



# hilltopper

Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

January 2009

## Mary R. Donnelly Fisher '36 One of Tourtellotte's Very Best



*Left: Mary R. Fisher in a very familiar place – at the helm of the Thompson Memorial Elementary School, North Grosvenordale, Connecticut. Photo Compliments of Rita Rohr.*

### Mary R. Fisher, 1936 Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni, Teacher and Principal

BY: Rita Rohr

Mary R. Fisher touched the lives of so many people as a teacher, mentor and friend. Mrs. Fisher created a model school system at the elementary level and never failed to meet with anyone who needed her help, whether they were a student, teacher or parent. No appointments were necessary.

At the age of four her family moved from Scituate, Rhode Island to Putnam, Connecticut. There she attended the Smith Street School. When she was six she told her parents that she wanted to become a teacher and she never changed her mind. When she

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## TMHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BANQUET

### A REUNION FOR "ALL CLASSES"!

Come help us celebrate "100 Years of Learning"

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2009

Time: 6:30 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M.

#### Location:

**THOMPSON RACEWAY RESTAURANT**

COME BE A PART OF THE "FIRST" TMHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION REUNION FOR "ALL CLASS YEARS!"

**DINNER: FAMILY STYLE CHICKEN**

**MUSIC: D.J. MUSH BLAIN, CLASS OF 1973 - GUEST SPEAKERS, DANCING, RAFFLE, SLIDESHOW!!!**

Gather your classmates you have kept in touch with, get in contact with others from afar! Reserve your seat early. Limited number of tickets. Classes will be sitting together! An afternoon Tourtellotte building and

Memorial Room tour is scheduled

Cost: \$30 per person,  
\$25 for seniors 65+

Contact: Eileen Deary '75 at: [isee.u@charter.net](mailto:isee.u@charter.net)

Or Call Deb Spinelli at 860-923-2350

## Tourtellotte Memorial Room Update

The TMHSAA and other concerned citizens and local art lovers recently met with Linda Horvitz Roth, Curatorial Chairman of the Wadsworth Atheneum of Hartford, Connecticut. The Wadsworth is considered one of the finest museums in the country. We asked Mrs. Roth to visit the TMHS Memorial Room for the purpose of offering advice on the continued care and maintenance of the Memorial Room and its art.

The Memorial Room was donated to the Town of Thompson 100 years ago by the Tourtellotte family and contains many examples of fine art, family memorabilia, extraordinary ceramics, and statuary from all over the world. For many years the room was available to citizens one Sunday each month. Several years ago the room experienced a water leak that was

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was twelve her parents bought a dairy farm in West Thompson. Mrs. Fisher had two brothers, Raymond and Ralph who helped her dad operate the farm. This farm was taken by eminent domain to build the Thompson Dam.

Mrs. Fisher attended Tourtellotte Memorial High School and was involved in cheerleading and playing goalie on the field hockey team. She also enjoyed playing tennis. In 1936 she graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School as salutatorian of her class. After high school Mrs. Fisher went to Willimantic State Teacher's College (now known as Eastern Connecticut State University) and received her bachelor's degree in education in 1940. In 1956 she received her master's degree in education from the University of Connecticut and later received her certification in administration.

Her career began in 1940 in a one-room school house with 48 students, grades 5-8 in Marlborough, Connecticut. There she had to walk to school and arrive early to stoke the stove so the room would be warm when the children arrived. She spent one year in Marlborough and then returned to Thompson for the remainder of her teaching career. She taught in a two-room school in Wilsonville for a year, was an eighth grade teacher for 18 years, and a principal for 30 years.

Thompson was made up of nine villages, each with their own school. In 1960 all of the one-room schools were closed and were centralized in a brand new elementary building. Mrs. Fisher was appointed the first principal of Thompson Memorial Elementary School. Starting with an enrollment of 968 children in grades K-6, the elementary school was the largest K-6 school in the State of Connecticut. It wasn't until 1978 when a new wing was built that the middle school was added and she became principal for grades K-4.

Mrs. Fisher pioneered programs to fit the need of the children. In some instances she was way ahead of the mandates in Connecticut. The Gifted and Talented Program, which was among the first in the State of Connecticut, was a pilot experimental program out of the University of Connecticut; we were the second school in northeast Connecticut to have one. An Instructional Aide Program (now called para-professionals) who helped teachers to individualize, Developmental and Remedial Reading Programs; Junior Classes which were transitional grades between grades (Jr. Primary, Jr. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jr. 3<sup>rd</sup>); Learning Disabilities Classes; Resource Programs (Primary and Intermediate); Speech Program; Right to Read Program, Pre-School Program; Foster Grandparent Program and Breakfast Program.

Mrs. Fisher had a tremendous acting ability. She helped her students to perform in plays and

musicals and insisted that every student in the school participate even if they had a handicap. She devoted hours of her own time adapting the script to her young casts of hundreds.

There was excitement in the school while the children prepared for their play or production. Costumes by the hundreds filled every corner of her office. Parents were busy sewing and doing alterations to costumes. Mrs. Fisher wanted every child to feel special on the night of the performance.

Some of her major productions received statewide acclaim and national recognition. Among her outstanding musicals were: Roaring 20's Revue, in 1961, The Sounds of America in 1963, Mary Poppins in 1966, Mother Goose and Dr. Seuss in 1968, The Nutcracker and the Mouse King in 1971, Happy Birthday America in 1976, Oktoberfest at the Wunderbar-Garten in 1977, Cabaret in 1980, Babes in Toyland in 1981, Superkids Spring Festival in 1984, Happy Birthday Thompson, 1985, (Thompson celebrated its bicentennial 1785-1985) a musical pageant of Thompson's history 1885-1985 involving all local school and many citizens of Thompson. The school also held a "Bicentennial Curriculum Fair" in the fall, U.S. Constitution Bicentennial in 1987, and the Wizard of Oz in 1989, which received a national award.

Mrs. Fisher was very active in the formation of the Three C's (Community Cultural Committee). This committee would bring theatrical productions to Northeast Connecticut for children and adults. All children from the elementary school had the chance to attend the cultural events held at the Data General Cultural Center (now Hyde School).

During her 50 year career, Mrs. Fisher was organizer and the first president of the Thompson Education Association. She was president-elect of the Department of Classroom Teachers of the Connecticut Education Association. She served as Windham County Director for the Elementary School Principal's Association of Connecticut, and was elected to the Outstanding Educators of America in 1973-74. In 1979 she was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from Eastern Connecticut State University and was selected as a "Principal of the Month" by the Elementary Principals Association of Connecticut.

Mrs. Fisher was active in Hartford, serving on several state educational committees and commissions. She was recognized for her active participation in her profession and for her innovative and effective programs with the school.

Mrs. Fisher was a member of the Thompson Education Association, Connecticut Education Association and the National Education Association, the Thompson Historical Society, The Village

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Visit the TMHS Website at:  
<http://www.thompson.ctschool.net/TMHS/index.html>

## 10 things you may *NOT* know about TMHS

1. There were 49 graduating students in 1966.
2. 1966 Class offices were: Price Van Der Swaagh – President, Carol Rivers – Vice President, Kathleen Donnelly – Secretary, Robert Feige – Treasurer, and Elaine Roireau – Assistant Treasurer.
3. Bob Putnam, a featured graduate in this *hilltopper* edition was voted “Best Athlete” along with classmate Lorna Pleau.
4. In 1966, the junior class held their Junior Prom at the State Line Casino, and “Moonlight and Roses” was their theme.
5. According to the 1966 yearbook, the play *It’s About Time*, a one act comedy was staged by the senior members of the drama club. The success of this play aroused enthusiasm in students and faculty to make such productions a regular part of the extra-curricular program in the future.”
6. Ted Fatsi, a 1945 graduate of TMHS, returned to Tourtellotte and was principal in 1966. This would be a job in which he would stay for many years after 1966.
7. Bruce Foshay, a 1966 senior who left Thompson his freshman year for Spain returned. His dad was stationed at Torrejon Air Force Base Madrid.
8. Early classes used a little ingenuity when it came to sneaking a smoke during school, something much more accepted years ago than today. According to several alum guards were posted along the north entry landings to signal classmates of approaching teachers.
9. The Senior Semi-formal was called the Holly Ball – Ticket price in 1966... \$3.00 per couple.
10. *Hilltopper* editors in 1966 were Debora Desmarais and Sandra Jewell.

## The 1966 Graduating Class

The graduating class of 1966 were:

David Anderson	Paul Horanzky	Lorna Pleau
Gerald Bacon	Gay Houle	Rhonda Pompeo
Kenneth Bates	Kathleen Hryzan	Joseph Ponzi
Sharon Bellasario	Susan Kilborn	Mary Poplawski
Bruce Bennett	Lawrence LaBonte	Robert Putnam
Carol Burdette	Peter Lachapelle	Allen Rhoades
Philip Charbonneau	Bernard Langevin	Carol Rivers
David Crow	Adrien LaPalme	Paul Robert
Kathleen Donnelly	Yvonne Lavallee	Elaine Roireau
George Eddy	Bruce Leveille	Donna Sullivan
Marilyn Eddy	Paul Mayotte	Linda Teja
Robert Feige	Charlotte Morin	Thomas Titchen
Linda Ferro	Glen Murray	Constance Vaillant
Natalie Habercross	Sandra Note	Price Van Der Swaagh
Gary Hendrix	Janet Parzych	Joy Willet
Michael Hopgood	Jean Pieper	John Zabka
		Nancy Lamontagne

*Memorial Room - continued from page 2*

quickly repaired, but left the room with some physical damage. It should be noted that none of the art work was affected by the leak.

During our December alumni meeting the TMHSAA agreed that the preservation and reconditioning of the Memorial Room and the 1909 building must become one of our priorities. Much work has been accomplished, but more is needed. Our first step, with the approval of the Thompson Board of Education, is to register the 1909 Tourtellotte building on the National Register of Historic Places. This will expose us to other possible opportunities to include scholarly reviews, government and private grants, and a network of other communities and organizations attempting to accomplish similar goals.

With Mrs. Roth’s help a direction has been established and we are very optimistic that full restoration is possible. Anyone wishing to help with this endeavor can contact the Alumni office.

*Mrs. Fisher – continued from page 2*

Improvement Society and a member and past president of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honors sorority for educators, Thompson Bicentennial Committee, and co-editor of Thompson’s Bicentennial Memory Book.

It was through Mrs. Fisher’s dedication, love of children, hard work and being ahead of her time in terms of the programs that she implemented which helped shape the future education for the children in the Town of Thompson. In June of 1990 Mary R. Fisher retired as principal of the Thompson Memorial Elementary School after 30 years.

Her retirement was short lived and she died on December 2, 1991 after an illness. Shortly after her death the Board of Education recommended the renaming of the Thompson Memorial Elementary School to the Mary R. Fisher Elementary School. On April 7, 1992, at a town meeting, the school was renamed in her honor. She often would say that this town meant a lot to her.

As one little boy said, “She left behind love all around the school.”

Her greatest love was for her husband Dr. William T. Fisher, Sr. and her son William T. Fisher Jr., Ed.D.

## Have Articles or Stories??

Submit them to:

[AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net)

Or mail them to:

**TMHS Alumni Association**  
**785 Riverside Drive**  
**No. Grosvenordale, CT 06255**

## Robert Putnam Class of '66



**Boys baseball and basketball team captain and recipient of the distinguished American Legion Boy's State Award**

*Left: Bob Putnam's graduation picture compliments of the Putnam family.*

*Opposite column, bottom: American Legion Boy's State Designees - Bob Putnam, Price Van Der Swaagh and Bruce Leveille.*

TMHSAA lost one of its own several months ago. Robert M. Putnam class of 1966, passed away. Bob, a lifelong resident of Thompson lived on Wilsonville Road. After graduating from TMHS, Bob enlisted in the United States Army, receiving training at Fort Dix, New Jersey and El Paso, Texas. He remained in the army (1968-1971) during one of America's most turbulent times, the Vietnam War.

When Bob returned to Thompson he found work at C&S Wholesale Grocers, Frito Lay Inc., Foxwoods Casino and Tax Revaluations Inc. He enjoyed playing golf and handicapping race horses.

While at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Bob played soccer, and baseball and basketball for Mr. Canty. Among his many high school accomplishments was becoming a member of the very prestigious American Legion Boy's State and the 1966 Quinebaug Valley Conference Baseball All-Star Team. He was the baseball, basketball and soccer team captain.

His favorite teacher while at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, according to his family, was Mr. Tom Dexter. Bob's favorite memory from those times, according to his son, Bob Jr. was marrying his high school sweetheart, Connie Vaillant. Bob and Connie had two son's Robert Jr. and Mark. Both boys are graduates of TMHS, Bob Jr. graduated in 1987 and Mark in 1992. Bob greatly enjoyed his family, especially his grandchildren, twin boys Logan and Noah Putnam, both age 10.

He could often be found in the Thompson Little League grandstands rooting for the two boys.

The Putnam's continue their commitment to the Thompson community, Bob, his wife and children are all heavily involved in several organizations including the Little League.

Bob passed away on September 3, 2008 on Bob and Connie's 41<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary



*Connie Vaillant Putnam, TMHS Class of 1966. Photo - 1966 TMHS Yearbook.*



*Above: 1966 TMHS Baseball Team. Seated- Joe Ponzi, Bob Putnam, Feige, Bruce Leveille, Price Van Der Swaagh Gary Hendrix. Standing - Alan Messier, Gary Courtemanche, Bill Pederson, Mr. Canty-Coach, Bob Blake, Ralph Putnam, Russell Barbour, Paul Martel. (Photo- 1966 TMHS Yearbook)*



## Letter from Barbara Wolfe, Broomfield, Colorado January 5, 2009

We received this letter from Barbara and felt we should share.

*Dear TMHS Friends,*

*Rolf Swanson sent me a copy of the December, 2008 **hilltopper** which included the article about me. It was a nice surprise to be remembered in such a nice way after all these years!*

*I have had a busy life since retiring as Guidance Counselor at TMHS in 1989. That year we started our Hawaii/Maine life... Hawaii during the winters and Maine in the summers. After twenty years of the rotation we moved to Colorado last year and still go to Maine in the summer. We felt it was time to live near family. Our daughter, Lynn, son-in-law and two of our grandchildren live just two miles from us here in Broomfield. Our other daughter and family live in Austin, Texas and our son and family live in Kingston, Rhode Island. We even feel we are closer to them now that we aren't separated by the Pacific Ocean! And, we all do get together often in spite of distances.*

*My husband, Marty, and I are doing well and enjoying this phase of our lives as we have all others. We both have fond remembrances of our time in Connecticut. Of course, some of my warmest memories are of the ten years I spent at TMHS. My association with students, faculty and staff at TMHS are ones I value most. Thanks for remembering me in such a nice way and please extend my best wishes to the **hilltopper** staff and other alums.*

*Sincerely,  
Barbara Victor Wolfe*

## Francis Fitzgibbons Class of 1938

BY: Joe Lindley

I recently had the privilege of spending a few hours with Frank Fitzgibbons '38. We are planning a book on Mr. Canty's years at Tourtellotte and Frank was a part of that history and was gracious enough to share some time with me, relaying to me what he remembered of those years.

Frank attended Tourtellotte Memorial High School 1934 -1938. Upon graduating from Tourtellotte, Frank attended Cole Trade School located in Southbridge, Massachusetts. Like many of his generation, Frank joined the United States Military and served his country during the Second World War in the U.S. Navy. Frank remembered this part of his life as one of the most interesting. Life gets hard, and very serious, quickly when faced with war.

Upon returning from the war Frank became a printer. He sought greater opportunity and eventually secured a position as an Inspector for the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles, where he finished his work career.

Frank has published numerous short stories for the Thompson Historical Society and is an active member of the society, specializing on Quinebaug, where he spent most of his life. Frank was a long-time volunteer fireman and a town constable.

While at Tourtellotte, Frank played basketball and sang on the chorus for the High School Operettas. His favorite teacher was Mr. William Prank. His favorite memories of his school years include the ease in which the teachers handled discipline... much different than it is today.

He and his wife Anne have two sons, Mark and Neil and they have five grandchildren. Frank is now retired and enjoys walking sticks and playing the harmonica. He remains an active member of our community.

Frank's best advice to current students, "Keep your eyes and ears open and your mouth shut."

## Alumni's Oldest Member

We recently interviewed Mr. Leroy Winthrop Ballard. Mr. Ballard was a graduate of the class of 1929, one of the years the boys won a State Basketball Championship. Mr. Ballard was born on December 16, 1910 making him 98 years young and our oldest alumni to date. We will be featuring a story on Mr. Ballard in next month's edition.



George St. Marie (left) and track teammate Leroy Ballard (right) circa 1927

## From Past hilltoppers

A December 1966 *hilltopper* article called, *In a Nutshell*, gives us a glance at the Class of 1966 six months after they graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School. For many, life as an adult had begun and they headed for their new careers and their new lives. The article was written by the *hilltopper* staff of the time, mostly students, and was based on information they received from friends and family. The article reads:

*GERARD BACON is serving in the U.S. Air Force along with friend ADRIEN LAPALM. KENNETH BATES is boarding at Becker Junior College where he*

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## Class of 1966 Dedicates Their Yearbook to a Longtime Friend of Tourtellotte Students



**Gladys M. Mowry served the Town of Thompson and the students of Tourtellotte for more than four decades**

*Left: Gladys at her all too familiar post – behind the desk of her class. She began her teaching career at Tourtellotte circa 1926 Photo: 1966 TMHS Yearbook.*

Each month we have featured a special teacher or administrator who taught at TMHS. Each graduating class gets to pick a special teacher to whom they dedicate their yearbook. We have found each class to have a good sense of those special to our school. The class of 1966 selected Gladys Mowry. Here's what they wrote:

"Thinking of your forty years of devotion, your kindness, respect, and sincerity, we, the class of 1966, proudly dedicate our yearbook to you, Miss Gladys M. Mowry.

As a teacher you educated us wisely; As an advisor you guided us well; As a person you dedicated your time unselfishly; But more than words... YOU WERE A FRIEND.

Always there with all she could offer... giving more than any of us dared to ask."

Gladys taught in the language department and had a B.A. from Pembroke College and a M.A. from Brown University. She passed away in May of 1986, but not before she affected the heart, minds and brains of hundreds of Tourtellotte students.

From Past hilltoppers continued from page 5

attends school. PHILIP CHARBONNEAU attends Worcester Junior College as a dayhop. ROBERT FEIGE is attending UCONN. MICHAEL HOPGOOD attends Dean Junior College in Franklin, Mass. LAURENCE LABONTE and THOMAS TITCHEN are in the Electronic Course at Ellis Tech. PAUL MAYOTTE is attending New England School of Accounting in Worcester, Mass. KATHLEEN DONNELLY, YVONNE LAVALLEE and RHONDA POMPEO are attending Annhurst College and all say that they are well pleased. KATHLEEN HYRZAN is attending Ollis Hairdressing School in Worcester, Mass.. SUSAN KILBORN was recently wed to David King. LORNA PLEAU is attending Anna Marie College in Paxton, Mass. CAROLL RIVERS is attending Willimantic State College. ELAINE ROIREAU is presently attending Bryant College in Providence, Rhode Island.

If you have articles or updates about any of our alum, please forward them to Deb Spinelli, Alumni Coordinator, at [dspinelli@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:dspinelli@thompson.ctschool.net) or mail them to: Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Alumni Office, 785 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. We look forward to your stories!

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## Future Plans for the TMHS Alumni Association and the *hilltopper* Newsletter

By: Executive Staff

We have received several requests inquiring about the Alumni's long-term and short-term plans. This is an excellent question and one we have been wrestling with for several months. We are getting closer to a definitive answer, but several immediate goals and plans stand out.

First and foremost, the TMHSAA's main mission is to provide a means by which alumni can get and stay connected with one another and Tourtellotte Memorial High School. We hope to accomplish this task through several means to include an annual banquet, the new TMHSAA website, found at: [AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net) and the *hilltopper* newsletter. The alumni organization was strong at one time in the past and we hope to recreate that strength.

We intend to publish the *hilltopper* newsletter once per month until the June 2009 banquet and then we plan on a quarterly release. We feel the monthly issues for the next six months will help develop our roster and membership involvement. Currently we have approximately 250 alumni on the rosters, and it continues to grow daily.

During our first few meetings we agreed that a primary duty of the Alumni Association is to advocate for the Tourtellotte family and the traditions established by this very generous family. To this end much work has been accomplished over the past few months in establishing a deeper understanding of the Memorial Room and its contents.

Second, our immediate mission is to establish an alumni office or an alumni area at the school where records, pictures, yearbooks, articles, and other artifacts can be preserved and catalogued for future generations of Tourtellotte graduates. Currently, we have a plethora of information that we are cataloging electronically. Gladys Tucker and Rita Rohr have donated countless hours on this project. It is our intent to have this scanned information available on our site at some point in the near future.

Another question we often receive is, "What can I do to help?" The answer to this question is dependent upon your available time and personal situation: Here are a few ways:

- Become part of the executive committee and attend the monthly meetings. We are always looking for input and help.
- Write for the *hilltopper* newsletter. We have editors that will review your work if you so desire. Just send us the story and information.
- Send us your pictures. Electronically is best. If you do not have access to a scanner or Email, simply mail them to us and we will scan them and return them to you in short order. If you would like to donate school memorabilia to the Alumni Association simply contact the Alumni office and we will make arrangements.
- Attend the annual banquet in June. Tickets will be available in April. If you are coming in from outside of Connecticut simply Email Eileen Deary '75 at [isee.u@charter.net](mailto:isee.u@charter.net) and she will reserve your ticket in advance.
- Send us your opinions and comments via Email, letter or by calling Deb Spinelli at our school office or Joe Lindley at 860-428-4154.

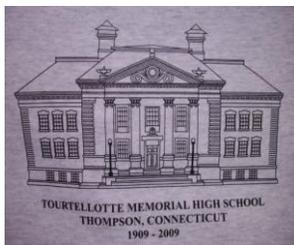
Last, it is our hope to eventually make the TMHSAA a 501(c) organization and we are currently investigating the possibilities and moving in that direction. If we have any lawyers among our ranks, your advice and counsel is always welcomed. If you have any experience in establishing a 501(c) and have a few minutes please Email Rachael Johnston at [johnstone@sbcglobal.net](mailto:johnstone@sbcglobal.net).

Our long term goals and mission are evolving, but each month it becomes clearer. We have researched other alumni associations and have learned much from them. How we view ourselves at some point in the future is up to us. We are literally starting with a clean slate and we would like to hear from you.

The TMHSAA is attempting to create  
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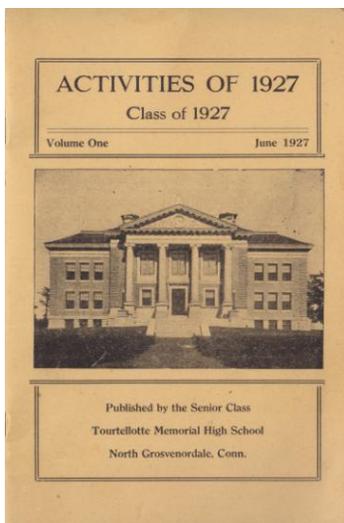
## Centennial TMHS Tee- Shirts are in!

Get your TMHS Centennial Tee-Shirt. These Gildan Ultra Cotton tees are 99% cotton. They feature a high-quality screen print of the Tourtelotte Memorial High School building and the dates 1909-2009. They come in small, medium, large and extra-large. The cost for these shirts is \$13.00 each plus \$3.00 for shipping (if you would like us to mail). All proceeds go to the TMHSAA. Help support the TMHSAA by purchasing a piece of history. Get your Centennial Tee by Emailing Deb Spinelli at [dspinelli@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:dspinelli@thompson.ctschool.net) or call Deb at 860-923-2350.



Above: Actual picture of the Centennial Tees. Keep an eye open for more TMHSAA commemorative items over the next few months.

Right: Is the front cover of the Activities of 1927, a remarkable piece we just received from Leroy Ballard. He obtained it when he was a sophomore at TMHS some 81 years ago! If you are interested in a copy of the entire document send \$5.00 to Deb Spinelli (To cover copy and shipping costs). We are always searching for such archive additions. If you have anything, please send them to Deb at TMHS.



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Initial membership due at time of application, yearly renewals due January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year

Regular Membership..... \$15.00  
Senior Citizens (65 and older)..... \$5.00  
Graduating Class..... Free

### hilltopper Staff

Editor: Joe Lindley '74'  
Staff Members: Jim Sali '51' - Gladys Tucker '52' - Jane Elison '61' - Eileen Deary '77' - Sandy Becker '79' - Rachael Johnston '75' - Alex Kirkland '08'  
Archives: Gladys Tucker '52' and Rita Rohr

If you would like to contribute short stories to the hilltopper please contact Joe Lindley at [joelindley119@hotmail.com](mailto:joelindley119@hotmail.com)

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something very different and unique with our organization. We want the experience to be as enjoyable as possible to all our members and we are taking a *no pressure* approach to our membership drive. We would like you to do what you can and contribute when you want. To those who do not have the time or resources, simply sit back and enjoy our newsletters. Our priority is to get old friends talking again and provide a means to share stories.

## Recent Alum Giving Back



Brooke Lussier '07, center, with the 2009 TMS Girls' Basketball team.

### Brooke Lussier '07- Coach, Mentor, Friend

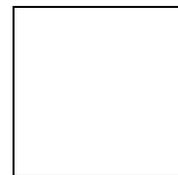
This basketball season, Thompson was fortunate to have added Brooke Lussier, class of 2007 to its coaching ranks as a middle school girls' basketball coach.

Brooke was a Varsity Club member, earning more than 10 varsity letters during her four years at TMHS. She was an ECC All-Star goalie and an All-State athlete her senior year. She played on many premier soccer teams. Throughout her athletic career, Brooke established herself as one of the hardest working athletes ever to grace our courts and fields. Her ability to repel shot after shot at the soccer net made her one of the best female soccer keepers in the TMHS's history. Her "all or nothing" attitude on the basketball court set her apart from her peers and established an example still used by the young women of Thompson today.

The way she played is the way she coaches, and the young ladies of her team have responded well. Her J.V. win/loss record makes her this season's winningest Thompson basketball coach to date. But more important than the number of wins she and her team have amassed is the amount of learning and fun that has taken place this season. Watching her work with her team, it is easy to see that Brooke is a TMHS alum at its best.

Brooke is attending college and expects to transfer to Massachusetts Maritime in pursuit of a biology degree. She is the daughter of Ken and Mary Lussier of Thompson, Connecticut.

Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Office  
785 Riverside Drive  
North Grosvenordale, CT 06255



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO:  
[AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net)

**We are looking for articles of past classes!** Send them to: [AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net](mailto:AlumniAssociation@thompson.ctschool.net)