

## The Huge White Building

On September 12, 1959, on a sunny Saturday afternoon, 39 bewildered young boys were left by their parents at the doors of a huge white building overlooking Lake Seneca. This would be their home for the next four years as they acquired an education and learned to adjust to a new life style.

The first days and weeks were difficult as they learned how to cope with academic pressures, constant hazing by upperclassmen, early to bed and rise, life run by the drone of bells and buzzers, work details, limited contact with the outside world, and loneliness to name a few. A number succumbed to some of these pressures early and the class number began to dwindle as the year went on. What was not realized by most is that coping with these issues at the time actually were a factor in forging the friendships, learning how to make decisions on your own, and better coping with "life after Padua". Those that made it through the first year realized that they took the best that could be thrown at them and making it through the final three years was certainly possible.

On June 22, 1963, also a sunny Saturday, 23 now confident mature young men were met by their parents at the doors of this same huge white building (although now appearing much smaller than four years ago) to share in their joy of graduation.

We left Padua with great memories and friendships that would last a lifetime. The quality of the

education we received was certainly reflected in the successes we were blessed with in our professional lives. We will always be grateful to all the Friars and Brothers who took care of our academics and the daily life needs. On August 16, 2013, on what surely will be a sunny Friday, a number of these now mature senior men will gather on a hillside overlooking Lake Seneca with the huge white building no longer there. They will rekindle the memories and friendships forged in those four years at Padua. There will be countless stories and laughter as nicknames are recalled and the academic and social misadventures retold.

At the end of the weekend all will go their separate ways once again. Hopefully, at the next reunion we can all gather again to relive in spirit some of the best times of our lives and keep the memory of that huge white building alive.

John Gryszan Class of '63

# The Paduan

Alumni Newsletter for St. Anthony of Padua Alumni  
Vol. 6 No.1, May 2013



## Editor Comment:

Last year a new feature was added to the newsletter "From the Guest Editor's Laptop". In which the class of 1962 contributed their thoughts and comments. This year the class of 1963 will continue this feature and have more hands on to publish the 2013 Alumni Paduan issues. This will make it more personal to their class celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Let us not forget the class of '53 that will be celebrating it's 60<sup>th</sup>. We hope to get some input from members for the next issue of the alumni Paduan. The classes of '58 and '68 will be celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Email Note. Please be aware, that if you receive an email from an alumni to click on a link be very cautious, chances are it is a phishing link or possible virus.

If you have any milestones in your life (retirement, anniversary, grandkids, travel etc), we'd like to include it in the Alumni Paduan Class notes, please submit to: [paduan5370@gmail](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com)

## TRIBUTE AND MEMORIES

**Fr. Cajetan Bogdanski**  
**2/10/1929/ to 8/29/1992**  
**Padua Years 1959-1966**

By Peter Krafinski Jr '63

Father Cajetan Bogdanski, O.F.M., arrived at Saint Anthony of Padua Minor Seminary And Preparatory School in Watkins Glen, NY, about the same time as the Class of '63 began their freshman year on the hill above civilization, as we then knew it. Remember, we were scared, bewildered, and for all of us this was the first time mom wasn't there to cater to our every need, but mom still got to do our laundry.... most of us sent it to her in metal or cardboard boxes through the mail.

Actually back then, laundry boxes were our only contact with the world, and if nobody else found them, goodies were stuffed in our underwear for our very sustenance/survival, as well as the enjoyment of our roommates and us. Can you remember how we regretted not being from either Horseheads or Corning as we watched our two classmates come and go on weekends?

It was way back then that we were introduced to our class advisor, Fr Cajetan. He was our professor for Greek, social studies, religion, and Gregorian chant, and for me the guinea pig for his speed-reading course. He also managed to be the moderator of the student council (which we began, organized and wrote the construction for) and the Third Order of Saint Francis while tending to his "monastic" duties of Spiritual Director and one of the Reverend Librarians. A very busy priest who always had a kind word, a brilliant retort expressing a quick wit and an engaging smile. And as I remember, he was one of the only Friars for whom we did not give a fond nickname based on their particular idiosyncrasies.



Upon my first class reunion some ten years ago, I spoke to Father Austin about my memories of Father Cajetan. He relayed to me the great difficulties Fr. Cajetan had joining the Franciscans. He told me that it took quite a while for the Assumption Province to overcome the many medical problems presented by Fr. Cajetan that made him a totally unacceptable candidate. Fr. Austin admired Fr. Cajetan's tenacity, academic prowess, and infectious smile and heartfelt kindness as well as his mental toughness overcoming his daily physical discomforts.

That's exactly how I remember him. In our senior year, I spent hours with him one on one as the first student to experience a unique speed-reading course. I can remember what stood out the most to me, and that was best expressed by two of his students when he was the Director of Novices after leaving Padua Prep. Fr. Howard Stunek, OFM, and Fr. Stephen Malkiewicz, OFM, said of Fr. Cajetan: "I attribute my love for the liturgy to Cajetan Bogdanski, the Director of Novices, who emphasized the

importance of prayer in our daily lives."

I regret not keeping in touch with him over the years. It seems as I reflect, that we males tend to leave a place and once left, we don't return or even keep in touch with those in our past. But.... you can be assured that the Class of '63, will always remember Fr. Cajetan in their prayers.

Boleslaus (Father Cajetan) Bogdanski was a fellow New Yorker who was born in 1929 and grew up in Maspeth. He graduated from St John's University on Staten Island before entering the novitiate of the Assumption BVM Province in Pulaski, WI, in 1948. He was ordained in 1956 and then entered The University of Notre Dame and attained an MA in Liturgy. He arrived at Padua Prep in 1959 and then left in 1966 for his special service to the formation of Friars that lasted until 1990. He was appointed the guardian at the Sacred Heart Friary in Canton, MA in 1990. It was there that he was diagnosed with metastatic cancer that caused his death on Saturday, August 29, 1992 at 3:00PM. He was 63 years old at his death and had been in his 43<sup>rd</sup> year of his religious profession and his 36<sup>th</sup> year of his priesthood.



## High Anxiety & Putting Yourself Out There

By Chad Orlowski '65

One of my favorite movies of all time (vying closely with the classic "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World") is "High Anxiety." There are so many knocks given the profession of psychology/psychiatry by Mel Brooks that one wonders how it could have survived after the movie was released. But it did survive. Notice I did not say in what condition. If nothing else, the world was happier after viewing the professions' foibles.

Please do not ask where is this short Paduan article is leading. In your wildest dreams, you will never guess. If one can gain any single piece from the movie it is that when you start to live, you are "putting yourself out there" into the real world, not the world you imagine and dream about, but the world where things do not always go as planned. Hence, if I can get into the mind of Mel Brooks, this means that "putting yourself out there" leads to some kind of anxiety. Maybe even High Anxiety!

To some extent I've been afflicted with some anxiety the last few months, since I "put myself out there." It's hard to judge how many people know about the Padua Blog. But that's what I am talking about when I say I put myself out there. The Padua Blog went prime time in October 2012, with a lot of uncertainty whether it would be successful, thrive, or at least add a new dimension to Alumni activities. The jury is still out on exactly what its future holds. There are many similarities with the Padua website. It took several years for the website to grow (starting in 2003), but the many Alumni that used it or contributed were well rewarded for it has blossomed and is a cool resource today.

In any event, if people do not know about it, there is something called Padua Blog location: <http://www.paduaprephotos.com/blog/>.

To fully use it you must sign in with your Login Name and Password (these were sent to all known Alumni in October). If you did not receive them or lost them, you can try the link for lost passwords (click Log In the right column on <http://www.paduaprephotos.com/blog/>).

Otherwise just email me at: [webmaster@paduaprep.com](mailto:webmaster@paduaprep.com).

My fantasy has been running rampant of late. It seems I am having difficulty with patience waiting for the Padua Blog to mature. That being the case, I have fancied the Blog becoming a Photo Blog for my attempts to take the perfect photo. If not that, then a series of quasi-Postmodernism reflections, in other words a lot of gibberish. Since gibberish is a step removed from humor, then I will quote the authority with whom I began this article, Mel Brooks. As Mel so aptly notes, "I have always been a huge admirer of my own work. I am one of the funniest and most entertaining writers I know" (Mel Brooks, subject of the American Masters documentary "Mel Brooks: Make a Noise," Aired May 20 on PBS).

Enjoy and use the Padua Blog. It's "putting yourself out there."

### In Memory

#### Mel Baran

Mel F. Baran, age 80, passed away at Wheaton Franciscan – All Saints Medical Center on Wednesday, November 7, 2012. Mel was born in Racine on September 5, 1932 to the late Stanley and Clara (née: Jagla) Baran. He graduated from St. Stanislaus Grade School in 1945, St. Bonaventure High School in 1949, received his Bachelors from St. Francis College in 1959 and his Masters in Math from Fordham University in 1965. On June 23, 1978 in



Fremont, Michigan he was united in marriage to Gayle L. Fitzpatrick. Mel retired from Modine Manufacturing as a Quality Assurance Specialist in 1998. With a devoted Catholic faith, he was a proud and active member of St. Lucy's Catholic Church. He greatly enjoyed spending his time reading, working in the yard, playing cards, fishing, watching the Packers and helping his family, friends and neighbors with whatever he could. He had a special place in his heart for animals, especially their dog "Bunny" and cat "Snuggles". Above all, Mel loved and cherished being in the surroundings of his entire family... especially his grandchildren. He will be greatly missed by his loving wife of nearly 35 years, Gayle; their beloved daughter and son-in-law, Melissa and Chris Hoehn; adored grandchildren, Ashley and Brady Hoehn; brothers, Benjamin (Mary) Baran and Stanley (Theresa) Baran and; sister-in-law, Audrey Baran; brother-in-law, John (Darlene) Fitzpatrick; and many wonderful nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. In addition to his parents, Mel was preceded in death by his brother, Marty Baran; and by Gayle's parents, Loren and Mary Fitzpatrick.



Tony Specian '66.

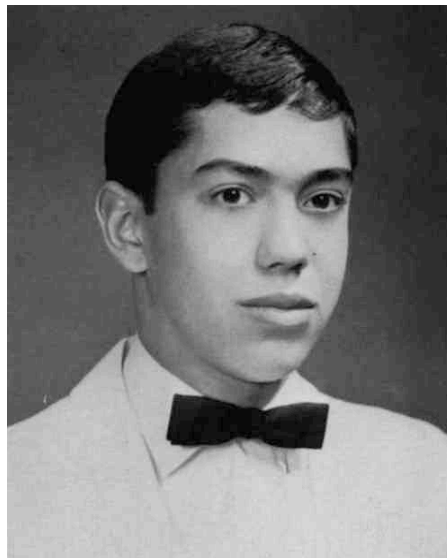
Upon Fr Mel's return to Padua for the 1964-65 school year he became our Class Advisor, replacing the departed Fr. Farrell Glab. In addition to that duty he served as Vice Disciplinarian. He was strict but made you feel on his level as long as you played by the rules. I personally begin to feel my strengths in math under Fr. Farrell in sophomore Geometry, but it was under the guidance of Fr. Mel that I was able to gain confidence and excel in advanced algebra and trigonometry.

### **John Edward Ambrosone Class of 65**

On the morning of November 20, 2012, John Ambrosone was killed in an automobile accident.

In 1969, John graduated from Parsons College in Iowa with a degree in English. He then joined the Navy and served 4 years as a Hospital Corpsman aboard the USS Coral Sea. Afterwards John decided to make the medical profession his career and obtained a B S degree in Nursing from SUNY Brockport in 1979. He joined the Army Reserves, served 20 years with the 877th Evac Hospital and retired with the rank of Major in 2007. John also worked for the Veterans Administration in Bath, NY and retired in 2004.

During our Padua years, John won several Cross Country races and was probably the best Cross Country runner Padua ever had. John loved to run. Over the past several years, he had to stop running due to a knee problem. John then became an avid and enthusiastic bicyclist. A 40 or 50-mile bike ride in a day was nothing for John. He also liked to build bicycles. He would search the Internet for parts and assemble high quality bicycles. I will always remember John as an athlete. He



enjoyed competing. He worked-out at the Corning NY YMCA gym 3 or 4 times a week. He was also training to compete in the Iron Man Triathlon this summer.

John, his wife Cheryl and daughter Sarah lived in a log home he helped build on 15 acres of land in Hammondsport, NY. John's passion was his garden. He would plant all sorts of vegetables and diligently take care of them. John shared his produce and his knowledge of gardening with anyone interested. He would help anyone who asked and was well known through out the local community. John also liked to groom the woods on his property and to cut firewood. He would tap the maple trees on his property, boil down the sap and make maple syrup. He had a very inquisitive mind and would research everything. He learned how to make beer and wine from hops and grapes that he grew. John was also quite a good cook; he surprised me on many occasions with his culinary expertise.

John also loved to spend time with his grand children, Wyatt and Joselyn. John touched the lives of so many people and helped people any way he could. His family, friends and all who knew him sorely miss John.

Rest in peace dear friend.  
Edward M. Zygadlo Class of 65

## **Class Notes**

### **Class of 55**

On May 31<sup>st</sup> 2013 Bob Malina will receive the ACSM Honor Award (American College of Sports Medicine). It is the highest award of the College given to only one individual each year. The Honor Award recognizes a lifetime of outstanding scientific contributions related to sports medicine and exercise science. Bob's academic travels have taken him to Poland in November, Slovenia in December, Finland in January and the Netherlands and Belgium in February-March.

### **Class of 56**

January 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 Barbara and Opiola celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### **Class of 66**

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 Christine and Tony Specian became 1<sup>st</sup> time grandparents to Christopher Anthony born to daughter Dana and husband Steve Spero. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> Christine and Tony celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

## **Things to do when visiting Watkins Glen**

By [John Mielnik](#)

**How far and how much will it cost to Drive to [Watkins Glen](#)?**

**Yes the [Glen](#) is still there and open.**

**Museums: [Corning Museum of Glass](#), [Glenn Curtiss Museum](#)**

**Cruises: [Captain Bill's Seneca Cruises](#), [Esperanza Rose](#)**

**Shopping: [The Windmill](#), [Waterloo Premium Outlets](#), [Waterloo Market Street](#) – Corning**

**Places to Dine: [Castle Grisch](#) ; [Edgar's in Belhurst Castle](#) ; [Seneca Harbor Station](#)**

**Places to Stay: [Villager Motel](#) , [Idlwilde Inn](#), [Glen Harbor Hotel](#), [Longhouse Lodge](#)**

## Padua Moments from the class of

63

By John Gryszan '63

The smell of Br. Eugene's freshly baked bread as you walked from chapel each morning to the dining hall.

Franks and beans for dinner on Saturday nights followed by Br Eugene's 'sinkers' and homemade apple cider from the apples in the orchard.

The stewed plums in syrup (we called them 'horse balls'), which hardly anyone ate, but were served up on the cart on a regular basis for four years!

That fruity kool-aide like drink we had with many meals, better known as "bug juice".

Fr Hyacinth, walking through the dining hall after meals on Wednesday and Saturday checking hair length and assigning haircuts for the day.

Picking apples in the orchard on those crisp fall days and loading them into wooden boxes on the truck.

Work details in the fall and raking leaves all afternoon. The worst work detail.....toilet cleaning duty!

Freshmen shining seniors' shoes. Flushing all the toilets in the gym locker room in unison and then listening to the screams and swearing of the scalded victims in the showers.

The smell of "atomic balm" in the locker rooms and how it mysteriously found it's way into some unsuspecting students gym shorts.

Running back to the school after taking a shower in the gym in January and hoping your hair wouldn't freeze!

The towel snapping fights in the locker room. Ouch!

Walking on the heels of your feet after showering in the gym locker room to avoid total contact with the ever-standing three inches of



Sitting: Paul Yarnot, Peter Krafinski, John Tulko, Edward Walczak, Roland Benedek, Henry Butka, Stanley Czarnecki

Standing: Robert Szypula, Henry Lukowski, John [Lomnicki](#), James Kaczmarek, Leonard Szot, Gerard Szczygiel (hiding behind Leonard), Edward Sudol, Mike Asiello, George Bennett, Richard Regula, Theodore Bieryla, Joe [Lomnicki](#), John [Gryszan](#), John Drexler, Dennis Springer, Edward [Szczepaniak](#).

lukewarm water we called Okeefenoke swamp.

Kneeling in the dorm hall after being caught talking after lights out.

Getting a demerit for smoking or other major rule violation and having to sit just outside the gym door and be able to hear but not see the Sunday night movie.....for six months!

Standing in line at 6:15 AM for a sink in the bathroom, knowing that you had to be in chapel by 6:30 AM or be forced to be there earlier the next several days.

Those glorious views from the study hall in October when the blue sky seemed to blend in with the blue of the lake and be contrasted by the flaming colors of the fall foliage on both sides of the lake.

The dead silence in a study hall monitored by Fr Albin versus what sounded like the trading floor on Wall Street when monitored by Fr Roland. The countdown (10, 9, 8) as the bus left the campus for the train station and everyone lighting up the cigarettes as soon as the campus was cleared.

The looks on the faces of train passengers on the 'Phoebe Snow' to Hoboken as they had to pass through the smoke filled Padua car.

The noisy bus ride to the Elmira train station contrasted by complete silence two weeks later on the bus ride back to school.

Waiting in line at 1 PM on Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday at the dorm closet to get your transistor radio, which had to be returned three hours later.

Watching from the study hall as the winter snowstorms came down the lake miles away and then slowly engulfed the school.

Trying to contain your laughter during class when the rodents would periodically begin to scamper about in the ceiling.

Returning from vacations and finding that those same rodents were gnawing on your soap or even neck ties as they foraged the halls in the absence of students.

If you happened to have a dorm bed next to a window facing town, you could, after lights out, watch the flickering town lights and see the cars moving about and dream of being in one!

Waiting at 1PM on certain Wednesdays and Sundays of the year in the dorm to see if "town permission" would be granted.

Going to Tremain State Park in Ithaca every June for the school picnic.

The pleasant sight of those metal film boxes sitting on the steps of the gym late Saturday meant that there would be a Sunday night movie that week. Having to sit through the Saturday night “educational” movies with titles such as “Industry on Parade” and “Ball bearings and you”!

If it’s 3:30 PM at Padua it means that the PX is open until 4PM. The overflow crowd in that room is loading up on fireballs, mallow cups, BBQ Chips, “76” soda and BIKE jock straps!

Thanking God that you were either on the Gym Team or Band for Mother’s day weekend or else you would be pressed into service for the infamous Drill Team with its white rifles!

Playing ultimate dodge ball in gym class, which usually had about 30 players on each side launching about as many basketballs at the same time.

The ‘crab ball’ games wherein everyone crawled on their hands and backsides playing soccer like game with a ball that was about 5 ft. in diameter.

The dreaded ballroom and square dancing during gym classes.

The camaraderie during the annual Marathon Day and Class Competition.

The long walks on those balmy May evenings after dinner up the dirt road past the gym to the water tanks and then down the golf course back in time for evening study hall.

The juniors setting up the trap for the feral cats with Fr Albin to be used in Biology class.

Screaming “bon jour mon Pere” at the top of your lungs as Fr Henry entered French class!

Watching American Bandstand in the gym on that old TV set, provided that the gym staff would bring it out!

Making up your bed Sunday morning with the fresh sheets for the week and short sheeting unsuspecting victims. Receiving that goodie package from home on your birthday.

Tobogganing between and sometimes into trees in the hillside woods.

Skiing down the slopes of the front of the school on those white, heavy wooden donated Army surplus skis we had..... with no ski poles provided.

Trying to teach the Fr Claude’s parrot Loretta, which was kept in a cage in the lobby to swear.

And finally, in spite wanting to be home during the entire school year, when August rolled around, friends were missed and the urge to see them trumped what we perceived as difficulties at the time that we had to face during another school year.

Little did we know that most of these trials and tribulations and misadventures we experienced would provide fond memories and laughter much later in life.



**Contributors:** Mike Asiello ’63, Jack Drexler ’63, John Grysza ’63, Peter Krafinski Jr. ’63, John LaSalle ’62, John Mielnik ’62, Chad Orlowski ’65, Tom Malina ’66, Tony Specian ’66, Ed Zygodlo ’65.

**Thank You to Brother Andy and Jerry for information on Padua Friars.**

#### **Brother Andy**

Franciscan Friars  
Assumption BVM Province  
9230 W Highland Park Avenue  
Franklin, WI 53132

#### **Brother Jerry**

Franciscan Friars  
Assumption BVM Friary  
143 East Pulaski St  
PO box 100  
Pulaski Wi, 54162-0100

#### **Beligotti Brothers Retire**

from Catholic Courier, Rochester  
by Mike Latona

After 45 years in the priesthood Fathers Robert and Richard Beligotti will retire. The natives of Watkins Glen attended Padua from 1956 to 1960. Both graduated with high Honors. The Beligotti twins attended St. Andrews followed by St Bernards Seminaries before being ordained on June 1, 1968 by Bishop Fulton Sheen At Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester NY.

Father Richard started out as assistant at St Cecilia, Irondequoit from 1968-71, followed by eight different parishes in the diocese until 1989. In 1989 Fr. Beligotti assumed his first Pastorate at St. Charles Borromeo in Elmira Heights for five years. In the subsequent years Fr. Richard’s duties included Pastor, Administrator, Chaplain, Parochial Vicar, and Sacramental Minister.

Fr. Robert started out as an assistant at St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights from 1968 to 73, followed by four different parishes. In 1988 Fr. Beligotti took over Pastorate at St. Anthony of Padua, Rochester from 1993-2000. His subsequent duties as brother Richard also included Pastor, Administrator, Chaplain, Parochial Vicar, and Sacramental Minister.

A 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary and retirement celebration will take place on June 9 at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Henrietta, NY after which the brothers will return to their family home in Watkins Glen to enjoy their retirement.

Thanks to Mike Asiello ’63 for providing article.



## 2013 Padua Reunion Schedule

**The Longhouse Manor  
(Reunion Headquarters)  
3625 State Route 14  
Watkins Glen, NY  
607-535-2565**

### **Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>**

<b>3:30-5:30PM</b>	<b>Alumni Gathering and Meeting Longhouse Manor</b>
<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Dinner at Castel Grisch Winery and Restaurant <u>Polish style w/music</u></b>
<b>Afterward</b>	<b>Return to Longhouse Manor for socializing Beverages and snacks provided</b>

### **Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>**

<b>AM</b>	<b>Breakfast and morning on your own</b>
<b>Noon</b>	<b>Lunch catered at the Longhouse Manor Sandwich, fixings, salads, fruit, beverages</b>
<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>Mass at St. Mary of the Lake Church</b>
<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Dinner at Castel Grisch Winery and Restaurant <u>With preselected entrées</u></b>
<b>Afterward</b>	<b>Return to Longhouse Manor for socializing Beverages and snacks provided</b>

### **Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>**

<b>AM</b>	<b>Breakfast on your own Meet at Longhouse Manor Say good bye for 2013</b>
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Cost for this year's reunion is \$135 per person. Included are both Friday and Saturday's dinners at Castel Grisch, Saturday's lunch, snacks and beverages provided in the hospitality area at the Manor.

For Saturday's dinner while we are gathering as a group we start the evening with hors d'oeuvres of fresh fruit and cheeses, fresh cut vegetables with a dip, prosciutto wrapped cantaloupe, and bruschetta (if the weather is nice outside on the deck).

The meal will be complete with soup and salad, bread and butter, your preselected dinner entrée, and ends with a 'dessert bar' coffee and tea.

**London Broil**

served with a baked potato and vegetable

**Stuffed Chicken Breast**

with Brie and Apples

served with baked potato and vegetable

**Pasta Provencal**

capers, kalamata olives, tomatoes and artichokes sautéed in olive oil,  
white wine and garlic served over farfalle pasta

\*\*\*NOTE: If there are any special dietary needs, please notify Castel Grisch when sending in your reservation forms.

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**Please complete and return this form along with a payment to Tom Malina.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Kindly Choose an Entrée for Saturday's Dinner,**

	<b>Yourself</b>	<b>Wife / Guest</b>
<b>London Broil</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Stuffed Chicken Breast</b> with Brie and Apples	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Pasta Provencal</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Number of guest \_\_\_\_\_ at \$ 135 per person.**

**Please make check payable to:**  
**Tom Malina**  
**3620 County Route 16**  
**Montour Falls, NY 14865**