



ALUMNI JOURNAL

SPRING 2021

DR. SHELDON PAVEL

13TH PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
1946-2021

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THE ALUMNI JOURNAL

Editor

Neil Deegan, 263

Editors Emeriti

Merrill Freedman, 208
Stephen Chappell, 209
Gerald S. Kates, 194
Yvonne Dennis, 246

Executive Director

Cynthia Lech, 263

Operations Coordinator

Sarah Fleischman, 263

Let us know what you'd like
to see in the next Alumni
Journal!

AlumniJournal
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EDITOR'S NOTE

As I write this note, it's been 374 days since students gathered at Central High School. 374 days since I worked in an office, rode a train, or met in person with a colleague or client.

And, now, if you squint hard enough and tilt your head just so, there appears to be a light at the end of this very long tunnel.

Hopefully, by this time next year, our pages and our website will be brimming with reunion announcements. Hopefully, even sooner, our students, teachers and staff will be back in their classrooms.

In the meantime, we're adapting.

Instead of the traditional crush of alumni in the Spain Conference Center on the Monday before Thanksgiving, jostling over bagels and preparing to help inspire tomorrow's alumni, Career Day was successfully conducted virtually.

Instead of in person reunions with dinner, dancing and cocktails, some classes are turning to Zoom for occasional or regular visits.

And, in some cases, despite the pandemic, the world marches on.

Our capital campaign, **Leading the Way**, recently earned funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, placing this important modernization of our campus one step closer to reality.

The AACHS has hired its first full time executive director in its history, **Cynthia Lech (263)**. Be sure to drop her a line to say hello at cynthia@centralhighalumni.com.

We continue to look for new ways to keep and stay connected. Next up is the inaugural event of our virtual speakers series, featuring **Quiara Alegria Hudes (254)** in advance of the release of the film adaptation of *In The Heights*. Stay tuned for details about our annual meeting, which will once again take place via Zoom.

In these pages, you'll find this and a whole lot more about what's happening at Central. I hope you'll read on.

Finally, a personal note about the passing of Dr. Sheldon Pavel late this winter. There are a great many people at Central who helped to shape my path. Dr. Pavel showed me what it meant to lead, and to do so with kindness and empathy. He made every single one of his students, including me, feel like they mattered. He encouraged and expected excellence, and molded Central into the institution it remains today: diverse, strong, and always a shining light in our city. May his memory be a blessing.

Neil Deegan
AACHS Vice President
Editor, AACHS Alumni Journal



**VIRTUAL ALUMNI
SPEAKERS SERIES
BEGINS WITH
RENOWNED
PLAYWRIGHT
QUIARA ALEGRÍA
HUDES (254)**

We are excited to announce that the first guest for our virtual alumni speaker series will be noted playwright Quiara Alegría Hudes (254)!

Join us on Tuesday, May 4th at 7 PM via Zoom! Sign up today at bit.ly/aachs5421.

The virtual alumni speakers series will feature alumni thought leaders to discuss their work and lives since graduating from Dear High.

A member of the Alumni Hall of Fame, Quiara is the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Water By the Spoonful*, and wrote the book for the Tony Award winning Broadway musical *In The Heights*, and the screenplay adaptation is now expected to be released in theaters this June.

Quiara's memoir, *My Broken Language*, will be published this spring.



MESSAGE FROM THE AACHS PRESIDENT

CHUCK STEINBERG, 221

I have been attempting to write this report for some time, but was not able to find the topic that I felt was going to attract enough attention.

Then, on Sunday, February 7, I received notice that Dr. Sheldon Pavel, the 13th and longest tenured President of Central High School passed away.

I was a Vice-President of the Alumni Association when Shelly became president in January 1984, a few months after the first female students were admitted to Central. They were a part of the 243rd graduating class. The agreement reached as a result of the lawsuit to make Central High School a co-educational institution stated that no student would be accepted at Central for just their senior year. Therefore, the junior class, the 244th class, was the last all male graduating class.

The transition was difficult for everyone. There was acrimony from many of the male students and alumni, and Shelly quickly accepted the young women in the 243, 245 and 246. He knew that enrollment was exceptionally low, and there had been discussions about merging Central with another school, or closing Central altogether.

In his first admissions, he started a practice that is still being followed today. If you meet the requirements, you would have the opportunity to attend the finest high school in Philadelphia, without concern for what school you came from or what you looked like.

In meeting members of the alumni at gatherings, or on the street, there is always concern that the school is not what it once was. Since my retirement in 2014, I have volunteered at the school, helping wherever I can. In doing so, I have had the opportunity to meet a vast majority of the students, and let me assure you - they are very **SPECIAL**.

I posted on Facebook news of Shelly's passing, and was moved by the comments of hundreds of former students whose lives were impacted and changed by Dr. Pavel.

One of the biggest honors I have ever received was a call from Shelly in 2012, asking me to Chair the Committee to identify his successor.

If Dr. Pavel impacted your life, or made it easier, you can honor him by making a contribution to the AACHS in his memory. Just visit CentralHighAlumni.com and click on "Donate Now" to make a tribute gift in his memory.



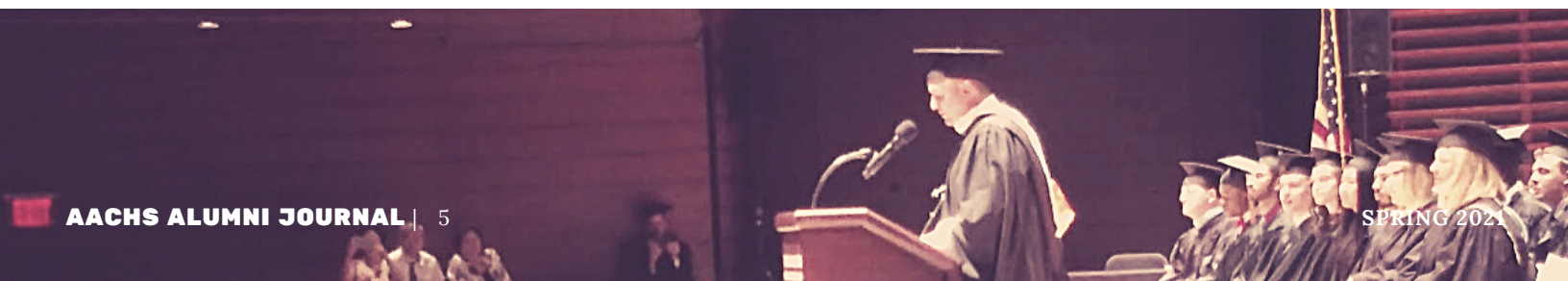
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

TIMOTHY J. MCKENNA

This year has been like no other in my 25 year career with the School District of Philadelphia. Each morning as I make the turn at the corner of Olney Avenue and Ogontz Avenue, there is a distinct difference; I no longer see the thousands of students making the walk from Broad and Olney to our front doors. This year has been difficult for all members of our school community, city, state and nation. I am pleased to inform the members of our alumni association that the academic program has continued in the new virtual classroom. Is it the same? No. But the members of our faculty have creatively made adjustments to support and challenge our students. They are supporting them with social-emotional learning initiatives. Our entire school community has leaned into the work and into making this year the best educational experience possible for our student body. I continue to remind our faculty and students, we will return to the halls of Central High School, after we have defeated this pandemic. We have needed to adjust our program and thinking this year, but our tradition of excellence lives on even in the virtual classroom.

Even in a virtual world, we have been able to hold many special events for our students this year. We held the annual AACHS Career Day, the National Honor Society Induction, the 280th Graduating Class Honors Convocation, College Financial Aid Night for parents and students, multiple performing arts virtual shows, and have begun to restart our athletics programs. In the coming months, we will be celebrating Black History Month, Women's Day, International Day and Asian Pacific Day. Our traditions will not pause because of the pandemic. We have had to become creative in how we celebrate, but it will not deter us from celebrating our school's rich diversity and the accomplishments of our scholars.

Finally, I would like to honor the legacy of the 13th president of Central High School. **Dr. Sheldon Pavel** was a true legend in the field of educational leadership in Philadelphia. He led Central High School for 28 1/2 years and molded our school into his vision of what a college preparatory school should be. He was a champion for diversity, high expectations and empathy for others. Dr. Pavel was a visionary. He touched the lives of thousands of young men and women during his tenure as President of Central High School. Our school community mourns his passing. We also need to celebrate his wonderful life and dedication to our school by continuing to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Godspeed Dr. Pavel.





FROM THE ARCHIVES

DAVID KAHN, 220
ARCHIVIST AND HISTORIAN

Sheldon S. Pavel, 13th President of Central High School passed away on February 7. He is a giant in the annals of Central's history. His Central legacy lives on in the school today as Tim McKenna, our 14th President, continues in the spirit of his predecessor. To begin to express my feelings, below is a reprint of the article published in the **Alumni Journal** when Dr. Pavel retired in 2012. May his memory be a blessing to us all.

THE BEGINNINGS OF A NEW CHAPTER 1984 AND 2012

January 23, 1984 began bitter and cold. The overnight temperature was minus six degrees. However, at Ogontz and Olney, it was bright, warm and rosy, for this day marked the start of a new chapter in Central's history—the first day of **Dr. Sheldon S. Pavel's** presidency.

The AACHS president at the time, **Horace A. Stern, Esq.**, (172), described Dr. Pavel in the Spring 1984 *Alumni Journal* as “imaginative” and went on to state that CHS was headed in “new and heretofore uncharted directions” under Dr. Pavel's leadership.

How true that was. Looking back, my opinion is that Dr. Pavel's appointment as the 13th president of the school was the second most significant event at Central in the 20th century, close in impact to the most significant—the admission of young women to Central. Some thought suggests the two go hand in hand. In a few short years, Dr. Pavel brought the school's population back to full strength, both in numbers and quality of students. The increasing number of girls admitted each year contributed markedly to the turnaround.

I can't describe Dr. Pavel in one word. I need two - “students first.” He has always been about the students, and all of his efforts in administering the school through so many tough times (especially the last few years) have been with the students in mind. We can be proud of all that Central has accomplished and become under his leadership. It is a school with an outstanding, committed faculty that is dedicated to its students, students who understand what Central is about. It is a school with an involved and participatory Home and School Association and of course us, The Associated Alumni of Central High School.



During my four years as your president, I found it a privilege to work with Dr. Pavel. He made it easy for us to do what we do in the school. He sought us out, offered his advice (always good) and allowed us to participate in school affairs in a way that satisfied our wishes and the needs of the school.

Under Dr. Pavel, and with his permission and support, many great things happened or were achieved or were put into place at Central, more than I have space to list here, but I must mention a few.

Central won hundreds of Public League athletic championships, many Moot Court competition titles and robotic competition awards. The school's Grammy-winning orchestra has traveled overseas. Dr. Pavel's tenure has seen expansion and renovation of the building, including new science labs, new art studios, a new gymnasium, and continuing technology upgrades. It also encompasses the crowning achievement (so far) of the AACHS—the new library, conference center, and teacher's lounge, with computers for all faculty members. With Dr. Pavel's blessing, the new Robotics lab was built, and new auditorium seating debuted this year. (Thank you, **Bernie (198) and Joan Spain**).

In 2011, Central was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education, a most appropriate honor to complete the career of our “Blue Ribbon President.”

After 28 years, Dr. Pavel moves on to join the other great presidents in the Central pantheon; it is time to move on to another chapter at Central. Central has always been about going forward—“honoring our tradition, ensuring our future.”

Dr. Pavel has done this, and more, and I am confident his successors will continue in the same way.

SOUTH LAWN MEMORIES

Remember when the School Flag was raised on the flagpole under the U.S. Flag to mark winning a football game? Pinochle at lunch on the South Lawn? Singing on the South Lawn? Retention Drills and student protests of same? Student parking on Ogontz Ave.? (Now a no-parking zone.) Phys. Ed. Class requiring rope climb, gymnastic apparatus, tumbling and cross country “running Wake”. Split sessions, with Advisory/Homeroom at 10:30 between 3rd and 4th period? (Freshman started at 10:30.)

Perhaps some of you want to share your own—send them to me at archivist@centralhighalumni.com. Crimson and Gold Forever!

DR. SHELDON PAVEL

A TRIBUTE

NEIL DEEGAN, 263

Dr. Sheldon Pavel, the 13th President of Central High School and the longest serving President in the long history of the school, passed away on February 7, 2021 at the age of 74.

He was diagnosed with cancer just weeks before his death.

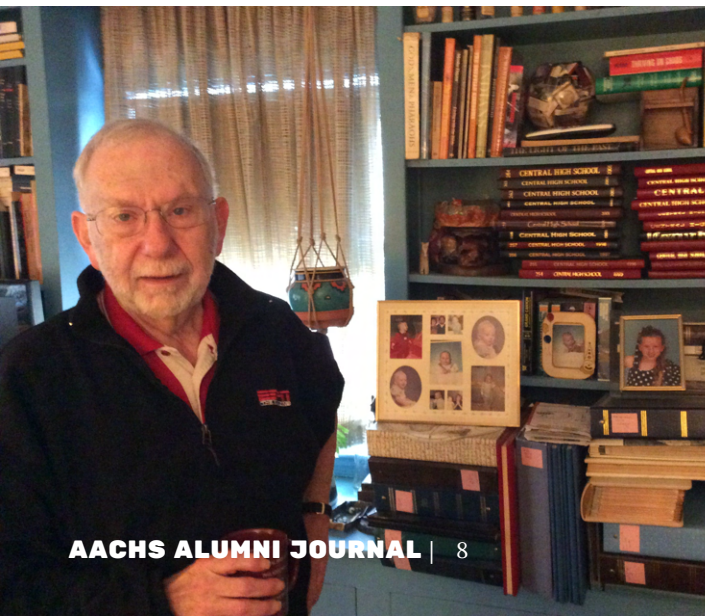
Dr. Pavel became President of Central High School in 1984, beginning his tenure during one of the most tumultuous periods in the school's history, as Central High School became a co-educational institution.

Through his work and vision, and sheer force of personality, he cemented Central's reputation as Philadelphia's foremost public high school, and doubled the school's student population.

He also oversaw the redevelopment of the school's Barnwell Library into a modern, multimedia space, bringing a cherished part of the school into the 21st century.

And, he fought tirelessly to ensure that the school received a fair allocation of resources from the School District of Philadelphia.

One need look no further than the nearly 300 comments left on the posting on the Central High School Alumni Facebook page announcing his passing, or the various articles published upon his passing in outlets ranging from the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) to the [Jewish Exponent](#) and [Montco.today](#), to see the impact that Dr. Pavel had on the tens of thousands of students that came through the halls of Central during his tenure.



Michele Hangley (243), noted, “Things were volatile at the school that year - sometimes ugly - and he was a force for calm, keeping things peaceful and fair when he was just learning the ropes himself. Then, over the years, he proved wrong all the students and alumni who said that admitting girls would destroy the school; he made it the best institution that it's ever been. He was an extraordinary leader, and I'm sad that I won't get to speak with him again.”

Ali Emgushov (251), knew Dr. Pavel as a school administrator and as a family man. “I used to babysit for Dr. Pavel while I was a Central student. I always felt his home was full of love and understanding.”

Dr. Pavel was respected by faculty and students alike. “He was bright and knowledgeable and was usually the first to arrive to school and the last person to leave,” said **Steve Korsin**, a former member of the faculty. “Also if there was work to be done, he would come back in the evening. He could be a tough taskmaster when it was needed. His overriding goal was to make the students, teachers and staff excel, and under his leadership, Central H.S. was and is one of the best high schools in the nation.”

Andrea Keefe, a current faculty member, recounts a story that will be familiar to anyone who spent any length of time at Central. “I was just thinking about when he'd get on the PA and start talking. He would have these long pauses (probably smoking his pipe), but I'd think he was done, and start teaching again each time. This would happen repeatedly. It was comical to the students in my classes.”

Dr. Pavel seemed to know each of the over 2,000 students who occupied the building in any given year, making students feel valued and acknowledged. He was an active and visible presence in the building and at school and alumni events, sporting events and meetings. He was always present on the sidelines of Central sporting events with his trademark pipe, which also lent the north corridor of the first floor of the building a unique, distinct and comforting aroma.

Sheldon Stanley Pavel grew up in West Philadelphia. He was a product of the Philadelphia public schools, attending the Bryant Elementary School, before attending the Akiba Hebrew Academy. He graduated from Temple University, earned a Master's Degree from Southern Illinois University, and completed his doctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Before his arrival at Central, Dr. Pavel taught English and math in district schools, and then served as an administrator at George Washington High School in Northeast Philadelphia.

He is survived by wife Paula, daughter Shani Bardach, stepson Ari Broido, and grandchildren Yoshi, Rocky and Hungkara.

Those wishing to honor Dr. Pavel's memory may do so by making a contribution to the Associated Alumni of Central High School at centralhighalumni.com/tribute-gift.

The Central so many of us know today is a direct result of the dedication, vision and tenacity of Sheldon Pavel. The school, and every student he impacted, is a part of his remarkable legacy.

Photo Credits: Top Right and Middle Right - Jeff Davidson (219), Bottom Right - Judy Tran (279), Bottom Left: Yvonne Dennis (246)

AACHS WELCOMES ITS FIRST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Associated Alumni of Central High School has taken a big step into the future by hiring our first full time executive director in our history.

We are pleased to welcome **Cynthia Lech (263)**, our new AACHS executive director!

She's no stranger to the AACHS, having served on the Board of Managers for several years, most recently as a vice president.

"I'm humbled and honored to have been selected and to represent the organization in my new role as executive director. As a proud graduate of Central High School, I look forward to leading the AACHS in its new chapter – to fulfill the mission of the organization and expand our impact and outreach," said Lech.



Her priorities include taking the AACHS to the next level through the execution of these three pillars of a five-year strategic plan: reconnect and engage with alumni through creative and enhanced digital programs and social media; and building partnerships with the community, business and foundations, and creating diverse revenue streams to ensure that the AACHS's work on behalf of Central and its students can continue long into the future.

"Our hope is that our engagement efforts will provide alumni and friends a platform to talk about the exciting and innovative projects at Central High and the AACHS so that we may widen our network through corporate sponsors or matching donors," said Lech.

Her critical skills will guide AACHS in realizing its long-term strategic vision. The strategic plan includes the goal of completion of a very bold and ambitious Leading the Way initiative, which comprises the construction of a Performing Arts Center and renovations to include a new STEM Center.

Lech looks forward to working closely with the staff and Board of Managers to grow the impact of the organization. She wants to recognize the tremendous effort by the Board of Managers, whom she calls an amazing group of talented and selfless people who have made the organization what it is today. Lech encourages alumni and students to volunteer with the AACHS.

There is no shortage of opportunities to help enhance the AACHS narrative. Reach out to Cynthia to find out how you can get involved! Email her at cynthia@centralhighalumni.com.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAREER DAY IS A VIRTUAL SUCCESS!

ANYA RAINWATER (280)

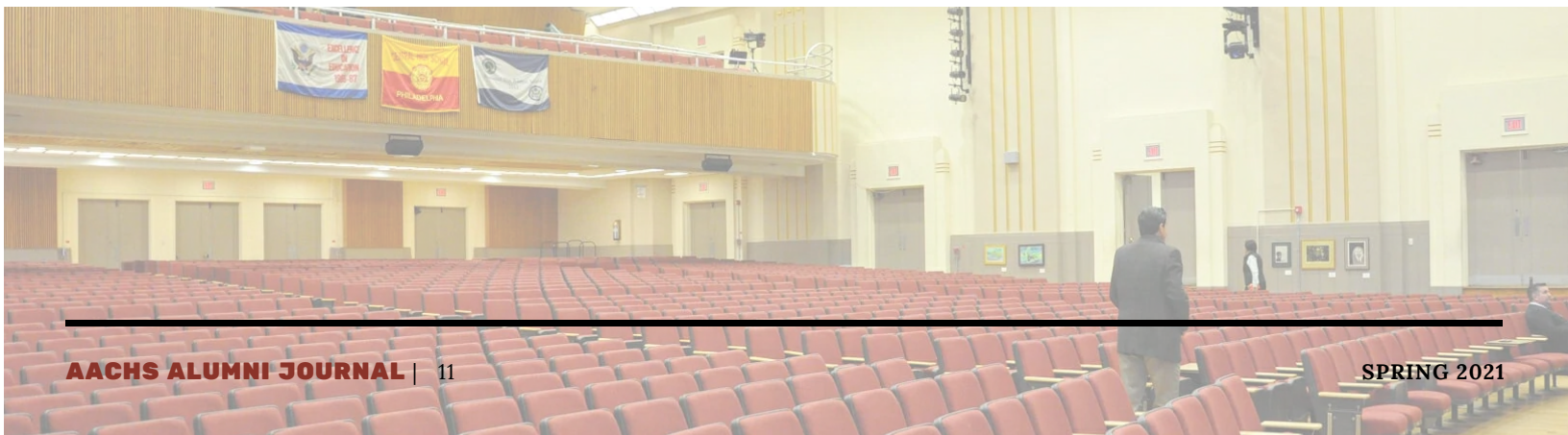
Nothing compares to reuniting with old classmates over coffee in the Spain Conference Room, but Career Day 2020 brought a fresh spark to Central students after six months of virtual schooling. The event commenced on a Monday morning in November, with over seventy Central alumni logging on from across the country.

In their typical determined fashion, Lancers representing classes from the 221 all the way through the 275 overcame technological challenges to ensure that the annual tradition could continue.

Led by the organizational efforts of **Jeff Muldawer (225)** and **Karima Bouchenafa (249)**, with the help of **Natalie Fox (272)** and **Rubin Thomas (271)**, volunteer speakers substituted braving the crowded hallways of Central High School with video call links that allowed them to transfer from class to class. They found new ways to engage students, utilizing the online format to present personalized slideshows and encouraging questions through the typed chat feature. Their presence helped to vitalize young scholars resigned to lost school experiences and gave teachers a well-deserved break from routine.

Career Day 2020 also presented exciting opportunities exclusive to a virtual setting. Graduates of Central pursue interests that take them all across the world, and many are typically unable to present because responsibilities prevent them from traveling back to Philadelphia. Thanks to unprecedented accessibility this year, alumni were able to participate regardless of geographic location. Wetland biologist and environmental regulator **Sahrye Cohen (256)** joined from the west coast of the United States, and **Michael “Mick” Bursack (267)** spoke about his time working in Hawaii. Seniors at Central commit to prestigious colleges all over the country, and hearing speakers from a variety of places prepares them to develop into young leaders with a global perspective.

Additionally, for the members of 283, who have faced a freshman year without any in-person orientation or events, Career Day was a crucial introduction to the pride that defines Central. Undoubtedly, they were impressed by the servitude demonstrated by dedicated alumni and encouraged to give back to the school community.



2020 CAREER DAY PARTICIPANTS

202 Lester H. Wurtele, MD	262 Marques Dexter
221 Harris Klear	262 Rayna Guy
222 Stephen Burnstein	262 Nancy Morisseau
224 David Herman	263 Anthony Davis
225 Ken Harris	263 Neil Deegan
229 Michael Kaufman	263 Mark Fraser
229 Robert Lane	263 Cynthia Lech
231 Charles Berg	263 Kenneth Miraski
240 David Smedley	263 Frances Nilsen
249 Redante Asuncion-Reed	263 Georgiy (Gosha) Petrov
249 Karima I. A. Bouchenafa	264 Kate Cerrone
249 Cory Neale	264 Eugena Cooper
251 Elana McDonald	264 Elizabeth Craighead
253 Michael Schleigh	264 Tiffani Donaldson-Berry
253 Darryle Tillman	264 Brittany Griffin
255 Alison Cogan	264 Morgan James
255 Broderick Jones	264 James Jones
255 Jonathan Meltzer	264 Brenna O' Neill
256 Sahrye Cohen	266 Audrey Huntington
256 Timothy Keyser	267 Michael "Mick" Bursack
256 Durier Ryan	267 Sofia Pham
256 Jojy Varghese	267 Marjorie Thomas
256 Jason Weldon	268 Nate Dorfman
257 LeAnn Brodhead	268 Brianna Weeks
257 Jennie Philip	269 Marlena Brandstein
258 Amani Bright-Laws	269 Fallon Kider
258 Christine Costello	270 Peter Rowe
258 Emily Dowdall	271 Gianna Grossmann
258 Alicia Oglesby	271 Evana Patel
259 Christian Hicks	271 Rubin Thomas
259 Jessica Morris	271 Phil Weiss
259 Kiana Nunn	274 Bola Alliyu
260 Tia Burroughs	274 Hannah Baker
260 Spencer Clayton	274 Stanley Umeweni
260 Stephanie Tisdale	274 Jakub Zegar
262 K. Leslie Abdul-Aziz	275 Frantzia Jean
262 Audrey Davis	275 Tynecia Wilson

To learn more about our alumni speakers, check out the Career Day 2020 flipbook:

<http://bit.ly/AACHSCareerDay2020AlumniSpeakers>



THE BUSINESS OF CENTRAL HIGH

LEADERSHIP ADVICE FROM SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI

GENE MARKS, 241 - AACHS TREASURER

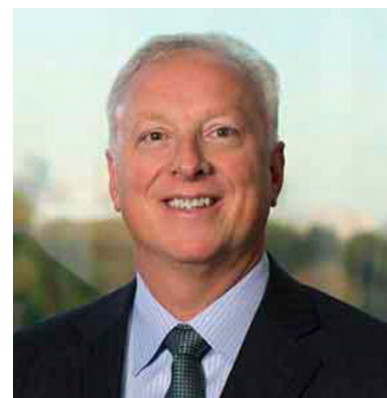
Joseph Carlini (239) is the CEO of McKean Defense Group, a Philadelphia based company formed in 2006 that provides engineering, information technology and enterprise management solutions to federal, civilian and Department of Defense customers.

Prior to launching McKean, Joe spent twenty years with defense contractor SAIC.

Like many successful Central grads, Joe took a technical path. He's a mechanical engineer by training, but he leveraged this background into a corporate leadership role.

So how did he get his start in business? Simple. He patiently spend two decades learning an industry.

"I worked for 20 years in the Defense industry before I had the wisdom, guts, experience and financial wherewithal to start my own firm," he said. "From my time at Central on I knew I always wanted my own business, it just took many years to do it and get it right. I spent the first part of my career trying to learn everything I could about the industry and our specific business. Then I decided it was time to strike out on my own. It can be risky to start your own business, you just have to get to the point where you are comfortable with the risk. I spent 20 years getting ready for that day."



For Joe, it's all about learning the business of business. And that's the advice he has for young Central grads. He recommends asking questions like: Why does the business exist? Who are the stakeholders, customers, owners? How does it make a profit? What does it do with its profits?

"You will become a valuable employee if you can answer those questions about the business or industry you are in," he says. "Once you understand those basics, work relentlessly, be a problem solver, be compassionate to others, and be loyal (we not me). And if you decide to start your own business one day, you will absolutely need to those attributes."

I asked Joe what factors he though contributed most to his success and the answers weren't surprising. It was equal parts luck and hard work. "And the harder you work, the luckier you get."

Joe says not be afraid to be a leader. “It can be scary and risky, but when your company needs a leader, step up,” he says. “That helped me throughout my career. And lastly, be optimistic and find a positive solution to problems. Everyone loves a problem solver, no one likes a problem amplifier. There is an endless supply of problems to solve, and that’s what entrepreneurs live to do. Find a problem you are passionate about and solve that problem. Solve it better, faster, or cheaper than the next person and you will have a successful business.”

For Joe the fundamentals of running a business have always been the same. But what’s changed “dramatically” is the technology we use to manage our organizations. It’s the speed, global reach and precision by which businesses are conducted. But the basics are important.

“Whatever business you choose, understanding the business of that business, and then out working the next guy/gal, is still the secret to success. Technology can be an accelerant, but it’s not a substitute for the basics.”

Central’s impact on Joe’s life has been enormous, and continues to influence him today.

“The teachers, coaches, and counselors I had at Central taught me the lessons I needed in life,” he says. “Work hard, don’t give up, be a good person and be smart were the lessons I was taught at Central and the same principles I use today. Whether on the football field, in the calculus class, or on the East Lawn, everything I learned at Central has impacted every aspect of my life.”

ADD YOUR STORY TO THE AACHS ALUMNI JOURNAL!

The purpose of the Alumni Journal is to inform you about what's happening at Central and with your fellow alumni, to keep you connected to the Central community and to bring our community closer together.

We can't do it without you!

Your contributions are essential to making the Journal a must read for all Central alumni!

If you're interested in contributing on a one-time or regular basis, let us know! Contact us at alumnijournal@centralhighalumni.com.

Also - don't forget to share your news with us! New jobs, new babies, new partnerships, or just a note to update the Central community on your life. Send them all to us at alumnijournal@centralhighalumni.com, and we'll include them in our Alma Matters section!



COLUMN B

BRUCE YASGUR, 216

For many of us, Central is both a family and a family affair. My brother **Lee (224)** and I both thrived at Ogontz and Olney and became proud members of the CHS family. For me, at least, being at Central introduced me to a larger, more diverse, world. Happily, I could walk the two miles or so to school from East Oak Lane without encountering another person who didn't look a lot like me, but many of my classmates, schoolmates, and later students, had to travel far across town from many different neighborhoods to get there, when it would have been much easier to attend a school closer to home. So, why would you travel great distances, often on multiple conveyances, even across hostile turf, just to get to school? Is it because Central isn't just school; because it's more than school; because it's a place to get away from whatever bugged you about your school, home or neighborhood; because you can learn things there that you can't learn at other schools; because once you've been a part of Central's social and physical diversity it's hard to limit your horizon to the same skyline and background music every day; because you're tired of the taunting for being too smart, too geeky or dorky; because you've always felt out of place everywhere else; because you've had enough of fighting your way through daily threats whenever you went out; or because of any of a hundred other reasons?

What were your reasons for choosing Central? Or did someone choose it for you?

Left to my own limited resources, I'd have squandered another year of my life in junior high school and matriculated as an Olney Trojan (an unfortunate school mascot choice, indeed!) in 10th grade, had a perceptive guidance counselor not appeared to straighten and narrow my path and encourage me to make the choice that altered the trajectory of my life. After my third or fourth suspension for a variety of infractions, my personal saint, St. Florence of Wagner JHS, suggested that I transfer to Central, where I could use my brain for something other than finding or causing trouble. They even had 9th-grade sports that didn't include bully dodging! So I traded in years of learning things I neither wanted nor needed to know; chose to give up the after-school dances, where I cut a rug or two on the hardwood gym floor every Friday afternoon with dark-eyed, raven-haired Marlene, who, alas, never became my girlfriend, and made the climb to the "Big Red E" on the hill. I never turned back, but I did miss the girls, at least until I was able to (legally) drive in 1959 and Girls' High, coincidentally, moved right up the street. Marlene, meanwhile, alas, had become a Trojan princess.

Given the slower pace of life in the Age of Covid, along with an abundance of election shenanigans and retirements, classmates and others have taken time to be in touch. From the 216, I've heard about, and/or been in touch with **President Eddie Anderson, David Abrams, Marty Belsky, George Borowsky, Paul Cherry, Roger Cooperman, Donald Dye, Peter Ellis, Mark Forstater, Alan Frankel, Irv Franklin, Henry Hertzfeld, Frank Kochman, Ronald Lipscomb, Barry Myers, Alan Rothman, Laurence Salzmann, Gary Sherman, Eddie Soll, Mark Susselman, Ivan Weiss, Bob Wert and Ed Zissman.**

While most of us are at least contemplating retirement, some are still performing in the Flying Circus, like Python/producer/director **Mark Forstater**, who recently released both a film, *Valentines Day*, and a video, *The Virus that Ate Christmas*; or **Donald Dyen**, whose art features the rich colors of kids, sports and life; or **Laurence Salzmänn**, whose BlueFlowerPress has published many of his arresting and historic photo essays; or **David Abrams**, who continues to preside over his Southern California medical practice; or **Eddie Soll**, who's taken a step back from his Louisiana radiology and brain-injury practice to devote time to compiling and publishing his family history; or **Barry Myers**, without whose Accu-Weather forecasts we wouldn't know what to wear most days; or **Ivan Weiss**, who checks his Accu-Weather forecast regularly as he runs his mostly-sustainable farm in the great Northwest; or **Henry Hertzfeld**, who still travels the world to help NASA bring the expanding universe ever closer; or world-class cellist **Ron Lipscomb**, whom I can't imagine ever retiring from his life in music; or **Bob Wert**, who still enjoys running Artisans Shops Inc. while in a state of semi-retirement, along with **Alans Frankel** and **Rothman**, as they and many others devote more time to supporting a long list of social and civic causes.

Did someone ask: "What's the story with **President Eddie Anderson**?" That's the second time you've mentioned him in the last couple of columns. I'm glad you asked, especially those of you who may have missed the issue a few years back when we explained what an honor it is to be chosen by your classmates to be their president. Since the late 1950s, Eddie has been, and will always be, the 216's president, regardless what's going on in Washington or anywhere else. Unlike our nation's and most states' chief executives, whose terms are limited in most cases to four or eight years. More like our Supreme Court justices, class presidents serve for life. So, future alumni, choose wisely when the time comes to elect your senior-class officers. Hopefully, they'll bring us and our Alma Mater honor for decades and more to come.

Speaking of honor and of Central as both a family and a family affair, Honorary Board of Managers Director, co-creator and initial chair of the 1836 Society, and my former Oak Lane neighbor **Allan Marmon (204)** celebrates his family's Central tradition "in both blood (relative) and law (marriage)," including in-laws **Ronald Goldberg (209)** and the late **Howard Lipschutz (176)**, Allan's brother, **Rabbi Elliott Marmon (213)**, whom you may recall from our not-so-recent Rabbis on Review column, and, proudly continuing the family tradition, Allan's and Howard's grandson, undergrad **David Marmon (283)**.



South Street and Olde City pioneer, art/craft gallery curator and entrepreneur **Rick Snyderman (202)** proudly wrote to us of son **Evan's (247)** burgeoning success as a gallery owner himself at Manhattan's R and Company, and as a rising star in the contemporary design field, garnering favorable reviews in a number of prestigious publications, including the Smithsonian Magazine.

The **Silverman** brothers, **Michael (215)** and the late **Harry (205)**, shared a mentoring relationship with the late counselor/English teacher **Bill Disharoon**, as did many of us who hung out in D's office during lunch when it was either too cold or too wet out on the South Lawn. In his free time, Michael's been writing about D and his two years at Central before his family moved out of the city. Look for excerpts in our next issue.

We're hoping that author and commentator **Farrell Bloch (224)** will treat us to a few excerpts from his timely book, *Identity and Prejudice* (Mantua Books). Take your pick of topics such as identity politics, political correctness, intersectionality (How about Ogontz & Olney?), and white privilege.

A Facebook flash informed us that some of the Central family's favorite twins, **Richard** and **Robert Berk (214)**, recently celebrated their birthday. Happy birthday, etc. to all of you who've recently celebrated or are about to celebrate a milestone life event.

But don't count on Facebook to let us know. If you didn't see your name in this issue, make sure you share the news at byasgur216@gmail.com. If you did write and we neglected to mention it, we apologize for losing track of your email and humbly request that you re-e us. Remind us that we blew you off. And ladies, we were unable to recognize any of you because none of you wrote. We look forward to hearing from ALL of you.

Thanks to one lady, **Janice Yasgur** (Cambridge Rindge and Latin High), for editing this. Stay well.



BLACK AND WHITE AMERICA: ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

DR. STEVE BURNSTEIN, 222

Born and raised in the largely Jewish, predominantly Caucasian Logan section of Philadelphia, we counted six synagogues that represented three denominations of Judaism, all within a relatively small area. We even had a ritual bath, or mikvah, in the neighborhood. In my class at the Logan elementary school, there was a single student of color and every one of our neighbors on the street where I grew up was white. It was not until I matriculated at Central that I experienced racial and ethnic diversity for the first time. This was as much a part of my Central education as the subjects I studied.

By referencing concurrent, but similar events it is not difficult to establish the motivation for George Floyd's odious treatment and his groundless killing by officers of the Minneapolis police department on May 26, 2020. In fact, both were predictable and Mr. Floyd's murder was a carbon copy of prior heinous actions by police that were documented in the senseless killings of Michael Brown (Ferguson, Missouri, 2014), Walter Wallace (Philadelphia, 2020) and so many other African Americans. Equally revelatory to me was the fact that more African Americans died in police shootings during 2019 than in protests related to Mr. Floyd's killing the next year*. Racism had been a scourge throughout history, but it was not until the 17th century that it reared its ugly head in the United States as slaves were brought to the Americas from Africa and the Caribbean in chains.

Our three sons grew up in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, a neighborhood whose demographics were predominantly white. Perhaps, the fact that Logan was so homogeneous made Cherry Hill seem diverse. Nevertheless, it was not unusual for me to come home to what my wife described as "the United Nations of Cherry Hill," our sons at the kitchen table engaged with their friends in conversation and attempting to empty our refrigerator. I do not recall ever being witness to a racist incident that involved them or their friends.

Shortly after George Floyd's death, our youngest son, Keith, age 40, asked me if I acknowledged racism and considered it to be a long standing and serious societal problem. Although I felt that his two-pronged question was rhetorical, my answer was, of course, "yes." Unbeknownst to me at the time, he was already active in the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement in New Orleans where he lives. This did not surprise me, but his next question caught me off guard. "Dad, since you attest to the existence of racism and its negative effect on society, do you feel that you might harbor some racist beliefs yourself?" I never considered this to be a problem until my son posed his question and thereby demonstrated how easy it had been for me not to think of myself as racist.

Despite the fact that my Father often made racist comments, I thought I'd been successful in avoiding their influence, never feeling that his intention was to have me agree with his opinions or to emulate his behavior. Perhaps, I was naïve by attempting to change his ingrained beliefs, but I never gave up. Nevertheless, encountering a group of African American men on the street at night results in a reflex, fearful emotion that I first experienced as a child. I have always regretted this, but still have difficulty controlling it.

since you acknowledge that racism is widespread and hurtful and that it has had an effect on you, what are you going to do?" As the result of some self examination and after the consideration of various options, I decided to become involved in the BLM movement at Central. Several AACHS board members joined me on a committee in order to respond to problems at the school whose genesis seemed to be related to matters of racial equity and inclusion. Our focus would be to draw upon the resources of AACHS to help in providing a more comfortable atmosphere for the students through a partnership with faculty, alumni and administration.

A group of talented and dedicated AACHS Board members began to meet and collaborate with existing BLM groups such as **Central Alumni for Black Lives (CABL)**, **Black Lancers** and **The African American Student Union) AASU**. Working with fellow board members **Alana McGill (256)**, **Marisa Block (265)**, **Cecil Johnson (244)**, **Joshua Liss (247)** and **AACHS President Chuck Steinberg (221)**, has been a productive and satisfying endeavor resulting in the publication of information on the goals and objectives of the AACHS Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and plans for several projects. A relationship with the bright and enthusiastic members of CABL has generated many ideas to benefit students who are currently impacted not only by problems with racism, but also by the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of AASU and the Black Lancers have offered invaluable suggestions and insight. We are now working with **Elizabeth Williams Wesley**, Director of Equity and Inclusion at the school, most notably in an effort to increase the matriculation of African American students which was recently found to have decreased. As always, President **Tim McKenna** is utilizing his leadership skills to assure that the students continue to experience the kind of education and conducive environment that brought them to the school.

AACHS has given myself and my colleagues the opportunity to support a cause that merits careful and deliberate consideration and encourages participation by all, irrespective of race or ethnicity. That cause is the elimination of systemic racism and its replacement with programs that support diversity, equity and inclusion.

Activities of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

- BOM Members working with **CABL**, **AASU** and **Black Lancers**
- Membership: **Steve Burnstein**, **Josh Liss**, **Alana McGill**, **Cecil Johnson**, **Marisa Block**, **Chuck Steinberg**

Goals and Projects

- Expand the number of people of color on the AACHS board by helping the nominations committee to identify and recruit graduates who worked with AACHS as students and/or have interest in joining the board or one of its committees
- Create an alumni network offering students information on careers, undergraduate and graduate education
- Work with **President McKenna**, the CHS DEI Director and others to increase the number of African-American student matriculants and help to assure their success at the school
- Help **CABL**, **AASU** and **Black Lancers** to achieve their goals and offer assistance with their projects as a coalition including the Committee on DEI
- Eliminate any and all systemic racism at the school

Author's Note: My love and profound thanks to Keith, our dear son. Remembering my Dad with love and respect

*USA Today; MacDonald et al. 7/6/20

WE ALL NEED A LITTLE



SHELTER

Have you ever waited at intersection of Ogontz and Olney for the 18 or 26 bus? Bet you wished on at least one occasion there was a little shelter from the elements during your four years.

Now there is.

Thanks to faculty member **Galeet Cohen (256)** and **Peter Chong, Kristen Joseph, Miguel Lugo,** and **Johann Otero-Avellaneda** of the 277th class, a bus shelter has been installed, and all it needs is a little Central touch.

We have an exciting and unique opportunity to customize the ad space with CHS student-created artwork that includes a vinyl wrap and backlit posters. The space will be a celebration of Central's diversity and talent, featuring poetry from Central's three arts publications (Mirror, Mosaic, and Afrocentric) and visual art from a design competition.

You can help make this part of the project a reality with your financial support. Visit bit.ly/chsbusshelter today to make a contribution and help bring this project to fruition!

CHS MARRIAGE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Love is all around us!

Late last year, AACHS began soliciting stories of alumni that found longlasting love in the halls of Dear High. Here are the first three of the dozen plus stories that have come in. We'll keep adding to the website and continue printing them here in the Journal. To see all of the stories and to add your own, visit <https://centralhighalumni.com/central-marriages-partnerships>.

Shareese Barnett (257) and Napoleon Nelson (257)

"We met in Mr. Bronstein's chemistry class in 10th grade. We remained friends until the middle of senior year. We dated through college and got married right after we graduated. We now have a 16-year-old son and a 13-year-old daughter. Still going strong 23 years later!"



Amanda Murray (265) and Terrance Taylor (265)

"We met in gym class in 11th grade and were best friends for a year after. Then we started dating in 12th grade and have been together for almost 15 years now. We got married in 2014 and welcomed our first child later that same year. We now have a 6 year old boy and a baby on the way (due in June 2021)."

Jorge Moyett (247) and Catherine E. Calimer (248)

"I was a freshman, he was a sophomore. There he was changing for football practice on the 2nd middle hallway. Me minding my own business was walking towards him and saw he was in his underwear, I just looked and he said: "what the @\$!* are you looking at?" I walked away but I knew I was going to marry him! We didn't start dating until Aug 88 and that was because I called him for a football picture. He played football all 4 years and I ran track. We dated, broke up. Dated again on and off for years. We remained friends all the while. We dated others. He got married and divorced. But on September 1, 2019 we finally became man & wife. 35 years of friendship, 32 years of love!"



IN MEMORIAM

BELOW IS A LISTING OF OUR FELLOW ALUMNI WHO HAVE RECENTLY PASSED. WHILE SOME OF THOSE LISTED BELOW 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.

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 173 Albert Appel | 194 Richard "Rick" Kirschner, Esq. | 216 Ian Portnoy |
| 175 Bernard C. Gross | 195 Howard Burman Asher | 216 Herbert S. Rosenzweig |
| 176 Howard Lipschutz | 195 Rabbi Fredric Kazan | 218 Dave Johnson |
| 177 H. Leon Bradlow, Ph.D | 195 Stephen Herbert Rovno M.D. | 218 Frederick "Ricky" Share |
| 177 Jules H. "Bud" Caplan | 196 Donald J. Sherman | 220 Donald Green |
| 177 Martin Friedland | 197 Lionel Savadove | 220 Brian D. Wolfson |
| 182 Kenneth Kron, MD | 198 Lee Henry Schick | 221 Eric M. Hammel |
| 184 Stanton Oswald | 198 Bernard Spain | 221 Bill Paul |
| 184 Kurt Reiss | 200 Howard Popky, D.D.S. | 223 Sheldon G. Nerenberg, Esq. |
| 185 Leonard B. Finkelstein, Ph.D | 200 Louis Shapiro | 224 Hon. Ronald Donatucci |
| 185 Paul N. Minkoff | 201 Arthur Edwin Ellman | 225 Jeffrey Brecher, M.D. |
| 186 Edwin D. Snyder, D.D.S. | 201 Sidney Gildiner | 225 Albert Saul |
| 187 Dr. Lester D. Kelner | 201 Morris Lieberman | 225 Joseph Wald |
| 187 Dr. Jack Porter | 202 Henry A. Ireland, Jr. | 225 Roger Wechsler |
| 187 Benson Weinberg | 202 David E. Rapoport | 226 Perry Pfeffer |
| 188 David B. Geselowitz | 203 Albert Fairorth | 227 William Hom |
| 188 Ellis I. Hoffman | 203 Arnold Roane | 227 Michael Masch |
| 188 Harold L. Myerson | 205 Santo Diano (Faculty) | 229 Joel Bennett |
| 188 Joseph I. Pressman | 206 William Goldberg | 229 Jonathan "Jonny" Lewis |
| 188 Herman P. Weinberg | 206 David Grabel | 230 Douglas Bodamer |
| 188 Melvin Zumoff | 206 Richard P. Pisut | 230 Alfred Hill |
| 189 Jack R. Bershad | 207 Leonard Greenstein | 230 Woodson Hopewell |
| 191 Angelo A. DiGiacomo | 207 Nelson Weisberg | 230 Hubert Reid |
| 191 Wilbur H. Hurst | 208 Frederick B. Chary | 231 Earl Harvey |
| 191 Robert N. Naylor | 209 Fred Chiarlanza | 231 Bob Stezzi |
| 191 Rev. James A. Trimble Jr. | 209 Richard Larson | 232 John Semmel |
| 191 Roland Wright | 210 Howard C. "Monk" Silverman | 235 Robert A. Rothman |
| 192 Bill Crimbring | 211 Arnold Jay Hoffman | 239 William MacArthur |
| 192 Sam Hoffman | 211 Edward Livingston | 250 Shawn "Beef" Williams |
| 192 Rabbi Samuel Karff | 211 Howard Sanders | 235 Matt Melone |
| 192 Robert S. Robbins, Esq. | 211 Murray Schuman | 238 Jerome Edward Sparks |
| 193 Ronald S. Rosenthal, DDS | 214 Raymond L. Raskin | 244 John J. McGarr, III |
| 194 Bert Cohen | 214 Raymond Tumarkin | 255 Aaron Hirschhorn |
| 194 Morton Hankin | 215 Dr. Morton Berenbaum | Faculty Douglas Wild |
| 194 Sheldon A. Lisker, M.D. | 216 Franklin W. Griff, M.D. | Faculty Herb Zimmerman |
| 194 Dave Kapel | | President Sheldon Pavel |

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 REPRESENTATIVES

The Alumni Association's Class Representatives Committee strives to maintain contact with every class through its designated representative.

In order to ease our administrative burden, we ask each class to designate just one person to serve as the official liaison between the class and the Association.

If 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)**

177 Milton Dienes	212 Otto Mills	246 Julie Stevens
179 Samuel J. Silk	213 Jeff A. Weiner	247 Tracy Allen
181 Jules Silk	214 Steve Green	248 Keeya Branson Davis
182 Len Garrett	215 Gerry Kean	249 Maria Carpenter Yanga
183 Dr. John Senior	216 Larry Arnoff	250 Audra King
184 Edward Itzenon	217 Bill Carlitz	251 Leigh Whitaker
185 Jay Rosen	218 Barry Brait	252 Gina Meissler
186 Norman Salvat	219 Mike Love	253 Mike Ambrosius
187 Vacant	220 David Kahn	254 Lisbeth C. Lopez-Little
188 Matt London	221 Chuck Steinberg	255 Broderick Jones
189 Saul Carroll	222 Mike Radel	256 Dan Taraborrelli
190 Jere Neff	223 Lenny Seidman	257 Angela Reale-Povia
191 Phil Alterman	224 Saul Langsam	258 David R. Hildebrand
192 Irv Matusow	225 Stanley Sokolove	259 Jeff Goldberg
193 Stan Fischman	226 Zachary Rubin	260 VACANT
194 Jerry Kates	227 Gary Koupf	261 Chantay Thompson
195 Ed Benoff	228 Bob Barthelmeh	262 Canh Trinh
196 Jerry Miller	229 Frank Piliero	263 Justin Simmons
197 Robert M. Cohan	230 Larry Plotkin	264 Michael Segal
198 Stanley H. Cohen	231 Vacant	265 Gina Bryan
199 Bob Rosenstein	232 Hon. John Younge	266 Agin Thomas
200 Mark Kay	233 Sidney Ozer	267 Sophia Hines
201 Jerry Keyser	234 Kevin Stepanuk	268 Chansophea Ten
202 Bob E. Spivak	235 Pete Forjohn	269 Alexis Jenkins
203 Philip Remstein	236 Mark Lomax	270 Nikita Shah
204 Arthur D. Magilner	237 Dominic Orlando	271 Ramon Guzman
205 Ted Rothman	238 Joe Deal	272 Natalie Fox
206 Robert J. Stern	239 Rudy A. Cvetkovic	273 Cam-Tu Vuong
207 Arthur Hausman	240 David Smedley	274 Anh Cao
208 Marshal Greenblatt	241 Nick Taweel	275 Rucksar Rahman
209 Stephen Chappell	242 David C. Mack	276 Michael Behanan
210 Paul Hirschman	243 John Loesch	277 Chris Carson
211 Bill Labkoff	244 Joseph Q. Mirarchi	278 Tristan Jennings
	245 Jonathan Kine	279 Viktor Shamis-Kagan

ALMA MATTERS

170 Paul Becker celebrated his 100th birthday with a drive-through celebration at his home in Havertown. Read more at bit.ly/chsbecker.

184 Noted scholar, historian and activist **Noam Chomsky** turned 92 late last year.

214 Judge **Jed Rackoff**, a US District Judge for the Southern District of New York has authored a new book titled **Why the Innocent Plead Guilty and the Guilty Go Free, And Other Paradoxes of our Broken Legal System**. Read more about it at bit.ly/chsrackoff.

218 Barry Brait reports that he recently completed his Master of Arts program at Villanova University.

221 Chuck Steinberg reminded us through the Central High Alumni Facebook Group that **Dr. Neal Kassell** was the surgeon who operated on now-President Joe Biden's brain aneurysm in 1988.

224 Teller (along with Penn) began their 20 year run in Las Vegas – making them the longest running headliners in history! Teller was also recently interviewed by Philadelphia Magazine (including a Central mention). Check it out at <https://www.phillymag.com/news/2021/01/08/magician-teller>.

225 Larry Sklar Ph.D was named a 2020 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors. Read more at <https://hsc.unm.edu/news/2020/12/larry-sklar-national-academy-inventors.html>.

226 Dr. David Brookstein, Senior Associate Dean at the Temple University College of Engineering authored a paper titled “Design and Development of a Protective Face Mask to Mitigate Community Spread and Prevent Wearer Infection from COVID-19 Using Design Thinking”. You can read the article at bit.ly/chsbrookstein.

229 Barry Rosenberg reports that, “**Tom Arasz** is still enjoying retired life (he was a senior Vice President of T.D. Bank) and recently welcomed a new grandchild. He lives in Ocean City, N.J. with his fiancé. **Alan Budman** was able to retire early from his highly regarded law practice and is now able to spend more time with his wonderful, extended family. He is a former President of the AACHS. **Stephen Klein** is remodeling his already beautiful Jersey seashore home in anticipation of moving there year round. He is currently developing a nationwide tele-med organization for large companies and universities. He currently serves on the AACHS Board of Managers. **Mike Kaufman** is still running his own advertising agency. He recently designed and manufactured a great looking sport shirt with the AACHS and 229 class logos, for sale at nominal cost to class members. **David Laskin** is still using his special gifts as a physician. He is a medical director for Ascend Hospice, which is a national company. He recently learned to play Bridge and has quickly become quite proficient. Next achievable milestone: “sectional bridge master”. **Frank Piliero** is still involved in real estate management and development. Last summer he hosted a socially distanced gathering of the 229 reunion committee at his beautiful, Stone Harbor summer home. He is still spearheading the committee's efforts to re-schedule the 50th year class reunion in 2022. **Barry Rosenberg** is still practicing law. He recently received the Hon. Peter J. Devine, Jr. award for distinguished service to the Camden County Bar Association. He was honored to share the award with a co-recipient—a brilliant jurist named **Francine I. Axelrad**, whom he is lucky to be married to. He is still serving AACHS as a member of its Board of Managers. **Barry** and **Tom Arasz** are still raising money from class members for the Association's campaign to build a performing arts center to benefit current and future Central students.”

230 Tom Washington was a member of the officiating team for the NBA All-Star Game.

231 Philip Middleman, a violinist with the Munich Philharmonic, retired in January.

235 Kyle Bowser has been named Senior Vice President of the Hollywood Bureau of the NAACP.

239 New Wave Café, owned by **Sam Lynagh (239)**, **Aly Lynagh (242)** and **Nate Ross (239)**, was featured on 6ABC's FYI Philly program in January. Check it out at <https://6abc.cm/3deGn33>.

ALMA MATTERS

239 David Brown was profiled by Temple Now about his work as diversity advisor in the Office of the Dean of Temple's Klein School of Media and Communication. Read more at bit.ly/chsdavidbrown.

243 Andy Kessler, Local Managing Partner of Wood Smith Henning & Berman, LLP, is an endorsed candidate for election to the School Board for the Upper Dublin School District.

243 Michele Hangley, one of Central's first female students, is running for a seat on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. For more information on her campaign, please visit hangleyforjudge.com.

244 Cecil Johnson was honored as one of 28 top Black leaders for their impact in the diversity and inclusion space by COLOR.

247 Michael E. Jennings has been named the first Chief Diversity Officer at Furman University in Greenville, SC.

249 Vivian Rowe, as a part of the Commonwealth Youth Choirs, served as a backup singer during artist Demi Lovato's performance of "Lovely Day" during the Presidential inaugural celebration on January 20th.

250 Marlowe Smith was appointed to serve as a Councilmember in Delran Township, NJ. He is the first Black member of Council in the history of the township.

250 Rachael A. Woldoff co-authored an article on the life of a digital nomad. Check it out at on.mktw.net/3lAjFG5.

251 Nicole Bolt Anderson has founded the NAP Speaker's Bureau to help connect those hosting virtual events with speakers. You can learn more at <https://www.nalspeakersbureau.com>.

252 Bertram L. Lawson II was named the President and CEO of the YMCA of Central New York.

253 Jill Schiller was elected treasurer of Hamilton County, Ohio.

254 Jamie Klingler has been helping to organize the #reclaimthesestreets campaign in the wake of the murder of a woman in London. In addition, her annual book roundup was published by a newspaper in the UK earlier this year. You can read more about the 154 books Jamie read at bit.ly/chsklinger.

255 Philadelphia Councilmember Jamie Gauthier received the Philadelphia Tribune's Most Influential Leader award in November 2020. She was named to the National League of Cities Reimaging Public Safety Task Force. She was named a 2020 Hero by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, and was the subject of a feature in the *Inquirer* on March 21st, which you can read at <https://www.inquirer.com/politics/philadelphia/jamie-gauthier-philadelphia-city-council-20210321.html>.

256 Jason Weldon's company, Synergetic, provided the sound stage for the New Radicals' performance during the Presidential inaugural celebration on January 20th.

257 Rep. Napoleon Nelson was sworn in for his first term as a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. He represents the 154th district which includes Cheltenham, Springfield and Jenkintown.

261 Morgan Cephas was sworn in for her third term as a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. Representative Cephas represents the 192nd district covering parts of West Philadelphia.

262 Dr. Peter Biar Ajak recently testified before the US Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, in a hearing titled "The State of Democracy Around the World". You can view his testimony at bit.ly/chsajak.

ALMA MATTERS

262 Jameel Rush was named the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He comes to the *Inquirer* from Aramark, where he served as vice president of global diversity and inclusion. Read more at <https://www.inquirer.com/business/inquirer-jameel-rush-vice-president-diversity-20201217.html>.

262 Conrad Benner, the founder of [StreetsDept.com](https://www.streetsdept.com), is now a contributor to WHYY and *Plan Philly*. You can access his pieces at <https://whyy.org/person/conrad-benner>.

262 Dr. John Allen has been appointed associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion at the University of Florida's College of Pharmacy.

263 Sarah Fleischman has joined the AACHS staff as Operations Coordinator, working closely with fellow 263er and AACHS Executive Director **Cynthia Lech**!

269 Andriy Smerechanskyy, a Philadelphia Police Officer assigned to the 26th District, was interviewed by *The Ukrainian Weekly*. You can read the interview at <http://www.ukrweekly.com/uwvp/officer-smerechanskyy-serves-philadelphia-community>.

271 Mateo Rhodes created a "family fun board game" during the COVID shutdown called 44 Crossing. To learn more, visit <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/44boardgame/44-crossingtm>.

274 Jakub Zegar is a wildlife biologist who studies herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians), and is detailing his fieldwork adventures on Instagram. You can check it out at <https://www.instagram.com/jakub.zegar>.

279 Alyson Harvey and **Dmitrii Gradinari** were profiled in an article about relationships during the pandemic. Take a look at their beautiful story from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*: <https://www.inquirer.com/life/alyson-harvey-dmitrii-gradinari-central-high-school-students-coronavirus-philadelphia-20200705.html>.

279 Wendy Wang and **Maryem Bouatlaoui (281)** are profiled in a *Philadelphia Inquirer* story about a workshop held last year on "jamming", which is where one "reads a groundbreaking text and others respond by literally tearing it apart to make art". Read more at <https://www.inquirer.com/news/digital-workshop-ralph-ellison-invisible-man-kos-collective-wexler-gallery-20200717.html>.

279 Jessica Lvov was one of two Philadelphia students awarded a scholarship through the Dunkin Regional Scholarship program.

YOU CAN HELP SAVE A LIFE!

Ron Romoff (227 and retired faculty) was diagnosed a number of years ago with an autoimmune disorder called Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC). The disorder has progressed, and Ron is now in need of a liver transplant. He and his wife, Joyce are actively searching for a Living Donor to help save Ron's life.

The Living Donor process involves a healthy person donating 50% of their own liver to replace a sick person's whole liver, both of which regenerate to a whole size. The ideal candidate is healthy, under 55 and available for screening at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. The donor will need to have type B blood or be a universal donor.

If you think you can help, contact Joyce Romoff at joyceromoff@yahoo.com. You can learn more and hear from Ron and his wife, Joyce in this story from FOX 29 at: bit.ly/chsromoff.

212TH CLASS HELPS FUND CHROMEBOOKS FOR CENTRAL STUDENTS

OTTO MILLS, 212

Several months ago, the 212 Reunion Committee decided to request contributions from its class for another gift to help students directly. We have already established an award in the memory of our Sponsor, the late **Dr. Gerald Hamm**; it is given to a senior at Commencement to help defray college costs. When asked for a recommendation for our second one, President **Timothy McKenna** replied that some students could not afford Chromebooks, and would be appreciative of having a loaner while at Central.



Fred Goldstein (212) served as chair of this activity which raised \$11,200 from members of the 212th class (including a donation from our class treasury). This amount will allow the purchase of 37 Chromebooks to loan to students while attending our alma mater. A sticker, created by Fred's daughter, Tova Goldstein, will be placed on each Chromebook.

President Tim McKenna wrote: "I am so pleased that the 212th class has decided to support our current students with new Chromebooks. During this historic pandemic, your generosity will support them as they work virtually to complete our rigorous academic program. I thank all of the members of this class who have donated funds for this contribution to our school."

From **Lynn Norton Robins**, former Director of Development for AACHS: "I'm so glad that the 212th class had this opportunity to make a difference in the lives of Central students. You have accomplished your goal! With your help and insistence, the 212th class has set the perfect example of leadership - in that giving to the AACHS as a class makes for a very impactful and meaningful experience for the donors as well as the recipients. I hope this is the first of many opportunities for the 212th class to give back."

REUNIONS

Due to the ongoing pandemic, no reunions are currently scheduled for 2021. Please contact reunions@centralhighalumni.com as you set dates for reunions (or Zoom reunions!) in the months ahead. We'll post them on the website and here in the Journal! Here are details for one reunion confirmed for 2022:

229 The 50th reunion weekend for the 229th class has been rescheduled for May 13-15, 2022. The weekend will begin on Friday, May 13 with a luncheon and tour at school, continues on Saturday, May 14 with a dinner dance, and will conclude on Sunday, May 15 with a brunch. More details will follow, but for more information contact Barry Rosenberg at bwrlaw10@gmail.com.

AMIDST THE PANDEMIC, THE 224 DRAWS CLOSER VIA ZOOM

BARRY DROSSNER, 224

COVID-19 has created unprecedented and deeply personal challenges for all of us.

In March 2020, we worried about the health and well being of ourselves and of our loved ones with the spread of the coronavirus constantly on our minds. Lives were changing quickly and drastically.

We were looking forward to our semi-annual 224 gathering at Cin-Cin Restaurant in April 2020. Typically, 30-50 classmates come together at these dinners. It's always good meeting and seeing old friends, even with the passage of time, relationships endure. Due to COVID, this could not occur.

However, we knew that we needed to take care of each other and stay connected now more than ever. We needed to find ways to connect with one another in support. Weekly, virtual 224 BYOB Zoom happy hours were established.

Zoom was easy to set up, use, and manage. Participation ranges from 12-30 classmates.

Initially, we discussed our growing sense of concern regarding the coronavirus and our fear, frustration, and isolation. We continue to discuss our new daily routines and how we stay safe when going out. We share updates about classmates.

Recommendations are made about books to read and programs to watch on cable and streaming services. Top stories and national and world news are always included. Calls end with the singing of "Let others sing of college days, Their Alma Mater true..." accompanied by **Bennett Wartman** on his crimson and gold trumpet.

Members of the 224 now gather via Zoom every three weeks.

Time will tell what ultimate impact this virus will have. We were all hoping to have COVID-19 behind us by now, but hopefully we are getting closer to getting back to normal as each day passes.

We will continue to stay connected and Zoom with our classmates. We wish for good health and safety for all.

Editor's Note: If you are a member of the 224 who wishes to join the regular Zoom happy hour, contact Barry Drossner at drossner@comcast.net.



A RELUCTANT CONFESSION

MERRILL FREEDMAN (208)

OK, I admit it: I took it from the Alumni office, and I've had it since the days when I was a member of the Board of Managers. That was when they asked me to update the darned thing. I have the handbook dated 1951 to 1955, and I promise I'll give it back. The idea of updating the handbook was a whole lot more than I could deal with, and I'll admit that I never really read the thing – until very recently.

On May 1, 2020, after a lifetime of living in our home, we moved to an apartment building. I never thought the house would sell easily, but it sold as soon as it reached the market. This meant we had to quickly dedicate ourselves to looking through 46 years of stuff we had not yet found the heart to take to Goodwill. That's when I found the old handbook. It was with the prayer book that was given to me on the occasion of my Bar Mitzvah (September 6, 1953). I had not yet found a place for either books in our new apartment, so they were next to me when I brought my car in for service. Instead of trusting my diminished driving skills and taking a loaner car I decided to wait, and that's when I got into the handbook.

Right here I must say that I am not going to update the darned thing. What I am going to say is that some of it was actually a fun read. Starting with the photo of **Dr. Cornog (146)**. As a student, he scared the hell out of me. I thought he was a straight arrow old man. The photo was of a young guy, trying to look stern, but without looking particularly scary.

Did you know there was a school bank? It was run by PSFS. For some of the younger alumni, "PSFS" were the initials on top of a Center City building, and stood for Philadelphia Savings Fund Society; once a major Philadelphia bank. I have to quote a part of this section: "Thrift needs no apology. An opportunity is given to students to begin this praiseworthy habit early in life by availing themselves of the facilities of the School Bank... Minimum deposit is (wait for it.....) one cent.

Now I was hooked.

My Class, the fabulous 208, graduated in 1957. The book I have went only to 1955, but I scanned the old photos, hoping to find a young version of someone I once, or perhaps still know. I found myself in just one photo – the Glee Club – but I did recognize a few of my classmates in other photos. An action photo of a football game showed that all the players wore leather helmets. My class yearbook showed the same thing, but I believe the other side moved on to heavy plastic with face masks.

Speaking of football, I can actually recall overhearing Mr. McNally – yes that **Mr. Arthur McNally**, who would later become the head of NFL referees, complain that a lot of the players would bring a slide rule to practice, but forget parts of their uniform." Slide rule? I must be old.

Among the many things I learned, or perhaps knew, but forgot, was that the **Mirror** was first published in 1885 and is the oldest magazine of its kind published by a public high school in this country. I really should have known that.

I always heard we had a planetarium, but I wasn't sure if its existence was fact or fiction. But there it is, on Page 87, the Franklin S. Edmonds Planetarium! Now, when someone from another school boasts about their football team, I can honestly say, "but we have a planetarium!"

There's so much I should have known. I was Co-Editor of the *Alumni Journal* for several years, for goodness sake. Most of the things I should have known are either on the web site or in my own yearbook. In any event, I still have the handbook, years 1951 – 1955, and will return it the next time I'm able to be at school.

"LEADING THE WAY" TAKES A BIG STEP FORWARD



The "Leading the Way" campaign received a big boost earlier this year in the form of a \$5 million dollar grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania!

The grant is through the Commonwealth's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program, which funds projects like this which create new spaces to benefit the community economically and culturally.

The Performing Arts Center component of the campaign is slated for groundbreaking this year.

The project is already an award winner. MGA Partners, the architecture firm for this project, received an AIA Philadelphia Merit Award in the unbuilt category for their design of the Performing Arts Center.

"There is no time like now to be a part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said **Joseph Field (192)**, our lead benefactor for Leading the Way.

"This grant means people in the state and the city believe in the mission and vision of Central and I'm hoping this is a motivating factor for more alumni to be a part of the Capital Campaign. We need your support to get over the finish line," said Central President **Timothy J. McKenna**.

There is no better time than right now to invest in the future of Central. Visit CentralHighAlumni.com/leading-the-way-capital-campaign to find out how you can be a part of this exciting project today!

1836 SOCIETY

Named in honor of the year that Central High School was chartered, the **1836 Society** is reserved for donors of **\$1,836 or more** to the AACHS.

With an annual minimum gift of \$1,836, members of the 1836 Society are invited to an annual Members-only reception and recognition at the AACHS Annual Meeting each June where each new 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 cumulative gift of \$1,836. Matching gifts made through your employer are also counted in the total.

To learn more about the 1836 Society, contact AACHS Executive Director Cynthia Lech at cynthia@centralhighalumni.com or learn more at <https://centralhighalumni.com/1836-society>.



251	Kyle D. Andeer	190	Arthur Eugene Kohn
229	Thomas H. Arasz	251	Keith L. Leaphart
220	Daniel E. Bacine	194	Robert Leonetti
231	Kenneth J. Berman	247	Joshua Liss
249	Karima I.A. Bouchenafa	244	Michael M. Liu
211	Leo B. Braudy	241	Gene Marks
211	Ira Brind	197	William Maxwell
203	William S. Comanor	204	Allan Lee Marmon
235	Robert A. Del Femine	225	Arnold L. New
214	Mark S. Dichter	213	Michael Nissman
211	Arnold Feldsher	240	Darryl L. Pereborow
192	Joseph Field	221	Jack Pinkowski
Friend	Robert E. Field	193	Harry Charles Poehlmann
215	Jerome Flaxman	243	Marc Reider
231	Cary L. Flitter	222	Charles Rose
216	Henry Frank	185	Jay Rosen
198	Albert Gold	223	Michael J. Saks
230	Kenneth L. Goodson	218	Thomas J. Schaefer
229	Frank Gruber	221	Richard Silverman
219	Steven J. Hausman	216	Edward L. Soll
242	Aubrey B. Jones	221	Chuck Steinberg
220	David Kahn	230	Sheldon Steinig
254	Laisand Kan	247	Jerome A. Swindell
216	Robert Dana Kelberg	231	Jerrold A. Walton
258	Steven K. Khov	238	George Allen Williams
204	Charles R. King	210	John L. Wolf
229	Stephen Jeffrey Klein	213	Alan Wolfe
		221	Joel Zumoff

NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

The Committee on Nomination and Elections, **David R. Kahn, 220**, chairperson, presents the following nominations for positions on the Alumni Board of Managers.

The election will be held at the Annual Meeting to be held virtually on June 3, 2021.

Information on how to participate in the annual meeting will be sent via email and posted at **CentralHighAlumni.com** shortly.

Nominated for the Term expiring June 30, 2022

President: Neil Deegan, **263**

Vice-Presidents (four to be elected):

Robert A. Del Femine, **235**
David W. Birnbaum, Esq., **265**
Karima I.A. Bouchenafa, **249**
Pamela Drake, **263**

Treasurer: Gene J. Marks, C.P.A., **241**

Secretary: Marisa Block, **265**

Master of Archives: David R. Kahn, **220**

Nominated for the Term expiring June 30, 2022 **(one to be elected to fill the balance of the Term):**

Alicia Oglesby, **258**

Nominated for the Term expiring June 30, 2024 **(eight to be elected to a full Term):**

Sheldon Bass, Esq., **233**
David W. Brown, **239**
Andrea Carter, **259**
Ramon Guzman, **271**
Michael Horwits, **251**
Audrey M. Huntington, **266**
George D. Mosee, Jr., Esq., **232**
Julian D. Perlman, Esq., **256**

Nominated for Honorary Life Membership:

Hon. Denis P. Cohen, **228**

The following members continue to serve until **their terms expire on June 30, 2022:**

Cecil Johnson, **244**
Jordan Konell, **270**
Mark Lipshutz, **224**
Joshua E. Liss, **247**
Barry W. Rosenberg, Esq., **229**
Steven A. Shapiro, D.O., **225**
Jordan Yuter, **243**

The following members continue to serve until **their terms expire on June 30, 2023:**

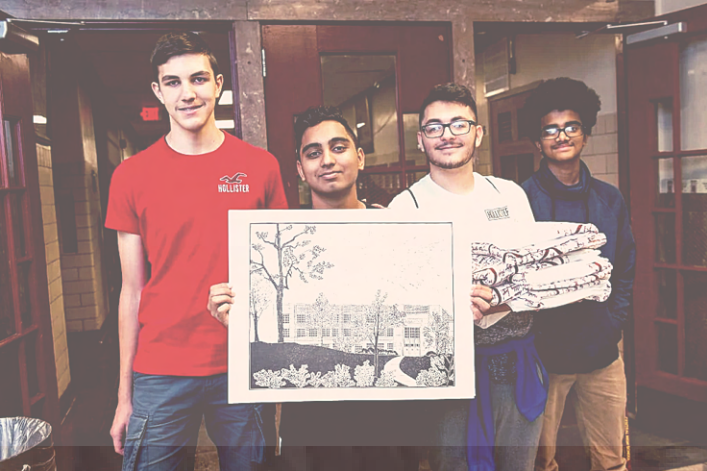
Stephen L. Burnstein, D.O., **222**
Rudy A. Cvetkovic, **239**
Andrew S. Kessler, Esq., **243**
Stephen J. Klein, **229**
Benjamin G. Lipman, Esq., **224**
Elina Magid, CPA, **257**
Dr. Alana McGill, **256**
Kenneth Wong, **232**

Honorary Life Members

Stephen I. Kasloff, **228**
Eugene N. Cipriani, Esq., **229**
Gerald S. Kates, **194**
Allan L. Marmon, Esq., **204**
Hon. Gene D. Cohen, **214**
Solomon Kal Rudman, **188**
Arnold H. Shiffrin, **205**
Hon. Charles E. Rainey, Jr., **233**
Hon. Arnold L. New, **225**
Robert E. Spivak, **202**
Lester Wurtele, M.D., **202**
Hon. John M. Younge, **232**

Past Presidents

Charles S. Steinberg, **221**
Alan D. Budman, Esq., **229**
Jay S. Gottlieb, Esq., **205**
Hon. James R. Roebuck, **219**
Theodore G. Rothman, **205**
Stephen S. Green, Esq., **214**
Richard E. Prinz, **212**
David R. Kahn, **220**
Harvey Steinberg, **209**
Jeffrey A. Muldawer, Esq., **225**
Stephen C. Chappell, Esq., **209**



SUPPORT CENTRAL TODAY!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CENTRAL'S STUDENTS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW WITH A CONTRIBUTION TO THE AACHS.

A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR **ANNUAL FUND** HELPS TO SUPPORT THE OPERATION OF THE AACHS, AND TO SUPPORT STUDENT PROGRAMING INCLUDING NEEDS THAT THE SCHOOL IS SIMPLY NOT ABLE TO HANDLE WITHOUT OUR SUPPORT.

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.

VISIT **CENTRALHIGHALUMNI.COM/GIVINGHOME** TO LEARN MORE AND MAKE YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TODAY!

