



IN THIS ISSUE

A Hall of Fame Induction with Historical Resonance . . . 1
Association
President's Message. 2
Column B 2
Meet Your Board Members . . . 3
How to Navigate the On-line Journal 3
Editors' Message 4
From Ogontz and Olney. 4
From the CHS President. 4
Does Our Mailing List Need Updating? 4
Reunion Update. 5
Save the Date 5
What Central Did for Me 6
Doing Well at Drexel with Thanks To Central 6
International Day 2015 7
Take Your Seats, Please! 7
From the Archives 8
Alma Matters. 9
An Invitation from the CHS Home and School Association 9
Central and Music:
A Franchetti Family Affair . . 10
Thanksgiving in Retrospect . . 11
The Charge of the "Light" Brigade 11
Photographing History 12
In Memoriam. 12
You Owe It to Yourself 14
AACHS Calendar of Events . . 14
Class Reps. 15

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A HALL OF FAME INDUCTION WITH HISTORICAL RESONANCE

by Burt Spielman, 218

Managing Editor, The Alumni Journal

Eric Owens (247), one of the most sought-after bass-baritones in the world, will be inducted into the AACHS Hall of Fame in a special ceremony on Tuesday, April 28 at 10:00 A.M. in the Central auditorium. Eric rose to worldwide fame with his 2011 portrayal of Alberich, the guardian of the golden Ring in Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. He sings regularly at the Met, with the world's other major opera companies, in recital and with the great orchestras of the world.

Eric is a graduate of Temple University and The Curtis Institute of Music. In addition to winning several Grammys and numerous other awards, he was the recipient of the 2003 Marian Anderson Award. This award is named in honor of the pioneering contralto, the first African-American ever to sing at the Met. In 1939, she had been banned because of her race from performing at a venue owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Eleanor Roosevelt invited her instead to give a recital, broadcast nationwide, at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, on Easter Sunday before 75,000 people. **James DePriest (202)**, a member of the Alumni Hall of Fame, was Ms. Anderson's nephew, and, while at Central, he helped arrange for her to sing in the school auditorium on April 23, 1954, an historical event many alumni still recall (see page 7). Sixty-one years later, almost to the day, Eric will sing with the CHS Student Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Ben Blazer. The Hall of Fame Committee cordially invites AACHS members to attend the April 28 ceremony. A reception will follow in the Spain Conference Center.



UPCOMING HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONS

On June 10, five CHS alumni will be inducted posthumously into the Alumni Hall of Fame as part of the program at the AACHS Annual Meeting and Dinner, venue to be announced. To be honored are: **James Barnwell (16)**, **Ellis A. Gimbel (79)**, **David Pincus (181)**, **John J. Cebra (198)** and **Richard Grossman (204)**.

The induction ceremony for living nominees to the Alumni Hall of Fame will take place on October 29 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market Street. Plan to attend this event; ticketing details will be forthcoming. The honorees are:

Joseph M. Field, L.L.B., D.M. (192)

Leo Braudy, Ph.D. (211)

Marvin Sampson (211)

Jed S. Rakoff, J.D. (214)

Arthur Shapiro, Ph.D. (220)

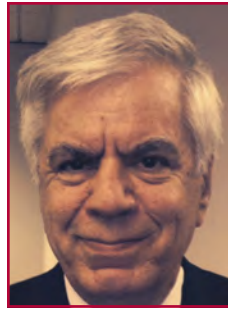
Ralph Horwitz, M.D. (223)

Arnold M. Eisen, Ph.D (228)

Neil Powe, M.D., M.P.H. (231) 

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeffrey Muldawer, 225
President, AACHS



I hope everyone is enjoying the beginning of the New Year. 2015 looks to be an interesting year for both Central and AACHS. As the members of 274 prepare to move along to the next stage of their education, 4,450 eighth-grade students have applied to become members of the 278. President McKenna has a difficult task of selecting from the best and brightest in the Philadelphia area. We look forward to welcoming approximately 600 new students to Ogontz and Olney in September 2015.

Among programs presented this fall, Career Day was a big success. More than eighty alums came back to interact with a high percentage of the student body. Many of the presenters have indicated that the next program, scheduled for November 24, 2015, is already on their calendars. The Thanksgiving game against Northeast was not as successful. Coach **Rich Drayton (246)** will have many squad members returning in 2015. They should make good use of their added growth and maturity. For history buffs out there, here's a link to a Sports Fan Base Network documentary that the Comcast Network aired on December 3rd. The nine-and-a-half-minute Central-Northeast segment of the show begins at the 8:20 mark: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TT0Z2JzyLo.

In order to stay informed of events planned for 2015, please visit our website at www.centralhighalumni.com. In addition, please make sure that we have your current email address. Social media and email make it much easier and less costly for AACHS to reach you.

Please note that the next alumni event will be the mid-winter meeting, to be held on March 19 at Silk City Diner, 435 Spring Garden Street. In addition to being one of the two Association meetings required to be held every year, it will include a networking event similar to the one held in November at Jane G's in Center City. That night was designed to have members of the 274 and young alums network and meet with more established graduates. This event was successful on its first attempt, yielding additional income for the 274 treasury.

As always, I encourage alums to come back to CHS, to view the changes and to meet some amazing young people. Central was a special place when I and my 225 classmates attended. It is still a great place and I am honored to be a small part of the effort to keep it that way. 🍷

Ensure the Future
www.donatechs.com

COLUMN B

by Bruce Yasgur, 216

SUZANNE TAKES YOU DOWN, TEACH!
(APOLOGIES TO LEONARD COHEN.)



This is a reworked column that was published several years ago, with a new slant or two. It's about my second-grade classmate Suzanne, who, at that tender age, became a role model for me, though she never knew it. At Rowen Elementary School in West Oak Lane, circa 1951, Mrs. B. had given one of her spelling tests that there was no need to study for. I seldom paid attention in her class, but that day was different from the usual blah-blah. Afterwards, nothing was the same—not school, or girls and cooties, or my ideas about right and wrong—NOTHING.

Mrs. B., who'd made a habit of criticizing me for one indiscretion or another, announced that five students had attained perfect scores and that she would call them up to the front of the room. As if the humiliation of standing in front of the class wasn't bad enough, I was the only boy. She lined us up: Doris, girl 2, another girl, Suzanne, and, last, me.

I digress to explain why I remembered Doris. Suzanne goes without saying: she's the hero of my story. On the other hand, Doris was a goodie-three-shoes and a snitch. One day at recess, for example, she planted herself in front of me and announced in the most annoying sing-song: "I'm gonna tell the teacher you said a bad word that rhymes with ship." I couldn't help myself: "Hmm. Let's see—dip? drip? chip? clip? sip?" Doris: "Oh, stop it! You know what I mean." Me: "No. Is it tip? trip? lip? slip? They all rhyme with ship." Doris, turning away with a grunt: "I'm tellin'; that's all!" This was proof that even a moron could spell.

Anyway, the inquisition commenced: "What did you do last night, Doris?" "I studied my spelling, Mrs. B." "Very good, Doris." What a suck-up! Girl 2: "I studied spelling." Mrs. B: "Very good, dear." Another idiot! Girl 3, proudly: "I studied my spelling!" Same praise. I couldn't believe it: I was awash in a sea of imbeciles! Then Suzanne: "I watched TV." B: "You did what? How dare you not study?!" Did she really miss the point? Yo, Teach, Suzanne got a perfect grade! Why study that nonsense? But I'd just learned a sad lesson in copping out. Responding to my personal interrogation, I (re)plied: "Studied my spelling." I knew instantly that I'd paid too high a price just to avoid a tongue-lashing; but I didn't fess up, leaving Suzanne to take all the heat. What a jerk! Worse, I never told Suzanne how much her recklessness, grit or whatever you wanna call it, meant to me; even when I saw her years later in front of Girls' High looking cute as hell. A few years belatedly: Thanks, Suzanne!

continued on page 5

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

The Alumni Board of Managers is the governing body of the Associated Alumni of Central High School. In this issue, we profile:

MARK LIPSHUTZ, 224

There wasn't much doubt that I would aim for Central. All but two boys in my eighth-grade class would attend and my dad, Iro, was in the 169. It was an exciting time in school and out, being the era of Kennedy, astronauts Shepard and Glenn, Motown and the Beatles, and the introduction of compact cars.

I set my sights on Central again when I became a mathematics teacher in the Philadelphia school system.

Happily, I achieved that goal and served on the faculty for several years in the late 1970's, where I introduced computer science classes along with classmate and colleague Michael Rieder. During that period I lived in an apartment in Germantown, and found that I and downstairs neighbor Leon Hammerschlag (110) had Central in common. Leon's favorite Central story was that he had been a student in the audience when President Theodore Roosevelt dedicated the Green Street building in 1902.

After earning a master's degree in computer science at Penn, I moved on to industry, but, in my heart, I remain a teacher. For the rest of my career, I found myself frequently called on to perform technology demos and conduct training. Currently, I am consulting to a tech start-up to which I was introduced by ... a Central connection.

Whatever successes I have achieved, I feel they can be credited largely to my education at Central. The bond forged as a Central student, and reinforced as a Central teacher, remains incredibly strong. The friends who are my "go to guys" are all classmates.

Some of them are of even longer acquaintance, of course, so when Ben Lipman (224), whom I have known since first grade, invited me to apply for a position on the Board of Managers, I did so eagerly.

Elected to the Board in 2011, I now visit the school on a regular basis and never fail to be impressed by the positive energy and the accomplishments of today's much more diverse student body. Given my background in information technology, I have focused on bringing the new alumni website to life and leveraging it and other social media to bolster interest in the Associated Alumni. That in turn will enable the alumni to do more for the school, our primary mission.

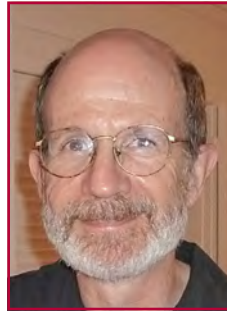
I live in East Mount Airy, only a mile or so from where I grew up, and like to cook, garden and exercise. I can still fit into the size I wore as a Central student — and much to my wife Nan's chagrin — still have some of those clothes.

LESTER H. WURTELE, MD, 202

I was elected to the Board of Managers in 2012, but have served the Board since 2010 as a member of the Hall of Fame and Archives committees. I also coordinate the annual Holocaust Remembrance Program at Central.

I have read the comments of other Board members regarding serving on the Board as an opportunity to give back for the wonderful opportunities offered them at Central. I agree, but would note that, to some degree, I am still "taking" in the sense that I have had the

continued on page 7



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Use your mouse's scroll wheel or the vertical scroll bar at the right side of the page. For quick navigation to a specific page, click on the page number in the "In This Issue" section on page 1. "Continued on/from page ..." works the same way. Click anywhere on the page you've reached to go back to page 1. You can print the Journal by pressing Command-P (Mac OS) or CTRL + P (Windows). 🖨

EDITORS' MESSAGE

Merrill Freedman, 208
Steve Chappell, 209
Editors, The Alumni Journal

600 words. We search for alumni whose history, or whose vocation, avocation or personal story would be of interest to our alumni readers. 600 words is the maximum we ask of our contributors. When we ask these special alumni to write for us, we realize that, for most, requesting 600 words can be insulting. Many of their stories cannot fit on 600 pages, yet we limit them to a maximum of 600 words. We want to learn more, and perhaps we can, but your *Journal* is a place to start.

We're fortunate that we can provide interesting stories, despite the brevity. Still, we're the dinosaurs of our social media. Our website has been providing the most up-to-date news about our alumni and the school. More and more of us (you) are following the news on Twitter and Facebook. And new social media outlets are popping up all the time, most of which are followed by alumni who happen to be a bit younger than your *Journal's* co-editors.

We hope you enjoy the articles we present in this and future *Journals*. For those who've missed past issues, you can find them on the alumni web site. We would also invite alumni who have interesting stories to tell to please contact us. We look forward to reading and publishing your 600 words. ●



FROM OGONTZ AND OLNEY

Faculty member Galeet Cohen has been recognized by the Council for Green Schools as a Trailblazing Teacher for her work regarding environmental issues.

Devi Majeske (274) was named an Office Depot Senior of the Month for the School District of Philadelphia.

Members of the **276** will have the opportunity to apply to participate in the Germination Project. Central is one of ten Philadelphia schools invited to take part in the program. The Germination Project seeks to "catalyze and energize an elite cadre of ambitious young men and women, brought together by their talent, drive and commitment to putting their gifts into service for the benefit of the city."

The University of Pennsylvania has accepted 15 students from the 274 for early admission.

In Fall sports, the following students garnered All-Public honors:

Football: **Jeff Johnson, Shafique Cooley, Jones Mensah**

continued on page 11

FROM THE CHS PRESIDENT

Timothy J. McKenna
President, Central High School



As I sit in my office and reflect upon the year so far, I am pleased to report that the students of today are excelling here at Central High School. They are committed to the traditions of the past and creating new traditions for the students of tomorrow. Members of the AACHS have a direct impact on the lives on the young people who walk the halls of our school. They are here at sporting events, shows and concerts. They take time from their schedules to visit, interact and share with our students. This year, ninety-five members of the AACHS presented their career paths to our students on Career Day. Many students approached me to say how impressed and thankful they were that members of the AACHS were here to give them insight into their lives. **Jeffrey Muldawer (225)**, President of the AACHS, coordinates this wonderful event each year. I appreciate all his efforts and the generosity of the alums who were here that day.

As we continue to deal with the budgetary constraints put upon us by the School District of Philadelphia, other members of the AACHS have stepped up to fill the gaps. I want to thank **Chuck Steinberg (221)** for coordinating the shadow program this year. This program was cut during the 2013-14 school year. The shadow program enables prospective students to visit Central High School and learn about our academic program and culture first-hand by spending a day with a freshman. Because of Chuck's efforts, 575 eighth-grade students from the Philadelphia area were able to visit. He also added a tour for prospective parents. I commended him for his dedication to Central. His work will have a positive impact on our admissions program.

During my tenure as President of Central High School, I have learned that the members of the AACHS have great pride and are dedicated to Central High School. I see it when alums return for tours and I hear it when they tell me about the positive impact this place had on their lives. It will continue to be special, even as it evolves, because all members of the community strive for excellence. ●

DOES OUR MAILING LIST NEED UPDATING?

Please correct your name and address as necessary on page 14, clip it out and mail it to: AACHS, P.O. Box 26580, Philadelphia, PA 19141-6580. ●

REUNION UPDATE

184—Meadowlands Country Club, 711 Boehms Church Road, Blue Bell, will be the site of the 70th reunion of the **184** on June 7. A brunch beginning at 11:30 A.M. is planned. The cost is \$35 per attendee; spouses are invited.

Members of the 184 continue to lunch together on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Marco Polo, York and Church Roads in Elkins Park. Class representative **Edward Itzenzon** reports that the regular lunch attendees indicated that the 70th should be their last reunion. "They do not want to know who the last man standing will be."

For the reunion, class members are asked to bring baby photos and, for those who served, service photos. A printing will be distributed to attendees.

Ed may be reached at (215) 635-4230.

186—The class will reunite on May 11 from 10:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Central High. As **Norm Salvat** sagely observes: "Considering that we are all 85 or 86, waiting five years for each reunion seems far too long."

Starting at 10:30 A.M., a full tour of the school is planned, followed immediately by lunch in the Spain Conference Center.

199—The 62nd reunion of the **199th Class** will take place on May 7 at Smith and Wollensky at the Rittenhouse Hotel, 210 West Rittenhouse Square. Though not yet set, the likely times will be 6:00 P.M. for cocktails and 7:30 P.M. for dinner.

Costs have not yet been set either as, according to class member **Bob Rosenstein**, "we rely on contributions to lower the cost to our attendees. We have already received generous contributions from a number of our class members and expect to continue receiving them."

Attendees and donors are requested to make their checks payable to The 199th Class, and sent to 199th Class, 958 Warfield Lane, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006.

Please direct any questions to Bob Rosenstein at 199thclass@comcast.net.

203—A reunion dinner is planned for Saturday, May 16. Wives are invited to the event which will be held at 6:00 P.M. at the Blue Bell Inn, 601 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell. Also planned is a tour of Central on Friday, May 15. For further information, please contact **Philip Remstein** at chs203reunion@aol.com.

204—The 60th reunion of the **204** will be held at the Union League of Philadelphia, 140 South Broad Street on May 1 and 2.

SAVE THE DATE

A ACHS Hall of Fame Induction, October 29 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market Street, Philadelphia. ●

223—The 50th reunion is scheduled for Friday, April 24 at the Sofitel Hotel, 120 South 17th Street. A block of rooms has been set aside at the hotel at \$225 per night. Book early as it is Penn Relays weekend. Rooms will be held until April 3.

Cost will be \$125 per person and will cover one drink, a full buffet dinner and a Reunion T-shirt. Please remit as soon as possible to: **Meyer Simon**, 2605 North Broad St., PO Box 1277, Colmar, PA 18915.

Cocktails will be served from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. (first included, then cash bar), followed by dinner and a fund-raising auction for the Alumni Association.

224—The **224th Class** will hold its 50th reunion on Saturday, June 13 at the Philmont Country Club, 301 Tomlinson Road, Huntingdon Valley. A visit to Central on Friday afternoon, June 12, is planned as is a Sunday brunch on June 14. For more information, please contact **Saul Langsam** at (215) 635-0444, or at lawmaster9@aol.com.

244—The 30th reunion is being planned. All interested members of the class are requested to contact **Seth Williams** at seth.williams@phila.gov.

254—The 20th reunion committee is forming now. If you would like to help in the reunion effort, please contact **Debbie Neff Politano** at debbieneff@hotmail.com or visit our Facebook group page, "254 Central High School of Philadelphia," for more information. ●

COLUMN B

continued from page 2

That lesson helped me survive several more years of boredom and irrelevance—with one or two exceptions—that masqueraded as education. Happily I arrived at Central, rather than reform school which, back in 1957, was the other alternative. School finally became relevant; spelling became less important than saying something meaningful, and questioning the rules became at least as important as simply following them. That's why I write for this rag; it's not just the big bucks.

I had occasion recently to read about **Bruce Gimelson's** (214) career in antiques and historical artifacts, which he began in, yes, 1947, well before he began his Central career. If you have any interest in collecting, buying or selling anything old, especially Americana and presidential documents and artifacts, I recommend reading anything by or about him. You'll find lots of interesting and informative material online.

While you're reading, how about a true tale of hair-raising adventure in the highlands of Downeast Maine? *Down East* magazine tells me that a story I submitted will likely be published in one of their upcoming summer issues. Yes, it's a real magazine—shiny cover and all.

Got a story to share?
I'm still at byasgur216@gmail.com. ●

WHAT CENTRAL DID FOR ME

by Thomas Dixon, 262

On just an average day in the City of Brotherly Love, while walking with a friend along Philly's streets, I see a semblance of "the Crimson and the Gold."

Me: "262!"; Passerby: "273!"; Me: "Nice!"

My friend: "Hey, Tom, do you know that guy? What was that about?"

Yeah, Tom, what *was* that about?

It's at this point that I will explain how "we" use class numbers instead of class years. Also



Stop! Let's pause for a moment here, Dear Reader. "We" already know what I may write here, so why continue to write "that"? We have all given some version of "that" speech to our befuddled friends, family, and others.

Instead, let's talk about what my friend there truly cares to understand, which is "Why are you shouting numbers at somebody you don't know?" Also, "Why do you seem so 'happy' about it?"

What is this kinship I felt with that person, without having truly "talked" even? How can I care to connect so with someone else, a total stranger otherwise? And, rather than my own "just appearing crazy," why did that person shout numbers back to me?

I did not bother to get a class ring for my college graduation. However, I was sure to get one when I graduated from Central. In fact, I tell people that "Central ruined college for me," in the sense that I didn't feel the same spirit of "community" or "connection" in college which I had been able to feel as a member of the 262. At Central, I had felt that many of the other kids may have come from humbler means, but they had striven to succeed academically. I felt as if they, too, may have been becoming the first in their families to attend college. I also felt that they, too, had been identified as "bright," but in the sense that all of us "Central kids" were "bright" together.

Just as a personal identity began emerging in earnest, I felt I wasn't developing it "alone" but, instead, along with the Central community. The other students and I were able to relate—ambitious goals were set and we were expected to achieve them through diligent efforts. We carried with us a triumphant sense that we would match the expectations set for us by others and by ourselves. We knew we had the capacity to do so.

It is this very sense that I continue to feel. After a near-fatal experience of being hit by a car and sustaining a traumatic brain injury, I knew I was capable of recovery. I knew I could achieve that goal. I have. I graduated with a Masters of Education last year from Temple University.

It is that very sense of knowing that I could do it that I took, above all else, from Central. I hope my fellow Centralites will do the same. Recognize the value Central has held for you. Shout your numbers! "262!" 🍎

DOING WELL AT DREXEL WITH THANKS TO CENTRAL

by Kyle Winser, 272

Looking back, I can see that my past at Central is the reason I am doing well in the present, and will do well in achieving my long-term goals.

From my first day in 9th grade to the time I set foot in the Kimmel Center proudly wearing my cap and gown, Central was setting me on a course to deal with my future.



It was not only the strong academic program and the emphasis on preparing me for college that made Central so special to me. It was also the unmatched diversity that taught me how to successfully associate and interact with others.

I currently attend Drexel University, pursuing an undergraduate degree in General Business. Indicative of Drexel's career-oriented approach, most business students participate in three cooperative work experiences, working full-time for six months in a professional position in their field of study.

Starting my second year at Drexel, I took on the challenge of a start-up consulting course with real-world application. I became a member of the advertising department of Gyoji Consulting, a student-created and operated consulting firm. Gyoji is working to promote the Stanford student start-up MindSumo. This website aims to connect students to employers through challenges that help to display students' skills while offering cash rewards for their efforts.

Gyoji's comprehensive business project involves researching the target market, then advertising and implementing events to market a new method of connecting with employers. Each student's efforts involve promoting throughout the Drexel campus and local community.

The amount of group work I completed at Central has greatly furthered my efforts in this class, especially in interacting with other groups in Gyoji. For example, as the lead of a video project, I created a video promoting our consulting team that, at the same time, advertised MindSumo itself. I had to coordinate with the Public Relations team to determine how to choose the correct audience for the video.

I view working for Gyoji as an experience that will place me above others in the eyes of potential employers. I feel better prepared to start the cooperative work cycle. Just as Central prepared me for rigorous college work, the start-up consulting course has prepared me for my first co-op and, ultimately, the real world.

I view the value of a great education as the key to preparing the student. It all started for me when Central executed that perfectly. 🍎

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

continued from page 3

chance to meet and work with some outstanding students and faculty as well as my extremely dedicated fellow Board members. My one regret is that, because of time constraints, I was not able to become active with the Alumni Association sooner.

I was a neighborhood kid, having lived at 19th and Olney. The time from bedroom to homeroom was about five minutes. My parents moved to Elkins Park early in my senior year; I threatened to go on strike if they didn't pay the \$50 to enable me to finish at Central. I played JV and varsity soccer (as a second-string halfback) and was a member of the freshman track team (My 100-yard dash time was approximately 12 seconds, possibly more.) My most extraordinary memory at Central — listening to Marian Anderson sing at an assembly in April 1954.

After Central, I received a BS in chemistry at Franklin and Marshall and an MD from the University of Vermont College of Medicine. An internship at Albert Einstein Medical Center was followed by two years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, one at Fort Hood, Texas, and one in South Vietnam. I then completed a three-year residency in Radiology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and became board-certified in Radiology in 1971.

I was in the private practice of Radiology until 2009, after which I did a little consulting work, then retired fully in 2012. I loved my career, but it was time to move on.

While I have accrued good credentials, none of my career would have happened without the outstanding educational background I received at Central.

Irma, my wonderful wife of 52 years, grew up two blocks from where I lived, but we didn't meet until I was 22. We have three wonderful children, six fabulous grandchildren and three granddogs. I enjoy spending time with them as well as pursuing photography, playing tennis, traveling, and vacationing in Florida and at the Jersey shore.

I look forward to many more years of service to Central. 🍷

INTERNATIONAL DAY 2015

International Day occurred on February 5, too late to appear in this edition of the *Journal*. Look for photos on the Alumni website, www.centralhighalumni.com, and in the Spring issue of the *Journal*. For those of us who shared our youthful experience at Central exclusively with young men whose backgrounds were similar in many (most) ways to our own, International Day must be experienced to be fully understood. It's a day that makes us all proud of what Central has become. 🍷

TAKE YOUR SEATS, PLEASE!

The restoration of the fire-damaged school auditorium is complete, and many alumni have availed themselves of the opportunity to dedicate the new, upholstered seats. Opportunities remain to dedicate a seat "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" family or individuals you wish to honor. Classes can organize and purchase entire rows. A brass plate will memorialize each dedication. Seats are available for a \$300 tax-deductible donation per seat. Please use the form on this page, or donate at www.centralhighalumni.com. 🍷

AUDITORIUM SEAT DEDICATION APPLICATION

Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Inscription (up to 3 lines; 30 characters per line including spaces):

Single seats or rows, in groups of 9 to 23 seats, are available at \$300 per seat.

Make check or money order payable to AACHS and mail to:
 AACHS, P.O. Box 26580, Philadelphia, PA 19141-6580

FROM THE ARCHIVES

by David R. Kahn, 220
AACHS Archivist/Historian



Symmetry is fascinating (to me) and it can lead to interesting discoveries. Recently, a lawyer in Maryland sent us a 25th reunion book, published April 25, 1930, for the 110th Class (graduated June 1905). As a member of the 220th Class, I was eager to explore this partial history of the 110, exactly 110 classes previous to mine.

The 110 always interested me; it had members who are important to Central's history, and a Hall of Fame member, comedian and actor **Ed Wynn**. Other memorable class members included **Julius Bloch**, a distinguished artist; **Horace Boileau**, English professor at Central; **Perry Hitner**, President of the Broad Street National Bank; **Louis P. Hoyer**, Superintendent of Schools, Philadelphia (a name those of us of a certain age may remember from seeing it on our report cards prior to 1955); **Hon. Harry S. McDevitt**, President Judge, Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas No. 1 and a long-time President of the Associated Alumni; and **Alexander Woolcott**, nationally acclaimed *New York Times* drama critic, journalist, author and playwright.

This class was very active, with regularly scheduled reunions and class outings. In 1926, they held one such event at the Mohican Club, where all sorts of athletic contests were staged at the ripe old age of 42 or 43. These included wheelbarrow races, three-legged races, a hundred-yard dash, and a baseball game umpired by Judge McDevitt. The book contains a picture of this game, wherein McDevitt made a questionable call on a close play.

The 25th reunion book included an opinion poll. Draw your own conclusions about these opinions, remembering the times in which they were expressed:

1. What do you read the most for recreation?
Fiction, 72 (votes); Biography, 15; History, 9;
Travel and Adventure, 27; Poetry, 4
2. Do you believe that Capital Punishment
should be abolished? Yes, 30; No, 99
3. Do you favor an "open Sunday" for Philadelphia
with professional baseball, football, and
motion picture shows? Yes, 75; No, 54
4. Are you in favor of a modification of the Vol-
stead Act making lawful the sale of beer and
light wines? Yes, 98; No, 32
5. Do you believe that present-day high-speed
college athletics are beneficial to the health of
the men playing on the teams? Yes, 38; No, 86
6. Would you vote for a woman for Senator from
Pennsylvania? Yes, 46; No, 79
7. Would you vote for a woman for President of
the United States? Yes, 15; No, 112

8. Do you believe that military training should
be compulsory in the High Schools?
Yes, 51; No, 79
9. Do you believe that all future wars between
great nations can be prevented by peace pacts?
Yes, 31; No, 96
10. Do you believe co-ed High Schools are better
than separate schools for boys and girls?
Yes, 43; No, 81
11. At what age in your opinion should a man
marry for the first time? 20-25 years, 35; 25-30,
59; 30-35, 19; 35-40, 2; After 40, 0; Not at all, 11
12. If you have a son, do you want him to fol-
low the same business or profession you are
engaged in? Yes, 36; No, 61

At least 38 men of the 110 saw "war service" during World War I. By 1930, 153 were married and 21 single. They had a total of 253 children. 32 were married without children and 6 men were married twice.

On page 5 of the book, a message from their Professor, Samuel E. Berger, appears. It reads:

To the Members of the Class 1905, Central High School

In felicitating you upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of your graduation from the Central High School, I feel that you had many advantages of which you may be proud. You were the first class to spend the four years in the new building that had been equipped on a lavished scale. (Editor's note: The 3rd building opened in 1902.)

At that time, also, the Central High School offered the only four-year course in the city, which meant the members of the class came from all parts of the community, and this correspondingly broadened your associations and friendships.

These friendships mean more with the advancing years, and my wish is that you maintain your reunions until there is only one person left to answer the roll call.

Finally, this reunion book solved a mystery for me, and also informed me about someone with whom I had a personal connection. First, the mystery. Several months ago, **Mark Lipshutz (224)**, asked me to identify class numbers for three men. One of them, **Leon Hamerschlag**, stumped me. I could not find an enrollment record for him, and his name is not readily apparent in any of our Archive files. Lo and behold, he showed up in the reunion book and I was pleased to give Mark an answer. Second, the personal connection. My father worked for 40 years for a knitted outerwear firm in Germantown, whose owner during much of that time was a man named **Charles Peberdy, Jr.** I knew him during my childhood, but never knew he was a Central grad until he turned up in this reunion book as a class member. The description of his life is absolutely on the mark, and so are several others of whom I have knowledge.

A wonderful class, a wonderful reunion book. For all those out there having reunions, I urge you to publish a pamphlet or booklet to mark the occasion, and don't forget to save a couple of copies for the Central Archives. 🍷

ALMA MATTERS

195—**Ron (J. Ronald) Klenk** reports that he has been elected treasurer of the resident association at Spring Mill Presbyterian Village in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania.

200—**Dr. Joseph Hassman** was the subject of an article in the December 24 edition of the *Philadelphia Daily News* describing this Jewish doctor becoming Santa Claus on Christmas Day for the children at the Ronald McDonald House of Southern New Jersey.

Hassman, a former Cherry Hill councilman, has visited the Ronald McDonald House as Santa for the past 14 years. His wife, Lillian, is his Mrs. Claus, and several of his children, grandchildren and cousins help. What brings Hassman back every year? "The kids that sit on your lap don't ask for dolls and trucks, they just want their brother or sister to be well enough to come home for the holidays."

218—**Burt Spielman** currently serves as president of the Rolling Hill Court Homeowners Association, Madison, New Jersey.

235—**Peter E. Forjohn, Jr.**, Athletic Director of the Glen Mills Schools, and a vice president of the AACHS Board of Managers, received the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's State Award of Merit in recognition of "meritorious service, leadership and special contributions to interscholastic athletics at the local and state level." A \$1,000 scholarship to a Glen Mills student athlete accompanies the honor.

270—**Jordan Konell**, an AACHS Scholarship recipient and Yale University senior, has been named one of 32 American Rhodes Scholars. He will pursue a master's degree in comparative social policy at Oxford.

Editor's note: Your co-editor recalls a conversation with Jordan during the AACHS winter meeting. Jordan, a senior at the time, played the trombone with the CHS Jazz Ensemble, the entertainment at the meeting. When I asked why he made the decision to attend Yale instead of Harvard, he responded, "It felt the most like being at Central." Jordan, we couldn't be more proud.

270—**Katherine Mateo**, a Benjamin Franklin Scholar and Civic Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania, is director of Global Youth United. She founded this organization while at Central after discussions with **Dr. Leonard Finkelstein (185)**. Global Youth United is a non-profit, Philadelphia-based organization that helps high-school-age students identify social problems in the world and develop strategic plans to address them.

GYU currently has organizational partnerships with five high schools and is expanding to three universities. Katherine helped to launch Penn-GYU, the organization's first university chapter. Each year, 15 to 20 Penn students mentor students at five Philadelphia public high schools to create and implement projects of social change using a "social change" curriculum that Mateo wrote. 🍎

AN INVITATION FROM THE CHS HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The CHS HSA cordially invites all alumni to Central Live, an auction fundraiser to be held Sunday, May 3 from 5:00 to 9:00 P.M. at The World Café Live, 3025 Walnut Street. Tickets are \$45 per person, \$80 for two, or a table of eight for \$300. The price includes hors d'oeuvres, beverages, complimentary wine and beer, music and dancing. The evening will feature both live and silent auctions, proceeds from which will benefit Central in many ways.

As examples, the HSA recently approved over \$40,000 in grants to a number of recipients including the 274th Class, the Robotics Club, the Mock Trial Club, and the English as a Second Language program. HSA has also funded general school needs, such as hardware to improve school security, college guidance and SAT Test prep items and additional classroom projectors.

Beyond attending and enjoying the opportunity to meet CHS parents, you can help by contributing items for the live auction or by helping to fund acquisitions. Much desired for auction purposes are a week at a Shore house, a 55-inch flat-screen TV, a foldable city bike, and a significant jewelry gift certificate.

The silent auction items, while small in dollar value, do make up the bulk of the fund raising. Contributions of tickets, jewelry, gift certificates to restaurants, salons, educational experiences, food and alcohol, artwork, sports memorabilia and professional services are most welcomed.

Donating to the auction may also take the form of an offer of your time to provide a CHS student with the opportunity to shadow you in your professional environment.

Beyond the suggested items for donation, the HSA is pleased to accept any item that you are willing to donate.

To help, please email your contact information to fundraiser@centralhomeandschool.info or call Chris Spratt at (215) 901-1506.

For tickets, please make your check payable to Central HSA and mail to: Chris Spratt, Central Home and School Association, Central High School, 1700 West Olney Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19141. 🍎

**WHEN SUBMITTING CLASS NOTES,
PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR NAME, GRADUATING
CLASS AND EMAIL ADDRESS.**

AACHS
P.O. Box 26580
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19141-6580
chsalumniphil@aol.com

CENTRAL AND MUSIC: A FRANCHETTI FAMILY AFFAIR

By Yvonne Dennis, 246

Playing musical instruments and attending Central High School were rites of passage that practically went hand in hand in the household of **Mike Franchetti (255)**. At least, for four of the five Franchetti kids, they were.

Mike's parents, Nancy and Mike, Sr., met as music students at Temple University. When they later married and moved to Olney, they had five kids, each learning to play an instrument or two. Four of those five kids attended Central—the fifth only went elsewhere because the family moved out of the city.

Now, the younger Mike Franchetti is in the middle of his second year as a full-time instructor of instrumental music and the director of bands at his alma mater, something he would not have predicted when he was a student. He is the first to admit that, although he kept his grades up and excelled at playing the trumpet in the orchestra and jazz band, he also made plenty of time for fun.

Mike chuckled sympathetically as he recalled recently that he and his group of friends drove then-Central Music Department Chairman Stephen Wilensky “bananas.” “We were high maintenance. We were very wild.”

He might be judging himself a bit harshly. Mr. Wilensky, who retired in 2013 after teaching at Central for 37 years, remembers the three Franchetti students he taught—**Cristina (254)**, **Mike** and **Caryn (262)**—as hard-working.

“They always had a good ethic,” Wilensky said. “They were always very dependable. They always did their jobs. Mike had a little more of a comedic kind of personality. Nothing that was harmful.”

Matt Franchetti (261) played clarinet and piano when he was a kid, but at Central he used his pipes, performing with the choir. Mike and Cristina were close enough in age that they performed in the orchestra together.

“Mike was serious when he needed to be serious but he had a really, kind of happy-go-lucky personality,” Wilensky continued. “Cristina was a lot more serious. A lot more focused. Caryn came in after Mike. She was kind of a mix between Cristina and Mike and their father. It's interesting when you have different siblings of the same family.” He said although their personalities were different, the common thread was work ethic.

Mike was so well-liked and respected by the staff that he got to go with a group of about 80 other students and 20 chaperones to perform at the Bournemouth Music Competitions Festival in England and Scotland.

When it was time to start thinking about a career, however, he wasn't sure what he wanted to do.

He apprenticed as a butcher. He considered going into the military. “My grades at Central were passing, [but] music was something I did excel at.”

So, he decided to audition for a few college music programs and was even accepted into the prestigious Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore. But he didn't have Peabody money, so he went to Temple instead, majoring in music education. “I didn't see myself as a teacher, but that was what they accepted me as.”



The Franchetti family:

From left, Nancy; Mark; Christina (254); Matthew (261); Caryn (262); Mike (255) and Mike, Sr.

Early mornings, he taught music to Catholic school students and the rest of the day he took classes at Temple. Mike graduated in May 2001 and, by the end of the summer, he had been offered a job with the school district as an itinerant instructor, teaching instrumental music at whatever schools needed him, mostly in West Philadelphia.

“There wasn't a lot of guidance,” he said. “In the beginning, I'd be panicking. It was definitely different.” But, as he grew more comfortable, he became very innovative in how he enabled his students to gain performance experience. He read about community centers having certain public meetings during the day and asked if he could bring some students to play.

The community centers jumped at the requests, so Mike got the appropriate parental and school permissions and—boom—the kids had some gigs. “It was great because you got real audience reaction,” he reflected. “Parents basically have to applaud their kids performing, but strangers don't.”

The itinerant work even brought Mike to Central on occasion, keeping him in contact with his former music director. So when Wilensky was setting out to take a group of Central students to Hungary in 2007, he asked Mike to be one of the chaperones.

“He gets along very well with the kids and creates a good relationship with them,” Wilensky said of his former charge. “You have to have a good rapport with the

continued on page 14

THANKSGIVING IN RETROSPECT

by Merrill Freedman, 208

The Thanksgiving holiday is a favorite for most people; it certainly is that for me. For years, we drove the New Jersey Turnpike to be with family in and around New York. This year was different—they all moved to Oregon. Thanksgiving at home with friends gave me a long lost opportunity: I went to the Central-Northeast breakfast and game.

As most of you know (and we certainly hyped it in the *Journal* and with emails), the week starts with Career Day. We can only hope it's as much fun for the students as it is for the alumni presenters. The breakfast was as enjoyable as I hoped it would be. I had time to sit with a classmate who travelled from Columbia, Maryland, to be there, and to kibitz with students who were there in abundance, thanks to the generosity of alumni. Unfortunately, most of our fellow alumni must have decided to sleep in. They missed a really good time.

During the game I stood on the sideline, hoping to get some decent photos for the *Journal*. At one point I heard my name called out from someone on the Central bench. I looked over, and a young man, in full football attire, called to me, "You spoke to my class at Career Day, and I really enjoyed it." I thanked him, and then reminded him that there was a game going on. Only at Central!

For those of you who know the outcome of the game, there's no reason to mention it here. For those who don't know the outcome, again, there's no reason to mention it here. Our guys make us proud, no matter what the score.

I bring all this up because I hope more of you will come out next year; not for the sake of rooting our team on—there are plenty of us doing that. I hope you come out for your own sake. It's seriously fun! 🍀

FROM OGONTZ AND OLNEY

continued from page 4

Girls' Soccer: **Djavon Dupree, Sydney Epstein**

Girls' Tennis: **Toni-Ann Slaney, Eryn Nguyen, Gabrielle Garret, Tiffany Atmadja.** (The team won the District 12 championship.)

Field Hockey: **Zoe Granato, Myra Granato, Eva Whitaker**

Golf: **Tyrel Cherry, Jared DiCapello, Julian Sisofu, Kyle Spaulding**

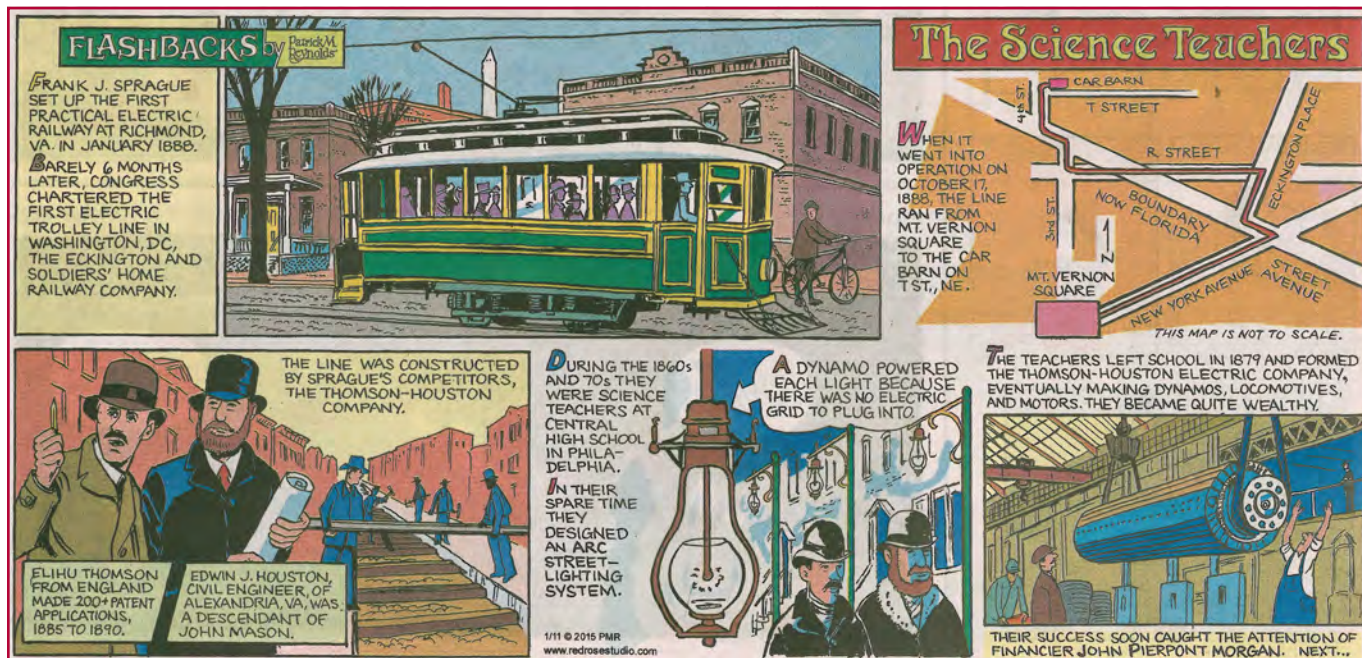
Winter sports thus far have been highlighted by **Taylor Dallas (275)** running 9.3 in the 60-meter hurdles, breaking the CHS record and qualifying her for state indoor track competition. [Taylor's dad was **Jeff Dallas (245).**]

CHS wrestlers won the Public League championship after an undefeated season.

Both girls' and boys' bowling teams are undefeated. 🍀

THE CHARGE OF THE "LIGHT" BRIGADE

Cartoonist Patrick M. Reynolds publishes "Flashbacks," depictions of Washington, DC, area history. His January 11 strip in *The Washington Post*, reproduced here with his permission, spotlights two Central graduates and, later, faculty members, **Elihu Thomson (55)** and **Edwin J. Houston (43)**. As the strip illustrates, Thomson and Houston left Central to found their eponymous and highly successful electric company. The word, "next..." at the lower right, hints at the subsequent creation of the General Electric Company, of which Thomson-Houston was a precursor. For more information about Mr. Reynolds's work, visit www.redrosetudio.com. 🍀



PHOTOGRAPHING HISTORY

by Milton Dienes, 177

I've been involved with photography since I received my first camera at the age of 13. Later, I was one of the photo editors of our class Year Book, and then at Penn State for the school newspaper.

My formal education was interrupted when, as a member of the Penn State Army Reserve, I was called to active duty, reporting in September 1943. After a stint with the infantry, I transferred to the Air Force, hoping to be assigned to the Photographic Unit. Following training at Avon Park, Florida, and Will Rogers Field in Oklahoma, I was sent to Guam where I was assigned to the 9th Squadron, part of the 20th Air Force Photo Intelligence and Reconnaissance Unit. This Unit produced 14,000 prints daily of photographs taken of the many fighter and bombing missions over the Japanese islands and mainland. B-29 bombers used three Fairchild 9-inch negative cameras; one straight down, the other two at 45 degree angles, left and right. This resulted in a panoramic view of the subject. These photos were valuable to the pilots, assisting them not only on the results of the missions, but in identifying targets for future missions.



Milt Dienes, September 1945

August 6 and August 9, 1945, were totally different days for the photo lab. On August 6, we received the film, taken at approximately 22,000 feet, from the B-29, Enola Gay, of the historic first atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Three days later, we received film from Bockscar, the plane that dropped the Nagasaki bomb.

Immediately, we could see a difference in the negatives as they were developed. Instead of crisp blacks, whites and grays, there was evidence of "fogging" caused by the radiation generated by the drop. It was at that point that the now famous "Mushroom Cloud" was born. It took some doing, however, before it was made more presentable for the world to see. Long before there was anything like Photoshop, there was a process called "Bromiding" used by photographers in the darkroom when making prints. A bromide solution was applied to the top of the "mushroom" to whiten, or highlight, resulting in the spectacular photograph published of the first atomic bomb.

Since the image was initially "Classified and Restricted," we were not able to send copies home, but, oddly enough, it appeared on the cover of *Life* magazine just two weeks later. I still have one of the original enlargements we made that I brought home with me.

In October and November 1945, a small photography contingent was sent to Japan to photograph the devastation in Hiroshima caused by the bomb drop. I was sent to Nagasaki to do the same. We took many photographs, a few of which I still have. The total leveling

of vast areas, the complete destruction of tens of thousands of homes, the collapse of major buildings (oddly, some buildings were still standing, relatively unharmed while everything around them was destroyed) was a sight I will never forget.

The 9th Photo Tech also printed the surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945, aboard the U.S.S. Missouri with all the notables, including General Douglas MacArthur, Admiral William Halsey, General Jonathan Wainwright, Lord Mountbatten and many others. Some of these photographs are still in my possession.

From time to time I have shown both events to various groups, schools and meetings, recalling that phase of my life in the service of my country. It is an experience I continue to remember with pride and reverence.

(Editor's note: A montage of Milt Dienes's photos appears on page 13.)

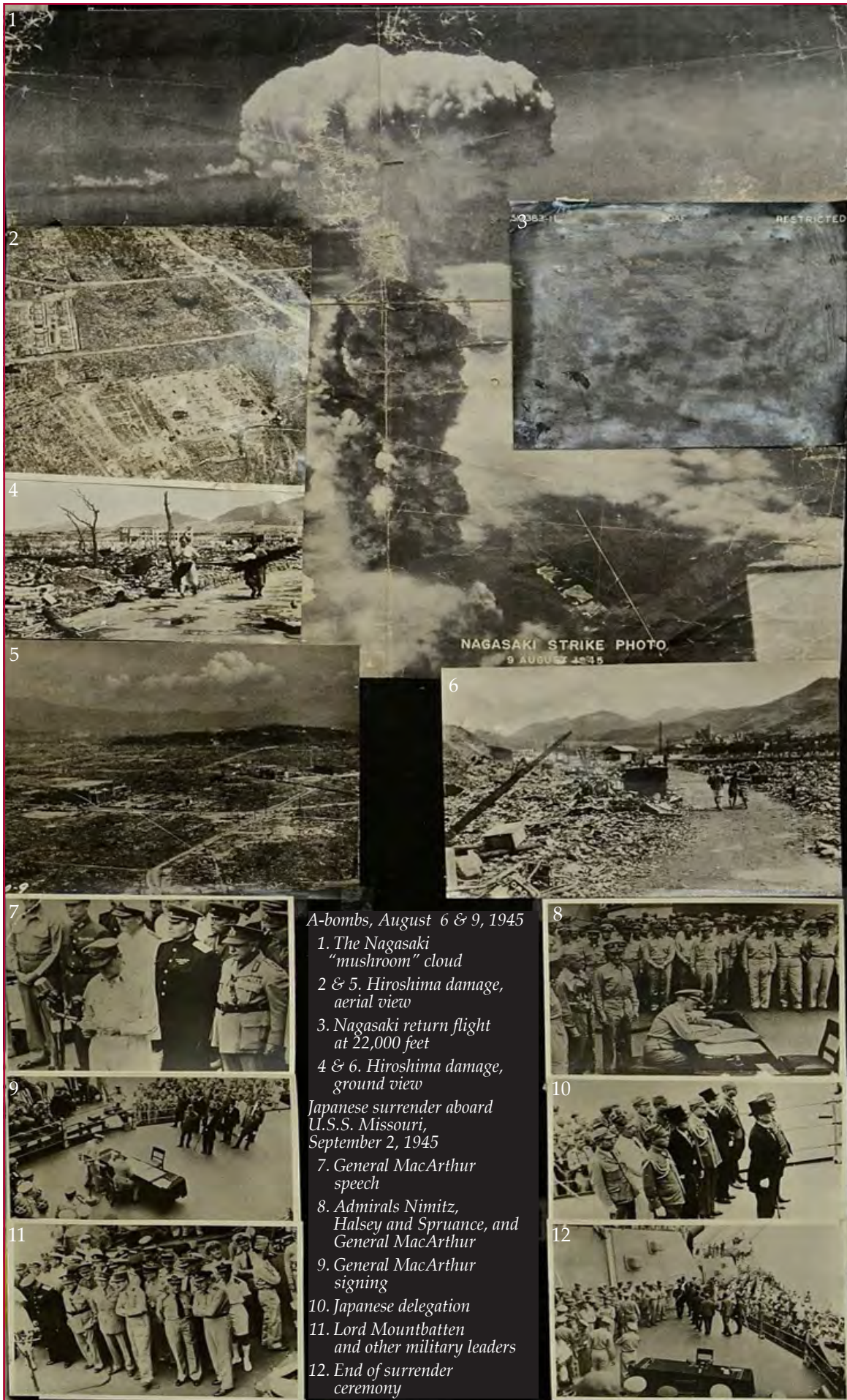
IN MEMORIAM

Editor's note: The *Journal* simply reports the death of alumni without further comment on their passing or their achievements in life. Some alumni have achieved great fame and recognition, others less so. Many have been memorialized in a highly public manner, others more privately. We choose to note and honor the passing of all by the common tie that binds here—they were graduates of Central High School. We need only their name and class number to tell us so.

- 169—William R. Jones
- 173—Henry Seidenberg, MD
- 176—Theodore B. Krouse, MD
- 178—Laurence Glaubinger
- 179—William H. Annesley, Jr., MD
- 179—Alvin Plumer
- 179—Hon. Leonard B. Sokolove
- 182—Marvin A. Abramson, MD
- 184—William A. Abelow, MD
- 184—Marc S. Lapayowker
- 184—Robert Lindy
- 184—Laurence E. Lundy, MD
- 190—Theodore J. Soslow
- 193—Marvin Bordetsky
- 193—Fred Cove
- 193—Daniel Lorch
- 194—Gilbert Gordon
- 195—Ernest Eskin
- 199—Samuel Danzig
- 200—Donald Raffel
- 203—Calvin Schwartz
- 203—Marc Slavin
- 204—Jack D. Wellin
- 205—Jordan R. Pitock, Esq.
- 215—Warren Greenberg
- 230—Arthur Herman
- 249—Tuyen "Kelvin" Vu

Faculty—Louis Ivens

Faculty—Italo Taranta



A FAMILY AFFAIR

continued from page 10

students in order to press them a little and make them understand that they probably can do more than they think they can."

When Central's brass instructor went out on leave soon after, Mike began teaching at Central a day and a half a week, then applied for the full-time position when Wilensky retired.

Even though more than 15 years had passed and he had grown from a scrawny kid into an adult, he swears one Central math teacher squinted in semi-horrified recognition when she saw the formerly rambunctious student entering the school as a full-time faculty member. Laughing, Mike said it made him wonder, "How many people did I upset?"

He's proud to say he's developed a nice relationship with that teacher and others he knew as well from his student days. And now that he's a married father of three boys—ages 10, 8 and 5—he's getting even more personal experience harnessing young energy into positive things.

The family interest in playing musical instruments continues, with his older two boys playing piano and cello. Mike also still finds time to play trumpet, frequently with his Cresheim Valley Brass Quintet. But you're also just as likely to find the family chilling out at a Temple basketball game or a Phillies game.

Come see the fruits of his Central labors at the Spring Concert on May 28, time to be announced. 🎵

AACHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 19** Silk City Diner, 435 Spring Garden Street
 4:00–5:30 P.M. AACHS Board of Managers Meeting
 5:45–8:00 P.M. AACHS Alumni Meeting and Networking Event
 8:00–10:00 P.M. AACHS Young Alumni Event
- April 28** CHS Auditorium
 10:00 A.M. Eric Owens Hall of Fame Induction and Recital
- May 15** Citizens Bank Park
 7:05 P.M. Central Night at Phillies (vs. Arizona)
- May 16** time and venue TBD
 AACHS Young Alumni Event
- May 17** Central High School area TBD
 AACHS 5k Run
- June 10** Center City Philadelphia location TBD
 6:00–9:00 P.M. AACHS Annual Meeting (including Hall of Fame Posthumous Induction)
- June 17** Kimmel Center
 10:00 A.M. **274th Class** Graduation
- October 19** Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1201 Market Street
 6:00–10:00 P.M. AACHS Hall of Fame Induction 🎵

YOU OWE IT TO YOURSELF

to be a dues paying member of the Associated Alumni of Central High School of Philadelphia

Read about the exploits of former classmates in the Alumni Journal. Keep in touch with old friends. Support the efforts of the Alumni in improving the technology available to students and faculty, maintaining the appearance of the school, creating scholarships and prizes for graduates, and more!

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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.

The Association has launched an effort to confirm the suitability and dedication of every rep, new and existing. As a result, several changes and vacancies have occurred. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your class rep, if receiving a timely response from your rep is an issue, or if you would like to apply for a vacant rep position or recommend someone, please email **Rudy Cvetkovic (239)** at rudychs@gmail.com or the Alumni Association office at alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com. If email is not an option, please call (215) 927-9550.

Note that the current class reps list begins with the 181st Class; for reps for prior classes, please contact us. 📍

CLASS REPS

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183 — John Senior	john.senior@fda.hhs.gov	230 — Larry Plotkin	centralhigh230@comcast.net
184 — Edward Itzenzon	editzenzon@gmail.com	231 — Fred Ratner	fred.ratner@gmail.com
185 — Jay Rosen	jlorosen1@verizon.net	232 — John Younge	john.younge@courts.phila.gov
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