

North Plainfield High School Alumni Association

145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

NEWSLETTER

Published by the NPHS Alumni Association

Fall 2009

Alumni Web site — www.nphsalumni.net

Volume 19 No. 3

From The President . . .

As we approach the 20th anniversary of the NPHS Alumni Association in 2010 a few things come to mind. One, how fast the time went. Two, all the things we've accomplished in that time and, of course, how do we keep this going.

We can't do anything about the quickness of time. Just do all we can to take advantage of it, which brings us to Number Two. With the help and support of all the graduates of NPHS we've accomplished all of our goals. We've established a good foundation for scholarships through donations and various fundraisers; such as, the "Images of America," the videos of "North Plainfield and its Neighbors," the Alumni Walk of Honor and other projects which opened the doors to other goals such as the World War II Monument and the NPHS Hall of Fame. Also, to keep in touch with our alumni we've had the NPHS Alumni Newsletter and four editions of the Alumni Directory (every five years).

As far as keeping the Alumni Association going, we have to keep doing the same thing we've been doing, only on a greater scale. Currently, we would like a good showing at the 2009 Hall of Fame Dinner on October 3, 2009 at the Italian American Club (see article in next column).

We still need the support of the Alumni to keep the scholarships going and to keep the Alumni Newsletter in print and on the Internet. We are still offering memberships at \$10 Annually and \$60 Lifetime. Due to mailing and printing costs we cannot send Newsletters out with memberships. Currently, the Newsletter is kept alive strictly by donations from the Alumni. To receive a complementary Newsletter in the mail, send a self-addressed, stamped (61¢) envelope to: NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar St., North Plainfield, NJ 07060. In pencil, write what issue it is for.

Caution!!

Be careful of Web sites similar to the North Plainfield High School Alumni Web site – www.nphsalumni.net
If they ask you for a credit card, it is the wrong site.

Mario Caruso, President,
NPHS Alumni Association

2009 Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

The 15th Annual Hall of Fame Dinner will be held at the Italian American Social Club at 403 Somerset Street, North Plainfield starting at 6:30 PM and we are urging everyone to come out and support the new inductees. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be obtained by sending checks with names of the guests to: NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060 or call (908) 756-2776 for more information. Tables of eight, ten or twelve can be reserved if paid for in advance and sent in with the names.

The NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame was established in 1990 with the first induction banquet in 1995. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize and honor the outstanding graduates of NPHS in the fields of Education, Medicine, Science, Law, Athletics and the Arts. They serve as role models for the current students.

The actual Hall of Fame portraits and biographies are located in the new cafeteria at NPHS and is open to anyone wishing to visit. Each Inductee will have a brick with their information inscribed on it and placed in the Alumni Walk of Honor located in front of the gymnasium across from Krausche Field. Current winners of the Alumni Cup will also be honored with a brick.

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

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2009 Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

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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 Collegeville, 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

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15th Annual NPHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Dinner

Saturday, October 3, 2009 • Cocktails at 6:30 P.M. • Dinner promptly at 7:30 p.m.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB • 403 Somerset Street, North Plainfield, NJ • 908 757- 0088

Early Registration: \$30.00 per person • Cash Bar • Buffet Dinner

Send and Make Checks Payable to: NPHS Alumni Association, Attn: Hall of Fame, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Please return the form below to the above address no later than September 29, 2008

After September 29th, Call Mario Caruso, 908 756-2776 or 908 755-4556 for tickets

NPHS ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTION DINNER

Name _____ Maiden Name _____ If NPHS Graduate Graduation Year _____
Address: _____ Telephone: (____) _____ Home
_____ Zip _____ (____) _____ Work

_____ Will attend the Induction dinner at \$30.00 per person. List names and seating preference.

Reserved tables available for parties of 8, 10 or 12, if paid in advance. Please indicate request for table here: _____ (# of people).

For RESERVED TABLE ONLY list names of attendees here or use a separate sheet of paper: _____

_____ I am unable to attend but I am enclosing a donation to the NPHS Scholarship Fund. Amount enclosed: _____

Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope (legal size) with all inquiries or requests. Please reproduce this form and network
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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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Franklin Township Couple Sends Old School Ring To Its 'Lost' Owner

Reprinted from the Hunterdon County Democrat

A Franklin Township couple (Mike Randazzo, NPHS Class of 1974 and his wife, Nancy [Carlucci] NPHS, Class of 1975) that loves a mystery, played a pivotal role in returning a long-buried high school ring to its rightful owner.

In October of 2006, a PSE&G utility crew was digging on East Elmwood Drive in South Plainfield, when machine operator Jim Kelly noticed something glowing a foot down in the dirt – a South Plainfield High School ring from the Class of 1980. The initials DSH were engraved inside. He held onto it for almost three years, eventually passing it to a former SPHS student – fellow employee Mike Randazzo of Franklin Township. If Mike hadn't transferred to North Plainfield High School for senior year, he would've been in the South Plainfield Class of 1974.

Mike and Nancy started searching for the owner online without success. Next Mike visited the school, confirming from their stash of yearbooks who the owner had to be – David S. Hunter, the only one with those initials for that year. Some attempts by their staff were made to find Hunter, but then the trail went cold.

On a recent rainy weekend, with more online searching, a Wisconsin news article was found regarding an attorney in Milwaukee who inherited a ring collection through his father's metal-detecting efforts.



Buried for 29 years, the old high school ring was in perfect condition.

The Randazzos contacted the reporter to pick his brain. At first, Journal Sentinel reporter Jim Stingl mentioned some of the avenues to pursue that had already been exhausted, but then, apparently intrigued, he took up the search. After calls to two wrong David Hunters, he sent an e-mail to the Randazzos saying he'd found the right one.

Hunter had lived on the property where the ring had been unearthed. But he joined the military after high school and relocated. He served in Iraq and is now retired and living in Morehead City, N.C. The Randazzos mailed him the ring.

Hunter sent them an e-mail saying, "I want to thank you so much for going through all the trouble you have to find me... Never thought I would see it again. So many years later, here it is. What a story to be able to tell everyone."

Nancy sums it up: "Thanks to some sentimental utility guys, with the help of a curious long-distance reporter" the veteran has his ring, but it's "still a mystery how the ring hid below ground all those years."

Dear Alumni,

Thank you very much for choosing me for the Dr. Herman A. Estrin Memorial Scholarship. Your generous gift will help me pay for books and other expenses that I may have as I start my journey in college this Fall.

I am looking forward to studying Early Childhood Education at East Stroudsburg University, and I am touched that you chose to help me.

Sincerely,
Antoinette K. Burns
NPHS 2009

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.

Dr. Estrin and I seemed to follow one another from one school to another during my schooling days. First at 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 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

Ed Note: Thank you for your generous donation.

More Letters on Page 9

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.

Help the North Plainfield Education Foundation Raise Money for New Upper Krausche Synthetic Grass Athletic Field!

You may know by now that 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 sub grade, and drainage and the installation of synthetic grass field.

The artificial grass athletic field is tufted fabric with a polyurethane coating. The grass is 100% cryogenically-processed rubber granules. The field will have permanent lines inlaid for soccer, football, field hockey, softball and baseball. New interior fencing and gates are also included in the project. When complete, the football field will be moved closer to the home bleachers and there will be a baseball diamond in the northeast corner and a softball diamond in the northwest corner. Construction has now begun and is slated for completion in October!



Construction begins on the renovations to Krausche Field

The North Plainfield Education Foundation is working on projects to finish the infrastructure of the field after it is installed. Their 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. They clearly need the help of all of our alumni!

How Can You Help? Join the Krausche Field Renovation Committee (KFRC) and/or make a dona-

tion today specifically for the Renovation. Several very interesting donor recognition programs have been created in order to reward those who help them get the job done!

E-mail any questions to: noplfdedfnd@yahoo.com or call Bob Goellner, President at 908-561-0940. Also, checkout their website @ www.npefnj.org.

If you wish to make a donation, please use the form below and mail to the North Plainfield Education Foundation (all donations are tax deductible). Credit card donations are accepted. Call the number above to utilize this service or it is available on their website for your convenience. A receipt will be sent to you for your tax records.

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.

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>

Hall of Fame

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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.

2009 NPHS Alumni Scholar-Athlete Recipients

Branny Orak, son of Jimmy and Newly Orak, has lettered in Varsity Tennis for four years. He has excelled in the classroom while pursuing a demanding Honors and Advanced Placement schedule, and is ranked in the top 10% of his class. Branny is a member of the National Honor Society, French Honor Society, Treasurer of the Senior Class, and is the Sports Editor of the school newspaper. He balances athletics and academics with a number of other activities such as President of the Peer Leaders Club, Latin Dance Club, Art Club, Ski Club, Interact Club, and is a Canuck mentor.

Noelle Hynes, daughter of John and Cindy Hynes, has earned Varsity letters in basketball, track, and cheerleading. Her leadership, commitment, and experience have helped her to be elected Captain of the basketball team this year. Throughout her career, Noelle has received numerous awards recognizing her athletic achievements. Academically, she ranks in the top 10% of her class, is a two year member of the National Honor Society, is a four year member of Heroes and Cool Kids, Math League, and volunteers as a tutor.

Future Hall of Famers and Alumni Cup Recipients



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
The Class of 2022: Five-year-olds Scott Smagalla, above, from left, Victoria Smagalla, Brian Green, Elizabeth Dustin and Andrew Scopel. Next month, the children will attend West End Elementary in North Plainfield. Left, Jason Mastrianni, with the "Foamerator," during a "kindergarten kick-off" party hosted by Liz and Alan Green, and their son, Brian.

School spirit

North Plainfield soon-to-be-kindergartners

Jack Gardner Class of 1956 Memorial "Jack's Kids" Fundraiser

A long-running softball tournament benefitting children in need sponsored by Somerville Elks Lodge 1068 took place on Saturday, July 11, 2009.

Softball games across Somerset County made up the 17th Annual Jack Gardner Memorial Softball Tournament as well as festivities at the Elks Lodge afterward benefitting, "Jack's Kids" -- youngsters who have received medical help from the money generated by the event hosted by the Lodge and the Jack's Kids Committee.

The committee, named for the late Somerset County Prosecutor's Office detective and Somerset County jail warden Jack Gardner, class of

'56 of North Plainfield, has raised more than \$675,000 with the help of donors and volunteers with more than 97 percent going to local families.

Among the children being helped this year are three months old Isabella Woodward, who is battling hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy, optic atrophy in her right eye and blindness in her left eye. Meanwhile, Emily Kavanaugh, a 6 year old adoptee exposed to drugs before birth, has cerebral palsy, global developmental delays and a sensory processing disorder.

More than 80 teams began playing on 80 different fields as part of the

tournament, but that was just one element of the day-long event. As the teams finished, participants and the public at large were invited back to the lodge at 375 Union Avenue, where there were children's activities, as well as food and drinks. Donations for the festivities were \$10 per person or \$25 per family.

When the games ended as many as 1,000 people packed the facility for the entertainment and presentations to the winning teams and the families being assisted.

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.

To contribute articles to the Newsletter, contact him by e-mail at vtuit3@yahoo.com

To receive a complementary Newsletter in the mail, send a self-addressed, stamped (61¢) envelope to: NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar St., North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

In pencil, write what issue it is for

NPHS Alumnus Celebrating in Colorado



Donald "Tuck" Tucker, Class of 1957, Ed Rayder, Class of 1960 and Nick Rayder, Class of 1958, celebrating birthdays in Crested Butte, Colorado

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

www.nphsalumni.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*

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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

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.

NPHS Class of 1947

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

908 756 5149.

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



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.

From the NPHS Principal's Desk

Dear Alumni,

The school year is about to begin and your Alma Mater is ready to receive a new class of "Canucks". The school has been spruced up over the summer and the new synthetic turf field is being put in. Teachers have been in all summer updating the curriculum and new texts have been adopted.

Students have already begun to show their faces around campus in anticipation for the new school year. Our fall athletes have begun their summer workouts and we count on adding to the championships that you have brought to the school. Rest assured that the current "Canucks" are well aware of the academic and athletic excellences which are the trademarks for North

Plainfield High School.

Even in the down economy the Canuck spirit is alive and well. Over the summer I have been contacted by various alumni with questions on how to start up scholarships in either the name of a loved one or for a graduating class. This spirit of generosity is what makes North Plainfield High School such a special school.

Once again I feel privileged to be the principal of North Plainfield High School. As I wear NPHS apparel around the state, I'm met by alumni who introduce themselves and tell me stories of good old NPHS. This pride is what keeps traditions alive and I'm proud to be apart of it. Please feel free to contact the main office if I can assist you in anyway.

Go Canucks!

Sincerely,
Jerard W. Stephenson
Principal

More Letters on Page 4

Dear Alumni,

The enclosed check is for my dues, plus a donation.

I enjoy being able to see the Newsletter on my computer. You guys are doing a great job and I congratulate you all on hanging in there. I know how much work you all put in.

I am fine and I get to see Holly and Steve quite often . . . still love California, but still have a soft spot in my heart for the "good old days" and NPHS.

Love to all,

Sandy Neier, Class of 1939



Holly and Sandy Neier

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.

See page 5 for complete story



Niko Left His Mark on North Plainfield

(As reported by the Courier News on August 23, 2009)

Written by Harry Frezza)

The visitor sidelines will really never quite be the same at North Plainfield's Krausche Field. The post game review of a Canuck win or loss - whether home or on the road - won't ever quite be the same, or the coach's post game snack at the Sunset Diner in Green Brook. John Niko won't ever be there again.

Niko (54) died in his sleep at home a week ago Friday. John, who'd been chief of the Somerset County Jail, had told friends he wanted to go just like he did - quick, in his sleep, not in some hospital bed with tubes and machines connected. He suffered a heart attack; friends said diabetes probably was the accomplice. "We just never thought it would be this soon," said his lifetime friend Dan Battista.

John Niko wore the maroon and white of North Plainfield High School for life. He never let the grass and dirt of Krausche out of his system. He wrestled, played football. His Canucks' varsity jacket that looked worn, but solid for being more than 35 years old was displayed at his wake Friday at Bongiovi Funeral Home in Raritan Borough.

Under it was a Canucks maroon and white football jersey, No. 72. On a nearby table was a picture of a recent team picture of the Canucks after a holiday win over South Plainfield. In the upper-right hand corner was Niko.

He called his Canucks "mansters," half-monsters. He referred to the lineman as "hogs," he told the backs to "smell the goal line." He tormented us who picked against the Canucks, but also opened the passenger side door of his truck to let my colleague Jerry Carino escape the cold at halftime of a North Plainfield loss to Raritan in the Central Group II playoffs a few years ago.

He never let North Plainfield coach Bobby Lake get too far away without some kind of "suggestion," of a play that might have worked better. A week after a brutal 19-15 home loss to Hackettstown last year, the Canucks went to Blairstown and walloped North Warren 54-19. When Lake and Niko parted ways for the night after the routine snack, it wasn't the North Warren game that Niko allowed Lake to revel in, but of one or two plays that had doomed North Plainfield's chances the previous week.

"That was Neek," Lake said.

Many visitors came through the front doors of Bongiovi's and talked about a memorable guy. Some of the conversation was of his high school days - greaser day, football games, foot long subs that he and teammates devoured. The pictures on the bulletin board - many of John smiling with friends, family, teammates - told of a very happy life painting with a base color of maroon and white.

Obituaries

Patti McHugh DeMatteo, 64, died July 6, 2009. She was a 1962 graduate of NPHS.

Donald Hampson, 69, died July 10, 2009. He was a 1958 graduate of NPHS.

Frank Butrico, 75, died July 20, 2009. He was a 1952 graduate of NPHS.

Carmela Donaruma Loeffler, 83, died July 28, 2009. She was a 1944 graduate of NPHS.

Fred Scharnikow, 76, died August 7, 2009. He was a 1952 graduate of NPHS.

John Niko, 55, died August 14, 2009. He was a 1973 graduate of NPHS.

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

Eugene "Gooch" Sikanowicz, 79, died September 4, 2009. He was a 1948 graduate of NPHS.

Notice

The NPHS Alumni Association has established a new Web site: 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.

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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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