

■ October 3 - Wall of Honor

Dinner - Norwalk Inn and

Conference Center

■ October 6 - Regular Meeting,

7:30 p.m., NHS Library

■ November 3 - Regular

Meeting, 7:30 p.m., NHS Library

■ December 1 - Regular

Meeting, 7:30 p.m., NHS Library

■ Annual Christmas Party

Date TBD



SEPTEMBER
2010

PO Box 493
Norwalk, CT
06852-0493

2010 Wall of Honor Inductees

The 2010 Wall of Honor Inductees had been announced at the Norwalk High School Alumni Association annual summer picnic. The honorees were announced by NHSAA President Matt Scully, Class of 1993. The 2010 reception will be held at the Norwalk Inn and Conference Center on Sunday October 3rd at 3pm.

This year's inductees are:

Mollie Klaff Passero, Class of 1940 is president of Klaff's Inc. based in South Norwalk. In addition to growing Klaff's to the decorative home design powerhouse store it is today, Mollie was a well known singer who performed with the Bunny Berigan and Louis Prima big bands, appearing under the stage name Marilyn Towne in clubs and theatres up and down the East Coast before, during and after World War II.

Jeffrey Race, Ph.D, Class of 1961, is founder and president of the Cambridge Electronics Laboratory, which designs and markets high technology telecommunications equipment that has been used by the U.S. State Department and the World Bank. The three-degree Harvard man was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge and a Meritorious Service Medal while serving in Vietnam, and was subsequently invited to U.S. Army Command and Staff College before retiring as a lieutenant colonel from the Army Reserve.

Terry Tavella Quell, Phd., RN., Class of 1975, combines professional achievement and community involvement. She is assistant dean of the Fairfield University School of Nursing, has been a 10-year member and two-year chairman of the Norwalk school board and is currently president of the Connecticut Nurses Association and serves on the Norwalk Board of Health.

Mickey Kydes, Class of 1982, the highest total scorer in NHS history during his three-season stint (1979-81), was twice selected for the All-American third team while playing soccer for Long Island University. He was named to the LIU Hall of Fame in 2005 and to the Connecticut Soccer Hall of Fame in 2008. He spent a decade playing professional soccer in the United States and in Greece. He is now president of the Mickey Kydes Soccer Enterprises and Beachside Soccer Club of Connecticut, a non-profit organization for elite youth soccer players.

Daniel John "DJ" Caruso, Class of 1983, has become a successful Hollywood movie director with five feature films under his belt, after producing and directing scores of television shows. Two of the films have grossed over \$100 million, one of them over \$200 million. He attracted the interest of Producer Steven Spielberg who entrusted two feature films to him -- "Eagle Eye" in 2008 starring Shia LaBeouf and Billy Bob Thornton and "Disturbia" in 2007 starring LaBeouf and Sarah Roemer. Angelina Jolie starred in his 2004 movie "Taking Lives."

Save the Date!

2010 Wall of Honor Ceremony

Sunday, October 3rd at the Norwalk Inn & Conference Center at 3pm

FUNDRAISER FOR NHSAA

July 14, 2010

AT O'NEILL'S



Treasurer, Matt Corry '91 &
President, Matt Scully '93



Lou Esposito & Hugh Gartland



Pat Spinola '57 &
Chip Swain '72
(his band,
NIGHTWATCH,
provided music)



Rick '75 & Kathy Tavella



GROUP SHOT



Barbara Smith Swain '71 & John Pinto 64'

2010 PICNIC

ANNUAL PICNIC AT CRANBURY PARK



Ralph Bloom with founding father & past president, Mike Errico, who traveled from VA to attend picnic & his Class of 1938 reunion.



A well deserved rest for our grill men, Patrick Scully, Pat Spinola, and John Vigilante.



Group shot of guests as Matt Scully announces Wall of Honor nominees to be honored October 3, 2010 at 3pm dinner/ceremony at Norwalk inn & Conference Center.



Patrick Spinola 1957, Maureen Ireland 1994, Heide Schreiner Godleski 1961, Phyllis DiMeglio 1961, Cathy Grover 1960, Matt Scully 1993, Barbara O'Connor 1971, Patricia Tavella Maiatico 1971, Catherine Vigilante 1948.

Teacher Honor Roll member, Phyllis DiDio and husband, Mike.



Food Chair, Kathy Grover receiving delectables while founding member & 1st president of NHSAA, Ann Artell looks on.



Longtime supporter, Junior Cutrone and John Cutrone.



The Good Old Days

By Peter Carabi

When we think back to the “old days,” there is always the danger that the rough edges of history can nostalgically get smoothed over. The way we conjure up a memory today may not be a perfect reflection of “what really happened.” But what the heck. It’s fun to do. I was a member of the Norwalk High School Class of 1971, and I had the honor of serving as its Class President. As I look back to those times 40 years ago, the thoughts that come to mind are of an enriching and exciting high school experience that came at a unique moment in US history.

The Class of 71 was the last class to graduate from the majestic East Avenue facility, which first opened in January, 1938, and is currently used as Norwalk’s City Hall. In the autumn of 1971, the high school moved to the Strawberry Hill/County Street site... ironically, literally across the street from where I lived. It would have made for a much shorter walk, but I would never trade the memories of the old school. Looking up from East Avenue at the white domed bell tower, or simply sitting in the cafeteria surrounded by huge murals of local history (courtesy of WPA-commissioned artists during the FDR years when the school was built) there was a certain “gravitas” about the place. A place of tradition.

However, the period of our high school years, 1968 to 1971 was not about tradition, but unprecedented social and political change. As the community prepared to move from one NHS location to another, there were numerous transitions that surrounded us as teenagers. Our entrance to NHS as sophomores in 1968 came on the heels of the assassinations of Martin Luther King in April and Robert Kennedy in June. Cities like Detroit and Newark were burning. The war in Vietnam raged; virtually all students had some connection with someone in the armed services, someone who radically opposed the war, or more typically, both. Woodstock was part of our experience, if not directly, vicariously via the classmates that did somehow manage to get through the mud on Max Yasgur’s farm. The Kent State tragedy occurred in the May, 1970. The whole period was racked by seismic changes in the way American culture looked at youth, and how youth viewed authority. Drugs of every kind made their way to high schools and universities all over the nation. Everything seemed upside down.

Even in the traditional bastion of sports, attitudes were changing. Protests marked the 68 Mexico City Olympics (just as tragedy and violence would mark the 72 Munich games, a year after our graduation). The 68 Jets, behind Joe Namath’s bravado, turned the old establishment on its head with the defeat of the Baltimore Colts, just as the 69 Miracle Mets dominated the Baltimore Orioles (much more fun living in a suburb of NYC than Baltimore!). Even in golf, the traditional way was disrupted by a new force on the scene, Lee Trevino, someone not from the traditional country club mold, who was followed around the links by a bunch of working class guys called Lee’s Fleas (who, incidentally, had their start in Norwalk). Yet, even with all this turmoil and change bubbling up, over and

through us, the 70-71 year that I remember was one of relative tranquility on the NHS campus (save for a week of “bomb scares” in October that effectively shut the school down for a week). But, of course, this memory of “tranquility” is what’s in my 57 year old head NOW. I wonder if my Class of 71 brothers and sisters agree (this could be the basis of a lively Facebook discussion...). What I remember was that during a time of deep divisions and polarization in our country, kids from all backgrounds generally got along pretty well at NHS. Perhaps this is because of the high level of heterogeneity of the community. Unlike the leafy suburbs surrounding Norwalk, our community was a diverse hodgepodge of blue collar and professional, black, white, and brown, “jocks”, “freaks”, “hippies”, “gear heads”, “propeller heads”, “greasers” and whatever the moniker for “nerd” was before that word came into fashion. This isn’t to say there were not tensions and the occasional brawl in the parking lot, but overall, the NHS that I remember in 70/71 was a pretty peaceful place.

A lot of that peace, I will suggest, came about because of a teaching and administrative staff that was kind, supportive, and in tune with the idea that, during a time of great social change, the best responses were measured and tolerant ones. I remember and participated in lively political and social debates between students, as well as between students and staff, but the key was that there always seemed to be an openness for the discussion, not a censuring or scolding. Regardless of their view on a hot political or social issue, most students were proud of the school, and genuinely pleased to be part of the last graduating class from East Avenue.

A sense of importance of the transition from the old school to the new also came from the community. I remember the previous summer, in August, 1970, being invited to the 25th Class Reunion of the NHS Class of 1945 to receive a United States flag as a gift from that class, to be flown on the last day of the 70-71 school year on East Avenue, and the first day of the 71-72 school year at the new facility on Strawberry Hill. What a heady moment for a 17 year old... as my 57 year old mind thinks back to that moment, how old those 40-somethings seemed! The flag flew on East Avenue as planned on a warm June day in 1971. But the first day at the new school in September? I’m not sure. I hope so. But like many others among the 450 students of the NHS Class of 1971, I was gone, wrapped up in my own transition to college.

I have lived outside the USA for the past 13 years, in Sweden for the past eight. While there are commonalities amongst all the world’s high school students and their experiences, there are many differences too. So, on the occasions where I take my four boys back to the States to visit, I never pass up an opportunity to drive by the old school on East Avenue, which is usually followed by an endless monologue about those exciting times, the colorful NHS characters (too numerous to name here...I would likely miss someone) and some of the more “entertaining” exploits of our high school years. My kids sit there in the rental car and act like they are interested in hearing all this. I think they are. Or maybe they simply are humoring their dear old dad.

Peter Carabi is a 1971 graduate of Norwalk High School, who later got his B.A. in English at Seton Hall University, in South Orange, New Jersey. He has had a long career in educational software publishing and distribution, and currently represents US software companies in their distribution efforts in Europe and Asia. Peter currently lives in Stockholm, Sweden, with his wife of 25 years, and their four sons, ages 14 to 20. Since moving to Europe 13 years ago, Peter has become a big European soccer (football) fan, but still reserves the biggest piece of his sports heart for his beloved New York Yankees.

Norwalk is Home Away from Home

By Jessica Daitch

When asked, "Where are you from?" I always answer, Norwalk, CT. Is that a strange answer? By now, I've actually lived away from Norwalk longer than I lived in Norwalk. One week after my twin sister, Kerrie, and I graduated from Norwalk High School (class of 1993), we packed up and moved to Greensboro, NC, where my father moved for a job 18 months earlier. (Generously, our parents had allowed us to stay at NHS so that we wouldn't miss out on that final year of band competitions, dances and graduation.) With no family in Norwalk, we never returned to visit. My summer vacations and college holidays were spent in sleepy Greensboro. Also, with email brand new and social networking non-existent, I quickly lost touch with friends, some of whom I had known since the first grade.

After attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I returned north to Manhattan and moved into a tiny apartment with Kerrie. Two weeks later, I met my husband and we married two and half years later, eventually moving to New Rochelle, NY. We were in easy striking distance of Norwalk, but our only connection was visiting the Yonkers location of Stew Leonard's.

Now we live in Charlotte, N.C., a big southern city filled with families from other places. In my neighborhood, everyone is from somewhere else: New York, New Jersey, Missouri, Florida, etc. No one says they are from Charlotte, not even my son, Logan, who has spent 75 percent of his life here. (He's 8 and we've lived in Charlotte for 6 years in case you missed that day in math class.) Technically, my daughter is native to Charlotte (having been born here), but she has yet to develop that southern twang (phew!).

I suspect that when Logan reflects on his childhood, he will name Charlotte his home, as I name Norwalk, mine. Years removed from the experience, I can easily remember where in B-house my NHS locker was located (though the combination escapes me) and where my friends and I hung out before classes began.

Tom Chen (class of 1993) eventually landed in Chicago after graduating from Yale University. His parents recently left Norwalk to be near to his brother's family. Tom also calls Norwalk his home despite no remaining familial connections and remarked, "I'll always consider Norwalk my hometown. Even though my parents moved to Los Angeles last year, I do think I'll be back at some point. I still have good friends in the area. My son Kai needs to see Stew Leonard's and try New Haven-style pizza!"

Tom continued, "[touring NHS days before my parents moved,] it was somewhat bittersweet to see how much the school has changed, even though the new facilities are amazing. (I'm especially jealous of the new tennis courts.) Places have to change over time, but I suppose your memories of them don't always keep pace."

With the advent of social networking and Facebook, Norwalk doesn't feel as far away as it used too. I love seeing pictures of old friends and learning about where their lives have taken them. No matter where my life takes me, Norwalk will always be my hometown even seventeen years after graduation.

Jessica (Koslowe) Daitch graduated from Norwalk High School in 1993 and now lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband and two children. Jessica writes feature stories for two local newspapers and works part-time from as home as a public relations professional, specializing in health and pharmaceutical communications. Want to get back in touch with Jessica? Contact her at Jessica_Daitch@yahoo.com



2010 Summer Picnic

July 8, 2010 was one of those "dog days of summer" when the humidity was enough to debilitate the most fit among us. But this didn't deter NHSAA members, guests and friends from the annual feast at Cranbury Park. With about 100 in attendance, the grill was moving as fast as any Detroit assembly line thanks to Patrick Scully, Pat Spinola, and John Vigilante. The committee led by Kathy Grover & Heidi Godleski would like to thank all donors who generously prepared salads & desserts.

2010 Wall of Honor: Tickets, Ads and Boosters

Please send me _____ tickets to the Wall of Honor dinner, October 3rd at the Norwalk Inn.

Amount enclosed at \$60.00 each \$ _____.

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Please list me as a booster in the Wall of Honor Program

My contribution per line is \$10.00 (25 letters or less) List me as: (please print clearly)

Mail this form, along with a check made payable to NHSAA to: NHSAA, P.O. Box 493, Norwalk, CT 06852-0493

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Wall of Honor Dinner

Heidi S. Godleski, '61

Wall of Honor Tickets

Barbara O'Connor, '71

Wall of Honor Selection

Matthew Scully, '93

Upcoming Class Reunions

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

Class of 1950: Save the date: Sunday, October 17, 2010 for our 60th reunion brunch at the Shore and Country Club. Contact Dr. Donald D. Yanell, 83 East Avenue #202, Norwalk, CT 06851, (203) 838-2203 or email donalddyanellds@aol.com

Class of 1952: Sunday, September 26, 2010 is your 58th reunion at the Shore and Country Club. There will be a champagne brunch. For information please call Elaine Yanell in Westport at (203) 227-0773 or call Thurley Burns in Newtown, CT at (203) 270-6977 or email thurleyo@charter.net.

Class of 1960: THE BIG ONE IS HERE! The 50th reunion is Friday, October 15, 2010 at the Norwalk Inn. Additional festivities will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at Birchwood Country Club. For information call Ginny DeMarco at 203-853-1363 or email Diane Langlois Hyzy at LadyDi62842@aol.com.

Class of 1975: Summer 2010 TBA; send email to nhsclassof75@aol.com, attention Reunion Committee, c/o Marie Strolin or call 203-459-8472.

Class of 1990: Fall 2010, date, time and location to be determined. For more information contact Jennifer Zinsser-Wilson, via email at jenniferzinsser@yahoo.com.

Class of 2000: November 2010! November 27, 2010, Cocktail Party at Sono Brewhouse. Contact Stephanie DiScala Fitzgerald via email at steph.fitzgerald@gmail.com or Jill Ireland at j.ireland@hotmail.com.

Class of February 1938 73rd Reunion Luncheon, Saturday, July 9, 2011 at So. Norwalk Boat Club. Contact Mike Errico at 203-441-8024.

Norwalk High School Alumni Association



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