

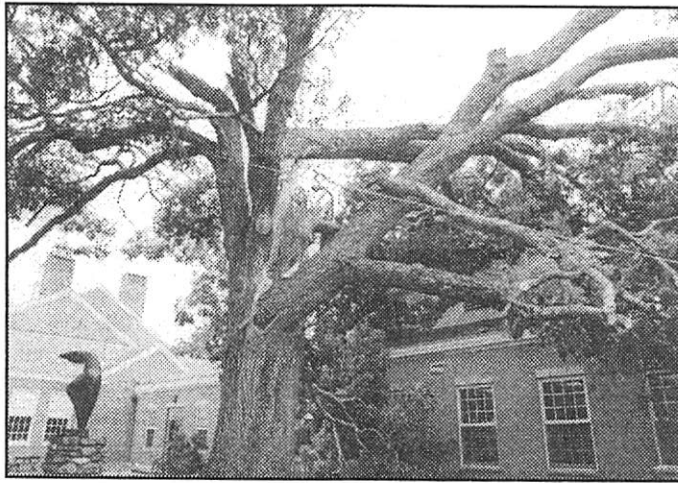
# ◆ Blue 'n' Gold ◆

Volume 8, Issue 2

Winter 2004-2005

## THE WHITE OAK FALLS

If, as estimated, it was 300 years old, then it was a seedling in 1704 when there were no organized towns in the Northwest Corner, and Connecticut was a British colony. It was 72 when the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed, and 83 when the national Constitution was written. By the time the Civil War broke out, it was 157, and the next-to-last time the Boston Red Sox won the World Series (*editor's note: heh, heh!*) it was 214. When the Lorch farm was sold and the new high school opened in 1939, the great White Oak was 235 years old. But on July 5, 2004, a storm featuring strong winds and rain caused such severe damage that the mighty tree, symbol of Housatonic Valley Regional High School for 65 years, had to be removed. Since its inception, the school's yearbook has been called "The White Oak." The literary magazine has been called "The Acorn." Twice over the years school construction plans have been modified in response to outcries of protest: the great White Oak was not to be touched! Perhaps the legend that grew up about the tree sheltering young lovers exchanging their first kiss had something to do with the deep feelings for it. So the school grew and expanded around the tree. In its last years the White Oak was the centerpiece of the Senior Courtyard. By the end it had grown a 90-foot crown and was measured at 17 feet around the base of the trunk. Over time in recent decades it had received major TLC from **Scott Monroe '70** and his tree company. Scott's feelings for that tree



*Photo by: Tom Zetterstrom (July 5, 2004)*

and what it represented ran so deep that he never charged for his substantial services.

**Bob Gambino**, who retired from the Ag-Ed staff in 1998 (and later turned up as Mayor of New Milford!), actually grew seedlings from the White Oak in the greenhouse years ago. But all of those were given away.

Today an effort is underway to deal with the loss of the White Oak and to provide for beautiful plantings around the campus. The HVRHS Arboretum and Landscape Committee has been formed and seeks to become a committee of the Regional Board. Composed of various experts and individuals with special regard for the beauty of the grounds, they have begun to meet and to plan.

Already a few artifacts have been produced from small pieces of the great oak. Who knows what may turn up as a way to remember the tree that has meant so much to all of us. Meanwhile, the massive pieces of the old tree rest at the south end of the Ag-Ed section of the grounds, waiting for the choices to be made.

## Recent Donors Listed

Since our last issue and through October 31, 2004, these alumni have sent in donations beyond dues:

1940's: \$240

**Gertrude Matson Eriksen, Doris Petersen Longaven, Peter Marcon** in memory of brother **John** and sister **Constance, Robert Kenny, Charlotte Whitcomb Ramuten,** and **Marjorie Casey Nash** in memory of sister **Jean Ann Casey Vernali.**

1950's: \$175

**Peter Kenny, Judith Harvey Brown,** and **Polly Ann Miller Storms**

1960's: \$50

**Stanley Nelson French**

1970's: \$125

**Robert "Bobby" Casey, Virginia Carberry Casey, Keith Hylton**

1980's: 0

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:

**Barbara Carberry McEnroe '58, Gwynne Gillette Lorenzo '55, Joan Bushey Wilbur '60, William Goodsell '65, Lawrence McCabe '52, Glennis Metcalfe Lahr '58, Nancy O'Connor Hardy '42, Dana A. Bartholomew '57, Stanley Nelson French '61, David E. Rubin '64, Leonard Stine '56, Violet McKie Justesen '51, Harold Schelderup '54, Richard Novak '62, Laraine Pezzee Novak '64, Linda Rhoades Fitzgerald '64, Jacques H. Tompkins '56, Kenneth F. Beckley '53, Roger Thompson '53, Lawrence Chase '67, Laura Holmes Johnson '52, Barbara Monroe Commerford '56, Barbara Clark Smith '54, Joseph Fraser '63, and Alfred Viola '51.** This makes a total of 174 Lifetime Members. We salute you all for your support. It literally keeps us going. Thanks.

## NEWS OF THE CLASSES BY DECADE

### THE FORTIES

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

**Class of '42:** Nancy O'Connor Hardy enjoys the newsletter and wants us to remember when her senior class went on strike and refused to go to class! Mr. Dakin had to call in Dr. Stoddard, principal, who then suspended the class for a day.

**Class of '44:** Charlotte Whitcomb Ramuten lives in Torrington. She has two children, seven grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren. Still working at the Big Y super market after 37 years, she also still line dances and is looking forward to the next reunion.

**Class of '46:** Robert Kenny wishes there could be another reunion. He enjoyed the 40th and a small gathering for the 46th.

**Class of '47:** Louise Burns Mang celebrated her 50th reunion at UCONN last spring where she saw classmate Tom Whitford and John Leffingwell '48. She also saw UCONN basketball games, both the men and the women. Louise took her granddaughter on a tour of Europe last year for her 21st birthday. She has visited with classmates Lib and Ross Grannan in Florida and visited her daughter in Palm Beach Garden, California. She came upon classmate Lee Beaujon in her travels. Sally Fuller Prestele has communicated her sadness at the loss of the white oak tree.

**Class of '49:** Barbara Harding Seibert had a wonderful class reunion on August 28th and is hoping for another, the 60th, in 2009. Eleanor Molyneux Sheridan and husband have moved to Sun City, Arizona, and are enjoying the warm, sunny weather where many seniors live and have interesting places to visit.

### ACROSS THE DECADES

By: Janet Hedden Wildman '46  
Donald Stevenson Hedden of West Cornwall had four children over a span of thirty years. Since the first decade of Housatonic Valley Regional High School's existence, there has been one

Hedden graduate in each decade, all descending from that one line. An exception came in the 1990's, when two graduated. They are:

Janet Hedden Wildman '46, daughter  
Sue Hedden Williams '52, daughter  
Donald Stevenson (Steve) Hedden '62, son

Gail Hedden Dolan '77, daughter  
Donald (Don) Stevenson Hedden '83, grandson

Heidi Sue Hedden '95, granddaughter  
Melissa Margaret Dolan '98, granddaughter

### AND YET TO COME:

Donald Stevenson (Steever) Hedden, '08, great grandson

Daniel Jacob Hedden '12, great grandson

Reilly Kathleen Hedden '22, great granddaughter

### HOW DID THEY FARE?

Janet graduated from Becker Junior College and became a legal secretary and then Probate Judge for the town of Washington for 25 years. She is now retired. Sue is a graduate of Hartford Hospital School of Nursing and recently retired from Uncasville Hospital for the Terminally Ill. She lives in Niantic. Since graduation Steve has been manager of Mohawk Mountain Ski Area. Gail still lives on the farm in West Cornwall where she and husband Richard '77 are in the hay and straw hauling business. They also care for and show Belgian horses. Don and wife Connie Tobin Hedden '82 have a lawn care business in Cornwall and work at Mohawk in the winters. Heidi graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and is presently at the UCONN Medical Center but continues to live in Cornwall. Melissa graduated from New Hampshire Technical College and is now in Stowe, VT, working as an MRI technician. Steever is a freshman at HVRHS, Daniel is in 5th grade at Cornwall Consolidated, and Reilly was born in June of 2004.

### 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 '84,

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

cmechare@snet.net

Secretary Jane Clyburn Boyd '56, Box 1912,

Lakeville 06039, 435-2303, janeb03@snet.net

Treasurer Dorothy Winn Cecchinato '47, Box 794,

Canaan 06018, 824-7517

#### Decade Representatives

1940's: Dot Cecchinato

1950's: Jane Boyd

1960's: Pat Mechare

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

06018, 824-0399, tigger@mohawk.net

1980's: Kathleen Mahoney '83, 88 Lower Rd. East

Canaan, 06024, 824-7064, laplaca88@snet.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 06088, 824-0208, hammond.j.d@att.net

Susie Goodsell Rundall '67, Box 783, Kent 06757,

927-4119, rlrundall@snet.net

Bonnie Black Whalen '62, 22 Forge Lane, Lakeville

06039, 435-9738, fergie@mohawk.net

#### Staff Members

Bunny Cecchinato McGuire '55, Box 95, Canaan

06018, 824-5800, bunny@hvrhs.org

Judi Thormann Moore, 130 Interlaken Road,

Lakeville 06039, 435-9109, jmoore@hvrhs.org

#### Dues

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$10, UP FROM \$5 IN PAST

YEARS, and 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 high school.

## CLASS NEWS, (Continued)

### THE FIFTIES

Contact *Jane Clyburn Boyd '56, 435-2303, 1950's Decade Rep*

**Class of '50:** **Jo Ann Remer Godburn** tells us, "The class is planning a 55th reunion for 2005. No definite plans as yet. Shooting for late summer or early fall. Some members of our class attended the brunch for Coach Bedini (**Bill Egan, Ann Perotti Fallon, Dick Massini, Jim McGuire,** and from Cocoa Beach, FL, **Bev Wyman Musselman**). It was fun seeing so many friends from other classes whom we hadn't seen in years. Of course, none of us has changed a bit, but the name tags sure helped!"

An encounter was reported by **Lois Miller Stephens**, a Reno, NV, resident since 1969. In July she read in her local newspaper about a rendezvous (conference) being held by the National Association for Outlaw and Lawman History (NOLA). As part of the news article, one Ed Kirby, a NOLA board member, was quoted. Lois tells us, "I took a chance it was the same **Ed Kirby '45** of HVRHS and called the Atlantis Hotel here in Reno where they stayed. I was connected to their room and chatted with **Mary Tobin Kirby '45**. She invited me to join them for lunch and a 'shootout,' which was staged by some re-enactors from the Fresno area. It was delightful." Lois also met another NOLA board member, **Jack Mahoney**, editor of this publication, and NOLA Vice President—East, **Barclay Prindle '56**. Lois knew all of the Tobin family (**Mary '45, Kathleen '49, Irene '51, Bill '54** and **Jerry '55**) and she says, "Growing up in Kent was a pleasant experience with some fond memories. It was small... I was one of eight graduating from eighth grade, so HVRHS was a challenge. I had some wonderful teachers and enjoyed my experience there."

**Class of '51:** Class news comes from **Barbara Friis Szczepanski**: "Good news: Our Florida classmates got through the unusually severe hurricane season without major problems and took it all in stride. Yankee ruggedness? **Ralph and June Epps Bushnell**

in Lady Lake had no damage to their home. June said the worst part was the frightening high winds. A neighbor across the street lost his roof, and some people were on December waiting lists to get repairs done. Their twelve-year-old grandson happened to be visiting from CT when the first hurricane struck. Imagine what he had to tell his friends back home! **Natalie Brazee Lehmann**, also in Lady Lake and a close neighbor, was in Canada when the first hurricane hit and in Aruba when the second one arrived but was there for the others. Power outages but no damage. She was concerned about the large oak trees in her backyard, but they stood firm. **John Eggleston** and **Beatrice** were contacted in Cocoa Beach. John was in rehab recovering from a broken ankle, and Beatrice was on a walker after a serious fall — neither accident the result of the hurricanes, however. Beatrice reported that their screen pool cover blew off and three quarters of the soffit around the house. They also lost everything in the refrigerator and freezer when the power went off. Following instructions, they evacuated to their daughter's place in Winter Park, where the weather turned out to be just as bad. **Marge Grusauski Wilson** and husband **Stan** in Melbourne had no damage other than some water seepage from the wind-driven rain, and they lost power for eight days after one of the storms. Marge and the Bushnells travel to CT every summer to visit family, and while there usually get together with other classmates in the area for a mini-reunion organized by **Bob Johnson**. **Roy Sherwood** of Palm Harbor was not in FL when the hurricanes struck. Sadly, he had lost wife Louise to cancer and was staying with his stepdaughter in Lakeville. Upon his return he discovered several downed trees and some missing soffit and tiles. His boat was safely moored on the Hudson River. **Hank Carley** and **Marion** were already at their winter home in Venice. They had heavy winds, power outages and downed tree limbs but no damage to their house.

**Al Van Vlack** and **Rene's** new home in Fort Myers was built according to updated specifications and so had no damage despite the heavy winds; others around them were not so fortunate. They did lose power — up to five days after one storm."

**Class of '52:** A note from **Lawrence McCabe** tells us that he is retired from the federal government's Department of Transportation. He has been married to **Joy** for almost 40 years, and they live near their children and grandchildren in North Reading, MA. They escape the winter weather by spending five months in Jupiter, FL. While at HVRHS, Lawrence sang in the Glee Club, Barbershoppers and All-State Chorus. He was also sports editor of the school newspaper and on the year-book staff. **Bette Anne Pidgeon Dufour**, basketball cheerleader in high school, enjoyed reminiscing with former HVRHS athletes at the Bedini brunch in October. Her late husband, **Bill Dufour**, played football, basketball and baseball during his four years at Regional. Bette Anne has lived in Pittsfield, MA, for many years but also spends time at her house in the Daytona Beach, FL, area.

**Class of '53:** Class news from **Anne Clyburn Killawee**: "Joan Barnett Loper enjoyed a Bermuda cruise in September. **Bob Moore** visited New Zealand in November. An informal lunch, women only, was held in Canaan in September. Attending were: **Betty Baldwin Bernoi, Joan Barnett Loper, Anne Clyburn Killawee, Betty Dings Cleaveland, Carol O'Brien Whittlesey, Edna Pond Tapley, Leona Porter Allyn** and **Gertrude Winn Hunker.**"

**Class of '54:** On the evening of October 9, there was a very lively celebration in the ballroom at the Wake Robin Inn in Lakeville. The occasion was the 50th Reunion of the HVRHS Class of '54. Class Agent and reunion committee member **Jackie Babuin Matson** gave us the following report: "Twenty-seven classmates and some spouses came from 16 states, and we talked of teachers, school times, fellow students

## CLASS NEWS, (Continued)

and, of course, the highlight of the evening, our guest of honor, Coach Bedini. He was great and just as young as he used to be! On Saturday morning a group of us met at the high school, and **Dave Bayersdorfer**, Director of Athletics, gave us the grand tour, which we all enjoyed. It is a bigger school now! **Frank Testa**, president of our class and spokesman for the evening, noted that he couldn't believe fifty years had gone by already. He read the names of the twenty classmates we have lost over the years. At the conclusion, each member gave a short talk about all the fun times they had at HVRHS. The best part is — we plan to do this all again in five years. Hope more of you will come." Reunion organizer and class musician **Joyce Surdam Perkins** helped prepare a brochure describing the current activities and whereabouts of all classmates. **Merrill Sweet** traveled all the way from Bryan, TX, to celebrate this special occasion. Merrill was a four-year trackman at Regional, very involved in the Science Club and also a member of the National Honor Society. This was the first class reunion that student council president and class valedictorian **Nate Hart** has attended. Nate is a professor of cell biology and neuroscience at Rutgers University and lives in nearby Bridgewater, NJ. He stayed over to attend the brunch in honor of Coach Bedini, who coached Nate to become the top scorer on the basketball team. What a great weekend for HVRHS alumni!

**Class of '55:** Will there be a 50th reunion next year? We have heard from **Bruce Van Vlack** after many years. He has been living at the same address in Homosassa, FL, for 25 years. Bruce is retired from the retail office supplies business. He has been very active in the chambers of commerce in Crystal River and Homosassa, serving as treasurer and ambassador in both chambers. Bruce is also past president of the Rotary Club.

**Class of '56:** Five members of the class joined the group honoring Coach Bedini: **Ken Haley** from Ardsley on Hudson, NY; **Len Stine** from Somers, CT; **Jerry Corcoran** from Libertyville, IL; **Barc Prindle** from Sharon; and **John Berti** from Medfield, MA. John expressed his thoughts about the occasion and Coach Bedini: "His influence on our class was unfortunately limited to only our freshman and sophomore years, but he set a high standard of excellence for us in sports and for conducting our lives. For those of us who were fortunate enough to be around him, he gave us an ideal baseline to judge and evaluate our own performance and contributions. I know that in my case the lessons learned from coaches, teammates and participating in sports, beginning with Coach Bedini, were a significant part of the foundation that has guided me throughout my life, particularly in my military career. He expected dedication and discipline from his players and accepted nothing less. It was a pleasure to be among those who had the opportunity to thank and honor him for his contributions."

**Class of '57:** Class Agent **Penny O'Connell Friedman** is amazing! During the month of October she attended weekend beading classes in Philadelphia, organized a PMS (pizza, music, sewing) party for her quilting guild, and joined an embroiderers' guild. She sent her class news while serving on a three-week jury in a murder case, packing for a trip to the International Quilt Festival in Houston, and planning a November vacation with Herb in Aruba. And she apologized for not organizing a class luncheon this fall! Penny's class news report follows: "**Shirley Downing Doherty** and husband **Mike** have been traveling a great deal this past year around the USA and to France and Japan. They also travel to a number of car shows around the USA with their 1931 Roadster original. This next spring **Shirley** and **Mike**, along with **Shirley's** brother, **Ken Downing '52** and sister **Barbara Downing Fox '53**, hope to have their

own HVRHS reunion at a car show at the Interlaken Inn in Lakeville!

**Marjorie Sutherland Perkins** and husband **Charles** moved to Wilmington, NC, from New Hampshire about five years ago. This fall they had a chance to travel back to NH and decided they never want to return. They are really enjoying the warmer winters. **Beverly Plonski Feder** and husband **Les** made a big trip to China this fall which included a trip down the Yellow River and through the new dam. **Audrey Moseley Jacquier** retired this past February. She and her husband have bought a motor home so they can do some traveling and be able to take their dogs with them. **Astri Satre** is thinking about selling her house in Norway and moving back to the USA permanently. **Lorraine Elder Chapdelaine** is living in Hadley, MA. This past year she has enjoyed the company and the antics of a new little dog named **Goose**, a five-year-old rescued Chihuahua."

**Class of '58:** Received a note from **Allen Duke**, a resident of Boulder City, NV: "Sabina and I have just completed our annual summer trip to the East Coast. We drove for the first time in three years. We covered the family from brother **Jim '73** in Palm Springs, CA, to brother **Richard '65** and wife **Kathy** in Cornwall, to Mom (**Helen D. Strid**) in New Milford. This has been a great seven-week trip, but we'll be flying for the next few years." Also, word from **Glennis Metcalfe Lahr** is that she retired from banking in 1999 and moved to Aiken, SC, where she has taken up golf and mah-jongg. Last year she served as president of the Ladies' Club at Cedar Creek, the golf course community where she lives.

**Class of '59:** Class Agent **Marie Fife Hewins** sent the following report as she was leaving for Florida: "On Saturday, October 23, the class added their tree to the grounds of HVRHS. This is part of a tree planting program that is taking place at the school. Our tree is a honey locust standing about 25 feet high. We are the second class to plant a tree; the Class of 1963 planted theirs last spring.

## CLASS NEWS, (Continued)

**Jed Lakin** brought his shovel and was all set to do most of the project but, to his surprise, when he got there the tree had already been planted. The Vo-Ag Department was kind enough to plant it for us on Friday. All of us who attended the tree planting took some of the loose soil and sprinkled it around the tree. So now it is officially the Class of '59 tree. It should grow to be very healthy now that we have sprinkled it with our approval. A special thanks to all classmates who contributed toward the tree and made this all possible. Now our class will always be part of HVRHS. It was Jed Lakin's birthday on Saturday so we had another reason to celebrate. Jed is heading off to sunny Florida soon for the winter. **Lois Dalla Riva** was able to attend the tree planting also. She was here from Montana visiting her mom. She left for Spain and Morocco out of New York the following Friday. Lois loves to travel and has done a tremendous amount of it. There are very few places in this world that she hasn't been. Next July she and some friends are going to Rome, Paris, Switzerland, London, etc. Lois has been many times but this time it is going to be a little different: **Dori Jones Lavell** and Robert and I are going on the trip also. Classmates, please keep me updated on news, addresses and e-mails."

### THE SIXTIES

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

**Class of '61:** **Nancy Page Manley** has lived in Alabama for 23 years and, before that, in Florida for 14 years. She has four grandchildren and one great granddaughter who live in West Palm Beach, FL. Her grandson plays college football, and she wonders if he will someday play in the NFL. She works full time in the jewelry retail business. Her mind tells her to go, go, go, but the body is telling her to slow down. She is a big NASCAR fan and attends many of the big races. She still keeps in touch with "**Cappy**" **Patchen Tatsapaugh** and can't wait for the next reunion

**Linda Rhoades Fitzgerald** thinks our alumni organization is the best and can't wait to start planning her class's next reunion. Although she retired three years ago, she works full time in her and her husband's construction business in Raleigh, NC. She plans a visit to see the newly renovated high school before the new year. **Marie Ne-jame Shaw** and husband Gary enjoy traveling. In March they went on a 14-day transatlantic cruise to the Azores, Spain and Portugal. In September they took a transpacific cruise to the Hawaiian Islands. Home is Orlando, FL, where their children and grandchildren live. In May they celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a party given by their children.

**Class of '62:** **Deborah Dorsett Ingves** has lived in Hebron, CT, with husband Chris for twenty years. They have two grown children, Todd and Darcy. Todd and his wife, Dani, have a year-old daughter, Grace, who lives in New Jersey with her parents. Debbie says there is nothing that matches being a grandparent. She has belonged to the "Sweet Adelines," a women's barbershop group, for thirty years. She also belongs to a quartet called "On Fire." That group recently competed in Springfield, MA, and placed second of twenty-five groups. Debbie gets together with classmates **Bonnie Black Whalen** and **Betty Ann Patchen Poll** once or twice a year and tells us that her high school years meant a great deal to her and her friends.

**Class of '64:** The class had a great reunion in July at the Egremont Country Club in Great Barrington, MA. For some it was the first time they had attended a reunion. The Class of '64 is the first class to make a substantial donation to the newly formed HVRHS Tree and Arboretum Committee. This committee will make recommendations to the Region One Board of Education regarding a planting design scheme for the high school. **David E. Rubin** has been in banking since 1969. He was moved from New York City to L.A. in 1981 by Union Bank.

In 1982 he married his wife, Paula, who formerly worked for an airline company and is now a travel agent in L.A. They have one son, Justin, who is 18. He attends the Brooks Institute of Photography in hopes of someday becoming a film director. David indicates that retirement is 3 to 5 years away. **Edwin G. E. Jahngen, Jr.** is a chemistry professor at the Francis College of Engineering at the University of Massachusetts in Lowell. He is married to Pamela and has two stepdaughters and two grandsons. His goal in life is to retire. **Cynthia Hunter Fenton** is married to Terry and has a thirteen-year-old daughter, Julia. She is a psychologist who recently retired from the Department of Mental Retardation, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, after more than 25 years. **Dunham "Chip" Norton** has been a Baptist minister for 32 years. He is semiretired but is still a part time pastor in Pennsylvania. He and wife Hope have been married for 36 years. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. He is an author, craftsman of Shaker furniture, treasure hunter and antique auto lover and owner. **Patrick Rutledge** is a project manager for Anteon Corporation. He is married to Rochelle, a family physician who practices in Sullivan's Islands, SC. He has many interests including cooking, fast cars, art and, of course, music. He still plays the piano, and his goal is to make a recording. **Ingrid Zetterstrom Saterstrom** is a business and life coach who has also taught Transcendental Meditation. She has two sons. Mark is training to be a Waldorf school teacher, and Dan is attending the University of Wollongong in Sidney, Australia, studying writing and literature. She enjoys traveling and especially likes visiting brother Tom in Canaan. She continues to be interested in the outdoors, music and poetry.

**Class of '65:** **Nancy Bergenty** lives in West Virginia. She has fond high school memories, especially of Johnny's Restaurant and the wonderful French fries. She also vividly remembers a visit to her English class by **Judson Phillips** (aka Hugh Pentecost) as a visiting author.



## CLASS NEWS, Continued

**Class of '67:** Althea Vanicky Thomen and Arnold "Bucky" Thomen left CT for Mesa, AZ, 17 years ago. Their two daughters, Kimberley and Melissa, also made the move out west and now the grandchildren, Hunter 7 and Hayden 3, are being raised there. Althea works for the purchasing department of Arizona Instrument, a manufacturer of precision measuring equipment as Bucky continues in the home painting profession. Althea suggests that Vegas would be a wonderful location for the next reunion. Congratulations to the Thomens on their 35th wedding anniversary. **David Caranci** was in NC in June for the wedding of son Jason, who met his wife while attending college there as a music/voice major. Dave's daughter Jennifer is settling in CT with her husband. Dave sees them often and enjoys visits with his grandson William. Dave is now a district manager with Technology Services for Staples. He supervises computer repair in 15 stores throughout New Haven and Fairfield counties in CT. **Anne Christinat Jackson** and husband **Randy** recently traveled to CA for the wedding of son Matthew. The wedding vows were exchanged in Carmel on August 14. While on the west coast Anne and Randy connected for a day with **Terri Tatsapaugh Sergi** and her husband. Terri wrote that the day was fabulous and passed much too quickly while Anne says she is so grateful for the time they were able to spend together. Terri and Nick were very gracious hosts as Anne and Randy really appreciated the wonderful tour of San Francisco. **Margeurite "G" Gulotta Finney** was summoned to FL on October 4 with other members from the Southern Berkshire Medical Resources Team. The American Red Cross called in teams from all across the country to help victims of the hurricanes. **Sharon Seymour** has been promoted to the Senior Executive Service at the Pentagon and will serve the Air Force Program Manager in the design and implementation of the National Security Per-

sonnel System within the Air Force. NSPS allows the Department of Defense to design a civil service system that meets its needs in the 21st century. The NSPS legislation joins the previously enacted Homeland Security Personnel System in making the first major changes to the U.S. Civil Service in 25 years.

**Class of '69:** **Barry Hunter** of Lempster, NH, was recently promoted to Executive Major in New Hampshire's Department of Safety. Barry is now second in command of the New Hampshire State Police. He has worked for the department for 26 years, and in October of 2004 he chauffeured President Bush around New Hampshire while he was campaigning for the presidency.



### THE SEVENTIES

Contact **Dena Kenny Solan '73**,  
824-0399, 1970's Decade Rep

**Class of '74:** **Chris LaPlaca** is the Information Technology Manager in charge of Electronic Data Interchange for all of Cingular. (They just merged with AT&T, so they are the #1 wireless communication company.) Chris lives in Cummings, GA, with wife and children, where they are slowly building a house and occasionally making wine with their very own grapes.

**Class of '78:** **Cindy Hanes** writes, "I did (finally) graduate from college — finished at Northeastern (Boston) with a degree in Communication. I lived in Boston area for a long time, then moved to New Hampshire for about 10 years. I now live in North Central MA, and I do freelance graphic design work for several companies. My family hosted an exchange student — Lawan, remember her? I went to visit her in Thailand. She has four boys and works

for an insurance company."

### THE EIGHTIES

Contact **Kathleen Mahoney '83**,  
824-7064, 1980's Decade Rep

**Class of '81:** **Ashley Moore DeMazza** is still teaching second grade at North Canaan Elementary School. Husband **Mike** is head coach of football and baseball at HVRHS where he teaches social studies. They have two daughters: Kate, who is a freshman at Housy and Emily, who is in 3rd grade. **Class of '83:** **Abby Lawson** writes, "I've worked for the State of CT for over 15 years now and am currently the Staff Director of the Senate Republican Caucus at the State Capitol. I'm still living in Falls Village, and, yes, I drive to Hartford every day."

**Class of '84:** 80's music played all night at the 20th reunion. Held at Geer Village on August 21, the event was well attended, drawing about a quarter of the class' 138 graduates. Sharon's Randy Sears called it one of the best evenings he spent recently. Credit for the success of the event goes to organizers **Jessica Fowler**, **Chris Heacox**, **Denise Dubay**, **Stephanie Robb Grusauski**, **Becky Redmond Sherwood** and **Cathleen O'Connor Reid**. Heacox, who helps run the Sharon Pharmacy, remembers the event first coming together when Jessica walked into the store one day. I asked her if she had heard about a 20th reunion, he recalled. "No," she replied. "Want to do it?" The intrepid organizing group tracked down contact information for all but 20 members of the class. They were pleased to see classmates come from as far away as Albuquerque, NM (**Brea Bond**), Santa Barbara, CA (**John Pene**), and San Jose, CA (**David Hrovatin**). Nearly half the class still resides in CT, but some have dispersed as far as Japan (**Peter Collins** and **Andy Shaffer**) and the United Kingdom (**Brent Griffiths**). But **David Williams** has traveled the farthest: he worked for several years, on and off, at the South Pole! All were happy to see that class couples **Stephanie Robb**

## CLASS NEWS, Continued

Grusauski and David Grusauski and Laurel Dakers Caliendo and Mark Caliendo were still together. David Lindsay, Frank Ruotolo, Robert Gutzman and Joanne Fontanella were remembered as some of the favorite teachers. The party went on until 11:00 PM and then continued at the Woodland into the wee hours.

**Class of '87:** Kendra Percy was recently married in Belgium to Johan Willems. She had a gallery opening and mainly does abstract painting. She is fluent in many languages and also works with her husband doing automobile launches for his company. Susan Gaydos wrote way back in February of 2003: "I'm happy to let everyone know that I've gone one year without any signs of cancer! I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in March of 2001 and went through 10 rounds of chemo followed by a stem-cell transplant and radiation. Needless to say, I'm very happy. I was lucky that I live near the H. Lee Moffit Cancer Center in Tampa. They took really good care of me when I had my stem-cell transplant in November 2001. I encourage everyone to give to cancer research!"

**Class of '88:** According to sister Dooonia '83, Bader Hamzy has two great kids, Daniella, 12, and Nameer, 10. She is very active in their activities, especially boy and girl scouts. She is very busy, happily married for 14 years, lives in North Canaan, and can be visited at the family diner.

### THE NINETIES

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

### THE TWO THOUSANDS

**Class of '03:** Weston Cadwell is a freshman at Santa Barbara City College in California. He won the Association of Businesses in Cornwall's web site design competition and is an aspiring filmmaker with musical interests. His successful design may be viewed at [www.cornwallbusinesses.org](http://www.cornwallbusinesses.org).

## GOOD BYES

In recent months the Housatonic community has lost several former staff members and persons closely connected with the school. **John W. Topping, Sr.**, of Falls Village and Palm Coast, FL, served on the custodial staff in the late sixties. **Frank Samuelson, Sr.**, of Oxford, CT, served as superintendent of schools in Region One during the seventies. **Hattie Travis** of Fair Oaks, CA, teacher of physical education and wife of science teacher and coach **Ambler Travis**, was the last surviving member of the original faculty at the high school and author of the words to the school song. **J. Henry "Hank" Belter '41** was a school board member and charter member of the HVRHS Athletic Hall of Fame. And long-time music teacher **William J. "Bill" Meder** passed away in May of 2004. Mr. Meder lived in the Amesville section of Salisbury from 1948 to 1990 where he raised his family and taught music both in the elementary schools of Region One and at HVRHS for 32 years. **Vergne Harvey '56** wrote the following tribute to Mr. Meder:

"It started in third grade. Big excitement in Mrs. LeMoine's class. We were to meet our new music teacher. In walks Bill (Mr.) Meder. One of the first things he does is divide us according to our singing voices. Canaries, sparrows, warblers, crows. He later told me, 'Big mistake. Made a lot of parents angry. Had to stop it quick.' I had always wondered why I went from 'canary' to soprano so fast.

"This was a harbinger of things to come. I think Bill was one of the fairest men I ever knew and also very original in his approach to most things. Usually even-tempered, he was seen to blow his cool in frustration only a very few times. One time I remember the best was when I was waiting for him for a lesson after school. In sheer boredom I was banging on the music room piano at Salisbury Central School when he walked in. All of a sudden he was ten feet tall and gloweringly angry. I got a short lecture on how my parents had helped pay for that instrument, and

I was trying to bust it. That was it. Next thing I knew, we were into the lesson. Enough said.

"I think he trusted us kids more than we deserved, but he was a hard taskmaster when he thought he could bring out the best in a student. The other side of the coin was that he was quick to praise a good performance.

"He worked so hard with us to try to get us into All-State bands, orchestras and choruses. Those concerts and rehearsals were fun, and we wanted to go. He shepherded us through the All-New Englands in Claremont, New Hampshire.

"He made sure we enjoyed the whole music experience. I know I am not the only one for whom he is at the center of most good HVRHS memories.

"Bill would try anything. I can still remember the summer he built a complete covered deck on his house in Amesville. I can still see him on top of a 30-foot ladder painting and, instead of climbing down to move the ladder, he 'jacked' it along by picking it up with his feet while he hung onto the gutter. Scared his wife Gloria half to death. I am not sure if many people knew it, but he trained to be a fighter pilot near the end of World War II and in fact did well until he had to practice spins in what he called a 'Vultee Vibrator,' a notoriously difficult trainer. He washed out because he could not stay oriented. Well, the Army Air Force's loss was our gain for sure.

"Throughout his life he stayed involved with music. An excellent performer on several instruments, his forte was violin. Before and after he retired, he played in many municipal orchestras. As a teacher he got a whole raft of kids started on all kinds of instruments. Most of us got what amounted to private lessons to get us started.

"Along with all the music, he taught a lot of life lessons — mainly by example. His favorite motivating phrase, as many may recall, was, 'Use your noodle!' In other words, think things through. And he worked hard. And we knew it.

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

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### AWARD WINNER "VOACH"

Current teacher and former coach **Denise Volack Dower** has been selected as CTAHPERD's (CT Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) Secondary School Health Education Teacher of the Year for 2004. She was honored at the Association's 22nd Annual Awards Banquet in Cromwell last November 18 with all her family from PA present. Now in her 29th year of teaching at HVRHS, Denise is the chief architect and founding mother of the new fitness center. Congratulations, Denise.

### WORK DELAYED

The major repair work that was to be done on the original building this past summer had to be postponed for reasons bureaucratic. But alumni should drive by and have a look at the beautiful new running track that now surrounds the football field.

### 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](mailto:bunny@hvrhs.org).

Name (as in high school) and class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone, e-mail, fax \_\_\_\_\_  
News \_\_\_\_\_

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