

# FAIRHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

## CLASS OF 1976



REUNION ON THE RIVER NEWSLETTER EARLY SPRING 2010 Vol. 1 Issue 3

*If you have profile form send it back Issues are advance so answers! next issues' profile. Jimi and family are pictured above.*



*received the fill it out and via e-mail. prepared in we need your Jim Matieu is classmates*

**Efforts like these are being placed into our Class '76 35th reunion. Senior Opps Officers of the council searching up and down the river for the perfect spot! (Guess who?) Make plans to attend the 35th Class of '76 Reunion on the River 6/27/2011.**



Who will appear in upcoming issues?

As the time table ticks down toward our reunion, our aim is to offer helpful assistance in your efforts to attend out reunion.

Upcoming editions cover these issues:

FACEBOOK new security issues

Possible Menu (food) Selections

Port- a-Johnnie or "Pottie" etiquette



Need FHS classmate information?  
Look up reunion information?

Our Class web site:  
<http://www.fshc76.com>

FHS Alumni site:  
<http://www.fhvnalumni.org>

STAFF'S NOTE: This is "as is" response from our classmate Alyson Breault-Benoit. Our objective is to make the reunion as enjoyable and comfortable as possible. This is an honest reply as we can possible present to you. This note was added from Alyson staff. We thank her for your honesty and integrity. Alyson, you make our class what we are. We did not edit this reply. The objective is to educate, inform and continue our class legacy. This is "as is" our classmate Alyson's reply to our e-mail questions:



**I'm going to go ahead and answer these questions honestly -- there's no other way to do it and stay true to the real story. If you think some of it is too heavy for the nature of the newsletter, feel free to ask someone else instead. I debated whether to do this at all, whether to cop out on you, but then decided that would be cowardly. Cowardice is not something I want to embrace. I'm flattered that you guys chose me for the Classmate Profile, but please know that I'm going forward with this in some trepidation. I can't give you a rosy tale of success when there isn't as positive as I has their own are no more or no I hope that by mixed results, struggle and say, "Ah... I am not alone."  
-Alyson-**



**one. I'll try to make it can, though. Everyone private struggles, mine less than someone else's. being honest about my other people who daily may be encouraged**

## Classmate Profile of Alyson (Brault) Benoit

Married? Yes, for 25 years Spouse's Name? Thomas Benoit (he grew up in Acushnet, MA, graduate of St. Anthony's H.S. New Bedford, MA) Children? Yes, two, Samuel (21) and Julia (14)

Where have you lived since graduating from high school? Always in Massachusetts. In Boston for Freshman year of college (Emerson), then lived with my parents in Fairhaven while finishing college until married in 1985, in Middleboro when first married, then Raynham until 1992, then East Falmouth on Cape Cod until the present.

Attend post secondary schooling? After being out of college for three years (1977 to 1980) dealing with health issues, I graduated from Southeastern Massachusetts University (now UMass-Dartmouth) in 1984 with highest distinction in English.

What is the most interesting job/position you have held since graduating high school? Personally, I have not held an "interesting" job or position, just routine ones. Again those health problems have interfered. Instead let me offer my husband's most interesting job: he is currently Vice President/CFO of a non-profit organization called Homes For Our Troops, based in Taunton, MA. They build specially adapted homes (nationwide) for our most severely injured veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, at no cost to the veteran. They are a top-rated charity with Charity Navigator and the American Institute of Philanthropy. For anyone who would like to learn more, the website:<http://www.homesforourtroops.org>.

Have you traveled since graduation and if so where? Although I have never traveled overseas, my husband and I wanted to do for our kids what my parents did for me (and what his parents could not afford to do for him): travel within the USA and Canada. We have been to Florida, Chicago, New York, Washington DC, Montreal, San Antonio/Austin, Las Vegas/Grand Canyon, along with other trips to closer destinations. We figured we could either do our house over or give our kids exposure to something greater than home, but not both. We chose to travel with them. (Consequently, our house is a wreck!)

Do you volunteer or work at any community organizations or belong to any clubs/organizations? I participated in music ministry through my church(es) for many years, mainly singing. Currently, I volunteer at Homes For Our Troops (data entry, clerical). Since I'm somewhat reclusive by nature, I do keep my outside activities to a minimum.

What do you enjoy doing with your spare time? (hobbies/interests) My main interest right now is writing and literature – again, after letting it go for twenty years while raising my kids. It's what I trained for in college, and now that my children are older I find that I'm not done with it after all.

What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment(s) since high school? This is almost a trick question. Truth be told, my greatest accomplishment is surviving Chronic Depression for 35 years. It is an illness that steals away one's potential, as so many physical and mental illnesses do to those who suffer from them. So no, I have not been able to accomplish what I wanted, too much energy was taken up fighting the disease. But I'm proud of graduating college with highest distinction, in spite of the illness. I'm proud of keeping my marriage together and raising my children, in spite of the illness. And I'm proud to be a survivor of this disease, which kills motivation, devours energy, and spoils potential. Anyone who has been exposed to it knows what I'm talking about; for those who haven't, it can be difficult to understand how ill someone can be on the inside while still appearing "normal" on the outside.

**Inform us of something that would surprise our classmates?** My husband's mother used to work for my dad, so I knew my mother-in-law several years before I ever met my husband. Also, I've become a late-blooming metal head. (Korn, Disturbed, Metallica, & friends -- no hair bands please!)

**If you could go back (to HS) what would you do differently?** I would have found a good psychiatrist and been on antidepressant medication before ever graduating high school. A lot of unnecessary grief could have been avoided that way. But the condition was poorly understood in teenagers at the time. The field of psychiatry has come a long way since then, better drugs, better therapy. These simply didn't exist in the mid to late 70's.

**What is the one thing you know NOW that you wish you KNEW in high school?** Well, frankly I wish I'd known that such illnesses run in families, and I wish I'd known of my own risk! Finding out was a tremendous relief. It meant that what happened couldn't be avoided. It wasn't something I DID, it was something WRONG with my biology. Everyone has struggles, this happens to be mine. I speak of it in case others who are reading have similar struggles in themselves or in their loved ones. It's good to know that you are not alone.

**What was your favorite teacher?** Mr. Don Dufour (French), Mr. Joe Rapoza (Art), Mr. Dana Pierce (French and Spanish). Each was more like a personal friend than just a teacher. Mr. Pierce did the photography at my wedding!



[www.facebook.com/login.php/](http://www.facebook.com/login.php/)



**FHS class of 1976 has it very own presence on FACEBOOK.com.**

What is Facebook you ask? Well, for those of us less tech-savvy classmates, here is Facebook in a nutshell so to speak and not geek-speak either!

First and foremost Facebook is a social networking website that is operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc.

Individual users (like you) can add friends and send them messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. Additionally, users can join networks organized by city, workplace, and school (FHS class of 76) or college.

Here is the humble beginning and some history of Facebook.

The website's name stems from the colloquial name of books given at the start of the academic year by university administrations with the intention of helping students to get to know each other better.

Mark Zuckerberg founded Facebook with his college roommates and fellow computer science students Eduardo Saverin, Dustin Moskovitz and Chris Hughes while he was a student at Harvard University. The website's membership was initially limited by the founders to Harvard students, but was expanded to other colleges in the Boston area, the Ivy League, and Stanford University. It later expanded further to include (potentially) any university student, then high school students, and, finally, to anyone aged 13 and over. The website currently has more than 350 million active users worldwide.

The original concept for Facebook was borrowed a from a product produced by Zuckerberg's prep school Phillips Exeter Academy which for decades published and distributed a printed manual of all students and faculty at the Exeter, NH-based boarding school.

As of the beginning of 2010 Facebook is the world's largest social network, with over 350 million users. Created your very own account (it's FREE!) and connect to a classmate! On any web browser key in Facebook and select an entry screen to create your profile.

# FAIRHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL

## CLASS OF 1976



REUNION ON THE RIVER NEWSLETTER Spring 2010 Vol. 1 Issue 3

Help us in making upcoming reunion available to ALL classmates, here are members of our class with out contact infomation. Email us at the Class web site [www.fshc76.com](http://www.fshc76.com) if you have information. Any & All assistance much appreciated.

Steve Daniels Sharon Downey

Beatriz Africano-Haoui

John Hennessey

Micheal Menard Nancy Snook

Susan Widelski-Rothstein Leory Santos

Paul Tergeon Micheal Wall Ada Wedge

FHS Class '76 E-Newsletter published at between 4 to 12 times a year to highlight information we hope you find relevant to FHS 76 Class 35th reunion. The views expressed in this newsletter are solely those of our Newsletter Editorial Staff or [WWW.FSHC76.com](http://WWW.FSHC76.com) Staff and do not reflect the views of the Fairhaven High School School Administration, the Fairhaven High School staff or any of its affiliates.