

Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 90555
Brooklyn, NY 11209



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Sandy Vallas '81

Grace Zito '57



Don't forget to send us a photo of your class pin!

We'll run it in the next issue

Please check the address label to see if your membership status and graduation year are accurate.

If you need to make any corrections or update your email address, use the membership form or email us at FHHS1973@earthlink.net



Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 90555 · Brooklyn, NY 11209

www.fhalumni.org

fhhs1973@earthlink.net

2019 - 2020 Fall / Winter, Volume 27

A Message from the FHHSAA President

January, 2020

Dear Alumni Association Members,

Happy new year! Can you believe we're already twenty years into this millennium? That might not be such an alarming thought to our younger members, but I can recall one New Year's Eve as a child with great anticipation (so long ago!) doing the math to see how old my friends and I would be at the turn of the century. Yup, we were getting ready to party like it's 1999 well before Prince put that notion in anyone's head. Ultimately, I celebrated Y2K without much fanfare, quite content to watch the Times Square ball drop while curled up on the couch. Of course not much really changes at the stroke of midnight, but these years that end in zeroes always feel extra special.

The FHHS graduating class of 2020 has a button that proclaims, "End of an era, start of a decade." While there's very little difference between the 31st of December and the 1st of January, it's true that these students' lives are going to dramatically change upon graduation. But one thing that endures is the Fort Hamilton family.

We grow, we change, we move on with our lives and scatter ourselves around the world, but the Alumni Association unites us and completes a circle. No longer the naive students looking for guidance, we can now be the mentors, the supporters, the audience members at a show or the fans at a varsity game. Membership in the Alumni Association says that you not only have a special place in your heart for the school, you want to continue to stay connected and help future generations of graduates. That's something to celebrate.

Thank you for your continued allegiance to the Fort. Have a great 2020!

Go, Tigers,

Valerie Hodgson '73

President, FHHSAA

LYNDA LARSEN '69
NEW LIFETIME MEMBER

SUSAN FARHOOD BLASHFORD '75
NEW GOLD MEMBER

Class of 1979
DONATION

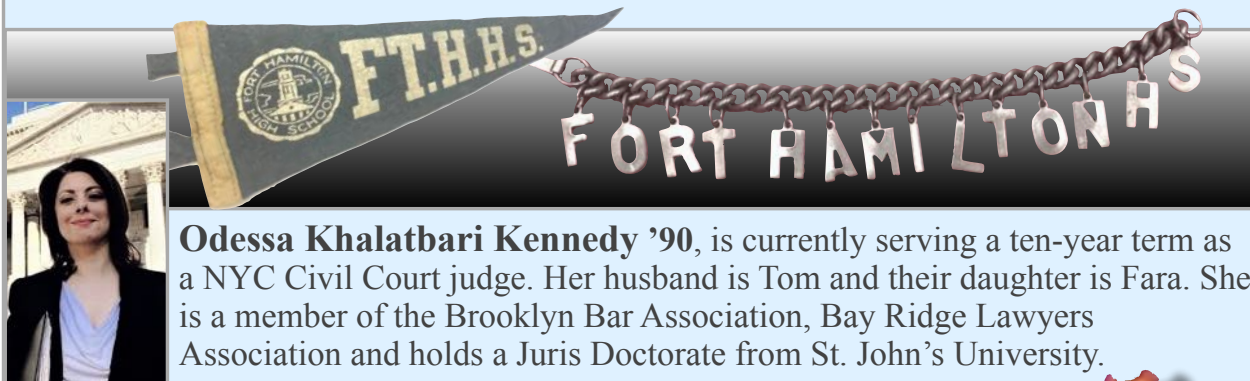
Special Thanks to our "stars" and sustaining members
who continue to "Support the Fort"

Generally Speaking BY TED GENERAL

Barbara Bullman Young '53, reached out to me and the Bay Ridge Historical Society with some mementos from her years at Fort Hamilton H. S. Among them, an invitation to the June 3, 1953 FHHS senior prom at the Hotel New Yorker, 8th Ave. & West 34th St. in Manhattan. The price was \$15.00 per couple. She also sent a 6-inch blue and white pennant with the school letters, **FT. H. H. S.**, a musicale program from May 16 -17, 1952 with Raymond Nazer as the Music Dept. chairman, a large button pin commemorating the 10th anniversary of Fort Hamilton 1941 -1951, a charm bracelet with the letters **FORT HAMILTON HS** hanging from it, a June, 1953 senior pin, a FHHS Beacon patch cut into a large shield, and her commencement/graduation program dated June 25, 1953. The program opened with a Scripture reading, which is no longer permitted at public school functions.

In her list of Bay Ridge memories, Barbara writes that her first after-school job was at Woolworths making 30 cents an hour. "Instead of Halloween, we dressed as ragamuffins for Thanksgiving and asked anyone along the street, 'Anything for Thanksgiving?'" she recalled.

Interestingly, during the first two decades of the school, it operated with one principal and two administrative assistants and no security guards! Fast forward to today, and the school has half a dozen security officers and nine assistant principals.



Odessa Khalatbari Kennedy '90, is currently serving a ten-year term as a NYC Civil Court judge. Her husband is Tom and their daughter is Fara. She is a member of the Brooklyn Bar Association, Bay Ridge Lawyers Association and holds a Juris Doctorate from St. John's University.

Tidbits from **TIGERVILLE**



Let's hear from our members! Send your news to FHHS1973@earthlink.net

Andrew Gounardes '03 and Melanie Cleo Graf were married at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in New Rochelle, N.Y. on December 7, 2019.

Jason Gomez '15 traveled in the summer of 2019 to the North Pole with the Students on Ice Foundation, an organization whose mission is to educate the world's youth about the importance of the polar regions. SOI also supports their alumni in their future stewardship of the planet. Currently, Jason is working on climate issues at UPROSE in Sunset Park. Having graduated from the Borough of Manhattan Community College, he's also studying for his bachelor's degree in political science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Frannie Gavakis Wahl '79 (formerly Hodgson) and **Rick Hodgson '75** just became grandparents! Greyson Nash Hodgson was born recently to their son Andrew and his wife Zoë. He's the "BEST BABY EVER!" according to his proud great-aunt (who is the creator of this newsletter.)

SPOTLIGHT ON..



Ramona Paola Manzi '71 has seen the world! If you never thought that you wanted to go on a safari, then you've never spoken to Ramona. Her enthusiasm for travel, especially experiencing the beauty of Africa, will make you want to pack a bag and head straight to the airport.

Right after graduating from Ft. Hamilton, Ramona found employment with Alitalia Airlines where she worked for 35 years in a variety of positions. She enjoyed the job so much that she attended college at night, rather than miss days at work, graduating from Hunter with a degree in English literature and Italian. Mr. Pelkonen's drama classes are remembered fondly and inspired her course of study.

For the past 13 years, Ramona has been working for Micato Safaris and has filled scads of passports. It's hard to name a place she hasn't visited. She's been to Italy more than 100 times, visited the Taj Mahal, cruised down a river in Amsterdam during tulip season and marveled at the sight of the great migrations of zebras and wildebeests in Tanzania and Kenya.

Educators and travelers who want to give back to the people and places they visit may be pleased to know that Micato-AmericaShare, the company's non-profit arm, participates in a variety of charitable initiatives, such as the One for One Commitment, where for every safari they sell, they send a child to school. While a primary education in Kenya is free-in principle-in actuality, burdensome associated costs, such as for uniforms, books and school supplies, often prevent children from attending school. For more than three decades now, another Micato-AmericaShare program offers sponsors the opportunity to send vulnerable children to reputable boarding schools where they can safely receive a quality education.

Currently, Ramona lives closer to FHHS than she did when she attended the school. Her passion for literature and drama has not diminished over the years and she takes singing and acting classes weekly with Genesis Repertory Ensemble in Bay Ridge. She enjoys entertaining and relaxing at home in her downtime. But with a job that she loves and a desire to fill up more passports, Ramona has no plans to retire anytime soon.

You can reach Ramona Paola Manzi at rmanzi@micato.com.



The FHHS PTA invites you to the 13th annual

Spring Gala Auction & Fashion Show

Friday, April 3 Doors open at 6:30 pm

Dyker Beach Golf Course 86th St. at 7th Ave.

\$65 per person

Dinner, soft drinks
& dessert

Order tickets online: <https://forms.gle/W1rMZytLqhK1yHYw5>

Mail or drop off your money/check (payable to PTA of Fort Hamilton H.S.) to
Fort Hamilton High School, Attn: PTA SPRING GALA TICKETS
8301 Shore Road, Brooklyn, NY 11209

Please act fast! Tickets are on a first come, first served basis

Contact Lillian Shek: shek_lillian@yahoo.com

THEATRE NIGHT

F.H.H.S. presents



Join the Alumni Association at

GREENHOUSE CAFE

7717 Third Avenue, Brooklyn

on **Friday, May 15, at 4:00 PM**

for a 4 course pre-show dinner
followed by the performance at the school

\$60 per person

RSVP by May 11 to David Whitebook: (609) 655-9108
or email Valerie Hodgson: fhhs1973@earthlink.net

And send payment to "FHHS Alumni Association"

P.O. Box 90555
Brooklyn, NY 11209

Full performance schedule:

Wednesday, May 13 - 4:00 PM

Thursday, May 14 - 7:00 PM

Friday, May 15 - 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 16 - 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM



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The Class of 1958
is planning a reunion
Oct. 18 - 21, 2020
in **Las Vegas, Baby!**

All FHHS alumni are welcome
to get in on the action.
Contact Dominick Sorrentino
dmnlisorr@comcast.net 904-866-8527

A **40th Reunion** will be held for the
Class of 1980 & Friends on

Sat., April 18, 2020 7:30pm - 12:30am
at the **Bay Ridge Manor \$100 per person**
Includes: Buffet & top shelf open bar, DJ & photo booth.

Contact Roy Olsen
fleetwood1000@msn.com

Rooms are reserved at the Best Western Gregory Hotel for
the Friday before and the Saturday of the event.

R.S.V.P. SOON!

(Above) Attending the multi-class reunion for the years '73, '74, '75 & '76 at Li Greci's Staaten on Sept. 28 were Mary Fickies Abrahamson '74, Linda Sullivan Bardell '74, Susan Blashford '75, Jody Hedlund Campderrich '73, Diane McAndrews Caponetto '74, John Colon '74, Joan Davenport '75, Katie Didriksen '75, Barbara Chilton Fabris '75, Sanjin Fabris '75, Maryanne Walsh Gorman '74, Valerie Hodgson '73, Marianne Sorrentino Howe '75, Sean Howe '75, Lisa Johansson '75, Nancy Johansson-Maceda '76, Daryl Eckman Lanfranca '74, Natalie Venneri Livoti '74, Ken Short Lorentzen '74, Paulette Manos '74, Ann Nelson '74, April Ann Tortorelli Nichols '74, William Nicholson '75, Ruthie Neese Rizzo '74, Joanie Radomski Rizzo '74, Bob Scigliano '74, Theresa Tacopino-Shaw '76, Ingrid Weber '76 and Stephen Weinstein '74

In Memoriam

Hans Magnus Aus '59, May 26, 2018

Craig Ferrari '67, November 28, 2019

*Condolences may be sent to Craig's wife Karen at 7 Greaves Ave., S.I., N.Y. 10308
or emailed to KAHF316@yahoo.com*

Susan Ferrauto Finale '71, November 13, 2019

*Friends wishing to share remembrances of Susan are invited to contact
Jill Muir-Sukenick '71 at 917-689-5747*

Catherine Makris '71, March 26, 2019

Thomas Marciano '72, October 28, 2019

Joseph Barakakos '73, August 18, 2019

Kathleen Connors Savarese '73, October 2, 2019

Kristin Manojlovic Gentilini '81, October 16, 2019

*A fundraiser has been set up to honor Kristin by supporting cancer research and the medical
team at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center ([GoFundMe: gf.me/u/v3gkk4](https://www.gofundme.com/u/v3gkk4).)
Her daughters Lara and Justine can be reached at lmg2193@tc.columbia.edu.*

Patricia Betzag Paraprofessional, January 13, 2020

Nydia Santiago Past PTA president, December 23, 2019

ANTIQU BOOK RESTORATION

Carol Mendizza Ceraldi '62

GRAHAM HILL BINDERY
321 North Craftsbury Road
Craftsbury, VT 05826
(802) 586-2434
carolceraldi@gmail.com
grahamhillbindery.com

CUSTOM CAKES

Nancy Ketcham Lagomarsino '76

SOPHISTICAKES, LLC
Emerson, NJ
(201) 519-6141
nancy@SophistiCakesLLC.com
SophistiCakesLLC.com

DENTAL

Susan Nilsen Kupsch, RDH MPA '73

DENTAL HYGIENE CLINIC
Free or low fee services
NYC College of Technology
285 Jay Street, Academic Bldg 701
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 260-5074
citytech.cuny.edu/dental/clinic.aspx

EDUCATIONAL

Alice B. Cury Farkouh, Ed.D.,CEO '57

ABCF CONSULTANTS, LLC
25 Croton Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10301
(917) 636-2003
abf@fecnyc.com
fecnyc.com

Hiram Greene '53

TEACHER / COACH
Hancock, MA 01237
hiram@massnordic.com

FINANCIAL

Alice Sorensen '78

PARKVIEW TERRACE ACCOUNTING
PRIVATE TAX SERVICE
6324 Fifth Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11209
(718) 439-4283
pvttaxaccounting@yahoo.com
pvttaxaccounting.com

Austin Trabulsy, ChFC, LUTCF '65

Personal Financial Representative
ALLSTATE INSURANCE, Co.
1200 South Ave. Suite 304
Staten Island, NY 10314
(718) 982-5403
atrabulsy@allstate.com

FUNERAL SERVICES

J. Peter Clavin '71

CLAVIN FUNERAL HOME
7722 Fourth Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11209
(718) 745-1445
since1866@clavinfuneralhome.com
clavinfuneralhome.com

Christopher R. Deats, LFD, CFSP '02

MICHAEL V. COSGROVE & SON INC.
FUNERAL HOME
2525 65th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11204
(718) 439-6640
nycfuneralhome.com

HAIR

Adeline Chung-Feder (Parent)

BODHI SALON
6806 Third Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11220
(718) 748-0685
info@bodhisalon.com
bodhisalon.com

INSURANCE

Bob Lake '53

LAKE INSURANCE AGENCY
653 South B Street
Tustin, CA 92780
(714) 263-3400 ext. 202
lakeins.com
bob@lakeins.com

JEWELRY

David Gilberg '79

DAVID GILBERG JEWELRY & REPAIRS
45 W. 47th Street, Mezz. level
NY, NY 10036
(212) 719-4004
JewelerDavid@aol.com

LEGAL

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1700 K St. NW, Suite 400,
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445 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 420
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Donna Hansen McClellan '74

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donna.mcclellan@connorsandsullivan.com
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MEDIA SERVICES

Cathy Brown '77

EDITING / PROOFREADING / WRITING
cathybrown1059@gmail.com
cmgbrown.com

Ted General '59

BROOKLYN MEDIA GROUP
(*Home Reporter & Sunset News, The Brooklyn Spectator*)
7333 Sixth Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11209
(718) 833-4928
General@journalist.com
homereporter.com

MEDICAL

Antonios Likourezos '86

MAIMONIDES MEDICAL CENTER
4802 Tenth Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11219
718-283-6896
alikourezos@maimonidesmed.org
maimonidesmed.org

A L U M N I B U S I N E S D I R E C T O R Y

REAL ESTATE

Glenn C. Sorensen '80

PARKVIEW TERRACE REAL ESTATE &
BROOKLYN PROPERTY MANAGERS
5215 Seventh Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11220
(718) 972-0700
glenncsorensen@yahoo.com

Sandy Vallas '81

VALLAS REAL ESTATE
480 80th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11209
(718) 833-7900
sandyvallas@yahoo.com

RECREATION

Jean Balukas '77

HALL OF FAME BILLIARDS
505 Ovington Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11209
(718) 921-2694
yelp.com/biz/hall-of-fame-billiards-brooklyn

Thomas Green Fac. ret.

Swimming Instructor / Coach
BAY RIDGE AQUATIC INSTITUTE (BRAINS)
brainstoswim.org

RELIGIOUS

V Rev. Fr. John Hamatie '64

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
24 N. Rosalind Avenue
Orlando, FL 32801
(321) 663-4003
jhamatie@aol.com
stgeorgeorlando.org

THERAPY

Dr. Jill Muir Sukenick '71

PSYCHOTHERAPY AND PSYCHOANALYSIS
120 East 62nd Street
New York, NY 10065
(212) 872-1530
drjmsukenick@aol.com

TRAVEL

Ramona Paola Manzi '71

MICATO SAFARIS
15 West 26th Street
New York, NY
(347) 413-3382
rmanzi@micato.com
micato.com

VETERINARY SERVICES

Dr. Ann Huntington, DVM '66

SUFFIELD VETERINARY HOSPITAL
577 East St. South
Suffield, CT 06078
(860) 668-4041
drann@suffieldvet.com
suffieldvet.com

WEDDINGS

Valerie Hodgson '73

Nondenominational Marriage Officiant
FOREVER ONE
(917) 693-5783
4FR1@earthlink.net

Lifetime members may be listed here and on our website by emailing to fhhs1973@earthlink.net the following info: type of business, member's name, year of graduation, name of business, business address, business phone, business e-mail and business website link.

Please be sure we have your current email address

Many grads have joined online reunion planning sites such as classmates.com or alumniclass.com.
PLEASE NOTE: The Ft. Hamilton H.S. Alumni Association is NOT affiliated with these sites.

We cannot control the communications you receive from those entities and we do not sell your contact info.
The FHHSAA exists solely for the benefit of the school and its current and former students.



Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association

2020 Membership or Renewal Application



Join us and **SUPPORT** the **FORT**

Membership is open to all FHHS grads & former students, students' parents and current or former staff members.

Please Print Clearly:

Name _____ Maiden Name _____ Class of _____

Telephone # () _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Gold Lifetime Membership*: \$500 One-Time Payment Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Silver Lifetime Membership*: \$250 One-Time Payment Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Regular Lifetime Membership: \$100 One-Time Payment Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Annual Membership: \$20 Per Year Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Donation: Optional Amount Enclosed \$ _____

A plaque has been erected outside the school library for the names of **Gold and **Silver Lifetime Members**.*

Please check: Renewal _____ New Member _____ Lifetime Member updating information _____

Former student/graduate _____ Staff _____ Parent _____

For parents: add name(s) and class year(s) of student(s): _____

If you are already a **lifetime member** who needs to update information or add an email address, please mail in this form or send an email to FHHS1973@earthlink.net. We will increasingly be using email to communicate with our members - don't be left out!

Please make checks payable to: "**Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association**" and mail to:

Fort Hamilton High School Alumni Association

P.O. Box 90555

Brooklyn, NY 11209

General Membership expires on December 31, 2020

Thank you for your support!

Lifetime members wishing to be listed in our **Business Directory** may email the following information to FHHS1973@earthlink.net or mail in this form.

Type of Business (i.e.: Retail, Legal, Medical, Entertainment, etc.):

Member's Name:

Year of Graduation:

Name of Business:

Business Address:

Business Phone:

Business Email:

Business Website Link: