

# Blue 'n' Gold

Spring 2015

HVRHS Alumni Association

Volume 17, Issue 1

## NEW FACE IN CENTRAL OFFICE

Pamela Kay Vogel has joined the Region 1 administrative staff as assistant superintendent. Coming to the Northwest Corner from Afton, Iowa, Mrs. Vogel said living in New England will be a new and exciting experience for her. Having grown up on a dairy farm and overseeing a district that serves 600 pre-school through 12th-graders, she is familiar with a rural environment that our region affords. Whether Iowa or Connecticut, today's educational systems face similar challenges and she's ready to take them on, including one that has received a lot of discussion lately; declining enrollment.

She is a strong proponent of public schools, noting the public must be aware of all the positive things that are going on in them. "The key is to help people understand that public schools provide an excellent education."

A graduate of the University of Iowa, Mrs. Vogel holds a master's degree in special education; master's and specialist degrees in administration from Drake University and a doctorate from Iowa State University. She was an assistant principal, principal and director of curriculum, and supervisor of leadership development for area educational agencies before becoming superintendent of East Union Community School District in Afton in 2008. She and her husband, Dennis, together have six children.

At Region 1, Mrs. Vogel's duties will center on curriculum, hiring of personnel and overseeing grants. Let's join together to welcome her to our schools and communities.

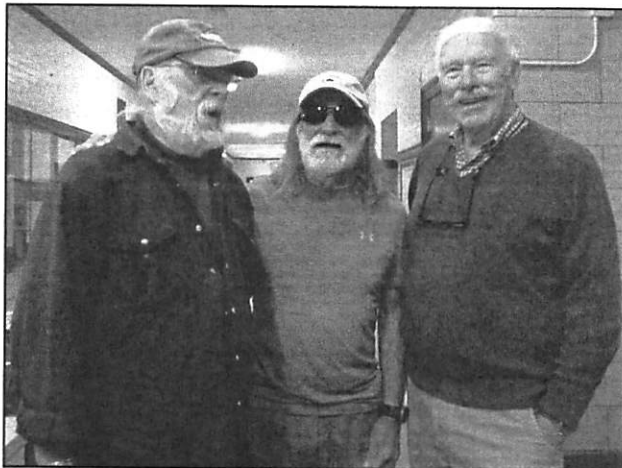
## Housatonic Turns 75 Years Old

It was a day of remembrances, laughter, hugs, reflections and some tears, but for the most part it was a day of gratitude. Constantly heard were comments about how fortunate alumni felt for having Housatonic Valley Regional High School as part of their lives.

On September 20, 2014, scores of graduates, as well as many current students, gathered at the stately brick school on the banks of the Housatonic River to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of the first regional high school in New England. The Alumni Association had worked for two years organizing the event, and by the time the last celebrants left the evening dinner, the day had been deemed a huge success.

As part of the celebration, tours of the school were given. Many who hadn't been back in a long time marveled at the changes, but said they could still see familiar sites as they strolled the hallways. Sporting competitions were held and various clubs were showcased throughout the day.

A late afternoon ceremony in the auditorium featured several past and present faculty and staff members, as well as associated members and current students. Even



Familiar faces at the 75th anniversary celebration were retired teachers Ellery Sinclair, Keith Bond and Ed Kirby, who went on to become principal and assistant superintendent.

Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy stopped by to offer his congratulations. Patricia Allyn Mechare, class of 1964 and president of the association, said the school's success over the past 75 years is due to common sense and cooperation. "As times changed, so did this institution, but the students were always the first priority," she said. "We have a faculty and staff here whose commitment is unparalleled."

Ed Kirby, class of 1945 who was a teacher, coach, principal and Region 1 assistant superintendent, served as emcee of the ceremony. A historian, he talked about which six small towns came together

*Continued on page 2*

## Senior Guys Strut Their Stuff

Once a year the, auditorium rocks to the rafters as Mr. Housatonic hits the boards. For those who are wondering why they don't remember such an event, don't worry. Your memories aren't failing. The show is comparatively new. Put on by the Student Government Association to raise money for leadership scholarships, Mr. Housatonic has senior guys showing off their many talents, including singing, dancing, modeling and speaking skills. One is named king - with crown and all - and there's also a runner up. The audience

never fails to cheer, laugh and applaud loudly.

This year's winner was Evan Taylor of Kent, who wowed with his impersonation of Louie Armstrong singing "What a Wonderful World." Wes Reel came in second. The others who put themselves out there were: James Huften, Chance O'Niel, Darius Sanchez and Nick Winsser. Ted Perotti and Liam Grimaldi served as masters of ceremonies. The evening is always a success and it's for a worthy cause.

## 75 Years Old

*Continued from page 1...*

to provide their children with increased educational opportunities by pooling resources. "Schools are not just buildings, not just transportation, not just budgets," he said. "Schools are people. Let us emulate the standards of those who went before us.

**Taylor Hurley**, president of the class of 2015, thanked those who came before for setting traditions and, speaking of traditions, **Shelby Jacquier**, president of the FFA, noted she is the sixth member of her family to hold that title. **Peter Smith**, class of 1954, had a career in education. He said having served in that capacity in countries throughout the world, "Housatonic gave me a strong foundation for my future."

The day concluded with a dinner dance held under a large tent on the school's front oval. The meal was an extravagant buffet catered by **Theresa Hanlon Freund**, a member of the class of 1978.

As the sun set over the surrounding hills and just before the meal was served, strains of the school song could be heard loud and clear as graduates saluted their alma mater.

## OOPS!

The following was inadvertently omitted from the book printed for the 75th anniversary of the school: Housatonic Valley Regional High School 75 Years, 1939-2014. Those books are still available and may be purchased for \$10 by contacting Julie Lang at [jlange@hvrhs.org](mailto:jlange@hvrhs.org). The 75th anniversary yearbooks are also available for \$75. Julie also can arrange those purchases.

### ERRATA: PAGE 45

#### Replace first full paragraph with:

Housatonic Valley Regional High School was recognized as the overall winner of the prestigious Michaels Achievement Cup for the best high school sports program of all the other 169 high schools in the State of Connecticut for the 1988-89 seasons. Housatonic was the very first small school in the five-year history of the Michael's Cup Michaels Achievement Cup to capture this honor.

Housatonic then placed first in 1991 and second in 1992 in the Class 'S' Division Michaels Cup competition. There were 206 varsity athletes from 1989-92 who played a part in winning the overall Michaels Cup in 1989. They went on to spawn eight Housatonic Hall of Famers, win 23 All State awards and earn 106 All-League recognitions with a win/loss record of 591-432-27.

### ERRATA: PAGE 46

#### Add following Paragraph 1:

Coached by Kevin Riley (HVRHS 1978) the Housatonic Girls Basketball teams experienced unparalleled success in the decades 1990-2010. A stretch that saw them make the state tournament nineteen of twenty seasons, four seasons of twenty plus wins, four league championships, three league tournament titles, eighteen CIAC State Tournament victories with five 1000 point scorers passing through the program. Coach Riley credited team success to a combination of hard work, good game preparation, a few good bounces, and everyone doing their part.

In the 2013-2014 season under Coach Frank Hadsell (HVRHS 1971) the Housatonic Girls team again qualified and won in the first round of the CIAC State Tournament.

## These Athletes are Winners

The anniversary weekend coincided with the latest induction of members into the Housatonic Valley Regional High School's Athletic Hall of Fame on Sunday. Ten individuals joined the already 80 students, faculty and coaches who were previously given the honor. The following are now part of an elite group at the school. Each received a Hall of Fame clock that was provided by Salisbury Bank and Trust Company.

\***Jill Belile Cytron**, class of 1996 for soccer and track. Her award was presented by Bruce Adams, former Housatonic soccer coach to Mrs. Cytron's mother since the recipient could not attend.

\***Michael DeMazza**, as a coach of baseball and football. He was given the award by Ed Kirby, former teacher, principal, coach and Region 1 assistant superintendent.

\***Russell Coward III**, class of 1989. Presented by David Bayersdorfer, Mr. Coward was honored for soccer, basketball and track.

\***John McGuire**, class of 1965, was given the award by his sister Mary Ann Lisk. Mr. McGuire played basketball and baseball and currently coaches golf at the school.

\***Laurence "Topper" Smith**, class of 1952. His presenter was his brother Peter Smith, class of 1954. Mr. Smith was recognized for his sports participation after high school.

\***Paxton Thornton**, class of 2009, was given the award by her track coach **Cindy Riley Dunleavy**, class of 1979, Ms. Thornton excelled in volleyball, basketball and track.

\***Susan Chilcoat Bucceri**, class of 1979, was recognized for her success in soccer, basketball and softball. Former teacher and coach Denise Dower made the presentation.

\***Heather Kochman**, class of 1992. Awarded by track coach David Lindsay, Ms. Kochman was honored for field hockey and track.

\***Russell Coward, Jr.**, Housatonic's first tennis coach and teacher. He was given the award by present tennis coach and teacher Jeffrey Tripp.

\***John "Jack" Mahoney**, former teacher, baseball coach and principal. The award was presented posthumously to his daughter Nancy Mahoney Soper, class of 1982, by Ed Kirby.



Ten people were inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in September. From left are: Coach Michael DeMazza, Heather Kochman, John McGuire, Nancy Soper (accepting for her late father, Jack Mahoney), Susan Bucceri, Paxton Thornton, Laurence "Topper" Smith, Coach Russell Coward, Jr. and Russell Coward III. Not pictured is Judy Belile, who accepted for her daughter, Jill, who was unable to attend.

## Alumni News by Class and Decade

### 1950s

Now that **Gerry Blakey, '54**, and his wife, **Patricia (Benedict) Blakey, '52**, of Cornwall have retired, they keep busy with volunteer work, helping out in several local food pantries and lending a helping hand for countless other town functions. As members of the United Church of Christ, they have spent the past 34 years dispensing and keeping track of durable medical equipment loaned out to needy individuals in the surrounding area. Their cars remain in the driveway 12 months a year since the garage is filled to capacity with the UCC equipment. Now that's devotion! They celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary this past September.

### 1960s

The class of 1960 will be holding its 55th reunion on September 19 at the White Hart Inn. Contact [rnbrown1942@aol.com](mailto:rnbrown1942@aol.com) for details.

The class of 1965 will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion the weekend of October 17, with activities from Friday night through Sunday noon. Please come and join us! If you have not received the details in an email or a mailing, please contact Roxann (Roulin) Lehberger at [rclehberger@comcast.net](mailto:rclehberger@comcast.net) or 203-675-7691.

George Paley, class of 1966, now lives in Lawrence, Kansas, and sent along a program from a juried outdoor sculpture exhibition at Washburn University in which two of his works were displayed: "Lady Negril" and "Denver Boy." In the announcement, George wrote, "Art for me is something that just happens, it is my peace and my therapy...My art depends on finding things and putting them together in a way that engages people. Growing up on a dairy farm, I have great empathy for the difficulties of farm work. I have always integrated old farm tools and equipment parts into my art."

### 1980s

**Krysia Bibro, '80** is teaching in the borough of Queens in New York City. "My love of people, nature and reverence for education inspired me to pursue college degrees in holistic health, anthropology, environmental studies and education. As a licensed massage therapist, I have also taught massage therapy and infant massage." Krysia writes that outside her normal duties, along with spearheading various programs and serving on many committees, she loves to travel, both near and far. "It's a wide, wide world out there...life is rich...so much to explore." The class of '80 is celebrating its 35th reunion this year. She said that "on one hand it seems like an eternity and on the other, just a short time ago." She said her classmates keep in touch via Facebook. They're still searching for more classmates to attend, so anyone with information is asked to contact her at [krysia\\_bibro@juno.com](mailto:krysia_bibro@juno.com).

**DETAILS OF THE REUNION:** Saturday, Aug. 22, at the Canaan Country Club at 6 p.m. Also planned is a golf scramble in the late morning. All skill levels and significant others are welcome to participate. There will be prizes and trophies awarded. Contact Phil Ghi at [phil@ghisign.com](mailto:phil@ghisign.com).

Also looking forward to their reunion are **Maria Koneazny Gray '80** and **Scott Gray '80**. Now hoping to divide their time

between Texas and Idaho, the couple was married three weeks after graduation and 10 days later Scott left for Navy boot camp. He served in the U.S. Submarine Service from 1980 to 1989 and during that time they both earned degrees. Scott pursued a career in the field of oil and gas, while Maria worked as a controller, CFO and financial consultant for two large companies. Worldwide travel was a part of their jobs. "Scott is passionate about creating opportunities for disadvantaged young people in the U.S. and the Third World," they wrote. They have two sons, Luke and Robert; Robert recently wed his wife, Jesse. Maria enjoys quilting, while Scott loves woodworking. The Grays want to give a shout out to former teacher John Mongeau, whom they said, "was always there to guide, counsel and provide direction when needed." Due to Mr. Mongeau's leadership, Scott spent more than 25 years in a technical education role and found it extremely rewarding. "Thank you, my friend/teacher. You provided me with the tools needed for an incredible career!"

Another classmate is **Jennifer Cutts Abbott, '80**, who is working with Krysia on the reunion. Jennifer writes that she has worked for the Connecticut Department of Developmental Services for 32 years. Most of the time she ran a day program for adults with intellectual disabilities and for the past two years she's worked with school systems and families to help students prepare for life after high school. A resident of Sheffield, she has two daughters, Melissa and Jessica. Jennifer enjoys watching her daughters' sporting events, gardening and photography.

### 1990s

**Dan Blair, '99**, his wife and two children recently visited his parents in Falls Village. Dan is a teacher with the International School System based in Switzerland. While here, he and his wife competed in Canaan's 5-mile road race with Stephanie, a physician, crossing the line first in the women's division.

### 2000s

**Megan Allyn**, class of 2006, is residing in Troy, N.H., where she is assistant planning and zoning director. She is a graduate of Keene State University where she majored in geography.

### 2010s

**Steven Bartomioli**, class of 2010, graduated from Norwich University in Vermont magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in political science.

**Brittany Godburn**, class of 2010, was graduated from Monmouth University in West Long Branch, N.J., with a bachelor's degree in business administration. She is now pursuing a master's in history from Sam Houston State.

**Elizabeth Greco**, class of 2010, recently graduated from Hartwick College in Oneonta, N.Y., where she majored in English and Spanish.

**Matthew Rogers**, class of 2010, graduated magna cum laude from St. Michael's College with a bachelor of arts in sociology and anthropology.

## Alumni News

Continued from page 3...

**Becket Harney, '13**, is a member of the Cornell University Glee Club, which came to perform in his hometown area this past year. He serves as the group's tour manager. "I had a phenomenal experience performing in my hometown," he said. "It was truly something special to be back on the stage at HVRHS and everyone was incredibly moved, both the audience and glee club alike, by our performance at Noble Horizons." He said participating in the club's leadership has allowed him to both orchestrate unbelievable experiences for him and the group, such as performing for a sold-out Kennedy Center Terrace Theater and holding a private concert for Supreme Court justices Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Sonia Sotomayor, "but it also gave me the opportunity to give back to the community that raised me. Despite all the other top-billed concerts on this tour in larger cities, Salisbury was the most important to me. I loved being able to give our final concert for a group of people I had known from elementary through high school."

**Christie Allyn, '14**, is attending Eastern Connecticut State University in the general studies program. She graduated from Housatonic on the same day her father, **John Allyn, '74**, graduated 40 years earlier.



## HVRHS Alumni Association

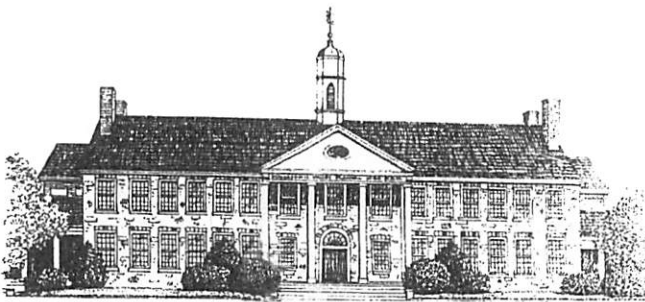
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Members of the Cornell University Glee Club performed at Housatonic, as well as other local venues this past year. Becket Harney, class of '13, is a member of the group.



## In Memoriam

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Rose Fungo Carr, '40                    | Claire Leffingwell, '57                   |
| Ruth Tatsapaugh Dickinson, '45          | Katherine Parsons Layton, '58             |
| Virginia Root McMann '45                | Nancy Svehla Cobden, '58                  |
| John Monteleone, '46                    | Lynda Ellen Byrnes, '58                   |
| Huldah "Bet" O'Donnell Hunter, '46      | Howard O'Dell, '59                        |
| Milton Clay, '47                        | Kathryn Mae Stanton Finkle, '59           |
| W. Ross Grannan, '47                    | Linda Walters Harring, '59                |
| LeRoy Riva, '49                         | Darryl Von Richthofen, '59                |
| R. Frederick Perkins, '49               | Robert Dodge, '60                         |
| Barbara Harding Seibert, '49'           | J. Dean Hammond, '61                      |
| Laurence Crawford Riley, '49            | William Dickinson, '61                    |
| Margaret Casteel Bloom, '50             | Robert Storm, '65                         |
| Barbara Hamlin Brooks, '51              | Robert Alex Jacquier, '69                 |
| Judith Harvey Brown, '52                | Allan Edward Kling, '72                   |
| Elizabeth Bings Cleaveland, '53         | Elaine Angele Larkin, '73                 |
| Elizabeth Jane "BJ" Peirce Stewart, '53 | Geoffrey Belter, '99                      |
| Elaine Wallace Kelsey, '54              | Robert Anderson II, '99                   |
| Kendrick McNeil Murphy, '54             | Mark Peter Selino, '10                    |
| Joyce Surdam Perkins, '54               | Superintendent Marvin "Muff"<br>Maskovsky |
| Katheryn Tompkins Estes, '55            | Teacher Norma Lake                        |
| Marilyn Vosburgh Pitcher, '56           | Secretary Anne Marie "Ronnie"<br>DeVries  |
| Walter Schreiber, '56                   |   |
| Fred Thibault, '57                      |   |