

MAY
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2026

AA
SPRING
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JOURNAL
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SET THE STAGE

A FOCUS ON THE
THEATRE

IN THIS ISSUE

CHS President.....	4
AACHS Nominations.....	5
Spring Concert	6
AACHS President	7
The Archives	9
Current Student Spotlight	14
Alumni Spotlights.....	16
Alumni Interview.....	24
Capital Campaign.....	27
Philly Food Feature.....	28
Column B	29
1836 Society	34
Reunions	39
Alma Matters	43
In Memoriam	45
Class Representatives	46
Greenhouse Project	47
Current Board	49



EDITOR'S NOTE

During my time at Central, I participated in community-based theatre with an acting group called The Mermaid Players. My theatre director and I still stay in touch through social media.

Critiques of society can be found in the theatre, as can discussions about relationships, life, and community. I have witnessed firsthand how a life in the arts is transformative, both for performers and for audiences. As my own daughter prepares to enter 9th grade, she, too, has developed a love for theatre and the performing arts just as I did. Our community in Pittsburgh is vibrant with the arts. We saw *'Mamma Mia'* performed by my high school students and *'Wicked'* downtown in the cultural district.

We are committed to supporting the arts and helping Central students pursue their love of theatre whenever possible.

My hope is that, by reading this edition, you reconnect with a timeless human tradition and consider supporting the arts in any way you can.

The show must go on...

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
Merrill Freedman, 208
Neil Deegan, 263

Executive Director

Cynthia Lech, 263

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

Alumnijournal@CentralHighAlumni.com

THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS

THE 2026 ANNUAL RECEPTION 1836 SOCIETY PIN CEREMONY

JUNE 1, 2026
5PM-8PM



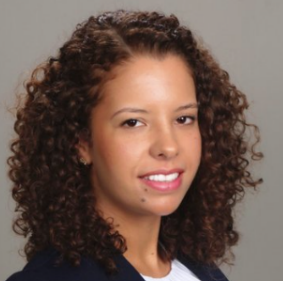
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CELEBRATE **CENTRAL**

RIVERS WATERFRONT
1001 N. DELAWARE AVE., PHILADELPHIA, PA 19125



MESSAGE FROM THE 15TH CHS PRESIDENT KATHARINE DAVIS, 264

Dear Esteemed Alumni,
Spring has brought remarkable energy to our campus, and I'm pleased to update you on the outstanding achievements and developments from recent months. Innovation, dedication, and community spirit continue to flourish through our students, faculty, and staff, defining the essence of our institution.

Testing season is currently underway, with students demonstrating their knowledge through Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Pennsylvania Keystone Exams, and Finals. **Over 2,000 AP and IB examinations** were administered this year, reflecting the extraordinary academic rigor students embrace daily.

Beyond the classroom, students have achieved exceptional success across more than 120 student clubs and competitive teams. At the FIRST World Championship, the **RoboLancers** represented Central with distinction. State championships showcased the competitive excellence of our **Science Olympiad, Chess, and DECA** (Business) teams. Musical excellence shone through, with over 30 students participating in the **Orchestra, Choir, Band, and Jazz Band** All-City Festivals. Phenomenal fall concerts and the musical production of **Little Shop of Horrors** highlighted extraordinary talent. Join us for the **Spring Concert which will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026 beginning at 5pm**. Athletic achievements have been equally impressive this spring season! Winter season Public League Championships belong to our Girls Indoor Track team, and the Boys and Girls swim teams. Such dedication and hard work truly inspire us all.

Next year's academic offerings will include over fifty Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses, reaffirming our commitment to rigorous academics and student success. June 11, 2026, marks the graduation of Central's 285th graduating class. We look forward to returning to Marion Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center.

Preparation for the upcoming academic year is progressing well. A full 9th-grade class (**289**) representing over 100 middle schools across Philadelphia will arrive next year. Approximately twenty-five incoming 10th-grade students will also join the **288th** Class as transfer students. Building community, fostering mentorship, and developing the next generation of Lancer leaders continues through the Bridge Leadership Program, which supports our incoming 9th graders.

Accessible, transformative education for all students remains our unwavering commitment. Alumni and friends' incredible generosity this school year has enabled continued growth in our scholarship endowment. Future leaders, innovators, and community builders benefit from these vital investments.

The profound difference your continued support makes through the Leading the Way campaign and the President's Circle cannot be overstated. Expanding Central's footprint and building the world-class facilities needed to provide a top-quality education worthy of students attending Central High represents the capital campaign's vital ongoing work.

Immense optimism fills us as we consider the momentum generated this year. Rather than mere milestones, these achievements serve as stepping stones toward an even brighter future for our beloved institution. Alumni support, dedication, and generosity have been instrumental in our continued success, and we are deeply grateful.

Warm regards,
Katharine S. Davis, 264

AACHS NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS SLATE

President—One Year Term expiring June 30, 2026

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Vice Presidents—One Year Term expiring June 30, 2026

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Karima I.A. Bouchenafa, 249

Cecil W. Johnson, III, Ph.D., 244

Stephanie B. Mattei, Psy.D., 249

Treasurer—One Year Term expiring June 30, 2027

Gene Marks, CPA, 241

Secretary—One Year Term expiring June 30, 2027

Audrey H. Pomerantz, 266

Historian—One Year Term expiring June 30, 2027

David R. Kahn, 220

Archivist—One Year Term expiring June 30, 2027

Jeffrey Thomas, 233

Three year Term Expiring June 30, 2027

Sheldon Bass, Esq., 233

Sherrell W. Ganges, MBA, 254

Ramon A. Guzman, 271

Michael Horwits, 251

George D. Mosee, Jr., Esq., 232

Julian D. Perlman, Esq., 256

Alim M. Young, Sr., 274

Three year Term Expiring June 30, 2028

Hannah Baker, 274

Joshua E. Liss, 247

Alicia Oglesby, 258

Steven A. Shapiro, D.O., 225

Jordan Yuter, 243

Three year Term Expiring June 30, 2029

Rudy A. Cvetkovic, 239

Stephen J. Klein, 229

Elina Magid, CPA, 257

Kiana Nunn, 259

Stanley Sokolove, 225

Charles E. Washington, Jr., 249

Kenneth Wong, 232

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Hon. Gene D. Cohen, 214

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Hon. Denis Cohen, 228

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Past Presidents

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Neil Deegan, 263

Committee on Nominations and Elections Nominations and By-law Change 2026-2027

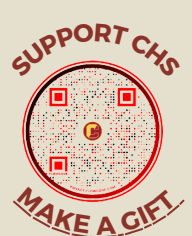
Change to AACHS By-laws, Article VII, Section 1(a), second sentence shall increase the number of members elected from one class from 3 to 4.

**Submitted to the Secretary of the AACHS
April 14, 2026**

**(NOTE: One position for the Term ending 2027:
Three positions vacant the Term ending 2028)**

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

**The election will be held at the
Annual Reception on June 1, 2026.**





ONE EVENING ONLY! SPRING CONCERT

CHOIR + JAZZ BAND
CONCERT BAND + ORCHESTRA

PRESENTED BY THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
MUSIC DEPARTMENT



MAY 21, 2026 • 5PM

Central High School, Auditorium
Pay As You Wish Admission
Support the Leading the Way Campaign



MESSAGE FROM THE AACHS PRESIDENT

ROBERT "DEL" DEL FEMINE, 235

Central Alumni Family,

As we all know and have lived, since 1836 Central has had a legacy of educating many of Philadelphia's "best and brightest". Our alumni are a successful, prestigious, and diverse family across every walk of life - all around the world.

Much of that success is because Central SET THE STAGE for all of us. It laid the academic, mental, physical, and social groundwork which paved our way into our adult lives.

Today most of those "best and brightest" face daily challenges such as - food insecurity, family instability, and difficulty traveling to school. Nearly 80% of Central students are economically-disadvantaged. Students travel an average of an hour to the overcrowded hallways and classrooms that none-the-less come alive with insatiable curiosity, teamwork and performance! The school, teachers, administration, and AACHS continue to strive to SET THE STAGE for our future leaders.

Our LEAD the WAY campaign will create a state-of-the-art facility in the underserved area of North Philadelphia for Central, other schools, and the community; it will reduce the overcrowding at the school and add 200 or more qualified students while also providing increased academic and STEM capacity along with an incredible Performing Arts Center. The Philadelphia School District included our unique private-public partnership in its proposed Facilities Master Plan. We are making progress as our alumni have raised over 60% of the goal thus far!

My wife Jennifer and I have recently included Central in our family trust. Volunteering on the AACHS board for 18+ years, interacting with the students and teachers, and seeing the accomplishments across our 30,000+ alumni made this decision an easy one for us. Stay tuned for details on our new LEGACY GIVING program that will make the process easier and satisfying for all.

However you choose to volunteer, stay connected through events/reunions, or give financially as you are able... know that it matters for the school we love and the students it serves as we SET THE STAGE together!

DEL, 235

(Robert A. Del Femine)

38th President, The Associated Alumni of Central High School

STAGE CREW BEHIND THE CURTAIN

FEATURE BY IVYANNA, 287

My experience in stage crew has been a whirlwind of experiences that has ultimately shaped my love for stage crew today. When I first came to central I wanted to get involved in some way. Nothing interested me and for the first 2 weeks I went to every interest meeting possible. When I heard about stage crews, despite having no prior experience I went and ended up staying till about 5 o'clock. The Stage Crew captains gave us a tour, introduced their roles, and afterwards talked about their past experiences for the rest of the time and although not knowing anyone, **It was very welcoming** and was the first club that made me want to come back. From that day forward, I was taught the basics of stage crew and though I didn't get to program any shows my freshman year, I was able to learn useful information. Freshman year sealed the deal for me and by Sophomore year I was ready to come back. There have been late nights where we stay after school until 6:30 PM but it has provided opportunities to have hands on experience and even programming my own acts. I also have amazing lighting leads like **Jayla (285)** and **Anijah (285)** as well as **Hayley (285)** who has helped me learn so many complex things about lighting that I would've never thought about before. In conclusion, stage crew has been wonderful and although i'm sad about the year ending and the lighting leads are leaving, i'm excited to see where stage crew will go from here.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

JEFF THOMAS (233) – ASSOCIATE ARCHIVIST



This is the first of two articles discussing the wonderful and accomplished Central Orchestra. In this article, I will discuss just a few of the Orchestra's finest performances, while also highlighting some of the great musicians who filled the halls of Dear Old High, and other concert venues, with great music.

The Central Orchestra has a proud history of great personal and group accomplishments. It is an extraordinary ensemble, as it blends music, teamwork, and personal growth in a way that few other activities do. Every section, and every player matters. A violin melody, a cello harmony, a trombone blast, a percussion entrance — they all combine into something larger than any one person could create alone.

Students can be proud as they literally hear themselves improve over months or years. Pieces that once sounded impossible gradually become playable and expressive. Being in the Central Orchestra results in lifelong friendships, as freshmen and seniors, introverts and extroverts, athletes and artists can all sit side by side, working toward the same musical goal.

Finally, performing together at concerts, competitions, or graduation creates memories tied to strong emotions: nervousness, excitement, pride, relief. **The Central Orchestra has provided these marvelous benefits to countless Orchestra members, and will continue to do so in the future.**

The Central Orchestra has never been afraid to take on highly technical and advanced music. Its performed repertoire includes Arthur Honegger's "King David", Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana, Wagner's "Prelude from Die Meistersinger, and Greig's "Piano Concerto in A Minor." Works performed over the years also included Dimitri Shostakovich's "Festival Overture", Benedetto Marcello's "Oboe Concerto", Camille Saint-Saens "Cello Concerto", and Francois Poulenc's "Gloria". All of these works are typically performed by professional orchestras. The Central Orchestra, though intense preparation and superb teamwork, performed them at a much higher level than a typical high school orchestra.

Of course, the music would not shine without the very accomplished musicians and directors of the Central Orchestra. **Following is an overview of just a handful of the world-famous musicians who were members of the Central Orchestra.**

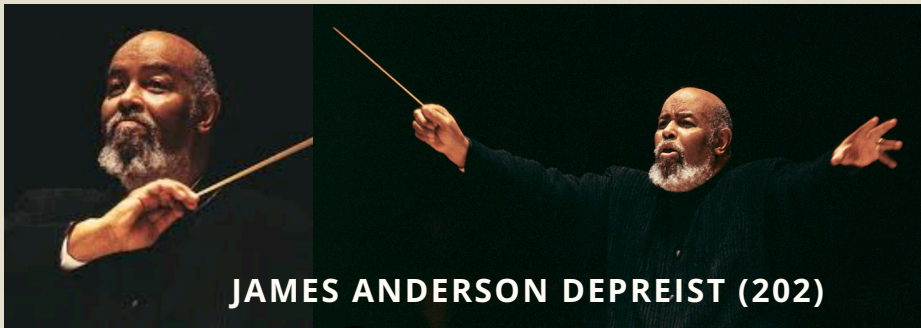
We applaud all of the current and former members of the Central Orchestra!

FROM THE ARCHIVES

JEFF THOMAS (233) – ASSOCIATE ARCHIVIST

James Anderson DePreist (202) was one of the first African-American conductors on the world stage. He was the director emeritus of conducting and orchestral studies at The Juilliard School and laureate music director of the Oregon Symphony at the time of his death in 2013. James DePreist was born in Philadelphia. **He was the nephew of contralto Marian Anderson.** After graduating from Central, James 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. On the side, he played percussion in a jazz quintet that performed on "The Tonight Show" with Steve Allen in 1956, and did enough composing to win a commission from the Philadelphia Dance Academy. **That commission gave him his first chance to conduct.**

In 1962, the State Department sponsored a cultural exchange tour and engaged James as an American specialist in music. He was then chosen by Leonard Bernstein to become assistant conductor of the New York Philharmonic during the 1965–66 season. He made his **highly acclaimed European debut with the Rotterdam Philharmonic** in 1969, then made appearances with other European orchestras in Amsterdam, Belgium, Berlin, Munich, Stockholm and Stuttgart. In 1971, Antal Doráti named him associate conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C. In 1976, DePreist was appointed music director of the Orchestre Symphonique de Québec, a position he held until 1983. Until his death, he held many other Music Director titles, **appeared with every major North American Orchestra**, and recorded with many of them.



JAMES ANDERSON DEPREIST (202)



HANKUS NETSKY (231)

Hankus Netzky (231) is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, and ethnomusicologist. He chairs the Contemporary Improvisation Department at the New England Conservatory. He is founder and director of the **Klezmer Conservatory Band**, an internationally renowned Yiddish music ensemble, and serves as research director of the Klezmer Conservatory Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and perpetuation of traditional Eastern European Jewish music. He plays the piano, accordion, and saxophone. **He played the oboe in the Central Orchestra.** Following his graduation from Central, Hankus earned bachelor's and master's degrees in composition from New England Conservatory and a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University. He has taught Yiddish Music at Hebrew College, the New England Conservatory, and Wesleyan University, and has lectured extensively on the subject in the US, Canada, and Europe. He is currently an instructor in jazz and contemporary improvisation at the New England Conservatory in Boston. In December of 2002, he conducted the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in a special holiday program also featuring the Klezmer Conservatory Band. He has produced numerous recordings, including ten by the Klezmer Conservatory Band.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

JEFF THOMAS (233) - ASSOCIATE ARCHIVIST

Robin Eubanks (231) is the premier jazz trombonist of his generation. Whether performing with his groups, Mental Images or EB3 or with The SF Jazz Collective, Dave Holland Quintet / Big Band, Robin is an artist whose impact on audiences has proven powerful and lasting. Robin's musical education began at the age of eight and continued through Central and college, when he graduated cum laude from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. As a student, he studied not only trombone, but also Music Theory, Harmony, Composition and Arranging.

Robin taught at The Oberlin College Conservatory for 20 years. He was a tenured Professor of Jazz Trombone and Jazz Composition. He also taught at Berklee College of Music and at New England Conservatory. **In 2014, Robin won the Jazz Times Critics Poll for Best Trombonist and is a multiple winner of Downbeat's Readers and Critics Polls for Trombonist of the Year.**



Peter Lloyd (233) is a graduate of Central, the Curtis Institute of Music and the Settlement Music School, having studied with Roger Scott and Eligio Rossi. **Upon graduation from Curtis, he immediately joined the Philadelphia Orchestra**, remaining there for more than eight seasons before accepting the position of principal bass of the Minnesota Orchestra, which he held from 1986 to 2007.

Peter has dedicated much of his career to the chamber music repertoire. Peter is a regular visitor to many of the leading music schools in the United States, giving master classes, lectures and recitals at the Curtis Institute, The Juilliard School, Tanglewood Music Festival, Manhattan School of Music, Mannes School, Indiana University, Peabody Conservatory, Chautauqua Institute, Youth Orchestra of the Americas and many others.

Peter has served on the faculties of Northwestern and Indiana University and is presently a member of the faculty at The Colburn School in Los Angeles.

We applaud all of the current and former members of the Central Orchestra!

This is the first of two articles discussing the wonderful and accomplished Central Orchestra. In this article, I will discuss just a few of the Orchestra's finest performances, while also highlighting some of the great musicians who filled the halls of Dear Old High, and other concert venues, with great music.



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Nicole Bolt Anderson, 251
Nevena Bosnic, 266
Sarah P. Cadbury, 249
C. Andrew Cliver, 255
Katherine S. Davis, 264
Neil Deegan, 263
Robert A. Del Femine, 235
David Geibel, 249
Sherrell W. Ganges, 254
Mitchell Glass, 228
Ramon A. Guzman, Jr., 271
Jay Horrow, 228
Michael S. Horwits, 251
Stephen J. Klein, 229
Cynthia S. Lech, 263
Aimee McCullough, 248
Allan Marmon, 204
Kenneth Miraski, 263
Karen Moon, 249
Frank M. Nasir, Jr., 262
Robert Orsher, 228
Richard E. Prinz, 212
Stanley J. Sokolove, 225
John Terembula, 249
Jeff Thomas, 233
Stephen Werblun, 229

To learn more about the Capital Campaign and how you can contribute to this transformative endeavor, please **visit our website:** CHS.LeaningTheWay.CapitalCampaign.

Turn Your Required Minimum Distribution Into Opportunity for Central Students For the capital campaign: Mitchell Glass, MD., 228

You may be aware that Central High School is undergoing a visionary, **critically needed, campus expansion and renovation project**. The building is nearly one hundred years old, with facilities both aging and overcrowded.

As we approach the school's bicentennial in 2036, **the time is NOW** to upgrade and enlarge Central's infrastructure so that 2,400 students can have an educational experience worthy of their talents and passions and provide faculty with the facilities that are imperative for the 21st century.

During my 55th reunion of the 228th class, I became aware of Central's needs, which led to my \$5,000 gift to help refurbish and rename the gym floor. While touring the school – my first time there in nearly 50 years – I realized Central's needs are not only obvious, but overwhelming. Meeting current students and seeing their achievements were inspiring. Every Central experience is unique and to be captured and celebrated.

With over \$37 million committed – nearly two-thirds of the goal of \$58 million for construction of a new wing – we are well on track to transforming the future of Central High School.

This is an all-hands on deck moment. A number of our alumni have achieved substantial wealth, and their contributions are significant. All of our contributions are equally important.





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Neil Deegan, 263

Robert A. Del Femine, 235

David Geibel, 249

Sherrell W. Ganges, 254

Mitchell Glass, 228

Ramon A. Guzman, Jr., 271

Jay Horrow, 228

Michael S. Horwits, 251

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Cynthia S. Lech, 263

Aimee McCullough, 248

Allan Marmon, 204

Kenneth Miraski, 263

Karen Moon, 249

Frank M. Nasir, Jr., 262

Robert Orsher, 228

Richard E. Prinz, 212

Stanley J. Sokolove, 225

John Terembula, 249

Jeff Thomas, 233

Stephen Werblun, 229

To learn more about the Capital Campaign and how you can contribute to this transformative endeavor, please **visit our website:** [CHS Leading the Way Capital Campaign](#).

As an urban, public school, **we cannot rely on public funding to complete the project.** We need Central High School alumni and friends to take us over the finish line. We need your help to prepare the next generation of students for success.

What can you do? Many of us have the (un)enviable status of being required to take an annual distribution from our retirement accounts (RMDs). **Upon reaching age 73, I have contributed \$5,000 annually from my RMD to the Capital Campaign even though I did not have a prior history of annual giving.**

DONATE WHATEVER YOU CAN. This can be a five-year pledge – if you can contribute \$1,000 for five years, we need you! After all, **there are thousands of us, proud Central graduates,** who have fond memories of the time we spent at Dear High.

If you can contribute more than \$25,000 overall, please reach out to **discuss a significant gift and a possible naming opportunity.**

AACHS has a website about the **LEADING THE WAY Campaign** with information and powerful arguments for why your support of Dear High is needed now more than ever.

If you've already made or pledged a non-RMD Campaign contribution, THANK YOU! Consider adding an RMD contribution.

Every dollar helps!

We welcome the opportunity to tell you why we are actively involved and making ongoing contributions, of both money and outreach.

Visit AACHS website: [CHS Leading the Way Capital Campaign](#)





Little Shop of Horrors Feature by Flare Cadbury, 285

What is one of your fondest memories of being in the musical?

In my junior year I played Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*. There is a big musical number right before intermission called *Anything Goes* and it is a very long number filled with tap dancing, stage interaction and belted vocals. At the end of the song my character Reno belts a high E (that's very high) and I had really struggled with that note because it was out of my range. Leading up to the performances, I had taken the opt down.

The final night of the performance I was on stage sweating and singing my heart out. The bright lights glared into my face, an auditorium filled with people I thought to myself, "if there's any time to do this it's right now" and I hit the note. It was such a glorious moment after so many months of practice and hard work. It was exhilarating.

What made you want to be in the musical?

I've always loved theater and I've been doing it since I was in preschool. There is nothing like that call to the stage. I've been dancing, singing, and acting my whole life and so when I found out that the school was putting on a musical I just knew I had to throw my hat into the ring and I am so glad I did.

What is one piece of advice you would give current Central students who plan to pursue theatre?

Don't be afraid. Everyone who works on the show is so incredibly kind and they truly want to succeed together!

UPCOMING 20 EVENTS 26



MAY 21

THURSDAY

ONE DAY ONLY!

SPRING CONCERTS

Central Auditorium | 5:00 PM *NEW TIME*
Pay As You Wish (Suggested \$20/person)

JUN 1

MONDAY

REGISTRATION

OPEN

ANNUAL RECEPTION

1836 SOCIETY CEREMONY

Rivers Waterfront | Complimentary Parking
5:00 PM | 1836 SOCIETY MEMBERS ONLY
5:30 PM | GENERAL ADMISSION CHECK-IN

JUN 18

THURSDAY

REGISTRATION

OPEN

CHS GOLF OUTING TROY HUGHES (246) MEMORIAL EVENT

Ramblewood Country Club | 7:00 AM

AUG 20

THURSDAY

CENTRAL SIPS

TBD

NOV 23

MONDAY

CAREER DAY

Central High School

NOV 26

THURSDAY

TURKEY BOWL

Northeast Supersite

DEC 1

TUESDAY

GIVINGTUESDAY

Worldwide



Jessica Lia Berry, 264

What is one of your fondest memories of being a Central student?

One of my fondest memories was winning the city volleyball championship. It wasn't just about the win, it was everything that led up to it, the practices, long days balancing school and sports, and the team falling into sync with each other. That experience taught me discipline, resilience, and the power of working with a team that is aligned. I learned that you are only as strong as your team. And the cherry on top was winning the championship!

What is one piece of advice you would give current Central students who plan to pursue goals you have already achieved?

Stay open and flexible. Life doesn't always turn out the way you expect, but if you stay open while continuing to work hard, you'll often be redirected to something better. There is always a rainbow after the storm.

Alumni Spotlight continued

How did Central impact your future?

Central created discipline and drive within me. The school kept me well-rounded through both academics and sports. It was also the first place that taught me to be open to new things. **Mrs. Johnson Smith's multicultural studies** was an English-adjacent course where I started to fall in love with books, film, and voices that weren't traditionally heard.



“From watching *The Joy Luck Club*, *Dances with Wolves* to reading ‘*The House on Mango Street*’ and Zora Neale Hurston’s ‘*Their Eyes Were Watching God*’, we explored perspectives that weren’t often represented in mainstream media, which expanded my worldview. Central pushed me to try new things and stay open. I learned how to balance a busy schedule while exploring different interests, which has carried into my life today.”

CHS SPRING CONCERTS



MAY 21, 2026 | AUDITORIUM



THE ELAINE WOLFSON AND DR. ARTHUR MAGILNER (204) MUSIC LAB



Central High School is thrilled to announce a transformative gift from a generous benefactor, **Dr. Arthur Magilner (204)** that will officially harmonize traditional music education with 21st-century innovation and directly supports Central High School's Capital Campaign expansion project. The Leading the Way capital campaign is a vital initiative dedicated to modernizing campus facilities and enhancing educational resources for future generations.

Thanks to this incredible support, **The Elaine Wolfson and Dr. Arthur Magilner (204) Music Lab** will completely revolutionize the creative landscape for nearly 200 students each year. By providing cutting-edge, upgraded instruments alongside industry-standard tools for digital composition, recording, and audio production, the new space bridges the gap between classic performance and modern technology.

By integrating advanced technology into the daily curriculum, the lab will expand access to creative learning for students who might not otherwise have exposure to commercial audio tools. It goes beyond standard music classes, actively preparing Central students for thriving careers in the rapidly growing fields of music production, sound engineering, and digital media.

At its heart, this project is about ensuring that a student's creative potential is never limited by their resources. **Dr. Magilner** understood this deeply from the moment he inquired about how best to support the Capital Campaign. In creating this state-of-the-art lab, he has found **a profound way to invest in Central's future while beautifully honoring his wife's memory and their shared love for music and the arts.**

Central High School and the AACHS extend its deepest gratitude to Dr. Arthur Magilner (204) for his vision, his loyalty as an alumnus, and for the investments he continues to make in Dear High.

Here's to the incredible Central High School educators and staff, past and present, who have shaped countless futures. #LancerLove



THE ASSOCIATED ALUMNI OF
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES

Teacher Appreciation Week Central High School

MAY 4-8, 2026

Thank You





HOWARD LIPSON, 226

S I cherish my years at Central, but I can't credit it with the start of my journey in the Theater. That began when I was 12. I even got the good fortune to perform at Playhouse in the Park in a play with Hal Linden, and other stars.

P I persisted in my pursuit through four years at Temple, forming a production company called The New Group Theater that performed on campus and at numerous venues throughout Philly including Grendel's Lair on South Street, opening for Odetta, Phil Ochs, and Mimi Farina.

O Moving to New York, I started another company: The Griffin Theatre, producing and teaching. One project included a 10-year-old Anthony Michael Hall, another was Norman Mailer's only play, which he saw and called me in the morning to schmooze about it.

T I met my wife Trish at a legendary West Village theater where we performed, and I directed and taught. We're now married 50 years with 2 sons, one who lives in Elmsford, NY near us in Tarrytown, with two daughters (4 & 7). Our other son lives in Drexel Hill. Over decades I continued to write, direct and produce 150+ plays, mostly short. My plays have been performed in NYC, regionally, across the USA and abroad.

R I'm forever grateful for my years at Central, for the friends and foundation that inspired my creative endeavors.

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A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE BARRY BRAIT, 218 CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

"It is the Arts that teach Humanity to us all. It is Theatre that teaches community. **It is a cooperative venture where interaction is the significant point.** It is Theatre that works on so many levels and can be from birth to death performed and participated in from actual performance to observance."

Returning to a **Central 75th anniversary at Olney/Ogontz Avenues**, to discover **Monsieur Boni**, my former French teacher (1961-62), then teaching philosophy, sadly deceased, was the Drama Society Faculty Sponsor, I asked if he wanted "assistance" with that year's production Arthur Miller's "The Crucible." (05/92)

He responded with a "yes" and thus started our wonderful partnership for the next years. I'd come for afternoon rehearsals from 3:00 to 5:00 for two months or so and then there were performances. We did "God's Favorite" by Simon, "The Night of January 16th by Rand, When Monsieur Boni retired, imagine my joy with finding **Alan Bronstein, a fellow 218er and former CHS faculty, had become the new Drama Society sponsor.** We did "The Man Who Came to Dinner" by Kauffman & Hart, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown", by Schulz, and "Lend Me a Tenor" by K Ludwig, "Play On, by Abbott," and "Lend Me a Tenor" again.

What was wonderful for me was my contact with Central students. All, The Drama Society folk, were dedicated to performance and getting a production smart, thematically correct and dramatically spot-on. They were a true pleasure to direct and be with and my hope was to give them a professional 'experience.'

I treasure my afternoons sharing my experience with them and giving back to Central over those years.

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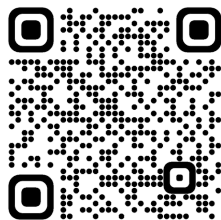
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THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I'm excited to share the creation of the **President's Circle**—a community of like-minded graduates and individuals who believe that our personal and shared experiences at Central High School come with a responsibility: **to ensure future CHS students have access to all educational opportunities available today, as we did as Central students.**

It's our time; it's our turn to give back.

Central's ***Leading the Way Campus Expansion Campaign*** will allow us to expand Central's footprint and build the world class facilities needed to provide a top-quality education worthy of students attending Central High.

Planned additions and renovations include a multi-purpose *state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center*, an expanded and revamped *STEM and Robotics Center*, a new *Digital Media and Technology Center* and *student commons*, *additional classrooms and studio spaces to support academic and performance-based learnings.*

As a **Mirror/Lancer** since 1959, and an active member of the AACHS, I have long supported Central's mission and believe wholeheartedly in the principle "*pay it forward*," as I was taught by our teachers, alumni and Presidents of Central.

I believe in Central's future as strongly as I value its past. It is why I have chosen to **invest \$500,000—and I hope others will join me in leading the way.**

The **President's Circle** recognizes alumni and friends of Central High School who make a commitment of \$500,000 or more to this campaign. While every gift matters, I urge you to participate in a meaningful way and be a part of our alma mater's future.

For more information about the President's Circle and its benefits, write to:
Cynthia Lech, 263, Executive Director: cynthia@centralhighalumni.com.

Go Lancers!



David R. Kahn, 220th Class



Crimson and Gold Forever!

AN INTERVIEW: SKYLIGHT CO-FOUNDER MICHAEL SEGAL (264) BY GENE MARKS, 241

Michael Segal (264) is the co-founder of Skylight, a 130-person fast-growing consumer technology company that makes smart home products that millions of families use every day. Michael was the **valedictorian and class president of the 264th class** and then went on to Harvard before building his career in venture capital and entrepreneurship. In this conversation, he reflects on his journey – from Northeast Philadelphia to leading a major company – and shares advice for today’s Central students.

Q: Tell me about your background.

Michael: I was born in Moscow, Russia – I was part of the late eighties Jewish Soviet emigration wave before the Soviet Union fell. My parents left everything and did the five-month journey, which was very harrowing. We ultimately settled in Northeast Philly. My sister went to Central before I did (she was **256**). I got very good at math in middle school and I arrived at Central as this math kid, and transformed over those four years through friends, the community, the classes, the whole thing. I really blossomed. I was super overachieving. I took 15 APs.

Q: What was your secret to success at Central? You leaned in 100 percent. Was that part of your personality?

Michael: It was part of my egoic identity, right? That I could be exceptional; that I had the chance to be exceptional. So, I worked at it. I was diligent. If I was talking to a high-schooler, I’d say find that internal motivation, find that love of learning, follow your interests. If I had a time machine, I wouldn’t do it differently because Central showed me what I was capable of achieving. I would tell any kid, any adult, the most important thing is being your stretch zone. You will never know how far you can go or how excellent you could be, unless you're stretching yourself.

Q: Did you feel that Central was easier to be an academic than if you had gone somewhere else?

Michael: It was the only school where I felt like I could be the nerdy kid who excels. I could be the teacher’s pet, and people would still actually like me. **Central was a lifeline.** It was a shining beacon for kids who are not well off; there's a place where they can be allowed to do well and be around other kids who want to do well. I would say that Central has shaped my close friendships as much or more than anything else in my life.

Q: You have to be self-confident to start businesses, fail at them and start again.

Michael: I think the root of it is finding your voice. I know some adults, including some fabulous leaders, who are still not great speakers. I think at Central I developed that ability to go deep and feel like, I'm moved by these thoughts, by these feelings, by these things I'm writing, and then trust that others would be moved by it. I have something worthwhile to offer. That came straight from Central.

Q: Talk to me about failure.

Michael: A few years out of school I started a business and things didn't work out. There were things I had to learn just by falling on my face. It was painful. There were some people who offered to mentor me, and I rejected it. I thought it was expensive from an equity perspective, I had to make the mistakes myself, and boy, did I make them.

Q: Is it fair to say your self-confidence bled into over confidence?

Michael: It did then. I went into a real funk. But failure was the biggest gift I could've gotten. Then **in 2014, I started Skylight as a side project.** It began as a digital picture frame business. I saw it was working and it was meaningful to me. I funded it by going back to Bessemer. So, the business eventually took off and I found a **co-founder Jake Kring (265)**, a former classmate at Central! From age 28 to 32 I was learning how to be a leader – still learning to this day.

Q: What advice would you give to kids who are graduating from Central and a couple of years into the workforce?

Michael: You have one life. The only person who's going to make you successful is you. You're the master of your fate. Find your passion. I work with a lot of young people who are interested in entrepreneurship. I tried to start businesses when I was 22, 23 but here's the problem – a successful business sees a problem that other human beings have and solves in a way that people are willing to pay for. Simple, right? Except how are you going to do that? You can't understand those problems until you've had some life experience. The best ideas come from actually seeing how people live and what they struggle with. My advice is: go out into the world. Work, learn, observe. Then build something.

[Skylight Website](#)



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[**1836 Society Website**](#)

Click to watch the Capital Campaign Video



Set The Stage for Philly Food



Emilio Mignucci's (244) name is synonymous with cheese in Philly and he was recently featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer. The third-generation Di Bruno Bros. owner-turned-vice president of the brand, now owned by Wakefern, lives in Center City but his heart is still in the Italian Market. The legendary importer and cheese connoisseur is also a sometime cheese tour guide, taking cheese-obsessed guests on culinary adventures in Europe with Cheese Journeys. But he's just as passionate a guide in his hometown. Check out the article for his favorite places to grab a bite on a perfect Friday in Philly.

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COLUMN B

BRUCE YASGUR, 216

BRUCE BOGUSLAV, 234

This edition of the column is dedicated in memory to Mrs. Janice Yasgur, Bruce's loving wife who was a co-editor for all of the Column B publications.

Y'all remember Boone? Yup: **Daniel Boone Remedial Disciplinary School for Boys**, at Hancock & Willey Sts. next to Schmidt Brewery, in what was then about the ugliest neighborhood in Philly. The clientele, grades 5-12, had all been disinclined from their schools and given yet another chance to cultivate their antisocial behavior in an institution that specialized in perfecting such tendencies, even skills: halfway between public school and juvy or, for the truly talented, prison and beyond. Well, that's a whole story for another time. Suffice it to say that Boone boys competed with one another to prove how ornery, and even dangerous, they could be. There were mornings when a boy would brag about "messing up" or "blowing away" an "enemy" - maybe from a different block - the day before and would soon be escorted from school in handcuffs and given a ride in the back of a police car, not to be seen again. And don't think that those who were left behind let us off without a test. Fortunately, I passed mine with a solid forearm to this tough guy's chin. After that we all agreed to settle down and let me run my class. Talk about setting a stage! That scene wasn't totally foreign to me. Despite being raised in a very middle-class environment, I was constantly getting into fights at school and in the neighborhood, and being bailed out by my mother and, ultimately, my counselor, the saintly Florence Widmeyer (hope I got the spelling right!), who convinced me, then submitted an application for me, to **go to Central in 9th grade** rather than spend another horrible year in junior high or even risk being sent to Boone! **She set the stage for me to transform from a snot-nosed rowdy kid with a brain that worked part-time to a serious student, athlete and leader whose brain began to work full-time.** To think I might have become a Trojan or worse!

One thing led to another as both **a student and a teacher and I wound up teaching at Central.** Happiest years of my life. The **stage was set when Howard Carlisle**, in his crisp striped suit, addressed us all in the **Barnwell Library** and made it clear that we were to maintain both a rigorous intellectual challenge and a keen sense of humor. **Howard set a broad stage.** Among his many skills, Howard had a knack for defusing explosive situations.

These stories, from both my student and teaching years at Central, were endless, but maybe one more. Each of my seniors had to prepare and present a research project on either government or economics. These were the days before AI and even Google, although copying someone else's work was not unheard of. Anyway, one student actually researched Karl Marx and Communism. It was all going well until he fumbled the ball on the concept of dialectical materialism and asked if I could help him out. So, I launched into an unusually long 20-minute presentation, blackboard and all. This was one of those rare "so quiet you could hear a pin drop" moments. **When the bell brought my lecture to a close, the class all stood up, not to leave, but to give me a standing ovation.** And hey, aside from the paycheck, isn't that what makes it all worthwhile?

Have a great summer and write to me at byasgur216@gmail.com.

C O L U M N B

BRUCE YASGUR, 216
BRUCE BOGUSLAV, 234

Bruce Boguslav, 234: Growing up in Mt. Airy, as soon as I heard about Central High I wanted to go there. During my 9th grade my parents moved to Bells Corner in the Northeast. Having experienced 3 months at Central there was no way I was leaving, no matter what it took to continue. What it took was convincing my father to leave early for work so he could drop me off at Central. Thankfully his office was not very far from Central, and so for 9th and 10th grade this worked. Getting home after school meant either taking multiple buses or taking the Subway into Center City, connecting to the "EL" to the end of the line at Frankford Ave. and then taking a bus which stopped about 3 blocks from my house. All in all, the return trip would take upwards of an hour on a good day and most of the time very close to two hours. Why would I, or anyone, do this, you may ask?

Well, there is a simple answer and it is **having had a brief taste of Central - there was no going back for me**, plus the time in transit was time spent doing homework and learning about Philadelphia and talking to people. What inspired such excessive behavior for a 9th grader? It was, **President Howard Carlisle** and the incredible teachers at Central. **Dr. Carlisle** from his first day introduction to Central, made it very clear in the best possible way, that we, the Two Hundred & Thirty Fourth (**234**) Class, were entering a special place, a life changing place that would from that first day on, **set the stage for the rest of our lives**. **Dr. Carlisle** was right and I am so thankful to have had the privilege to spend 4 years at Central. During that time I was fortunate enough to get to spend a good bit of time around **Dr. Carlisle**, by working in the President's office and later be asked to join **Dr. Carlisle's** independent study class. As **Dr. Yasgur notes - Dr. Carlisle set the stage, tone and environment where Central offered a rigorous intellectual study with welcome sharp wit, humor and enjoyment in learning and life.**

Paraphrasing **Dr. Carlisle & Dr Gerald Hamm** - the great English & History of the Film Teacher & Person - Central was not only a place to learn about things, but more importantly was/is a place to learn to think, to learn and grow, while grasping an understanding and enjoyment of life. That, of course, included learning about practical matters like managing schedules, negotiating, knowing when to "pick your battles," not being afraid to speak up as long as you could support your position, and much much more. Regardless of the situation, fun and enjoyment were key elements as well by looking at and enjoying the absurd as well as the regular.

My life course was set at Central as trying new things and not being afraid of failure but learning from it was also a core part of school life, encouraged by in my case **Dr. Carlisle** and **Dr. Hamm** in particular but also the entire staff. The added bonus was getting to meet, study and hang out with students with different backgrounds from all over the city, learning about different cultures and approaches to every day things.

Those students have become my friends for life. Central's culture was well established by the time the **234** arrived, but **Dr. Carlisle** set the stage and maintained the tone from the first day and throughout our tenure and beyond. That culture remains and is maintained, modified where needed and kept alive by all who are privileged to join **the Central family**.

Lastly two brief stories about **Drs. Hamm and Carlisle - Dr. Hamm** was a brilliant person and teacher with very high standards and a distinct presence. There was little that Dr. Hamm had not experienced or knew or had an opinion about, not from arrogance but **from a life of continuous learning and experience.**

COLUMN B UPDATES

CONTINUED

I got to meet **Dr. Hamm** in my first week at Central when my class schedule, then printed on cards, was illegible. **Dr. Hamm** at that time handled all student scheduling and had a separate tiny office next to the main Office. I had to go into to tell him the problem and was quite intimidated by his answer, which was not that he would take care of it, but was come in and help him solve the problem as to why my and others schedules were printing incorrectly. **One of my first lessons at Central which set the tone for everything, if you see problem, be part of the solution.** A lesson I have carried with me ever since that day. Despite walking out of that office both a bit shaken but also feeling good that I could help, I was invited to continue working with **Dr. Hamm** and scheduling and that led to my working in the President's office. I knew that day that I would take as many courses as possible with **Dr. Hamm**, which I did. One of **Dr. Hamm's** favorite actions was to lead a class to believe he was not aware of something or that we had outsmarted him. He would then in a flash make it clear that the group of "hotshots" in his class were not bad but not yet in his league or at the level needed to succeed not only in school, but in life. He would at various times randomly call on someone to stand up and summarize not only the current work, but how that linked to prior work or the overall course work for the semester or year as well as how this all fit into preparing for college and function in the "real world". At first jarring, intimidating and down right frightening but as time went by one of if not the best life lesson imaginable. **Dr. Hamm** made sure we could think on our feet, connect the dots, speak and write in full sentences, support our positions, using examples, analogies and humor or even diversion if needed. We were encouraged along with building confidence and being honest when we did not actually have all the facts.

Learning from our mistakes and failures were key elements as well. Beyond an appreciation for reading and film - **Dr. Hamm** set the stage for me to learn what I like and what I don't, how to learn and helped me find my direction in ways that were seamless but incredibly important. **Dr. Hamm set the stage for learning, thriving and enjoying life but also understanding structure, respecting others opinions, being critical in a meaningful way and having fun doing so.**

Dr. Carlisle was a person with a 10 foot stature in a 5 foot something inch body. **He was a constant presence in a positive and encouraging but honest way.** He had a handle on every class in each grade, along most students within the school including their personalities and approaches. For the **234**, **Dr Carlisle** knew as a group that we would find a way to talk and to laugh no matter the situation, but especially if "ordered" to be quiet. **Dr. Carlisle** would play along with our class most of the time but also when it came to our graduation, wanted us to be as perfect as a group as we could be. At our **Graduation rehearsal at the Academy of Music** we became quite raucous and in our own world, ignoring directions from teachers and barely following the directions set out for the Graduation. After a bit of tolerating us, for the first and only time, **Dr. Carlisle**, "put his foot down" and very clearly without yelling told us to SHUT UP (in even more colorful language), that he and the other staff had enough of us, had given us enough rope to hang ourselves and was not going to let the **234** ruin Central's long standing traditions at Graduation by being unprepared. At first we were stunned and not sure what to do and so we listened and then went back to half paying attention. Once that happened **Dr. Carlisle** made it very clear in a very firm but soft voice that as a class we had two options, shape up now and police ourselves or he would cancel our graduation ceremony, making us the only class to have that happen and putting a permanent stain on the **234**. This time his stern warning sunk in and we as a class realized we needed to get with the program. Our graduation went very well with everyone very aware and on guard to do everything correctly and stifle our normal urge to talk, strike out independently and more. At the end of the Graduation, when as a class we thought **Dr. Carlisle** hated us, **Dr. Carlisle** in his particular manner, made it clear that what he was doing with his actions at the Rehearsal was teaching us another valuable lesson, respect for tradition and that there is a time and place for everything. He proceeded to laugh with us and ask if his tone of voice scared us and encouraged us to imitate him as he did impression of a large number of class members. **Dr. Carlisle** long after we graduated remained in contact with me and a large number of class members and either attended our reunions or called us to celebrate with us, usually trying on different voices to get us to "Shut Up" when he spoke.

— THE JEWISH BRAND PRESENTS —

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Future production by **Mark Forstater, 216**

234 CLASS GIFT SCOREBOARD DEDICATION HONORING THE LATE STEVE KORSIN ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT FACULTY

The 234 celebrated our 50th year anniversary since graduation in 1975, yes we are getting old! We also decided as part of our celebration we would give back to Central. We raised funds for a new Scoreboard for the Football field.

The Dedication of the Scoreboard included a memorial ceremony honoring the recently deceased Coach Steven Korsin, which occurred on Friday May 1. A committee of individuals from the 234th Graduating Class were involved in the planning for both the Reunion and Dedication and could not have done so, without the basic foundation set at Central High.



1836 SOCIETY

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

With an annual minimum gift of \$1,836, members of the 1836 Society are invited to an annual Members-only reception and recognition at the AACHS Annual Meeting each June where each new Member is presented with an 1836 Society pin.



Donors may join the 1836 Society through a donation or pledge of \$1,836 or more annually.

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

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

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The Associated Alumni of Central High School and its Hall of Fame Committee wish to express their sincere appreciation to the 229th Class for the thoughtful and generous support that it provided to make this digital interactive website a reality.

The 229 was the primary source of funding for the development of the virtual Alumni Hall of Fame that you're about to visit and it will continue to provide sustaining funds for the maintenance and upkeep of the website. This "gift that keeps on giving" allows us to share the accomplishments of every distinguished member of our Hall of Fame inducted since 1973, all on one site for the whole world to see.

Thank you, 229.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI & FACULTY HALL OF FAME



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"The Hall of Fame Committee is honored to oversee the process for identifying well qualified Hall of Fame candidates for consideration by the AACHS Board of Managers. However, for us to ensure that the nominees reflect the diversity and excellence required to make them worthy of induction into the Hall of Fame, we all must contribute to the process."

- George D. Mosee Jr., Esq., 232

AACHS Hall of Fame Committee Chairperson

Lo Scambio Italiano Con Central High School

The Italian Exchange Program with Central High School

14 Seniors in Italian 4 had the amazing opportunity to go to Florence, Italy in November 2025. Over the span of 10 days in the month of April, CHS Lancers had the honor of hosting the students from Italy who hosted them in November.

The exchange students were given tours of Central High School and visited some of the students' classes. Students started off the trip with participating in the Central 5k Run followed by watching a Phillies Game later that night.

The students had the wonderful chance to experience being able to travel to New York City. The students then took group trips around the city throughout the week, after attending two classes each day. These trips ranged from Independence Hall to The Philadelphia Museum of Art.

"I am very grateful to be able to provide my students with this unique opportunity, because it is simply unique. You hear a lot about how students travel abroad and have amazing experiences with being hosted and shown around a different country and or city. So for our students to be able to have the experience to host the students who hosted them, and show them their daily lives, and around our city ... it is truly truly unique. And it is something I am very grateful to be able to do and hope to keep going for years to come." - **Sharon Walker; Central High School Teacher for Italian**

Italian 4 Students (285): JahNevaeh A., Mia A., Afiah A., Desmond O., Lila C., Mia G., Nafissa A., Nancy d., Nino T., Samantha R-P, Zackhro E., Elia B., Donna T., Yanellis S., Ijatou B., Jessica P., Dante R., Sophia V.

A big thank you to **Mrs. Walker**, their Italian Teacher, for making all of this possible!



GIRLS EMPOWERING MINDS IN STEM

GEMS (Girls Empowering Minds in STEM) represented Central High School at the 2026 ACE Student Showcase.

Students showcased two impactful initiatives that highlight their dedication to community and innovation:

The Greenhouse Project: A sustainable agricultural initiative in collaboration with Feeding Philly.

PASHI (Pan-African Sisterhood Health Initiative) Global: Our newest partnership with this Philadelphia-based non-profit. Our members are working to combat period poverty worldwide by creating and donating reusable sanitary pads, often gaining invaluable mentorship by working alongside community elders.

GEMS is looking to grow our network! If any alumni are interested in investing in GEMS programs or would like to connect with students, please have them contact Amanda Glenn aatglenn@philasd.org directly. Collaborate with Central graduates currently working in STEM fields during the upcoming school year (2026-2027).

GEMS PRESENTATION:
BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE THROUGH STEM, ARCHITECTURE, & CONSTRUCTION

Next-Gen Hydroponics: Maximizing Resource Efficiency in Sustainable Greenhouse Systems

GREENHOUSE PLANNING & DESIGN

HYDROPONIC SYSTEM: Alex Leon-Pozas
 SOIL CONDITION ANALYSIS
 SITELAYOUT
 GREENHOUSE STRUCTURE AND PROTECTION DESIGN: Jaylah Christian, Jaylah Christian
 Ventilation, Crop Protection, Physical Build Idea
 DESIGN COLLABORATION

RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY

CRIP EFFICIENCY ANALYSIS
 HYDROPONIC SYSTEM CONFIGURATIONS STUDY
 WATER DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS
 Collection System
 SOLAR POWER

CONSTRUCTION

"We built the tech, we did it together, this is our center, and it lasts."
 COLLABORATION
 HYDRO-SYSTEMS
 THE HUB

GEMS PRESENTATION:
IMPROVING ACCESS TO FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS THROUGH DESIGN & INNOVATION

Sustainable Menstrual Equity: Designing Eco-Friendly Hygiene for All.

PASHI AND REUSABLE HYGIENE INITIATIVE

- Empowering communities through sustainable hygiene
- Designing & distributing reusable sanitary products that last for 3-4 years.
- Educational workshops on menstrual health management and how to make reusable pads led by Elders of this Philadelphia-based International project

We start locally, serve nationally and support globally.

EQUITABLE ACCESS
 DIGNITY & HEALTH
 COLLABORATIVE IMPACT

APPLYING ACE MENTORSHIP TECHNIQUES

PURPOSE: DESIGNED FOR EFFICIENT PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND COMMUNITY USE.

Outreach Center & Ed Classroom, Sewing Area, Distribution & Packing Room, Restrooms, Enclosed Garden, Loading Dock

KEY AREAS:
 • SEWING ROOM: 50' x 50'
 • DISTRIBUTION ROOM: 30' x 40'
 • OUTREACH CENTER: 30' x 30'

JACOBS WYPER ARCHITECTS
 PASHI Facility Floor Plan
 MODEL BY: WINNII JIANG



REUNIONS

To get details regarding your class reunion, contact reunions@centralhighalumni.com or learn more at the [AACHS Reunions Page](#).

202 Class Reunion

June 5, 2026 12p-2pm

Short Tour including stop in Archives
Remarks from **President Davis, 264**
Capital Campaign Presentation

204 71st Class Reunion

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 | 4:30-8PM
Marzano Restaurant in Jenkintown PA
RSVP to **Dr. Arthur Magliner, 204**

206 Class 70th Reunion Oct. 10, 2026
tour at Central followed by a dinner at
Courtyard by Marriott Phila. City Ave

221 80th Birthday Class Reunion

AACHS Past President, **Chuck Steinberg (221)** led a special guided tour on Friday, May 15th at Central High School with a catered lunch, followed by a dinner at Popi's.

211 Class Reunion held their reunion on May 17 at Germantown Cricket Club

213 Class Reunion

May 20, 2026 2PM - 4PM ET Zoom
To join, please email **Jeff Weiner** or alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com.

215 Class 65th Reunion

Sun., June 14, Murano Condominium
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Please contact **Bill Goldstein** to RSVP. A class gift will be collected for a donation to Central.

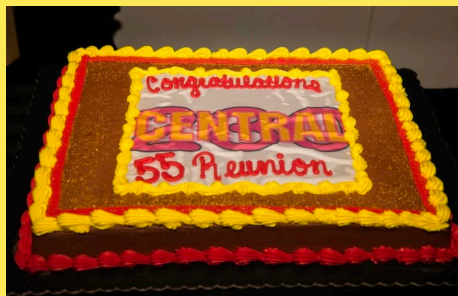


221st Class
5/15/2026



225 class reunion will hold their 60th class reunion on September 26th, 2026 at The William Penn Inn from 11:00am-2:30pm. Please support **225GIVES Campaign**.

230 class reunion held their 55th class reunion on March 15, 2026 at the Swan Waterfall Room/Swan Caterers. [Photo Album created by Jesse Garber, 230](#)



245 is celebrating their 40th reunion on May 29, 2025 in downtown Philadelphia.



REUNIONS

To get details regarding your class reunion, contact reunions@centralhighalumni.com or learn more [at the AACHS Reunions Page](#).



259 The graduating class that brought Central High School into the 21st century celebrated their 25th reunion in November 2025 at The Felt Factory. The class donated \$2,590 through their class gift to support current Central students!

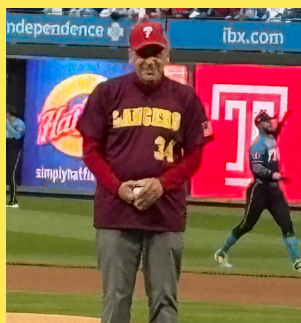
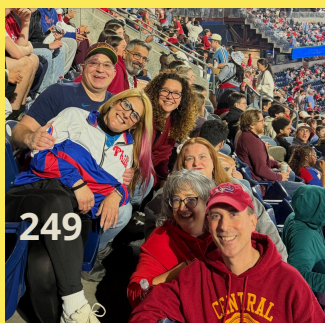
265 20 Year Reunion - June 13th
Get your tickets today!
Little Horse Tavern at Cobbs Creek Golf Course from 6-10pm.

269 celebrated their 15th reunion in Nov 2025 at Knowlton Mansion.

274 celebrated their 10th reunion in Nov 2025 at Union Trust .



21st annual Central Night at Phillies was a huge hit once again! Thank you to the 700 students, parents, faculty, alumni, and friends who made the event a huge success. Kudos to **Boris Ovetsky** who threw the first pitch!



CHS MOBILE SCHOOL STORE WILL BE AT THE ANNUAL RECEPTION MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

bit.ly/ar2026chs

- HOODIES
- T-SHIRTS
- SWEATSHIRTS
- ZIP HOODIES
- POLO SHIRTS
- HATS
- VISORS
- CAR MAGNETS

CONTACT FACULTY AND TECH COORDINATOR
MR. STEPHEN INNAMARATO



CENTRAL ALUMNI STORE

YOU CAN ALSO BUY CENTRAL
MERCHANDISE ONLINE HERE!

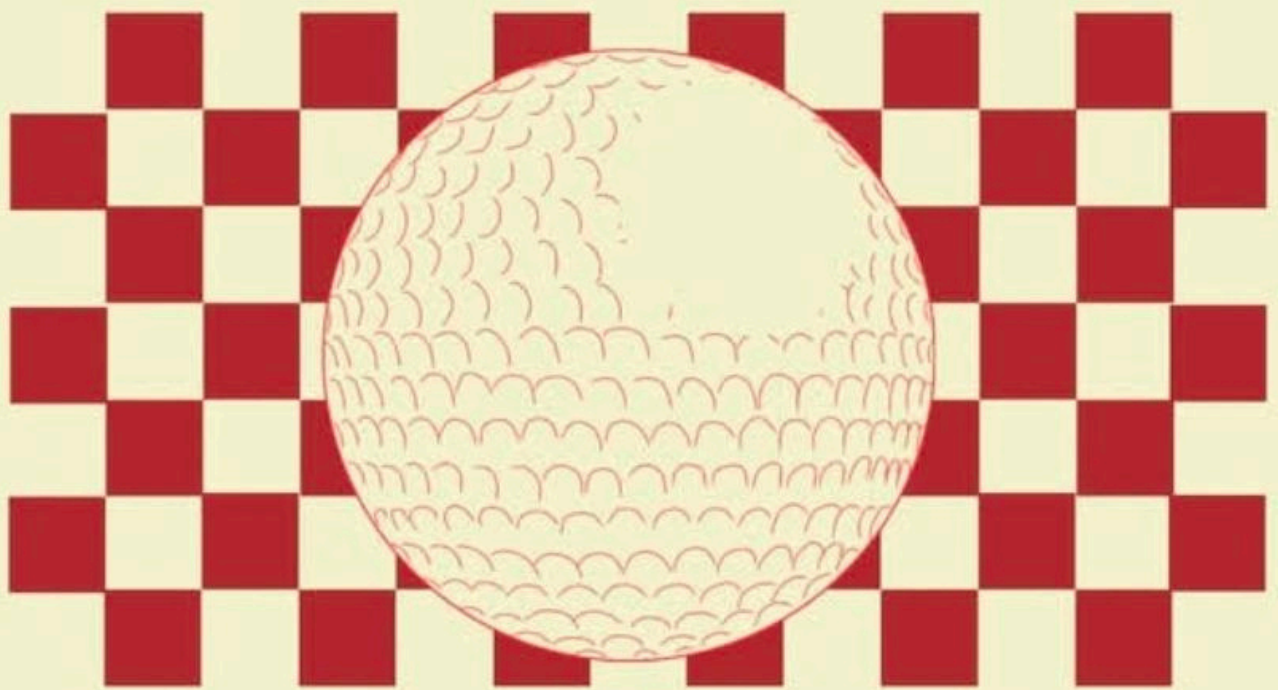
CLICK LINK ABOVE TO ACCESS

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
TROY HUGHES MEMORIAL

2026

GOLF

OUTING



**RAMBLEWOOD
COUNTRY CLUB**

**200 COUNTRY CLUB PARKWAY
MOUNT LAUREL, NJ 08054**

**JUNE 18TH
2026**



ALMA MATTERS

KIANA NUNN, 259 | AACHS BOARD MEMBER

George Marcus (**204**) Holocaust survivor returned to Central High School in April for the annual Dr. Les Wurtele (**202**) Holocaust Symposium for 8th and 11th graders.

The **228** class has approximately 20 members living in Florida. After their recent 2/28 dinner, it occurred to some that since there are many other CHS graduates working and living in Florida, we should attempt to initiate a Florida CHS Group. We would like to get a sense of interest from others in starting a **Florida CHS Group** and interest in a fall cocktail party reception for the newly formed group. To join, email alumnioffice@centralhihgalumni.com to get connected.

State College awarded Gary Abdullah (**229**) its 2026 Legacy Award.

Congratulations to Ben Shifrin (**231**) for retiring after 24 years of leading Maryland's internationally acclaimed Jemicy School, an independent, coed, college-preparatory school for grades 1-12, specializing in the education of bright and talented students with dyslexia or related language-based learning differences. His distinguished career proves once again that Central High School has a positive impact on the world! This was proudly shared by his classmate, George VanHook (**231**) who attended the celebration to honor his friend.

The **234th** class held its scoreboard dedication ceremony on May 1st with a special memorial to the late Mr. Steve Korsin, beloved faculty member of the athletic department.

Congratulations to Mike Major (**237**) for being installed at the at Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia. See more details [here](#).

Jon McGoran (**240**) is thrilled to announce that his book "The Price of Everything" is one of 12 novels longlisted for the 2026 Climate Fiction Prize!

Rob Theisen (**248**) is proud to announce that he has added Financial Adviser and Financial Planner to his CV as well as achieving WMCP® (Wealth Management Certified Professional) certification through the American College of Financial Services. Cheers!

Dr. Elana McDonald (**251**) and Dr. Delena Wardlaw (**251**) received the Force for Good Award at the Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia event for their commitment to equity and access in Philadelphia. In attendance at this event included State Representative Tarik Khan (**255**), Roman McDonald (**251**), Michelle Palmer (**252**), Senator Sharif Street (**251**) and Kenny Chiu (**280**).

Dante Zappala (**252**) started a new HVAC business. Valley Green Home Services. Local small business focused on all aspects of residential heating and cooling.

Willette (Hall) Whitaker (**253**) and husband Derrick Whitaker (**252**), is opening a private Christian school, Harvested Faith Christian Academy in Fall 2026. Serving 5th - 12th grades. www.harvestedfaith.org

Due Quach member of (**255**) is excited to share with fellow Lancers that The Philadelphia Citizen just published her op-ed: "Can Neuroscience Solve Philly's Economic Mobility Crisis?" If you care about economic mobility, education reform, or building thriving communities, she hopes you'll read and share [this piece](#).

Congrats Chad Williams (**257**) for the [James Beard Award in the Outstanding Bar](#) category.

Congratulations to Sasha Ovetsky Fradkin (**261**) for being awarded the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) 2025 Edyth May Sliffe Awards for Distinguished Mathematics Teaching in Middle and High School. Read more about this prestigious honor [here](#).

Mr. **Boris Ovetsky, Science Department School Based Teacher Leader** threw out the first pitch at the annual Central Night at the Phillies game this May.

Huge congrats to Michael Birnbaum (263), President of the Board of Kelonia, a CAR-T cell start-up company who was acquired by Lilly.

Will Yip (264) received a Grammy Award for Best Rock Album, becoming the first Asian American and second Philly producer to do this!

Congratulations to Jessica Lia Berry (264), for her award winning one woman show “I’m Still Not That Girl” she performed at ComedySportz Philadelphia.

Another CHS marriage: Sarabeth Plotkin wed David Frias both (265). Proudly submitted by the happy father, Larry Plotkin (230).

Renetta Jones (266) recently launched Luma Mobile Esthetics – a luxury mobile waxing service designed to bring convenience, comfort and personalized care to you at home, your hotel room or other approved private space. Renetta says, “I’m an ICU nurse, and after working long shifts and seeing how much people already juggle day-to-day, I wanted to create something that felt easier and more comfortable – not another errand to fit into your schedule. It’s been really important to me that the experience still feels clean, structured, and professional – just in your own space.” If you are in Philly, the Main Line and select surrounding areas, visit our site thelumabrand.com.

Brittney Kayla (266), mostly know as Kayla during her years at CHS wants to share with all she and her husband published a marriage book called “The Marriage Skill “! Please feel free to check it out on Amazon and please consider sharing, getting a copy for you or as a gift! <https://a.co/d/0inBFRvH>

New Ridge Brewing co-owner Chris Endrikat (268) won a gold and bronze medal at the 2026 World Beer Cup during the Craft Brewers Conference in Philadelphia. Chris owns and operates New Ridge Brewing with his brother Eric Endrikat (266).

College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) at Temple University, Chloe Smelser (280) served as the graduation student speaker.



ALMA MATTERS

Don't forget to share your news with us!

New jobs, new babies, new partnerships, or just a note to update the Central community on your life.

Complete the form and share your news in an upcoming Alma Matters!

IN MEMORIAM

BELOW IS A LISTING OF OUR FELLOW ALUMNI WHO HAVE PASSED SINCE OUR LAST EDITION UNTIL THE CLOSE OF SUBMISSION DATE.

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

178 Israel A. David, PhD	206 Frank Bove	224 Alan Michael Deitch
179 Dick Henry Kustin	206 John Harry Brown	224 Bogdan Kantor
179 George Steinberg	206 Stewart D. Cheifet	224 David Jacob Levy Esq PhD
185 Rudolph H. Franklin	206 Jerry Choder	224 Charles Patrick Long
188 Paul Siegel	206 Frank Vernal Crumley	224 Ron M. Trachtenberg
190 Helmut H. Kaffine, DDS	206 George Ewing Jr CPA	225 Harry Jay Solo, PhD
190 Richard F. Seidel	206 Bruce F. Miller	226 Ira E. Spitzer
191 Clarence O. Mahn Sr.	206 Herbert Linton Scheufele	227 Dennis Carpenter
192 Sy Katz	206 Bob M. Weinstock, MD	227 Jeffrey S. Chernow Esq.
193 John W. Hendler	208 Merrill Freedman	227 Alden Dyer Spowles
194 Robert Hoffman	208 Lou Mitchell	229 Steven J. Berger
194 Lester Ludwig	208 Richard C. Zielinski	229 Valle Foti
194 Ivan Rudolph	209 Gorden Goehler	229 Michael D Panamarenko
195 Donald Lawrence	210 William Jones	230 Steven C. Auerweck
196 Louis J Cabano	210 Kenneth Stephens Sachs, PhD	230 William Joseph Gould
196 Robert G. Somers, MD FACS	212 Sidney B. Zamochnick	230 Eliot F. Kaplan
197 Melvin Blumberg	214 Jay J. Handler, MD	230 David R. Nizzardi
197 Ronald Fink	214 Nick Hirsch	233 David T. Deery RN
197 Max Laughlin Maxwell, Ph.D	214 Allen Saul Hirsh	234 Arthur Matthew Holst, PhD
198 Stanley H. Cohen Esq.	214 Elliott Dan Kieff	239 Mitch Mitchell Marmel
198 Melvin Dion Esq.	214 Samuel Kushner	241 David I. Stern
198 Eugene K. Wethers Jr.	214 Robert Alan Lobis, MD	242 Howard K. Kaplan
199 M. Melvin Shralow	214 David Barry Millendorf	247 James E. Brown
199 Edward J. Stevens	214 Gary Osser	253 Naila Atiya Mattison-Jones, PhD
200 Jerry Paul Bankert	215 Dennis M. Forman	254 Adam M. Rahn
200 Horace Barsh DO	216 William Shaproski	266 Michael J. Warsh
200 Marvin Lee Kreithen	217 Albert C. Lowenstein	270 Kevin Michael Reyes
200 Harold Moskow	218 Edgar A. Reed III	Faculty Barbara Elko
200 Jan Neil Safer	218 John Donald Sullivan Jr	Faculty Stuart W Hughes
201 Len Amsterdam	220 Fred Cazer	Faculty Steven Korsin
201 Carl B Byck	220 Gilbert F. Cymbalist	Faculty Roberta Millard
201 Robert C. Panaccio	215 Gerald Edelstein	Faculty Zell Savitz
201 Joe Perna	222 Steven Joel Fisher	Faculty Elizabeth St. John
201 Alan N Robbins	223 Peter Certo	
201 Cy B. Roseman	223 James Schaefer	
202 Jim H. Dyen DDS		
202 Neil Mackie		
202 William McGhee		
203 Joseph Fenkel		
204 Thomas James Downing		
205 Edwin Edwin Neu		

Class Rep or Data Person * CHS Retired Faculty + Alumni = ** AACHS Retired = ***

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

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

The Alumni Association's Class Representatives Committee strives to maintain contact with every class through its designated representative. Thanks, Class Reps, for all that you do!

In order to ease our administrative burden, the Class Rep is the official liaison between your class and the AACHS. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your class rep, please email the Alumni Association at alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com. If you would like to contact your class rep, or if there is a vacancy for your class, and you've been active in your class (reunion committee, Class Gift, Career Day, etc.), and would like to apply for or recommend someone, please email the Alumni Office and Rudy directly. The Class Rep is a working position, not an honorary one.

Rudy Cvetkovic (239), Class Rep Committee Chair rudy@centralhighalumni.com

186 Norman Salvat	225 Stanley Sokolove	255 Broderick Jones
192 Irv Matusow	226 Zachary Rubin	256 Dan M. Taraborrelli
193 Stan S. Fischman	227 Gary Koupf	257 Angela Povia
194 Jerry S. Kates	228 Bob Barthelmeh	258 D.R. Hildebrand
199 Bob Rosenstein	229 Frank Piliero	259 Jeff Goldberg
200 Mark Louis Kay	230 Larry Plotkin	260 Natalie Zitter
201 Jerry A Keyser	231 James Mascarò	261 Chantay Thompson
202 Robert Becker	232 John Younge	262 Canh T. Trinh
203 Phillip Remstein	233 Jeff Thomas	263 Justin C. Simmons
204 Arthur Magilner	234 Kevin Stepanuk	264 Michael Segal
205 Ted G. Rothman	235 Robert A. Del Femine	265 Gina Guidry
206 Robert J. Stern	236 Mark E Lomax	266 Agin G. Thomas
207 Arthur Hausman	237 Dominic Orlando	267 Janan Ashton
208 Mickey Greenblatt	238 Joe Deal	268 Chansey Ten
209 Phillip Radoff	239 Rudy Cvetkovic	269 Alexis Wallace
210 Paul Hirschman	240 VACANT	270 Nikita Shah
211 Bill Labkoff	241 Nick Taweel	271 Ramon Guzman Jr.
212 David Axelrod	242 David Mack	272 Natalie Brosius
213 Jeffrey Weiner	243 John Loesch Jr.	273 Cam-Tu Vuong
214 Marvin Weinstein	244 VACANT	274 Anh Cao
215 Gerry Kean	245 Jonathan Kine	275 Rucksar Rahman
216 Paul Cherry	246 Julie Stevens	276 Michael Behanan
217 Elliot Brodsky	247 Tracy Allen	277 Chris N Carson
218 Barry Brait	248 Keeya M. Branson-Davis	278 Tristan Jennings
219 Mike Love	249 Maria Carpenter Yanga	279 Viktor Kagan
220 David Kahn	250 Audra M. King	280 Julia Pastor
221 Chuck Steinberg	251 VACANT	281 Buky Alliyu
222 Mike Radel	252 Gina R. Meissler	282 Owen Setiawan
223 Neil Kleeman	253 VACANT	283 James Waskito
224 Saul Langsam	254 VACANT	284 Jaden Gillion

Central's Hydroponic Greenhouse Project: Sowing Seeds for a Sustainable Future

Kristen Peeples (Faculty) Julia Silva (285) Afiah Antara (285)

Tucked in a courtyard, on our luscious green campus, a polycarbonate house emerges. Contrasted by the concrete gray of Central, this structure promises to host both people and a vibrant array of plants. **Built by the sheer power and innovative vision of ambitious Central students and faculty, this greenhouse will soon be a hub of ingenuity.** Inside, imagine a diverse collection of fruits and vegetables thriving in cutting-edge hydroponic systems that truly attest to **Central's spirit of invention.** Picture crisp cucumbers winding upwards, juicy tomatoes ripening under the sun's gaze, and maybe even the sweet surprise of strawberries. Beyond the produce, **envision Central High students themselves within this green haven,** enjoying the fresh air, tangibly refined by the profusely growing life around them.

Our planet faces unprecedented environmental challenges, from the strain on traditional agriculture due to changing weather patterns and soil degradation to the urgent need for sustainable food production in a growing world. Access to fresh, locally sourced, and organically grown food can be limited. Recognizing these critical issues, Central students and faculty have taken the initiative to develop a proactive solution: **a self-contained, open-source, organic, and highly productive hydroponic greenhouse.**

Greenhouses are the way to cultivate a more sustainable future in multiple dimensions. They offer us the invaluable opportunity to establish fresh and reliable food sources right here on campus, creating a direct connection to what we consume. Beyond sustenance, this project will be a dynamic hub for educational exploration, providing hands-on learning experiences across various disciplines. It extends our reach beyond the school gates, offering meaningful avenues to engage with and serve our greater Philadelphia community. However, our vision stretches even further. We also recognize our profound connection to our planet. This Earth, supporting all life as we know it, is irreplaceable, and we bear an undeniable responsibility to be its stewards. **Our aim is clear: to be a truly sustainable community.**

At its core, a greenhouse provides a controlled environment for year-round plant cultivation. But our **vision goes further in integrating cutting-edge hydroponic technology.** Hydroponics, the method of growing plants in nutrient-rich water solutions without soil, offers remarkable advantages. It significantly reduces water consumption, eliminates the risks associated with soil borne pests and diseases, and allows for optimal space utilization. Within the greenhouse now are five initial 3D-printed hydroponic towers, designed and fabricated by our own students using sustainable PETG filament, each capable of supporting a significant yield of fresh greens. Powered by a dedicated 400W solar panel system, complete with battery storage for consistent energy, our greenhouse will minimize its environmental footprint from day one. Rainwater harvesting, channeled through a carefully planned gutter system into six collection barrels, will further reduce our reliance on municipal water sources.



Central's Hydroponic Greenhouse Project: Sowing Seeds for a Sustainable Future

Kristen Peeples (Faculty) Julia Silva (285) Afiah Antara (285)

The educational opportunities presented by the Central Garden are immense. **Environmental science classes will have a living laboratory** at their fingertips, providing invaluable hands-on learning experiences in sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and water conservation. STEM principles will come alive as students troubleshoot the hydroponic systems, monitor plant growth, and analyze data. Beyond the curriculum, the garden will offer significant community service hours for students who dedicate their time and energy to its operation, fostering a sense of civic responsibility and engagement. This invigorating **STEM project promises to cultivate** not only fresh produce but also the next generation of environmental leaders and engaged citizens.

Looking ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, we plan to expand our capacity to ten hydrotowers, explore the cultivation of microgreens and deep-water culture plants, and further integrate the garden into our academic curriculum. We anticipate challenges, of course, from mastering the intricacies of hydroponic systems to ensuring consistent funding and student engagement. However, the passion and dedication of our students, coupled with the potential for significant positive impact, fuel our determination to overcome these hurdles.

Bringing this ambitious project to life is a testament to the collaborative spirit of Central's students and faculty. But this hydroponic garden is more than just a school project; it is an investment in our students' future and a powerful contribution to a more sustainable world.

As alumni of this esteemed institution, you understand the transformative power of a Central education.

We invite you to witness and support this exciting endeavor, which not only enhances campus life and provides invaluable learning opportunities but also serves as a beacon of innovation and environmental stewardship. Your support, whether through expertise, resources, or financial contributions, can help us amplify the impact of this student-led initiative, ensuring that Central continues to evolve as a hub for forward-thinking solutions and a cultivator of future leaders dedicated to a thriving planet.

Together, we can grow a greener future, one seed at a time. Make a gift today!



CURRENT BOARD & MEETING DATES

Executive Committee Meeting:
Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 6 pm.

Reorganization Meeting: Wednesday, July 15, 2026

Annual Reception: Monday, June 1, 2026

ALUMNI BOARD OF MANAGERS

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THIS GIVINGTUESDAY SUPPORT CENTRAL TODAY!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR CENTRAL'S STUDENTS OF TODAY AND TOMORROW, WITH A CONTRIBUTION TO THE AACHS AT CENTRALHIGHALUMNI.COM/GIVINGHOME

IF YOU SUBSCRIBE TO ANY SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT, WATCH THE NEWS, OR READ OUR EMAILS, YOU'LL KNOW THAT #GIVINGTUESDAY IS A GLOBAL GENEROSITY MOVEMENT STARTED IN 2012 AS A SIMPLE IDEA TO ENCOURAGE PHILANTHROPIC GIVING.

DEC. 1, 2026
GIVINGTUESDAY 2026

