

Blue 'n' Gold

Summer 2024

HVRHS Alumni Association

Volume 26, Issue 1

Housatonic Gets Makeover

In a strong show of support for its high school, Region 1 communities overwhelmingly approved a \$5.6 million renovation project this past winter. Work is now in full swing, so that when school opens for the new year, students and staff will be greeted with a facility sporting many new beautiful upgrades.

The vote was 579 in favor and 206 opposed. Five of the six towns voted in the affirmative, while Canaan did not.

Housatonic, opened in 1939 along the shores of the river for which it is named, welcomed students from the six surrounding towns. Since then, boards of education, building committee members, administrators and alumni have been unwavering in their determination to maintain the structure that was named the most beautiful high school in Connecticut by Architectural Digest.

"It's always been a source of pride for the area and we've tried to keep it up," said **Frank Perotti**, class of '54, from Canaan, longtime chairman of the building committee. "It can deteriorate quickly. The committee is good. We're not big spenders, but we want to keep it looking good."

Aspects of the project include:

- Renovation of the cafeteria
- Renovation of the auditorium
- Renovation of the science-wing bathrooms
- Installation of air handler/air conditioning in Room 133

- Upgrading of air handler/heating and air conditioning of central office
- Rehabilitation of the tennis courts
- Installation of a whole-school generator on the south end
- Installation of audio-visual equipment in the cafeteria and auditorium
- Masonry repair around several areas of the campus
- Installation of a new fire alarm system
- Upgrading of circuit breaker boxes
- Replacement of the cupola

In discussing the project, Principal Ian Strever said while the building primarily functions as a school, it is being used more and more by the community for a variety of events. It has also been designated the area's emergency shelter, since it's the largest public building in the Northwest Corner, so it's important that it be maintained.

He pointed out some further details, such as the aisles of the auditorium being carpeted, the cafeteria having new seating and the paneling along the walls removed while the tennis courts will have a floating surface secured with cabling.

Region 1 Business Manager Sam Herrick explained the financing of the project, saying the district would borrow the money at a rate of 4.75% over the next 20 years.

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The auditorium is completely empty, waiting for a makeover.



The cafeteria is also under construction.

Notes from the Board

HVRHS Legacy Circle/Mountaineer Club

The HVRHS **Legacy Circle** and the **Mountaineer Club** were created to encourage and recognize alumni and friends who make significant contributions to the HVRHS Alumni Association Endowed Fund or the Annual Fund.

The Alumni Association **Endowed Fund** is designed to sustain the long-term financial strength of the association. Donations to the Endowed Fund are invested to yield earnings to support current operations, and thus are often termed "gifts that keep on giving."

The Alumni Association **Annual Fund** is designed to direct contributions to current operational expenses or projects supported by the association.

Donors making an accumulated gift(s) of \$1,000 or more, or a planned gift via their will or estate plan to either fund, are recognized as members of the "HVRHS Legacy Circle," or the "Mountaineer Club."

HVRHS Legacy Circle Members

Anonymous

Jordan Bayersdorfer, '98

Stephen, '75, and **Lori**, '78, (**Grossman**) **Belter**

Maureen, '76, (**Kirby**) and **Thomas Patrick Dore, Jr.**

Richard, '59, and **Joanne**, '61, (**Walters**) **Gustafson**

Carolyn Camp Moore (Paige Mallory), '44

Peter C. Smith, '54

HVRHS Mountaineer Club Members

Sally E. Jenkins, '51

Makeover from page 1

When the final tally was read, Superintendent Lisa Carter, who retired in June, said, "I could not be happier about the outcome of the vote. The students will truly benefit from this."

Kayla Jacquier Awarded Alumni Scholarship



Kayla Jacquier

Kayla Jacquier of Canaan is a fourth-generation family farmer and has been an active FFA leader throughout her four years at Housatonic. She was an FFA chapter officer for two years, is passionate about agriculture and has taken on leadership roles for many FFA events. She attended the FFA National Convention, the FFA Washington Leadership Conference and has earned several prestigious FFA awards. She is an entrepreneur in her own right, having started

her own businesses in vehicle detailing and baking. She was the only female member of the school's varsity golf team and won the Tyburski Award for golf. Her academic record at Housatonic was stellar with an overall GPA of 3.96, and she was selected for membership in the National Honor Society.

Jacquier plans to attend Northwestern Connecticut Community College to earn her associate's degree and then transfer to a four-year institution to earn a bachelor's degree in agri-business. She aspires to return to the family business to build upon the family's legacy.

She is the daughter of **Teresa (Bagnaschi) Jacquier**, class of '93, and **Robert Jacquier**, class of '90. Her maternal grandparents are **Nancy (Curtis) Bagnaschi**, class of '68, and **Angelo Bagnaschi**, class of '63. Her paternal grandparents are **Jean (Bascetta) Jacquier**, class of '70, and **Peter Jacquier**, class of '69.



The new tennis courts are ready for play.

Region Welcomes New Superintendent...



Melony Brady-Shanley

Melony Brady-Shanley is Region 1's new superintendent of schools, succeeding Lisa Carter, who retired on June 30.

Brady-Shanley comes to the district from Winsted, where she served as superintendent of that school system. Prior to that, she was assistant chief talent officer for New Britain Schools and earlier worked as a principal in elementary and secondary schools in Hartford.

A graduate of Pennsylvania's Slippery Rock University with a bachelor of science degree in education, Brady-Shanley earned a master's and sixth-year degree in educational leadership and a superintendent certificate from Central Connecticut State University.

...And Says Goodbye to Three Longtime Housy Teachers

I joined the math department in 1989 under the guidance of department chairman Keith Bond. Following in Bond's footsteps, I became department chair in 1995, and adopted the roles of scheduling coordinator and graduation coordinator soon after. During my tenure, I taught nearly every course offered by the department, while working to expand the department's offerings to include Advanced Placement and Early College Experience courses in calculus and statistics, a personal finance course, and most recently, a course in data science. In 2016, I was tapped to spend a year as the school's academic administrator, working with the building administration on professional learning and data analysis. In 2020, I was asked to work with Jill Pace as co-assistant



Scott Fellows

superintendents during the COVID pandemic. Most important was my work with students – serving as class advisor to the classes of 1994, 1996 and 2003 and the National Honor Society. I plan to stay connected to Housatonic by continuing involvement in the 21st Century Fund for HVRHS and the HVRHS Athletic Fund.



Alan Lovejoy

I was fortunate to come to Housatonic already knowing a number of colleagues, students and families after 20 years at Lee H. Kellogg School teaching middle school math and science. My first year at Housatonic I was assigned to teach ninth-grade science and forensics. Over the years, I had the opportunity to teach chemistry, earth science, physics, biology and even a few years of algebra 1. I enjoyed being in the classroom, conducting labs with the students or outside down by the stream, out by the fire pond or digging soil pits on the other side of the tracks. Coaching outdoor track and field was also an important part of my time at Housatonic. It was a privilege to work with student-athletes and watch them mature and grow through the years, both on and off the track. I will continue to coach track and field for the foreseeable future. I was fortunate to have a 37-year career in Region 1. I cherished my time at Housatonic with both students and faculty members. Thank you Housatonic!

Housatonic is a school that so many of my siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles attended. So, it is a repository of family history for me. My 20 years as an art teacher passed quickly. Like so many high school teachers, my primary thing was the people business. The job only partially dealt with teaching art. I have a box of thank-you cards from students. Each of them is very meaningful to me.



Warren Prindle

2024 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Named

This fall will see the next group of Housatonic's notable list of athletes honored when the Hall of Fame ceremony is held on Oct. 13 at noon.

Those nominated are: **Joseph B. Nilsen**, class of '54, football and track; **Paul Prindle**, class of '60, football and track; **Robert Ullram**, class of '66, football, ice hockey and baseball; **Tina Paruta**, class of '87, cross country, in/outdoor track; **Willy Yahn**, class of '14; soccer and baseball; **Tim Hawley**, class of '71, cross country and track; **Denise Bergenty**, class of '73; field hockey, basketball and softball; **Brad Paulsen**, class of '79; soccer and track; **Julia Neilson**, '98; soccer and track; and **Maggie Yahn Umana**, class of '09, soccer, basketball and track.

Visiting with Some Graduates

Mike DeMazza, a member of the alumni board, conducted this interview.

Karen Mera, Class of 1990



Karen Mera with her children, Yangki and Tenzing.

MD: Thank you for allowing us to feature you in the Blue 'n' Gold newsletter. You were a senior during my fifth year of teaching at Housatonic. I wonder, would you mind sharing memories you have of your time at the high school?

KM: Since my mom was the librarian at Housy long before I became a student, I felt like I already knew lots of the teachers, the school and some students, so it already felt like home when I got there. I was accepted at Hotchkiss, but chose Housy because I thought I could get just as good an education and have a more diverse experience. I learned that you really get out of high school what you put into it, and I have never regretted choosing Housy.

It was mostly great being a “faculty brat,” although people sometimes asked if we were only allowed four people to a table and had to be quiet all the time at home, too, when they found out my mom was Mrs. Mera, the librarian (the library was known for those rules at the time). The faculty were like a family to us in many ways, and there were so many great teachers that were part of that community, like Norma Lake, Keith Bond, Linda Everett, Judi Moore, Jack Mahoney, Dave Lindsay, Dave Bayersdorfer, Dave Michels, Woody Sinclair, Pam Wilson— the list is really too long to name everyone but I remember them all so well and I still love catching up when we are back in town.

I loved moving from our small class at Salisbury Central into the bigger group from all six towns of Region 1, keeping my close friends from Salisbury and adding new friends from other towns. I spent a lot of time with Gretchen Carlson, Alessi Magazzi, Kim Borst, Kristen Neary and Susie Geer. I remember Gretchen and I wearing crazy outfits for Mr. Tyburski's ballroom dance class, and long spring and fall days spent playing sports after school and hanging out at games and track meets, waiting for the late bus. Of course, there were classes, too, like world history with

Mrs. Lake in 10th grade, when we all failed the French Revolution and had to take that section twice. And a re-creation of the Dred Scott trial in Mr. Bayersdorfer's American history class in 11th grade when we went off-script and staged an armed (with nerf guns) hostage takeover to end the module.

I caught the travel bug during high school when my family went to Scotland and England to see my aunt graduate from University of Aberdeen and then when I went to the former USSR on a scholarship with the Northwest Corner Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament (NCCND) with Falls Village teacher Amy Lake and fellow student Brendan Tapley, among others. That trip in particular got me really interested in Asia when we visited Bukhara and Tashkent in Uzbekistan. I'm so happy to see that Housy students have chances to travel during high school now. I always donate to the program and love reading the stories and seeing pictures from friends whose kids are participating.

I also fell in love with the outdoors on trips led by Ed Thorney, and others. That is where I learned to hike and camp and that's a big part of my life now. I love living in Austria, where I can get out to the mountains and hike every weekend and on snowshoes in the winter.

I have great memories senior year of running cross country with Coach Lindsay and also working on the yearbook and 50th anniversary book with him and Jenny McKee. We kept in touch for a long time and I was able to attend his memorial service at school and reminisce with others.

MD: All of that brings back memories for me too. So, you left Housatonic in 1990— what were your educational experiences after Housatonic?

KM: I graduated from Pomona College in 1994 with a BA in anthropology and then from Yale University School of Nursing in 2001 with a masters in nursing. In 2019, I completed a two- year fellowship in integrative medicine with the Academy of Integrative Health and Medicine in Southern California.

MD: Describe, if you would, your life after Housatonic. What have you done since 1990? Perhaps some description of your professional life, talk about your family a bit and relate some of your many adventures to other alumni reading this newsletter.

KM: In college I studied abroad in Nepal and fell in love with the country. I went back after college graduation to work with a healthcare program as a patient advocate, becoming fluent in Nepali and teaching people from the remote hills of the country how to access healthcare in the city. I saw lots of really poor care, and that made me decide to go into healthcare myself. But first I stayed in Nepal and worked for several years with the study abroad program I had been a student on, leading college students on a semester abroad in Nepal.

I finally decided to become a nurse practitioner, entering Yale's program in 1999. I spent summers during grad

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Visiting with Some Graduates *from page 4*

school volunteering at a hospital in Nepal and spending time with Tsering Sherpa, my boyfriend who later became my husband. We married after graduation and then settled in Norwich, Connecticut, where I worked at a community health center, healthcare to the homeless program, and school-based health center. I'm so happy to see that the Northwest Corner now has a community health center in Canaan and clinics in some schools. Those jobs were challenging, but extremely rewarding, as I was taking care of people who had really limited, and often negative, interactions with healthcare in the past, and who faced huge health and life challenges. We tried to help them stay as healthy as possible.

After 10 years in Norwich, we really wanted to get back overseas, but we had two kids by then (Yangki, now 19, and Tenzing, now 16), a house, cars, pets, etc. It was no longer possible to just pack up our backpacks and move to Nepal and volunteer. I found a job with the U.S. Department of State and joined in 2010



Richard Curtis, Class of 1965

Running the bank as an athlete at Housatonic, **Richard Curtis**, '65, said taught him valuable lessons for the future.

A member of the baseball, football and track teams, he was among those faced with climbing up and down

the dreaded hill near the athletic fields during practice.

"That was one of the big things I got out of Housatonic; being pushed and how to push myself," said the Canaan native.

He credits those early experiences with preparing him for a storied career in rowing and is upset that the rigorous exercise is no longer allowed.

Housatonic also provided him with life-long friends, including Steve Clarke, Bob and BJ Christinat, Gerry Routhier and John McGuire.

"Overall, those were very favorable years," Curtis recalled, noting that the time between 14- and 18-years old can be very transformative. "You don't know what or who you are or what others think of you." I was pretty active. I wasn't a standout; however, I liked my years there."

But at Boston University, he eventually did become a standout. Always drawn to water (he remembers building kayaks to sail down the Housatonic River with friends as a young boy and the neighborhood Olympics kids on Barlow Street created), he was recruited for the school's rowing team, even though he'd not rowed before. A coach saw some talent in the young man and by his senior year he was captain of the crew.

"The sport involves pushing yourself to the extent you can't imagine," Curtis said. "The hardest part is that you can't stop. There's no question about not pushing yourself. It's the synchrony of it."

He described being in a boat of eight, where bonds are formed and rowers learn how to get beyond hard times. Limits evaporate and there's a wonderful feeling.

Following college, where he studied journalism, Curtis joined the Navy, leaving military service in 1971. In 1972, he was allowed to train for the Olympics in Germany, where he and his partner came in second in the trials and was allowed to stay with the team in the Olympic Village.

He spent time in Anchorage and in 1974 returned to his hometown of Canaan, where he learned working in his father's insurance company wasn't for him.

He rowed for the United States in the '79 Pan American team, and probably would have done so again in 1980 if the U.S. hadn't pulled out. He later spent two years living on a sailboat, "which built up my love of the sea."

Depressed after the '80 Olympics were called off, he spent time on Long Island writing for a newspaper, and also wrote a book titled "Taking Off: Guide for the Uncommon Traveler." Returning again to the Northwest Corner in 1981, he was offered a coaching job at Salisbury School.

He was head coach for 15 years, and now assists. A legend at the preparatory school, the boathouse has been named for him.

"I still love it," he said. "I row every day. It's a passion. When I'm on the lake, looking at the mountains, clouds, trees and the surface of the water, I see such beauty."

He rowed at the noted Henley races in England last year, pleased he won in his age group.

Curtis was proud to be chosen as the graduation speaker at Housatonic in 1983.

He and his wife, Lynn, have two children: Gwenn and Dan.

🌀 Thanks for Your Support 🌀

Members of the Alumni Association are very gratified by the response received so far for donations to help keep the Blue 'n' Gold going. Envelopes to make it easy to contribute are again found with the newsletter. Please consider helping in allowing us to continue to keep you informed about your alma mater. Thank you very much.

Alumni News by Class and Decade

1950s

Donald Peretti, class of '54, and his wife, Donna, (Gilbert School, class of '61), celebrated their 62nd anniversary on Aug. 26, 2023. They reside in Stuart, Fla., 10 months of the year, and spend two months at Crystal Lake in Ellington. The couple has three sons, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1960s

Thomas F. Segalla, class of '61, a founding partner of Goldberg Segalla, was honored as the 2024 Edward Currie Founder's Award recipient by the American College of Coverage Counsel (ACCC).

The ACCC presents this distinction to senior insurance lawyers who represent the highest level of accomplishment, competence, professionalism and ethics, and who also inspire others to do the same.

The award was created in 2023 and is named after Edward Currie, one of the founders of the college who served as president from 2015-2016. Segalla was the first president of the ACCC, leading

the founding board from 2012-2014. In addition to a gift given to commemorate the award, a scholarship in the name of the recipient is designated to the law school hosting the Insurance Law Symposium that year. This year, the University of Minnesota Law School will serve as host.

During the unveiling of the award at the ACCC 2024 annual meeting, ACCC President Debra Tedeschi Varner shared that Segalla's celebrated career has embraced three core principles that he has consistently applied to his professional and personal lives - creativity, visibility and persistence. She commended his exceptional commitment to mentoring and creating opportunities for younger lawyers, teaching them how to carve out time for the good of the insurance industry and the legal profession.

The ACCC was formed in 2012 to improve the quality of the practice of insurance law through a focus on the creative, ethical and efficient adjudication of disputes between policyholders and insurers over insurance coverage as well as extra-contractual damages.

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Peter Marston of the class of '65 sent this photo of the group's latest reunion held Aug. 2 at the VFW Hall in Canaan."

...Alumni News from page 6



1980s

Katie Baldwin, class of '89, was married in 2023 to Dan Odell, class of '95, at a huge wedding. Many of the bride's classmates were in attendance. Celebrating with her, from left, are: **Jeff Nordland, Laura Garafalo Russin, Mary Wilbur, Tracie Jamieson Callaway, Melanie Milici Yu and Rory O'Connor.**

1990s

Dan Odell, class of '95, and his groomsmen, arrived at his wedding to Katie Baldwin, class of '89 in a helicopter. Many of those in the party were Housatonic alums: Micah Blum, class of '94; Mike Simmons, class of '91; John Jacquier, class of '91; Shawn Finney, class of '93; Bryan Redlund, class of '95; Tyler Ford, class of '07; Odell; Jimmy Pollard, class of '99; Scott Zinke, class of '96; Peter Foley, class of '88; Garret Scavatto, class of '05; Richard Crane, class of '90; Craig Whiting, class of '93 and Christopher Crane, class of '98.



Bryan Redlund, class of '95; Tyler Ford, class of '07; Odell; Jimmy Pollard, class of '99; Scott Zinke, class of '96; Peter Foley, class of '88; Garret Scavatto, class of '05; Richard Crane, class of '90; Craig Whiting, class of '93 and Christopher Crane, class of '98.

Where are you now? What are you doing? Your classmates want to know. Become a part of class notes by sending an update to editor Ruth Epstein at kcsrute@aol.com.

Also part of the makeover for HVRHS was the cupola that sits atop the building, which was replaced in the project.

The first photo shows it under reconstruction and the second, the finished product.

It now has a clock for the first time.



In Memoriam

Eloise Cecchinato Koneazny, '48

Patricia Smith Stanton, '48

Mary Colli Tyler, '49

Lester "Oogie" Hoysradt, '52

Lawrence H. McCabe, Jr. '52

John Dorizzi, '54

John Peterson, '55

Edward Tripp, '55

Theresa Solan Carlson, '56

Mary Mather Monnier, '56

Doris Ford Benedict, '57

R. Thomas Riley, '57

Cathy Whitford Harmon, '62

Patricia Marquette Conway, '64

Lorraine Murray, '64

Lawrence Chase, '67

Audrey Tuthill Garay, '68

Mary Terrall, '69

Dolores Heath Leffingwell, '70

Susan Fracaro Clayton, '71

Patricia O'Loughlin, '73

Lawrence Tyler, '74

Margaret Michalek Sharply, '79

Lindsay Waldron, '01

Juan Vanicky, '20



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