

◆ Blue 'n' Gold ◆

Volume 8, Issue 1

Summer 2004

BEDINI!

He presided over the Golden Age of successful competition in sports at HVRHS. Arriving in 1946, he coached football, basketball and baseball. He formed the school's first six-man football team and by 1952 they went undefeated. The next year he led them into eleven-man football-and that team also went undefeated, holding the opponents to only 19 points for the season! And many of these victories came over teams from schools much larger than Housatonic: Arlington High of Poughkeepsie, Pittsfield High School in Massachusetts, and New Canaan High School, for example. His basketball and baseball teams also enjoyed winning seasons and several championships. With the graduation of the Class of '54, he moved on to coaching at Rye High School in New York where, in addition to coaching baseball, he had two 33-game winning streaks in football. After two years at Port Chester High School, it was on to college football, first at Rockland Community College and later at Iona College, where his team won a national club football championship. Next it was on to professional football and the coaching staff of the Cleveland Browns. Even now, although ostensibly retired, he works with the football program at North Carolina State University.

He is, of course, Americo (Ben) Bedini, and he will be returning for a visit on October 10, 2004. Now living in Raleigh, North Carolina, he will be at the Wake Robin Inn in Lakeville for Sunday Brunch that day and eager to talk over old times. His return is in conjunction with the 50th Reunion of the Class of '54, and spokesman **Frank**

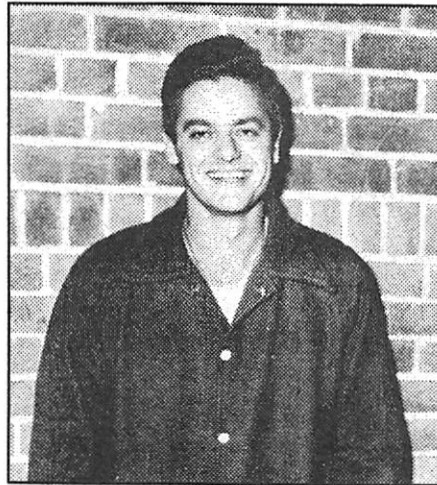


Photo: **Coach Bedini**
(HVRHS, *The White Oak*, 1953)

Perotti has extended an invitation to all interested Housy folk to attend the brunch and meet with Coach Bedini. In fact, if you "cannot make the brunch, come along (anyway) with your friends and talk over old times." Those who do plan to attend the brunch are asked to call Frank at 860-824-5509 or e-mail him at fjperotti@aol.com.

Pete Marcon '47, captain of the first HVRHS football team and later an assistant coach under Bedini at Rye High School, had this to say about him: "He was a master of the fundamentals, a tactician extraordinaire who could figure out at half time how to counter an opponent's special offense or defense, and an intense student of the game. He was always prepared, 110% committed, and spent untold hours in dedicated study of the game through films and clinics. His ability to motivate his players to compete at very high levels was unique. They always wanted to play their very best for him."

SEE YOU ON OCTOBER 10!

Recent Donors Listed

Since our last issue and through April 30, 2004, these alumni have sent in donations beyond dues:

1940's: \$1,075

Antoinette Del Tenno McGrain '47, Marjorie Casey Nash '43, Marion Winn Staples '49

1950's: \$2,000

Barbara Friis Szczepanski

1960's: \$100

Gregory Ford '64, Burleigh Noyes '63, Harold Posselt '65

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS

And these, in the order their letters came to us, are our new Lifetime Members: **Clarissa Hill Lennox '53, John Sartorius '53, Linda Walters Harring '59, Kenneth Harring '59, Kathleen Carley Schwar '60, Denise Chamberlain Buchanan '68, Henry Costanzo Jr. '67, Benjamin F. Cleaveland '42, Peggy Peyron Petrovits '51, Stephen Bornemann '62, J. Roderick Stackelberg '52, Jeannine Atkins (Faculty), Ann Zimmermann (Pat) Miller '58.**

This makes a total of 149 Lifetime Memberships. We on the Alumni Association Committee thank you for your support. Your contributions go into the account that makes these newsletters possible.

STRIKE A BLOW FOR JUSTICE!

Pay your dues. The good people listed above should not be expected to carry the burden for all. Remember: one issue of this newsletter costs nearly a thousand dollars to produce and mail to 7,000 alumni. 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 Tumpike Rd.,
Falls Village, CT 06031
Phone 860-824-5123, extension 162
Web site: www.hvrhs.org
e-mail: bunny_hvrhs@hotmail.com

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 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
1980's: Pat Mechare
1970's: Dena Kenny Solan '73, Box 895, Canaan
06018, 824-0399, tigger@mohawk.net
1990'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@charter.net

At-Large Members

Dean Hammond '61, 85 Twin Lakes Road,
Salisbury 06068, 824-0208, jdhammond@snet.net
Susie Goodsell Rundall '67, Box 783, Kent 06757,
927-4119, rtrundall@snet.net
Bonnie Black Whalen '82, 22 Forge Lane, Lakeville
06039, 435-9738, fergie@mohawk.net

Staff Members

Bunny Cecchinato McGuire '55, Box 95, Canaan
06018, 824-5900, bunny_hvrhs@hotmail.com
Judi Thomann Moore, 130 Interlaken Road,
Lakeville 06039, 435-9109,
trinkamoore@yahoo.com

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.

NEWS OF THE CLASSES BY DECADE

THE FORTIES

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

Class of '44: Bertha Jennings Petith, who lives in Kinderhook, NY, has two daughters, eight grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. She delivers Meals on Wheels weekly, is secretary for a local senior citizens group, works on her church's archives, and loves gardening.

Class of '46: Sad news was received of the death of classmate Robert Swift in November at his home in Pinehurst, NC. Prior to his retirement he was an executive with Rockwell Manufacturing Corporation.

Class of '47: Leroy Beaujon visited from his home in California and led a tour of old Central New England Railroad sites. Railroad historians put together a tour for 100 people starting from the Canaan Union Station and its freight yard to Salisbury to view the water tank foundation, the railroad station (a private home), and the model railroad exhibits at the Scoville Library. Then it was on to Lakeville to see the old train station and further on over Winchell Mountain to Pine Plains. Next came Millerton, where three rail lines joined. Leroy had many interesting experiences to relate as well as lots of history of the old railroad. **Edna Corbin Dryden** moved into a new house in Casa Grande, AZ, in December of 2003. She claims the weather is ideal, and she does not miss the cold and snow. **Toni Del Tenno McGrain** is now living in Pittsford, NY.

Class of '49: Barbara Harding Seibert had an exhibit of her art work throughout the month of January past at a gallery in Cranbury, NJ. It was entitled "Pastels, Plus." **Eugene O'Meara** says that the class is planning a reunion.

THE FIFTIES

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

Class of '50: Jo Ann Remer Godburn reports that most of her classmates are in Florida these days. And, indeed, **Ann NeJame** writes, "The Or-

lando area has been my home since 1954. The Blue'n'Gold brings such joy to me. I love reading it, and it brings back such memories." There are plans for a 55th reunion next year and, hopefully, all those Floridians will attend.

Class of '51: As always, **Barbara Friis Szczepanski** has up-to-date news from her classmates. "Al Viola and wife Sue live in Columbia, Missouri, and have a daughter and two grandchildren. Al was an Earth Science teacher in upstate New York for thirty years. His hobbies include hunting with his grandson, photography (over 3500 slides) and travel. He has been a stamp collector since grade school and now wonders what he is going to do with all those stamps! Al and Sue have especially fond memories of a ten-day trip on the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon in the mid-1970's, and a trip to Russia that included two weeks on a boat traveling from Moscow to St. Petersburg. Al still volunteers at the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity three mornings a week. Since he started in 1992, he and fellow retirees have built more than fifty houses; their next project is a thirty-house subdivision. He and Sue also volunteer at the Boone County Museum. **Dick Koneazny** also volunteers in his community. In Dick's case it is the Wangum Elderly Housing facility in Canaan, the Fishes and Loaves Food Pantry, and driving the elderly to medical appointments. And he still finds time for his hunting and fishing. Daughter Maria has two sons, and son Paul has two boys adopted from Russia (Vladimir and Oleg). Dick and Rita's foreign travel include trips to Europe, Canada and Mexico. **Dorinda Cobb Pizone** and husband Joe live in Easton, CT. They have three daughters, and their first grandchild was born last year. Dorinda bowls weekly with "the girls," which she admits is as much for the coffee klatching as for the exercise. She works with Joe in his realty company handling the bookkeeping and paper work."

Class of '52: Joy Knudson Hickox

CLASS NEWS, Continued

has lived in North Haven, CT, since 1967. She feels fortunate that she was able to be a stay-at-home mom for her son and daughter. She worked for a New Haven pediatrician for several years and has continued to serve the local Aglow International Chapter since 1976. Aglow is a worldwide interdenominational Christian women's organization. Since her husband retired in 1992, they have enjoyed traveling, notably to Colorado and Washington, where they have children and grandchildren.

Class of '53: Class Agent Anne Clyburn Killawee tells us, "Classmates are still calling and e-mailing about the 50th reunion held last September. A good time was had by all! Malcolm Huston and wife Alice enjoyed staying at the Bed & Breakfast owned by George Schaefer '50 and his wife Sue. Paul Leffingwell was unable to attend as he was visiting his daughter in China. He is a landscape architect and owns Leffingwell Associates in Sausalito, CA. Jack Sartorius and wife Phyllis traveled to Arizona, Las Vegas and Florida this past winter. They have a large RV. Mary Egan Frattarola and husband Roman enjoyed a trip to Italy in the spring."

Class of '54: The 50th Reunion is being planned for the weekend of October 9, 2004. A dinner is scheduled at the Wake Robin Inn in Lakeville. Other activities will be finalized and announced at a later date. Classmates Robert McMullin and Joyce Fischer Graves are still missing. The Reunion Committee consists of Frank Perotti, Walt and Carol O'Brien Hall, Jackie Babuin Matson, Joyce Surdam Perkins and Denny Frost. There is a strong rumor that Coach Americo Bedini will attend this reunion.

Class of '56: Since the very successful and fun 65th birthday party, everyone has begun the process of planning a 50th reunion. Even though it will be in two years, John Berti is determined to

get 100% participation and is tracking down "lost" classmates. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Carolyn Eiby Knerr and/or Nancy Benedict Lawrence? Contact John at xberti@comcast.net or 74 Blacksmith Drive, Medford, MA 02052-1119. The 1956 senior class officers were not able to attend the most recent party but will surely be involved in the upcoming event. Class President Fred Baldwin, living in Davie, FL, has already been communicating with classmates. Paula Moni Hickey, Class Secretary, is always enthusiastic about class gatherings. Although she now lives in Omaha, NE, she comes back to the Northwest Corner often to visit family. Class Vice President Len Stine and Treasurer Fred Griswold continue to love Connecticut, Len in Somers and Fred in his hometown of Goshen. With all the class involvement anticipated, this 50th reunion should be an incredible celebration!

Class of '57: When she's not traveling, most recently three weeks in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Penny O'Connell Friedman sends news of her classmates: "The 1957 Class Lunch on June 5th was canceled. It will be rescheduled for the fall. Marilyn Gibson is coming to the East Coast from California with her 89-year-old mother to revisit all the places her mother has lived. They are traveling to Sharon, CT, where her daughter Janet will meet them. Then they travel to Charleston, SC, to visit her sister, on to Georgia, and finally to Jacksonville, FL, where her mother was born. Nick Quackenbos flew in from California for Tom Riley's surprise 65th birthday party." Penny promises more news for the next issue.

Class of '58: Class Agent Pat Zimmermann Miller sent the following news: "Ralph Peterson and his wife recently returned to Sharon from a six-week vacation in Florida and South Carolina. While Ralph was homesick, Eileen loved every minute of it and is

ready to go again. Rose DeBarbieri Van de Bogart's daughter and granddaughter recently flew East from Lake Tahoe for a visit. Talk about a proud grandma! Elaine Small Monty enjoys working with flowers and recently became a member of Canaan's Town Beautification Committee — a responsibility that is both challenging and rewarding. This and the activities of her grandchildren keep her very busy. Ann Sartori has been working as a Certified Nurse Assistant since her return to Salisbury. She recently cut back to part-time work and enjoys her leisure hours. Lynda Byrnes recently retired from a position at a private school in Kent. She is now looking for part-time work locally. It seems you can't keep the Class of '58 down." Pat also reported that she is the proud great grandmother of an eight-month-old girl, Savannah. Since her mom works in Pat's office, Savannah has been on the job daily since she was a week old. Could we be looking at a fourth generation HVRHS graduate?

Class of '59: Spouses as well as classmates, Ken and Linda Walters Harring have joined the Alumni Lifetime Membership group, and they wrote the following note: "HVRHS remains in our hearts as one of the best times of our lives. We received a wonderful education from some very talented, dedicated people and made friendships that have lasted a lifetime." Class Agent Marie Fife Hewins asked Paul Cortesi for an update on his activities after graduation. From 1960 to 1964, Paul served in the U. S. Air Force and thereafter did his undergraduate work at the University of Connecticut, graduating in 1968 with a degree in zoology. He went on to Cornell University's School of Veterinary Medicine and graduated in 1972. After graduation, Paul worked in two small animal practices in the Avon, CT, area and, in 1973, opened the University Veterinary Hospital in Torrington, CT, where he continues to practice. Paul married Mary-Margaret Frueh '64 in 1968. They have three children and became grandparents last year. Paul reports that life is good. He and family have their health and enjoy the everyday flow of things in the Berkshires. Retire-

CLASS NEWS, Continued

ment is a word he refuses to acknowledge and says that he is having too much fun to fully retire.

THE SIXTIES

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

Class of '60: Kathy Carley Schwar lives in south central Pennsylvania in a lake community with Joe, her husband of five and a half years. She enjoys frequent trips to the gym, traveling, and is involved in several musical endeavors while Joe is pursuing the opportunity to be a Gettysburg Battlefield guide. Kathy's nine and Joe's five grandchildren make for few dull moments. They always enjoy returning to the beautiful northwest corner of Connecticut and look forward to Kathy's 45th reunion in 2005.

Class of '63: Frank Strothers lives in Wingdale, NY, and has been married for 27 years. He has one son, Frank Jr., and four grandchildren: Nicole, Alissa, Frank III and Marcus. Frank worked for 27 years at Tri-Wall until it closed, took a two-year course in auto body repair and has worked for the State of New York for the last eleven years.

Class of '66: Roslyn Ramsey lives in Oklahoma and has been married for 33 years. She has a son who is 24 and a daughter 21. When living in Texas she worked at WalMart for ten years. For the last seven years she has worked for Dallas General in Cowetu. Her husband is an estimator and project manager for a Tulsa general contractor. John Pshenishny lives in Marlboro, MA, and has been married to Marsha for 31 years. He has worked for Sheffield Plastics for 27 years and is currently a receiving and inventory control manager. He is a thirty-year member of the Sheffield Fire Department. He enjoys motorcycle riding and landscaping with his tractor and equipment. He is known for his children's trailer rides. John would love to hear from classmates.

Class of '67: Ever wonder what Mike Perotti is doing these days? Mike is a first assistant surgical technician currently dividing his time between the

operating rooms in Charlotte Hungerford in Torrington and Bristol Hospital. Mike and wife Judy have been married for 32 years and reside in Winsted. Their son Adam, 31, is serving in the Army Reserves and awaiting orders in Virginia at the time of this writing. Daughter Kristin, 22, is a college student. Bob Washburn presently calls Hillsdale, NY, home and is a self-employed decorative woodworker. He does elaborate custom interior work plus furniture and signs. Bob has two daughters. Elly, 21, a college sophomore, is a professional photographer, and Kate, 23, is a senior in college earning a degree to be a social worker. Congratulations to Doug Weir on his recent engagement to Denise Hennessey. They are residing in Red Hook, NY, while Doug continues in his position at Kingston Hospital as evening supervisor of the Medical Imaging Department. Doug has a son from a previous marriage, Ben, who has just been honorably discharged from the Marines. Linda Jewett writes that life in Atlanta is good. After twenty years in the title industry she has just accepted a new position with the Fidelity National Title Insurance Company as Vice President, Georgia State Manager. Linda says that the hours are longer, but the work is very gratifying. ... The sixty classmates presently represented on our class e-mail directory continue to receive up-to-date alumni news. To be included with the group, or for more information, go to marvmarsshall@yahoo.com.

THE SEVENTIES

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

Class of '70: Mary Martha Noyes Vietts lives in Ellington, CT, with husband Ronald. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. Their older daughter is in the Navy, and the younger attends college while working part-time. Ronald works for the State of Connecticut, and Mary Martha works in the school system.

THE EIGHTIES

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

Class of '83: Stacey Stuart Scott works for UPS. in Camden, Delaware, where she lives with her husband and two daughters, ages 8 and 17. Ron Heimbuecher lives in the San Jose area of California where he is an electrician and belongs to the union. Kathi Mangan Grenier lives in Auburn, Maine, where she manages the Humane Society. She missed the 20th reunion since her husband Henri works for the U.N. and was in Kosovo at the time. Julie Michels Spadow lives in northern California to be close to her mother. She has two daughters and boasts that now, instead of freezing on her November birthday, she enjoys being outside and sipping wine. Champ Perotti was snowmobiling in northern Vermont with his kids last winter when he stopped at an inn and ran into Ray Rice, who was having his weekly Sunday brunch with his daughter Magnolia.

Class of '84: Planning has begun for the 20th reunion. On Friday, August 20, there will be an informal evening cookout at Kent Falls, and Saturday, August 21, there will be a dinner dance at Geer Village in Canaan. Please save the dates! Also, if you know where the following classmates are, or would like to help plan the events in any way, please contact any of the following: Jessica Fowler 672-2849, Denise Dubay 824-5022, Chris Heacox 435-4853, Rebecca Redmond Sherwood 435-8995, Stephanie Robb Grusauski 927-4080. "MISSING" are Julie Anderson, Howard Baird, Chuck Bonhotel, Emily Brazzale, Joe Casale, Arletty Castillo, Holly Cote, Marsha Cox, Rachel Duntz, Penelope Fallon, Sue Fenner, Cynthia Giulian, Claire Graves, Jim Greenwood, Mark Howland, Tadd Jones, Bryn Kaufman, Christopher Lamie, Geoffrey Lee, Jim Marchianna, Kelly Marks, Mike O'Dell, Steve Osuch, Bernard Parker, Donald Parsons, Todd Roy, Dale Rush, Andy Shaffer,

CLASS NEWS, Continued

Mike Sheldon, Sharon Shine, Mike Thompson and Fred Warner.

Class of '85: After Housatonic, **Musa Besmer** graduated from the University of Wisconsin's (Madison) NROTC Program in 1990 and went on to flight training in Pensacola, Florida. After earning his wings he was stationed at San Diego's Coronado Naval Air Station, Roosevelt Roads Naval Air Station in Puerto Rico and Carswell Air Base in Fort Worth, Texas. He and wife Kris are parents of four sons, and he is now a commercial airline pilot.

Class of '86: Upon graduating from Occidental College in 1990, **Audu Besmer** served with the Peace Corps in Guinea-Bissau (Africa) and went on to earn a Master's Degree from George Washington University in 1997. He is now in the Consular Service of the State Department and was stationed in the Dominican Republic before his current assignment in Zimbabwe. This quote from an e-mail to his mother gives us a glimpse of his daily doings in Zimbabwe: "I'm working frantically to finish up another report and tie up loose ends before traveling for work to Bulawayo, Lupane, Hwange, and Victoria Falls from Wednesday to Friday this week." And here is his observation on the situation in Haiti, just across the border from the Dominican: "While I never could have predicted ex-regime rebels would topple Aristide, it was not hard to see the volatility and fragility of the place, not to mention the desperation."

Class of '87: **Patty Golden Zinke** had a baby boy, Parker, in November. He joins big sister Lauren.

Class of '88: **Keith Marks** and **Kristen Neary '90** had a baby girl in March, and her name is Josie Elizabeth.

THE NINETIES

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

Class of '91: **Josh Oskwarek** is smiling because his web site, hvrhs.com, has been linked to the high school's site, www.hvrhs.org. Josh lives in New

Milford but works for a Massachusetts company called Ascential Software where he does software development. He and wife Danielle have a brand new baby girl named Emily Nicole, born January 17. He urges you all to check out his site and establish communication with old Housy friends.

Class of '95: **Frances Sellers** wants to know if there is a reunion being planned.

Class of '97: **Kara Clemente** works as a research associate at a pharmaceutical company in Cambridge, MA. She graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 2001 with a degree in pre-veterinary medicine and plans to return for a master's degree in public health at Tufts, Boston University or the University of Massachusetts.

PRINCIPAL TO RETIRE

Current principal **Kathleen Burkhart** has announced her intention to retire as of June 30 this year. The Regional Board has formed a committee to search for her successor. Mrs. Burkhart was only the fifth principal in the sixty-five year history of HVRHS. Here they are listed in order of service: **Dr. Paul W. Stoddard 1938-1966**, **Edward M. Kirby '45 1966-1979**, **Robert E. Blesh 1979-1983**, **John L. Mahoney 1983-1995**, **Kathleen Burkhart 1995-2004**. Yes, Dr. Stoddard began his tenure before the school opened its doors in 1939.

ABE: STANDING TALL AND LOOKING GOOD

It was two years ago in June that the statue of Abraham Lincoln was severely damaged in an act of vandalism. If you enter the main building and walk forward into the lobby, look down the hall to your right. There you will see Abe looking better than ever inside a lighted glass case. He would be in his traditional place in the main lobby to this day were it not for a fire marshal's decree that he "impeded egress" from the auditorium.

REUNION AT THE WAKE ROBIN?

In its latest incarnation, the Wake Robin Inn in Lakeville has become quite the gathering place. On Friday nights in particular, the pub there is a very lively place. For the many Housy alums who live in the area, visiting must be like coming to a high school reunion because the staff features ten graduates of HVRHS. They are, in order of seniority: **Mindy Golden Fitting '76**, **Nick Branchina Jr. '89**, **Megan Baldwin '92**, **Nick Stefanisko '94**, **Holly Ongley '95**, **Kim Eiring '97**, **Lynn Jones '99**, **Meghan Mahoney '99**, **Mary Rita Kennedy '01** and **Heather Zucco '01**.

MUSICALS BACK ON THE HOUSY STAGE

Remember when first class musical theater productions played to packed houses in the Henry Burgess Auditorium? It has been at least a decade since one could attend performances of "Camelot" or "Cabaret" or "South Pacific" or "Hello, Dolly." Under the inspiration and guidance of Assistant Superintendent **Patricia Chamberlain**, the tradition is back. She was the catalyst as the new Housatonic Musical Theatre Society organized itself and raised the funds necessary to stage a rousing production of "Grease" over March 11 to 13, 2004. Major sponsors were the Arts Fund for Region One, the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS, and Canaan Little Theatre.

The play sold out all three nights, which led to plans for a matinee to be added next year. And it was truly an all-school effort. Graphics students did the posters and tickets. Woodworking students built the sets. Students and staff performed together on the stage. (**Bunny McGuire '55** played the role of Miss Lynch, teacher and chaperone.) Next year's production will be "Bye Bye, Birdie," and financial support is needed. Donations can be sent to the Housatonic Musical Theatre Society, c/o Region One Central Office, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031.

MAIN BUILDING TO BE OVERHAULED

An asbestos abatement project will be undertaken this summer that will involve removing and replacing all floor tiles. Because of the dangers from asbestos fibers in the air, the main building will be inaccessible for approximately five weeks. Should you wish to call the main office during that time, just dial the usual number, 824-5123. That is where you will reach the main office staff located somewhere else in the building. There will be no tours of the school available all summer long.

Another project to be undertaken this summer is replacement of the old 1939-vintage windows in the main building. Remember how they have an odd way of pivoting in as they are opened? Winds in the valley have been rattling them loose for years and turning them into heat-loss disasters.

Still another project is to replace the floor in the cafeteria — the old gym, to some of you. In fact, Head Custodian Kevin Whitney says that you can see the outlines of that old gym floor beginning to appear beneath the deteriorating floor tiles installed back in 1987.

Also this summer there will be construction to add on to the central office wing next to the gymnasium. The extension will cut into the courtyard now existing between the Home Economics rooms in the old building and the central office suite.

In the same area, the northern wing of the 1962 addition, including the gym, will be re-roofed.

And finally, a new all-weather running track will be constructed around the football field and on top of the old cinder track. The surface is likely to be latex, and the days of cinder burns and cuts will be over.

Already the grass oval in front of the school has been tilled, leveled off, and hydroseeded.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY TREES?

On Saturday, May 1, 2004, the Class of '63 gathered at the high school for a tree-planting ceremony. At their 40th Reunion the year before, they had committed to plant a tree on the grounds and try to promote a tradition of each class thereafter doing the same after their 40th reunion. Some thirty donors from the Class of '63 made it possible to plant, next to the Clarke B. Wood tree in the parking lot, an American Elm raised by agriculture education students as part of the Elm Watch program that is growing under the guidance of classmate, photographer and elm advocate Tom Zetterstrom. He and Ag Ed teacher David Moran have a vision of the newly expanded parking lot being transformed from an asphalt desert to a beautiful, tree-shaded campus. Their hope is that each 40th reunion class in the future will contribute toward that vision.

MUSIC TRIUMPHANT

Students in the Music Program at our high school continue to excel. This year sixty of them plus chaperones and teachers traveled to Anaheim, CA, for Music Festival's Music in the Park, a yearlong contest that invites schools from around the country to visit and perform in shifts in a variety of areas for voice and instrument. All HVRHS groups earned ratings of Superior this year. According to teacher Kerri Morris, "They're probably the highest numbers we've ever had. We got eight trophies and our jazz choir was named best choir overall. Usually that prize goes to a concert or chamber choir. I've never seen it go to anything but that so it was really a big surprise."

The eight trophies earned by the HVRHS students were: best vocalist, best instrumental solo, best jazz band, best overall instrumental ensemble, best jazz choir, best overall choral ensemble, best women's choir and best men's choir. Jonathan Grusauskas '05 of Falls Village won for best vocalist, and Eric Lindquist '04 of Falls Village won for best instrumental soloist. Once the spring competitions are complete, HVRHS will find out how it ranks overall.

ROBOTICS RAMPANT

The HVRHS Robotics Team was founded in the fall of 2000. It started out as an activity during the school day. Eventually, several students met a few times a week after school with faculty and engineers to develop ideas and practice driving a robot. During the team's rookie season the goal was to get the robot done in time to meet the required date of shipment to the regional competition in Hartford.

So where did these competitions come from? The FIRST High School Robotics Competition is a nationwide engineering contest now in its thirteenth year. The competition teams high school students from more than forty states with engineers from businesses and universities. During the competition, each team builds a robot to specifications in six weeks, while preparing it to compete against other robots in a sports arena. Students get a hands-on, inside look at engineering and experience a real-time product development cycle.

The team has experienced remarkable success in terms of public recognition. There have been, at the regional level, Bronze Medals, this year's Gold Medal and several special awards such as Highest Rookie Seed Award, Best Limbo Robot Award, and Elegant Design Award. At the national level there have been two Silver Medals. These are very special achievements for a small, rural high school.

But the real success has come in terms of student learning and student growth. All five 2003 graduates of the team are now in college engineering programs. When three current members of the team spoke recently about their plans for the future, they indicated how important their robotics experience has been and how they would be pursuing it in the future. Because HVRHS Robotics is such a success story, the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS provides substantial funding each year. Much credit to Robotics Guru and Science Teacher David Lindsay and to Becton-Dickinson for the loan of engineer Andy Brockway.

This year, when Dave Lindsay approached the 21st Century Fund for assistance, he was looking to find a way to extend his students' experiences into animation. This from his letter of application: "I have uncovered a NYC company which will teach our students the fundamentals of the 3D StudioMax animation program if we can pay for their tutorial expertise. We have wanted to enter the animation portion of the FIRST program since our rookie days in 2000, but we have found no local agent of instruction." Well, Mr. Lindsay got the support he needed, and he may also have gotten a "local agent of instruction:" Jason Paruta, Class of '91, works for that NYC company in animation!

EVOLUTION OF AN ART GARAGE

During the most recent round of building expansions at the high school it became evident that the old Clarke B. Wood Agriculture Education building was in danger of being destroyed. But a group of Falls Villagers came forward to convince the Regional Board that it should be "mothballed" instead. They had in mind primarily the long term interests of the robotics program, which was operating in borrowed space, and the need for storage space to accommodate the heavy equipment used in the Ag-Ed Program.

But another interested party emerged. A group of local artists, learning that space might be available at the high school for an after-school open art studio, began to explore the possibilities. Calling themselves "Artists for Artists," Diane and Joel Schapira, Jim Meyer and Amy Jenkins wrote a proposal and applied to the Region One Arts Fund and the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau for support in approaching the Regional Board. The Board's response at that time was that there were other school parties interested in the same space. So Artists for Artists met with Ag Ed teacher Mark Burdick and Robotics leader David Lindsay. And they all agreed to work together!

Then it was back to the Regional Board, this time with the support of the other two interested parties. They received the green light to move forward - but on their own, without support from tax dollars.

Discussions with messrs. Burdick and Lindsay led to the five-bay garage portion of the building being designated as the Art Garage. In support of the project last fall, the Morgan Lehman Gallery in Lakeville hosted an art exhibit and sale of works by local artists that netted a return of \$17,000. During the exhibit/sale the arts group was contacted by local architect Diego Gutierrez, who volunteered to do a pro bono set of preliminary drawings for the proposed conversion from garage to studio. These plans met with approval from the Board in December of 2003.

So work has now begun, the power is on, and tradesmen are enthusiastic. The five-bay space has been separated into one of two bays and one of three. The two-bay space has been offered to the Robotics group on a temporary basis until they can afford to renovate their section.

Once the work is done, the Art Garage is expected to be open four afternoons a week from the close of the school day to the departure of the late buses. There will be no curriculum, no need to sign up beforehand, and no previous art experience is necessary. There will be approximately ten stations and works in progress will be permitted to remain in place until completed. According to Diane Schapira, students need only to "show up and make art."

Each day an artist will be present and working on his/her own project. These adult artists will be modeling artist behavior and mentoring the young artists.

The vision is that, down the line, the Art Garage will play host to visiting artists, to art shows, to portfolio creation and perhaps even some events along the line of what happens each year during the Arts Day for Region One fourth graders sponsored by the Region One Arts Fund.

Artists for Artists has received grants of \$10,000 from the Region One Arts Fund and \$1,000 from the Northwest Corner Fund. They expect to have to raise about \$50,000 more to complete the project. Donation checks should be made out to Arts Fund for Region One/ Art Garage and mailed to Art Garage c/o Jenkins, 71 Bostwick Street, Lakeville, CT 06039.

FACULTY NEWS

Former English teacher Jeannine Atkins has published her latest book entitled Wings and Rockets, the story of women in air and space. A copy will be available in the faculty collection in the school library. Jeannine's husband is the creator of the Ninja Turtles.

SIXTY FIVE YEARS AGO

In 1939, the year that Housatonic opened its doors, Britain and France declared war on Germany, but the United States remained officially neutral. The World's Fair opened in New York featuring such new wonders as nylon, cellophane and television. Jet engine airplanes and DDT were invented. Rockefeller Center opened for business. Fans at Yankee Stadium honored Lou Gehrig. Johnstown won the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes. Bobby Riggs was the star in men's tennis. In movie theaters were Stagecoach, Goodbye, Mr. Chips, The Wizard of Oz and Gone With The Wind.

HELP!

Everyone associated with this newsletter is a volunteer. Without volunteer help we do not exist, and there is no Blue'n'Gold. At present too much work is being done by too few alumni. We need all of you to do two things at a minimum: complete the "Keep in Touch" form on page 8, and send it and your \$10 in dues to the school. If you can also help us with the mailing or by serving on the Committee, please so indicate on the form. Thanks.

Editor Mahoney

Late Note: Editor Mahoney was the recipient of the Town of Canaan Community Service Award during the annual Memorial Day ceremony on the town green. The award is presented annually to a citizen of the town who has given volunteer service to the town over many years. Congratulations!

HVRHS Alumni Association
c/o H.V.R.H.S
246 Warren Turnpike Road
Falls Village, CT 06031

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



COME ON DOWN! (REVISITED)

With the revelry from last February fading into the Florida mists, **Barbara O'Connell Brigham '48** announces that the annual Nokomis Beach Picnic for 2005 will take place on Wednesday, February 16, at the North Jetty (West Coast, near Venice). Invited are all Northwest Corner and HVRHS people who live in or spend the winter or even part of the winter in Florida. The picnic is a very informal, pot luck affair. Directions from Barbara are as follows: "Everyone bring a dish (with food in it). Dessert, meat, pasta or veggies, and your own place setting. No one has to sign up; just show up with food and a smile." Questions can be answered in Canaan by **Mrs. John (Tilley) Bergenty** at 860-824-7703 or in Florida by Barbara Brigham at 941-485-6759 or bbrigham82@att.net.

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@hotmail.com.

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

