

◆ Blue 'n' Gold ◆

Volume 9, Issue 1

Summer 2005

THE WHITE OAK, Continued

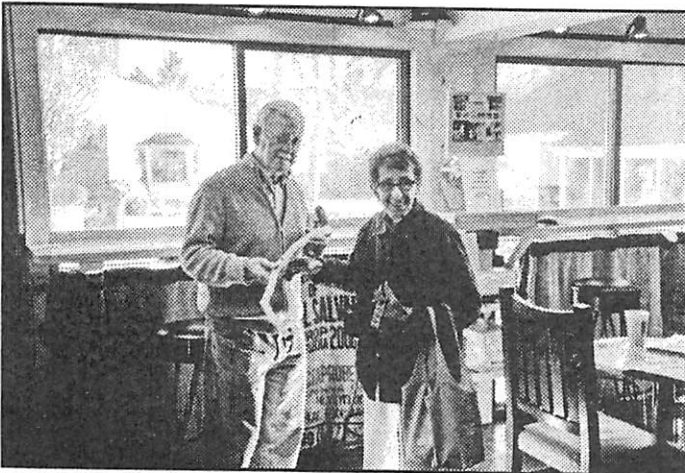


Photo courtesy of: *The Lakeville Journal*

been carefully processing the tree using chain saws, a log trailer and a band saw mill to prepare boards for kiln drying. Great care must be taken as the tree is riddled with decay and metal hardware which had been used to support its massive limbs. **Joe Brien '81** has been working with the

Committee to teach students how to use a miniature lathe to create impressive pens which will be offered for sale in the coming months. The public is invited to pick up pieces of the tree for use in creative projects. An art show is being planned for the spring of 2006 that will feature works made from the tree. For more information, contact **Bunny McGuire '55** at the school."

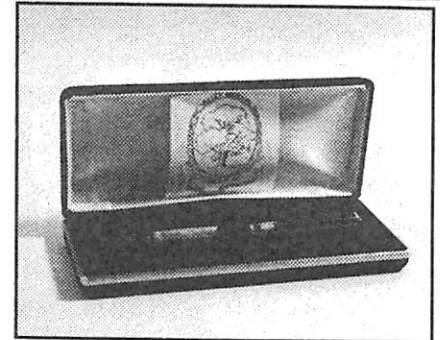
THANKS, SCOTT

The high school business office recently received a letter from **Scott Monroe '70** who so diligently took care of the White Oak for many years. He wrote, "With the White Oak gone, I feel like I've lost one of my connective tissues to the school. Therefore I would like to continue our fertilization program on the two oaks, one maple and one beech in front of the campus." And Bunny added, "Scott has been taking care of our trees with no charge to the school. We are very fortunate to have a generous and dedicated alumnus who continuously gives so much of his time to make the campus a beautiful place."

The White Oak may not still be standing, but it is certainly not forgotten.

It was Friday, April 29, 2005, 8:15 AM, when **Izzy Decker '41** was ambushed on her appointed rounds. The scene was the Roast Café behind Salisbury Pharmacy. The ambushers were Fred Romeo, retired long-time teacher of science and cult figure at Salisbury Central School, and editor **Mahoney**. On behalf of the Alumni Association, Mahoney presented Izzy with a walking stick fashioned by Romeo from a branch of the fallen White Oak. At that point, knowing Izzy, the two conspirators did not know whether to expect a thank you or a whack over the head. They were relieved when Izzy showed appreciation at receiving her souvenir. In fact, she was quite pleased.

If things go as planned, this will be among the first of many souvenirs of the White Oak to be in circulation among HVRHS Alumni. Here is a report on the HVRHS Arboretum and Landscape Committee: "The Committee, with enthusiastic support from Principal **Gretchen Foster** and the Ag-Ed Department, secured a grant from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism that is being used to process lumber from the tree for use in educational and fund-raising projects. Ag-Ed students have



H.V.R.H.S. White Oak Pen photo by:
Joe Brien, Class of 1981

Recent Donors Listed

Since our last issue and through May 2, 2005, these alumni have sent in donations beyond dues:

1940's: \$100

Joyce Brennan Young '46

1950's: \$2,045

Marcia Wilson Audia '53, Phyllis Opley Day '50, Barbara Friis Szczepanski '51, Mary Corna Mintz '52 in memory of daughter **Patricia Mintz Soper**

1960's: 0

1970's: \$30

Frieda Stackon Hill '72

1980's: \$60

Nancy Collins True '87

1990's: 0

2000's: 0

Faculty: 0

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

And these, in the order their letters came to us, are our new Lifetime Members: **Walter Carlin '55, Marcia Wilson Audia '53, Barbara Bartram '47, Marilyn Wood Joseph '56, Sharon Joseph '86, Sheila Joseph Taylor '89, Louise Ruppel Pagano '72, Julia Smith Cooke '52, Gerald A. Riley '61, Laurence C. Smith '52, Paul R. Fraleigh '57, David A. Beaujon '64 and Joan Scribner Bettman '60.**

This makes a total of 187 Lifetime Members. We salute you all for your support. It literally keeps us going. Thanks.

Blue 'n' Gold

A newsletter published
biannually by the Housatonic Valley
Regional High School Alumni
Association

The HVRHS Alumni Association

c/o HVRHS, 246 Warren Turnpike Rd.,

Falls Village, CT 06031

Phone 860-824-5123, extension 162

Web sites: www.hvrhs.org and hvrhs.com

e-mail: bunny@hvrhs.org

HVRHS Alumni Association Committee

Officers

Chairman and editor of newsletter Jack Mahoney,

42 Deer Road, Falls Village 06031, 824-5209,

john.mahoney2@att.net

Vice Chairman Patricia Allyn Mechare '64,

78 Johnson Road, Falls Village 06031, 824-0271,

cmechare@snet.net

Secretary Bunny Cecchinato McGuire '55, Box 95,

Canaan 06018, 824-5900, bunny@hvrhs.org

Treasurer Dorothy Winn Cecchinato '47, Box 794,

Canaan 06018, 824-7517, dcecchinato@hvrhs.org

Decade Representatives

1940's: Dot Cecchinato

1950's: Pat Zimmermann Miller '58, Box 22,

Falls Village 06031, 435-9633, gottmd@yahoo.com

1960's: Pat Mechare

1970's: Dena Kenny Solan '73, Box 895, Canaan

06018, 824-0399, tigger@mohawk.net and Tammie

Roulin Lundeen '74, 22 Main Street,

Falls Village 06031, 824-7726

1980's: Patricia Johnson '83, Box 144, Salisbury

06068, 364-6034, tperc2004@yahoo.com and Erika

Stemlof '83, 324 Greenwoods Road West, Norfolk

06058, 542-5385, erikastemlof@sbcc.global.net

1990's: Eric Epstein '93, Box 214, Kent 06757,

927-4278, ewepstein@hotmail.com

At-Large Members

Dean Hammond '61, 85 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury

06068, 824-0208, hammond.j.d@att.net

Bonnie Black Whalen '62, 22 Forge Lane, Lakeville

06039, 435-9738, fergie@mohawk.net

Staff Members

Dot Cecchinato, Bunny McGuire and Judi Thormann

Moore, 130 Interlaken Road, Lakeville 06039,

435-9109, jmoore@hvrhs.org

Dues

ANNUAL DUES OF \$10 are payable each September. Lifetime Memberships are available at \$100. Information required by the Treasurer with any and all checks from alumni: the year of graduation and the last name used when in school.

NEWS OF THE CLASSES BY DECADE

THE FORTIES

Contact Dot Cecchinato '47, 824-7517,
1940's Decade Rep

Class of '45: Nancy Fraleigh Bergenty has four great grandchildren, the most recent one weighing in at two pounds and four ounces. But eight months later the weight was up to a sturdy fourteen pounds. **Melody Bergenty '74** and husband became grandparents for the first time. **Cheryl Bergenty Haddon '66** has another grandson for Nancy, whose life has been busy. She has been a gas station attendant, a bookkeeper and cashier, and a Certified Nursing Assistant. She admits to driving to El Paso, TX, in 1979-80 and now lives back in Canaan. **Edward Kirby** has published another book. Seldom Told Tales of Sharon offers a combination of surprises, detailed research, and colorful characters from the town's past. Copies of Ed's other book on the local area, Echoes of Iron, are still available through the Sharon Historical Society.

Class of '46: Bob Kenny recalls graduating sixty years ago when those were the happy days in our young lives. There were sixty-four classmates.

Class of '49: Bob Boults reports being retired and living in Maine, where he is happily married and loving life.

VETS GET DIPLOMAS

Three veterans of World War II whose service prevented them from graduating from HVRHS received their high school diplomas recently. They are the Cecchinato brothers, **Anthony '46** and **Louis '47**, along with **Richard Deneen '43**. New legislation made it possible. Anthony served in the Army Air Force, Louis and Richard in the Navy. Congratulations, guys!

LATE NEWS OF REUNIONS

The **Class of '70** will hold its 35th on October 29, 2005, 6:30 P.M. at the Wake Robin Inn in Lakeville. Cost: \$50 per person. Contact **Judy Sombathy Alderman**, judya624@charter.net. The **Class of '75** will hold its 30th on July 23, 2005, 6 P.M. at Geer Village. Contact **Katie Sherwood Wood** at 435-0071.

THE FIFTIES

Contact Pat Zimmermann Miller '58,
435-9633, 1950's Decade Rep

Class of '50: The 55th Reunion will take place on August 13, 2005, at the Canaan Country Club. Classmates who do not receive an information letter should contact **Joanne Remer Godburn '51** at 860-824-5969.

Class of '51: After graduation, **Alice Cheseboro Smith** of Evansdale, IA, earned a BS in math from William Smith College and a Masters in Education from the University of Hartford. She retired in 1996 after a long career as a teacher with the Department of Defense Dependents' System where she taught math and science. Her job took her to France, Germany, Holland, England, Okinawa and Turkey. Turkey was her favorite country with its fascinating culture, and she had two tours there. Although she never did pick up the language, her children absorbed it like sponges. Taking advantage of her postings abroad, Alice traveled extensively: Russia, Ukraine, Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Kenya, South Africa, Korea, Japan — to mention a few. She has also visited or lived in all of the U. S. states except Oregon. She is not quite sure how she missed that one. She has five children, including a pair of twins, and ten grandchildren. Her children have obviously inherited Alice's wanderlust — two are in Japan and one in Hawaii. When she finds time between travels, Alice takes adult education classes — "anything that piques my interest." She looks forward to attending the 55th reunion. **John Eggleston**, a retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander, has also spent time abroad — in Europe, Viet Nam, and Hawaii. Although he and Beatrice live on a canal in Cocoa Beach, FL, they do not have a boat. John says that he spent enough time on the water when he was in the Navy and now prefers to stay on shore. They have three children and three grandchildren. One son did follow in John's footsteps. He also is retired Navy and now teaches at Annapolis. John is a volunteer with the local Boy Scouts and serves on the Board of Directors at the Beach Coast Credit Union. As a result

CLASS NEWS, Continued

of a broken ankle, he now has a metal plate insert. Imagine what he does to airport security!

Class of '52: Nancy Hart Markgraf is retired from public health and administrative positions with the Visiting Nurse Association in Williamstown, MA, where her husband teaches at Williams College. She boasts of two daughters, both career women, and one grandson. Larry Smith greatly enjoyed the recent Bedini reunion. He is interested in a faculty placard from the 1930's on and urges others to contribute to the project. Lee Fuller Hoag sent news that about sixty people met at the North Jetty in Venice, FL, on February 16 this year for the annual pot luck lunch. It was a wonderful sunny day, and it was so great to catch up with old friends as well as alumni from southwestern MA and eastern NY as well as CT. Thanks to Tillie Dickinson '43 and Jack Bergenty '41 and Merrill Franks as well as his late wife, for this gathering happening in the past. Now Babs O'Connell Bringham '48 will take care of arrangements. Other alumni in attendance were: Henry Carley '51, Doris Cunningham '43, Bob Carberry '40, Leigh Ford Candelent '58, Gino Cortesi '43, Bruce Grannan '48, Ann Perotti '50, Jerry Fallon '49, Maureen Irwin Brahney '54, Joe '48 and Teresa Perotti '49 Solan, Diana Miner Matheson '58, Julia Del Tenno Segalla '43, Frank '54 and Jean Riva '57 Perotti, Frank '54 and Millie LaFranchi '55 Testa, Dick '54 and Cynthia Brazzale '55 Cantele, Ellie Mansir Burch '55, and Leroy Riva '49. Dolores Branche James-Johnson filed two reports. The first, dated October of 2004, is as follows: "First and foremost, I am grateful to be standing after the recent storms here in FL. My husband and I moved to Marion County here fourteen years ago. Before leaving the Litchfield County area I spent nineteen years in the school system and several years as a health care provider. Then, moving to Dutchess County, NY, I joined IBM and worked there for ten years, retiring in 1996. Retirement was great for a while. Among other things there was time to travel to Spain and enjoy my son's wedding. My journey has given me an extended family

that keeps life interesting. There are two young women and two gentlemen, each in interesting professions. My son has presented me with a beautiful grandson. Since I cannot sit still for long, I am now working in the school system here and have been for five years. After visiting with my son in New Jersey for Thanksgiving, I will be preparing to travel to Haiti on a work mission. Each year presents new challenges." And she follows with this report dated March of 2005: "A mission trip to Haiti had been canceled in 2003 due to floods and unrest there. Our group of twelve people was disappointed but understood that the time was not right. So we waited. By March 5, 2005, we were on our way to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Loaded down with large tubs of clothing for children and babies, I knew I had stepped out of my comfort zone. The rest of the group continued on four more hours, leaving me to be driven up a mountain, where we hoped there was a road, to a place called God's Littlest Angels, an orphanage of 165 babies and toddlers. I was to care for eight infants from 8 AM to 5 PM. The rest of our group was in the dried-up countryside roughing it as they put in a well for clean drinking water. We met in Port-au-Prince nine days later and flew back to our comfort zone, FL. Would I go back? Yes, as long as my health allows. I love my retirement. You still have time to do the right things."

Class of '53: Betty Baldwin Bernoi and husband Leno invited area classmates to their house over the winter holidays. About a dozen attended, and a good time was had by all.

Class of '55: The 50th Reunion will be held on October 1, 2005, at the Canaan Country Club. Information letters have been mailed. Save the date. And that means you, Walter Carlin, who wrote from DelBar, CA, looking for information on a 50th reunion! This from Bunny Cecchinato McGuire: "On a recent trip South, Jim (Jim McGuire '50) and I made a point to visit some Housatonic graduates. We visited Beverly Wyman Musselman '50 and her husband and family in Cocoa, FL, and had a wonderful time. Also visiting at the Musselmans' was Patricia Athoe

Mullenix '56. Boy, do Bev and Myron throw a great party! We also went to visit Marion Winn Staples '49 in New Smyrna and had a wonderful visit and lunch with her. On the way home we stopped in Mississippi and visited with Eloise Cecchinato Koneazny '48. Since we knew many people in Mississippi from former visits, it was a week of parties!

Class of '56: Marilyn Wood Joseph is Executive Director of the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, a position she has held for twenty-seven years. Jane Clyburn Boyd and husband Bruce have moved to Taos, NM. A going away party for them on April 9 was hosted by the Kirbys, Mary Tobin and Ed '45 at their newly renovated home in Sharon. In addition to family and other friends, Jane's colleagues from the Alumni Association Committee were in attendance to honor her both as a friend and an outstanding contributor to the well being of our organization. To say she will be missed is an anemic understatement, so saith your editor.

Class of '58: While this is the theoretical year of retirement at 65, many classmates are still in the work force. Karen Zetterstrom Jackson continues teaching in Maine, enjoying every minute of her career. At last contact, she had no plans to retire. Lynn Hunter Cline works full time managing a law office in Kent. Her children and grandchildren fill all her spare moments. Sharon Gawel continues to work at Sharon Hospital, although she does admit she hopes to retire one day. She often sees Ruth Peirce Adotte, who volunteers at the hospital's gift shop. Diane Miner Matheson and husband John (Sandy) are back from their winter home in FL. Sandy works for his son while Diana stays involved keeping the company books. Tom Gailes and his wife own a busy restaurant, Limey's in Sheffield, MA. He claims that seven days a week are not enough time to accomplish what needs to be done. He looks forward to cutting back some day, simplifying his life. He boasts of one son living in Salisbury and another, an Army Sergeant First Class, who is a career man cur-

CLASS NEWS, Continued

rently teaching Mandarin at the Foreign Language School in Monterey, CA. Four grandchildren round out Tom's busy life. **George Drumm** was seen last fall in Great Barrington. He returns to the northwest corner annually to hunt, residing in FL the rest of the year. **John Clyburn** and his wife travel extensively and are reported to be enjoying Ireland this spring.

Class of '59: This from Agent **Marie Hewins**: "As you know many classmates spend most or all of the winter months in FL. Plus quite a few of our classmates live in FL. After our last reunion a number of us have gotten together in FL the last few winters. **Rich (Gus) Gustafson** and **Dave Segalla** contacted me this past winter to see if we were getting together. Unfortunately, some of us had already gotten together. Now that Gus is retired he wants to help set up this get together in FL next season. I think the month of March is when most classmates are down there. If February works better, that's fine also. So those of you planning on going to FL next winter please let Gus or me know when and where you plan on being down there. We will need to set up a meeting place that is central to everyone. You can reach Gus by e-mail at r.gustafson@snhu.edu or by phone at 603-641-5617. My e-mail address is mhewins24@cs.com. My summer phone is 860-824-5549 and in winter it's 941-341-0641. We will keep you updated on this in the next issue of the *Blue 'n' Gold*. Gus has also agreed to help with the next reunion, which will probably be in the fall of 2006. Any ideas or suggestions for this big event, please let us know. And if you have any news you would like to share with classmates, please send it to me for the next newsletter. Thanks in advance.

THE SIXTIES

Contact **Pat Allyn Mechare '64**,
824-0271, 1960's Decade Rep

Class of '60: **Joan Scribner Bettman** reports that her class is preparing for a 45th reunion this summer.

Class of '63: This is from **Shelda Unite**: "In the summer of 2001 I was diagnosed with a genetic disease called PKD. I was in kidney failure and needed

a kidney. In the fall of 2001 a very special person named **Barbara Healey** of **Salisbury, CT**, offered me one of her kidneys. I had never met Barbara! In April of 2002 I had a successful kidney transplant. Both **Barbara**, who is a mother of two, and I are doing very well. I was able to return to work for two more years before I retired after thirty-six years with the state of NY as a computer program analyst. Since my transplant I am able to live a life of travel, golfing, swimming and skiing. I traveled to Spain in the fall of 2004. I cannot say enough about what a special person **Barbara** is to do this wonderful thing, and she had the support of her family. I hope more people, like **Barbara**, will consider becoming a donor.

Class of '67: **Sergio Ronzani** and wife, **Phyllis**, have sold their home in **Canaan** and moved to **West Plains, MO**. Their new 42-acre spread is just thirty miles from the **Arkansas** border and about an hour's drive from **Branson**. While their neighbors are raising **Black Angus** beef, **Phyllis** still has all her peacocks and chickens. She wrote that the first day of hunting season sounded like a war zone. It didn't take **Sergio** an hour to bag a buck, and two weeks later, he got a doe during black powder season.

Andrew Walters, son of **Mary** and **Art Walters** of **Sharon**, is a student at **Vanderbilt University** in **Nashville, TN**. **Andrew** is in his junior year and studied at the **University of Adelaide** in **Southern Australia** this past spring. **Art** says that **Andrew** is their youngest. Oldest son **Nick**, 26, is working for **Nieman-Marcus** in **Dallas, TX**, after graduating from **Mississippi State**. His other son, **Scott**, 24, graduated from **Vanderbilt** and is applying to law schools in the **D.C.** area. **Evelyn "Chickie" Mangan Osborne** and husband **"Buster"** make their home in **Canaan**. **Chickie** works at **C. A. Lindell's** and writes that she often sees classmates and former teachers in the hardware store. Their daughter **Tina** will be wed in July, and the newlyweds will also be settling in **Canaan**. Another daughter, **Beth**, graduated from **Central Connecticut State University** and has been teaching fifth grade at **North Canaan Elementary School** for the past two years. Son **Edwin** is presently attending

classes at **Northwest Community and Technical College** in **Winsted**.

Class of '69: **Barry Hunter** of **Lempster, NH**, has been promoted to Executive Major in **New Hampshire's Department of Safety**. In the post, **Barry** will serve as second-in-command of the **New Hampshire State Police**. He has worked his way up in the ranks of the department since joining it twenty-six years ago. (Editor's note: Messrs. **Kearcher**, **Deneen** and **Da. McArthur** must find it, um, amusing that you have become such a man of law and order, **Barry**. Perhaps they will come to visit you.)

THE SEVENTIES

Contact **Dena Kenny Solan '73**, 824-0399, or **Tammie Roulin Lundeen '74**, 824-7726, Decade Reps

Class of '71: **Karen Blodgett Osborn** is a nurse in **FL**. She met **Jane Griffiths '70** and had a great time recalling old memories. **Karen's** older brother **Larry** (now deceased) had dated **Jane**.

Editor's plea: Is there anyone out there, a graduate of the 70's, who can produce news? Here is what you do: you pick up the phone and call (or write an e-mail to) a classmate. (Contact **Bunny McGuire** at the school for phone numbers and addresses.) You ask about family, profession, interests, where they live, any classmates they have run into, and such. You record the responses and send them on to your decade rep. Make two contacts, and your class will have two entries in the next newsletter. Make three, ... You get the idea. If the current class agents for the seventies do not produce news for the next newsletter, they will automatically resign their positions and be replaced by classmates willing to step forward, or, alas, by blank space signaling terminal inertia in their classes.

It is ironic that the one item submitted this time for the 70's, the most populous of all the decades, came not from a 70's alum but a member of the staff in the main office of the high school. You can do better, 70's folk!

CLASS NEWS, Continued

THE EIGHTIES

Contact Patricia Johnson '83, 435-1456, or Erika Sternlof '83, 542-5385, 1980's

Decade Reps

Hi, we are the replacements for Kathleen Mahoney as 1980's Decade Reps. It took two of us to fill in for her, but we are (mainly) ready. We are looking for anyone from our decade to send us info on how, what and where they are doing, and whom they might have seen while doing it. We would also love to get e-mail addresses and phone numbers to make it easier to stay in touch. Just putting your name in the column will bring a smile to *someone's* face, so please do not be shy! On to the news, and please forgive our current preponderance toward the Class of '83.

Class of '81: Joe Brien, man of many hats, (see The Lakeville Journal of 4/21/05) has been teaching the fundamentals of orienteering in Falls Village as well as entertaining children at Salisbury Central with his puppetry rendition of Dr. Seuss's "Cat in the Hat." He is involved with the Housy Arboretum and Landscape Committee, is a Teaching Artist for the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism, and is working with a Manhattan-based sculptor on designing a three-story fountain for the town square of LaRosa, NM. Chris Pollack is also an artist working in many different mediums and lives somewhere in upstate NY. He had a successful showing of his wire art mobiles at a gallery in Norfolk, CT, a couple of years ago. Mark Sternlof lives in Rochester, NY, and is an editor at a legal publishing company there. He is currently on a working vacation in China.

Class of '82: Candy Carlson Stiewing earned her teaching certificate three and a half years ago from St. Joseph's College. She has been teaching at Lee Kellogg in Falls Village for three years and has been married twenty years to R. B. Stiewing of Skip Barber Racing. They have an eighteen-year-old daughter, Cristi, and a nine-year-old son, Jeremy. Candi Perotti Wolff was identified in the May 9, 2005, issue of Newsweek as the head of President Bush's legislative liaison team. Wow! And she is the first woman to occupy that position. Candi and husband Mark have two children,

Veronica and Claire.

Class of '83: Kathleen Mahoney and Mark LaPlaca, formerly of Lower Road in East Canaan, have moved to their brand new house in Storrs, CT. Kathleen works with Lakeville writer Bob Yoakum, and they are looking forward to having a book published. Mark has been Regional Training Manager for Panera Breads for two years. They have two children, Andrew and Bailey. Karen Parks Scarpa resurfaced after last year's reunion and is living in Sacramento, CA. She is married to Joe Scarpa and has two sons. She is an emergency room doctor. Karen Cross Cracas has been teaching first grade in Torrington for eighteen years, and husband Scott Cracas works at The Hartford as a software developer. They have two boys by the names of Dan and Jake. Trish Johnson has been active with her own business, Three Magic Arrows, since 1994. Her specialty is holiday decorating and floral designs for any occasion. She lives happily in Lakeville with her seven-year-old daughter, Leanne. Erika Sternlof is six years back from her stint in NM, bringing along husband Wiley Gladson. She has a new career in financial services with New York Life, working partly from her home in Norfolk. Ron Laigle, who runs his own floor covering business, Laigle Floor Covering and Design, spent his fortieth birthday with his family in Hawaii. Ron is married to Hilary Langer '88 and they have three children.

(Happy Birthday, Ron, and to everyone else who had or is going to have the 40th this year!) Todd Consolini is a Marine (*thank you for your service!*) and has a wife, Angie, and three daughters. He and distant cousin Francis Perotti, of Perotti & Sons Plumbing, just helped their great grandmother celebrate her 100th birthday.

Class of '85: Marilyn Cross is engaged to Frank Bauer '81 with a wedding date to be set. They just bought a house in East Canaan on Lower Road. Frank is a chef at Geer and Marilyn is a Certified Nurse Assistant there. Brian Godburn lives in Oakdale, CT, with wife Eileen and daughter Jordan. He is a pilot with Delta Airlines, and Eileen works for the State of CT.

Class of '86: Sylvia Collins, Chris Shaefer and Jean Shaefer '85 went on a three-day trip to Boulder, CO, to see Hillary Stevenson at her new restaurant at the top of a mountain. (see p. 7) Ken Cracas will be married to Kerri Krahenbuhl on October 15th. His brother did not cough up enough info on what he was doing so, Ken, please contact us. Sharon Joseph was graduated from Marymount School of Nursing in 1995 and is a patient care coordinator at Fair Oaks Hospital in Fairfax, VA.

Class of '87: Missy Carlson Dunnion graduated from college and teaches fourth grade in AZ. Husband Shawn is a firefighter. Nancy Collins True lives in Mansfield, MA, with her young family. The following is an excerpt from her entertaining note: "My news? Hmmm. After getting my BA in English from Bates College, I worked in a bookstore and then as Sales Manager for a book publishing company south of Boston. After ten years in publishing, I quit to stay home with the kids — Alison is four and Colin is two. So now I do the usual stay-at-home mom things: watch soap operas, eat bon bons, get pedicures, etc. Actually, my hands are usually covered in glue and my shirts all have ketchup stains. But we are all having fun, and that's what matters."

Class of '89: Sheila Joseph Taylor is branch manager for Abigail Abbott Staffing Services. She has been with the firm for eleven years and boasts two children, ages seven and fifteen months.

THE NINETIES

Contact Eric Epstein '93, 927-4278, 1990's Decade Rep

Actually, Eric is too busy with his day job and his heavy responsibilities as Fire Chief in Kent to have time left over to serve as Decade Rep. In fact, the three entries below were contributed by folks from beyond the nineties. We are searching for a replacement. Volunteers?

Class of '90: Lusha Caliendo Martin is Director of Development for the Berkshire Choral Festival that features performances over the summer at the Berkshire School in Sheffield, MA. She and her husband built a house in Sheffield in 2001 and live their with their two sons, ages nine and ten, and Lusha's two teen-

CLASS NEWS, Continued

age stepchildren. She says she is still close with **Stephanie Dumas**, who lives in New Milford with her five-year-old daughter.

Class of '95: Save the date for our tenth reunion. It will occur on Saturday, November 26, 2005, the Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend. More details will follow. To provide updated contact information, help locate other classmates, or volunteer to assist with the event, please contact housy95@yahoo.com. **Ian Kennedy** lives in Brooklyn, NY, and is currently producer for "Inked," a reality show on the A&E network. The following message is dated April 29, 2003: "Hi, my name is **Jose Pablo Zuniga Arias**, and I belong to HVRHS Class of '95. I was an exchange student at Housy. My host family, the Wheelers, visited me in Costa Rica almost a month ago and brought me a 'Blue 'n' Gold' issue. So now I know you exist! Since I graduated from Housy, I went back to my home country, Costa Rica, and to Universidad Nacional and studied economics. I got my bachelor's degree in the year 2000. Since then I have been working for a risk rating agency. I started working as a research analyst and now am a corporate analyst. The company I work for is Fitch Ratings, a U.S. company with headquarters in New York and London. I am still single. I would like to study abroad, perhaps go to the U.S. or London. I do not have contact with any old schoolmates but am sure you have a mailing list so I can get in touch with old friends. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Saludos cordiales,
Jose Pablo Zuniga Arias
Apartado 292-3000
Heredia, Costa Rica
jose.zuniga@fitchca.com

NEWS OF FORMER FACULTY

A teacher in the Business Department of yesteryear, **Barbara Abraham** is now living in Shelton, CT, but visited HVRHS last fall and says she is looking for a job in Human Resources. **Russell Coward ("Doc")** has published a book about his experiences in Viet Nam teach-

ing English as a second language to soldiers of the South Vietnamese Army. Its title is **A Voice from the Viet Nam War**, and it is the second in a series called **Voices of Twentieth Century Conflict** edited by former teacher of English, **Carol Schulz**. **Bob Gutzman**, former teacher, coach and Region One administrator, retired in June of 2004 from his position as Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Bozeman, MT. He and Melva built a new house in their home town of Salmon, ID. Son **Dan '91** is teaching and coaching basketball at the high school back in Bozeman and was married on July 2, 2005. Daughter **Jennifer '93** graduated from the University of Wisconsin in May of 2004 with a PhD in Molecular and Environmental Toxicology. When the family gathered in Madison to celebrate, they were joined by **Ron** (retired from the Guidance Department) and **Denise Volack ("Voach") Dower**, teacher of Health and Physical Education. Jennifer's first job was to study brain development at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research at MIT.

MUSICALS RETURN!

The newly formed Housatonic Musical Theatre Society has now produced "Grease" in March of 2004 and "Bye Bye Birdie" in March of 2005 to the delight of full houses. Directors **Michael Berkley** and **Lori Grossman Belter '78** teamed up to make these productions hugely successful. Having worked hard on both shows, Executive Secretary **Bunny McGuire '55** commented, "Working with the students of Housatonic has been a wonderful experience. There are so many talented students, and it is a joy to watch them perform." The Musical Theatre Society has been doing some fundraising to cover costs of the productions. And the lighting in the auditorium needs to be updated. Eight new lighting instruments were purchased last year, but the lighting board is obsolete and needs to be replaced. Costs of new and used equipment are currently being explored. If you would care to make a donation, you may do so by sending a check payable to Housatonic Musical Theatre Society, HVRHS, 246

Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031.

AND SPEAKING OF DONATIONS...

(an editorial)

It is a very healthy and a very rare thing for the alumni of a public high school to extend strong financial support for the current activities at their old school. There seems to be something about the Housatonic experience that builds the spirit that encourages that kind of support. Several alumni have requested that the newsletter be used to lay out the options available to possible donors. That is the purpose of both this column and the insert enclosed with this issue.

We on the Alumni Association Committee are of course aware that many different areas of interest are represented among the thousands of graduates of our school. Here are some categories that represent donor opportunities and that are replicated on the insert.

Art: The newly opened Art Garage is a special place where young artists can spend afternoons working on projects under the supervision of area adult artists.

Athletics: The Region One Board of Education has asked the Alumni Association for help in purchasing and installing a new football scoreboard to replace the old one, dedicated to the memory of **Danny Dufour** in 1974, which is now inoperable. With a brand new field and a brand new track surrounding it, there is a definite need for a new scoreboard.

The Music Department: The performing groups of our award-winning Music Department need support each year as they travel to faraway destinations. They recently returned from England.

Musicals: Each year's new production requires financial support, and there is a continuing need to upgrade the lighting facilities.

Scholarships: First there is the Alumni Scholarship, which our association took charge of a few years ago and, thanks to the generosity of several alumni, has more than doubled its value. Then there are the so-called "flagship" scholarships in the names of former administrators:

the Paul W. Stoddard Scholarship, the Edward M. Kirby Scholarship, and the Dr. Clyde Skelly Scholarship. And finally there are the many scholarships in the names of deceased alumni and faculty. Those are so numerous that they could not be listed on the envelope and will be the subject of a column in a subsequent issue of this newsletter.

Student Learning: The 21st Century Fund for HVRHS has since 1993 used private philanthropy to provide special learning opportunities for our students. Chaired by **John Perotti '64**, the Fund's Steering Committee is about to undertake a very ambitious fundraising campaign to build an endowment fund. As the members of the Committee put it, it is time for them to "turn pro." Special helpers in this effort will be **Richard Gustafson '59** and **Jessica Fowler '84**. Over the years the 21st Century Fund has provided key support for such as the Robotics initiative, Career Exploration, the Career Center, special field trips, and exceptionally promising individual student projects. If the endowment campaign is successful, the Committee can concentrate on what it does best, provide *opportunities for students and teachers to go beyond the limits of the high school budget.*

The Alumni Association Committee hopes that you find this attention to donor options useful, particularly the insert. Please let us know if we should continue to use space for this sort of thing.

HALL OF FAME NEWS

Director of Athletics **David Bayersdorfer** announced in May that the HVRHS Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee (Principal **Gretchen Foster**, AD **Bayersdorfer**, **Edward Kirby**, **Edward Tyburski**, **Roland Chinatti**, **Denise Dower**, **Frank Perotti**, **David Lindsay**, and **Jack Mahoney**) met and chose ten new inductees. This is the sixth group to be selected since the inception of the Hall of Fame in 1996.

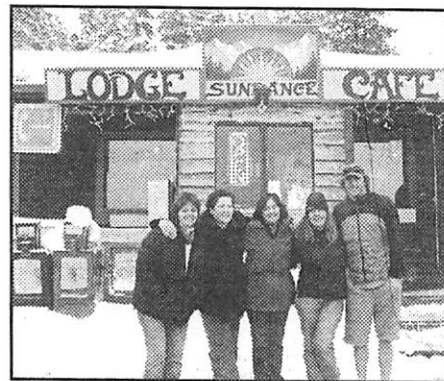
The list of inductees includes the following: **John Sondrini '51**, **William Tobin '54**, **Frederick Baldwin '56**, **Denise Dower**, Coach of Field Hockey, Softball and Girls' Basketball, **John Mulligan '77**, **Lynn Kelsey Karcheski** and **Becky Carlson Thornton '78**, **John Ongley '81**, **Candi Perotti Wolff '82** and **Jenni-**

fer Ocif '89.

The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place on Sunday, November 6, 2005, in the Henry Burgess Auditorium of HVRHS at 1:00 PM. A light lunch in the cafeteria will precede the ceremony at 12:00 noon. The public is invited. For more information contact Mr. Bayersdorfer at 860-824-5123, ext. 190.

SPECIAL REPORT

*Once nominated for the HVRHS Athletic Hall of Fame, candidates are invited to submit supporting data, bios, etc. What follows are excerpts from statements provided by **John Mulligan '77** in his application.* "I attended Villanova University on a full four-year Marine Corps ROTC Scholarship, graduated with honors in 1981 and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, USMC." "I was discharged from the Marine Corps in 1987 as a captain and hired as a Special Agent with the FBI." "From 1988 to 1998 I was assigned to the FBI/NYPD Violent Gangs Task Force in NYC. For the last eight years in NY, I was a member of the FBI's Swat Team, specializing in hostage rescues and high risk arrests, including the arrest of an FBI Top Ten fugitive." "From January to May of 2002, I was deployed to Karachi, Pakistan, as Team Leader of the investigation re the kidnapping and subsequent murder of American reporter Daniel Pearl. I was responsible for all investigative measures and tactical operations, and personally recovered the video tape of Mr. Pearl's murder, a vital piece of evidence during the capital murder trial. In addition to identifying, arresting and later convicting the leader and six members of the terrorist organization responsible for Mr. Pearl's murder, my team and I participated in the capture of approximately two dozen additional Al Qaeda operatives and recovered large amounts of cash and explosives." "In a 2003 ceremony at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC, for my actions while deployed in Pakistan, I received the Director's Award for Excellence, the highest award the FBI bestows on its employees." *Editor's note: Incredible. Are we proud of this young man?!!!!*



LIVELY LATE ARRIVAL

Both the photograph above and the write-up below arrived too late to be included in the news of the 80's, so here they are in their own special spot.

Chrissy '86 and **Jean Schaefer '85** and **Dooley Collins-Giumarro '86** recently visited **Hillary Stevenson '86** on her birthday. Jean, home alone in March and on the phone with Hillary, realized that it had been over five years since their last get-together. She found some cheap seats, invited Chrissy and Dooley, and the trip was a blast. Hillary had a birthday party at her café, and the rest is history. The photo (left to right: Chrissy, Dooley, Jean, Hillary and Hillary's boyfriend Cary) shows the group posed in front of the café Hillary owns in Nederland, CO. Stop in when you are in the area. Hillary's café overlooks the Continental Divide between Boulder and Estes Park.

FALLS VILLAGE COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Curt Mechare, Class of 1967, received this year's annual Community Service Award at the Memorial Day ceremonies in Falls Village. First Selectman Louis Timolat pointed out that if all of Mechare's decades of service to the town on various boards, commissions, and committees were added together, they would total more than 150 years. The Community Service Award is based on long-time service to Falls Village. Mechare is a past or current member of the Litchfield County Dispatch Board of Directors, Canaan (Falls Village) Board of Fire Commissioners, the Main Street Committee, Litchfield County Fire Chiefs' Emergency Plan Committee, the Northwest Fire Commissioners Zone

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

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #5
06031



Committee, the Region 4 Public Health Clinic and the Falls Village Emergency Management Planning Committee. He is a twenty-nine year member of the fire department and also currently serves on the Board of Directors and building committee. He has served for 21 years as line officer, the last 14 as chief of the department. He is a former treasurer of the department and EMT on the ambulance squad. He has also served on the Board of Finance, and the local scholarship committee.

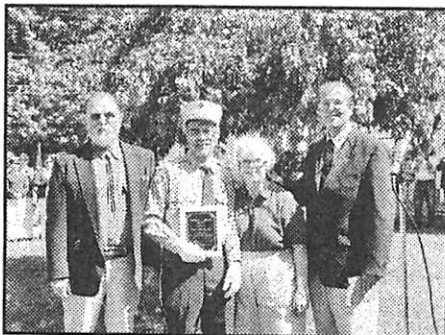


Photo by: Gale Toensing, *Waterbury-Republican American*
Photo Left to Right: Ellery "Woods" Sinclair (Class of 1956), Curt Mechare (Class of 1967), Pat Mechare (Class of 1964), Louis Timolat (First Selectman, Falls Village)

KEEP IN TOUCH

What have you done since HVRHS? And what are you doing now? How about family members? Do you keep in contact with old schoolmates? And what are they doing? Do you have mailing addresses of alumni so we can be sure they receive this newsletter? We'd like to hear about anyone with an HVRHS connection.

In past issues we have introduced columns entitled "Encounters," "Did You Know?" and "Remember When..." We would like to continue them, but we need material. Please help by sending whatever you have to HVRHS Alumni Association, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031 or e-mail bunny@hvrhs.org.

Name (as in high school) and class: _____

Mailing address _____

Phone, e-mail, fax _____

News _____
