

NHS ALUMNI NEWS

PO Box 493, Norwalk, CT 06852-0493

November 2008

TO HELP YOU TO BETTER ENJOY YOUR NHSAA MEMBERSHIP:

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Five Norwalk High School graduates who were added to the NHS Alumni Association Wall of Honor at an October 5th dinner at Continental Manor, are shown above, left to right with President Glenn Iannaccone, Francis X. Fay, '49; Diane Singerman, '75; Craig Barton, '73; Diane Wilson, god-daughter of honoree Hazard Park, '37; Leo Nevas, '28 and Master of Ceremonies Matt Scully.

Scholarships Will Benefit From Oldies Dance

The Norwalk High School Scholarship Foundation will be the beneficiary of the proceeds from the Oldies Dance Party planned by the NHS Alumni Association for Saturday, November 22nd. The dance, which will feature oldies from the 50s, 60s and 70s, will take place at the American Legion Hall, County Street, from 8 to 11 PM.

Furnishing the music will be the famed band, "The Yesterdaze," a New Jersey group which has appeared here in the past and many times in the Northern New Jersey and New York area. Many locals follow the 5 piece band, which offers instrumentals as well as vocals.

Donations will be \$25 per person and will include snacks, pastries, coffee and a cash bar. Checks should be made payable to the NHS Scholarship Foundation. Reservations may be made with Pat Spinola, at 203-853-4413.

The NHSAA has contributed heavily to the annual scholarship program at Norwalk High School and has helped 138 seniors with contributions since the inception of its scholarship program in 1998.

Even if you can't attend, send a contribution to: NHSAA, PO Box 493, Norwalk, CT 06852-0493.

CALENDAR —

- November 5—Regular Meeting 7:30 PM, NHS Library.
- November 22—Oldies/Dance Party American Legion Hall, 8 to 11 PM.
- December 3—Regular Meeting 7:30 PM, NHS Library.
- December 4—Christmas Party, 7 PM, Community Room, City Hall.
- January 7—Annual Meeting 7:30 PM, NHS Library.
- February 4—Regular Meeting 7:30 PM, NHS Library.
- March 8—Regular Meeting 7:30 PM, NHS Library.
- April 1—Regular Meeting 7:30 PM, NHS Library.
- May 6—Regular Meeting 7:30 PM, NHS Library

Jerry D'Amato Resigns

Jerry D'Amato, one of the bulwarks of the NHS Alumni Association for nearly 13 years, has resigned as chair of the Membership Committee. With her husband, John, who died last year, she was one of a number of alumni who worked diligently to build the association. Replacing her as chair is Barbara O'Connor.

In a statement, President Glenn Iannaccone commended her for her input into the organization, along with some of the original founders, including past presidents Ann Artell, Pat Spinola, Mike Errico, John D'Amato, Paul Saviano and Sandy Anderson. Other alumni who have helped in the establishment of the association over the years included Alan and Lorraine Burr, Tom Corbo, Lou D'Orso, Don Mahon, Barbara and Phil Marzolf, Jack Rudolf, Norm Sculley, Christine Masse, Art DeSalvo, Ruth Gregg, Ralph Bloom, Helen Smith, Carrie Saviano, Jeanne Savastano and Josephine Nardi.

NHS Alumni Association

President...Glenn A. Iannaccone, '71
Vice-President...Patricia A. Maiatico, '71
Secretary...Carol Hamilton, '70
Treasurer...Thomas R. Corbo, '50
Membership...Barbara O'Connor '71
Scholarship...Patrick D. Spinola, '57
Dinner...Heidi S. Godleski, '61
Tickets...Barbara O'Connor, '71
Newsletter...Michael E. Errico, Feb. '38
Selection...Matthew Scully, '93

The President's Message...

Fall is upon us once again. We've had another successful Wall of Honor dinner in October and we have now turned the corner towards Thanksgiving and another Norwalk/McMahon football game. This year it is at NHS.

The golf clubs are put away for the winter and my favorite sport, NASCAR racing, is coming to the season's conclusion. I have spent many years watching and participating in stock car racing, especially at the Danbury Racearena. How many of you remember the days when we trekked up Route 7 to the fairgrounds on Saturday nights? Or to the great Danbury State Fair. I promised myself I would never go to the Danbury Mall after they tore down the speedway to build it. I do, though, sometimes just to reminisce and look at the pictures they have of the track and the fair along with John W. Leahy.

Being involved with racing from the ripe old age of 8 until 1981 when the track was closed, has kept me out of trouble, most of the time, and left me with many fond memories. I remember the old cafeteria at NHS on East Ave. with the painting of the Danbury track with horses racing on it. I used to sit in front of it every day for lunch. I couldn't wait for Saturday and that trip up Rt. 7. That picture now hangs in City Hall on the second floor and I always stop by to check it out when I'm near there. I imagine many of you have recollections of those days. Taking dates to the races, eating some of those great little pizzas they sold or standing in line at the very long beer counter. Why don't you put some of your thoughts on paper and send them to us. We will post them in one of our newsletters. Well, the green flag is about to fly for the start of the race. I'll be talking to you next time.

Upcoming Reunions

(Note: Check the Reunion Link on our website for any changes to these reunions: www.norwalkhs.org)

Feb./June 1937—These two classes will hold a joint reunion to celebrate their 72nd anniversary in 2009 at Shore & Country Club. Contact Ellen Kirtland, (203) 847-3468.

Feb. 1938—The last class to graduate in February from Norwalk High will celebrate 71 years with a luncheon Saturday, July 11, 2009 at the So. Norwalk Boat Club. Contact Mike Errico, (203) 441-8204.

1945—A 64th reunion is planned for August 16, 2009 from noon to 3 PM at Shore & Country Club. Contact Jean Kleis at 203-866-6692.

1946—62nd reunion is planned for October 11, 2008 with cocktails and dinner from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM and Breakfast buffet 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM on October 12, 2008 at Norwalk Inn & Conference Center. Contacts are: Idachiaia@aol.com, Regina-o-Flaherty@sbcglobal.net or Richard Canel 203-227-4883.

1948—This class will hold its 61st reunion on Sunday, August 23, 2009 with a luncheon at Shore & Country Club. Contacts are Joe Robidoux (203) 853-3157 and Jerry D'Amato (203) 838-3961.

1959—Planning for their 50th next year, this class has scheduled its reunion for October 10, 2009 with a possible brunch to follow on Sunday. Class members should be sending bio info or other inquiries to the email address. Diana Durante is the contact at nhs1959@embarqmail.com.

1975—Looking at July or August, 2010. Please send email to nhsclassof75@aol.com Attention: Reunion Committee c/o Marie Strolin. Or call 203-459-8472.

1978—30th reunion scheduled for November 28, 2008 at 7 PM at Continental Manor. Classmates may correspond with Lynne Belardinelli Prescott at website nhs78.com

1998—O'Neill's Restaurant welcomes the Class of 1998 for its 10th reunion on November 29, 2008, from 7 to 10 PM. \$40 bracelets include open bar and buffet. RSVP to: <http://tinyurl.com/Classof1998Reunion>.

Christmas Party on Dec. 4th

The annual NHSAA Christmas Party is scheduled to be held from 7 to 9 PM on Thursday, December 4th in the Community Room at City Hall. This is one of the three free socials sponsored each year by the Alumni Association for its members. The others are the spring social, when inductees for the Teacher Honor Roll are honored, and the summer picnic at Cranbury Park.

As is the custom, one of the local school choral groups will once again entertain the gathering with Christmas carols, and refreshments will be served by the Executive Committee.

In fact, the Executive Committee once again would welcome help in organizing the party and trimming the Christmas tree. If you would like to help, contact Vice President Pat Maiatico at 852-7256.



The pictures above show a cross section of attendees and activities at the 14th annual Wall of Honor dinner, at which five distinguished graduates of Norwalk High were inducted into the prestigious Wall. The NHS Alumni Association is indebted to Richard Bonenfant for the photos.

The Back Page...

Norwalk High School lost two outstanding representatives in September when both Lewis E. Dunlap and Louis J. D'Orso passed on. Dunlap, who served as teacher, principal and assistant superintendent of the Norwalk school system, died on September 9th in Greensboro, North Carolina. The music wing at the high school is named for him. D'Orso, a noted local baseball scout and coach and one of the founders of the Norwalk High School Alumni Association, passed away on September 26th. He was a member of the Class of February, 1937. Two of his scouting luminaries were Bobby Valentine and Mo Vaughn.

The Norwalk Old Timers honored four old time Norwalk High sports greats at their annual dinner at Continental Manor on November 5th. Joining the large contingent of sportsmen on the Old Timers' roster this year were James McLean, Ralph Tucci, Frank Vigilante and Dick Zakhar.

John D'Amato, '45, past president and a founder of the NHSAA who passed away in July of 2007, was honored as the Veteran of the Month in ceremonies at the American Legion on October 5th. A large contingent of friends, including NHSAA members, were in attendance with his wife, Jerry.

All of his friends are happy to see that Frank Fay, senior writer for The Hour and a newly inducted member of the NHSAA Wall of Honor, is back in harness after suffering a knee injury from a fall in his home. His articles covering NHS reunions are continuing unabated. Attending the Wall of Honor dinner in his honor in October was his friend and neighbor Andy Rooney as well as Congressman Christopher Shays.

If you'd like to buy your ticket in advance to the Thanksgiving Day football game between the Bears and BMHS to escape the first quarter line, send your check for \$5 to: NHS Athletic Dept., Att: S. Cadden, 23 Calvin Murphy Drive, Norwalk, CT 06851. It's the same price as if you were to stand in line, but this eliminates the wait.

We were pleased to help bring together two long-lost friends via our internet. Cheryl O'Donnell hadn't seen her friend Maureen McIvor (now Maureen Dooling) in 40 years. She asked if we knew where she was. Jean Bowden, who saw our bulk email message, did some detective work, through house deeds, inheritances, Social Security and other legal sources and found her in Las Vegas. The three of them will meet for the first time in 40 years the day after Thanksgiving Day. Glad to be of service.

In another email message, Barry Deats (not from NHS he says), found a Norwalk High class ring in an "unlikely place." If you've lost your ring and you can identify it, contact him at <bdeats@wbhsi.net>.

We were pleased to see Rev. Debra W. Haffner, CI '72 (Wall of Honor 2005) at this year's dinner. Her latest book, "What Every 21st Century Parent Needs to Know" is on the bookstands.

In fact, we're pleased that quite a number of Wall of Honor honorees have been making it a practice to attend the dinners each year, including: Chief Justice (ret.) Robert J. Callahan '48; Edward S. Dzubak, '75; Andrew Whyte, '44; Dr. Albert V. Burke, '42, Robert S. Daniels, '39 and Michael E. Errico, Feb. '38.

Quite a few members of NHSAA will be receiving copies of the newsletter via email as a result of our request in our last edition. If you haven't yet responded, tell us if you'd like to get the newsletter via email and be sure to give us your up-to-date email address. You'll get your copy more quickly and it will save us postage. And remember that you can always read the latest on our website at: www.norwalkhs.org.

This is a reminder that contributions to the NHS Scholarship Foundation are always welcome. Aside from the Oldies Dance Party, feel free to forward a contribution of any amount directly to us at PO Box 493, Norwalk, CT 05852-0493. Make your check out to NHS Scholarship Foundation and remember it can be taken as a tax deduction.

**Norwalk High School Scholarship Foundation
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