

## **Regina Coppens Buchsbaum**

*Class of 1976*

**Director of the Let's Talk Language School in Waterville, Maine.**

**Teaches English as a Second Language to immigrants from East Africa.**

**Loves to travel to Spain- as a result studying Spanish is her indoor hobby!**

### **What are your fondest memories as a student of AWHS?**

I had a good time in high school, thanks to the fun-loving friends I had. In fact, my fondest memories are the zany times I had with these friends. The school dances were a highlight, especially when some of our favorite live bands were playing.

I liked Ms. Pepe's chemistry class. She was a good teacher and related well to the students. Sister Raymunda's freshman Spanish class was very memorable. I can still recite one of the dialogs.

I enjoyed playing on the tennis team, even though I never progressed past second doubles in the four years I was on the team. But I thank our coach, Mrs. Nawn, who taught me that tennis was more than hitting the ball against the brick wall at the Monatiquot School in Braintree.

It was great to go to school with my brother, Leo Coppens '74. He and his friends were very entertaining. He and I still like occasionally to sing Oklahoma, whose lyrics are forever imbedded in our brains thanks to Sr. Corona and her expert choreography and incredible patience directing Oklahoma. I also still like to sing the Latin Christmas tune, Sing We Noel that she taught us one year in chorus. Some tunes you just never forget!

### **Have you stayed close to the friends you made at AWHS?**

I have stayed close to some friends from Archies, especially Tina Falco Cahill. She and her family visit us every summer on Long Pond in Maine. It feels like we're back in high school when we're together, and our husbands tell us that we act that way. (I'm not sure that's a compliment.) Beth Connelly Ryan and I went to see a University of Maine hockey game a few years ago when her son, Billy, was playing for Maine and my daughter was a student there. A few years ago several friends from Archies got together at Millie Cawley O'Connor's house. It was so great to see everyone - it didn't feel at all like 30 years had passed since we'd been together like that. I hope we do it more often and soon! Seeing old friends from Archies feels like wearing old gloves - really comfortable. I would love to hear from classmates - my email is: reginacoppens@yahoo.com

### **What are your impressions of AWHS today?**

Since I live in Maine, I don't hear too much about Archies. However, I read the newsletter and it seems to me that Archies is a school that's striving for excellence in academics. Small schools like AWHS can provide small class sizes and personal attention to its students.

### **How can today's AWHS better serve its alumni?**

I think alumni are interested in what their classmates are doing and having opportunities to see them. AWHS can help by facilitating these connections.

### **How might our alumni best serve AWHS?**

Non-profit organizations like AWHS rely on donations and other support to function. Alumni can help by donating money and expertise to help the school.

### **A brief biography:**

Career: I have done a few different things since graduating from college, but presently my husband and I run a non-profit language school in Waterville, Maine. We offer French, Spanish, Japanese, Chinese and Italian. And no, I don't teach any of these, and only speak Spanish. But I do teach English as a Second Language to immigrants from East Africa who work at Maine Medical Center in Portland.

Family: I have been married for almost 25 years. My husband, Steve Buchsbaum, and I have two daughters: Emily, who is 22 years old and is in a nurse practitioner graduate program at Mass. General Hospital, and Mia, who is 18 and a senior in high school. She plans to be a theater major when she starts college next year.

Hobbies: We live in Belgrade, Maine, which is a small rural town that has seven large lakes in central Maine. I have been living here for about 27 years. We have a flock of hens. I love playing tennis (still), bicycling, skiing, and kayaking and sailing on the lakes. We like to travel, especially to Spain. As a result, studying Spanish is my indoor hobby.