

# NEWSLETTER

Published by the NPHS Alumni Association

Winter 2008/2009

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

Volume 18 No. 4

## From The President . . .

A funny thing happened on a recent trip to Rome. While visiting relatives, we decided to search the web sites and I suggested to log on to: [www.nphsalumni.net](http://www.nphsalumni.net).

To my surprise the Fall Newsletter popped up clear as a bell. It's good to know that we are global, and NPHS graduates all over the world have access to reach us. The hard part is to let them know. Networking is a start. If we can let all of our classmates know and pass it on. A small number of Newsletters will still be printed for the North Plainfield Library, Borough Hall, etc. and for alumni without access to the web. They can still send a self-addressed stamped (59 cents) envelope to the NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060. (Please write in pencil on the envelope, what issue you are requesting).

I want to thank the NPHS Class of 1958 for inviting my wife and I to their 50th Class Reunion. It was a great evening. To see Grace Roth Hodge again was the hit of the evening . . . and congratulations to the Class of 1958 for offering five members of the class to the NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame: Ralph Sorrentino, Peter King, Dick McKenna, Mike Leta and Lawrence Van Winkle.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and HEALTHY 2009.

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



## The 14th NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

The 14th Annual NPHS Hall of Fame Induction banquet was held October 4, 2008 at the Italian American Club in North Plainfield. Over one hundred classmates, friends, family, and teachers attended to honor Frank Cognetti, Thomas Barrett, James Marchio, Erin Johnson Abbott, and Dr. John Klimas. It would have to be classified as a tremendous success.

The North Plainfield High School Alumni Hall of Fame was established in 1995 by the NPHS Alumni Association to recognize and honor the outstanding graduates who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields or professions. The actual Hall of Fame is located in the new cafeteria at NPHS. Approximately 125 inductees have been honored with a plaque with the picture and their biography. They each have a brick placed in the NPHS Alumni Walk of Honor in front of the gymnasium on Wilson Avenue.

The 2009 Hall of Fame nominations must be sent to the Alumni Association by January 15, 2009.



The 2008 Hall of Fame Inductees:

l to r: Frank Cognetti, Thomas Barrett,  
James Marchio, Erin Johnson Abbott.

Not pictured: Dr. John Klimas

**Note: Visit the New Alumni Web Site:**

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

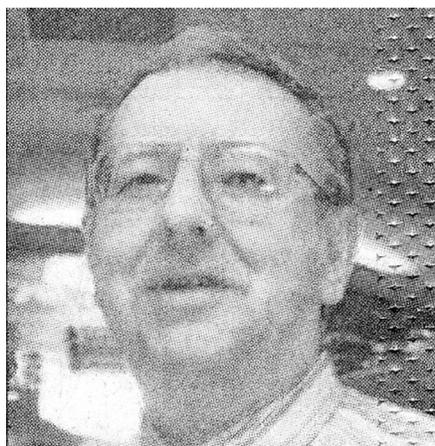
## 1958 Grad Retires From Italian American Club

Arthur Abruzzese, Jr. was honored recently with a club dinner and a proclamation from Mayor Janice Allen for forty-one years of service as manager of the North Plainfield Italian American Club where he helped build it from the ground up, both literally and figuratively.

On the site of the Italian American Club at 403 Somerset Street in North Plainfield there was a house that was purchased, torn down and a new building erected. The then 22-year old Abruzzese was involved from the foundation up and later became the general manager of the club.

Abruzzese's father, Arthur, Sr. was one of the original founding members of the club in 1948 and was the oldest surviving founder until he died at 100 years old in 2004.

Mayor Allen labeled the organiza-



Artie Abruzzese

tion "an invaluable asset" to the Borough. Abruzzese's daughter, Maria, may have summed it up, "The building itself stands for community and embraces a changed world. After all, isn't that what our Italian ancestors came to this melting pot for?"

## Late News NPHS 40 SPHS 27

For the seventh straight year since they renewed their neighborhood rivalry on Thanksgiving Day, the NPHS Canucks beat the SPHS Tigers but it was more than just a football game. It was a show of sportsmanship and of tradition. Both teams should be commended.

NPHS finished the season with a 6-4 record, its seventh winning campaign under Coach Bob Lake.

Sophomore Tailback Vincent Green rushed for 103 yards and two touchdowns and Senior Fullback Derek Grier rushed for three touchdowns.

South Plainfield Coach Philip McGuane summed it up, "I'm proud of our kids. As much as we're disappointed in the loss, I thought they battled to the very end."

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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.

The Alumni Association is also offering excess clubs to the "First Tee Organization" and to the Lyons Veterans Administration in Lyons, NJ. Contact Frank Caruso, Class of '49 at: 908 756 2776

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### A New Feature on the Web

With the web site being so versatile in connection with the Newsletter, more information is available.

Feature stories will be able to give you close to the whole story by additional information on the Alumni web site:

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

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### Class of 1959

The Class of 1959 is planning its 50th Reunion in the fall of 2009. The reunion weekend will take place in the North Plainfield area. For more information contact: Bonnie Baron Shrager, 732-356-8808.

Missing classmates: Stephen Clark, Carol McMahon Carine, Carol Ann White.



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### 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. Cost: \$22.00 per person

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. 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, 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. Dunellen Hotel, 12 Noon, Wednesday, September 3, 2008.
- 1934 Art Lederer, 908 754-8252. Dunellen Hotel, 12 Noon, Wednesday, September 3, 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 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 Bruscatto, 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. Dunellen Hotel, 12 Noon, Wednesday, September ??, 2009.
- 1934 Art Lederer, 908 754-8252. Dunellen Hotel, 12 Noon, Wednesday, September ??, 2009.
- 1939 Phyllis Clark Tebbs, 732 369-1686.
- 1944 Al Fasano 908 756-3974.
- 1949 60th Reunion. Frank Caruso 908 405-3126 or Mel Lerer, 732 821-7624 or email: mjlerer@aol.com.
- 1954 Al & Fran Ellis 908 766-8489.
- 1959 50th Reunion. Bonnie Baron Shrager 732 355-8808.
- 1964 Joanne Santonostaso 908 760-6050.
- 1969 40 Reunion, Kathy Miller Senna 908 756-8255.
- 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.
- 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

Dear Alumni,

Thank you very much for the Hall of Fame Booklet.

I am always interested in North Plainfield activities, especially our high school.

I reached 90 years of age this year. I don't drive anymore., so I don't get far from home.

Reading the Booklet roused many treasured memories. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Very truly yours,

Ed Gibbs, former Principal

21 Bois Circle, Laconia, NH 03246

PS: I take great pride in having been a participant in the source of many outstanding individuals . . .

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Dear Alumni,

Thank you for sending me the NPHS Hall of Fame Certificate.

Enclosed please find a check to reimburse you for your mailing and packing (you did a great job!)

Thank you for naming me for the Hall of Fame. I feel very honored.

Sincerely,

John K. Klimas, MD  
Carolina Asthma and  
Allergy Center  
2630 E. 7th Street, Suite 100,  
Charlotte, NC 28204

\* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni Association

and the rest of your great alumni staff.

Keep up the good work. Your Newsletter is special and I always

look forward to reading it - cover to cover.

Bunny Diehl, Class of 1962

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Dear Alumni,

I am enclosing a check for \$100 in memory of my husband Ralph who passed away July 21, 2008.

We were married 45 years when we lost him. He was a quiet, gentle soul who laughed easily, loved his children and never wanted to be in the spotlight. His life was an experience for our sons, Michael 40 and Brian 34. Nearly 300 people came to the wake from all over the country.

Though he won many awards, was written up in newspapers and magazines, our boys never knew it until the funeral when so many of his friends shared their stories. One of the cars he owned and built the motor sold for \$1,250,000.00 as Barrett Jackson. The car never lost a race and is being made into a scale model collectable.

There are some especially touching tributes in his guest book at [www.branchburgfuneralhome.com](http://www.branchburgfuneralhome.com). He is loved and missed by many.

Laurel Truppi  
90 Katydid Drive  
Branchburg, NJ 08876-3311

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Dear Alumni,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude to you and all those who made the October 4th North Plainfield High School Alumni Hall of Fame dinner possible. The evening certainly reflected the many hours of hard work and behind-the-scene

efforts to make the dinner and program hugely successful.

My induction-surrounded by my family, friends, and high school mentors-is an event I will always cherish and fondly remember. I am truly humbled by the receipt of this recognition. It is an honor and privilege to be included in the same company as this year's distinguished inductees and those alumni previously selected for the Hall of Fame.

In closing, I cannot applaud enough the North Plainfield High School alumni association's efforts to acknowledge the accomplishments of NPHS graduates and to thank the teachers and municipal environment that contributed to their success after leaving high school. I've enclosed a donation to assist the Association with its future efforts.

Very Respectfully,

James (Jim) Marchio

\* \* \* \*

Dear Alumni Association:

I would like to again acknowledge what a privilege and honor to be inducted into the NPHS Hall of Fame. It was an extraordinary night to be honored with Erin Abbott, John Klimas, Jim Marchio, and Frank Cognetti. To also be a part of the living history of the High School is something I never expected while attending there.

Many of North Plainfield's finest traditions are based upon the sound principles nurtured by exceptional educators, administrators, and supported by strong family values. The leadership of the Alumni Association to honor graduates from the past, and those within the recent graduating class exemplifies a way of life consistent with the proud traditions of the community.

There is no finer accolade one can  
*continued on next page*

# "Canuckling" Receives Awards

North Plainfield High School's literary and art magazine, Canuckling, was awarded the Columbia Scholastic Press Association's "Gold Medalist Certificate" and the American Scholastic Press Association's "First Place with Special Merit" for the second year in a row.

The Canuckling magazine is published each year in June, with the first issue published in 1955. The most recent title of the magazine is Images, named to represent the

various ways that student contributors see and look at the world. The previous magazine is titled Identity, providing a strong sampling of the many ways that students define themselves and others as teenagers in the 21st century.

With 106 pages of the high school's student poets, artists, photographers, and story tellers, the 2008 Canuckling is an example of the excellent work of the students at NPHS. Canuckling club members met every other Tuesday in 2007-2008 to do whatever had to be done to get the final proof ready for the printer. Every one of the Canuckling student staff also played a role in creative support by writing or by creating art or photographs for the magazine. For example, the cover is the work of

Jeremy Frusco, a talented senior who graduated last year. Editors from Columbia Scholastic called his work "exceptional." The advisors for the magazine were Ellen Brain and Andrew Risoli, both NPHS English teachers. Kim Dawson, NPHS Art teacher, provided her support by supplying photos of student-generated art work, and by digitally enhancing and organizing pictures into the software package. The entire Language Arts Department encouraged development of material for consideration into the magazine, while the ESL Department also partnered to provide input.

The Canuckling is but one example of the creativity, intellect, and community service activities of North Plainfield's students highlighted in this issue of the Community Newsletter.

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## Letters

continued from previous page

achieve that being recognized by those in your hometown for career accomplishments.

Thank you for an unforgettable night.

Sincerely

Thomas C. Barrett, Class of 1971

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Dear Alumni Association,

I am writing to express my sincerest "Thank You" to you and your entire committee for the wonderful evening that everyone experienced on the occasion of the 14th Annual NPHS Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony. I was thrilled to be back in North Plainfield with many of my dear friends and colleagues. I am honored to have known and worked with you over the years. North Plainfield High School is indeed fortunate to have people such as yourself who dedicate so much of your time to enhance the work of the NPHS Alumni Association. I have enclosed a small check for \$100.00 to the Alumni Association to be utilized in any manner of your choosing.

Again, thank you for a very special evening.

Most sincerely,  
Frank Cagnetti

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## From the NPHS Principal's Desk

Dear Alumni:

The leaves are falling, a new athletic season is coming to an end and winter practices are set to begin. We are proud of the accolades our teams and individual students have received during the season.

The school continues to see improvements as all of the bathrooms on the first floor have been remodeled with the latest in plumbing innovations. Our seniors are beginning the process of applying to colleges and gathering those recommendations for admissions. The underclassmen are knuckling down and striving for academic excellence and bolstering those GPA's. The faculty and staff are gearing up for another fun winter with all of the excitement and challenges that winter brings.

The football team brought home another conference championship! Under coach Bobby Lake, the Canucks won the Skyland Confer-

ence Raritan Division. This is the last year of the conference as the state will experience a new realignment. This victory will give a warning signal to future opponents that the Canucks come to play. The NPHS Cheerleaders and Marching Band continue with their winning traditions and have brought home numerous first and second place trophies from the numerous competitions they have been involved in this year.

"Canuck Pride" is alive and strong here at NPHS and I look forward to meeting more alumni as the winter season begins and we head indoors for athletics. Please feel free to contact the school to find out how you can assist today's students as they carry on the proud traditions that you all worked to create.

Go Canucks!

Sincerely,  
Jerard W. Stephenson  
Principal

# Winners and Still National Champions!

For the second year in a row, the North Plainfield High School Varsity Cheerleading Team has won the prestigious AmeriCheer National Team Community Involvement Award. The team received this honor for representing their community at numerous local, state and national community service and cheerleading-related events.

The NPHS Team was recognized for events such as its two trips to Montoursville, Pennsylvania, visiting the community that lost sixteen students and five adult chaperones when their TWA Flight 800 crashed off Long Island in 1996. The Cheerleading Team made the trips on July 17 last year and this year, the 11th and 12th anniversary of the crash, holding memorials at the high school, at the Flight 800 Memorial Park and at the grave sites of the victims.

The NPHS Team received national recognition when, keeping a cheerleading tradition alive, the members made a 1,000 mile trip to hold memorials at all three 9-11 attack sites. As part of their trip, they flew American flags at Ground Zero, Shanksville Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon. The trip was highlighted when they flew the only American Flag known to have flown over Pearl Harbor and all three 9-11 sites. They also made a special presentation inside the Pentagon of the first American Flag known to have flown over the three 9-11 sites.

The cheerleaders also represented their community by leading the 2007 and 2008 Fourth of July Parades, proudly flying their 9-11 flags. They held a service at the high school's war memorial honoring veterans on Veteran's Day. Later that year, over fifty North Plainfield cheerleaders held a memorial in front of the same monument on Pearl Harbor Day honoring Joe Waller, a local veteran of World War II.

The NPHS Cheerleading Team received a special thank you message



North Plainfield High School Varsity Cheerleading Team

from the Virginia Tech cheerleaders and coaching staff for two large megaphones sent to them by the North Plainfield cheerleaders. The megaphones were signed by cheerleaders from all over America, and were filled with messages of love and caring for the students killed on the Virginia Tech campus last fall. Twenty-five North Plainfield cheerleaders also represented their community when, for a second year in a row, they performed in a pre-game show for the NBA's New Jersey Nets at the Meadowlands.

The NPHS Cheerleading Team also restarted a competitive cheerleading program with a special performance at The Holiday Lights Competition at St. Peter's College in Jersey City. They competed in three categories, earning a third place trophy for stunt group in the Mid Atlantic Championship at the Sovereign Bank Arena in Trenton; a second place team trophy at the Island Championships at the Wildwood Convention Center; and a first place individual trophy at the Mid Atlantic Championships. Both stunt team and individual competitors received scores qualifying them for the CANAM International Championships in Myrtle Beach.

The NPHS Cheerleading Team is the

only high school team to ever receive the AmeriCheer National Team Community Involvement Award. Not only that, this is the second consecutive year that they won the award, and they were the first high school team ever to win the award when they received it last year.

*Ed Note: Reprinted from the Borough of North Plainfield Community Newsletter.*

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## Contribute to the Future of NPHS

To help replenish the NPHS Scholarship Fund the Alumni Association is creating a new program. For a \$50 donation or more to the Scholarship Fund you can have your choice of a complete set of Alumni Newsletters or Alumni Hall of Fame booklets.

This means approximately sixteen years of Newsletters (minus a couple of lost issues) or twelve years of Hall of Fame booklets. But the most important part is that you will be helping NPHS students further their education.

Please send any donations to the NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

# NPHS 1951 Graduate Honored

A recent catered luncheon held at the Warrenville Senior Center was a bittersweet event for center manager Alwayne Blechar.

The luncheon, held Dec. 11, 2008, was the last official event for Blechar, who is retiring.

While Blechar has been the full-time manager of the senior center since February 2007, and served as acting manager of the township center, since March 2006, her presence has left a record of accomplishments.

During Blechar's brief tenure, the center, a stone-faced building on the grounds of Warrenbrook Golf Course, installed an attractive pool table room and a stairlift to help give members a ride up to the second floor.

According to Angela Dubivsky, nutrition program administrator for the Somerset County Office of Aging, Blechar's superior management and leadership style has produced a 9.5 percent increase in attendance.

"The center is filled to capacity for every event she hosts," Dubivsky said, adding that 14 regular activities now fill the center's monthly calendar.

Blechar's record of success is no accident, and she revealed how she acquired her can-do management style.

"Well, I spent 38 years as a civil employee providing full-time support for the Army Reserve program," Blechar said.

Her administrative perspective has a military precision about it, Dubivsky said.

"After graduating from North Plainfield High School, Class of 1951, Alwayne attended many seminars in her career with the Army Reserve on management, human be-



Alwayne Blechar

havior, leadership and supervision. For five years, Alwayne was responsible, full-time, for military-personnel operations and support of the entire 78th Division," Dubivsky explained.

Those traits translated into a flurry of activity when Blechar became an active member of the Warrenville Senior Center 10 years ago, after retiring from her Army Reserve career with many citations and awards for service.

Among them is her receipt in 1989 of the Meritorious Civilian Service Award, one of the highest awards that can be earned by civilian employees of the federal government.

"I loved my career in government," Blechar said. "You had to think quickly when making decisions. On weekends you got to meet the Reservists, who could be teachers, chief executive officers or a UPS driver.

It was exciting and fun."

Dubivsky noted Blechar joined the center soon thereafter, as a volunteer Income Tax Counselor.

Blechar soon was helping with special events and then with extensive renovations to the building. "Alwayne spent countless hours helping to strip wallpaper," Dubivsky said.

Even when Blechar was named the center's manager, she continued to turn her energies to more than just administrative tasks.

"I spent a lot of time cleaning out closets and organizing materials. Then I found space for a coat closet," Blechar said. She also responded to members' requests for a book nook, now located in the dining area, "where people like to linger and talk," Blechar said

Blechar said she now is truly retired, but notes that "one should always have some purpose in life."

**Ed Note:** *Reprinted from The Courier-News, 12/16/08*

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## Notice

The NPBS Alumni Association has established a new Web site: [www.npbalumni.net](http://www.npbalumni.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 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: NPBS 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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# 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 early 1900's 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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## 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 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.

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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 Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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## Class of 1968 and Class of 1969

### Combined Reunion

Reunion Dinner/Dance 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 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 Wednesday, XXXX XX, 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 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.

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## 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.

## 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 McCujsker 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

Reunion Chairperson:

Bonnie Baron Shrager

(732) 356-8808

bshrager@patmedia.net

# **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.

# THE NPHS Class of 1958 – 50th Reunion

by

Vincent Lipani and Nick Rayder

Many of us first met on Friday evening, October 31, 2008 at the Italian American Club for pizza. The pizza was late, but the high energy level was fueled by meeting old friends and the task of matching names to faces. It was a wonderful way to informally start our celebration!

An early golfing on Saturday morning was organized by Dave Henn for those who wanted to chase the bouncing ball. Only two did! Also, on Saturday morning classmates could participate in the “10th Annual Run for Runaways”. Later in the day Ralph Sorrentino lead a tour of the old and new buildings at NPHS.

The formal event was a dinner dance held at the Bridgewater Manor on Saturday night. Vincent Lipani, class president, eventually interrupted the cocktail hour with a warm welcome to all 105 returning alumni and guests. Vince then introduced Mario and Mary Alice Caruso and Grace Roth Hodge who were invited guests of honor.

Then in sadness and with deep respect, Nancy Johnson DeCristofaro, Clara Darcy Ruvolo, and Judy Snodden Richardson led the group in a memorial for our deceased classmates. A large memorial candle was lit, followed by special solemn readings and the 22 names of our classmates.

John Muccifori and Cynthia Smith Lubeck helped moved the sadness to joy as they presented Vince Lipani and Mario Caruso with plaques highlighting their contributions to the class and hard work maintaining the legacy and spirit of NPHS. Mario Caruso, the tireless originator and leader of the alumni association since it's

inception, talked about the new web site for NPHS alumni being developed ([www.NPHSalumni.net](http://www.NPHSalumni.net)) and identified the members of our class inducted into the Hall of Fame; Peter King, Michael Leta, Richard McKenna, Ralph Sorrentino, and Larry Van Winkle. Richard McKenna then transitioned us with a meaningful invocation to a fabulous full course dinner.

After the desert (or is it dessert?), the frolic increased with a disc jockey playing the '50s best tunes. Pete and Maud King took to the floor and sashayed down the 'stroll' line in full splendor. Harold Brocoletti's wife Nancy pulled many seat potatoes up and at least got them moving from the hips. What a blast!!

The celebration was paused by John Muccifori and Wendy Way Draina, which kept the number of cardiac arrests to a minimum, for a bout with 'NPHS TRIVIA'. Nick questioned whether anyone knew of the person

in attendance who built the NPHS logo that was on the front lawn of the school. Without waiting, and proud of his work that stood the test of time, Vincent Agostino leaped up from his seat and hollered in his wonderful Brooklyn accent: “I built it in Mr. Heron's woodworking class!!” John kept the questions flowing and the group got out of hand (typical for this class) and couldn't wait to yell out their answers and receive a coveted ‘NPHS Trivia Certificate of Award’.

The dancing resumed and by 11:00 the group disbursed, satiated with a bigger belly and swelled hearts filled with memories of the past and hugs from each other.

Sunday morning ended the reunion with a wonderful brunch at the Bridgewater Marriott. All in attendance felt thankful for the efforts of the reunion committee for organizing such a meaningful event and look forward for the next one!!!

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## From the Archives



The Vermeule Mansion at the corner of Greenbrook Road and Clinton Avenue is undergoing renovations by the Friends of Vermeule.

# Obituaries

**Ralph Truppi**, 66, died July 21, 2008. He was a 1959 graduate of NPHS.

**Thomas Diehl**, 65, died August 18, 2008. He was a 1960 graduate of NPHS.

**George Popik**, 83, died August 29, 2008. He was a 1942 graduate of NPHS.

**John Sampore**, 67, died September 8, 2008. He was a 1959 graduate of NPHS.

**Elmer Squier**, 87, died October 5, 2008. He was a 1938 graduate of NPHS.

**David Arthur Taylor**, 51, died October 7, 2008. He was a 1976 graduate of NPHS.

**Margaret Jean Schenck Polotrak**, 80, died November 13, 2008. She was a 1946 graduate of NPHS.

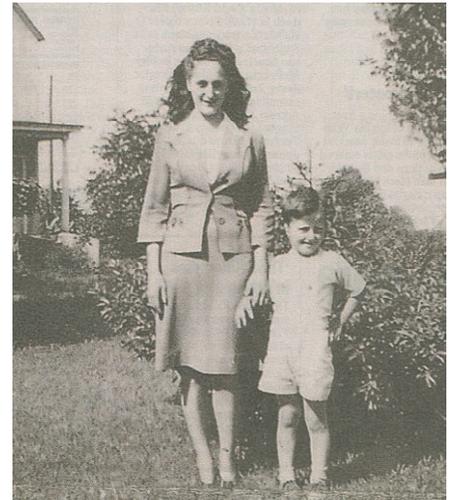
**Rosanne DeAndrea Cucullo**, 87, died December 6, 2008. She was a 1939 graduate of NPHS. Rosanne was featured recently in the NPHS Newsletter as "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II.

**Kenneth S. Roe, 9/3/46-11/12/08**

The NPHS Alumni Association suffered another great loss with the passing of Kenneth Roe on November 11, 2008. Ken was 62 years old and though he was not a graduate of NPHS, his wife, Leslie Delgyer, graduated in 1965, and Ken was a supporter of the Alumni Association since its inception in 1990. He will be missed.



**KENNETH S. ROE**



Rosanne DeAndrea and her son about 1942

## To Become a NPHS Alumni Association Member . . . Just Fill This Out and Return To Us

To become a member of the NPHS Alumni Association, send in your lifetime or annual membership donation payable to: **NPHS Alumni Association**, and mail to:

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

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

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: First: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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Web address:

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

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Mario Caruso ('51)

John Maimone

Gail McKenna

Fred Sheeler ('63)

Web Site: Daniel Caruso ('75)

## **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 NPHS 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 complementary Newsletter in the mail, send a self-addressed, stamped (59¢) envelope to: NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar St., North Plainfield, NJ 07060.*

*In pencil, write what issue it is for*

### **North Plainfield High School Alumni Association**

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