

The Excalibur II



Vol. 2, Issue I

Nazareth Alumni Newsletter

November 2024

‘Spirit’ Campaign Kicks Off This Month

We will be launching our 2024-25 Spirit of Nazareth Annual Appeal the end of November.

Our annual appeal has an immediate impact on our students and is used to support our mission through tuition aid/scholarships, technology, education initiatives and expense management.

Donations also help with new programs. This fall the school began a new peer-mentorship program, a senior service project, and a partially remote Honors American Government and Economics course, the first of its kind for Catholic high schools in Brooklyn.

In the last fiscal year, the fund drive took in \$106,000, which was up from \$92,000 the year before. Organizers hope to increase that amount this year to \$150,000.

You can donate to the drive at any time at nazarethrhs.org/giving/spirit-of-nazareth/. Thank you in advance.



Several of the 80 golfers who turned out at the Marine Park course in September.

The Golf Outing Bounces Back

After a pandemic-related hiatus, the Annual Golf Outing and Fundraiser drew 80 golfers and 11 dinner guests on September 9 to play and to share memories with old friends.

The event, larger than in recent memory, brought in \$10,050, more than expected, which was raised with the help of golfers, hole sponsors, donors and prize donors, and it will go towards the Spirit of Nazareth fund in support of programs for arts and athletics, as well as financial aid.

The outing, at the Marine Park Golf Course, was organized by three members of the Class of 1973 — Denis Wuestman, Joe Keenan, and Gerry Ferrante — who said they plan to do this annually.

“We had a great day,” said **Marty Keating ’71**, who was honored for his dedication to Nazareth over the decades. “And we had a good breeze.”

Among the golfers, **Tony Russo ’73**, Mike Russo, Tom Kempf and Billy Lang won for the best score. Kempf also won for longest drive, and Kevin Cary came closest to the pin.



Principal Rob DiRe, board member Joe Keenan and honoree Marty Keating.

Jimmy Conway ’72 won the 50/50 raffle and donated \$500 from the prize money to Nazareth in memory of **Steve Cunetta ’76**. **Jesus Linares, ’73** won a football signed by Boomer Esiason, and **Mike Dean ’74** won a foursome at Marine Park donated by general manager Steve Fabrizi.

In the Rockaways, a Run for the McCarthys

Fifty-two runners and walkers lined up on Saturday morning, October 19, for the McCarthy Brothers Memorial Walk/Run on the boardwalk in the Rockaways.

The 5K and 1 Mile races, which began and ended at the Rockaway Beach Amphitheater, was overseen by the Rockaway Track Club, thanks to **Jimmy McVeigh '76**.

"Everything went great!" McVeigh said of the race. "We're looking forward to seeing improvements in participation next year."

The event netted \$1,624 for the school without sponsors, which organizers plan to have for next year's event.

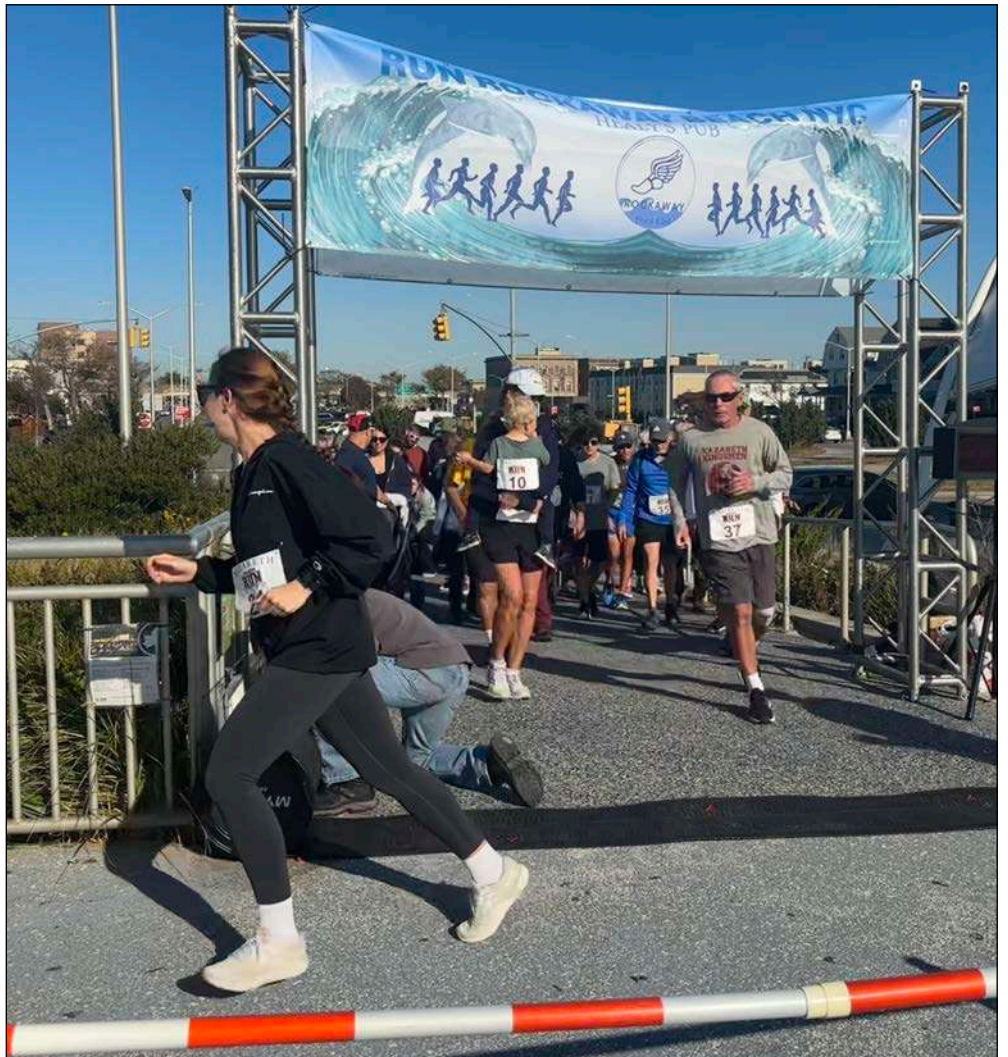
The race returned this year after a pandemic-related hiatus.

The memorial run began in honor of **Eugene T. McCarthy '73**, a major in the Marines, who died on Feb. 2, 1991, when his AH-1 Cobra gunship crashed in Saudi Arabia while flying a medevac support mission during Operation Desert Storm, the Persian Gulf War with Iraq.

He was a graduate of the Naval Academy and had also served as a special agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration.

This year, the run was renamed to include his brother, Dennis, a special agent for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, who died in 2018 of a 9/11 related-illness.

Above, members of the extended McCarthy family flank Nazareth officials John Wuestman, Robert DiRe and Denis Wuestman. At right, runners at the beginning of the 5K race funnel past the starting line and head west on the boardwalk.



McCarthy Run Revitalized



From left, the top two finishers, Ian Carswell and Maura Watson.

Place	Name	Gun time	Chip time
1	Maura Watson	0:23:03	0:22:48
2	Ian Carswell	0:23:01	0:22:53
3	Sarah McCarthy	0:25:48	0:25:46
4	Jim Lunny	0:27:19	0:27:15
5	Billy Hunter	0:30:22	0:30:12
6	Madeline Conway	0:41:01	0:30:29
7	Lori Watt	0:30:42	0:30:35
8	Kathleen McCarthy	0:31:19	0:31:05
9	Liam Cahill	0:31:19	0:31:06
10	Marie McCarthy	0:31:24	0:31:19

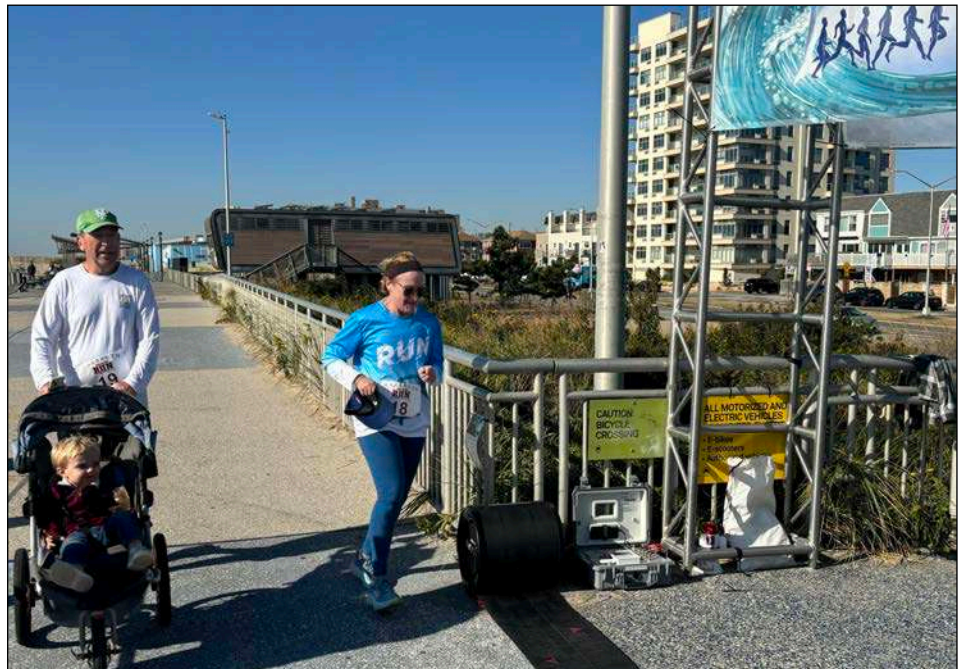
For full race results, visit [Rockaway Track Club \(here\)](#)



Sarah McCarthy finished third.



Principal Robert DiRe with mid-90s alumni LaToya Rose, Stephanie Lloyd, (who finished in 15th place) Jamie Marin and Michael Bailey (a class captain for 1995), and board members John and Denis Wuestman after the race.



Board member Joe Keenan '73, at finish with grandson Brody and wife, Anne.





From left, half of the organizers, Steve Gandley and John Wuestman, both spoke to an attentive audience. [More photos here.](#)

60s Flashback: The First 4 Classes Reunite

Between 55 and 60 graduates attended a reunion on October 26 for Nazareth's first four graduating classes, from 1966 to 1969.

"It was very convivial," said organizer **John Wuestman '68**, who said that even though the Kingsmen came from different classes, "they were all alums."

The other organizers were **Bob**

McAndrew, '66, **Steve Gandley '67** and **TV Kennedy '69**.

Wuestman, who is also president of the schools board of trustees, said that the attendees across all four classes shared a fondness for Nazareth, "and a bunch of funny stories."

One speaker's recollections of teachers they had in common drew a long round of applause.

Tickets for the Saturday evening dinner at the Doubletree Hotel in Somerset, N.J. were \$95 for individuals and \$180 per couple.

Wuestman said that many of the graduates brought spouses.

Wuestman said the event's success meant that class captains for other years would be urged to consider having multi-year reunions.



Above, Mark Hehl, Arthur Nintzel, John "Tiny" Carroll, Arthur Lewin, Jim St. Clair.. At right, Bob and Rosemary McAndrew.

Class of 2000 Planning a 25th Reunion

Several graduates from the Class of 2000 are planning their 25th Reunion for sometime next year.

If you are interested in attending, and especially if you are interested in helping to plan or help run the event, please contact them via this really thorough [Google survey \(click here\)](#). It contains questions about timing, location, and what kind of event you would like to have.

They also have a [Facebook reunion page \(here\)](#), and you can use a mobile device to visit their [Instagram page \(here\)](#).

Events for 2005 & 2015

We've been in touch with several graduates from the Class of 2005 about planning their 20th Reunion in the coming year. We have also begun contacting graduates from 2015 for a 10th Reunion. If you have not already been contacted and if you'd like to join in (or at least score an invite) please send an email to Tim Healy at thealy@nazarethrhs.org.



Front row: Robert Galione, John Wronka, Jude Hayes, Jim King, Joe Bonfiglio, John Keenan, Ross Marino. 2nd row: Peter Statile, Brian Keenan, Joseph Karaczynski, Dan Luby, Bill Hopkins, Mike Byrnes, Frank Marinacci. 3rd row: Ken Kelly, Ed Mullen, William Berlage. Top row: Tim Callaghan, Patrick Boyle, Chuck Ciccarelli, Joe Kennion, Ed Watt, Michael Kennedy, Donald Minerva and John P Murphy. Photo below: schmoozing on the balcony. [Click here for more photos.](#)

50 Years Later, Class of 1974 Hits the Gym

Twenty-five members of the Class of 1974 turned out on September 28 in Nazareth's gym for their 50th Reunion.

"The vibes were great," said organizer **Jude Hayes**.

"I didn't really know most of the guys well . . . but everybody was extremely warm and friendly and there were lots of laughs."

The group shared food and beverages (beer, wine and soft drinks) on the northern balcony of the gym for four

hours on a Saturday night.

Many traveled from the Tri-State area, and some came farther.

Frank Marinacci took the distance award, flying up from Daytona Beach, Fla.

"They were happy to come back to Nazareth," Hayes said. "Many hadn't been back since graduation."

Mike Byrnes posted online afterward, "Sadly the four hours went by quicker than any school day ever did."



Up Next: Class of 2004 Heading for Kingsman Hall

Members of the class of 2004 are holding their 20th Reunion in Kingsman Hall on December 14.

Tickets for the evening, which is scheduled from 6 to 10 p.m., cost \$90 and include food, an open bar

and a donation to the school.

Spouses, partners, and friends are welcome to attend.

Calvin Fletcher, a board member and alumni class captain for 2004, said tickets will be available

until November 29 through a [ticket platform \(click here\)](#). You can also donate. If you have any questions about the event, send an email to Calvin at calvinf92102@gmail.com.

Former Coach Serves Once Again

Volleyball team sweeps the tier and heads for championship game under veteran leader



Coach Fisher, facing camera, during home game. Below, Joeli Gomez send shot to the net.

Nazareth's varsity volleyball team finished its season with a 9-0 record in league play under the direction of long-time math teacher **Monique Fisher '82**.

The team led Tier 3 of the Brooklyn-Queens Catholic High School Athletic Association and defeated Bishop Loughlin in straight sets to earn a spot in the championship game November 9 against Msgr. Scanlan.

Fisher, who coached the team from 1987 to 1995, returned to the job this year.

"We were excited to do so well with our seniors," she said, adding that the winning season "was a gift for them as they graduate."

The team has just seven players, five of whom are seniors.

Fisher herself started playing volleyball for Nazareth as a freshman in 1978. "It was the sport with the first season," she explained.

She earned a full athletic

scholarship to Northeastern University in Boston and graduated from there in 1987.

She returned to Nazareth later that year to teach math, and she became the coach.

She works now with her daughter Alicia, who coaches the junior varsity team, and with a niece, Amber Phillips, who is an assistant for both teams. While a busy schedule that includes teaching and coaching can be tiring, she said, "the kids keep us young."

2024 League Games

Date	Result	Opponent
Sep 10	W 3-1	St Edmund's
Sep 12	W 3-0	St Saviour
Sep 19	W 3-1	Cristo Rey
Sep 24	W 3-1	Bishop Loughlin
Sep 26	W 3-1	St Jean Baptiste
Oct 1	W 3-0	St Saviour
Oct 7	W 3-0	Cristo Rey
Oct 15	W 3-0	Bishop Loughlin
Oct 21	W 3-0	St Jean Baptiste



A Somber Memorial Mass at Nazareth

The student body and staff gathered at Nazareth on Friday morning, November 1, for a somber Memorial Mass.

The ceremony was initially planned to honor the memory of the intentions the school has received from its donors, alumni, family, and friends in recent years.

It was expanded to include a memorial for **Malachi DeBerry**, a freshman who passed away days earlier.

During the Mass, which was live-streamed and which was said by the school's chaplain, Father Liju P. Augustine, CMI,, a list was read of the names of 184 deceased who were mentioned by donors, as well as by others from the school community.

Father Augustine pointed out the connection between the names and the students' lives.

"That is one of the reasons those names we are going to read soon will be remembered in a very special way," he said.

"There are so many alumni who continue to dream and support, and they feel, deep down in their hearts and minds," he said, "These, my children, can make the difference. And you can make it"

The list of 184 names came from donors since January 2023, a Google form intention list, and Nazareth's database. The list included the deceased's graduation year if it was provided.

The school knows that so many others from our Nazareth community were not included and hopes to do this every year to remember those people as well.



Students filled the bleachers and chairs set up in the gym for the Memorial Mass.

THOSE REMEMBERED AT THE MASS

Jack Ahearn '71
Eric Allen '75
Sylvia Arty
Tomas Báez, Jr. '73
Maryann Ballew
Bob Bauer '72
Robert and Evelyn Barrett
Robert Bauer '72
Joseph Beilouny '70
Michael Beilouny '76
David Bishop '90
James Blair '67
Ed Bradley '68
Raymond N. Brown Sr
Coach Gerry Buckley
Brother Matthew Burke
William Byrnes Jr. '69
Jeannette Cafouros
Kevin P. Callaghan '70
Dennis Cameron '82
George K. Campbell '04
Lydia Caputo
Victoria Caruso
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Caruso
Thomas Catapano '68
Robert "Bobby" Chimino '79
Michael Ciccone '71

Michael Conklin '68
Tom Conlin '72
Kevin Conroy '71
Allen Cooley '68
Tom Coughlin '72
John Courtien '72
James Cove '70
Father George Cowan
Shirley A. Coy
Rose and Michael Clyne
Walter and Susan Cronk
Jose Cruz
Brother Tom Cully
Steve Cunetta '76
John Cunneen '72
Eddie Cunningham '67
John V. Cusack '68
Brother Cyril
Richard Czerwinski '68
Malachi DeBerry '28
John De Paulo '67
Dremmler Desil '06
Ed DeSimone '82
Tatiana Desir-Wolff '86
Carmen Diaz
James Donnelly '71

—Continued on Next Page

THOSE REMEMBERED AT THE MASS

—Continued from Prior Page

Brother Corby Duffy
 Thomas & Mary Ellen Duffy
 Bob Durkin '72
 Kevin Durrant
 Brother Fabius
 Patricia Cimino Falkowitz
 Esther Faracco
 Edward Feeley '67
 Paul Florentino '73
 John "Roddy" French '71
 Christopher Gallagher
 Daniel A. Gallagher
 John Geary '72
 James Giery '71
 Desmond Patrick Gillespie '78
 Ann Marie Gillespie '84
 Tim Girardot '72
 Paul Gleeson '68
 Gary Gray '88
 Joe Graziano '67
 Delmar Griffith
 Joseph and Anna Grimaldi
 Joseph Guastella '68
 Maurice Hartley
 Jeffrey Harvey '68
 Henry Higgins
 John Hinds
 Peter Holmes
 James Horthy '67
 Robert Hussa '67
 Jennifer Ihrig
 Marty Ingram '67
 Joan Mary Jennings
 Joe Jichetti '72
 Kevin Kearney '70
 Brian Keenan '84
 Tom Kelly '69
 Tom M Kelly '78
 William Kelly '71
 John Kenniff '67
 Richard Kent '72
 Kenny Kirkland '73
 Brother Labre
 Charles Lapp '67
 Michael Lavin '75
 John Lennon '75

Tom Lenti '72
 Elvira Lenzo
 John Lewis '73
 Stanley Long '67
 Victor Machiano '66
 John Malazzo
 Paul Martini '82
 Fred J Marra Sr.
 Charles Mascialino '68
 Joe Mazzocchi '82
 Dennis McCarthy
 Eugene McCarthy '73
 Mike McDade '72
 Robert McDonald '67
 Pat McGettrick '72
 Denis McHugh '82
 Donald McLeod '70
 Jacqueline McLeod
 Bernard McPartland '71
 Dominic Mercorella
 Vanessa Velez Miceli '91
 Jean Elmer Michel
 Pete Milano '76
 Frank Modica '81
 Andre Mohammed '95
 Mrs. Dorothy Moore
 Dorothy & George Moore
 James Morgan
 Paul Morris '74
 Harold Morris
 William K. Muldoon

Dennis Murphy '80 – NYPD
 Dr. Robert Muccigrosso
 James Muccio '68
 Steven Napoli '75
 Liam O'Conner '72
 Richard Organisciak '68
 Fred Papavero
 Richard Picardi
 Greg Preziose '85
 Don Pucillo '72
 Andrew Quigley '79
 Roselio Recio
 Donald Regan '71
 Nora Reiter
 Father James Reynolds '73
 Robert Rizzotti '87
 John Roache
 Raymond Roden '69
 Coach Al Romano
 Robert Rorke '73
 Patrick Russell '69
 Lt Michael Russo '75
 Kaseem Ryan '90
 John Salerno
 Steve Sanfillippo '73
 Thomas Santoro '84
 Robert Sauter '72
 Jim Serpico
 Richard Settani '66
 John Shayne '72
 Kenneth Sheridan '66
 Sheri Smith '97
 Cecila Kennion Sochi
 Sparv Taitt
 Chris Thomas '77
 Pat Tracy, '71
 Will Tracy '72
 Pearline Trapp
 Frank Trioso '82
 Louis Vaccaro
 Vanessa Velez '91
 Steve Viani '71
 Chrystal Natalie Vincent '99
 Michael Wallace '81
 Oba Nilaja Ware '14
 John J. Wright

Memorial Mass Planned for Donors

The school plans a live-stream Mass for donors on November 27 at 9:30 in the morning. An email will be sent as the date approaches, or look on the [alumni event page \(click here\)](#) to find the link.

PASSINGS



Brother Thomas Cully, known to some as **Brother Russell**, (above left) died September 2 after a long illness.

His first mission was to the newly opened Nazareth High School, where he taught Spanish from 1963-1972.

He later taught at Holy Name Elementary School and at Bishop Ford High School from 1972-1992 and also worked as a senior court clerk and narcotics counselor for the New York Dept. of Corrections.

He retired to the Catskills, where graduates from Nazareth, Holy Name and Bishop Ford would often visit him in recent years. To read an obituary from the [Xavarian Brothers](#), [click here](#).

Reverend George R. Cowan, (above right) who served as Nazareth's chaplain from 1977 to 1983 and was a board member from 1985 to 1987, died on October 6.

Father Cowan was born on July 29, 1938, in New York and was ordained to the priesthood on May 29, 1965, according to the Brooklyn Diocese.

In addition to his time at Nazareth, he served as high school chaplain for Saint Agnes Academy and Saint Brendan's as well as in several parishes in the diocese.

A Ball Game for the Alumni

If you are interested in a fundraising event centered around a long-time basketball rivalry, two members of the alumni are working on something for you.

Deanna Philippe '99 and **Sandy Michel '90**, the assistant principal for enrollment, are helping to organize an alumni event for a double-header at home against Xavarian High School in February.

The event is a follow-up to an Alumni Night in December 2023, when the Class of 1999 was invited to watch as the boys varsity and JV basketball teams took on Bishop Loughlin. Alumni from several classes turned out to see Nazareth win both games.

This season all years will be invited to the doubleheader, which will organizers want to feature the varsity boys and girls teams.

"The goal is to get as many alum, who haven't been back to the building in a long time, to reconnect with the community through an exciting athletic event," Philippe said.

Details about game time, ticket price and any special activities are still being ironed out, and a flyer is in the works. By mid-January, check in with the school's [Alumni events page](#) ([click here](#)).

Got something to say?

If you have information or a suggestion on alumni activities that you would like to share, please send an email to advancement@nazarethrhs.org.

Class Captain Program Hopes to Grow

Nazareth is hoping to roughly double the number of years with Class Captains, from the current 16, as a tool to revitalize connections with alumni.

Class Captains help Nazareth maintain current contact information with alumni, share information on reunions and alumni events and offer guidance on enriching alumni connections.

We currently have 21 graduates representing 16 classes.

If you would like to represent a class not already on the list below or to learn more about the program, contact: Denis Wuestman at: dwuestman@nazarethrhs.org.

The Current Class Captains

1967 - Steve Gandley.

1968 - John Wuestman.

1971 - Marty Keating/Tim Healy

1972 - Bob Stack/Brian Kilgannon /
Stu Fitzpatrick

1973 - Mike DiFede



1974 - Jude Hayes/Steve Melsom

1978 - Gary Brasco

1980 - Kevin Dowd

1982 - Chris Buckley

1984 - Patrick Mullee

1989 - Bev Chanoine

/Margarita Argento

1993 - Renée Volley Darko.

1995 - Michael Bailey

1999 - Deanna Phillippe

2001 - Sheldon Sucre

2004 - Calvin Fletcher

Alumni Updates: Hear from Your Classmates

CLASS OF 1971

Walter Cronk, Atlanta, GA.
Fifty years pass in wink of an eye!
So enjoyed our reunion! I'm retired
from both sales career on 7th
Avenue and of late selling
residential real estate! My wife is in
media and we have four grands and
a fabulous blended family of two of
mine and two of hers! Life Is Good.
bklyn.crownhgt@gmail.com

Bob Moran, Glen Rock, NJ.
Still working and enjoying it.
Married 46 years ago in December.
Two daughters, one married. One
in state, one out of state. Laura and
I vacation at our little place in Cape
May County, at Stone Harbor,
"Seven Mile Island." We still see
classmates Mike Strafford and Mike
McWalters and their spouses
regularly. All married going on close
to 50 years! We always reminisce
about our days as Kingsmen.
Legendary stories about how good
our intramural BB teams were,
almost as good as the varsity. I stay
involved on social media involving
Nazareth and share comments with
classmates online. I read Paul
Moses' book about the Italian
police in NYC who went after the
mafia. The Italian Squad, published
by NYU Press 2023; it was a great
read.

Paul Moses, Brooklyn, NY.
Paul Moses's most recent book is
THE ITALIAN SQUAD: The True
Story of the Immigrant Cops Who
Fought the Rise of the Mafia.
paulmoses@icloud.com

Nick Pelliccione, Brooklyn
NY. Recently retired. Enjoying
woodworking, cycling, travel and
children and grandchildren.

CLASS OF 1978

David Pistilli, Middlebury, VT.
Attended United State's Air Force
Academy after Nazareth and now
retired in Vermont after 30 years in
the Air Force. Come
visit! david.pistilli@me.com

CLASS OF 1981

**Leo Thomas "Tom"
Gandley**, Sandy, UT. Hello, one
and all. This makes 43 years since I
graduated Nazareth and also
forever departed Brooklyn to live
in the Rocky Mountains in Salt Lake
City, Murray and now Sandy, Utah.
Graduated from the University of
Utah with a business degree in
Economics, was accepted into the
MBA Econ program, but alas, never
got around to finishing it. I have
been retired for four years after 21
years as a cop at the state prison
and far more rewarding was my 32
years in the U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers both active duty, reserves
and National Guard. I have three
kids and 2 grandchildren and live
on a small farm with chickens, goats
and a few cats. Also a few mice.
Miss those days. Reminisce on it
daily. Have loved you all.
tgandley@outlook.com

CLASS OF 1985

Karen Marshall, Brooklyn NY
It will be almost 40 years ago that I
have been a Naz grad lolol. I always
have been proud of my great school
experience. I have 22 year old
daughter who is a recent college
graduate. I work for City of New
York. Keep striving my Nazareth
Regional family.
kmarsh67@hotmail.com

CLASS OF 1990

John Kiernan, Mars Hill, NC. I
went to Upsala College in New
Jersey. Got a B.A. in Business
Administration now currently
married with two kids working as a
Critical Care Paramedic Supervisor
for Mission Hospital Ambulance
Services in Asheville NC (from East
Flatbush to the Smokey Mountains).
john_kiernan911@outlook.com

CLASS OF 1993

Kiesha Calliste, Brooklyn, NY.
Saying hello to my Naz Brothers
and Sisters. Hope all is well with
everyone. Over 30 years of pure

good memories and laughs. I
wouldn't change a thing. Sending
out blessings and good vibes to my
Naz family.

CLASS OF 1994

James Philip Robinson,
Harrisburg, NC. Its been 30 years
since graduation, moving to the
Charlotte area. Graduated from
UNC Charlotte, left corporate
America six years ago to open an
insurance agency. Married with one
son. Enjoy traveling and boating in
my free time.

CLASS OF 1995

John Gioia, Staten Island, NY.
Married for 21 years, two kids
(daughter 18, son 14), working for
DSNY for the past 24 years.

CLASS OF 2002

Sheldon Sucre 2 Rosedale,
NY. Hard to believe it's been 22
years since Naz. Eight degrees,
working as physical education
teacher and head swim coach at
Medgar Evers College Preparatory
School. Saying hi to all my Naz
brothers and sisters!
sds2194@tc.columbia.edu

How to Post Your Update

[Click here for an Alumni
form](#) to share something
brief about yourself with
your classmates. A
greeting, an accom-
plishment, a milestone or
simply a status update. For
example: "Two kids,
working as _____ at _____.
etc."