

From the

Eagle's Nest



Spring - Summer 2010

Number 103

BCHS '64 Events

DELMAR: The Delmar Coalition, coordinated by Claudia Phillips Cunningham, gets together every Tuesday of the month, sometimes more frequently. The coalition includes: **Lynn Johnson Arnold, Judy Chesbro Ragone, Dick Ragone, Wayne Smith and Lynda Whan Smith, Dianna Conover Miller, Sue Booth DiDonna, Roy Fuller, Paula Kohn Bloch, Carolyn King Hart, Linda Williams, Betsy Many Bradt** (when in town), **Jack Hillen, Barb Kebbon Veal, Jim Kleinhans, Eleanor Krackeler Dillon, Laurel Lemon Springborn, Bill Merritt, Sally Hauser Miner, Carol Zdziebloski Northrup, Ann Winne Buckbee, Sandy Myers Newkirk, Trudy Waldenmaier,** and occasionally **Karen Goeldner Thornton, Jeanine McCombe, and Pat Taylor Cummings.** Our new recruits for the immediate future will include **Bill Homiller** and possibly **Don Cronk.** The group is ever widening, ever growing.

Claudia writes: "Over a drink and dinner, we become 16 again, with lots of laughs and good conversation about the good old days and the here and now. We have all shared similar experiences - the good and the bad. We were part of a space in time that was never as good as times before, nor I dare say, will ever be again. We didn't know it then, but we realize it now, I think.

We have become something of a support group for each other. One classmate recently had surgery, and folks were quick to help her out, whether it was bringing lunch, calling, or sending a card. The old saw -- "Keep your friends, the new and old. The first are silver, the second, gold" --is very true...and becomes more obvious the older we get. Parents die, husbands and wives leave us one way or the other, kids grow up . . . so all you really have in life is a circle of friends. If you are very lucky, they are true and constant and forgiving. I used to say that I'm going out with some people I used to go to school with. Now I just say I'm going out with my friends." ***If you are interested in attending one of the dinners, please contact Claudia at: ccunnin1@nycap.rr.com***

Classmates' News & Updates

Lindy (Carolyn) Alexander Perez has exciting news: "I wanted to share some happy news. In the fall, I became a grandmother (finally) of a beautiful little girl - Katherine Olivia - born October 22. We'll be flying east (from Monterey, CA) at the end of the summer to see her, my son and daughter-in-law in Shrewsbury, MA, and my mom in Troy. Some of you may remember my mom as Girl Scout leader. She's almost 95! This spring, my husband and I had a fascinating trip to Vietnam and Thailand."

Betsy Many Bradt and Jim Bradt had a busy fall and winter: "Last fall Jim was elected President of our Good Sam RV club called the "Saco River Ramblers" for this year. Our former President (and founder) has taken over as the New Hampshire State Director. I am serving as Jim's Executive Secretary, since Jim 'doesn't like computers, and they don't like him,' a quote from one of his favorite characters, Homer Simpson. We often have meetings at our house.

Last spring, Jim purchased his first-ever season ski pass for skiing at Attitash Mountain here in the Mt. Washington Valley. This winter, he was having a great season going at least twice a week with his ski buddies. That is until February 23, when he fell (did a "face plant" as they call it in ski lingo), and tore his Achilles tendon away from the bone. A week later he had surgery and was on crutches for 4 weeks with no weight bearing on his left foot. His cast finally came off, and he was delighted to be off those '----' crutches. He had to undergo physical therapy for at least 2 months. I persevered as his caregiver and am glad we both survived the ordeal! He plans to get another season pass for skiing next year."

Diane Strickland Ferguson writes: "Where to begin? I went to Brigham Young University after high school; I was drawn to the family emphasis in the Mormon Church but found it stifling and totally anti-feminine. I lasted two years at BYU, then dropped out, and knocked about a bit when, thanks to David Deporte, I met my husband of 42 years—Robert. He was a senior at Cornell. We married his senior year! He went on to Cornell Medical School in NYC. After living in NYC for 5 years and having two kids, we moved to Manhasset for one year, then lived in the Caribbean (Jamaica) for over a year, then moved back to Manhasset for three years, and then on to Connecticut for 17! Now we are living in Baltimore and really loving it. We have one grandson, Charlie, who also lives here, so we are involved grandparents.

As for me, I was with the first class of those graduating from the University of Conn. in the Adult and Continuing Education Department. I was so grateful for the program and had such fun going back to school. I majored in British History and planned to get my law degree. I worked as a paralegal for a couple of years but decided to get a degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. I graduated from Central Conn. University, and after completing my internship, I worked in the child abuse area for many years. I now work in a small Catholic school in Baltimore.

Yikes, I get tired just writing about all this! I am definitely winding down and only work part time."

Paul Gans writes: "In a nutshell . . . After college in the Big Apple, I served my stint in the Navy and then bounced around through a few jobs until I settled in as a Special Agent with the FBI. Without getting into the details, I lead a very interesting professional-life, most of which I cannot talk about anyhow except for the fact that it was related to counter-espionage and counter-terrorism. I met my wife on a New Year's Eve blind date and we were married 5 months later. It has been 38 years now. We have one daughter who is 33 now and just moving back to northern Calif. I retired in 2004 and my wife retired in 2005. We just sold our old (110 years old!) house and all its furnishings and are hitting the road in July. We are looking for a place to settle, but we are going on the road for a while first."

Suzanne Byers Mengus sent in an update: "I will try to give you a brief update; however, my life has been rather complicated!

After high school, I attended the University of Tampa (FL) and received a degree in Elementary Education. I taught first and second grade and ended my career teaching kindergarten and a pre-first class. I thoroughly enjoy children in this age bracket.

While at UT, I met my husband. We've been married for 41 years. We have three children of our own--two sons and one daughter. We are expecting our 5th grandchild any day now.

When we were growing up, my family was always moving. In fact, because my parents eventually moved to Michigan, we ended up moving there ourselves. After my husband became a national accounts manager for the Tennant Co., we did more moving. From Michigan, we moved to Indiana and from there to Iowa. Although I always went kicking and screaming, I enjoyed the Midwest very much and met some great people there. We moved back to the east in 1984. Finally, we have stayed in one place for 26 years!

I have been dealing with health problems for over twenty years now. They began with migraines that were almost unbearable. Ironically, the migraines saved my life. I had to have MRI's for the migraines and the doctors discovered I had multiple brain aneurysms on both sides of my head. In 1966, I had two craniotomies performed that successfully clipped the aneurysms. A year ago another aneurysm was discovered and yet another craniotomy performed. Once again it was a successful surgery. I know how lucky I am.

Diane (my sister) and I have made two trips to Delmar in the last three years. We had not been there since 1965! It was such a thrill to see old friends again and to relive our happy high school days. Hopefully we'll get back again for the Albany lunches or the 50th."

John Scott sent a note: I also am sorry for missing this past reunion, but we were in Florida visiting our son who had just returned from Afghanistan after a 6-month deployment. He is a civilian Special Agent working for the Air Force Office of Special Operations. Since the fall, our son completed his tour in Afghanistan. He is doing well; he and his wife are expecting a baby in the spring and being transferred to Omaha, Nebraska in April. A new area for Mary and me to visit.

Also, Mary and I have been very busy moving from our old farmhouse to a new, smaller, one-level home. The moving itself was a challenge but downsizing is a good thing. We now live in Skaneateles (NY) just a few miles from our

daughter and grandchildren. It is fun being more a part of the little ones' lives. We lived 40 miles away before but being closer makes a big difference.

We will be at the 50th!"

Lynn Steltman sent an update: "Mom is doing very well and looking forward to birthday #90 on 8/14. Her back surgery was very successful although recovery was a bit long.

Recently we went to Detroit to hear my sister, Nancy, give a solo concert at the Detroit Art Institute. She performed with a Julliard friend who has accompanied her before. Mom missed her last solo piece due to her back surgery, thus, was very happy to be there this time.

I am deep into my nephew's junior year in track. Right now Ian holds the Section V best time for the 800 meters---2.02+ min. He just returned from a week at an invitation-only track camp at Lake Placid at the Olympic Training Center. He hopes for a track or academic scholarship next year, as college for industrial design does not come cheap. Needless to say, I am very proud of my Ian.

The rest of the crew is doing well also. No.1 niece Amy is working for the US Marshall service in Arlington, VA. She just purchased a condo and is able to walk to work in good weather. Sarah, Ian's almost 12-year old sister, is really going on 20+. She is as smart as a whip with a 95+ avg. in 6th grade honors classes. She's also into soccer, piano, guitar, Girl Scouts, and giving everyone a run for their money.

In Sept., I'm off to the west for a two-week tour of the national parks-- Grand Canyon, Salt Lake City, etc. I'm really looking forward to being able to sightsee and not have to do all the driving."

Barb Kebbon Veal added to the last issues' update: "We have a 27 year old son, Jonathon, who has autism. He works, is a boy scout and very active in his community. He moved out from home 5 years ago and lives in an apartment in an 'adult foster care' setting."

Laurel Rasker Zinssar reports: "I currently live in Orlando, Florida and work as a preschool director in Winter Park (FL). I've been married for over 30 years and have a daughter and 3 grandchildren. I have lived in Massachusetts, Arizona, Colorado, New York (Albany), and New Jersey! I settled in Florida 10 years ago. My hobbies are gardening, writing in my field, working with children, and enjoying the arts.

I miss the Northeast and visit Delmar whenever I can! Over the last few years, several of our classmates have met for lunch in Albany. It would be fun to have more classmates join us. I look forward to hearing from some of you."

Eagle Sightings & Small World Moments

Diane Strickland Ferguson had a "small world moment" recently: "Do you remember **Steve Clary**? I got involved in a large child abuse case and had to be interviewed by a private detective hired by the Catholic Church. My boss and I

were being questioned by the detective who began telling us how times had changed since he grew up in a small town outside of Albany where people did not even lock their doors. Bingo! I looked again at his business card, recognized his name, and said "Steve, I am Diane Strickland." Needless to say, my boss was totally pushed aside for a bit while we reminisced. It was really strange meeting him professionally."

Claudia Phillips Cunningham "found" Joyce Cook: "I ran into **Joyce Cook Layman** the other day at the shopping center. I don't know if you recall her. She had a Little Orphan Annie hairstyle, slim, athletic looking. She went to school with me at the Glenmont School during the Bronze Age. She also went to my church and was a neighbor. She is doing well, lives in Selkirk and was flying to Florida to see her grandkids. I will be inviting her to our soirees in the future."

John Scott and his wife, Mary Louise, were visiting friends at their cottage in Canada recently. After dinner, "friends" of their friends joined the four who were enjoying a bonfire. The visiting friends—Art & Carol—also had a cottage on the lake. As the conversation proceeded, John mentioned Delmar and BCHS. Small world moment! Art is **Sue Smith Slusarski's** brother!

Barb Kebbon Veal shares her story of a chance meeting: "Just had to tell you what happened yesterday at the Yankee Candle store in Massachusetts. While I was working the cash register, a young man had a sale, and I asked for his telephone number. It was a "518" area code, so, I said, "Albany, right?" and he said yes. I told him I used to live in Delmar and went to B.C.H.S. He said his father went there . . . guess who it was? **Roger Kibbey!** Roger was in the store and said "hi"! Roger was aware of some of the class outings but hadn't made it to any. We talked and then later, when he, his wife, and son, were at my register later with a purchase, the son said, "You probably graduated with my mother." I asked who it was; he said, "**Laurel Lemon.**" Roger reminded me that he and Laurel were married for 25 yrs. All of a sudden, I remembered they were dating in high school! How funny is that??? So, the son said he'd be sure to tell Laurel that he saw me. Small world!"

Reminiscing . . . about Albany

Claudia Phillips Cunningham and **Sue Smith Slusarski** were conversing over email about Albany memories, after Claudia attended a concert at the Palace. Claudia recalled: "Yes, the Palace is the big one...on S. Pearl and Clinton Avenue. My happiest memory of the Palace is when I was five years old and lived on Elsmere Ave. "The Greatest Show on Earth" was playing there--Charlton Heston, Betty Hutton, Dorothy Lamour, Jimmy Stewart. I was thrilled that my parents were going to take me in to see it. I carried a little basket purse and wore little white gloves, black patent Mary Jane shoes, a straw hat and some little suit. Following the show we ate at Peter's soda shop. It was a magical movie all about the circus, and I never forgot it.

Then, also in downtown, we had the Strand, which was located near all

those great Pearl Street stores like Honigsbaum's, David's, Mulfelder's, Sherry's, Ormond, Flah's, Whitney's, Myers, New York Corset Shop, some fancy perfumery up near State Street, Peter's soda fountain, Grant's, Kresge's, Woolworth's, Newberry's, Lodge's, etc. Then, as you headed down S. Pearl Street further, you had the Leland Theatre and the Ritz, which were the kind of wild places you went on a dare. Other shops included M. Solomon, the Busy Bee Thrift Shop, and the New York Bakery.

I remember loving the Planter's Peanut Shop on State and Pearl! Mr. Peanut would walk along the street tipping his big top hat to passers-by. There was a statue of the RCA Victor dog up the hill. I also remember Snappy Men's shop, some other fancy men's shop on State, Walsh's on State, the Waldorf cafeteria on State and Pearl, the Three Sisters soda fountain, Waldman's shoes on State, Mr. Charles shoes...SO many great stores, all gone now. Albany downtown, as well as the uptown Avenue, is rather pathetic. But what great memories!"

Additions & Corrections

New Addresses and/or Phone Numbers

Paul Gans:

226 Clay St
Clarksburg, WV 26301
pgans@ma.rr.com
304-669-5272

Lynn Johnson Arnold

518-728-8766

Toni Spinosa Lasley

tjspinosa999@gmail.com

John Scott

jscott9@verizon.net

Peter Zeh

2660 E. Genevieve Way
Green Valley, AZ 85614
520-399-1060

Spelling corrections from the last issue

Barbara Kebbon Veal

Sue Reulbach Wirtjes

Next Issue

In addition to address changes, bios, news, and "sightings," please send

your **memories** of BCHS, Delmar, and “good times” for the next issue!

Sent on with Good Cheer, Your Fledging Newsletter Crew,
Sue Smith Slusarski, News Gatherer
Lindy Alexander Perez, Copy Editor
Paul Gans, Research and Idea Man

Disclaimer: The News Gatherer offers her humble apologizes in advance for any inaccuracies.