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The Associated Alumni of the Central High School of Philadelphia

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ANNUAL ALUMNI DINNER MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 6 • 5:30 P.M.

*Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing
201 South Columbus Boulevard*

GUEST SPEAKER

EDWARD E. "TED" KAUFMAN (206)
FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR (D-DELAWARE)

See page 10 for more information.

On November 24, 2008, Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner announced that she intended to appoint **Edward E. "Ted" Kaufman (206)** to replace Vice President-elect Joseph P. Biden in the United States Senate. Kaufman was appointed on January 15, 2009, the same day Biden resigned his seat, and was sworn in the next day. Before his appointment, he was often an adviser to Biden for much of his political career.

Kaufman was the second person to chair the Congressional Oversight Panel in the United States federal government, succeeding inaugural holder Elizabeth Warren. He is a member of the Democratic Party and previously served on the Senate staff.

Prior to becoming a Senator, Kaufman was a Board member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG)—the independent, autonomous federal entity responsible for all government and government-sponsored non-military international broadcasting. He was appointed to the BBG by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush and was confirmed by the Senate for four terms.

Born in Philadelphia, Kaufman graduated from Central, then earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Duke University and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

Since 1991, Kaufman has taught a course on "The Congress" as a Senior Lecturing Fellow at the Duke University School of Law, as well as "Government, Business, and Public Policy in the Global Economy" for law and business students at Duke. From 1995 to 1999, he was co-chairman of the Duke Law School Center for the Study of the Congress. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Children and Families First, WHYY, and the Board of Trustees of Christiana Care.

Kaufman and his wife, Lynne, have been married since 1960 and reside in Wilmington. They have three daughters, Kelly, Murry, and Meg, and 7 grandchildren. ●



ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Harvey Steinberg, 209
President, AACHS



The year 2011 is a significant one for Central High School and our Association. It marks the 175th anniversary of the chartering of our historic School. On June 13, 1836, an Act of the Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provided "That the Controllers of the Public Schools for the City and County of Philadelphia be, and they are hereby authorized whenever they shall think proper, to establish one central high school for the full education of such pupils of the first school district as may possess the requisite qualifications...."

And so are traditions born. What are we doing to celebrate this auspicious start?

We have planned a series of events and celebrations that begins on Saturday, March 26, appropriately at Central High School. Our mid-year Meeting and Luncheon, which is proscribed in our by-laws, will be held in the Spain Conference Center. The fabulous Central High Jazz Band and our outstanding Concert Choir will provide entertainment, and there will be other surprises. We will induct into our Alumni Hall of Fame five new posthumous members—**Simon Gratz (12)**, **William Glackens (90)**, **John Sloan (92)**, **Ralph T. Reed (114)** and **Charles Goren (130)**. They are described on page 6 of the *Journal*. Come see our Library and revel in the great students and their musical talents.

Shortly thereafter, we will start a new tradition. On Sunday, April 10, we will have the first "Central High School 5k Run and 1½-Mile Fun Walk" on Martin Luther King Drive (formerly West River Drive) in Fairmount Park. Prizes will be given in various age categories and the proceeds will be set aside to assist extracurricular activities of all types at Central. Read more about this on page 4 of the *Journal* and register as soon as possible.

On Friday evening, May 20, about 1,000 of us will head on down to the ballpark in South Philadelphia to join in Central Night at the Phillies. The chances are 4 in 5 that we'll see one of the "4 Aces" pitch against the Texas Rangers. Get your tickets now, as this will be a sellout.

Our Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held on Monday evening, June 6 at the Hyatt Regency on the Waterfront. The honored speaker will be the former Senator from the State of Delaware, **Edward "Ted" Kaufman (206)**. I expect a large crowd and a marvelous turnout from his classmates and others interested in hearing about his experiences at the highest levels of government.

The Graduation of the 270th Class will be held at the Kimmel Center, Verizon Hall on Friday, June 17, and there are a very limited number of places in the Alumni Box if you would care to join us for this joyous event. There are always great moments and surprises at a Central Commencement.

Then on Thursday evening, October 27, we will induct nine new living members into our Alumni Hall of Fame. Read about all of these fabulous, accomplished, creative fellow alumni and alumnae in the *Journal*. Yes, I said, "alumnae," too. This will be an historic and celebratory occasion.

What a 175th this will be! Join us and revel in our past, our present and our future.

I want to conclude by telling you two recent experiences I had at School that really tell about the Central that I have come to know. I was in the gym early one evening and stopped by to watch the AAAA Public League Girls Championship Basketball Team practice. At first, I wasn't sure, but as I watched her move, I saw **Ashley Morris (263)** who was one of our 1,000 point scorers and who went on to an illustrious basketball career at Temple University, the A-10, and then the European League. She was scrimmaging, coaching and cajoling our girls. I asked **Frank Greco (229)** about it and he told me that Ashley called and volunteered to come in and work with the team. No compensation, no conditions—just let her give back some of what she received at Central. Ashley couldn't finish the season because she was called back to play professionally for a French team in the elite European league. But I can tell you our current team learned from and was motivated by her.

A few weeks after that, I wandered into the Wrestling Gym—"The Gym" when I was here with the 209th Class—and, while watching our kids work out, I saw someone I did not know. After asking some of the bystanders who he was, I went up to talk to **Cameron Bass (259)**. Cameron wrestled and was All-Public here at Central. He went on to M.I.T., where he wrestled and graduated with honors. He is finishing his last year at Jefferson Medical School and, in the little spare time that he has as a fourth-year student, he has come back to the School to help coach and instruct our current kids. When I talked to some of our current team, the response was that "Cameron was a great guy and really knew his stuff."

Older alumni ask me all the time, "Do the younger alumni feel as strongly about the School as we do?" "Is it as good a place to go to School as when I went there?" I answer those questions by saying, "Come, visit, become active and see for yourselves." 🍎



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A PHOENIX RISES WITH HELP FROM "ANGELS"

by Harvey Steinberg, 209

On October 11, an arsonist set fire to one of the very large CHS Auditorium window frames. Fortunately, a Good Samaritan saw the flames and called the Fire Department, and their quick response prevented what could have been a total disaster. The window drapery was destroyed, the frame and parts of the ceiling were damaged, and there was considerable smoke damage as well.

The School District of Philadelphia responded quickly to begin remediation of the smoke damage and make emergency repairs. After only one lost school day, planning began for the full restoration and renovation of the Auditorium.

Despite monstrous budget problems, the District has committed to repaint the entire Auditorium. The draperies and stage curtains will be replaced and all damage to the ceiling and other affected areas will be repaired. In addition, the lighting and sound systems will be upgraded. Finally, the floor will be scraped and refinished. In order to do this, all of the 72-year-old wooden seats must be removed, then reinstalled.

When **Bernie Spain (198)** and his wife, Joan, learned of the plan, Joan suggested that this was an opportunity to replace the old seating with new upholstered seats. The Spains agreed to help underwrite this with "seed" money. We anticipate that most of the construction will be completed this summer and seating will be installed by the end of October.

Now we are offering alumni the opportunity, for \$300, to dedicate a seat "In Honor of" someone you choose or "In Memory of" a loved one. Classes can organize and purchase entire rows. There are just 1,200 seats and we expect that they will be sold out quickly, so please contact me at chsalmuniphil@aol.com for more specific information about this unique opportunity.

Your dedication will be memorialized with a brass plate installed in a recessed area of the wooden arms of the seats, where you will soon, and for many years to come, be able to reserve your place in the Auditorium. 🍎

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN MATCHING GIFT UPDATE

We've had several very generous donations in response to our anonymous donor's \$1,500,000 matching grant challenge, and, as you might guess, we need much more. You may recall that the donor will match all donations in excess of \$1,000.

While several of our alumni have made donations well in excess of the minimum amount to be matched, we recognize that many of you might not wish to reach that deeply. One idea might be to make cumulative donations in the name of your class. Reunions provide just such an opportunity. A \$10,000 donation by your class means \$20,000 to the school, so please keep this in mind as you plan your reunion.

On the subject of reunions, make certain that your class spends time at the school on the Friday of reunion weekend. For many, this will be their first chance to return after many years' absence, and it is eye-opening to see what our alumni contributions have accomplished. 🍎

ADVERTISE IN THE ALUMNI JOURNAL

Reach thousands of your classmates and others in the Central High School community.

Ad space is available from full-page to business-card size. Call Pat Malloy at the Alumni Office, (215) 927-9550.

Thank you. 🍎

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THANK YOU, YVONNE, AND BON VOYAGE

Merrill Freedman, 208
Editor, *The Alumni Journal*



Yvonne Dennis (246), an assistant news editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, has been promoted to Night Editor of the *Journal's* European Edition. That promotion necessitated her moving to London, and she goes with our sincere thanks, warmest bon voyage wishes and our hope that her continued success brings her back to us.

Yvonne has also served as Editor of *The Alumni Journal*, and her move has left a void that I will try to come close to filling. While she assures me that she will be as close as her e-mail, it amazes me that this petite young woman could leave such large shoes to fill.

This printed issue represents an important step back in time. In the Spring 2008 issue of *The Alumni Journal*, we announced that it would be the last printed issue, and that all others would be sent via e-mail. That would be, and will be again, both efficient and cost saving. But we have nearly twice as many accurate mailing addresses as e-mail addresses, and we want to keep as many alumni as possible aware of the many exciting things that are happening at our school. In this age of unprecedented social networking, it's hard to understand why so many of our fellow alumni are reluctant to share their e-mail addresses. Your information does not go past our school, and I might add that, once you read the *Journal*, it's much easier to save or discard the digital version than it will be to recycle this edition. Pushing the "delete" button saves you having to walk all the way over to your recycle bin, and the environment will thank you. If you have not received previous digital editions, please send a quick e-mail to chsalumniphl@aol.com. As our parents used to say, "How could it hurt?"

Finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't thank **Jerry Kates (194)** for guiding me through this process. Jerry, along with **Bruce Yasgur (216)**, had been editor of the *Alumni Journal* for over 20 years, and they made it look effortless. I rely on Jerry now and in the future, but I can assure everyone that I will not be doing this for 20 years. I'll be happy if I'm still chewing my food after the next 10. 🍌

ALUMNI 5K RUN AND 1½-MILE FUN WALK TO BENEFIT CHS EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The first annual 5k Run and 1½-Mile Fun Walk will begin at 9 A.M. on Sunday, April 10 beside the Art Museum at the south end of Martin Luther King Drive (formerly West River Drive). Registration begins at 8 A.M. Bring your friends and family for a fun day of exercise and reunions with Central classmates and friends.

For sponsorship opportunities and to register, go to www.centralhighalumni.com. All proceeds will support Central High School's athletic teams and extra-curricular programs.

The Handbook of the Central High School of Philadelphia states that we cannot "educate in the academic subjects alone; we must educate our youth also to a sense of personal honor, a respect for the rights of others, and the moral courage unflinchingly to serve the cause of truth and justice." To ensure this quality education, CHS has created an extensive extra-curricular program consisting of over 50 different student-driven clubs and 20 interscholastic athletic teams.

Research shows that there is significant merit to the participation in after-school activities. High school students who join clubs and teams learn to prioritize and to make and keep long-term commitments. They also learn time-management skills and the importance of making a contribution to something bigger than themselves. Club and athletic participation allows Central students to get involved in diverse interests, raises self-esteem and builds lifelong relationships. All of these merits are keys to Central's promise of creating "responsible citizenship in the world which is among our highest expectations for mature human beings" (Cornog, 1958).

Unfortunately, these extra-curricular activities are not financially supported by the School District of Philadelphia. All of the clubs and teams must raise funds on their own to complete projects. The proceeds from the AACHS April 10 event will help make the fund-raising efforts of these clubs and teams a bit easier. Join us for the 5k Run or the 1½-Mile Fun Walk in support of continuing Central's mission! 🍌

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

by Thomas Quinn, CHS Social Studies Department

Central alumni, teachers and parents are collaborating to find more ways to encourage participation in the academic and social life of the school. One initiative is to develop a database of parent and alumni expertise that current teachers and student associations can tap into. They can then invite parents and alumni in as guest speakers and volunteers for classes, clubs, International Day, Career Day and Women's Day. If you can help in any way to develop this database with information or technical expertise, please contact the AACHS Office. 🍌


FROM THE CHS PRESIDENT

Dr. Sheldon S. Pavel
President, Central High School

On Thursday, February 17, Central High School celebrated International Day. Besides commencement and the first day of school for new students, it is the single most exciting day of the year. Why? Why is it so important?

International Day is an affirmation of who and what Central is in 2011. The day consists of every hallway in the school being decorated, a multi-cultural assembly, students and staff dressed in clothing reflecting their countries of origin, an international café with over 600 different foods, and speakers in every class in the building. Students stay in the building until 10 P.M. the night before preparing our environment to be exciting and different. Guest speakers and alumni return.

Because the Central of today is the most multi-cultural and heterogeneous environment that exists anywhere, it is crucial to learn from each other. It is necessary to weave a tapestry of brilliant colors to come together in a brilliant portrayal of the world as it *should* be. We teach not only in the classroom but outside of it. We create a living laboratory where people understand that each is to be valued, understood and celebrated. We are creating our own revolution—one rooted in understanding and celebration.

I hope that many of you were able to attend, and, for those whose schedules did not allow their presence, I suggest very strongly that you try to make time next year. It is an unbelievable day that will make you very proud to be a Central alumnus. 



INTERNATIONAL DAY 2011





the associated alumni of the
central high school of philadelphia

Mid-year Meeting of the Associated Alumni of Central High School

**A different and exciting venue
Saturday, March 26 at 11:30 A.M.**

An entertaining and engaging program at Central High School's
Spain Conference Center in the William M. King Communications,
Media and Research Center of the Barnwell Library

**Featuring the Central High School Jazz Band,
the Central High School Concert Choir and other featured events**

Also, the induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame (posthumously)

Simon Gratz (12) – Philanthropist and Educator

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Ralph T. Reed (114) – President, American Express

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Honoring Tradition, Ensuring Our Future

TONY GROSS (208): REACHING FOR THE STARS

7

by Mickey Greenblatt, 208

I had not seen my old friend and classmate, **Tony Gross**, for 50 years. I suppose that's what Central reunions are all about. My formerly quiet friend grew into a rare person indeed: he has gone to work at the same place for 43 years. Same entry gate every day, same building and same desk. He has lived in the same house for 38 years and been married to the same lady for 39 years, Madeline.

As a child, he took buses and subways to the Philadelphia Airport to watch airplanes take off and land, utterly fascinated by these huge machines defying gravity. He traveled 25 miles each way and his fascination remains. Tony and I had the same hobby before meeting at Central: I went by bicycle, hauling my brother on the back for 10 miles. Years after this, Tony and I met in high school and sat almost next to each other for four years in homeroom.

At Central, he was a member of the Rocket Society. He was also very interested in cars. According to the 208 yearbook, "Tony can supply any information on the specifications of all the latest automobiles within a second's notice."

Here are some of Tony's thoughts and comments about his time at Central and what he's done for the past 50 years.

What do you remember most about Central?

We were damned lucky to go to a school like Central. My favorite teacher was Clarence Grimsley, for geometry. He inculcated me with a love of math that has never left me. My biggest problem was with gym class. I especially disliked Art McNally, the gym teacher (and later head of the referees in the National Football League), sitting while he sent us running around La Salle, which I hated. One time, in a miracle, I finished first in making the circuit. My physical accomplishments have gone downhill ever since. Seeing Central for the 50th reunion was a great time for me. To visit that great old school, the library, the computer capability, and especially the kids, well, that was pretty good.

What happened after Central?

I went to Penn State Ogontz for two years, and then to State College to finish my BS in Aeronautical Engineering. I worked at Warminster for the Navy and then picked up a couple of Master's Degrees, one at the University of Michigan (Aeronautical Engineering) and one at Penn (Electrical Engineering). I went to the Von Karman Institute (VKI) in Belgium for a master's equivalent in the late sixties, a great year in my life.

What was so special about VKI?

VKI is a school for students from member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, so I was immersed in a world of students from England, Holland, Germany, Luxembourg, Italy, Belgium and Denmark. My research project was on Hypersonic Flow and Reattachment in a Conical Gap. Overall, VKI was a fabulous experience. Dr. von Karman, the founder of the school, saw that students should work and study together

for educational and, even more importantly, for social reasons. The concept that one should build institutions so people will work together decades later is a great one.

After all your studies, where did you settle into a career?

In 1967, I got a job at NASA Ames. I have had many different responsibilities. I worked on reducing sonic boom over populated areas, wind tunnel test techniques, undetected ice on wings, heat shield materials for the Space Shuttle, super calculators for climate models, and human factors in airplane cockpits and space vehicles, especially in crises. One of the problems my group studied was the trajectory of foam that fell off the Columbia Orbiter. Issues in a cockpit are not all technical: in hierarchical societies like Korea's, senior officers do not readily accept critical comments from their juniors.

What's one example of a nontechnical issue you've dealt with?

Sleepy crew members are a typical problem that my team studies. As crews are prepared for flights to Mars, the cockpit work must be apportioned between computers and humans with much more care.

What are some of your current responsibilities?

I am the manager of the Data Recording and Retrieval Project for the next generation Launch Site Command and Control System. I am also the Deputy Director of the Center for Mars Exploration, which is responsible for coordinating the Center's science and technology activities pointed towards the exploration of the Red Planet. I have held a number of management and technical positions at the Center, including Associate Director of the Information Sciences and Technology Directorate, Executive Assistant to the Center Director, and Chief of the Advanced Space Technology Office.

Has your work been recognized in any special way?

I'm a Fellow of the American Astronautics Society and an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Where do you live, and what are your plans for the future?

I live in Sunnyvale, California. I plan to continue working for a time. At some point, I will spend more time with other interests: digital photography, cooking, sailing, travel, and catching up on a lot of missed reading.

Do you do much traveling?

Madeline and I go to Paris every six months. Traveling by barge through the rivers of Europe and Russia is particularly interesting for us.

Are you interested in staying in touch with fellow Central alumni?

I would love to see fellow alumni from Central, so be sure to contact me at Agross@mail.arc.nasa.gov.

How long will you be at NASA Ames?

Until they carry me out. I love my job. 🍷

by Bruce Yasgur, 216

Recent chats with fellow alumni compel me to briefly reprise an old column. They tell me that they were in the so & so class, then ask what class I was in. My usual smart-alec quip is something like: "You appear to be alive, so were you excommunicated from your class? I'm in the 216." A quick story to nail down my point:



When I taught civics at Central, I led an annual class trip to City Hall to visit the courts and whatever officials we could scare up. Judge **Gene Cohen (214)**, now a partner at Montgomery McCracken, graciously insisted on hosting several such visits. His classmate **Stephen Green**, a prominent Philly lawyer, joined us on a couple of these trips as our legal expert. So we're gathered in Gene's courtroom. Gene's on the bench in his robes, and in breezes Steve, who greets the judge: "Good morning, Your Honor." Hizzonor replies: "Good morning, Mr. President." So what was that all about?! Gene then gives them the spiel that I'm about to paraphrase for you: Your class president is president for life, 'cause you're all in your class for life. Got it? Like the 216.

We're planning our 50-year reunion. I'll hold the torrent of stories till after our bash, but I'm constantly amazed at how fresh it feels to be in touch with guys I haven't seen or heard from in 40 or 50 years. I remember **Charlie Marple's** mouth-watering peanut butter sandwiches on cinnamon raisin bread from before our Central days, at Wagner Junior High, and **Les Littman's** antics that led him to spend so much time in the discipline office that he wound up dedicating it with a generous gift to the school. **Paul Cherry** and I got into one or two scuffles at summer camp before there was a 216. Little did we know that we'd be 'mates for life. I caught up via e-mail with **Laurence Salzmänn** in Istanbul, where he was doing a book tour for his latest publication, a collection of his photographs on Turkey's disappearing Jewish communities. During our junior year, Laurence went off to Castro's Cuba to be a rebel with a cause. He's coming. So, I hope, are **Bill Finkel**, my first friend to own a Ferrari and fly an airplane, and **Mark Forstater**, who went off to London and produced, among other marvels, a coupla *Monty Python* epics. We keep in touch, though most of us wouldn't recognize one another if it weren't for our scary Facebook mugshots. But alumni from other classes have also been in touch, so let's get on with it.

Kudos to **Merrill Freedman (208)** for taking on the daunting dual tasks of writing a book that he doesn't expect to be published (I hope to be able to tell you more about that later) and editing this rag, with absolutely no prior experience aside from a long and successful career in commercial real estate; and to my friend and partner in publishing, **Jerry Kates (194)**, for having put all this together and printed it for more years than I can recall. Congrats and good luck to our former editor **Yvonne Dennis (246)**, who has crossed the pond to London to

serve as night editor of *The Wall Street Journal Europe*. (See Merrill's column for the scoop on YD.) Yo, Yvonne, give a shout to Mark (see above) while you're there. And a belated welcome to professional wordsmith **Burt Spielman (218)**, who, as our managing editor, sees to it that we cross our eyes and dot our teas in the endless quest to please our mothers and Mr./Ms./Dr. (your favorite English teacher's name here).

Speaking of old teachers, among Professor (ret.) **Robert Brodsky's (177)** many achievements, he's published four books, with a fifth on the way as of last fall. Titles include *On the Cutting Edge*, *A Pilgrim Muddles Through*, *Songs My Mother Never Sang to Me*, and *The World in a Jug*. They sound informative and humorous, and are at www.amazon.com/books. Check 'em out to see which one has the best off-color jokes. Why does Bob do it? He says: "It keeps me off the streets." When Bob wrote, his class was planning two 70-year reunions: one in Key Biscayne and the other in Philly. Party hard, guys! (In this case, would the appropriate send-off be, "Break a leg!" or "Don't break a leg!"?) BTW, it wouldn't be so terrible to be on the streets where Bob lives, in Southern California. (As I write, it's 20-something degrees in Philly.)

Who else said that Philly is an overgrown small town? One advantage is that this gig gives me the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and neighbors like **Larry Kagal (211)** with whom I can reminisce about the old days in West Oak Lane. We'd both like to know if kids still play games like deadbox, chink and halfball. Larry's attended many class events since their 50th. They get together for dinner every couple of months to keep the "traditions" alive. Anyone got a broom and Pinkie? (A pimple ball's OK.) Don't forget the knife (to cut the ball in half).

Speaking of the old neighborhood, **Marty Sherman (213)** and I played together in a band in our early teens, doing the Oak Lane youth group and party circuit for gas money. Back then, he tickled the ivories and I slapped the skins. But Marty went on to work as a drummer for over 25 years while he helped run the family shoe biz. (Remember? They used to be on Mole Street when there was a Mole Street. Now they're all over the area.) Marty's been an actor for more than 25 years, performing in over 60 productions. As if that weren't enough, after 36 years of retail, he remade himself into a long-term care and Medicare insurance specialist. Some of us could use some of that. Wonder what it would be like to remake myself into a 30-year-old.

Psychiatrist **Joel Glass (214)** has the makings of a pretty good chef, especially at Super Bowl time. He commutes from Spring Garden, where we used to be neighbors, to several Italian Market venues, including Mimi's (see page 16) venerable DiBruno Brothers, to get those makings. I'm keeping tabs because I keep bumping into Joel when I journey from the western suburbs (largely a real food wasteland) to stock up.

Folkie **Jack Butler (215)** may have retired from his teaching and accounting careers, but he still sings and

continued on page 16

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

by Chuck Steinberg, 221

On Thursday, October 27, the Board of Managers of the Associated Alumni will be inducting a new class of nine members into the Central High School Hall of Fame.

The ceremony will occur at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Columbus Boulevard, in Center City. The Master of Ceremonies for the evening will be **R. Seth Williams, Esq. (244)**, District Attorney of the City of Philadelphia. A dinner for the honorees will precede the ceremony. Tickets are \$125 for dinner and \$25 for dessert only.

The Hall of Fame Committee had a very difficult task, as we reviewed over sixty qualified nominees, but had to limit the number to be inducted. This distinguished group of inductees ranges from 192nd Class to the 254th Class and includes the first women to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. The committee is very pleased with this class.

Consideration for induction to the Hall of Fame is open to any member of the alumni and each selectee must agree to attend the ceremony. Prospective inductees must have achieved national or international recognition within their chosen fields. Here are the new inductees:

Walter P. Lomax, MD (192)

A pioneer in the field of managed health care systems. Dr. Lomax established Lomax Health Systems in 1982, concentrating exclusively in health care for underserved areas. In 1990, he created Correctional Healthcare Solutions, Inc., specializing in delivering health care to correctional facilities. When sold in 1990, the company was providing health care in 60 facilities in 16 states. Another business he built was Healthcare Management Alternatives. In 1995, he created AmeriChoice as a holding company for three state HMOs.

Phillip Frost, MD (200)

Inventor of a disposable biopsy device in 1971 and founder of IVAX Corporation, a maker of generic pharmaceuticals. In January 2006, Dr. Frost sold IVAX to Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries and became Chairman of Teva. He made the largest donation ever given to the University of Miami to fund the Philip and Patricia Frost School of Music.

Barry R. Bloom, PhD (202)

Dean of the Faculty, Harvard School of Public Health and Joan L. and Julius H. Jacobson Professor of Public Health. Dr. Bloom is extensively involved with the World Health Organization (WHO) and is president of the American Association of Immunologists. He served as consultant to the White House ('77-'78) on International Health Policy. (Note: He was selected in 2009 for the Central Hall of Fame, but a commitment in Africa kept him from the ceremony, and induction was delayed until this current class of inductees.)

continued on page 14



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John Del Rossi, 231

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FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR (D-DELAWARE).

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BACK IN THE DAY...

by David R. Kahn, 220, AACHS Archivist

There are many stories from the days of old, interesting items and boring tidbits, notes and clippings that only begin to inform us of what was actually happening at any particular time. I am only just beginning to find my way around the archives, and the many interrelated files it contains.

One morning, I explored the files pertaining to Central's twelfth President, **Dr. Howard Carlisle (162)**, hoping to gather material for your reading pleasure. It did not surprise me to find out I was going in a different direction, as I read *The Centralizer* issue from June 11, 1973, the Senior Farewell edition of the 232nd Class.

The early '70s was a time of teacher strikes, declining enrollment, worry about turning Central into a neighborhood school, worry about the Board of Education requiring a percentage of minority admissions regardless of qualifications, thoughts about admitting girls, and extremely outspoken student writers and editors. The Board of Education had financial woes (sound familiar?) and required Central to reduce the number of faculty by two. They also stopped funding the School Store Manager and the Counselor's Aide. Dr. Carlisle found ways to solve these problems for the 1973-74 school year. (Does this ring a bell, Dr. Pavel?)

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Students complained loudly about the poor quality of the lunchroom food and general conditions in that room, not being allowed off campus for lunch, and littering in the hallways by their peers. They noted innovative ideas for course material presented by the History Department, and the high quality of the Central and Girls' High Orchestra concert. The library was the subject of a well-written article that made the point that it is a place for studying and reading, not socializing and eating.

It was clearly a time when *The Centralizer* editors and staff had superb writing talent. (Of course, the 2011 crew also possesses such ability, as does every *Centralizer* staff member.) My favorite article in this issue is an interview with the most loved and respected faculty member of the 20th century, **William N. Disharoon (133)**. It is reprinted below:

MR. DISHAROON'S VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

by Marc Bloom, 232

Perhaps no other man in the history of Central High School has been as closely associated with the school as **Mr. William Disharoon**. A graduate of the 133rd class, he returned four years later to pursue a forty-six year career teaching English. In addition, he sponsored our Drama Club for twenty-seven years. He is now serving as a special college-guidance consultant, paid by the Barnwell Fund. Mr. Disharoon loves to discuss Central and education:

Education

Education is not what you learn, it is how. It should be the development of a mental discipline. It is not memorizing facts; it is learning to think.

Relevance

All this talk about "relevance" is nonsense; thinking is relevant. Our opinions on what is "relevant" have changed drastically. Today we have an overabundance of "spelling idiots" — people who can spell beautifully, but don't know what they're spelling. Meanwhile, most of our students are practically illiterate. The language is being corrupted. No one cares anymore about grammar, no one teaches it, no one studies it. It's no more nor less of a subject than it used to be, but it's boring, structured, dull. We feel that it's more important as teachers to be entertaining than to teach people to talk and write so that someday, if ever they think of something important to say, someone will be able to understand them. In my youth, Central had four curricula — Classical, Science, Mechanical Arts, and Commercial. Furthermore, all students were required to take four years of a language, with none of this two-years-then-quit nonsense because studying a language is difficult. Especially in the Classical Curriculum — which was the rough equivalent to what we glorify today with the name "academic" course of study — nearly everybody took either Latin or Greek, often in addition to a modern language. This taught a good mental discipline, good study habits, good thinking ability.

Mr. Disharoon fits into a classroom beautifully.

I majored in biology during my first few years of college, thinking about medicine as a career, but circumstances steered me into teaching. It was the most marvelous thing that ever happened to me. I've never since wanted to do anything else.

Nor an Administrator

I've been asked many times why, with my seniority over the years here, I never applied for a department chairmanship, a principalship, or some other such administrative capacity. I never had any desire whatever to embrace all that nonsensical paperwork when I could be working with the boys.

Failure is Costly

Of course not everyone has the same fortunes in their educational experience. The present system of annual promotions is a step backward — if a student is failing, it is both less expensive and less emotionally damaging to realize this and make him repeat five months rather than ten, or worse still, to push him through so that he has no hope whatsoever of finding where he belongs intellectually. And junior high schools are absurd — social halls at the public expense, an apology for not preparing children to learn where they should be prepared — in the beginning, in first grade.

The most important room in the building is not the main office, the departmental offices, nor the counselor's suite. It most definitely is the classroom. And that is where I always felt I belonged, where I felt I could contribute the most to the boys of Central.

To which we can add nothing save a nod of agreement and a sigh of admiration for the voice of experience and knowledge, the voice of Mr. Disharoon. 🍷

CLASS NOTES

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173—This past fall, **Albert Appel** marked the 50th anniversary of his Appel Farm Arts and Music Center, a summer arts camp for kids in South Jersey. Albert told *The Inquirer* that he and his late wife, Clare, “wanted to change the world and do it through children.” Well, after hosting thousands of children through the years and being called “a cultural treasure” by New Jersey’s lieutenant governor, we’d say you’ve done just that, Albert. Bravo!

178—**Dave Roda** likes to plan ahead. He called the Alumni Office to say that his class is planning its 70th reunion in 2012. The specific date has not yet been announced, but classmates should look for it shortly. Contact him at (215) 886-6082.

180—**Sam Feinberg** continued his enthusiastic promotion of opera with the December presentation of “Tuscan Brunch and Opera Lecture with Sam Feinberg” in Elkins Park. Sam has been an opera lover since his days at Central. Since his retirement from TV sales and management, he has become a busy lecturer on all subjects pertaining to opera. Sam is one of an informal group of writers and lecturers who are vocal historians, dedicated to keeping interest alive in the great voices of the past.

181—**Shelly Feldman** reports that his class has held a reunion *every year* since graduating in February 1944. Currently, the class members in South Florida hold a breakfast get-together each month. Nine or ten classmates generally attend.

183—**Dr. Robert Gillon** sends his regards from The Villages in Lady Lake, Florida, and reports that he is still practicing proctology.

188—After a 50-year career as a CPA, **Bruce Bayuk** has moved on to teaching bridge at a nearby assisted and unassisted facility and at the Jewish Home.

190—**Martin Kreithen** and his wife, Sylvia, were honored last year at the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center for Jewish Life Rainbow Ball for their longtime support of the Center. Martin is vice president of the board and his wife is a member of the auxiliary.

199—**Gene Ehrich** has retired and is living in Spring Hill, Florida, and reports that he would enjoy hearing from fellow alumni. His e-mail address is gene@ehrich.com.

200—**Dr. Robert Singleton** is currently economics professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. In 1961, eight years after graduation from Central, he and his wife led a group of their UCLA contemporaries on a Freedom Ride to desegregate “White Only” waiting rooms in Jackson, Mississippi. The United States Supreme Court had declared these practices unconstitutional in interstate facilities in 1960 (*Boynton vs. Virginia*), but the local laws and customs in Southern states nevertheless continued segregating black and white passengers. The Supreme Court ruled in the Freedom Riders’ favor in 1961, and the “White Only” signs came down, but discrimination has taken other, more pernicious forms.

Dr. Singleton has graciously offered to tell his story in person at Central during the 50th anniversary of the Freedom Rides in May 2011.

207—**Edward Cohen** recently oversaw the sale agreement of natural gas company Atlas Energy, of which he is chairman and CEO, to Chevron Corporation for \$4.3 billion. Atlas is rooted in natural gas drilling partnerships Edward helped organize decades ago. His wife told *The Inquirer* in the fall that the sale of the company in no way meant they are ready to retire from their many Philadelphia business ventures.

209—**Russell Misheloff** recently announced his retirement and the start of his new work in consulting, with his first assignment already underway.

213—**Paul Wallner** has relocated from southern New Jersey to Bethesda, Maryland, where he will continue to pursue activities related to healthcare reform and education through his responsibilities with the American Board of Radiology and the American Board of Medical Specialties.

214—A “sampling” of books produced by members of the 214 will be on display in the Barnwell Library.

216—**Michael Bailis** has retired after 37 years as a faculty member and administrator at Cuyahoga Community College. In retirement, he will become a docent at the Cleveland Museum of Art, consult on grant writing and enjoy the time he spends with Joanne, his wife of 44 years.

224—**Jonathan Rose** writes in to say how he thinks often about Central and how much he appreciates what the school offered him. He has been at East Carolina University since 1979 where he’s been a physical education instructor. He’s been the men’s and women’s diving coach for 18 years, and the women’s gymnastics coach for two years.

227—In April 2011, **Steven Levy** will publish his seventh book, *In the Plex: How Google Thinks, Works, and Shapes Our Lives* (Simon and Schuster). The book is the product of almost three years of embedded reporting inside the Internet search giant. Levy is now a senior writer at *Wired Magazine*, after spending 12 years as senior editor and chief technology correspondent for *Newsweek*. He claims that his Central science classmates would be shocked to learn that he has covered the computer revolution since 1982. His previous books include *Hackers*, *Artificial Life*, *Crypto* and two books on Apple Inc.

231—**Ellis Freedman** announced his retirement and then quickly started his consulting firm, Serious Science. For many years Ellis’ passion has been standardbred horses, and until recently, he has owned many. Most of his horses have done well at the track, but his personal favorite was a horse named Scarface. Ellis didn’t own that horse as its success at the track faded, but he purchased Scarface in order to find him a comfortable home in retirement. The horse has been renamed, and is enjoying life as a saddle horse, giving pleasure to his new owner.

continued on page 13

246—Yvonne Dennis has been assigned the position of Night Editor of *The Wall Street Journal Europe* and is relocating to London. No longer able to serve as Class Rep, she asks that someone in her class step up to take her place. Those interested should contact Class Reps organizer **Rudy Cvetkovic (239)** at rudyc69@msn.com.

253—Dr. Daniel Schwartz tied the knot in October with Dr. Lauren Ende at the Loews Hotel in Center City. Both are specialists at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Daniel is the son of Democratic Congresswoman Allyson Schwartz (13th District, Pennsylvania) and Dr. David Schwartz, a cardiologist. The bride's parents are Roberta Ende, a teacher, and Ellis Ende, a managing partner in an accounting firm.

254—Quiara Alegria Hudes is riding high on the success of her Tony Award-winning musical, *In the Heights*, now touring the country after a three-year run on Broadway. Quiara recently expanded her professional horizons to book-writing, penning the children's work *Welcome to My Neighborhood* in both English and Spanish. We're sure Quiara has many more creative gems in her future.

255—Cristin O'Keefe Aptowicz, ArtsEdge Writer-in-Residence at the University of Pennsylvania, is spending a year researching and writing a book on Thomas Dent Mütter, founder of Philadelphia's Mütter Museum. She is the author of five books of poetry as well as one non-fiction book. In her Central days, she was managing editor of *The Mirror* and *The Centralizer*.

256—Anee Karin Lee is in graduate school for Cognitive Neuroscience at the University of Oslo in Norway. She is doing research in high-level attention to motion in unilateral parietal patients with neglect, as well as research in the effects of prenatal nicotine exposure in an animal model of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. She has also become active in politics abroad and has done numerous interviews in the Norwegian media. She worked with Republicans Abroad Norway and Monticello Society, which held a conference celebrating the Reagan centennial in Oslo on February 6. As if she is not busy enough, she is Editorial Assistant to the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Behavioral and Brain Functions*, managing and inviting referees to review manuscripts.

261—Former Central basketball star **Sharif Bray** is making headlines playing guard for Cheyney University—at age 26. A recent *Inquirer* profile of Sharif detailed his return to organized play after a series of personal setbacks in the mid-2000s. A Division II all-American at California University of Pennsylvania in 2004, Sharif left the school in 2005, a year his father suffered a serious stroke and a close friend died on the basketball court. Sharif's passion for basketball never waned, however, and his friends in the sport never forgot his talent. In 2009, Sharif decided it was time to go back to school. Now, he's inspiring the younger players on Cheyney's team with his scoring prowess—he posted 33 points in his first game back—and his commitment to education.

266—In more basketball news, standout **Jillian Barrett** continues to show she's got skills, now playing forward for Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey. As a freshman, Jillian, now a junior, finished second on the team in field goal percentage and blocks. ●

IN MEMORIAM

- 151 — Frank Laird
 - 157 — Morris Yermish
 - 158 — Harry D. Palmer, Sr.
 - 162 — Marvin Comisky, Esq.
 - 171 — Paul Farwell Keene, Jr.
 - 177 — Julius "Jay" Apt
 - 178 — Ramon B. Garfinkel
 - 181 — William S. Goldstein
 - 181 — Edwin Hirsch
 - 183 — Cyrus Wolfman, MD
 - 186 — Walter W. Wright, Jr.
 - 187 — Sidney A. Greenblatt
 - 188 — Hon. Marvin Katz
 - 188 — Ira S. Dubrow
 - 190 — Joseph J. Stratos, Jr.
 - 192 — Frank F. Bartone, MD
 - 195 — Gerald I. Zatuchni, MD, MSc
 - 196 — Nicholas R. Pagliei, DO
- Faculty — Jacqueline Cantor

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE EVENT

On Friday, May 6, the third Holocaust Remembrance Event will occur in the CHS Auditorium at 8:15 A.M. Scheduled to speak are **Manny Mandel (202)** and **Charles Rojer, MD (199)**, both of whom have spoken in the past. On this occasion, they will be joined by **George Marcus (204)** and his uncle, Ernest Kaufman, a retired US Army Major, who is also a survivor with an extraordinary story to tell. George himself was a survivor who was fortunate to have left Europe at an early age.

This important event is open to alumni as well as the student body.

We must never forget! ●

**WHEN SUBMITTING CLASS NOTES, PLEASE
INCLUDE YOUR NAME, GRADUATING CLASS
AND E-MAIL ADDRESS.**

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ALUMNI HALL OF FAME *continued from page 9*

Edwin M. Epstein (202)

Professor Emeritus, Haas School of Business and International and Area Studies, University of California at Berkeley, where he has been a faculty member since 1964. His book, *The Corporation in American Politics*, won the Howard Chase Book Award from the Social Issues in Management Division of the Academy of Management for making "a significant and lasting contribution to the study of business and society."

Alan Wolfe, PhD (213)

Professor of Political Science and Director of the Boisi Center for Religion and American Public Life at Boston College. Author and editor of more than ten books, Dr. Wolfe chairs a task force of the American Political Science Association on Religion and Democracy in the U.S. He is currently the John Gilbert Winant Professor of American Government at the University of Oxford.

Richard Silverman, PhD (221)

John Evans Professor of Chemistry, Northwestern University. Dr. Silverman is the inventor of Lyrica, a drug marketed by Pfizer for fibromyalgia, neuropathic pain and epilepsy. He was awarded The Perkin Medal, an award given annually by the Society of Chemical Industry for "innovation in applied chemistry," considered the highest honor given in the industrial chemical industry in the United States.

Charles R. Bridges, MD, ScD (232)

Professor of Surgery, University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Bridges was the first African American to attain the rank of Full Professor of Surgery in the 260-year history of the University. He has been awarded two patents and four pending patents for inventions in the fields of cardiovascular devices and cardiac and systemic gene and cell delivery.

Betty Liu (250)

Morning anchor (8–10 A.M.) on Bloomberg Television. Ms. Liu has conducted some of the biggest interviews on the network, including Warren Buffet and Bill Gates. Formerly an anchor for CNBC Asia, Ms. Liu covered the China market meltdown in February 2007. She was anchor of CNBC's newest show, *Capital Connection*, and was the Atlanta bureau chief for *The Financial Times*, where she received several awards including being nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 2000 for her series on immigrant labor in the South.

Quiara Alegría Hudes (254)

Author of the book, *In The Heights*, the basis for the 2008 Tony Award-winning musical with the same title. Ms. Hudes was nominated for a Tony Award herself for the book. Currently, she is writing the screen version of *In The Heights*. She has won a number of literary awards for her plays *Yemaya's Belly*; *Elliot, a Soldier's Fugue*; and *26 Miles*. She is a two-time Pulitzer finalist. 🍷

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THE ROBOLANCERS

by Daniel Ueda, CHS Physics Teacher, Robotics Coach

After taking first place in Philadelphia in the Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology (BEST) robotics competition in October, Central High School's robotics team, the Robolancers, went on to place in the top eight in the regional competition in Alabama, winning a trip to the championship competition.

The world championship will be held April 14–16 at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The robotics competition, slated for 8:30 A.M.–6:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 16, will include the top eight teams from each of the three regional BEST Robotics championships held throughout the United States in 2010. The event is free and open to the public.

In other news, Joan Spain, wife of **Bernie Spain (198)**, has generously decided to sponsor the construction of a new robotics lab in the school basement. The room will house the Dell computers donated by alumni two years ago. All the science teachers who loathe using my robot-cluttered classroom have cheered this news.

The team is currently seeking recurring corporate or private sponsorship for our three competitions. Our costs each year average \$15,000. That money has come from alumni donations, the Barnwell fund, and school district sponsorship. However, due to budget cuts, the school district has drastically reduced our funding. Corporate sponsorship would result in prominent advertisement at all competitions and events. Please feel free to contact me at dueda@philasd.org. I will gladly demonstrate what our students accomplish day in and day out. 🍷

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FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE DESK

by Samantha Lite, 263



It was only ten years ago that I entered Central as a freshman. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that I would be teaching at the institution that has helped shape me into the person and teacher I am today. Those four years that I was a student seem like they flew by, and now I get to watch class after class go through some of the same experiences I had. It can be surreal. I wake up every day excited to see what crazy thing a student will say or do. It is never malicious, but almost always funny or silly. The students have some of the most creative personalities and they use that creativity not only for their own benefit, but for others as well.

As a fairly new teacher (in my third year teaching, second at Central), I wasn't sure how the students would react to having a teacher that's the same age as some of their older siblings. From the first day, I was honest with the students and created procedures to follow during class. I have had a great time teaching the students every day since I started. They and I respect each other and we get along well. I enjoy spending almost an hour with each of my classes each day. Teenagers have an interesting way of looking at the world and it's fascinating to watch students do the same things my friends and I did in school.

Another reason I have such a strong rapport with my students is the amount of effort I put into getting them to succeed and do well in class. I am as involved as I can be in knowing what is expected of them at home. Some of the students must work to help their families and I must sometimes be flexible and give students a break. It is extremely important to be cognizant, especially in such tough economic times. The students really are the best part of my job.

One of my favorite aspects of Central is the diversity of the student body. With students coming from all over the city, Central is a meeting place for all the top students from every neighborhood. Alumni should understand that Central is just as rigorous and challenging as it was when you attended, but the format of the classes and areas of knowledge may be different. Students are now required to take an African-American History course. American History has always been part of the curriculum and to add a course from a different cultural perspective is representative of the change Central has gone through in the past fifty years. From my perspective as a teacher, I love having students from different backgrounds. I learn a lot from them and can apply the knowledge to other areas of my life. I enjoy hearing students' stories about their native countries. Our students have such strong opinions and beliefs, and having conversations with them has helped me realize what is truly important in life: appreciating where you came from and the people

around you. I do this by putting my all into the profession I've dreamed of, to give back to the school I love.

Sometimes it is difficult to see the pressures students face. This could be anything from everyday stress over tests or homework to anxiety over college acceptances or SAT scores. Most Central students handle these moments in stride and quickly move on to their next task. This is a critical skill that our students learn as they pass through their four years here. It is an essential skill to success in college and in life. Maybe that's one of our little secrets.

The enthusiasm Central students have for our school, each other and our sports teams is electrifying when it gets going. This year the football games at Central's field brought out roaring crowds of students, and the new bleachers make going to the games a blast. The students are just as enthusiastic about running bake sales for the various clubs and sports in the school. The students advertise by standing in front of the metal detectors and singing or cheering for their bake sale so students know to go upstairs and see what they have. It's a way for the students to earn money and put it to good use for a club or sport, or some other school activity. The money could be used for a piece of clothing, a trip, or even a meal together. The money has also been used for donations to worthy charities.

There are no words to describe how close the students become through their years together. Actually, I don't have to describe it, because you all know how close you were, and probably still are, with your fellow classmates and with the school. We are like a family, and seeing my students' enthusiasm to learn and get the most out of life makes me want to work even harder for their benefit.

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CENTRAL NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES

Michael Horwits, 253,

CHS Social Studies/Government Teacher

As the Phillies begin the chase for their fifth consecutive NL East title, we are preparing to cheer them on at our sixth annual Central Night at the Phillies. This event is always a huge success and this year will be no different.



On Friday, May 20 at 7:05 P.M., come out and watch the Phillies battle the American League Champion Texas Rangers in what will be a classic match-up between the reigning AL MVP, Josh Hamilton, and the Phillies' star-studded rotation. This year, we have upgraded seats, and you can order tickets online at www.phillies.com/centralhs. Students, parents and alumni are all welcome to purchase tickets for \$20. The cost rises to \$25 after April 1.

Don't miss this opportunity to be with friends and catch the excitement of Phillies baseball. Please contact me at mhorwits@phlasd.org if you have questions. I'm looking forward to seeing you at the ballpark on May 20. 🍌

plays pretty good guitar. Jack's activities include local landmark preservation and the arts, especially opera, ballet and theater. Jack's classmate and fellow folkie **Charlie Miller** serves as vice president of the Philadelphia Folksong Society. When pressed for specifics as to which vice he presides over, he replied: "Only the good ones." Next time you run across Charlie, ask him for a bit of "Northeast Passage" or one of his many bawdy ballads.

So here I am recently at a seminar with my friend and classmate **Steve Stern** and my old friends **Bill Carlitz** (217) and **Ben Lipman** (224), along with a coupla hundred other lawyers who knew better than to pass up free CLE credits and a free breakfast, when I learn that I can perform a good deed. (Some might call it a *shidduch*.) You see, Bill and Ben have both had offices in the same building for years, but had never actually met. So, now they have. Reminds me of the story about the two Scots, two Irishmen and two Englishmen on a mission to some third-world country. (Someone please remind me to finish it next time if you haven't heard it.) Steve, I hope to see you at our favorite Chinese soon. Maybe our class artist **Phil Simkin** will be there too. (Sorry, I can't disclose the name of the restaurant; it's already too hard to get a table.)

Kudos to "new" neighbor **Larry Feinberg** (229), who, along with running his systems consulting biz and maintaining a family life, has served for more than a decade on Haverford Township's school board. Yo, Larry, do they play halfball out here in the 'burbs?

Another new neighbor, intrepid entrepreneur **Emilio "Mimi" Mignucci** (244), refuses to stay out of this column. He plans to bring DiBruno Brothers' sausage, cheese and olive fest to the Ardmore Farmers' Market in April. Follow your nose to Suburban Square.

Holistic Health Counselor and community activist **Lai Har Cheung** (253) has been getting people's attention over a number of local issues in recent years, including the new sports stadium and other planned "development" in the Chinatown area. Her latest project: casinos.

Apologies to **Howard Surrey** (259), whose name was misspelled in *Column A*.

Got a goody? E me at byasgur216@gmail.com. I'll do my best to spell your name right, but I can't guarantee the rest. 🍌



by Jordan Konell, 270, Co-Editor-in-Chief, The Centralizer

Faith Konigbagbe (270) and I have shared many classes together. She is inarguably the most tenacious classmate and friend I have; her positive attitude is contagious and her witty sense of humor is truly unique. Faith has overcome great adversity, and because of this, she serves as a true inspiration to her peers. Being physically handicapped and a recent immigrant are not easy obstacles to overcome. I sat down with Faith to discuss her journey to the United States, her success at Central, her ability to overcome obstacles and her future goals.

You've had an enormous amount of success at Central. What is your favorite class?

I know a lot of my classmates will verbally crucify me for my choice, but I have to say that my favorite class is chemistry under Mr. Crawford. I looked forward to that class all throughout tenth grade because I found it relaxing after six periods of stress. I found Mr. Crawford's jabber about polar bears and government conspiracy quite amusing. He is one of the nicest teachers I have ever met. The first time I met him in freshman year, he ambled past me and stared at me for a while without blinking. I was terrified. So, you can imagine how I felt when I entered chemistry class on the first day of school in sophomore year and saw him leaning on a desk and drinking a Coke.

How has your experience at Central been as a handicapped student? Has the school helped you in this respect?

Central is a wonderful school that pays no attention to disability as long as one succeeds in academics and in other aspects. I have never experienced discrimination at school. However, there have been some people who have walked into a wall or tripped over their feet because they considered me a curious spectacle. I find that quite amusing. I would be curious too if I saw a girl with a strange deformity speeding down the hallways on a red wheelchair. I have made a lot of enemies because of my tendency to run people over (by accident). To all the victims of my road rage, I am plain sorry!

What was the application process to apply for admission into Princeton? Why did you choose Princeton?

I applied through a program called QuestBridge. The QuestBridge Scholarship is based on income and not race. The process was quite intense. I had to write three essays, answer a series of questions about my personal life and tastes, get four recommendations, and fill out the common application and

the Princeton supplement. In short, I wrote a total of six essays for Princeton. There were levels of elimination. First, if the application is not submitted by September 30, you are automatically eliminated. Then, if you are not declared a QuestBridge College Match finalist by early November, you are eliminated from the application process. Then, if you are not accepted into any of the colleges you listed in your application by December 1, you will have to apply under regular decision. Eight is the maximum number of colleges you can list. I applied to only two schools, namely Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.

A friend of mine, Vasomnoleak Ly, who was eventually accepted into Swarthmore College under the same program, and I were asked to submit a QuestBridge college form in November, but we procrastinated. Then, on the day of the deadline, Central caught fire and school was canceled. We felt horrible and blamed everyone and eventually ourselves. Then we decided to let QuestBridge know about our predicament. Ironically, the deadline had been extended a week earlier!

When everyone heard you were accepted by Princeton, we all were so excited. How did it feel to get accepted?

On December 1st, Ly and I were quite terrified. He was pretty sure he would receive a letter of rejection from Swarthmore. He went home and took a nap, while I let my mind go numb "Siddhartha-style." At around 5 P.M., I got a phone call: "Faith, the staff of QuestBridge is pleased to inform you that you have been accepted to Princeton Uni" I didn't hear the rest because I was screaming out of excitement. I called Ly, he told me his good news, and both of us were on cloud nine for the rest of the evening. Then, I ended our conversation with "Dude, I have to do calculus homework!" and hung up. Back to reality!

What will you study there?

I do not know for sure, and my AP Government teacher, Ms. Finkle, says it is perfectly fine that I am undecided. I was seriously considering engineering, specifically aeronautic or chemical, but then I realized that hard work is not enough to succeed in that field. One needs an effortless talent in mathematics, which I do not think I have. I make stupid mistakes in calculus tests. In short, I want to major in a field that is quite challenging to a lot of people and second nature to me.

continued on page 20

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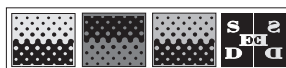
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David R. Kahn (220)
Vice President

The Alumni Association's Class Representatives Committee strives to maintain contact with every class through its designated representative. In order to ease our administrative burden, we ask each class to designate just one person to serve as the official liaison between the class and the Association. If no one is listed for your class and you are willing to serve, please contact **Pete Forjohn (235)** at (610) 558-1559 or **Rudy Cvetkovic (239)** at rudyc69@msn.com. If you cannot reach your class representative, call the Alumni Association office at (215) 927-9550 or e-mail the Association at chsalmuniphil@aol.com. 

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One of my favorite days of the entire school year is International Day. We have such a spirited and diverse student body that it has become a new holiday on my calendar. The day begins with a show put on by the various school cultural clubs. The students work on the performances in the halls for weeks before the big day and the big show is always spectacular. The International Café features hundreds of cultural dishes made by the students and their families to share with everyone. The Home and School Association helps organize the food and monitor the Café all day. The hallways have geographical themes filled with bright colors and extensive information about the regions, the people who live there and their history. Inside many of the classrooms, alumni and other community members speak about different international issues and

what their experiences have been. Overall, Ms. DeFields and her team of students put on an amazing event every year. This is the kind of day that sets Central apart from all other schools. Both as a student and a teacher, I have always learned a lot on International Day and it seems as though it gets bigger and more involved every year.

Our students are kind, good-hearted people. They are quick to help each other in tough situations and, for the most part, students do the right thing. I trust my students to tell me the truth and I enjoy having open communication with them. From this side of the desk, I see Central in a much different light and am glad this is where I get to work every day. I know my effort will make a difference in these students' lives and that they will carry on the traditions of my alma mater, dear old Central High. 🍓

WANTED — MEMORIES, 1942–45

by Harvey Steinberg, 209

We are asking any alumnus who attended Central between 1942 and 1945 to write his firsthand account and recollection of the German prisoners of war who were held in the Armory adjacent to the School on Ogontz Avenue. There are no accounts in *The Centralizer*, and we would like to document this unusual experience so that more recent and future students will not place this on the list of urban legends along with the "tunnel to Girls' High" and the "4th floor swimming pool."

Write or e-mail your memories to us at: Associated Alumni of Central High School, P.O. Box 26580, Philadelphia, PA 19144-6580 or e-mail us at chsalumniphl@aol.com. 🍓

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OBSTACLES

continued from page 17

How did you end up in Philadelphia and at Central?

In 2004, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization center in Lagos, Nigeria, contacted my family after we had spent thirteen years applying for a permanent residence visa. My maternal uncle wanted us to come to America because he believed my sisters and I had no future in Nigeria. We landed in Philadelphia because my uncle had allowed us to occupy his house in the city for a while. I decided to attend Central because I wanted an environment populated by dedicated students who want to succeed in life.

What is your favorite extracurricular activity at Central?

Debate is my favorite extracurricular activity. Now, I am a shy and retiring person by nature and love to avoid conflict as much as possible. So, I find it hard to explain why I get excited whenever I participate in debates!

Finally, what is your favorite thing about Central?

I am not too fond of staying in a place with racial homogeneity, which is the reason why I love Central. The diversity in Central is exemplified by the annual International Day. I mean, you walk down the hallways and you see gorgeous girls in saris, pale guys wearing mini-sized caps, little girls with doll faces wearing qipao dresses, and me in my colorful Yorùbá garb. Some of the students tend to hang out in racial groups. However, it is expected for people to hang around those who understand them, whether in terms of race or income level. What pleases me is that these groups can congregate in one school without much conflict. The United Nations has much to learn from Central! 🍌

SUPPORT CENTRAL ATHLETICS!

Baseball

Monday, March 21, 3:30 P.M.	at La Salle *
Tuesday, March 22, 3:30 P.M.	at Penn Charter *
Friday, March 25, 3:30 P.M.	at Abington Friends **
Monday, March 28, 3:15 P.M.	at Frankford
Wednesday, March 30, 3:15 P.M.	Girard Academic Music Pgm
Friday, April 1, 3:30 P.M.	Father Judge **
Monday, April 4, 3:15 P.M.	Franklin Towne Charter
Wednesday, April 6, 3:15 P.M.	Masterman
Friday, April 8, 3:15 P.M.	at George Washington
Monday, April 11, 3:15 P.M.	at Northeast
Wednesday, April 13, 3:15 P.M.	Esperanza
Saturday, April 23, 10:00 A.M.	at Chestnut Hill **
Monday, April 25, 3:15 P.M.	Frankford
Wednesday, April 27, 3:15 P.M.	at Girard Academic Music Pgm
Thursday, April 28, 3:45 P.M.	at Germantown Friends **
Friday, April 29, 3:15 P.M.	at Franklin Towne Charter
Monday, May 2, 3:15 P.M.	at Masterman
Wednesday, May 4, 4:00 P.M.	Friends' Central **
Friday, May 6, 3:45 P.M.	at Haverford School **
Monday, May 9, 3:15 P.M.	George Washington
Wednesday, May 11, 3:15 P.M.	Northeast
Friday, May 13, 3:15 P.M.	at Esperanza
Monday, May 16, 3:15 P.M.	Playoffs

* scrimmage

** non-league