
ALUMNI JOURNAL SPRING 2023



IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Annual Reception Invitation |3 |
| President's Message |4 |
| AACHS President's Message |6 |
| Malmud Learning Center |7 |
| Voices at the Table |10 |
| Alumni Spotlight Series |11 |
| Career Day 2022 |14 |
| Leading the Way |17 |
| Column B |22 |
| Art Achievements |29 |
| 1836 Society |35 |
| In Memoriam |39 |
| Class Reps |40 |
| Alma Matters |41 |
| Reunion Updates |43 |
| AP Seminar Course |52 |
| RoboLancers |54 |
| Board & Meeting Dates |57 |
| Notice of Elections |58 |
| Support CHS |61 |



EDITOR'S NOTE

Arts and culture are the inspiration for this edition of the alumni journal. Imagine being in a building filled with people who are not only intellectually curious but also multi-talented. I often feel a sense of pride whenever I need to mention in conversation that I attended Central... it's always for context, of course. The *je ne sais quoi* that permeates our beloved high school experience is largely in part due to the arts and culture scene. Influenced by all areas of Philadelphia and subsequently all areas of the world, **Central continues to offer a window into the beautiful creations of its students and alumni.**

I recently attended a board of managers meeting that included a number of current Central students advocating on behalf of the music and performing arts program. **Their words left an impression on me. As we create a society that is more inclusive of the student voice, I was grateful for their honesty and appreciative of their activism. One of their letters is featured in this edition.**

My hope is that as we enter the summer months we will have a renewed sense of appreciation for the arts. We take for granted the images we see on our screens and the sounds we hear as we exit our homes. Growing up in Mt. Airy, I'd wake up on Sunday mornings to the sound of 60s soul music. We gathered as a family for barbecue and soul food. **It was at Central that I first fell in love** with kimchi and roti which I hadn't tasted before high school. Learning about Tinikling and Bollywood was a gift I promised myself I would always enjoy. When RRR won a Golden Globe, I made plans to watch it on Netflix the very next day.

This edition is **a call for all alumni to remember and respect the humble beginnings of creators.** Movie producers, soundtrack scorers, chefs, sculptors, and modern dancers likely developed their talents in school during their formative years. These future artists were hopefully supported and encouraged by the adults and peers in their lives. So, too, should we be empowering the current Lancers to seek out, fight for, and achieve creative genius.

Alicia Oglesby, 258
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
Communications Committee
Editor, AACHS Alumni Journal



THE ALUMNI JOURNAL

Editor

Alicia Oglesby, 258

Editors Emeriti

Gerald S. Kates, 194
Yvonne Dennis, 246
Stephen Chappell, 209
Merrill Freedman, 208
Neil Deegan, 263

Executive Director

Cynthia Lech, 263

Alumni Relations Coordinator

Jazzmyn Mills, 273

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

AlumniJournal@CentralHighAlumni.com



You are cordially invited to

THE 2023 ANNUAL RECEPTION

Class 276
or Earlier
\$100

**June 6, 2023
5:30 – 8:30 PM**

Class 277-285
\$75

Rivers Waterfront

1001 N Delaware Ave,
Philadelphia, PA 19125

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A LETTER FROM CHS PRESIDENT KATHARINE S. DAVIS, 264

Thank you for welcoming me as the 15th president of Central High School. The first year of my tenure has been filled with excitement, joy, and moments that I will treasure forever. As president, I have made a commitment to our students, faculty, alumni, and the city of Philadelphia to uphold the legacy and reputation of Central High School. I appreciate the collective support I've received in my first year.

This year at Central High School has been one of accomplishment and recognition. Some highlights from the 22-23 school year include:

- Public League Championships: Girls Cross Country*, Boys Cross-County*, Girls Tennis*, Girls Soccer*, Girls Volleyball*, Boys Swimming (*District XII Champion)
- Nationals: One student from class 283 qualified for nationals in the Shot put
- RoboLancers (Robotics): FIRST Impact award winner at the Mid-Atlantic District championship, headed to the World Championships
- DECA (Business Management Club): One 283 qualifier headed to the World Championships
- Science Olympiad: first time competitor in the upcoming Science Olympiad State Championships
- Mock Trial: qualified for the State Championship. Four students won Best-Of awards.
- All-City Music: 30 Orchestra and Band Members and 4 Choir members
- School District of Philadelphia Senior of the Month: 282's Laila Johnson honored in February
- Academics: CHS is pleased to offer over 50 AP and IB courses in the upcoming school year. In fact, over 1700 students will be taking AP and IB exams this year alone.
- College Acceptances: 282 is on pace for a record setting year. Students have been admitted to top programs including Yale University, University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University and Brown University
- Graduation: 282 Commencement will occur at the Kimmel Center on Monday, June 12, 2023. We are excited to return to Verizon Hall.



If you haven't returned to 1700 W. Olney Avenue in recent years, I encourage all members of the Alumni Association to schedule a visit. Central High School's tradition of excellence and opportunity exists because of alumni support. I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Katharine S. Davis, 264
15th President, Central High School

18th Annual
CENTRAL @



Friday, May 19, 7:05 PM

vs. Chicago Cubs

\$25 - Order Online
bit.ly/phillies23



COME OUT TO SEE
PRESIDENT DAVIS
THROW THE FIRST
PITCH AND
NETWORK WITH
FELLOW ALUMNI
AND STUDENTS

CLICK TO
PURCHASE



CENTRAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT ANNUAL SPRING CONCERTS

CENTRAL HIGH AUDITORIUM

1700 W. OLNEY AVE PHILA, PA 19141

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

**ALUMNI ARE ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND!**

**BOTH CONCERTS ARE
PAY WHAT YOU WISH**

**SUPPORT THE ARTS
CLICK TO MAKE A GIFT**





MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING AACHS PRESIDENT

NEIL DEEGAN, 263

As I write this, the sun is shining on a beautiful, warm spring afternoon in Philadelphia. The Phillies are about to start a late afternoon game, and the city is alive with activity.

It's a great moment to reflect, particularly because this is my final President's Note in the Alumni Journal. My term will expire on June 30th.

I'm honored to have had the opportunity to lead our organization for the last two years, and to have helped, I hope, to move the ball forward in expanding the Association's outreach to our ever-growing alumni community.

The last two years have been exciting ones for the Central community.

We welcomed **Kate Davis (264)** as our new President.

Our **Leading the Way capital campaign** has continued forward with renewed energy and enthusiasm, and we've seen new investments in our school community.

We've brought new, energetic voices to the AACHS board.

And, as we've emerged from the challenging years of the pandemic, we've found many more ways to bring our alumni community together – in-person and virtually.

Our mission is to support today's Central High School, and to help make sure that the experience of today's students is even more robust than ours. Working together, and bringing more of our fellow alums into the fold, our collective impact can be vast.

I believe there is no better time than right now to get more involved in your AACHS, to invest your time, energy and financial contributions (of any size!) in today's Central community.

Even as my time as President comes to an end, I am eager to continue to be active and engaged in this work. I hope you will too, because **Central High School changed my life, very likely changed your life, and changes the lives of students every single day.**

And there's no better return on investment in the world than that.

Have a great spring and summer!

Neil Deegan (263)

AACHS President

Neil.chs@neildeegan.org



MALMUD LEARNING CENTER UNVEILING CEREMONY

Since my extracurricular activities at Central included being president of the student tutor society, I thought that I could be of help to today's student body by contributing toward the establishment of a dedicated space for the student tutor activity.

Dr. Leon Malmud, 208



I am pleased to be able to demonstrate my gratitude to Central High School for the extraordinary education which I received in the 208th class graduating in 1957.

Central is somewhat unique, in that it admits students who are both academically qualified and who have chosen a school that would be more demanding and challenging than the other excellent high schools in the city.

Upon graduation, and entering the University of Pennsylvania, I wondered how I would be able to compete successfully with students who had the privilege of attending superb private schools.

I immediately discovered that **Central had prepared us, as well as, if not better** than some of the most elite private schools in the nation. We had been superbly prepared and disciplined for college, graduate, and professional schools in a way which only insight and hindsight would fully reveal years later with maturity.

Since my extracurricular activities at Central included being president of the student tutor society, I thought that I could be of help to today's student body by contributing toward the establishment of **a dedicated space for the student tutor activity**. It includes study-computer stations and will be available for other student academic activities during the hours when the tutors are not in session.

In my personal educational experience, as a physician, medical educator, dean, and University administrator, I believe **the years that I spent at Central had the most profound effect on any success that I was able to achieve.**

All of us were exposed to and learned from an extraordinary faculty.

One can't help but notice that today's students don't look at all like the ones who attended Central in the 1950's.

It is now fortunately co-ed.

In addition, there is a greater diversity of ethnicity than existed previously.

Nevertheless, I view today's students as identical to us in so many ways. They are committed to learning both by their academic ability and their determination to meet the academic standards and succeed at Central.

They will be our future achievers and leaders.

It is my hope that this facility will further enhance educational opportunities for today's students so that they may enjoy the same kind of success in their lives and our nation that thousands of previous Central alumni have demonstrated.

I encourage others to reflect upon how Central was meaningful in their personal and professional endeavors, and consider making a gift of \$1,836 or more annually. I'm proud to be a member of the 1836 Society. Thank you.



[CLICK HERE](#)

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NOMINATE A CENTRAL ALUMNA

FOR THE 2023 FALL EDITON OF THE
ALUMNI JOURNAL



THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Voices At The Table:

A current Lancer shares her story on the importance of the vision for the Performing Arts Center

My name is **Brianna Hess, I am in the 282nd class.** I am here to represent the Performing Arts as the President of Orchestra, principal cellist, and cellist for the String Quartet.

For context, I have **played the cello since I was nine years old and at Central, attending rehearsal is how I start each school day.** Everyone who is in the orchestra ensemble comes to school earlier to practice and attend rehearsal. Many students come even earlier to help set up the chairs in one of the classrooms to make space for orchestra practice and for the number of ensembles and small groups. None of my peers mind the 1-2 hours of sleep we lose because for us, it is worth sacrificing sleep to be a member of Central's orchestra. For these reasons, I leave my house at 6 A.M. daily.

Besides one main room, **there is not a designated space that is strictly utilized for rehearsal.** Each ensemble takes turns utilizing the room, meaning that another ensemble will have to go somewhere else in the building.

"Half of a hallway" is not sufficient space to attend rehearsals for the growing music department members, let alone store musical instruments. For example, during cello sectionals, it surprises me how 8 cellos fit into that one practice room. We are always told to use your whole bow when playing but it's not plausible without hitting my stand partner. A lot of times I end up changing the boring and phrasing, simply because in the rehearsal rooms or in the auditorium, I cannot move my arm to the full range of motion I should be able to, simply emphasizing the number of students who want to participate in an ensemble.

Central music department is led by talented and dedicated teachers who genuinely care to help students grow musically. Central musicians enjoy being in ensembles and want to practice or even use the time in high school to learn how to play an instrument. Being in an orchestra has taught me to have attention to detail and to take constructive criticism respectfully and responsibly.

It has built a community with my fellow peers who are in a music ensemble, and slowly became my comfort place within the Central community.

Beyond space for the students and teachers, implementing a performance arts building will also restore a lot of the quality of these instruments because they will have a proper home within Central.

Please support students like Brianna, and make a contribution to the Capital Campaign today!

[CLICK HERE TO LEAD THE WAY, LANCER!](#)

CENTRAL PRODUCES LEADERS

PLEASE LUI STEM, 255

"The education that I received at Central was integral to my journey in becoming a filmmaker, in ways that I didn't even realize."



Born and raised in Northeast Philadelphia, Please Lui Stemp, 255 is the child of Chinese immigrants and the first in her family to graduate from college.

While she followed a math and science concentration throughout her years at Central and freshman year of college, Please ultimately graduated with a degree in Film and Television from Boston University and moved to Los Angeles.

"I used to say (only half in jest) that high school was harder than college; the rigorous level of academics at Central provided a strong foundation for the pursuit of any professional career."

Please shared that being a Central alumna is one of her proudest accomplishments in her life and that she feels we all share a certain kinship as alumni that you cannot find anywhere else.

"The diversity of people I met and the breadth of classes available really helped shape my worldview. That's why I believe giving back to our alma mater is important—to keep paying forward the benefits we received as students."

Please is an accomplished producer who has worked for over twenty years in the entertainment industry on a variety of projects across diverse genres and platforms. Her documentary credits include the 2020 Peabody Award-winning PBS series, *Asian Americans*, and the 2019 Peabody Winner *Inventing Tomorrow* among many other hit feature films and television series. Please has been a lifelong environmentalist and advocate for social justice. She co-founded a non-profit, *Impacto Project* (2008-2018), that empowered at-risk youth through visual arts.

Nurtured by lifelong friendships with her 255 classmates and shaped by the lessons Central teachers instilled, please join Please in making a sustaining gift to support our alma mater.

James DePreist, 202

James DePreist was born in Philadelphia in 1936. He was the nephew of contralto Marian Anderson.

He was a member of the 202nd Class at Central High School, Philadelphia, graduating in June, 1954.

DePreist studied composition with Vincent Persichetti at the Philadelphia Conservatory while earning a bachelor's degree at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania in 1958.

A recent Hall of Fame inductee, DePreist was awarded the "Sound of Philadelphia" award. Prior to this award, DePreist was awarded 15 honorary doctorates.

He was named the laureate music director for the Oregon Symphony. He is a recipient of the Insignia of Commander of the Order of the Lion of Finland, the Medal of the City of Québec and an officer of the Order of Cultural Merit of Monaco.

He received the Ditson Conductor's Award in 2000 for his commitment to the performance of American music. In 2005, former President George W. Bush presented him with the National Medal of Arts, the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence.

James DePreist died at his home in Scotsdale, Arizona in February 2013 at the age of 76.



While receiving his master's degree, DePreist played percussion in a jazz Quintet, which performed on "The Tonight Show" with Steve Allen in 1956.

He did enough composing to win a commission from the Philadelphia Dance Academy.

It gave DePreist his first chance to use a baton.



2023 ANNUAL RECEPTION

June 6, 2023 5:30 - 8:30 PM

RIVERS WATERFRONT

1001 N Delaware Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19125





THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

GET TO KNOW OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER FOR THE ANNUAL RECEPTION

JUNE 6, 2023 | RIVERS WATERFRONT

KEITH LEAPHART, 251

Keith Leaphart (251), DO/MBA, is an innovator whose expansive, parallel careers in medicine, business and philanthropy have driven him to help redefine what it means to be a philanthropist. Through his service as a board member and current Chair of The Lenfest Foundation, Keith has a deep understanding of the philanthropic ecosystem; its advantages, and its most under-maximized assets.

The philanthropy industry has historically empowered large philanthropic donors. However, in reality, everyday individuals make up nearly 70 percent of all giving each year. Thus, the power of giving and ability to change society belongs to individual donors. Keith believes everyday people, more than foundations or corporations, should be given every opportunity to optimize their philanthropic impact. That's why he founded Philanthropi, a fintech company leading the next generation of philanthropy through its innovative giving platform, which democratizes giving for everyone, and amplifies its impact.



By partnering with financial institutions, employers, universities, and non-profit organizations, Philanthropi fosters new levels of engagement and empowers everyday donors to support their favorite nonprofit organizations with the click of a button. Tapping into the largest donor segment – the everyday philanthropist – Philanthropi unlocks the potential of the charitable ecosystem.

In addition to his business responsibilities with Philanthropi and work with the Lenfest Foundation, Keith also serves on the boards of the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Philadelphia Health Management Corporation, Philadelphia Media Network, and Comcast Corporation's external Joint Diversity Advisory Council.



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2022 CAREER DAY

REFLECT & CELEBRATE



Alina Ispas Montbriand, 264

Google

Global Solution Strategist Manager

"Being a part of Career Day is a joy every year! Giving back by sharing our career trajectories is a privilege and it helps that we get to do so by going back to the halls of "Dear Old High." The students always ask very thoughtful questions, are genuinely interested in the topics the speakers bring to the classrooms, and a nice added perk is catching up with fellow CHS alums. But most of all, none of my career would have been possible without my time at Central, and that is one thing I truly hope students take away from Career Day - that they get to come to school in a special place every day, and that they will be a force to be reckoned with by the time they graduate."

While I attended Central, I took the Central Broadcasting Network Class (CBN). This class helped me fall in love with broadcasting and media. I learned so much about being in front and behind the camera. This class was a major reason I went to Temple University to study Broadcasting Communications and Mass Media. After Temple, I went to West Texas, South Dakota, and Maryland where I gained invaluable knowledge in producing. In 2018 I moved back to Philadelphia when I took the job as the producer for The ClassH-Room at Fox 29. I give back to CHS by participating every year in Career Day where I come back to the school and speak with current students about what I do and how I got to where I am today. I have also donated to the school during Giving Tuesday. I absolutely love Central and every opportunity it has given me. I would not be who I am today without Central and I am so thankful for being a participant in the CHS community.



Marjorie Thomas Morgovsky, 267

Fox 29

Producer



Alexandria Nguyen, 264

Global Fraud Advisory
Managing Compliance Officer

It has been a privilege returning to Central as a speaker since 2018, both in person and virtually. Having recently relocated to Denmark for work, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to participate virtually. My time at Central exposed me to diversity which has always been a core value that I try to emulate as an ally and a leader in my field. When I was a student, I never imagined that I'd be in a position to return as a speaker and give back to the Central community. Growing up as the daughter of a refugee raised in a single-parent household, my journey was not easy but I am grateful for the invaluable lessons I encountered along the way. As a speaker, I try to encourage students to forge their own paths, one that is not determined by their immigrant parents' pre-defined idea of success. I try to candidly share my experiences, both positive and negative because often, people tend to share the shiny, Instagram-worthy parts of themselves. I personally find greater value in the struggles and hardship, which I hope sharing will inspire students and leave a lasting impact.

To learn more about our alumni speakers, check out the **Career Day 2022 flipbook.**

Thank you to CHS Administration, Faculty, Students, Speakers, Sponsors, and Alumni for your participation this year.

CAREER DAY 2022

A special "Thank You!!" to all Central alumni who continue to give back through service and mentorship.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 202 Lester Wurtele | 240 Gregory Fanelli | 262 Hans Hibbard |
| 208 Frank Freeman | 240 Michael McMaster | 262 Rodney Robbins Jr. |
| 211 Sheldon Dorph | 241 Luke McHugh | 263 Anthony Davis |
| 211 Bill Aron | 243 Whaine Norman | 263 Neil Deegan |
| 212 Michael Shelanski | 244 Joseph Bezpalko | 263 Kenneth Miraski |
| 212 Frederick Goldstein | 245 Mark Ross | 264 Alexandria Nguyen |
| 214 Steven Borowsky | 246 Tony Green | 264 Brittany Griffin |
| 215 Edwin Rosenthol | 246 Joel Wilson | 264 Kathleen Cerrone |
| 216 Stephen Gershenson | 247 Abigail Horn | 264 Alina Ispas Montbriand |
| 217 Elliot Brodsky | 248 Jennifer Gould | 264 Elizabeth Craighead |
| 218 Steven Gordon | 248 Jason Huber | 264 Tiffani Donaldson-Berry |
| 218 Alan Bronstein | 249 Cory Neale | 265 Dung Truong |
| 219 Bob Stein | 249 Karima Bouchenafa | 265 Melinda Snover |
| 219 Steven Hausman | 251 Elana McDonald | 265 April Roldan |
| 219 David Berd | 251 Delana Wardlaw | 266 Rafiqah Mustafaa |
| 220 David Galinsky | 251 Aisha Abdul-Wakeel | 266 Teron Richardson |
| 220 Ben Compaine | 252 Joe Kahn | 266 Daniel Pearson |
| 222 Stephen Burnstein | 253 Jill Schiller | 266 Yevgeniy Kravets |
| 222 Martin Kupper | 253 Darryle Tillman | 266 Audrey Huntingdon-Pomerantz |
| 222 Jeff Roth | 254 Adam Rahn | 266 Amelia Popovic |
| 224 David Herman | 255 Jocelyn Edathil | 267 Terrell Green |
| 225 William Siegenthaler | 255 Gerald Waxier | 267 Marjorie Thomas |
| 225 Steven Shapiro | 255 Kyle Robinson | 267 Samantha Zaroff |
| 225 Alan Belasco | 255 Cathleen Brown | 267 Jade Trinh |
| 225 Kenny Harris | 256 Lisa Ashe | 267 Phylcia Cross |
| 225 Larry Sklar | 256 Walter Daniel | 267 Darren Rainey Sr. |
| 225 Arthur Marcus | 256 Jason Weldon | 267 Monmoney Prak |
| 226 Courtland Lee | 256 Justin Myers | 267 Mikia Muhammad |
| 226 Paul Steelman | 257 LeAnn Brodhead | 267 Amanda Huon |
| 227 Alan Shubin | 257 Jamil Gordon | 268 Lauren Watson |
| 227 Jan Widerman | 258 Alicia Oglesby, EIC | 269 Fengmei Wu |
| 228 Roy Goldman | 258 Leslie New | 269 Marlana Bradstein |
| 228 Jay Horrow | 258 Chloe Mohr | 269 Jeffy Joseph |
| 228 Scott Gould | 258 Steven Khov | 269 Manuel Mathen |
| 229 Micheal Kaufman | 258 Brooke Reynolds | 269 James Mathew |
| 230 Steven Adelman | 259 Patrick Madden | 269 Cecil Varghese |
| 231 Ellis Freedman | 259 Cameron Baston | 269 RaeShelle Drayton-Greene |
| 231 Christopher Lewis | 259 Christian Hicks | 270 Alexander McMenamin |
| 232 John Younge | 259 Samuel Nop | 270 Alijandrina Martinez |
| 233 Harry Lipschultz | 259 Artis Miller | 271 Kiyra Armstead |
| 233 Jeff Thomas | 260 Lorenzo Jackson | |
| 233 Bruce Rush | 261 Tamara Urquhart | |
| 237 Evan Schlessinger | 262 Daniel Hallback | |

CAREER DAY 2022 (CONT'D)

Interested in giving back? Please be sure to be on the look-out for submissions this fall. Follow us on Facebook for more details.

271 David Tigreros
271 Trans Lualhati
272 Rachel Meirson
272 Nancy Abraham
272 Brendon Kim
272 Daniel Farmer
273 Zachary Pownall
274 Jayda Jackson
274 Alim M. Young Sr.
274 Jason Taing
274 Hannah Baker
274 Bakary Samasa
274 Garneel Azor
275 Meghan Tezik
275 Khalil Phillips
275 Reuneshia Williams
275 James Morris
276 Aniyah Pinkley
276 Ramzy Raihan
276 Jared DiCampello
279 Sheyla Street
Former Faculty Lark Hall

Thank You to our Career Day Sponsors - KSS Architects and Work Week Wonders

282 Jamerika Grandberry
282 Karlice Williams
282 Dezlen Long
282 Anthony Jones-Collins
282 Jett Bolker
282 Timothy Lao
282 Jihad Pope

Thank you to our student coordinators for helping Central organize another successful Career Day.



2023 ANNUAL RECEPTION

Tuesday

June 6, 2023

5:30 - 8:30 PM

RIVERS WATERFRONT

1001 N Delaware Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19125

Purchase Here



THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



LEADING THE WAY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW



DONATE

There is no better time than this moment to invest in the future of Central.

The building in its current state is 80 years old. We have outgrown the space devoted to our academic and extracurricular programs at Central High School.

The **Leading the Way Capital Campaign** is the solution; building upon what we have already accomplished in Phase I — the remaining phase II and III plans allow us to preserve our legacy in Philadelphia. The focus on educational excellence that our current students and alumni are familiar with in a public school setting.

Share how Central profoundly impacted you, and why you give to the Capital Campaign.

Here are a few testimonials from alumni who recognize **the importance of leading the way.**

AACHS Honorary Life Member, Retired Attorney – Stephen Kasloff, Esq., 228

"For me personally, the arts – in my case, theater – expanded my world and perspective in ways both large and particular; and allowed me to go beyond what I thought I could do and be. And theater continues to do this in my life. I know this is true of so many others as well."

Associate Professor of Particle Physics at MIT and NASA Scholar – Kerstin Perez, 260

"Central had a particular role in my overall life path; less that Central molded me into a world class scientist, but more so provided and fostered an environment to explore a vast variety of interests and excel in whatever one chose to do."

Visit **CentralHighAlumni.com/leading-the-way-capital-campaign** to find out how you can be a part of this exciting project today or contact the **AACHS Development Office** to connect!

THE JOSEPH W. MCCLOSKEY MEMORIAL GIFT FUND

AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AS “UNCLE JOE” TO HIS STUDENTS. HE HELD CENTRAL NEAR AND DEAR TO HIM, EVEN AFTER MOVING TO ILLINOIS IN 1955.

Mr. Joseph W. McCloskey taught English at Central, served as class sponsor, and was a mentor and friend to many students. A member of the Central **Faculty Hall of Fame**, Uncle Joe was highly regarded by his former students at New Trier High School and Central High School.

The investment that donors like you make to Central High School — one of the oldest public school institutions dating back to 1836 — has an **immediate impact on the current students**. The continued focus on academic excellence and enrichment of our youth now and beyond the iconic crimson doors will sustain Central as a top school for generations to come.

The **Joseph W. McCloskey Memorial Gift Fund** has been designated to support a sophomore or junior student at Central to enter an enrichment summer program in the humanities or music that may also take the student out of the city, to experience life elsewhere.

Many such programs exist through universities, but the opportunities through Central High, afforded to our students, are due to the financial support and commitment of donors like you.

A faculty committee that includes the class advisors will select the student through an application process; the chosen student, in consultation with the advisor, will select a program that meets the humanities/music criteria. The selected student will demonstrate both talent and interest as well as a need for the funding to follow their ambition.

In recognition of a man whose legacy will continue to live on in the shared stories of his love for life-long exploration through education, and his commitment to his New Trier and Central students—and by giving to this campaign you enrich the region, community, and the lives of countless Central students — a legacy that Joe would be proud to know now exists.

We all feel enriched by our relationship with Joe, “Uncle” Joe to many, and cherish our memories of his great smile, delightfully naughty wit, deep compassion, and high intellectual standards. Let’s hope this scholarship allows a number of potential “Joes” to develop their passion and knowledge and eventually to share their inspiration with others.

– Betsy Arsenault | New Trier High School, Colleague and Friend of Uncle Joe



Please make your gift today to enhance the student experience, to support our educators, and to sustain the long-standing traditions and mission of the AACHS that Uncle Joe loved dearly. Thank you!

100 STUDENTS TRAVELED TO WASHINGTON, D.C. THANKS TO CHS ALUMNI

In April, 100 students along with parents, teachers, and alumni chaperones traveled to Washington D.C. to visit Howard University campus and the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

On the way, we watched "Eyes on the Prize," an excellent 1980's video about civil rights in the United States from 1954 onward.

At Howard University, students had a chance to explore the campus, and experience an unforgettable educational school field trip.

A short bus ride to the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of African American History & Culture was next. Everyone was excited about visiting the museum whose chief architect was Central's own **Philip Freelon, 230**, who was **inducted into AACHS' Hall of Fame in 2018**.

Students were pleased to learn that Mr. Freelon and partners were unanimously chosen out of six finalists in 2009 for their winning architectural building design which reflects features that are found across the African Diaspora.

Many remarked that the trip instilled a feeling that their Central experience would make it possible for them to achieve great things, just as Mr. Freelon had. Sadly, he passed away in 2019.

His legacy lives on through his work and commitment to purposeful imagery that inspires healthy and robust cultural exchange.

This trip was made possible by Director of Development, Equity, and Inclusion, Michelle Thornton and alumni who made generous contributions.

Additional thanks to the direct efforts and leadership of **Stephen Burnstein, D.O. (222)**, co-chair of the AACHS DEI Committee, and **Mr. George VanHook (231)**, who helped to organize this event, and to garner greater interest in fundraising for life-changing and educational trips that focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.



SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS MADE POSSIBLE BY CHS ALUMNI



MAKE A GIFT TO THE AACHS DEI FUND TODAY
WWW.CENTRALHIGHALUMNI.COM/DEI

Newest Addition to the Music Department from 224 Lancer

The AACHS welcomed back **Harvey Layton (224)** to our Dear old High for a special occasion. Mr. Layton reached out to the AACHS with a goal in mind. He wanted to **donate a violin**—that he played and has been in his family for 35 years—to a **Lancer in need of a personal instrument during their time at Central**.

Mr. Benjamin Blazer, the School Based Teacher Leader for the Arts, identified sophomore **Ava Russell (284)**, who he shared is a talented violinist who could greatly benefit from this generous gift.

Ava has played the violin since kindergarten and is currently **seated in the second violin section of the Central orchestra**. When asked what it means to receive a donation of this kind from a Central graduate, Ava answered "I feel honored. I am so grateful for this opportunity to receive such a beautiful instrument." The instrument is beautiful indeed.



The violin was crafted by E. J. Albert of the esteemed Belgian Albert family of luthiers who set up shop in Philadelphia from 1849-1916. The Alberts were world-renowned in their craft. The violin now in the possession of a Lancer sixty classes apart could be as old as 70 years but it plays like new—after a much-needed tuning. Mr. Layton **hopes his donation will inspire Alumni by "taking a look at their possessions and leveraging how it could be of use to the next generation of Lancers."** Central High needs supporters like you to help not only expand student enrichment programs but also to help improve the physical infrastructure and the lack of sufficient space in the historic building. **Make a gift now.**

DEAR HIGH, DEAR CENTRAL HIGH!



| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| CHS NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES » | MAY 19 |
| CHS SPRING CONCERT » | MAY 23 |
| ANNUAL RECEPTION » | JUNE 6 |
| CENTRAL SIPS » | SUMMER '23 |
| POSTHUMOUS HALL OF FAME » | FALL '23 |

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COLUMN B

BRUCE YASGUR, 216



After completing my first draft, the powers that be suggested that I focus on music at Central. So we'll start with an add-on paragraph or three. For openers, **Central was instrumental (instrumental?) in my own musical development.** As a kid I wasn't a good singer, or so my teachers opined: "Move your lips, Bruce, but let no sound come forth." It made me feel less than, because I enjoyed singing. I thought I was harmonizing somewhere below the squeaks who carried the melody, but my apparently tone-deaf teachers begged to differ and insisted that it would be best if I didn't share my voice while others were filling the world with joy. Ninth grade at Central changed all that, when music teacher **Joseph Ostrow** placed me with my fellow basses. Someone finally appreciated us and assigned us a place in the choir. No longer ostracized, but, now, *Ostrowcized!*

During the four years that Paul Williams and I shared a homeroom, we did a lot of harmonizing. In the words of our yearbook: "Bruce will best be remembered for the musical entertainment that he and Paul Williams provided in ... class." Not to mention the stairwells and the acoustically-bouncy third-floor boys' room. In addition to his musical accomplishments as a Scholar and later with The HiTones, Paul lettered in basketball and track, earned his Air Force stripes, and went on to a career with the City.

Central's constantly-updating a capella harmony group, The Scholars, was a primarily African/American Doo Wop ensemble, putting down hits like Come Go With Me, You're a Thousand Miles Away, Tears on My Pillow and In the Still of the Night. Members from prior years included multi-letterman Big Bill Lee (**215** - football, basketball and track), and Saul Broudy (**214**), perhaps the group's first honorary Jewish member, who, when I last heard, was still collecting and performing traditional songs with his guitar and folklore PhD. The **216's** contribution to the ensemble included the late Pleas Hailey (see below), Paul Williams (see above), Eddie (still doin' the Pony?) Jackson (track), Bristol (Sharp as a Pistol) Rush (gymnastics and track) and, occasionally, Yours Truly.

Since his days with Central's orchestra and at Settlement Music School, our classmate Ronald Lipscomb has become an internationally-recognized classical, popular, jazz and Gospel cellist. Ron studied with, among others, Pablo Casals, has played with and/or accompanied, such notables as Duke Ellington, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., James Brown, Milt Jackson, Alice Coltrane and The Main Ingredient; The New York Philharmonic under Erich Leinsdorf and Leonard Bernstein; the American Symphony under Leopold Stokowski; and as a soloist on the Symphony of the New World. Ron's discography is too long to cover, but can be easily Googled.

Some of Ron's most memorable musical moments were under the baton of Maestro **James DePreist (202)** conducting the Symphony of the New World and a youth orchestra member, seeing DePreist conduct at several venues in the US and Europe, and accepting DePreist's invitation to perform with the National Symphony. As of this writing, Ron is scheduled to do a recital at New York's Alice Tully Hall thanks to funding procured by DePreist prior to his becoming the music director of the Portland, Oregon Symphony Orchestra. Ron remembers his late mentor as a wonderful musician, a fellow Centralite, and a good friend.



Speaking of maestros/maestri, Andrew Kurtz (**244**) has repeatedly had his musical, educational and community contributions recognized as the founder, music director and conductor of Florida's Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra. Andrew was the international tour conductor for Cantors: A Faith In Song, featuring three of the world's leading cantors, the New York Cantors concerts, and the Gulf Coast Symphony's Trinity: Classically Irish for PBS. We loved his production of Three Cantors a few years back at the Kimmel Center.

Over the years, **217** class rep Elliot Brodsky has enjoyed a varied and never-dull career in theater and TV production, design, marketing, information research, teaching, coaching and mentoring. He often shares his views on topics as diverse as marketing, management, investing, sustainability, women's history, equity for disabled and other under-recognized groups, and recharging one's personal and professional batteries, via public media, Working less and traveling more lately, Elliot's been recharging his own batteries on an adventure-filled trip to New Zealand. And here's my original, pre-music issue, draft, some of which is actually about music at Central:

To paraphrase some gladiators I used to know: "Those of us who are about to turn eighty salute you." Out of about 305 graduates in June 1961, 54 **216**ers, along with 26 wives, attended our belated 60th reunion in October 2022. Since then, we've been stretching our stiffened fingers and synapses to post an endless stream of emails to one another, continuing conversations in anticipation of, during, and since the reunion and, even more, sharing our experiences at O&O all those years ago. Most have been about memorable teachers and classes, e.g. Mingophobia with Cades, dodging Fs with Del Guercio, and trading smokes for quarters with Reverend Rhoads. We noted the scholarly chops of teachers like Schleifer, Capuzzi, Grant, Sherzer and our sponsor, Joe Phillips, the kindness of guys like Hamm, Blum and McNally, the playfulness of Dougie Dove and Fat Cat Levin, and the otherness of a few we won't name. For the most part, we learned something from all of them.

Some of my own unforgettable - even visceral - experiences included listening to Herr Werner's rousing musical rendition of Heine's Die Lorelei: "Ich weiss nicht was soll es bedeuten dass ich so traurig bin" A few years later, Charlie Werner and I became colleagues and friends. I shared with him why I studied German:

My parents suggested that I study either Latin or German, depending on whether I intended to pursue a degree in medicine, law or engineering. I chose German so that I could understand what they and my Yiddish-speaking relatives were saying when they talked about me behind my back to my face. I learned quickly, they sensed that I did, and they soon changed both the subject and their manner of discourse.



My American History teacher, Ben Sherzer, introduced us to The Weavers and other folkies who gave us, or at least me, a lively introduction to our national story through catchy lyrics and tunes, and set me on a path of making my own songs as I traveled the world schlepping backpack and guitar, making friends and borrowing tunes all along the way. Had it not been for that history class, I might never have gotten beyond the Kingston Trio (with all due respect!) to know, appreciate and steal licks from the likes of the Seegers, Leadbelly, Doc Watson, John Hurt and so many more. **Ask me about the night I jammed with** Big Joe Williams, Sonny Boy Williamson, Lonny Johnson and Muddy Waters on stage during their 1963 concert in London.

One week, I was down with a bug and couldn't go to school. I was bored in bed, surrounded by books. No one from school got in touch. Toward the end of the week, my English teacher, Gerald Hamm, phoned. In his typical acerbic manner, he inquired why I was dodging school and intimated that he and the class missed me and looked forward to seeing me back in the saddle. That small gesture was a big one for me, Gerry.

Most of the Phys Ed teachers and coaches were pretty rough and tumble. Some even tried to show how tough they could be, fitting in with us teenagers. Our recently departed Art McNally was different. As a football coach, he was always there to listen, to help and to train us to be better athletes and men. What a thrill it was to see Art rise through the ranks of NFL officials to become the league's head ref, and to witness his induction into the NFL Hall of Fame as the first and only referee to attain that honor. You earned it, Coach!

I like to think that I emulated the positive examples of my predecessors. I often **got to know my students well enough to help them get the most out of school and life by introducing them to new ways of thinking and giving them opportunities to interact with resources within and beyond the classroom. As a coach and sponsor, I tried to listen to my students and encourage them to stay engaged, while learning and having a good time.**

Sometimes I blew it; sorry. I even shared music and jokes with them, which may or may not have been appreciated.

In memory of departed classmates, we continue what we began in Column A.



Billy Finkel and I were good friends through Wagner, Central, and college. We were teammates on cadet football and gymnastics. Billy bowled and ran cross country, but mostly lifted weights and competed in body-building events. We spent time after school at one another's homes and knew the contents of one another's refrigerators intimately. Billy even lived with us for a while. From the time he got his license, there was nothing with an engine that Billy didn't tinker with, drive, sail, fly, dive or parachute out of. He studied engineering at Drexel and worked for the Navy during his five years there and for decades thereafter. Shortly before I graduated from Temple, Billy showed up at my Powelton Avenue walkup to check out his Ferrari. By the time he graduated from Drexel, Billy had a pilot's license and his own airplane. He moved away to pursue a career in the defense industry. We lost Billy in 2016.

Pleas (Reverend Pleasant) Hailey was well known as a member of the varsity basketball team, a singing Scholar, and, in general, BIG MAN on campus. As fierce a competitor as Pleas was on the boards, he was equally warm, friendly and fun-loving out of uniform. Over the years, Pleas and I sang classic Doo Wop and R&B numbers for kicks and shared an occasional meal. We also shared an interest in religion: no surprise that Pleas became a singing pastor, while I became a singer and songwriter as well as a student of Torah and Jewish law.

Larry Rubin was a popular all-around student. He was a regular contributor to classes and a standout varsity baseball and basketball player. Larry served as a justice on the class court, an SA rep, and as a member of a number of service organizations in and out of school. Though he's been gone for years, we remember Larry well.

Got something to add, subtract, praise or critique? E me at byasgur216@gmail.com.

Just in: watch this space for ways to stretch your hard-earned dollars, Euros or whatever, to support worthwhile organizations, e.g. AACHS, with legal tax strategies to make your giving painless.

As always, thanks to Janice Yasgur, Cambridge Rindge and Latin, for her advice and support.

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OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AT ALL LEVELS
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PRESENTING SPONSOR \$10,000

INCLUDED ARE TWO TABLES OF 10 SEATS EACH, AN INVITATION FOR A REPRESENTATIVE TO SPEAK, A TABLE FOR MARKETING PURPOSES AND MUCH MORE!

CRIMSON & GOLD BAR SPONSOR \$5,000

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MORE**

"WHEN OFT WE SANG THE PRAISES OF THE CRIMSON & THE GOLD"

CONSIDER A CHARITABLE IRA DISTRIBUTION SUPPORT CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



Dear CHS Alumni,

While I want to address all fellow Lancers, this message is especially for those who anticipate reaching the age of 70 ½ or who are already there.

We all have our special reasons for appreciating the time we spent at Ogontz and Olney. **Central was critical in helping me plan my future.**

When I look back, like many of you, I realize how **I was positively affected** by the diversity and quality of my classmates, the enthusiasm and guidance of our fabulous teachers and the remarkable spirit of CHS itself, with all of its history and reputation.

That is why I am honored to “pay it forward” through the **1836 Society**.

I hope you too will consider making a **tax-deductible donation to the Alumni Association (AACHS)**.

As you reflect on your love for Dear High, it may be helpful to **consider how you can support Central – and at the same time reduce your taxes**. While little has changed this year with regard to tax legislation, the enclosed brochure further explains a unique and effective charitable tool available that will make a tax-wise impact.

Consider a Charitable IRA Distribution - If you are reaching the age or older than 70 ½, you may make a **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)** of up to \$100,000 from your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) tax-free directly to one or more nonprofits.

I hope you consider AACHS as one of the beneficiaries.

I encourage you to consult your tax advisor to receive optimal tax advantages and guidance; this letter should not be considered tax advice.

The folks at the CHS Alumni office appreciate the opportunity to assist with your giving – **QCDs, planned gift, capital campaign dedication opportunities**, tribute gift – throughout the year. They can be of assistance to you and your advisors, so please do not hesitate to contact the alumni office at **alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com** to schedule a confidential conversation at any time.

Wishing you and your family continued happiness, health and prosperity!

Eddie
Edward L. Soll, MD
Proud member of the 216 and the 1836 Society



Barnes Centennial Celebration

This school year 64 sculpture students from Mrs. Heather Durkee's class partnered with the Barnes Foundation, CHS alumni, and the music program in the Barnes Centennial celebration.

Dr. Albert C. Barnes (92) graduated from Central High School in 1889. All 64 sculpture students went to the Barnes Foundation to learn about the permanent collection and to draw from the African Art and Modigliani Retrospective to make their very own reductive plaster busts. 12 students went on to serve as docents for the CHS alumni celebration and toured alumni through the exhibit, sharing their knowledge and art making experience.

A private room for the event **celebrated the student artwork and allowed for students and alumni to mingle, hear musical performances from several music students and to sing the school song** as a group, led by students and Mr. Horwits (251). The finished artwork was showcased at Central High School as part of the Winter Arts Celebration and 4 students' works went to Washington D.C. for Black History Month as part of the "Casey Living Legacies" exhibit in Congressional Building.

SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

This year we had 12 students earn Gold Keys in Scholastic Art Awards. Xui Wen Zhen, 282, was the first ever CHS student to receive a Gold Key for her portfolio.

NIKE SHOE DESIGN CONTEST WINNERS:

This year Art 2 students were asked to design sneakers as if they were the newest artist on the design team at Nike. Four students were chosen to have their sneakers made.



Talented Student Art Displays

Shared by CHS Art Teacher, Heather Durkee



NIKE BY YOU

Ms. Aubry



Margaret Nov, inspired by the Macaroni Penguin



Akayla Morris, inspired by the African American flag

Students in Art 2 were asked to design sneakers as if they were the newest artist on the design team at Nike. 4 Students were chosen to have their designs made.

Thank you to Nick Smith @LifeAndKicksWithNick



Rachela Devlin, inspired by growing up in Utah



Natasha Simmons-Johnson, inspired by childhood



Anna Chen, 284



Eitan Cassway, 281



Betsy Okrent, 284

SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS:

Silver Key Recipients:

Benise Lyra Bacani
Eitan Cassway
Anna Chen
Atiya Keo
Sharon Kho
Karina Lad
Lily Muehlenhard
Mohamed Mutan
Ahsan Noor
Etalpalli Nordgren
Celeste Ortiz- Lugo
Cora Reynolds-McCalls
Sung-Il Ryou
Ariella Stevens
Georgia Wahl
Xui Wen Zhen
Amiaya Dandridge
Sophia Gao
Nooren Khandaker



Sharon Kho, 281



Sung-il Ryou, 285



Sophie Gao, 284



Karina Lad, 283



Amiaya Dandridge,

284

15

10/26/22



Anna Chen, 284



Riese Hughes

284

SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS:

Honorable Mention:

Anna Chen
Amiaya Dandridge
Sunny Huang
Atiya Keo
Sharon Kho
Etapalli Nordgren
Celeste Ortiz-Lugo
Cora Reynolds-McCall
Georgia Wahl
XuiWen Zhen
Riese Hughes
Carolyn Zheng



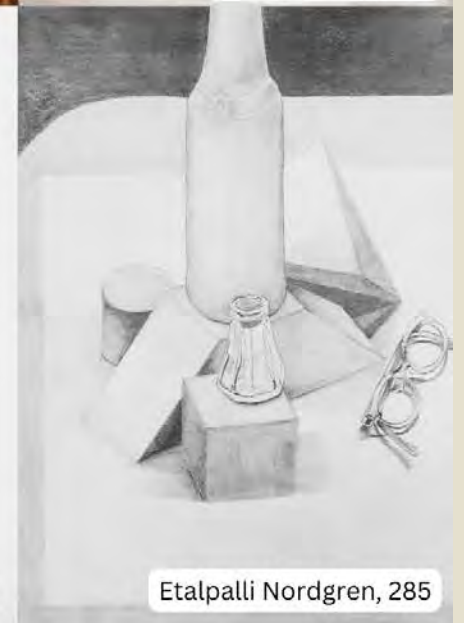
Atiya Keo, 281



Mohamed Mutan, 281



Sunny Huang, 285



Etapalli Nordgren, 285

Gold
Key
Portfolio



Xui Wen Zhen. 282



Georgia Wahl, 284

Teman Bashir, 285



Betsy Okrent, 284



SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS:

Gold Key Recipients:

Xui Wen Zhen
Georgia Wahl (2 Awards)
Madeline Reece
Celeste Ortiz-Lugo
Arian Li
Tiana Hawkins
Teman Bashir
Theodore Kannon
Lenaya Tucker
Yuchen Li
Betsy Okrent
Naja Wilson

Theodore Kannon, 282



Celeste Ortiz-Lugo, 281



1836 SOCIETY

1836 Society Reaches a New Record !

The 1836 Society, the **AACHS leadership donor society**, has reached 65 members as of April 1. This is a new record and, with several months remaining in the fiscal year, which ends on June 30, there is still time for new members to join!

Members of the **1836 Society** play a very special role in sustaining our alma mater's tradition of excellence. Their generosity helps to fuel AACHS' mission to support student success at Central today and in the future.

Thank you to all the current members who have made their commitment of \$1,836 or more this fiscal year (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023). Your gift may be designated for any AACHS fund or project, including the Annual Fund or the Leading the Way Capital Campaign.

Members receive benefits reserved only for the 1836 Society, including exclusive invitations to private events, as well as unique opportunities to interact with Central leadership and students.

Last fall, members and their guests attended a guided tour led by students of a special exhibition at the Barnes Foundation followed by a reception.

To make your gift or for more information, please visit centralhighalumni.com/1836-society or contact the Alumni Office at alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please know it will have an immediate impact on student success at "Dear Old High."

Joshua Liss 247
1836 Society Chair



1836 SOCIETY

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

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 development@centralhighalumni.com or learn more at <https://centralhighalumni.com/1836-society>.



| | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 192 Joseph Field | 220 David Kahn | 238 George Allen Williams |
| 193 Harry Charles Poehlmann | 221 Jack Pinkowski | 239 Marvin H. Johnson |
| 194 Robert Leonetti | 221 Chuck Steinberg | 240 Darryl L. Pereborow |
| 194 John T. Williams | 221 Joel Zumoff | 241 Bob Bacheler |
| 197 William Maxwell | 222 Stephen Burnstein | 241 James Chih-Cheng Ding |
| 198 Bernard Gross | 222 Charles Rose | 241 Gene Marks |
| 198 William R. Smith | 222 Richard Noth | 242 Aubrey Jones |
| 198 Howard Zucker | 224 Charles Long | 242 Earl Ross |
| 202 Robert Rosin | 225 Robert Shaw Cox | 243 Marc Reider |
| 204 Allan Marmon | 225 Tom DeRogatis | 244 Michael Liu |
| 206 Stanley C. Foster | 225 Larry Sklar | 246 Calvin Allen |
| 207 Bennett Levin | 225 Arnold New | 247 Joshua Liss |
| 208 Leon Malmud | 227 Robert C. Master | 248 Steven M. Springer |
| 211 Leo Braudy | 228 Frank Greco | 249 Karima I.A. Bouchenafa |
| 213 Michael Nissman | 228 Jay Horrow | 250 Ronald Matthews |
| 213 Alan Wolfe | 229 Thomas Arasz | 251 Kyle Andeer |
| 214 Mark S. Dichter | 229 Alan David Bedrick | 251 Stacey Thong-Ehrenhalt |
| 214 David Laurence Klein | 229 Frank Gruber | 251 Keith Leaphart |
| 214 Lawrence Kerson | 229 Stephen Klein | 254 Laisand Kan |
| 216 Henry Frank | 229 Stuart J. Weiss | 256 Jason Weldon |
| 216 Edward Soll | 230 Kenneth L. Goodson | 258 Steven Khov |
| 218 Thomas Schaefer | 231 Kenneth Berman | 258 Sarah Young |
| 219 Steven Hausman | 231 Cary Flitter | 263 Pamela Drake |
| 219 Scott Silver | 231 Jerrold A. Walton | 264 Michael Segal |
| 219 Robert Stein | 233 Martin Sankey | Parent Andrei Thomas-Tikhonenko |
| 220 George W. Campbell | 235 Robert A. Del Femine | |

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAILA JOHNSON, 282 STUDENT OF THE MONTH SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

Laila excels academically and participates in many extracurricular activities. She is the president of the African American Student Union and is a "big sibling" to 9th graders in the Bridge program. She has committed her time to welcoming new students to Central and creating an inclusive environment.

When asked about any advice she has for future Central Lancers Laila responded, "Have pride in yourself. From the moment that you get here, the faculty talks about class pride. That translates into the things that you do here at Central."



Laila hopes to become an educator or a civil rights lawyer. Laila has committed to Spelman!

Join us in congratulating Laila by making a gift to the AACHS today to enhance the student enrichment programs that produce future leaders at Central.

Your gift supports the students of today and the alumni of tomorrow!

RIDE WITH PRIDE

For PA Residents
Only



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Plate

MAKE A GIFT TO THE BUS SHELTER CAMPAIGN



Recently, the bus shelter at Ogontz and Olney was vandalized. Students have asked for alumni to make a gift to the campaign to repair and restore the space with Central artwork, once again. Thank you!

2023 ANNUAL RECEPTION

Tuesday

June 6, 2023

5:30 – 8:30 PM

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THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



IN MEMORIAM UPDATE

BELOW IS A LISTING OF OUR FELLOW ALUMNI
WHO HAVE PASSED SINCE OUR LAST EDITION.

ALL ARE LISTED HERE BY NAME AND CLASS NUMBER.
WE ARE ALL CENTRAL HIGH ALUMNI.

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 176 Rudi Lea | 199 Clifford Smith | 219 Alan Kliner |
| 178 Norman J. Kasser | 199 Dr. Richard J. Wurtman | 222 David Barg |
| 178 Edward Marks | 200 Francis Abraham | 223 Elliot A Strokoff |
| 184 Dr. E. Joseph Charny | 200 Barry Arbittier | 224 Irving Goldfarb |
| 185 Dr. Theodore Y. Rodgers | 200 Emil Cohn III | 226 Reid B. Beck |
| 185 Samuel "Jerry" Jerome Savrin | 200 Joseph Eskin | 227 Paul J. Veneziale |
| 185 Rabbi Stanley J Schachter | 200 Gerald M Fisher | 228 Jim Rhode |
| 185 S. "Ty" Steinberg | 200 William E. Gavin | 229 Eric Wollod |
| 187 Jacob "Jack" W. Levy | 200 Albert Frederick Kinzinger | 230 Andre H. Phelps |
| 187 Ronald Sherr | 200 Dr. Sigmund E. Landis | 232 Joseph A. Calderaio |
| 188 Stanford Shapiro | 200 Harold Oslick | 232 Albert Filoramo |
| 189 Sidney Forman | 200 Arnold M Pollock | 232 Robert A. Pegg |
| 189 Harold "Howie" Zeitz | 201 Ronald "Ron" Alan Brown | 232 Roman W. Zabrocky |
| 190 William "Billy" Bell | 201 David Schwartz | 232 William Zlotnick |
| 190 Dr. Allan Brooks | 202 Dr. Paul Lee Kornblith | 234 Peter "Pete" G. Fama |
| 190 Marcus "Mark" Friedman | 203 Dr. Theodore Oslick | 237 Robert J. Eppinger |
| 190 Joseph Friedman | 204 Murray J. Cowan | 239 Rev. Michael L. Kay |
| 190 Arthur "Gene" E. Kohn | 204 Earl N Helfand | 242 Robert Chapman Brace |
| 191 William Kamerling | 206 Carl D'Errico | 251 Jessica Moroz Slivak |
| 192 Alvin Block | 206 Hon. Alan K. Silberstein | 256 Dawn M. Carter |
| 192 Alfonse DiGiovanni | 208 Stephen M. Berger | 260 Tiffany Lane Gordon |
| 192 Neilson Gendelman | 208 Joe Diaco | 285 June Ada Dorsey |
| 193 H. "Roy" Cills | 208 Jerome "Jerry" Freedman | |
| 193 Martin L. Levene | 208 Raymond "Ray" H Lee | |
| 194 A "Ben" Benjamin Johnson | 208 Jacob Milarsky | Faculty David P. Jones |
| 194 Don Arthur Potter | 209 Arnold Bernstein | Faculty Retired Arthur McNally |
| 195 Morton "Sonny" Soffer | 209 Stephen C. Chappell, Esq. | Faculty Retired Irving Rotman |
| 196 Paul Cabnet | 210 Aaron Jack Belitsky | |
| 196 Sheldon Prushan | 210 Marc N. Levin | |
| 198 Richard B. Gross | 210 Harry Pepp | |
| 198 Dr. Howard Rosenfeld | 211 Laurence "Larry" S H Kagel | |
| 198 Joseph F. Torg | 211 Michael Savar | |
| 198 Robert C Weirman | 212 Dr. Gerald J Yakatan | |
| 199 Mark A Mann | 214 Clayton White | |
| 199 Mahlon "Mickey" B. Simon | 216 Mr. Carl J Weber | |
| | 218 Dr. Peter Viksnins | |
| | 218 Michael Woal | |

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 AACHS Class Representatives Committee strives to provide guidance and outreach resources with every class through its designated representative. Through the **Class Rep Chair, Rudy Cvetkovic (239)** our database remains as up-to-date as possible, but the work required to do is a team effort.

Many class reps have held this position since they graduated, others have taken on the role after a reunion or for other various reasons.

Nevertheless, the designated individual **serves as the official liaison between the class and the Association** to ensure that their class remains actively engaged and involved with Central High School and the AACHS.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your class rep, would like to fill a vacant rep position, or would like to contact your class rep, please email **Alumni Relations Coordinator, Jazzmyn Mills, 273**. Thank you!

alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com | (215) 845-3308 | www.centralhighalumni.com

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 181 Jules Silk | 221 Chuck Steinberg | 253 Mike Ambrosius |
| 182 Len Garrett | 222 Mike Radel | 254 Lisbeth C. Lopez-Little |
| 186 Norman Salvat | 223 Neil Kleeman | 255 Broderick Jones |
| 188 Robert Mazer | 224 Saul Langsam | 256 Dan Taraborrelli |
| 189 Saul Carroll | 225 Stanley Sokolove | 257 Angela Reale-Povia |
| 190 Jere Neff | 226 Zachary Rubin | 258 David R. Hildebrand |
| 191 Phil Alterman | 227 Gary Koupf | 259 Jeff Goldberg |
| 192 Irv Matusow | 228 Bob Barthelmeh | 260 Natalie Zitter |
| 193 Stan Fischman | 229 Frank Piliero | 261 Chantay Thompson |
| 194 Jerry Kates | 230 Larry Plotkin | 262 Canh Trinh |
| 195 Ed Benoff | 231 James Mascaro | 263 Justin Simmons |
| 199 Bob Rosenstein | 232 John Younge | 264 Michael Segal |
| 200 Mark Kay | 233 Jeff Thomas | 265 Gina Bryan |
| 201 Jerry Keyser | 234 Kevin Stepanuk | 266 Agin Thomas |
| 202 Robert Becker | 235 Robert Del Femine | 267 Sophia Hines |
| 203 Philip Remstein | 236 Mark Lomax | 268 Chansey Ten |
| 204 Arthur D. Magilner | 237 Dominic Orlando | 269 Alexis Jenkins |
| 205 Ted Rothman | 238 Joe Deal | 270 Nikita Shah |
| 206 Robert J. Stern | 239 Rudy A. Cvetkovic | 271 Ramon Guzman |
| 207 Arthur Hausman | 240 Vacant | 272 Natalie Fox |
| 208 Marshal Greenblatt | 241 Nick Taweel | 273 Cam-Tu Vuong |
| 209 Vacant | 242 David C. Mack | 274 Anh Cao |
| 210 Paul Hirschman | 243 John Loesch | 275 Rucksar Rahman |
| 211 Bill Labkoff | 244 Vacant | 276 Michael Behanan |
| 212 Otto Mills | 245 Jonathan Kine | 277 Chris Carson |
| 213 Jeff A. Weiner | 246 Julie Stevens | 278 Tristan Jennings |
| 214 Steve Green | 247 Tracy Allen | 279 Viktor Shamis-Kagan |
| 215 Gerry Kean | 248 Keeya Branson Davis | 280 Julia Pastor |
| 216 Paul Cherry | 249 Maria Carpenter Yanga | 281 Buky Alliyu |
| 217 Elliot Brodsky | 250 Audra King | |
| 218 Barry Brait | 251 Vacant | |
| 219 Mike Love | 252 Gina Meissler | |
| 220 David Kahn | | |

ALMA MATTERS

Barry Brait (**218**) received an MA degree in Theatre from Villanova University in October 2020.

Michael Schleigh (**253**) has been named the Solicitor for the Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging, the OlderAdult Protective Services Agency for DelWare County. He also retains his robust litigation and estate planning/administration practice he can be reached at mschleigh@hardinlawpc.net.

Somebody did something

Jay Zukerman (**204**) and wife, Rachelle, became great grandparents of a baby girl in February. Mom and baby are doing wonderfully well.

Congratulations to Lauren Horner-Bell (**253**) and Timothy Marren (**256**) on graduating from Holy Family University together with Ed.D in Educational Leadership and Professional Studies!! Lauren and Tim became colleagues at a local charter school and lifelong friends through their dissertation journeys! Lancers Forever!



The Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs (FJMC) proudly announces that Alan Budman (**229**), Past President of AACHS, will be installed as its International President for the 2023-25 term at its Convention in Philadelphia in June. Alan is a retired attorney living in Bucks County. FJMC is the largest Jewish men's organization in the world with over 14,000 members and 220 clubs in 9 countries.



ALMA MATTERS, CONTINUED

Bruce Schwartz **(226)** was appointed by the Governor to the PA State Board of Vocational Rehabilitation. I accepted this volunteer position because change is needed and the funds spent by OVR can do a great deal more to help those eligible for services.

David Brown **(239)** was awarded the Stauffer Award for Distinguished Faculty Service at Temple University. David is a member of the AACHS Board of Managers.

John Moore **(239)** was awarded the Distinguished 400 award from the 400 Years of African-American History Commission. The award is given in recognition to distinguished members in the society who served their community through non-profit, philanthropy, public service and volunteerism while implementing a positive influence benefitting those in an underserved population.

Mariano Mattei **(244)** and his business partner released their second feature-length film "Sacrum Vindictae" which premiered on April 16th, 2023 at the Hiway Theater in Jenkintown Pa. The movie comes after the success of his first film "One Night" which is streaming on Amazon Prime and won 10 international awards including Best International Feature.

Malcom Hoover **(247)** is creating a documentary series called "Crenshaw & Shabazz, Come Ride With Us". He and his team will be riding motorcycles from Oregon to Southern California on the way they plan to engage people with discussions about the state of the world, their cultures and share ways they have organized, resisted, overcome and thrived.

Jessica Bantom **(253)** wrote a book: "Design for Identity: How to Design Authentically for a Diverse World"

Crista Clarke (Wynn) **(259)** and her husband saw a need for a basketball skills program for children in the Roxborough neighborhood of Philadelphia. Therefore, they started a winter league with over 200 children participating. Fellow alums Zack Hill **(259)** and Tyreek Cunningham **(260)** supported as basketball coaches.

Ameer Blackmon **(259)** founded BlacOak Wine Club and BlacOak Tasting Room with friends. BlacOak is devoted to Black-owned wine brands and education. BlacOak Summer Wine Festival is scheduled for August 2023 in Philadelphia.

Christine Kelly Corrigan **(263)** was named Educator of the Year at Blackwood Elementary. This is her tenth year at Blackwood, and fifteenth year as a teacher.

Rich Severin **(263)** was awarded the 2023 Physical Therapist of the Year award by the Illinois Physical Therapy Association.

Kimberly Andrews **(264)** has been named Regional Director by the National Labor Relations Board.

Christopher Ulmer **(266)** created "Special Books Special Kids" which is one of the largest disability platforms in the world with over two billion views across social media. SBSK is a space where disabled and neurodiverse people of all backgrounds share their story.

REUNION UPDATES



To get details regarding your class reunion, contact reunions@centralhighalumni.com or learn more at <https://centralhighalumni.com/reunions>.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS OR
CREATE AN ACCOUNT WITH THE AACHS TO RECEIVE
INFORMATION ON EVENTS, AND MORE!**

189 75th Reunion: On May 24th, the class will celebrate its 75th reunion at Rydal Park. Class Rep, Saul Carroll and ten classmates are thrilled to reunion again for this special event.

190 75th Reunion: What a milestone! Join your class on June 24th, 2023 at the Social Room (191 Presidential Blvd in Bala Cynwyd. Contact Larry Somers at 215-845-3308 or via the alumni office email at alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com. Enjoy your event!

200 70th Reunion: Join your class on June 10th, 2023 at the Hilton Hotel on City Avenue. The event starts at 1pm and guests should email Mark Kay at MLK0001@aol.com for more details.

211 64th Reunion:

Reported by Reunion Chair, Sylvan Gross, their 64th reunion was a great success! There were over 100 photos captured from the special reunion.

One photo in particular captured the moment Chuck Wagner, 211 class president, presented Richard Donald Smith with a plaque to recognize Richard for his service as an educator in Nigerian Universities and Conservatories, along with providing instruments and mentorship to students.

Richard is now a member of the 211 Class Hall of Fame.



212 65th Reunion: Reunion planning is underway and is scheduled for June 2024! Please contact Fred Goldstein for more details.

215 60th Reunion: This celebration will be hosted on June 11th at Murano (2101 Market Street) from 1pm to 4pm. Contact Bill Goldstein through the alumni office for details.

218 60 + 1 Class Reunion: Join alumni and current president Kate Davis at the Marriott Conshohocken Courtyard from 5pm - 11pm for dinner and speakers. Email Barry Brait at BARRY0772@aol.com for additional details.

219 60th Reunion: Join your class on June 4th at the Philmont Country Club from 12pm - 4pm. Please email Mike Love via alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com. See you then!

REUNION UPDATES (CONT'D)

220 60th Reunion: The class kicked off their reunion with a school tour was led by class representative, and AACHS Archivist & Historian, David Kahn.

The following evening, by a joyous celebration was held at the Hilton on City Ave. David shares that his heart is still full and warm from being with his 50 classmates.

The reunion concluded with the school song.



224 55th + 3rd Reunion: Their class celebrated in Philadelphia and in Florida. See next page.

231 50th Reunion: We hope members of this class enjoyed their reunion weekend in early May. Be sure you are included in the next event by emailing jmascaro@dermody.com and vanhook712@aol.com.



232 50th Reunion: Join your class for two days of excitement! Party at Hard Rock Cafe and tour the Barnes Museum. Email centralhighschool232@gmail.com

237 45th Reunion: Celebrate friendships on October 14th, 2023 at Sheet Metal Workers AFL-CIO Local 19 (1301 S. Columbus Blvd. 19147). Details on Facebook or email 247chs@gmail.com

257 25th Reunion: Join the Facebook Group or email Mike "Reems" Remaker for details at Mikereems@aol.com

262 20th Reunion: Join your class on July 29th, 2023 from 8pm - 12am at The Felt Factory (1523 E. Wingohocking St. 19124) for dinner, dancing, and drinks. Visit CHS262.com for tickets!

267 15th Reunion: Most likely occurring in August 2023, email Sophia Hines at 267centralhigh@gmail.com for updates

272 10th Reunion: Please follow on Instagram @272_chs or email Natalie at nfox272@gmail.com

A 224 REUNION



To get details regarding your class reunion, contact reunions@centralhighalumni.com or learn more at <https://centralhighalumni.com/reunions>.



224 South Florida Chapter Luncheon

The date was 2/24. The class was 224. The joy and conviviality were clearly evident at The Waterway Cafe in Palm Beach Gardens where 15 young men of the 224 South Chapter, gathered to shake hands, tell stories and bust chops, like it was 1965. It was as though 58 years had not passed and there were no gray hairs and excess avoirdupois. With exuberance and continued joy the 224 will meet in Florida, New England, The Jersey Shore, Los Angeles, and San Francisco and wherever those days are near forgot. Indeed, thy memories will never die. Very best regards, Alan Tuckerman

Attending were: Alan Tuckerman, Barry Drossner, Bob Cherwony, David Kauffman, Frank Weisz, Fred Bronenberg, George Pomerantz, Joel Kremer, Marc Gordon, Marc Weisberg, Richard Brodman, Richard Rush, Robert Greenstein, Saul Reibstein, & Tod Mammuth.

224WARD - A LEGACY

224 GIFT COMMITTEE



CONTRIBUTORS

Fred Bronenberg, Frank Cipparone, Burt Cohen, Barry Drossner, Benjamin Lipman, Mark Lipshutz, Michael Rieder, Ron Rosen, Alan Sheinberg, Jeff Sprowles, Bruce Zoren (In Memoriam)

When the grave old seniors of the 224 went off into the wide, wide world in June, 1965, few, if any, could envision that they would return to their alma mater fifty years later. As part of our reunion weekend, a reception and tour of Central's familiar hallways and beautifully refurbished Barnwell Library was arranged with assistance from then President Tim McKenna.

Maybe it was the camaraderie and reconnections or the bond we share that led to the 224Ward Fund, our commitment to reinforce Central's tradition of academic excellence. Like the Roman god Janus, we looked to the past and Central's role in our development, but also ahead to doing our part for current and future classes because it was the right thing to do.

As contributions rolled in that would surpass our target of \$224,000, a Class Gift Committee was established to review applications from faculty and students for grants that would supplement the core curriculum and support a range of enrichment activities.

Starting in 2016, renewable STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math) Innovation Grants allowed students to explore coastal ecosystems at the Wetlands Institute in Stone Harbor, NJ as an adjunct to the International Baccalaureate. Others attended the "Outward Bound" program's five-day sessions developing biology and natural science skills.

Central's teachers were supplied with the resources and professional training to enhance their instructional goals. The go ahead was given for AP classes to purchase reusable biology equipment that collects and analyzes data collected in the field. Faculty members gained the training required for STEM instruction that serves 560 students a year in a Bio Builder Workshop at Penn State's Hershey Medical Center. Funds were disbursed for a VizTech dissection table and technologically up to date lab carts.

Special consideration was given to grants that will have long term usage and impact. A high-tech milling machine and lathe were installed in the Robotics Lab, as well as much needed supplies and furniture. Five Smart Whiteboards were put in place and faculty trained in their implementation.

The Arts component of STEAM encompasses a spectrum of experiences that also benefitted from 224Ward. We can all have Crimson and Gold pride in the Debate Team members who participated in a national tournament; those Lancers who represented the colors at the Science Olympics; and our Odyssey Of The Mind state champions who finished fifth out of forty-two international teams in the World Finals in Iowa.

224WARD - A LEGACY

224 GIFT COMMITTEE



From interviews conducted with students it became clear that we needed to support projects that went beyond the scope of classroom instruction. For example, a student-planned and marketed series of speakers and workshops to discuss global issues which they staged at LaSalle University. Another group took part in conferences covering a wide range of issues at a Model UN that simulated NATO forums. On three separate occasions, "Close Up D.C." furnished a chance for Centralites to interact with their scholastic peers for a first-hand look at all three branches of government in action that included congressional hearings and meeting with Representatives and Senators.

Creativity is a hallmark of Central, whether on the stage, in the studio, or at a computer keyboard. Our classmates fondly recall Theater Club productions of "Oedipus Rex" and "RUR" in the auditorium. To encourage the next generations of thespians, it was only fitting to approve a grant for the Costume Design Club's request for material and equipment. Actors need an audience, and seats were filled for a professional performance in Manhattan of "Othello" as well as local theater groups' renditions of "The Tempest" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The "Centralizer," a staple that has outlived some metropolitan dailies, received a boost enabling publication of a sleeker, magazine format edition featuring more in-depth and literary pieces. Reflecting the school's diversity, a renewable grant was given for "Mosaic," a collection of top notch writing and art that is part of the annual International Day festivities at Ogontz and Olney.

As the 2023 academic calendar turns its pages, and in conjunction with current President Katharine Davis, it was decided that the remaining funds available would be used for a major project - the Digital Arts Lab. Our class gift will cover approximately half of the estimated cost of this significant upgrade for Central.

Eight years have passed since 224Ward's inception, from taking an idea and turning it into a promise. The economic realities that confront urban public education effect even an exemplary school like Central, at times limiting its ability to do what it has always done well. When President Theodore Roosevelt spoke at the dedication of Central's third building in 1902, his message was "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." That was the unspoken motivation behind our responding as we did. We could, we had the means, and we were there.



CONFESSIONS OF AN ANGRY ALUMNUS COMING BACK FROM SELF IMPOSED EXILE) BY: GEORGE M. VANHOOK SR.(CHS 231)

In the fall of 1969, I enrolled at Central High School, the celebrated bastion of academic excellence.

I was a young African American male seeking to define and discover his identity and *raison d'être* (i.e. main purpose) in a turbulent and confusing world.

I expected my Central experience to transcend academic development while helping me unlock the doors of self discovery. Instead it seemed that multiple doors of opportunity were being closed in my face.

During my four year Central journey, I met the challenges of the school's rigorous curriculum.

However, I **experienced a strong sense of alienation, estrangement and disillusionment** because the institution did not adequately reflect my emerging values and cultural orientation.

Specifically, I was **frustrated by the absence of courses in the curriculum regarding the African American experience.**

Additionally, I wanted the school to recruit more teachers, administrators, staff and students from the Black community.

Since these critical concerns were never addressed, I did not have the sense of affinity that students normally have for their alma mater.

In fact, I **developed a strong aversion to the school and what it represented.**

When I graduated in 1972, I walked away from the institution with disappointment.

My plan was to never return; but, as the poet Robert Burns observed "the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray".

CONFESSIONS, CONTINUED

Incredibly, after a 50 year hiatus, I volunteered to work with a group of African American classmates (from CHS 231) who are **committed to supporting the growth and development of Central's students of color.**

We were excited to learn that the school had established a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Office (DEI) to support these students.

Through the great leadership under Director, **Michelle Thornton**, we have been able to collaborate with her to help students more effectively. Our group intends to assist DEI with fundraising some projects.

Additionally, we plan to **actively participate in the work of the DEI Committee of the Associated Alumni Association of Central High School.**

Our biggest achievement this year has been donating nearly \$4,000 to DEI to defray the cost of Central's special bus trip to the nation's capitol. This reflects the generous contributions of 25 individuals from the 231st graduating class.

I had the pleasure of serving as a chaperone on April 13th to Howard University and the National African American History & Culture Museum. 100 Central students, staff and chaperones enjoyed **an incredible day of education and cultural exposure.**

I believe that this experience broadened the horizons of every student and participant. After meeting the students and key stakeholders like President Davis, Michelle Thornton, Dr. Scott, and the alumni office, I am confident that **we are heading in the right direction.**

I enthusiastically embrace the prospects of working with other Lancers and staff to **build a better Central.**

My primary goal is to **help Central's current student population** to overcome (or avoid) the barriers that stymied my growth and development.

Now that I'm back in the fold I'm here to stay. Let's make a positive difference!



**CLICK TO MAKE A GIFT
TO THE DEI FUND**

CENTRAL IS RESPONSIBLE

A CAMPUS VISIT ON NOVEMBER 22ND, 1963

DR. STEVE BURNSTEIN, 222

In the early afternoon of November 22, 1963, my **222 classmate, Rick Chalfin and I** left for Collegeville, Pa. where we had scheduled an interview and campus tour at Ursinus College. The weather was warm and sunny, so we lowered the top on Rick's convertible and raised the radio volume.

As **proud seniors from the finest high school** on the planet, we intended to “wow” the admissions committee and then tour the campus. Upon arriving at Ursinus, we saw scores of students throwing frisbees, playing catch and card games (including pinochle) on the administration building lawn.

The scene was very much **south-lawn-Central-like**, but, delightfully also coed. Many students smoked cigarettes while relaxing on the lawn. They had no fear that interlopers such as Mr. Carlisle or Christman were nearby, poised to have them extinguish their smokes and then wait to learn how many detentions they would receive.

The students joked with one another and sang songs accompanied by guitars and harmonicas; they were having a marvelous time on a beautiful Friday afternoon.

As Rick and I prepared to meet the admissions committee, our thoughts were not so much about being interviewed, but rather **spending time on the lawn and chatting with the students afterward.**

I have no recollection of the interview, but **vivid memories of what happened that afternoon remain very clear**, even now, 60 years later.

As we left the administration building and peered out at the lawn, we saw that many students were weeping and embracing one other. The music and games had ceased. I quipped to Rick that “they must have just received their grades.” Instead, we learned that **“President Kennedy had been shot.”**

Travelling back to Philadelphia, the car's top was up and the radio silent, as were Rick and I. **What transpired on November 22, 1963 has become one of my most memorable Central-related experiences.**

Many explanations and theories pertaining to JFK's death have been offered over the years, but most have not allowed us to draw any reliable conclusions. What I have concluded is that **Central is responsible for preparing me for many impactful life experiences**, and for this, I am grateful.



BRIND CENTER FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN DIASPORIC ART

Submitted by Bill Labkoff, 211 - Class Representative

A major gift from Trustee **Ira Brind, 211**, will establish the Brind Center for African and African Diasporic Art at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

This groundbreaking initiative will have a transformative impact on the museum's ability to engage with the communities that we exist to serve—locally, nationally, and internationally. It will help us fulfill key components of our newly published Equity Agenda.

The Brind Center will add important new positions to our curatorial team, including at the senior level, and will contribute to the continuing development of the collection, special exhibitions, and scholarship in the form of public programs and publications.

In addition to furthering a more global and equitable narrative in the museum's collection, a key aspect of the center will be to help train and cultivate a new generation of curators who will lead this dynamic and expanding field into the future.

Source: Philadelphia Museum of Art

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THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



"WE HAVE CONTROL OVER OUR EDUCATION"

This year, students at Central experienced an exciting new course: **English 3/ AP Seminar with Asian American Studies concentration**. In addition to its academic goals, this course prioritizes community and belonging for interested CHS students of all backgrounds.

In the fall of 2021, students approached **CHS history teacher Mr. Ken Hung, the co-sponsor of the student group Asian Pacific Islanders Union**, about establishing an Asian American Studies course at Central. These student leaders **generated the curriculum for the course over a months-long discussion** with Mr. Hung and other teachers.

Students currently enrolled in the course have experienced Asian American history, identity and culture through literature and media. They've studied the history of Philadelphia's Chinatown. They've explored themes important to Asian American Studies, such as belonging, family, joy and community. And—thanks to alumni generosity—they've been able to read books, such as Charles Yu's *Interior Chinatown*, that have been curated specifically for the class.

Koleona Chrek and Safarah Lee (283) believe that class has helped them understand their identities as Asian Americans. Lee says, "Being Black and Filipino, I have a lot of trouble with my identity. But this class has helped me become more involved with my culture and feel more visible."

Tim Li (283) says the books in the course allowed students to "read about issues that are pertinent" to their lives. He added, "I think it's important for our development because it shows that we have control over our education."

In the **AP Seminar curriculum, students use research, writing, and analytical skills to solve real-world problems**. This approach emphasizes collaboration and allows for complex discussions amongst peers and with mentors. AP Seminar is a perfect fit for a class that **encourages students to engage with the local and national Asian American community**. Li says that in the course, "you learn how to communicate with other people and speak more boldly."

Rachel Toliver (256) developed and implemented the course with Mr. Hung. **Ms. Toliver is a former CHS English teacher who currently works as a curriculum writer**. Mr. Hung and Ms. Toliver are working with the School District of Philadelphia to publish their course materials as a model for other schools interested in Asian American Studies.

Students feel that the class has taught them how to understand themselves and others—the most valuable lesson of all.

"You never look deep into yourself," says **Angelo Morales (283)** "until you have a mirror put onto you."

MAKE A GIFT TO PROVIDE NECESSARY HANDS-ON LEARNING AND STUDENT IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES AND TRIPS IN THE COMMUNITY, AND WILL ALSO HELP TO FUND INSTRUCTOR TRAINING AND ONGOING SUPPORT FOR COURSE DEVELOPMENT.



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM SEAT DEDICATION



Purchase or gift a Central High School auditorium seat dedication

A brass plate will be attached to each seat with the donor's inscription (up to 3 lines; 30 characters per line including spaces)

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| CHS SPRING CONCERT » | MAY 23 |
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SPRING EVENTS

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ROBOLANCERS WIN 2023 CHAMPIONSHIP *FIRST* IMPACT AWARD, JOINS HALL OF FAME

The **Central High School RoboLancers** have won the 2023 *FIRST* Impact Award at the **FIRST Championship** in Houston, earning the team a permanent place in the *FIRST* Hall of Fame. The award recognizes the RoboLancers' work to inspire and prepare the next generation of STEM leaders in Philadelphia through their outstanding and sustained efforts to grow access and equity in STEM programs for Philadelphia public school students.

The **Impact Award recognizes the RoboLancers for their work to spread STEM opportunity to Philadelphia public school students**, principally through the nonprofit Philadelphia Robotics Coalition, founded by the RoboLancers in 2016, which is supporting 143 robotics teams for K-12 students across the city this school year. The Coalition provides coach training, team workshops and events, and financial and material support to ensure the teams' success. RoboLancers students drive this effort with thousands of volunteer hours each year, mentoring teams and running events.

The ***FIRST* Impact Award is the most prestigious award** at *FIRST*. It honors the team that best represents a model for other teams to emulate and best embodies the purpose and goals of *FIRST*. It was created to keep the central focus of *FIRST* Robotics Competition on the ultimate goal of transforming our culture to elevate science and technology, and to encourage more of today's youth to become science and technology leaders.

The RoboLancers were selected as the 2023 Championship *FIRST* Impact Award winner from the pool of 84 Regional *FIRST* Impact Award winners. In 2022, there were 3225 *FIRST* Robotics Competition teams, representing 26 countries. This team, based in the School District of Philadelphia, is now one of 34 from around the world who have achieved this honor in a competition dating back to 1992.

"It's hard to explain the magnitude of this accomplishment to folks outside of *FIRST*. **The scale and scope of the RoboLancers' impact has made such a positive difference for thousands of students over the last decade.**

Coach Johnson deserves an enormous amount of credit for empowering his students to build this success. It's an incredible, incredible feat!" said Daniel Miller-Ueda, STEAM Curriculum Specialist at the School District of Philadelphia, and former coach of the RoboLancers.

The **RoboLancers are a 168-student robotics team** with a mission to inspire and prepare the next generation of STEM leaders in Philadelphia. The team pursues this mission within Central High School by teaching students to design, fabricate, and program a new robot each year to play that year's game against robots from other schools.

ROBOLANCERS, CONTINUED

"I started our team's outreach program 12 years ago as a student team member. Since then, our impact has expanded considerably and we are grateful for the recognition that has come as a result of our years of hard work and all of the support we've received to achieve such an honor," said **Meghan Ho, 271**, now a Product Manager at Quartile, who has continued to mentor the team since graduation.

The work of the RoboLancers and the Philadelphia Robotics Coalition is grounded in the practice of identifying barriers that prevent Philadelphia public schools and students from forming and participating in robotics programs, then building bridges to overcome those barriers.

"When students float big ideas, I feel my job as a coach is to say 'yes' and help them make it happen. We don't just talk about it; we do it. That's how we end up hosting so many robotics events and supporting so many teams, founding a nonprofit and winning program delivery contracts with the District and others. We charge forward with these ideas and see how far we can take them." said **Michael Johnson, head coach of the RoboLancers since 2014, and teacher at Central High School**.

As a **Hall of Fame team**, the RoboLancers are prequalified to compete at the **FIRST Championship for the next 10 years, and their work and impact in our city will only grow**. To support their mission as a mentor, sponsor, or event volunteer, email info@robolancers.com.

FIRST is a global STEM education nonprofit based in New Hampshire that organizes robotics programs for students in grades preK-12. The mission of *FIRST* is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders and innovators, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering, and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.



Team president **Maja King, 282**, hoists the *FIRST* Impact Award Trophy at the award ceremony at the Houston Championship.



robolancers
PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL ROBOTICS TEAM



ROBOLANCERS, CONTINUED

The team received the FIRST Impact Award at the Championship in Houston. *FIRST* Founder Dean Kamen is at the left. Students from Garrett Coalition in Maryland (right), last year's Impact Award winning team, presented the trophy.



Daniel Wang, 284, and **John Capone, 271,** serve as referees at a recent *FIRST* LEGO League competition the RoboLancers hosted at Central High School in February. The competing team is from Ad Prima Charter School.



The RoboLancers pose for a team picture outside the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston where they competed in the FIRST Championship, winning the *FIRST* Impact Award.

CURRENT BOARD & MEETING DATES

Note: Board meetings location will be held virtually unless otherwise determined.

Board of Managers Meetings (remaining): May 18th, 2023 at Spain Conference Center

The Annual Reception: June 6th, 2023 - Rivers Waterfront (1001 N. Delaware Ave., Phila., PA 19125

Executive Committee Meetings: (remaining) June 22nd, 2023

ALUMNI BOARD OF MANAGERS

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

Elina Magid, C.P.A., 257

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Gene J. Marks, C.P.A., 241

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Marisa Block, 265

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David R. Kahn, 220

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Stephen Klein, 229

Benjamin G. Lipman, Esq. 224

Kiana Nunn, 259

Kenneth Wong, 232

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Andrea Carter, 259

Ramon A. Guzman, 271

Michael Horwits, 251

Audrey M. Huntington, 266

George D. Mosee, Jr., Esq. 232

Julian D. Perlman, Esq., 256

Term expiring June 30, 2025

Hannah Baker, 274

Solomon David, Esq., 265

Cecil Johnson, 244

Joshua E. Liss, 247

Alicia Oglesby, 258

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Steven Shapiro, D.O., 225

Jordan Yuter, 243

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Lester Wurtele, M.D., 202

Hon. John M. Younge, 232

Hon. Denis P. Cohen, 228

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David R. Kahn, 220

Jeffrey A. Muldawer, Esq., 225

Stephen C. Chappell, Esq., 209

Executive Director

Cynthia Lech, 263



THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL



NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

The Committee on Nominations and Elections, led by chairpersons, **David Kahn, 220, and Marisa Block, 265**, presents the following nominations for positions on the **Alumni Board of Managers**.

The **election will be held at the Annual Reception on June 6**, at 6:00 p.m. at the Rivers Casino, 1001 N. Delaware Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19125.

Nominated for the term expiring June 30, 2024
President: Robert A. Del Femine, 235

Vice-Presidents: (three to be elected):

David W. Birnbaum, Esq., 265
Karima I.A. Bouchenafa, 249
Elina Magid, C.P.A., 257

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

Secretary:
Marisa Block, 265

Master of Archives/Historian:
David R. Kahn, 220

Nominated for the Term expiring June 30, 2026
(eight to be elected to a full Term)
Nevena Bosnic, 266
Rudy A. Cvetkovic, 239
Stephen J. Klein, 229
Stephanie B. Mattei, Psy.D., 249
Kiana Nunn, 259
Stanley Sokolove, 225
Charles E. Washington, Jr., 249
Kenneth Wong, 232

Nominated for Honorary Life Membership
on the Board of Managers
Stephen L. Burnstein, D.O., 222

The following members continue to serve until
their terms expire on June 30, 2024
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

The following members continue to serve until
their terms expire on June 30, 2025

Hannah Baker, 274
Solomon David, Esq., 265
Cecil Johnson, 244
Joshua E. Liss, 247
Alicia Oglesby, 258
Barry W. Rosenberg, Esq., 229
Steven Shapiro, D.O., 225
Jordan Yuter, 243

Honorary Life Members
Stephen I. Kasloff, Esq., 228
Eugene N. Cipriani, Esq., 229
Gerald S. Kates, 194
Allan L. Marmon, Esq., 204
Hon. Gene D. Cohen, 214
Arnold H. Shiffrin, 205
Hon. Charles E. Rainey, Jr., 233
Hon. Arnold L. New, 225
Lester Wurtele, M.D., 202
Hon. John M. Younge, 232
Hon. Denis P. Cohen, 228

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
Jeffrey A. Muldawer, Esq., 225
Neil Deegan, 263

Executive Director
Cynthia Lech, 263





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REMARKS FROM CURRENT CHS PRESIDENT DAVIS (264)

REMARKS FROM AACHS PRESIDENT DEEGAN (263)

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER KEITH LEAPHART (251)

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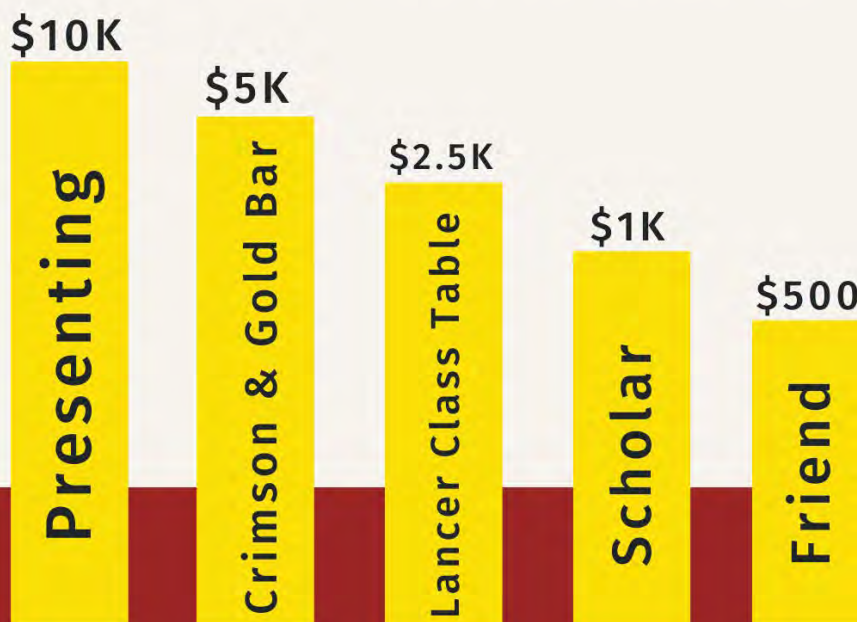
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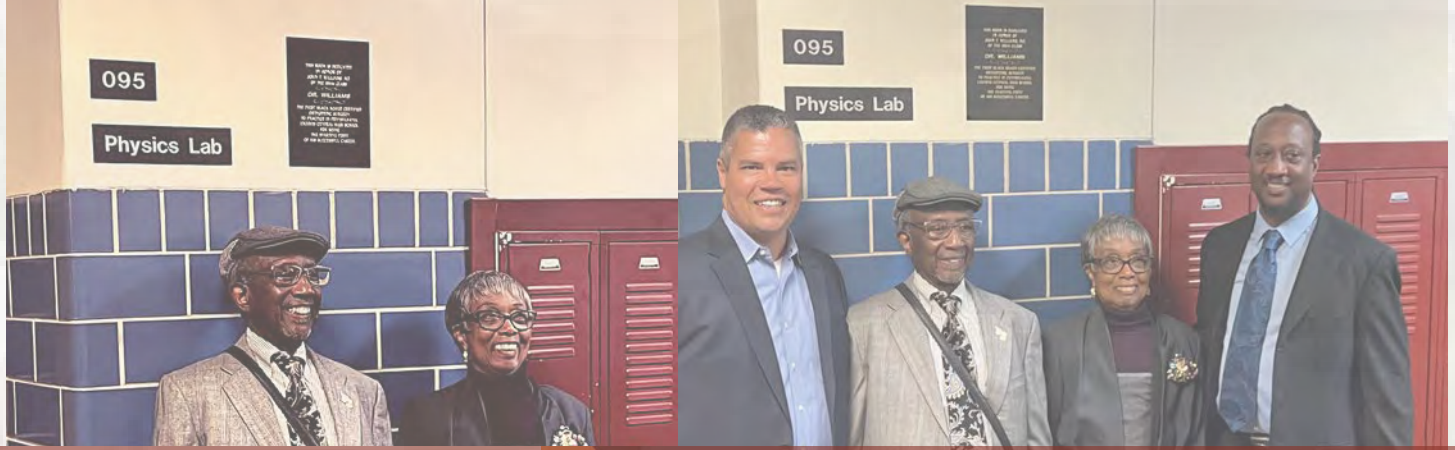


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