

A Umni JOURNAL

Fall 2019



A GROUNDBREAKING ACHIEVEMENT

Central High School breaks ground on a landmark renovation "Leading the Way for Innovation and Creativity"

Join Us For Breakfast and Football

on Thanksgiving Day!

oin your fellow Central alums, students, faculty and friends for an AACHS annual tradition -- breakfast and football on Thanksgiving Day.

Breakfast will begin at 8:45 AM at the Tiffany Diner, located at 9010 Roosevelt Blvd in Philadelphia, followed by the annual Turkey Day football match between Central's Lancers and Northeast's Vikings at 10:30 AM at Northeast's Charles Martin Memorial Stadium.

As always, \$25 includes breakfast and a ticket to the game. And, please consider sponsoring a student for \$25 so that we can include as many students as possible in this wonderful tradition.

Don't miss this annual opportunity to come together with current students and fellow alumni to celebrate one of the oldest football rivalries in the country.

To purchase your tickets, visit https://aachs.z2systems.com/np/clients/aachs/eventRegistration.jsp?event=109 by the end of the day on November 26th. Mail-in registration has closed, and online registration ends at 11:55 PM on November 26th.

We hope to see you there!

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The Alumni Journal

The Associated Alumni of the Central High School of Philadelphia

www.centralhighalumni.com

Alumni Journal Editor

Neil Deegan, 263

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Merrill Freedman, 208

Stephen Chappell, 209

Gerald S. Kates, 194

Yvonne Dennis, 246

Read more about what's happening at Central and with your fellow graduates, and make a contribution to support the work of AACHS at

CentralHighAlumni.com

Make sure to keep AACHS updated with your contact information and life updates. AlumniOffice@CentralHighAlumni.com 215-845-3308

Let us know what you'd like to see in the next Alumni Journal! **AlumniJournal@CentralHighAlumni.com**

FROM THE EDITOR

Neil Deegan 263
Editor, The Alumni Journal



If it seems that the last edition of the *Journal* was published ages ago, you aren't wrong.

Our last edition was sent out just as my wife and I welcomed our first child to the world back in March.

Quite a bit has taken place in the months since. Central has broken ground on the first phase of an incredible remaking of our campus. The AACHS hosted our annual dinner and meeting with nearly 200 people in attendance. **Steve Chappell (209)**, who served with distinction for three years as AACHS president (and an eagle eyed copy editor for this publication), has handed the presidency off to **Chuck Steinberg (221)**. The 278 graduated, and members of the 282 started their freshman year. Reunions have taken place - including one in its 77th year.

Having a baby in one's life is to have a constant reminder that time is fleeting. The baby who came home 8 months ago is now (trying) to stand up and walk, to talk, and is easily able to express himself, laugh and take in the world around him. It happens so fast.

Of so many things, it is easy to say, "Well, I'll do that tomorrow." But, tomorrow is gone in a flash, and sometimes months or years pass before we come back to that thing we meant to do.

If that thing is getting involved at Central, visiting Central or supporting all the amazing things happening at Central, there is no better or more important time to get involved than today. There are many opportunities within these pages to get involved.

Finally, a note on good news. This edition is full of it, especially in the Alma Matters section, which is the longest it has been since I began as editor. Still, I wish we had more, because I know that every single day, a Central alum is getting married, starting or growing a family, taking on an exciting new job, or being recognized for outstanding achievement; we want to share that good news! Send your good news to alumnijournal@centralhighalumni.com.

Best wishes to you and those you love for a happy holiday season and a happy, successful and joyful 2020!

-Neil

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AACHS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chuck Steinberg, 221
President@centralhighalumni.org

Last winter, I was approached by the Nominating Committee as to whether I would accept a nomination to serve as President of the Alumni Association.

I served previously as President from 1984-1988, and oversaw from the Alumni perspective, the introduction of young women to the Central family. After consultation with my wife, I accepted the offer to be nominated once again as President and began my term on July 1st.

I have big shoes to fill. **Steve Chappell, 209** did a wonderful job as President in a difficult time. In the past thirty years, the Alumni Association has become more complex, with a great many more funds, and dollars to handle. Additionally, we are in the midst of a major fundraising effort - *Leading the Way for Innovation and Creativity* - to supplement the very generous gift made by **Joe Field (192).**

I have served on the Alumni Board since 1974, and have spoken to thousands of Central grads over those years, and almost all of them were of the belief that their class, and their surrounding classes were the best ever to attend Central. Invariably, I am asked, "It's not the same, is it?" My answer, especially since 1983, when we started to accept female students, has always been the same.

No it is not the same, it is BETTER!

The young men and women who make up our student body today, are so much more aware of the world, more sophisticated and more diverse then the Central of the 1950's, 60's and 70's.

Additionally, in my conversations with alumni, I always get the feeling that our gratitude as graduates of Central is in fact stronger than that feeling for the universities and colleges we attended. If that's true for you, now is the time to express your gratitude for what Central has done for you. Please contribute to our capital campaign, annual fund or one of the 175 scholarship prizes that are awarded at graduation each year. Please contact **Lynn Norton Robins**, the AACHS Director of Development to learn more about how you can support one of these important efforts and show your appreciation for Central.

Also, remember that if you are of a certain age, and have to take a Required Minimum Distribution, you can direct a contribution to AACHS. Please check with your tax advisor as to the advantages for you.

Please come back and visit, and see all of the exciting events taking place at Dear Old High.

IN BRIEF

Sasha Hochman (278), valedictorian of the 278th class, gave a well received speech on privilege and equality at graduation. The full text of that speech was printed as an op-ed in the Philadephia Inquirer on May 31st, and its worth a read. Visit https://www.inquirer.com/opinion/commentary/central-high-school-graduation-2019-20190531.html to read her remarks in full.

278 College Destinations According to The Centralizer, **125** members of the 278th class matriculated to Drexel University, **95** to Temple University, **41** to Ivy League schools, **40** to Penn State, **22** to the Community College of Philadelphia, **20** to West Chester University, **18** to the University of the Sciences. Eight students reported plans to take a "gap year". For the full listing of college destinations for members of the 278th class, visit https://thecentralizer.files.wordpress.com/2019/05/grad-2019.pdf.

CENTRAL PRESIDENT'S **REMARKS**

n September 3, 2019, we welcomed the 282nd graduating class of Central High School into our community. This diverse group of learners come from 164 different schools in Philadelphia and seem poised to Timothy McKenna develop their own legacy, just as your class did when you arrived at President, Central High School Central. The 282nd class are some of the best and brightest students in



Philadelphia. They have accepted the challenge of learning and growing at one of the most historic educational institutions in Philadelphia. The CHS Faculty and Administrative team are excited to work with them and all of the returning students as we begin the 2019-2020 school year.

In July, we were notified that our students had again done incredibly well on the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate examinations. 75% of our students that sat for AP assessments scored a 3 or better. Thirty-eight members of the 278th graduating class earned International Baccalaureate diplomas. This is a significant accomplishment for our students and validates the rigorous curriculum that is presented on a daily basis in our classrooms. The CHS faculty is committed to developing a demanding educational experience that will foster the next generation of leaders in our city and world.

The construction project that is renovating our school grounds is moving forward faster than expected. The new parking lot, loading dock, outdoor classroom space, and tennis courts will be completed in 2020. This renovation that has been funded by the School District of Philadelphia and will significantly upgrade our school grounds for our community. Please think about making a commitment to our school by donating to our capital campaign. Your donation will support us as we continue to offer students in Philadelphia the best educational experience possible. If you would like more information about our plans moving forward please contact Lynn Norton Robins, the Central High School Director of Development at (215) 400-3590 Ext 3130 or lynn@centralhighalumni.com.



A GROUNDBREAKING ACHIEVEMENT

Brad Segall, 237

n June 4th, Governor
Tom Wolf, Philadelphia School
District Superintendent Dr.
William R. Hite, and Joseph
Field (192) joined with AACHS
and Central High School
leadership to break ground
on Phase 1 of a unique
public-private partnership
called Leading the Way for
Innovation and Creativity. This
project will expand, renovate
and reinvigorate the campus at
Ogontz and Olney Avenues. The
project will create a world-class

learning environment for future generations of high school students in Philadelphia.

The School District of Philadelphia approved \$8.1 million which will be used for the initial site development for the project. Phase 1 includes a new parking lot for staff, students and visitors which will be handicapped accessible, feature new lighting and will be infused with sustainable infrastructure to manage stormwater. The parking lot will be constructed at a lower elevation allowing for the removal of deteriorating retaining walls and narrow driveways that divide the campus. The campus vehicular entry will be moved away from the busy intersection of Ogontz and Olney Avenues and will be wider and safer for incoming and outgoing traffic. The project also includes a new drop-off loop for students. Outdoor spaces that are useful to academic, social, athletic and operational needs are incorporated, including outdoor STEM classrooms and an area designated for loading and deliveries.

Dr. William R. Hite, Superintendent of the School District of Philadelphia, said "Though we end the 2018-2019 school year today, we also look ahead to the future, and to the success that we expect from our Central High School students who will benefit from this exciting investment. The transformation of Central's campus will lead to expanded academic opportunities for students, especially in the arts. We are proud to be able to support students this way as they prepare for college and career."

Central High School President Timothy J. McKenna said "today we begin the transformation of our campus in an effort to improve the educational opportunities for the students at Central High School." He added, "This is a historic day for



A rendering of the planned expansion and renovation of Central High School

Central. I couldn't be prouder of our past, present and where we are going in the future."

Phase 1 of the project will pave the way for the future construction of a state-of-the art Performing Arts Center on the north lawn of the campus just outside the historic main entrance to the school. Central alumnus Joseph Field (192) is the lead benefactor for the project. Mr. Field is the founder of Entercom Communications Corporation and a local philanthropist who supports arts and music programs throughout the Philadelphia area. Eager to give back to the school, Mr. Field offered a \$10 million gift to kick off the capital campaign. He never forgot how difficult it was, as a student, to perform in the school's existing auditorium. "Today, thanks to Dr. Hite and the School District of Philadelphia, Central High begins a major infrastructural construction project that will remedy shortcomings in its building's 1939 design and solve problems that have surfaced over its 80 year life," said Mr. Field. He added, "Solutions to those problems and issues plus other modifications are all necessary pre-conditions to the start of construction of the Performing Arts Center."

The anticipated completion date for Phase 1 of the project is the Fall of 2020. Construction work is being done by Bencardino Excavating Incorporated and Paramount Electrical Services, LLC. MGA Partners of Philadelphia is the architectural firm for the project.

To support the Leading the Way capital campaign, please visit **CentralHighAlumni.com/Support!**

Cover Page Photo Credit: Jordan Cassway, Renderings by MGA Partners

DESPITE EARLIER DATE, ANNUAL DINNER & MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

Neil Deegan, 263

his year's annual meeting and dinner was a celebration of Central and the role we as students and alumni have in making a difference in our broader community. The dinner took place on May 2nd at the Sonesta Hotel in Center City Philadelphia.

This year's event was nearly a month earlier than usual due to an earlier start and end date for the school year in Philadelphia.

After a cocktail reception, nearly 200 guests were seated in the ballroom for the evening's program.

Outgoing president **Steve Chappell (209)** spoke briefly, thanking the assembled and members of the board for their work and support during his three year tenure as president, which included the launch of the capital campaign. He was presented with the customary varsity jacket, bestowed upon outgoing presidents at the end of their final



Incoming President Chuck Steinberg (221) presents outgoing President Steve Chappell (209) with a Central High varsity jacket.

Photo Credit: Ernesto Estremera (278)



Over 150 alumni and guests attended the 2019 Annual Dinner and Meeting on May 2nd.
Photo Credit: Ernesto Estremera (278)

term.

Elections were held for officers and members of the Board. **Chuck Steinberg (221)**, was elected President of the AACHS Board of Managers and gave brief remarks.

Central High School Assistant Principal **Theresa Harrington** provided this year's state of the school remarks, and provided an update on the *Leading the Way For Innovation and Creativity* campaign.

Members of the 228th graduating class, led by **Jay Horrow**, presented a check for \$228,000 to the school, the result of years of hard work raising a landmark class gift for Central. Of the total, \$58,500 has already been put to work to provide coats to students in need, and to purchase and install air conditioning units throughout the building. The balance of the total will be earmarked for the *Leading the Way* capital campaign fund.

Trang Do (261) spoke about the value she places on her public education, and the importance of her experience at Central. Do cited Central's community service requirement, which led her to see the importance of



Members of the 228 present their landmark class gift to the AACHS during the dinner program.

Photo Credit: Ernesto Estremera (278)

giving back and serving those less fortunate. Seeing so many schools, including her own elementary school, forced to grapple with funding cuts leading to reductions in staffing and programs including music, libraries and counseling services, Do has become involved with The Fund for the School District of Philadelphia, which works to support the district's schools.

Jane Golden, founder and director of the world renowned Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, provided attendees with a riveting, illustrative presentation on the history and impact of the legendary Mural Arts program, which she has led since 1984.

Golden took the initiative from an unfunded program under Mayor Wilson Goode, convincing local graffiti artists to focus their efforts on sanctioned public art, to America's largest public art program. In the years since, Golden has become an international expert on the use of public art to transform cities.

Bringing the evening to a celebratory close, **Ben Lipman (224)** presented this year's Disharoon Award. Six stellar students from the 278th class were nominated – **Molly Bevenour**, **Harsh Jhaveri**, **Tristan Jennings**, **Ola Owodunni**, **Noble Zahairagunn**, and **Nancy Zhu**. This year's awardee is **Noble Zahairagunn**.

Special thanks to the members of the 220, 208 and 263, Chestnut Hill College, Synergetic, and the Temple University School of Engineering for sponsoring this year's gathering, and to Katelyn Cyril (278), Siobhan McAtamney (279), Ashley Ray (279), and Jenny Varkey, (278) and Music Department Chair, Benjamin E. Blazer for providing a beautiful musical backdrop to the evening's festivities.

We hope you'll join us in 2020 for another wonderful celebration of Central, our alumni, students and our impact on the community around us.



Former Central High School President Sheldon Pavel speaks with students, faculty and alumni during the 2019 Annual Dinner and Meeting.

Photo Credit: Judy Tran (279)

THE 1836 SOCIETY

Named in honor of the year that Central High School was chartered, the 1836 Society is a group of supporters of the Associated Alumni of Central High School who have given or pledged at least \$1,836 annually to the AACHS.

This level of support allows us to continue the work that we do every day to support the school, our students, and to help build a Central that continues to equip the students of tomorrow with the tools, skills and knowledge necessary to be leaders in our community - locally and globally.

A minimum annual contribution of \$1,836 offers members special benefits and privileges reserved only for 1836 Society members, including an invitation to an annual Members-only reception, updates on our *Leading the Way* project, happenings at Central, and



other topics of interest, and recognition at the AACHS Annual Dinner and Meeting, where each 1836 Member is presented with an 1836 Society pin.

Donors may join the 1836 Society through a donation or pledge of \$1,836 or more annually. Donors who have previously made donations in the same fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) may add to that amount to reach a total gift of \$1,836. Matching gifts made through your employer are also counted in the total.

Consider joining the 1836 Society now with a tax deductible contribution of \$1,836 or more today! For more information on becoming a member of the 1836 Society, please contact Lynn Norton Robins, Director of Development, at 215-400-3590 x3130 or development@central-highalumni.com.

2019-2020 1836 SOCIETY MEMBERS

251 Kyle Andeer

231 Kenneth Berman

249 Karima Bouchenafa

235 Robert Del Femine

214 Mark Dichter

207 Dan Drozd

212 Lanny Edelsohn

186 Albert Feldman

192 Joseph Field

198 Albert Gold

230 Kenneth Goodson

229 Frank Gruber

204 Richard Josephs

194 Gerald Kates

224 Mark Lipshutz

247 Joshua Liss*

204 Allan Marmon**

209 Josef Nathanson

213 Michael Nissman

222 Charles Rose

195 Stephen Rovno

233 Martin Sankey

216 Edward Soll

198 Bernard Spain

221 Charles Steinberg

205 Howard Wachtel

231 Jerrold Walton

229 Stuart Weiss

238 George Williams

*Chair, **Past Chair

ENGINEERING A MODERN HEART

his is a story about heart: both having it and fixing it through engineering. It starts at Central High School, at Ogontz and Olney Avenues in North Philadelphia, in 1967, when gas was 33 cents per gallon and "Ruby Tuesday" by the Rolling Stones debuted on the charts.

That is the year **David Brookstein (226)**—
raised in a lower middle class family in East
Mount Airy—graduated as part of Central's
226th class and became a first-generation
college student. And though the rest of his
journey has included a mechanical engineering
PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology,
jobs in education and industry, and obtaining
13 U.S. patents, Brookstein's heart remains in
Philadelphia.

Eventually, Brookstein made his way further down North Broad to Temple's College of Engineering, where he serves as mechanical engineering professor and senior associate dean of undergraduate studies. For much

of that time, Brookstein has stayed true to his heart, taking the subway back to his alma mater regularly to give regular engineering lectures to Central students.

But about two years ago, that same heart showed something unusual after a routine check-up. PHILADELPHIA

Dr. David Brookstein (226) presents to students at Central this past April.

Photo Credit: Ryan S. Brandenberg, Temple University

The ECG, or echocardiogram, showed some abnormalities," Brookstein said. "I had a diseased, tight aortic valve, or what's called 'aortic valve stenosis,' that was restricting blood flow from my heart. Physicians were able to move relatively quickly with a diagnosis. Eventually, Brookstein would need to undergo a procedure known as SAVR, surgical aortic valve

Eric Horvath, Temple Now

replacement, in which the calcified valve would be replaced.

He underwent the procedure in July 2017. For two hours of the four-hour surgery, Brookstein relied on the assistance of a heart-and-lung machine while surgeons worked to replace his valve. A few weeks later, Brookstein and his heart—complete with a new bioprosthetic valve—were back on campus.

"It's a prime example of how modern engineering and design thinking literally helped to save and extend my life," Brookstein said. "If I had this issue, say, in 1967, I wouldn't be alive. The ECG is able to better-identify the issue now, versus using simple auscultation (a stethoscope). And even then, physicians could have only identified the issue—in my case, aortic valve stenosis—after death."

The new valve, expected to last about 20 years,

is already producing positive outcomes.

"At my most recent check-up about month ago, one of the measurements from an echocardiogram was the aortic valve peak pressure gradient," Brookstein said. "Just before surgery, my measurement was 114 mmHG. For scale, anything above 75 mmHG is categorized as 'severe,' compared to

35 mmHG after the surgery."

Research has shown that 50 percent of patients with severe aortic stenosis die within two years of diagnosis.

In March, Brookstein's measure improved further, dropping to 14 mmHG.

(continued on page 10)

SATOSHI FURUKAWA, MD (235) saved my life this past June.

The story goes like this: One Friday evening in late May, we were were smart and lucky enough to have friends over for dinner: Stew, an MD and Marla, a CRNA. Both have abudant experience providing anesthesia to cardiac surgery patients. They watched me go pale and begin to slump. To them, it was a no-brainer. They phoned for an ambulance, which ultimately delivered me to Pennsylvania Hospital, where Dr. Furukawa earned an A+ installing a couple of new arteries in my heart, which now seems to be working well. However, I spent the next months in a medically-induced coma, intubated, fed through a tube, and sleeping through a variety of complications. I awoke in the ICU, was given therapy to get me on my feet, was transferred to Good Shepherd Penn Partners' rehabilitation unit and, finally, stays in a couple of rehab centers 'til the insurance coverage ran out. After close to four months, the tracheostomy and feeding tube were finally removed. I'm back home, learning to walk, dress, feed myself, swallow food and liquids, use the computer, and even make simple meals.

The 247 invited Janice and me to their 30+

Engineering a Modern Heart (continued from page 9)

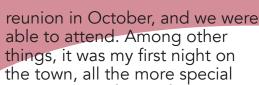
Where is Brookstein's heart now? Recently, with him, returning again to Central, where he's back to giving introductory engineering lectures to students. One lecture focused on his own story, from diagnosis through surgery, detailing the engineering technology and design thinking that helped to keep him alive.

"Current Central High School students are always excited to welcome members of the alumni association back to our school," said Central President **Timothy McKenna**. "Through his lectures, Dr. Brookstein is expanding our students' understanding of bioengineering while sharing his personal experience. His presentations have helped our students make connections that textbooks cannot."

It's a familiar journey for Brookstein: The Broad Street Line shrieks to a sudden but somehow

COLUMN A

Bruce Yasgur, 216



to be spending it with my wife and former students and colleagues, including Coach Frank Greco (228), Barbara Maimon (Art) and Don Hill (PE). Special thanks to Ian Williams (247), Tracy Allen (247) and the rest of the 247, as well as all those who have e-mailed, FB'd or otherwise attempted to get in touch with me during my summer-long hiatus.

Update: Whenever someone would ask me what I wanted while I was laid up, this South-Philly native's standard reply was "A cheesesteak with onions, mushrooms and sauce, please." As of mid-November, I'm happy to report that I've enjoyed a couple of Philly's favorite delicacies, not to mention a hoagie or two. I'm still working my way up to a thick, juicy steak; I expect to be there by the next time I write. Till then, please e me at **byasgur216@gmail.com** and tell your own Central story.

Beat Northeast!

comfortable stop at the Olney Station. He makes the familiar march up the stairs, and on his way to his alma mater, stops for a pretzel (light on the salt, thankfully) before sharing his story with students from Central's 278th class and others.

He even got to mention another recent patient with whom he shared the heart disease in common: Mick Jagger, of those same Rolling Stones, who himself underwent a new version of the procedure.

"Modern engineering is about identifying needs, defining the problem and then solving it. The technology and solutions that were cutting-edge when I sat where you are, they're a thing of the past," Brookstein said to Central's students. "It's up to your generation to create the new ones."

Editor's Note: This piece has been reprinted with permission from Dr. David Brookstein.

REUNIONS

- **198** The 198th class will hold its next Florida reunion on Sunday, February 16, 2020 at the Bocaire Country Club in Boca Raton, Florida. For additional details, please contact Jerry Feldman, Jerry Cooke or Bernie Gross.
- **204** The 204th Class will hold its 65th Reunion on Sunday June 7, 2020 at the Bluestone Country Club in Blue Bell PA. Contact Art Magilner at admagilner@gmail.com or (215) 885-5840 for more information.
- 214 The 214th class will hold its 60th Reunion on Friday, October 2, 2020, with lunch and meeting with President McKenna and students and evening celebration at the Marriott Old City (formerly the Sheraton Society Hill). Contact Rich Shulman at rshul1942@comcast.net or Steve Green at shg214@gmail.com.
- 215 The 215th class will hold its 60th reunion on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue. A tour of the school is planned for Friday, May 21, 2021. Details are tentative. Please contact Gerry Kean at gerrykean215@aol.com for more information.
- 229 The 229th class will hold its 50th year reunion activities during the weekend of Oct. 16-18, 2020. The festivities will kick off with a Friday afternoon luncheon and tour of the school, followed by a lavish dinner party at the Bellevue Hotel (200 S Broad Street, Philadelphia) on Saturday, October 17. The weekend will conclude with a Sunday brunch. Further details will be provided to all class members as soon as possible, by the reunion committee. If you have any interim questions, please call Frank Piliero at 610-506-1516 or Barry Rosenberg at 609-330-7111.
- **238** The 238th class will hold its 40th reunion on Sat, November 30, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Waterfall Room (2015 S Water Street, Philadelphia). Visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/central-high-school-238th-class-40th-reunion-tickets-64206624743 to purchase tickets and for more information.
- **248** The 248th class will hold its 30 year reunion on Friday, November 29, 2019 from 7 to 11 PM at the IATSE Ballroom (2401 S Swanson Street, Philadelphia). The theme is "Totally Awesome 80's Party" so come dressed in "your fliest Central or 80's gear"! The cost is \$70 per person. This is an 80's themed event. Come dressed in your best 80s gear or school spirit wear! Please contact Joann Isgro DAgostino at 917-697-0610 or email chs24830yrs@yahoo.com with any questions.
- **258** The 258th class will hold its 20 year reunion on Saturday, November 30, 2019 at Barra Rossa (929 Walnut Street, 2nd floor, Philadelphia) from 7 to 10 PM. The cost is \$55, and includes a buffet and cash bar. Please contact David Hildebrand at drhildebrand@hotmail.com for more information.
- **268** The 268th class will hold its 10 year reunion on Saturday, November 30, 2019 from 7 to 11 PM at the Felt Factory (1523 E Wingohocking St, Philadelphia). For more information, visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/central-268-10-year-reunion-tickets-59588955169 or contact Chansophea Ten at ten.chansophea@gmail.com or Zach Carduner at zachcarduner@gmail.com.
- **273** The 273rd class will hold its 5 year reunion at the Vesper Sporting Club Center City (223 South Sydenham Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102) on Friday, November 29 from 8 to 11:30 PM. For tickets and more information, visit bit.ly/273reunion.

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 centralhighalumni.com/support.

CLICK HERE TO PRINT COUPON

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 Make check or money order pa AACHS, P.O. Box 26580, Philade	of 9 to 23 seats, are available at \$300 per seat. ayable to AACHS and mail to: elphia, PA 19141-6580						

ALMA MATTERS

177 Milt Dienes reports that the 177th class held their 77th reunion at Ann's Choice in Warminster on October 9th. This occasion marks the school's oldest and longest reunion.

181 Jules Silk was interviewed on NPR's *Weekend Edition Sunday* regarding the 181's 75th class reunion. Listen and read the interview transcript at https://www.npr.org/2019/06/02/729050297/75th-high-school-reunion.

198 The 198th class held its quarterly lunch on October 3rd at the Devon Restaurant. In attendance were Stan Amberg, John Blum, Mike Blumberg, Norm Cohen, Stan Cohen, Art Helfand, Bernie Gross, Harold Katz, Maury Marks, Dr. Dave Naide,



Members of the 177 and their loved ones participate in a reunion at Ann's Choice in Warminster. Photo Credit: Milt Dienes

Bernie Packer and Jack Rounick. The class also held a reunion in Florida at the Bocaire Country Club in Boca Raton, FL on February 18th. In attendance were **Dr. Gary Cohen**, **Jerry Cooke**, **Melvin Dion**, **Gerald Feldman**, **Bernie Gross**, **Jules Kay**, **Dr. Myron Rosenfeld**, **Dr. Dave Naide**, **Gerry Schatz**, **Dr. Yale Bobrin** and **Bill Smith**.



Members of the 199 and 202 meet in Lake Worth, FL in March 2019. Left to right: Bernie Galtman (199), Bob Rosenstein (199), Dave Rosenthal, MD (202), Max Wald (199). Submitted by David Rosenthal MD (202)

199 Members of the 199th class and one member of the 202nd class met for a Florida-based reunion this past March. Attending the gathering were **Bernie Galtman**, **Bob Rosenstein**, **Dave Rosenthal** (202) and **Max Wald**.

200 Dr. Stanley Lubeck reports that he has "done the voice for seven separate characters in an audiobook titled *On A Future Afternoon*, to be released for sale shortly.

204 Rabbi Dov Peretz Elkins (Denny Elkins) just published his memoirs, *To Climb The Rungs: A Rabbi's Memoir*. Learn more at https://amzn.to/2UtZleJ!

206 Robert J. Stern of Robert J. Stern Law, LLC, was named the recipient of the Justice William J. Brennan Jr. Award for solo practitioner by Philadelphia VIP at its Awards Ceremony on September 26th.

208 Frank Freedman has published a book titled *A Corporate Refugee Bares All.* You can learn more at www.acorporaterefugeebaresall.com

212 Howard Goodman has authored two novels, *Triangle Story* and *Triangle Sequel*. You can learn more and purchase both books, along with others Howard has authored, directly from the publisher at http://www.lulu.com/spotlight/howagood.

223 Murray Dubin was honored with a Lew Klein Alumni in the Media Award on October 4th at Temple University. The award, named in honor of the late Temple University adjunct professor and legendary broadcast executive Lew Klein, recognizes the achievement of media professionals locally and nationally.

223 Roger Midgette was appointed to the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide National Technology and Security Committee (NTSC). Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free tax assistance and preparation service with nearly 35,000 volunteers and 5,000 locations nationwide. The NTSC provides expert advice and support for AARP Tax-Aide personnel and volunteers pertaining to computer technology and security.

228 The Man Who Lit Lady Liberty: The Extraordinary Rise and Fall of Actor M.B. Curtis, authored by **Richard Schwartz**, was recently awarded the Bronze Medal for Biography from the Independent Publishers Book Awards. The book is now available in paperback at your preferred bookseller. And check out our next edition of the Journal for a piece from Richard!

Career Change? Graduation? Wedding? Birth? Unique Central Connection? Tell us about it!

Send us an update on you or a classmate, and we'll include it in the next edition of the *Journal*. Please include class number, email address and name. Submissions under 100 words appreciated.

Please email to alumnijournal@centralhighalumni.com!

- **228** The 228th class held their reunion November 8-10, 2019. The weekend of events included a school tour and activities at Central, a cocktail reception at the Hard Rock Café, and the main event celebrating the 228's 50th year reunion at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel.
- **229** Barry Rosenberg reports, "Three members of the class Barry Rosenberg, Steve Klein and Alan Budman continue to devote substantial efforts toward the AACHS Board of Managers. Alan is a former president of the alumni association; Steve and Barry are active Board members. The Alumni Association is currently overseeing and raising money to effectuate major renovations to the school building. On September 5, 2019, class representative **Frank Piliero** hosted several members of the 50th year reunion committee at his beautiful summer home in Stone Harbor. **Dr. David Laskin**, who recently retired, which gives him more time to enjoy his first grandchild, hosted several classmates at the July 18, 2019 Phillies/Dodgers game. **Dave Seltzer, Esq.**-- the man with a million jokes-- is still practicing in Center City. **Jim Edelman, C.P.A.** promises that he will attend the 50th reunion in October 2020. He is the senior partner at a Montgomery County, PA accounting firm. **Fran Busillo** promises to attend his 40th consecutive Central/Northeast game this Thanksgiving. **Tom Arasz**, who retired as a senior vice-president for Commerce Bank/T.D. Bank, is now engaged to a bright and beautiful lady who coordinates event planning at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. Plans for the wedding are still being formulated. **Steve Liss, Esq.** is still working in Center City. He was spotted while jogging on the boardwalk in Atlantic City over the Memorial Day weekend.
- **231 Stephen Talasnik** recently published a new book titled *Unearthed*. The book "presents the spectrum of Talasnik's works across various media spanning the last decade". Learn more at www.stephentalasnik.com.
- **232 Marshal Granor** was elected Chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Section. He has also been named a Pennsylvania Super Lawyer.
- **232** The Honorable **John Younge** was confirmed as a Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania by the United States Senate on July 31, 2019.
- 235 Robert Del Femine hosted a 60th birthday celebration on the Moshulu on the Delaware River on August 8th. Over 500 people attended, and Del donated the proceeds from the event to AACHS. Four of the DJs were Central alums Matthew Law Fishman-Dickinson (265), Cosmo "Baker" Strauss (251), King Britt (245), & Del. Also in attendance was Grammy nominated singer Vikter Duplaix (Victor Cook) (246). Our thanks to Del for hosting such a great event!
- **240 Jeffrey Abramowitz** won the 2019 CAMMY Community Responder Award for his work as a producer at PhillyCAM the community media center that airs original content on Philadelphia's public access television and WPPM 106.5 FM. Abramowitz is a former Center City lawyer who was sentenced to five years in federal prison for embezzlement in 2012. Now he helps returning citizens obtain the resources and skills they need to successfully re-enter society. He hosts the *Looking Forward Reentry Radio Show* and serves as Executive Director of Reentry Services for JEVS Human Services and Program Director of Looking Forward Philadelphia.
- **253 Vanessa Brown-Nedrick** awarded A 2019 Woman of Distinction by the *Philadelphia Business Journal*.
- **253 Technical Sergeant (ret) Jonathan White** has retired after 20 years of service in the US Army, US Air Force Reserve and Pennsylvania Air National Guard.



Robert Del Femine (235) is fêted aboard the Moshulu. Photo Credit: Davidson Ospina (via Facebook)

- 257 The Fleisher Art Memorial reports that **Catzie Vilayphonh**, a recognized leader in Philadelphia's Lao American community and a poet, filmmaker, and multi-media artist, was selected as the 2019-2020 Dina Wind Art as Catalyst fellow. Envisioned in 2015 to honor the legacy of Dina Wind, an artist, Fleisher board member and supporter, and longtime patron of the arts, the fellowship provides visual artists at a critical junction in their careers the opportunity to enrich their practice by developing a participatory public art project within Fleisher and Southeast Philadelphia's highly diverse communities. A child of refugees who was born in a camp on the way to America, Vilayphonh has long resided in South Philadelphia and has developed deep connections with the neighborhoods Fleisher serves.
- 261 Trang Do, a reporter for CBS 3, and her husband welcomed their first child (a boy) in August.
- **277 Noelia Batlle** has joined AACHS as Development Coordinator, working under Lynn Norton-Robins to help support all the great work of the Alumni Association!

SCHOOL NEWS IN BRIEF

Come out to see our Central students in their production of Dirty Rotten Scoundrels! All Central High School alumni are invited to a special dress rehearsal on Wednesday, December 4th at 10 AM in the Auditorium. There is no charge for admission to the dress rehearsal, but RSVPs are required. Please email bblazer@philasd.org if you would like to come. Performances will be held on Thursday, December 5th at 3:30 PM, Friday, December 6th at 7 PM, and Saturday, December 7th at 7 PM. Tickets for these performances are \$15, \$10 for alumni, senior citizens and non-Central students, and \$5 for Central students. We hope to see you there!

Central Sports Update: Our Girl's Cross Country team won both the Public League and District 12 championships. Central's Girl's Tennis team and our Golf team both won the Public League Championship. Central's Field Hockey team ended their season with a loss in the finals to Northeast. The Girl's Volleyball team ended a 12-3 season as runners-up in the Public League. In soccer, our Boys' Varsity team finished 11-1, but lost to Northeast in the Public League semi-finals, and our Girl's team ended an excellent season, with a loss to Franklin Towne Charter High School in the Public League Championship. Zoe Musbrugger (279) was named all-public and MVP of the league.

N MEMORIAM

Please note that while some of those who've passed are known globally, others are known within smaller circles, all are listed here by name, class number and nothing more. We are all Central High alumni.

161 Harry Kogan

165 Frank B. Johnston, MD

167 Paul Kane (Emanuel Kimelheim)

170 Sidney Bruskin

174 Bernard Fishman

175 Samuel Zuckerkandel

176 Norman Weisbord

178 Joseph M. Seligman

178 Thomas J. Leidigh

179 William Baer Greenberg

180 Lester Harold Fink

180 Samuel Feinberg

181 Seymour Horowitz

182 Albert W. Goldberg

182 Morton Chavenson

182 William Dodies

184. David E. First

186 Elwood Jacoby

187 Edgar Rosenthal

188 Richard S. Hoffmann, Esq.

188 Alvin Perloff

189 Harry Rosenbloom

190 Gerald Grossman

191 Alvin Chester

191 Carl D. Herman, MD

191 Edward L. Snitzer, Esq.

192 Bennett Goldstein

192 David Anders Dambly

192 Robert Wiser Ph.D.

194 Daniel Banks

194 Dr. Stuart Cobert Baer.

195 Barrie Golland

195 Jordan Irwin Lissack

195 William W. Weiss, Jr., DDS

196 Edmund Barrett

196 Paul B. Solnick, MD

197 Bernard Bronstein, DDS

197 Lewis S. Levinson

201 Morton Rosen

202 Allan Gold, MD

202 Gerald Gomer

202 Marc Leroy Specter

205 Carl Bancoff

205 Ronald J. Bayer, Esq.

207 Alvin Kanofsky, Ph D.

207 Peter Stuart Linder

207 Richard "Dick" Foley

208 Earl Fleegler, M.D.

210 Yale Abramovitz (Abrams)

210 William Roy Hall, Ph.D

210 Dr. Noel Ignatiev

211 Leon Crews

211 Michael Gruber, MD

211 Stanley A. Rosenau, CPA

211 Stanley Katzen

213 Michael A. Smith

213 Stanley Friedman

214 Robert A. Perlman

216 Alexander Ziss

218 Meyer (Mike) T Berkowitz

218 Carmen Nasuti

221 Paul Nasuti

222 Albert N. Hamscher, III

224 Eric L Michelson, MD

224 Noel Shore Harrison, MD

225 Paul Roseman

225 George Enoch "Sparky" Thompson, Jr

226 Bruce Chernoff

226 Donald F. Carter

227 Gil Sacks

229 Joel Bennett

229 Robert Seidman

230 Phil Freelon

231 Louis K. Habina

233 Dennis Earl Thomas

238 James I. Jackson, Jr.

241 Francesco lannone

245 George Gavioli

257 Jared Moore

259 Mary Apostolu Ibrahim

266 William Maignan

269 Dante Austin

Should you learn of the passing of a fellow alum, please forward information including name and class number to obituaries@centralhighalumni.com so that we may update our records and note their passing in the Journal. Thank you.

CLASS REPS

he 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. 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.). - Rudy Cvetkovic (239)

175 - Bernard C. Gross 177 - Milton Dienes

179 – Samuel J. Silk

181 - Jules Silk

182 - Len Garrett 183 - Dr. John Senior

184 - Edward Itzenson

185 - Jay Rosen

186 – Norman Salvat

187 – Vacant

188 - Matt London

189 - Saul Carroll

190 - Jere Neff

191 - Phil Alterman

192 - Irv Matusow

193 – Stan Fischman

194 - Jerry Kates

195 - Ed Benoff

196 – Jerry Miller

197 - Robert M. Cohan

198 - Stanley H. Cohen

199 - Bob Rosenstein

200 – Mark Kay

201 - Vacant

202 – Bob E. Spivak

203 - Philip Remstein

204 – Arthur D. Magilner

205 – Ted Rothman

206 – Robert J. Stern

207 – Arthur Hausman

208 - Marshal Greenblatt

209 - Stephen Chappell

210 - Paul Hirschman

211 - Bill Labkoff

212 - Otto Mills

213 - Jeff A. Weiner

214 - Steve Green

215 - Gerry Kean

216 - Larry Arnoff

217 - Bill Carlitz

218 - Barry Brait

219 – Mike Love

220 – David Kahn

221 - Chuck Steinberg

222 - Mike Radel

223 – Lenny Seidman

224 – Saul Langsam

225 – Stanley Sokolove

226 – Zachary Rubin

227 - Gary Koupf

228 - Bob Barthelmeh 229 - Frank Piliero

233 - Sidney Ozer

234 - Kevin Stepanuk

232 - Hon. John Younge

235 - Pete Forjohn

230 - Larry Plotkin

231 – Vacant

236 - Mark Lomax

237 - Dominic Orlando

238 - Joe Deal

239 – Rudy A. Cvetkovic

240 – David Smedley

241 - Nick Taweel

242 - David C. Mack

243 - John Loesch

244 - Joseph Q. Mirarchi

245 - Jonathan Kine

246 - Julie Stevens

247 - Tracy Allen

248 - Keeya Branson Davis

249 - Maria Carpenter Yanga

250 - Audra King

251 – Leigh Whitaker

252 - Gina Meissler

253 - Mike Ambrosius

254 - Lisbeth C. Lopez-Little

255 - Broderick Jones

256 - Dan Taraborrelli

257 – Angela Reale-Povia

258 - David R. Hildebrand

259 - Jeff Goldberg

260 - Angelina Banks

261 – Chantay Thompson

262 - Canh Trinh

263 – Justin Simmons

264 – Michael Segal

265 - Gina Bryan

266 – Agin Thomas

267 - Sophia Hines

268 – Chansophea Ten

269 - Alexis Jenkins

270 - Nikita Shah

271 – Ramon Guzman

272 - Natalie Fox

273 - Cam-Tu Vuong

274 – Anh Cao

275 – Rucksar Rahman

276 - Michael Behanan

277 - Chris Carson

278 - Harsh Jhaveri

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CENTRAL ALUM AND WORLD WAR II VETERAN CELEBRATES 104TH BIRTHDAY

Brad Segall, 237

erdinand (Fred) Gomez (166) is not the kind of guy who spends time sitting around the house, despite turning 104 years old on September 9th, 2019. Twice a week, he takes transportation from his son's home in Maple Glen, Montgomery County to the Central Bucks Senior Center in Doylestown, Bucks County where he shoots pool in the billiard room they named after him two years ago. When he's not shooting pool, he's in the pool, swimming regularly at the Ambler Area YMCA.

It was at the Senior Center on September 4th where family and friends gathered to celebrate his longevity and spirit. What keeps him going? "I don't worry about tomorrow or the next half hour," said Gomez, who graduated from Central High School in June, 1936, a member of the 166th Class. "I can't sit still, I have to always be doing something," he added.

Gomez was born in New York City in 1915. His family moved to West Berlin, NJ where he attended a one- room schoolhouse. They moved to Philadelphia where he attended Central. "I loved Central," said Gomez, who even as re-

cently as seven years ago ran into another member of the 166th Class. After graduating from Central, Gomez spent time in the Civilian Conservation Corps, a voluntary public work relief program where he helped build the Hoover Dam near Las Vegas.

At the start of World War II, he worked at the Philadelphia Navy Ship Yard. He was a member of the U.S. Navy Reserve and volunteered for active duty. He served on the destroyer USS Carroll throughout the war and was a Seaman 1st Class. The USS Carroll's home port was Pearl Harbor and Gomez served in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

During his birthday celebration, Gomez was given a citation of honor by the Associated Alumni of Central High School, a proclamation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for his life accomplishments, a birthday card from U.S. Senator Pat Toomey and commemorative challenge coins from the Warriors' Watch Riders.

"I don't believe there's a secret to living a long life," said Gomez, who added "take life as it is and I think you'll be better off."



Fred Gomez (166) celebrates his 104th birthday with friends and loved ones at the Central Bucks Senior Center on September 4, 2019.

HELP CHS MUSIC TRAVEL TO THE ISLAND OF ENCHANTMENT!

Lynn Norton Robins, AACHS Director of Development

Connecting With Alumni

The development office continues to reconnect, engage and reach out to our alumni through Phone a thons, email blasts, and one-on-one meetings. What connects YOU to Central? Why is Central important to YOU? Let us know by email development@centralhighalumni.com. We want to hear YOUR Central story.

Music Department Plans Trip to Puerto Rico

One experience that will have a lasting, life changing connection for current students who participate in Central's respected Music program is the planned spring 2020 trip to the Island of Enchantment.

That's right! The CHS Music Department is going to Puerto Rico to share their musical talents and to lend their helping hands with the ongoing relief efforts as the island still recovers from the disasterous Hurricane Maria.

This trip is one in a long history of trips around the world to share their flair. After much deliberation, the department chose Puerto Rico for this trip, not just because it's an island enriched with Hispanic musical culture, but because of the need for help in recovering from Maria and the absolute devastation left behind

This incredible learning experience will be long remembered by 120 chaperoned students from the orchestra, choir, ensembles, and concert band as a once in a lifetime, 6-day journey over spring break this coming April.

The students have banded together to create several fundraising opportunities, such as selling pretzels and ramen noodle cups to staff and students almost daily!

YOU can show them your support and make this trip a reality for our students by making a directed gift for the Music Department's 2020 Spring Break Trip to the AACHS.

For more details, please contact me at (215) 400-3590, extension 3130 or lynn@central-highalumni.com.

This unique opportunity will be life-changing for our students. The totally immersive experience enables Central students to witness first-hand the struggles of the island community, with their peers. CHS musicians will become exposed to a whole new perspective when they experience how music has the power to connect people. Music will be what removes language barriers, allows the students to move across cultures and facilitate open communication where barriers otherwise exist. Students can learn and teach one another as they participate in clinics at the *Conservatorio de Música de Puerto Rico*. They will further enrich the experience through community service opportunities.

This impactful opportunity is priceless! Students are working hard to ensure that everyone who wants to participate can!

The student run snack shop has raised over \$3000.00. They have applied for grants, started a Donors Choose account and are looking forward to several "restaurant nights" with area businesses. The music department is also planning a CHS Family Fun Night Fundraiser that will feature games, contests, and other activities.

Please consider a financial contribution to support our students in making this impactful trip. For more information on how, please contact me! I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for all that you do to support the AACHS and Central High School!



HONOR THE TRADITION AND ENSURE THE FUTURE OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Your financial support can help the Associated Alumni of Central High School to meet its mission to ensure the continued success of Central High School and the achievement of its students, now and in the future!

Your **tax-deductible** contribution will go to support AACHS's efforts to support Central's academic programs and extracurricular programming. Without you, the incredible programs enjoyed by Central students may not be possible.

The **Annual Giving Fund** helps to support the operation of the AACHS, and to help the AACHS to support student programing including needs that the School is simply not able to handle without our support.

And, donations to the **Leading the Way for Innovation and Creativity capital campaign** will help us to reach our goal of remaking Central High School for the students of tomorrow.

Please consider a **tax deductible** contribution before the end of the year to help support the work of the AACHS, our students and our ambitious goals for the future.

And, all contributions made on Giving Tuesday (Tuesday, December 3rd this year) will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000!

If you prefer to give online, please visit CentralHighAlumni.com/Support!

Contribution Form										
Yes! I will make a tax-deductible contribution to the Associated Alumni of Central High School!										
\$50	\$100	\$250	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,836	\$2,500	Other			
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Phone										
				RDER PAYABLE TO						

ALMA MATTERS SUBMISSIONS

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

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alumnijournal@centralhighalumni.com