

## All Classes Bulletin

In order to do a topnotch job of providing memorabilia for the 75th anniversary celebration, as well as to make HVRHS' past 75 years of history come alive, your assistance is needed by the 75th Anniversary Memorabilia Committee chairmen **Mickey Riva '61** and **Linda Rhoades Fitzgerald '61**.

We are in need of "artifacts" from HVRHS' 75 years in operation, representing one-of-a-kind items from class activities, scholastic and sports awards, as well as clothing items such as letter sweaters and varsity jackets, cheerleader and team uniforms, caps, and even girls' gym suits — the various styles as worn throughout the high school years.

The items will be exhibited in locked display cases the entire month of September and returned to their owners during the first part of October. We already have prom favors and yearbooks, as well as printed programs from various honorary and musical/drama presentations. These items need to be received by mid-August and can be dropped by or sent to HVRHS, Attention: Julie Lang. Each item should be labeled with your name, address, contact phone number and your graduating year from HVRHS.

For further information or to volunteer the use of your "prized" possession, please email Linda Rhoades Fitzgerald at [lindafitzgerald@raleigh.twcbc.com](mailto:lindafitzgerald@raleigh.twcbc.com) or call 919-523-7093.

## 75th Anniversary Celebration

Plans are underway for a gala celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of the opening of Housatonic Valley Regional High School. The event will be held Saturday, Sept. 20.

The seeds of the school were planted in September 1937 when the state approved the formation of the regional school district and the land on which the campus sits was purchased from the Lorch family.

The laying of the cornerstone was held April 2, 1939 during a wet, snowy day. Six hundred people turned out to witness the event. Eighteen items from the time were placed in a copper box by a large derrick. The box was then covered with cement and a large piece of granite was set over the cornerstone.

The school opened Sept. 25, 1939 with Dr. Paul W. Stoddard as its principal. The teaching staff numbered 19. Ten buses brought in 384 students from the six



Members of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Alumni Association and a committee of others have been planning the school's 75th anniversary celebration to be held Sept. 20. From left are: Judi Moore, Dot Cecchinato, Jean Perotti, Christian Allyn, Pat Mechare, David Grusauski, Julie Lang, Ed Kirby, Bunny McGuire and Mo Dore.

towns. The first commencement exercise was held June 21, 1940 with 70 students receiving diplomas.

Commemorating the school's 75th birthday goes along with its strong tradition of remembering its past and

*Continued on page 2*

## Housatonic Welcomes a New Principal

Housatonic Valley Regional High School students will be greeted by a new principal when they return from summer vacation this year. Jose Martinez was named the school's top administrator in the spring. Former Principal Matthew Hartnett resigned in August 2013 to take a position in Bristol. Vice Principal Ian Strever stepped up to become the interim principal and Liam O'Reilly, a special education teacher, moved into Mr. Strever's slot as assistant principal.

Dr. Martinez's last post was at Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury. Raised in Syracuse and Fishkill, N.Y., he graduated from Binghamton University with a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. He earned his master's degree in teaching from Manhattanville College, his administrator's certificate from Southern Connecticut State University and his doctorate in education from Central Connecticut State University. A

resident of Bethlehem, he and his wife, Annemarie, have two grown children, Joseph and Rebecca.

When asked about his role at Housatonic, Dr. Martinez said, "I want to open its doors and show it off; tout what makes it special. I also want to

*Continued on page 2*



Jose Martinez has been named Housatonic's new principal. He began his duties July 1. Standing on the front portico of the school are Martinez and his wife, Annemarie.

## **Arborists Spruce Up Campus**

Areas around the high school received a spring cleaning when several local arborists - some of them alumni - volunteered their time. Under the supervision of Tom Zetterstrom, '63, representatives from Applewood Tree Care, Perotti Tree Surgeons, Toomey Tree Care and Town Hill Services, pruned several trees that dot the site and administered deep root feeding. A cross section of students watched the proceedings and those in the agriculture education department's landscape design and construction class helped out.

The exercise was part of Earth Day, said ag-ed teacher David Moran. Mr. Zetterstrom talked to students, explaining, "What we're doing is making the campus look pretty and eliminating hazardous branches," he said. The activity was also in preparation for the 75th anniversary celebration.

Mr. Zetterstrom is an award-winning photographer of trees. In 1999 he founded Elm Watch, a nonprofit, volunteer citizens group with the mission of preserving heritage elms. "Earth Day was formed in 1970 and its defines my life quite a bit," he told the students.

The volunteers trimmed a white oak and beech tree, which are in an area in front of the central office wing. They also removed a birch in the courtyard and worked on two flowering dogwoods that flank the front doors of the school.

As he looked around at the group hard at work, Mr. Zetterstrom commented, "It is great to have people come back and take pride in their school."

## **75th Anniversary Celebration**

*Continued from page one...*

the role it played in shaping so many people's lives. Organizers of the event, the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Alumni Association, along with others who have helped in various aspects, look forward to hosting the celebration and hope many graduates will attend.

Patricia Allyn Mechare, '64, chairman of the alumni association, said in a letter to graduates, "We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be a memorable occasion at which we can reflect on our school years with friends and classmates and remembers the important role Housatonic Valley Regional High School played in our lives."

The day will feature tours of the campus, exhibits and demonstrations from various departments and a variety of athletic events. The evening will feature a farm-to-table meal catered

by Freund's Farm Market and Bakery in East Canaan (owned by Theresa Hanlon Freund, '78) under a tent on the school's oval. Dinner will be followed by music spanning the decades of the school's existence.

In addition, Ed and Mary (Tobin) Kirby, '45, along with former English teacher Russ Coward, have updated a history of the school that was first published for the 50th anniversary in 1989, and committees of the alumni board prepared a 75th anniversary yearbook which includes highlights of each graduating class starting with the class of 1940. The two publications are for sale and information on how to purchase them, as well as details of the event, can be found on the association's website, [hvrhsalumni.org](http://hvrhsalumni.org).

The committee looks forward to seeing a large turnout to help Housatonic commemorate this momentous occasion.

## **Housatonic Welcomes a New Principal**

*Continued from page one...*

help parents make good informative decisions on what is best for their kids. We need a forward-thinking, positive school culture."

His management style, said Dr. Martinez is one in which diverse opinions are welcome. He does

not mind people questioning his decisions.

For the immediate future, the new principal plans to commute from Bethlehem. "I'd like to be close, but I want to get to know the lay of the land and then we'll strongly consider moving closer."

## **Your Classmates Are Curious**

Housatonic alumni are special. They've embarked on a wide array of careers, traveled to all parts of the globe, served their country and their communities and raised beautiful and productive families. We would love to share all your accomplishments

and life stories with your classmates through the Blue & Gold. Please take a few minutes to send some information about yourselves so we can feature your news in the next edition. Your friends will be waiting to see what you have to say.

## Alumni News by Class and Decade

### 1940s

**Bertha Miller Matranga '42** said she enjoys hearing news about Housatonic. Her graduation seems like a long time ago, but she said the star of the class was **John Segalla**. "His 50th anniversary was the best," she noted. Bertha lives in Valhalla, N.Y.

**Bruce Beckley, '49** writes from Amherst, N.H. "It is good to see the amount of focus on environmental issues students are being offered at Housatonic with field experience. The problems of invasives are worthy of all the attention they can get. I've been on our town conservation commission for 20 years. It is scary to see the spread of oriental bittersweet and Japanese knotweed in that period. Our town is investing many dollars and volunteer hours on control. My conservation activity may seem a distant change from a professional career in nuclear power generation, but both relate to our environment: the one promoting cleaner air as an alternative along with hydropower to fossil fuel generation - the other, helping promote biodiversity and survival of native species. Students today need to graduate with all the information and experience the school can offer. I also have a column in our town newspaper on a broad range of conservation topics. Students these days must obtain the skills of expression - verbal and written. Thank goodness for the classes with Mrs. Camp and the foundations in the classics she provided. Maybe it has always been true; however, today with all the digital devices and the abbreviations that go with their use, the ability of graduates (high school and college) to express their thoughts is disturbing. Enough preaching.

Peace, Bruce

**Janet Harding Medici '47** who now lives in Diamond Springs, Calif., has been happily retired for 21 years. After graduation she moved to Texas and then to California as a result of her sister marrying an actor she met at Sharon Playhouse. Janet worked for 20th Century Fox Film Corporation for 33 years. "I was only at HVRHS for one year so don't have many memories," she wrote. "I do remember, as a senior feeling a bit old sitting in classes with freshmen, such as civics, although I think it is called something else now. I liked my French teacher very much. "Nowadays Janet, who has a daughter, two granddaughters and a great-granddaughter, keeps busy with membership in a few organizations, including a Shakespeare Club and the Elks.

### 1950s

**Peter Smith '54** and **Ben Foster '54** decided to challenge two members of the current Housatonic tennis team to a match this spring as a way of marking their 60th reunion year. Taking them on were **Zach Busby '14** of Cornwall, who ranked

second in the school's singles, and **Eric Chin '15**, of Salisbury, who ranked third. The students won the first match, and the "seniors" took the second. In a super tie breaker, which had the first team to reach 10 points and leading by two, the younger set proved victorious with a score of 10 to 3. But the alum had nothing to be embarrassed about. They ran around the court with enthusiasm and energy. Both Smith and Foster had careers in teaching. Alumni may remember Ben's father, Lincoln Foster, who taught English, history and Latin at Housatonic.



**Peter Smith '54**, second from right, and **Ben Foster, '54** challenged current tennis team members **Eric Chin '15**, left, and **Zach Busby '14** to a match this past spring. The seniors did quite well, but lost in a super tie breaker.

**Audrey Athoe Wyman '58** had a one-woman art exhibit at Columbia Green Community College in Hudson, N.Y. this past winter, titled "Wanderings Near and Far," her landscapes were well-received, especially by several classmates who attended the exhibit.

As part of the Canaan Art League, **Ruth Peirce Adotte, '58** exhibited several of her paintings at a show held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock last December and her pastels were also part of an exhibit at Geer Village in Canaan in February.

**Ann Sartori '58**, **Ruth Peirce Adotte, '58** and **John Luning '58** and his wife Joanne joined a group headed for Spain last fall. They all felt Barcelona was the highlight of the trip.

**Jay Silvernale '58**, writes from Denver, Colo., "I am working on a "bucket-list" item that is more than 40 years old. In 1972, after completing grad school at Oregon State University, I had an offer to go to Australia on a two-year work visa. I did not take advantage of the offer and have always wished I had. So, this fall, for my birthday, I am taking three weeks to travel to the eastern half of Australia to get the "lay of the land."

*Continued on page four*

Continued from page three...

### 1970s

Theresa Carley Kenny '79 reminds her classmates of the 35th reunion that will be held in conjunction with the 75th anniversary weekend. The get-together is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 21, at the Lakeville Town Grove. "Hope to see you there," she said.

### 2010s

The Housatonic Alumni Association awarded its 2013 scholarships to **Lauren Hanlon** of Salisbury and **Dylan McGarry** of Canaan. Among the requirements for receipt of the award is that the students have parents or grandparents who have graduated from Housatonic. **Christian Allyn** of Canaan was awarded a special scholarship in appreciation for all he has done for the school. The winner of the 2014 scholarship is **Christopher Vernali** of Canaan.

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## HVRHS Alumni Association

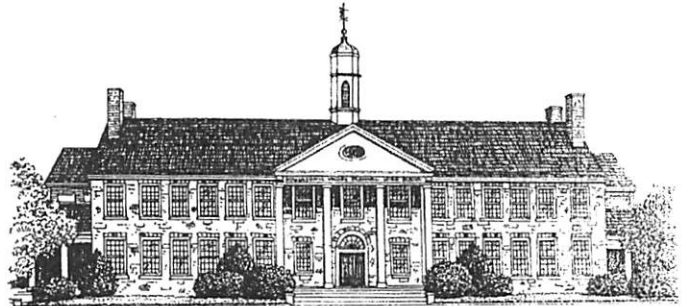
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246 Warren Turnpike, Falls Village, CT 06031

To reach the Editor: Ruth Epstein

07/29

## In Memoriam

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Walter D. Carlson '42        | Donald Bergenty '56       |
| Shirley (Adotte) Perotti '42 | Jerry James Corcoran '56  |
| Martha Bergenty '43          | Bruce Reynolds '56        |
| Richard Bergenty '44         | Marybeth (Lamb) Ameen '57 |
| Dorothy Drescher '45         | Chris Dakin '57           |
| Ed Pedersen '47              | Louis Bachetti '58        |
| Mario P. Sebben '48          | Paul Brazee '58           |
| Donald Bergenty '50          | Bruce MacRitchie '58      |
| Anna (Pedersen) Johnson '50  | Judith Greene '61         |
| Ginger Mercer '50            | Kurt N. Brown '62         |
| Joseph W. Jacobs '51         | Theodore Guerin '63       |
| Robert F. Johnson '51        | Peter R. VanDeusen '68    |
| Orville Andrews '52          | Joseph P. Downey '71      |
| Peter Kenny '52              | Peder Morehouse '78       |
| Roger Roche '53              | William Rundall '91       |
| Kendrick Murphy '54          | Gared Waldron '06         |
| Ralph Osborne, Jr. '54       |                           |



## A Friendly Reminder

In order for your Alumni Association to continue, we need your financial support. Remember Housatonic by sending in dues: \$10 for annual membership or \$100 for lifetime membership. Thanks so much. You'll be glad you did.

Send to:

HVRHS Alumni Association  
246 Warren Turnpike Road  
Falls Village, CT 06031

Visit us on the web:

[HVRHSAlumni.org](http://HVRHSAlumni.org)

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