



## \$100,000 Gift Boosts Tech-Science Center Plan

Efforts to create a Science and Technology Center at Housatonic Valley Regional High School got a major boost recently when the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS received a \$100,000 donation from an anonymous local donor for its building fund.

The gift was made in memory of **Daniel Scott Parsons, '91**. The son of **Joan** and the late **Carl Parsons** of Music Mountain in Falls Village, he lost his life in a car accident on Dec. 30, 1994, at the age of 21. His interest in books and writing is honored through the Daniel Parsons Memorial Scholarship awarded annually to a graduating HVRHS senior who will major in English.

According to Sharon's **John Perotti, '64**, chairman of the 21st Century Fund Advisory Council, the substantial donation is particularly timely. "Just as we were in danger of losing momentum, this donation comes along and gives us the boost that will push us toward the finish line. We are so grateful," he said.

## 'Housy', 'Housatonic': What's in a Name?

The verdict is in. When asked whether the goal areas of the new gym floor at the high school should be painted with the name "Housy" or "Housatonic," alumni favored Housatonic hands down, according to Region 1 Business Manager **Sam Herrick**.

"I spoke to a handful of coaches and people who have been associated with the sports program over the years in an informal survey," said Mr. Herrick. "I got answers from about 60 people and all but two, or maybe three, said it should be Housatonic."

The "Housy-Housatonic" issues had been bouncing around Alumni Association meetings in recent months, with many of the members expressing distaste for the nickname that has seen more frequent use in recent years. Some alumni expressed the opinion that the name change

has evolved over the decades, going from "Regional" in the days when Housatonic was the only regional high school in the area, to Housatonic or HVRHS in the middle years and edging toward "Housy" for sports fans in recent decades.

"Some said 'Housy' was a derogatory name used by opposing teams during games," Mr. Herrick said. Indeed, former athletic coach **David Bayersdorfer** said painting 'Housy' under the net would be like putting "Pitts" on the Pittsburgh court or "Mills" on the Lewis Mills court. "There is a time and place to use abbreviations but I don't think this is one," he said.

**Candy (Carlson) Steiwing, '82**, put the question out on Facebook and within five minutes had five "Housatonic" responses and **Fred Baldwin, '56**, wrote Mr. Herrick to say, "We have always been very

grateful for the excellent education we received from the superb faculty, administration and staff. Many alumni with whom I am familiar are not pleased with the rather demeaning nickname 'Housy.' We do think very highly of the proper name of the school—Housatonic."

Former school secretary **Bunny McGuire, '56**, was more emphatic. "'Housy' is DEGRADING!!" she wrote. "Housatonic is the real name of this wonderful 1939 first regional high school. (My hackles are up.)"

And former school student, teacher and principal, **Ed Kirby, '45**, wrote, "In 1937, in the legislation creating this school, the title given was the Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Housatonic is the name of the river, the valley and, therefore,

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## Housatonic is 70 Years Young

Housatonic Valley Regional High School admitted its 70th class last month and is still going strong. The school, Regional High School District 1, bears the distinction of having been the first regional school district east of the Hudson River and established a model that has since been successfully implemented throughout Connecticut and beyond.

The experiment in regional education launched in

Connecticut began as early as the 1920s when discussions began in the six towns of the Northwest Corner. No significant activity took place until the 1930s, however, and even then the effects of the Great Depression made planning for a major capital project more difficult for the rural towns. Still, the number of upper division students in the local high schools strained municipal capabilities and towns felt the need for more space and more

varied curricula for students in grades 9-12.

Concrete activity finally took place in 1935 when a committee was formed to explore the feasibility of a regional high school. But the General Assembly rejected bills that year that would make such a consolidation possible. It would be 1937 before Special Act 428 provided that any three or more of the towns of

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## Housatonic Now 70 Years Old and Counting

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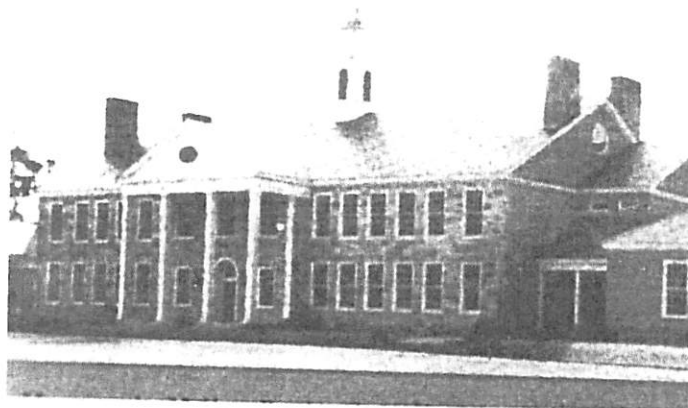
Canaan, Salisbury, Cornwall, Falls Village, Sharon and Kent could establish a district. The preliminary committee was soon replaced by a representative from each town's Board of Education.

The new group was charged with planning and providing publicity about the probable cost of the project. In addition, the group was to determine a site, the curriculum and solve transportation issues.

A campaign to promote the concept was launched in summer 1937 and town meetings were held that fall. Three towns, Falls Village, Canaan and Cornwall, voted unanimously for the plan while Sharon and Kent passed the motion with a few dissenting votes. Salisbury balked, fearing that its larger student population would leave it paying the majority of the bill. The item was delayed until the Salisbury October annual town meeting, at which time it passed by a three-to-one ratio.

The committee settled on a 75-acre farm in Falls Village as the location for the school and the property was purchased for \$200,000—by contrast, in 2009, a new gym floor is expected to cost \$226,000.

In 1938 the towns applied for and received Federal public works funds to construct the school. By this time the cost had risen beyond the estimated \$200,000 needed for construction—an experience echoed in 2000 when a referendum vote was needed to provide additional funds for the latest expansion of the high school, the \$8.2 million agriculture center. The final cost of the original school was \$347,180, of which the local communities paid only about \$20,000.



Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1939.

Work started in September 1938 and was to be completed in 300 calendar days. The corner stone was laid April 2, 1939, on a cold, snowy, windy day with about 600 people in attendance. Eighteen items were put inside a copper box that was then put in place by a large derrick and covered with cement and granite.

When the first buses pulled up in front of the handsome Georgian building on Sept. 25, 1939, life in Northwest Connecticut was changed forever. Although the building was as yet incomplete—floors were bare cement and there were no clocks or warning bells in place—the social barriers that had existed among the member towns began to diminish.

"It was quite an adjustment," said Frances Wohlfert, '40, a senior that first year. "Our senior year was pretty much trashed by going to Housatonic. After all, we had been bitter sports rivals with Sharon and Salisbury and suddenly we were all expected to play together. There was a lot of rivalry. We didn't know each other and our teachers didn't know any of us. Even some of the teachers were disgruntled because there had been six principals in those

little towns and now they were demoted and teaching under Dr. Stoddard."

Mr.—later Dr.—Stoddard led a faculty of 19 teachers. Buses transported 348 students. Vo-Ag classes for 20 students were taught by Clarke Wood and there was a basketball team, a gold team and a class play was presented each year.

The school was formally dedicated on June 1, 1940, when the architect turned the keys over to the Board of Education. That same month, the school sent forth its first 70 graduates. It listed 28 students on its honor roll and 16 students were admitted to the Honor Society at the end of its inaugural year.

The regional concept gelled in the coming years under the direction of the dynamic and somewhat autocratic Dr. Stoddard, who oversaw operations at the school until his retirement in February, 1966.

Since 1939, the school has gone through four major expansions, more than doubling its size and now providing about 80 classrooms. It has seen school populations that peaked at 770 and in 2009 expects to educate some 500 young people drawn from its member towns.

## HVRHS Grads Walk Halls of Power

Housatonic may be in an idyllic setting, drawing its student population from six relatively affluent towns, but educationally it is often overshadowed in people's minds by the plethora of prestigious private schools that dot the landscape. But Housatonic has had its share of top-notch graduates who have gone on to careers in high-profile jobs, as is evidenced by the following sample of former students who have found their niche in government service.

**Jim Loi, '85**, shown above in a photograph taken in the Oval Office with President Obama, has enjoyed a long and varied career, most recently joining the National Security Council as director of Asian Economic Affairs in July 2008. Shortly after this picture was taken, he was off to Singapore to make arrangements for APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Forum) set for this November.

He joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer in 1995 and from 1996 to 2000 served as an economic officer in Bucharest, Romania, and Pretoria, South Africa. From 2000-2004, he held several positions in Washington, DC, including in the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), where he was director for China and Japan Trade and at the Department of State Operations Center. During his detail to USTR, he was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing from 2004-2007, initially as head of the office responsible for economic policy analysis and for tracking China's compliance with and implementation of World Trade Organization (WTO) commitment. Later he was head of the Embassy's broader external economic affairs unit. He was also the Embassy's mission-wide coordinator for the U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogue.

While Jim currently hobnobs with Obama White House personnel,



**Jim Loi, left, enjoys a moment in the Oval Office.**

**Candida "Candi" Perotti Wolff, '82** worked in the halls of power for the GOP for eight years for the Senate Republican Policy Committee as policy director for the 2000 Republican Platform Committee, as Deputy Senate Liaison for the Bush-Cheney transition, Deputy Assistant and later Assistant to the Vice President for Legislative Affairs, and as Assistant to the President of the United States for Legislative Affairs. She left the Bush Administration a year before the transition of power and is currently working in the legislative branch of a Washington, DC, law firm.

Other former Housatonic students have found positions in government outside of Washington. **Ed Montanaro**, who would have graduated with the **Class of '71** had he not moved to Florida in his senior year, is currently an associate professor of modern languages at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, where he also

teaches economics. In the past he served as chief economic advisor to Bob Graham, Governor of Florida from 1979-1987 and more recently, he was director of economic and demographic research for the Florida Legislature.

While Mr. Montanaro was helping to set economic policy, **John Mulligan, '77**, was a special agent with the FBI, helping to keep the nation safe from gangs and terrorists. From 1988 to '98 he was assigned to the FBI/NYPD Violent Gangs Task Force in New York City. For his last eight years in New York, he was a member of the FBI's SWAT Team specializing in hostage rescues and high risk arrests, including the arrest of an FBI Top Ten Fugitive.

From 1998 to 9/11/2001 he was an Arrest Team Leader for the Violent Crime Task Force in the FBI's Newark, NJ, office, where he participated in more than 600 felony arrests, including two individuals featured on America's

Most Wanted. Following the attacks on Sept. 11 he worked seven days a week for the next three months to identify those responsible and to prevent future attacks.

From January to May of 2002 he was deployed to Karachi, Pakistan, as team leader of the investigation of the kidnapping and subsequent murder of American reporter Daniel Pearl. He was responsible for all investigative measures and tactical operations, personally recovering the video tape of Mr. Pearl's murder, a vital piece of evidence during the capital murder trial. In addition to identifying, arresting and later convicting the leader and six members of the terrorist organization responsible for Mr. Pearl's murder, he and his team participated in the capture of approximately two dozen additional Al Qaeda operatives, recovering large amounts of cash and explosives.





## Brianna Belter is Recipient Of Scholarship

Each spring the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Alumni Association awards a scholarship to a graduating senior from Housatonic Valley Regional High School who has been accepted at an institution of higher learning. As a requirement for consideration, the student must have had parents or grandparents who graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

This year's successful candidate, **Brianna Belter, '09**, qualified on both counts, being the third generation of her family to graduate from the 70-year-old high school.

Miss Belter's mother, **Lori (Grossman) Belter** was graduated with the **Class of 1978** while her father, **Stephen Belter**, was a member of the **Class of 1975**. Her grandmothers, **Marjorie Ann (Wehmeyer) Grossman, '52**, and **Doretta (Beaupre) Belter, '41**, and her grandfather, **J. Henry Belter, '41**, established the family tradition.

## From the Editor: Alumni Angels Needed

The HVRHS Alumni Association has been revitalized and is working in many different directions to keep its network of graduates connected and active in the school's future. The Alumni Association now publishes the Blue 'n' Gold twice annually, has a new Web site, awards a scholarship each June and is active in such events as Hall of Fame inductions and this fall's homecoming at the high school.

All of this costs money and the Association needs support to continue its activities, funds that are raised primarily through membership dues. Now more than ever we need your support as alumni. An-

nual memberships of \$10 or life memberships of \$100 can be sent to the following address: HVRHS Alumni Association, Housatonic Valley Regional High School, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031.

Even if you choose not to support the Alumni financially, we still need your help. We need your full, correct address so we can keep our files up to date. And we want to know about you. You would be surprised how many times questions are posed about alumni—what are they doing? Where do they live? Married? Family? Let us know about *you* and how you have fared. Don't be

shy, share your story with others in our HVRHS community.

We are also entering the 21st century as we seek to broaden our outreach to alumni. Our Web site is a work in progress but offers alumni the opportunity to access the Blue 'n' Gold in two ways: the old-fashioned print version mailed directly to you and online. Those who would like to view the issues only online should let us know and your names will be removed from the mailing list—thereby saving a tree and helping the Alumni Association save money for use on projects at the high school. Thank you.

## Kirby Publishes More Tales

"Seldom Told Tales of Sharon, Book II" by **Ed Kirby, '45** (later teacher, coach, athletic director and principal) was published in October 2008. The volume follows "Seldom Told Tales of Sharon, Book I," published in 2004. Ed's documentary film, "Visions of Iron," was released in 2008.

Where Book I concentrated primarily on industrial Sharon, "Seldom Told Tales of Sharon, Book II" is about how people of Sharon affected events in the world and vice versa. There is, for example, the story of the Colgate Family and their Gilded Age mansion and how Romulus Riggs Colgate became the first president of California Gas & Electric. Included, too, is the story of artist Emily Winthrop Miles and her aviator husband Corey, Sharon's Maria Bissell Hotchkiss who

donated Sharon's Hotchkiss Library and Lakeville's Hotchkiss School along with the stories of other fascinating characters and events.

On June 1, 2009, the film "Visions of Iron" was selected as the top historical documentary of the year by The Connecticut League of History Organizations (CLHO). The CLHO also presented Ed with its Award of Merit for Individual Comprehensive Work. On Aug. 29 at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for State and Local History in Indianapolis, IN the film was recognized on the national level with the Leadership in History Award.

Ed's "Seldom Told Tales of Sharon, Book III" is underway. Those interested in purchasing the books or film may call the Sharon Historical Society at 860-364-5688.

## Alumni Look Forward to 2010 Homecoming

The HVRHS Alumni Association had originally hoped to welcome alumni to a special homecoming event this fall in connection with the school's 70th anniversary. Those plans were dashed in the planning confusion after the new athletic director, David Roach, resigned this spring after only one school year.

The Alumni group has now vowed to renew its efforts for 2010 and hopes to have events aimed at graduates who are returning to the school with rich memories of times past. Plans include tours of the school, a breakfast or dinner and chances to reminisce.

## Envirothon Team takes first in state, 10th in US-Canada

Housatonic Valley Regional High School's Envirothon team has done it again, taking first place in the state Envirothon Competition for the third time in six years. The team subsequently took 10th place in the North American competition held in August in Ashville, NC.

The team took top place over 36 other teams in the May 21 competition at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area in Burlington, CT.

Some history: Two years ago the Housatonic students were the North America

champions in the Canon Envirothon competition, which pits teams from across the United States and Canada against each other in a week-long event. The 2009 state win again qualified the local team to compete on the international level this August and the young people traveled with their advisor, ag science teacher **David Moran**, to Ashville, NC.

The Housatonic team scored a total of 429.2 points on May 21 and earned high honors in four of the categories: aquatics, 94; soils, 92; wildlife, 80; and the annual

issue, 96. They stumbled only in forestry where they scored 67.2 at the state level.

Mr. Moran said that he had two veterans of the 2008 Canon Envirothon Competition on his 2009 team, senior **Rebecca Bogert, '09**, and sophomore **Ryan Long**, both of East Canaan. "They lent a little experience to the process," said Mr. Moran, adding that there were eight students on the team, five of whom competed at Sessions Woods. The others served as alternates and competed in a less intensive way. "They had a chance to answer the ques-

tions at the field stations, but didn't do the oral presentation," Mr. Moran explained.

One of those alternates, **Jeff Hammond** of Lakeville, was elevated to full status for the Canon Envirothon in August, as **Rachel Freund, '09** was unable to participate.

Other first team members were senior **Kelsey Gneiting, '09**, of Lakeville and sophomore **Emily Studer** of Kent. Alternates were **Brittany Godburn** of Canaan and **Jacob Horowitz** of Falls Village

Each year, Canon USA and Canon Canada decide on a theme to be explored by the Envirothon teams—this year it was biodiversity. The students answered questions in each area and made a presentation based on the specified issue. The issue treated in the oral presentation was revealed to the teams in March.

Mr. Moran said that this year the students were asked to provide a management plan for a 450-acre parcel of grasslands that straddles the state line between Massachusetts and Connecticut for the state competition. He said that one of the strong points of Envirothon competition is that students are required to provide solutions for real-life problems. "It requires them to take their knowledge and apply it to real problems," he said.

## Happy Birthday! Class of '47



The Class of '47 celebrated its members birthdays on Saturday, Aug. 8, at the Lone Oaks campsite in East Canaan with **Bucky Brown** as host. Bucky and Dottie Brown planned entertainment and food for **Toni DelTenno** and **Joe McGrain**, **Liz**

**Selfridge** and **Jerry Baumann**, **Joan (Gandelli) Weber**, **Neil Perkins** and his wife, **Neva**, **Milton Clay** and his wife, **Fawn**, **Louise (Burns) Mang**, **Barbara Bartram**, **Flossie Wilson**, **Ross and Lib (Lumpkin) Grannan**, **Peter Marcon** and wife, **Kath-**

**leen (Tobin) Marcon, '48**, **Pat and Tom Whitford**, **Ray Coons**, **Aurelia (Graham) Blodgett**, **Peter Lawson**, **Fran Gomez**, **Flossie (Hanlon) Hayes**, **Pat (Loucks) Henry** and sister, **Doris Marchi Ed** and **Clare (Johnson) Pederson, '56**, **John O'Hara**

and wife, **Sally**, and **Dot (Winn) Cecchinato**.

The Class of '47 has dwindled to 47 alums. **Pete Suzuki** of Elkhorn Neb., **Sally (Fuller) Prestele** of Poway, CA, and **Lee Beaujon** of Roseville, CA, could not join us.

# Alumni News by Class and Decade

## 1940s

**Reidar Holst-Grubbe**, '40, member of the first HVRHS graduating class, died Jan. 30, 2008.

**Jane Jarvis (Jackson) Kenyon**, '45, of Athens, GA, has written with warm remembrances of her years at Housatonic and the start in life that the redoubtable first principal, Dr. Paul Stoddard, gave her. Mrs. Jackson wrote of the days following Pearl Harbor, when she was a freshman at HVRHS, then in its third year.

"I was a freshman and my brother, **Austin Lee Jackson**, '42, a senior when Pearl Harbor was bombed," she wrote. "All students were called to the lunchroom/auditorium. From then on we offered engineering, aerodynamics and special math classes for pilots."

Mrs. Kenyon said she wanted to offer a special tribute to Dr. Stoddard because of the impetus he gave to her educational career. "Our education at Regional was outstanding," she wrote. "My junior year I was selected to be Mr. Stoddard's—later a Ph.D—personal secretary and to help at the front desk. The regular secretary was on sick leave, I think. My first day at work, Mr. Stoddard arrived with his arms full of N.Y. newspapers and N.Y. play programs, as well as some from Yale. My experience at dictation sent shivers up my spine as he stood tall behind me and dictated to the typewriter. I felt his eyes watching my hesitations at word spellings, etc.

"Mr. Stoddard held special classes for seniors [discussing] life threatening situations—'What would you do?'—and problem-solving sessions.

"As I've told many friends working with him was like no

other. I produced the daily schedules and the mimeographed material he distributed to students and many student work-related items. As my work progressed, I made little areas on the shelf for his personal study papers. He attended many N.Y. area functions and visited Yale on the weekends, perhaps working toward his Ph.D. His arms were full of papers and references.

Dr. Stoddard was a demanding boss but could also be lenient. She remembers the day he gave her permission to leave school at noon to participate in a horse show. "I spent years at horse shows and won many trophies," she reported.

But his first role was as her educator. "One day he returned to the office and wanted to know why I failed to show up at the special national tests for the juniors and seniors planning to attend college. I replied, 'Well, there's no way I can attend college as we can't afford it.' Her stood up and said, 'Well, we'll see about that.'

"Later I returned to my regular classes. Then he sent for me to see him in his office. I sat down and he told me I was accepted for college in Virginia and here's your scholarship. [I was to receive] full support the first year, three-quarters my sophomore year, half in my junior year and a quarter in my senior year. Needless to say, I was overwhelmed. He put me in French I and French II and Algebra I and II for my junior and senior years because they were needed for college. All the little freshman girls and boys seemed so young."

Mrs. Kenyon was given an "excellent job" in college, waiting on tables and was able to buy a portable typewriter with her

first check—a machine that stood her in good stead for years. Majoring in science she plunged into such challenging classes as organic and inorganic chemistry, college algebra, genetics and the like. But the war was still raging and German submarines were off the coast so the school had darkened windows at night, compulsory swimming and military-style marching.

Mrs. Kenyon assumed she would teach elementary school science, but it was not to be. Learning she would have to take education courses for a year, she enrolled in the first medical technician class at St. John's Hospital in Yonkers, NY, working to pay her way. She lived in the nurses' quarters and eventually passed the national Medical Technician of the American Society of Certified Pathologists exam.

She moved with her husband, James Kenyon, to Chicago, where she worked at Woodlawn Hospital and became head technician. It was a crime-ridden area, however, and hospital personnel had police escorts because of the danger. When the area they were living in became too dangerous, her husband sent his family back East while he worked on his Ph.D in Chicago.

"I feel Dr. Stoddard gave me an opportunity to raise my hopes, give me a life I could be proud of and to contribute to society—as well as to be a helpful private secretary," she wrote. "I later became secretary to the head and office manager at the University of Georgia's Department of Physics and Astronomy. This is where Dr. Stoddard helped—the faculty would come to me with, 'Where can I find ...?' or 'Do you know ...?'"

Mrs. Kenyon's sister, **Ella Hamlin (Jackson) Fitch**, '41,

also attended Housatonic and later married **George R. Fitch**, '41. Mr. and Mrs. Fitch are now deceased.

The Kenyons have three children and six grandchildren.

**Sally (Fuller) Prestele**, '47, wrote that she couldn't could make the Aug. 8 80th birthday celebration at Lone Oak Campgrounds, but passed on a tale of resilience when she reported that her Rancho Bernardo, CA, home had burned in the wildfires of October 2007.

"We had to evacuate at 4:15 in the morning," she wrote, "and didn't have time to pack anything except Joe's and the dog's medications and a few days worth of feed for the dogs. In time we bought another home. We really didn't feel up to rebuilding, and besides, our old house was on three levels and Joe gets around in an electric wheelchair, so it really wasn't the best for us anymore, although, other things being equal, we had adapted and would have stayed there for the rest of our lives." The live in Poway, CA.

## 1950s

**Robert Stapleton**, '57, wrote this time with a check for a Life Membership and in the process shared some information about himself. Bob currently lives in Loris, SC, where he moved five years ago after deciding to retire. Not quite ready to take it entirely easy, he is running his own business, Liberty Furniture, making handcrafted Early American furniture that looks a lot like Hunt Country Furniture. "It was great to see the [Blue 'n' Gold] and see what old classmates are doing," he wrote.

"I absolutely love reading about my classmates," agreed **Judith (Harvey) Brown**, '52. "Much water has passed under

# Alumni News by Class and Decade

the bridge. I would love to hear from Class of '52 folks."

Judith is currently a full-time volunteer managing a theater company ([www.vallejo-musictheatre.org](http://www.vallejo-musictheatre.org)). "We are working on a \$5 million project," she wrote, "restoring an old 1932 historic post office into a two-theater full-service performing arts center in Vallejo, CA."

## 1960s

Steve Blass, '60, began his 50th year with the Pittsburgh Pirates on April 13. Steve signed with the Pirates just out of Housatonic, pitched in the minor leagues, then for the Pirates where he starred in games three and seven as the team won the 1971 World Series. Following his retirement from active baseball Steve did promotional work for the Pirates and then became a member of their radio and television team, a post he still holds today.

At the Pirates opening 2009 home game he was honored on the field and threw out the first pitch to his World Series catcher, Manny Sanguillen. On the field for the ceremonies were Steve's wife Karen (Lamb) Blass, '60, and, as guest of the Pirates, Steve's Housatonic baseball coach Ed Kirby, '45, and his wife, Mary (Tobin) Kirby, '45.

Christine (Holst-Grubbe) Napolitan, '64, and her husband, Neil, are thrilled to announce the birth of their first grandchild, "Louie" on Dec. 28, 2008. Christine is currently working as a staff developer for the New York City Department of Education and lives in Brooklyn.

Don Patterson, '67, had been out-of-touch with us for several years. While we thought he was still in Millerton, NY, Don was actually spending four months of the year in Millbrook,

NY and the remaining eight months of the year in Florida. Don finally settled full-time in Wellington, FL, about three years ago where he rides, trains and shows horses. Still retaining his sense of humor he wrote, "I'm probably the oldest professional athlete you know."

Henry Costanzo, '67, recently tracked Pat Karasick, '68, to the Los Angeles area and discovered that Pat and classmate Connie Gomez, '68, serve together on a public safety board. When queried about this, Connie wrote, "Yes, it's the LAPD Community Police Advisory Board. Pat and I had no idea that the other lived in LA. At my first board meeting I saw this gal who looked familiar (she looks the same as she did in high school!) and she was looking at me with a 'you look familiar' stare. We looked at each other's name tags and went, 'I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.'"

It's a small world after all....

More than 60 members from the Class of '67 continue to be connected via our email directory. It's private and confidential, [contactmarvmarshall@yahoo.com](mailto:contactmarvmarshall@yahoo.com) for more information.

## 1970s

Congratulations to Ned and Karen (Blodgett) Osborn, '71, of Florida, who will become grandparents this year. Their daughter, Stephanie, and her husband, Chris, who reside in Berkeley, CA, are expecting their first child in the fall. Karen and Ned's other children, David and Lindsey, also reside in California

## 1980s

Stephen Hart, '82, is a dedicated cabinet and furniture craftsman, living on Martha's

Vineyard ([www.hartwood-workinginc.com](http://www.hartwood-workinginc.com)). Born into the Stanley Tool company and a seventh-generation woodworker, Stephen grew up with a great assortment of woodworking tools and soon developed a passion for creating beautiful works in wood. He continued his education in woodworking at HVRHS and moved to Martha's Vineyard, where his family had summered throughout his childhood, after graduation. He continued his interests with furniture, cabinetry and boat building, starting with a two-year apprenticeship with Gannon and Benjamin boat builders constructing the 40-foot gaff rigged sloop "Liberty."

He continued under the direction of John Thayer furniture and cabinet builders, learning the trade of a professional woodworker. After two years, he started work on construction of a custom-built home, doing finish work and cabinetry. For the next seven years he worked under the direction of Edward Alla, learning architectural millwork while restoring many historical buildings owned by the Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust as well as other high-end cabinet interiors. Following his real passion, Stephen decided to go back to making furniture and landed a two-year position working with the Larry Hepler, where he learned to design and build heirloom-quality furniture.

He recently built a home in East Cornwall and enjoys returning to see old friends and to make new ones as well. "Is Paul Padua going to retire anytime soon?" he inquires impishly. "If he is, then maybe there's a chance that I could be a replacement."

Ethan Mechare, '96, an actor, writer and filmmaker who grew up in Falls Village, where

his mother, Pat Mechare, '64, is now the first selectman, returned home from California for the Kent Film Festival. His documentary, "Work Harder," which chronicles the lives of Acela and Allzon, two Hispanic women who are among the working poor trying to live on the minimum wage in southern California, was screened

Mr. Mechare said he got the idea for "Work Harder," after reading a book called "Nickel and Dime: On (Not) Getting By in America" by Barbara Ehrenreich. He thought it a poignant commentary on how this country deals with poverty.

In the book, Ehrenreich documents her struggle to live paycheck to paycheck in three different US cities. "What I didn't like about the book was that it didn't tell the story of the people who actually lived on minimum wage. Her book proved an important point, but I wanted to go beyond that and take it to the next level so I decided to make a film about the women who really made ends meet on \$6.75 an hour and who didn't have the option to go back to a life as an upper middle class white woman," he said.

Mr. Mechare said that growing up in the wealthy Northwest Corner did not exclude exposure to working class people and poverty and that his childhood provided a valuable experience because of his parents' efforts to make the community a stronger and better place to live.

2000s

Benjamin Osborn, '08, is attending Porter & Chester in Watertown for mechanic certification and is working for R. Wright Services.



