

SPRING 2016

# THE Alumni JOURNAL

## Mayor Kenney to speak at Alumni Dinner Meeting



**Mayor Jim Kenney**

Guest Speaker for the Alumni Dinner

A lifelong city resident, Mayor Jim Kenney grew up the oldest of four in a South Philadelphia rowhouse. His father, a firefighter, and his mother, a homemaker, both worked second jobs to put Jim and his

three siblings through parochial school. In high school, Jim delivered the paper in the morning and washed dishes after school, earning his first union card at 17. After graduating from St. Joe's Prep, Jim worked his way through La Salle University and became the first in his family to graduate from college.

Jim was elected in 1991 to serve as a Democratic City Councilman At-Large. In City Council, Jim stood up for Philadelphia's working families—fighting for a real living wage, increased funding for public education, and community policing measures. A proud progressive, Jim also led the way on broader protections for LGBTQ Philadelphians, marijuana decriminalization,

and a more sensible immigration policy by ending ICE holds that tear families apart.

On January 4, 2016, Jim was sworn in as the 99th Mayor of Philadelphia. In his inaugural address, the Mayor laid out a vision for an accessible, accountable government that works for everyone in every neighborhood. To make that vision a reality, the Mayor is committed to expanding access to quality pre-k for high-need children, implementing the community school model in Philadelphia, eliminating unconstitutional stop and frisks and investing in our commercial corridors.

## ● ● SAVE YOUR PLACE ● ●

### **Lancers,**

The Annual Dinner Meeting of the AACHS will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at the Sheraton Society Hill. It is our privilege to have Mayor Jim Kenney as keynote speaker! The Sheraton is at 1 Dock St, Phila. PA, the cocktail hour begins at 5:30 P.M. For more info see the article on the alumni website with pricing and a registration link --> <http://www.centralhighalumni.com/2016/04/aachs-annual-dinner-feature-mayor-jim-kenney/>

Thanks for your support,

**The AACHS**

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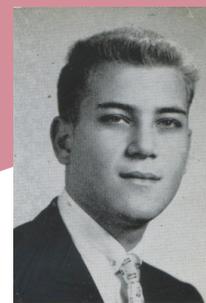
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# EDITORS' MESSAGE

Merrill Freedman, 208

Steve Chappell, 209

Editors, The Alumni Journal



A few months ago, we asked Peter Kelsey of our art department to challenge his students to come up with a fresh look for the *Journal*—and they sure did! The students came up with not only an exciting new look for the front page, but all pages of the *Journal*.

Some of us, especially those in the lower numbered classes, are reluctant to change anything; certainly not our *Alumni Journal*. But, too few Alumni report reading the *Journal*, and so we hope that this updated design will encourage you to read through the entirety to see all the remarkable things happening at Central, and among our fellow alumni.

Central graduates are invariably proud to claim to be an alum, so when we meet someone and find that there is a Central connection, the first question is, "What class?" Those of us who work on the *Journal* want to ask, "Do you get the *Alumni Journal*?" All too frequently, the answer is either, "I think so, but I'm not sure," or "No, I've never seen it." We hope our new look will capture your attention, now and in the future.

Those of us who assemble the stories and information included in the *Journal* always feel that renewed sense of pride in our school as it was, and as it is today. We take pride in the accomplishments of our fellow alumni, no matter the class number. We hope that when you do open the *Journal*, you look beyond their own class number written in bold. You'll be glad you did.

## The Associated Alumni of the Central High School of Philadelphia

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Editorial Board Member: Cynthia Lee, 263

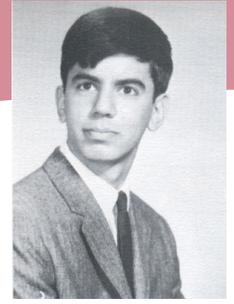
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# AACHS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeffrey Muldawer, 225



It has been my honor and privilege to serve on the AACHS Board of Managers for approximately twenty years, the past three years as your President. As I approach my new position of Past President I cannot help but look back at some of the highlights of that time period.

Career Day has been a project of great satisfaction since 1999. Student coordinators who assisted me in the past have already returned to become presenters. Eventually, one or more of them could become the new administrator of the program held every November two days before Thanksgiving. Feel free to email me at [jeffmuld@comcast.net](mailto:jeffmuld@comcast.net) to provide me with your contact information for the Career Day database.

The annual football game against Northeast and the breakfast at Jack's Delicatessen that precedes it should be on a to do list for all alums. The crowd is always bigger and more vocal on our side of the field. Both of these events on Thanksgiving morning present opportunities to reunite with your classmates and support the CHS athletic department.

International Day is a spectacular program spotlighting the diversity of the current student body. Extensive sampling of ethnic cuisine and culture is available at this annual event that is sure to add warmth to a cold winter day.

Commencements are very special at Central and AACHS will play a special role, as always, in the 275's graduation ceremony at the Kimmel Center. Awarding scholarships and prizes at that event is one of the best duties that the President and his or her designee

has. Substantial funds have been endowed for this purpose and AACHS makes fiscally sound distributions each June. It is heartwarming to see the achievements of these outstanding young men and women.

For those of you who saw this year's presentation of *Seussical the Musical*, you were able to enjoy observing the talents of multiple Central students on display. The poise and professionalism of these teenagers was mindboggling. Whatever show is performed in the Spring of 2017 will make for a wonderful afternoon or evening.

In addition to events presented by AACHS and the school itself, I have seen the building transformed over the years. Improvements to the physical plant are inevitably necessary when the building has been at Ogontz and Olney for close to eighty years. With the assistance of AACHS and the School District of Philadelphia, Central has received a new gymnasium, new classrooms, new windows, new seats in the auditorium, a completely renovated library and a conference center above the library. AACHS, with the financial assistance of alumni, is currently investigating the possibility of further expansion and improvement of the building.

It feels great to have played a part in the continuation of the history of Central High School and its Alumni Association. I could not have served as President of AACHS since the summer of 2013 without my fellow Board members, especially the past Presidents, who have provided guidance and assistance. Tim McKenna, his staff and faculty have also been invaluable during this tenure.



# NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

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The Committee on Nominations and Elections, **Hon. Denis Cohen, 228**, chairman, presents the following nominations for positions on the Alumni Board of Managers. The election will be held at the annual meeting on June 1, at 6:00 p.m. at the Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia.

## **Nominated for the term expiring June 30, 2017**

### **President**

Stephen C. Chappell, Esq., 209

### **Vice Presidents**

Barry W. Rosenberg, Esq., 229

Peter E. Forjohn, Jr., 235

Robert Del Femine, 235

Stephen L. Burnstein, D.O., 222

### **Treasurer**

Bruce S. Marks, C.P.A., 226

### **Recording Secretary**

Mark Lipshutz, 224

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Yvonne Dennis, 246

### **Archivist/Historian**

David R. Kahn, 220

## **Nominated for the term expiring June 30, 2019**

Karima I.A. Bouchenafa, 249

Hon. Mark B. Cohen, 225

Neil Deegan, 268

Robert L. Glenn, Jr., 242

Steven A. Shapiro, D.O., 225

Samuel G. Wurtzel, 201

Hon. John M. Younge, 232

Jordan J. Yuter, 243

## **The following members continue to serve until their terms expire June 30, 2017**

David W. Birnbaum, Esq., 265

Marisa Block, 265

Kristina Chang, 254

Rudy A. Cvetkovic, 239

Stephen J. Klein, 229

Benjamin G. Lipman, Esq., 224

Kenneth Wong, 232

Lester H. Wurtele, M.D., 202

## **The following members continue to serve until their terms expire June 30, 2018**

Edward Bell, 226

Hon. Denis P. Cohen, 228

Merrill Freedman, 208

Nicole Gaughan VanBuskirk, 257

Michael Horwits, 251

Audrey M. Huntington, 266

Cynthia S. Lee, 263

George D. Mosee, Jr., Esq. 232

## **Honorary Life Members**

Stephen I. Kasloff, Esq., 228

Eugene N. Cipriani, Esq., 229

Dr. Leonard B. Finkelstein, 185

Gerald S. Kates, 194

Allan L. Marmon, Esq., 204

Hon. Gene D. Cohen, 214

Solomon Kal Rudman, 188

Hon. Ronald R. Donatucci, 224

Arnold H. Shiffrin, 205

Hon. Charles E. Rainey, Jr., 223

Hon. Arnold L. New, 225

Bernard Spain, 198

Robert E. Spivak, 202

## **Past Presidents**

Hyman Lovitz, Esq., 187

Charles Steinberg, 221

Alan D. Budman, Esq., 229

Dr. H. Michael Zal, 210

Jay S. Gottlieb, Esq., 205

Hon. James R. Roebuck, 219

Theodore G. Rothman, 205

Stephen H. Green, Esq., 214

Richard E. Prinz, 212

David R. Kahn, 220

Harvey Steinberg, Esq., 209

Jeffrey A. Muldawer, Esq., 225

# CENTRAL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

## **State of the School**

*Mr. Tim McKenna, President*

During the Mid-Winter meeting, Mr. McKenna delivered the State of the School address. Here are the highlights from Mr. McKenna's remarks:

### **New Rankings**

- Central High School was ranked #1 out of 84 high schools in Philadelphia by the School District's School Performance Report, and #1 in the City of Philadelphia by the Commonwealth's School Performance Profile.
- Niche.com ranked Central the "Most Diverse High School" of 24,000 high schools nationwide.

### **Admissions**

- Over 4600 applications were received for the 2016-7 school year.
- 1000 students were accepted from 170 schools in Philadelphia including public, parochial, charter and private schools—a 21.7 percent acceptance rate.
- 655 students have accepted seats to attend, coming from every zip code in the city

### **Athletics**

- Girls Tennis, Swimming, Golf, Cross Country and Bowling are current Public League champions.
- Boys and Girls Varsity Soccer and Wrestling are Public League runners up.
- 40 students have been selected as All-Public athletes.
- Cross Country, Football, Boys Varsity Soccer, Swimming, Girls Varsity Basketball, Boys Varsity Basketball, Indoor Track, Golf, Tennis and Wrestling are coached by Central Alumni.

### **Science**

- In February, 30 Central students, led by Ms. Galeet Cohen (256) of the Biology department, participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Competition. 22 students placed first, the remaining

eight placed second—including four perfect scores! Projects ranged from cancer research to biofuel production to theoretical modeling of molecular interactions and cyber security systems. Students who earned 1st awards are invited up to the Pennsylvania State competition that occurs in May.

### **Music**

- Over spring break, 120 student musicians including members of the choir, concert band and orchestra, travelled to Chicago. During the trip, they performed at Lincoln Park Zoo, the Field Museum and Glenbard East High School.
- Approximately 400 students participated in Central's production of Seussical the Musical April 7th through the 10th. They served in a range of roles including acting, music, set design, marketing and stage crew.
- Join us on May 26th at 7 PM for the annual Spring Concert in the Central auditorium.

### **Art**

- In February, 15 Central students had work displayed at the High School Art Show reception and awards ceremony at the Philadelphia Sketch Club. Six received awards including Desiree Smith (Peace Award), Begimay Ahmatova (Printmaking Award), Ashley Garcia (Bob Jackson Award), Molly Creamer (Center for Learning Through the Arts Award), Naeem Allen-Stills (Patrica Wilson-Schmid Award) and Huanchi Chen (Philadelphia Award).

### **Clubs**

- The Central Mock Trial team will compete in the city championship series.
- Central's Chess Club has qualified for the Pennsylvania state championships.
- 24 teams from Central competed in National History Day at the Constitution Center in March.
- The Robolancers are preparing for the First Robotics tournaments. Their goal is to qualify for the world championships.
- Members of the 277th class held a Dance-A-Thon (similar to Penn State's "Thon") to raise funds for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on April 26th.



**Timothy McKenna**  
President, Central High School

# GLOBAL YOUTH UNITED

*Dr. Leonard B. Finkelstein (185) introduced the concept of Global Youth United to CHS seven years ago. The program has involved about 10 other schools since the opening of the CHS-GYU Chapter.*

**G**YU is most easily described as a **curious, student driven, problem solving** group seeking to find new ways of making this a better world today for tomorrow.

While all of this may sound overly ambitious and rather idealistic, the Central students have reached out into many arenas to give meaning to GYU. For example, students have involved the Philadelphia Water Works in finding ways for bringing potable water into one of the many dry villages in Africa; One student from Africa described her life as an every-day chore of walking to a distant water source "two hours away" and then carrying one day's water supply "another two hours" back to her village before going off to school. Another project involved working to bring homeless veterans into fully furnished homes. The list goes on, but these two examples plus a recent challenge of bringing the tragic reality of Female Genital Mutilation to the attention of young people in Philadelphia. See FGM in Google for more information.

Mr. Tom Quinn, Chair of the Social Studies Department has been their wonderful sponsor and University of Pennsylvania Students have served as mentors to the CHS-GYU Chapter.

Upon graduation from Central, several GYU students have tried to bring the concept to their universities. Their assistance with help from St. Joseph's University and LaSalle University have enriched the experiences and guidelines for the CHS students. A more complete listing of programs is available for your information.

In order to tell you about the success rate of graduates (many with scholarships) a more extensive article would be needed.

Finally, Anne Frank, wrote in her diary:

*"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."*

GYU has had an impact on the lives of many students and we hope that Anne Frank's message can, perhaps, become a reality for the Central High School students as they reach out to make this a better world **today for their tomorrows!**

We plan to bring friends and relatives of our students from about seventy foreign countries into the GYU world using the most advanced techniques for communications.

## UPDATE: Central Wins at National History Day

Elliott Drago, Central's National History Day faculty sponsor proudly reports that Central earned three awards at this year's National History Day Contest, referenced in Mr. McKenna's State of the School address. The contest requires students to perform primary source research and create an original project.

Last year, Central put forth two teams made up of eight students, and one team advanced to the state competition. This year, we had 22 teams made up of 84 students, and three teams will advance to the state competition at Millersville.

### *Congratulations to the winners:*

#### *First Place, Group Documentary:*

*"The Evolution of Jazz" Siqi Zheng, Enwei Zhang, Miriam Solowey, Lucy Zhu (277)*

#### *Third Place, Group Documentary:*

*"Entering the Atomic Age" Albert Tanjaya, Aavo Reinvald, Benjamin Greeley, Ashin Saju (275)*

# TEACHER'S CORNER

*This is the first in a series of articles by Central graduates who are now Central teachers. We invited Galeet Cohen (256) to be the first to submit:*

**M**y absolute favorite part of high school (1993-1997) was the Advanced Research course I took sophomore, junior, and senior years. This course, masterminded by Dennis Erlick, allowed enthusiastic mini-scientists like myself to leave school as early as 1pm most days, hop on SEPTA, and arrive at laboratories to conduct independent research in areas of personal interest. This also entitled us to dine at UPenn and Temple's food trucks, get hit on by undergrads, and keep our gym shorts stowed in the bottoms of our lockers for mouse-bedding (as we were excused from PE/health in exchange for monthly reports).

More importantly, it meant that I got to experience the pressure and responsibility of department meetings, have my own key to an actual lab, and use equipment that cost more than a car. I can still smell the sweet, earthy aroma of plant samples down in the UPenn geology department's basement and feel the humid, Zen silence of the greenhouses behind Leidy Lab. My sister Sahrye, meanwhile, was bussing up to Fox Chase Cancer to sacrifice mice in an effort to understand tumor growth. We each followed our own paths.

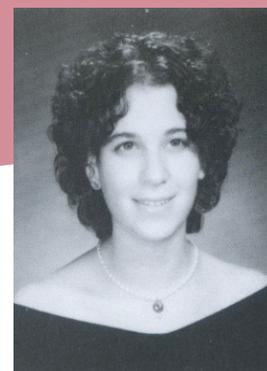
In presenting my work at science fairs, I was part of a greater convention of science nerds who were all committed to pursuing research careers. My people. So how did I end up teaching instead?

During college, research allowed me to wade around in Michigan ponds, analyze

food chains through stable isotopes in the Chesapeake Bay, and sneak onto chicken farms of the Eastern Shore. But at some point, as I counted my umpteenth zooplankton sample the winter of senior year, my mind wandered to the teenagers on the south side of Chicago with whom I was working as part of a science enrichment program. What if all of them became scientists, even if I didn't? What if instead of becoming one scientist, I made an army of them?

These days I have the great pleasure of coordinating the very program that was so influential in my own CHS career. I work with an incredibly diverse, motivated, and interested group of young people by supporting their lab searches, keeping them motivated through inevitable disappointments, brokering difficult conversations between them and their supervisors, and helping them communicate their work to people who have no idea what they're talking about. Just this month I have vicariously synthesized ethanol from invasive species, isolated cancer genes, cryosliced sections of mouse joints to look for nerve regeneration, helped to develop a better test for sickle-cell anemia, looked for signs of recovery in stroke victims, and mimicked encryption systems for cybersecurity. I couldn't have done all that if I had pursued my own research career. Not even close.

-Galeet Cohen (256) Biology, AP/IB Environmental Science, Advanced Research



# COLUMN C

Bruce Yasgur, 216

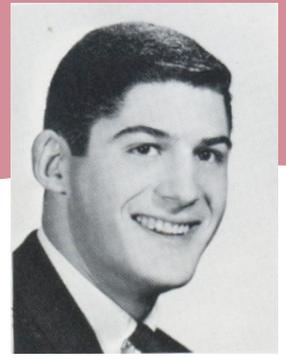
42nd Street (& Walnut): A Tale of Four or More Alumni *Et Filios*

*"In the hear of old West Philly, You will find a thoroughfare. At 42nd and Walnut Streets, we Central folk meet there."*

(Apologies to 42nd Street Lyricist Al Dubin.)

David has finished his first co-op job and returned to Drexel as a sophomore. He had enough of dormitory life as a Freshmen, so we moved him into an apartment. Rather than spend weeks looking, I phoned real estate magnate **Chris O'Donnell (241)**, who, as a mouthy Central student, did time in my classroom. Later, as a Drexel grad and a West Philly real estate agent, he sold a couple of my properties to buyers willing to pay 2 or 3 times what I'd put into them. (Little did I know then that they'd later sell for 5 or 6 times what I'd sold them for. Oh, well.) This time, Chris had an affordable rental on 42nd St. We liked it, we took it, then we walked around the corner to the International Food & Spice market on Walnut St., owned by another former student and Drexel alum, **Permjit (Paul) Singh (248)**, where, surrounded by exotic aromas, we shopped for Asian goodies and noshed on homemade pakoras and samosas.

Speaking of nosh, another former student and longtime friend, cheese maven **Emilio (Mimi) Mignucci (244)**, tells me that Emilio Jr. is studying to become a chef at his dad's other alma mater, the Restaurant School, a few doors down from Paul's market. Talk about keeping it local and keeping it Central. By the time you read this, our sons will probably have had lunch together a couple of times. Even though David and Emilio both attended different suburban schools, they share our Central connection. It's like being related, but in a good way.



Sugarhouse VP **Leigh Whitaker (251)** knows the thoroughfare well, having commuted past the popular intersection for much of her life. My former Central student and Temple Law classmate recently posted pix of her wedding party on Facebook. Congrats, Leigh!

A little farther west, **Ahmed Eldafrawy (269)** has been serving as a learning support specialist at Lamberton School in Overbrook Park. Ahmed holds a BS from Temple and is pursuing a master's degree, also from Temple (our other mutual alma mater) in health informatics, preparing for a career in healthcare administration. Stay tuned.

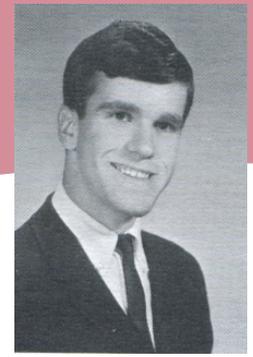
I keep getting notes and being told that someone or other "was in the (pick a number) class." My immediate reaction to the past-tense verb form is somewhere between sad and inquisitive. Should I ask whether s/he died or was excommunicated from the class? As long as we live, we're members of our class as well as alumni of Dear High. To illustrate: Back when I was teaching, attorney **Steve Green (214)** and his classmate, Judge (now retired) **Gene Cohen** met in a courtroom along with 60 or so of my Central seniors. Steve opened: "Good morning, Your Honor." Gene replied: "Good morning, Mr. President." He then explained to my curious students that once you're elected president of your senior class, you're president for life, and that Steve was and would always be his president. So, lifers, whatever your class, drop us an interesting line or two at [byasgur216@gmail.com](mailto:byasgur216@gmail.com). Remember to include your class number.

Special greetings to 216 President **Eddie Anderson** and VP **Eric Bregman**.

Photo by: Xin Li, 275

# TIPS ON BUYING WINE FROM "THE WINE DOC"

*Dr. Stephen Burnstein, 222*



**Y**ou need to make a wine purchase, but when you arrive at your local wine seller, are you intimidated by the number and variety of wines, all crying out for your corkscrew?

If you like to cook, you should know at least a little about pairing wine and food.

Try to match a flavor in the food with a similar one in the wine. For example, choose a floral and spicy white wine such as a gewurtztraminer for Thai or Szechuan dishes.

You are not mistaken in serving a white wine with meat or a red wine with fish. A sturdy white such as Riesling often holds its own nicely with many veal dishes and there is nothing better than marrying a racy red zinfandel with blackened salmon.

Consider matching the weight in wine and food by serving a hearty, dense red such as cabernet or syrah with steak or a pinot noir with lamb.

Another option is to drink a wine with a dish that is prepared with that wine as part of the recipe; pears poached in a port wine sauce marry well with a glass of port at their side.

When it comes to pairing food and wine, the rule is that there are no rules, but these are useful considerations to keep in mind as you select your bottle of choice.

Take advantage of your local wine merchant and ask questions, especially if you are purchasing a bottle as a gift, or to enjoy at a party.

If you are looking to start a small to modest wine cellar, be sure to include some wines you can drink right away—whites such as

chardonnay, sauvignon blanc, Riesling and pinot grigio and reds like chiantis and Spanish Riohas. Begin to age French burgundies, California cabernets and wines from Bordeaux and the Rhone.

There are no rules for what to keep in your cellar or when to drink it. Any wine can be enjoyed whenever you like, but some improve with aging. Try to store your wine in a cool place, if possible at a constant temperature not greater than 65 degrees.

As you become more comfortable with wine, you may wish to start buying larger quantities to lay down. Some enophiles recommend buying no more than a few bottles of the same wine at a time since there are so many to experience.

If you come upon a wine that you really enjoy, you can usually go back and buy a case to drink over time. You will also have the opportunity to buy cases of wine "en primeur," not having had the chance to taste it and paying for it 2 years or more before it is delivered. You must deal with a reputable wine merchant and do your own research on the wine. You'll probably pay less for "en primeur" wines as opposed to waiting for them to hit the shelves, and this is a good way to buy finer Bordeaux wines, trying them every so often to see how they are maturing.

Some wine lovers keep buying until their cellars are full and then need a larger space, and many realize that they have bought too much wine to be consumed in a lifetime. I'd simply like to be sure that my wife's second husband doesn't get the key to a full cellar. So, my plan is to throw one helluva party before I go to the great winemaker in the sky.

# FROM THE ARCHIVES

David R. Kahn, 220, Archivist

## Mirror Reflections

Looking back 100 years, the May 1916 issue of *The Mirror* titled "The Graduation Number" is graced with a cover drawing by student **E.A. Mc Nerney, Jr.** At that time, *The Mirror* was a full-featured magazine, with news, senior class items that today we think of as yearbook material, Alumni contributions and many advertisements. These 76 pages of information in an age of slower communications was a major voice in the school.

The Alumni Notes tell us that **Leo Rowe, 88th Class**, later the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and Director of the Pan American Union, delivered an address on "The Mexican Situation" at Cornell University. **Leon J. Obermayer, 109th Class**, later the President of the Board of Education and member of the Central Alumni Hall of Fame was elected President of the YMHA of Philadelphia.

The "new" building at Broad & Green Streets was already in use for over 14 years and still had a glow within its halls.

In sports, Crew was big, with CHS winning the Interscholastic Championship. One week earlier, they lost a match to the Princeton University Freshman by only a length. The Tennis, Cricket and Baseball teams all performed well, with the end of the season not yet in sight.

A lot of humor appeared in those days. Samples for your pleasure include: Jones – "What would you do if you were in my shoes?" Smith – "Get a shine." She – "And don't you go in for sport of any kind?" He – "Oh yes, don't you know, I'm passionately fond of dominoes."

Advertisers included Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital "Study Medicine but study Homeopathic Medicine," "Haverford Cycle Company – The Black Beauty Bicycle." Jacob Reed's Sons "A young men's store – in style, in spirit, in policy. "Beware! Prepare!! – Tutoring for the Finals. Frederick Eissler – References, Professor Mitchell, Professor Althouse." "United Hat Stores – For Syle and Snap – United Straw Hats." And finally, a long-time favorite of mine, Whitman Chocolates.

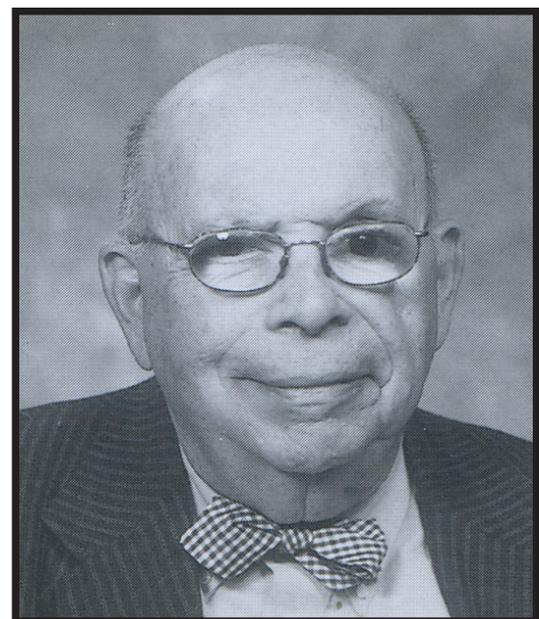
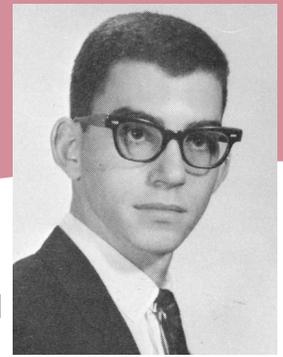
*The Mirror* of today is quite different—a smaller magazine with literature, poetry, and artwork. Yet it still is a voice of the school and contributes greatly to the spirit of Central.

## A Note of Remembrance

On March 17, 2016, a truly remarkable man of Central and member of the Central Faculty Hall of Fame passed away.

Dr. Robert A. Sanders, 180, formerly Chairman of the English Department and later the AACHS and School Archivist and Historian devoted his life to his family and the school that he loved so much. Bob was my immediate predecessor as Archivist and Historian and it is because of him that I am able to serve in this position. I first met Bob in 1990 when I came to the Archives to do research for a 220 Class Reunion book. I continued to visit and to learn from him about Central's amazing history, and the diverse contents of our Archives. During my tenure as AACHS President, I often drove him to school and our conversations continued to illuminate my understanding of Central's place in the world. When I finished my term as President, he decided it was time to retire from the post, and it was an honor to be chosen to replace him. His wit, charm and fabulous way of writing, using the English language to its fullest, will be greatly missed by many, especially by me.

Bob Sanders wrote many wonderful columns for the *Alumni Journal*. A full reprint from the Fall 2007 issue can be found on [page 15](#) for your enjoyment.



**Dr. Robert Sanders, 180**  
Archivist

# REUNIONS

**196** Announces their next reunion on September 24, 2016 at the New Tavern Restaurant on Montgomery Avenue in Bala Cynwyd.

**207** The 60th reunion will take place November 19, 2016 at the Sheraton Society Hill, 2nd and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia. Contact Art Hausman at [ahausman@comcast.net](mailto:ahausman@comcast.net).

**250** The 25th reunion will be held Saturday, June 18, 2016 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 1200 Market Street.

**255** Celebrate the 20th reunion November 22nd through November 26th. Enjoy the most active Central week of the year, beginning with Career Day, then Thanksgiving day breakfast, followed by the Northeast game. The banquet is Friday the 25th, and finish up with family day on the 26th.

**260** 15th reunion will be held November, 2016. Details TBA.

**265** The 10th reunion will be celebrated on Thanksgiving weekend, November 25 – 26, 2016. Contact Gina Bryan at [ginambryan@gmail.com](mailto:ginambryan@gmail.com).

# IN MEMORIAM

**166** Alfred Pellegrini

**168** Albert Samit

**176** J. Milton Becker

**176** Harold Rosenbluth, Esq.

**177** Dr. Benjamin Ostrofsky

**177** Dr. Robert Brodsky

**178** William T. Moore

**180** Dr. Robert Sanders

**181** Frank Mascitti

**181** Dr. Elliot Kane

**186** Jules Tickner

**187** LeRoy Sattler

**189** David M. Popowich

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**194** Samuel Rappaport, Esq.

**195** Howard Bleznak

**199** Jerome Segal

**199** Sanford S. Hunn, Esq.

**205** Gerald Gold

**206** Hon. Jonathan R. Steinberg

**211** Michael J. Hurwitz

**220** Jay S. Cohen, M.D.

**234** Joel Bryant

**272** Au Kong

# ALMA MATTERS

**172** Dr. William Kott recently contacted the Alumni Office, hoping to reconnect with his school. His first degree was in dentistry and later attended medical school and became a physician. He has been living in California since discharge from the Army after WWII.

Dr. Kott would enjoy hearing from classmates. He can be reached at 714-772-7700.

**208** Joel Meyers was selected as a 2016 recipient of the Pennsylvania State University's Distinguished Alumni Award.

**209** Hon. Benjamin Lerner has been named Philadelphia's deputy managing director for criminal justice. After 49 years as a lawyer, 20 on the bench, he will be using his expertise to improve the system in which he worked.

**212** After serving as Class Rep for 25 years, Bob Wachter recently turned that position over to Otto Mills. He also resigned as an Abington Township Commissioner after 20 years of service. He will continue his practice of law in his center city office.

**265** Joshua Domer, Esq. is now working as an attorney in the City Solicitor's office in the tax unit.

Your fellow Central alums want to know what is happening in your life! Please send a note and let us know about your life today—in 75 words or less. Email your Alma Matters to AACHS—and encourage your fellow graduates to do the same. We want to hear from you!

# STUDENT ARTISTS' CORNER

Xin Li, 275

CHS Art Student

Everyone speaks a unique language in the world and art is significant to me.

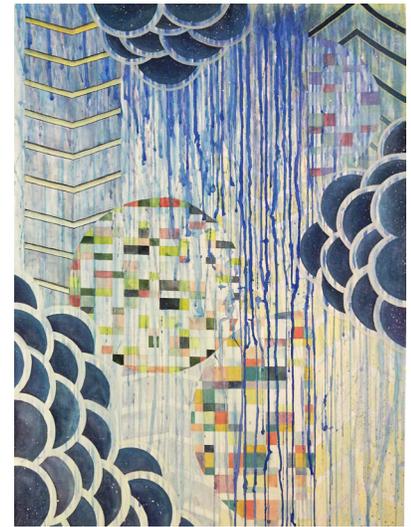
Art is a form of communication that allows me to express my thoughts and emotions to others; it helps me understand myself and the world better. I believe every piece of art has its own story and artists are not only painters, sculptors, or designers, they are also storytellers. Through art, I am able to tell stories with colors, lines, shapes, and different tools.

Moreover, my goal in life is to make a positive difference in the world through art. Design is such an important aspect in our daily lives: it affects the way we feel, communicate, function and live. I have developed an interest for interior design and I am specifically interested in museum exhibit interior



design. I believe museums are one of the best places for learning. I hope to design inspiring and unique exhibits that will bring smiles to people's faces in the future. Aside from designing exhibits and interiors, I am also interested in product or multifunctional furniture design. I love the idea of creating more with less and hope to design products that are environmentally friendly.

At Central High School, I am currently taking multiple art electives and I specifically look forward to my 7th period art class the most every single day. I love the positive environment in the class, and my favorite part is the critiques at the end of each assignment because they help me improve my art. I have enjoyed every minute of art making in class and believe the lessons I've learned will prepare me well for success in the future.



Ms. Keefe

Art Department Chair

There are few students who have impressed me as much as Xin Li. She is smart, creative, talented and hard working, and yet these words could describe a good number of Central High School students. What truly makes Xin Li stand out is her attitude toward learning. I have never met a student who is more capable of making every opportunity into the greatest learning experience. She is the student who makes each lesson as challenging as possible for herself, such as moving to larger paper, developing a unique technique or exploring a new concept with her art. Xin is also the student who pursues opportunities to contribute

and to learn in addition to her high school courses. She is an art editor for *The Mirror* and has worked at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) as a museum education teen assistant and is also part of PAFA's Student Docent program. Xin has a remarkable, receptive attitude toward the content that her teachers and classmates share with her—always asking the follow up questions that demonstrate how analytical and thoughtful she is. She has been an amazing student to have in class! I have no doubt that Xin Li will continue to learn, to think, and to create and contribute great things in her future studies and art career.

# AACHS 5K FUN DAY



## THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS THE AACHS 5K FUN DAY & 1 MILE WALK BENEFITTING ALL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**SUNDAY JUNE 5, 2016**

Central High School  
1700 W. Olney Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19141

**8:00am Registration / Check-In**

**9:00am 5K Start**

**9:15am One Mile Start**

## COME OUT FOR A FUN DAY!

**With Family, Friends, Classmates and Alumni to Support our Program**

**Become a Race Sponsor or Just Register to Run or Walk**

**Race Information, Sponsorship Opportunities or Registration**

**Available on the Alumni Website at**

**[www.centralhighalumni.com](http://www.centralhighalumni.com)**

### 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](http://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

# CLASS REPS

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, or if you would like to apply for or recommend someone for a vacant rep position, please email the Alumni Association at [alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com](mailto:alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com). If email is not an option, please call (215) 927-9550. If you would like to contact your class rep, please email the Alumni office in care of her or his name. (Email addresses are not shown here in order to avoid their being harvested by spammers.) Note that the current class reps list begins with the 181<sup>st</sup> Class; for reps for prior classes, please contact us.

<b>181</b> – Jules Silk	<b>205</b> – Ted Rothman	<b>229</b> – Frank Piliero	<b>253</b> – Mike Ambrosius
<b>182</b> – Len Garrett	<b>206</b> – Robert J. Stern	<b>230</b> – Larry Plotkin	<b>254</b> – Lisbeth C. Lopez-Little
<b>183</b> – John Senior	<b>207</b> – Arthur Hausman	<b>231</b> – Fred Ratner	<b>255</b> – Broderick Jones
<b>184</b> – Edward Itzensohn	<b>208</b> – Marshall Greenblatt	<b>232</b> – John Younge	<b>256</b> – Dan Taraborrelli
<b>185</b> – Jay Rosen	<b>209</b> – Harvey Steinberg	<b>233</b> – Irv Levy	<b>257</b> – Angela Reale-Povia
<b>186</b> – S. Gerry King	<b>210</b> – Paul Hirschman	<b>234</b> – Kevin Stepanuk	<b>258</b> – David R. Hildebrand
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<b>188</b> – Matt London	<b>212</b> – Otto Mills	<b>236</b> – Mark Lomax	<b>260</b> – Angelina Banks
<b>189</b> – Saul Carroll	<b>213</b> – Jeff A. Weiner	<b>237</b> – Andy Heller	<b>261</b> – Chantay Thompson
<b>190</b> – Ed Magliocco	<b>214</b> – Steve Green	<b>238</b> – James Jackson	<b>262</b> – Canh Trinh
<b>191</b> – Phil Alterman	<b>215</b> – Gerry Kean	<b>239</b> – Rudy A. Cvetkovic	<b>263</b> – Justin Simmons
<b>192</b> – Sam Hoffman	<b>216</b> – Larry Arnoff	<b>240</b> – vacant	<b>264</b> – Michael Segal
<b>193</b> – Stan Fischman	<b>217</b> – Bill Carlitz	<b>241</b> – Nick Taweel	<b>265</b> – Gina Bryan
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<b>196</b> – Richard Oski	<b>220</b> – David Kahn	<b>244</b> – R. Seth Williams	<b>268</b> – Chansophea Ten
<b>197</b> – Robert M. Cohan	<b>221</b> – Chuck Steinberg	<b>245</b> – Jonathan Kine	<b>269</b> – Alexis Jenkins
<b>198</b> – Stanley H. Cohen	<b>222</b> – Mike Radel	<b>246</b> – Julie Stevens	<b>270</b> – Nikita Shah
<b>199</b> – Bob Rosenstein	<b>223</b> – Lenny Seidman	<b>247</b> – Denise Tully	<b>271</b> – Ramon Guzman
<b>200</b> – Mark Kay	<b>224</b> – Saul Langsam	<b>248</b> – Keeya Branson Davis	<b>272</b> – Natalie Fox
<b>201</b> – Sam Wurtzel	<b>225</b> – Paul Roseman	<b>249</b> – Maria Carpenter	<b>273</b> – Cam-Tu Vuong
<b>202</b> – Bob E. Spivak	<b>226</b> – Zachary Rubin	<b>250</b> – Audra King	<b>274</b> – Anh Cao
<b>203</b> – Philip Remstein	<b>227</b> – Gary Koupf	<b>251</b> – Leigh Whitaker	
<b>204</b> – Arthur D. Magilner	<b>228</b> – Bob Barthelmeh	<b>252</b> – Gina Meissler	

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# ARTISTS' CORNER

## Roger Meltzer: A Central Role in Music Production

*Roger Meltzer, 221, is the Founding CEO, and Director of Artists & Repertoire at Capsicum Records, a Hartford, CT based independent music producing label.*

Early on, the rhythm and blues music on the right hand side of the AM dial became Roger's first love, transcending its historic connection and structure from Afro-Cuban rhythms, the call and response shouts and hollers of slaves, and the choirs of the Black church to reach into his own latent musical soul. So it wasn't so surprising that when Roger began to express himself musically, that the genre he always chose was R&B.

"When I started writing song lyrics in the mid '70s, it was just to see if I could do it; I had no idea what I would do with them or where that might lead."

When invited by his idol Kenny Gamble to join the staff of Philadelphia International Records in 1977, first as a staff writer with Mighty Three Music and later as a staff producer with Gamble-Huff Productions, Roger was almost exclusively a lyricist.

"I have rhythm, but I am not a musician. When I started at PIR, there was a virtual line down the middle of my mind that, as a non-musician, I thought was impossible to cross...I either wrote words to be composed, or sometimes I wrote words that someone else's melody notes put in my head. My lyrics had rhythm—but others wrote the music—a complete enigma to me. I had all this music in me, but no way to play it, demonstrate it, explain it.

"Looking back at it now, of course my stuff sounded like theirs," Roger explains.

Like Kenny Gamble, John Whitehead was truly color-blind when it came to talent.

"It was John who would put a buzz in the ear of one artist or another, and say, "You really gotta



get with Meltzer and listen to his stuff. The guy can write. He knows your voice. He'll get you a hit. These other guys all hold back their best stuff waiting for the guys who already ship platinum. He's not like that. He'll give you his best songs and just write new ones for the next project they put up on the board. Go on, check him out."

With the advent of the internet and new means of delivering music to the masses such as downloads and streaming, Roger saw the potential to exploit this new way of selling music and to incorporate reggae music and other genres he loved.

From these elements Roger started Capsicum Records and its Reggae-in-Fusion sound, in addition to emceeing and producing the internationally simulcast Capsicum Show on radio for three years. At Capsicum, Roger works to attract new artists to the label, and works with them from song selection to recording and release. He is also responsible for obtaining copyright protection for all original material, negotiating for the use of material in film and advertising, as well as securing performance rights licensing royalties for airplay and live performances.

Roger notes among his influences and inspirations artists ranging from Bob Marley to Paul Simon, Billy Joel to Lonestar, Santana to Otis Redding and many, many others.



## FROM THE ARCHIVES . . . (reprinted from the Fall 2007 issue of the Journal)

Dr. Robert A. Sanders, 180

Our school's long and colorful history is filled with hundreds of unusual events which have their place in the collective memory of its alumni for these many decades. One of the most bizarre occurrences took place way back in October 1905 when Professor Monroe B. Snyder, who taught astronomy in his classroom in the new round observatory at the top of the school, decided one afternoon to carry out a major, long-postponed experiment. He announced to his classes that he was going to make a startling discovery! The boys were truly excited. With fascination they watched him string electric wires from the school's observatory windows straight across Broad Street at Green directly to the Girls' Commercial High School. This was done with the cooperation of the janitorial staff. At that point the wires branched off and were run across Brandywine Street to the basement of the Spring Garden Institute a block away. Just by chance, members of the Electrical Union were passing along Broad Street and immediately protested to the police that rigging the wires without permission was absolutely unacceptable. Central High's Professor Snyder was promptly taken to the nearest jail. He succeeded,

however, in finally convincing the lieutenant in the police station to allow the wires to remain "for the sake of education". Calm was restored and all was well again. The very same day the Board of Education learned that the wires were still up and immediately dispatched several line-men to tear down the entire project. Now the rain came pouring down in great torrents, and the janitors, policemen, and curious bystanders helped pull down the tangle of wires. Even those students on lunch periods joined the crowd brandishing sticks and umbrellas in their efforts to dismantle the so-called "wondrous" experiment. It was positively impossible for the teachers to control students who were in classrooms facing Broad Street. When order was finally restored the school learned with astonishment that the astronomer had endeavored with his wires to establish telegraphic communication with Mars!!

As we reflect upon the day's excitement back in 1905 we can't help but think what Professor Snyder would have said had he been able to see the remarkable colored films taken by the mechanical Rover of the Martian landscape today. We are sure he would have been amazed by our wonderful modern science.

## 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 and creating scholarships and prizes for graduates and more!

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name	Class	Occupation
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Please enroll me as:	Life Member	Annual
Classes 224-270	\$500*	\$50
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Email

Make check or money order payable to AACHS and mail to:  
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## ALMA MATTERS SUBMISSIONS

**When submitting, please include your name, graduating class, and email address.**

**AACHS P.O. Box 26580 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19141-6580**

***alumnijournal@centralhighalumni.com***