

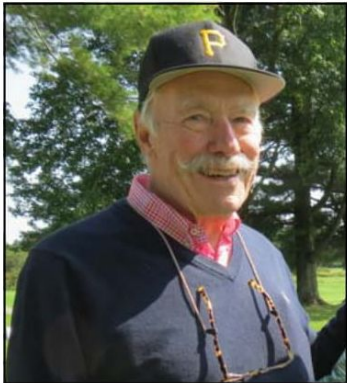
# Blue 'n' Gold

Fall 2021

HVRHS Alumni Association

Volume 23, Issue 1

## Ed Kirby dies at 93



Ed Kirby

Ed Kirby left an indelible mark on the Northwest Corner. The 93-year-old educator, coach, author, geologist and historian died in February.

His passing was felt by all who knew him, but especially his Housatonic Valley Regional High School family. Kirby was devoted to the school and, at the time of his passing, was vice-

chairman of the HVRHS Alumni Association. To mark the life of this man who gave so much to the sports program and as an educational leader at the school, the association initiated a project to name the baseball field in his honor. An initial ceremony was held in May to unveil the new scoreboard and fundraising efforts are currently continuing to upgrade the entire site.

Tributes poured in when the news of his death was revealed. Steve Blass, class of 1960, the major league baseball player who helped the Pittsburgh Pirates win a World Series in 1971, and has remained a local hero, said Kirby, his high school coach at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, was responsible for his career. "He was tough on me back then, and I didn't appreciate having to run up the hill from the fields as part of practice, but he cared so much."

Kirby and his wife, Mary, remained in close contact with Blass over the years and were often invited to attend important events for him. They were there two years ago for his retirement as a longtime Pirates announcer.

"He always had a great smile on his face," remembered Blass, who touched upon Kirby's books and other achievements. "At 93, what a life he had. It's time to celebrate that life."

Patricia A. Mechare, class of 1964, chairman of the association, came before the Region 1 Board of Education the night he died to request the ballfield be dedicated to Kirby. She said the group was planning this for a long time and it was unfortunate that he died

just before the honor was bestowed. "He was very deserving and this is long overdue," she said.

Barclay Prindle of Sharon, class of '56, called Kirby "my best friend," a friendship that began in the 1950s when Kirby served as his coach at Housatonic. He reminisced about the many trips they took out west and the extensive research and writings Kirby did on characters such as Butch Cassidy. Kirby, Prindle and the late Jack Mahoney relished their many western trips as part of the Wildcat Gorge Boozing and Wilderness Society, as well as their train trips home, which Kirby loved.

"I hope he meets up with Mahoney and they raise hell up there," Prindle joked.

Geology was a passion of Kirby's. He wrote several books on the subject and was a font of information about all the types of rocks in the area. He was president of the Friends of Beckley Furnace, a group devoted to the preservation of the site and educating the public about the iron ore industry that once thrived in the area.

Dick Paddock of Salisbury served with him on that committee and said, "The time I spent with him was one of the most enriching experiences in my life. He had so many positive effects on so many lives. I will miss him, but am very happy to have known him. He had so much knowledge and we had such fun."

Ellery "Woods" Sinclair of Falls Village, class of '56, was a colleague and dear friend of Kirby's. His proposal, approved by the Housatonic Valley FFA Alumni executive committee, was to make Kirby a member of the group in memoriam and that he be recognized on the alumni's life membership board with a plaque.

Kirby was born and raised in Sharon. He graduated from Housatonic in 1945 and entered the military, serving in Japan and Okinawa. Upon returning home, he attended what is now Central Connecticut State University and took his first teaching job at Cornwall Consolidated School, while coaching at Housatonic at the same time.

He then taught science at the high school, was named principal in 1966 and eventually assistant superintendent. He retired in 1985.

## Kirby Field Update

Naming the HVRHS baseball field in honor of Ed Kirby was always a goal of the HVRHS Alumni Association Board of Directors. This was achieved when the Region One Board of Education voted unanimously to name the field in his honor, and to make it the best baseball field in the Northwest Corner. With that recognition, the Alumni Association made the commitment to raise the funds necessary to make the ED KIRBY FIELD a real "field of dreams."

The fundraising committee of Steve Blass, '60, Maureen Kirby Dore, '76, Dick and Joanne Gustafson, '59 and '61, Julie Marshall Lang, '79, John McGuire, '65, Champ Perotti, '83, Mickey and Tanya Riva, '61, Suzanne Hutchinson Ullram, '66 and Arthur Walters, '67 organized a personalized campaign for leadership gifts, followed by a general appeal to all HVRHS alumni and friends.

The ED KIRBY FIELD was dedicated in a special ceremony on May 21, 2021, with the entire Kirby family in attendance as the new electronic scoreboard was unveiled. Work now continues with improvements to the dugouts, installing new backstops and fencing, water fountains, field leveling with new clay and sod and the purchase of a Kromer Field mower/roller for use on all the school's athletic fields. A grand opening



The scoreboard named for Edward Kirby stands proudly at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

ceremony is scheduled for spring 2022 when all the improvements will be in place.

The board is proud to report that donations totaling \$150,240 have been received to honor the life and work of Edward M. Kirby. In addition, Allied Engineering Associates, Greenacres Landscaping, Moore & More Printing and William Perotti & Sons Plumbing contributed discounts and services in support of the Kirby Field project.

The donor list, through December 31, 2021, appears on pages 4 and 5. Updates are posted periodically on [www.hvrhsalumni.org](http://www.hvrhsalumni.org) and on the "Blue 'n' Gold" Facebook page.



Mary Kirby (left) and Steve Blass (right) speak at the dedication ceremony of the Ed Kirby scoreboard last spring.



## Alumni News by Class and Decade

### 1950s

The HVRHS class of 1959 gathered on Saturday, Oct. 9, at the Canaan Country Club to celebrate their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday year. The event was coordinated by Pat Hall Graf and Marie Fife Hewins.

qualified athletes. While the scholarship is intended to be self-sustaining, contributions can be made in the name of the scholarship to Salisbury Bank and Trust Company, PO Box 1868, Lakeville, CT 06039-1868.



**HVRHS class of 1959 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration:** (L to R): Gil Consolini, Dick Gustafson, Gerry Hines, Bill Bliven, Karen Monroe Fulco, Rich Fulco, Susan Steiger Lamb, Stef (Don) Mansfield, Steve Schneider, Dave Segalla, Lois Dalla Riva, Priscilla Edwards Coons, Marie Fife Hewins, Jean Gawel Joost, Jean Swensen Peplau, Rosemary Russell Macchi, Olive Haskell Goddard, Pat Hall Graf, Ed Golden, Carolyn Porter Perry, Judy Mansir Fahy. Not pictured, Del Kinney.

Lois Dalla Riva and her friend, Lynda, traveled 2,469 miles from Mead, WA. Dave and Wendy Segalla made it from Vero Beach, FL, 1,288 miles, and Dr. Carolyn Porter Perry and husband, Art, came 1,055 miles from St. Louis, MO.

Many classmates sent their best wishes with regrets for not being able to attend because of family commitments, Covid-19 related disruptions or health concerns. These were Ron Boyles, Ed Chiera, Al Church, Jerry Clark, Paul Cortesi, Fred Gomez, Ken Haring, Dan Hart, Tom Higgins, Coralie St. Charles Kessler, Mary Lou Loucks Melber, Mary Stratman Osborne, David Peet, Bill Sitter, Janet (Tompkins) & Bob Tuthill, Wayne Wilford and Wayne Zinke.

The gathering was quite a success and many are already pushing to do it again soon!

### 1960s

The class of 1960 held a reunion on Sept. 11 at Bull's Bridge Inn in Kent. Carol Gordon MacRitchie reported that 48 classmates attended and everyone had a great time.

Tom Segalla, class of '61 and his wife, Mary Lou, have established "The Ann and Stan Segalla Family Scholar Athlete Scholarship" with Tom's siblings, Robert ('65), Joan ('69), Debra ('73) and William ('78). The scholarship will be given annually to both a female and male who are HVRHS graduates and

John Whalen, class of '67, recently retired as the superintendent of the Salisbury wastewater plant after serving for 48 years. He was highly lauded by town officials for his commitment and dedication to the position. John and his wife, Virginia, have three children and two grandchildren. He is one of the five Salisbury Whalen brothers.

### 1970s

The class of '72 will hold its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion on July 16 at the Canaan Country Club. Class members should look for more details as the time approaches.

David Heininger, class of '76, died recent. In his obituary, mention is made that when he was in high school, his car was a yellow taxi cab. His classmates loved riding in it. His sister, Cynthia Heininger, class of '77, shared a photo of him in that vehicle in front of their home on Pine Street in Cornwall Village.



## Two Students Receive Top FFA Award

For legions of students who have gone through Housatonic Valley Regional High School, the highlight of their four years was participation in the agricultural education program. How many times have we heard from graduates who've said their career paths were determined by courses taken in agricultural science and technology or that they didn't do well in school until they were motivated by taking part in those studies?

According to the literature put out by the department, the courses are open to all HVRHS students. They are designed to provide education, career training and experiences in the many areas of natural resources, agricultural engineering, biotechnology, animal science and plant science. The center consists of classrooms, a fully equipped food science lab, an agricultural mechanics shop, an animal barn, a small animal room, an aquaculture/hydroponics lab, a greenhouse and a forest woodlot laboratory. Students learn about the environment and the relationship among animals, plants, and machinery in our ever-changing productive society.

Students enrolled in agriculture classes are invited to join the HVRHS FFA Chapter. The National FFA organization changes students' lives through preparation for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. FFA promotes American values, citizenship and civic participation. The personal growth, leadership and career success skills that are developed through FFA serve a student well throughout life in a variety of vocational and avocational pathways.

While countless Housatonic alums have found success in the program, two were recently recognized for their outstanding contributions. **Mari Cullerton**, class of '17, and **Lauren Murtagh**, class of '18, were presented with the American FFA degree. Just one-half of one percent of FFA members around the country earn that

prestigious designation. They were among 20 selected from Connecticut.

Mari, who is from Canaan, was salutatorian of her class. As a triplet, she and her sisters ranked one, two and three in their class. She went on to major in environmental studies at UConn. She was a successful member of the Envirothon team. Her journey began in the summer of 2013 when she first met teacher (and now department chairman) David Moran, who encouraged her to try new things. She said her best decision was joining Envirothon. Mari is currently working with the USGS doing forestry demography work in Sequoia and Yosemite National parks.

"All those experiences at Housatonic helped me be a better person and who I am today," she said. "They helped me build the skills that I use every day."

Lauren's interest in the FFA program sprouted in her freshman life skills class and was spurred on by her family's landscaping business. She rose in the state FFA organization, serving as treasurer, vice-president and then president. She, too, was on the Envirothon team. She recalled when Moran signed her up for public speaking. "That changed my life and helped me be successful in FFA and life," she said. She has taken many trips as part of her state leadership role, including one to Africa. Lauren is currently a senior at UConn studying sustainable plant and soil systems with an environmental horticulture concentration and a turfgrass management minor. At college, she is president of Sigma Alpha, a professional women's agricultural society and a member of the collegiate timber team. "Post grad, I plan on returning home and joining our family company, New Images Landscaping in Sharon," she said.

David Moran spoke proudly of watching the two grow from shy students into women of achievement and leadership.



Mari Cullerton, class of '17 (left) and Lauren Murtagh, class of '18 (right) recipients of the American FFA degree.



## Bits from the Board

The Housatonic Valley Regional High School Alumni Association website, [www.hvrhsalumni.org](http://www.hvrhsalumni.org) was completely reconstructed in the fall of 2020. Members of the alumni board were fully engaged in developing the new website and members of the marketing and communications committee spent many hours collecting information, validating names, dates and details, and reviewing final copy before the site went live in January 2021. The website is now rich with archival information and posted news events. It also enables direct donations to the association.

The history of HVRHS by Ed and Mary Kirby, the school song, "High Above the Housatonic," sung by the HVRHS chorus, and the association's bylaws can be found under **ABOUT US**. Scholarship Awards, Alumni Wall of Honor and Athletic Hall of Fame awardees are under **RECOGNITION PROGRAMS**. **NEWS** and upcoming **REUNIONS** are also front and center, along with a direct connection, **SUPPORT**, where alumni and friends can make their credit card donations to the association.

**Thomas Krupa**, music teacher at HVRHS, gathered the HVRHS chorus - remotely - to record "High Above the Housatonic." The school song is not heard very often these days, so we hope the work of Tom and his

students will rekindle this connection shared by so many generations of HVRHS grads.

**Deb Segalla**, owner of Segalla Web Design and HVRHS graduate, class of '73, was responsible for breathing life into the hundreds of elements that were thrown her way. She and her daughter Keri are active in web designs for businesses and community organizations. Deb's commitment and dedication to the successful launch and frequent updates to the website have been simply remarkable. She is quick to put up new information, to update news items and to duplicate many of the items on the HVRHS Alumni Facebook page. Visit Segalla Web Design at [debsegalla.com](http://debsegalla.com).

**Brian Wilcox**, owner of Connecticut Photo Drone and HVRHS graduate, class of '79, was responsible for creating the drone video photography of HVRHS and synchronizing with the singing of "High Above the Housatonic" to give emotional depth to the video. Brian is an accomplished photographer specializing in equine and real estate work and, with the advent of drones, became an FAA-certified drone pilot, enabling him to combine his love of photography and flight skills. Visit Connecticut Drone Photo at [connecticutphoto.com](http://connecticutphoto.com).

## In Memoriam

Helen Wike Humiston, '40  
Edward M. Kirby, '45  
Doris Petersen Longaven, '45  
Francis Dowd Rogers, '49  
Eleanor Molyneux Roger Sheridan, '49  
David Breakell, '50  
Henry Carley, '51  
Maureen Cole Prentice, '51  
Valerie Leonard DiGiacomo, '52  
Donald Hatch, '52  
Scott MacFarland, '52  
Catherine Palmer Wilcox, '52  
Joan Barnett Loper, '53  
Ben Foster, '54  
Margaret McLane Holley Hunt, '55  
Emily Sheldon Whitford, '55

Stuart Hansell, '57  
Theresa Fravezzi, '60  
Peter Corcoran, '61  
Earlyne Jean Whitten Lawrence, '61  
Bruce Wedda, '61  
E. Carl Johnson, '62  
Hugh Patrick "Pat" McCafferty, '62  
Deborah Lovely Smith, '63  
Pamela Clark, '64  
Christopher Kaufholz, '64  
Linda Farley Decker, '65  
Bonnie Booth Aakjar, '66  
William Clancy, '66  
Walter Kearns, '66  
Patrick Redmond, '67  
Nathan Strong, '67

Lynn Pingree Foster, '69  
Carl Weir, '69  
Jill Blodgett, '70  
Janice Stupak Lorenzo, '72  
Thomas Mullen, '72  
Timothy Riley, '74  
Randy Wilson, '74  
Scott Labshere, '75  
Diane MacNeil, '75  
David C. Heining, '76  
Timothy Brown, '81  
Janeen Gae Wilson, '85  
Joshua Wilkinson, '98  
Katy Roussis Sherwood, '02



The cost of printing and mailing the Blue 'n' Gold has risen. We know many still want to receive a paper copy to keep up with their alma mater, but we need donations to allow for such mailings. Please send them to HVRHS Alumni Association, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031. Thank you.

## DONOR LIST

as of December 31, 2021

*Updates are posted periodically on [www.hvrhsalumni.org](http://www.hvrhsalumni.org) and on the "Blue 'n' Gold" Facebook page*

### HALL OF FAME:

**\$15,000 and above**  
The Edward M. Kirby Family

**\$10,000 and above**  
The Bayersdorfer Family

**\$5,000 and above**  
Steve and Karen Blass  
The Dufour Family Foundation  
Richard and Joanne Gustafson  
Richard and Laura May Atwood Hainisch  
Sally Jensen Hart  
The Perotti Family  
Barclay Prindle  
Mickey and Tanya Riva  
Salisbury Bank and Trust Company  
David & Wendy Monroe Segalla families  
Arthur and Mary Walters

### MOST VALUABLE PLAYERS:

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Judy and Peter Walden Scarafite  
Steven and Eileen Schneider  
Stadium Systems  
Todd Vernali

### ALL STARS:

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Miles Novy  
Paul Nyklicek

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Robert and Patricia Palmer  
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John Pener  
Whitney Perkins  
Michael Pezzee  
Jan Pierson  
Tina Lawroski Pitcher  
Sally Fuller Prestele  
Dale Prindle  
Nicholas Quackenbos  
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Charles Hines  
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Carl and Ginnie Scranton Vogt  
Donald Welsh  
Brian and Laurie Wilcox  
Janet Wildman  
Joanne Choiniere Woodworth  
Elsie Colli Zucco



*...Alumni News from page 7*

### **1980s**

The classes of 1980 and 1981 would like to invite the class of 1982 to a reunion on Sept. 10, 2022, from 3 to 11 p.m. at the Lakeville Town Grove. DJ Outsiders Entertainment will provide music and Theresa Freund of Freund's Farm Market will cater the event. There will be a nine-hole scramble that morning at the Canaan Country Club. Those planning to attend must reserve.

If anyone would like to handle coordinating their class communications, please contact **Kryisia Bibro**, class of '80, at [kryisia\\_bibro@juno.com](mailto:kryisia_bibro@juno.com) or any member of the

'80 or '81 reunion committees. "It would be great to have the class of 1982 in attendance on their 40th reunion!" said Kryisia.

### **2010s**

**Cassidy Considine**, class of '13, opened Nutrition on Railroad in Canaan last spring. The shop offers protein shakes and teas in a wide variety of flavors. Cassidy said she wants to promote healthy nutritional habits.

**Bailey Jacquier**, class of '17, has joined Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation as a finance associate.



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