



# Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association



Fall / Winter Issue, Volume 19

## *A Message from Your President*

Dear Alumni Association Members:



As we head into 2016 and the excitement of a presidential election year I cannot help but reflect on the fact that the Alumni Association will be electing and installing new officers in 2016 as well. There are some current officers and executive board members – myself, Dr. Alice Farkouh, Barbara Venito, Robert Hedlund and Tom Greene – who have been on the board and active in the Alumni Association since its inception in 1983. We have watched it grow and watched as it supported the school and its students as well as facilitated alumni ability to maintain ties with the school and with each other. God willing, we will maintain our ties with the Alumni Association and continue to support the school and the community we care about so much.

But we are also delighted that new leaders are emerging. Maria Makrinos was not only a student herself but her three children were students at Fort Hamilton High School. All of her children were student leaders here and Maria has become a leader not only of the Alumni Association but of the P.T.A., the Bay Ridge Community Council, the Kassenbrock Scholarship Fund and her church – Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church. Valerie Hodgson went on after graduation to become director of photographic services for the New York City Police Department and a leader of her graduating class who, with Mary Beth Alexander, organized a great 40th class reunion. Shiv Trevidi was not only a star football player when he was here but went on to a career in finance and is now president of the Fort Hamilton High School Football Alumni Association. Shiv has done much to coordinate the services of the Alumni Association with the Football Alumni Association since we are all on the same team.

In looking back at the 32 years since the Alumni Association was founded, I think fondly of the following things: we helped individual classes organize their own reunions; we kept our membership informed about the goings-on in the school and the community. We raised money to support the marching band, the football team, academic services, graduation awards, an electronic bulletin board, chairs and tables for banquets in the school, flags to signify the nations whose emigrants have populated our school, calculators for the school and various items which are too numerous to list. We have an Alumni Hall of Fame on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor outside the school library where plaques honor distinguished alumni who have had unique accomplishments. We also, on a sad note, maintain a memoriam list near our Hall of Fame, of faculty members who have passed on.

I do not want to speculate on what our new leadership will accomplish. It is for them to provide the vision of where the Alumni Association will head. The “old timers” will not be deserting the ship but will be enthusiastically supporting the emerging leaders. I was adviser to the Fort Hamilton High School Student Organization from 1972 until 1990. At the first meeting of the S. O. Council I would start out by saying “The answer is, “Yes””. The students would ask me, “What is the question?” I would say, “Whatever you want to try as long as it is not illegal or immoral”. I say that to the new leadership of the Alumni Association as well.

*David Whitebook*



**Janet Louise Yellen**, Class of 1963, an American economist, is the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. She had previously served from 2010-2014 as Vice Chair. During the President Bill Clinton administration, she was the chair of the White House Council of Economic Advisers. She graduated from Brown University in 1967, and received her Ph.D. from Yale University in 1971. Yellen is married to George Akerlof and they have a son, Robert. When she was nominated by President Barack Obama she became the first woman to be appointed Federal Reserve Board Chair. Forbes Magazine has described her as the second most powerful woman in the world. Janet Yellen was inducted into the Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Hall of Fame in 1994.

**Robert Hedlund**, Class of 1969, now retired as Director of Information Technology for Con Edison serves on the executive board of the Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association. He is a past president and director of the Bay Ridge Community Council and serves as one of the trustees of the Kassenbrock Brothers Memorial Scholarship Fund. A former Brooklynite, Hedlund now resides in Atlantic Highlands, New Jersey.



**Anthony Grigos**, Class of 1983, who just ran his first New York City Marathon, is a real estate broker, former vice president of JP Morgan Chase Bank and now is the Executive Vice President of the Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union, plus a member of the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Consumer Federation and the 68 Police Precinct Youth Council. He is a graduate of Brooklyn College and received his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Fordham University.

## Adult Swim

There are three swim programs for adults:

1. Lutheran Health Accent on Tuesday 7:30 - 8:30 pm for seniors over age 50. Classes offered include Fitness Swimming, Casual Swimming and Floating, Walking in Shallow Water, and Exercising with Flotation Devices.
2. Adult Fitness Training for lap swimmers on Thursday 8:45 - 9:30 pm and Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 am. Instruction is provided upon request.
3. BRAT (Bay Ridge Aquatic Team) - Serious adult competitive lap swimmers. Saturday 9:00 - 10:00 am. (see [www.brainstiswim.org](http://www.brainstiswim.org)) for more information.

The swim program operates during the school year. The cost is \$10 per hour.

**For more information, contact Maria Fritsch at 347-267-9469**



## In Memoriam



**Rosemary Kaufmann**, Retired Social Studies Teacher passed away on March 9, 2015. She was a remarkable friend, colleague, and teacher. She taught History and Economics at Fort Hamilton for 25 years.

**Sally Lombardi**, Retired School Secretary was with Fort Hamilton High School for 13 years. She died in May 2014. She loved her family and led a productive, fulfilling life.

**Leone Isabel Simon** was appointed in 1947 at FHHS as a teacher. She worked with the first Principal Augustus Ludwig and two Secretarial Studies Chairmen. In 1962 she went on to be a full-time Guidance Counselor. She retired in April 1980 but still attended FHHS Alumni functions. She died on May 17, 2014. She had just celebrated her 96th birthday.

**Ethel Furlong** joined the FHHS staff as a Secretarial Studies teacher in the 1960's. She was the Senior Class Activities Advisor, Secretarial Studies Department Chairman, and Coordinator for the Alternative- Week Cooperative Education Department. She retired in the early 1980's. Ethel died on September 25, 2015, at the age of 95.

**John Gebhardt** was the former Chairman of the English Department. He was well respected by his teachers and the department heads. A great teacher and leader, he was always there for his teachers, parents, and the students of FHHS. He died, Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at the age of 90.

# Fort Hamilton High School ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## Hall of Fame Dinner Dance

Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> 7 PM to 11 PM

*Join us as we proudly honor the 2016 inductees*

Community Leader and Businessman **J. Peter Clavin** Class of 1971

Hero Firefighter **Joseph Graffagnino\*** Class of 1992

New York Jets #37 **Jaiquawn Jarrett** Class of 2007

Star School Athlete **Kristi Kvalheim\*** Class of 1995

### Rex Manor

1100 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn

*\$80 per Person / \$800 per Table (seats 12)*

*MC Vincent Gentile, Class of 1977*

*Sit-down Dinner*

*Old Friends*

*New Friends*

*Open Bar*

*DJ*

FOR TICKETS  
Send Checks To:

Fort Hamilton High School  
Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 7204  
Monroe Township, N.J. 08831-7212

PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

To advertise in the **EVENT JOURNAL**  
or for questions:

Email [FHHS1973@earthlink.net](mailto:FHHS1973@earthlink.net)

Call **917-731-4861**

*\* Honored posthumously*

Seating is limited - No tickets sold at the door - RSVP by January 29<sup>th</sup> - Journal deadline is January 18<sup>th</sup>



# Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 7204 • Monroe Township, N.J. 08831

Phone: (917) 731-4861 • E-mail: [FHHS1973@earthlink.net](mailto:FHHS1973@earthlink.net)



On Saturday, February 13, 2016, at the Rex Manor, 1100 60th Street, Brooklyn, the Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association will hold a dinner dance and proudly induct into our Hall of Fame the following alumni:

- J. Peter Clavin, 1971*
- Joseph Graffagnino, 1992*
- Jaiquawn Jarrett, 2007*
- Kristi Kvalheim, 1995*

We hope you will join us as we celebrate the accomplishments and lives of these special individuals.

**Founded in 1941, 2016 marks the 75th anniversary of our alma mater!**

*What better time to come out and show your school spirit?*

Our *Dinner Dance Journal* gives you the chance to share a message, promote your business or just be a part of the event, even if you can't be there in person. Your support for the FHHS Alumni Association is most appreciated and helps us help the current students at the Fort.

Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail if you have any questions regarding the dinner or the journal.

**Thank you!**

Please mark all boxes that apply and return this half of the form with checks payable to "**Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association**" to the address at the top of the page.

### FOR THE JOURNAL:

- Outside back cover.....\$400
- Inside front cover.....\$300
- Inside back cover.....\$300
- Full page.....\$200
- Half page..... \$100
- Quarter page.....\$50

***The deadline for ads is January 18, 2016***

### FOR TICKETS:

- Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Table(s) @ \$800 each
- Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Seat(s) @ \$80 each
- Other donation..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TOTAL ENCLOSED..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*The deadline for tickets is January 29, 2016*

Submit design by e-mail (preferred),  
attach ad or business card or enter copy below:


### Page Dimensions:

Full: 5½" x 8½"    Half: 5½" x 4¼"    Quarter: 2¾" x 4¼"

Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation from FHHS (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**We love hearing from our members!** If you have news you want to share, send it to [fhhs1973@earthlink.net](mailto:fhhs1973@earthlink.net) and we'll print it in our next newsletter.



**Bob Alberti**, an *Alumni Hall of Famer* from the **January '53** class, is still active at 81 as a jazz pianist playing in the Southeast. Bob says, "Music never gets old, even if the person playing it does." In addition to his music, Bob loves to cook. He and his wife reside in Sun City Hilton Head, SC. They just enjoyed a lovely vacation in Tuscany and Bob jokes that, "Upon returning I had to decide whether to join *Weight-Watchers* or *A.A.* The pasta, pizza, bread and wine were superb, and we had more than our share of all of the above." Bob also remarked that he often thinks back to his days at FHHS with pleasure.

**Robert F. Casale**, class of **June '53** has been keeping in touch with his classmates since their 50th reunion when 225 alumni attended the celebration at the Officers' Club at Ft. Hamilton. A smaller group still meets for lunch twice a year. This December 9th you'll find them at Chadwick's where, he says, "The spirit of the Fort continues."

**Helene Culis** (formerly **Cuyulis**) class of **'59** has sent news that her second great-grandchild Margot Claire, was born the end of August and Thea Helene, at 4 ½, loves being the "big sister". With her husband, Helene has a blended family of 5 children, 13 grandchildren and the 2 "greats", ranging from 29 down to 3+ months. Helene's enjoying a wonderful retirement on Long Island. She wishes everyone well and says, "Life's been quite a journey since 1959!"

**Kathy Hornreich (Salerno)**, class of **'72** happily reports, "My confirmed bachelorette daughter (42) was married on July 15, 2015. Never say, 'Never!'"

**Claire Redmond (Stoltz)**, class of **'47** sadly lost her husband of 63 years two years ago but she delights in her growing family with one great-grandchild and another on the way! Claire's family also includes 3 children who are now fine adults and 6 amazing and amusing grandchildren. "Life is really interesting watching them," she reports.

**Marcelle Farah Rose**, class of **'51** reports that she is "still here, living in beautiful Jupiter, FL."

**Jill Muir Sukenick PhD**, class of **'71** is a psychoanalyst in private practice and co-author of "Face It: What Women Really Feel as Their Looks Change". In an alumni association directory, Dr. Sudenick's occupation was mistakenly listed as physical therapist - and we sincerely apologize for the error.

**Lorraine Yaufman, June '47** and **Clyde McBride, January '46** will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on December 23, 2015. Parents of 4, grandparents of 11, and great-grandparents of 2 (plus 2 on the way), they are enjoying life in Naples, FL and Bay Head NJ.

## **Press Release: Denyse Wharf - a Diamond in the Rough**



On Sunday Oct. 18, 2015, close to one hundred Friends of Denyse Wharf cleaned up the beach at this historic site, a one acre piece of unused real estate located on the Fort Hamilton Army Base.

This garbage strewn landmark site, which dates back to the Revolutionary War, with its magnificent views of the Narrows and the Verrazano Bridge, is a veritable diamond in the rough. A community eyesore, Denyse Wharf calls out for a renovation and restoration. Over the past quarter of a century this site has been used by school children, with the permission of the Army, in a variety of popular environmental activities including kayaking, water quality studies, oyster gardening and beach clean-ups. We would like to acknowledge

our gratitude to the Fort Hamilton Army Base Commander, Col. Joseph Davidson, for making it possible for neighborhood youth to get community service certificates for their environmental stewardship. A special thanks DEP official, Sam Young, who provides us with a dumpster every year to cart away tons of marine debris.

Friends of Denyse Wharf strongly recommends that the New York City Dept. of Education, with Army approval, construct a modest regional marine environmental science lab at this site, in conjunction with an adjacent public seating area containing commemorative plaques describing the historical importance of Denyse Wharf. We request that CB10 put this construction project, of significant educational value, on its list of Capital projects.

## FHHS Alumni Association Membership & Renewal Form (Gold, Silver, Regular Lifetime, General)

Please help support us, our school, and our traditions. We need to go the next step and help our current students as they "Grow in Body, Mind, and Spirit".

For those of you who are most attached to Fort Hamilton High School and its Alumni Association, we still offer Gold and Silver Lifetime Memberships. Those who choose to become Gold or Silver Lifetime Members will have their names placed on a plaque on our 'Wall of Fame'. In addition, we will list the names of the Gold and Silver Members in each of our periodic newsletters. We believe that this new program will make it easier for us to fulfill our missions of keeping members in touch with each other, of providing members with activities and information that engage them with the school and the community, and of finding ways to assist the current students.

**(Please Print)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Maiden Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hobbies:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Working  Retired

Please make check payable to: **THE FORT HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION** and mail to address on bottom of page.

Gold Lifetime Membership	\$500 One Payment
Silver Lifetime Membership	\$250 One Payment
Regular Lifetime Membership	\$100 One Payment
General Membership	\$20 Per Year
Additional Donations	Total Amount Enclosed
\$ _____	\$ _____

Renewal       New Membership

*All memberships are for individual members only.  
There are no family memberships.*

This year's dues are for the period January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

# Thank You!

**A very special note of thanks to the following recent Lifetime Members. Your generosity helps maintain the lifeline of the Alumni Association.**

**Silver Lifetime (\$250)**

Valerie Hodgson '73

**Lifetime Members**

Mary Beth Alexander '73





DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

# FORT HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

*Celebrating 75 years of "Excellence in Education."*

*Kaye Houlihan  
Principal*

8301 SHORE ROAD  
BROOKLYN, NY 11209  
Phone (718) 748-1537  
Fax (718) 836-3955

Dear Alumni:

November 8, 2015

The 2015-16 school year marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fort Hamilton High School. That means seventy-five years of educating the youth of Brooklyn and developing graduates prepared to make their way in the world as positive and productive citizens. I am proud to say that Fort Hamilton High School forges ahead in the 21<sup>st</sup> century to provide ALL students with a quality education, one that is sure to provide a strong foundation for their future endeavors. Our well-developed rating from the 2015 Quality Review attests to the quality of teaching and learning at Fort.

The beginning months of the current school year have been mixed with welcoming twenty new staff members, high praise from Chancellor Farina, and the loss of three valued staff members. The Fort community continues to be strong and collaborated to show the Chancellor our best and support each other during a time of loss and transition.

We welcomed thirteen new teachers, three new counselors, and four new assistant principals on the leadership team. Jennifer Gagnon is the Assistant Principal of Organization, Mary Minucci the Assistant Principal of Math, Jill Kitchen the Assistant Principal of World Languages/English as a New Language, and Jacob Baty is taking on a new position as the Assistant Principal of Data and Compliance. Each AP has the experience and leadership skills to ensure that effective leadership is stronger than ever at Fort.

Chancellor Farina visited on October 6, 2015 and noted the "cabinet's high energy as strong curricular advocates" that "benefit students and staff members." She was impressed with teachers engaging students in meaningful ways, in "high levels of conversation", and students taking ownership of their learning. Chancellor Farina was also complimentary of our guidance team that emphasizes personalization and consistency in our large school. In addition, she commended our commitment to the arts that includes partnerships with the Joffrey Ballet and other cultural institutions to provide a high-quality arts program. Our Virtual Enterprise program that partners with Deloitte Touche was also highlighted as a beneficial program offering opportunities to engage students with the business community. The highest compliment was the high percentage of teachers who would recommend the school for their own children.

We mourn the loss of math teacher Matt Reinhardt, paraprofessional Tami Koulouroudis, and music teacher Anthony Vigliotti. Each member contributed to making Fort a supportive and collaborative environment that puts students first. They will be missed and remembered fondly.

We received Title I funds for the first time in over a decade as a result of our campaign in the past two years to have families complete the meal application to determine free or reduced lunch. Meeting the Title I eligibility requirement in FY16 provides additional funds to support school-wide programs. Funds were allocated to hire additional staff, schedule tutoring before and after school and for Saturday Academy, to support professional development, and to ensure that all our programs and students have the support needed to thrive and progress.

Literacy continues to be our instructional focus that will support students' ability to be critical thinkers and communicators. Engaging students and helping them build the skills necessary to be prepared for college and career is our goal. Providing a safe and secure environment for students and staff is a priority in meeting this goal. Your support for all our efforts is appreciated.

Wishing you a wonderful fall and holiday season. We'll be sharing news soon about celebrating Fort's 75 years in April 2016!

Respectfully,  
*Kaye Houlihan*  
Kaye Houlihan, Principal



PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO AT [FHHS1973@EARTHLINK.NET](mailto:FHHS1973@EARTHLINK.NET)

## *Executive Board*

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### **Treasurer**

### **Hall of Fame Chair**

### **David Whitebook**

dwhitebook@comcast.net

### **Vice President**

### **Newsletter Editor**

### **Dr. Alice B. Farkouh**

abf718@aol.com

### **Recording Secretary**

### **Robert Hedlund**

hedlundr@verizon.net

### **Corresponding Secretary**

### **Reunion Coordinator**

### **Valerie Hodgson**

vhodgson@earthlink.net

### **Historian**

### **Barbara Venito**

### **Publicity Coordinator**

### **Ted General**

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### **School Liaison**

### **Greg Larsen**

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### **Mary Beth Alexander**

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### **Newsletter Designer**

Aileen Kiter

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Please check your mailing label to verify your dues status. Our newsletter will only be mailed to lifetime and current year paid members.

**Fort Hamilton HS Alumni Association, PO Box 7204, Monroe Township, NJ 08831 | [www.fhalumni.org](http://www.fhalumni.org)**