

B.M.C. Durfee High School, Fall River, Mass.  
DEDICATED JUNE 19, 1887

# DURFEE Chimes

Vol. 36 No. 1 Season 2016

A publication of the B.M.C. Durfee High School Alumni Association

## Distinguished Alumnus Anthony F. Cordeiro

Anthony F. Cordeiro is a respected businessman and entrepreneur in the Greater Fall River Area owning and operating a number of companies as well as commercial real estate properties. A 1980 graduate of Durfee High School, he earned his Bachelor's in Business Administration and Accounting from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1984. He received his Master's in Business Administration (M.B.A.) with a concentration in Finance, from Bryant College in 1992. Cordeiro began his first business, Anthony F. Cordeiro Insurance Agency LLC. In 1987, at just 24 years of age. Today, Cordeiro Insurance is known as one of the top insurance providers in the region.

He is the CEO and President of Anthony F. Cordeiro Insurance Agency, LLC and Cordeiro Properties, LLC. Cordeiro currently holds Series 7, Series 13, and Principal 24 Securities licenses, as well as insurance licenses in Property Casualty, Life, Accident and Health. He is a Certified Chartered Pension Professional (CPP) and is a licensed real estate broker in Massachusetts. In addition to the two companies he solely owns, Cordeiro is also the Managing Partner of fifteen limited liability corporations holding in excess of 70 million dollars in real estate values. His most recent endeavors include: Cordeiro Financial Group, LLC, Mechanics Mill One, LLC (the entity that operates The Commonwealth Landing), and Jerry Remy's Sports Bar & Grill, Fall River.

Deeply vested in advancing the health and well being of the Greater Fall River community, Cordeiro actively supports numerous area health, education, and civic projects. He currently serves as Board President of Child & Family Services, Inc. and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Thomas Chew Memorial Boys & Girls Club. He previously served as a member of the Board of Directors for St. Anne's Hospital, the Southcoast Health System/Charlton Memorial



*Anthony F. Cordeiro cont. on page 2*

## Distinguished Alumna Judge E. Susan Speir Garsh



After graduating from B.M.C. Durfee High School in 1965, E. Susan Speier Garsh attended Barnard College of Columbia University, graduating with a B.A. Cum Laude in 1969. She then spent a year working as a journalist in Johannesburg, South Africa before attending Harvard Law School.

Judge Garsh received her J.D. cum laude from the Law School in 1973, and then clerked clerked for the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. After her clerkship, she joined the Boston law firm of Bingham, Dana & Gould, becoming the firm's first female partner in 1980. There Judge Garsh focused her practice primarily on media and commercial litigation.

While in private practice, she was chairperson of the Board of Editors of the Boston Bar Journal in 1992 and a member of the Board of Directors of the Women's Bar Association for three years. In 1993, Governor Weld appointed Judge Garsh to the Massachusetts Superior Court, where she has presided over criminal and civil cases in different counties and in the Business Litigation Session of the Superior Court located in Suffolk County. For three years, Judge Garsh was the Regional Administrative Justice for Bristol County.

Judge Garsh has been the Superior Court's representative on the Supreme Judicial Court's Judiciary-Media Committee since that committee's inception in 1995. During her judicial career, she has served on numerous additional committees, including the Supreme Judicial Court's Committee to Revise the Code of Judicial Conduct and the Superior Court's Judicial Education and New Justices Training committees.

*Judge E. Susan Speir Garsh cont. on page 2*

**Annual Meeting ~ May 27, 2016 ~ 7:30 PM ~ Nagle Auditorium ~ Refreshments 6:30 to 7:30 PM**

# Durfee Chimes

A publication of the B.M.C. Durfee  
High School Alumni Association

## OFFICERS

Judith Conrad '70 – President  
Susan Lavoie – '65 Vice President  
Charlotte E. Thomas '64 – Secretary  
Janice N. O'Brien '56 – Treasurer

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ms. Maria Pontes '79 – School Principal  
Dorothy Nicolau '55 – Past President

## MEMBERS AT LARGE

Steven A. Camara '65  
Claudine Cloutier '88  
Hazel Costa '52  
LTC Santi DiRuzza '51  
Faust D. Fiore '39  
John A. Freeman '52  
Angelina Gastall '65  
James M. Gibney '65  
Richard Masse '54  
Lionel A. Morais '58  
Belinda Morrisette '93  
Stephen J. Nawrocki '54  
Robert E. Pavao, DDS '66  
Joyce Perry '65  
Lisa Raiche '93  
Joyce B. Rodrigues '62  
Col. Ronald Silvia '54  
Margaret Sullivan '57  
Colleen Taylor '78

## HONORARY MEMBERS - MAY 23, 2014

Ella Despres '39

## DURFEE CHIMES STAFF

Stephen J Nawrocki-Editorial Staff '54  
The Durfee Chimes is the official publication  
of the B.M.C. Durfee High School Alumni  
Association. Re publication of any material  
is prohibited without the expressed written  
permission of the Editor. All correspondence  
should be addressed to P.O. Box 9656,  
Fall River, MA 02720-0011

# Letter from the President

Dear Fellow Alumni,

A warm welcome to all of you, whether you graduated from Rock Street or from Elsbree Street. We have all come a long way. We have members all over the world as well as in every state in the union and are one of the largest high school alumni associations in the country. Fall River was a leader in the push to provide free secondary education to every citizen, in addition to basic elementary reading and writing. B. M. C. Durfee High has been graduating well-read and knowledgeable citizens since 1887. Every spring we come together, at the annual meeting where we name the Distinguished Alumni and present scholarships to the new graduates. We also come together virtually every spring through reading the Chimes.

It is my first year as President of the board, and it has been an important year in the history of Durfee High. The year after the bells were finally relocated to the "new" Durfee grounds, the telescope, built in 1887, has also been relocated and restored to use on the "new" Durfee roof. And at the same time, the city council voted to explore rebuilding much of the "new" Durfee, just 37 years old. There have also been the beginnings of a movement to refurbish the old Durfee Tech building, starting with the Mann Murals in the auditorium. It is an excellent time for us all to be part of the Durfee Alumni Association, the keepers of the history and traditions of our city's public high school.

I draw your attention to the forms in this publication for paying your dues to the Alumni Association and especially for joining the Red and Black Club. We also have a website and a facebook page, where we would be delighted to see and hear from you.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the future 2016 graduates of Durfee. Welcome to our Association, and best of luck to you in your studies and careers. We hope you will always look back with pride on your time at Durfee, and feel supported by the ranks of alumni who have gone before you and the traditions of our school.

Sincerely,

Judith Conrad 1970, President  
B. M. C. Durfee Alumni Association

## Anthony F. Cordeiro continued

Hospital President's Council, Fall River Retirement Board, Bridgewater State College Business Advisory Council, and University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's Advanced Technology Center Advisory Board. A member of Slade's Ferry Bank's Board of Directors, Cordeiro also served as a member of the financial institution's Executive Board and as Chairman of its Finance and Investment Board. He previously served as President of the Fall River Office of Economic Development and the Southeastern Massachusetts Heart Association.

## Judge E. Susan Speir Garsh continued

In addition to speaking at court-sponsored Law School for Journalists programs, Judge Garsh has made many presentations at judicial conferences and lectured on libel law to judges at the Justice Academy of the Republic of Turkey in Ankara, Turkey. She was elected to membership in the American Law Institute, which revises and publishes Restatements of the Law. For several years, her judicial duties have included presiding over the naturalization ceremony in Fall River on the USS Massachusetts. She is married and has two children and two grandchildren.

## Durfee Alumni Association - Clam Boil

Fundraiser to benefit the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund

Monday, May 23, 2016 - 4:00PM-8:00PM

Lepage's Seafood & Grill - 439 Martine Street, Fall River, MA 02723

(Eat in or Take Out) • \$25.00 per person



# 2015 Scholarship Recipient List

"The Rae Gitlin Memorial Scholarship" & Joseph V. & Mary Donnelly Fund - Class of 1923" & "Class of 1920" & "Alumni" to .....	Yara D. Almeida
"Class of 1930" & "W. Walter Jaffee" & "Frank S. Feitelberg" to .....	Jennie R. Arruda
"Stephen Nawrocki - Class of 1925" & "Class of 1940" to .....	Caitlin M. Borges*
"Hon. Beatrice Hancock Mullaney Scholarship - Class of 1923" & "Richard B. and Susan Wolfson Scholarship" to .....	Taylor N. Botelho
"Lucille Roussell Hadley '36 & Plummer W. Hadley Scholarship" & "John E. Kiley, Jr." & "Brian R. Farquhar & Mary Farquhar Irwin Scholarship" to .....	Courtney L. Cabral
"Dennis Rezendes Scholarship & Ernest F. Potter, Jr. Memorial Scholarship" & "Abraham I. & Harriet G. Yamins" to .....	Nicolas J. Dumont
"B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association - Lincoln P. Holmes" & "Louise R. Kay & Violet P. Kay Memorial Scholarship" to .....	Lucas F. Fernandes*
"Brian J. Biancuzzo Memorial Scholarship" & "Reynard Thornton" & "Helen W. Brown" to .....	Kyle J. Godinho
"Edith Bottomley" & "Clyde & Yvonne Salisbury" & "Gerald J. Harrington" to .....	Aaron J. Hardy*
"John J. and Fabiola Moriarty Scholarship" to .....	Alexia M. Hernandez
"Alvin E. Hardy (Class of 1935) & Dorothy Boyer Hardy (Class of 1936) Scholarship Fund" & "Andrew J. Borden" to .....	Thao N. Le*
"Andrew J. Borden" to .....	Samueal K. Lema
"Class of 1936" & "Class of 1919" & "Andrew J. Borden" to .....	Eric Mauricio*
B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association - M. Norman Zalkind" & "Catherine Furze Mobouck, Class of 1936" & "Russell L. McIlwaine" to ....	Daniel J. Meyen
"B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association - Sumner James Waring, Jr. Scholarship" & "Class of 1888" to .....	Kelsey Moniz*
"B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association - Peter G. Collias, Esq." & "Mildred R. Hawes" & "Ambrose F. Keeley" & "Class of 1882" to ....	Keegan C. Murphy
"Joseph A. Cohen" & "Kathleen Walsh Memorial Scholarship" & "Thomas H. Cahill, Class of 1953" & "Alumni" to .....	Amanda Pacheco
"B.M.C. Durfee Athletic Association - George Lavoie" & "David P. Shea" & "Thomas & Betsey Covel" & "Mary B. Young" to .....	Aiyana L. Porter
"John J. and Fabiola Moriarty Scholarship" to .....	Brianna J. Raposo
"Thomas F. and Alice M. Harkin Memorial Scholarship" & "Friar Family Scholarship" & "Alumni" to .....	Alexi Rebello
"Hon. Beatrice H. Mullaney Memorial Scholarship" & "Mary V. McCann & Margaret A. Harrington Memorial Scholarship" "George O. Rigby" & "Andrew J. Borden" to .....	Kristine M. Rego
"Betty Munro Welch Scholarship" & "Class of 1957" & "Class of 1966" to .....	Kelsey M. Rodrigues
"Louise R. Kay & Violet P. Kay Memorial Scholarship" & "Alden Wordell Scholarship" & "Alumni" to .....	Alyssa C. Silva
"Harold R. Bannister in Memory of James Edward and Catherine Manning Bannister" to .....	Mason A. Thibault
"Edith Bottomley" & "Annie Monk Simmons" to .....	Rezwana A. Uddin

\*Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation Grant

Respectfully submitted,

Peter G. Collias, President and Claudine A. Cloutier, Treasurer - Trustees of the Fall River High School Alumni Scholarships

## Education in Fall River.....Before Durfee

Most Durfee graduates know some history about their Alma Mater but know very little about public education prior to 1887. Did you ever wonder what took place prior to Durfee?

Going back to the early 1800's, Fall River offered Elementary education for the youngest students and, as students progressed, they entered Grammar School. The ages and grade levels for that period are not well defined. What was evident was that the Community was going through a growth spurt and the need for education beyond the Grammar School level was a necessity.

At that time, the city was divided into eleven districts and each had it's own public school. The population of Fall River was 11,300 and the number of children between the ages of five and fifteen numbered about 2,502. Most schools were considered primary with the exception of the Anawan and High street buildings, where both were considered primary and grammar. These schools

were called second grammar. Pupils in higher grammar took subjects that would eventually be considered high school level. To quote the Superintendent of schools at that time, William Connell, "Schools were managed by efficient teachers and offered interested persons a good education." However, it became evident that more was needed.

Finally, after much debate, at the town Meeting of April 1849, a vote to operate a Public High School was carried. The sum of \$1500 was appropriated to finance the project and "Fall River High School" was born. One month after the vote, a school was opened on the South side of Franklin Street. Rent for the building was \$80 per year. The school Calendar was for 46 weeks. Not too long after that, a second building was opened on June Street.

George B. Stone was appointed the Principal of Fall River High School, and Miss Lucinda H. Jones was named his assistant. The first academic year in the fall

of 1849 had an enrollment of 61 students- 26 males and 35 females. The school year ended in June of the following year with 50 students enrolled.

The curriculum in those years was not easily defined. Over time, the various principals usually adapted the curriculum to match their particular philosophy of education. For example, Mr. Pearson adapted the



**Original Fall River High School:**  
Pictured is the original Fall River High School located on Franklin street.

## *Education in Fall River.....Before Durfee continued*

course of study to the wants of the school. Mr. Goff put in a three year program which allowed the students additional time if it was needed to complete their courses. Mr. Slade thought teacher preparation was important and instituted a Normal School. Finally, Mr. Lambert developed a four year course of study with classes listed as English, English Classical and Classical.

The years passed and Fall River, along with

the rest of the country, was experiencing the need for more suitable buildings in which to accommodate secondary education. By this time, Fall River High School was working out of two buildings, one on June street and the other, "The Davenport" was operating in the 4th street area. These two facilities proved to be inadequate and before long the student population overwhelmed both locations.

The School Committee report of 1883 sums up the difficulties and records the hope for a solution. There was a need for a new building but how would it be possible? Was there a solution to the problem? Was there a "Silver Lining" on the horizon? Only the most hopeful of residents could dream of what was arriving in only a short while.

---

---

## *Education in Fall River....The "Silver Lining"*

Help was on the way. The dream of a new facility to accommodate secondary education was soon to become a reality. The School Committee report of April 1883 summed up the difficulties, and records the hope for a solution that was rumored to be on the way. "Every cloud, it is said, has a silver lining and this one a poor High School Building with pressing necessities for a new one has been hanging over our city for years, and yet the most hopeful and far seeing among us, until recently had never seen the Silver Lining or dreamed even that it had one."

Bradford Matthew Chaloner Durfee was born in Fall River on June 15, 1843 and died on September 13, 1872 at the age of 29. His Death Certificate lists his cause of death as Passive Congestion of the brain. In Laymen's terms this is a swelling of the brain. This was not an uncommon diagnosis in that period of time as Doctors did not have the diagnostic data available to today's physicians. Prior to his death, his stated desire was that a portion of his estate be devoted to the advancement of higher education and that the youth of his native city have the opportunity to be instructed in the chemical, physical, and mechanical sciences which were such an important part of the industries of Fall River at that time.

On February 5, 1883, Mary B Young made a presentation to the Fall River City Council and offered to erect and furnish at her expense, in memory of her son, on a beautiful lot of land a building suitable for a high school. The lot was bounded on the North by Locust Street, the East by High

Street, the South by Cherry Street and the West by Rock Street. It encompassed 240 rods of land. Upon completion, she would convey the lot and building to the city of Fall River.

She also would provide Mechanical, Philosophical, and Chemical apparatus and give to the city \$50,000," the income of which would be devoted to instruction in the branches of study illustrated by the use of said apparatus." Education, as has already been mentioned, was rapidly changing and expanding. Initially, culture, rather than science, was the main focus of curriculum. It is said that Mrs. Young's foresight regarding the need for the study of science was reflected in her insistence that an observatory tower equipped with a Telescope comparable to one at the Lick Observatory in California be made a part of the school course of studies.

The Fall River City Council was quick to accept Mrs. Young's offer, along with the various stipulations cited in the Deed. The whole business of establishing and acceptance of the new high school took place between February 8, 1883 and July 2, 1883. This involved passage by the Aldermen, School Committee, State Legislature, signed by the governor and then back to the Aldermen. This was amazing speed compared to today's standards. Groundbreaking for the new school was held on August 13, 1883, only six months after her presentation.

Finally four years later after various construction delays, such as, should the school be made of bricks or granite, the

building was ready for dedication. The day selected for the event was Wednesday, June 15, 1887, the anniversary of the birth of Bradford Matthew Chaloner Durfee.

History tells us the day was delightful and sunny, indicating summer was near. The speakers platform was decorated with flowers and the student chorus performed. The Chimes rang majestically and people from all walks of life in the city arrived at the building for the dedication exercises. A few minutes before the exercises began, Mrs. Young, accompanied by her brother, the Honorable John S. Brayton, entered the hall. As she arrived, the audience rose spontaneously to honor her and remained so until she was seated.

Great care had been taken in the distribution of tickets that all classes, sects and nationalities were represented. The fifteen hundred people that flooded the Durfee Auditorium was truly a representative one.

According to reports from that time, some said the structure of the building was patterned after the Hotel de Ville in Paris. It was described as "chaste and noble in its architecture and spaciouly suited for its intended use." The building as described by reports was designed as a "monument to her son whose untimely death had so saddened her declining years." It was constructed at a cost of nearly one million dollars.

The doors of Durfee High School were opened to pupils on September 7, 1887, and from that date to the present, the school has played an important role in the secondary education of Fall River.

**INTERESTING ALUMNI INFORMATION** - We are always looking for news that would be of interest to our Alumni. You are encouraged to send anything newsworthy for publication in the "CHIMES". Be sure to include who is sending the information and how you may be contacted.  
Send your stories to: Durfee "Chimes" Alumni Association - P O Box 9656 - Fall River, MA 02720-0011



# *The Birth of the Tech Building*

As Fall River grew, the High School became increasingly crowded. As early as 1904, records show that the need for another building became more vocal. Principal Pope, in his reports, suggested a solution would be that a supplementary building adjacent to the Durfee building be built to include the shops, laboratories, gymnasium, and drawing rooms. Time passed and little was done to alleviate the enrollment crunch.

By 1912, an entrance exam was introduced for all pupils planning to attend Durfee. Research is unclear as to what happened to students who did not do well on the exam. No doubt they joined the work force. It appears that even this did not help the overcrowding, because the College Prep Division students were forced by lack of space into a double session arrangement. A morning session was held and a second ran from 1:00PM to 4:00PM.

While all of this turmoil was taking place over these years, Fall River was in the process of planning and building a new structure, and in the Fall of 1913, the Technical Building was opened, relieving the overcrowding at Durfee. Charles H. Dooley served as the first Principal. The Tech curriculum was planned to offer a four year plan of study in the following areas. Technical for Boys, Technical for Girls and Clerical and Business. The program was designed to be completed in either two or four years, depending upon the objectives of the student.

By the school year 1917-1918, Charles K. Moulton had become Principal of the Tech Building and by the Fall of 1918 it was decided to unify both buildings with Mr. Moulton in charge. Thus both structures became B.M.C. Durfee High School.

All did not go smoothly for the new unified school. 1918 was a troubled year. It is referred to in school history as the year of "The War". A cold winter created a shortage of fuel and most schools were forced to be closed. High School classes were transferred to the Public Library, Westall School, Post Office and the Boys Club.

To add to the problems, a wide spread influenza epidemic hit the land in 1918 and by order of the Board of Health schools were closed from September 27th until October 28th. The Tech Building became a temporary hospital manned by teachers. Eventually the epidemic and war ended, life went on, and Durfee continued to grow.

An interesting note occurred in the Spring of 1918 when Tech was graduating its last class before joining Durfee. The Tech Yearbook spoke of the rivalry between the two schools. Technical High School had a short but successful history in sports. It featured the late Luke Urban, who went on to a successful career at Boston College and professional baseball.

It appears that in the Fall of 1917, perhaps because of the distraction of the coming merger, Tech had trouble finding a coach and fielding enough boys for a football team. Eventually, one was put together but the season was not successful. Everything came down to preparation for the big Thanksgiving Day game with Durfee. The game was summarized in the following humorous quote from the Tech Year Book published in the Spring of 1918.

"All eyes were trained forward to our big Thanksgiving game with Durfee. Alas, snow covered the field and the game had to be called off. On December 8th, after two postponements, the game was finally played. Taking advantage of the cold weather and a few consequent fumbles, by Tech, Durfee succeeded in piling up a lead of 20 points. During the last three periods, Tech played Durfee to a standstill. Although the boys did not succeed in crossing Durfee's goal line, they came very near it twice, only the greatest of Durfee luck preventing a score. Our boys certainly played a great game in the last three periods and deserved to win"

Of course history has shown that the merger had a great influence on Durfee sports. With the great athletes of Tech joining those at Durfee, it was the beginning of many exciting sports moments in Durfee history.

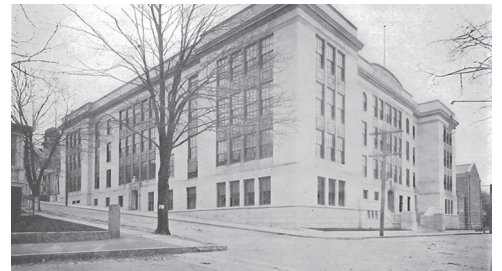
For 14 years the Tech building provided welcome relief to the high school. It helped relieve the overcrowding of the Durfee building and provided additional features such as Industrial Arts and Home Economics classrooms, Science Labs, a Gym and a more functional auditorium. However, trouble was on the way. Events of April 10, 1927 were to have a profound effect on High School education for the next few years.

Patrolman Albert J. Silvia, on foot duty that evening, was in the area of June street at about 4:45 AM and was stunned when he saw flames flashing through a window on the northeast side of the Tech building. Patrolman Silvia immediately sounded the alarm and

minutes after arriving at the building Fire Chief Jeremiah F. Sullivan quickly sounded the second alarm. In approximately 20 minutes the entire structure was in flames. It was not long before it became apparent that Tech was a total loss.

What started the fire has become pure speculation on the part of many. No official cause has ever been determined. Possible causes include defective wiring, trouble in the engine room, and failure to turn off electric irons. Unfortunately, the school was not insured and had no sprinkler system. City officials felt insurance premiums at the time were too expensive.

Quick work on the part of Principal Charles V. Carroll and the staff is credited with quickly getting the school back into operation. The high school was placed on double sessions and spaces in the basements of the nearby Lincoln and Westall schools were used. Home Economic classes were held in large private residences on Rock street. Construction on the present Tech building soon began and was officially opened for students less than four years after the fire in September of 1930. The cost of the new building was \$1,200,000. Mr Carroll remained as Principal until his death in October of 1952.



**Original Tech Building:** Pictured is the original Tech Building that opened in 1913. Notice that the main entrance then was on June Street.



**Present Tech Building:** Pictured is the present Tech Building. The main entrance is located on Rock Street facing the Durfee Building.

# 2015 - 2016 Red and Black Club Membership

**1923**  
John V. Donnelly - Memoriam  
**1933**  
James A. Partridge - Memoriam  
**1936**  
Nathan M. Dashoff  
Alice (Shaw) Harkin - Memoriam  
Alice (Pizio) Kosiba  
**1937**  
Ellen (Gross) Mockas  
John J. Mosley  
**1938**  
Chester J. Bednarz - Memoriam  
Helen (Malinowski) Bednarz - Memoriam  
James W. Carroll  
Joseph M. Gosselin, Maj. USAF, Ret.  
George R. Reinhausen  
Ruth (Barnes) Skillings  
**1939**  
Faust D. Fiore  
**1940**  
Lucy (Torcia) Campos  
Elizabeth (Wong) Chung  
Margaret (Shaw) Dougherty  
William F. McCarthy  
Vernon O. Mills, USN (Ret.)  
Lester Schwartz  
Hon. Milton R. Silva, Ret.  
**1941**  
Alice (Marques) Andrews  
Evelyn (Manchester) August  
Abraham Ehrenhaus  
Eldredge H. Leeming  
William B. Mollwaine  
Rita (Denicourt) Pearson  
Louise (Cottell) Robinson  
**1942**  
Robert H. Clifton, MD  
Rina (Battistoni) Fisher  
Lucy (Baj) Los - Memoriam  
Dorothy (Byron) Perkins  
Charlotte (Flanagan) Weber  
**1943**  
Summer Alpert  
George A. Bedard  
Patrick L. Connors  
Dorothy (Mockas) Hough  
Humbert M. Lopes  
Doris (Audette) Mello  
Donald P. O'Neil  
Juliette (Monks) Servis  
Shaker J. Shaker  
Maria (Mello) Tomalonis  
Joan B. Twaddle  
**1944**  
Omer L. Bergeron  
M. June (Hill) Falvo  
Daniel J. Love  
Mary (Marques) Petit  
Madeline (Flynn) Tozowski  
**1945**  
Shirley (Ayer) Correiro  
Donald M. Cripps  
Germaine (Bedard) Deschenes  
Stanley Janczura  
Roger J. McCann  
Judith (Kahn) Sanders  
Irene (Dougherty) Simmons  
Betty (Munro) Welch  
Carlton H. Yates  
**1946**  
Rosalyne (Spindel) Bernstein  
Roger J. Boulay, MD  
Virginia (Kelley) Carey  
Mary (Tavares) Cordeiro  
Robert A. Deane  
Norma (Gifford) Finglas  
William H. Gaudreau  
George L. Gesner  
Donald H. Hall  
Louise (Castonguay) Hatch  
Muriel (Girard) Lafamme  
Paul H. Lambert, MDCM  
James Mullins  
James F. Nichols, MD  
Peter Pacheco  
Rosann (Barrett) Patola  
Earl A. Posey  
Elizabeth A. (Pacheco) Strongo  
Rodney D. Titcomb  
Juliette L. (Talbot) Whitehead  
**1947**  
Sally Cuttler-McGinn  
Clarisse (Dupont) Deane - Memoriam  
Joseph F. Henry  
Denise (Croisetiere) Larrivee  
Normand Larrivee - Memoriam  
Robert H. Lincoln, Sr.  
Elaine (Walmsley) Manchester

Elton B. Murphy  
Robert D. Newton  
Adell (Crane) Ornstein  
Leona (Guidotti) Ribeiro  
Mary (Bradbury) Sewell  
Hon. James H. Smith, US Magistrate Judge, Ret.  
Dr. Stanley F. Stafiej  
Anibal Teixeira  
Donald G. Wood  
**1948**  
Russell E. Abbott  
Doris (Allen) Blankley  
Jeanne (Boissonneau) Collias  
John P. Delahanty - Memoriam  
Louise Durfee  
Meredith (Pearson) Eastman  
Gladys (Jaworski) Gaj  
Lillian (Zajac) Guimond  
Harold G. Katzman  
Roger E. Lemaire  
Keavin M. Maher  
Yvette (Caouette) Miner - Memoriam  
Frances (Roach) Moniz  
John J. Moriarty  
Elizabeth (Ryan) Polder  
Barbara (Brigham) Posey  
Alice (Morley) Rea  
Richard M. Rosenberg  
Alfred J. Smialek  
Cremilde (Torres) Stavros  
Marjorie (King) Tache  
**1949**  
Joan (Fletcher) Charette  
Atty. Peter G. Collias  
Joan (Pemberton) Daley  
Peter P. DePaola  
John A. Fazzina  
Janice (Phillips) Fiedler  
Harold W. Flynn  
Arlene (MacDuff) Holland  
Martha (Marchio) Kay  
Paul R. Kelleher  
Elizabeth (Williams) Marsden  
Helen (Warden) Martin  
Louise (Pierce) McCarthy  
Reva (Wernick) Newfield  
Ralph J. Pickup  
Gerald Sandler  
Edwin Shivel  
Anne (Patten) Sylvia  
Julia (Sliva) Tessenaar  
Anna (Wis) Zdon  
**1950**  
Gabriella (Gaucher) Abbott  
Mary Lou (Walkden) Banks  
Carol (Jones) Begor  
Robert J. Berube  
Gorden J. Dean  
Prof. Stephen B. Goldberg  
Joan I. Gray, Colonel (Retired) USAF Nurse Corp.  
Capt. Paul B. Grozen, USN, Ret.  
Alice (Fernandes) Hayden  
Charles S. Isherwood  
Edward J. Kaplan  
Stanley Janczura  
Roger J. McCann  
Louis B. Martins  
Francis B. McAndrew  
Louis S. Medeiros, Jr.  
Jane (Larocque) Morse  
Ruth Moss  
Lew Nadien  
Lillian (Dias) Price  
Florence (Serafin) Richardson  
Barbara (Cohen) Rosenberg  
John T. Seaman  
Arthur J. Thibodeau  
Velma L. Travers  
Carolyn (Capstack) Tuovinen  
Janice (Kay) Warren  
**1951**  
Daniel E. Bogan  
Edward S. Cunningham  
Beverly (Wild) Daley  
LTC Santi DiRuzza, USA Ret.  
Carol (Durfee) Fraser  
Maria (Cuthbert) Greenhorn  
Robert J. Hayden, Jr.  
Elva (Bertoncini) Kanakry  
John Kuttner, USAF (Ret.)  
Carolyn (Holt) Lafreniere  
Marceline (Bertolini) Medeiros  
Joseph E. Mullaney  
Chester T. Nuttall, Jr.  
Franklin D. Raposa  
Earl A. Sanft  
Dr. William A. Seymour  
Norman Shepherd  
Everett Smith

Charles D. Somers  
Florence (Picard) Southland  
George F. Southland  
Angelo A. Stavros  
Carl D. Taylor  
Doris M. Thornton  
Helen (Rys) Snelling  
Francis J. Sullivan  
William J. Webb, Jr.  
Ann (Lipschutz) Weinberg  
**1952**  
Dorothy (Kelly) Arruda  
Jean (Higgins) Bogan  
Joan (Winslow) Buhrendorf  
Shirley (Kardosz) Cavanaugh  
Wilma (Taylor) Wagner Cleveland  
Hazel (Langton) Costa  
Charles Cummings  
Lawrence A. Donnelly  
George R. Duclos  
Roland T. Dupont  
Gerald Fallon  
John A. Freeman  
Richard Freitas  
John T. Golitz  
Ronald A. Golz  
Mary (Ryan) Janczura  
Janet (Paquin) Kotlarski  
Joseph Kotlarski  
Natalie (Wilson) Lafleur  
Doris (Belford) Lehrner  
Judith (Campeau) Liles  
Hilda (Souza) Lima  
John E. Machado  
Judith (Kline) Markowitz  
Robert B. Mc Mahon  
Manuel V. Medeiros  
William L. O'Hare  
Dino Polselli  
Mario S. Polselli  
Thomas Powers  
Jacqueline (Zubat) Remus  
John T. Rioux  
Marilyn (Morin) Roderick  
Dr. Ronald A. Schwartz  
Anne Foley Sewell  
George L. Shapiro  
Joan (Ross) Smith  
Rona (Bernstein) Solberg  
Nancy (Pollock) Stavis  
Noreen (Curt) Sullivan  
Muriel (Briggs) Wachlin  
Raylah (Reitzas) Weinstein  
**1953**  
Norma (Pereira) Atkinson  
Fred Buda  
Ann (Wojnar) Burke  
Ronald Caplain  
Lois (Hodgson) Condon  
Raymond W. Connors  
Michael P. Daley  
William B. Dixon  
John J. Fletcher, Ph D  
Franklin A. Gray  
Rev. Dr. Howard E. Hart  
Margaret (Burns) Higgins  
Constance (Levesque) Kamasiewicz  
Eleanor (Dubiel) Kippax  
Beverly (Barlow) McCutchan  
Elizabeth (Bergeron) McMahon  
Carolyn (Britto) Murray  
Joan (Powers) Pacia  
Ronald T. Silvia  
Kendall E. Snell  
Richard F. Souza  
**1954**  
The Rev. Shirley (Scoles) Andrews  
Nancy (Cowen) Arruda  
Arnold H. Bennett  
James E. Bullock  
MSG Edmund Cabral, USA, Ret.  
Rev. Alan D. Carvalho  
Sybil (Ostroff) Charette  
Barbara (Christensen) Daley  
Robert L. Gagnon  
John T. Harrington, MD  
William C. Hickey, Col. USA Ret.  
Stephen R. Kay  
Ann (Rapozza) Lemaire  
Douglas G. MacDuff  
Raul Martin  
Richard J. Masse  
John C. Matula  
Raymond H. Medeiros  
William J. Moran  
Cecilia (Pereira) Mull  
Stephen J. Nawrocki  
Wendell Ogden  
George H. Petrin

Bruce B. Place  
Dr. Joel Potash  
Ronald Rodrigues  
Carol (Kasnow) Schwartz  
Lorraine (Dube) Silvia  
Col. Ronald Silva, USAF, Ret.  
Helen (Rys) Snelling  
Francis J. Sullivan  
William J. Webb, Jr.  
Major W. Wheelock  
David H. Wordell  
**1955**  
Blanche (Cadoret) Adams  
Robert E. Alcock, Jr.  
Carole (Wishart) Anderson  
William A. Beaulieu  
Maureen (Dickinson) Bedard  
Janet (Park) Been  
Ronald Bernier  
Robert A. Bogle, Jr. Esq.  
Robert A. Borge  
Gene V. Botelho  
Frederick A. Drayton, Sr.  
Charles H. Gesner  
Harry B. Golding  
Jan Greenwood  
Trudy (Hargraves) Harrington  
Robert Hoole  
Susan (Cohen) Jacobs  
Viola R. Jenks  
Robert M. Keshura  
Nancy (Reed) Leary  
Louis J. Lovit  
Joan (Delaney) Lunde - Memoriam  
Joan (Linhares) Mello  
Atty. Howard M. Miller  
Dorothy (Henaire) Nicolau  
Joseph A. Occhiuti  
Rhoda (Kaplan) Pierce  
Donald K. Smith  
Stanley W. Sokoloff  
Beverly (Tierney) Tansey  
Gerald P. Violette  
Carolyn (Frain) Witkowski  
**1956**  
Paul A. Borkman  
Patricia (Furze) Cassidy  
Dr. Robert F. Chapman  
Nancy (Cooperstein) Charney  
Beverly (Padelford) Clay  
Lester W. Cory  
Douglas Crook  
Claude Desjardins  
Janice Farrell  
Herbert Feldman  
Lorraine (Langlais) Forcier  
Howard E. Gold  
Marlene (McNally) Gosson  
Diane (Bernstein) Greenfield  
Robert A. Halliwell  
Louise (Higgins) Harrington  
Daniel T. Harrington, MD  
Jeannette (Lortie) Kenyon  
Robert L. Lagace  
Seraphina (Jacome) Lagace  
Delores (Franco) McGarr  
Eileen (Galego) Medeiros  
Beverly (Soja) Nawrocki  
Janice (Nichols) O'Brien  
Stephen F. Pirog, Jr.  
Judith A. Schneider  
Dr. Jerome D. Schwartz  
Joan (Hopkins) Sheedy  
Priscilla (Mullen) Smith  
Wayne P. Smith  
Helena (Boyko) Sowa  
Lionel Spiro  
Timothy T. Thompson  
Jeanette (Wood) Wirz  
Lois (Duckworth) Wordell  
Dr. Melvin B. Yoken  
**1957**  
Belisario A. Almeida  
Alice (Guillemette) Bransfield  
David M. Burns  
Donald A. Carvalho  
Harvey I. Chafitz  
James R. Collard  
Robert Correia  
Thomas A. Davol, Jr.  
Carl A. Deeb  
Janet (Payer) Dillon  
LT Col Patrick J. Donovan, USAF, Ret.  
Pauline (Ferreira) Garnett  
David W. Gavigan  
Joan (Lipson) Hershkowitz  
Randy Hom  
Bruce E. Hutchinson  
Eleanor (Fozzard) Kreassig

Louis E. Lataif, PhD  
Donald G. Magee  
Charles H. Martin  
John H. Mayo, Sr.  
Joseph Medeiros  
Kenneth R. Murray  
Raymond R. Nadeau  
Bessie (Jamoulis) Pagonis  
Robert J. Pontes  
Kenneth A. Shaker  
H. Bradlee Smith  
Margaret (Nawrocki) Sullivan  
Paula (Sludsky) Sultan  
Geraldine (Callahan) Wise  
Mary Ann Wordell  
**1958**  
Antone Benevides, Jr.  
Louis J. Bitar  
Dorothy (Frain) Blais  
Frank R. Denardo  
Margaret (Foley) Deston  
Genevieve (Camara) Driscoll  
Judith (Longshaw) Fino  
Thomas R. Flynn  
Florence (Bell) Gray  
William C. Griffiths  
William F. Keating, Jr.  
Francis A. Latessa  
Marilyn (Manchester) Lowney  
Norma (Dubiel) McKenzie  
Patricia (Pelton) Medeiros  
Dorothy (Albernaz) Midura  
Lionel A. Morais  
Margaret (Rego) Murphy  
Lucy (Dubiel) Paulo  
Stephen J. Peters  
Meg (Donnelly) Peterson  
Col. Antonio T. Pimentel, USAF, Ret.  
Charlotte (Smith) Pirog  
Rev. Leo Polselli, C.S.C.  
Michele (Kaufman) Rallis  
Russell E. Robertson  
Manuel V. Silvia  
Walter R. Silvia  
Jeffrey Trust  
**1959**  
Joseph T. Baptista  
Nancy (Manchester) Bennett  
Muriel (Burns) Bodington, Jr.  
Charles J. Caperonis  
Philip P. Coelho  
Carol S. Friar  
June (Travers) Gagnon  
Barbara (Czapiga) Gajda  
William H. Goddard  
George L. Gray  
Douglas A. Gray, Jr.  
Polly (Tickle) Hearn  
Robert Hughes  
Richard W. Kocoon  
Mary Lou (Clark) Levine  
David H. Lopes  
Daniel C. Medeiros  
Maria (Pereira) Medeiros  
Irving H. Picard, Esq.  
Phyllis (Oliveira) Pingley  
Clorinda Ventura  
Suzanne (Guillotte) Vitale  
**1960**  
Beverly (St. Laurent) Abegg  
Charles Auclair  
Michael T. Black  
Clark Broden  
Carolyn (Sullivan) Curry  
Robert W. Curry  
Thomas J. Curry  
John DeFusco  
Mark G. Filler  
Judith (Cohen) Goodwin  
Ruth (Ward) Hathaway  
Mary-Louise (Soares) Mancini  
Lois (Murphy) McMullin  
Mary Agnes (Pelton) Murphy  
Dolores (Botelho) Silva  
Linda (Towers) Warren  
Richard Warren  
Sandra (Stocklinski) Watters  
Zen Williston, PhD  
Sandra (Thomas) Wood  
**1961**  
Kenneth Barton  
Norman N. Bleau  
Dorothy (Cahill) Champlin  
Rayna (Maltais) Cipollini  
Joan (Brissette) Flynn  
Thomas C. Gibson  
James A. Golen  
Ellen (Donnelly) Hardgrave  
Geraldine (Michael) Holewiak

Cynthia (Loudon) Isherwood  
Frances (Gardella) Kingsley  
Paul LePage  
Camilla A. Los  
Patrick E. Lowney, Esq.  
Bernice (Bernaby) Mannion  
Robert J. Marchand, Esq.  
Beatrice (Oliveira) Martins  
Margurite (Banville) Reuter  
Richard R. Schenck  
Karen (Gold) Sokol  
David C. Trinade, Ph.D  
Marina Ventura  
Margaret A. Walsh  
**1962**  
Richard D. Bates  
Theresa (Arruda) Bell  
Valerie (Smith) Booth  
Thomas J. Braga  
Joseph A. Caldeira  
Irene (Carvalho) Davis  
Arthur M. Ferrance, Jr.  
Natalie (Marum) Gildea  
Lillian (Labecki) Glickman  
William A. Green  
William S. Hathaway, Jr.  
John B. Hart  
Karen (Leyland) Jackson  
Edward G. Larrivee  
Maurice N. Larrivee  
Barry F. Machado, PhD  
Judith (Cusick) Martin  
Paula (Kline) McGillivray  
Nancy (Tobol) McManus  
John E. Mullaly  
James H. Packer  
Gregory A. Pelagio  
Joseph S. Radovsky  
Susan (Fearnley) Ramsden  
Janet (Spence) Ringuest  
Joyce B. Rodrigues  
G. Milton Ryan  
Barbara (Goltz) Sheer  
Ayres Souza  
Arthur A. Teixeira  
Victor J. Tremmel  
Mary Ann (Pereira) Trznadel  
Paul L. Trznadel  
David W. Turner  
Joan (Lenaghan) Wieser  
Robert L. Williston  
**1963**  
James M. Blackburn  
Joseph A. Conforti  
Penny (Berger) Glunts  
Barbara (Wilson) Kanuse  
Barbara (Clark) Kay  
Pauline (Freitas) Klodner  
Barbara (Zukroff) Koppel  
Betty (Read) Mathias  
John Mathias  
Judith (Rogers) McCormick  
James M. McManus  
Robert M. Payer  
Alan T. Robillard  
Marilyn (Smith) Rose  
Theresa A. Ryan  
Norman R. Somer  
Bahira H. Sugarman  
Michael J. Sullivan  
**1964**  
Joseph Brum  
Sarah L. Burns  
Eileen (Texeira) Couture  
Ernest Dessert  
Joyce (Wilson) Dessert  
Cheryl (Clarke) Furze  
Angelina (Duarte) Gastall  
James M. Gibney  
Robert R. Greeson  
Linda (Stafford) Harrop  
David J. Mello  
Alice Ouellette  
Henry L. Pineau  
Victor S. Rezendes  
Theresa (Folster) St. Laurent  
Claire (Soares) Sullivan  
Charlotte (Costa) Thomas  
Gerard E. Vaillancourt  
Robert C. Wood  
**1965**  
Shirley (Eisenman) Allen, Esq.  
Richard R. Benevides  
Vincent J. Berube  
Barry L. Bor  
Susan (Speier) Garsh  
Robert D. Goldin  
Joyce (Freedman) Goldweitz  
Daniel L. Goyette

Linda (Kaufman) Grabiner  
Donald Howarth  
Paulette Bazemore Howarth  
Alan W. Isherwood  
James J. Karam  
Donna H. Davis Kiely  
Richard C. Laudon, OD  
Susan (Bouley) Lavoie  
Walter S. Los, Jr.  
John Manso  
Joseph A. Marshall  
Rita (Kulpa) Martin  
Therese (Cousineau) Messier  
John Mills, PhD  
Cheryl (Harvey) Mish  
Paul A. Montour  
Suzann (Perron) Montour  
Joyce Perry  
Christine (Mc Intyre) Plante  
Susan Sharp  
Linda (Los) Tibbetts  
**1966**  
Cristina (Mello) Ajemian  
Louise Packer Arakaki  
Thomas Atheam  
Robert Bandarra  
Teresa (Furtak) Berard  
Douglas G. Clarke  
Joyce (Felipe) Coelho  
Deborah L. Dunham  
Jean (Pitera) Haligan  
Marilyn (Furtado) Harris  
Bonnie (MacLaughlin) Heap  
Rabbi Allen I. Juda  
Barbara R. Katersky  
Sheldon M. Kline  
Roger G. LePage  
Dr. Richard N. Levrault  
James J. Linhares  
Leonard Martin  
Susan (Shea) McDonald  
William T. Mullaly  
Muriel (Desrosiers) Ouellette  
Robert E. Pavao, D. D. S.  
Paula (Gallagher) Perry  
Stephen D. Perry  
Paula (Allison) Pizio  
Elizabeth (Ferreira) Schneider  
Edward Silvia  
Janet (Carroll) Smith  
Sandra J. Souza  
Anne M. St. Lawrence  
Robert A. Taylor  
**1967**  
Cynthia (Janusz) Azevedo  
John Azevedo, II  
Joseph J. Berek, Jr.  
Henry A. Chamberlain  
Anne Donnelly  
Jose G. Noversa  
James Smith  
Ada (Jackson) Wilders  
**1968**  
Ronald Bettencourt  
Susan (Pacheco) Buchan  
Mae (Joe) Chandran  
Reena Deutsch, PhD  
Atty. Thomas J. Donnelly  
Beverly (Cordeiro) Mello  
Capt. Raymond Mello, PE, CEC, USN, Ret.  
Lois (Avila) Wilding  
**1969**  
Sheila Barrett  
Joann R. Deutch  
Geraldine (Cabral) Duarte  
Patricia (Joseph) Goldman  
Virginia A. Handfield  
Ann M. Harkin  
Joanne (Dusoe) Marshall  
Joan E. Reid  
Richard S. Schwartz  
Stanley J. Sikora, Jr.  
Susan (Teixeira) Sousa  
Robert P. Thomas  
**1970**  
Mary (Swift) Clement  
Judith Conrad  
Jeanne (Pereira) DeMarco  
Stephen Gardiner  
Christine (Jean) Gibney  
Sheila M. Kelly-Chace  
Anne McPartland  
Paul Payton  
Jenny L. Ryan  
Dr. Barbara (Bishop) Sandusky  
**1971**  
Beverly (Medeiros) Alberto  
Michael J. Vieira, Ph.D

**1972**  
Nanci (Lown) Dunlop  
Linda E. Greer  
Robert C. Hadley  
Joan (Harkin) LaCoss  
Kris E. Roberts  
Sheryl A. Ryan, MD  
**1973**  
Phoebe (Massoud) Blackburn  
Gail (Pacheco) Bliss  
Michael C. Cass  
John R. Morris  
**1974**  
Eloise (Lauzier) Carrier  
Thomas W. Jean  
James Vaillancourt  
Barbara (Urban) Walsh  
**1975**  
Michael P. Duarte  
Joan (Motta) Eline  
Carol (Rivard) Geller  
Jeffrey E. Ledoux  
Kathleen (Harkin) Mclean  
David Martin  
Debra (Perry) Ozug  
Susan (Ogden) Pavao  
Jane Piotrowski  
Alan E. Pontes  
**1976**  
Michael O. Feldman  
Justin F. Paulo  
Gale (Souza) Powers  
Victor P. Santos  
**1977**  
Jane A. Murphy  
Shirley A. Tobol  
**1978**  
Holly Bronhard  
Lisa (Lundy) Kusnitz  
Jane (Lyons) Sullivan  
Colleen (Walsh) Taylor  
**1979**  
Richard C. Berek  
Robert A. Bonifacio  
Ann (Salois) DeFosse  
Sharon (Bogan) Quinn  
**1980**  
Anthony F. Cordeiro  
John M. Moreira  
Patricia (Nawrocki) Murphy  
Linda J. Roe  
**1981**  
Joseph R. Costa  
Antone Lima  
Monique (Tremblay) Oliveira  
**1982**  
Lisa (Texeira) Medeiros  
David P. Nicolau  
Susan (Faria) Nicolau  
Antonio E. Sousa  
**1983**  
Timothy G. Kelly  
Francis M. Kuhn  
Roger A. LaFleur  
William A. Suneson  
**1984**  
Alison (Homsby) Chaltas  
Scott Fazzina  
Michael S. Nawrocki  
**1985**  
Lisa (McGinn) Canuel  
Elizabeth Hornsby-Graham  
**1986**  
Anne (Rivard) Hill  
Melissa (Branco) Vieira  
**1987**  
Ann (Pacheco) Allen  
Danielle M. Pavao  
Delia Vieira-Cruz  
**1988**  
Claudine A. Cloutier  
Colleen E. Masse  
J. Barry McDonald, Jr., Esq.  
**1989**  
Rachel (Falcon) McGarty  
**1995**  
Christine E. Silva  
**1996**  
Barden H. Castro  
Colin W. Christ  
**1997**  
Paul G. DaSilva  
Mindy A. Paulo  
**2000**  
Nicholas L. Christ  
**2002**  
Brian W. Christ  
**2003**  
Barret H. Castro



# *Fall River High School ???????*

Forty years had passed since that wonderful June day in 1887. Fall River students enjoyed their new school and forty classes had graduated from B. M. C. Durfee High School. Durfee prestige grew over the years and generally speaking, was a highly respected secondary school. Suddenly, with no warning, the School Committee was about to make a major decision that would reverberate around the local community and State of Massachusetts.

At the School Committee meeting of April 5, 1927, a motion was made and by a 5-4 majority, voted that "henceforth and hereafter the High School organization be called Fall River High School". The diplomas for the Class of 1927 would be the first class to bear the new name.

People were outraged and angry protests began. First to respond were the students from the Class of 1927. By that time of the school calendar graduation preparation had

begun, and Yearbooks, Class Rings, and Class Pins inscribed with the name Durfee had been ordered.

Citizens, and the Durfee Alumni Association, rose in protest saying that the action of the Committee violated the spirit of the memorial purpose for which the High School was built. Leading newspapers throughout New England including the Boston Transcript, Boston Herald, Providence Journal and L'Independent Fall River editorialized in support of the protest.

Despite the outcry the School Committee at its June 8, 1927 meeting stated that their action was to stand. That year Diplomas read Fall River High School and were accepted "under protest by the Class of 1927."

This did not stop the resistance. The new school year began in September of 1927 and the name was still Fall River High School. In the municipal elections in November of that year, two committee members who supported the name change would go down to defeat at

the hands of two anti name change candidates. This more than anything got the attention of the School Committee. Eventually the School Committee, bowing to the will of the community voted to restore the name on January 9, 1928, and the Class of 1928 received their diplomas reading B.M.C. Durfee High School. Members of the Class of 1927 were given the option of receiving new diplomas.

History shows that our beloved school, beginning with the arrival of the "Silver Lining" has through the years produced many great moments. Through wars, depressions, and economic growth, Durfee has served our community. However, as the years passed, it became evident that the grand old building would become obsolete and unable to support the needs of today's students.

In 1978, a new more modern building opened on Elsbree street. Thankfully it is still called B.M.C. Durfee High School.

---

---

## *Special Thanks*

In researching information for this edition of the CHIMES special thanks go to the the **Fall River Historical Society** and Curator Michael Martins and Assistant Curator Dennis Binette. Their research and support help in discovering much of the early history of Fall River education and particularly the birth of BMC Durfee High School, and the Technical High School as we know it today.

Former Superintendent of Schools Robert J Nagle had the foresight to commission William J. Pelton to research the history of Fall River and Durfee High School and the result of his work was the following:

### **Durfee Quo Vadis**

Biography of a High School  
by - William J. Pelton, 1970

This book is not available for purchase and as of this printing can only be referenced at the **Fall River Historical Society**.

In addition to the above another excellent insight into Fall River history can be found in:

### **Parallel Lives**

A Social History of Lizzie A. Borden and Her Fall River  
by - Michael Martins & Dennis A. Binette

This writing is available at the Fall River Historical Society

---

---

## **FALL RIVER MEMORIES AND MONUMENTS**

**by: Joseph Conforti '63**

Whenever I return to Fall River, I find myself stopping by the old Durfee High building. It is a bittersweet pause. I loved my four years at Durfee(1959-63), in part because the student body was diverse in so many ways. One could find one's social group. Yet, as the car idles, I reflect regretfully on how I was such an anemic student when Durfee offered a good education to those who were willing to

seize the opportunity.

Continuing down Rock Street from the Highlands, a new world now opens up to me: the magnificent gothic churches of the Yankee establishment that built Fall River, albeit on the backs of immigrant men, women, and children: First Congregational, the Episcopalian Church of the Ascension, and the forlorn but still magnificent Central Congregational, where Lizzie Borden was a devout member. Now I make connections that never occurred to me when I walked down Rock Street after school. The Highlands, Durfee High, and Rock Street's Protestant

churches were interrelated monuments to the pride, power, and plenty of Yankee Fall River. The entire area was known as the "Hill" well into the 20th century. ("Hilltoppers" signified something different to Durfee high's benefactress and her people than it came to mean to later generations.) No one has yet explained to me when and why the prestigious residential corner's name was changed from the Hill to the "Highlands."

A half-mile or so from the Central Congregational Church, the Lizzie Borden House B&B abides as another sort of Fall River monument. As a kid, returning up

## FALL RIVER MEMORIES AND MONUMENTS *continued*

Pleasant Street with my brothers after a matinee at the Academy Theater, we passed Second St. with the Borden house in sight. I seem to recall a superstition about walking by the house on the same side of the street. I always kept my distance. After I left the city and people asked me where I was from, the only thing they typically knew about Fall River, if they knew anything at all, was that it was Lizzie Borden's hometown. And that is how I came to write a book about Lizzie Borden and the powerbrokers of the Hill.

I was sitting in a restaurant in Athens, Georgia, of all places. My wife and I, some friends, and an editor for a university press were having dinner. After we had ordered, the editor turned to me and asked, "What are you working on?" I said I had just finished a memoir about growing up in the 1950s and '60s in Fall River, Massachusetts. His eyes widened. "Do a book for me about the Lizzie Borden case." I laughed. In all the years I spent writing about New England history, I had never given Lizzie a moment's thought. I had my fill of her

growing up. Moreover, the case was just a brutal crime, a mystery many said.

Nevertheless, when I began seriously looking into what happened, I realized there was a much larger story to tell than just who pulverized Andrew and Abby Borden's skulls in August of 1892. For example, I never knew that in the early 1890s the Irish were mounting the first serious challenge to Yankee control of the city. The Borden case became a flashpoint that deepened mistrust between an aggressive Irish-Catholic working class and a defensive, powerful Yankee establishment. Nor did I know that Lizzie's lead lawyer, a former Massachusetts governor, had appointed one of the three justices at her trial, the one who delivered a sharply biased charge to the jury. The Yankee court wanted a verdict of innocent, not the hung jury that was within the district attorney's grasp.

After she was acquitted, Lizzie moved to the Hill, where for years she had longed to live. I didn't know growing up that there were two

Lizzie Borden houses. I lived in the Flint. I had no reason ever to set foot in the prestigious residential part of the former Hill. On the top riser of her front steps Lizzie had engraved "Maplecroft," a pretentious name for her new home. It was not monumental, except now for tourists who form legions of Lizzie followers. The engraving is still there. I now check it before I drive down to Durfee High, which is far better preserved than Maplecroft or the Rock Street religious monuments to a Fall River that no longer exists.

Editor's Note:

Additional writings by Dr. Conforti include the following:

**Lizzie Borden on Trial: Murder, Ethnicity and Gender** - Available from the University Press of Kansas, (2015) (1-785-864-4155)

**Another City upon a Hill: A New England Memoir (2013)** - Available from the University Press of New England (1-603-448-1533)

Both books are available on Amazon

---

## RESURRECTION OF THE TELESCOPE by: Gerard Trehan

When Mary Durfee offered the gift of a new high school in honor of her son, Bradford Matthew Chaloner Durfee, to the citizens of Fall River, she envisioned a state of the art facility that would educate Fall River children equipped with the finest educational tools of the time. Included was the Warner and Swasey telescope manufactured in 1886 in Cleveland Ohio. All components for the telescope were cast in their own foundry and then finished, turned and engraved. In early May, the telescope was delivered to the school on Rock Street. Mrs. Durfee had also contracted Alvan Clark and Sons for the manufacture of the eight inch lens, the heart of the telescope. Within a few days, Alvan's youngest son, Alvan G Clark who was born in Fall River in 1834 and a student of Mary Durfee's, arrived with the lens and after careful adjustment spending two evenings fine tuning, completed the job with 2 days to spare before the dedication on June 15, 1887.

Little is known of the use of the telescope in the early days of the school, but a picture of the Astronomy Club as late as 1970 revealed that there was a core group of students who used the telescope during coursework in Astronomy or in an active club setting on a regular basis. John Briggs, a Westport High School student

got permission to use the telescope, leading him to become one of the country's foremost experts on telescopes and becoming a professional astronomer.

Planning and construction of a new school at the current location on Elsbree St occurred in the 1970's. However money issues and charges of corruption plagued the construction of the new school and it seemed that the telescope would be a victim of the cost cutting. Fortunately, Dr. Roger Violette, a Durfee alumnus, stepped forward and provided the funds to move the scope and construct an 18 foot dome to house it. It is appropriately named the Roger Violette Observatory.

According to reports over time the scope fell into disrepair. The dome leaked and the parts were tarnishing because of the rain leaking into the dome. Around 2010, Principal Paul Marshall conducted an open house in an effort to attract community support and expertise to remedy a variety of issues at Durfee. John Briggs, previously mentioned student and now astronomer, came to inspect and evaluate the telescope he admired some 40 years ago. Unfortunately for Durfee, Mr. Briggs took a job in Colorado but was able to declare the lens sound but the scope in dire need of restoration. Two years later, Mr. Tom Pavao, newly retired school teacher at Durfee contacted The Astronomical Society of Southern New England. He asked for volunteers to assess the

condition of the telescope and Gerard Trahan of Rehoboth, Mr. Dick La Bonte of Raynham and Mr. Rich Savingnano of Seekonk, all members of ASSNE stepped forward to evaluate the telescope. After a few visits, the telescope was examined and the parts inventoried. They offered to restore the telescope as a labor of love and public service to the school and the City. Some 600 man hours were involved in the restoration including dismantling, cleaning, lubricating, repairing minor items and getting the tracking device repaired by Mr. David Gow of Grafton, a master clock maker. By late May of 2014, the restoration was complete and the tracking clock repaired and installed. In September of 2014 the telescope was rededicated and has been open for public viewing on selected dates. Total cost of the project was approximately \$4,000, most of which was necessary to repair the clock mechanisms. The 8 inch equatorial mounted telescope at Durfee is the last example of this design and it is operating on all of its original parts that were made in 1886.

The public has responded to the viewings and it is becoming a popular activity. A special fund has been set up at Durfee for continued maintenance. Anyone wishing to donate to this fund may do so. Address: Durfee Telescope Fund, c/o Principal, Durfee High School. 777 Elsbree St, Fall River MA, 02720 or call 508-675-8100.



# **DURFEE HALL OF FAME-2015**

**by**  
**Greg Sullivan**  
**Herald News Staff Reporter**

The Durfee High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2015 featured three individuals and a state championship team. The induction ceremony was held on Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015, at White's of Westport.

Those selected for induction were John Santos, Class of 1972; Richard Yarbough, Class of 1978; and Kelly DeMello, Class of 1994. The 1998 Division 1 state championship softball team was also honored.

## **KELLY DeMELLO, Class of 1994**

DeMello never took a season off, and her coaches would tell you Durfee's 1994 female athlete of the year never took a game off. Combining athleticism with a fiery competitive spirit, she became an all star in field hockey and basketball. A center halfback in field hockey, DeMello was a two-time Big 3 Conference all star who, as a senior, registered 10 goals and 5 assists and was named second team all state. On the basketball court, she was also a four-year varsity player. An off-guard who fearlessly attacked the basket, she was a Big 3 all star. In her senior year she scored a team-high 11.6 points per game with 7.7 steals, and 11.5 assists. As a junior, she scored 11.3 points per game in helping the Hilltoppers to the Division 1 South final. A four-year softball team member and a three-year starter, Kelly helped Durfee to two league titles and a berth in the Division

1 South finals in 1993. DeMello moved onto Bridgewater State College where she played four years of basketball, scoring more than 1,000 points. She lives in Westport and is the mother of five.

## **JOHN SANTOS, Class of 1972**

Long before his very successful tenure as Durfee High School's boys' soccer coach, Santos built a hall of fame resume as a player. A three-year varsity player (the high school then was sophomore through senior only) for coach Skip Karam, Santos played with intensity, speed, and considerable smarts. A two-time league all star, and captain and MVP his senior year, Santos in 1971 broke the school record with 22 goals. Santos followed with a fine playing career at Southeastern Massachusetts University. He returned to coach Durfee for a decade with his teams posting a combined record of 122 wins, 41 losses, 31 ties and qualifying for the playoffs 10 times. His 1988 team was undefeated in the regular season, posting 13 shutouts in 18 games. Known as the area's best dressed soccer coach during his tenure, Santos has been inducted into both the New England Soccer Hall of Fame and the Massachusetts Interscholastic Soccer Officials Association Hall of Fame. A resident of Fall River, a husband, and father, Santos has refereed soccer for the last 20 years.

## **RICHARD YARBOUGH, Class of 1978**

It was on the baseball diamond and basketball court where the powerful and athletic 6-foot-1 Yarbough made his mark at Durfee, after a concussion limited him to one year of football. A superb catcher for coach Skip Lewis,

Yarbough exploded onto the varsity team by batting .409 his sophomore year. That was second best on a very good team. After his solid Durfee career, Yarbough played two years for the University of Southern California, arguably the top college baseball program of the 20th century. He was also part of two great Durfee basketball teams. Richard was a sixth man in 1977 when the Hilltoppers went 26-0 to win the state title. The next season, he was the undersized center, scoring 10.7 points per game (tied for third best on team) as the Hilltoppers came within one win of a second straight state crown. Owner of a bachelor of science degree from USC and a masters from Arizona State University, Yarbough lives in Glendale, Arizona and is the Vice President/Administrator of Pilgrim Rest Foundation, Inc. He has been married to Desiree Yarbough for 29 years and has three children, Tera, Danielle, and Richard.

## **1998 SOFTBALL TEAM, Division 1 state champions**

After dropping their final two games of the regular season, the Hilltoppers got down to business, rattling off six straight wins to claim the school's first softball state title. Buoyed by the sophomore battery of pitcher, Kelly Orton, and catcher Jessica Bigos, the Hilltoppers won the South, beating Somerset 3-1 in the final. Somerset and Durfee had split in the regular season. In a dramatic state semifinal, the Hilltoppers faced undefeated Woburn and star pitcher Liz Nadeau, and won 1-0 in 12 innings. They took down Holy Name 3-0 in the state final to finish the season 21-5.

---

## **IN MEMORIAM** **DONALD F. MONTLE**

Donald Montle, former Durfee Football coach, and the city's Director of Health and Physical Education passed away on November 29, 2015 at his home in Little Compton at the age of 82. He will be remembered not only as being a successful football coach but also as a dominant figure in the development of Health and Physical Education at Durfee and at the State level. His passion for the importance of good Health in young people led him to develop a model curriculum in Fall River.

He practiced what he preached. He had high expectations not only for himself, but for his students and staff as well. His days were organized and planned to maximize

the development of the youth of Fall River. His curriculum covered grades K through 12. All students were expected to appreciate the importance of maintaining a healthy life style.

His coaching career covered three tenures. He held the job from 1960-1970, then one year in 1975, followed by two year period in 1982-1983. His 1964 team is ranked as one of the best, if not the best in Durfee History. His team was undefeated with an 8-0 record, and had only one touchdown scored against it. His 1983 team broke a dominant 10 year New Bedford winning streak with a 17-7 victory on Thanksgiving Day.

He served three years as the Varsity baseball coach. His teams went 44-8 and won two Bristol County League championships.

What could on occasion be considered a gruff persona covered up a truly caring person. His players got the best of care. He constantly checked on classroom progress. When it became time for college he supervised the application process, made phone calls to admissions officers, and even took students on college visitations. And it wasn't necessary that you be a Durfee athlete to get his help. It was not unusual for him to help a player that Durfee had played against, especially if that student was interested in his Alma Mater, Springfield College.

Don is survived by his wife Joan to whom he had been married 57 years. In addition, he leaves four children: Michael and his wife Lara, Timothy, and his wife Cathy, Donna, and her husband Gregory, Karen, and her husband Buzzy, and six grandchildren.

# 2016-2017 The Durfee Alumni Association

*The Durfee Alumni Association needs to hear from you if you wish to continue to receive The Chimes if you have not already done so.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Please continue to mail me the Chimes at this address\* \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 Dues Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Other

\_\_\_\_\_ Please email the Chimes to me at this email address \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_ if spouse is a graduate - Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Red and-Black Club Dues Min. \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Do not publish my information

*Please make checks payable to Durfee Alumni Association, P.O. Box 9656, Fall River, MA 02720-0011*

*\* For inclusion in the spring 2017 issue of the Chimes, Please return no later than December 31, 2016.*

## 2016 - 2017 Alumni Nomination Form

Thank you for taking the time to consider a nominee for the Distinguished Alumni Award. Please attach a resume, bio, any newspaper or magazine articles and any other information to the Nomination form. This information is needed to assist the committee. Nominations remain current for a five year period and should be submitted no later than September 30th 2016 to be considered by the 2016 Selection Board.

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation (1991 or earlier): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person Making the nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the Association? \_\_\_\_\_ Is the Nominee a Member? \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: **Durfee Alumni Association, P.O. Box 9656, Fall River, MA 02720-0011**

### **CLASS OF 1954 - 62<sup>nd</sup> Year Reunion**

Thursday, August 4, 2016 - 12:00PM-3:00PM

The Cove Restaurant and Marina

392 Davol St, Fall River

Contact: Steve Nawrocki 508-673-7473 or

Class of 1954@aol.com

### **CLASS OF 1956 - 60<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion**

Thursday, September 1, 2016

BK Restaurant on Airport Rd

Cash Bar 4:30PM - 5:30PM

Buffet 5:30PM - \$30.00 PP

Contact: Dr Daniel T Harrington: 774-319-1386

### **CLASS OF 1958 - 58 Years Later**

Sunday, September 18, 2016-1:00PM

Fall River Country Club

Contacts: Norma McKenzie: 781-335-1603 -

normasletters@verizon.net or

Bill Keating - 508-672-8544 - wmkeating@comcast.net

### **CLASS OF 1961 - 55th Year Reunion**

Saturday, September 17, 2016

B K's Tavern, 320 Airport Road, Fall River, MA

Contact Bernice Mannion - 508-672-8157

### **CLASS OF 1966 - 50th Year Reunion**

July 23, 2016 - Fall River Country Club - 6:00PM -

\$60.00PP

Golf Tournament - July 22, 2016 - Fall River CC -

\$62PP -10:00 AM- Pay that day

Social - July 22, 2016 - Belmont Club, 374 Franklin St

7:00PM - 10:00 PM - Cash Bar

Contact information: Reunion/Social:

Contact Pat Souza,

28 Monique DR, Westport, MA 02790 - 508-636-8209

Golf: Contact Bob Dempsey - 508-642-3579 or

Henry Lord at hylord@gmail.com

Deadlines:

Reunion-May 1, 2016 • Social - May 31, 2016

Golf - May 31, 2016

### **CLASS OF 1986 - 30th Year Reunion**

August 20, 2016

Venus De Milo - 75 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA

durfeeclubof86reunion@gmail.com

Facebook page Durfee Class of 86 Reunion

Sheri Thomas McCallister 508-675-8965





## Durfee Chimes

B.M.C. Durfee High School Alumni Assoc.  
Box 9656  
Fall River, MA 02720-0011

NON PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 155  
FALL RIVER, MA  
02720

# Alumni, We Need Your Support

Current Resident or:



B. M. C. Durfee High School, Fall River, Mass.  
DEDICATED JUNE 15, 1887

Raise our praises high to Durfee,  
Alma Mater dear.  
Tow'ring high beside the river,  
Radiant beacon clear.

God preserve for Alma Mater,  
Standards staunch and true.  
High aloft we'll lift her banner  
Bright with Durfee's hue.

Love and praise we render ever,  
Voices raised on high.  
Loud we sing of Durfee's glory,  
To the earth and sky.

Visit us at [www.durfeealumniassociation.com](http://www.durfeealumniassociation.com) and Like us on Facebook