



# FHS 25+ ALUMNI CLUB NEWSLETTER



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Issue #28

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June, 2009

## Our Scholarship Recipients



By Steve Urbaniak '77

For over 20 years, the Fraser High School Alumni Club has delighted hundreds of past graduates with its hospitality in keeping alive the Rambler spirit. With the annual newsletter, mailed every June, and the annual August picnic, alumni, staff and retirees can reminisce. Each year the club gives deserving graduating seniors an opportunity to continue their hard work academically, at a college of their choice.

In 2008, the 'Audrey 'Kleino' DeFauw Memorial Scholarship Fund' awarded two seniors a \$1,000 scholarship, with a total of \$22,400 being awarded to date.

Alison Krentz was the first recipient this year. Both of her parents attended Fraser High School. Her mother, Susan 'Polzin' Krentz, is from the Class of 1979, and her father, Jeff, was from the Class of 1977. Alison has spent her years at FHS participating in HOSA, softball, basketball and National Honor Society. Both in and out of high school, she has excelled, making the honor roll every quarter of her four years at FHS. She also raised \$1,000 for the Diabetes Research Foundation, and captained the junior volleyball team. Described by teachers as one who possesses impeccable character, she has an overall desire to achieve, is well spoken, caring and loving, and has a warm personality. Her 3.724 GPA is admirable, and she will be attending Central Michigan University or Loyola University in Chicago with an anticipated major in physical therapy and

psychology. The second recipient is Rebecca Warunek. Becky is the daughter of Randy and Mary Warunek. Randy is a FHS graduate from the Class of 1972. Becky has been involved with many activities in her life. She has many years of service in various capacities to St. Malachy. Her candidness has shown through as captain of the freshman volleyball team. She was the 8th grade volleyball co-coach at Richards. She was also a spinal screenings assistant at Bittner Chiropractic Care. She states she is academically an over-achiever, but with a GPA of 3.743, ranking her at #50, it shows she's modest, to say the least. Those who know her describe her as accomplished, efficient, tremendously good-hearted, never complains, gives 110%. Becky plans on attending Macomb Community College with an anticipated major in physical therapy.

Congratulations to both our scholarship recipients.

## 2008 Picnic



The volunteers did a magnificent job, despite the wind and drizzle. Shown here are a few of the early birds - John Uhlik

'65, Chris Fletcher '71 and Bill Vought '72. Other early birds (some first timers) that were greatly appreciated were Jerry Oehmke '45, George Sheppard '65, Ken Schneider '68, Mike Jennings '69, Dave Fletcher '66, Holly Simunich '71 and Doug Perkins '80 - thanks !!

Then the sun came out and again, John Porter '77, came through with his donated pig for the Pig Roast, roasting throughout the night, to be ready for



(Cont'd on page 7)

## Love Across the Country

This is not one of the many stories about high school sweethearts reconnecting and finding, uh, true love. It's the story about the most unlikely of high school classmates getting together - ones from entirely different social groups. How often does that happen?

In his Fraser, Mich., Class of '61 year book, senior Douglas Dobrei stands out as a star: good looks, class president, top spots in top sports and on the honor role. In Fraser, then a town of fewer than 7,000, Douglas was known to all, even Virginia Powers, a looker herself who ran a beauty shop out of her parents' home and who describes herself as "a terrible student." Being from different cliques, even in this smallest of towns, at school the two had hardly spoken. After graduation, Douglas went off to college on a sports scholarship; Virginia married a military man from California. However, in Douglas' yearbook Virginia had written "See you in California!" because he had a brother in Vacaville he said he might join up with someday. She didn't know she was predicting 45 years into the future. A lot happened in those years: marriages and divorces and two sons for each.

After her divorce in 1983, Virginia, then living in Sacramento, began a career in sales and headhunting. (She is vice president of recruiting for Westamerica Bank.)

Meanwhile, Douglas, after a divorce in 1973 and a long career in Chicago in manufacturing, decided to "retire" to Vacaville, though he soon came out of retirement and began working for an electrical wholesaler. Both had pretty much decided that they'd live solo, and neither were searching for romance. But in the summer of 2006, Virginia found herself recruiting a young analyst with the last name of Dobrei. "You wouldn't have family from Michigan?" she asked.

(Cont'd on page 8)

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Donations since the last publication of the Newsletter - if we missed anyone, please let us know and we will include you in next year's list.

### Donations to the 25+ Alumni Club General Fund - we thank you !

1962-85 Teacher, Nancy White	1959 & 1960 Roland Fillmore, Deanna 'Chapman' Landers, Janet 'Smits' Kimball, James & Brenda 'Qualls' Carter
1940 Virginia Grambow - In memory of husband, Al	1965 Norman Hilton, John Uhlik 11, Elinor 'Moehr' Sweet, Art Chavez, Robert Accivatti & Lou Petrucci
1945-51 Jerry & Joyce 'Oehmke' Cornelissen	1967 Nancy 'Neel' Dunstan, James Salamon & Paul Petrucci
1947 Bonnie 'Rosteck' Layman, Harold Bock & Lt. Col. Jack Kimball	1969 & 1971 Mark Mittleman, Michael Jennings, David & Charlene 'Simmons' Wojcik
1949 Kenneth Klein	1970 Diane 'Tench' Dunakiss
1954 Mary Ellen 'Havelt' Marzinski	1972 Michael Stauch
1956 Darrel (Bud) Hilton, Patricia 'Weber' Peeters - in memory of classmate, Ron Vergin	1974 Debra 'Lux' Roland
1958 Alvin Jasin & Valerie 'Harvey' Mushrush	1977 Kate (Gay) 'Tapert' Bann

### Donations to the 25+ Alumni Club Scholarship Fund - we thank you and the graduates are also appreciative !

#### Donations in the amount of \$1 - \$99

IN MEMORY OF ...	Donor	Class
Father and Brother - Leonard and David	Sharon 'Horetski' Smith	1971

#### Donations in the amount of \$100 - \$499

Maybelle 'Kromm' Engel	David Kromm	1956
Janice 'Flynn' Krakowski	Donna 'Brown' Flynn	1956
	Diane 'Tench' Dunakiss	1970
Pig Roast Proceeds	John Porter	1977

IN HONOR OF ...	Donor	Class
Mom, Phyllis Shunn	Dayle 'Shunn' Hoffecker	1981

#### \$1 - \$99 Continued

1945 Jerry Oehmke  
 1958 Don Belisle & Alvin Jasin  
 1960 Janet 'Smits' Kimball  
 1963 Jane 'Patton' White  
 1965 Lou Petrucci  
 1968 Ken Schneider  
 1977 Terry DeFauw

#### Website Sponsors

1960 Janet 'Smits' Kimball

## OBITUARIES

*Only listings of FHS Alumni, Classmates, Principals and Teachers are printed.*

Nancy 'Beveridge' Allard, Class of 1947, died Dec. 25, 2007	John Burkel, Class of 1978, died Oct. 6, 1999	Al Grambow, Class of 1940, died in California
Daniel Brazelton, Class of 1961, died on May 6, 2008	Gordon 'Skip' Deierlein, Class of 1941, died March 3, 2009	Cathleen Groza, Class of 1967, died March 20, 2008 in Mecosta, MI
Cheryl 'Bryan' Tomaski, Class of 1965, died June 11, 2007	Steven DeVoodg, Class of 1969	Michael 'Hodakoski' Harris, Class of 1974, died Feb. 12, 2009
Ken Burgett, Class of 1957, died Jan. 25, 2008 in Clinton Twp., MI	Janice 'Flynn' Krakowski, Class of 1971 died Jan. 10, 2007 in Troy, MI	

(Cont'd on page 4)

## Teacher Feature

By Steve Urbaniak '77



This year's teacher feature takes us into the life of Robert Lask, who taught Social Studies classes at Fraser High.

Bob was a first-generation American-born Jewish boy growing up in Detroit, when Nazi Germany was wreaking havoc on Europe - six million Jews were killed. By the time the war ended, he was 8 years old. The conflict didn't sink in then, but he learned so much about his heritage that he would use it in his classes when he would come to be a teacher.

He attended Wayne State University and taught in Detroit Public Schools for four years. Seymour Okun, foresaw an opening, in the Social Studies Department, in 1967, and called Bob to see if he would be interested in a suburban school district position. Bob accepted and was hired.

During his first few years, he played "shortstop" as he called it, teaching one section of history, one of American history, one of sociology, one of comparative religions, one of World history and one in psychology. Many times he volunteered to teach six classes per term without a formal prep period - he didn't mind. In the 60s & 70s, he also taught Humanities, Social Psychology and Russian history. "Not having a prep was not too difficult," he said. As he gained seniority, Bob would teach two or three sections of the various social studies. He enjoyed the variety of classes and made suggestions for new offerings - Comparative Religions, Russian history and some 10-week courses: Frontiers, Contemporary Social Problems were his suggestions. Enrollment climbed and more courses could be offered.

"I'm a storyteller so the Contemporary Social Problems course was one in which I would embellish upon personal experiences."

Bob Lask was NHS advisor, in charge of Honors Assembly, and Travel Club sponsor. (I remember going to D.C., at age 15, through that club, though Mr. Lask did not go that year. I had Mr. Muendelein and Mr. Butler instead.)

"The Washington trip was great for the kids," Bob recalled. "It gave the kids an opportunity to see how teachers were outside of the school environment. Sometimes my own kids had the privilege in accompanying the Fraser students on the trip."

Lask was also social director for Band Camp, "Kids loved the horror films I would show, but I never let them interfere with their practice."

He has taught Jewish education religious school for 55 years. He holds a Reform Jewish Educator's certificate in the Reform Movement. Only 200-300 people in the country have this (RJE). He was awarded the first in the state of Michigan. "I always wanted to further my religious teachings. An opportunity arose for me during the mid-80's. I was offered a position as Education Director at Temple Bethel." This position would put him in charge of running the curriculum and responsible for day-to-day activities for the youth movement. He approached the Fraser Board of Education for a leave of absence - they granted him that with highest regards for his success. Lask was in that position for six years. Not that it was enough, he also simultaneously was the dean of the College of Jewish Studies, Temple Israel, where he administered the adult courses taught there.

After six years and the gratification of that position, it was time to return to public school teaching. Lask came back as a Social Studies teacher. This time he was assigned to Richards Junior High. He suggested some advanced history courses there, which he taught with Judy Light, and also developed the ultimate trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

He has high regards for the staff at the school, especially administrators Ray Brunzell and Ed Grewe. It was through his hands-on teaching style that he was able to get the 7th grade records to be used to fulfill an 8th grade advanced history placement. He started the honor society at the junior high level -- the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Richards didn't have a chapter, so he established one there with administration agreement.

In more recent years, he ran the summer school program. too.

In 2001, he decided that it was time to retire. "My students made my time at Fraser a time I'll never forget. I left with sadness that it was time to go."

Always busy, he has since traveled to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji one year, has been on the Chinese mainland, vacationed in Yellowstone and visited Italy. He has also gone to Prague and Israel. His wife was in Vietnam one year, as an orchid judge. "It is not legal to bring the orchids here," Bob said.

He is still actively teaching. If you take a trip to the Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills, on Orchard Lake Road, you might see him leading a 90-minute tour as a docent. By the time tour is over, you may feel completely exhausted, no doubt from Lask's intense lessons during the tour -- highly recommended. At age 71, he never seems to quit. He's always on the move staying active and learning himself. I have fond memories of Mr. Lask and hopefully all his former students do too.



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This year we welcome the class of 1984, unfortunately we don't have many addresses. If you have access to these addresses, please contact me at [ms.jan.kimball@gmail.com](mailto:ms.jan.kimball@gmail.com) or (586) 634-5937

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## SAY HELLO TO YOUR CLUB'S VICE PRESIDENT !

By Pat Hallendy '65

Chris graduated in 1971, joined the FHS 25+ Alumni Club and became the Vice-President, in 1999. He volunteered to help with the annual alumni picnic, in 2000, and has not stopped since. Chris has been responsible for the success of the food concession and overall running of the picnic.

If you don't know Chris, you'll hear and see him on the microphone at the picnics. Also in 2000, Chris became the President, and from 2003 to-date, he has held the position of Vice-President. He is faithful and loyal to

the club and loves being a part of it. Chris and Bev 'Blauvelt' Fletcher (both '71) were high school sweethearts and have been married for 11 years with three children and seven grandchildren. Chris is a mechanic by trade and is currently working as a Hi-Lo Mechanic, with an Ohio based company, which has sent him out of state to work, temporarily.

He loves to bowl, golf, play baseball, ski, and ride his motorcycle. The Fletcher's towed the motorcycle to Montana, to ride 10,000 feet straight up Bear Tooth Path by zigzagging to reach the top. They both have shirts

saying "I Survived Bear Tooth Path" to prove it. His claim to fame is a hole-in-one in 2007, at a St. Clair Shores golf course.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for his relentless and tireless volunteer work, which has made this club as successful as it has been. Next time you see him, please give him a big "handshake" and a big "thank you." He deserves it! (Remember, no hugs, if his wife is looking.)

THANK YOU, CHRIS from your co-board members of the FHS 25+ Alumni Club.



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## OBITUARIES (Cont'd)

David Mayville, Class of 1974

Donald Puffpaff, Class of 1952, died  
March 14, 2009, in Fraser

Randall Riemer, Class of 1984, died  
April 16, 2008

Phil Sandula, Class of 1957, died Jan.  
24, 2009 in Dryden, MI

Mary Helen Schiappacasse, friend of  
1975, died in August of 2008

Max Wilson, Class of 1974, died Feb.  
14, 2009 in San Francisco, CA

Holly Yarrington, Class of 1983, died  
Sept. 8, 2008

Administration and Teachers

Raymond Coppelle (Principal)

Arlene Eddy, 1957-1971 Business  
teacher, died Dec. 20, 2008

Kathy Graham (Teacher)

James Jones (1997-2001 Baseball  
Coach) died Jan. 26, 2009

Cassandra Kiepke (Teacher) died  
Nov. 4, 2007

*This is just a brief listing of our departed  
classmates, principals and teachers.*

*An obituary, if available, in its entirety,  
is available on the website.*

By Steve Urbaniak '77

A letter arrived in the Alumni Club mailbox last summer asking about any information on the merger of the Cady Corners School District and the Fraser School District. Here is an article around the time period, reprinted in its entirety.....what a different world it was then.

It's All in the Day

Sept. 18, 1945

Mount Clemens Monitor Leader

Early this year, when children of Cady Corners School, Clinton Township District 5, went on strike because they had to walk six or seven miles a day, round-trip, to school, their parents backed them in a school strike and turmoil reigned in the school district for weeks.

When the voters in the district for the second or third time rejected the plan to finance a school bus, the dauntless parents of the protesting children formed a School Bus Club for the purchase and operation of a bus.

Since that time, not a line of undesirable publicity has been accorded this school district where fists once flew and pickets once circled the schoolhouse under the watching eyes of uniformed police officers...all is peaceful in Clinton District 5!

The school bus operation has been without mishap and very successful...more club members have joined the group.

Like all corporations, the group has found that a reserve fund is needed...and accord that a box social will be held on Saturday night, September 22 in the Star Ballroom, 31816 Utica Road, at Fraser. The festivities will start at 4 p.m., and all proceeds will go into the bus fund.

Our several readers might wonder why we are attaching so much importance to a box social...which ordinarily would find itself relegated to a small spot on the society pages.

This is no ordinary box social. It is designed to keep alive a project unique in this county...and one which was borne of strike, bickering and near-bloodshed. The success of the social affair will keep the bus rolling...so that tots of five and six years old will never again have to trudge along dangerous highways in the dark of a wintry morning...without even sidewalks

to guard them from automobile traffic.

That's why we regard the Cady Corners box social as a very deserving affair...and gladly lend a hand to Mrs. Floyd Malak, Mrs. Clarence Moorehead, Mrs. William Huetter and other ladies responsible for arranging it.

And if you've never been to a box social, now's your chance. It's even more fun than a picnic. The ladies bring the lunches and the men bid on them...the latter having the privilege of having lunch with the lady who prepared it...Refreshments and dancing are also on the program.

Any questions or concerns about the Cady-Fraser merger, please write or call us.

I just love local history --Steve Urbaniak.

## Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame



Several Fraser High School coaches have previously been inducted into the Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame. Names like Thomas Lusk, Donald Weichert, Donald Seiferlein, Jan Stephan, Ross MacDonald, Wilson Barns, Mario Borrocci, Willis Fifer, Alan Kastl, Thayer Mukhtar, and most recently, Lee O'Bryan adorn the walls of the Hall.

Let's take a look at our most recent inductee. Lee O'Bryan became interested in tennis as a child, and 50 years later, he still is enthralled with the sport. "Tennis has played a major role in my life for many years," said O'Bryan, assistant principal at Fraser High School. He began playing recreationally after sixth grade. "I haven't spent a summer since when I haven't either played, competed or taught tennis," said O'Bryan.

He first took to tennis in a summer recreation program led by Ramblers coach Ted Striewski.

There were many reasons that the sport appealed to O'Bryan right away, including instant gratification, success, and friendships formed. "Tennis caught my interest, satisfying my personal and social needs," he recalled.

It became more than a passing fad. Since the junior high and high school shared the same building, he stayed in contact with Striewski, who let him play in exhibition matches for two years.

When O'Bryan became a full-fledged Rambler, he settled in nicely at No. 2 singles as a freshman, playing No. 1 singles in his remaining three years, and reaching the state finals and becoming team captain, team MVP and All-League. He graduated from Fraser, in 1966.

O'Bryan played three seasons at Central Michigan University, opting out his senior year when he student-taught at Dearborn High. Still, he helped out the Pioneers' program, and that set the stage for his return to Fraser.

Hired as an English/Journalism teacher in 1970, O'Bryan also became the Ramblers' girls' tennis coach. For 26 years, until he became athletic director, he headed the team, compiling a 226-69 record that included 11 league titles, two regional crowns and eight team berths in the state finals. Fraser's girls were named Macomb County "Team of the Year" in 1990 and 1994, coincidentally the same two years O'Bryan was saluted as the county's "Coach of the Year." He also ran the boys' program for six years, qualifying two teams to state.

During summers, O'Bryan ran a five-week junior development tennis camp, which is still going strong after 30 years. "It raised the level of tennis in a community where tennis clubs were not common," O'Bryan said. "It became contagious and soon our summer program was drawing in players from other school districts in Macomb County."

Although he eventually became the Ramblers' athletic director, he continued to contribute to the game by directing pre- and post-season meetings, as well as hosting league tournaments and regional competitions. He was inducted into the Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame in 2007.

**FHS 25+ ALUMNI CLUB 2009**  
Annual Picnic needs Volunteers - 1 hour - sell tickets, work at registration, food counter, raffles, etc. -  
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## Week End of Reunion Fun

The 3rd Annual Fraser Alumni Golf Outing, will be held at Sycamore Hills (owned by Jim Schwark '63 and Tom Schwark '68), 48787 North Ave., Macomb, MI, on Aug. 8, 2009, with a shotgun start at 7 a.m. The price will be \$80 per golfer, which entitles each to 18 holes, cart and a lovely pasta and salad dinner upon completion.

All proceeds will be distributed to the FHS 25+ Alumni Club and Fraser High School's Athletic Department.

Please make checks payable to Mitch Ritter '67, 47380 Freedom Valley Dr., Macomb, MI 48044. Reservations are expected by Aug. 1, but last minute requests will be honored, if available.

## GOLF OUTING HISTORY

The history of the annual golf outing began as a continuation of the '60s reunion weekend, in 2007. A golf outing, was offered before the main dinner-dance event and there were approximately 50 golfers. It was intended to be a one time shot. Then in 2008, with last minute arrangements, another 50+ golfers assembled. Both of the first outings were meant to be simply a social occasion. However, there was discussion that we might want to up the ante a bit and possibly raise money for the school and/or the 25+ Alumni Club. So in 2009, the attempt is to do just that, with both organizations giving their full support.

2008 attendees, which represented participants from the classes of the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, as well as some grads from the 2000 era, for the most part were all in agreement that we could take advantage of this social gathering and raise some funds and afford some of us the opportunity to contribute to our alma mater.

"Although this is directed to the alums, this is open to any guest that would like to take part in the festivities. We will take anyone's money in return for the opportunity to make new friends" said Mitch Ritter.

The Alumni Club would like to thank our advertisers, without their support, this newsletter would not be possible. Tell them where you saw their ad when visiting.

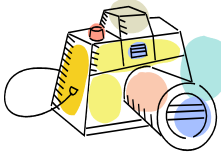
If you own a business and would like to support this newsletter, mail your camera ready ad (or business card) to Janet 'Smits' Kimball, c/o P.O. Box 154, Fraser, MI 48026. The cost of a small ad is \$30 and the larger ad is \$100. Please make your check payable to the FHS 25+ Alumni Club and clearly indicate that it represents payment for an advertisement.

## Class of 1964 Reunion

Since the location is very close to the 45th parallel, this will be "Our 45th on the 45th" ! Contact Rich Whipple at [rekywhipple@yahoo.com](mailto:rekywhipple@yahoo.com) for Aug. 22, 2009 weekend event at Walter & Eileen Brys' Traverse City Winery.

If you are still breathing, we need to hear you breathe at some of the Board Meetings, held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p. m., Richards Middle School, in the Media Center. For details call Jan (586) 634-5937 or Chris (586) 286-0096

## NEW Picnic Picture Times



Despite the improvement in organization, posted scheduling and live announcements, some alumni continue to miss out on the picture sessions. The reasons offered include not hearing the announcements, arriving too late, or leaving too early. Some even claim not to even know that pictures were being taken and were available for purchase. This would probably account for some of the late orders we received. This year we have decided to make just a few minor adjustments to improve the process even more. Last year was a success by all means and this year will be even better.

We will again post schedules listing the times and the class years involved in each photo session. The plan is to group several class years of alumni together for each picture. The pictures will then be offered for sale in an 8" x 10" color enlargement on photographic paper. The pricing will be \$10.00 for advance orders, and \$15.00 if ordered after the festivities. This also includes mailing.

Copies of last year's group sessions will be available for viewing at the FHS memorabilia table. Individual class photos can be scheduled before or after the main sessions are completed. The groupings are based on last year's attendance and is subject to change.

Tentative time and classes involved:

Class Years	Time	Class Years	Time
1939 - 1949	1:30	1965 - 1969	2:50
1950 - 1954	1:50	1970 - 1974	3:10
1955 - 1959	2:10	1975 - 1979	3:30
1960 - 1964	2:30	1980 - 1984	3:50

If you decide to pre-pay your photo(s), simply include your payment with the contribution form, found on the last page, and return with payment.

Thanks very much and we'll see you in August!



## 2008 Annual Picnic (Cont'd)

the Noon start. Resting and ready for the pulling of pork for sandwiches >>



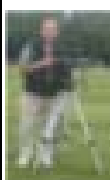
Pat Hallendy '65 did an enormous job again, running the first area that you enter for the picnic - Registration. Many of the prepaid attendees could skip the Cashier and go right on to name tags. Volunteers were John Uhlik, Greg Hilliker, George Sheppard, Bob Accivatti, Art Chavez, Lou Petrucci, Elinor Moehr-Sweet and Sandy Damm-Chavez all from the class of '65; Sandy Apps-Hilliker '66; Paul Petrucci and Chuck Accivatti '67; Pam Timmerman-Williams '72; Sandy Hallendy '73; and Jill Timmerman-Baker '74 - thank you!

Particular thanks to other first time volunteers - Linda Smits-LaHaise '68 who worked most of her time selling 50/50 tickets; Joleen King-Boguslaw '87 (yes, that is '87) cooked over the BBQ all day for the Club and came at the request of her mother, Janet Smits-Kimball - thank you!!



Continued support also came from Bonnie Brackett-Etelamaki '67. She has the Food Area set up down to a tee - thank you!

Jim Anderson '68 did double duty - sold tickets for the Lottery Board and collected for the class photos - thank you!



Special thank you to our photographer and his assistant, Carl and Dorothy Romano, parents of 8 Fraser grads, who donated their time and talents for our class photos.

Thanks again to Helen Ayers-Stovel '41 and Steve Urbaniak '67 for doing a great job of displaying all the articles, items and pictures involving our club's history.

Chris Fletcher '71 (the ring leader for making sure all parts of the picnic run smoothly) and Helen Ayers-Stovel '41 pull the winning ticket for the TV Raffle.



Thank you also to Jane Patton-White '63, Steve Urbaniak '67, Bev Blauvelt-Fletcher '71, Kristyn Gatward-Jones '78 and Henry Jones '78 who shifted their times between selling tickets and the Food Area.

We can't forget Jerry Koelzer '58 for bringing the coffee and donuts, cleaning the pavilions and taking back all those returnable pop cans - thank you!

We really truly appreciate all the volunteers that came out to help - if we didn't mention your name, it was truly not intentional and we offer many thanks.

Which brings up another interesting fact - we have on file 10,054 alumni and 38 showed up to volunteer - that is 0.00378 percent - where were you?

## Tidbits

Mitch Ritter, '67, has been elected Vice President of Membership for the Wayne State University Alumni Assoc. Board of Directors.

Randy Warunek '72 (Scholarship recipient's dad) is supervisor of the City of Fraser's Building Department.

Gary DeCarlo, '73 is owner of DeCarlo's Banquet Center, in Warren.

Steve LaDuke, '77, is a professional disc jockey. LaDuke Entertainment "brings music to your ears" by being a "disc jockey for all occasions."

Gary Maccagnone, '77, is CEO and founder of the Crate and Fly firm.

Dave Nowinski '79, is President and COO of General Dynamics Land System Div.

Bernard (B.J.) Van Fleteren, '80, is the City of Fraser's Public Works Director.

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## Love . . . (Cont'd)

Turns out Douglas was his father. The coincidence was uncanny, so when the young man asked if his father could give her a call, Virginia thought, why not? She also wondered - remembering their different pasts - what they would possibly have to talk about. For their first meeting, Virginia brought along another Fraser schoolmate, and all three had a swell time. There was no question they had something to talk about. "I thought Douglas was a snob in high school," she says. "It turns out he was simply shy." At the end of the evening, Virginia says she "hugged Douglas three times more than was necessary." There were phone calls, and then a solo date and a good-night kiss. "I used to say that if the Lord wanted me to have a man, he'd drop one on my doorstep," says Virginia. "Lo and behold, that's what happened." Just over a year later, their boys joined in celebrating their wedding, and though Douglas still "lives" in Vacaville, the two spend weekends together in Virginia's Oakland Hills home. "I see the man Douglas is today... polite, a perfect gentleman and kind," says Virginia, "and I can still see the kid I knew in high school." Douglas flips open the yearbook. "Look," he says, grinning, "She was a really hot girl." Surprised by later-in-life love? Virginia: "I never knew I could be head over heels in love - and with someone who feels the same about me!" Douglas: "But if this had happened out of high school it really wouldn't have worked. We needed to grow up."

Article from Friday, March 20, 2009 (SF Chronicle) by Louise Rafkin who has contributed to the New York Times and NPR's "AllThingsConsidered."

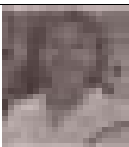
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We hope you enjoy the direct mailing of your newsletter. We are encouraging alumni to enroll on the website and read the newsletter on line, saving postage and printing. Our website may hold more pictures, continuation of articles and other noteworthy information. We welcome any and all comments - either via email, snail mail or with your ideas at any of our monthly gatherings.

The '09 FHS Winter Alumni Reunion weekend took place March 6-7 at the Sun-N-Fun RV Resort in Sarasota, FL. It was hosted by Linda Lahay (Class of '65), Mark Lahay (Class of '69) and June 'Haist' Taylor (Class of '61). There were 28 people in attendance for our "night-before" dinner which was held at the Boondocks Restaurant within Sun-N-Fun. The next morning the alumni gathered at 11:00 am for the luncheon and much fun and laughter. There were 45 actual FHS alumni and 61 total in attendance. It was a beautiful sunny day of 80 degrees and lots of pictures were taken. Alumni drove in from many near and far Florida communities and some flew in from distant States, as well as many who joined us during their vacation from the cold Michigan winter. The next FHS Winter Reunion will be in Royal Palm Beach, FL and will be hosted again by Richard and Elsie 'Larson' Rigen -- email: elsieethel@aol.com. Save the date: Saturday, March 13, 2010.

## Older Persons Commission

As if teaching isn't time consuming enough - with the lesson plans to create, quizzes to photocopy, essays to correct, and equipment to set-up for gym class. Nancy Thoenes, FHS physical education chair, stays physically active year-round. Thoenes, 57, volleyball coach, who began her career in 1974, at Kennedy Jr. High, as Nancy Clark, participates in the Older Persons Commission, a prelude to the Michigan Senior Olympics. This event is open to all age 50 or over.



Thoenes and friend Sue Stroud, are a doubles in badminton - they practice in Rochester. Thoenes says that the benefits that come with badminton, like lifelong fitness, hand-eye coordination and teamwork, all carry over to other aspects of one's life. The Older Persons Commission gives Thoenes and Stroud a chance to have fun, stay in shape, and also compete. This is entirely different when they were younger, however.

In 1972, the Education Amendment, Title IX (Patsy Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act), was passed. Prior to its passing, girls were not encouraged to participate in sports. This act virtually

prohibits discrimination on sex in education.

"Girls of those days were considered tomboys. I know I was. Today they are considered athletes," Thoenes said.

Thoenes recalls her very first year she coached junior high girls basketball and volleyball. "We had more than 80 girls turn out for one team. But they couldn't use the locker rooms, because it was determined that girls don't sweat."

The Senior Olympics is an outlet for competitive older women to compete in the sports that they've always liked to play. However, in August, Thoenes and partner expect to win big -- taking gold medals. The thought of athletic competition for those over 50 is not a fleeting thing. More than 100 other Michigan seniors will participate in the Olympics. For more info, go to michigianseniorolympics.org.

- Donald (Retired educator) and Lorraine (Pietryga) Koleber, of Shelby Township, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 23, 2008. The couple were married Aug. 23, 1958, at All Saints Church, in Flint.
- Mr. Koleber is currently an official of the MHSAA, and officiates high school and summer league swimming events, in Romeo, Rochester and Shelby Township. Coach 'K' still coaches and teaches swimming in those areas.

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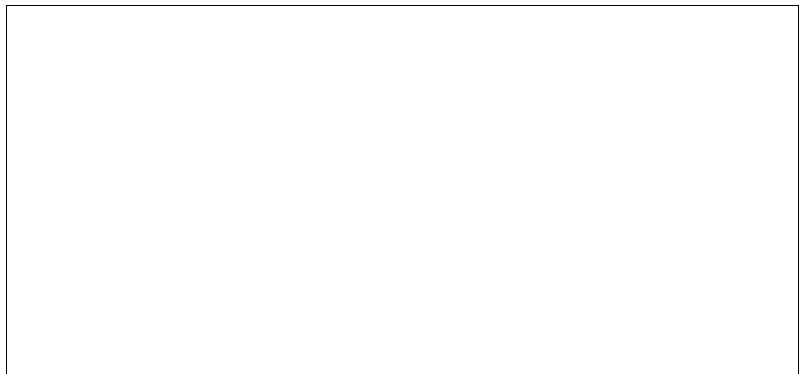
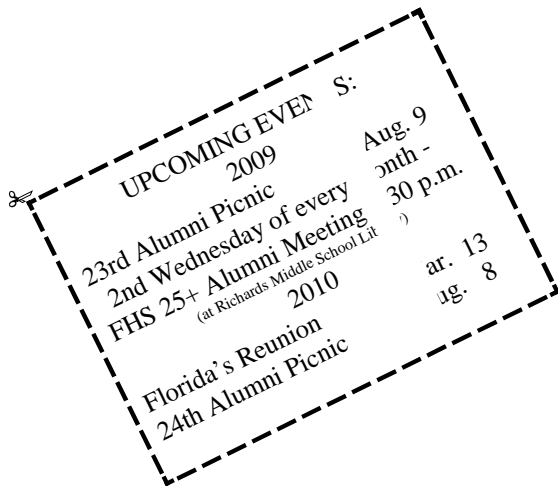
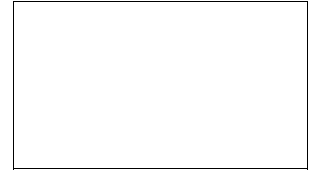
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Further conversation determined that we (Photographers) can indeed offer last years pictures or this years late orders for \$10, instead of the previously mentioned \$15. We decided to offer the FHS 25+ Alumni Club a special, due to the celebration of the photographer's assistants' birthday. This is for your class picture, or one of your special pictures, printed and delivered.