



The Halo

A NEWSLETTER OF THE
SOUTHEAST CATHOLIC · BISHOP NEUMANN · ST. MARIA GORETTI · ST. JOHN NEUMANN
SS. JOHN NEUMANN AND MARIA GORETTI HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

VOLUME IV ISSUE I

APRIL 2024

A Message from our President

Come join us on Sunday, April 28th, at Chickie's and Pete's for the Millay Club's Spring All Class Reunion, starting at 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40.00. At that time, we will be kicking off our annual 50/50 raffle. Last year's winner took home \$36,575.00. Tickets are \$25.00 each. If you purchase four (4) tickets at \$100.00, the 5th ticket will be free. Thank you to everyone who participated in our raffle.

As many of you have noticed, we recently experienced some problems with our website. Thanks to Dom Ricciuti, Class of '75, for all of his hard work, our website is now up and running. Our new website is now www.millayclub.org. We apologize for the inconvenience. If you are still experiencing problems, please contact the Millay Office at 215-389-0925.

Hope everyone had a Blessed Easter.

Linda Crusco '71
President

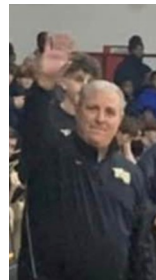
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Carl Arrigale, N-G Basketball Coach Honored

By Joseph Messina '85

Monday, March 8th, 2024, marked a special day in the Neumann Goretti Community. Legendary men's basketball coach, Carl Arrigale, had the school's basketball court named in his honor. Carl was surrounded by family, friends, and many of his former teammates who came back to South Philly to honor their coach. Carl is the most successful coach in Philadelphia Catholic League history with his 12 Catholic League titles. On that same day, in the first round of the PIAA



Carl Arrigale

State playoffs, he accumulated his 600th win in his long tenured career. With the amount of former players in attendance and the effect that he's had on so many boys on and off the court, naming the court Carl Arrigale court is indeed well deserved as the impact he has had on the school and South Philadelphia community will live on for generations.



50/50 Grand Prize Drawing

By Liz Farley '67

The 50/50 Raffle Grand Prize Drawing was held on December 3, 2023, at the Millay Club's Annual Communion Mass and Breakfast. The winning amount of \$36,575 was awarded to Mary Clinton. Congratulations Mary and thank you for supporting The Millay Club Alumni Association!

The 50/50 Raffle is the major Scholarship Fundraiser for The Millay Club. Proceeds from the raffle have allowed many students in need of financial aid to attend Neumann-Goretti High School, providing them with a premier college preparatory education in a faith-based Catholic environment.



Mary Clinton

see RAFFLE, page 4

Hall of Fame Inductions

The 2024 Millay Sports Hall of Fame has been announced. The following will be inducted on May 14, 2024 at the Senior Banquet dinner to be held at IATSE.

Bryan Navin '02

All Catholic Football

Jimmy Porreca '03

Multi Sport

All Catholic Football and Baseball

DJ Rivera '06

1st Team All-City

2X 1st Team All Catholic

Member of 2 Basketball PCL

Championships

Kadeem Custis '09

3X All Catholic Football

1st Team All City

Joey Armatta '09

3X All Catholic

Member of PCL Baseball Championship

Nica Mecciorello '09

4X All Catholic

Leading scorer in Women's Soccer

2009 Baseball Team

First team to win PCL Championship

in 48 years

A Glimpse of Life at Bishop Neumann

By Richard Monastra '64

Bishop Neumann, in the early to mid '60s, had an enrollment of over 3,000 boys. My class, '64, ultimately graduated with 622 boys. Coming mainly from local parochial schools, we lived up to the literal meaning of the term parochial. Over time, however, we met and socialized with guys from Two Street, Girard Estates, Point Breeze and sundry other neighborhoods.

Ethnically speaking, we were the proverbial melting pot, or more accurately, a salad bowl of mixed backgrounds and traditions which blended at times, but sometimes, not so much.

Classes were large by contemporary pedagogical standards and teaching took the form of essentially strict

regimentation, with occasional question and answer sessions from the students.

Our faculty consisted of lay teachers and various orders of priests. The Norbertines ran the show, but two orders of Franciscans and a group of Belgian "missionaries" played a major role. Naturally, we assigned nicknames to most of our teachers, usually based upon some physical trait. A sampling: Panda Bear or Raccoon (dark set eyes and large hands), Fresh -Up Freddie (after a 7UP commercial popular at the time), Mr. B (nobody could pronounce his name properly), and Friar Tuck (because of his girth). All these men tried their best to prepare us for the post high school world. Sometimes, they succeeded!

With all the testosterone extant daily, "differences of opinion" arose periodically. Detention to the offending parties usually resulted. (Wonder if similar "differences" occurred at SMG? Hmm?)

Our cafeteria regimen differed remarkably from the one Ms. Gandolfo had previously described in a past newsletter. There were no double napkins for the Bishop Neumann boys. Our cafeteria experience was less gentle, more scatological and earthy, shall I say. Lunch times were assigned by grade and seating was assigned by homeroom, with very little interaction with other tables. The poor freshmen class had lunch at 10:30 a.m.

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The Halo

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Graduates Finding a Way to "Share Their Story"

By Ciarra Bianculli '13

Bill Saffici, Giovanna (Abruzzese) Lottes, Augustine Pescatore, and Steve Caporiccio, Bishop Neumann and Saint Maria Goretti Class of 1966, recently started "Sharing My Story", a program that will allow the graduates to share stories with their past classmates and friends alike. This program will contain stories and podcasts for viewers to read and listen to where podcasts can be found.

Their debut story features Jerry "Mr. Doo-Wop" Tempesta. Jerry, born and raised in South Philadelphia, graduated from Bishop Neumann in 1966. Upon graduation, he began working at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard where he worked for the next 30 years. During this time, he also co-invented a machine that

would dry newly cleaned respirators in an hour, rather than the days the old technique entailed.

This career was interrupted when he was drafted into the army in 1969, during the

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NEUMANN GORETTI BASEBALL ALUMNI DAY

Saturday, May 4, 2024
during the game
vs. Central High School
at 2:00 pm

Details will follow on team's social media pages on Facebook and Instagram.

For more info please reach out to Joe Messina at Jmess16@aol.com

THE MILLAY CLUB ALUMNI ASSOCIATION invites you to join your fellow Alumni at the

All Class Reunion 2024

Sunday, April 28, 2024 from 1 pm to 5 pm

CHUCK'S & PETE'S Play 2
1526 Packer Ave. Phila, PA 19148
Must be 21 to attend

Admission - \$40 *Limited door sales*
(includes Buffet ~ DJ & Dancing ~ Cash bar)
Limited Free Parking Ride sharing is encouraged

Tickets can be purchased via PayPal, check, or debit/credit card. Visit www.millayclub.org. now!

Alumni Achievers

The Alumni Achievers award is presented to Neumann-Goretti alumni for achieving success in their chosen profession. Two graduates were honored last November at The Millay Scholars and Alumni Achievers Banquet, Elizabeth Esposito '89 and Tim Cairy '94.

Beth attended St. Monica's Grade School, graduating in 1985 and is still a member of the parish. She began using her cooking skills at age 24 and has been in business for 28 years. In her early days, she cooked on the line, working her way up to Head Chef six years later. A true entrepreneur, she has



Elizabeth Esposito

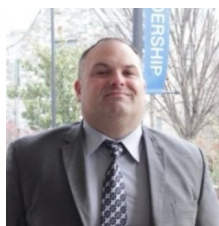
opened and consulted with 18 restaurants, and for the past 14 years has owned and operated a private chef event company, Pink Garlic. Beth has since opened a merchant stall in Philadelphia's oldest indoor market, the Reading Terminal. Her recent acquisition is known as Butcher's Pantry.

Beth has made various TV appearances which consists of the Food Network, Rachel Ray, and our local stations including Fox 29, PHL 17, and Channels 3, 6, and 10. She appeared on the cover of "Dining Out Magazine" in 2011. She has also reached South Philadelphia's Top 20 Influential people, has opened multiple restaurants at the shore making local papers, and published two recipes in Hormel's First Cookbook for SPAM. Beth has been the Highlighted Chef in Row Home Magazine as well.

Besides her very busy schedule, Beth serves on the Board for "Debbie's Friends Fund," a local non-profit organization for Breast Cancer Survivors. All donations are distributed to local neighborhoods,

especially South Philadelphia. Beth is also a contributor to "Big Brothers Big Sisters" during their annual benefit as well as a continuous donor to "The Sunday Love Project." This is also a non-profit organization that helps those less fortunate and those with addiction to have a substantial meal and groceries. Finally, she is a continuous supporter of many benefits through donations, or goal-based organizations to help local families especially during the holidays.

Following his graduation at St. John Neumann High School in 1994, Tim Cairy enrolled at Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania, where he would spend the next 28 plus years of his life. Earning a degree in history with a certification in secondary education, Tim then made the difficult decision to stay at Widener University and work in the Project Prepare program for one of his mentors Dr. Alonzo Cavin.



Tim Cairy

Tim earned his M.Ed. in 2001 and moved into his first leadership position as the Director of Residence Life at Widener University. He began this position working with his next mentor, Dean Andrew Bushko who would always say, "Running a hotel for 18-22 year olds takes a special person." He served in this role until 2003 when he returned to Project Prepare as the Director and where he spent his next 21 years working for his next mentor, Dr. Geraldine Bloemker. He ended his tenure at Widener University in the role of Executive Director of Student Success. During this time Tim completed his second Masters degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management.

While at Widener University Tim earned many distinctions, including: the recipient of the W. David Eckard Award in 2013 for distinguished service to the school, inducted in 2014 into Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society, recipient of the Friends of Residence Life Award in May 2017. In February 2018, Tim and his family traveled to San Antonio, Texas for the National Conference for the National Resource Center where Tim was one of ten people to be awarded the First-year Student Advocate Award by the University of South Carolina.

Tim has served on a number of boards but he is most proud of his time as an Executive Board member of the Pennsylvania Association for Educational Opportunity from 2008-2010. He also served during his time at Widener University as Co-chair of a Middle States working group on the Student Experience from 2015-2017.

During his free time, Tim loves coaching youth football for EOM and enjoying time with his family: Wife (Charlene), sons Jake (15) and Tim (11). If he is not coaching football, he is in the Poconos beating his family in tennis, reading or fishing.

Tim and his family reside in South Philadelphia and are members of St. Richard's Parish.

Tim was appointed the President of his Alma Mater, Ss. John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School in July 2023. He also serves on the SS. John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School Advisory Board.

Welcome Timothy Cairy '94 to the SS. John Neumann and Maria Goretti High School Family.

STORY

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height of the Vietnam War.

While serving our country, Jerry, during the Battle of Renegade Woods, was shot in the head while attempting to save his platoon leader's life. Jerry received two Purple Hearts for his action that day.

Naturally, he became a changed man once returning home after his tour ended in 1971. He suffered from a variety of problems, including PTSD and his ability to sing.

Jerry began singing when he was just 14 years old. In 1965, Jerry, his brother Anthony, and his friends Joe Porpora and Sammy Cabobianco, formed The Emeralds, with Jerry as first tenor. In 1995, just after he retired, Joe Porpora knocked on Jerry's mother's door, inviting Jerry to sing again. This sparked The Emeralds return, this time with Scott Finlaysen, Jim Di Placido, and bass Tony Basile (who was replaced by Ritchie Grasso in 1998).

Now, they sing as a quintet, with

appearances in "Jukebox Dreams," a touring show created by Tony Orlando, and "Dukes," a 2007 comedy-drama about singers who wanted to steal gold. Since then, Jerry has sung with a number of groups, including Franke & The Fashions and Remember Then.

Alumni can find more information and direct quotes from Jerry Tempesta, and follow along with "[Serving Our Nation](#)" on Spotify.

(Content from this story is derived from Sharing Our Story)



In Memoriam

Charles Burgese '54
 Ann Lydon Fenton '58
 Daniel Crann '60
 Leonard Ranieri '63
 Maureen Matteo Colaberdino '64
 Anna Hill Close '66
 Marilyn Cesarone, R.N. '67
 Carol Patricelli Fidelibus '67
 Richard Matteis '71
 Britni McLaughlin-Le '04

Class Notes

2012

Congratulations to Neumann-Goretti Class of 2012 graduate, **Joseph Gorman** on obtaining his first collegiate win as head coach of Rowan College of South Jersey - Cumberland County's Baseball Team as he lead the team to a win over SUNY-Adirondack 9-6 on February 24, 2024. We are confident this win will be the first of many.

2021

Congratulations to **Mia Messina**, Neumann-Goretti Class of 2021, who won 1st place in the State of Pennsylvania for the Keystone Media Awards in the Sports Story category for *Evening the score: College women making strides in sports journalism*. Mia is currently a junior at St. Joseph's University where she is currently Sports Editor of The Hawk newspaper and interning in the sports department of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

RAFFLE

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This year's 50/50 raffle grand prize will be drawn on December 1, 2024, at the Annual Communion Mass and Breakfast. Tickets will be mailed shortly. The donation for a ticket is \$25. Buy and/or sell 4 tickets and the 5th ticket is free. In addition to the grand prize drawing, weekly prize drawings will take place beginning in September for all who have purchased raffle tickets. Winning tickets will be re-entered for the grand prize drawing. If you do not receive tickets in the mail, please call The Millay Club office at 215-389-0925 and tickets will be sent to you.

NEUMANN

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Who could eat lunch that early?

Senior lunch was made to sit in silence on occasion due to what we were told was unruly behavior. However, someone at one table started tapping the table, and soon, the entire table, and the rest of the cafeteria took up this cadence adding a lusty, "Let's Go Pirates" chant. Imagine! This was something akin to an old James Cagney prison movie wherein the inmates rapped their cups defiantly on the cell bars. A sign of rebellion against the conformist, fear-inducing, Gestapo-like clerics on lunch patrol. Seniors paid dearly for this uprising – no use of the Coke machine for a week! What a price to pay for momentary liberation.

Yes, the spirit of the Sons of Liberty and the Boston Tea Party lived on briefly!

Despite the omnipresent regimentation, we enjoyed our time at Neumann generally. Most of us did alright academically. Many had part-time jobs and lusted after the holy grail of adolescence: the driver's license. The two major topics of conversation at Bishop Neumann were cars and girls. Cars were those we borrowed from family members, always asking, "Yo, Dad, can I have the car tonight?". We scooted around the neighborhoods with radios blaring Geator Gold, trying to impress someone, anyone.

Usually, we succeeded in impressing only the police. Traffic tickets were the price of "cool." Tickets of course are like savings bonds – the longer you hold them, the more they are worth. So, the pittance we earned in our jobs went to paying traffic fines. Ah, well. C'est la vie!

Girls and the social scene at Neumann were intertwined inexorably. Neumann was a font of activity. Weekend sporting events, plays, the seasonal dances, capped off by the Senior Prom.

One special dance was the Thanksgiving Night Turkey Trot, wherein the Senior football players received their game jerseys usually presented by a special girl. And then, there was the weekly Saturday Night dance. Many Bishop Neumann guys dated SMG girls – some going steady, replete with steady jewelry signifying, "you are mine, and we belong together," as the song says. Dating a -SMG girl was considered a taboo by many. Dating a girl from Prendie, O'Hara, Hallahan or Little Flower was bad enough, but they were still "Catholics." Dating a "public" was

considered treasonous! (I plead guilty here, as I dated a girl from Southern – Neumann's crosstown rival!) Not only was she from Southern, but she was a cheerleader!"

"I might mention here about Neumann fashionistas. There were two schools of dress: conservative, with articles of clothing arrayed in shades of navy blue, burgundy, and gray, with cordovan shoes, making those who wore this uniform look like young bankers. The other was hipster, tight pants, skinny ties, pointed-toe shoes (called roach killers), and button down collar shirts."

As graduation approached, we came to realize the world was beckoning. Our insular, quasi-isolated existence collided with world events, like Vietnam, political assassinations, or with more mundane challenges like college, or getting a job. We survived 4 years relatively unscathed.

"So, here we are, 60 years hence. Bishop Neumann and Saint Maria Goretti have since merged. All that remains are the memories, good, and not so good. Our generation is gradually passing into history. Film maker Woody Allen posits in his film *Radio Days*, whether anyone will remember us as we move further and further away from those days. Many of us are grandparents now, some of our classmates have passed on – time is irrepressible.

Having taught high school for over 42 years in two states, I've noted one persistent attitude among the students – they seem to endure high school, something that must be done in between their nearly full time jobs and their school endeavors. They don't seem to enjoy it. I suggest to this crop of teenagers that they stop for a moment and simply enjoy the time you have in high school. You'll only do it once, but the memories will last a lifetime."

Class Reunions

**55th - Bishop Neumann '69
 May 16, 2024**

**55th - St. Maria Goretti '69
 October 20, 2024**

**50th - Bishop Neumann '74 /
 St. Maria Goretti '74
 September 13, 2024**

More information, including who to contact can be found on the Reunions page of The Millay Club website, www.millayclub.org