



### *ER DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD: A HISTORY*

Since its inception in 2009, the East Rochester Alumni Foundation has presented the Distinguished Alumni Award to eight graduates. This award serves to recognize ER alumni “for noteworthy lifetime accomplishments and contributions. It also offers a powerful opportunity to underscore the potential which exists for kids who are lucky enough to grow up and be educated in East Rochester.” The award is presented every summer at our Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic Golf Tournament. Each of the recipients has accomplished much and has made us all proud, as the inscriptions on their plaques clearly illustrate. Here’s a summary of our Distinguished Alumni honorees....

**2009 – Nicholas Verzella (class of 1944):** Mr. Verzella was recognized “for his many years of dedicated service to the village and people of East Rochester, his ability to educate and inspire students we placed in his care, and his many contributions to the traditions and culture of his beloved home town.” Throughout his 39-year career in education, Mr. Verzella was a teacher, administrator, and coach. A veteran of World War II, he has been named ER American Legion Memorial Post 1917 Legionnaire of the Year twice, and Monroe County Legionnaire of the Year. In 2011 he was inducted into the NYS Senate Veterans’ Hall of Fame, along with the ER Bomber Athletic Wall of Fame.

**2010 – Brig. Gen. Richard R. McPhee (class of 1974) and Rear Adm. Donald P. Quinn (class of 1975):** These two military officers received plaques inscribed: “For his outstanding leadership, scholastic, and athletic accomplishments while a student at East Rochester High School; for his distinguished military career including graduation from [West Point Military Academy for Brig Gen. McPhee/the U.S. Naval Academy for Rear Adm. Quinn], numerous decorations, and exceptional combat service in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom; for being the first ER graduate to achieve the rank of [Brigadier General/Rear Admiral]; and for the enormous pride he has brought to his family, school, and community.”

**2011 – Sam Urzetta (class of 1944):** “Nationally recognized as a champion amateur and professional golfer, Sam Urzetta earned the love and admiration of the ER community with his humble integrity: loving father, devoted husband, selfless community leader, and stalwart friend.” While the world knew of Mr. Urzetta’s golfing accolades, we were lucky enough to know what a special, kind, giving man he was. As was stated by others, “our thanks go to Sam for helping us all be better people.” (The award was presented posthumously to Mr. Urzetta’s family.)

**2012 – Larry Weise (class of 1954):** “Athlete, coach, college administrator, and family man, Larry Weise embodies the prized values of ER High School alumni: sportsmanship, excellence, leadership, and service to family and community.” Mr. Weise was a member of the St. Bonaventure basketball team and then its coach from 1961-73, taking them to the Final Four in 1970. He was also the University’s athletic director, and in 1968 and ’70 was named the ECAC Coach of the Year.

**2013 – the Hon. Victoria Argento (class of 1980):** “Committed to community, to youth, and to her family and cultural heritage, Judge Vicki Argento stands as a model of professional achievement, selfless service, and leadership for all ER alumni.” Among her professional memberships and service in Monroe County are the Rochester Teen Court and the Center for Dispute Settlement. Here in the Home of Champions, Judge Argento has been active in Little League and the Chamber of Commerce. She was the first female member of the St. Nicola Society of ER, and a key presenter at the Alumni Foundation’s 2009 and ’10 Career Night events.

**2014 – Thomas Conners, Jr. (class of 1944):** “Teacher, community leader, mentor, and friend to generations of ER youth: ‘Mr. East Rochester’.” Tom Conners has served our country, village, and students for more than 60 years, 34 of those as a teacher and coach. He’s also served on the Village Board and as Village historian, and has been an active member of the ER American Legion Memorial Post.

**2015 – Mary Steigerwald Whittier (class of 1983):** “Founder of and driving force behind the Bivona Child Advocacy Center, Mary has been honored by law enforcement and the social work community for serving the needs of vulnerable and abused children. Her passion for justice and relentless defense of children most in need make her a true champion.” Ms. Whittier has served on numerous boards, including the Rochester Police Foundation and the NYS Children’s Alliance. She has also received several other awards, including the Carl S. Hallauer Award in 2008 and a Woman of Distinction honor from the NYS Senate in 2014.

– Anita M. Mance, Grants Chairperson

### ~ Alumni Spotlight: Mr. Mustard ~

*As we began to look at East Rochester alumni to spotlight, we were amazed at the number who have been extremely successful in the field of music, and realized that ER has been home to many of the finest musicians locally, nationally, and internationally. These talented individuals remind us that it's possible to pursue even the greatest of dreams beginning in our own small hometown. With this in mind, we decided to occasionally focus on those talented graduates who have gone on to careers in music. While we know we'll never be able to highlight all of them, please feel free to write to [eralumnispotlight@gmail.com](mailto:eralumnispotlight@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions of musical alumni we can profile in the future!*

Those who grew up loving the Beatles, and those who have grown to love their songs, are sure to love the music of Mr. Mustard, the Beatles tribute band formed by George Botticelli and Tom Price (class of '69), Michael Cosco and Mick George (class of '72) and honorary East Rochesterian Sergei Antonoff. Mick was kind enough to share some of their history....

The boys all grew up listening to the Beatles on their transistor radios, while Sergei, a native of the Eastern Bloc, listened on the 'Voice of America' broadcasts. Mick credits ER schools – especially music teachers such as Jim Beckwith and Dan Lempert – with cultivating their love for music and giving them a phenomenal foundation to pursue what they love. They honed their skills when Properzi's Music Store, on West Commercial Street, was a favorite place of all musicians, young and old. As Mick said, "It was a time when there was a garage band on every block in ER."

As teenagers, Mick, George, and Tom all played together in the first 'Sing-Out' band, and during rehearsal breaks they often entertained the cast with tunes from the Fab Four. Even back then, they talked of forming a band dedicated to playing the music of the iconic Beatles.

Over the years the ER grads have played together in various bands. Sometimes two or three of them performed together, and at one time, all four played in the ER All-Stars. In 2009, Mick and George decided that if they were ever going to form their Beatles tribute band, as they had talked about for so long, that was the time – and so, Mr. Mustard were born.

Although they've pursued other careers (George retired from the Rochester library system, Tom is a retired engineer, Michael is a phlebotomist, Sergei a craftsman, and Mick, a marketing director), all five have 'come together' to comprise an amazing group with an incredible sound – totally dedicated to the music of the Beatles. Whether at a festival, a smaller venue, or a private event, Mr. Mustard never disappoint. Their professionalism, excellent musicianship, and love of what they do radiates through their audiences. As it says on their Website, "We grew up with the songs that changed a generation. We are always amazed watching our audience, young and old, sing along with us at the festivals, parties, and pubs. There is much to be said about music that captures the time, heart, and soul of its listeners and the memories they reflect." Mr. Mustard do just that – capture the audience and bring them to a place in their memories, or to a place that creates memories for a new generation.

This summer will find them performing in downtown ER the evening of Wednesday, June 29, at the ER Fireman's Carnival (July 28-30), and at several other events in our area. You can visit [www.mrmustardmusic.com](http://www.mrmustardmusic.com) for their schedule and a great deal of additional information about the group.

Be sure to catch a Mr. Mustard show – 'A splendid time is guaranteed for all.'

– Helen Urzetta Tortorici

*more ERAF information on next three pages...*



*photo courtesy of Tony DeLeo*

### *2016 Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic Golf Tournament set for Friday, Aug. 5*

This year's Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic tournament – the 10th annual – is set to take place at Lima Golf & Country Club on Friday, Aug. 5. The event, hosted by the ER Alumni Foundation, is our major source of the revenue we use for Excellence in Education grants, which benefit all ER students. Last year the SUAC generated more than \$19,000 for the Alumni Foundation; since its inception, the tournament has raised almost \$100,000.

The tournament is designed to appeal to players of all skill levels. Our two main purposes are to raise money for the Alumni Foundation and to bring lots of current and former ER friends together for a fun day of golf and camaraderie. To this end, the tourney uses the 'scramble' format, in which handicaps are not used and each foursome's score is determined by combining the best shots made by all team members on each hole. Originally known as the East Rochester Open, our tournament was renamed the Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic in 2008. Our intent was to honor our dear friend and a true golfing legend. In addition to his many sporting, social, and charitable contributions, Sam was a founding member of the ERAF Board of Directors and a key member of the ER Open committee.

Registration, a continental breakfast, and a putting contest will begin at 7:15 am. The tournament kicks off with a shotgun start at 9 am. Because there will be more than 200 players, the tourney will be played on both the Charleston Pines and Island Oaks courses. The entry fee of \$95 per person includes the continental breakfast, greens fees, a cart, a drink ticket, tee prizes, a hot dog and beverage at the turn, a fabulous buffet lunch, loads of door prizes, free driving range privileges, and a donation to the Alumni Foundation. On the day of the tournament a putting contest, Mulligan purchases, skins games, and a giant raffle are also available for additional charges. In addition, tickets for lunch only are available for \$25. During lunch we will also be pleased and proud to honor this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient – **Jeanette D'Agostino Banker**, ERHS '49 and lifelong educator.

To avoid course and banquet delays, a maximum of 55 foursomes (220 players) will be registered. We will try our best to accommodate foursome preferences with regard to course selection. Early registration is encouraged and will be sincerely appreciated! Early registrants will be given priority with regard to course selection. In addition, foursomes who have registered and paid by Thursday, June 30, will be entered into an 'early bird' drawing, where the winning foursome will receive a full refund of their \$380 registration fee.

Registration forms are available at the ER District Office, the ER Town/Village Office (317 Main St.), and Lima Golf & Country Club (7470 Chase Road, Lima), and on ERAF's Website – [www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm](http://www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm). You can also copy or clip out the entry form on the opposite page. For lunch-only tickets, please contact Carl Tobin at [ctobin@frontiernet.net](mailto:ctobin@frontiernet.net) or 526-6120.

To preserve the nature of this event, at least one member of each foursome must be an ER alumni, a current or former teacher or staff member, a town/village resident, a local business owner/operator, a student, or an Alumni Foundation sponsor.

The Tournament Committee is looking for new members to help plan the event, and/or anyone interested in serving as pre- or post-tournament volunteers. If you'd like to help, have a question, are interested in becoming one of our event sponsors, or want to discuss making a donation of any size, please contact Carl Tobin at the email address or phone number above.

### *~ BACCALAUREATE 2016 ~*

All are invited to come and participate in the traditional Baccalaureate program, which includes a candle-lighting ceremony for all ER alumni. It's planned for **7 pm Monday, June 13**, in the school auditorium, and the scheduled **guest speaker is 1983 ER graduate David Dey**. Baccalaureate is sponsored by the ER class of 2016 and the ER Association of Churches. Please put it on your calendars, and come show your support for the graduating seniors.

*Please visit the Alumni Foundation's Website, at [www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm](http://www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm)!*



This year's tournament takes place at Lima Golf & Country Club, 7470 Chase Rd. Lima, NY 14485 on **Friday, August 5, 2016.**

We will, again, use a "Scramble" format to encourage participation by players of all skill levels. In 2015, 212 players participated in this event. To accommodate a field of this size, the contest will be played simultaneously on both of Lima Country Club's beautiful courses.

Registration, a continental breakfast and a putting contest will begin at 7:15 AM. The tournament will kick off with a "shotgun" start at 9:00 AM

The entry fee will again be \$95.00 per player. Included in the entry fee is your greens fee and cart, a continental breakfast, driving range privileges, tee prize(s), a hot dog and beverage at the turn, (1) free drink (beer, wine, liquor or a soft drink) at the downstairs dining room bar, a fabulous buffet lunch, loads of door prizes and a donation to the East Rochester Alumni Foundation.

On the day of the tournament a Putting Contest, Mulligan purchase, Skins Games and a giant Raffle are available to players for additional charges.

We will attempt to accommodate foursome preferences with regard to course selection. To avoid course and banquet delays, a maximum of 55 foursomes (220 players) will be registered. Early registrants will be given priority in regard to course selection.

**Early Bird Special!**

Foursomes who have registered and paid by June 30, 2016 will be entered in an "Early Bird" drawing. The winning foursome will receive a full refund of their \$380.00 registration fee.

While player entry fees include a donation to the Alumni Foundation, this event relies heavily on its sponsors for prizes and awards as well as for the additional funds needed to underwrite future foundation grants and projects.

**PLEASE CONSIDER RENEWING YOUR SPONSORSHIP OR BECOMING A SPONSOR FOR THE FIRST TIME**

\*\*\* SPONSOR LEVELS \*\*\*

Team Sponsor

(Cash donation of \$500.00 or more)

Includes entry fees for one foursome, (2) 18"X 24" Tee Signs, program designation as a *Major Tournament Sponsor* and one year website recognition as a *Foundation Benefactor*.

Key Sponsor

(Cash or product donation of \$175.00)

(2) 18"X 24" Tee Signs, program recognition as a *Key Sponsor* and one year website recognition as a *Foundation Benefactor*.

Hole / Memorial Sponsor

(Cash or product donation of \$65.00)

(1) 18"X 24" Tee Sign, program recognition as a *Hole Sponsor* and one year website recognition as a *Foundation Sponsor*.

Friend

(Cash or product donation of \$20.00)

Program recognition as a *Friend of the Foundation* and one year website recognition as a *Foundation Sponsor*.



**2016 PLAYER REGISTRATION**

<u>Sign Up For:</u>	<u>Price:</u>
— (1) Team Sponsorship*	\$ 500.00
— (1) Foursome	380.00
— Single Player	95.00
— Key Sponsor	175.00
— Hole / Memorial Sponsor	65.00
— Friend of the Foundation	20.00

Total Amount Included: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Team Sponsorship includes your foursome's entry fee and a \$120.00 donation.**

PLAYER NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

Please identify your team's captain with an asterisk and include the captain's email or phone number below:

**Please send a check and this form to:**

East Rochester Alumni Foundation, Inc.  
c/o Carl Tobin  
3331 County Rd. 20  
Stanley, NY 14561

### FOUNDATION PARTNERS WITH ERFD TO PROVIDE SMOKE DETECTORS

*Since the death of East Rochester fourth-grader Tyler Doohan in January 2014, the Alumni Foundation has sought to provide a meaningful way to help children in our community understand the importance of fire safety and what each of us can do to help. This article explains our commitment and how we were able to begin to accomplish this goal.... together.*

One of the many great aspects of small-town living is the way different community groups come together out of concern for each other. A limited number of people with an overriding commitment to community service often results in many great ideas coming to fruition.

An excellent example of this concept involves the ER Fire Department and, in particular, several of its members. Mike Romach (ERHS '96), the immediate past Chief of the ERFD, has two children (along with three nieces and nephews) in the School District, and his wife, Katie, teaches here. He volunteers in many different capacities in the community, as does the previous Chief, Steve Williams (class of '96), and current Chief, Matt Parrone (ER '94). They all recognized the need for a renewed commitment by the ERFD to fire safety and the youth of ER. Enter '77 ERHS graduate Jim Diego, who retired and returned to ER in 2010 after a distinguished career that included service in the U.S. Air Force and the Newport News Fire Department, where he was very involved in youth programs. Capt. Diego is currently chairman of the ERFD's Fire Prevention Committee, and the driving force behind the Department's youth activities.

The ERFD has long been involved with the children of this community, but these four members felt strongly that the Department should have contact with students at every grade level, and have made it a priority to accomplish that goal. To that end, a careful, sequential curriculum for grades PK-12 was created. Through age-appropriate activities and lessons, all students learn about fire safety. (The Department also has an Explorers Program for 14- to 18-year-olds, which they operate in conjunction with the local Boy Scouts.)

Despite their comprehensive plans, Chief Parrone, Past Chiefs Williams and Romach, and Capt. Diego thought they could do even more. Thus, late last year Mr. Romach and Mr. Diego presented the Alumni Foundation with Mr. Diego's idea to provide a working smoke detector to each second-grader. Because current smoke detector batteries generally last for 10 years, the second-graders would have working detectors until they graduate. The Foundation was pleased to be able to provide the funding for this endeavor. As second-grade teacher Kim Mason explained, the smoke detectors are a positive and meaningful contribution. Like wearing seat belts in a car or helmets while riding bicycles, detectors are a tangible safety measure second-graders can understand.

The Alumni Foundation sincerely thanks the District and ERFD for their concern, initiative, and support!

*– Vicki Argento and Anita M. Mance*



*ERFD Past Chief Mike Romach (ERHS '96) hands out the detectors to members of the Class of '26. More photos from the Monday, May 9 presentation are available at [www.tinyurl.com/j7jfnwg](http://www.tinyurl.com/j7jfnwg).*

### ERAF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Board members:** Chris Argento '86, the Hon. Vicki Argento '80, Denise Litzenberger Ash '86, John Baynes '71, Jerry Cilento '57, Mary Hopkins Cooney '56, Katie Connors DeVito '86, Mary Burton Estey '56, Linda Forbes '75, John Griffith '87, Anita Mance '65, Dina Marcoccia '86, Sam Morabito '61, Pam Narsisian, Peter Obourn '59, Patty Pullano '63, Tom Quinzi '80, Carl Tobin '59, Helen Urzetta Tortorici, and Dr. Mark Linton (ex-officio)

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