

The Excalibur II



Vol. 4, Issue 1

Nazareth Alumni Newsletter

October 2026



Well Played

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THEY KNEW PAT: Four friends of honoree Patrick Mullee — Jay Galleshaw, Brian and Mike Conlon and Mike Tarante — on a green.

Threatening skies gave way to bright sunshine on Sept. 21 as alumni and friends turned up at the school's annual Golf Outing at Marine Park.

The event, which drew 123 players and an additional 25 guests for an early dinner, made roughly \$41,000, \$11,000 more than last year.

This year's honorees were **Steve Gandley '67** and **Patrick Mullee '84**, who died in May.

Returning from last year's successful event were organizers **James Kennelly '79** and **Gerard Fitzgerald '84**. They joined **Joe Keenan**, **Denis Wuestman** and **Gerry Ferrange**, all from 1973, from a group who restarted the outing in 2024.

"Overall, it went very well," Keenan said afterwards.

Sixteen raffles for items were popular, as was a 50/50 raffle that took in roughly \$12,000.

The foursome with the lowest score, seven under par, was **Jim Ansbro '73**, **Tom Ansbro '76**, **Larry McCann '78** and **Tim Halligan '73**. Jim Ansbro had the initial drive that was closest to the pin, at 4 feet 7 inches.



CLASS OF '67: Honoree Steve Gandley, left, in mid morning with classmates Tom Quaranta, Joe Keenan and Robert Paul. **ON THE COVER:** Tighe Meyers lines up his shot under the watchful eyes of the rest of his foursome.



Several rows of golf carts waited under threatening skies at the start.



Gerard Fitzgerald '84, one of the organizers, addressed golfers at the start from a terrace.



AT LEFT: Marty Keating '71, in hat, sells 50/50 raffle tickets and gave out cigars.

BELOW: Four members of the Mullee family who volunteered to help run the event flank five Nazareth students at the dinner.



Jimmy Conway, '72, watches his shot from the tee.



IN FRONT: Justin Bostic, Cassandre Aphanord, Jeron Black, Tenielle Williams, Karl Folkes, Melissa Dorlean. SECOND ROW: Kenyba McLean, Charnelle Campbell-Mudho, Ariel Bedeau, Christopher Stanley, Lauren White, Ainsley Emile, Natacha Chicoye, Osei Bismarck, Alicia Hinkson. THIRD ROW: Keturah Lewis (Brooks), Phillips Derisier, Philip Ager, Joshua Martin, Francesca Alexis, Azana Simon-Alexander, Danor Luma, Smirlandha Midy, Nickey-Anna Lerice. TOP ROW: Fitzroy Neufville, Emmanuel Petit-Compere, Brandon Archer, Vladimir Jean-Baptiste (Teachers; Kapanika Panagiota, almost hidden, and Kerri Mulqueen), Kahlil Haywood, Duane Morrison, Ron Williams, Nikia Cole, Bradley Leger. Missing: Markenson Joseph, Kevin Matthews and Lauren Marfo-Mensah.

A Happy Celebration for the Class of 2006



Organizers Charnelle Campbell-Mudho and Karl Folkes kept the evening moving.

There were lots of hugs.

Members of the Class of 2006 and their guests, more than 50 people overall, got together in a nicely decorated Kingsmen Hall on July 18 for their 20th reunion.

A committee of nine classmates arranged for food, drink and music along with a roving photographer ([see her work here](#)). Throughout the night, videos of their prom and graduation ceremony played on a large screen.

"The event went very well," **Francesca Alexis**, one of the organizers said afterwards. "Everyone seemed to have a great time. We've heard nothing but good things from people who were in attendance."

Most new arrivals got an enthusiastic greeting, and one of the largest commotions came when two former teachers

arrived: **Penny Kapanika**, who taught history, and **Kerri Mulqueen**, who taught English.

"It's nice to know you can come home and still see familiar faces," Kapanika said.

Many of the alumni were dressed in 2006 styles, and the theme was based on "106 & Park," a BET music show.

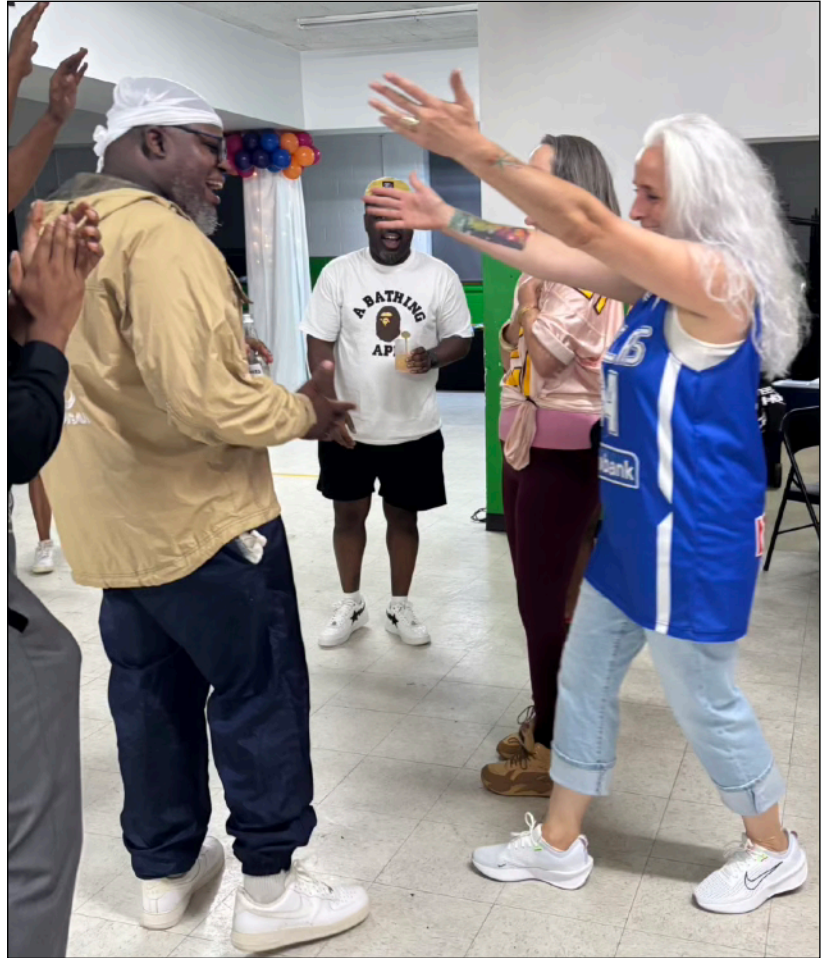
The alumni paused to mark the passing of three of their classmates: **Darcy Antoine**, **Naejma Charles** and **Dremmler Desil**. Alexis said, "These people really meant a lot to us."

In addition to Alexis, organizers included **Markenson Joseph**, **Karl Folkes**, **Azana Simon-Alexander**, **Cassandre Aphanord**, **Charnelle Campbell-Mudho**, **Kahlil Haywood**, and **Kenyba McLean**.

REUNIONS



Ex-teacher Kerri Mulqueen, left, gets warm greeting from organizer Francesca Alexis. Right, Vladimir Jean-Baptiste.



Former teacher Penny Kapanika, at right, gets ready to hug Kahlil Haywood after arriving at the reunion.



Loren White and Melissa Dorlean.



Duane Morrison and Kenyba McLean.



Nickey-Anna Lerice and her guest.



Playing last year, from left, were Dennis Casey, Robert Flynn, Brian Franca, Mike Cunetta and John St. Clair.

That '70s Band Is Returning For a Gig in Gerritsen Beach

Ready for a replay?

A group of musicians who performed at or attended Nazareth in the early 1970s is getting ready for their third performance in this decade.

In what they're calling "The 3rd Annual Back to Brooklyn Event," the former classmates plan on performing at the Tamaqua Bar & Marina in Gerritsen Beach on Saturday Oct. 24, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Organizer **Mike Cunetta '72** explained that the musicians, mostly from the Class of 1972, came from several bands that played at Nazareth dances in the early 70s.

The event drew about 120 guests in each of the past two years.

"Although not an official Naz alum event, it does tend to function like one," Cunetta wrote to alumni and friends, "with many folks traveling back to their roots in Brooklyn to enjoy an afternoon of music and

conversation with old friends and classmates."

There is no cover charge, food is available for purchase, and it is a cash bar.

In addition to Cunetta, the band, which calls itself Flatbush Rewind, includes **Fred Sweeney, Dennis Casey, Robert Flynn, John St. Clair, Brian Franca, Johnny Malar, Jim Cronin, Scott Friedenthal** and **John Tintera**.

A second group with some alumni members, Three John Band, is also on the bill. (Not the post-punk band from England.)

Change in Plans For Class of '80

The Class of 1980 canceled plans for a reunion on Oct. 3 after seeing not enough people commit to it. It would have been their 46th anniversary, so there's always next year.

Class of 1976 To Gather On October 11 In Brooklyn

The Class of 1976 is arranging its 50-year reunion for Sunday afternoon, October 11, in Sheepshead Bay.

Their plan is to gather at the Baron DeKalb Knights of Columbus post at 3000 Emmons Avenue from 1 to 5 p.m.

Dennis Kelly, one of the organizers, said the planning came together quickly. "We started the conversation back in June", he said. A group of six had been emailing and calling, and they are hoping to have roughly 50 people from the class.

"We want to get as many of the guys back together as possible," Kelly wrote to classmates in a mass email in late August, explaining that one of the biggest challenges the group faced was getting in touch with everyone.

The \$100 tab includes an open bar and food. You can make reservations through [this Google form](#). Those will be confirmed once payment has been received either through Venmo or Zelle.

Kelly had been working along with classmates **John Shannon, Pete Yetman, Kevin Stokes, Danny Chiarantano** and **Wil "Pops" Gilliard**. The group has invited several members of the Nazareth community to join in, including as special guests: **John Wuestman '68**, the outgoing chairman of the board of trustees; **Dr. Hugue Jean-Charles '92**, the incoming chairman, and **Robert DiRe**, the current principal.

How to Appear On These Pages

Wondering why you're not in here? You have a few options for changing that:

■ **Events:** If you want to let us know about an alumni-related event or activity of yours, or to let us know about the passing of a classmate, email us at advancement@nazarethrhs.org

■ **Personal News:** If you would like to send a short update about yourself, something you've accomplished or something you'd like to share with classmates, use the form on the school's website. <https://nazarethrhs.org/alumni/alumni-news-updates/>

■ **Write a Story:** If you want to take it a step further, we're looking for people who can help write stories for this newsletter. Taking on an assignment can be as simple as doing an interview or two over the phone and arranging for a photo. Or, if you want, you could wind up going to an alumni or school event and writing about it. Either way, we'd go over the piece with you before publishing it. Interested? Email: advancement@nazarethrhs.org

■ **Run a Reunion:** And if you'd like to get a reunion going for your class, write to the same email. The school doesn't run reunions but we have advice for how to find your former classmates and select a venue.



Donalds waving with wife, Erika, and sons Darin, left, and Damon, right, on C-Span.

Nazareth Grad Wins GOP Nod To Run for Florida Governor

The Republican candidate for governor of Florida is a graduate of Nazareth.

Byron Donalds, a three-term member of Congress who came to national attention when nominated for Speaker of the House in 2023, is a member of the **Class of 1996**.

At Nazareth, he played on the basketball and baseball teams. We've been trying to interview him about his time at Nazareth and what it's meant to him, but our requests haven't been answered.

Donalds grew up in Crown Heights and received a B.A. in finance and marketing at Florida State University in 2002.

The Naples, Fla., resident was

elected state representative in 2016 and to Congress in 2020. He won the Republican primary for governor in August.

He has a [Wikipedia page](#) that details his career as well as information about his personal life. Here is [his campaign site](#).

His Democratic opponent, David Jolly, served two terms in the House of Representatives. Here are his [campaign page](#) and [Wikipedia](#) entry. Term limits prevented the current governor from running again.

Politics and social media being what they are in 2026, Donalds policy positions were debated in a [Facebook posting](#) in June that drew 160 comments, many from alumni of the school.

PASSINGS



Yadira Janice Lagombra, from the Class of 2014, died on July 5. Services were held at St. Rita's church. You can see a Facebook post about it [here](#).



Karega Fordyce, from the Class of 1989, died in September. He was a founder of Brocode, a group promoting screening and health awareness for men. You can see a posting about him [here](#)



Panels seen from the parking lot (the track, for old-timers). They run along the main part of the building, but not above the gym.

The School Stands A Little Taller With Solar Panels

Over the summer, solar panels were installed at Nazareth as part of a plan that aims to save the school about 15 percent in energy costs every year.

There were no reports of damage to the roof, which had been a big concern, and the general contractor on the project, Mission Energy, expects that the solar output can be tied into the school's electrical system by the end of the year, according to **Joe Donley '70**, a former board member who has represented the school on the project, which began in 2024.

The school has a power purchase agreement with an investor that installed the panels at no cost to the school. Nazareth will be buying electricity from the system at a discount compared to Con Edison prices.

The school pays around \$200,000 a year for electricity.



Above, a view over the front entrance of the school on 57th Street; below, equipment on the way to being installed in the basement.



Photo Courtesy of George Williams

Fiscal Year Ends With Fundraising Success

By Denis Wuestman '73

Past Chair, Development Committee

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of all our donors as we concluded the school's fiscal year on June 30, 2026.

We are pleased to share that we have received over 520 donations from over 350 individual donors totaling \$293k. These donations have funded the following:

Spirit of Nazareth Annual Appeal Unrestricted Fund (\$142k) Includes our Annual Appeal, Golf Outing and the McCarthy Run/Walk Net Proceeds, Donations from Alumni Reunions, general contributions to Nazareth.

Designated Scholarship or Purpose Funds (\$101k) Includes the following funds: Brother Matthew Burke, Catherine McAuley, Coach Will Naz Track, Lt. Michael T. Russo, Det Dennis Murphy, McCaig Family and Golf Outing Scholarships.

Endowments (\$50k): Includes the 1967 Endowment Fund, Charles and Nora Reiter Fund, Girardi Family Scholarship Fund and the General Endowment Fund.

All donations support the school's goal of focusing on the spiritual, intellectual, social, and personal growth of the student population.

On the following pages we

recognize the many donors who have made the sacrifice to support Nazareth over the past school year. We thank them for their kindness and generosity.

Check out our **Nazareth Giving Menu** where you will see our ongoing year-round Spirit of Nazareth appeal and our various scholarships and endowments

If you have interest in starting or funding a scholarship, purpose or endowment fund, please contact Principal Robert DiRe at rdire@nazarethrhs.org or Rich Borecky at rborecky@nazarethrhs.org

If you are interested in donating appreciated securities, you can access this **checklist and process** to help you.

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