendricks, class of 1964; died 07/28/2024
Lorell Elam Moore, class of 1955; died 08/09/2024
Maria McDonald Shuffett, class of 1970; died 08/12/2024
Jerry Kemp; class of 1953; died 08/16/2024
Ruth Ann Hewgley Waymon; class of 1958; died 03/21/2021
Barbara Wood Novovitch, class of 1954; died 09/01/2022
Nancy Howell Jenkins, class of 1958; died 06/24/2024
James Richard (Rick) Ward, class of 1972; died 06/24/2024
Barry Johnson Burge, class of 1970; died 06/30/2024
Ann Edens Gray, class of 1959; died 09/21/2023
Sam Hugh Harlin, Jr., class of 1957; died 07/08/2024
Mamie Elizabeth Kelly Bertoli, class of 1956; died 07/10/2024
Jane Swann Hill, class of 1947; died 09/11/2016
Michal Ray Edwards, class of 1967; died 12/21/2023
William Milton Green, class of 1954; died 07/04/2024

NOTE: Due to the publication deadlines for each quarterly issue of the BLAST, the names of those departed alumni received after the 25th of the quarter will be included in the next issue.

Please send us any notices as soon as possible. Thank you.