#### THIS IS SURRATTS FOUNDATION E-NOTICE 2015-3 OF MARCH 1, 2015

Hello Hornets:

Here are some items that might be of interest:

- 1. <u>FOUNDATION SPONSORS COLLEGE SHOWCASE TRIP</u>. Last month, the Foundation was proud to sponsor a student trip to a College Showcase held in Landover Park. At the showcase, Surrattsville juniors and seniors were able to chat with representatives from many Maryland and out-of-State colleges and universities. Best of luck to these young Surrattsville scholars with their college choices and applications!
- **2.** ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT GUESTS ON RACHEL RAY SHOW. Some of our readers may have seen the February 19 guest appearance on The Rachel Ray Show by Achievement Award recipient and Oscar winner Marcia Gay Harden (76). Marcia's segment included a large blow-up of her senior picture from The Boomerang! (Readers who missed the show can see a clip and related conversation on the Foundation's Facebook Group at "Surrattsville Alumni.")

#### 3. ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT RECEIVES SINGULAR HONOR.

Achievement Award recipient Patrick O'Connell (63)'s The Inn at Little Washington has just received -- for the 25th consecutive year! – Forbes Media's Five Star Award, making it the longest running Five Star restaurant in the world! Some critics call the establishment the best restaurant in the United States. Congratulations to Patrick and his staff on this extraordinary achievement!

4. ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT FEATURED IN SUN ARTICLE. Continuing the great press last month for outstanding members of the Surrattsville community, the Baltimore Sun recently ran this extensive article by Mike Klingaman about Achievement Award recipient Chris Weller (62): "Pioneer Weller Won Games, Progress. Though she's 13 years retired, Maryland women's basketball players call her "Coach." At 70, Chris Weller still attends the games and even some workouts of the team she ran for 27 years. Once, last year, she addressed the Terps after practice. "I wanted them to know about the legacy we've followed," said Brenda Frese, her successor. The players got an earful. "I told them how fortunate they were, and to be appreciative of all that they had," Weller said. "I told them how, back in the 1970s, I made peanut butter sandwiches for my players on road trips to save money so we could buy our first uniforms. We always ate cheap. My team said I could smell a Denny's 100 miles away."

On Sunday, Weller will be honored at halftime of the Maryland-Nebraska game at Xfinity Center. A Women's Basketball Hall of Famer, she'll stand courtside as a banner bearing her

name is unveiled in the rafters, beside those of other celebrated Terps, men and women. "It will be very flattering, but I'm starting to get nervous," said Weller, not one to seek the spotlight. When she learned of the tribute, she asked whether she could bring Dottie McKnight, her predecessor and Maryland's first women's basketball coach, to share the moment. "Being there with Dottie will probably choke me up," Weller said. The acclaim is "an honor long overdue," said Frese, who replaced Weller when the latter retired in 2002. Weller's record: 499 victories, 286 defeats, eight Atlantic Coast Conference championships and three trips to the Final Four. Nine times, Weller's teams earned a top-10 ranking; on 10 occasions, the Terps won 20 games or more, including her first season (1975-76), when Weller sought to recruit fans by placing fliers under car windshields at Maryland football games.

"Chris is a pioneer who brought national awareness to the school and to women's basketball," Frese said. "Who doesn't remember the Maryland-Virginia game at sold-out Cole [Field House] in 1992? "She gave her heart and soul to the program for 27 years and paved the way for today's student-athletes to be afforded the luxuries we know now. You can't envision what they went through to be as successful as they were." Half a century ago, Weller played for Maryland, a lean, long-haired 5-foot-6 forward from nearby Clinton who led the 1965-66 team in scoring. "We played in Preinkert [Field House], six-on-six and wore 'pinnies' overtop a blouse and shorts," she said. "We played our first tournament in Frostburg — three games in two days. We slept on the gym floor. It was awesome."

After college, Weller taught at Kennedy High in Montgomery County, where she organized a girls' team, then returned to Maryland as assistant coach until McKnight retired. Weller's starting salary was \$9,000. "I was never in it for money or fame," she said. "I loved the sport, the strategy. I never took a day off but, at the same time, I never felt like I had a real job. We won, yes, but most importantly we pushed for opportunities in places where no one dreamed women should be involved — and every step forward was a blessing." By 1976, Weller had scraped together enough money to purchase uniforms; a year later, they got warm-up gear. In 1978, the Terps began charging admission to home games. But most trips were still by station wagons and players slept four-in-a-room on the road. "I'd go to [athletic director] Jim Kehoe with a wish list and ask for something, and he'd say no. Then I'd suggest something else," Weller said. "That went on for a year until eventually, when he saw me coming, he'd just look up and say, 'How much?'"

Indefatigable and unrelenting, in her third year she led Maryland to the finals of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women tournament (precursor of the NCAA), where the Terps lost to UCLA. All told, her Maryland teams reached 15 postseason tournaments and had just five losing seasons. Weller earned the Naismith College Coach of the Year Award in 1992, when the Terps rose to a No. 1 national ranking for the first time briefly during the season. "I was a strict coach with high standards. People thought I screamed and yelled and tortured players into

winning. Baloney," Weller said. "Once, to boost their confidence before a game, I pretended someone had asked for an autographed team picture and had them sign it. Sometimes I'd have players lie on the locker room floor for 10 minutes and visualize themselves running the court, being as good as they could be. "I was criticized for having my team run so much at a time when it was thought that a lot of running would affect a woman's childbearing. But I was obsessed with conditioning." Her superstitions are the stuff of legend. Each year, a player was required to wear jersey No. 12 (her lucky number). On the bench, Weller always sat in the fourth seat (her other lucky number) "Before a game, I'd walk down to the basket where we were going to shoot, tap my head with my finger, to knock out any negative thoughts, and then tap the court, to try to knock the lid off the basket," she said. "One coach, [North Carolina State's] Kay Yow, tried to cancel that. She'd go out on the floor, after I'd knocked on wood, and rub the spot."

Yow's sister, Debbie Yow, was Maryland's athletic director in the twilight of Weller's career. "Chris was a trailblazer, an extraordinary coach," said Debbie Yow, now the athletic director at N.C. State. "Kudos to Maryland [on Sunday] for honoring her." The Terps had mustered four winning seasons in their past eight when, in 2002, Weller announced her retirement — one victory shy of 500. Yow was stunned. "I was fixated on the 499," Yow said. "I said, 'Don't you want to get to 500?" "I don't coach for a record," Weller said. And that was that. Yow said that when Frese was hired, "Brenda came forward and asked, 'Can I give my first victory to her?' We checked it out, but the NCAA said you can't transfer a win." Looking back, Weller said: "It was the perfect time to go. New coach, new gym — we were just moving into the Comcast Center [now Xfinity Center] — and I was tired. For six months I did nothing and then thought, 'Wow, I still don't want to do anything.' I didn't realize how worn down I was."

She lives in Silver Spring with a shih tzu named Buddy and a cat named Jasper, both strays she rescued. Weller still corresponds with former players, some of whom send her snapshots of their families. "Occasionally I'll watch a game [at Maryland] and think, gosh, I kind of miss it," she said. "But I'm fine with being supportive. And I like Brenda's work ethic. I've seen her fuss at the team like I fussed, but she's very fair to players." With 326 career victories at Maryland, Frese is on track to pass her predecessor one day. But that's OK with Weller. "My legacy isn't about winning," Weller said. "Like others in my generation — Kay Yow, [Tennessee's] Pat Summitt and Vivian Stringer [Cheyney State, Iowa and Rutgers] — I worked to create an environment where people took women in sport seriously. Otherwise, we'd probably still be playing intramurals."

[Ed. Note: The article is accompanied by a great photo at http://eeditioncp.capitalgazette.com/Olive/Tablet/TheCapital/SharedArticle.aspx?href=BCAP%2 F2015%2F02%2F08&id=Ar02600]

- **5.** ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT GETS NOD IN PARODY VIDEO. Eagle-eyed reader (and Foundation Board member) Tom Shultz (71), noticed a quick nod to Achievement Award recipient Rick Lifton, M.D., PhD (71) in a recent Yale Medical School parody video. Look closely at the 2:43 mark at <a href="http://www.movoto.com/blog/opinions/connecticut-yale/">http://www.movoto.com/blog/opinions/connecticut-yale/</a>. The nod mentions Rick's recent receipt of the Breakthrough Prize. (Rick previously received the prestigious Wiley prize).
- **6.** ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT. And speaking of Achievement Awards, this is the time of year when we ask our readers to submit nominations for the Foundation's Annual Achievement Awards. These annual awards recognize members of the Surrattsville community like those individuals noted above -- for their outstanding achievements in community service, the arts, their careers, and the like. Please submit nominations by email to <a href="mailto:hsmith@smithdowney.com">hsmith@smithdowney.com</a>. (Photos and bios of the four recipients noted above, and all of truly extraordinary previous Achievement Award recipients, can be found at surrattsville.org.)
- **7.** FACEBOOK GROUP FEATURES TOGA PARTIES, GLEN JENKINS AND CLIFF HERSEY. Considerable new content has been added to the Foundation's Facebook Group at "Surrattsville Alumni." Recent posts that set-off interesting commentary chains have included the aforesaid Marcia Gay Harden (76)/Rachel Ray video, photos from Surrattsville's toga parties of the 1960s (possibly inspiring "Animal House"?), and a great photos of beloved science department teachers Glen Jenkins and Cliff Hersey.

The Group now has 1870 members. Please consider joining this group, and your Class' group on Facebook – called "Surrattsville 1969" and the like – to stay in touch with all things Surrattsville.

- **8.** <u>CLASS OF 65 PLANS 50<sup>TH</sup>!</u> We received this exciting notice from Judy Gordon (65): "The great Class of 65 will celebrate their 50th Reunion on October 9-10, 2015 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Old Town Alexandria. Contact Judy Gordon (<u>judygordonshs65@gmail.com</u>) to add your name to the email list and receive regular updates."
- **9.** BUTLER'S ORCHARD -- SURRATTSVILLE'S ROCK HERITAGE GETS
  RENEWED EXPOSURE (PART TWO). As noted in the February 1 e-Notice, Mark
  Opasnick, the author of the encyclopedia of the history of rock music in the DC area, "Capitol Rock," is preparing an updated edition that will have increased coverage for a number of Surrattsville bands, including The Tuesday Boots, Butler's Orchard and DC Star. We've received preliminary summary histories of those storied Surrattsville musicians that we'll share in these e-Notices, and considerable and fascinating additional detail will be included in Mark's upcoming volume.

Last month we featured a summary history of perhaps the grandparent of all things rock at Surrattsville, The Tuesday Boots. This month we'll feature the summary history of the band some consider the natural successor to The Tuesday Boots (and predecessor to DC Star), Butler's Orchard.

"All but one of Butler's Orchard's various members over the years were students from the musically-rich Surrattsville High School from 1971-74, mostly the classes of 72 and 73. The majority of the Band members were born in other States or countries; sons of American U.S. military parents whose eventual transfers to nearby Andrews Air Force Base brought them to Clinton. Surrattsville (originally named after the Surratt family of the Lincoln assassination conspiracy infamy) served as the high school for Andrews during that period, as well as for the greater Clinton area. Three of the members were longer residents to Clinton; with two born in D.C., and one born in Hyattsville.

While the Band was well-respected for it solid instrumental and improvisational abilities; a wealth of vocal talent was really what differentiated it from the very many other bands performing in the area. Butler's Orchard was an influence on musical acts that would later follow it from the Clinton area, such as DC Star, and also served as an important stepping stone for members of the band who would later become mainstays of the DC area musical scene -such as John Previti (SHS 72), the Band's original bassist who later gained national renown as the longtime bassist of the area's legendary guitarist, Danny Gatton, and also worked with such artists as Paul Simon, Bill Kirchen, Arlen Roth, and Dale Watson. Another DC area mainstay from the Band is the Band's former flutist and saxophonist, Don Stapleson (SHS 72), who went on to become a noted instructor and lecturer at St. Mary's University of Maryland's Music Department, and has performed with such notable artists as Ray Charles, Dexter Gordon, Nancy Wilson, and Martha Reeves, to name just a few of many. Guitarist Ray Gibb worked several years with now Portland, Oregon based roots-rock stalwart Rich Layton; and with Victoria, Canada's Maple Leaf (Canadian Grammy) award-winning pianist, David Vest. Guitarist/vocalist Neal Dawson toured nationally with acclaimed Contemporary Christian band The Last Psalm. Butler's Orchard also notes its debt of inspiration to earlier Surrattsville bands such as the Tuesday Boots and United Orange.

Two of the founding members, Ray and John, had named the Band while they conversed on the phone one day while John was munching on an apple, and noticing that it had come in a crate from the actual Butler's Orchard, located in Germantown, Maryland. The family-owned orchard was amused that a local band wanted to adopt its name, and in later contacts appeared to have no problem with the "borrowing" of their name. The Band was formed in the Summer of 1971 as an outgrowth of an earlier band named "Acephalous" (def: leaderless) that featured Roger Owens (SHS 73) on guitar and vocals, Mike Mello (Bishop McNamara 71) on percussion, Ray Gibb on guitar and vocals, and Mike Mihlbauer (SHS 71) on bass. After the departure of

Mihlbauer, John Previti was added on bass and Don Stapleson on flute and sax. Neal Dawson (SHS 73) joined several months later on guitar and vocals after playing with a band named Winthrop Savage. Mike and Roger would go on after high school to play hundreds of gigs together professionally in the bands Big Boy, High Roller, The Fox Chase Band and Nash Rambler - bands that played such venues as The Bayou, the Crazy Horse, and Louie's Rock City. Ray Gibb was also in The Fox Chase Band, High Roller, and Nash Rambler, while Danny Cross was the soundman for several of those bands. (Roger and Mike reunited in 2003 to help form The Back Pages Band, which is still performing and which Neal later joined.)

The band played extensively in Prince Georges, Charles and Montgomery Counties and other locations in Maryland and Virginia from 1971 through 1974, and again from 1976 to 1977, performing original material and FM Radio-focused, vocally-oriented rock from such groups as Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Traffic, Jethro Tull, Spirit, Cream, The Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Moody Blues, Three Dog Night and other popular FM/AM radio favorites. Neal and Roger were half the tenor section of Surrattsville's top choral group, the Surratts Singers, and were also involved in the School's Brigadoon and Lil' Abner musicals. They had also sang together in Men's Glee Club, and in the Concert Choir/Surratts Singers, with Roger serving as President of Surratts Singers, and Neal as President of Concert Choir.

When the new, six-piece line-up of Butler's Orchard premiered at the Surrattsville Sr. High Teen Club in late 71, School and local area buzz was very high and their performance set an all-time to date attendance record, with standing room only. The band performed a large chunk of the popular – and extremely difficult – Jethro Tull Aqualung LP, especially enriched by Don Stapleson's considerable flute and saxophone skills. The band typically played area teen clubs, park-sponsored events, and school parties and dances (senior and junior. high schools and a few colleges,; often setting attendance records with large audiences anxious to hear their sophisticated, four-part harmonies and solid musicianship.

Although composed largely of members still in high school, the Band played several college events, such as at a dance alternating sets with former 1971 graduate classmate Henry Smith's Crusader Rabbit band at Frostburg State College in April 1972. By that point, Henry's very talented younger brother, Bill Smith (SHS 73). had become an integral member of Butler's Orchard, playing guitar, keyboards, harmonica, and contributing vocals.

The following are individuals constituted the line-up of the Band at various times:

John Previti – Bass and vocals
Ray Gibb – Primary lead guitar and vocals
Don Stapleson – Flute and saxes
Roger Owens – Rhythm and lead guitars and vocals

Mike Mello – Drums and percussion

Neal Dawson – Rhythm and lead guitars & vocals

Danny Cross - Bass

Bill Smith – Keyboards, rhythm and lead guitars, harmonica, and vocals

Dave Danielson (SHS 73, and another tenor of the Surratts Singers) – Drums, percussion and vocals

Kathy Shelow (SHS 74) (former Surratts Singer with Neal, Roger and Dave) - Vocals Glenn Morris – Guitar and vocals (former Surratts Singer with Neal, Roger, Dave and Kathy)

The final edition of the Band played into mid-1977, eventually morphing into High Roller. Butler's Orchard re-united in June 2002, 2005 and 2010 as the headliner band for the "Surrattstock" I, II and III musical fundraisers, sponsored by the Surrattsville Foundation. Nine former members came from five States (MD, VA, TN, TX and NH) either to perform together or show support in some capacity, with upwards of nine members onstage at a time for the three Surrattstock events! Unlike the many "musical tragedy" histories of band formed in the late 60s and early 70s, the members of Butler's Orchard have remained fast friends and musical compatriots over the years, and have remained active in music."

**10.** MUSICAL IDEA PROMPTED BY TUESDAY BOOTS ITEM. ... and, inspired by last month's Tuesday Boots history, we received this interesting idea from Foundation Board member (and Link Wray historian) Greg Laxton (80): "Random thought --.the Tuesday Boots article got me thinking.... I wonder how many Surratts-related garage bands there were, and if any members might have any old band tapes stored in the attic. Who knows, maybe they could be digitized and put out as a compilation download, "Tales from the Surrattsville Garage." Okay, the title needs work, but you get the idea! Greg"

[Ed. Note: We'd love to have such clips for the Foundation archives, and that possible "compilation album."]

11. ... AND SPEAKING OF SHS'S ROCK MUSIC HERITAGE. We just learned that Unidisc Music, an independent label located in Montreal, Canada, acquired mechanical rights to DC Star's 1985 Mirage/Atlantic record "Rockin' in the Classroom" and re-released it digitally on iTunes and other digital retailers. This release marks the first time "Rockin' in the Classroom" (DC Star's remake of Brownsville Station's hit "Smokin' in the Boy's Room" – don't try this at home or Surrattsville!) has been digitally available along with the re-mixed "I Wanna Rock Tonight" sound track from the 1985 video. Other popular songs are "Fortuneteller" and "Feelin' Good To Me" along with five live tracks that deliver the hard hitting power and energy that DC Star was best known for. Here's the link:

https://itunes.apple.com/.../rockin-in-the-classr.../id921770881

[Ed. Notes: We hope to feature a DC Star history in a future e-Notice, to complete The Tuesday Boots, Bulter's Orchard, DC Star trilogy. And DC Star's famed music video for the aforesaid "I Wanna Rock Tonight" is viewable on youtube.com at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E969mTamsTU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E969mTamsTU</a>. See if you can spot the Hornets under the big hair!]

**12. IF YOU USE AMAZON, PLEASE USE AMAZON SMILE.** Many of our readers have checked-in to report that they are now using the Amazon Smile program (smile.amazon.com) for their Amazon purchases, designating the Foundation to receive a portion of the sales price of every qualifying purchase made at smile.amazon.com. And, as a result, the Foundation just received its first donation from Amazon Smile!

It turns out that it is very, very easy to register – you only have to do so and designate the Foundation once -- and you pay no more for purchases made through Amazon Smile than through regular Amazon. (I've done it, and it is a totally painless way to cause Amazon to donate to the Foundation every time you make a purchase.)

If you shop on Amazon, please consider registering at <a href="http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-2224546">http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-2224546</a> and making your Amazon purchases through smile.amazon.com with the Surrattsville High School Foundation as your preferred charity.

Thanks for considering taking these easy steps to convert your Amazon shopping to AmazonSmile shopping!

- **13.** ... AND CONTINUING THE FUND RAISING THEME. And the Foundation still gets regular checks from goodsearch.com. This is the internet search engine (that does what google does, but that allows you to designate the Foundation as your preferred charity to receive a donation for every search you make). Please consider registering on goodsearch.com to do your web searching there with the Foundation as your designated charity.
- **14. DON'T FORGET THE FOUNDATION'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL.** The Foundation's great youtube channel contains a number of interesting programs, including a program on this year's extraordinary Achievement Award recipients. <a href="http://youtu.be/GTywsh4I4Jw">http://youtu.be/GTywsh4I4Jw</a>

Many thanks to Foundation Board member Sandra Smith Simmons (70) who creates the Foundation's youtube content!

**15.** <u>CLASS OF 95 PLANS REUNION</u>. The Class of 95 will be celebrating its 20 reunion in June 2015 at the Colony South and is looking for our classmates. Please send an email to Kenya Samuels Gray at <u>Kenya.Gray@gmail.com</u> if you have any information on 95 grads or members of their family. The Class also has a Surrattsville Class of 1995 group on Facebook. To kick-off

the "countdown to 20," on June 11, 2014 from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. the Class's planning committee is hosting a celebrity scoops night at Rita's in Clinton (the old Pizza Hut near the intersection of Woodyard Road and Brandywine Road).

**16.** <u>CLASS OF 75 PLANS REUNION</u>. The Class of 75 is considering plans for a reunion. (Note that the Class of 75 reunion was not part of the recent Class of 74 reunion as was previously mentioned.) Please contact Lorraine Frank Kerr at <u>lorraineefrank1@gmail.com</u>, or Cindy Shaffer Kluth on Facebook, if you are interested in the Class of 75 event.

Here's hoping those of you in the deep freeze have found an effective way to keep warm!

All the best, Henry Smith (71)

# <u>MANY THANKS TO THESE GENEROUS – AND EARLY! -- DONORS TO THE 2015</u> <u>CAMPAIGN!</u>

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Vicky Simontacchi Young, In Memory of John Baxter McCall (57) and Dan Wyant (57)

1959

Paul Monaghan

1965

Vicki Forsht Williams (and former faculty)

Ray Blosse'

1966

Linda Dorsey Blum, In Memory of my nephews, Ron Ely and Jeff Kaplan

1968

Lee Hessberg

### 1970

Donna Rae Sturtevant Smith

Lois Barrett Hessberg

1971

Steve Profilet

**Bob Marr** 

Henry Smith

1972

Debbie Cox Marr

1981

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Rich Grace (81), In Memory of Rhonda Nairn (81)

Katherine Dorsey Larrabee (62)

Gerda Parr (68)

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