

RBR — OVER 100  
YEARS OF ACADEMIC  
EXCELLENCE

# RBR

RED BANK REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

WINTER 2018 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## RBR Portrays the Prolific *Diary of Anne Frank* with Careful Preparation

The Red Bank Regional theatre this year presented the iconic *Diary of Anne Frank* in the 1997 re-adaptation of Wendy Kesselman. The original play was presented in 1952, not long after the historic events it recounts. Children of 2018 are far-removed from the horrific times that produced the World War II genocide of 6 million Jews and 2 million other innocent people. A recent survey published by CNN (Nov 27, 2018) finds that the memory of the Holocaust is fading even in Europe where it took place. That same survey provided statistics for what we see anecdotally that anti-Semitism is once again on the rise in Europe. The Pittsburgh synagogue massacre was a devastating example that it exists in the United States.

In staging *The Diary of Anne Frank*, RBR's drama department took the opportunity for her actors and all drama students to research the time period they were portraying thus reinforcing the lessons the school district curriculum teaches on this darkest stain of 20th century world history.

The entire drama class took a field trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage, NYC, where they met Sally Frishell a

Holocaust survivor from Poland. In preparation for that trip, the school invited two graduate students, Andres Rodriguez of Rutgers University, and Jonathan Rose of Montclair University (both Holocaust Educator Interns) to set the stage for the period of time the students would portray.

The young men presented the slow but systematic dehumanization of Europe's Jews starting with social



RBR Drama students visit Museum of Jewish Heritage, NYC, in preparation for staging *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

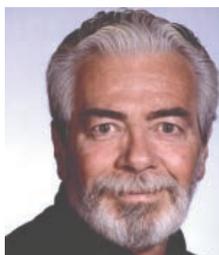


Charlotte "Charley" Novara portrays Anne Frank and Dylan Pitanza as Peter Van Daan in the RBR staging of *The Diary of Anne Frank*

alienation. One example shown was a 1938 popular board game called "Get the Jews Out of Town" depicting angry cone head playing pieces as Jews; the object of the game "to literally get the Jews out of town." Then came the laws legalizing discrimination. Jews could not hold certain

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## RBR THEATRE DEDICATED TO BELOVED TEACHER-JOSEPH A. RUSSO III



"VISIONARY,  
MENTOR FRIEND,  
FATHER, DIRECTOR,  
MASTER TEACHER TO  
GENERATIONS"

On Sunday, December 2, following Red Bank Regional's final performance of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, colleagues, friends, family and students participated in a touching tribute to long-time and beloved RBR Visual and Performing Arts Academy (VPA) drama teacher Joe Russo, by naming the RBR Theater in his honor. Joe Russo passed away in May of 2018, just two years after his retirement from RBR, where he was a founding teacher of the VPA and taught our students for 32 years

RBR VPA Academy Supervisor Adam Recktenwald stated, "This honor came about from so many students and alumni who wanted to honor their beloved teacher... It is our hope to continue Joe Russo's legacy

here at RBR as we educate generations of students for years to come."

His successor and student, Reuben Jackson stated of his teacher and friend, "For 33 years, Joe had a strong and wonderful impact on hundreds of students he mentored on this stage. He was a father, a friend and a visionary. His heart was boundless and he kept the stage door open for anyone who would come through."

His long-time friend and supervisor Peter Grandinetti recalled the Joe Russo he saw in the classroom as a "tough taskmaster who would press his students to work hard and inspired them to hone their talent to be the best they could be."

Long-serving RBR Board member Emily Doherty, who was present at the inception of the VPA, recalled the amazing productions he staged adding, "He was a beloved icon on this stage and in his classroom, and we, the ever appreciative audience, cannot clap hard enough!... later adding, "All the world's a stage' Joe, and we are proud and grateful to have this stage be yours forever."

Joe's colleague, piano teacher Camille Thompson

surmised what Joe Russo would say about this dedication, "I think he would say respect the space; respect the arts; respect your craft. Respect the directors; respect yourself and respect each other. And when you do that, the magic will happen... So I am ecstatic that we named the theater for Joe, a well-earned and deserved honor. For us, we need to keep earning the right to use the name Joe Russo."



Standing in front of the newly-named Joseph A. Russo III Theatre are members of Joe's family (left to right) daughter Christine Fisher, his wife Edie Russo and daughter Allison Bybee. Mrs. Bybee also spoke at the dedication thanking everyone for continuing her father's legacy

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ATHLETIC ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



**Eddie Leddy**, 1927, Track/Baseball/Football/Basketball; **Joe Rosati**, 1932, Football/Basketball; **Pete Marascio**, 1932, Football/Track; **Bill Geroni**, 1940, Football/Basketball/Baseball; **Dominick Gambacorto**, 1952, Football/Baseball; **Paul Hall**, 1958, Basketball/Baseball; **Robert Taylor**, 1965, Football/Track; **Milton Gaylord**, 1967, Basketball; **Rick Nowell**, 1967, Football/Basketball/Baseball; **Charles Taylor**, 1970, Football/Basketball/Baseball; **Lonnie Allgood**, 1972, Football/Basketball/Baseball; **Tim Johnson**, 1976, Football; **Chris Rose**, 1978, Football/Basketball/Track; **Eve Thompson**, 1978, Outdoor Track; **Michelle Samuels-Jones**, 1990, Indoor/Outdoor, Track; **Mark Donnelly**, 1993, Basketball; **Kyle LeBaron**, 1995, Boys Soccer; **Mary McCue**, 2003, Swimming; **Dick Martin**, Swim Coach; **Frank "Dusty" Bublin**, Groundskeeper; **Harold Potter**, Tennis Coach; **George Fallon**, Athletic Director/Coach Football/Girls' Basketball; **Nick Pizzulli**, Athletic Director/Coach Football/Boys' Basketball/Football; 1922 Football Team; 1975 Football Team; 1993 Boys' Basketball Team; 1998 Girls' Basketball Team

### RBR Portrays the Prolific *Diary of Anne Frank* with Careful Preparation *continued from page 1*

professions or own property culminating in the infamous Kristallnacht "Night of the Broken Glass," when Jewish synagogues, stores, and homes were ransacked, burned and destroyed; nearly 100 German Jews were killed.

The students learned about the ghettos, where the Nazi's forced the incarcerated to build their own walls to separate them from society. There the Nazi's controlled every aspect of life from food, curfews, medical supplies money, employment; etc..

Most importantly, the graduate students showed pictures of people with names—lives that were taken by the Holocaust. 1.5 million children were killed because they couldn't work and represented the next generation of Jews, which the Final Solution sought to exterminate.



(left to right) RBR drama teacher Reubin Jackson and guest graduate students and Holocaust Studies Interns Jonathan Rose and Andres Rodriguez

The graduate students explained, "Six million is a number that is hard to wrap your head around, so it is very important to see a picture, learn a name."

The *Diary of Anne Frank* gave voice to one name and to a whole family hidden for two years in a stuffy attic, surviving solely by the kindness of people risking their lives for their neighbors every day.

The drama students have done research to prepare for their roles in other plays. Alexa Kirkpatrick explains, "The research we did for *Fiddler on the Roof* and *The Crucible* was very important. But this is so much more important (In performing *The Diary of Anne Frank*), because you are portraying a person that lived and you want to get the word out that history repeats itself. So you want to give justice to her voice."

Shea Grant who portrays Mrs. Van Daan agrees, "It is so much more important to make the characters real humans because they were real people and we are representing Ann Frank's diary and her words and we can't get the words wrong."

In addition to learning about the historic time of the play, RBR Drama teacher Reuben Jackson felt the additional exposure to the historic facts had another benefit stating, "I encourage the students to look at the history they are portraying and to draw parallels to today's world events."

This was a lesson not lost on the drama students.

Kevin Cogan who portrays Mr. Van Daan comments, "The problem was (in pre-WWII Germany) it didn't happen all at once but bit by bit. I hope we can recognize it now when it happens."

Gillian Andresen, who portrays Mrs. Frank explains, "The play is so important that kids who see it carry it with them, especially after the events of Pittsburgh." She adds, "it is scary that racism is so much worse. We are seeing people are being forced to build walls in their own communities." (Eerily not unlike the ghettos of World War II Europe.)

Shea Grant adds, "It is so important to me that this is real (the play). Our generation is distinguished by mass murder. All we have in this generation is death and mass shootings."

Kevin adds, "Yes we do not have any peace. And again it is important that we see the person and not the number." Just like the Holocaust.



*The captives in the attic in The Diary of Anne Frank.*

# We Celebrate

Mrs. Eads FCCLA team brought home medals from the Fall FCCLA Leadership Conference



The students earned two gold medals; one for the banner. A second was earned by **Grace Laverne** and **Katelyn Sandin** for their activities in preparing a child for a doctor's visit. Two silver medals were earned in culinary categories by **Lily Ferrone**, **Tesa Koetzner** and **Grechen Ogden**. **Lauren Mery** and **Evelyn Sullivan** took a silver medal for their Go Green invention from recyclables while **Summer Smith** and **Sophie Pouso** also won a bronze medal in the same category. **Abby Bynoe**, **Kiera McCarthy** and **Ava Nelson** won a bronze medal for their Football Food Drive Community Service Project.

Nineteen RBR Vocal Majors Selected for All Shore Chorus.



They include: **Julia Mancuso**, **Meghan Rose**, **Claire Taylor**, **Manny Rosario**, **Ben Hahn**, **Sydney Spencer**, **Madeleine Stout**; **Rebecca Roth**, **Talia Tardogno**, **Maya Jacoby**, **Sarah Zerilli**, **Gianna Pallante**, **Mara Campolattaro**, **Raymond Faiella**, **Jack Schutzenhofer**, **Catherine Creed**, **Julianna Conforti**, **Jaqueline Conforti**, and **Elizabeth Emmett**.

RBR VPA Rising Stars Honored at Algonquin Theatre

RBR VPA majors **Catherine Creed**, and **Gabriel McGivern-Jimenez**, were selected as two of 12 students in the State of New Jersey

# te our Students' Amazing Accomplishments



as Rising Stars in the 20-year old Algonquin Arts Theatre Competition. The students performed at the event and were mentored by a master classical performer, Bass Martin Hargrove, at the all-day November 14 event at the theatre.

Additionally, **Catherine Creed**, placed second in the classical NATS competition held on November 3 at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ



**John Tuohy** took the third prize in the Experimental category for his short film *Parallax Dreams* – at The Bickford Theatre NJ Young Filmmakers Festival held in October.



RBR AOIT students took second place in AT&T Capture the Flag competition held at AT&T headquarters in October. Our cyber warriors included:



**Nicholas Principe, Rafael Martinez, Harrison Jones, Matthew Swaggerty, Matthew Izzo, Jessica MacLean, John O'Leary and Christian Luca.**



**Jack Povey**, RBR's star pitcher has signed to play with Villanova next year.

**Liva Helt**, a star soccer player who decided to challenge her comfort zone, has successfully kicked for the RBR varsity and junior varsity teams this football season.



## FALL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



### Football:

- Varsity record of 7-3 and qualified for the State Tournament for the first time in three years
- Their only three losses were to teams that are State Championship Teams
- They ended the season ranked 8th in the Shore Conference and 5th in Monmouth County

### Boys Cross Country

• **Tyler Schwinn** won the Stewart Memorial Invitational, and became Shore Track Coaches Association Runner of the Week. At the Shore B North Divisional Meet, Tyler Schwinn won the overall race while the

Varsity team placed third, and the Freshman team led by overall winner **Robert Fitzsimmons** won the Freshman Meet.

• The Freshman team placed third in the Monmouth County at the County Championship; while **Tyler Schwinn** placed third overall in the Varsity Race. **Tyler Schwinn** earned first team All-Shore by finishing sixth at the Shore Conference meet. **Teddy Purdon** and **Tyler Schwinn** placed in the top-10 at the North 2 Group 3 Sectional Championship and earned spots in the Group 3 Championship Race.

• At the Group Championship meet, Tyler and Teddy earned their way to the Meet of Champions,



### Girls Tennis

• RBR's Girls' Tennis Team won the B North Division. Finished the season with a record of 19-3, which is the most wins in a season by the Girls' Tennis Team in the history of RBR.

- **Madeline Solon**, first singles,
- **Sophie Pouso** and **Katherine Smith**, first doubles players
- **Belle McCarthy**, second singles and second doubles, **Quinn Bateman** and **Olivia Rogers** won their opening round matches at the Monmouth County Tournament.
- The second doubles team, **Quinn Bateman** and **Olivia Rogers** finished the season with an outstanding record of 17-1.

### Girls Cross Country

- **Catherine Wimmer** started her season finishing third with a personal best of 18:51 in the Junior Race at Battle of Ocean County Park and leading the junior squad to a second place finish. She continued her streak at Stewart Invitational winning the overall title there.
- **Claudia Kelly** posted a Holmdel PR of 20:39 at the Shore B North Division meet finishing in 4th, followed by Catherine Wimmer who placed 5th to lead the team to a 2nd Place Divisional Title.



Photo courtesy of Kelly Wimmer.

### Boys Soccer

• The Bucs qualified for States for the first time in the last few years.

# Welcome our new Staff

Daniel Cooperman, Engineering; Kristen Batko, Biology; Caitlin Koch, Math; Anna Nied, Math; Meaghan McDavitt, Creative Writing; Christopher Watson, Computer Science; Danielle Spinelli, English; Jennifer Massell, Reading Specialist; Victoria Pirber, Guidance Counselor; Erinmarie Ciallella, Speech Therapist; Nicole Hodge, VPA-Music Teacher; Tara Marrero, Guidance; Peter Harris, Maintenance; Michael Pembleton, Instructional Assistant; Edwin McDonald, Security Guard; Alexandra LeMoine, Instructional Aid; Michael Pembleton, Instructional Aide; Mariane Herte, Math; Sarah Sakowski, Instructional Aide; Mary Carlson, Assistant Nurse



RBR has once again been recognized among the top high schools in the country and state by *NJ Monthly Magazine*,



*The Washington Post*, and given an "A" rating by *Niche*

## Save the Dates:

### RBR Fundraisers

- BUC Backers Foundation Ladies Luncheon: Snowflakes and Sandcastles Sunday, January 27, 2019; 12 to 3pm McLoone's Pier House, Long Branch, NJ
- The Latino Scholarship Fashion Show at the Oyster Point Hotel Sunday, February 10, 2019, 12-3pm; sponsored by The SOURCE Foundation

## RBR invites you to a conversation

on the legal and economic aspects of Immigration  
Thursday, January 17, 2019 at RBR at 7 pm



Special Presentation by Jeremy Robbins, Executive Director, the New American Economy to discuss:

- The economic impact of immigration locally and nationally
- The status of reform legislation
- What the community can do to promote immigration reform

A panel of legislative leaders, educators and RBR graduates, who are leaders in the "Dreamer" community, will address audience questions. **Please join us for this very important and timely discussion**

Sponsored by The SOURCE, BUC Backer Foundation and RBR Student Advisory Board

## Message from the Superintendent



Red Bank Regional High School  
Board of Education  
101 Ridge Road  
Little Silver, NJ 07739  
www.rbrhs.org

### 2017 Board of Education

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**Louis Moore, Ph.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Christina M. Galvao**  
Board Secretary/  
Business Administrator

**Risa Clay**  
Principal

### RBR Community Newsletter

Marianne Kligman - Writer  
Gail Van Winkle - Layout/Design

RBR is now on Facebook; go to the link on our website [www.rbrhs.org](http://www.rbrhs.org)

### UNPLUG AND READ!

If you are concerned that media (TV, Internet, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) is taking up too much space in the lives of young people, you are not alone. A recent study found that the average American 18-year-old spent over 9 hours per day connected to some form of media usually in a passive mode, including over 4 hours per day on smartphones.

Managing screen-time is important, both for our intellectual development and mental health. Besides, as author Anne Lamott reminds us, "almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

The best alternative to passive screen-time and aimless browsing is reading. Sustained and purposeful reading requires active engagement. Walt Whitman observed "Reading is not a half sleep, but in the highest sense, an exercise, a gymnast's struggle". Keep an eye out for updates from the RBR Media Center on activities to encourage more reading. Education Week also published a "Spotlight" on promoting reading for everyone.



Louis Moore, RBR Superintendent

### CURRICULUM UPDATES

The new curriculum tab on our website provides access to important resources and information. Note that our district is using the Rubicon Atlas digital platform to share curriculum guides with students and families. At present, core classes in grade 10 and certain electives can be viewed. New courses will become available throughout the academic year.

### TECH HELP DESK

A new service available to the RBR Community is the student-run tech help center or "BUC-IT" desk in the Media Center. Any student having issues with their Chromebooks should stop by. Thanks to the students and Mr. Milonas for this tremendous effort! (BUC-IT=Bring Us Computers In Trouble).

### SUPERINTENDENT'S COFFEES

"Coffee and Conversation" will resume on these dates: Saturday, January 5, February 23. Both will be at 9 AM in the BOE office. Check our website for updates and future meetings.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a great New Year!  
RBR Superintendent Dr. Louis Moore