

# CONGRATULATIONS NPHS CLASS OF 2009

*North Plainfield High School Alumni Association*

145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

## NEWSLETTER

*Published by the NPHS Alumni Association*

Summer 2009

Alumni Web site — [www.nphsalumni.net](http://www.nphsalumni.net)

Volume 19 No. 2

### *From The President . . .*

The community of North Plainfield suffered a great loss on April 21, 2009 with the passing of Dr. Marie O'Brien. After serving the Borough's educational system for over 56 years, Dr. O'Brien left a legacy of dedication, love and passion for the English language that few educators can boast. If you could listen to some of the letters written by her former students at her service at St. Mary's Church, it would give you goose bumps. These students were doctors, writers and professional people who showed their appreciation to Dr. O'Brien for exposing them to this love of writing, speaking, literature and the plain, good old English language.

Speaking personally, I am not a doctor or a highly professional person but Miss O'Brien left a touch of her Irish heart that is hard to explain. I swear, she must have mastered the art of teaching by osmosis. When I found out who my English teacher was, I think I broke out in a cold sweat. But after being in her class for a short time, I felt comfortable with the class with Miss O'Brien and with a language that used to sound like Greek to me. To this day I still have bad dreams about showing up in Marie O'Brien's class without my homework but to my surprise, sixty years later I can still recite a passage from Macbeth.

To honor Dr. O'Brien for her dedication to teaching the English language, on behalf of all of her former students, the NPHS Alumni Association would like to dedicate the Fourth Alumni Directory to the memory of Dr. Marie O'Brien.

Personally, words are not enough to show my appreciation for everything she has taught me, so I would like to keep her memory alive through twenty years of alumni newsletters. I'm sure there are many misspelled words and errors but I am also sure she will forgive me seeing they were written from the heart.

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

PS: Congratulations, Class of 2009, on your graduation from North Plainfield High School.

### **Dr. Marie O'Brien**

**October 23, 1919 – April 21, 2009**

In her 56 year career at North Plainfield High School, Dr. Marie O'Brien taught three generations of students how to write. As a teacher of English, head of the English department, and district supervisor of language arts, Dr. O'Brien always stressed the importance to students of becoming a good writer.

"The more you write, the better you will become" became Dr. O'Brien's rallying cry.



The Dr. Marie O'Brien Excellence in Writing Award was created to celebrate Dr. O'Brien's fiftieth year in the district and to recognize the huge contributions Dr. O'Brien has made in that area of teacher. That award has

been generously supported by generations of alumni who gained a great deal in Dr. O'Brien classes.

Dr. Marie O'Brien held a Bachelor of Arts in English from Montclair State University; a Master of Arts from Columbia University; and a PhD. from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Even with these degrees, she never stopped learning and has amassed more credits in graduate study than any other professional in the district. The recommendation that accompanied Dr. O'Brien's original placement papers from Montclair State many years ago has held true for her entire career:

*"She is enthusiastic and sympathetic . . . Her love for teaching is evident, and manifests itself in the attitude of her students."*

# NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame 2009 Inductees

The fourteenth annual North Plainfield High School Alumni Hall of Fame Dinner will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 at the Italian American Club in North Plainfield.

Each year, outstanding graduates of NPHS are selected to enter the Hall of Fame. This year's inductees are:

**Grover G. DeVault, 1948**  
Military – Ministry  
Community Service

Grover DeVault has devoted his life to the Military and Ministry as well as community service. He is a highly decorated military officer (LTC) and his records demonstrate achievements and accomplishments rarely reflected by others. Legion of Merit and Bronze Star for combat during 20 years of active duty. Founder of the Christian Military Fellowship and the International Assoc. of Military Chaplains, and is currently development of the chaplaincy of PA State Police force. Very detailed book of accomplishments will be available at the HOF committee meeting.

**Beverly (nee Gaston)  
Kochard, 1969**  
Education

Beverly is currently Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, at Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA. She has held this position since 1990, and is responsible for Moravian's residence life, counseling, student activities, student conduct, career development, academic assistance, campus safety, Greek Life, leadership development and many more activities. Prior to her position at Moravian, she was the Director of Development at Albright College. Before her work at Albright, she was the Assistant Dean of Students at Moravian College. She was in college administration

initially at McShea College Center at Allentown College. Beverly earned her BA at Moravian College and her MEA at Lehigh University.

**Joseph A. Scarola, 1965**  
Medicine

Dr. Scarola is the Assistant Vice President and Senior Scientific Advisor for Drug Development for Wyeth Pharmaceuticals Worldwide. He is currently responsible for devising strategy and directing the clinical staff for development of drugs for Wyeth in the challenging environment of Japan. Joe joined Wyeth in 1988 after twelve years of private practice. After joining Wyeth Research, he became involved with the development of investigational medication, initially in the area of arthritis and subsequently in organ transplantation. He directed two successful programs, culminating in the regulatory approval in numerous countries of one medicine for arthritis and one medication to prevent organ transplant rejections. Joe is a Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Rutgers, and received his MD from Johns Hopkins. Joe and his wife the former Barbara Lombardo, have four children and will be returning to their home in Collegetown, PA in March of 2009.

**Terry Silverlight, 1975**  
Music and Entertainment

Terry Silverlight has been involved with many facets of the music business and has contributed his musical talents as a leader, composer, producer, arranger, drummer, author and educator to projects in almost every style of music.

Terry began his recording career at the age of 14 when he played drums on his brother Barry Miles's album, "White Heat", an innovative harbinger of the fusion movement. Since then, he's performed all over the world and has played drums on

gold and platinum recordings for Billy Ocean, George Benson, Natalie Merchant, Freddie Jackson, Stephanie Mills, Tom Jones, Laura Nyro, Anne Murray, Mel Torme, Jennifer Holladay, Phil Woods, The Fania All - Stars, The CTI All-Stars, Jonathan Butler, movie scores for One Fine Day, You've Got Mail, Object of My Affection, Titus, Frida, Slaves of New York, What Planet Are You From, and countless jingles and TV shows. Terry has toured extensively with artists such as Roberta Flack and the award-winning, all-star, Manhattan Jazz Orchestra.

Terry's drum book *The Featured Drummer* is published by Music Sales/Amsco/G.Schirmer with an audio CD of Terry playing the exercises accompanied by John Patitucci and Barry Miles. Terry latest drum book is *The Stick Bag Book of Jazz, Funk, Fusion*, published by Music Sales.

## TEACHER

**Ethel Piness Abrams, 1935**  
Education

Ethel started her professional career as a Social Worker in Newark, after graduating from Cornell University. She married and raised two sons before returning to the workforce as an English teacher at NPHS in 1964. Her career at NPHS spanned more than 20 years, she taught English on every level of jr. high through seniors. She was a very popular teacher who helped students see the relevancy of literature to their lives. Ethel provided students with a number of truly creative experiences. She worked with other teachers to develop interdisciplinary units in English. She was the driving force behind the development of the school art festival, dubbed "Creations." She was a mentor to both students and new teachers, and she was a truly unique educator. Ethel died in 2006 at age 88.

## 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, 60"x60," with NPHS old **Sold Out** logo, \$45.

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

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## We Are Searching For Photos

The NPHSAA is searching for photos taken in and around North Plainfield High School. All activities and all time periods are of interest. Photos should be accompanied by captions and information about the donor. Good laser copies are suggested if you want to preserve the originals. Send to: NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar St., N. Plainfield, NJ 07060

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## Reunion Alert!

### 2008 Reunion Contacts

- 1933 Art Lederer, 908 754-8252.
- 1934 Art Lederer, 908 754-8252.
- 1938 Contact Manny Ferri, 908 755-7413 or Edith Ruthenback Brokaw, 908 722-5347.
- 1943 Contact Harry Martin, 973 663-2410.
- 1948 Bob McCarthy, 908 322-6666.
- 1953 Contact Paul Carlton, 732 752-2666.
- 1958 Vince Lipani, 908 369-5623 (H), 908 359-4652 (W).
- 1963 Contact Kathy Meden DeAngelis, 732 249-1791; Cheryl Meyer McDowel, 908 769-5951.
- 1968 Gerry Garatino Burns, 610 438-2788 or e-mail: grib68@ren.com. May 3, 2009, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Edison. Combined Reunion with Class of 1969.
- 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.

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### 2009 Reunion Contacts

- 1933 Art Lederer, 908 754-8252. 75th Reunion, June 25, 2009.
- 1934 Art Lederer, 908 754-8252. 2009. June 25, 2009.
- 1939 Phyllis Clark Tebbs, 732 369-1686.
- 1944 Al Fasano 908 756-3974.
- 1949 60th Reunion. Mel Lerer, 732 873-1960 or email: mjlerer@aol.com. October 17, 2009. Crowne Plaza, Somerset, NJ. (see page 8)
- 1954 Al & Fran Ellis 908 766-8489.
- 1959 50th Reunion. Bonnie Baron Shrager, 732 356-8808. October 8, 2009.
- 1964 Contact the Alumni Association.
- 1969 40 Reunion, Kathy Miller Senna 908 756-8255. May 2, 2009 (see page 9).
- 1974 Marsha Ferri Clarke 908 788-8084.
- 1979 Tom Zilli 908 709-4505-H 800 660-6952.
- 1984 Tom Miller 908 996-4689.
- 1989 Maria Price 908 237-0045. November 7, 2009 at Maggiano's, Commons Way, Bridgewater.
- 1994 Contact Beth Kenderdine, 908 231-9595.
- 1999 Contact NPHS Alumni Association.
- 2004 Contact NPHS Alumni Association.

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### 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**

A note from  
Barbara Green Ellige:  
Class of 1969

Our reunion was held May 2, 2009.

It was fabulous!

Thanks to all those who made it great and all the efforts of you in N.P.H.S.

A great school and we're its Legacy!

\* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni Association:

Thank you so much for fitting me with a great set of golf clubs. That was a great thing of you to do. Hopefully, I can see you at my mom's office soon.

Sincerely,

Alex Clark (son of Dr. Jane Ligums)

\* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni,

I am a Life-Member and would like very much if I could receive the Newsletter on my daughter's computer. She lives with me so there would not be a problem.

Her e-mail address is:  
MSLRanger@aol.com (all one word).

I enjoy the Newsletter and you are doing a great job!

***ED. NOTE:*** *Sorry, we are not able to E-mail the Newsletter, but our Web site address is: [www.nphsalumni.net](http://www.nphsalumni.net).*

Sincerely,

Andrea Ranger  
1808 South Central Avenue  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080

Dear Alumni

This is letter number two requesting that the information on our reunions is placed on list permanently so that classmates are up to date.

Last note for 2009, you promised you would put it on Reunions, page 3 list:

Anita Schord, Class of 1947  
247 Jefferson Avenue  
North Plainfield, NJ 07060  
908-756-5149

Thank you again for doing this – on both printed and computer.

\* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni,

Thank you for the Newsletter, Winter 2008/2009.

I was thrilled to see my sister's photo and her son, Donald's, on Page 11.

Yes, she was "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II. Her husband, Dan, was away serving in the Army.

There on the previous page 10 - that mansion was on the opposite corner of our first home. It is still there - corner of Greenbrook Road and Clinton Avenue.

That is really unbelievable. Brought back many memories. My husband, Pat, worked hard in refurbishing that house-it was beautiful when he finished! Many memories.

I will become a member of the NPHS Alumni Association and also have to tell you-I still have my "Canuck 1936" Year Book plus the corsage I wore at the graduation.

Thank you, for all these memories!

J. Louise Petrella

Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the Clearing House of North Plainfield High School, I want to take the opportunity to thank you and your foundation/organization for your participation in awarding much needed scholarships to our high school students. During this difficult economic time where extra money is hard to come by, somehow you and your organization were able to raise enormous amounts of money to go toward senior scholarships. Because of your generosity, a total of nearly \$144,000 in scholarships was awarded to 83 students that will enable them to attend the college of their choice. No matter how much your organization was able to donate toward scholarships, it was greatly appreciated by the recipients and their families, and by those of us involved with the Clearing House.

I want to wish your organization/foundation continued success in all future endeavors and I look forward to your participation in the Clearing House once again next year and in the years to come. Without your participation, the Clearing House of North Plainfield would not be as successful as it has come to be over the years.

Most sincerely,  
Adrienne Graubard  
Chairperson

\* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni

We are happy to welcome Vernon Tuit III, NPHS Class of 2005, to the writing staff of the NPHS Newsletter. Be sure to read his article on the NP Street Fair on page 6 and 7 and catch his bio on page 9. If you have any news or historical articles, his e-mail address is vtuit3@yahoo.com.  
Mario Caruso

Visit the North Plainfield High School Alumni's Web Site at:

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

# Dick Williams, Class of 1962 Somerset County "Citizen of the Year"

Dick Williams, a 1962 graduate of North Plainfield High School and a lifelong resident of Somerset County, was presented with the "Citizen of the Year" award recently at the Somerset County Business Partnership Awards Dinner at the Martinsville Inn.

Sometimes referred to as, "Mr. Somerset County," Williams was honored for serving eighteen years as Somerset County's administrator, overseeing a \$214 million budget and more than 1,000 employees.

"I don't necessarily deserve it," he said, explaining the county's

smooth operations are mostly due to the quality of the department heads and the employees.

Among the biggest accomplishments during his tenure, Williams lists the County's recycling program - the only program that touches all county residents.

Other accomplishments include the construction of TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater "at no cost to the taxpayers" and the County's purchase of Natirar, the 500-acre former estate of the late King Hassan II of Morocco, in Peapack-Gladstone.

Raised in North Plainfield, Williams, who calls himself a "Borough Kind of Guy", said he enjoys the quality of life offered in Somerset County's towns.

*The newspaper article about Dick Williams found in the Courier-News, Sunday, April 19, 2009 was too long and too important to be condensed. The entire article can be found on our web site [www.nphsalumni.net](http://www.nphsalumni.net).*

*Click on Dick Williams*



## North Plainfield Education Foundation To Raise Money for Krausche Field Renovations

The Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders has awarded the North Plainfield School District an Open Space and Recreation grant in the amount of \$1 million. This money is dedicated to the installation of a synthetic grass playing surface on Upper Krausche Field. The grant will pay for excavation of the property, the subgrade, and drainage. It also includes synthetic grass with permanent lines inlaid for soccer, football, field hockey, softball and baseball. New interior fencing and gates are also included in the project. Construction is to begin on or about July 7, 2009 and be completed for the opening of school in September.

The project will move the football field closer to the home bleachers, with a baseball diamond in the northeast corner and a softball diamond in the northwest corner.

The artificial grass athletic field is tufted fabric with a polyurethane coating. The grass is 100% cryogenically-processed rubber granules.

The North Plainfield Education Foundation is working on projects to enhance the field installation. Our goal is to raise money that will provide for upgrades and/or replacement for the following: concession stand, scoreboards, field lighting, sound system, landscaping, bleachers, and other projects. The sale of advertising along the fence lines and donations by generous North Plainfield school alumni will also assist the Foundation as it helps create a premiere facility that will be the centerpiece of the community.

How Can You Help? Join the North Plainfield Education Foundation, make a donation today specifically for Krausche Field Renovation.

E-mail any questions to: [noplfdedfnd@yahoo.com](mailto:noplfdedfnd@yahoo.com) or call us at 908-561-0940

If you wish to make a donation, please use the for below and mail to the N. Plfd Ed. Foundation (all donations are tax deductible).

Make checks payable to: Krausche Field Renovation Committee [KFRC]

And send to: N. PLFD ED. FOUNDATION P.O. Box 7284 Watchung, NJ 07069

Please indicate the amount of your donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

NPHS Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Visit our Web site: <http://www.npefnj.org>

# North Plainfield 2009 Street Fair

by Vernon Tuitt III, '05

Patrons from North Plainfield and other inhabitants of Somerset county attended the Annual North Plainfield Street Fair on Somerset Street. The fair itself began at noon and lasted until 5 pm, and the turnout was amazing. Within an hour of the fair's

commencement, the street was packed with children, teens, and adults alike; some from the surrounding neighborhood, and some from the far reaches of North Plainfield. With great music, delicious food, and a lovely atmosphere of. It is safe to say that the fair went off without a hitch.

Various members of the community set up their tables to show their appreciation for North Plainfield by giving information and holding craft sessions. One table in particular was home to Meredith Hoyer, Head of Youth Services, hailing from the North Plainfield Memorial Library. Their table was devoted to handing out information about the summer programs held at the library and letting the children participate in an arts and crafts session with beads. When asked how she though this affected the community at large, she said;

Bob Goellner and Fred Sheeler, manning the Krausche Field Renovation Committee booth.

'The goal of the reading clubs are to get kids to break the gap between grades since a lot of them don't read during the summer months.'

And with the theme 'Be Creative', reading is a big part of that. The presence of the library staff shows



Some of the crowd who enjoyed the Stree Fair along Somerset Street



L to R: Jim McGarry, Florence Mannion, and Patrick Scaglione, Class of 1982, running for the Somerset County Freeholder

## ***ED NOTE:***

More pictures can be viewed at  
[www.nphsalumni.net](http://www.nphsalumni.net)  
Click on NP Street Fair

that they want to be more than just a library, but 'a community center that provides for its people' as Meredith stated.

Another table that seemed to be very buzz worthy was the North Plainfield Education Association. With 510 members, the group is as part of North Plainfield as the people in it. Roger Graubard, a North Plainfield High School Alumni and co-president of the Education Asso-

ciation, seemed to believe that 'any successful community is a blend of the people who live, work, and volunteer'. When asked for his opinion on the fair and how his tables' participation played into it, his answer was intriguing.

'Any successful community is a blend of the people who live, work, and volunteer in it. Living isn't just hanging out in your backyard or in the house. It's taking in the whole

community and participating with it.'

With the community-based tables, various food and drink choices, and general focus on North Plainfield as a whole, one might ask what the point of it all is, and Roger Grobbard would reply,

'We want to send a message to the community that we are totally involved in the conglomeration of town spirit.'



Jim McGarry, Florence Mannion, and Congressman Leonard Lance



Vic DeMarsi, Class of 1957 at the Chili Cookoff



North Plainfield Education Association



Officer Joe Stopinski Class of 1984, and NPHS Head Football Coach, Bob Lake, Class of 1991

# 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*

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## Yearbook Donation

The Alumni Association has offered to the Friends of Vermeule a set of NPHS yearbooks to be displayed for public viewing at the Vermeule Mansion on Clinton Avenue and Greenbrook Road.

The collection will be as complete as possible dating back to the 1920s and will be kept current annually.

If anyone has extra yearbooks they do not need or if you want to replace a lost yearbook, contact the Alumni Association, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 or phone 908 756 2776.

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## Missing Year Books Include:

1939, 1940, 1949, 1951, 1959 and 2008.

If anyone has a year book they would like to donate, please contact the Alumni Association.

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## NPHS Class of 1949

60th Reunion, has been set for October 17, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza (formerly Somerset Marriott), 110 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

More information to Class, forthcoming.

Contact Mel Lerer (732) 873-1960 or mellerer@aol.com

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## Class of 1968 and Class of 1969 Combined Reunion

Reunion Dinner/Dance was held on Saturday, May 2, 2009, 7 pm to 12 midnight at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly The Clarion Hotel), Route 27, Edison, NJ

Reunion Breakfast Buffet was held on Sunday, May 3, 2009 at the same hotel 9 am - 12 noon

Contact persons:

Class of '68, Gerry Garatino Burns, e-mail: gerib68@rcn.com.

Class of '69, Kathy Miller Senna, e-mail: sennak336@gmail.com

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## Classes of '33 to '35

NPHS Classes of 1933 to 1935 will hold their next reunion on Thursday, June 25, 2009 at the Dunellen Hotel on Washington Avenue, Dunellen, starting at noon. Anyone interested should contact Art Lederer 908 754-8252.

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## 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

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## 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 Stree, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

## Saving History

Recently, seven 4'x5' Enlarged, framed photographs were donated to the Borough by the Alumni Association to be displayed at different locations throughout the community.

These historic photos were reproduced from the "Images of America" book about North Plainfield and were hanging on the walls of the Acme Market on Rt. 22 and Grove Street.

They were rescued from destruction when the Acme Market closed approximately four years ago. One of the photos shows Mayor George McCusker cutting the ribbon at the opening ceremonies of the Acme in 1955.

Two photos are hanging now at Somerset School and North Plainfield High School. The photo of the Vermeule Mansion will hang there. The other photos of the Clock Tower "Gate House", a view of Somerset Street, Moldenke's Castle, McCutchen Home, and the original North Plainfield Library will be displayed at the newly renovated Borough Hall.

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**1980 Class Reunion contact:**  
michael.esolda@comcast.net

732-713-3030

**1945 Class Reunion contact:**  
Pat Allegar 908-889-4712 or  
Harry Krausse 908-757-6654

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## 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.

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## Class of 1959

NPHS Class of 1959 50th Reunion. October 8-10, 2009

North Plainfield area contact: Bonnie Baron Shrager 732-356-8808.

Email: bbshrager@comcast.net

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## Project Graduation Seeks Support

We are writing for a very important reason - the success of North Plainfield High School's Project Graduation 2009. Plans are being finalized for this year's Senior Smash. Senior Smash is an all night activity for the senior class, held on the night of graduation, June 23, 2009.

Costs rise each year and we anticipate this year's program to be in excess of \$15,000. North Plainfield High School has enjoyed the safety of a successful, rewarding, all night alcohol and drug free party for many years and we hope to continue this for the future classes of NPHS. If you have supported Project Graduation in the past, we greatly appreciated your help and hope that you will continue to sup-

port this worthwhile project. If you have never participated in this worthwhile cause, it is our hope that you will support us.

When you join with other alumni, community members, businesses, and organizations as a contributing member of Project Graduation, you will be part of a team dedicated to providing the best possible opportunities for our youth.

Sincerely,

NPHS Project Graduation  
Co-Chairs 2009  
Leslie Coder  
leslie.coder@verizon.net  
Anne Fellin  
afellin@comcast.net

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### NPHS Class of 1949. . .

announces arrangements have been completed for its 60 Year Reunion which will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (formerly the Marriott Hotel) on Davidson Avenue in Somerset, NJ, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. A letter with full information will be mailed to classmates within the next few months.

For further information please contact Mel Lerer at 732-873-1960, or e-mail at: mellerer@aol.com.

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### NPHS Class of 1947

Contact Anita Schorb, 247 Jefferson Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ 07060. 908 756 5149.

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**Invest In The Future of  
North Plainfield High  
School  
Support The  
Scholarship Program**

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## 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.

The Alumni Association is also offering excess clubs to the "First Tee Organization" and to the Lyons Veterans Administration in Lyons, NJ.

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## From the NPHS Principal's Desk

Dear Alumni,

Summer is upon us and the students, faculty and staff are getting ready for the end of the school year. Final exams are fast approaching and the library is packed with students studying hard and teachers preparing their assessments.

College acceptance letters have arrived and the seniors, for the most part, have chosen their colleges. Today's Canucks are following the great tradition that you have set by being accepted into the finest institutions of higher learning that our nation has to offer. The seniors have demonstrated that they are prepared to step out of the protective confines of NPHS and take on the world.

This year the school raised \$16,000 for the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. The bulk of this money was raised at "Canuckapalooza." This event saw the school and community coming together on the football field. A battle of the bands, taste of North Plainfield and a step-for-the-cure (walkathon) took place simultaneously with over 1,000 middle school and high school students at-

tending. The students were also treated to dancing, athletic competitions and inflatable rides inside the school.

I look forward to seeing alumni walk the fields surrounding the school and watch the current Canucks live up to a proud tradition of academic and athletic excellence. Please feel free to contact the school if you wish to visit with former teachers or walk the hallways once again.

Go Canucks!

Sincerely,

Jerard W. Stephenson  
Principal

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### New Member of Alumni Newsletter Staff

Vernon Tuitt III is a 2005 North Plainfield High School Alumni who recently graduated from the University of Hartford. He is an aspiring writer looking to break into the world of publishing and study the field in graduate studies. In his spare time, Vernon volunteers his services at the North Plainfield Memorial Library.

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## Notice

The NPHS Alumni Association has established a new Web site: [www.nphsalumni.net](http://www.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, business, or events, etc. For more information contact: NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 (908 756 2776) or e-mail to:

[carusodesign@comcast.net](mailto:carusodesign@comcast.net).

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## WARNING

If you are donating or joining the

NPHS Alumni Association

make sure it is us,

with our address:

145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield,

If you have to use a credit card —

it is **NOT** us.

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## Shore Canuck Club



The Shore Canuck Club held its annual reunion on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at the Crystal Point Yacht Club in Point Pleasant, NJ. Approximately one hundred graduates of North Plainfield High School living at the shore attended.

The next shore get-together will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010. The Crystal Point Yacht Club is located on the Manasquan River next to the Route 70 bridge.

For more information contact: Joan McCarthy Williamson at 732-899-0009.

## North Plainfield School District 2009 Teachers of the Year.

The North Plainfield School District has proudly announced the following 2009 Teachers of the Year.

North Plainfield High School: Amy Six (Choral Director)

North Plainfield Middle School: Corinne Laurie (Health & Physical Education)

Somerset: Camille Ragin (Math)

West End: Jonathan Scott (Music)

East End: Alexis Holbrook (Special Education)

Stony Brook: Dana Kim Garguile (Special Education)

Developed in 1985 to acknowledge teachers who exhibit outstanding performance in education. Members of the community, parents, student and colleagues make nominations from each school annually.

A committee comprised of representatives from the community, Board of Education, and former honorees read the letters of nomination and meet to select one teacher to represent each school in the district.

The 2009 honorees met together for a luncheon at Giovanna's Restaurant on June 1st with Superintendent Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Assistant Su-

perintendent Dr. Robert Rich, Board of Education President Lind Bond-Nelson, and Board Member Tom Allen, as well as their respective Principals.

On Wednesday, June 17th there was a ceremony in the East End School Community Room to officially honor the 2009 Teachers of the Year. The public was invited to attend.

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## Obituaries

**Dr. Lawrence Furnald, Jr.**, 84, died April 24, 2009. He was a 1942 graduate of NPHS.

**Herbert Terry**, 89, died April 19, 2009. He was a 1937 graduate of NPHS.

**John Mallon**, 34, died April 14, 2009. He was a 1992 graduate of NPHS.

**Marjerie McWhorter Jones**, 70, died in May 2009. She was a 1957 graduate of NPHS.

**George Casky**, 77, died in May of 2009. He was a 1950 graduate of NPHS.

**Dr. Marie O'Brien** died April 21, 2009. See Obituary on Page 1.

**Bill Bori**, 73, died May 28, 2009. He was a 1953 graduate of NPHS.

**Carmela Fabiano van der Putten**, 74, died June 6, 2009. She was a 1953 graduate of NPHS.

**Marie Taranto Sorrentino**, 67, died May 28, 2009. Marie is the wife of Ralph Sorrentino, Vice Principal at NPHS.

**Hilda Hess Baron**, 95, died June 10, 2009. She was a 1931 graduate of NPHS.

**Daniel Taylor**, 76, died June 26, 2009. He was a 1951 graduate of NPHS.

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## 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 2009 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.

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### North Plainfield High School Alumni Association

145 Cedar Street

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*Summer 2009*

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