

# NEWSLETTER

*Published by the NPHS Alumni Association*

Spring 2008

Alumni Web site: [radiomaxmusic.com/nphs/index.html](http://radiomaxmusic.com/nphs/index.html)

Volume 18 No. 1

## **Sister Virginia McGarry Approaching the Century Mark**

Sister Virginia McGarry, formerly Sister Ann Marie, one of the original founders of St. Joseph School in North Plainfield in 1930, will celebrate her 100th birthday on March 22, 2008.

Sister Ann Marie was born in New Brunswick in 1908

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

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who responded to our plea for help. It's not easy to tighten your belts at a time like this, but it's necessary. The Alumni Association is not the only organization going through this. The letters and calls of support were encouraging.

Many sent in stamped (58 cents) envelopes so they can still receive the Alumni Newsletter. For many graduates who do not have a computer to receive the Newsletter online, there is a way to attain it. Local residents can still pick up the Newsletter at the NP Memorial Library and at the Borough Hall or Caruso Haircutters. Out of the area graduates can still send in their stamped envelopes. Remember that postage increases again May 1, 2008. Envelopes must be received by February, May, July and September so we know how many to have printed.

We also want to thank the alumni who contributed to "Keep the NPHS Alumni Newsletter Alive." It's great to see how many people read and enjoy the Newsletter. There is a lot of history in North Plainfield and NPHS and we try to include as much of it in the Newsletter as possible.

Right now we are concentrating our efforts on replenishing the Alumni Scholarship Fund to keep our main objective going for a long time. This is where we need your help, too.

Again, thanks to all. We appreciate your efforts.

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

and graduated from St. Peter's High School in 1924. She entered the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy shortly after. While at St. Joseph School she taught grades three to seven from 1930 to 1947 and also was in charge of the First Communion classes so just about every student coming through knew Sister Ann Marie and most of them went on to North Plainfield High School. To this day she still keeps in contact with many of her students.

In 2007 Sister Virginia celebrated her 80th Anniversary in the religious order and still resides at McAuley Hall in Watchung.

Sister Mary Theresa McCarthy, one of Sister Ann Marie's former students relates, "She also taught sixth grade where she presented European geography with all the excitement only possible in someone who had been a world traveler before entering the convent. I was awed by her Cosmopolitan sophistication."



Sister Virginia McGarry



Joe Waller with NPHS Students

## Pearl Harbor Vet Shares Story with Teens

By *Natalie Lopez* and  
*Ramona Ross*  
NPHS Tunlaw Staff

World War II Veteran and North Plainfield native Joe Waller was among the first to fight back against the Japanese after their attack on Pearl Harbor. A Chief Petty Officer with the Navy, Mr. Waller fought the Battle of the Coral Sea and lived to tell about it.

“We went to Pearl Harbor and saw the disaster,” Waller told North Plainfield High School students, JROTC cadets among them, on the

66th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. After being reassigned from Europe to the South Pacific, Waller’s aircraft carrier, the USS Yorktown, and one other USS aircraft carrier saw heavy action against three Japanese aircraft carriers.

“We’d attack them at port and we sunk quite a few (Japanese ships) that day,” recalled Waller. “The Japanese made more mistakes than we did that day.”

But the USS Yorktown ultimately met its match. After the ship was destroyed at sea, Waller and the other survivors had to abandon ship and swim through the oily water to an awaiting rescue boat. Waller managed to pull an injured man out of the water. He said his ears rung for three days after the battle.

Waller settled in North Plainfield after the war and remains here to this day with his wife, Carmella, who graduated from NPHS in 1940. The Wallers have five children, all of whom graduated from North Plainfield High School.



NPHS Principal  
Jerard Stephenson, left and  
Joe Waller.



## Janet Wehrlen Moeller 1953 Grad Excels at Senior Games

Janet Wehrlen Moeller, a graduate of NPHS in 1953, recently competed in the 20th Anniversary of the National Senior Games in Louisville, Kentucky which was held at the Ralph Wright Natatorium of the University of Louisville.

Her sport is swimming and she won a Gold Medal in the 70 to 74 year old age category for the 50-yard breast stroke.

She won Silver Medals in the 100 and 200-Yard Individual Medleys.

Moeller also took three Bronze Medals for her finishes in the 100 yard Butterfly and in both the 100 and 200-yard breast stroke events.

This year over 8,000 swimmers, age 50 and older, competed in fourteen events. There were 18 Olympic-style sports offered and over 12,000 competitors ranging in age from 50 to 95 took part.

Janet hopes to qualify for the 2009 Senior Olympics in Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. She’ll be competing in the World Senior Games in October at St. George, Utah in order to qualify. Only the top three swimmers in each age group and in each event will qualify.

Janet Moeller was inducted into the NPHS Alumni Hall of Fame in 2005.



## 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 older ~~pine tree~~ **Sold Out** logo, \$45.

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

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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.

## Reunion Alert!

### 2007 Reunion Contacts

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

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### 2008 Reunion Contacts

- 1933 Art Lederer, 908 754-8252. Dunellen Hotel, 12 Noon, Wednesday, June 19, 2008.
- 1934 Art Lederer, 908 754-8252. Dunellen Hotel, 12 Noon, Wednesday, June 19, 2008..
- 1938 Contact Manny Ferri, 908 755-7413 or Edith Ruthenback Brokaw, 908 722-5347.
- 1943 Contact Harry Martin, 973 663-2410.
- 1948 Bob McCarthy, 908 322-6666.
- 1953 Contact Paul Carlton, 732 752-2666.
- 1958 To be held on November 1st at the Bridgewater Manor. Contact Vince Lipani, 908 369-5623 (H), 908 359-4652 (W).
- 1963 Contact Kathy Meden DeAngelis, 732 249-1791; Cheryl Meyer McDowel, 908 769-5951. October 3, 4, 5, 2008
- 1968 Gerry Garatino Burns, 610 438-2788.
- 1973 Ginny Gehander Carbone, contact the Alumni Association.
- 1978 Mark Fisch, 732 866-9512.
- 1983 Carol VanWinkle Mastrobatista, 732 560-9708.
- 1988 Jennifer 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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### 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 and Friends:

Having retired to the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina, I enjoy reading the Alumni Association Newsletter to keep in touch with the successes of our graduates and staff. I am delighted to hear of the NPHS Alumni Online Community, which will connect NPHS graduates with each other.

I have also established a website – [www.igottheatre.com](http://www.igottheatre.com). At my website, there is an “Online Callboard” for the alumni of the NPHS Theatre Department and the NPHS Drama Club. It is my hope that the theatre graduates will network and leave messages regarding their current projects. Theatre graduates are also welcome to contact me to facilitate networking with each other.

Sincerely,  
Tom Lanno  
NPHS Director of Theatre,  
(1972-2005)  
269 Brown Mountain Ridge Road  
Blowing Rock, NC 28605  
Phone: (828) 268-0556  
Fax: (828) 268-0058  
E-mail: [tplanno@bellsouth.net](mailto:tplanno@bellsouth.net)  
Cell: (828) 406-1505

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Dear Alumni,

I wish to thank fellow North Plainfield alumni and residents for their ongoing financial support of my tutoring efforts with ESL (English as a Second Language) students at NPHS, which were first described in the Spring 2007 newsletter.

This help is critical in defraying the cost of books and materials, and in being able to continue this work. I  
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only wish that you know these students, and were able to see what fine people they are.

With genuine appreciation,

Mike Castro, class of 1972  
908 754 4324  
[mpcastro@earthlink.net](mailto:mpcastro@earthlink.net)

***Editor's Note:*** *If you are interested in supporting this effort, you can send any contributions to “North Plainfield High School Alumni Association, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060.” Please note on the check that the donation is for the Mike Castro ESL project.*

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Dear Alumni Association,

Per Winter 2007/2008 Alumni Newsletter information, I am enclosing two 6 x 9 manila envelopes (stamped and addressed) to mail back to me the Spring and Summer issues.

Check for dues for 2008, plus \$15 donation, is enclosed.

Since I first received the NPHS

Alumni Newsletter, with the change of format for improvements, I could see how well thought out and planned for by you and the support staff that would guarantee its continuance for many years to come.

It is hoped and prayed that this nicely informative newsletter will continue to excel in the pictures, class messages, In Touch, and all the other departments, in future issues.

Sincerely,  
Ted Smith, Class of 1954  
33 Iron Bridge Road,  
Freehold, NJ 07728

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Dear NPHS Alumni Association,

Enclosed please find donation to keep NPHS Newsletter alive, including stamped, self-addressed envelope.

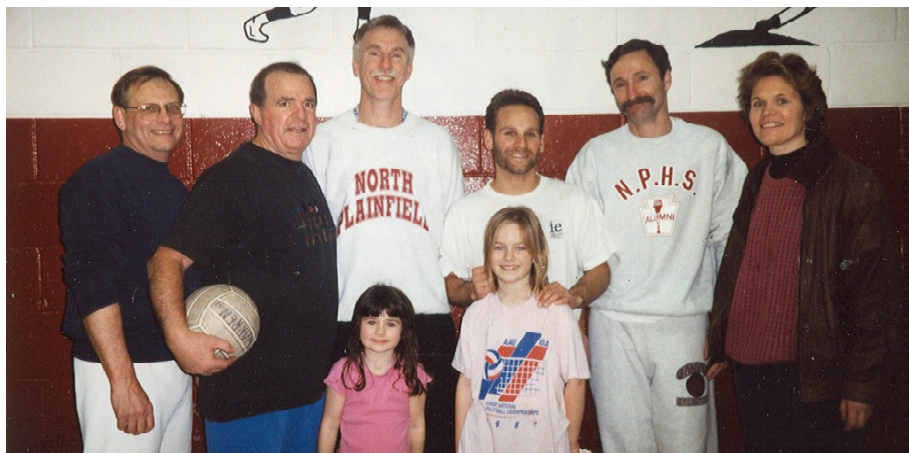
I would like each issue mailed as I do not have a computer or access to a computer.

You and your staff do a fantastic job and it is greatly appreciated.

Barbara Amundsen  
Class of 1945  
451A Portsmouth Drive  
Lakewood, NJ 08701

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## ***From the Archives***



**Members of the NPHS Alumni Volleyball Team in 1995**

Winners of the NPHS Key Club Volleyball Tournament.

L to R: Fred Sheeler, Mario Caruso, John Malazdra, Frank Coletta,  
Rich Senna, Susan Kadel. Front: Bianca Newman and Samantha Kadel

## A Returned Ring and A Taste of Grace

"Is this John Kraus?" an unknown voice queried.

"Yes." A reluctant answer—another unwanted sales call?

"This is Mario Caruso of the NPHS Alumni Association. Are you missing your class ring?"

A momentary pause; of course I am. I gave it away years ago. Silly question. Does it matter?

"Yes."

"I have it here."

"Oh?" What? How can that be?

"It was sent to me anonymously at the Alumni office."

And the rest of the brief story quickly

unfolded. But some of the earlier part needs to be told.

I remember that ring, purchased in my junior year with earnings from my lawn mowing jobs. I vaguely remember the wait between purchase and delivery. With a black onyx stone, it fit perfectly on my ring finger. I recall the thrill of the then-seniors' graduation making me a senior—now I could turn it around the "right" way.

In college I met a girl, fell head-over-heels in love, and gave her my class ring—a pretty common expression of endearment in the good old days. We were close. She would transfer to another school closer to home down south; we

wrote. The reward of poor grades, I received the "Royal Order of the Golden Boot" and moved on to another college myself. Being unencumbered by deep loyalty or faithfulness, my heart drifted away—out of sight, out of mind.

In time I met another girl, we married, and now almost 35 years later we are grandparents. Over the years I occasionally thought about my lack of loyalty and stability, and a ring that I knew I would never see again, and didn't deserve to.

And then, out of the blue, a phone call, a trip across town, a story of an anonymous note with no return address, and a ring.

"Grace," simply defined, is "receiving what is underserved," usually applied to God's forgiveness of sins. The appropriate response to grace is thankfulness. A gift can't be paid back, otherwise it is not a gift. It can only be received.

I have received a taste of grace this week. Thank you, Mary.

John (Jack) Kraus, NPHS '68

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## 1954 Grad Inducted Into the Official's Hall of Fame

Watchung Mayor Albert Ellis was one of thirty-seven inducted into the 10th Annual Elected Officials Hall of Fame at the 16th Annual Mayors' Legislative Day recently at the State House Annex in Trenton. The Hall of Fame recognizes governing body members who have served twenty years in elected municipal office.

"I was shocked when I received the letter. It is a great thing the League does to recognize these elected officials, because there are a lot of people who do a lot of good things," Ellis said.

Ellis has been Mayor of Watchung since 2002. Prior to becoming Mayor, he served continuously on the Borough Council from 1986.

Some of the achievements made during his time as Councilman and Mayor include: Numerous road improvement projects, the development of Spratford Park and efforts to beautify the Somerset Street entrance to the Borough.

The development of the Watchung



Mayor Albert Ellis

Lake area including the new dam and spillway, the development of the Village Green and the development of the Athletic Complex Center for Recreation and Community Events.

Mayor Ellis is a 1954 graduate of North Plainfield High School.

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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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## Invest In The Future of North Plainfield High School

*Support The  
Scholarship Program*

## *From the Archives*

# My World War II in Submarines

During the naval conflict in the Pacific between the United States and Japan, 1941 - 1945, there was a little known war-within a war, the U.S. Submarine offensive against the Japanese merchant shipping and naval forces. A handful of submarines taking a small force of boats on 1,600 war patrols sank more than 1000 Japanese merchant ships and a significant portion of the Japanese navy, including one battleship, eight aircraft carriers, three heavy cruisers and eight light cruisers.

A strong merchant marine was vital to the economy and war-making ability of the island of Japan. Its ships imported oil, coal, bauxite, rubber and food stuff: they exported arms, ammunition, aircraft and soldiers to reinforce their captured possessions.

After the United States captured Guam and Saipan in the summer of 1944, U.S. submarines basing from these two islands imposed a virtual blockade of Japan. Few ships entered or left Japanese waters without being attacked. Most that attempted it were sunk. Japan ran out of oil for her navy; gasoline for the aircraft trucks and automobiles; steel, aluminum and other metals for industry and food for a teeming population. When submarines succeeded in stopping Japanese commerce, she was doomed. Upon being commissioned 15 May 1941, I volunteered for the submarine service and was ordered to the U.S.S. S-47 which had been built post World War 1. We were operating in the North Atlantic (out of New Foundland) on 7 December 1941.

My next submarine was the USS Drum which I joined in April, 1942 just as she was leaving Pearl Harbor on her First War patrol. At midnight, two weeks later, the

Drum torpedoed a large ship. Unknown to us at the time, we had sunk the sea plane carrier Mizuho. The carrier had played an important role in the Philippines invasion and was returning to Japan. After the attack, we went "deep" to prevent being rammed by a destroyer.

I was detached from the USS Drum on 17 June 1944 and ordered to Portsmouth, New Hampshire Naval Shipyard for duty as engineering officer aboard the submarine Runner II (the first Runner was lost with all hands off the coast of Japan – presumably by mines.)

The Runner II departed Portsmouth Shipyard on 18 March 1945, transited the Panama Canal and arrived Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 21 May. At Pearl Harbor we were equipped with mine detecting sonar.

23 June the Runner II left on her First War Patrol. The mission was to plot the mine fields off the coast of Japan preliminary to the forth coming coastal bombardment raid of the US surface fleet. We were directed to send situation reports each night in case we should be sunk the next day. We had a number of close calls with mines. It was a harrowing experience.

By this time of the war the targets were rare and operated very close to the shore where they were hard to see and harder to attack. We did however make two attacks: On July 9 we fired six torpedoes at a medium sized tanker. Apparently the tanker was alerted and made a radical turn away. All torpedoes missed.

On 10 July another ship was attacked with six torpedoes. Three were hit. The torpedo in #6 became stuck and ran "hot". It was heard running in the tube and the

outer door could not be closed. The presence of three anti-submarine craft together with their depth charging prevented us from clearing the tube for several hours. Finally we were able to go to 150 foot depth, put a large down angle on the boat, backed down full and blew high pressure air into the tube. The torpedo was ejected and went to the bottom without exploding, fortunately.

During this period many submarines were assigned Lifeguard duty which consisted of rescuing pilots that had been shot down during air raids of Japan. President Bush was one of these. While the Runner II was not assigned Lifeguard duty, we were directed to take on 16 flyers that had been plucked from the sea by other submarines and to deliver them to Guam. These pilots were happy to come aboard and happier still to leave. The submarine, life did not appeal to them. 24 July we arrived at Guam.

12 August the Runner II departed on her Second War Patrol. We were to penetrate the mine field and enter the Sea of Japan.

On 15 August with the detonation of the second atomic bomb, all ships were ordered to cease hostility acts but to remain on the alert on 22 August, 1945 we were ordered to Tokyo Bay for the surrender ceremony. On 3 September, on departing, we made a shallow dive in Tokyo Bay, believing we were the first American submarine to do so.

We proceeded via Pearl Harbor and the Panama Canal to New London, Connecticut and my wife and my brand new son.

Verner Ramsing  
Class of 1936  
North Plainfield High School



# 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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## 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 1963

### *Save the Date in 2008*

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

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

### **45th Reunion Weekend**

**for the Class of '63**

**October 3, 4, 5, 2008**

*Contact:*

**Kathy Meden DeAngelis**

Kathdea@patmedia.net

**Barbara Rebuth Malone**

Bmalone39@comcast.net

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

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

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## How to Get Your Alumni Newsletter

Starting with the Winter 2007/2008 issue, the NPHS Alumni Newsletter is available over the Internet. You can retrieve the newsletter seasonally at: [radiomaxmusic.com/nphs/index.html](http://radiomaxmusic.com/nphs/index.html).

The Alumni Web site can also be accessed through the Borough of North Plainfield Web site ([www.northplainfield.org](http://www.northplainfield.org)) or the NP Board of Education Web site ([www.nplainfield.org](http://www.nplainfield.org)) and click on NPHS Alumni Association.

To forward your e-mail address to the Alumni Association, contact Ron Kovacs at: [kovacs@maxmusicnetwork.com](mailto:kovacs@maxmusicnetwork.com)

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## Class of 1959

Reunion Chairperson:

Bonnie Baron Schrager

(732) 356-8808

[bshrager@patmedia.net](mailto:bshrager@patmedia.net)

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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](mailto:raybersch@optonline.net) and Mary Diehle 908 359-7161.

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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.

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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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## Shore Canuck Club



The first Shore Canuck Club Social was held in October 1998. Each year it gets better. It's a great event to meet former classmates who live in the shore area.

The 2007 gathering attracted over one hundred NPHS graduates and guests, the largest ever.

The next social will be held Thursday, May 15, 2008 at 6:00 pm, at the Crystal Point Inn, Point Pleasant, NJ. Donation is \$20 per person. RSVP Joan McCarthy Williamson, 732 899 0009.

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

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## North Plainfield Video Available

The Alumni Association has compiled a 90-minute video history of the Borough and Neighboring Plainfield, Watchung, and Green Brook.

The Alumni Association is selling the video or DVD for \$25 per copy, plus \$5.00 S&H if mailed. Net proceeds are being used to replenish the Alumni Scholarship Fund.

To order, send checks payable to the NPHS Alumni Association, 145 Cedar Street, North Plainfield, NJ 07060. Phone: 908 756-2776.

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

# ***NPHS SCHOLARSHIPS***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Winifred Gardner Letso Memorial Scholarship**

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

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

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

## **Fred Green Memorial Scholarship Fund**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Obituaries

**John White**, 66, died October 28, 2007. He was a 1959 graduate of NPHS.

**Elizabeth Lang Gray**, 75, died in October 2007. She was a 1950 graduate of NPHS.

**Jean Haurand Furman**, 71, died December 14, 2007. She was a 1953 graduate of NPHS.

**Elizabeth Thorp**, 85, died December 21, 2007. She was a 1940 graduate of NPHS.

**Joe Taranta**, 84, died December 27, 2007. He was a 1940 graduate of NPHS.

**Steven Ray Perez**, 30, died December 1, 2007. He was a 1995 graduate of NPHS.

**Lola Camperti Curran**, 78, died January 6, 2008. She was a 1947 graduate of NPHS.

**Virginia Smalley Kane**, 91, died January 18, 2008. She was a 1934 graduate of NPHS.

**Camille Caruso Corona**, 87, died February 6, 2008. She attended NPHS with the Class of 1938.

**Margot Skalwold Mattox**, 98, died February 7, 2008. She was a 1927 graduate of NPHS.

## Dr. Andrew Beke

The Borough of North Plainfield suffered a great loss with the passing of Dr. Andrew Beke on February 2, 2008. Dr. Beke, 86, had been active in the Boy Scouts for seventy-six years and was a scout leader with Troops 17 and 19 in North Plainfield for many years. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout and achieved scouting's most prestigious awards, including: The Wood Badge, Silver Beaver and St. George Emblem.

**Rino Ghidella**, 82, died February 9, 2008. He attended NPHS in the 1940's.

**William G. Whitton**, 88, died November 1, 2007. Mr. Whitton coached football at NPHS where he also taught Social Studies.

An army veteran who earned two Bronze Stars during World War II, Bill served in the European Theater.

**Robert Coddington**, 79, died February 13, 2008. He was a 1946 graduate of NPHS.

## NPHS Student Signs Letter of Intent

DeVaughn Gordon, who is a two time All-County and All-Area football player, has signed a National Letter of Intent with Lehigh University.

He is an outstanding honor roll student and is a member of the National Honor Society



DeVaughn Gordon signing his national Letter of Intent to play football for Lehigh University.



DeVaughn Gordon is flanked by his mother, Ms. Sharonda Morris, principal Jerard Stephenson, and football coach Bob Lake.

# Get Ready for a Virtual Reunion Like None Other. . .Introducing the North Plainfield High School Alumni Online Community!

<http://www.graduateconnections.com/northplainfield>

We are pleased to announce the launch of our all-new **Online Community** and welcome you to stop by today to learn how you can take advantage of these easy-to-use features:

Find out what your old friends are up to both personally and professionally. A comprehensive and searchable **Online Directory** of all alumni makes it easy to see where they are and what they're doing and update your personal profile as well!

Exchange the latest news with former classmates in the special **Classnotes** section covering categories such as Marriages, Births and Adoptions, Career News, Educational News, and more!

Looking for the latest and greatest reunion information, interested in planning a reunion, or just have an idea for your reunion that you'd like to pass along? The **Reunion Message Board** is the perfect place to share reunions news, ideas or memories.

Start your own personal network with the **MyNetwork** feature and create a network of friends that you can easily communicate with through evites and email.

Interested in a career move, or trying to fill a position for your firm? The **Career Center** is the place to go to post your resume, search for a job, or list the details on any available positions you may have.

The **Yellow Pages** feature makes it easy to support the businesses of your fellow alumni, or make the services of your business available to them.

Stay in control of your online community experience using the per-

sonalized **MyPage** area and online Member Services.

Catching up with North Plainfield and the friends you made there has never been easier. To learn more,

simply visit <<http://www.graduateconnections.com/northplainfield>>

You'll soon be on your way to a virtual reunion like none other!

Kathleen A. Brooks Sr. Account Executive, 866-355-1100  
[kbrooks@harrisconnect.com](mailto:kbrooks@harrisconnect.com)

*"The role of the alumni should never be under-appreciated. Alumni are important in maintaining traditions and preserving continuity. They strengthen the school for the future..."*

**National Association of Secondary School Principals**

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## From the NPHS Principal's Desk

Dear Alumni:

Spring is once again upon us and the students are getting ready for outside activities. As we close the winter sports seasons we are encouraged by the rash of victories our boys basketball team has experienced and the spirit in which our wrestling team performs. The girls basketball team has been invited to the state tournament and has been given a first round bye.

The end of the winter is also a time when the students prepare for and take a host of state and federal mandated assessments. The seniors have begun the process of choosing where they will spend the next phase of their educational career. Today's Canucks are following the great tradition that you have set by being accepted into the most competitive of schools.

This past winter has seen the revival of the student talent show with a crowd of 400 in attendance watching 12 acts. The show was a great success with all of the proceeds going to the senior scholarships. The PTO is planning a student fashion show

before the spring sports season begins and a student basketball tournament in the spring. The Project Graduation Committee will assist hosting a classic car show with alumni, Danny Batista, at the school. Please look for announcements for this event and swing by and reminisce with old friends.

I look forward to meeting with alumni as you visit the school and watch the current Canucks live up to your tradition of excellence. Please feel free to contact the school if you wish to visit with former teachers or walk the hallways once again.

Sincerely,

Jerard W. Stephenson  
Principal

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### How to Get Your Alumni Newsletter

Starting with the Winter 2007/2008 issue, the NPHS Alumni Newsletter is available over the Internet. You can retrieve the newsletter seasonallat:  
[radiomaxmusic.com/nphs/index.html](http://radiomaxmusic.com/nphs/index.html).

The Alumni Web site can also be accessed through the Borough of North Plainfield Web site ([www.northplainfield.org](http://www.northplainfield.org)) or the NP Board of Education Web site ([www.nplainfield.org](http://www.nplainfield.org)) and click on NPHS Alumni Association.

To forward your e-mail address to the Alumni Association, contact Ron Kovacs at:  
[kovacs@maxmusicnetwork.com](mailto:kovacs@maxmusicnetwork.com)

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*All Net Proceeds to Benefit the NPHS Alumni Scholarship Fund*

## 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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| <input type="checkbox"/> Class Donation             | \$50.00 |  |          | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation Winnie Letso Scholarship      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stadium Blanket            | \$45.00 |  |          |   |

**Total enclosed**

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Web address:

[www.mamxmusicnetwork.com/nphs](http://www.mamxmusicnetwork.com/nphs)

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Fred Sheeler ('63)

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Web Site: Ron Kovacs ('76)

## Images of America, NP

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

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

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

Mail your order and make checks payable to:

North Plainfield High School

Alumni Association

145 Cedar Street

North Plainfield, NJ 07060

All net proceeds benefit the NPHS Alumni Scholarship Fund.

## How Do You Get Your 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. Newsletters are e-mailed to all paid Alumni Association members.

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



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*Spring 2008*

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