

# CONGRATULATIONS NPHS CLASS OF 2008

*North Plainfield High School Alumni Association*

145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

## NEWSLETTER

*Published by the NPHS Alumni Association*

Summer 2008

**NEW! Alumni Web site: [www.nphsalumni.net](http://www.nphsalumni.net)**

Volume 18 No. 2

### 2008 NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

The 14th Annual NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at the Italian-American Club, 403 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, starting at 6:30 pm.

Tickets are \$30.00 per person and can be obtained by sending checks with names of all guests to: NPHS

#### *From The President . . .*

The first half of 2008 has been very interesting and trying for the Alumni Association. First, I want to apologize for the delay in the Spring '08 Newsletter. We are still trying to complete the transition to the Internet. But remember you can still send in a self-addressed, 59-cent stamped envelope to receive your Newsletter, and thanks again for your donations to keep the Newsletter alive. Without your help and cooperation it would be impossible to continue the Newsletter.

In this issue we were fortunate to hear about Tom Odjakjian, a graduate of NPHS and an Alumni Hall of Famer, and his "tag" as "Father of March Madness." (see page 7)

Also, the Alumni Association received another donation of Frank "Bus" Mac Donald's Yale Cup of 1926 from the Mac Donald family. (see page 11)

Congratulations to the students of NPHS who volunteered to clean the sites of the Veterans Memorials of Washington Park, the North Plainfield Library and NPHS in preparation for Memorial Day 2008.

I would like to congratulate the Senior Class of NPHS for a job well done. As we tell each graduating class, wherever you attend college and even if you move to a different part of the country, you will always have a home in North Plainfield.

**Mario Caruso, President,**  
NPHS Alumni Association

Alumni Association, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 or call 908-756-2776 for more information. Tables of eight, ten or twelve may be reserved if paid for in advance. Make all checks payable to: NPHS Alumni Association and send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with all inquires.

The 2008 NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees are

#### **Thomas Barrett, 1971 – Business**

Tom has had a highly successful career in business since graduation from Montclair State in 1975. He is currently Director, Strategic Sourcing for Ingersoll Rand (previously Trane). Prior to this position, Tom was Global Strategic Sourcing Director for American Standard Companies, Director, Global Travel Services for Bristol-Myers Squibb, and held similar positions at National Starch. Tom is a frequently sought expert on Travel Management Services. Articles on Corporate Travel services and Tom's involvement have been published in The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, the Financial Times of London, The New York Times and other trade publications. He is very involved with community service, including leadership positions in the North Plainfield Lions Club and United Family and Children's Society of Plainfield. Tom and his family reside in South Plainfield, NJ.

#### **Erin Johnson Abbott, 1998 – Athletics**

Erin was one of the most competitive and hardest working athletes at NPHS according to her coaches. She holds NPHS track and field records in 100, 200, 400, HH, 400 IH, and Long Jump. Member of four relay team records. Group II State Champ 400 IH and 400 m. Group II Central Jersey Champ and record holder of four events: 200, 400, 400 IH and Long Jump. Erin has won numerous County Championships and conference Championships, and was also first team all conference in Basketball and Soccer. She was recognized as the

*continued on page 2*

# NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame 2008 Inductees

continued from page 1

female Somerset County and Mountain Valley Conf, Scholar/Athlete from NPHS. At Rutgers, Erin excelled in track and was part of the record setting Distance Medley Relay Team. Erin continued to set track records in the U.S. Coast Guard. She is now teaching school and residing in Stuart, FL.

## **John Klimas, 1965 – Medicine**

Dr. John Klimas is a highly acclaimed allergist in Charlotte NC. He was selected by local physicians as a top doctor in his specialty and recently named by Consumer Reports as one of the best allergists in Charlotte. He currently is an associate professor at UNC Medical School and past president of Mecklenburg County Medical Society. Dr. Klimas founded the Physicians Reach Out program that provides medical services for citizens of Mecklenburg County who do not have insurance. Dr. Klimas has won numerous awards: 2003 Man of the Year in Science and Medicine, Vectors/Pittsburgh; Best Doctors in America '92,'94,'96, '02-'04; Elisa Klein Lectureship, University of MA School. of Medicine. John graduated from Rutgers in '69 with Phi Beta Kappa honors and earned a medical degree from SUNY Buffalo in 1973. John is active in local church and community groups

## **James D. Marchio, 1974 – Military and Government Service**

Jim has spent the last 28 years serving in critical roles in various national security agencies and in the defense of our country. He is currently a Senior Intelligence Evaluator in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence's Office of Analytic Integrity and Standards. Prior to this position, Jim served for 26 years in the U.S. Air

Force, retiring in 2006 as a Colonel. While in the Air Force, Jim specialized in Military Intelligence, and ultimately was the Deputy Director of the Air Force Intelligence Analysis Agency and Chief of DIA's Russia/Eurasia and Africa Office. Jim also worked with the NATO Command on Intelligence during the Bosnia situations. He still pursues his avocation of weight lifting, and has won four national titles, a world power lifting championship, six world power lifting records in his age and weight class. Jim and his family live in Manassas, VA.

## TEACHER

### **Frank Cognetti – Long time Music and Choir teacher**

Frank Cognetti was supervisor of Fine, Practical and Performing Arts of the N. P. Public School District, teaching music and choir since 1964. He was founder of the N.P. District Arts Festival, and was active in Symphony and opera groups in the region. When Frank lifted his hand to direct the North Plainfield High School Chorus for his last time in 2004, the stage was suddenly packed by scores of Cognetti's former students. They were there to ex-

press their thanks and admiration to their much beloved teacher for his 34 years of commitment to music students at North Plainfield High School.

Teaching stints in Binghamton, New York and Elizabeth, New Jersey, preceded Cognetti's teaching career at North Plainfield which began in 1970. Over the course of his career, Cognetti directed every aspect of choral music in grades seven to twelve. During that time, many of Cognetti's students were awarded places in state and regional choruses. He also managed the New Jersey All State Chorus in 1990.

Teacher of the Year honors went to Cognetti in 1994, the first year of the district's participation in the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program.

Cognetti holds a B.S. in Music from Wilkes College, and a Masters in Music from Kean University. He has also studied at the College of New Jersey, Syracuse University and the University of Scranton. He and his wife Lynn have two children, Cara and Christopher and three grandchildren.



## **Shore Canuck Club**

Dear NPHS Graduates:

The Shore Canuck Club will hold its annual Reunion on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the Crystal Point Yacht Club and Motel, 3900 River Road, Point Pleasant, New Jersey, from 6:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m.

Crystal Point is located on the Manasquan River next to the Route 60 Bridge.

An hour of hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be followed by a buffet.

If you plan to attend, call Joan McCarthy Williamson 732-899-0009 by Monday May 4, 2009. For motel reservations, call 732-899-3444.

We offer a special thanks to Jim Harper who is now emeritus to the Committee for initiating the Shore Canuck Club and making it the success it is.

## Gift Suggestions

These suggestions are convenient ways for graduates to buy practical gifts and, at the same time, contribute to the NPHS Scholarship Fund.

Choose from:

- ☒ "North Plainfield and Its Neighbors," a 90-minute video (also in DVD) history of the Borough. \$25.00 + \$5.00 S&H
- ☒ The Images of America books about North Plainfield, \$19.99 plus \$3.00 S&H.
- ☒ Commemorative or memorial bricks in the Alumni Walk of Honor, 4x8 brick, \$60.00; 8x8 brick, \$85.00;
- ☒ Annual membership in the NPHS Alumni Association, \$10 annually or \$60 lifetime;
- ☒ NPHS coffee mugs with woodsman logo, \$10.00 plus \$3.00 S&H;
- ☒ Stadium blanket, 66"x60," with NPHS older pine tree logo, \$45.

Send checks payable to the NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar St., North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

### Clubs for Kids

The NPHS Alumni Association is offering free golf clubs to North Plainfield High School, Middle School, or Borough students who are interested in playing golf but cannot afford clubs to get started.

Contact Frank Caruso  
Class of '49 at:  
908 756 2776.

# Reunion Alert!

## 2007 Reunion Contacts

- 1933 – Art Lederer, 908 754 8252.
- 1935 Next Reunion, June 19, 2008, Dunellen Hotel. *See Page 7*
- 1937 Gerald Schwartz, 908 221 1092.
- 1942 Edith Robbins Douglas, 732 469 2107.
- 1947 Held its 60th Reunion on September 23, 2006 at the Springdale House, Warren, NJ
- 1952 Held May 18, 19, 20, 2007 at the Somerset Marriott, Somerset, NJ. Betse Titus, 908 561 8947 or Fred Scharnikow, 908 231 6748 or E-mail: FRSGIANT@aol.com.
- 1957 Dr. John Lipani, 908 722 5426; Robie Nischwitz McKinnon 609 391 8679, held October 5-6, 2007 at the Manasquan River CC.
- 1962 Class of 1962 Reunion, held October 20, 2007 at the Vermeule Mansion. Ray Bersch, 908 229-5886.
- 1967 Lucy Beraroi Minichino, 908 753 7776. October 11, 2008, Italian American Club.
- 1972 35th Reunion was held on July 14, 2007. Kim Kohler Dial, 908 766 7467 or E-mail:kimdial@yahoo.com.
- 1977 Fran Tufaro Ettman, E-mail: ftufaro@torcon-inc.com
- 1982 Maureen Conroy Wenik, 215 659 1965.
- 1987 October, 2007. Coleen Finn, nphsclassof87@yahoo.com
- 1992 Mike Burns, 610 923 8057.
- 1997 Kathy Fry McDonald 610 391 1474.
- 2002 Contact the Alumni Association.

## 2008 Reunion Contacts

- 1933 Art Lederer, 908 754-8252. Dunellen Hotel, 12 Noon, Wednesday, June 19, 2008.
- 1934 Art Lederer, 908 754-8252. Dunellen Hotel, 12 Noon, Wednesday, June 19, 2008.
- 1938 Contact Manny Ferri, 908 755-7413 or Edith Ruthenback Brokaw, 908 722-5347.
- 1943 Contact Harry Martin, 973 663-2410. Spetember 24, 2008 at Vincent's in Warren.
- 1948 Bob McCarthy, 908 322-6666. October 3, 2008 at Water & Wine Watchung.
- 1953 Contact Paul Carlton, 732 752-2666.
- 1958 Vince Lipani, 908 369-5623 (H), 908 359-4652 (W). November 1, 2008 at the Bridgewater Manor, Bridgewater, NJ.
- 1963 Contact Kathy Meden DeAngelis, 732 249-1791; Cheryl Meyer McDowel, 908 769-5951. October 3, 4, 5, 2008
- 1968 Gerry Garatino Burns, 610 438-2788.
- 1973 Ginny Gehander Carbone, contact the Alumni Association.
- 1978 Mark Fisch, 732 866-9512.
- 1983 Carol VanWinkle Mastrobatista, 732 560-9708.
- 1988 Jennifer Bruscato, 908 479-6141 (H).
- 1993 Carey Cwieka c/o the Alumni Association.
- 1998 Contact the Alumni Association.
- 2003 Contact the Alumni Association.

## Display Open

Please visit the NPHS Scholar-Athlete display on the second floor of the gymnasium on Wilson Avenue

The display includes original Yale Cups, Dartmouth Cup and PTA Cups donated to the Alumni Association.

## *In Touch* Paul Carlton – NPHS 1953

Dear Alumni,

Hope you are fine. Enclosed is a check for mailing, etc. for 2008 Newsletters (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter 08-09). I am a life member in the NP Alumni Association.

Just an update: I fly to my family in Israel four times a year. I also substitute in high school when I am in the States.

I have season tickets to Rutgers Women's Basketball but I graduated from UCONN, so I am an ardent UCONN fan.

Be well!  
Love,  
Arlyne Lookstein,  
NPHS Class of 1951

\* \* \* \* \*

To the Class of '63

At a previous reunion we took a tour of NPHS. In the back we saw an area that they called the "Alumni Walk of Honor" that was paved with inscribed paving stones.

Someone in the group suggested that we Vietnam vets buy a stone which seemed to be a good idea. I think in the crowd at that event we had determined that there were four or five of us who had served in Vietnam. My age-addled memory suggests it was Bob Lind and John Kane. I also recollect that Jimmy Watson was in the Marines and served at Khe Sanh.

I also remember that our classmate, Paul Darby, was in the US Army Special Forces, though Paul dropped out before graduation. Our reunion coordinator, Kathy DeAngelis, found the email address of Paul's sister and I will contact her to see if I can get in touch with Paul. Kathy also learned that Rob-

ert Reay served in Vietnam. And there may be more of us, since Vietnam was our generation. So I think having a paving stone is a good idea.

Comments, questions, suggestions?

Peter Schaefer  
202-244-8666

\* \* \* \* \*

NPHS Alumni Association,

Enclosed please find my lifetime alumni membership dues as well as a contribution to the Fred Green Memorial Scholarship Fund.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the Winter 2007/2008 newsletter. The article about Nick Rayder, a close friend of my brother, Dean Alpine, was great and brought back some fond memories. In addition to being a 'clown', I remember Nick as quite an artist. I recall a picture he painted where he also added tar to it. He would hang it from different sides and the tar would 'run', it was an ever-changing picture! Both Dean and I have reunions coming up this year.

I also enjoyed the article and picture of Sandy Neier, the mother of my best friend in high school, Holly Neier. As close as we were it hadn't dawned on me that Sandy was an alumni of NPHS. My family moved so much that it never occurred to me that two generations could attend the same school. In fact, I didn't get to graduate from NPHS - we moved before my senior year - but I was blessed to attend the 40th class reunion five years ago and felt 'right at home'. I am hoping to attend this year's as well, and I have forwarded the 1958 reunion contact info on to Dean.

I was also very pleased to know that a Fred Green Memorial Scholarship

Fund had been established. Mr. Green was a very favorite math teacher of mine, and he was instrumental in my acceptance at Dickinson College back in 1967 where I also ran into his son Carl.

Thanks for the great news and memories.

Sincerely,  
Susie (Sue) Alpine  
210 Ascot Court  
North Wales, PA 19454

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni Association,

I am writing to express my deep gratitude to the NPHS Alumni Association for such a memorable and extraordinary evening on October 6, 2007.

The Hall of Fame ceremony exceeded my wildest expectations in every way. As some of you know, I was initially reluctant to accept this fine honor, believing that my work in the film industry did not compare to the significant accomplishments of my fellow inductees. When I think that I could have missed out on such a special evening! I was deeply moved and humbled to be honored and surrounded by so many lifelong friends and favorite teachers. As I mentioned that night, I may have left North Plainfield, but North Plainfield has never left me. I am profoundly blessed to be able to return to my alma mater and to my hometown after so many years and still feel so connected to my roots through the kind generosity of fellow alums and faculty members. Thank you to everyone who made it such a warm and personal event for all the inductees. I, for one, will never forget it. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Susan Odjakjian '75  
2007 Hall of Fame Inductee

*continued on next page*

continued from previous page

Dear Alumni

I am very sorry to announce that Bill Shaffer, class of 1940, died on May 15, 2008, having attained the age of 86 only four days before.

In school, Bill was active in the band, playing clarinet and tenor sax. He also played in many small groups around the area on weekends.

In WWII, Bill served in the army in Europe with a battlefield intelligence unit. After the war, he graduated from Rider College with a degree in accounting. Johnson and Johnson recruited him out of college and he was soon comptroller of Ethicon Sutre.

Bill had a very successful career for over 35 years, serving as Financial Officer in Massey Ferguson, Ward Baking, American Airlines, and Oscar Meyer.

In January, 1962, while he was at Ward Baking Co., he was featured in an article in Fortune Magazine entitled, "The New Power Of The Financial Executives".

Everyone, who ever had contact with Bill, admired him and loved him. He leaves his devoted wife Connie and his daughter and son in Florida.

I hope you will have an opportunity to publish this information in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Sincerely,  
Bob Maher '38  
7817 E. Coolidge St.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
88keybob@cox.net

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni

I am a graduate of NPHS Class of 1959 and my brother Frank (Pete) is a graduate of the Class of 1955. My father Frank (Bus) was a graduate of the Class of 1926 and was the recipient of the Yale Cup scholar athlete award in 1926. I have that cup and a framed photo of my father

with the cup in front of the school. I would like to donate those to the either the Alumni Association or the school if you would be interested. You probably knew my father as he was active in politics in North Plainfield and was tax assessor, councilman and mayor in the 1950's and 60's.

Please let me know if you would like those items for display somewhere. I do come to North Plainfield to visit my one cousin who still lives there, so I could drop them off if this would be convenient for you.

Thank you and I hope to hear from you soon.

Best regards,  
David MacDonald, '59

**Ed note:** see page 11

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni,

I wish to contribute to the Dr. Herman A. Estrin Memorial Scholarship Fund. Enclosed is a check made out to the NPHS Alumni Association.

We seemed to follow one another from one school to another during my schooling days. First at the Grant School in South Plainfield, then North Plainfield High School, and finally Newark College of Engineering (Now NJIT).

Dr. Estrin gave me a head start in preparing me for a rewarding career in the "Bell System". I am pleased to assist NPHS graduates in going on to higher learning so they may also enter challenging and rewarding careers.

Sincerely,  
Robert W. Messerschmidt  
Class of 1949

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni,

In the Alumni Hall of Fame booklet, I noticed that one can donate money to help offset the expense of the Hall of Fame. Enclosed is a sponsorship

check for \$125.00 to help defray the cost of this wonderful and meaningful event.

I was honored to be included in the NPHS Hall of Fame this past October, and I hope my donation will help some with this tribute to future recipients.

Thank you for all you do for the NPHS Hall of Fame!!

Sincerely  
Kalil S. Boghdan  
NPHS Class of 1960

\* \* \* \* \*

To the NPHS Alumni Association:  
Please accept this note as an acknowledgment of the generous donation of golf clubs made by your association.

Frank Caruso brought many clubs to us that we are going to donate to "The First Tee Organization" of Somerset County. This organization promotes all types of junior golf programs and all the equipment will be passed on to junior players with the sole purpose of promoting junior golf

Our country club is hosting this fundraiser on June 7<sup>th</sup> and we greatly appreciate the help of the North Plainfield High School Alumni Association.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Romano  
Head Golf Professional  
Twin Brooks Country Club  
Watchung, NJ 07069

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni,

I am thrilled, honored, and humbled by my selection to the NPHS Alumni Association. My first thought upon receiving Bob Kirchberger's letter was of my dear friend, Parkie Barrett. I have such wonderful memories of my career at NPHS

Most sincerely,  
Frank Cognetti

# Remembering Camille: A Brother's Tribute

by Louis Caruso '41

Camille Caruso was born Saturday, Aug. 21, 1920 at 22 Warren St. In North Plainfield, where the family lived in difficult times because it was the start of the Depression years. Many families had to go without the necessities to live a decent life. We lived on the second floor and Camille was the third of seven children, two girls and five boys, with Mom and Pop it made nine all together. It was a happy family, as everyone had to work at an early age.

She was born in a small room, as we never were familiar with the hospitals and had no way of traveling, because we had no car.

Heat was provided by a furnace using wood and coal for fuel. When it got a little chilly we had to shovel the coal into the furnace to keep it going. At night, once the coal was used up there would be no heat and it was always cold in the morning.

We had no refrigerator. At that time it was called an "ice box," which had to be supplied with ice. Luckily, an ice house was located across the street. We would purchase a block of ice for about 15 cents and carry it upstairs to keep the ice box cold. When the ice melted after a few days, we would have to buy another piece of ice. Camille would always be part of the ice carriers.

In the winter time, some of the food was placed in a small metal storage bin that was located outside the bathroom window. It did not hold much food, but it saved us buying ice.

The bathroom situation had its problems, especially in the morning, when all the family was up. There was no hot water in the morning, as the water heater had to be ignited. It was not an automatic water heater. If you like to wash in cold water, it



*Camille and Dan Corona in 1941*

was great. The children were told to wash before going to school. We washed, but only with a very few sprinkles of water. Papa, who had poor eyesight, would inspect us. He would feel your face to make sure it was wet. If it didn't feel right you would have to go back and wash again.

Camille started school at age 5, walking to Somerset School, which was five blocks away. It was at kindergarten where she met her friend Mary Rossi. They both transferred to St. Joseph's School in North Plainfield after it was completed in 1930. The tuition to attend the school was 10 cents a week — A modest cost in those days. The \$3.75 a year was rarely paid. After graduation Camille attended North Plainfield High School for about two years and had to leave school to attend beauty culture school so she could work as a hairdresser.

About age 12, Camille and I were in town on Halloween night while a parade was in progress. People were all dressed in costumes and some were riding on a flatbed truck. We

thought it would be fun to jump on the truck while it was moving and go for a little ride, as we very rarely were able to enjoy a ride. We did not know where we were going. We ended up two miles from home when we decided to jump off the truck and walk back home. We enjoyed the ride and the excitement. When we arrived home, Mom wanted to know where we were until 10 p.m. "Just watching a parade," exclaimed Camille. While we had very little means of entertainment, we would have to make up games to have some fun. We played hopscotch, tag, rolled up a few stockings to play catch and mounted a peach basket on the telephone pole so we could play basketball. Camille excelled in all these games, she was much faster than many of the boys. The radio and phonograph were always a favorite means of entertainment. Sunday night proved to be the best for listening. The whole family would sit by the radio and listen to Eddie Cantor, Jack Benny and Joe Penner, whose favorite slogan was "Wanna buy a Duck." Weekdays scheduled Little Orphan Annie, Lowell Thomas and Amos and Andy.

Camille would always help her mother with many of the chores around the house like cleaning, washing clothes, cooking and running errands. When it was supper time, whoever sat at the table first ate good. The rest of the family had to eat the leftovers.

One day, Camille, who was about 11 years old, had to bring the daily lunch to Papa at his pool room. I was walking with her. Before we arrived, Camille said to me, "I see something shiny on the ledge of the store window of the barber shop across the street, go across the street and feel the ledge."

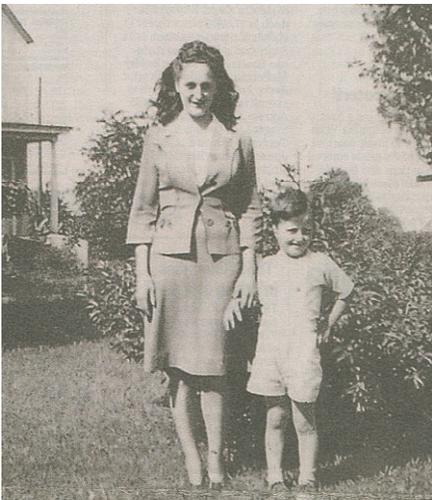
*continued on page 11*

## Rosanne the Riveter

Rosanne De Andrea Cucurello, a 1939 graduate of North Plainfield High School was honored recently by the South Plainfield Borough Council for her service during World War II. Rosanne joined six million other women in answering the war time call to transform themselves into substitute factory workers during World War II, leading to the birth of the legendary heroine, "Rosie The Riveter."

Rosie became the most famous poster-girl for War Bonds. The "We Can Do It" poster depicts a woman flexing her muscle like Cucurello who joined the domestic war effort at the General Motors plant in Linden where hundreds of women produced fighter planes known as Wildcats. The women employed at the plant worked in three shifts and each shift was responsible for producing a plane a week.

The 86-year old Cucurello, who serves as Recording Secretary for the Suburban Women's Club of South Plainfield, was singled out by friends in the local chapter when the General Federation of Women's Clubs asked its member groups to recognize "Rosies" in their communities. Rosanne is currently a member of the American Rosie The Riveter Association.



Rosanne DeAndrea  
and her son, Donald, 1942

## NPBS Grad, Pegged "The Father of March Madness"

For three weeks every Spring there is a time period where the whole country concentrates its focus on one sport, basketball. It's called, "March Madness." No other sport generates such interest for this amount of time. It has everything: Mystery, excitement, comebacks, upsets and the little guy.

The history of March Madness goes back to the early 80's when Tom Odjakjian joined ESPN in its infancy. A graduate of North Plainfield High School in 1972 and Lafayette in 1976, Odjakjian's passion for his former schools was the inspiration for his vision to give the Valparaisos and the George Masons of the world a proper showcase right next to Duke, UCLA, Indiana and Kansas. Fond memories formed the foundation for his belief for the little guys on the big stage.

"I also had a big spot in my heart for the underdogs because I came from that background. That's why I pitched the little guys. I knew there was room for both.," said Odjakjian.

Tom's dedication and vision helped champion the small-school cause when he joined the Programming Department of ESPN which began in 1979 in its embryonic stages. With ESPN hungry for any type of programming, Odjakjian was given the green light to round up the rights to



televise small school championship games. In 1980 ESPN signed on for the first-round games of the NCAA Tournament. Those

Thursday noon games that the major networks wanted no part of, and when those telecasts succeeded by 1990 CBS, which had the rights to later-round NCAA games, swooped in to buy the total package.

While Director of College Sports for ESPN in the early days the progression began and he became the ultimate salesman. He convinced his superiors there was an audience willing to watch obscure colleges play basketball at all hours of the day or night.

Tom Odjakjian currently is Associate Commissioner of the Big East Conference and is humble about his tag as, "Father of March Madness." He was there when ESPN tapped into the TV mother lode that was the early rounds of the NCAA Basketball Championships.

"People take it for granted now because every tournament game is on TV, but back then it was novel and special," he said.

Tom Odjakjian was inducted into the North Plainfield High School Alumni Hall of Fame in 1996

---

## Notice

The NPBS Alumni Association is establishing a new Web site: [nphsalumni.net](http://nphsalumni.net) starting in the summer of 2008. You will be able to view the Alumni Newsletter and eventually other alumni news and events.

To help defray some of the expenses of the Web site, we are offering advertising space to those interested.

You can advertise your class notices, business, or upcoming events, etc. For more information contact: NPBS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 (908 756 2776) or e-mail to: [carusodesign@comcast.net](mailto:carusodesign@comcast.net).

---

# CLASS MESSAGES

The Alumni Association invites graduates to use this page for Class, Reunion or other messages..

Send messages to: NPHS Alumni Association,  
145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060,  
Attn.: Newsletter

---

## Class of 1963

### Save the Date in 2008

Has your address, telephone number, or E-mail changed??

Please help us to help you stay in touch for our next reunion!!

### 45th Reunion Weekend for the Class of '63 October 3, 4, 5, 2008

Contact:

**Kathy Meden DeAngelis**

Kathdea@patmedia.net

**Barbara Rebuth Malone**

Bmalone39@comcast.net

**Lianne Slack Pellegrino**, (908) 575-3151

**Cheryl Meyer**, (908) 769-5951

---

## Class of 1959

Reunion Chairperson:

Bonnie Baron Shrager

(732) 356-8808

bshrager@patmedia.net

---

## The Class of 1962

NPHS Class of 1962 Reunion was held October 20, 2007 at the Vermeule Mansion. Contacts are Ray Bersch, 908 229-5886 or raybersch@optonline.net and Mary Diehle 908 359-7161.

---

## Notice

The NPHS Alumni Association is establishing a new Web site: nphsalumni.net starting in the summer of 2008. You will be able to view the Alumni Newsletter and eventually other alumni news and events.

(see page 7 for more details)

---

## Class Contacts

We need up-to-date Class Lists for the next NPHS Alumni Directory. On a disc, if possible, or a hard copy. Send to: NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

---

## Class of 1943

The Class of 1943 will celebrate its 65th Reunion on September 24, 2008 at Vincent's Restaurant on Mount Bethel Road in Warren starting at 12 noon.

For more information contact: Antoinette Rinehart (908) 755-4580 or Rinehart@verizon.net. Also, Harry Martin (973) 663-2410; or Hmartin19@optonline.net

---

## Class of 1958

The NPHS Class of 1958 will hold its 50th Reunion beginning Friday, October 31, 2008 at the Italian American Club in North Plainfield. On Saturday, November 1, 2008 at the Bridgewater Manor, 1251 Route 202/206, Bridgewater for a Dinner/Dance, and Sunday, November 2, 2008 for a brunch at the Bridgewater Marriott Hotel, 700 Crossing Boulevard, Bridgewater.

Contact Vince Lipani (908) 359-4652.

---

## Class of 1967

The NPHS Class of 1967 will hold its 40th Reunion on Friday, October 11, 2008 at the Italian American Club in North Plainfield.

Contact Lucy Berardi Minichino (908) 753-7776.

---

## Class of 1949

The North Plainfield High School Class of 1949 is planning its 60th Reunion in the Fall of 2009. Anyone interested should contact Mel Lerer or Frank Caruso, 908 756 2776.

## Class of 1948

The Class of 1948 will hold its 60th Reunion at a luncheon on October 3, 2008 at Water & Wine, 141 Stirling Road, Watchung. Contact Bob McCarthy (908) 322-6666 or Jean Rowland Barrett FRJB13@aol.com.

Missing graduates:

Adams, Barbara Graziano; Anthony, Frances Romeo; Atkinson, Thomas; Bartholomew, Eileen Schiller; Baum, Florence Rochford; Borrow, Audrey Muir; Boylan, Theodore; Cholowichok, Alice Dusylovitch; Christiansen, Betty Johnston; Cleaves, Richard; Coords, Donald; Downs, Margery Smith; Fink, Robert; Frede, Richard; Garino, Charlotte Ramos; Gaffney, Deloris Young; Gavett, Robert; George, Jean Colucci; Holmes, Bill; Jones, Dolores Blechar; Kadash, Doris Krasnick; Kind, William; Klimas, Bernard; Kroll, Robert; Lamb, Dorothea Bailey; Lobosco, Joseph; Malec, Bernadette Robertson; Malone, Arthur; Manning, William; McGaffin, Robert; McGrath, Mable Force; Medici, Anthony; Molinari, Gloria Falconeri; Nagy, William; Nardoizzi, Daniel; Norton, James; Paulson, Ben; Runyon, Allen; Schneider, Joseph; Schorb, Gloria Mante; Shanklin, David; Yerman, Hilda; Yurgel, Helen Elliott.

---

## Class of 1949 Yearbook

Mel Lerer, NPHS Class of 1949, is looking for an extra yearbook from his class. If anyone knows of any, please contact The Alumni Association, 908 756-2776 or carusodesign@comcast.net

---

## Classes of '33 to '35

NPHS Classes of 1933 to 1935 will hold their next reunion on Wednesday, June 19, 2008 at the Dunellen Hotel on Washington Avenue, Dunellen, starting at noon. Anyone interested should contact Art Lederer 908 754-8252.

# **NPHS SCHOLARSHIPS**

## **The George "Chip" Mauro Memorial Scholarship**

An annual scholarship has been established in memory of George "Chip" Mauro by the Mauro family to be presented in 2008 to a graduating NPHS senior based on academics, financial need and school and community service. George Mauro was a graduate of NPHS in 1951. He passed away August 9, 2006. He excelled in academics and sports while at NPHS.

If anyone would like to donate to this scholarship fund, please make checks payable to: NPHS Alumni Association and send to 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060. Please designate the George "Chip" Mauro Scholarship.

## **Dr. Herman A. Estrin Scholarship Fund**

On May 9, 1998, the NPHS Alumni Association honored Dr. Herman Estrin's 60-year teaching career.

Dr. Estrin passed away on May 7, 1999. To honor him, the Alumni Association has established the "Dr. Herman A. Estrin Memorial Scholarship" an annual award presented to a graduating NPHS senior excelling in English, Writing, and Literature.

To donate to the Dr. Herman A. Estrin Memorial Scholarship Fund, make checks payable to NPHS Alumni Association and mail to:

NPHS Alumni Association,  
145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

## **The Marie O'Brien Award**

The "Marie O'Brien Excellence in Writing Award," is given to a graduating senior who has displayed exemplary writing talent during their high school careers.

Announcement of the award came at a high school reception given in honor of Dr. O'Brien's 50th teaching anniversary. Contributions to the fund for the award have made it possible to present the award for many years.

Alumni who wish to honor Dr. O'Brien may send their contributions. Make checks payable to the "O'Brien Writing Award" and send to Dr. Ernest Jaeger, North Plainfield High School, 34 Wilson Avenue, North Plainfield, New Jersey 07060. Dr. O'Brien will receive the list of names of those who have contributed to the award.

## **Winifred Gardner Letso Memorial Scholarship**

Winnie Letso served on the North Plainfield Board of Education for 27 years, which is the longest term in North Plainfield history. As an advocate for children, she believed that a good education was vital for success.

The criteria: An annual \$500 scholarship will be awarded in her memory to an NPHS senior who will attend a 2 or 4 year college or university and is based on academic achievement, financial need, and school and community involvement. A letter from the applicant describing the importance of education to you and/or how education has affected your life is required

To support the Winifred Gardner Letso Memorial Scholarship Fund, please make checks payable to: NPHS Alumni Association. Send to: 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

## **Fred Green Memorial Scholarship Fund**

The NPHS Classes of 1935 and 1949 have adopted the Fred Green Memorial Scholarship honoring the former teacher, coach, and friend.

At the 2000 Hall of Fame Dinner, a memorial scholarship in Fred Green's name was announced. Students and former players may wish to contribute to this fund.

The criteria: An annual \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a senior, boy or girl who has excelled in academics, who is accepted at a Junior College, four-year college or university and has participated in an NPHS athletic activity.

To donate to the Fred Green Memorial Scholarship Fund, make check payable to: NPHS Alumni Association and mail to NPHS Alumni Assn., 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

## **"Sunny" Church Memorial Scholarship**

The August "Sunny" Church Memorial Scholarship was established to honor the 1932 NPHS graduate who was one of the most famous scholar/athletes NPHS graduates.

"Sunny" played football at NPHS and Notre Dame University and was recognized nationally for sports and academics. He was one of the original members of the "Flying Arrows," the Borough's sport and social club. "Sunny" was inducted into the charter Alumni Hall of Fame Class in 1995.

The first scholarship was awarded in 2002 to a graduate excelling in sports and academics and displaying excellent character and community service.

To support the "Sunny" Church Scholarship Fund, make checks payable to: NPHS Alumni Association. Send to: 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

# Obituaries

**Marjorie Rocchetti Roseman**, 66, died February 6, 2008. She was a 1959 graduate of NPHS.

**William (Wilbur) Kane** died February 17, 2008. He attended North Plainfield schools.

**Rinaldo Nino Broccoletti**, 86, died February 23, 2008. He was a 1939 graduate of NPHS and a member of the Flying Eagles.

**Elizabeth Silvius Dickson-Rillo**, 86, died February 27, 2008. She was a 1940 graduate of NPHS and served in the Women's Auxiliary Corps during WWII.

**Nicholas Importico**, 93, died March 1, 2008. He attended North Plainfield schools.

**Frank Jannelli**, 85, died March 2, 2008. He was a 1948 graduate of NPHS.

**Roslyn Cohen Sack**, 79, died March 5, 2008. She was a 1945 graduate of NPHS.

**Louis D. De Fillipo**, 92, died March 19, 2008. He was a 1933 graduate of NPHS. (See related obituary)

**Margaret Douglas Bersch**, 91, died March 26, 2008. She was a 1935 graduate of NPHS.

**Martha Sage Sweezy**, 94, died April 7, 2008. She was a 1931 graduate of NPHS.

**Alfred Bottini**, 77, died April 14, 2008. He was a 1949 graduate of NPHS.

**Gladys Beender Letter**, 89, died April 23, 2008. She attended North Plainfield schools.

**Dick Sullivan**, 68, died April 27, 2008. He was a 1957 graduate of NPHS.

**Tina Mannello Mazzeo**, 78, died April 27, 2008. She was a graduate of NPHS.

**O. P. Jack** died April 26, 2008. He was a graduate of NPHS.

**Eleanor Olsen Doberty**, 77, died May 7, 2008. She was a 1948 graduate of NPHS.

**Louis Baldini**, 83, died May 12, 2008. He was a 1941 graduate of NPHS.

**Alma Marie Snoden Freile**, 82, died May 14, 2008. She was a 1943 graduate of NPHS.

**May Evelyn Pederson Walker**, 91, died May 18, 2008. She was a 1935 graduate of NPHS.

**Dr Richard Ripley**, 83, died June 7, 2008. He was a 1942 graduate of NPHS.

**Dorothy Merritt Schwartz**, 88, died March 13, 2008. She was a 1938 graduate of NPHS.

**Raymond Templin**, 87, died May 20, 2008. He was a 1938 graduate of NPHS.

---

## Remembering Camille

continued from page 7

While she waited, I walked across the street and I felt the ledge. There were four or five coins, about 50 cents, waiting to be scooped up. Was this a miracle? She never explained how they got there.

Camille grew up and became very beautiful. Most of the boys in the area would have liked to date her but she met a wonderful boy from Raritan named Dan Corona, whose brother is Monsignor Corona. After a short engagement they were married on Oct. 2, 1942 at St. Joseph Church in North Plainfield. Father Thomas Campbell performed the ceremony. There were no pictures allowed during the ceremony. Sam Rayder, who married my sister Mary, said "Give me the camera, I will take a picture near the back of the church." "Father Campbell motioned for Sam to leave the Church immediately.

Her loving Husband, Dan Corona, died in 2004 and Camille died in 2008.

She is sadly missed by all her wonderful friends and family.

Camille was a very special person in my life. I enjoyed her company immensely and I will never forget her. We were very close even until the end.

### Louis A. De Fillipo

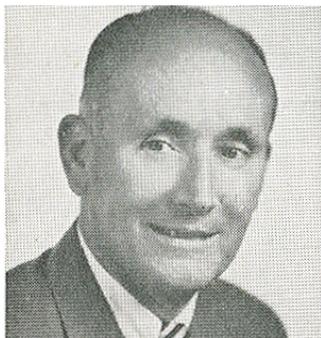
Louis A. De Fillipo a lifelong resident of South Plainfield, died March 19, 2008. A 1933 graduate of North Plainfield High School, he served with the US Army during WWII and received two Bronze Stars, a Purple Heart and many other citations for bravery. He retired from the South Plainfield Volunteer Fire Department in 1992 after fifty-four years of service. In 1995 Mr. De Fillipo was inducted into the NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame in 1996.



### John Pepe

The communities of Plainfield and North Plainfield were hit with a tremendous loss May 19, 2008 with the passing of John Pepe, a long time sports enthusiast, participant and sports radio broadcaster. While at Penn State he was an Eastern Wrestling Champion and played competitive football into his 40's. He was the voice of WERA Radio Sports. Although John graduated from Plainfield High School he was made an honorary member of the NPHS Alumni Association in 1995 for his dedicated service to the communities of Plainfield and North Plainfield.

## Mac Donald Family Donates The Yale Cup To NPHS Alumni



Frank E. (Bus) MacDonald

The family of Frank "Bus" Mac Donald, a 1926 graduate of North Plainfield High School and the recipient of the Yale Cup for scholarship and athletics that year, wanted everyone to appreciate the award so they donated the Yale Cup to the Alumni Association.

The cup will be on display with the other special awards at the NPHS gymnasium.

Mr. Mac Donald attended Rutgers University and was elected Mayor of North Plainfield in 1959.



"Bus" MacDonald '26

## 2008 NPHS ALUMNI CUP WINNERS

### Eugene Flood

Eugene, son of Eugene and Darby, has excelled in both athletics and academics. His dedication and commitment to football, basketball, wrestling, and track have earned him a total of eight varsity letters throughout high school. He has pursued a difficult schedule including numerous Advanced Placement and Honors courses, and was ranked in the top 5% of his class. Eugene balances academics and athletics with a number of other activities. He was the Vice President of the National Honor Society, Treasurer of the Italian Honor Society, and a member of Heroes and Cool Kids, concert band, and Peer Leaders.

### Allison Sarfati

Allison, daughter of Nancy and Jack, has earned varsity letters in tennis and softball. Her leadership and dedication to athletics, academics, and community service have helped her to be named captain of the tennis team as well as Senior, Class President. Allison was involved in Advanced Placement and Honors, courses and was ranked in the top 5% of her class. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Peer Leaders, Heroes and Cool Kids, Spanish Honor Society, and Interact. In addition, Allison is a Bloustein Distinguished Scholar as well as a recipient of the North Plainfield Optimist Athlete Award.

### Thanks to

. . . Bob Messerschmidt, Class of 1949, for his generous donation to the Herman Estrin Scholarship Fund.

. . . the MacDonald Family for their donation of Frank "Bus" MacDonald's 1926 Yale Cup

## From the NPHS Principal's Desk

Dear Alumni:

The end of the year has come once again and North Plainfield High School is about to send forth a new group of alumni to tackle the world. The Class of 2008 will hold its 111<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony of Friday, June 20.

As you reflect on your graduation day, those feelings of fear, apprehension, anticipation, and excitement that you had that day may come to mind. A feeling of confidence will also come to mind. That feeling of confidence is being felt by today's graduates. They are confident in a way that only a young person can be as they embrace the day that they had been dreaming of all year.

I'm confident as well. My confidence comes in knowing that these graduates are prepared academically, emotionally, and socially to take on new challenges. The Class of 2008 has served as mentors to the freshmen, given back to the community, and have garnered over \$700,000 in scholarships. I'm confident that this year's graduating class has upheld the standard of academic and athletic excellence set forth by generations of "Canucks".

I look forward to meeting alumni when I'm stopped because I'm wearing a "Canuck" shirt and telling you all the great things that are happening at your alma mater. Please feel free to contact the school if you wish to visit or if you are interested in establishing a scholarship.

Go Canucks!

Sincerely,  
Jerard W. Stephenson  
Principal

*The NPHS Newsletter* is published quarterly for the Alumni of NPHS by the NPHS Alumni Association. 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 – 908 756-2776.

Web address:

[www.nphsalumni.net](http://www.nphsalumni.net)

President: Mario Caruso ('51)

Vice Pres: Gerry Burns ('68)

Fred Sheeler ('63)

Sec'y: Joanne Mangione Santonastaso ('64)

Treas: Bob Kirchberger ('65)

Trustees: Paul Carlton ('53)

Steve Novak ('65)

Scholarship: Steve Novak ('65)

Membership: Gerry Garatino Burns ('68)

Alumni Hall of Fame:

Bob Kirchberger ('65)

WWII Monument: Lou Caruso ('41)

Newsletter: Howard J. Bollin ('51)

Paul Carlton ('53)

Daniel Caruso ('75)

Mario Caruso ('51)

Ron Kovacs ('76)

John Maimone

Gail McKenna

Fred Sheeler ('63)

Web Site: Ron Kovacs ('76)

## Images of America, NP

The *Images of America* book on North Plainfield has been reprinted by popular demand. The 128-page book contains vintage photos of North Plainfield. The cost is \$19.99 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

The 1995 through 2007 NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame booklets, containing pictures and condensed biographies of Alumni Hall of Fame members, are available for \$5 each plus \$3 shipping. Back issues of Alumni Newsletters are available for \$1.00 each.

Please support the NPHS Alumni Scholarship Fund. Purchase the new "North Plainfield and Its Neighbors" historic video, VHS or CD \$25.00 each plus \$5.00 S&H.

Mail your order and make checks payable to:

North Plainfield High School

Alumni Association

145 Cedar Street

North Plainfield, NJ 07060

All net proceeds benefit the NPHS Alumni Scholarship Fund.

## How Do You Get Your Alumni Newsletter?

The NPHS Alumni Newsletter is published four times a year, seasonally, year in and year out, thanks to the Alumni dues and donations.

Join the NPHS Alumni Association annually in January of each year. If you have not been paying dues, act now. Consider a life-time membership for \$60.

Free issues of the Newsletter are placed in the NP Public Library, Municipal Building, High School, and Caruso Haircutters.

To receive a printed copy of the Newsletter, send a self-addressed, stamped (59¢), envelope to the NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar St., North Plainfield, NJ 07060

### Congratulations

**North Plainfield High School**

**Class of 2008**

### North Plainfield High School Alumni Association

145 Cedar Street  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Non Profit Org.

US Postage

PAID

North Plainfield, NJ

Permit No. 103

This document was created with Win2PDF available at <http://www.win2pdf.com>.  
The unregistered version of Win2PDF is for evaluation or non-commercial use only.  
This page will not be added after purchasing Win2PDF.