

TFHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S COMMUNIQUE

April 2008

Vol. 2

TFHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the TFHS Alumni Association is to promote a sense of community by providing information, opportunities, and connections with its members.

It is our desire to establish a lifelong relationship with alumni and friends, promote interaction with and among alumni, highlight achievements of alumni, and to provide our members with rewarding opportunities to serve TFHS and its students, our future alumni.

FREDERICK OAKES, RENAISSANCE MAN

Gill - Imagine the world that awaited Frederick Oakes, well-known former teacher in the Montague public school system, (back when it was still the Montague public school system) on the date of his birth – June 23rd, 1913 – in Lunenburg, a small town east of Fitchburg. There were no radios, no television sets, no highways. The First World War, the first stock market crash, the Great Depression, Prohibition, and New Deal were all in the future.

“My childhood was almost a 19th century boyhood,” Oakes pointed out, in a recent interview at his home by the Connecticut River in Gill. His family had none of the conveniences that would soon become common in American society. Travel was still conducted by horse and a buggy, although these conveyances were surpassed by automobiles within the decade.

“I remember learning of President Harding’s death in 1923,” Oakes recalled. “I was feeding the chickens when my mother told me” of the president’s death by heart attack in San Francisco, passing the mantle of national leadership to vice president Calvin Coolidge, the former mayor of Northampton, Massachusetts.

Oakes recalled his early love of reading and writing. “We used to walk to the library every week,” he noted, “and find out what the latest book was.”

Today, at the age of 94, Frederick Oakes is the last surviving member of the Class of 1931 at Turners Falls High School. He went on to Tufts University, where he graduated with straight A’s, as an English major. His sister Elsie followed him to Tufts, where both brother and sister contracted and

overcame polio, a dangerous disease in those days. [Elsie went on to teach English in California, and to author five novels under her married name (Elsie Oakes Baker), including *Jenny Angel*, which reached the screen as *Angel Baby* in 1961, Burt Reynolds’s breakout film.]

Immediately following his graduation, Oakes began working in the office at Kendall Cotton Mill in Turners Falls. But armed with a college degree and a passion for learning, Oakes soon began a long career teaching in the Montague public school system.

“I remember those days fondly,” said Oakes. “Mr. Arthur Burke was the superintendent in those years, and Mr. George Wrightson was the principal.” Burke took him on as a teacher at the old Montague Center School, where he taught 7th and 8th grades until the school burned over Christmas vacation. For the next two years, Oakes served as principal at the Highland School in Millers Falls, where the Montague Center students moved while their school was being rebuilt. Once the reconstruction was complete, Oakes returned to Montague Center, where he served as both principal and teacher in the upper grades. In the early 50s, when the 7th and 8th grades moved from Montague Center to Turners Falls High School on Crocker Avenue, Oakes followed. He taught English at the high school level for many years.

During his tenure at TFHS, Oakes earned a reputation as a Renaissance man. One former student, David Brule, remembers him nattily attired in tweed jackets and turtleneck sweaters, sporting horn-rimmed glasses and a small moustache. Oakes made the material of English class accessible to his

students. Thanks to his wit and understated style, the literary greats lived again in his classrooms.

"I even smoked a pipe briefly," recalled Oakes, smiling at the thought, "But I really didn't like it."

Among Oakes' happiest recollections are his memories of students who would themselves go on to become teachers, Brule among them. He also warmly recalled his duties as guidance counselor at the high school, head of the English department, advisor for the "teen page" in the Greenfield newspaper, yearbook photographer, and mentor for NETOP, the high school's literary magazine. All of these varied endeavors helped solidify his standing as a man of many talents and interests.

Frederick Oakes retired from Turners Falls High School in 1982, after 40 years as an elementary or secondary school teacher in Montague. As a lifelong learner, he has kept his eye on education as time has passed. There are things that disappoint him about the modern classroom.

"The main theme today is to test the students," Oakes observed. "Teaching is done to prepare the youngsters to pass the MCAS [test]."

Oakes acknowledged the MCAS test is an important measure of student competency, but feels the comprehensive exam "doesn't leave much time for true learning." For example, he noted that appreciation of literature takes a commitment of time to enable a student to develop strong reading and analytical skills.

In his retirement, Oakes has maintained his pursuit of many avocations. He has traveled to every state in the union except Washington and Oregon. He built his own house, requiring help only with the roof. In addition, Oakes has amassed an impressive rock collection, raised fancy poultry, and acquired a wide selection of music, ranging from opera to country and western.

And his love of learning still shines brightly. Although he has trouble reading, Oakes is able to enjoy educational video and audiotapes on varied subjects, art history and the Egyptian pharaohs among them.

"Right now, I'm studying the English novel," he confided. "I recommend learning tapes. They're wonderful."

Throughout his life, Shakespeare has always been a favorite companion, and he has been reacquainting himself with the master in his retirement, memorizing the Bard's sonnets. Here is one Oakes is particularly fond of, Sonnet 73:

*That time of year thou mayst in me behold
When yellow leaves, or none, or few, do hang
Upon those boughs which shake against the cold,
Bare ruin'd choirs, where late the sweet birds
sang.*

*In me thou seest the twilight of such day
As after sunset fadeth in the west,
Which by and by black night doth take away,
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest.
In me thou see'st the glowing of such fire
That on the ashes of his youth doth lie,
As the death-bed whereon it must expire
Consumed with that which it was nourish'd by.
This thou perceivest, which makes thy love
more strong,
To love that well which thou must leave ere
long.*

Oakes' second wife, Jane, teaches pre-kindergarten through second grade in Turners Falls. He keeps his hand in with a bit of early childhood education in his own right. Oakes has two sons, Frederick and Robert, eight grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild.
By JOE KWIECINSKI

NAME OUR NEWSLETTER

We are still looking for a catchy and appropriate name for our newsletter. Please send us your submissions. You could be the one who will be famous for naming this publication.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Graduation: May 30, 2008

GALA: April 26, 2008, at 7:30p.m. at the TFHS Theater, the Gill Montague Education Fund, in partnership with Bear Country 95.3, will present their annual fundraising gala. This year the gala will feature "The Essence of Country" with celebrated singer-songwriter Don Campbell and his band. Tickets available at Scotty's, World Eye Bookshop, Bear Country and by calling Sandy at 863-7200, or

online at www.thegmef.org. Support this worthy event!

Class Reunion: TFHS Class of 1948, 60th Reunion on June 21 and June 22, 2008.

ALUMNI RECOGNITION:

Beth Peura, graduate of the class of 1985, has been promoted to the highest enlisted rank in the United States Air Force: Chief Master Sergeant. Beth's career began when a recruiter visited TFHS during her senior year.

Catherine R. Balboni, a graduate of the class of 1976, recently assumed duties as commanding officer at Coast Guard Integrated Support Command, Miami Beach, FL.

Rev. Stanley Aksamit, a graduate of TFHS, was recently named The Recorder's 25th annual "Citizen of the Year." Aksamit is the pastor of Our Lady of Peace in Turners Falls.

Doug Brown, graduate of the class of 1971, was honored at the 8th annual breakfast of the Northwestern Children's Advocacy Project for his work in combating child abuse. Brown received the Ellen Sedlis Award, intended to recognize someone whose work on the front lines has touched the lives of children. Brown is the Montague Police Representative at the TFHS.

COUTURE BROS.

98 YEARS & 4 GENERATIONS

A painting business began in 1910 by brothers Raoul and William Couture, located at 168 Avenue A Turners Falls. After servicing his country, brother Samuel H Couture (TFHS class of 1914) joined the firm. Raoul became ill and sold the company to Samuel and William in 1930 for the amount of \$350.00. In 1933, Samuel bought out William (father of teacher Jean Couture), but kept the name of Couture Bros. A new building was built at 187 Avenue A, Turners Falls by contractor George H. Reed & Co. in 1933, which is the present location. By 1941, Couture Bros reached a work force of 60 employees consisting of a retail paint and wallpaper store and painting contract business. The



contracting business painted and wallpapered private homes, schools and factories. Painting at gas stations and maintaining petroleum equipment for Esso (now Exxon), Gulf Oil, Shell Oil, Tidewater (Tydol), American Oil (Amoco), Texas (Texaco), and Standard Oil (Mobil) was also a part of the contracting business. Bottled Gas delivered to many homes (for cooking purposes) was another phase of the business.



Second Generation, Samuel I. Couture (TFHS class of 1946) and son of Samuel H., joined the business in 1953

as the estimator for the contract division. In the 60's, Couture Bros. turned their attention to public works projects (Turners Falls Dam & Northfield Mt.) UM projects, and water treatment plants. Samuel I. assumed responsibility in 1970 when his father became ill. Painting contracting extended their attention to churches, factories, and schools (Eaglebrook School, Deerfield Academy). A Western Auto franchise became another part for several years. The retail store was updated to computer color matching while continuing with the window & screen repairs, artist supplies, and custom picture framing.

Third generation, Christian (TFHS class of 1976) and son of Samuel I, joined the company as a painter in 1973 and then estimated for the contracting division in 1982 as well as the Gulf Oil and Exxon Oil station maintenance. When Samuel retired in 1993, Chris took over the reins of the company. He extended the contracting business to hospitals (Franklin Medical, Cooley Dickinson) and medical offices. He stated, like his grandfather and father, he will continue to serve the needs of the community. In 2002, a new 7500 sq foot warehouse was built at 400 Avenue A. Now the 4th generation, Chris's son, Corey, has joined the company to learn the business.

In the fall of 1953, my dad (a



Couture Bros painter) came home and without hesitation, told me Samuel H. needed an office clerk and to “get down there” after school. Miss Little, my bookkeeping teacher, warned me that Samuel H. (President at that time) was very difficult to work for, but as the saying goes, he was “all bark and no bite”. Except for a brief time (9/57-12/62) to marry Robert “Skip” Escott and have 2 children, I have worked there ever since and soon will be retiring after 44 years with the company and all 4 generations of Couture family.

Ellie (Guilbault) Richotte, Class 1956

THOUGHTS FROM A FUTURE ALUMNI

On my first day of seventh grade, I stood at the bus stop with my new backpack, new clothes and a new feeling of dread. It was my first bus ride in a school bus for anything other than a field trip and my first time in a public school. I had no idea what to expect.

My neighbor, who was several years older, must have recognized this apprehension, so she offered me words of encouragement and advice. She had told me that “your school experience is what you make of it.” That is a piece of advice I won’t forget.

At Turners Falls High School, I’ve been provided with many opportunities—a new facility, new technology and a solid academic foundation that has prepared me for college. Sure, there have been some difficulties—budget crises and staff changes. But throughout the challenges, the people at Turners Falls High School and the dedication of the teachers have buoyed me.

I’ve been fortunate to be taught by a broad range of people who have challenged me academically—to strive to think more critically, to work past my abilities—and others who have challenged me to view the world from different perspectives, to be more accepting of peoples differences and to adapt to changing environments.

Like most seniors, the fight against senioritis is not an easy one, and the apprehension about college admissions is agitating. However I want to make sure I take time to truly appreciate and savor my last few months of high school because my time at TFHS has prepared me well for what lies ahead.

Submitted by Ali Urban, Class of 2008

REMEMBERING ANNA GARBIEL

1952-2008

Existimatio Longo, Vita Brevis
“Reputation is long, life is short.”

By Patricia Crosby. (*Previously printed in the Montague Reporter.*) I first met Anna Garbiel in 1996, when we were both incoming freshmen at Turners Falls High School – she from Montague Center, I from Gill. In Latin and French classes, she was the quiet, demurely-dressed, wavy-haired girl with a seat on the far wall who always has the right answers, and whose ivory skin, slightly-tilted blue-green eyes, and distinctive husky voice made her stand out in any crowd.

Anna, affectionately known by her family nickname ‘Jukey,’ was a gentle leader, an obliging friend and a mighty presence. There probably wasn’t a boy in the class who didn’t admire her, and many bids were made for her companionship, but she as also a busy young woman and most were kindly refused. Not least of Anna’s attractions was her maturity. Like most farm children, with life and death responsibilities from a very early age (crops not gathered in time are ruined; cows that aren’t milked sicken, and Anna loved cows; chickens that aren’t fed really do die), she had an air of knowing the difference between the important and the trivial, and without ever seeming overburdened, she quietly went her way, tending to school, farm, and family.

When it was time to make a float for the Booster Day Parade it was Anna’s bard we turned to, and the sight of fourteen-year-old, ladylike Anna on a tractor, moving equipment to make room, wowed most of us who had yet to sit behind the wheel of a car.

An equally unexpected accomplishment of this graceful, almost dainty girl was her performance on the basketball court. I guess farm kids got a chance to take a break sometime, and there must have been a basketball hoop somewhere on the Garbiel Farm where Anna honed her skills against her siblings, because she could move and shoot and block with the best of them. The striking thing about her game was that – like her – it was quick, correct, measured and effective, without ever appearing aggressive, rowdy or rude. She had a long shot that would make people gasp: to see that

slight, calm-faced girl in the royal blue silks stand, aim, and lift her arms, sending the ball in an elegant arc to the hoop, where it flowed through with a swish.

Anna should have been our Booster Day Queen and our Class President, but she was never either, and the reasons are probably a source of shame to may beside myself. As I remember it, we were 'saving her' for Queen, passing her by in our Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior years and then somehow neglecting to pull together the staved-off votes in our Senior. More outrageous was our behavior when it came to our Senior class presidency. Even though the class before us had broken the gender barrier by naming a female president of the Senior class for the first time, there were still some among us uncomfortable with the idea of 'a girl leading us down the aisle at graduation.' In a ridiculous bit of pre-election chicanery, a group appealed to her to withdraw from the race and run for vice-president instead. The most distressed I've ever seen her, she turned to her family for advice, and the next day came back to school with her answer – a firm and principled No. Vote for her or not, she was running for president. She ran and lost.

Nevertheless, the admiration that followed her in high school apparently continued through her college years and beyond. I distinctly remember a few years after high school picking up a cheerful young man walking on Route 2 in Charlemont on a frigid day in December. When we asked him what he was doing on the road on such a cold day, he laughed and said "I'm in love." Grilled further, he confessed that he was determined to visit a young woman he had met while she was home for the Christmas holiday, Anna Garbiel. It seemed so fitting that an old-fashioned girl like Anna should be courted in such a classic, old-fashioned way, by a smitten young man, walking through the mountains from North Adams to Montague in freezing weather with a smile on his face.

Years went by, I moved away, Anna stayed, and when I came back I found Anna was principal of the school she attended as a child in Montague Center. I couldn't help thinking how proud her parents – often referred to in our high school years

as "Montague's largest landowners and taxpayers" – must have been to see their daughter grow up and become principal of that school.

My final interaction with Anna in recent years was a misery to me, as I'm sure it was to her, but it was also to be a final illustration of what our basketball coach, the late Charlotte Robinson, once called Anna's unique qualities of "humbleness and graciousness." I was on the Gill-Montague school committee when the decision was made to reduce principals for Gill and Montague Center to half-time. It was a painful decision, not least because both Anna and her counterpart were excellent school leaders as well as friends, but we had struggled with the budget for so long and in so many ways and there seemed no other way to cut costs.

I avoided seeing Anna face-to-face for many months afterward and was ashamed to face many of my former classmates still living in the area as well. But finally one day we found ourselves getting out of our cars at the post office at the same time and greeted each other tentatively. Anna by then had moved on to become a top administrator in the Athol Regional School District. "I'm so sorry, Anna," I started to say. "Every time I think of you, I . . ." but she cut me off, shaking her head and smiling. "It's okay, Tricia," she said. "You did what you thought was the right thing, and it's all worked out for the best."

Gracious is exactly the right word for that acknowledgement. When someone is gracious, they may have good reason to disagree with you, be dismissive of you, or even dislike you, but instead they receive you warmly and put their feelings aside to protect yours.

Noblesse oblige. We didn't have to save your for Queen, Anna. You always were one.

Memorial contributions suggested to the Anna Garbiel Fund, care of Linda Ackerman, Greenfield Savings Bank, 195 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376, to assist her husband with medical expenses and to establish a scholarship in Anna's memory.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL

With all the current hoopla on the school budget, elementary reconfiguration, and other crises taking place within the Gill-Montague Regional Schools, I thought a brief history of the Turners Falls High School might be of interest to all. The Turners Falls High School was formerly located on Crocker Avenue where the administrative offices of the Gill-Montague regional school are now located, in Sheffield School.



Our Turners Falls High School

Adapted from the *Junior Scribe* bicentennial edition in 1954
(as compiled by Carolyn Lee Davis)

In 1781 a high school was proposed. Up until then, there had been no high school in Montague. The school was completed in 1784.

At first there were only 50 students. Their teacher was Miss Rowley and their principal was Mr. J. Bailey. The school was located in Montague Center.

Later, in 1881 there were two high schools, one in Montague Center and one in Turners Falls.

In 1900, more room was needed at the Turners Falls High School. For \$50,000 the Thomas Brothers built another high school. By 1937, it held eight rooms, with a gym and an auditorium to accommodate 800 pupils added to the original building.

The early studies were Greek, Latin, Geology, Physiology and Philosophy. The first school paper was started in 1904. A Girls Glee Club was started in 1907 and Boys Glee Club in 1923. Extra activities, such as a band and orchestra were started later.

The Turners Falls High School moved from Crocker Avenue to its new location on Turnpike Road in September of 1973.

Here are the names of some of the high school principals:

1881 F.H Brown
1885-88 Charles S. Davis
1889-91 Charles Patterson
1891-93 Mark S. Jefferson
1893-94 Lewis N. Crane
1894-1903 Lucas Lee Baker
1903-07 J.D.W.Chester
1907-10 Arthur C. Monahan
1910-11 Matthew W. McCann
1911-14 Robert Cushman
1914-15 Charles B. Sylvester
1915-23 Joseph S. Keating- absent 1917-18 for war work
1917-18 William K. Schuster
1924-26 Harry Rollins
1926-27 Arthur E. Burke
1937- George F. Wrightson

At the time this Junior Scribe article was first printed, Arthur E. Burke was the superintendent of schools and George F. Wrightson was the principal of Turners Falls High School.

Article submitted by Sandy (Pine) Miner (class of 1959) with additional *thanks to MaryAnne Packard and Pat Saczawa at the Carnegie Library for additional research on this article.*

UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

Please send us any information you might have on upcoming reunions. We will include in future publications. Send to us by using the contact information found at the end of this newsletter.

Reminder, Doug Brown will arrange for tours of the High School for any class holding a reunion, interested in seeing the newly remodeled school. This tour is well worth the time. Everyone should see what a magnificent facility we have for our students.

TFHS CLASS OF 1948 REUNION

This is to inform you the TFHS Class of 1948 is planning to have their 60th Reunion on June 21 and June 22, 2008. All living members have been notified of the dates and we will be mailing details in the next month.

Present plans are to have an outing on Saturday Afternoon, Banquet at the French King Restaurant in the Evening.

On Sunday Breakfast at the FKR followed by an outing at Lake Wyola in the afternoon.

Our Class has been very active and participation has been just great over the 60 years. We have had one every 5 years since our 20th in 1968. I am planning to have a Disc made up of pictures from 1944 through our 55th reunion in 2003. One will be given to each member, and mailed to those not able to attend.

After our 50th reunion I talked with many classes that wanted to know what made our reunions so successful. Be glad to talk with any one planning a reunion.

Don Girard, Chairman
Class of 1948
76 Dell St
Turners Falls, Ma 01376

CLASS OF 1937



On December 17, 2007 the Class of 1937 held their 70th Reunion at the home of Frank Bush on Riddell St. in Greenfield.

A trip down memory lane. . .(via Crocker Ave.) was enjoyed by the EIGHT class members attending the afternoon tea (what else?) party. We reflected on the years passed- our depression years, World War II...as memory permitted- "remember this, remember that?" A most enjoyable reunion. Then a trip back home before dark, an absolute must! God willing a 75th.



Many thanks to Frank (the man who always gets things done) along with Rosalie Beaubien Bolton and Ruth Milkey Austin.

List of Attendees:

Edward Bergiel	Kathleen Currie Hallaran
Rosalie Beaubien Bolton	Ruth Milkey Austin
Antoinette Banash Coutu	Bernice Pervere Ambo
Frank Bush	Henry Waidlich

Submitted by Kathleen Currie Hallaran

CLASS OF 1945



The Class of 1945 had a 3 day 50th reunion the summer of 1995. It was held at St. Kaz in Turners. Friday night was the start with a party at the home of Rollie Leveille. Saturday was a "boat ride" on the Connecticut River and Saturday night (the main event) was dinner and dancing. Believe it or not we had a 14 piece band playing live music! 94 people were in attendance! We also had a breakfast on Sunday.

World War II was going on through all of our high school years. We experienced gas rationing at 3 gallons a week, for the few that had cars. We had coupons for shoes, 3 pair a year and coupons for many food items- butter, sugar, etc. Our male class members that turned 18 were being drafted into the service and many volunteered. At graduation, Dickie Guy was home on leave from the navy so he was able to be our Class Marshall.

It was very touching and many of our parents shed a few tears, thinking of what was ahead. The reunion was such a success that we decided to meet every 3 years! We then extended it to an annual event.

Last year (2007) we had a total of 45 people present. We're all looking forward to seeing our classmates "ONE MORE TIME" (our class slogan).

Submitted by Eileen Currie MacKinnon

IT WAS WONDERFUL!!! (Class of '57)

The Class of 1957 celebrated 50 years with a weekend party. Huge classmate participation, coming from Texas, Oregon and the Virgin Islands as well as Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York etc. and included a large group of our MA and local classmates.

The entire event was held at the French King Bowling Banquet and Convention center. The Lounge was the Friday night "Drop-in" place to pick up specialty designed name tags, and re-discover each other. People brought snacks, and kept coming in the door...at last count 50 showed up in all. Pictures and mementos were displayed and enjoyed (who is that??) was heard often or (that's not me!)

Saturday afternoon, a large group went cruising on the Connecticut River. Saturday night was the big Banquet. We choose to have a three part Buffet (salad & fruit, the main meal with three entrees including a chef carved steamship round and last a dessert table. This way people had a chance to move around the room and visit with others not necessarily sitting at the same table. It could not have worked out better!

During the breaks between each part of the meal, the program continued with a reading of the names of our deceased classmates by David Mosher. A report was given by Ronnie Sicard regarding our annual Bernard Plaza High School Award. This was followed by Vice President Robert LaRoche presenting Ronnie with an award for his years of organizing all the previous 5 year reunions. Tony Blassberg also presented Helen Pleasant with one of the T.F.H.S. memorial bricks suitably engraved for her work on this reunion.

We then continued the evening with an "Open Mike" in which Tony walked around the Hall with a microphone and encouraged people to reminisce and share the funny stories that they remembered. There was something about an Outhouse on the High School lawn and someone had a convertible with a hole in the roof???? The evening also included raffle presents donated by the committee as well as the table centerpieces chosen by random with a sticker at each table.

We regrouped the next morning for Brunch also at the Banquet Center and attended by our Class Advisor Mr Oakes and his wife. At the age of 94, he was an inspiration as he remembered people and talked with many there...!

Our meals were catered by Myers Catering and the food and service was superb. We also heard from Ralph Semb (the owner of the complex) who had a few comments of his own and insisted that our party was only a "dress rehearsal" for his class next year!

One of the things that we did was to make a 2007 yearbook. Sent out 6 months prior was a questionnaire of "what have you done in the last 50 years" along with Favorite teacher, class etc.

Fifty two people responded and along with those write-ups we included copies of our Senior Play, Class Day and Graduation programs. A memorial was included by the husband of a classmate and the last part was a report and pictures of the fire and the loss of our High School.

The yearbook was greatly appreciated by all and mailed to those who sent in their information but were unable to attend.

Statistically we had a graduating class of 96. We have 13 deceased and a few without addresses. For us to get 50 people out on a Friday night, 25 to attend a Boat ride, 84 to the Banquet and 42 for a Sunday morning Brunch is why I say... IT WAS WONDERFUL! and we all had a great time!

What we did for our reunion was a little more than usual. First...one year before...a "save the date" card was sent to all classmates. This enabled us to find out where we needed new addresses and better organize the lists. Second, David Mosher sent out Newsletters two different times. Finally, a folder, which included all information about the weekend. This included a page per day and a questionnaire for the yearbook plus 2 addressed envelopes for return and payment.

Our three Co Chairman were Helen (Delpha) Pleasant from Erving, who also compiled the yearbook, with Tony Blassberg and David Mosher from New York. David handled the finances with help from Bev (Adie) Demers and Jason Clark who was our "Clerk of the works"!

submitted by Helen (Delpha) Pleasant

MILESTONES

Weddings:

Elizabeth Girard and John Abercrombie II ,
September 1, 2007. Elizabeth is a graduate of the
class of 2000.

Kerri Brown & Christopher Lapointe, August 25,
2007.

Edward Whelan II & Angela Parda, September 22,
2007. Angela is a graduate of the class of 1988.

Andrea Beaubien & Kenneth Walpurgis, October
13, 2007. Andrea is a graduate of the class of 1993.

Cassandra Cottrell & Mark Nelson Jr., October 20,
2007. Both are TFHS graduates.

Lisa M. Carey & Matthew D. Shearer, Sept. 8,
2007. Lisa is a graduate of the class of 1999.

Jillian F. Mackin & Ryan Betters, Sept. 2, 2007.
Jillian is a graduate of the class of 1996

Births:

9/25/07, Eliza Rose to David Gerrish (1990) and
Taryn (Scott) (1994). Granddaughter of Diane and
Ray Gerrish.

11/28/07, Jackson McCarthy to Lesley (McCord)
(1994) and Kyle Cogswell

Engagements:



Gary and Nancy Dion of 12 Main Street
announce the engagement of their daughter, Renee
Lynn, to Jose Rafeal Fernandez, both of 290
Homestead Avenue, Holyoke. Fernandez is the son
of Angel Fernandez and Maria Figueroa of Route
787, Cidra, Puerto Rico. Renee is a 1998 graduate
of Turners Falls High School.

Jackie Young & Scott Henderson. Jackie is a
graduate of the class of 1998. An August 23, 2008
wedding is planned.

Carl Keniston & Lori Ducharme. Lori is a graduate
of the class of 1986. A spring 2008 wedding is
planned.

Hope Hansen & Kyle Forgey. Hope is a graduate of
the class of 1998. A June 14, 2008 wedding is
planned.

Jocelyn Roberge & Christopher A. Glabach.
Jocelyn is a graduate of the class of 2003. A May 3,
2008 wedding is planned.

Sarah Tully & Jamie Spofford. Sarah is a graduate
of the class of 1999. A fall 2008 wedding is
planned.

Andrea Roy & David Talbot. David is a graduate of
the class of 1987. A May 17, 2008 wedding is
planned.

Jessica Paul & Eric Czernich. Eric is a graduate of
the class of 1994. A July 18, 2008 wedding is
planned.

Cody Thompson & Calista Trenholm. Calista is a
graduate of the class of 2000. An August 11, 2008
wedding is planned.

Jennifer Mascavage & Scott Minckler. Scott is a
graduate of the class of 1998. A May 31, 2008
wedding is planned.

Staci Marino & Joshua Sargent. Joshua is a
graduate of the class of 1994. A June 7, 2008
wedding is planned.

Amber Lynn MacLean & Phillip Richard Dupell.
Amber is a graduate of the class of 2003 and Phillip
is a graduate of the class of 2004. A May 17, 2008
wedding is planned.

Kathleen Decker & Christopher B. Sadler.
Christopher is a class of 1992 graduate. A
September 20, 2008 wedding is planned.

Obituaries:

Class of 2001

ERVING—*Gabriel “Gabe” L. Mason*, 24, of 21
Pleasant St. Died Tuesday (3/25/08) at Baystate
Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield.

Class of 1984

LA JOLLA, Calif. -- *Lisa Ann (Mongiello) Novascone*, 40, of 4277 Calle Mejillones died Saturday, June 23, 2007, in her home following a long illness.

Class of 1974

MONTAGUE CENTER—*Rodney F. Beauchasne*, 51, of Montague Center died Sunday (10/14/07) at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield.

Class of 1970

MONTAGUE CENTER -- *Anna M. Garbiel*, 55, a lifelong farmer, educator and resident of Montague Center, passed away peacefully on Jan. 17, 2008 at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston surrounded by her loved ones.

Class of 1969

TURNERS FALLS -- *Paul E. Gravelle*, 57, of 44 Coolidge Ave., died Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2007, at home, following a period of declining health.

Class of 1961

TWEKSBURY – *Lucien “Buddy” M. Desbien*, 63, of Twerksbury, formerly of Turners Falls, died Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008, at the Tewksbury Hospital.

Class of 1958

TURNERS FALLS -- *Carolyn L. (Fortin) Watrous*, 68, of 9 Alice Street, died Saturday, March 1, 2008 at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield after a period of failing health.

Class of 1949

TURNERS FALLS -- *Joan L. (Lanfair) Churchill*, 76, of 133 Turners Falls Road, died unexpectedly Sunday, December 2, 2007 at home.

Class of 1946

GREENFIELD -- *Robert W. Wyman*, of 128 Silver Street, passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 06, 2007 at Baystate Franklin Medical Center following a brief illness.

TURNERS FALLS -- *Rita M. (LaChapelle) Brassor*, 81, of 66 Davis St. and a resident of the Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility, Greenfield, died Tuesday evening, Jan. 29, 2008, at

the nursing facility following a period of declining health.

Class of 1943

WINCHESTER, NH -- *Norman R. San Soucie*, 83, of 14 Avery Circle, died Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008 at Cheshire Medical Center in Keene.

Class of 1941

MONTAGUE -- *Evelyn M. (Beaubien) Tetreault*, 84, a resident of the Buckley Health Care Center, 95 Laurel St., Greenfield, Mass., and a native of Montague, died Saturday morning, Nov. 24, 2007, at the nursing facility following a period of declining health.

Class of 1939

ERVING -- *Rosemary (Carroll) Maddern*, 85, of 6 River Road, died Saturday (10-6-07) at the Buckley HealthCare Center in Greenfield. Rosemary was a guidance counselor at Turners Falls High School for 20 years, retiring in 1984.

Class of 1938

GREENFIELD -- *Ruth E. (Sears) DuBois*, 88, of Greenfield died Thursday (9-27-07) at the Cozy Corner Nursing Home in Sunderland.

TURNERS FALLS -- *Mary “Molly” (Golowka) Pervere*, 87, of Turners Falls, died Monday, December 31, 2007 at Sunbridge Rehabilitation and Care Center in Hadley.

Class of 1934

OLD ORCHARD BEACH, Maine -- *Frederick C. Riel*, 93, a resident of Fern Avenue, passed away Thursday, Nov. 1, 2007, at Southern Maine Medical Center in Biddeford.

Class of 1933

GREENFIELD -- *Elizabeth "Beeba" J. (Holewa) Laskoski*, 92, of 120 Green River Road, formerly of Turners Falls, died Monday (12-17-07) at Baystate Franklin Medical Center.

Class of 1931

VERNON, Vt. -- *Arnold "Jim" Merritt*, 94, formerly of Ft. Bridgman Road, died peacefully on Friday evening, Nov. 23, 2007, at Vernon Green Nursing Home, where he had been a resident since December 2006.

Class of 1930

TURNERS FALLS -- *Edward T. Conway*, 95, of 22 Hillside Ave., died Sunday, February 17, 2008 at the Buckley Health Care Center in Greenfield.

Graduation Year Undetermined

MILLERS FALLS—*Stanley A. Dlugosz*, 90, of 21 Bridge Street died Sunday (4-6-08) at the Soldiers Home in Holyoke.

STOCKTON SPRINGS, ME -- *Karen M. (Sibley) Fisette*, 59, of Stockton Springs, formerly of Turners Falls, died Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at the Maine Medical Center in Portland, ME after a valiant struggle with cancer.

GREENFIELD -- *Richard "Jesse" A. James, Sr.*, 75, of 42 Pickett Lane, formerly of Riverside, Gill, died Monday, November 5, 2007 at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield.

AGAWAM -- *Doris R. (Bigelow) Northcott*, 83, of Agawam, formerly of Springfield, died Wednesday (11-28-07) at Heritage Hall.

GREENFIELD -- *Joseph G. Kabaniec*, 83, of 25 Cypress St., died Sunday (10-7-07) at home.

TURNERS FALLS -- *Mary "Gert" (Trem) Juraszek*, 86, of 67 Crocker Ave., died Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield.

TURNERS FALLS -- *Gerald "Gerry" L. Couture, Sr.*, 88, of Dell Street died Saturday, February 23, 2008 at the Soldiers Home in Holyoke.

MILLERS FALLS -- *Lawrence E. Ellis*, 90, of 176 Wendell Road died Monday (12-17-07) at Poet's Seat Health Care Center in Greenfield following a brief stay

GREENFIELD -- *Ruth M. (Marble) Koshinsky*, 90, of Elm Terrace died Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2008 at Poet's Seat Health Care Center.

GILL -- *Ruth J. (Blake) Cook*, 94, of Gill died Tuesday, January 15, 2008 at home.

GREENFIELD -- *John Joseph Mackin Sr.*, 98, of 56 Silver Street, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, March 3, 2008.

OUR NEWSLETTER!

We need your help in adding articles for our Newsletter. Here are just some of the ideas the Board had as to what we might include in our newsletter on a regular basis:

Milestones – birth, marriages, anniversaries, deaths
Achievements – recognition of alumni accomplishments
Remember When – stories about your experiences in school
Class Reunions – information about upcoming reunions, articles on reunions, reunion committee information, help in finding classmates, etc.
School Events
Other?

Please send us your ideas and articles for future newsletters by using the contact information found at the end of this newsletter.

CONTACT US

Send your ideas, thoughts, comments, etc. to:
Doug Brown: dpbrown1@verizon.net
Karen Collins: golfinggirl101@yahoo.com
We look forward to hearing from you!

ASSOCIATION BOARD

The TFHS Alumni Association was formed by a small group in 2006. Board currently consists of the following alumni:

Douglas Brown – Class of 1971
Karen Collins – Class of 1974
Lesley (McCord) Cogswell – Class of 1994
Eric Czernich – Class of 1994
Sheryl Jablonski -- Class of 1975
Barb (Dion) Kuklewicz – Class of 1970
Mary Ellen Mackin – Class of 1966
Kevin McCarthy – Class of 1974
Steve Prokowich – Class of 1973
Ellie Richotte – Class of 1956
Matt Robinson – Class of 1979

The Association meets regularly on the first Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to attend the monthly meetings. We encourage new members and new Board members.

PLEASE JOIN US

The more members the better our organization will be for all of us. Please join the Alumni Association and encourage your alumni friends and family to join. Complete the application below and send to dpbrown1@verizon.net.

The Jack Bassett Montague Mile



Saturday, May 10, 2008

10:00 AM

Turners Falls High School

Organized by S.O.S. (Support Our Students)

For the Benefit of:

Great Falls Middle School

And

Turners Falls High School

Athletics

In honor of Jack Bassett, former teacher, coach and public servant for his years of dedicated service to our community.

(Please see reverse side for details)

Entry Form

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Age: _____ T-shirt size: _____

Category (please circle)

Walk ~ all ages	M	F
8 & U (.5 mile)	M	F
9-12 run	M	F
13-19 run	M	F
20-39 run	M	F
40-54 run	M	F
55+ run	M	F

In consideration of this entry being accepted, I, for myself, or for any person or concern who may claim through me, on my behalf, do hereby hold harmless and release the Gill-Montague Regional School District and sponsors and officials of the Montague Mile from any and all claims for personal injury or damages arising out of or concerned with my participation in this event.

Signature

Date

Parent signature (if under 18)

The Jack Bassett Montague Mile

~ Details ~

Date:

Saturday, May 10, 2008

Time:

10:00 a.m.

Location:

Turners Falls High School
222 Turnpike Rd.
Montague, MA

Entry Fee:

5 and under FREE

9-12 \$5.00

All others \$12.00

** Add \$12.00 for a Montague Mile T-Shirt

Prizes:

Certificates of Participation will be presented to all runners. First and Second place plaques will be awarded to male and female winners in all running categories.

To Register: (post entries welcomed)

Send entry form with check or money to Support Our Students
S.O.S.
c/o Bob Avery
28 Bulkley St.
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Schedule:

Check in and registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

**Questions? Email Bob Avery at ravery21@hotmail.com
RAFFLE FOR ALL REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS!**



Friends and alumni of Turners Falls High School are invited to participate in creating a **TURNERS FALLS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**. We welcome all graduates to join. Attendance is not a requirement. Please note that you do not have to be a TFHS graduate to join; anyone who has a vested interest in this school is welcomed into our group.

If interested in joining, please send the completed form to:

Doug Brown, c/o TFHS 222 Turnpike Road, Montague, MA 01351

Or Email it to TFHSalumni@gmrds.org

For more information, please contact:

Karen Collins ~ class of '74 ***EMAIL: golfinggirl101@yahoo.com***

Doug Brown ~ class of '71 ***Email: dpbrown1@verizon.net***

If interested please fill out the form below. Only include information you want shared.

Name: (presently) _____

(Name we knew you as in high school) _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Alumnus: ____ (no) ____ (yes) (YOG _____)

Colleges graduated from _____

Branch of Military _____

Profession _____

Please circle preferred method of contact: PHONE or EMAIL

Comments:



Potential TFHS Alumni members:

A group of former graduates, faculty, and administrators met formally for the second time on November 29th to further explore the possibility of organizing an alumni association at Turners Falls High School. After meeting for the second time, there has been progress demonstrated by our small group. At this meeting, copies of another school's association's by-laws were distributed. Members present were asked to review these and at our next meeting, discussion will begin regarding this topic and development of our own By-Laws or guiding principles. This was regarded as a priority if this organization is to progress. Copies are still available before work starts at our next meeting in January, by contacting me, (Doug Brown) and attempts will be made to send this work in progress to those that have demonstrated an interest in this organization. It is important if you believe you want this organization to succeed, to review this document and make your opinions be known. Generally speaking, issues as dues, membership qualifications, voting rights and officer positions are topics that have risen to the top for interested parties. This association's structure eventually will be what the vocal have determined.

While there is much organizational work to be done, the group who gathered felt that it was worth the effort because our existence would benefit former as well as future graduates. The major short term goal to build a data base of information regarding graduates from TFHS has begun with 70+ members registered. This information could/would be used to assist classes at reunion time, allow guidance and faculty to access (by their choice) alumni information regarding schools you graduated from after high school, your professions, and military involvement as basic information. We felt having this opportunity to link ourselves with future graduates would give a connection to students; as they try to plan their lives after graduation, perhaps we could assist them with our advice, giving form to the District goal of life long learning. One generation could share what they know with the next.

Our request is to forward this note and registration form to anyone you may feel would like to be included in the association.

Doug Brown