

Blue 'n' Gold

Summer 2016

HVRHS Alumni Association

Volume 18, Issue 1

ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Alexis Freudenberg, '15 was last year's recipient of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Alumni Association Scholarship. The recipient must be accepted to an institution of higher learning and have parents or grandparents who graduated from Housatonic. She is the daughter of Susan Gregory, '92, and Matthew Freudenberg, '93. Her grandparents are Diane Campbell, '72 and Kirk Freudenberg, '67 and her great-grandmother was the late Elizabeth Francis, '45. Alexis is attending Champlain College.

Ted Perotti, who graduated in June, is this year's recipient of the HVRHS Alumni Association Scholarship. A resident of Canaan, he is the son of Dolores Schaefer Perotti, '83, and Francis "Champ" Perotti, '83, and grandson of Jean Riva Perotti, '57, Francis Perotti, '54 and George Schaefer, '50. Ted plans to study communications at Endicott College.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Region 1 will have a new superintendent as of July 2017. The towns' boards of education have named Pamela Vogel to succeed Patricia Chamberlain, who will be retiring. Mrs. Vogel has been serving as assistant superintendent since last July. Prior to coming to the Northwest Corner, she was a school administrator in Iowa.

Ed Kirby Honored with Tree



Ed Kirby was recognized last fall with a bur oak planted in his honor on the lawn of Housatonic Valley Regional High School. His classmates from the class of '45 attending the ceremony were Emma Carberry Paley, Mary Sebben Woodman and Mary Tobin Kirby (his wife). State Rep. Roberta Willis of Salisbury was also on hand to present him with a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly.

The sturdy little bur oak that now stands in front of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School campus will long keep a watchful eye on the school just as Ed Kirby, to whom the tree was dedicated, has done for so many years.

Friends, classmates and family gathered on a sunny Sunday last September to witness the ceremony, which was arranged by the school's Arboretum and Landscape Committee. Mr. Kirby, a 1945 graduate, went on to teach and coach at the school and then became its principal. He ended his career as assistant superintendent of Region 1.

Principal Jose Martinez said he hopes to carry on the legacy left by Mr. Kirby. In doing research for his speech, he spoke with retired teacher and coach David Bayersdorfer, who told him of Mr. Kirby's achievements, such as being named to the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame and being the recipient of the Sharon Historical Society's first Lifetime Achievement Award. He said Mr. Bayersdorfer called Mr. Kirby a Renaissance man.

Continued on page 2

Arboretum Committee Beautifies Campus

The HVRHS Arboretum and Landscape Committee manages 34 tree species on our teaching arboretum, reports Tom Zetterstrom, '63. The committee adds class trees as funds become available, usually from class reunions. Members oversee the landscape restoration of the north campus surrounding the tennis courts by eradicating and managing

invasive plants. This initiative has been funded with the support of class reunions, grants, and the support of the Board of Education. We welcome contributions to restore native plants to that site following invasive control. For further information, contact Mr. Zetterstrom at: zetterstrom@sbcglobal.net.

Kirby Honored

Continued from page 1...

"I want to say thank you for our own Leonardo DaVinci, our own Northwest Corner DaVinci," Ron Dower said. **Ron Dower**, '60, former faculty member and chairman of the committee, said many measures have been taken to enhance the beauty of the campus.

Committee member **Tom Zetterstrom**, '63 and a tree expert, said that before the committee began its work 12 years ago the campus was an asphalt jungle. A year after the committee's formation, the beloved white oak that had stood on the property for about 200 years collapsed. It was replaced in 2007, and other trees have since been added to the inventory.

"I'd like to declare that the Kirby bur oak will survive 200 years," Mr. Zetterstrom said.

Christian Allyn, '13, and the youngest arboretum committee member, is now a student at the University of Connecticut. He talked about the white oak that shadowed and sheltered its students and the new one that will take on that responsibility for future generations, "just as Ed stood tall for all of us."

During his address, Mr. Kirby talked about his days at Housatonic and how he and his classmates were kids of the Depression and of World War II. "We had been at Housatonic three months when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. That changed our lives and the world."

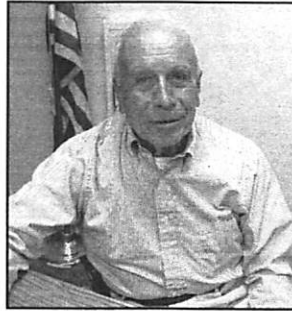
Many of the boys left to serve their country. The graduating class consisted of 44 girls and 17 boys. He talked about how most lived on farms, how they dealt with rationing and the time school was closed for six weeks so the steam boilers could be converted from oil to coal. "We were happy here and we got a good education."

Mr. Kirby reminisced about entertainment of that era, naming big bands, vocalists and songs. He then sang a chorus of "This is the Army, Mr. Jones," much to the delight of the audience.

State Representative Roberta Willis presented Mr. Kirby with a citation from the state, which noted that the dedication of the bur oak in his honor signifies his continued commitment to Housatonic. It reads, "You have left an indelible mark on the school. Past, present and future students have all benefited and will continue to benefit from your devotion to insuring a quality education to all who pass down its halls."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

For this issue, we've talked to two graduates about their Housatonic days and life afterwards.



Francis "Frank" Perotti, Class of 1954

When I graduated from eighth grade, I had three wishes: the Korean War would end before I graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School, I would make the football team and that I would be ready to join the family plumbing business. I got my wishes. I played football with only one lost game in four years and graduated and joined the family business as the second generation. My father started the business in 1929 and my mother handled the books and answered the phone.

Housatonic at that time offered an industrial arts program that consisted of classes in woodworking and metal shops, electrical, photography and blueprint reading. This program gave a hands-on approach that prepared me for joining the family business. The war had ended by the time I graduated and I chose to join the Army Reserves. My wife, **Jean Riva**, '57 and I married in 1963, and we raised four children, all of whom graduated with honors from Housatonic. They each have degrees and have gone on to pursue careers in law, education and business. Our son **Francis "Champ" Perotti**, '83, is now president of the corporation and he and his wife, **Dolores Schaefer Perotti**, '83, have three children, the youngest of whom graduated from Housatonic this year. They will carry on the fourth generation of the family business.

I have been active in our community, serving on the high school's standing building committee for more than 15 years, Geer's board of directors for more than 20 years, St. Joseph finance committee for 15 years, a founding member of the Canaan Community Trust, past Grand Knight of Berkshire Council 1520 and a 20-year member of the Canaan Exchange Club. My life after Housatonic has been rewarding and I continue to attend and enjoy events at the high school whenever I can.



Carol Ramsey Lintz, Class of 1970

"I have fond memories of HVRHS, and have always felt the school gave me a good education that served me well. I was ready for college, Smith, then my first career as a U.S. Navy navigator aboard the U.S.S. Yosemite (AD-19). After six years in the Navy, I went to Wharton for an MBA in finance, specifically for a career change into investment management. I have been very happy, and still enjoy my work.

On the personal side, when I moved to Boston to start work at Fidelity, I met my husband, David, an attorney at the time. He is now executive vice president of BBN Technologies, a division of Raytheon. We have two sons, both software engineers. Our older son started at Google in California, and is now at a start up; our younger son went straight to a start-up company. He is here in Boston, which is so nice for me.

I am certain that many graduates have gone on to do interesting and significant things. I have not gone back to the area for many years, as our parents are deceased. We also lost my sister **Roslyn "Roz" Ramsey Federson**, '66 two years ago.

We all grew up in such beautiful towns and did appreciate it at the time. I hope the high school is as good as when we were there, for the students will be well prepared for their next steps."

The cost of printing and mailing the Blue & Gold has become prohibitive. 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.

Alumni News by Class and Decade

1940s, 60s and 70s

The Turrill family's presence at Housatonic spanned decades, as described by **Catherine Turrill '68**.

John Ferris Turrill, '42, Barbara Turrill, '69, Jan Turrill, who left a year early to attend college, (now surnamed Oliver) and **Catherine Turrill** (now surnamed Turrill Lupi) were students there in the 1940s (JFT), 1960s (both Barbara and me), and 1970s (Jan). And we also have all moved to the West Coast, which is where Barbara and I were born. We are both natives of California, our mother's state and the place where our parents met after WWII. Our parents moved from Connecticut back to California in the early eighties. Barbara moved to Oregon shortly thereafter, and Jan moved first to Oregon, then back to New England. Her two daughters were born in Vermont. She then moved to California just a couple of years ago. I moved to Sacramento from New Hampshire in 1995, joining the faculty of the art department of California State University. I will be retiring this summer after 21 years, including nine years as department chair. My husband, Alberto Lupi, lives and works in Italy, so I look forward upon retirement to dividing the year between my two homes, in Ferrara and Sacramento. A railroad fan from boyhood, my father makes regular trips to New England, usually once a year, and always by train. He will be returning there in August for a short visit after attending his granddaughter Ona's graduation from the Chicago School of Violin Making. Ona, Jan's younger daughter, is training to be a luthier. Ona's older sister Erica graduates from Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC, this year. Last year she was a member of the USA Wheel Gymnastics Team, competing in the fourth CSIT World Sports games in Lignano, Italy, her first time in that international competition. Needless to say, I am very proud of both my nieces! I was delighted to be able to watch Erica compete last June.

1950s

Small in number, but large in enthusiasm, nine members of the class of 1955 gathered at the Canaan Country Club on October 24 for their 60th reunion! **Clementine "Bunny" Cecchinato McGuire** and **Patricia Piretti White** came the shortest distance (from Canaan) while **Stan Brady** came the farthest—down from Cape Cod. In between came **Emily Sheldon Whitford** from Cornwall, **Mildred Lanfranchi Testa** and her husband, **Frank** (class of 1954), from Bloomfield, **Mary Ellen "Mike" Smedick Beauchemin** and her husband, Bert, from Southington, **Walter "Wally" Matson** from Danbury, **Wanda Hutchinson Colman** from Tariffville and **Joan Patchen Maab** and her husband, Geoffrey, from Manchester. During the evening a surprise phone call came from **Edward Tripp** in Texas. Ed had to choose between the reunion and a trip to Alaska and thought a phone call to the Country Club would cover both! Thanks to the class for its donation to the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

A mini reunion luncheon with classmates from '58 was enjoyed last fall with **Sandra Blass Smith, Pat Houston Bachetti, Jean Menti Milici, Ruth Peirce Adotte, Lynn Hunter Cline** and **Rose Debarbieri VanDeBogart**.

1960s

A large number of the class of 1960 turned out for its 55th reunion last September at the White Hart Inn. Reminiscing was



The class of 1960 held its 55th reunion last September at the White Hart Inn. Among those attending were: **Mickey Barr, Kaaren Olsen, Richard Brown and Ron Dower**.

in high form as classmates recalled their days at Regional, which was what it was known by then. Everyone was also eager to catch up on what's currently going on in each other's lives.

The class of 1961 will hold its 55th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 17, from 5 p.m. to midnight at the Canaan Country Club. For details contact **Linda Rhoades Fitzgerald** at lindafitzgerald@raleigh.twcbc.com or phone 919-523-7903. Contact information for the following classmates is being sought: **Kendal McGregor Allen, Beverly Ann Branche, Jonathan Dresser, Norman Bruce Johnson, Sabina Hurley Campbell, Marie Lorenzo Mosman, Mary Jane Myers Danko, William Nickerson, Barbara Rundall Dotson, Carol Sporie Lusby, Gregory Stone, Agnes Ulin Brazee, Kathleen Walsh Crawford, Bruce Wedda and Hazel Williams Blois**.

Paula Strong, '64, has started a new business called "The Professional Medium and Healer of Charleston." She writes from her home in South Carolina that she "raises people's vibration an octave higher so that they can heal whatever blocks they have. The healing work takes between seven and 10 sessions. In the near future, I will be starting a school for the supernatural kids, those psychics and mediums who will be working in all different fields, such as law, sports, construction, politics and art. I have come a long way since graduation. I've been a teacher and a holistic psychotherapist and now healer, not to mention having various jobs that have helped me to learn about myself and humanity."

The class of '66 will hold its 50th reunion on September 17 at the Litchfield Inn. Interested classmates may contact **Dick Heinz** at dickcheinz@comcast.net.

1970s

The class of 1970 held its 45th reunion at the Canaan Country Club on Oct. 30 with folks coming from Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts and North Carolina. Class members who attended were: **Bruce Osolin, Judy Sombathy Alderman, Rick Knapp, Donna Carberry DiMartino, Debbie Hamzy Sok, Joy Martorell, Rindy Donovan Higgins, Mary Harson**

Alumni News

Continued from page 3...

Reeves, Nancy Matson Henderson, Mary Sherwood Smith, Holly Brickman Stenberg, Bill Tatsapaugh, Rick Law, Scott Hylton, Ted Pacocha, Debbie Weaver Bergenty, Pam Feathers, George Zavagnin, Candy Lovell and Cheryl Donati Rossire. There are already plans underway for the 50th, when hopefully more classmates will come back to celebrate.

The class of '76 celebrated its 40th reunion on Saturday, July 30, in Sharon at the Herbert Klebes American Legion Hall on New Street.

1980s

Lisa Bartle Reel, '84 writes that she is married to Mark Reel and they live in Lakeville. They have two children, Allycia Reel of Canaan, who works at North Canaan Elementary School as an educational paraprofessional, and Westley Reel, who just finished his freshman year at Dean College. He hopes to teach physical education. They also have one grandchild Rylan Soule, age 2. Lisa has worked in Region 1 for 26 years as an educational paraprofessional, first at Salisbury Central, then at Sharon Center and currently at Housatonic.

1990s

The Benjamin Guy Scholarship was initiated by friends and family of Ben Guy, '98, who was a determined and passionate athlete. He persevered through injuries to earn a total of 10 varsity letters in football, ice hockey and tennis. He passed away in 2006, and is remembered by all as a devoted friend and teammate. The scholarship goes to a member of the senior class who has been admitted to an accredited institution of higher learning and was a member of the football or hockey team. It is awarded on the basis of scholarship, academic and athletic achievement, character, citizenship and commitment to Housatonic athletics. For further information or to donate, contact Jordan Bayersdorfer, '98 at 3145 Ferncliff Commons, Atlanta, GA. 30324.

2010s

Christian Allyn, '13, was appointed to the American Chestnut Foundation, Connecticut chapter, in April 2015, the youngest board member in its history. In November he was selected to be one of 15 to participate in the 2016 Leadership Legacy Experience, UConn's premier and flagship leadership program. Christian continues to give tours at the Beckley Furnace in Canaan, sits on the North Canaan Beautification, Streetscape and Greenway committees in his hometown, the HVRHS Arboretum and Landscape Committee, the HVRHS Alumni Association and is one of two representatives from North Canaan on the Housatonic River Commission.



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In Memoriam

Frances Buckbee Wohlfert, '40
Martha Clark White, '40
Peter Flynn, '40
Warren Foley, '44
Victoria Swanson Levine, '44
Mary Patton Andregg, '45
Claudia Sanger Faedi, '45
Rose Santin Hanlon, '45
Harold Warner, '45
Paul Minacci, '49
Mary Foley Joch, '50
Anne Perotti Fallon, '50
John "Denny" Frost, '50
Judith Harvey Brown, '52
Peter Kenny, '52
John Curtis, '53
Nancy Roraback Sproul, '53
Norman Tatsapugh, '53
Marie Whitford Martin Kearns, '54
Mary Kenny Calvin, '54
Wallace "Wally" Millies, '55
Lois Peirce Lynch, '55
Patricia Mansfield, '56
Jane Gottschalk Haertze, '56
Walter Schreiber, '56
Anthony Genito, '57
Frederick E. Thibault, '57
Thomas Kearns, Jr., '58

Ralph D. Peterson, Jr., '58
Gene Stahovec, '59
Aileen Barry Dotson, '59
John Foley, Sr., '60
Terina Rassiga Dickinson, '60
Joseph E. Broggi, Jr. '61
Glenn Dennis, '62
David Manchester, '64
Suzanne Stoddard, '65
George Paley, '66
William Gustafson '66
Richard H. Hotaling '72
James Scott, Jr. '72
Patricia Reilly, '73
Amy Burcroff Reel, '75
Thomas Hall, '76
Kenneth Tinker, '77
Martha Riva, '77
Michelle Ohler Block, '78
Peter Kuba, Jr. '81
John Dolan, '83
Michael O'Dell, '84
Andrew Orioles, '88
Karyn Machia Saffioti, '93
Philip James Ennesser '06
James Habacher, '06
Aubrey Schmidt, '08
Teacher Dr. Charles Russ