



2016 SAM URZETTA ALUMNI CLASSIC DRAWS NEAR-RECORD NUMBER OF GOLFERS

This year's tournament was held at Lima Country Club on Friday, Aug. 5. A near-record 204 players enjoyed a beautiful day on the course, with 250 players and guests on hand for the post-tournament awards luncheon and presentation of this year's Distinguished Alumni Award. Proceeds from this event will, as always, be used by the Foundation to fund education-oriented grants for the benefit of ER students across all grade levels. In addition to the \$16,000 raised through the cash, gifts, and prizes donated by more than 150 very generous individuals and businesses, the Foundation raised more than \$2,000

by raffling off four Cleveland Browns vs. New York Giants 'Club Tickets' donated by ERHS Class of 1991 graduate and Browns Comptroller **David Jenkins**. We again thank Mr. Jenkins for his annual support! Since its debut in 2007 the Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic has been the Foundation's primary fundraiser, and has brought in more than \$120,000 in support of our mission.

Because of the large number of participants, the tournament is played on both of Lima's 18-hole courses. Three-peating as winners of the Charleston Pines course were **John Barnhardt, Patrick DiFlorio, and Eddie O'Hara**, captained by **Gary DiFlorio**. The first-place finishers on Island Oaks were **Antonio Chevez Jr., Antonio Chevez Sr., Larry McCarthy, and Jeremy Miller**.

'Proficiency Awards' (such as Closest to the Pin and Most Accurate Drive) went to **Amy Arnold, Allen Berry, Dave Cook, John Murray, Jim Ransco, Luke Riesenberger, Don Seidel, Eileen Seidel, Bob Wetzel, and Paul Wurtenberg**. Collecting \$100 each for being closest to the pin on our two 'Mulligan' holes were **Chris Ash and Larry Warren**; while **Dennis Greco and Ken Persson** tied in the Putting Contest and shared the \$100 cash prize.



During the awards luncheon, the Foundation's 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to **Jeanette D'Agostino Banker '49**, who was honored for having "devoted her life to developing the potential in others" and being "a trailblazing educational leader at SUNY Brockport and a mentor to generations of teachers and students."



Jeanette D'Agostino Banker, ERHS '49

Over her career Mrs. Banker taught in the Rochester City School District, then spent 31 years as an Associate Professor of Education at SUNY Brockport, where she was the first female to be President of the Faculty Senate. She founded American International Schools Overseas, and later developed a teaching center in the Greece School District, serving as its director and supervisor until her retirement. (For much more information about Mrs. Banker please see our Summer newsletter, which is available online at www.tinyurl.com/j3k6wxb.)

In receiving this award, Mrs. Banker joined a prestigious group of other ER alumni who have been so honored. DAA recipients from 2009 to 2015, respectively, were **Nick Verzella '44**, co-honorees **Brig. Gen. Richard McPhee '74** and **Rear Adm. Don Quinn '75**, **Sam Urzetta '44**, **Larry Weise '54**, the **Hon. Vicki Argento '80**, **Tom Connors '44**, and **Mary Steigerwald Whittier '83**.

And please mark your calendars for the 2017 Sam Urzetta Alumni Classic, which is set for Friday, Aug. 4, again at Lima C.C. If you are planning a class reunion for next year, please consider holding it the weekend of Aug. 4-6 so you can include the 10th-annual Classic on your schedule of reunion events.

Finally, sincere thanks to all players, guests, sponsors, volunteers, and Golf Committee members. We could not have pulled off this wonderful event without your help and encouragement. We – and the students of East Rochester – thank you with all our hearts!

– Carl Tobin '59

Please visit the Alumni Foundation's Website, at www.erschools.org/alumni.cfm!

ER '86 Graduate Dina Marcoccia Battles Cancer a Second Time – on her Own Terms

Do you know anyone who has faced repeated, devastating challenges with such courage that their attitude has been an inspiration to countless others? Well, you might – if you know Dina Marcoccia. A 1986 graduate of ERHS, Dina is facing cancer for the second time in two years, and has demonstrated a heartening will not just to survive – but to fight, and to continue doing the things she loves.

Following her original breast cancer diagnosis in 2014, Dina underwent chemotherapy, a lumpectomy, and 33 rounds of radiation therapy. All of this brought great changes to her life and her routine. Dina went on partial disability and scaled back her work hours. Happily, she gradually regained strength, her hair grew back, and her life was returning to normal. She proclaimed “2015 will be my year,” and she made that come true. She started a new job, returned to her exercise routine, and, as a Board member of the ER Alumni Foundation, volunteered at local events. “It was an amazing year,” she recalls.

By December '15, however, Dina noticed she was increasingly winded by her workout routine. She slowed her pace but stayed active. Early this year, a sinus infection followed by headaches and dizziness led her to the emergency department. X-rays revealed that cancer had metastasized in her brain, lungs, and pancreas. As her friends and family witnessed the return of cancer, they also witnessed a woman who faces her challenges with determination, pride, and – in spite of many unpleasant experiences and emotions – a sense of humor. Those close to Dina have stayed up-to-date on her journey through her frequent Facebook posts as she returned to months of radiation therapy and chemo.

‘Team Dina,’ a core group of Marcoccia’s supporters, held a fundraiser in May. More than 200 faithful friends and members of the ER community came together for this benefit. Local bands featuring several ERHS alumni – including Ruby Shooz (with **Jamie Cosco '83** and **Al Marcoccia '83**) and Me & the Boyz (**Teena Pallani '90** and **Aaron Davis '08**) – donated their time and talent, and provided entertainment for the entire day. It was a wonderful event which spread the amazing spirit Dina has demonstrated in recent months. While Dina’s fight continues, she stays busy with work and cherishes time spent with her family, friends, and Maddie – her loving and faithful canine companion. Do you know anyone who has faced repeated, devastating challenges with such courage that their attitude has been an inspiration to countless others? Well, you do now.

– Katie Connors DeVito, ERHS '86



Dina Marcoccia in May 2014, after her last chemotherapy treatment for her initial battle with cancer. [photo provided]



On Tuesday, Nov. 29, the Greater Rochester community will come together to ROC the Day, and the ER Alumni Foundation hopes to help make it a huge success.

ROC the Day is a 24-hour giving opportunity to support all eligible not-for-profits, including ERAF, in the nine-county Rochester area. Community members are encouraged to visit ROCtheDay.org, a secure online giving platform, to contribute to any participating non-profit organization. All money raised during ROC the Day stays local. Donors have the ability to make a positive impact by giving to one or more organizations to support their personal philanthropic passions. Donors and not-for-profits can share their investment activity with friends, family, coworkers, and social networks to increase awareness of this community-wide effort. This is our third year participating, and we’re hoping to inspire lots of ROCstar donors to contribute to the Alumni Foundation this year. We wanted to alert the community to this activity and invite you to join us in supporting these 24 hours of unprecedented non-profit giving.

more ERAF information on next page...

SAVE THE DATE! SIXTH-ANNUAL EAST ROCHESTER CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL 9 am - 4 pm Saturday, Dec. 10

Much more info to come as the date approaches – please check www.erchamber.org for updates!

The East Rochester Christmas Festival will be held at the Eyer Building and the school campus. It's sponsored by the ER Chamber of Commerce, with assistance from the ER Alumni Foundation, the Town/Village of ER, the ER Association of Churches, the ER Rotary, and the ER School District. For the past five years, it has provided visitors with activities such as music and caroling, children's stories, food and item vendors, games and crafts for all ages, visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, sales and giveaways by local merchants, and horse-drawn carriage rides around Edmund Lyon Park. **New this year:** a Cucidatai (Italian fig cookie) 'throw-down'!

*Organizers are working to make our sixth-annual holiday celebration even bigger and better!
We look forward to making this an event everyone will enjoy and we can all be proud of.*

HOLIDAY HOUSE-DECORATION CONTEST! Have your displays up by Saturday, Dec. 3; judging (by the Town/Village Board) runs through Saturday, Dec. 24; winners will be announced on Tuesday, Dec. 27. The owners/residents of the three best-decorated houses will receive prizes from Salvatore's!

FOUNDATION AGAIN PARTNERS WITH ERFD TO PROVIDE SMOKE DETECTORS

As part of the second-graders' visit to the ER Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week in early October, each child received a free smoke detector for their home. This endeavor was accomplished through a financial partnership between the Alumni Foundation and the Fire Department.

As was described in the March/April/May '16 District/Community Newsletter, the smoke detector project began during the 2015-16 school year as a meaningful way to help children understand the importance of fire safety and what we can each do to contribute. It also helps ensure that these students will have a working detector in their home until their senior year. This was done in memory and honor of fourth-grader Tyler Doohan, who died in a nearby fire in January, 2014.

In her thank-you letter to us, one of the second-graders – a member of the Class of 2027 – wrote "Thank you for keeping my family safe. It's very nice of you to be thinking of other people's safety."

And from second-grade teacher Kim Mason, who wrote the grant: "Thank you so much for supporting and being part of the smoke detector project. This is so important, and truly shows how close-knit the community is."

The Foundation is extremely proud to continue this valuable initiative with the ERFD.

Photos from the first presentation (May 9, 2016) are available at www.tinyurl.com/j7jfnwg.

– Anita Mance '65



Immediate Past Chief Mike Romach (ERHS '96) helps distribute smoke alarms with 10-year batteries to the second-graders.

[photo courtesy of Kim Mason]

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