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From the Editor, **Tom Hawrylko**

I know we make this look easy. But the truth is, my team and I work hard, sometimes months in advance, to bring every edition together. Since October, 1995, when I was blessed to have the support of the long-gone Main Mall Business Association, we've been *Telling Clifton's Story*.

For me, my heavy lifting days of being out for long evenings, covering council and board meetings, are gone. Some years back, we—Ariana Puzzo, Jack DeVries, Ken Peterson, Irene Kulyk, myself, Frank Burke and others listed below—changed up how we serve Clifton.



We made Clifton Magazine less politics, more positive. You'll find stories and photos celebrating Clifton people, landmarks and history, often offering a little perspective on the growth of our ever-evolving community.

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Contributing Writers

Ariana Puzzo, Joe Hawrylko, Irene Jarosewich, Tom Szieber, Jay Levin, Michael C. Gabriele, Jack DeVries, Patricia Alex

Editor & Publisher
Tom Hawrylko, Sr.

Art Director
Ken Peterson

Associate Editor & Social Media Mgr.
Ariana Puzzo

Business Mgr.
Irene Kulyk

Douglass Dynasty

By Ariana Puzzo

Make no mistake — Kelly Douglass built up her own reputation as a Mustang athlete. But she also gives credit where it's due.

Nothing inspired her tenacity and hard-working spirit quite like playing Varsity Basketball during her freshman year with her older sisters Kimberly (CHS 2012) and Sara (CHS 2014).

"It was honestly so much fun," said Douglass, 28. "That was the only year that all three of us were on the same team."

Douglass played with Sara often since they were only a year apart, but she said that witnessing Kim's competitiveness drew that same nature out of her as well.

"I looked up to her and Sara in the same way," said Douglass. "I grew up trying to mirror how they handled themselves on the court, off the court, and in different situations."



The Delawanna native grew up with her sisters and their parents, Gordon and Lynn. The sisters went to Saint Philip Preparatory School through eighth grade. Next came four years of Varsity Basketball under coach Craig Alfano, plus Track in her sophomore year and three out of four years as a middle hitter for Varsity Volleyball.

Douglass is the all-time leading scorer for Girls and Boys Basketball with the most points in the school's history. She was inducted into the Clifton Athletic Hall of Fame in October of 2021 for basketball and volleyball.

But she and her friends knew how to have fun off the court as well. One classmate that she is still connected to is Katherine Fraczek, who she met playing volleyball in their freshman year. They grew closer in junior year and she'll attend Fraczek's wedding in Portugal next year.

"We always ended up at Applebee's on Route 3 for Half-App's after sports games or whatever was going on at school," Douglass recalled.

Douglass went on to play Division I Basketball at the University of Hartford, where she earned a degree in Accounting. She spent three seasons after graduating as an assistant coach for Drew University's Division III team while working part time for the NBA.



On this page, Kelly Douglass in 2015. On facing page, at her job with the NBA and below she and her Mustang teammates from left front Hannah Hirst, Emily Ulczak, Kat Jordan, Kelly Douglass, Yehshen Henry. Top from left: Tiffany Richards, Ariella Morrison, Jordan Rivera, Brittany Morales, Karleigh Davilla and Gabriella Garcia.

She started out as a stats auditor for the G League and worked her way up to a full-time senior production assistant in the Content Department. Douglass orchestrates daily content meetings, both internally and externally with the NBA's partners at Warner Bros.

When speaking with us, the East Rutherford resident had just flown early in the morning from Oklahoma City to Indiana as the Finals continued.

"After graduating from college and playing basketball for basically my entire life, I knew I didn't want to leave it," said Douglass. "It's why I thought I wanted to go into coaching, but that didn't work out."

"Just being able to be around the game but in a different way and seeing what goes into a single basketball game is really eye-opening," she continued. Adding with a laugh, "This job is different every single day, which makes it great but very chaotic."

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Where Are These '15 Mustangs Now?

Keeping Her Hometown Healthy

If you knew Kimberly Finkler and Kimberly (D'Agosta) Piedrabuena in high school, there's a good chance that you knew their hang-out spot.

"I am not going to say Kim and I would go to Clifton Village Pizza every day, but ... that was our place that we'd go to, especially on a Friday," said Finkler, 28. Laughing, she added, "We still go and get the buffalo chicken pizza."

The best friends played softball together, bonding during tryouts over their shared names.

More recently, Finkler was in the other woman's wedding.

"We've been doing life together since high school," said Finkler.

Finkler is a lifelong Allwood resident. She grew up with parents Francis and Mary Ann, along with older siblings Steven (CHS 2010) and Elizabeth (CHS 2011), and attended St. Andrew's through eighth grade.

As a Mustang athlete, Finkler spent her four years either playing shortstop or third base. But it was her senior year Anatomy and Physiology class with Ms. Dawn Carofine that shaped what would come next for her.

"I took her class and knew I wanted to [do] something in the health field," said Finkler. "When I had questions about what colleges to apply to and what to do after high school, she was there to answer all of those questions."

Finkler obtained two degrees from Montclair State in Human Development and Family Studies. She has her Master of Public Health and joined the Clifton Health Department in August, 2021. Finkler works now as a Local Health Outreach Coordinator and is a Certified Health Education Specialist.

"We kind of do the hidden stuff sometimes. The things that people don't always see," Finkler explained. "Food inspections, hand washing — the things that keep you healthy."

The public health worker operates out of the Botany Village Satellite Office, 207 Parker Ave. Finkler hopes the team can continue running the Satellite Office and seeing it flourish in the neighborhood.

"We put a lot of hard work in here and learned a lot



from the 2018 Community Health Assessment," she said. "I hope we keep serving this zip code and this area."

Community is something that she values on many levels. Finkler remains an active member of St. Andrew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, 400 Mt Prospect Ave., where she just started the process of becoming a Eucharistic Minister like her mother.

She has also gotten extremely close with her Health Department colleagues Kasey Molner (CHS 2016), Loyal Helwani (CHS 2012),

and Lauren (Scarfo) Campolattaro (CHS 2012).

What advice would she give to the incoming freshman Mustangs?

"I remember that somebody told me just to enjoy the journey," she said. "Don't put too much pressure on yourself. Enjoy where you are."

Beyond the City's Bubble

Cameron Hebron prides himself on being one of the few people to stay in touch with everyone.

Former classmate Gianna Figueroa, who started a family with Hector Gomez (CHS 2014), is one friend that he admires and continues wishing the best. Melanie Toro is another friend that he talks to almost every day despite her moving out of Clifton before their sophomore year.

"[Melanie has] been one of those people from Day 1 where she's supported me and I, her," said Hebron, 28.

Hebron grew up in the Richfield section with his mother, Stacey, his aunt Sylvia Hebron and his grandmother Bertha Ware. He lives in Athenia today and recalled his mother putting him in the school district so that he would grow more acclimated to larger schools.

Another benefit was the extracurriculars, which he took advantage of by running Cross Country for two years, Track for three years, and by participating in Robotics Club for all four years. He and his friends spent their time hanging around the city as well.

"For some odd reason, we did not leave that Dunkin Donuts on the corner of Clifton Ave. and Allwood," he said. "There were times when we were there pret-

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ty much up until 11 pm hanging out. That was just a hang-out spot for kids in that part of town.”

There were classes that left an impression on him. Environmental Science with Ms. Christie is what sparked his interest in New Jersey’s ecology and being more environmentally conscious. There was also Mr. Neumann’s Chemistry class that he wished he took more seriously at the time.

“If I went back to high school with the same knowledge that I have today, I would’ve handled things a little differently,” said Hebron. “Those were two teachers who, in hindsight, I realized were completely right the entire time.”

Hebron pursued a public health degree and career in New Orleans after CHS. The coronavirus pandemic altered his program, which led to his return to Clifton. He works as a patient outreach specialist at Rhythm Management Group in Brooklyn and has run in previous elections for our city’s Board of Education.



Cameron Hebron while campaigning for Clifton Board of Education and in 2015.



One of the things that he acknowledges about his hometown is that it is “incredibly safe” and that he was still somewhat sheltered from “how big the world is.”

“As diverse as Clifton is,” said Hebron, “we often exist in this bubble where we’re not really aware of all the issues that are going on around us.”

“Going from being blissfully unaware to seeing what a city like

New Orleans does with barely any funding and a lot more issues, quite frankly, really put things into perspective for me,” he continued. “I see a need to give back to the town and especially to a community that has the capacity to help so many people.”

Since 2023, Hebron has joined the Clifton Advisory Committee on Civil Rights, Clifton Against Substance Abuse, and the United Puerto Rican Council. He has worked previously at Clifton’s Recreation Department and is more recently focused on aligning himself with local mutual aid organizations and protests.

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“The education that I got was pretty solid. Clifton does a much better job than a lot of places in the country,” said Hebron. “Now that I am grown, I see it a little more and have an appreciation for it.”

Stepping Up the the Plate

More than one Clifton teacher made a lasting impression on Matthew Santiago, but his senior year English teacher truly exhibited how much he valued his students and their voices.

“[Mr. Robert Dominianni] was one of my favorite teachers when I was there,” said Santiago, 28. “He was always so kind, so understanding, and so patient with his students. He also was very engaged with what he was teaching and made it enjoyable.”

Santiago saw clearly that teaching was more than Dominianni’s job and the educator “really loved what he did.”

“In his desk, he would keep registrations for students to sign up to vote and would say how it’s your right and how important it was to do when you were 18,” said Santiago. “He also had our birthdays written down. He was just a great guy.”

Santiago and his older brother, Anthony Jr. (CHS 2011), grew up in Lakeview with their parents, Anthony Sr. and Maliza. Anthony Sr. was elected to the Board of Education in 2022.

Santiago attended School 11 for kindergarten and first grade before they moved to the School 17 neighborhood. He went to Woodrow Wilson and then played baseball during his freshman and sophomore years at CHS until a shoulder injury sidelined him.

The lifelong city resident recalled afternoons after school playing basketball in Nash Park and then heading to Clifton Commons on many Friday nights to catch a movie. His best friend that he remains close to was Eurick Vizcaino. They met freshman year at the old Annex.

“He moved down to Florida but recently had a child and I’m her godfather,” said Santiago. “I consider him to be family.”

Studying Criminology and Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology at William Paterson was Santiago’s next step. He graduated right before the coronavirus pandemic hit and returned to CHS as a substitute teacher before becoming a security specialist in the district.

Santiago’s free time is spent with his girlfriend, Kathy Yungaicela, and his family. They all enjoy having barbecues when the weather is nice. But Santiago has some-



Above Matthew Santiago and girlfriend Kathy Yungaicela. At right, Matthew in 2015.



thing else to look forward to during these warm months.

His ambitions have led him toward pursuing a career as a police officer in another city. How he got to his current point is in large part due to where he got his start.

“I had very good teachers and credit the Clifton education system,” said Santiago. “I always felt that I was well-educated, even going into college. I felt prepared.”

The co-op program was also helpful and allowed him to work as a janitor at the Boys & Girls Club of Clifton, where he got work experience that many kids don’t get until after graduation. “Clifton is such a big city and high school. It’s so diverse and has so many different backgrounds and cultures,” Santiago said. “I felt like, as I was going out into the world, I knew a little bit about everybody and everything.”

Two Paths, One Future

Justin Bennion’s first impression struck a chord with Brianna Labanich. Not just because they met in music class at Woodrow Wilson Middle School.

It was seventh grade and they were paired up to do a project on their heritages. Labanich was quickly impressed.

“He actually helped throughout the project,” she laughed. “Back in the day, most of the boys would not help with projects.”

Bennion recalled that his future fiancée was “very nice” as well. The Montclair Heights boy and Albion girl didn’t start dating until college when they reconnected through social media. They began dating in March of 2017 and went to the former Anthony’s Coal Fired Pizza & Wings (now J. Alexander’s) in the Clifton Promenade.

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Where Are These '15 Mustangs Now?

But who said those three words first? “It was you,” said Labanich as Bennion confidently replied, “Me.”

Saying: “I Do”

The Mustang alums will be answering another important question later this year.

The couple got engaged in June of 2023 while on a boat in front of the Statue of Liberty. The wedding date is set for Nov. 14 and will be at Persona Farms in Sparta. They bought a house three years ago in Pompton Plains and live there with their corgi, Doug. “He’s a good boy,” said Bennion, 27, of their pooch.

Labanich described going on walks or taking trips to the beach, even if it’s winter and they’re just going out for dinner.

“It’s just so peaceful down there,” said Labanich, 27. “We try a lot of different restaurants.”

Their unified life is not to say they didn’t have their own distinct paths. Bennion grew up with his parents, Scott (CHS 1981) and Donna, and sister Celine (CHS 2018).

He attended School 16 and played four years of Varsity Hockey. Bennion also played four years of Baseball, two of which were on Varsity, under assistant coach Mr. Michael Gramp, who was a source of encouragement.

Labanich is the first child of parents Billy and Kristine. She and her brother John (CHS 2019) attended School 5. Labanich became a majorette in the Marching Band her sophomore year and was involved in the Dance Club for all four years.

“It was exciting getting ready and putting on a show,” said Labanich. “Senior year was the first solo that I ever did.”

Ms. Dawn Carofine’s Anatomy and Physiology class inspired Labanich to enter the healthcare field. She earned her accelerated bachelor’s degree at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston and later a degree online in clinical management. Labanich has worked since 2021 as a cardiac sonographer for Optum.

“Ms. Carofine’s enthusiasm for teaching and her enthu-



siasm for wanting to learn more about the body and teaching us things stood out,” said Labanich. “She was learning as we were learning, and that was a great environment to be in.”

Bennion attended Stockton University in Galloway Township, where he studied Criminal Justice. He matriculated at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University in White Plains and his first job was as a clerk at the Passaic County Courthouse. He became an assistant prosecutor in Passaic County and is now one in Essex County.

“I always wanted to be in law enforcement and decided to be a lawyer,” said Bennion. “It was the best of both worlds.”

Time for Fun

Meeting their significant other early on was a source of motivation.

“It encouraged me to be the best version of myself. To work hard to share an excellent life together,” said Bennion. “To love one another and care about one another and always be supportive of each other.”

Labanich echoed the sentiment, remarking how special it is to be with someone while you are experiencing the highs and lows of early adulthood.

“You’re going through big ‘firsts’ and it means a lot having someone there who you can build a solid foundation with,” said Labanich. “Then, as you get older, it’s all the fun things now.”

Some friends that they’ve kept in touch with are his hockey teammate and classmate Dennis Ruppe, as well as her friend Sarah Bielen (CHS 2014) and fellow grad Dana Drogenak.

As for their advice to younger Mustangs on making a lasting relationship happen? “Don’t give up. Even if life is pulling you in so many different directions,” said Labanich. “Always have good communication with each other and keep on going back to each other.”

Bennion is quiet for a moment before adding, wryly:

“I was going to say, ‘Don’t ever give up,’” he began, “but I told her to speak first.”

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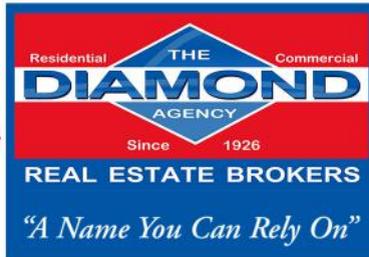


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Where Are These '05 Mustangs Now?



Alvin Foster with the 2005 time capsule in 2005. Top of page, the June 7 reunion.

Poof! IT'S 20 YEARS

Seeing his 2005 classmates with families, their own businesses, and making strides in their careers filled Paul Boyko with immense pride at his 20th high school reunion on June 7. "I'm just so impressed to see everyone who came and how far we've come," said Boyko, 38. "[Clifton's] diversity works and helps in so many ways. One of our graduates, Joe Hathaway, is the Mayor of Randolph."

"Clifton has a lot of struggles still with so many kids in its school," he continued, "but it's doing something right with how many kids at reunions are doing well."

Boyko grew up near The Clif Tavern with his parents, Paul Sr. (CHS 1979) and Anna Lee, and brother Nick (CHS 2009). He attended School 3 and CCMS before doing four years of Clifton Volleyball and three playing saxophone for the Marching Band.

His volleyball team was inducted years later into the Clifton Athletic Hall of Fame with head coach Mike Doktor, now the Director of Operations/Student Services, at the helm. "Mike was kind enough to sell me the North Jersey Volleyball Club, which I've been running for the last two, three years," said Boyko. "I still do a lot of stuff with the Rec. Dept. for volleyball and getting kids ready one day for high school."

Boyko's journey had a few turns. He dropped out of college twice, then made the decision at 30 to join the Army to earn the GI Bill. He got a bachelor's in Computer Science and master's in Educational Technology at Thomas Edison State University.

Boyko is a web design teacher at Payne Tech School of Technology in Newark and lives in Cranford with his wife, Dr. Caitlin Boyko, a PT professor at Kean University. "Cranford is diverse, but nothing is as diverse as Clifton," said Boyko. "I feel like when I walked into the Army, it had everyone from every walk of life. I was in basic training with someone from Saudi Arabia and someone from Nigeria."

Recaptured Youths

Boyko's classmates felt similarly and enjoyed reuniting at their 20th reunion. There were about 60 alumni and guests on June 7 at The Woodford Hall in Little Falls who all reveled in the 360 video booth. The booth captured the fun while the DJ kept the music going, with a mix of throwback hits from 2005 and today's chart-toppers.

"It was amazing to see how far everyone has come and to reconnect with friends like no time had passed," said Boyko. "'A Night To Remember' was the theme 20 years ago. This reunion kept that theme alive."

Jeanette Suarez, a lifelong resident and a Hudson County Court Service Officer agreed that last month's reunion was special.

"I worked with an amazing group of friends to put it together," said Suarez. "Speaking to and catching up with friends that had moved away or have accomplished so much warmed my heart. I loved to see everyone thriving and reaching their dreams."

Alfred Martinez's dreams led him to becoming the Lead Estima-



tor for the Mechanical Business Unit at BOND Civil & Utility Construction. "The reunion was a real treat," said Martinez. "Everyone was very warm and open. There was something comforting in sharing the same walls with so many others as we did many moons ago."

What struck Martinez most were the people who attended the reunion while still considering themselves or previously regarding themselves as "introverts and homebodies." One person that he spoke to traveled from the Midwest for the occasion.

"It was great to witness this growth and genuine desire to connect with people," said Martinez. "I always like to encourage others to keep missed opportunities in life to a minimum. Time is too precious to let special moments pass by."

Registered Behavioral Therapist Valentina Colon would certainly echo that sentiment. She works at Rainbow ABA and is a realtor at Coldwell Banker. She continues to live in our city and felt strong nostalgia at the reunion.

"It was great seeing everyone mingling together and hav-

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Where Are These '05 Mustangs Now?

ing the best time,” said Colon. “The Woodford Hall really did an awesome job at making the venue such an intimate and amazing moment for our 20th reunion.”

One of the night’s highlights came when the classmates learned that retired principal Mr. William Cannici wrote them a letter to mark the special event.

“Hearing the feedback on how great the event was from the ones who joined us was a joy to hear,” said Colon. “Our committee team members really did a phenomenal job.”

Anna Naumoski, a Wayne resident and Corporate Event Director at Hay-



Victoria Lee, Kayla Devlin, Islam Mohammad.

market Media, was also grateful for the committee’s “hard work that went into planning such a great reunion.”

“It was so great seeing classmates from high school in-person and sharing our favorite high school memories while also catching up on life

and talking about our lives now as adults,” reflected Naumoski. “It is a night that I will remember forever.”

So will Angelica (Vega) Liberstein, who is a proud stay-at-home mom who is part of Gator Run Elementary PTA Board in Weston, Florida. Liberstein made the trip up north and brought back with her a ton of memories from her days at CHS.

“It’s like I never stopped seeing any of my classmates,” said Liberstein. “It brought out a lot of good emotions just seeing everyone.”

And, if you ask Kim Williams, everyone looked fantastic.

Williams lives in Passaic Park and is a School Social Worker for Paterson Public Schools. “One thing that was memorable was that we all aged well,” she exclaimed, and then added this message to the Class of 2005 universe: “You all looked good.”

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24/7 Still A Mustang

Tom Jacobus wasn't afraid to get down and dirty on the gridiron. If you ask him, it's actually one of his most memorable Mustang moments. "Beating Passaic, 49-0, in my last game ever was pretty memorable," said Jacobus, 38. "We played in the mud. In the practice before that, Coach Ron Anello gave a great speech and let the seniors walk off the field."

"That was pretty memorable being with all the guys over the years," he continued. "We all got muddy and slid across the field. It was a good send-off."

The Athenia native attended Grove Hill Nursery School, School 2, and WWMS before playing four years of football as center and outfielder for Clifton Baseball. He was a Varsity captain for the Fighting Mustangs in his senior year.

The student-athlete played under the leadership of Coach Chet Parlavecchio for his first three years of football and Rich BelBruno was the head coach for baseball. Even with two decades between him and those Friday night lights, the Fight Song is still loud and clear.

"I hear the band practicing while I'm driving by," said Jacobus. "Even when I am watching other Marching Bands, I think of ours. It was something that was cool to hear on Friday nights and is special."

Jacobus is the first-born son of Tom and Toni Jacobus. Tom, who grew up on Pilgrim Dr., and Toni, a retired School 16 teacher, also had two younger sons. Tim "Boomer" (CHS 2007) was part of the State Championship football team and teaches seventh grade math at Christopher Columbus Middle School. The youngest of the three boys is Nick (CHS 2011).

Jacobus' career led him back to our city as well. He went to Springfield College in Massachusetts for Athletic Training, a path that was inspired by retired Athletic Trainer Tom Cutalo after Jacobus broke his arm in his junior year.

He worked at Cedar Grove High School for seven years and then Montclair High School before making a career pivot that, in the end, shocked no one who knew him.

"I will preface this by saying that all of my classmates from elementary school said, 'You were always gonna be



Tom Jacobus and daughter Ava.

a firefighter," laughed Jacobus. "It is all that I have wanted to be since I was little in school."

Part of that inspiration came from his uncle Eddie Allen and cousin Bobby Allen, who were both Paterson firefighters. That's why Jacobus earned his EMT certification in high school and joined the Little Falls Fire Department in 2006 as a volunteer.

"When I left Montclair, I wrote a letter to the superintendent explaining I can't give my 60 days notice to leave but have something that I've wanted to do my whole life," said Jacobus. "They were

nice enough to let me leave on good terms, and that's how that happened."

After nine weeks in the Morris County Fire Academy, his first week on the job was in November of 2017. The average week for Jacobus is a 24-hour tour and then 72 hours off, but there is also overtime for big fires and it all depends on the circumstances.

The job is not just physically demanding for the firefighters.

"I don't think you're prepared for the hardships that families have if they lose a loved one. Going into any job, you think you're going to help people and save everyone," he said. "It's not always the case. Sometimes we can do everything in our power to help them and sometimes it's not in their plan."

"That is something I really didn't expect," continued Jacobus. "But it's also very rewarding with the people that we do get to help. We are problem solvers. When we show up, it is their worst day and we're trying to fix it and make it better."

Jacobus and his wife, Ali, recently bought a house in Montville and will be moving there with their 17-month-old daughter, Ava. The family of three will soon grow to welcome a little boy.

He's also still in touch with many of his childhood friends, including John James, Kevin O'Brien, Josh Morales, John Kondel, Sam Vitellaro, and Adam Ahmad.

"Adam's parents' house was the hangout and then we would hang out at Alexis Steakhouse," he said. "The bowling league at St. Philip's kept us close as well and we used to go to the Six Brothers Diner after games." 

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All The Small Things

There are some teachers that you never forget. For Kayla (Devlin) George, one of hers emphasized the importance of grasping history in real-time.

It was in her second period History class with Mr. Orlovsky. The year was 2001. “When the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers [happened], I was in his History class,” said George, 38. “Mr. Orlovsky did a really good job at trying to explain to us the gravity of the situation.”

George went on to say how he was a new teacher and utilized the tragic event as “a [teachable] moment.”

“He was able to leverage that experience and explain it to us by saying, ‘Hey, this is going to be something that you will never forget,’” she added. “He showed how it was a point in history that would change things while being supportive and knowing that a lot of ‘unknown’ was happening. It was really impactful.”

When George reflected on her youth in our city, she appreciated that the anomaly of graduating with 700 to 800 students gave the Class of 2005 “a strong foundation of diversity, relationships, and networking at an early age.”

She grew up on Van Houten Ave., just four blocks from CHS, with parents Dennis (CHS 1972) and Elaine (Montgomery) (CHS 1976). She and brother, John (CHS 2007), attended School 13 and WWMS.

George started all four years of Varsity Soccer as outside midfielder. She was part of the 2001 Girls Soccer team that was inducted into the Clifton Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017.

“A lot of my soccer team still talks to and supports each other,” she said. “There was Nicole Tahan, Nicole Bisco, and Nicole Krzysik. I’ve always kind of followed Krzysik’s professional soccer journey and always wish her well.”

“Toni Melillo and I text on birthdays and send Christmas cards yearly,” George added. “She was my very first friend since Kindergarten.”

George lives in East Hanover with her husband, Joey George, and children Jaxen, 9, Colten, 7, and Ashten, 4.



On their 10-year anniversary, Kayla (Devlin) George with Joey and sons Jaxen, Colten and Ashten in Hawaii.

The couple will welcome their first daughter in November. Although Joey did not attend CHS, he grew up in our city with parents John and Jane George (CHS 1976).

John is the man behind the planning for the Mustangs Bicentennial class’s 50th reunion in June of 2026. Email John at georgesservice@gmail.com for more details.

George attended Rider University in Lawrenceville and played four years of Division I soccer. She graduated with a Business degree and has worked at JAG Physical Therapy for over 15 years. She is the chief marketing officer and is based out of the headquarters in Bridgewater.

The soon-to-be family of six spends their time doing outdoor activities together. The couple also take the kids on vacations and to concerts, museums, and sporting events whenever possible. But certain memories of George’s own youth are just as vivid now as if they just happened.

“Anything by blink-182 [was popular],” she laughed. “For fashion, I remember us wearing mini skirts. Uggs were the biggest trend. Hollister and Abercrombie were also big, and I remember being sent home more than once for my skirt or my mom having to drop off another set of clothes.”

Nicole Lavender isn’t afraid to see the world on her own terms, but she’s also a proud Clifton girl with strong roots in her hometown.

One of those roots is as a former Mustang. The Lakeview native grew up on Trimble Ave. with her younger brother, Nick (CHS 2010), and parents John and Patty, the latter of whom is the office manager of the Early Childhood Department at the Clifton’s Boys & Girls Club and has worked there for 46 years. Lavender, 37, attended School 11 and was one of the first groups bused to WWMS. She played defense for Girls Soccer, swam in the winter, and played softball in the spring. She was also the editor of the Yearbook in her senior year.

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Where Are These '05 Mustangs Now?



Lifelong friends Marta Leja and Nicole Lavender outside before the 2005 CHS Scholarship Awards night. At left, Nicole Lavender with her kindergarten class and teacher's aide Christina Valdivia, last month.

"Definitely Lori Lesler's Sign Language class," said Lavender for her favorite class. "Me and my two best friends at the time Jenna Ricciardi and Marisa Marco took zero period Public Speaking and then Lori for first period."

"I just have very vivid memories of starting the day with her," she laughed. "We became good friends with her and I'm still in contact with her."

Now Lavender is helping create memories for another generation of Clifton kids. The Montclair resident attended The College of New Jersey for its five-year Teacher of the Deaf program.

She subbed in the district through college and then received a call from since-retired Assistant Superintendent Mark Tietjen who said that she could fill a one-year, maternity-leave position in kindergarten at School 2.

"I got really fortunate. I started my teaching career on the same day in September of 2010 as Ms. Jennifer Lucas came to School 2," said Lavender. "I have taught for 15 years in the same classroom."

The job is a walk down memory lane. Lavender works with many women that she grew up with and knew through high school. She's worked with Jennifer Anzaldi, a Resource Room teacher and close family friend; Melanie (Poland) Gonzalez, now a Reading Specialist; Media Teacher Alaina Paris-Garcia; and sisters Lindsey (Moore) Fairless in first grade and Brianne (Moore) Mees in fourth grade.

Lavender is also no stranger to teaching the children of her former classmates.

"Jessica (Hamade) Racioppe was a year older than me but swam on the swim team and I had her two kids back-to-

back," said Lavender. "I have a student this year whose dad I graduated with. Michael Hart's son is in my class.

"Every year, recently, there are children whose parents I went to school with," she laughed. "I also taught my teacher's aide Christina Valdivia's sons, AJ and Angelo. They are at Woodrow now and are part of a great family."

Now with school out for the summer, Lavender is prepared to travel to the African continent to visit Tanzania and Kenya. Since graduating college in 2010, she has visited 15 countries and even once spent a summer in India with a student and her family once the student graduated. "The teaching-life lends itself nicely to going on my long adventure trips," said Lavender.

A Love of Literature

Walking down the crowded halls of CHS is a core memory for Sara (Gretina) Diana whenever she makes her way through a crowd. Even 20 years later. "I use the skills that I mastered there," laughed Diana, 37.

That is one of the memories that sticks with her. Other ones include dancing along in the football stadium stands to the band music during games. The lifelong city resident, who now lives on the Nutley border, got her start in the Albion section by attending School 5 and WWMS.

Diana is the second child of Tony (CHS 1974) and Debra Gretina. Her siblings are Ashley (CHS 2002), Emma (CHS 2008), and Anthony (CHS 2011). Diana was part of Stage Crew at CHS and in the Marching Band for all four years. Her freshman year saw her in the Color Guard, followed by three years as a majorette.

One person in CHS who made a lasting impression was Language Arts teacher Dr. Elissa Greenwald.

“I think I had her for two years in my junior and senior years,” recalled Diana. “She was such a lover of literature and language arts. She was really passionate about trying to get us into that love. That passion has stuck with me.”

Diana kept her options open when she started college at Rutgers – New Brunswick. She was considering a future in mathematics before deciding to major in English with a double minor in Comparative Literature and Anthropology.

“I really enjoyed my studies,” she said. “I wish I could go back.”

Working for The Daily Targum, the independent news source for Rutgers, is what sparked her interest in publishing and editing. She later worked briefly at Pearson Education before making the decision to pursue post-baccalaureate studies in literary criticism at Columbia University.

It was while substitute teaching that she recognized her passion for teaching and the classroom. Diana holds a Mas-



Sara (Gretina) Diana and her daughter, Saoirse.

ter of Science in Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

Diana is married to husband Daniel Diana and the couple have a six-month-old daughter, Saoirse. The new mother spent about seven years with Daniel, then her boyfriend, in Los Angeles and worked as a middle school English and History teacher.

She was also a literacy coach before they moved back east. A self-employed literacy consultant since 2019, Diana hears from principals or school districts who need professional development for their literacy teachers. Diana works across the K-12 spectrum, both domestically throughout the country and overseas with international virtual work in countries like China.

She isn't the only family member with ties to education. Her mother, Debra, worked in education for 20 years. She started at School 13 and became the Supervisor of Mathematics K-8. The way that Diana decompresses when she is not balancing work and an infant is by walking in the park or taking a good hike.

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“I really love spending time with my family,” she said. “My time out west really crystallized for me how important family is ... so I spend as much time with them as I can.”

The Science of the Land

Mahmoud Ijbara is all about pushing limits and breaking records, but he is also committed to showing people what his hometown has to offer. You may have seen his face around the city — in person, in this magazine, or even on billboards.

Or you read about his record-breaking sales as the #1 Real Estate Agent in the State of New Jersey, the #1 Agent in Passaic County, and the #1 Agent in Clifton. But that’s just part of the story. Before becoming a top Realtor, Ijbara was a scientist. Yes, a scientist.

That career path began back in CHS. Ijbara is the third of eight children born to parents Ziad and Amal. His education started out at School 12 and Christopher Columbus Middle School.

Chemistry quickly became his favorite class in high school, because it was hands-on and not just learning from a textbook. So much so that Ijbara, 38, attended Fairleigh Dickinson for his degree in Chemistry.

After his classes ended for the day, Ijbara would head into New York to Ziad’s clothing store on E 170th St. in the Bronx. Ijbara helped his father there every day during his senior year of high school and, after he graduated with his combined bachelor’s and master’s in five years, he was still working with him while he applied to internships.

He ended up working in a lab that processed samples for hospitals, like cancer patients, and focused more on biology than his chemistry degree. That experience led him to working at Labcorp and then Covance, which was later acquired by Labcorp in 2015.

Although he didn’t have his real estate license that soon changed. Ijbara saw Ziad buy a few investment properties in Clifton around 2010 when the market prices were good and got an idea.

“I thought, ‘Why not get a license and do that part time while doing my scientist job?’” he said. “Then a family member used me and I kept doing it part time.” It quickly became a full-time job with him working during the day and then showing houses after 5 pm and doing open houses on weekends.



Mahmoud and Nadyah with Ziyad, Haneen, and Liyana.

“I had to resign,” said Ijbara. “I was being paid \$150,000 and gave up my 401(k) to focus on real estate, but I loved it and it was flexible for my kids. ... It also opened up more time for me to be in the community.”

Ijbara hustled and opened his Clifton office in January of 2024 under Compass Real Estate. It is now his own brokerage, Gild Realty, where he is the broker of record and owner of the 1221 Van Houten Ave. location.

“I have 10 agents working with me and don’t hire new agents,” said Ijbara. “I hire only the best and want our level of service to be at the top.”

Ijbara lives in the Ravine section with his wife, Nadyah, and kids Ziyad, 12, Haneen, 9, and Liyana, 4. Haneen is currently attending School 2 and Liyana attends Clifton Early Learner Academy on Brighton Rd.

His past and present community involvement has included acting as Treasurer for School 2’s HSA, sponsoring Boys & Girls Club Soccer, being an official sponsor of Boys Soccer at CHS, and being a past donor and recent Bronze Sponsor for the Clifton Education Foundation.

“I love soccer, because my son plays travel soccer,” said Ijbara. “Anyone who needs any help regarding soccer, I’m always in.”

“The community is great,” he added. “I always thought that I had met every single person in Clifton, but it’s never-ending. Whatever language you [speak], you will find it here.”

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Where Are These '95 Mustangs Now?

Ever wonder what it might look like if the Mustangs went back to the future? Those are just a few from the Class of '95 during Mr. Gerald Zelenka's Science class. And what better way is there to learn than to step out of the classroom and get some fresh air? There were plenty of other things happening on Colfax Ave. Pictured bottom left is Mustang Chris Halupka, who was chosen First Team All-State and named New Jersey Soccer Player of the Year. He and the Boys Soccer team beat Kearny and captured the State Championship that year. Pictured, below at right, are twins Amanda (Konecny) Kopesky and Kelly (Konecny) Miller with their classmate Michelle (Rabasca) Clerico.





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Previous page, Kelly and Amanda Konecny in 1995. Today, their kids and husbands, from left, Morgan Miller, Madalyn Miller, Ray Miller, Kelly (Konecny) Miller, Amanda (Konecny) Kopesky, Adam Kopesky, Alina Kopesky, Alexa Kopesky.

Two of a Kind

There were quite a few students in Kelly (Konecny) Miller’s graduating class as far as she was concerned. Including one that, if you asked her mother’s doctor, was a

total surprise. “Our mother didn’t know that she was having twins,” Miller laughed. “The nurses knew, but the doctor thought it was one big baby.”

Miller and her twin Amanda Kopesky, who married Adam Kopesky, grew up in Richfield with their parents John and Nancy. They attended School 13, under retired Principal Sal Anzaldi (CHS 1964), and WWMS.

“[Mr. Anzaldi] and I just became Facebook friends. It’s so cool,” said Miller. “He’s wonderful. They don’t make them like him anymore.”

The girls knew a lot of people by the time they arrived at CHS. Miller was a member of the Key Club and National Honor Society. She and Amanda were also Mustang mascots in their senior year.

But academics were more her wheelhouse. Programs like CAST, with Mr. James Kelly, allowed her to travel with DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) to cover their trip. Then there were Amanda’s friends that she knew.

“[As] a twin, she had friends, I had friends, and we had friends together,” explained Miller, 48. “I didn’t put myself in just one group ... [and] I’m blessed to be able to still keep in touch with a lot of people.

Some reunited with their children at Amanda’s house this past Christmas. Miller lives in Denville with her husband, Ray, and daughters Morgan, 18, and Madalyn, 15. Something that reunited the group of friends, Miller said, is that they were all hard workers. That started at early for the twins. Mother Nancy would bring them to the Downtown Paterson insurance agency where she worked.

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Camp isn't something that the family could afford for the girls, but Nancy had an understanding boss who taught them the value of work.

"They didn't have paper shredders, so at age 12 we would be ripping up the files," said Miller. "We called him 'Uncle Norman', and he paid us cash at the end of the week."

Receiving that lesson set them up for when Miller ran the travel summer camp at the former Jewish Y on Scoles Ave. and Amanda worked at Styertowne Bakery. They both commuted together to Montclair State in the same car and were able to save to buy a condo at 25.

"I made such good tips at the Jewish Y," said Miller. "Working at that camp with kids is probably what really brought out my passion for working with kids and going into education."

Since 2005, Amanda is the Paterson Public Schools Supervisor of Literacy. Miller's bachelor's degree is in Education and she holds a Master of Arts in Teaching with a focus in special education. She earned her Learning Disabilities Teaching Consultant certificate and worked six years at a private school called Celebrate the Children in Denville. She recently launched a pilot program at Drew University for neurodivergent students.

She is considering work at another college or possibly going down the avenue of Learning Consultant work.

But, right now, she considers herself blessed to be able to focus fully on her role as "Mom." "My priority right now is getting my daughter ready to go to the University of Miami by the second week in August," she said.

A Loving Dad

It was early 2018 when we last spoke to Michael DeVita who, at the time, had a smiling baby on his lap that was as much a testament to will and faith as she was to the love two people shared.

That baby girl, Sloan Rose DeVita, was born March 22, 2017 to parents Michael and Amanda (née Labruna) DeVita thanks to all the dedicated

doctors at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center who never gave up on Amanda or the couple's dream of becoming parents. Though Amanda sadly passed away in June of 2019, the father and daughter are surrounded by a whole lot of love. DeVita is undeniably devoted to Sloan, now 8.

"My free time is spent being busy with her and all of her activities," DeVita chuckled. "Playdates and playing with friends. I have developed a close relationship with a lot of her friends' parents." DeVita, who also enjoys his golf game, goes on nightly neighborhood walks with Sloan and often enjoys family dinners with his parents, Tom and Donna (Casapulla) DeVita (CHS 1964).

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Like their mother, DeVita and his older brother Thomas (CHS 1991) grew up in our city and went to School 2 and WWMS. He played freshman football and Attack for four years on the Lacrosse team. A stand-out teacher was Mr. Bravaco for English class in junior year and then journalism class in senior year.

“He was my favorite teacher there,” said DeVita, 47. “He pretty much made me realize that in order to be successful in life, you have to work hard. I still talk about him today.”

The Cedar Grove resident majored in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and a minor in Economics at the University of Delaware. His prior roles were as an accountant for PCTI, a senior accountant for the Tenafly School District, and the business administrator of Kearny Public Schools.

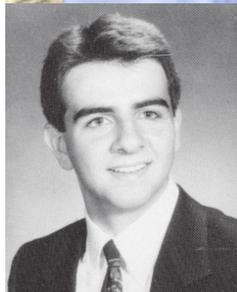
His more recent roles are as business administrator for the Cedar Grove School District and now the same role but back in the Nutley School District, where he previously worked.

DeVita has remained in touch with classmates like Kent Bania, Anthony Malanga, and Adam Kopesky. Even though they have their own lives and don't see each other like they once did, DeVita holds a great deal of respect for the other three men.

“I know if I needed something and called up one of those guys now, even if I hadn't seen or talked to them for a while, they'd help me out and do anything for me,” he said.

Tumble Into Triumph

Nothing prepares you for when your child starts dressing like you did in high school, but Robyn (Triolo) Caruso knows a thing or two about that.



“My kids are in high school now and trends have come back where they're pretty much wearing what we wore,” she laughed. “It's strange.”

Caruso, 48, is married today to husband Robert and has two children, Nicholas, 17, and Abby, 15. The family lives in Verona, and the Seton Hall grad's background is based in Elementary Education and Special Education.

After staying at home with her children, Caruso returned to teaching. She coaches cheerleading at Verona High School with her sister, Kristin Garibell (CHS 1997), who is married to her former classmate Michael Garibell (CHS 1997).

“Our two daughters [Abby and Taylor] are on the team, too,” said Caruso. “So it's fun.”

Caruso and Garibell grew up with parents Russell (CHS 1967) and Linda (Geiger) Triolo (CHS 1970). They attended School 3 and CCMS. Caruso cheered all four years at CHS and served as recording secretary for the Student Council.

She also had family members who worked as custodians in Clifton, including her grandfathers Charlie Triolo and George Geiger

in elementary schools. Her uncle Cliff Triolo worked at CHS as a custodian while she was there.

Cheerleading was a big part of her and her sister's high school experiences. Now it's about paying it forward for this generation of cheerleaders.

“I feel like my sister and I are giving these girls what we had and loved so much,” she said. “We have brought back a ton of tradition within the program.”

“We are trying to create memories for them that we had from Clifton and just moving it over to Verona,” Caruso added. “Our team is a family — we're a family, 🐾”

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ourselves, with the four of us being there — but it's more than just a team atmosphere.”

When she is not coaching, Caruso's favorite thing to do is spend time down the shore. She recalled plenty of adolescent memories down there, whether she was hanging out with her friends or spending Memorial Day Weekend and Prom Weekend in Chadwick Beach.

Other high school memories include being voted as “Class Inseparables” with Jenn Moers and how their graduating class wasn't defined by cliques.

“I try to tell my kids all the time how much I loved [high school],” said Caruso. “They've enjoyed their years of high school as well, which I love to see. I would go back tomorrow if I could.”

A Time To Remember

Times have changed and keep on changing, but Scott Albourn still holds close the lyrics of Billy Joel's “This Is the Time” and what they meant to his graduating class.

Albourn, 48, is the third child of Marty (CHS 1959) and Elinor Albourn. Elinor was a member of the Clifton Jewish Center from 1981 until its closure last December and served as its president for the last seven years.

Albourn and his older siblings, Jonathan (CHS 1991) and Shari Gussen (CHS 1993), grew up in the Rosemawr section near the Tick Tock Diner. He attended School 9 and CCMS and said that the CAST program at CHS had a tremendous influence on him.

“That's where, for me, the heart of high school was — in our television class,” said Albourn. “A lot of people who attended our reunion and friends that we stayed friends with were also in the CAST program.”

He described Mr. James Kelly as a “good friend and mentor” who ultimately laid the foundation for Albourn's own career as a Video Technologies Coordinator at Rider University in Lawrence Township. He manages the studio and credited CHS' program as giving him the opportunity to “hone my skills, be creative, and experiment.”

“The class gave a lot of us a lot of freedom to be in the studio and be part of a lot of events,” he said. “The good thing about being in production is that, as a cameraman or a shooter, you get to do all these things, because people want you to document them.” “We knew everyone,” Albourn added. “Everyone wanted to be part of what we



Robyn (Triolo) and Robert Caruso with kids, Abby and Nicholas.

were doing, and that carried over into my career.”

Albourn continued his education at the University of Miami, studying Broadcast Journalism and Political Science. He later received his Master of Fine Arts in Film Production and has taught at Rider for nearly 20 years. Albourn lives today in Hamilton Township with his wife, Stacey, and children Zoey, 14, twins Sammy and Alexa, 12, and Teddy, 8.

He was also one of the Class of 1995's reunion organizers, alongside Robyn (Triolo) Caruso and Jenn Moers. About 75 people showed up to The Shannon Rose, 98 Kingsland Rd, and Albourn recalled eight hours spent just talking and having a great time.

“I say we shouldn't wait another 10 years and do it sooner, because everyone had such a great time seeing each other,” said Albourn. “Maybe we can do a TV class reunion or when we all turn 50 in two years.”

Back on The Sidelines

Dennis Mikula, Jr. learned it all at the knee of his namesake. But one lesson from his dad is particularly meaningful and applies to both his personal and professional lives.

““Being where your feet are,”” said Mikula, 48. “When you're with family, you're with family. When you're at the business, you're at the business. He didn't mix the two although there were a lot of the same players in both avenues.”

Mikula grew up across the street from CCMS in the Middle Village section. He attended School 3 first and played football, basketball, and baseball at CHS. Mikula was an offensive lineman for the Fighting Mustangs and became a three-year letter winner in football.

Mikula remembers the impressions left by his coaches — Angelo Intile for freshman baseball, John Iannucci and James Kelly for football — and the feeling of going with his dad, Dennis Sr., also a former Fighting Mustang, to the games as a kid.

“Playing in Thanksgiving Day games against Passaic was always very memorable,” he said. “All three years that I played Varsity at Clifton Stadium made it a special day for me.”

Mikula’s parents are the late CHS 1973 grads Dennis Sr. and Cynthia (née Wiczerzak). His younger brother Ryan graduated from CHS in 1999.

Mikula received his higher education at MSU in Com-



Scott Alboum with his wife Stacey (second from right), and their kids Zoey, Teddy, Sammy, Alexa.

munications Studies. He served as the Executive Vice President of Mikula Contracting, Inc. from June of 1995 until March 2022. In 2022, he assumed the role of President following Dennis Sr.’s passing.

Mikula is also currently the President of the Board of Directors for New Jersey LICA, a State Chapter



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Where Are These '05 Mustangs Now?

Dennis Mikula, Jr. with wife Diana and daughter Lucy and a look back at 1995.



Member of The Land Improvement Contractors Association. But his favorite role is “Dad.” Mikula and his wife, Diana, live in North Caldwell and are the proud parents of their daughter, Lucy, 12.

“I enjoy being present in every one of my daughter’s activities,” said Mikula. “Whether it’s an athletic event or a school event ... my whole attention will go to that.”

There was a period after his parents passed that Mikula stopped coaching. That changed when his daughter’s fifth and sixth grade basketball team needed someone to step up this year.

“I never wanted to coach my daughter, because I wanted her to experience other coaches,” he explained. “But they needed a coach [at Lacordaire Academy] and when she asked me, I ended up back on the sidelines. It was a lot of fun.”

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Where Are These '85 Mustangs Now?

They Partied Like It Was 1985!



Linda Bellini's black and white homecoming day dreams brought her and these other Mustangs four decades forward to the Grand Saloon on June 21 for their 40th reunion. Turn the page and see some other Mustangs from back-in-the-day!

The Road is the Limit

High school is a time for youthful freedom, which meant there was no stopping AnnaMarie Limite and her friends from hanging out around the city.

“I would hang out with friends at sporting events. We’d do silly things during school and after school,” said Limite. “Garret Mountain was a big hang-out spot. [So were the CHS grounds] before school or Ravine Park.”

Limite lived in the Grove St. neighborhood with parents George and Maria, plus siblings George (CHS 1986), Anthony, and Tina. She attended School 5 and Woodrow Wilson before she joined the Track and Softball teams in high school.

After briefly attending college, she went straight into work for Prudential Insurance. She also went to paralegal school at night. After the insurance company closed its doors, she moved down to Florida in September of 1996. She now lives in Bradenton.

Limite worked in healthcare administration for 35 years in doctor’s offices, hospitals, and at insurance companies. She has spent the past two years running an office with her husband, Steve Rioux, who is a general contractor. Their children are Cristina, 26, and Michael, 18.



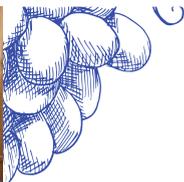
AnnaMarie Limite, husband Steve Rioux, and kids Cristina and Michael.

“Being in Florida, everything we do is all outdoors. Water, boating, the beach,” said Limite, 58. “We travel all over in an RV.” Last month, Limite was in Texas and headed toward Arizona. The past few years were spent traveling the west coast. This summer they’ll visit family in New Jersey.

Friends that she has remained connected to over the years have included Maria Salerno, Angie (Pecoraro) Quinlan, John Luciano, John McClain, Greg Munk, and Karin Korb.

“I think we had a wonderful class. I miss and cherish those times,” said Limite. “I tell my kids, ‘Cherish those times when you’re young. It goes by fast.’”

“Forty years?” She laughed. “That’s crazy.”



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Where Are These '85 Mustangs Now?

Two Cultures, One Community

If it was Friday night, Irene Kulyk's dance card was full. Literally. Because Fridays at the Ukrainian Center on Hope Ave. was where she and other members of the Ukrainian American Youth Association, also known as CYM, would hang out for dances and speak their parents' native language.

"Thanks to that and the fact that they went to CYM as well, my kids speak Ukrainian," said Kulyk, 58. "Growing up as a kid, everyone probably watched cartoons on Saturday mornings. We went to Ukrainian School from 8 am to 12:30 pm. That kind of took up a big part of our youth."

That stayed the theme for high school.

Kulyk joined the Ukrainian Club at CHS where she already knew other club members. She did have other friends, noting that Valerie Russo introduced her to other classmates, but the Ukrainian-American students were a tight-knit group.

"It was a tighter friendship than I had with any of the other kids," explained Kulyk. "We already had such strong friendships and on Friday nights, we had Ukrainian dancing practice."

Science class with Mr. James St. Clair was her favorite. Life after high school included attending Rutgers – Newark, where she got her Bachelor of Science in Management. Kulyk worked for the mutual fund company Alliance in Secaucus before working for Pershing in Jersey City until she became a mother.

Kulyk has two children, Arianna (CHS 2021) and Jurij (CHS 2022), and returned to work once they were older. She returned to our city in 2019 and she became Clifton Merchant's Business Manager the following year.

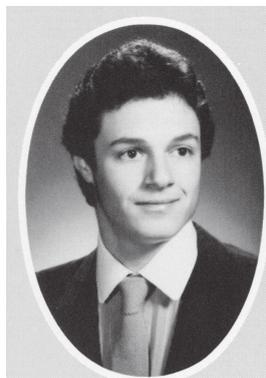


Irene Kulyk with Arianna (in a dress Irene embroidered) and Jurij.

Her advice to her 18-year-old self would be to just go for things.

"Don't let anything stop you," said Kulyk. It is a lifetime mantra she instilled in her kids. "Right now my daughter just graduated from Ramapo in nursing and is studying for the NCLEX exam. ... I keep telling her, 'You are smarter than you think. Don't doubt yourself.'"

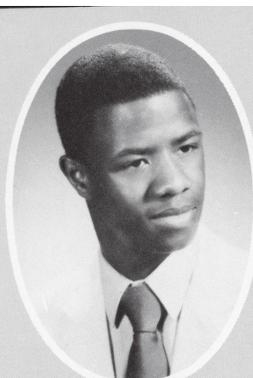
"My son takes after my father and brothers," she said of Jurij. "Building things and fixing cars and things around the house. He is currently enrolled in I.U.O.E. Local 68 four-year apprentice training program. He can do anything he puts his mind to. I can always count on him."



Mark Di Gennaro



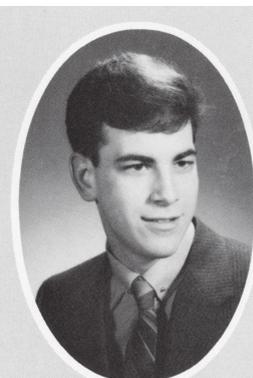
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Clifton-Connected

Cliftonites stick together and, for Maria Salerno, that meant hanging out in the spots-to-be while she was growing up in our city.

Popular hang-outs were Rizzuto-Berra Bowling Lanes in Styertowne, United Skates of America rink in Willowbrook and Clifton destinations like Frill's, The Pizza Garden, and Bruno's.

And, of course, there was one song that was the soundtrack to those days. "Born to be Wild," laughed Salerno, 58. "That's our class song."

Salerno lived in Montclair Heights and attended School 16 and Woodrow Wilson. She grew up as the youngest member in the household with her parents, Superior Court Judge Joseph and Concetta, a nurse at the old St. Mary's Hospital. Her older siblings are Joe (CHS 1973), Anne (CHS 1975), Jim (CHS 1980), and Michael (CHS 1983).

A self-described "social butterfly", Salerno remembered the Distributive Education program and how much of an influence teachers Mr. Rufo and Mr. Valenzano had on students. "They were awesome. They taught you a lot about preparing for life after high school with interviews and the business aspect of things," she said. "We went on trips. It was so nice."

Senior year gave her an opportunity to attend school half-day and work in the afternoon for two years at Channel Lumber in the Clifton Shopping Plaza by Bruno's.

Salerno's next stop was the Capri Institute of Hair Design, which was located on Main Ave. and across the street from Corrado's. She worked at two hair salons in Willowbrook Mall before she worked nearly 27 years at Nina's beauty salon, 147 Valley Rd.

Being a Cliftonite through-and-through meant that Salerno's own kids went through the school district. Her daughter, Nicole Wiebe (CHS 2017), played Girls Volleyball for all four years, and her son, Joseph Wiebe (CHS 2022), played Ice Hockey for all four years.

Salerno re-connected with former Mustang and friend Andrew "Drew" Jenkusky (CHS 1980). They hadn't seen each other for 35 years until Facebook reunited the now-couple. Salerno's high school friends were Paulette (Balkjy) Kashtan, Carol (Filipowitz) Lavin, Angie (Pecoraro) Quinlan, AnnaMarie (Limite) Rioux, Karin Korb, and Dawn (Sansico) Smaha. There was also classmate Jill (Stolarz) Rubio, who passed away in 2013.



Maria Salerno with kids Joseph Wiebe and Nicole Wiebe.

Blast from the Past

Unity and camaraderie is what Greg Munk remembers most about his high school years.

"Clifton had 3,000 kids in the school and, out of the 3,000, [our class] was like a family," said Munk, 58. "Everyone pretty much got along and stuck together. Very rarely did we have [any] problems or fights."

"We all kind of took up for each other," he added. "If anything, it was us against whoever else."

The mentality has served him well over the years. The Dutch Hill native went to School 15 and Christopher Columbus before taking up with the Showband of the North-east. Munk played the baritone horn and recalled the rigorous training.

"[Mr. Robert Morgan] didn't play any games. That's why we were as good as we were back then," said Munk. "He definitely had a reputation, without a doubt."

That work ethic has translated into his life and career post-high school. Munk went straight to work in the building trades for a few years and did commercial HVAC work for contractors like McBride Mechanical.

He transitioned next to becoming a Passaic County Sheriff's Officer, which he did for five years. Munk worked for a period of time with Bell Atlantic and was still with them when they made the switch to Verizon. As for what he's doing today? "I'm in my 24th year as a longshoreman," said

Munk. Adding, “I’m not going anywhere else. Show’s over.” He works a rotating shift out of the Port of New York and New Jersey, where longshoremen oversee what enters and exits the country. He loads and unloads containers and cargo ships.

“There are car ships as well. Anything that is imported like Jaguars, Mercedes, Honda, Lexus, or BMW,” he said. “Any car that is not made here, we’re responsible for bringing them into the country. We take the car off the ship before there are even stickers on them.”

Munk’s family growing up included his parents, Walter and Johnnie Mae, and siblings Sheila, Emma, Walter, Linda, and Sherri. All of the siblings aside from Emma, who went to school in Wayne, graduated from CHS.

Munk is married today to Stephanie and is father to Rashon, Nicole, Rachel, and Gregory. He lives in Green Township and has spent his free time since the 80’s DJing for fun at parties and doing occasional gigs. He also rides his Harley locally and owns a racecar.

Classmates that he is still in touch with include AnnaMarie (Limite) Rioux, Lisa (Silvester) Zuccheri, John McClain, and Dwayne Maulpsby.

“If I could do high school all over, I would do it again,” said Munk. “I had a blast.”



CHS 1985 classmates, from left, John Luciano, John McLean, Maria Salerno, Greg Munk, AnnaMarie (Limite) Rioux.

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Always Hustling

There was an entire ecosystem inside the walls of CHS, but John Luciano does still remember what was going on in the world during his high school years. “I remember the Jimmy Carter era. I’d always be kicking and moaning, because I had to go with mom waiting on line for gas in the car,” said Luciano, 57. “I remember the Iran hostage crisis, the soccer team, and I do remember Reagan.”

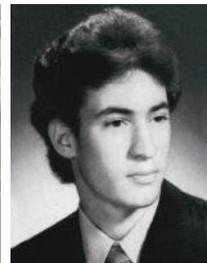
“It seemed like an uplifting time at that point in time,” he continued. “Once I owned a home in the mid-90’s ... I started paying more attention to the markets and interest rates, because it affected my job. But as a young guy, I definitely wasn’t political.”

Luciano got his start in the apartments right across from Christopher Columbus on Day St. It was just him and his mother, Jane Francis Luciano, after they lost his father and professional boxer, John Victor “Sonny” Luciano, when Luciano was a young boy.

His days were spent at School 1, then two years at St. Paul’s on Main Ave., then at Columbus before he and his peers got to CHS. Luciano played baseball from Little League until when he graduated.

“That’s how Johnny McClain and I became best friends,” said Luciano. “Going to Christopher Columbus and then playing baseball together.” Luciano was a pitcher and made Varsity in his junior and senior years. Although he was not as academically focused as perhaps others in his class, there were teachers who still stand out to him 40 years later.

“Mrs. Janice DeLorenzo was a Psychology teacher and I have sent her flowers on Valentine’s Day each year since I graduated,” said Luciano. “I’m in contact with her family.”



John Luciano and Deborah Caudullo.

There is Coach Paul Pignatello, who he speaks to numerous times in a given year; coaches Jim Hill and Angelo Intile, and there was the late Mrs. Staulbaum.

“Coach Pignatello and Mrs. DeLorenzo were the epitome of what teachers should be,” said Luciano. “I was not your prototypical good student. In fact, to be fair, aside from Mrs. DeLorenzo and the others, a lot of people probably dreaded class if I was in it. But those that I mentioned, I guess they understood,” he continued. “And I didn’t forget.”

When speaking last month, Luciano was visiting former classmate Neil Patel in Pennsylvania. Luciano recalled how the two got working papers at age 14 or 15 and then got jobs at AGL Welding. Luciano worked at Ackermann Auto in Botany when he was about 15 or 16.

But his big gig was as a paperboy. His routes got big over the years that it became his full-time job and he brought on seven people who did routes for him. It allowed him to save his money to buy his house in Lincoln Park. "I did that for a number of years," he said. "But we unfortunately were pushed out of business by The New York Times."

It is partly how Luciano got into title work. He already had experience in the area prior to running his paper business, because he did work in the Passaic County Surrogate's Office the summer after his graduation.

The following year, he received a call from what is now the County Clerk's Office asking if he would be interested in working there to service title searchers. He worked in the map room to pull any documents that people needed and, as he got friendly with them, eventually left and became a title searcher himself.

Luciano did that work until 1994 and then returned to it from 1998 until August of 2023, which is when he went out of business. His latest pivot was going to Jersey Tractor Trailer School, where he got his commercial driver's license. His current job is instructing candidates on how to pass the motor vehicle test.

His next move is to Pennsylvania with fiancée Deborah Caudullo, who he met in eighth grade and dated until 10th grade when she left CHS. They got closer in 2019 and engaged in 2020. "We never lost contact," said Luciano. "Now here we are, all these years later, together."

Sports and Service

John McClain's best basketball game as a freshman ended with him scoring 37 points.

"That was before the three-point shot was allowed," said McClain, 57. "One guy would score, then I would score. We were going back and forth, but we did win the game."

McClain played guard on the Boys Basketball team for four years with Coach Angelo Intile. He was awarded the CHS Basketball Player of the Year. McClain played center field under Coach Paul Pignatello's Clifton Baseball team for four years. His friends during those years were John Luciano, Steve Ramsthaler, and the late Bobby Vecino.

"Bobby was my partner-in-crime on the high school team," he said.

The Allwood native's family was John "Jack" McClain and Maryann Corradino, step-mom Pat, and his brother, Jeff (CHS 1995). From his days attending School 9, Christopher Columbus, and eventually CHS, McClain described himself as being a "jock through and through."

"I did love basketball," he said, "but I kind of used it to stay in shape for baseball, because there were no baseball academies like there are today where you can go and hit with your friends."

"When I was a kid, you played whatever sport was seasonal," continued McClain. "Baseball in the summer, football in the fall. We bounced season-to-season." 



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Where Are These '85 Mustangs Now?

His Clifton sports accomplishments included being on the 1985 1st Team All League, 1st Team All County, and 1st Team All Area. McClain was selected by the St. Louis Cardinals in Round #26 (#670 overall) of the 1985 Amateur Entry Draft (June-Reg Phase) while in CHS.

What he opted to do was play collegiately for Montclair State. McClain became a three-time all-NJAC performer from 1986 to 1989 and helped the Red Hawks win the NCAA Division III National Championship in 1987.

When McClain was drafted again, it was to the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 1989 Major League Baseball amateur draft. He spent two seasons with the organization. But the breadth of his professional career took him in a different direction: service.

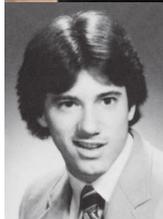
"I was supposed to be a Clifton fireman after I was released from Minor League Baseball," said McClain. "My friend Vinny Colavitti called me. He and father, Vince Sr., told me to take the Port Authority test."

"I didn't know what the Port Authority was. I thought that and the transit were one-in-the-same, but there is a big difference," he added. "They told me there was a lot of overtime, so I went to the World Trade Center the next day, grabbed an application, and filled it out."

McClain officially started on the job Nov. 1, 1993. He spent 15 years working closely with the federal drug task force and retired from the job in 2021. He has spent the last four years as a security guard in the Pequannock Township School District.



John McClain with Michele Prato (CHS 1992).



Outside of his day job, McClain has never strayed too far from sports. He got involved with coaching throughout the years, whether it was for New Jersey Sparks for 10 seasons or at Pequannock Township High School as the top assistant coach from 2015 to 2018. He was named interim head coach for William Paterson's softball team in February 2020 as well.

"The most rewarding part is the communication with the players and teaching the parts of the game," said McClain. "I have always told people, 'If the thrill of winning and competing eludes me, the Good Lord can take me.'"

Competing and teaching are two things that he loves, but he also enjoys being a security guard in the town where he lives. He learned early on from the school's principal that students will talk to the security team before they sometimes confide in teachers or the administration.

He strives to give guidance to the students who are seeking it from an adult figure. "I didn't believe it at first, but he was 100% right," said McClain. "I give guidance to them like I might to my own children, and I think a lot of them know I'm not fake. I am what I am."

McClain is a father of four to TJ, Jessica, Kellyann, and Jonnalyn. He is also a grandfather to three granddaughters with another little girl on the way. His girlfriend is Michele Prato (CHS 1992).

"I've had a pretty good run. I really have no complaints," said McClain. "I have great friends, family, a great girlfriend, and great kids who I love to death. I'm a pretty lucky man."

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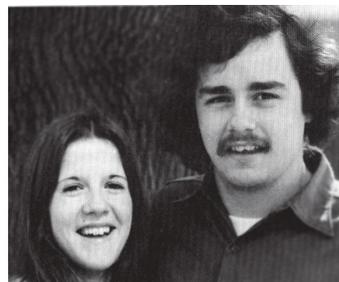


Where Are These '75 Mustangs Now?



Above, Leslie Nash in an opening page photo from the yearbook. At right, that's "Romeo & Juliet" Barbara LaRosa and Bob Bias, who are still happily living their love story.

All the world's a stage, as the Bard once said, but the Mustangs who graduated in 1975 were more than players. They were game changers, some going into fields like healthcare or teaching. Others became business owners, civic and community leaders. These grads were also about to experience a new world where the din of bombs and war in Vietnam ceased. But something



new was looming below the surface as Steven Spielberg's "Jaws" hit theaters and became the first modern blockbuster. And then there were marriages, children and today — grandchildren!



Grazing In The Grass from left, Billy Taylor, Brenda Solomon, Paul Rubenstein and Robin Sieber. At an assembly, the 1975 version of the Mamas and the Papas: Ray Holbert, Jan Shewchuk, Bob Lucas and Debbie McGowan.

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Where Are These '75 Mustangs Now?

Happy in Her Hometown

Terry Contrino Putignano moved often as a child, but she never left her hometown.

“[We] moved about every five years,” said Putignano, “but we always stayed in Clifton, because my mom wanted to keep me in the school system.”

Putignano grew up with her parents, Leonard and Rose (Patierno), sister Pat (CHS 1965), and brother Tom (CHS 1971). The School 15 and CCJH alumna spent her high school years going to concerts at the Capitol Theatre in Passaic.

Whether it was country rock band Poco or Bruce Springsteen, she and her friends were no further than the fourth row.

“My brother was the concert manager,” said Putignano, 67. “We’d wear our ‘comp’ passes on the thigh part of our jeans.”

Stand-out teachers were Ms. Mae Schlessinger for Yoga, Mr. Gerard Mangini for Algebra, and Ms. Marjorie Surgent for Language Arts. She took Psychology class with Mr. William Cannici.

“When I remember him, he would take a seat on the front part of his desk very casually and sort of chat with us,” said Putignano. “We were learning through conversation with him.”

Putignano earned her nursing degree from Bergen Community College and got her professional start at Barnert Hospital in Paterson. She did floor nursing for about a year until she transitioned into operating room nursing for about 15 years.

She worked for about 10 years with allergist-immunologist Dr. Robert Klein on Clifton Ave. The last 18 years until retirement in 2020 were spent in Morristown Medical Center’s OR. Retiring in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic was tough, but she didn’t let that stop her from helping.

“I knew there was no way that most seniors would be able to [schedule vaccinations] for themselves,” she said. “So I helped a lot of seniors in the neighborhood and beyond.”

Putignano helped over 75 people secure COVID-19 vaccination appointments in 2021. The late Councilwoman Lauren Murphy later selected her as a 2023 Clifton Woman of the Year honoree.



Terry Contrino Putignano, husband Rudy, granddaughter Cecilia, son Anthony, daughter-in-law Donna (Newton), daughter-in-law Amanda (Gonzalez), son Chris.

Putignano is married to fellow Mustang Rudy (CHS 1972). They’re parents to Chris (CHS 2003) and Anthony (CHS 2007). Rudy’s five siblings graduated from CHS, including Aldo (CHS 1968), who taught Elementary K-6 and later K-5 in Clifton for 39 years as an art teacher.

You may recall that Rudy also owned Belly Buster on the corner of Main and Piaget Aves. in the 80’s and 90’s.

“We take annual trips, sometimes twice a year now, to Mexico mostly. We are members of a vacation club,” said Putignano. “About nine years ago, we took a trip of a lifetime to Italy for three weeks. That was fabulous.”

From Styertowne to School 16

Grove St. is the center of it all for Susan (Stier) Boscia. The Nottingham Terrace native grew up attending School 16 and WWJH before the street took on a new meaning.

“For the last 10 years of my teaching career, I taught at School 16,” said Boscia, 67. “I started at School 16 and ended at School 16.”

Family kept Boscia in Clifton. It was “an extremely conscious decision” to stay close to parents Robert (CHS 1951) and Edith, a long-time School 5 secretary, and brother Mark (CHS 1978).

It has also meant a lot for the Richfield resident to stay close to her family’s legacy: Styertowne Shopping Center. Boscia is the granddaughter of Albert Stier, who constructed the center in the early 1950s. Boscia’s first job was working the 6 am shift at Bond’s Ice Cream at age 14.

Boscia's vivid memory of high school was how she and her friends "always snuck out for lunch." Eating spots were Frills, The Hot Grill, and even Howard Johnson's.

"By senior year, we were going out every single day," said Boscia. "The goal was to park on the street so you could move your car. A few times, we had to drive over the curb to get out of the parking lot."

Boscia received her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, K-8 at William Paterson. She taught Basic Skills at School 11 before transitioning to fourth grade. Boscia worked at Schools 1 and 16, teaching second grade and as a Basic Skills Instruction teacher. She retired in 2014 from the Clifton Public Schools after 34 years.

"As a teacher, it is not about math, reading, or social studies," said Boscia. "Kids come to school with their own individual issues. In order to get them to learn, you have to deal with those issues first. Watching them grow and helping them through things like that was just amazing."



Susan (Stier) Boscia with daughters Ashley (Stys) Mistak and Anna Boscia. Left: Susan in 1975.

Boscia worked at CHS' graduation as recently as two years ago. Seeing her former students on the graduation line was a tremendous feeling.

"Having children remember you and knowing that you made an imprint on someone's life [is incredible]," she said.

Boscia married classmate Steve Stys, with whom she shares daughter Ashley (Stys) Mistak (CHS 2004). She is married today to Nicholas Boscia, and they are parents to Anna Boscia (CHS 2023). Boscia babysits her 5-year-old twin grandchildren every day.

Boscia is also a volunteer reader at Clifton Early Learner Academy on Brighton Rd. and was a union representative for almost 25 years. Her friends include Louise Barbary, the wife of former Superintendent Anthony Barbary, and School 11 colleagues Sharyn Nadel and Jackie Beratis.

"I love going out for lunch with my retired Clifton friends," she said. "My family also has a shore

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Where Are These '75 Mustangs Now?



John and Barbara (Bania) Van Kalsbeck with grandkids John, William, Jackson, Athena and Taylor. Top right, Nancy DeBiase and Sal Lagattuta in 2025. Below, Nancy and Ellen Ayers in 1975.



house, and I love going out to dinner with my husband and spending time with my daughters.”

Boscia will be more than an attendee for her next class reunion. She and Paula Musciotto are co-chairs of the 50th reunion, which is set for Nov. 15 at 6 pm at the Glen Ridge Country Club. Join Facebook pages “CHS Class Reunion 1975” and “CHS 1975” for details or to directly call Boscia at the number listed.

Parallel Paths

They all attended William Paterson.

They all became teachers. Little did we know when we heard from three Mustangs in a class of over 1,000 students, the story would write itself. So, what came next for them?

“I went to William Paterson and became a teacher,” said Ellen Ayers-Byrnes. “I married in 1981, stayed in Clifton, and taught at Holy Trinity School in Passaic.”

Ayers-Byrnes’ husband Mark (CHS 1973) became an FBI agent. The couple moved to Buffalo and had two children. They returned to our city in 1989, living on Union Ave. for six years, and sent their children to School 3. They’ve lived in Pompton Plains since 1995.

Ayers-Byrnes taught fourth grade in School 11 for 25 years until her retirement in 2019. Today she watches her two grandkids, attends Jazzercise, travels, and is part of the Bergen County Audubon Society.

“I can’t really believe 50 years have passed, but I feel very blessed and fortunate to be living a great life,” said Ayers-Byrnes.

Nancy (DeBiase) Lagattuta’s teaching career began at Holy Trinity School in Passaic for eight years. She completed her teaching career at Pearl R. Miller School in Kinnelon for another 25 years before retiring to Bradley Beach.

She and her husband, Sal Lagattuta, wed in 1994 and previously lived in Sussex. Lagattuta enjoys reading (she leads her own book club), yoga, and traveling.

“Clifton memories have always been a fond part of my past,” said Lagattuta.

Barbara Bania’s love story began with John Van Kalsbeck (CHS 1974) in the fall of 1974. The Cheer Captain met John at a friend’s party.

“Fifty years later, we have triplets, their spouses, and, so far, five grandchildren,” said Barbara. “We have traveled extensively throughout the United States and Europe, and we’ve taken six cruises throughout the Caribbean islands and Alaska.”

Barbara’s bachelor’s degree was in Elementary and Special Education. She became a Special Education Resource Center teacher in Lincoln Park for 25 years. She also received a master’s in Special Education and LDTC certification from William Paterson.

She and John wed in 1978 at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. They lived for five years in our city before moving to Lincoln Park. They welcomed children Kyle, Amy, and Brad in 1988. The former Mustangs still visit The Hot Grill and Mario’s. Barbara also reconnected for the first time since high school with Ayers-Byrnes through Jazzercise.

“Together,” Barbara said, “we continue to live the American Dream with family and friends.”

Once A Candy Striper

Walking into a hospital at 15 years old would overwhelm many teenagers, but Dr. Theresa Soroko knew she was in the right place.

“My mother had me volunteer as a candy striper,” said Soroko, “but it was in college that I started to blossom and really entered the healthcare field.”

The Essex County resident grew up across the street from School 13 and attended WWJH. Her CHS clubs were Psychology Club, Latin Club, and Majorette Club. Soroko earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from William Paterson, starting as a registered nurse in the ICU at Saint Michael’s Medical Center.

“I always knew that I wanted to advance in my career, but at that point, I wasn’t sure which path to take,” said Soroko. “Working alongside interns and residents in a teaching hospital made me realize that I wanted to become a doctor and take that next step.”

Soroko continued to work full time as an RN while meeting her pre-med requirements. Her next stop was St. George’s University in Grenada to pursue her medical degree. She completed both her internal medicine residency



and a fellowship in infectious disease at Saint Michael’s. Since 1990, she has operated Essex County Infectious Disease in Bloomfield.

“I enjoy the challenge of figuring things out, like solving a medical mystery,” she said. “It feels great knowing I’ve made a real impact on someone’s health.”

Her family laid a firm foundation. Her parents, Samuel and Julia, taught her the value of hard work and staying grounded. Older brothers Thomas, a Pope Pius grad, and Sam (CHS 1971) taught her about strength and being supportive. “Together,” she said, “Clifton and family shaped who I am today.”

Mustang Mentor

CHS was good to Jim Hobin, so paying that generosity forward wasn’t mechanical. So-to-speak.

Hobin’s early life began in Lakeview with his parents, James and Florence. He attended School 4 and CCJH before joining extracurriculars like Cross Country, Swimming, Track, and Choir. He lives in Montclair with his wife, Patricia, and is father to adult twins Kyle and Keith.

Hobin’s initial exposure to the world of robotics

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Where Are These **(75)** Mustangs Now?

was through his sons when they were freshman at Montclair High School. He recalled how the principal had encouraged parents to get their kids involved with clubs.

“I was a three-sport guy in high school,” said Hobin, 67. “So that night when I went home, I said, ‘As a favor to your father, join a team so that you get the idea of being on a team in high school.’”

“They said, ‘Dad, we’re geeky kind of guys,’” he recalled. Laughing, he added, “The truth of the matter was, they were.”

But they did join a team a couple of months later. Their interest in robotics led to Hobin checking it out and growing fascinated by it. Hobin was involved in coaching the team once the boys were juniors and eventually heard from his former classmate John Traier who wanted to hear about it.

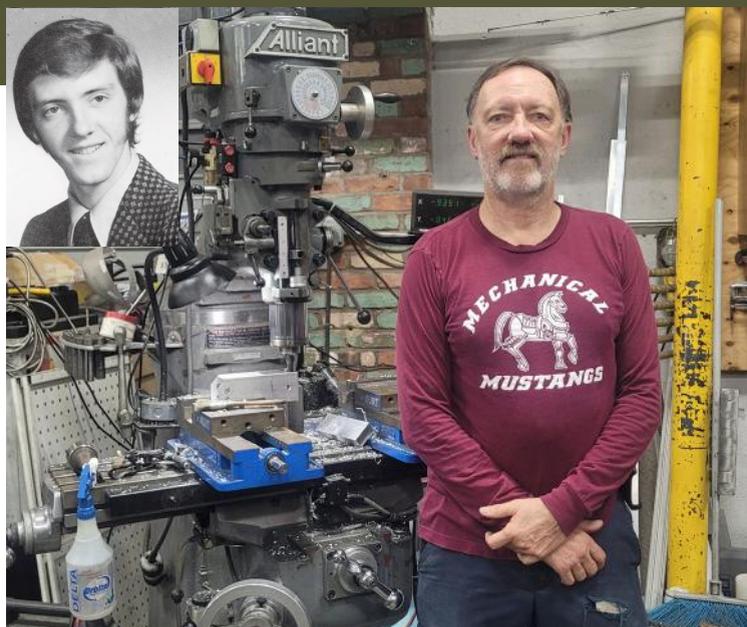
“John brought me to a Board meeting,” said Hobin. “Then Clifton adopted the program, and I started a team there.” The history of the Mechanical Mustangs starts on page 10 of our June 2025 edition.

Hobin’s own background included running Track for Adams State in Colorado until transferring back home to Fairleigh Dickinson. The Mustang mentor graduated with a degree in Business and already had a company that he created in 1981.

What began as mostly commercial and industrial construction shifted toward his industrial engineering work today with food packaging. He operates out of a warehouse located just across the street from CHS, which he also donates on a daily basis to the Robotics team.

“There are so many things that you can do with robotics. It’s got to be the way of the future,” he said. “These kids are well-sought after. It is not just colleges coming to our events, like the kids are football players, planting a seed for once they graduate or are looking for internships.”

“Boeing, NASA, the CIA, the Department of Defense. They want these kids,” said Hobin. “These are the kids that put the time in, have the work ethic, and don’t say, ‘No’ to a problem. They say, ‘I’ll figure it out.’ That’s what we’re trying to instill.”



Anne (Salerno) Neczeper with, from left, husband Dan, Sophia, Diana, son-in-law Pat, and Daniel.

Next Stop: Loving Grandma

Neighbors made Clifton a great place to grow up in the 60’s for Anne (Salerno) Neczeper.

“You were close to them. When you went to Church [at St. Philip’s], the priest knew you,” said Neczeper, 68. “It was ... and still is a good place to live.”

She and her husband, Board of Health President Dan Neczeper (CHS 1972), raised their kids Daniel (CHS 2003) and Diana Lake (CHS 2008) in our city and never left.

City of Clifton

ONLINE RECRUITMENT

July 28, 2025 - August 8, 2025

The City of Clifton is accepting applications **ONLINE** for employment from residents of Passaic and Essex Counties, without regard to race, color, gender, or ethnic origin for full-time and part-time positions.

CIVIL SERVICE NON-COMPETITIVE TITLES

- **Laborer 1 (Class B Commercial Drivers License preferred)** \$35,000–\$59,866
- **Keyboarding Clerk 1** \$33,000–\$47,779
- **Public Safety Telecommunicator** \$45,000–\$66,625
- **Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee** \$35,000
- **Omnibus Operator** \$35,000–\$57,036
- **Parking Enforcement Officer** \$16/hr

CIVIL SERVICE COMPETITIVE TITLES*

- **Code Enforcement Officer** \$40,000–\$64,860
- **Public Health Nurse (P/T)** \$30/hr

* These positions are open to any individual who meets the requirements established by the New Jersey Civil Service Commission.

The City of Clifton does not guarantee the availability of these or any other job opportunities. However, to be considered for any open position, you must submit an online employment application at www.cliftonnj.org (search "Job Opportunities"). **Applications will be accepted online starting at 8:00 AM on Monday, July 28, 2025, and will close promptly at 4:00 PM on Friday, August 8, 2025.**



ONE APPLICATION PER POSITION

Ongoing applications will be accepted for the following positions:

- **Public Safety Telecommunicator Trainee** \$35,000
- **School Traffic Guard** \$16/hr

You will be required to provide your government issued photo ID and Social Security card upon offer of employment.

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Her parents, Superior Court Judge Joseph Salerno and Concetta, built the house that they live in today and where she grew up with siblings Joe (CHS 1973), Jim (CHS 1980), Michael (CHS 1983), and Maria (CHS 1985). Diana and husband, Pat Lake (CHS 2008), live next door.



“Diana was in the Marching Band, too,” said Neczpir. “I was assistant band manager my junior year and band manager my senior year. She was the same. It’s cool that history repeated itself. She played the clarinet, too, and met her husband in the band.”

Pat’s father and uncle, Greg and Gary, were also in the Class of 1975 and in the band with Neczpir. Diana, a fifth grade teacher at School 12, and Pat are now parents to soon-to-be School 16 first grader Sophia, 6, and Daniel, 2.

Neczpir attended Berkeley Secretarial School, then in East Orange, before working for the vice president of a cosmetic and industrial market research company. She wed Dan in 1980 and then stayed home after having Daniel. She later worked weekends, packing candy or making trays of cookies and candies, at Holsten’s in Bloomfield.

“It was a little something that I could do but still be with the kids.”

She then became a paraprofessional when former School 16 principal Michelle Christadore saw how good she was with kids while being active in the HSA. Neczpir worked in Schools 8 and 9, retiring when Sophia was born.

“My husband and I watch [our grandkids] while my daughter and son-in-law are at work,” said Neczpir. “They’re the loves of our lives.”

The Grass is Always Greener

It wasn’t unusual for Steve Stys (above then and now) or kids his age to jump on their bicycles and ride to a friend’s house or to Rowe Manse in Styertowne for penny candy.

It also wasn’t out-of-the-ordinary to play sports with the Southern Division or spend summers in the parks with friends while directors put on activities each day.

“At night, the neighborhood kids got together and we hung out,” said Stys, 68. “The whole world has changed. You don’t see kids doing a whole lot of that anymore.”



Stys lived on Pershing Rd. with his parents, Steve and Dolores, and siblings Stephanie (CHS 1972) and Francis Wojcik (CHS 1978). He attended School 14 and WWJH before becoming a member of the Marching Band at CHS.

“That basically took over my life,” he said. “The friends that I made through the band, I still have today. I

have a lot of great memories of traveling to Disney World in Florida, Bermuda, and New Orleans.”

Stys studied ornamental horticulture at Delaware Valley University and, in 1983, bought Leonard Reinhardt Inc. from his uncle who started the commercial landscape business in 1957. Stys had 12 vehicles and 16 guys working for him at the business’s height.

The Pequannock resident sold the business and retired five years ago. He lives in the township with his wife, Susan, and is a father of three daughters: Ashley (with his ex-wife, Susan Boscia), Megan, and Melissa. He is now grandfather to Kip and Sophie (pictured on cover) and Addison. Stys enjoys spending his free time outdoors, just like he did when he had his business. These days you might spot him building a deck for one daughter or doing a whole backyard patio for another one.

“I enjoy doing something every day,” he said. “My neighbor laughs at me, because I’m out twice a week cutting my lawn.”

A Numbers Man

Do you remember when you could go to the theater for \$17.50? That, unironically, set the stage for John Traier’s life and future community-minded interests.

“I believe Cabaret was my first show. The original one in the 60’s,” said Traier, 68. “I was pretty young, but I absolutely loved it. I got a tour backstage and was really impressed.” Traier’s hook was that his father, John, was an accountant for a major stagehand in New York.

Parents John and Martha, who taught commercial subjects and history in CHS before he was born, often brought Traier to see shows.

“We were always able to get house seats for a number of years and then, after that, the bug had bit and I was really into theater,” recalled Traier. “My friends and I went in quite a bit, because it was so close.”



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Where Are These '75 Mustangs Now?

The Lakeview native, who attended School 11 and CCJH, also remembered a class trip later in senior year to see Diana Rigg in *The Misanthrope*.

“It’s always been a tremendous advantage for Clifton to be so close to the city,” said Traier. “You could really fill your ability to see Broadway shows and musicals.”

“I think [Diana Rigg] came to speak to our class after. It was a nice exposure to the theater,” he continued. “My parents and Clifton High really fed that.”

Traier studied Economics at Rutgers before receiving his master’s degree in Accounting. There was also a civic-minded side to him. Traier was elected to the city’s Board of Education in 2002 and served for three consecutive terms. He was co-chairman of the Young Republican National Federation for two years and was a presidential elector for George H. W. Bush in 1988.

His career began with Deloitte Haskins & Sells for four years before opening his practice. He remains a self-employed CPA and has served as Treasurer for the Theater League of Clifton since founding it with his husband, Mark Peterson, and a group of residents in 2005.

“It’s lasted. There’s a demand for it in the community,” said Traier, proudly. The Wayne resident readily admitted it’s hard to produce community theater.



John Traier with husband Mark Peterson.

The cost of paying musicians and getting the rights to shows is one expense. A lack of venues is also difficult. The TLC continues to look for a home. Find upcoming events at theaterleagueofclifton.com.

“My hope is to somehow find a more permanent venue,” said Traier. “And that the city comes to realize the importance of having a great recreational facility where we can perform.”

Summer Sun Safety Tips

Too much sun can harm our bodies. Here are some tips to keep you safe and cool this summer!

Cool Clothing
Wear light-colored clothes

Shade
Take a break under a tree or an umbrella to cool off

Stay Indoors
Limit time outdoors and make use of fans and air conditioners to stay cool

Hydrate
Be sure to drink lots of water. Added bonus if you add lemon or electrolytes

Sun Screen
30+ SPF sunscreen everyday is a great way to keep your skin safe from harmful UV-rays

Hats
For the most protection, wear a hat that has a brim all the way around that shades your face, your ears, and the back of your neck
If you wear a baseball cap, you should also protect your ears and the back of your neck

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Sunglasses
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The Mustang Behind the Puppets

No one's speaking for Josh Herman. The lifelong resident and puppeteer had plenty to say after traveling nearly 7,000 miles for a workshop in South Korea as part of the 2025 World Puppetry Festival.

Herman (CHS 1975) is both a puppeteer and magician who was selected to take part in the workshop of Korean traditional puppetry, music, and dance.

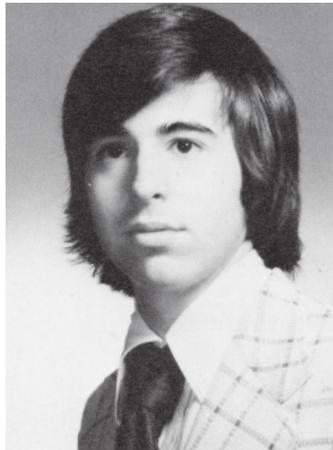
The festival was sponsored by UNIMA-USA (Union Internationale de la Marionnette), University of California Santa Cruz, and Eumma Performance Company in Seongnam, South Korea, which is just outside of Seoul.

Herman was there alongside 12 workshop participants, which included educators, museum curators, and performers from around the world.

"UNIMA has branches in 90 countries," said Herman. "It was an intensive four days of being immersed in design, wood, carving, puppetry, painting, performance, and theatre."

It was also a chance for Herman to reunite with another puppeteer. Herman met Daejin Eum, the director of Eumma Performance Company, in 2019 at Team Land Studios in Las Vegas.

Team Land and founders Scott and Lisa Land are responsible for puppetry performances in the movies "Team



America World Police", "Buttons: A Christmas Tale", starring Dick Van Dyke and Angela Lansbury, and many television performances, including "The Pee-wee Herman Show" and other commercials.

"[Daejin Eum and I had] struck up a friendship and in the evening explored downtown Las Vegas," said Herman. "Any language barrier was overcome by friendship and mutual respect."

The trip to South Korea gave Herman a chance to meet Eum's wife and son, as well as "the entire group of talented performers of the Eumma Performance Company."

Each member of Eum's company is well-versed on puppet construction and performance.

The company is also experienced when it comes to incorporating traditional Korean music and dance into their artistry.

"Having never been to Asia, I'm so glad I made this trip," said Herman. "South Korea is an amazing country: remarkably clean, tremendous food, and steeped in culture with an eye to the future and technology."

"I learned so many new skills that I can apply to my puppetry," he continued, "saw so many wonderful things, and have memories that will last a lifetime."

Go to joshhermanmagiccircus.com to learn more about his craft.

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He worked. He hustled. And thanks to Clifton's kindness, Joe Siano was the 2025 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Visionary of the Year.



No, we're not green with envy. Our community is full of pride for Siano and his Green Team having raised over \$138,000 in 10 weeks for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

We're also not surprised. There was no doubt when Clifton's LLS fundraiser Joe Cupoli passed the baton to Siano, of JK Realty, that he would run just as far and make as much of an impact on the fight against blood cancer.

"The day I had my nomination meeting with Joe, I knew that he had the heart, drive, and focus to do something very special," said Cupoli. "He put his plan in place, believed in himself and the LLS mission, and worked his butt off with his incredibly supportive team. I'm so very proud of him."

Last month, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's New Jersey Region recognized Siano, who is a Clifton realtor and Board of Education Commissioner, with the honor. The recognition followed his 10-week fundraising campaign that ran from March 26 to June 4 and raised a total of \$138,749.

"Within the 10 weeks, Joe had major surgery and still managed to be top winner and earned the most," said Gina Matano-Scaduto, who also joined him at The LLS

The Green Army June 4 at the Visionary Award dinner, from left: Jack Mayo, Ronald Pugaczewski, Reed Berinato, Peter Best, Joseph Siano, Gerard Scorziello, Viviana Pugaczewski, Rickey Di Maria. Below, Siano and Joe Cupoli.



Foundation for the honor. “A well deserved award.”

Siano’s participation in the Visionaries of the Year competition was in honor of his friends and family affected by blood cancers. It was in recognition of his own ongoing battle with prostate cancer as well.

From a lively brownie bake-off paired with karaoke night at Pizzeria Uno to a tequila tasting at the JK office, and from band night at the Boys & Girls Club to an unforgettable performance by Jersey Sound at the Athenia Veterans Post, every event was a testament to the power of collective effort, said Siano.

“I honestly never expected to win this incredible honor,” Siano stated. “The true magic was seeing the entire community rally behind this cause, proving that the Green Army was unstoppable. When I first started the campaign for LLS, I focused on raising as much money as possible to support their life-saving mission.”

“The honor of being recognized as Visionary of the Year is both humbling and inspiring to me. This award belongs to every person in our community and beyond who supported our efforts,” he continued. “It was their generosity and compassion that made this possible.”

For over 75 years, LLS has invested more than \$1.8 billion in groundbreaking research with the lasting pur-

pose of searching for cures. LLS is dedicated to accelerating research, providing free support and services, and advocating for policies to ensure access to quality, affordable care.

Siano grew up in Dutch Hill with parents Joseph Sr. and Louise and siblings Deanna and Kathryn. He attended Clifton elementary schools, Woodrow Wilson Middle School, and graduated with the Class of 2001.

Siano’s community involvement has included joining the Knights of Columbus in 2016, working alongside the Power of One Christian Coaching and Outreach Ministries, Inc., and becoming a major contributor for the Clifton Education Foundation in the past few years.

Separately, he has worked for about four years with his wife, Rickey Di Maria, at JK Realty, 270 Colfax Ave. He was elected to the Board of Education in 2023.

“This achievement stands as one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life,” he said last week. “I’m honored to now join their leadership committee to continue this important mission. The fight isn’t over, but with this incredible momentum, the future looks that much brighter. Together, we can make a difference.”

Join Siano in the fight against blood cancer. Visit lls.org to donate or write josephsianojr@gmail.com.

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Colts 10U Blue Baseball Champs include Alex Gunn, Chris Arguello, Jack Fowler, Carmelo Ferrandiz Ronuel, Mercedes Daniel Colon, Landon Merejo, Parth Patel, Abram Cruz, Dylan Medrano, Damien Caputo, Benjamin Saunders, Noah Vargas, Angel Baez and Alex Borkowski. Coaches are Jared Fowler, Irving Colon, Tom Fudali and Eric Merejo.

The Colts 10U Blue baseball team of the Clifton Junior Athletic League won the District 7 Cal Ripken Tournament on June 27 with a comeback 5-4 victory over Chester-Mendham. They defeated Long Valley, Denville and Randolph on their way to the championship, and finished the regular season 30-7-1.

Over July 4 weekend, the Colts go to Cranford to play Berkeley Heights, South Plainfield and Bridgewater in the North Jersey State Tournament. The winner of that round goes on to the Mid Atlantic Regional.

The Colts season began in March with weekend tournaments, with the Colts 10U earning a ranking as one of the top 10 town teams in New Jersey. "These boys have been playing together since they were 7 when we started the Clifton Colts travel program," said Coach Jared Fowler. He noted that there are travel and recreation baseball for boys and girls ages 5 to 15 which are played on the home field at Albion Park. Go to cliftonbaseball.org to register for spring 2026.

Those 2,295 flags bearing broad stripes and bright stars will wave yet again on July 4 at City Hall. The display of patriotism at the Avenue of Flags doesn't happen without help. Volunteer with raising or removing flags by showing up at 6 am/pm or by calling Joe Tuzzolino or Marie

Schultheis at the Clifton flag barn 973-365-2630. To sponsor a flag in honor of a person who served in the military during war or peacetime, the fee is \$120. That pays for a flag, pole, sleeve, a name plate inscribed with the person's name and service, and ground socket. Flags are displayed on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Patriot's Day and Veteran's Day. Form available at cliftonnj.org.

Celebrate America's 249th year of Independence on July 6 at Clifton Stadium with a day-long schedule of food and fun. Food trucks open at noon and the carnival kicks off at 3 pm with games, rides, and more. Fireworks ticket holders can enter the stadium at 6:30 pm for pre-show entertainment. Pre-sale tickets are available at City Hall for \$3 or \$5 at the door. Call 973-470-5854 and ... just in case ... rain date is July 7.

The Clifton Street Fair on Sept. 21 will offer food, friends and fun along Van Houten Ave., 11 am to 5 pm. For over 20 years, community support has allowed Street Fair proceeds to go toward a music scholarship for a CHS senior and other Athenia Business Association events. Want to be a vendor/sponsor? Visit atheniabusiness.com. Questions on how to vend or for more info, call Laurie at 973-202-8578 or Chris at 201-410-1686.

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The Fresia Legacy Scholarship winner is Nazli Yildiz, above left. Foundation founder Vanessa Pinto, right, created the scholarship as a one-time \$1,500 award to defray college costs. Yildiz will attend Rutgers – New Brunswick this fall and completed over 150 hours of community service while supporting her family by working part time. As a freshman, she enrolled in ESL classes and took AP English by her senior year at CHS. “She embodies everything the Fresia Legacy Scholarship stands for,” said Pinto (CHS 2010). “Family. Community. Determination. Education.”

The Matt ‘Garbo’ Grabowski Scholarship of \$1,000 recipient is Rulan Yassin, top right. She played alto saxophone for the Mustang Marching Band, plus Jazz, Concert and Community Bands and Orchestra. She is also a pianist and performs Arabic and Middle Eastern music. Matt Grabowski (center) started playing keyboards, percussion, drums, guitar and bass guitar at age 7 and became a professional who often performed with his brother, Mayor Ray Grabowski. Matt was a Councilman from 2010 until his death in 2015 and President of the Athenia Business Association, which started the scholarship in his memory.



Five Mustangs were selected finalists for the State Teen Arts Festival. Senior Jadrian Castro for “Caged Beasts” who will study graphic design at Passaic County Community College. Senior Allison Rijo, who will study illustration at MSU, for “Jellyfish.” Senior Francesca Schiavone, who is pursuing fashion design at MSU, for “Flowers.” Senior Karen Medrano for her “Madame Morrible Costume Design” who will study architecture at NJIT. Junior Gabriella Fonseca for “Strawberry Shortcake” who is enrolled in AP Studio Art and Ceramics 2 at CHS.

CHS Class of 1970’s 55th reunion is Oct. 11 at the Best Western Executive Plus Inn, Fairfield. Find out more: email clifton1970reunion@gmail.com.

CHS Class of 1975’s 50th reunion is Nov. 15 at the Glen Ridge Country Club. Join Facebook group “CHS Class of 1975” or email CHS1975cliftonNJ@gmail.com.

CHS ’76 Mustangs Bicentennial class will host its 50th reunion in June of 2026. Email Big John George at georgesservice@gmail.com.

CHS Class of 1966’s 60th reunion is Oct. 23-25, 2026. The main event will be at the Cucina Calandra at the Best Western Executive Inn, Fairfield. Discounted hotel rates will be held for Mustangs of a certain vintage. Various activities are in the works. Write Nancy or Lois if contact information changes at chsreunion66@aol.com.

Phil Jakimowicz of St. Philip’s Pack 21 presented the Ramapo Valley Cubmaster of the Year award to David Tauber. Tauber, at right, is also turning the Five-O! on July 3. To find out more about scouting, write to pack21clifton@gmail.com. Pack 21 meets Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm in the St. Philip the Apostle Auditorium, 797 Valley Rd.

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Murder at the Banquet, a dinner theater production of the Theater League of Clifton, is set on the evening of the first Mystery Solver Hall of Fame Induction banquet. Esteemed members gather to celebrate their first Hall of Fame inductee when during a sudden blackout, their beloved president ends up with a knife in his back. How to solve a mystery when all the solvers are suspects? Come to Mario's Restaurant on July 19, 20, 26, 27, Aug. 2 and 3 to find out. Cast from front left: Victoria Lopez, Melinda DelPizzo, Leatha Sturges and director Maren Sugarman. Back: Kristal Roman, Don Flynn, Timothy Stout, Eric Bankuti, and Sheldon Stone. Tickets are \$65. Go to theaterleagueofclifton.com for info and performance times.

Clifton Arts Center's Summer Art Camp is Aug. 11-15 from 9 am to noon at the Clifton Arts Center. Instructor Beth Kearney will guide students, ages 7-12, as they explore painting, drawing, collage and sculpture. Students will complete 2-D and 3-D pieces. Register by Aug. 1. Cost is \$200 (residents) or \$225. All materials included. Students must bring nut-free snack, beverage, and sunscreen. Kearney is on staff at the Arts Center and has lived in our city for 25 years. Call the Arts Center to register by check or cash at 973-472-5499 or online at allpaid.com.

Leaning into Art-making: Drawing, Painting, Prints & Sculpture is exhibited at the CAC July 9 through Aug. 30. The show features 13 independent artists: Peter Allen, Pedro Luque, Laurie Pettine, Ray Heinz, Sarah Kurz, Neha Sampat, Judy Leeds, Joshua Lopez, John Powers, DeAnn Prosia, Linda Streicher, Elaine Smith, and Robert Smith. A meet and greet open to the public is July 12 from 1-4 pm. The exhibition highlights the artists' personal crafts and diverse artistic mediums. The CAC is open Wednesdays through Saturdays. Info: cliftonartscenter.org.

Kismet Performing Artists Theatre's fall production of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" will run Nov. 7-9 and 14-16. Auditions are July 11 from 7-9 pm and July 13 from 2-5 pm at ATC Studios, 68 Union Ave., 2nd Floor. Bring a headshot and theatre résumé. Video submissions with a short monologue in the style of the show (British accent) are accepted before July 11. Callbacks are July 14. Email kismetstagemgr@gmail.com.

Clifton Health and Clifton Arts Center present a free paint and sip on July 22 from 2-4 pm at the CAC. Registration required. Contact Health Educator Ashley Peralta at 201-739-0665 or aperalta@cliftonnj.org. Enjoy a short, presentation on how to navigate health insurance options before painting a masterpiece and sipping on mocktails.

Creatures of Summer: Sea Life, Insects and Birds is a CAC workshop with Tonia Franzese using Crayola clay on July 17 and 18, 9-11 am. For students ages 6-9, cost is \$60, or \$63 for non-residents. To register, call the CAC at 973-472-5499 or pay online at allpaid.com.

Up-Cycling Adventures with Clifton Rec & Recycling will get kids thinking and creating about the planet. Drop in the Recycling Center behind City Hall from 10 am to noon on July 19 to create one-of-a-kind up-cycled art. Other dates are Aug. 9 and Sept. 6. Free program. Visit cliftonrec.com or call 973-470-5956.

The Clifton Garden Club meets July 8 at 6:30 pm at the Allwood Library, 44 Lyall Rd. Speaker Patrick McDuffee will talk about growing lavender. Well-Sweep Herb Farm, where McDuffee is third generation, houses one of the largest collections of herbs in the country. Guests are welcome. Call Donna Fantacone at 973-473-0577.

Power of One walkers meet at Richardson Scale Park, 680 Van Houten Ave. on Mondays and Wednesdays at 8 am for an hour walk. The walk is free and so is parking.



CLIFTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Employment Opportunities

The Clifton Public School District is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

- ✓ Elementary School Teaching
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- ✓ Lunch Aides and Kindergarten Aides
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All Things Ukrainian: On Sunday, Sept. 21, from noon to dusk, wear your Vyshyvanka and get over to the Ukrainian Orthodox Holy Ascension Parish annual picnic and festival on the green lawn on Broad St. See performances of traditional dance, music and other examples of Ukrainian culture. In addition, rows of vendors will be offering embroidered clothing, crafts and imported handmade items. There will be plenty of food ranging from pierogies and kielbasi to stuffed cabbage and borscht, even hot dogs, hamburgers and French fries. *And yes there will be rozlyvne pyvo!*

Clifton Rec's Obser Concert Series runs July 13 through Aug. 24, Sunday at 7:30 pm in Main Memorial Park (Park Slope & Main Ave.) Free performances by: Clifton Community Band (July 13), Swingman & The Misfit Mutts (July 20), Emerald Experience (July 20), Mushroom (Aug. 3), Cindi Rand Band (Aug. 10), Tequila Rose (Aug. 17), The Guys on the 2nd Floor (Aug. 24). Weather worries? Call 973-470-5680 after 5 pm. Info at cliftonrec.com.

Historic Botany's Summer Concert Series continues July 11 with Angel LaBoy and Friends, bringing a mix of Salsa, Merengue and Calypso to Sullivan Square. Other concerts are July 18 and 25, and Aug. 1. Music begins at 6:30, bring chairs and show is subject to weather. Questions? Call Joe Waninger at 856-900-2200.

Friends of the Clifton Public Library's Wendy's Fundraiser is July 8, from 5-8 pm. Wendy's will donate 15% of all business conducted at 83 Main Ave. Questions? Call 973-772-5500, 973-471-0555, or visit cliftonpl.org.



Jimmy Sturr and his orchestra have played with Willie Nelson, Alison Krauss and the Oak Ridge Boys. But thanks to Passaic's Greg Komeshok, Sturr, his band and guest artists have come to Third Ward Park for the past 21 summers to lay down some polka tracks. He'll return on July 24 at 7 pm and then hit the pavement on Sept. 7 at St. John Kanty Church. He loves the Eastern European folks who keep his albums selling, like these two gals. He and his mates simply love playing the joyfully manic two-beat dance that originated in Bohemia in the 1830s.

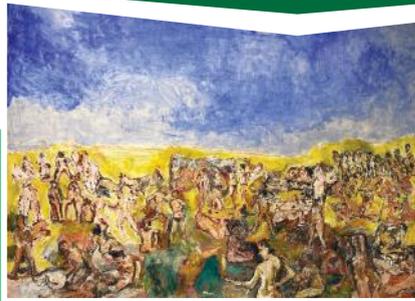
True Colors Independent Indoor Color Guard is recruiting for its 2026 season. Practices are Mondays in September from 6-8 pm at School 3. The schedule changes in November to Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights. The competing performance team is open to students ages 12 through 22. No experience necessary. No tryouts or auditions. Questions? Visit truecolorswg.org or contact Tony Pagnozzi at 973-941-3797 or acp0709@optimum.net.

Clifton Behind the Scenes with Echo Unity Series invites all to learn about how city government functions and more about services offered. Programs are in English and Spanish, at 5:30-7 pm and 7-8:30 pm, respectively on Sept. 9. The free series is hosted by Councilwoman Rosemary Pino and includes tours of City Hall, city grounds, and landmarks. Learn about the roles of city departments. Visit @rosiepino04 on Instagram to RSVP. Future dates: Oct. 15, Nov. 13, and Dec. 11.

Send your event info: tomhawrylkosr@gmail.com

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July 17th & 18th

9am until 11am

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Non-Residents **\$63**

Summer Art Camp

For kids ages 7 thru 12

**August 11th
thru 15th**

9am until 12 pm

Residents **\$200** for all 5 days

Non-Residents **\$225**

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additional
information
to register ...



Birthdays & Celebrations - July 2025

Send dates & names...
tomhawrylkosr@gmail.com



Nicolas Calvo is 16 July 11. **Jesse Hasting** is 40 on July 10. **Mammie Angello** is 87 on July 3. **Robert Marriello** celebrates on July 9. **Ernie Scheidemann** is 90 on July 17. **Rafael Hasting** will be 80 on July 25! **Samuel Yoda** turns 5 on July 11.



Olga & Efren Zamora celebrate Olga's birthday and their 48th anniversary July 3. **Barbara and Ted Guzowski** 43rd anniversary is July 10.

Sydney Sciarrino & Kevin Bradley married on June 6.



Gene and Joan Murphy's
61st anniversary is July 25.

- Isabella Andruch..... 7/1
- Jerry Franek..... 7/4
- Amanda Di Angelo..... 7/3
- Chris Torrao..... 7/4
- Nicholas Iannacone..... 7/5
- Bob Landrith..... 7/5
- Robyn Sue Lord..... 7/5
- Frank Rando..... 7/5
- Lori Lill..... 7/6
- Susan Rego..... 7/6
- Darlene Franek..... 7/7
- Ron Curtiss..... 7/7
- Angelo Grippo..... 7/7
- Thomas Marriello..... 7/7
- Edward Sepulveda..... 7/7
- Anthony Michael Meade..... 7/8
- Jenna De Liberto..... 7/8
- Christopher Landrith..... 7/8
- Cynthia Kester..... 7/9
- Kristi Schopfer..... 7/10
- Brian Counterman Jr..... 7/12

- Anthony Zaccone..... 7/13
- Alyssa Marie Misyak..... 7/14
- Ann Schamble..... 7/15
- Derek Dobil..... 7/16
- Jessica Dobil..... 7/16
- Fanny Chem..... 7/17
- Joanne Gursky..... 7/17
- Carrie Szluka..... 7/18
- Alexander Razvmov..... 7/19
- Ryan Saccoman..... 7/19
- Cocoa Saccoman..... 7/19
- Ashley Jacobus..... 7/19
- Linda Portaro..... 7/20
- Megan Suaifan..... 7/20
- Priya Shah..... 7/22
- Kaitlin Vinciguerra..... 7/22

Kenneth & Donna Chipura
on July 11 celebrate their
54th wedding anniversary.



Bill & Trisha Wishard's 40th year of marriage is July 20. **Mercedes Cottallat** celebrates her **100th birthday** on July 10 with Nancy, Giancarlo, Josephine, Matthew, Marina, Richard, Phillip, Jose and pups Sofia & Rico!

Ottila Kedl.....7/23
 George Shamar 7/23
 Kayla Lord 7/24
 Anna Schubert 7/24
 Eva Gasporowska 7/25
 Kathy Valdes 7/25

Jack DeVries Sr..... 7/26
 Joseph Lopez..... 7/27
 Ornella Ganoza 7/27
 Gina Oliva 7/28
 Brian Counterman Sr. 7/29
 Amanda Fabiano..... 7/29

Lee-Ann Varga..... 7/29
 Stephen Camp Sr..... 7/30
 Joe Prebish..... 7/30
 Obs Zayatz 7/30
 Frances Greco..... 7/31
 Sue Sadik 7/31



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Clifton's Public Safety Officers honored by St. Phillip's K of C

The Knights of Columbus at St. Philip the Apostle Church on June 4 feted Clifton's Public Safety Officers and the work they do. Pictured from left is Clifton Health Social Service Assistant Nate King, Officer of the Year Kevin Collucci, his commander in Clifton Community Policing Gary Giardina, Jr. and Clifton Health Officer John Biegel III. Biegel noted that Clifton Police, Fire Fighters and EMTs are part of the team helping the unhoused and others in need in Clifton. At right, Clifton Fire Chief Michael Rowan with Firefighter of Year Paul Holzach and EMT of the Year Michael Bandurski.

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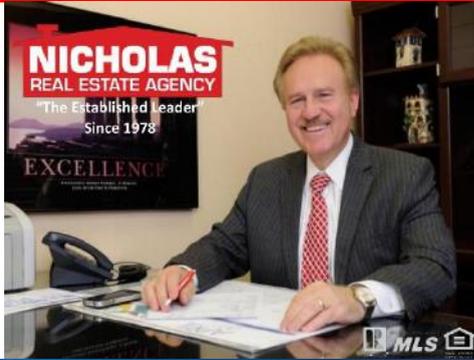


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