Joseph A. Conforti, MD

Dr. Joseph A. Conforti is Distinguished Professor of American and New England Studies Emeritus at University of Southern Maine in Portland. He is a 1963 alumnus of Durfee High School. Dr. Conforti received a Bachelor’s Degree in History, cum laude, from Springfield College, a Master’s in American History, and a Doctorate in American Civilization, both from Brown University. He taught History and English at Rhode Island College for ten years and then became the founding director of Southern Maine’s graduate program in American and New England Studies. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including two book awards; the Richard Beale Davis Prize for the best essay on early American literature; the Constance Carlson Public Humanities Prize from the Maine Humanities Council; the Neal Allen History Award from the Maine Historical Society; and four grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Conforti is the author of nearly fifty scholarly articles, book chapters, and book reviews. He has published seven books on New England cultural and religious history, ranging from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Most recently he has authored two books on Fall River:

Another City upon a Hill: A New England Memoir, about growing up in the city in the 1950s and ‘60s, and Lizzie Borden on Trial: Murder, Ethnicity, and Gender, which offers new perspectives on the famous episode.

Ronald Alan Schwartz, MD

Dr. Schwartz is a 1952 graduate of Durfee High School; he received his medical degree from the Boston University School of Medicine and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the U.S. Naval Hospital in St. Albans, N.Y., where he was Chief Resident. Dr. Schwartz specializes in Internal Medicine with a focus on Geriatric Medicine and is on the medical staff at Charlton Memorial Hospital.

For more than 25 years, Dr. Schwartz served as a clinical instructor and assistant professor at Alpert Medical School at Brown University in Providence, R.I., and served as preceptor for third- and fourth-year medical students in Community Health. He received the Distinguished Teacher Award at the university. Dr. Schwartz is board certified in Internal Medicine with added qualifications in Geriatric Medicine. He is a member of the American College of Physicians, the American Medical Association and the Massachusetts Medical Society.

Dr. Schwartz Biography continued on page 4
Dear Fellow Durfee Alumni,

On behalf of the Alumni Board, let me offer our sincere congratulations to the Class of 2015 and to the Durfee Alumni Scholarship recipients. We wish for all of you a bright and prosperous future. Congratulations to our two Distinguished Alumni, Joseph Conforti, PHD Class of 1963 and Ronald A. Schwartz, MD Class of 1952.

Again this year I ask you to support the Alumni Association’s fund raising efforts. Throughout the year we are asked to contribute to requests from many school organizations. Your donations and dues also allow us to contribute to our Alumni Scholarship. As you will read in this issue of the Chimes, your donations are needed to continue the work of your Alumni Association.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President these past three years. Although I was reluctant to take on this task, I have enjoyed it. To our students, scholarship recipients and our distinguished alumni, much success in the future.

Dorothy Nicolau ‘55
President
Durfee Alumni Association

ALUMNI - WE Need to Hear From You!

Because the changes to our Website and email account were not included in the 2014 Chimes we are continuing to mail The Chimes for 2015 to aid those who have not responded. We want to thank all of you who replied to our request letting us know you wish to continue receiving The Chimes, and to those who notified us of deceased members or incorrect addresses. Please complete the form on page 11 and return it in the enclosed envelope or contact the Association by email or telephone with your decision. The telephone number is 508.675.8100 ext. 2061. Our email is durfeealumniassociation@gmail.com. If the Association does not receive a response, we will assume that you no longer wish to receive The Chimes. Alternatively, The Chimes may be viewed at the Durfee Alumni website www.durfeealumniassociation.com.

Remember that your five dollars ($5.00) dues or your contribution to The Red & Black Club ($25.00 minimum per person) is applied to the cost of printing and distributing this annual publication. Additionally, money received by The Association supports scholarships to deserving graduates as well as Durfee High School student and alumni activities.
### 2014 Scholarship Recipient List

The Richard B. Butler, M.D. & Milton J. Gilbert, M.D. Scholarship to ................................................................. Nicole L. Alves*
Isabelle O’Neill, Class of 1936 & “Marion Pitman Rousenwitz” to ........................................................................ Kasey E. Andrade*
Beverly Kerness Unger Scholarship & “William F. Kaylor” & “Ernest P. & Georgina Pavao Memorial Scholarship” to ........................................ Jonathan M. Curtis
Susanne Earnshaw & Jean Earnshaw Plofs to ................................................................................................. Alexander S. DaCosta
Mitchell Stashkow & Wilford K. & Ruth Husnaker Bradbury to ................................................................. Chuelias T. deCarvahlo
Julia M. Harrington & Henry J. Shea Educators Scholarship Fund & “Class of 1944” to ........................................ Alysha M. DeHass
Class of 1922 & “Felix Makarewicz Memorial Scholarship Fund & Alice Pizio Kosiba - Class of 1936” & “Emily E. Winward” to ........ Tharima Ferdausi
“Todd Branco Scholarship Fund” & “John A. & Eileen Carr” to ........................................................................ Beatrix S. Furtado
Beatrice Caboto Memorial Scholarship to ........................................................................................................ Meaghan P. Koskela*
“B.M.C. Durfee High School Athletic Association – Hon. Beatrice Hancock Mullaney” & “Jerome Namias Scholarship” to ........ Danielle E. MacDonald
Franklin D. Hoy & Margaret B. Hoy, Class of 1932 Scholarship In Memory of Dr. Frank Hoy, DDS, Tufts University & Dr. Joseph Hoy, DDS, University of Maryland” to .............................................. Nicholas A. Mello
Anne Billico Duarte Memorial Scholarship - Class of 1971 to ....................................................................... Carin L. Moreira-Rrego*
Ralph N. & Dorothy S. Friar” & “Joseph C. & Arlene Trotter Perron” & “B.M.C. Durfee High School Athletic Association – Ellis Gifford” to ................................................................. Amber M. Nelson
“Ruth A. Holmes” & “Devoll Scholarships” & “William E. & George J. Apps” to ................................................... Cherazed M. Paredes*
“Harold R. Bannister in memory of James Edward Bannister and Catherine Manning Bannister” to .................... Andre M. Pereira
“Thomas C. Laney Memorial Scholarship” to .................................................................................................... Nicholas M. Rappo
“Stephen & Margaret Nawrocki” to .................................................................................................................. Amanda L. Ray*
Grimshaw-Budewicz Memorial Charitable Trust Scholarship & “Harold Katzman” to ........................................ Leyshonna J. Reed
“The Richard B. Butler, M.D. & Milton J. Gilbert, M.D. Scholarship” to .......................................................... Gaeleen R. Riley
Karen A. Jarabek to .......................................................................................................................................... Megan K. Rockett
“Elmer C. Slater” & “Edith C. Wolliston” & “George F. Fernandez Scholarship Fund - Class of 1940” to ............... Thomas A. Rousel
Karen A. Jarabek to .......................................................................................................................................... James P. Souza
“Alice C. Harrington ’34 Scholarship” & “Hon. Beatrice H. Mullaney Memorial Scholarship” & “B.M.C. Durfee High School Athletic Association - Hon. Roger F. Sullivan” to .................................................. Miranda M. Zanni
Grimshaw-Gudewicz Charitable Foundation Grant

Respectfully submitted, Peter G. Collins, President and Claudine A. Cloutier, Treasurer

Trustees of the Fall River High School Alumni Scholarships

### Previous Distinguished Alumni Recipients

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DURFEE CHIMES 2015 ~ PAGE 3

To nominate a Durfee Graduate for the Distinguished Alumni Award, please fill out and return the form on Page 11.
Some of his awards include Community Clinician of the year 2004, Massachusetts Medical Society, and “Top 25 Docs” Boston Magazine 1988, (one of the top 25 primary care physicians in Massachusetts). Dr. Schwartz is currently an Internist and Gerontologist, Division of Internal Medicine, Truesdale Internal Medical Specialties Association, a division of SouthCoast and is Medical Director, Sarah S. Brayton Nursing Care Center, Fall River, MA. Dr. Schwartz is on the Board of Directors, Truesdale Clinic, Fall River, Trustee, Southeast Visiting Nurse Assoc., Board of Trustees, Bristol Community College Fall River, MA, and Board of Governors, Southcoast Physicians Services.

Over 60 years have passed since …

The early ‘50s saw us embraced and embodied in international, political and social change. Capturing the media attention during our first three years would be a daily dialogue of events relating to the “conflict” in Korea. By graduation the sensationalism of war-related headlines had diminished since September 6, 1950, the first day of our ninth-grade year (among others, in addition to the freshman class at Durfee, the sum of 405 students would graduate from Henry Lord and Morton Junior High Schools on June 18, 1951, to bolster the strength of our sophomore class). This coverage would decrease in our senior year and methodically be denigrated as a subject of interest through July 27, 1954, one year following the signing of the armistice—the end of the active Korean War era. In the midst of our years at Durfee, some classmates would heed the call to serve their country, enter active military service and ultimately return to Durfee in later years. Examples include the Boscoe brothers (Bob and John), Bob Pontes and Phil Sowa, all graduating with the class of 1957.

A success ethic prevailed and social psychologists would describe as dormant the years following graduation and preceding the Vietnam War (1954-1964); however, sprouting up in the southern heartland of the country was the birth of a musical and some would suggest a social revolution. Just weeks before and after graduation the sparks were lit igniting a phenomenon that we would not become aware of for months to come but for the sound track accompanying the 1955 release of the movie, Blackboard Jungle. On April 12, 1954, Bill Haley and the Comets recorded Rock Around the Clock. Less than three months later on July 5, a 19-year-old Elvis Presley would record his first hit record, That’s All Right (Mama). Both songs along with earlier artists’ music have been credited with starting the musical and cultural phenomenon known as Rock ‘n Roll. It is said to have typified a whole new generation who wanted to go out and have a good time and wanted their own music and style—it gave teenagers their own identity. In contrast to the music we listened to in our early-to-mid teens, this sound has better survived the years and many of us enjoy reminiscing today with the music of the “fabulous ’50s.”

Words spoken and written in song tell us that, “...a fool will lose tomorrow reaching back for yesterday. Then I guess I’ll be a fool forever. I’ll always reach for yesterday.” We all don’t have to reach for yesterday in our daily lives, but we’re enveloped by our youth as we reunited with classmates and friends in celebrating our 60th-year reunion. Happily, we did reach a little that weekend and added it to our bank of fond memories.

This author-fool is enamored with the nostalgia of yesterday for a myriad of reasons and routinely reaches for it. COME JOIN ME SOMETIME!

Ron Silvia, Class of 1954
OVER THE HILL GANG  
By Charles Pelissier Class of 1949

The Class of 1935 at BMC Durfee High School was recognized as having many outstanding athletes, some of which went on to distinguish themselves in professional sports. They had a special bond between them that resulted in lifetime friendships. It was such, that men like Ray Greeley, Clem Dowling, Hank Harrington and other athletes pledged to remain in contact despite the fact that life would take them on a variety of paths.

They formed a pact that no matter where they went, at least every other month, they would return to Fall River to meet, trade news, and maintain friendships that had grown over their High School years.

As the months and years flew by, their group grew in numbers. May I bring my brother-in-law? May a good friend join us? Everyone was not an ex athlete but that was not important. There was that important bond that came from being Durfee grads.

Almost unbelievably, the numbers grew. Hank Harrington took it upon himself to coordinate arrangements at various restaurants.

At one point, membership grew to almost 800 members. As the men got older, the group became known as The Over The Hill Gang. It was not unusual for upwards of 400 men to sit down together at White’s of Westport or at the Venus de Milo Restaurant for a pre-arranged meal and a whole lot of conversation, reminiscing, “exchanging lies” and generally having fun.

The large numbers made it a challenge to keep track of who were coming, meal selections and collecting money. Hank Harrington who had assumed the task of coordinating the events had no time to eat himself. That’s about the time I was invited to join. I offered to use what little computer skills I had to simplify things and I was happy to offer Hank a chance to sit with his friends for a welcomed change.

The original beloved friends have long since joined a new team, where we all hope they are playing sports, competing, and dining with their gentlemen colleagues.

The club they started continues to this day.

If any gentleman is interested in joining this illustrious gang, and having a delicious meal together with some old friends you probably went to school with, please call me, Charlie, at 508-672-4325 or email me at chaspills@comcast.net. Members may bring in friends.

Members look forward to our meetings, which are over in about an hour. There are no long speeches, no big ceremonies, just men who enjoy getting out every couple of months for a friendly meal and good conversation. On days when more than 200 attend, a drawing is held and some lucky attendee wins $100.

We always have a moment of silence for those who, too often these days, join the originators of our group.

THE TRADITION OF THE DURFEE BELLS

For those who graduated from BMC Durfee High School prior to 1978, any mention of the Durfee bells brings forth the memory of the tenor bell being tolled 29 times at 8:10 a.m., every day that classes were in session. There are several versions of how this tradition was initiated, but it is reasonably certain that it continued mostly uninterrupted for generations until the building on Rock Street was closed in 1978.

One story of how the tradition began, which is as plausible as any, is that a friend of Matthew Durfee, employed by the high school as a custodian, when instructed to ring the bell to signal the start of the school day, chose to ring it 29 times in commemoration of the number of years his friend had lived.

In the 1920s, automated equipment took over the task of pulling the big steel cable at the appropriate time each day. Sometime in the early 1950s, the automated equipment failed, and for a time, the tradition was interrupted. In the mid 1960s, a faculty member, Winifred Durfee Dimock, Class of 1955, rose to the occasion, and for the next two decades she tolled the tenor bell 29 times each morning by repeatedly pressing one of axe-handle like levers on the clavier that was located in the tower directly under the bells. She not only tolled the bell each morning, but she played the bells, especially on Class Day and Commencement, and she instructed a select cadre of student bell masters in the art of playing the bells as well. Several former students, including Reverend Norman Shepherd, Class of 1951, and Karen Cruz Delgado, Class of 1979, tell the story of playing the bells to their hearts’ content, sometimes for an hour or more at the end of the school day.

However, in the minds of many, the real tradition of the bells involved the last minute dash from Rock Street to one’s homeroom. Students knew that if they were in their seat by the 29th strike of the bell, they were on time.

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
He shone even brighter at defensive end, a pass-catching, bone-crunching blocker.

Seven former Durfee athletes, as well as a special inductee, have been selected for induction, which will take place on Saturday, Sept. 13, at White’s of Westport.

For the first time, the induction ceremony is being held in the fall, helping to make it a weekend celebration. The Class of 2014 will be honored during halftime of the Durfee vs. Bishop Connolly football game on Friday, Sept. 12, at Mac Aldrich Field.


NANCY KITCHEN, Class of 1986
The second member of the her family to be selected for Hall of Fame induction, she achieved great individual and team success for the Hilltoppers. The sister of Hall of Famer Susan (Kitchen) Brown, Kitchen was team MVP her last three years. She helped Durfee to a 10-0 conference record her junior year and was a top-three finisher in the 100 and 200 freestyles at the sectionals. Her senior year, she was second in the 100 free and fourth in the 100 back at the sectional meet and took a sixth place in the state meet, all while serving as a virtual player-coach after the head coach resigned unexpectedly. Recipient of the school’s top scholar-athlete award as a senior, Kitchen held the Durfee pool record in the 500 freestyle for more than two decades.

COLIN CHRIST, Class of 1996
Christ was clearly among the area’s premier athletes during his time at Durfee. He played three years varsity in both football and basketball. On the football field, Christ was a pass-catching, bone-crunching blocker. He shone even brighter at defensive end, where he earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Connecticut. He was a two-time Herald News all scholastic, a three-time Big 3 Conference all star and played in the prestigious Shriners Game in ’96. Christ was an agile power forward on the basketball court, and threw shot and discus in spring track and field for two years.

CHRISTINE (FARRELL) FELDMAN, Class of 1973
The first recipient (technically co-recipient with her sister) of the Lillian Darmody Trophy as female athlete of the year, Farrell was a three-sport standout for coaches Margot Lavoie (volleyball, softball) and Beverly Cambra (basketball). She earned a varsity letter in all three sports in all three years. In 1972, she helped to lead the Hilltopper basketball team into the South Sectional playoffs. A well-rounded student-athlete, she was a member of the Varsity Club for three years and was the sports editor for the Durfee Hilltop in 1972-73.

CATHLEEN (FARRELL) FELDMAN, Class of 1973
Like her twin sister Christine, Cathleen Feldman was a three-sport standout, lettering in volleyball, basketball and softball in all three years. She shared the first Lillian Darmody Trophy, as female athlete of the year, with her sister. She also was team captain in all three sports her senior year after serving as basketball captain in her junior season. A guard, she helped the Hilltoppers to the Bristol County League basketball title in 1972 as the team went 10-0. She was on the Varsity Club and was sports editor for the Durfee Hilltop.

CHRIS ANTAO, Class of 1998
High on the list of top wrestlers in school history, Antao in 1998 became the first Hilltopper in 17 years to win a state title when he took first place at 130 pounds at the Division 1 championships. He posted a stellar record of 44-4 in his senior season. Antao left Durfee as its second winnigest wrestler, sporting a career record of 109 wins and 24 losses. Also in 1998, Antao was the South Sectional champion, runner up at the All State Meet and third at the New England Championships. A three-time Big 3 Conference all star and a two-time Herald News all scholastic, Antao was part of the first Sacred Heart University wrestling team. He is the varsity wrestling coach at Durfee High School.

TIM FURTADO, Class of 1989
A standout in football, hockey and baseball, Furtado was Durfee’s male athlete of the year his senior year. He may be best remembered for baseball, where he was a hard-hitting, strong-armed catcher who often eliminated the opponent’s threat of base stealing. As a senior, he batted .435 with four home runs and 31 runs batted in. He lettered three times in baseball and hockey and twice in football, where he was the quarterback. After his Durfee career and a year of prep school, Furtado signed a contract with the Seattle Mariners and played minor league ball in their organization.

VICTOR PEREIRA, Class of 1984
Patience paid off for Pereira, widely regarded as one of the finest point guards in Durfee history. Because of a glut of hoop talent at Durfee during his four years at the school, the 5-foot-6 Pereira had to wait until his senior year to get significant varsity time. Given his chance to start, Pereira emerged as a press-breaking, pin-point-passing, accurate shooting machine to help the Hilltoppers to a 25-0 record and the Division 1 state championship. He followed that with an all-star career at Eastern Connecticut State University, and later played professionally in Portugal and Ireland. Pereira is Durfee’s director of athletics. He is a member of the New England Basketball Hall of Fame and the Eastern Connecticut State Hall of Fame.

DR. JAMES D. COLEMAN
A former Fall River resident now residing in South Carolina, Coleman served as Durfee’s school and athletic physician from 1989 to 1997. During those 18 years, his devotion and hours of service far exceeded the scope of his appointed duties. An orthopedist, Coleman regularly attended athletic events and was a regular in the halls of Durfee and in its athletic training facility from August to June every school year. He served Durfee when sports medicine and on-field emergency care were fields in their infancy. His greatest contribution may have been in education. He volunteered countless hours to coach and parent education and support, regardless of the size of the organization requesting his presence. Coleman’s emphasis was always on the preservation of the health and welfare of any girl or boy who wore the red and black.

DURFEE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME
CLASS OF 2014

FALL RIVER — The Durfee High School Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2014 includes a set of twins, a former professional baseball player, the current director of athletics at Durfee and a member of the school’s first family of swimming.

The second member of the her family to be selected for Hall of Fame induction, she achieved great individual and team success for the Hilltoppers. The sister of Hall of Famer Susan (Kitchen) Brown, Kitchen was team MVP her last three years. She helped Durfee to a 10-0 conference record her junior year and was a top-three finisher in the 100 and 200 freestyles at the sectionals. Her senior year, she was second in the 100 free and fourth in the 100 back at the sectional meet and took a sixth place in the state meet, all while serving as a virtual player-coach after the head coach resigned unexpectedly. Recipient of the school’s top scholar-athlete award as a senior, Kitchen held the Durfee pool record in the 500 freestyle for more than two decades.

COLIN CHRIST, Class of 1996
Christ was clearly among the area’s premier athletes during his time at Durfee. He played three years varsity in both football and basketball. On the football field, Christ was a pass-catching, bone-crunching blocker. He shone even brighter at defensive end, where he earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Connecticut. He was a two-time Herald News all scholastic, a three-time Big 3 Conference all star and played in the prestigious Shriners Game in ’96. Christ was an agile power forward on the basketball court, and threw shot and discus in spring track and field for two years.

CHRISTINE (FARRELL) FELDMAN, Class of 1973
The first recipient (technically co-recipient with her sister) of the Lillian Darmody Trophy as female athlete of the year, Farrell was a three-sport standout for coaches Margot Lavoie (volleyball, softball) and Beverly Cambra (basketball). She earned a varsity letter in all three sports in all three years. In 1972, she helped to lead the Hilltopper basketball team into the South Sectional playoffs. A well-rounded student-athlete, she was a member of the Varsity Club for three years and was the sports editor for the Durfee Hilltop in 1972-73.

CATHLEEN (FARRELL) FELDMAN, Class of 1973
Like her twin sister Christine, Cathleen Feldman was a three-sport standout, lettering in volleyball, basketball and softball in all three years. She shared the first Lillian Darmody Trophy, as female athlete of the year, with her sister. She also was team captain in all three sports her senior year after serving as basketball captain in her junior season. A guard, she helped the Hilltoppers to the Bristol County League basketball title in 1972 as the team went 10-0. She was on the Varsity Club and was sports editor for the Durfee Hilltop.

CHRIS ANTAO, Class of 1998
High on the list of top wrestlers in school history, Antao in 1998 became the first Hilltopper in 17 years to win a state title when he took first place at 130 pounds at the Division 1 championships. He posted a stellar record of 44-4 in his senior season. Antao left Durfee as its second winnigest wrestler, sporting a career record of 109 wins and 24 losses. Also in 1998, Antao was the South Sectional champion, runner up at the All State Meet and third at the New England Championships. A three-time Big 3 Conference all star and a two-time Herald News all scholastic, Antao was part of the first Sacred Heart University wrestling team. He is the varsity wrestling coach at Durfee High School.

TIM FURTADO, Class of 1989
A standout in football, hockey and baseball, Furtado was Durfee’s male athlete of the year his senior year. He may be best remembered for baseball, where he was a hard-hitting, strong-armed catcher who often eliminated the opponent’s threat of base stealing. As a senior, he batted .435 with four home runs and 31 runs batted in. He lettered three times in baseball and hockey and twice in football, where he was the quarterback. After his Durfee career and a year of prep school, Furtado signed a contract with the Seattle Mariners and played minor league ball in their organization.

VICTOR PEREIRA, Class of 1984
Patience paid off for Pereira, widely regarded as one of the finest point guards in Durfee history. Because of a glut of hoop talent at Durfee during his four years at the school, the 5-foot-6 Pereira had to wait until his senior year to get significant varsity time. Given his chance to start, Pereira emerged as a press-breaking, pin-point-passing, accurate shooting machine to help the Hilltoppers to a 25-0 record and the Division 1 state championship. He followed that with an all-star career at Eastern Connecticut State University, and later played professionally in Portugal and Ireland. Pereira is Durfee’s director of athletics. He is a member of the New England Basketball Hall of Fame and the Eastern Connecticut State Hall of Fame.

DR. JAMES D. COLEMAN
A former Fall River resident now residing in South Carolina, Coleman served as Durfee’s school and athletic physician from 1989 to 1997. During those 18 years, his devotion and hours of service far exceeded the scope of his appointed duties. An orthopedist, Coleman regularly attended athletic events and was a regular in the halls of Durfee and in its athletic training facility from August to June every school year. He served Durfee when sports medicine and on-field emergency care were fields in their infancy. His greatest contribution may have been in education. He volunteered countless hours to coach and parent education and support, regardless of the size of the organization requesting his presence. Coleman’s emphasis was always on the preservation of the health and welfare of any girl or boy who wore the red and black.
It’s Hard To Leave Fall River

By Paul Payton, Class of 1970

Living now in the rural Midwest with a New England accent I am often asked the question, “Where are you from?”

I tell them, Fall River, MA. Surprisingly, some folks actually have heard of Fall River. The usual comment is, “Isn’t that where Lizzy Borden lived?” Others who have never traveled back east will ask, “What is it like living in New England?” The other question I get is, “Do you miss it?”

The answer to those questions is that yes I do miss Fall River. I grew up in the north end of Fall River by North Park and with so many blocks of families surrounding the park, you always had playmates. My best memories of North Park were sledding in the winter. With its steep hills we would all pile onto a toboggan and zoom down often falling off and crashing into the deep snow from the blizzard the night before closing the schools for that day. It was a wonderland.

In the summer, going to Horseneck Beach was literally, a day at the Beach. It was prior to cars having air conditioning, so all the windows would be open. I remember getting to about the fourth light on Rt. 88 when you could begin to smell the ocean air and that same breeze would fill the car with cooler air. I still have yet to find a nicer beach than Horseneck.

For our family, Fridays were our Chow Mein day. We would often go to the Chinese restaurant on Brightman St. for a Chow Mein Sandwich. To this day, I still order Chow Mein from the Oriental Chow Mein shop on 8th street. It’s still a treat.

I have not been back to Fall River for several years now, but each time that I use to go back I would have to go through my bucket list of foods that I miss so much. First on the list would be a Chorico sandwich, followed by a grinder. Nowhere do they make anything like a Marzilli’s or Maruccis’ s grinder. The fresh New England seafood and my local favorite, a stuffed quahog. People in the Midwest would ask me, What’s a quahog?” Also if I was able to hit Sam’s for a meat pie before I left, then my food quest would be complete.

After leaving Fall River when I was twenty three what I missed the most were the people I had grown up with, most of which were schoolmates beginning at St. Joseph’s elementary. I would joke, telling my children of how Sister Mary Vicious would crack my knuckles with the ruler. From there I was off to Morton Jr. High, then Durfee. I graduated with the class of 1970 and remained friends with many of my classmates and teachers. During my senior year I worked in the school’s office with Alan Silvia, now a State Representative, Herman Bomback who was a terrific athlete. Herman still runs several baseball leagues in the city, and Laura Tavares. Laura went on to become a doctor, then as fate would have it, she married Herman Bomback.

It was neat to work in the Durfee office. One of our duties would be to call and check to see if the absent student was home sick and not skipping school. That worked well for your friends who you would mark down that yes, they were home sick when you knew they were off to the beach that day.

Now with email and Facebook, I have reconnected with many of my classmates. It is awesome to catch up and see where life has taken everyone. Just recently, I spoke with Steve Nawrocki. I started by saying, I don’t know whether to call you Mr. Nawrocki, Coach, or Steve. Steve, laughed and said, “Just call me Steve.” We reminisced about his family’s summer cottage on Sawdy Pond. It was that cottage and its squeaky screen door that later on in life I duplicated in the Pocono’s Mountains.

Now I live with my wife Cris of 37 years out in the Midwest just outside the small farming community town of Crab Orchard, NE., population 49. Life in rural Nebraska is very peaceful. We have a 1000 vine vineyard, make some wine, enjoy the wine and fish the lake that our house sits next to.

I won’t be long until 2015 gets here and I get to see again many of my Durfee classmates at our 45th reunion. You can bet that my trip will include all the local culinary delights that I mentioned.

Editor’s note: The writer is also author of a novel “Ransom by Mail”, available on Amazon and Kindle.

Doves are released at the Rededication Ceremony of the Durfee Bells signifying their new beginning at the current Durfee High School. The ceremony was held on September 19, 2014.

Lester Cory, President (Right) and John Freeman, Vice President (Left) of the Durfee Bells Preservation Society are pictured sharing a satisfied handshake at the Rededication Ceremony for the Durfee Bells. The event was the culmination of ten years work toward their goal.

The finished Bell Tower and the crowd that assembled for the rededication ceremony.
Durfee Alumni Association - Clam Boil
Fundraiser to benefit the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
Monday, May 18, 2015 - 4:00PM-8:00PM
Lepage’s Seafood & Grill - 439 Martine Street, Fall River, MA 02723
(Eat in or Take Out) • $20.00 per person

Contact us at …
Our official Alumni website at: http://www.durfeealumniassociation.com/contact
By email at: durfeealumniassociation@gmail.com
Like us on Facebook at: Durfee Alumni Association

Mailing address: Durfee Alumni Association
P.O. Box 9656
Fall River, MA 02720-0011
Telephone: 508-675-8100 ext 2061

Class of 1965 - 50th Year Reunion
Saturday, September 19, 2015 - Dinner at the Fall River Country Club
Information: Contact Steve Camara at steve@stevecamara.com or 508-678-1463

Class of 1954 - 61st Year Reunion
Thursday, August 6, 2015 - 12:00PM-3:00PM
The Cove Restaurant and Marina - 392 Davol St., Fall River
Contact: Steve Nawrocki 509-673-7473 or Class of 1954@aol.com

Class of 1986 - 30th Reunion
August 20, 2016
Venus De Milo - 75 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA 02777
durfeeclassof86reunion@gmail.com
Facebook page Durfee Class of 86 Reunion
Sheri Thomas McCallister 508.675.8965

Visit the new official Alumni website at http://www.durfeealumniassociation.com/ to…
• Join the Red & Black – the official Club of Durfee Alumni
• Pay annual Red & Black membership dues
• Make a donation
• Submit Alumni contact information
• Request the annual Chimes Newsletter - mail or email distribution
• Check out upcoming reunions
• Nominate a distinguished alumni
• Share your reunion photos

Anyone interested in becoming a member of our Red & Black Club, may send a donation of $25.00 to: B.M.C. Durfee High School Alumni Association P.O. Box 9656, Fall River, MA 02720-0011 or www.durfeealumni.com
The Durfee Alumni Association

2015-2016

The Durfee Alumni Association needs to hear from you if you wish to continue to receive The Chimes

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

* For inclusion in the spring 2016 issue of the Chimes, Please return no later than December 31, 2015.

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2015-2016 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 2015 to be considered by the 2015 Selection Board.

Name of Nominee: _____________________ Year of Graduation (1980 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
Alumni, We Need Your Support

Current Resident or:

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.durfeealumni.com and Like us on Facebook