



# Port Richmond High School *Alumni News*

VOL. 27 NO. 2

BRIDGING THE YEARS TOGETHER

WINTER 2018

## ***S.T.E.M. GROWS IN PRHS***



At the beginning of the current school year two dedicated and talented faculty members, Zachary Rosch of the Science Department and Michael Spaventa of the Mathematics Department, decided to form a modern day robotics/electronics club at PRHS. This club idea rapidly developed into a move toward a SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, and MATHEMATICS PROGRAM for students attending PR. STEM is patterned after similar programs at other high schools in New York City. Port Richmond is one of only two high schools on Staten Island that have introduced STEM into the curriculum (the other school being Staten Island Technical High School). As a result of the introduction of STEM, new courses such as AP Computer Science, and AP Environmental Studies are now available to our students. In addition, a branded Makerspace has been created and the robotics program has been resurrected. Amazingly, Mr. Spaventa and Mr. Rosch are in the process of “putting the pieces in place” for a Solar Car Project.

Two state of the art rooms are being used specifically for the STEM Program. On the third floor, room B-348 is being used as a Research MacL.A.B. This room is furnished with round tables that can accommodate up to fifty students with laptops and 4 iMac stations on the side of the room. The room will be utilized for research and design for students participating in the program. The room will also be used to introduce sound/audio engineering. The second STEM room (B-352) is the PRHS MakeL.A.B. (Learning Academics Through Building) which provides students with building spaces and test areas. This room has been redesigned from being a computer lab to one that is being used for robotics, 3D printing, Arduino programming, LEGO robotics, virtual reality, stained glass, and machine woodworking. All of these stations are being taught and supervised by PRHS faculty who have expertise and skills in these respective areas. (It should be noted for the benefit of alumni of earlier classes that the two rooms being used for STEM were formerly Fine Arts class

## Principal's Message

Greetings from the Halls of Port Richmond High School!



Whew! The last few months have been quite a whirlwind. Reacquainting myself with the home of my youth and developing appreciation and a deeper understanding of all of the nuances has been a deeply moving experience.

I am grateful for all that I have learned and obtained during my last few months here at Port Richmond and look forward to all that is to come.

One of the things I am most excited about is the launch of our new STEM initiative. With the support of our Port Richmond Alumni family, we have designed a new space where students will interact with technology that supports robotics, engineering, construction, computer science and the arts. This initiative was birthed out of the desire to provide all of our kids exposure to rigorous and competitive coursework. We are so excited to announce the Ribbon Cutting of our new STEM Lab on March 8th at 4:00 p.m.

Truly, it is an exciting time for us at Port Richmond and we can't wait to see what else is in store.

Thank You  
Onetha Swinton  
Principal

## President's Message

Greetings PRHS Alumni,



On behalf of the Port Richmond High School Alumni Board of Directors, I wish you all a very Healthy and Happy New Year!

The theme for this year for our Association is "Alumni Engagement". As such I want all alumni to participate as we grow and expand our Association. The past year has laid the ground work to make this possible. We plan to continue these efforts when we hold our 2018 Hall of Fame Ceremony on Saturday, April 28th and All Class Reunion on Sunday, April 29th. I take this time to invite all our members to join us in April for our "Weekend to Remember" when we will celebrate the accomplishments of our fellow graduates.

This year we want to go a step further and bring value through actively engaging our alumni in the schools activities. We hope that this will bring importance to you as members and realize a need to give back to Port Richmond High School. If you have not yet renewed your membership to the Alumni Association, I hope that it is on your to do list. Our accomplishments over the preceding years have been due to the generosity of our members.

As always, I thank you for your support of our organization.

John Jankowski '79  
Alumni President

## MEETING DATES

BEGIN AT 7:30 P.M.

**Mar 14, Apr 11,  
May 9, Jun 13**

**Enter St. Joseph's Avenue (New Addition)**

## CONDOLENCES

**The members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors wish to express their condolences to the families and friends of the following members of the PRHS family who have passed away:**

SYLVIA MATTEI ANDERSON '31  
DR. ANTHONY RICHARD BATTISTA '55  
ELSIE SOLBERG BELLACH '56  
JOSEPH BELLERO '68  
THERESA A BIANCO '40  
LAWRENCE J BRACCOLINO '76  
JOHN JOSEPH CARFAGNA '68  
ALEXIS ITSINES CONDOS '79  
MARK CAROZZA '59  
EMILY HARKINS-CUEVAS '52  
ROBERT A. DAHL '48  
JOSEPHINE MARIE DELPRIORE '60  
JAMES DEMEO '61  
MARIE LAGAMBINA DIMEO '77

JEANNE DORIAN – FACULTY  
FRANCIS HOOKER FORTE '37  
GERALDINE AMATO GATTO '62  
TAFFIE BREZIZINSKI HEALEY '95  
BERNADINE NOLA IACCARINO '59  
EVELYN BODIN JOHNSEN '49  
MARJORIE DECKER JOHNSON '42  
FLORENCE DRAUGEL KAHN '45  
KEVIN KILLORAN '68  
GLADYS SCHIMMEL KIMMERER '43  
BARBARA DALEY LEARNING '55  
CONCHETTA RIVIEZZO LUCCARELLI '54  
RITA BELLICO MACCELLAIO '46

CHARLES LESLIE MARKS '63  
ANN BENEVENTO MARTIN '67  
JULIA FRANCES PIEKALSKI MCGRATH '36  
ELIZABETH ANDERSON MELNIK '49  
GEORGE MENAR '65  
MARIANNE VONA MOELLER '64  
MARY PALLADINO '33  
IRENE MCNANEY PEROSI '82  
PHYLLIS MACDONALD POWELL '45  
GEORGETTE BURLINGAME RUNGO '57  
HARRY RUTIGLIANO '38  
ANN CANECO SICILIANO '48  
RICHARD SOLLAZZO '64

LINDA TIRONE SORRENTINO '78  
PAMELA VERARD SPITZFADEN '68  
GEORGE STANAWAY '54  
ELEANOR GILES STANLEY '47  
HELEN BREJNIK STASYSHAN '39  
HARRIET GORDON STEIN '65  
WALTER J STERN '41  
GERALD TAFURI '56  
DR. LINDA TRABMAN – FACULTY  
MARY GIARDINO VIerno '55  
DELORIS DOTSON WRIGHT '70

**May They Rest in Peace**

rooms that were located on what was then the second floor.) In addition to the previously mentioned projects, a weather station has been installed on the balcony of the third floor that overlooks the athletic field, and will hopefully involve sending a weather balloon into the atmosphere to enable students to monitor weather conditions in real time.

In conclusion, Mr. Rosh and Mr. Spaventa wish to acknowledge the tremendous support that Principal Swinton, AP Andrew Greenfield, AP Tina Pryce, AP Nirm Nanes the Alumni Association, the PTA, and students have provided in helping to get STEM off the ground. Alumni and friends of PRHS are welcome to visit the school and, as kids like to say, “check it out.” Additionally, alumni who may wish provide to financial help to defray costs that are not covered by the Dept. of Education, can do so by sending their contribution to Alumni Association Treasurer Carmen Cognetta at 70 Springhill Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301.



Robotics



Michael Paventa and Zachary Rosch



Computer Technology



Teacher Neil Noto will supervise and teach the stained glass component

## Class Notes

**1958** – The Class of 1958 will gather at the All- Class Reunion on April 29, 2018 to celebrate their 60th Anniversary as part of the 90th Anniversary celebration of PRHS. Interested class members should use the coupon that can be found at the bottom of p. 7 of this Newsletter. The cost is \$70 per person and payment should be received no later than Monday, April 16, 2018.

**1968** – Paul Capofari, a West Point graduate, has been awarded the prestigious Robert M Morganthau Award for his devotion to justice and public safety during the years he served as an assistant district attorney on Staten Island. The presentation was made by current District Attorney, Michael E. McMahon. The Alumni Association congratulates Paul and thanks him for his many years of service to the Staten Island community.

**1968** – The Class of 1968 is planning a 50th Reunion celebration to be held on Thursday, July 12th from seven to eleven in the evening at the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel on Staten Island. The cost per person is \$110 per person and will include an open bar, waiter served hord’oerves, and a hot buffet. Music and dancing will also be available. For those who might be interested, a tour of PRHS will be conducted on Friday, July 13th followed by lunch at Denino’s Restaurant. For further details, please contact Susan Cunningham Miller at (609) 662-4382 or 609smiller@gmail.com.

**1980** – Whether you rooted for the Eagles or the Patriots in Superbowl LIII, all Minstrel/Raiders should be proud of the fact that PRHS was represented on the field by one of our own, Jeff Stoutland ‘80. Jeff has served as the Eagles’ Offensive Line Coach for several seasons. The dedication and hard work that Jeff, along with his fellow coaches and players exhibited this season, both during practice and at game-time, made this Superbowl game “one for the books!” Congratulations to Jeff and the entire Eagles organization for a job well-done.

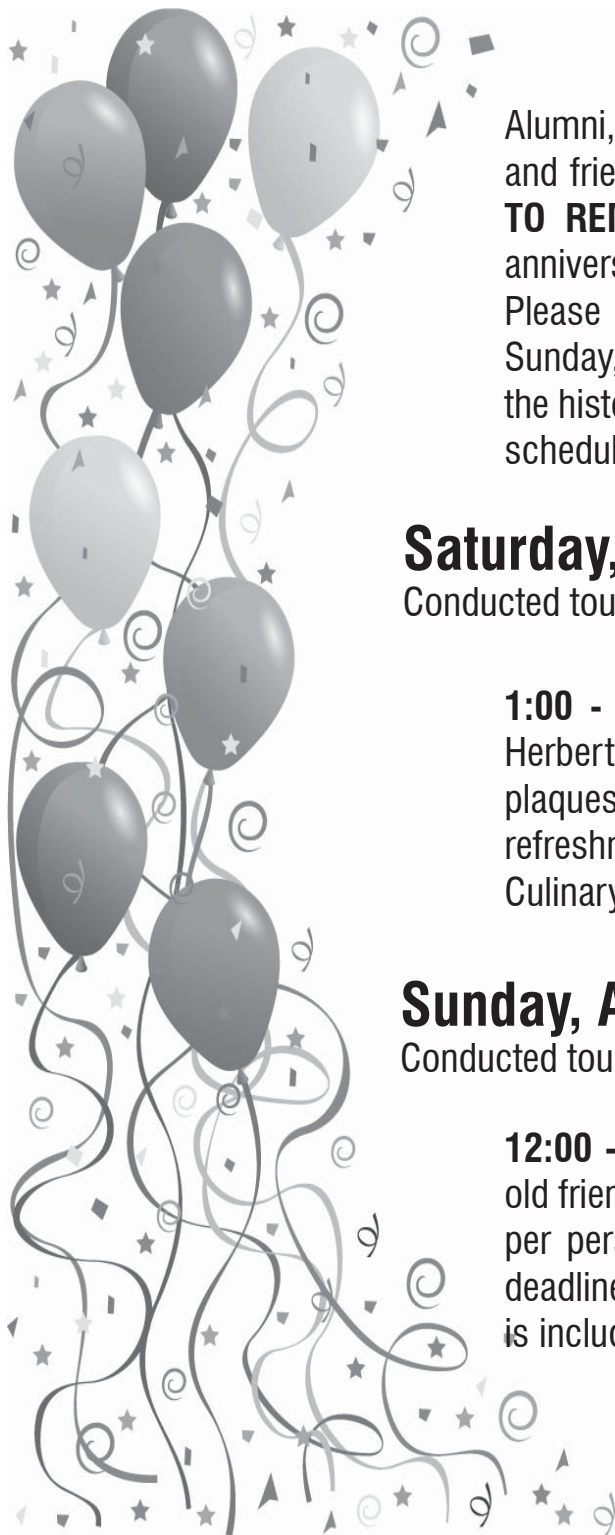


**CLASS OF '67 - 50TH REUNION****CLASS OF '77 - 40TH REUNION**

Kathy Ahr Munnely, Rocky Appelt, Diane Arnao, Randy Ashenfarb, Mike Bartolo, Susan Becaccio Holden, Alex Bodd, Ann "Dodie" Bratvold Minitelli, Deborah Carmichael Hampton, Joanne Commonis Bontales, Donna Crecco Trotta, Lori Curci Nola, Nick DeLeo, John DeMizio, Robert DiBari, Vinny DiMauro, Pat Elzer Valenti, Victor Emovi, Karen Fairlie, Joanne Falco Love, Barbara Festa Malejki, Katie Flanagan, Donna Garguilo Mazzarisi, Erik Garpestad, Elaine Giambrone Walters, Angelique "Annie" Gillan Reedy, Bobby "Gee" Giovinazzo, Dom Goffredo, Cathy Horstmann Frascati, Dee Jankowski Rodgers, Celestina "Tina" Jones Bynes, Tom Kasprowitz, Richie LaFata, Elvira Lagana, Philip Livoti, Joann Marchica Clemente, Anthony Mangano, Judy Marotta, Debra McLeod, David Meltzer, Marc Mende, Peggie Mendez Lambertson, Linda Milne Armstrong, Gregg Mireau, Patrice Morganelli Honingford, Scott Mullin, Barbara Muscari DiMauro, Andrew Napolitano, Lori Nola Bray, Joseph Obermayer, Tony "Pop" Papapietro, Artimeche Pearson Lee, Carol Peeple Harewood, Anthony Perosi, Joel Perosi, Janine Perosi, David Pfaff, Janet Pietrangelo Castellano, Larry Reisman, Margaret Rivera Smith, Keith Robinson, James "Jacky" Ruggiero, Joan Stefanski Waldhelm, Karen Sturm, Carol Tamborra Maragni, Brenda Threatt Gravely, Sandy Traficante Thurling, Barbara Tremer Castanza, Debbie Tyson Bosco

**CLASS OF '07 - 10TH REUNION**

# **A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER**



Alumni, current and retired faculty and staff, former students, and friends of PRHS are invited to be a part of “**A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER**” in celebration of our Alma Mater’s 90th anniversary of PR’s service to the Staten Island community. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, April 28th and Sunday, April 29th and plan to join us for this major event in the history of Port Richmond High School. The following is the schedule of events for each day:

## **Saturday, April 28th – 11:00-12:30**

Conducted tours of the school by student guides.

**1:00** - 9th annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in the Herbert Balish Auditorium followed by the unveiling of honoree plaques in the Hall of Fame Corridor on the second floor; refreshments will be provided by the students of PRHS Culinary Institute.

## **Sunday, April 29th - 10:00 – 11:30**

Conducted tours of the school by student guides.

**12:00 - 4:00** - Buffet dinner, music, dancing and renewal of old friendships with classmates and colleagues. The \$70 price per person also includes beer, wine, soda and gratuity. The deadline for payment is Monday, April 16th. A registration form is included at the bottom of page 7 for your convenience.



The PRHS Theater Arts Department is pleased to announce that GUYS AND DOLLS has been selected as their Spring 2018 musical production. It will be directed by faculty member Vincent Medugno. Performance will be held on Friday, March 16th at 7pm and Saturday, March 17th at 2 pm in the Herbert Balish Auditorium at the school. Ticket prices are \$5.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the door. Let's fill the auditorium for both performances and show our appreciation for the time and effort our thespians put into these musical productions.

## ***BATTER UP!!!***

Pictured here are PR Baseball Coach Jon Sce and Angel Santiago, an 11th grader at the Port. Angel hails from Elm Park and attended PS-21 and IS-51. Last season, Angel, with his power hitting, played a major role in his team having a respectable 11-7 record. Angel won top honors for having the highest batting average in the NYC PSAL AA during the 2017 baseball season. His award was presented during a ceremony at Yankee Stadium. Angel Santiago is an all-around student-athlete. He maintains an 85+ academic average and also finds the time to serve as Junior Class President. Angel will play at short stop for the Raiders this season and plays baseball as often as possible. He has his sights set on attending Seton Hall University, the minor leagues, and, ultimately, the major leagues. The Alumni association extends its best wishes to Coach Sce, Angel Santiago, and the rest of the team for a successful and safe season.



## ***LIFETIME MEMBERS***

We would like to thank the following four Alumni who have already become lifetime members during the 2017-2018 year. As of February 1, 2018 they are: **Kathleen Dehart Royal '67, Steve Powell '66, Joseph Obermayer '77, Robert Giudice '84**



**If you have moved,  
be sure to include  
your new address  
on membership form**

**FOR YOUR RECORDS**

Amt. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Ck. # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Port Richmond High School Alumni Association  
Membership Form 2017 -2018**

General Membership ..... \$15 per year Patron ..... \$100 per year  
Co-Sponsor ..... \$25 per year Business Sponsor ..... \$250.  
Sponsor ..... \$50 per year Benefactor ..... \$500 one lifetime payment

(Dues Are From July 2017 - June 2018)

**PLEASE PRINT**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR OF GRADUATION \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal  New Member

Please enroll me as a: General  Co-Sponsor  Sponsor  Patron  Business Sponsor  Benefactor   
Please make check/money payable to: Port Richmond High School Alumni Association and mail to:

**CARMEN COGNETTA, TREASURER**

70 SPRINGHILL AVENUE, STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10301

W-2018

**TIME TO SEND IN YOUR DUES!!!!**

Thank you to all our alumni who have already sent in their dues for the 2017-2018 year. However many have not! So fill out the form above and send them in. Please add your e-mail address so we can change as many alumni as possible to e-mail rather than paper. It allows us to spend more of your dues money to benefit the school and students! If you wish to pay by credit card (via Pay Pal) go to [www.portrichmondalumni.com](http://www.portrichmondalumni.com) and click on either of the donate buttons, fill out the information requested, enter your credit card number and it is done! Don't forget to enter your class year in the box where you can add information and include your maiden name if necessary. If you have any questions about dues you can reach the treasurer at [treasurerprhsalumni@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerprhsalumni@gmail.com)

**ALL CLASS REUNION**

*Celebrating Port Richmond's 90th Anniversary*

**SUNDAY APRIL 29, 2018 12-4PM**

THE STAATEN, 697 FOREST AVE, STATEN ISLAND

FULL BUFFETT, BEER, WINE SODA, MUSIC, DANCING

\$70.00 PER PERSON (Deadline for payment is April 16, 2018)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAIDEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ @70.00 TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PRHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND MAIL TO:  
CARMEN COGNETTA, TREASURER, 70 SPRINGHILL AVE. STATEN ISLAND NY 10301**

# Port Richmond High School

## Alumni News

85 St. Joseph's Avenue  
Staten Island, NY 10302  
www.portrichmondalumni.com

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**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUES TODAY**

### MACHINE WOODWORKING



### 3D PRINTING

Photos by Steven Gordillo - GMPR TV MEDIA ACADEMY  
CLASS OF '16

### PORT RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JOHN JANKOWSKI '79 ..... President  
JUDI ROGOFF SASNAUSKAS '66 ..... Vice President  
JOSEPH CRESCENZI '83 ..... Recording Secretary  
EDMUND J. MATTEI '58 ..... Newsletter Editor  
CARMEN COGNETTA '64 ..... Treasurer  
CHRISTINE TWAITE THORSEN '64 ..... Archivist

Bill Drinnan '47 Steven Gordinio '16  
Sophia Ling Donohue '88  
Gary Lane '69 Steven Gordilla '16

#### PAST PRESIDENTS

GREGORY HALL '65 ..... 1986 - 1988  
CARMEN J. COGNETTA JR. '64 ..... 1988 - 1990  
WILLIAM MCANDREWS '65 ..... 1990 - 1992  
CARMINE COLCA '53 ..... 1992 - 1994  
ROBERT MATHEWS '48 ..... 1994 - 2001  
BEVERLY WURTH NEUHAUS '62 ..... 2001 - 2005

Written correspondence maybe be mailed to:  
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Port Richmond High School  
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