

August 2015

Richie Rebel says, "This issue, it's Frank in Focus!"

[View this email in your browser](#)



# Life & Times of the Rebels of '69

Thornton Fractional Township High School South Class of 1969, Lansing, Illinois

## Classmate with a Passion—

## Photographer in Focus: Frank Mazzocco

**TEAM69** is proud of our Rebel classmates who have a passion for a hobby or a career, and we'd like you to know more about them. This month in a *Life & Times* Q and A, **Frank Mazzocco** (Minnesota) answers our 12 questions.

**Q:** Frank, when did you first pick up a camera, and what kind of camera was it?

**A:** I think I was six or maybe eight. I got a red Kodak box camera (the modern plastic ones!) from my Dad and learned to develop and print in the darkroom in our first Lansing house on Williams Street.

**Q:** What do you like to photograph?

**A:** I love making portraits and didn't know it until I opened a studio in Minneapolis in 2009. A late-life adventure that didn't gain enough traction to pay the bills. I also love street photography—catching people in the middle of their lives.

**Q:** What quality about you do you think enhances your photos?

**A:** I've become a pretty good director behind the camera. I try to make the subject relax and feel comfortable. My goal is to make them look their best—and then they feel like they



and feel comfortable. My goal is to make them look their best—and then they feel like they look fabulous. And lighting is critical. It's one reason I miss my studio where I could set lights and backgrounds.

**Q:** Do you have a favorite photo or photo-shoot location?

**A:** No question my favorite place to shoot is Chicago. There's something visceral I feel being "back home." My niece asked me to shoot her wedding in 2013—a location wedding downtown. Gulp, I'm not a wedding photographer. But I owed it to the memory of my sister and my Dad. So a month before, I did some location scouting and shot some amazing stuff from riders on the Metra to a guy polishing a garbage can in Millennium Park. Yes, Chicago polishes garbage cans!



**Q:** Do you have a wish-list photo you'd like to capture?

**A:** An artistic nude. I think it would be the most difficult subject to photograph well.

**Q:** Whose work do you admire?

**A:** French photographer, Bruno Barbey, was in his 20s when he traveled Italy in the 1960s. His street photography (now a book titled "The Italians") is like gelato—to die for—only better. Black and white, shot with a medium format camera. It's a Fellini film in print.

**Q:** What camera equipment do you favor?

**A:** I'm a Canon shooter. My favorite lens is a 70-200mm, which is adequate for sports, great for portraits, and awesome for catching people in the moment. I also like to use a LensBaby for quirky soft-focus photos.

**Q:** What are your thoughts on digital vs. film?

**A:** Film is harder to shoot than digital but more artistic (if you can still find the film). With film you have to pick a pallet before you make the photo. Digital, however, is so much more versatile. I get results with digital that I never could obtain in Dad's darkroom.

**Q:** It seems that you do a lot of black & white photography. Why is that often your choice for a photograph?

**A:** There's a place for both black & white

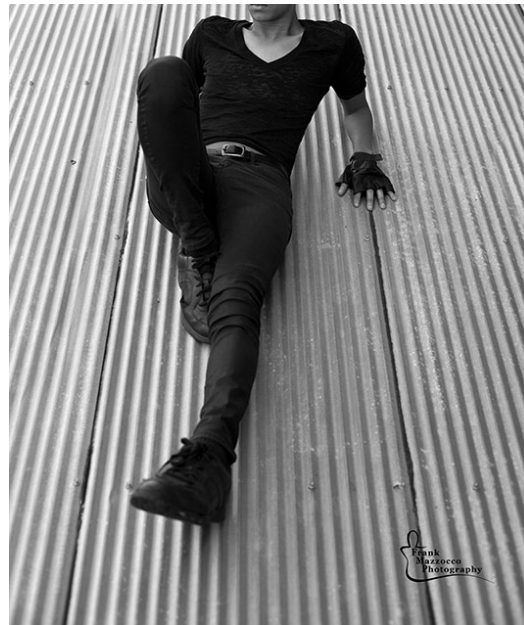


and color, no question. But I like black & white. Here's my take: Black & white is sexy; color is full frontal nudity. There's a place for both, but I'll take sexy.

**Q:** Can we see your work on social media and your website?

**A:** I'd be honored to have classmates check out my work. The website is [mazzoccophotography.com](http://mazzoccophotography.com).

I use an iPhone to throw some street shots up on Instagram (frank\_m\_photo) and Twitter (@MazzoccoPhoto).



**Q:** Frank, you were our stellar *Rebel Rouser* photographer in high school. Anything you'd like to share about that time?

**A:** **Deb Ruth Mazzocco** (Minnesota) and **Pat Walsh** (Arizona) were my first editors, and they were great! Pat was a laugh a minute. Deb claims she stole a kiss from me in the *Rebel Rouser* darkroom one morning. It must be true, I married her!

**Q:** Are there any special TFS teachers who continue to influence your work today?

**A:** Yes, there are. I want the Class of '69 to remember Joe Hyde who gave me great instruction, gave me freedom to work as the *Rebel Rouser* and yearbook photographer, and got me out of senior gym class for more darkroom time! And also to remember math teacher Clem Wiedman—who was a very good photographer and critiqued some of my work. I remember distinctly a print I made at the newly opened River Oaks shopping center—a night scene of two light fixtures. Clem always had a twinkle in his eyes and loved to give advice. "Three subjects make a better photograph than two," he said. "Always think odd numbers, one, three, five...." I never forgot the advice.





Frank and Deb Mazzocco's family photo albums must be pretty spectacular. Here is Frank's portrait of Angelina, their teen-aged grand-daughter.

See more of Frank's photographs on his --website: [MazzoccoPhotography.com](http://MazzoccoPhotography.com)

--Instagram: frank\_m\_photo

--Twitter: @MazzoccoPhoto

Frank is a member of the Professional Photographers of America.

---

## **Music and Memories-- Harbor Lights Do That Doo-Wop That They Do So Well** by Donna Torgerson Clark (Illinois)

When **Team69** contacted me about doing a music review of a group that one of our classmates was featured in, I thought, "What could I possibly have to say about a Doo-Wop group I had never heard?" But the Harbor Lights



website had music clips, so I thought I would do some exploring. Wow!! A walk down Memory Lane!



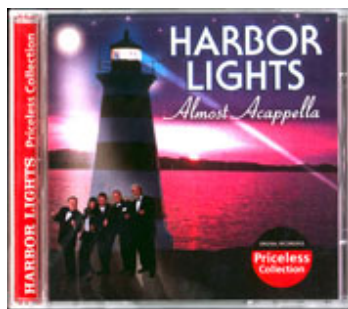
Let me explain first what Doo-Wop music is. This genre originated in the Africa-American communities in large cities in the 40's reaching its peak in the 60's. Simply put, it is a series of beautifully blended vocals with little or no instrumentation. (Thank you Wikipedia for the info!) To hear the purity of this music is to appreciate the talent of the singers—no instruments to hide behind! And I will say the vocals in Harbor Lights are amazing!

The first set of clips I listened to contained favorites like "Where the Boys Are," "Sunday Kind of Love," and "Be My Baby!" OK, so I started adding my not-so-great voice to the mix—how could I not? This music brings back memories of Memorial Jr. High and T.F. South and all that went with it! I had to listen to more! There are three other CDs on the Harbor Lights website [www.harborlightsdoowop.com/html/no\\_strings\\_attached.html](http://www.harborlightsdoowop.com/html/no_strings_attached.html) with great hits like "My Girl," "La Bamba," "Travelin' Man," "Stand By Me," "Just My Imagination"... the list goes on. You won't believe the sound!

But maybe the most important thing about this is that one of our very own, Ron Hanchar, is part of Harbor Lights! Yes, once again we have a celebrity from the Class of '69 whose talents add to the vocals of this group.

My congratulations to Ron Hanchar and Harbor Lights on their success! For me of little talent, I say Kudos and Thanks for bringing back the memories!

[www.harborlightsdoowop.com](http://www.harborlightsdoowop.com)



## More About Ron Hanchar . . .

**Ron** lived out east in Pennsylvania and Maryland for about six years and moved back to the Northwest Indiana Region 2-1/2 years ago. Before going east, Ron, a founding member of the group, sang with Harbor Lights for more than five years. Now that Ron has returned to Indiana, he is back singing doo-wop with Harbor Lights, including a gig this past June at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield, IL.



You'll hear Ron singing lead and back-ups on the first two Harbor Lights CDs. On "Almost Acapella," Ron sings lead on "Little Star" and "Just my Imagination" and does all the background instrumentation. On "Absolutely Acapella," Ron sings lead on "Denise" and "Then You Can Tell Me Goodbye."

See HARBOR LIGHTS in a Tribute to Doo-Wop, Friday, Aug. 21, at 7 pm, at the Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Rd., Munster, Indiana.  
For tickets and info go to [www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com](http://www.TheatreAtTheCenter.com)



### ***Ask Richie Rebel!***

**Hey, Richie!**—Our classmate **Christina Nelson Haro** (Indiana) wants to know, "When is the next Class of '69 get-together?"

**Richie says**—Hey! back at you, 'Tina! That's a great question. I turned your question over to our "Honorary Social Chairman" **Rich Krilich** (Illinois). Rich got back to us with the following answer—

"We are open to suggestions and maybe we can open this question up to our classmates. Let's see what ideas they might have that we could research and entertain for possibilities. I have nothing on the front of my mind about this, but, I am always interested in exploring new venues for a get-together."

In the meantime 'Tina, pencil in the 50th Class Reunion for 2019. But let's not wait that long to party like it's 1969!

---

### ***Happy August Birthday!***

**Phyllis VanderNoord Evert, Sharon Aurich Comer, Mary Ebbens Monts, Harry Smith, Floyd Ballard, Dave Dickinson, Peggy Peacock Kubic, Nancy Deboer Deangelo**

### ***Celebrating Wedding Anniversaries***

**Chuck and Laurie McVicker Norris** (Illinois)—42 years in July  
**Barb and Denny Walton** (Utah)—32 years in July

## TEAM69 Heard from...

**Donna Torgerson Clark** (Illinois): I absolutely love the newsletter. Thanks for all of your hard work.

**Scott Tatje** (Arizona): Great job once again on the TFS Newsletter!

**George Grote** (Illinois): Have enjoyed the *Life & Times* ever since it started. I don't respond to many of these events, but I do enjoy reading about the events.

**John E. Hansen** (South Carolina): Keep up the good work guys!! Enjoy getting my monthly copy of the '69 newsletter.

**Mike McNary** (Georgia): Thanks so much for the kind words and all the effort you put into this.

*[Mike received many appreciative comments on his essay about Memorial Jr. High friendships in the June 2015 issue.]*

**Mike Wright** (Colorado): Nice work on the newsletter! Thank you for keeping the spirit of the class alive. I'm sure everyone appreciates your efforts as much as I do.

**Paul Warn** (Indiana): I just read the Special Alaska issue of the *Life & Times*—the Class of '69 e-newsletter. Excellent newsletter and thanks for all your efforts.

**Alan Eckhardt** (Georgia): Very, very good. Hope to see you all in a couple of years.

## Making Connections

Connect with Rebel radio personality Your Car Guy **George Vincent** (Illinois) on his call-in car repair show every Saturday morning, 9 am Central on WJOB 1230am and streaming on [wjob1230.com](http://wjob1230.com).

## Help Us Find Classmates

Here is a list of some of our classmates who have dropped off our radar and are not subscribed to the *Life & Times*. If you can help find them, please let us know at [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com), or send them to our website to subscribe to our newsletter [fsclassof69.weebly.com](http://fsclassof69.weebly.com).

If you are in email contact with any missing classmates, please use the **Forward** button below to share the newsletter with them. And we hope you'll share our newsletter with your family and friends, too!

Perry Barrett, Linda Dommer Peres, Victoria Kohlenberger, Gerd Kohler, Roger LaFollette, Lori Lavin, Richard Lindberg, Rob Malinski, Glenn Miller, Kathleen Miller, Debra Owles, Joe Pasquerella, Patricia Reidenbach, Linda Ross, Bob Rossman, Jim Smith, John Stokes, Judy Strauch, Ruthann Werhane, Joyce Westerhoff, Kathleen Wright, Sherrie Madison, Dan Madison



### Subscribe

Not getting the *Life & Times* in your email inbox? Then subscribe at our website [fsclassof69.weebly.com](http://fsclassof69.weebly.com), where you can also see past issues and our photo gallery.

### Keep in Touch!

Our 171 subscribers are keeping in touch. Share your news, photos, questions, Twitter name, website, or reflections on the past, present, or future with us all. Email **TEAM69** at [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com)

Photo credits: Frank Mazzocco, Ron Hanchar  
Technical assistance: Bill Hutchison  
Editorial: Pat Walsh, Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis  
Correspondent: Dave Dickinson  
Chairman of Goodwill: Bud Jenkins

[TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com)

### Remember!

Keep your email address up-to-date! Click the update link at the bottom of this newsletter or let us know at [TFSouth69@gmail.com](mailto:TFSouth69@gmail.com)

[Go To Our Facebook Page](#)

[Go To Our Website](#)



Follow us on Twitter @TFSTeam69

### You Can Follow These Rebels on Twitter, Too!

George Grote @torgrot  
Marilyn Rea Beyer @marilynreabeyer  
Diana Steinweg Plese @DianaPlese  
Frank Mazzocco @MazzoccoPhoto and @MazzPuck  
Cheryl Ridder Woldhuis @Dutchlady10  
Deb Ruth Mazzocco @debmazzPiPress  
Pat Walsh @WalshpatWalsh  
Rene Sterbenc @ReneSterbenc  
Bill Hutchison @hutch3531  
Harry Smith @HarrySmith  
Mike McNary @comeridethwhale  
Curtis Granderson @cgrand3  
Pierre Thomas @Pierre\_Thomas  
Thornton Fractional HS @tfd215  
Kathy Orban @OrbanKO  
Dennis Knoezer @dennisknoerzer1  
Becky Eck @EckEck1

Like Us on Facebook 

---

**Our Mission: To promote and grow our network of TFS Class of 1969 friendships by sharing information and planning reunion events to keep the spirit of the 40th Reunion alive and vibrant.**

---



You are receiving this because you opted in for the TF South Class Of 1969 Newsletter.

**Our mailing address is:**

TF South Class of 1969  
7211 N. Knoxville Ave.  
Peoria, IL 61614

[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

MailChimp.