



Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association

Spring/Summer 2014 Issue



www.fhalumni.org
Volume 18

A Message from Your President

Dear Alumni Association Members:



As my term as the President of the Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association comes to an end, it has been a privilege and my honor to have served our beloved Alma Mater. As I have stated previously and my belief is stronger than ever that Fort Hamilton High School was, is, and always will be "A School of Excellence". In December 2013 Fort Hamilton High School welcomed the news from the NYC Department of Education of the appointment of the new Principal of Fort Hamilton High School Kaye Houlihan. On behalf of the FHHS Alumni Association we wish Ms. Houlihan much success, and that the Alumni Association will always stand with the school as advocates and with any assistance necessary.

Our school has come so far and continues to shine with the success of the Alumni that has passed through the doors of Fort Hamilton High School. The quality education received by our students to go into future endeavors, confident and prepared to meet the challenges that they have encountered is evident with some recent Alumni news.

- Janet Yellen Valedictorian Class of 1963 was nominated by President Barack Obama in October of 2013 and received congressional confirmation to become the Chairperson of the Federal Reserve effective February 2014.
- Letitia James Class of 1976 was elected for the Office of Public Advocate for the City of New York. Letitia James is the first African-American woman to be elected to citywide office in NYC.
- Vincent Gentile Class of 1977 was re-elected as the City Council Member of the 43rd Council District. Vincent Gentile is now the most senior member of the New York City Council.
- Andrew Gounardes Class of 2003 was selected as the new legal Counsel to Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.

We would like to wish the Alumni mentioned herein as well as all Fort Hamilton High School Alumni all the best for future success, you all make us proud as an Alumni Association and makes our point that Fort Hamilton High School is "A School of Excellence".

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation and thanks to some very special people on the FHHS Alumni Association. First and foremost I would like thank the Officers of the FHHS Alumni Association for their support, dedication and assistance. They are 1st Vice President Dr Alice B. Farkouh, Treasurer David Whitebook, Recording Secretary Grace Zito, Corresponding Secretary Susan Tirotta. I would also like to thank the members of the FHHS Alumni Association Executive Board: Robert Hedlund, Rose Abdallah, Tom Greene, Petros Spanakos, Ted General, Irene Gaglio, Maria Makrinos, Barbara Venito, Joe DiMartino and Valerie Hodgson. Their dedicated service have been invaluable to me and the FHHS Alumni Association.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the FHHS Alumni and to humbly request that we stay united, and continue to support our school. We must continue to be involved in our school and to be vigilant advocates to keep Fort Hamilton High School the wonderful school that it is. I am confident that our new officers will continue to guide us with new programs and events and bring the FHHS Alumni Association to new heights for a bright future. Once again thank you and I look forward to seeing you all at future Alumni activities.

Best Wishes,

Sandy Vallas
Class of 1981



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

FORT HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF "EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION."

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KAYE HOULIHAN
PRINCIPAL

March 26, 2014

Dear Alumni:



KAYE HOULIHAN
PRINCIPAL

As we approach the midway point of the Spring 2014 term, I am proud to say that Fort Hamilton High School continues to forge ahead in providing ALL students with a quality education, one that is sure to provide a strong foundation for their future endeavors.

I am happy to report that I officially became the Principal of Fort Hamilton High School on Friday, December 20, 2013. I cannot express my gratitude and excitement in accepting this position. I am wholeheartedly committed to Fort Hamilton High School and will continue to work hard to keep our status of "***Excellence in Education.***"

As you know, a new Teacher Evaluation System is being implemented in full this year. In addition, Common Core aligned Regents exams in ELA and Algebra will take place this June. Assisting students in understanding what they need to achieve success and meet the high expectations of the City, State and Common Core Learning Standards continues to be our focus.

We are proud of our student body and their many accomplishments. To date, the Class of 2014 has amassed scholarship monies in excess of \$9,300,000. The Girls Volleyball Team won the City Championship Division B two years in a row and we were granted approval by PSAL to create a Girls Lacrosse Team, which begins this spring. In addition, we continue to remember Eduard Nogay at the 2nd Annual Eduard Nogay Volleyball Tournament, which will take place on Sunday, March 30th. Eduard was a courageous young man who, despite a dire diagnosis of cancer, continued to play the sport he loved so much until he no longer could. A ceremony to retire his jersey and number honored his memory and spirit on March 24th. Both the jersey ceremony and volleyball tournament are in the tradition of the tight Fort family.

Our Music department competed at Festival Disney in Disney World and the results are as follows: The Marching and Symphonic Bands both received Superior ratings, an Excellent rating was awarded to the Jazz Band, the Orchestra and the Concert Chorus. The Marching Band won the Gold Award as well as Best in Class. Additional awards were distributed, including a best soloist award to two students.

Our spring production of Gypsy begins May 8, 2014. I highly encourage you attend a performance and support your alma mater. Entertainment and energy are guaranteed.

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 spring season!

Respectfully,

Kaye Houlihan, Principal

REDBOOK MAGAZINE CITATION AS A SCHOOL FOR OVERALL EXCELLENCE

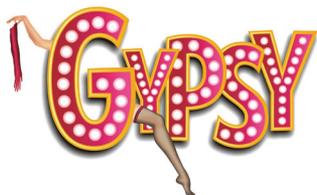
FHHS Alumni Association Spring Theatre Dinner Party

FHHS Alumni Association is once again planning a Spring Theatre Dinner Party. We will attend Chadwick Restaurant (8822 3rd Avenue) on Friday, May 16th at 5 pm where we will have a tasty dinner (complete) from 5 pm until 6:30 pm. At 6:30 pm we will go to FHHS and watch the students entertain us with the play Gypsy. The cost for the Dinner and Theatre Show is \$45 per person. If you would like to attend, mail a check for \$45.00 per person made payable to FHHS Alumni Association. Include the tear-off and mail it to me personally at:

Alice B. Farkouh
25 Croton Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10301

If you have any questions, please call me at 1-917-579-7124 or email me at ABF718@aol.com.

We are looking forward to seeing you.



Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Check No.: _____

Number attending: _____ Number X \$45 = _____

Reunion

The class of '73 held its 40th reunion at the Rex Manor on Saturday, September 28, 2013. 68 people celebrated this event, including teachers Mr. Michael D'Ambrosio, Mr. Frank Carucci and Mr. Stanley Ramsdal as well as alumni association president Sandy Vallas. At the last minute, Mr. David Whitebook had to cancel his plans to attend but he was a great help while we were planning the party. More photos and info about the Class of '73 can be found online at <https://www.facebook.com/FortHamiltonHighSchoolClassOf1973> . Classmates traveled to the reunion from New Mexico, Texas, Washington DC and Florida. To keep the party going and for some who couldn't attend the 40th reunion, a post-reunion re-reunion was held at Hunter's Steak and Ale House on November 13th. We are hoping to make this an annual event.



Reunion committee: (l-r) Susan Nilsen Kupsch, Valerie Hodgson, Thomas Marley, Elizabeth Barca and Mary Beth Alexander

CONDOLENCES

The Alumni Executive Board extends its sympathy to the families of the following alum and faculty members who have passed away.

FHHS former Assistant Principal of Special Education, **Tobias Weissman** of Leonia, New Jersey at age 61 passed away on January 16, 2014. Loved by students, parents, and faculty of FHHS, Tobias brought compassion, respect, and love to his students and department. He worked at Fort Hamilton High from 1986 to 2002. During this period, he not only ran a dynamic Special Education Department but was a talented ceramic teacher as well. Some of the many gifts he contributed to the school were two mural ceramic tile plaques called the Welcome Wall and the Respect Wall. When special needs students got into trouble, he brought out all their positive contributes. Tobias leaves his loving wife, Iris, and daughter, Moriah. Prior to his death, he was promoted as Principal of Passaic High School in 2010. A true friend, colleague, dedicated teacher, and role model for all, Tobias Weissman will be truly missed at Passaic High School. FHHS former and present faculty will always have him in their hearts.

Joseph P. Buro, Class of '59 passed away on February 9, 2013 after a short illness. Joe was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and uncle. He will be missed by his family, his former classmates as well as his many friends. Joe married a Fort Hamilton classmate, Lucretia (Silen) Buro class of '61.

Barry E. Anderson, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Class of '49 passed away on May 24, 2012 at the age of 80. Beloved husband of Eileen; loving father of Barry Anderson, Jr. and Danese Hussey; grandfather of Taylor Anderson, Trey Anderson, Caitlin Hussey, Sean Hussey, Galen Hussey, Jarrod Hussey, and Lucas Hussey; brother of Jay Anderson and Gordon Anderson.

Patricia Diane Fahy, (1955 - 2014) Class of '73 passed away on March 6, 2014.

Mary Lott DeVries, Class of '45 passed away in 2010.

Michael Ianelli, Class of '54 passed away on December 4, 2012 from complications of Parkinson's Disease.

James Laffey of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, passed away.

ADULT SWIM

There are three swim programs for adults:



A. Luthern Health Accent on Tuesday 7:30 to 8:30pm for seniors over 50. Fitness swimming Casual swimming and floating, walking in shallow water. Exercising with floatation devices.

B. Adult Fitness Training for lap swimmers on Thursday 8:45pm-9:30pm and Sat 10am-11am. Instruction is provided upon request.

C. BRAT(Bay Ridge Aquatic Team) - Serious adult competitive lap swimmers. Sat. 9am-10am

The swim program operates during the school year.

For Summer Adult swim program see website: Bay Ridge Aquatics Institute, www.brainstoswim.org

The cost is \$10 an hour. Call Maria Fritsch for details at 347-267- 9469

How to Organize a Reunion

David Whitebook

Many alumni inquire about their class reunion – but when told that none is planned and asked if they would like to organize one - they shy away. Actually, the process while taking organization skills, hard work and dedication, is not very complicated.

Here are the steps we suggest if you would like to organize a class reunion.

1. Get a group of 4 to 7 classmates to comprise the committee. You need a few people to share the work but committees that are too big are unwieldy.
2. Decide on a date. Winter is a problem as snow is a possibility. Summer is unwise as people are on vacation. Usually a Saturday night between late September and early November or between mid April and early June works.
3. Choose a venue. While we used to encourage the school and a catered buffet there have been constraints placed by the Department of Education of late. No alcohol is permitted and the group using the school must have significant insurance coverage (which is very expensive). We therefore suggest a catering hall. Find out various prices and choose a site.
4. Now determine your total cost. Your overhead includes the cost of music (D. J. or band), the cost of mailing to classmates, decorations, and miscellaneous expenses. Divide the overhead by a low estimate of turnout to get a per person estimate of the overhead. If the turnout is higher you will have extra funds at your disposal. Then add this estimate to the amount you have to pay the catering hall and you will know how much to charge per person.
5. You might want to invite teachers whom you had. If you wish to do this, we suggest that you invite them as guests. While this reunion is special for you, for teachers it is one of many classes. We do suggest that any faculty or former faculty who help you with the organizing of the event be invited as guests and the committee should decide if there are certain teachers they would like to see or they want a general invitation. Usually, not more than 5 to 8 faculty will accept. If you decide to invite faculty add the cost of their dinners to the overhead before dividing. You might want to see if you get a high turnout and therefore have extra funds before deciding on guests.
6. The Alumni Association will give you a list of members from your class whose addresses we have. If your class is a recent graduating class, the addresses we obtained at graduation are pretty accurate. The longer the time between the reunion and the graduation year the less likely it is that the original addresses will be accurate.
7. In addition, brainstorm with the committee and list all the people whose addresses you know. Even though it is tempting in forming the committee to get a group of people who are all still close friends, it is better to have a diverse group so that you will all know different classmates.
8. The committee members should pay for their tickets up front. This will give you working capital. Mail out an announcement, ask people to reply with payment but even if they are not ready to make a commitment yet ask them to let you know by e mail or phone (or text if you and they prefer) the names and addresses of other classmates. Follow up mailings to these new names.
9. Plan on last minute reservations and even some walk-ins.
10. Divide the jobs for the evening. The catering hall does the set up but you might want to have some displays. You will need an MC and someone to check people in.
11. The Alumni Association is available to help you with any questions that arise.

GENERAL OUTPOST

By Ted General (Class of '59)

NEW PRINCIPAL INSTALLED AT FORT HAMILTON



Aimee Horowitz and Sandy Vallas with new FHHS Principal Kaye Houlihan

Brooklyn and Staten Island High School Superintendent **Aimee Horowitz** formally installed **Kaye Houlihan** as the new principal of Fort Hamilton High School, in the school's Laurence Laurenzano Performing Arts Auditorium.

The National Anthem and music selections were played by the FHHS Symphonic Band conducted by Assistant Principal **Tom Oberle**. The Presentation of the Colors was conducted by the School's Army Junior ROTC color guard with Student Council President **Beliana Krashi** leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Among the key officials delivering remarks were Superintendent Horowitz, and former Manhattan schools superintendent and now New Visions Brooklyn and Staten Island schools Network Leader **Alexis Penzell**. During her

address, Horowitz said, "Kaye Houlihan is the type principal I would want my children to have."

Dr. Alice Farkouh, a graduate of Fort Hamilton, a past president of the Alumni Association, and the School's eighth Principal was present for the ceremonies and to offer her congratulations.

Also adding his congratulations on behalf of the Fort Hamilton Alumni Association was the current Alumni President **Sandy Vallas**, who was the immediate past president of the PTA, and a Fort Hamilton graduate.

In addition to playing a medley of songs from "Saturday Night Fever" (a movie long associated with Bay Ridge), Oberle and his youthful band musicians struck up the Carroll High School song. It was a nice surprise for the occasion and Houlihan, who graduated from the City of Carroll High School in Iowa, seemed especially pleased.



Items for this column may be sent to: General@Journalist.com

This year we are introducing a new and exciting program that will enable those of you who are most attached to Fort Hamilton High School and its Alumni Association to express your support. We are establishing two new levels of Alumni Association membership: **Gold and Silver Lifetime Membership**. **Gold Lifetime Membership costs \$500 and Silver Lifetime Membership costs \$250**. Those who choose to become **Gold or Silver Lifetime Members** will have their names placed on a plaque on our **Wall of Fame** where all the members of the **Fort Hamilton High School Hall of Fame** have their plaques. 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 Registration in the **Gold and Silver Membership** will be found on **page 7** of this newsletter. 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”**.

**Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association
Gold, Silver, Regular Lifetime Membership and General Membership
Renewal Application**

(Please Print)
Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____ Class of : _____

Telephone #: () _____ Email Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Gold Lifetime Membership*: \$500.00 One Payment Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Silver Lifetime Membership*: \$250.00 One Payment Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Regular Lifetime Membership: \$100.00 One Payment Amount Enclosed \$ _____

General Membership: \$20.00 Per Year Amount Enclosed \$ _____

(Please Check One) Additional Donations \$ _____

Renewal **New Member**

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Please make check payable to: THE FORT HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and mail to:

**THE FORT HAMILTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 7204 MONROE TOWNSHIP, NJ 08831-1704**

This year's dues are for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.
Our newsletter will only be mailed to lifetime and current year paid members.

* **A plaque has been erected near the Hall of Fame for the Gold and Silver Lifetime Memberships.**

“THANK YOU”

A very special note of thanks to the following Lifetime Members and to the named contributors since the last Newsletter. Your generosity helps to maintain the lifeline of the Alumni Association.

Gold Lifetime* (\$500)

Francis McNellis '60

Silver Lifetime* (\$250)

Paul Demarest '55

Lifetime Members (\$100)

Tim Barba '65, Linda Broderick '60, Florence Cozzolino '58, James Fisher '73,
Gerald Hirsch '44, Valerie Hodgson '73, John Larson '65, George Maalouf '74,
Dominick Sorrentino '73, George Svokos '76, and Grazia Svokos '76,

Donations

Louise Geffner (\$50), Neil Capolongo (\$20) and Mona Zaloom (\$25)

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Sandy Vallas '81

Vice President:

Dr. Alice B. Farkouh '57

Treasurer:

David Whitebook

Recording Secretary

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Secretary

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Hall of Fame Chair

David Whitebook

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Barbara Venito '58

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Ted General '59

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address label to verify
your dues status.**

**Our newsletter will
only be mailed to
lifetime and
current year paid
members.**

Feel free to contact any of the members at their indicated e-mail addresses or send them a letter addressed to the Alumni Association.

They would love to hear from you and get ideas on how to reach out to fellow alumni members.