VOL. 32 NO. 1

BRIDGING THE YEARS TOGETHER

FALL 2023

Home "Field" Sweet Home!!







On a beautiful clear day this past May, with the Bayonne Bridge as the background, the newly renovated PRHS Athletic Complex was dedicated after nearly four years of delays and frustrations. The original athletic field was completed during the 1939-1940 period and was considerably smaller than the present site. Principal Andrew Greenfield hosted the dedication ceremony attended by public officials, students, and faculty.

See additional photos on page 6

Principal's Message

Greetings to my fellow Minstrels and Raiders,



This past summer, we honored the memory of Port Richmond graduate Gerard Carter (Class of 1988) who gave his life serving the people of Staten Island 25 years ago. The ceremony was sponsored by the Gerard Carter Foundation and the NYPD and was widely attended by most of Staten Island's elected officials and the friends and family of Gerard.

In September. We finally cut the ribbon and officially opened our new 20.7-million-dollar athletic complex. This amazing new complex consists of a brand-new football, soccer, lacrosse field. A new track, five new tennis courts, a new turf baseball field and for the first time in our school's 97-year history, our own softball field. In addition, thanks to the Division of School Facilities, our historic bleachers were repaired and painted. The DSF is also in the process of redoing our Press Box at the top of the bleachers and completely redoing our dilapidated Field House free of charge.

This fall, our Performing Arts students are hard at work rehearsing for our first ever Fall Musical, "Into the Woods" while we celebrate another year of SING competitions this winter. This fall also marks the first time our P-Tech 12th grade students are taking college classes on the grounds of the College of Staten Island as part of their CUNY grades 9-14 program that will culminate with a free Associate's Degree in Computer Science from the college.

This fall, we will also be honoring former Assistant Principal Lisa Pollari, with a Street Naming Ceremony on November 18, 2023, at 11:00 am at the corner of St. Joseph's Avenue and Innis Street. Mrs. Pollari was an assistant principal at Port Richmond for over 20 years who sadly passed away in May of 2021 at the age of 49. Throughout her 20 plus year career at Port Richmond, Mrs. Pollari impacted thousands of lives. She was an advocate for kids and a magnet to those students that needed a friend, a mom, or a mentor. During her time at Port Richmond, Lisa impacted the greater community by supporting, inspiring, and teaching students and colleagues how to give back and pay it forward. All are welcome to join us on November 18th as we celebrate Lisa's remarkable life

Lastly, as I embark on my sixth year as principal and my 22nd year at Port Richmond, I look forward to another great year ahead and can't wait to share all of our successes and achievements with our generous alumni and friends.

Fondly,

Andrew Greenfield Andrew Greenfield (Class of 1988) Proud Principal

President's Message -

To All Alumni



I'm so excited about the Fall because it means the start of a new school year and the opportunity to serve the past and present students of Port Richmond High School, which is something near and dear to my heart

As Mr. Greenfield mentioned, the school is in great shape these days. The new athletic complex is just one of many things to be proud of. The school population continues to grow, and the graduation and college enrollment rates are nothing short of amazing.

We thank you for your continued support of the Alumni Association. Your dues and your donations have a direct impact on the school and the students. I'm so proud of the things we do each year and even more excited about the things your support will allow us to do in the coming years.

The Alumni Association continues to evolve and we're so happy to have the support of younger members who are taking active roles on the Alumni Board ensuring our mission to support the school will continue for generations to come.

I hope you are enjoying our Newsletters as much as I do. To make sure you continue to receive it, be sure to let us know of any address changes and consider giving us your email address so you can receive it electronically via email.

Email subscribers not only get their Newsletters sooner, but in full color. All you need to do is give us your email address when you fill out your Membership Form or send us an email with your name and your graduation year.

> Regards, Joe Crescenzi '83 Joe@AskJoe.TV

A Final Salute



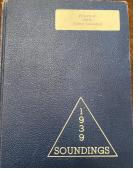




Gabriel Eggud

"A little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men.'

Glee Club, Vice-President of Section Room, Swimming Club, Marshal.



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER readers no doubt will remember the story in a previous edition about 1939 PRHS alumnus, Gabriel Eggud, who was killed in action during World War II. We are happy to report that a memorial plaque in memory of LT. Eggud now hangs in the lobby of the Herbert Balish Auditorum. In addition, we have included some items that indicate he most likely enjoyed his high school years.



Harriet Martens served as a teacher in and supervisor of Port Richmond's Secretarial Studies Department for over thirty years. After learning of Miss Marten's passing, a group consisting of former students and faculty members, has established a memorial fund in her honor which now totals \$1600.00. This group consists of former students CDR. Thomas Weber '56, Barbara McKee Niler '60, and former faculty members Nicholas Bilotti, Marie Coscia, Catherine Fleur D'Amato, Edmund Mattei '58, Claire Pompa Panazzola '76, Barbara Pietracatella, and Erma Alleva Sebexen. Others who wish to honor this "grand lady" of PRHS may do so by sending their contributions, made payable to PRHS Alumni Association to treasurer Carmen Cognetta '64 at 24 Clinton Court, Staten Island, NY 10301. Thank you in advance for your contribution.



Class Notes -

A 60th Reunion celebration is being planned for the afternoon of October 19, 2024. The event 1964

will be held at LiGreci's STAATEN RESTAURANT. Class member Carmen Cognetta is the contact person and can be reached at carmenjay@gmail.com. An invitation to join the festivities

is also being extended to members of the 1963 and 1965 graduating classes.

1974 The Class of 1974 will celebrate their 50th Reunion on the evening of October 19, 2024 at LiGreci's

STAATEN RESTAURANT. class member Nancy DeMonte Tricorico can be contacted at

nancytricorico@gmail.com for further information. MARK YOUR CALENDERS!!

Presenting the 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees

The 2023 Hall of Fame inductees include a former PRHS principal and members of the Class of 1969, the Class of 1975, the Class of 1990, and the Class of 1995. Due to limited space, several of the biographies that follow have been cropped. We apologize for any inconvience.

PAUL W. SIVERSON Class of 1969- Sergeant Major Siverson was born in Queens in December 1951. He graduated Port Richmond High School in 1969 and went on to enlist in the Marine Corps in July 1970. There he underwent recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina and found his life's calling. Sergeant Major Siverson received specialized weapons training as a 0331 machine aunner at Camp Geiger. North Carolina. Upon completion of his training, he was transferred to the Republic of Vietnam with 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division. When he returned, he was assigned to Company G, 2 nd Battalion, 7th Marines,1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton in California. In 1972, in addition to celebrating the birth of his son Paul, Sergeant Major Siverson served as the Admin/Operations Chief at the Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Newark, NJ. He celebrated the birth of his daughter, Michelle in 1974, and remained at the Recruiting Station until 1976. Sergeant Siverson went on to serve as the Personnel Chief for the Marine Department in Guam, and in 1981 reported to the Marine Security Battalion at the American Embassy in Manila, Philippines. He married his wife, Sylvia, in Manila, in 1983. In January 1984, Sergeant Major Siverson transferred to Okinawa, Japan and was assigned as the Admin Chief for 3d Maintenance Battalion and 3d Force Service Support Group. In 1986, he was selected to First Sergeant and assigned to Company B, 9th Motor Transport Battalion, 3d FSSG. After completing the SNCO Academy Advanced Course in Quantico, Virginia, he served as the First Sergeant, Marine Barracks, in Adak, Alaska for two years. In May 1989, Sergeant Major Siverson returned to Japan as the First Sergeant, Headquarters and Service Company, 3d Supply Battalion, 3d Force Service Support Group. He was selected to his current rank of Sergeant Major in 1991, assuming the position as Sergeant Major, Combat Service Support Element, Marine Forces Southwest Asia and deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Storm and the Reconstruction of the Maritime Prepositioning Force. Over the next few years, Sergeant Major Siverson moved to different divisions, lending his expertise to many different groups and Operations within the Marines. On June 1, 1998, he assumed the position as the Sergeant Major for the 10th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division at CamLej, North Carolina. In August 2000, Sergeant Major Siverson proudly retired from the United States Marine Corps after more than 30 years of faithful service to our country. Sergeant Major Siverson is a highly decorated officer. Some of the awards he has received include the Meritorious Service Medal with Gold Star, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation with 2 stars, Meritorious Unit Commendation with Silver Star, Navy Battle "E" Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal (10 awards), National Defense Service Medal with one star. It is because of his many accomplishments in the Marines and service to our country and veterans, that the Port Richmond High School Hall of Fame has chosen Sergeant Major Paul W. Siverson to be honored as an inductee into the Port Richmond High School Hall of Fame.

GERALD MOSLEY, Class of 1975 - Gerald Mosley was born and raised on Staten Island and is a seventh generation direct descendent of the Sandy Ground Community. During his time at Port Richmond High School, he was a star basketball player. After his graduation in 1975, Mr. Mosley went to the College of Staten Island, where he was among their first group of four-year athletes. The College of Staten Island would also be where he would begin his illustrious coaching career. Mr. Mosley was the assistant coach for the Men's team under Evan Pickman for five seasons. He also spent another nine seasons with the women's team, including seven as Head Coach. While coaching at CSI, Mr. Mosley was hand selected by Michael Petrides to begin the Division of School Safety in the New York City Board of Education. In 1997, Mr. Mosley began his company, Shoot 4 Success. Shoot 4 Success works with students of all age levels and ability levels to teach them the fundamentals of basketball, as well as fine tune their skills. Mr. Mosley also works extensively with the Office of Person's with Developmental Disabilities, to help students with disabilities learn the techniques of basketball, and works closely with the Special Olympics. Shoot 4 Success' basketball program is different than other programs because they use basketball to teach students life lessons. Mr. Mosley's motto is "Some kids need to be pointed in the right direction. Some kids need to be pushed in the right direction, and some kids need to

be taken by the hand and pulled in the right direction." Mr. Mosley has made a difference to thousands of students over the years including a few household names: Staten Island Sports Hall of Famer Kyle McAlarney who played for Orleans Loiret Basket in France and Notre Dame; Staten Island Advance All State Team Member Zaire Taylor who played for Missouri University, and Staten Island's all-time scoring leader, Nicole Melious. Nicole broke the record previously held by Kyle McAlarney and will be attending LaSalle University in the fall. In 2018, Mr. Mosley also trained Michael Rainy Jr. to portray Terron Forte in the movie "Amatuer". He works closely with his sister Gloria, who he also donated a kidney to. Mr. Mosley is married to his wife Patricia, and is father to Gerrell, Germaine, Donveg and Matthew. Throughout the Covid Pandemic, Mr. Moslev kept in touch with approximately 30 of his fellow alumni over Zoom and they would have weekly "get togethers". They would work together to raise money to give back to the community through scholarships, computers, equipment and supplies. Among many recognitions over the years, Mr. Mosely received a Certificate of Honor from former Councilwoman Debi Rose, also a Hall of Fame member, for his service to the community. He also received an award for Community Service from the St. Phillips Baptist Church. It is because of Mr. Mosley's work as a Coach, Teacher, Life Coach, and service to the community that Mr. Gerald Mosley has been honored as an inductee into the Port Richmond High School Hall of Fame.

HERBERT BALISH, Retiree - Herbert Balish was a Sergeant in the Army during World War II and fought in the Pacific Theatre. He earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at City College, and began his teaching career at Commerce High School. After 10 years as Chairman of Long Island City High School, Mr. Balish became the Principal of Port Richmond High School in the early 1970's. At the time, the school was struggling with the turmoil of the racial unrest of the early 1970's. As soon as he entered the room on that first day, the staff knew that he was going to be the one to make a difference and restore Port Richmond to what it once was. Slowly but surely, Mr. Balish made his mark. He was fair and strict with students and faculty alike. He was able to reach even the most difficult of students and help them find their way. Mr. Balish never asked the staff to do anything that he was not willing to do himself, whether it being spending a Saturday with students to clean up their graffiti, or trying to bring truant students back to school. He would also take the time to write personal recognition letters to staff for various activities they performed. Mr. Balish supported and expanded the number and variety of clubs and activities at Port Richmond to generate school spirit. He believed in harmony and inclusivity. Some of the clubs and programs were "The Happening", the Hillel Club, the Ski Club, Project Close Up, The African Dance group, Business Education Honor Society and the STEP Program. Mr. Balish also brought the "Sing" program to Port Richmond, and attended almost every sporting event and practice. During the school day, he would tour the building and it was not uncommon to find him sitting and having lunch with the students or staff. Mr. Balish was fondly known to most as "Uncle Herbie". Our auditorium was affectionately named in honor and memory of Mr. Balish. Mr. Balish married his wife Faith in the early 1940's, and hasthree children, Seth, Marshall and June, as well as a grandson Jason. Mr. Balish had many published works including "The Way it Is", "Linguistics, English in Modern Times" and several other grammar books that were used in many high schools. Mr. Balish left Port Richmond in 1982 to begin a Principal Training Program for aspiring Assistant Principals, while serving as principal at Tottenville High School for another 8 years. In recognition of his educational Career and laying the ground work for the Port Richmond that we know and love today, Mr. Herbert Balish has been honored as an inductee into the Port Richmond High School Hall of Fame.

GREGG BREINBERG, Class of 1990 - Gregg Breinberg was born and raised on the North Shore of Staten Island, and before he could talk, he was singing and harmonizing anything he heard. Mr. Breinberg comes from a family of educators and was inspired by their dedication to the education of children. This collaboration would be the beginning of a whole new generation of students that would be motivated to love music and fulfill their dreams. Mr. Breinberg graduated Port Richmond in 1990 and was naturally part of the SING program, among others. He went on to SUNY New Paltz for his undergrad degree and Wagner College for his Masters. Mr. Breinberg began his teaching career in 1998 at PS 60 and began the Chorus program there. He was then given the opportunity as the Music teacher at PS 22, where he founded the PS 22 Chorus in 2000. He led his 2001-2002

Presenting the 2023 Hall of Fame Inductees





chorus to live television in the wake of the attacks of September 11. From here, a new generation of stars were born. Mr. Breinberg and the PS 22 Chorus have performed at many national performances as well, including The White House Christmas Tree Lighting in 2009, former President Obama's 2nd Inauguration, the 2011 Academy Awards, and the 2012 Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. Through Mr. Breinberg's motivation and inspiration, the students always showed up. In addition to their nationwide acclaim, Mr. Breinberg and the PS22 Chorus have earned many awards including two from the Council on the Arts & Humanities for Staten Island. In recognition of Mr. Breinberg's passion for music, and dedication to educating and inspiring thousands of students and viewers around the world, Mr. Gregg Breinberg has been honored as an inductee into the Port Richmond High School Hall of Fame.

ADAM SILBERLIGHT, Class of 1995 – Adam Silberlight was born in Brooklyn in 1977. His family relocated to Staten Island, where he attended Port Richmond High School and graduated with the Class of 1995. After his graduation, Mr. Silberlight was selected as a White House Intern under the administration of former President Clinton. Mr. Silberlight then attended Albany Law School and earned his Juris Doctor degree in 2001, graduating with honors. Upon graduation and passing the BAR Exam, Mr. Silberlight was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney in Richmond County. His first assignment was in the Criminal Court Bureau, where he represented The People at pre-trial hearings and trials. He was promoted to the Supreme Court Bureau in 1995 where he conducted many narcotics and firearm investigations. ADA Silberlight brought the Choices and

Consequences program to Staten Island schools. This program includes presentations to students about the dangers of drunk, drugged and distracted driving. This program is still presented in Staten Island High Schools today, Silberlight became a member of the New York City Stop D.W.I. Task Force, and was part of the editing of the New York Prosecutor's Training Institute DWI Manual. He has worked closely with Mothers Against Drunk Driving and in 2008 received the M.A.D.D. Recognition of Excellence award. In 2010, ADA Silberlight returned to Criminal Court as the Deputy Bureau Chief. During his time in the Criminal Court Bureau, ADA Silberlight revised the way that many criminal court cases were processed in Richmond County. This led to greater efficiency. including faster processing time. ADA Silberlight was also instrumental in bringing the Victim Impact Panel to Richmond County. In 2012, ADA Silberlight co-developed the "No D Initiative", as well as the "Drug Cap" Program, aimed at intermediate and high school students, that would address the drug epidemic plaguing Staten Island. In 2015, ADA Silberlight was promoted to Deputy Chief of the Supreme Court Bureau. He prosecuted many homicide cases and was considered one of the leading prosecutors in the office. In 2016, ADA Silberlight received the Thomas E. Dewey Medal, which is presented every year to outstanding assistant district attorneys in each county. He leads by example with a strong work ethic and has excellent relationships with those he works with and for. ADA Silberlight educates and mentors the youth of Staten Island in an effort to reduce repeat offenses, and help them stay on the right track. In recognition of his extensive work in our legal system and service to the community of Staten Island, ADA Adam Silberlight has been honored as an inductee into the Port Richmond High School Hall of Fame.

CONDOLENCES

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

ROBERT M. ANDERSON '46
ADELINE FEDELINE ANGELL '47
DR. RONALD B. BERGGREN '49
PATRICIA GUERINO BOTTICELLO '64
ANDREW BOWIE '53
MOE BULLER '44
MARY CARLUCCI '45
JOHN CONNELL '86
CAROL DALTON '57
JOYCE JEFFREYS DECKER '48
WILLIAM C. DEEKEN III '73
LEONARD E. DEL RIO '67
BARBARA RICHTER DEPINTO '65
MARIE LA GAMBINA DIMEO '77

DOROTHY WALLA DROZD '47
WAYNE DWYER '68
FAYE CORSON ENGLES '52
VERONICA FARRELL '67
DR MILTON H. FISCHER '44
ESTHER SVENNINGSEN FLAMM '45
KURT A. FRIEDRICHSEN '59
MARTIN GREENBERGER '49
FRANCIS HARTY '52
DEBRA HOZEE HJELM '73
SONJA JOHNSON HOLMAN '53
GREGG JACOBSON '74
CONSTANCE CICHON JOURNEAY '47
ANTHONY LAMANNA '64

DOUGLAS LANDAU '65
FLORENCE MARY LAZICKI '46
GLORIA NELSON LYSENKO '51
ANDRE MALVE '88
VINCENT MALONE '69
THERESA MASTROPIERO LIQUORI '50
JOANNE LOBELLO MATHESON '62
VIRGINA BILOTTI MENAR '64
FRANCIS PTAK, FACULTY
GAIL MERSELES RUGGLES '56
ROSE OLSEN MYSLICKI '44
ANN PEZZANO '48
ADELAIDE RICHENNAKER OLSEN '44
MAE MORRISON RUDICK '47

MICHAEL J. PITRONE '48
RUTH SUNHILL ROSSO '67
LOIS TRAMMELL SADDLER '54
CARMELA TIRONE SANTERO '44
THERESA FOTI SAVASTANO '53
PATSY SCARPATO '48
MYRNA LUGO SKROD '64
MARILYN FALCONE SMITH '81
HELEN PODRAZA SOBKOWIAK '48
KRISTINE TWAITE '69
EVERETT J. VAN DRIGT '50

May They Rest in Peace

Home "Field" Sweet Home (cont.)















PRHS presents it's production of

"Into the Woods"

November 9, 10 and 11, 2023













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

FOR YOUR RECORDS

Amt. \$	
Ck. #	
Data	

MEETING DATES

BEGIN AT 7:00 pm

Jan 10, Feb 7, Mar 6, April 3, May 8, June 12 Enter St. Joseph's Ave. (New Addition)

Port Richmond High School Alumni Association
Membership Form 2023 -2024

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

(Dues Are From July 2023 - June 2024)

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 F-2023

Dues Are Always Due!!!!

Our membership year runs from July 1-June 30, we use the dues money to provide ten scholarships at graduation, fund our Hall of Fame event, and buy items, not provided by the Department of Education, to enhance the educational experience at Port Richmond for our students. In the past we helped fund the new STEM lab at Port Richmond, the first high school to have one on Staten Island. This year we gave additional scholarships to students in need and helped send the marching band to Washington DC. A new school year is starting, and Port Richmond is doing better than ever. (Remember the great feeling you had when September rolled around!?) so let's get a head start on your support.

To pay dues, please fill out the form above and mail them to the address on the form. 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 due's money to benefit the school and students! If you wish to pay by credit card (via Pay Pal) go to our website at www.portrichmondalumni.com and click on the donate button, 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. Thank you to the many members who have already sent in their yearly dues.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

The last three years saw a record number of lifetime member's joining, 19 in 20-21,19 in 21-22, and 23 last year. We are off to a great start with 14 new lifetime members already joining. We would like to thank those Alumni who have already joining since our last newsletter are.

ROBERT SOLTYS '57, MARY-ANN SELLENTHIN DEFRANCESCO '64, DIANE WOOD MOHLENHOFF '64, RICHARD NOVO-MESKY '64, JACK HURLEY '65, ROBERT D. D'ANGELO '66, BARBARA DUNN WALKOWICH '68, DOUGLAS SUNDSTROM '71, WAYNE SUTLER '74, CLAIRE POMPA PANAZZOLO '76, ALICIA CASISIO '79, ANITA COHEN BORKENSTEIN '82, LYNETTE H. JEFFERSON '84, STUART WALDMAN '84, LAURA RISMAN LIPKIN '90, ADAM SILBERLIGHT '95

Thanks Again!

Please note: Our spring issue will only go to dues paying members.

Port Richmond High School

Alumni News

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

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NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

STATEN ISLAND, NY PERMIT NO. 22

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUES TODAY

Hope Springs Eternal



PRHS' Tribute to POW-MIA which is located at the base of the Flag Pole on the Athletic Field

PORT RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

JOSEPH CRESCENZI '83	President
JUDI ROGOFF SASNAUSKAS '66	Vice President
CLAIRE POMPA PANAZZOLO '76	Recording Secretary
EDMUND J. MATTEI '58	Newsletter Editor
MARY ANN SONNERGREN '74	Asst. Editor
CARMEN COGNETTA '64	Treasurer
CHRISTINE TWAITE THORSEN '64	Archivst

Eric Bennedetto '19 Gary Lane '69 Danielle Sorrentino Zayer '11

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
JOHN JANKOWSKI '79	. 2006 - 2018
JOHN WOODMAN '62	2018 - 2023

Written correspondence maybe be mailed to:
Ed Mattei PRHS Alumni News
Port Richmond High School
85 St. Joseph's Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10302