

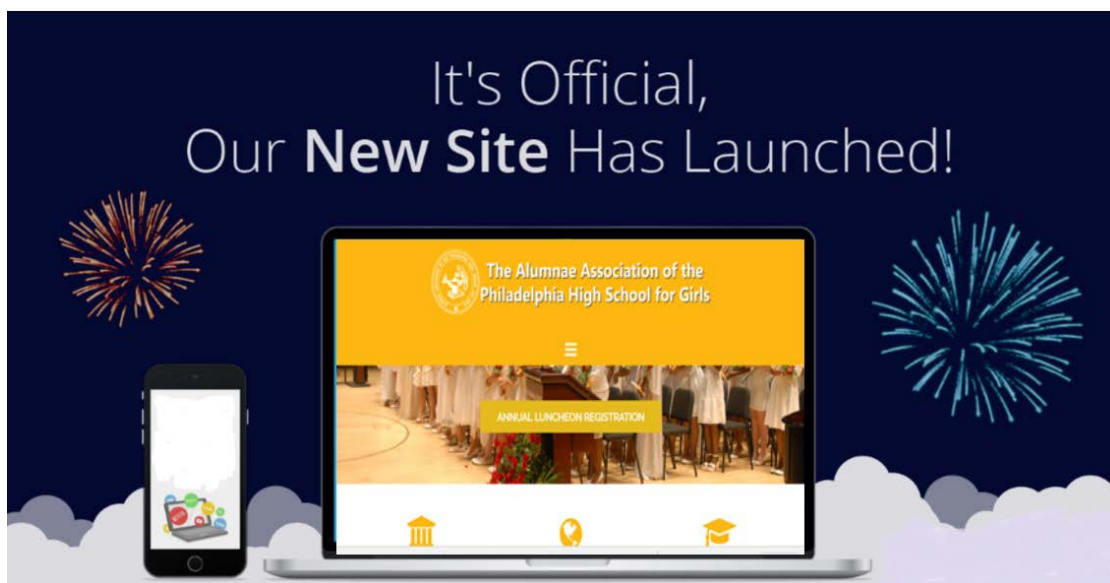


# Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls

April 2017

*Vincit Qui Se Vincit*

## Our New Website Has Launched!

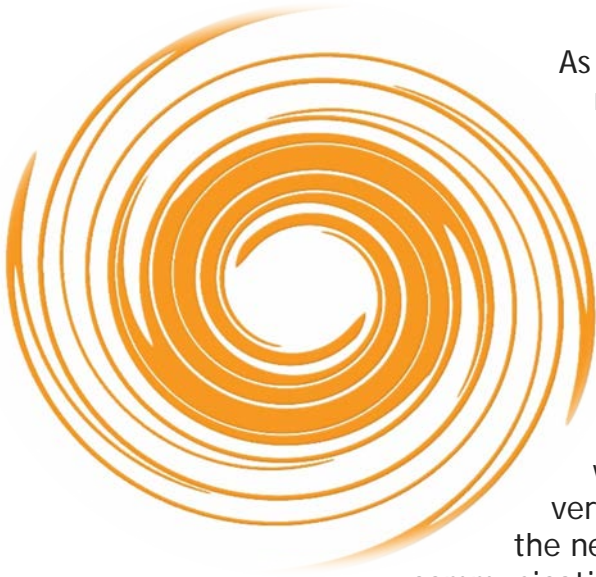


We are excited to announce our new and improved website. The same URL address, but with a new look and more direct interactivity. With our new website, you can update your contact information, and determine how much or how little you want to share.

Have you been missing your monthly e-newsletter? We may have an old e-mail address for you. You can update your profile immediately and never miss Alumnae communication again. Need to pay membership dues? You can pay them directly via our website.

We encourage everyone to take a few minutes to browse, explore, and establish a new profile on our new website. You don't have to be a member of the Alumnae Association to maintain a member profile. If you are not a member, we hope that you would consider joining to continue the work we do on behalf of our alma mater. We look forward to receiving your new profile on <http://ghsalumnae.org>. If you don't see the button immediately, visit our Membership page. <http://ghsalumnae.org/join-us-today/>

# Editor's NOTES



As of December 2016, Barbara McDowall Dowdall has retired as Editor of the Alumnae Association News.

Barbara has served as Editor for 14 years. During this time, she served the publication with dedication, commitment, and diligence in sharing the news of our beloved school and alumnae. Barbara shepherded our Annual Newsletter's transition from a print-only publication to a digital publication, and was the mastermind behind the collector's edition final print issue. It is clear that our sisterhood has benefited enormously under Barbara's direction. We will miss her energy, enthusiasm, and passion. We are very pleased that Barbara will continue to be involved with the newsletter as Editor Emerita, and as a member of the communication committee and the Board of Directors.

I'd like to thank our president, Antoinette Bailey Nottingham, along with the communications committee dream-team: Elisabeth D'Alessandro (co-editor), A. Ruth Brown (copy editor), Dorothy Kapenstein (features writer), and Tina Grau (Associate Editor) for your vote of confidence and passion.

Rest assured that I am committed to improving this publication by building upon the foundation established by the esteemed Sally Ruth MacCorkel and maintained by Barbara Dowdall. Under my watch, the Alumnae newsletter and by extension, all alumnae communications will continue to grow and evolve, while still featuring comprehensive stories about our beloved alma mater and our membership.

Ultimately, this is your newsletter, so I hope you will let us know how we're doing. Tell us what you like, what you don't, what you'll read, and what you won't. Your comments, criticisms, and kudos are always welcome. You can reach me at [news@ghsalumnae.org](mailto:news@ghsalumnae.org). Thanks for reading!

Yours in sisterhood,

# REUNION



**The 193 Class of June 1957** will celebrate its 60th anniversary on **June 4, 2017**, at a luncheon from 12 to 4 PM. The location is Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant at 1201 Filbert Street in Center City. For full details, contact Reba Grossman at [bubbyreba@comcast.net](mailto:bubbyreba@comcast.net) or 215-675-6883.

**The 211 Class of 1967** reunion will be held on **April 30, 2017**, from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Doubletree Hotel, 237 S. Broad Street. Other weekend activities are also being planned. The cost of the brunch is \$80. All questions and concerns may be directed to Gail Hirschberg Josselson at [gjosselson1@verizon.net](mailto:gjosselson1@verizon.net).

**The 221 Class of 1977** will host their 40<sup>th</sup> reunion on **Saturday, October 28, 2017**, at the Doubletree Airport Hilton from 6 to 11 PM. The celebration will include dinner and dancing, acknowledging the comradery we've shared even though we may not have seen one another in many years! The planning committee is developing optional weekend-long activities including a tour of our beloved alma mater on Friday, and breakfast on Sunday morning. We have a block of rooms for both Friday and Saturday nights at a rate of \$122 plus tax. Spread the word! If you have updated contact information for those not on social media, please forward to Marci Miller Rowling ([mrowling@aol.com](mailto:mrowling@aol.com)) or via Messenger on Facebook. More information will follow. GET EXCITED!



# Notes and News from Our Alumnae



**Lucretia Coleman** (1971) has a new book, "Your Vibrant Mess: Your Life. Your Palette. Your Masterpiece." She will appear at the 2017 Arts & Authors Extravaganza on August 6th from 1pm-8pm at the Pennsylvania Convention Center to promote her book. Lucretia is CEO and Founder of JAMERI ENTERPRISES LLC — a corporation committed to guiding women through life's colorful experiences while assisting in their individual growth, enhancement, and integrative elevation. Lucretia holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Gwynedd Mercy College. She is a Board Member at YWCA Tri-County Area, and a member of the National Association of Professional Women, Tri-County Community Network, and the Montgomery Guild of Professional Artists. She is certified as an Integrative Wellness Coach from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition in New York City, where she's trained in more than one hundred lifestyle theories and coaching methods. For tickets and more information:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-arts-authors-extravaganza-tickets-26913193085>

**Rhonda Hill Wilson Esq.** (1972) of the Law Offices of Wanda Hill Rhonda PC has been appointed to the investigation division of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Judicial Evaluation Commission. The panel evaluates candidates for appellate court.

**Venus Young Randall** (1976) is the Senior Supply-chain Manager for SC Inventory Optimization and Investment Recovery at DTE Energy.

**Virginia McIntyre Kaelin** (January 1937) imagines that she's the oldest living grad of GHS and she really loved her time at GHS.

**Denise Mullet Paschal** (2001) is now a married mother of two. After graduation, she went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Pennsylvania State University and two Master's degrees from St. Joseph's University. She holds five teaching certificates and is currently the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Image International and Modeling and Acting Center. She remembers her time as class president fondly.

**Faith Francis Sealy** (June 1947) writes "*I still treasure my years at Girls' High, and four of us from our class are still in touch.*"

**Christine Quan Jacobs** (1969), Recently retired from 36 years as professor of Early Childhood Education at Long Beach Community College in Long Beach California. Her husband Mike, a George Washington High School class of 66 alumni, retired from LBCC in 2009 after teaching commercial photography for 29 years. They are currently remodeling their second home, and downsizing to it in 2017. She shares "*I think fondly of my years at Girls' High, where I received the best education and learned women could be strong and do anything.*"

**Marion M Lewis** (June 1942) shares she has fond memories of Sally Ruth MacCorkel, who was her dear friend. The last time Marion was in Philadelphia, she visited with Sallie Ruth at her retirement facility, where they shared wonderful memories from Girls' High. After graduation, Marion attended Drexel University, and then spent a year at Johns Hopkins Hospital as a dietician. She returned to Philadelphia, and worked at the University of Pennsylvania Hospital where she met her husband. They married and moved to New York City, and he worked at

Memorial Sloan Kettering in Roosevelt Hospital. They have three children and two grandchildren, all are very successful in their chosen professions.

**Debra Rose Zuchman** (January 1965) was profiled in the April 12, 2014 issue of the [philly.com/inquirer](http://philly.com/inquirer) with her husband, Philip. She's a retired art teacher and former project manager for the mural arts program who continues to create art.

The National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia has named **Elaine S. (Raiken) Lindy** (1966) of Lindy Property Management to its board of trustees.

**Joan Oppenheimer Cohan January 1946** sent a lovely note *"To the Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls we still feel we are part of this meeting group and association even though we left it many years ago. Had we stayed in Philadelphia we would be more than happy to attend these meetings. Please keep in touch with the goings-on, as we feel they're very important to our lifeline and the doings of this lovely group. Our heart belongs to Philadelphia."*

**Joan Steinberg Levinson** (June 1952) sent this update:

"My name is Joan Steinberg Levinson, and I graduated from Girls' High in 1952, got through Temple University in 3 years, graduating in August 1955, and immediately got married (July 31st, 1955) to my now-deceased spouse of 58 years, Aaron Levinson. My husband was a teacher and administrator in the Philadelphia School System for 30 years. I went back to school at age 30 and got a Master's in Social Work

from the University of Pennsylvania. I worked at The State Department of Public Welfare for about two years before graduate school. After getting my Master's, I worked for JEVS for a year, and then went to Friends' Hospital in Northeast Philadelphia, where I spent 21 years and retired on disability from that job. I Moved to Florida in 1993, and am happy to report that the warm weather was a life-enhancer for both me and my husband. I am much improved, and currently the co-president of the Pasco Hadassah Chapter, involved with the Democratic Party in Pasco, and a member of two synagogues and two Red Hat groups.

I have three children: David, 60, is a teacher at Upper Darby High School, teaching Robotics. Jerry, 57, is a scientific Tech support person at Astra-Zenica Pharmaceuticals. Debbie Levinson- Headley, who graduated from Girls' High at age 16 in 1978 is a Tech Support Security person at the Philadelphia Water Department, and has been there 30 years. My grandson, Jason, graduated from Temple with a degree in Business and works as an actuary for Met-Life in Charlotte, N.C. I have one great-grand-daughter, Aviyah, 20 months, Jason's daughter. My granddaughter, Brianna, is an artist, although right now she is doing tattoos and body piercing (there has to be a rebel in every family, I guess). My grand-daughter, Samantha is a student at J.R. Masterman and will not be going to Girls' High, I'm afraid. I hope that someone from my class will remember me as I have not kept up with friends from either high school or college classmates. My email address: [chavera18@Yahoo.com](mailto:chavera18@Yahoo.com).

# Museum Day Chaperones Needed

*By Elisabeth D'Alessandro*

Calling all alumnae, we are in need of chaperones for Museum Day on May 24, 2017.

Museum Day is an opportunity for our staff and students to explore the cultural resources of our City (and our near neighbors), engage in hands-on learning, build background knowledge, and supplement lessons learned in the classroom. Every teacher chaperones a trip, and the girls choose which trip they want to attend.

Some of our trips this year include The Philadelphia Zoo, The Franklin Institute, Eastern State Penitentiary, The Fabric Museum and Workshop, and the Fairmount Waterworks. Most trips are from 10 AM - 2 PM, and begin and end at the trip destinations.

All chaperones require PA Child Abuse and Criminal Background checks. Links are included below. Clearances are free for volunteers, and can usually be obtained in a matter of minutes.

Please complete the form at the link below if you are interested in chaperoning. Feel free to contact me at [edalessandro@philasd.org](mailto:edalessandro@philasd.org) with any questions.

<https://goo.gl/forms/3ReJ4LKXOWz6CI2o1>

Thank you for supporting our Alma Mater! Do you have any Museum Day memories? Share them on our Facebook page!



# Kudos, Compliments and Mazel Tov!!!

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

**Merrill Dysshell Hakim** (June 1963),



Alumnae Association Past President and current Vice President, has been given the high honor of being placed in

the Central High School Faculty Hall of Fame. The letter from Central alumnus Dr. Steve Burnstein says (in part): "I am pleased to inform you of your nomination to the Central High School Faculty Hall of Fame. In addition, your name was brought up before the Associated Alumni of the Central High School Board of Managers at its recent meeting, and your induction was overwhelmingly approved. You were nominated because of your having been recognized as an excellent teacher at the school by alumni, students, administrators, and staff. We plan to hold an induction ceremony at Central. A plaque showing your photograph and details relevant to your distinguished career at the school will be hung alongside those of the fine teachers who have been honored in past years."

Merrill excelled as a teacher of languages in the Philadelphia Public Schools in a career that began in 1969, when she got her first placement teaching French at Olney High School. She was out on maternity leave in spring of 1973. When she returned, there were no permanent positions open for teachers of French so she was assigned to

cover vacancies in several schools. She taught at George Washington High School, University City High School, and later Overbrook High School. And then she was assigned to Girls' High! She said in the interview that she thought she had died and gone to heaven! But it turned out to be for only a month, unfortunately, because of a School District error. Merrill was then sent to Shoemaker Jr. High School for seven years. In 1985, Merrill was given the opportunity to transfer to Central High School, and there she spent many happy years until her retirement in 2002.

That same year, Merrill came back to Girls' High when she was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association. After two years as a Director, Merrill served as Recording Secretary. From 2010 to 2014, she was our hardworking and earnest President. She is now First Vice President.

During the interview, Merrill noted that she felt her years at GHS prepared her well for her future education and her career. The multifaceted education and thorough training she received at our school enabled her to obtain her Bachelor's Degree at the University of Pennsylvania, and then to earn her Master's Degree at Teacher's College at Columbia University. She spoke with gratitude and affection of the teachers – such as Mrs. Rubenstein, Mrs. Gitman, Miss Fugate and the two Miss Bernsteins – who helped her to become a great teacher of languages!

# Anita Sama (June 1969): Master Wordsmith

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

The latest Merriam-Webster definition of wordsmith is "a person who works with words, especially a skillful writer." The word and its definition describe Anita Sama perfectly. She has had an outstanding lifetime career based on working with words, and she gives a great deal of credit to her GHS education and her teachers for steering her into it! She wrote: "After a hilarious, toast-burning few months in the Future Homemakers of America during Thursday's club period, I passed the test to join the school newspaper and never looked back. For more than 50 years now, I have never held another sort of job. Reporting, writing, and editing has been my professional life and the basis for a solid career, first in daily print journalism and now as the leader of a web and print specialty publication. All stemming from my time as a reporter, page editor, and finally a managing editor of The Iris Leaflet. I also wrote for The Calliope, the creative writing magazine. Miss Byers, quite simply, gave me my journalism career. The sponsor of the Iris Leaflet taught us layout, headlines, interview techniques and story structure, and a quest for intellectual rigor and integrity."

Anita also noted that her GHS education gave her a solid foundation for the higher education that followed. Thanks to Girls' High, she was accepted to Penn, majoring in English Literature, but spending the bulk of her time and energy working on The Daily Pennsylvanian, Penn's undergraduate newspaper. She rose to the rank of Editorial Page Editor, the first woman to hold that post. Her classmates chose her as the recipient of the Althea Hottel Award,

Penn's highest honor for senior women. She was then awarded a Thouron Scholarship for study at a British University. She chose St. Andrews, a school that would let her design a post-graduate course combining her two great loves, journalism and women's studies. She earned her MLitt degree in 1975. Her thesis was: The (London) Times and the Women's Suffrage Movement (1900-1918). She then proceeded to Columbia Journalism School to earn her M.S. in 1976.

After graduation, Anita entered the wonderful world of work as a journalist. She wrote: "When the Gannett Company came to Columbia to recruit, I let them know my interest was in editing. I was hired and worked for the company for 31 years, first in Westchester County, N.Y., and then in Washington, D.C., in a variety of editing posts, ending as a cover story editor and planner for USA Today. In 2008, when I saw that prospects for general interest, daily newspapers were on the wane, I began to look around for an encore career, and found it leading a Washington, D.C., boutique web and print news source for association executives, **CEO Update**, where I am currently Editor-in-Chief, and have shaped it into an award-winning specialty publication, accredited by the U.S. Senate Periodical Press Gallery."

In 2002, Anita co-authored the book **Franklin's Daughters** with Linda Mallon, also a journalist and a Penn graduate. The book contains biographies of ground-breaking women at the University of Pennsylvania. Two GHS alumnae are profiled, Virginia Knauer and Judith Rodin, and also Dr. L. Ruth Murray Klein, a former GHS Principal for many years.



# Alumnae in the News

## Mya Douglas (246) GHS Alum Publishes Three Books on the Same Day



Douglas graduated Temple University in 2007 with a degree in Journalism, and received a

Master's in Creative Writing from Arcadia University in 2010.

On April 4, Douglas was the first author to publish books in three different genres in a single day. She held a book signing at the Barnes & Noble bookstore on the campus of her alma mater, Temple University. Douglas said she never anticipated all three of her release dates would overlap.

Her books: "Before Empire: Raising Bryshere 'Yazz the Greatest' Gray" and "S.E.A.L.: Sex, Entertainment & Lies" are co-written celebrity memoirs, her third is a fictional book, "Battling Brelyn," a young-adult novel about a teenager living with lupus. The novel is the first book in "The Clover Chronicles," a series that will focus on the impact of different social issues on teens. Douglas said the second book in the series examines sex trafficking.

<http://temple-news.com/lifestyle/mixing-genres-alumna-release-three-novels-one-day/>

## Ann Hobson Pilot (June 1961)



Ms. Hobson Pilot has retired after a career of more than 40 years as principal harpist with such major orchestras the National Symphony, the Boston Pops, and the Boston Symphony, but she is still a meaningful and delightful presence in the world of classical

music. Ms. Hobson Pilot now makes her home in Sarasota, Florida. She often appears in both solo recitals and in concerts with other artists.

Ann has taught music for a career lifetime and continues to teach, in particular at the Boston University Tanglewood Institute, a program for high school students. Ms. Hobson Pilot is the daughter of the late Grace Hobson Smith, a brilliant classical pianist and also a GHS Alumna. She was her daughter's first music teacher. In addition to her making an indelible mark in the world of music, Ann Hobson Pilot made a great contribution to women and minorities when she became the first African-American woman to play with a major orchestra when she was hired in 1966 to perform with the National Symphony Orchestra!

To read more:

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/news/20170317/ann-hobson-pilot-plays-out-ground-breaking-career>

# News from Our Distinguished Daughters

*By Dorothy G. Kapenstein*

**Oren Wyche** (June 1967, Distinguished Daughter Class of 2014)

Hello, fellow alumnae!

"Since the installation of the new U.S. Administration, and the resulting departure of all political appointees under the Obama Administration, I have been promoted to the position of Acting Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Africa Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the second highest executive overseeing Africa activities. USAID operates 27 regional and bilateral missions in Africa. In Fiscal Year 2015, USAID, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of State, provided more than \$8 billion of assistance in the areas of improved availability and access to improved health services, support for more accountable and democratic institutions, fostering environments attractive to private investment, and staving off conflict and strengthen communities. Also, in Washington, D.C., the Bureau for Africa comprises eight offices that support the missions. I am presently engaged in managing the new Administration's proposed budget cut process within the Bureau, and the implications for staffing and programmatic operations in Africa."

and the intelligence agencies are also well represented. On average, the language school trains 1500 students per year; the language taught to the largest number of students is Spanish, followed by French, Arabic, Russian, and Chinese. In her role as Dean, Wanda says that her greatest challenge is getting staff (which numbers about 800) from all over the world to work together as a team. Language instructors must be native speakers and be knowledgeable about the culture in which their students will be working. The school develops its own language curricula and is continuously involved in research to stay current on second language acquisition methodologies. They are working hard to incorporate the latest technological advancements into language training, while also ensuring that students appreciate the long-standing cultural traditions of the countries to which they are assigned. Wanda joined the US Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer in 1981. She served overseas in Port au Prince, Haiti; Paris, France; Kinshasa, Zaire; Kigali, Rwanda; and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Wanda served as the U.S. Ambassador to Madagascar (2002-2004), Cote d'Ivoire (2007-2010) and Namibia (2010-2013).



**Wanda Nesbitt** (June 1974) is now Dean of the School of Foreign Languages at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute(FSI). Gabrielle Price (236 Class of 1992) is now attending the School of Foreign Languages to

study Arabic in preparation for her next post in Tunisia. The language school teaches over 60 different languages to personnel being assigned to one of our embassies abroad. The clear majority of students are Foreign Service Officers but USAID, DOD,

**Edith Houghton (June 1931): Professional Baseball Player and Big League Scout**

Vincent Fraley, the communications manager for the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, reminisced about the great GHS athlete in a great article, "Philadelphia mascot to pioneering major-league scout, she lived baseball." It appeared in the ***Philadelphia Inquirer*** of April 2, 2017, on page C2. A big photo of Edith holding a big baseball bat smiled out from the page. They say some people are born with a silver spoon in their mouths. Edith must have been born with a baseball in her hand. Mr. Fraley notes that

from very early childhood Edith was mad about baseball. She was made the mascot of the Police League Baseball. She was the shortstop of the Philadelphia Bobbies, a women's team, at age 9. She took part in a barnstorming tour of Japan at 13. She was later a GHS graduate. After women had been evicted from baseball by Commissioner Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, she tried other sports, but longed for baseball She Served her country in the U.S. Navy during

World War II and the Korean War, and played the game on Navy teams. After her military service, she held other jobs, but again longed for baseball. She talked her way into the office of Phillies owner Bob Carpenter, and he hired her as a scout. She became the first woman scout in the Major Leagues! Thank you, Mr. Fraley, for bringing Edith Houghton back into memory!

## Did You Know?

Did you know the Girls High connection to the Supreme Court of the United States?

Justice Elena Kagan is the daughter of Girls' High alumna, Gloria Gittelman Kagan, who graduated from The Philadelphia High School for Girl in June 1946 at the age of sixteen. She became a fifth-grade teacher at the prestigious Hunter College Elementary School in NYC. Dr. Stanley Seidman, a former colleague stated, Gloria Kagan "was a teacher we should all have once in our lives," he added, "someone who makes a student out of you, who makes you go the extra mile."

In a recent response to her letter of welcome, newly appointed Justice Gorsuch praised Justice Kagan for her noted writing style. She attributed that she owed it all to her mother who instilled in her love for language. She joked that doing her fifth-grade homework was like writing a dissertation. Hail all hail. The Girls' High tradition lives on, and strong in the highest court of the land!

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/20/nyregion/20kagans.html>



The Kagan Family in 1970.

Credit Photograph courtesy of White House; Illustration, The New York Times



*With great sadness, we bring news of the passing of the following alumnae:*

**Dorothy Coleman Davis** (June 1948)

Educator and former chairman of William Penn High School's Mass Media and Film department. Davis died on Dec. 5, 2016. She was 90.

Davis graduated from the Philadelphia High School for Girls in 1948 and enrolled at Fisk University where she received her Bachelor's Degree in English and Art. After graduation, she married her college sweetheart, the late George L. Davis, and moved to Chicago, IL. She taught first grade until his graduation from Roosevelt University, when they returned to Philadelphia.

Davis was a dedicated educator, skilled in all areas of English, including reading, writing, literature, film, journalism and mass media. She later would obtain two Master's Degrees in English from Temple and the University of Pennsylvania. She went on to receive her Ed.D. in Film and Mass Media from the University of Sarasota.

For a short period, David served as one of the first black female producers and television hosts on WCAU and WHY? television stations in the field of education, which was her love and passion. She was an avid reader, writer, and art enthusiast, which gave her an opportunity to mix career with pleasure.

She served as chairman of William Penn High School's Mass Media and Film department, where she served as a recruiter, senior advisor, and numerous other leadership roles within the city of Philadelphia. Her school's

film productions were recognized by the Cannes Film Society when they were previewed in 1980 in Cannes, France.

[http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/dorothy-coleman-davis-educator/article\\_bec0a2ea-da95-5ac0-88c0-0ce65065c863.html](http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/dorothy-coleman-davis-educator/article_bec0a2ea-da95-5ac0-88c0-0ce65065c863.html)

**Marie Tofani** (January 1954) passed away on March 9, 2017.



She was a loyal daughter of our school and served in various capacities on the Board of Directors of the Alumnae Association. After graduation, Marie went on to the University of Pennsylvania to study at the prestigious Wharton School for a business degree.

The Wharton School did not accept women as full-time students at that time, but Marie persevered. She entered the night school and earned her degree there. Our records show that she also received a diploma in accounting from Peirce Business School (now Peirce College). Marie was also a very active Penn Alumna. On the death of Marie's father, Arthur Tofani Sr., Marie and her mother, Liberata Tofani, took over management of the family business, a lumber mill. They were honored as two of only seven women in the nation to own and

operate lumber mills! Marie was a founder and supporter of the Mario Lanza Institute, established to honor and preserve the memory of Philadelphia's great tenor and film star. She was Treasurer for many years. Marie was a talented amateur ballroom dancer who took part in competitions. She won more than 90 awards!



**Gertrude Freeman Copperman, M.D.** (June 1939) died on March 1, 2017. She was an outstanding physician who practiced medicine in the Philadelphia area for more than fifty years. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1943. She earned her

medical degree from Women's Medical College in 1949. She was an activist who bravely and whole-heartedly supported such causes such as civil rights and women's rights. Several of her obits note that she campaigned for reproductive rights well in advance of Roe v. Wade. She was also an anti-war activist. In 1975, she was honored with the Elizabeth Blackwell Award given by the Elizabeth Blackwell Health Center for Women to individuals who have made invaluable contributions to the health care of women. After her retirement, she enrolled in writing classes. She began to write and publish articles about her life and career, and medical training. Some were published in *Enigma* and *StoryTeller* magazines. Her articles were gathered together and became the basis of her book, *I Was A Felon*, published in 2005. A copy of the book has been placed in our collection of books by alumnae authors that is on display in our Archives. She was a great advocate for physical exercise as a health measure, and she practiced what she preached! One obit reported that she was active in the Women's Sports Foundation and took part in their programs focusing on "Exercise and Women's Health." The seminars took place in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and New York. She was a lifelong athlete, and continued to be

active long after her retirement. Skiing, tennis, roller blading, yoga and riding her bike around the city were her major activities!

**Anne Saturen Nelson** (June 1941) passed away on February 13, 2017. She was 92 years old. From adolescence, she was inspired by her mother's interests in social justice, world peace, and racial equality. After studying at Temple University, she married Leonard Nelson, a science educator and researcher. While he was serving in the armed forces in Europe during World War II, she was employed by the National Maritime Union as a dispatcher for the Port of Philadelphia. After his return, they traveled around the country as his scientific teaching and research jobs required. In 1956 Anne joined the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). At her first WILPF meeting, two new members were introduced. One was Coretta Scott King, and the other one was Anne Nelson. The two kept in touch over the years by telephone and when they met at conferences and demonstrations. In 1971, Anne was elected to the WILPF National Board. From 1983 to 1989, she served as the U.S. member of the WILPF International Executive Committee. She attended international meetings in England, Paris, Tokyo, Havana, Moscow, Sydney, Zeist (Netherlands), Gothenburg (Sweden), and Santa Cruz (Bolivia). Anne's husband died in 1999. In 2001 Anne moved to Falmouth, Massachusetts near the Woods Hole Science Center. She and her husband spent many summers there when he was working on research projects. There she took part in many activities. She served as President of the Woods Hole Women's Club. She attended meetings of Cape Cod WILFP and the Falmouth League of Women Voters. In addition, she joined two reading groups. In particular, she enjoyed a multiracial "rainbow" group. She was an active member of the Woods Hole Public Library and attended fundraisers and Story Hour for Grownups.

**Dorothy Geller Siegel** (June 1945) died November 2, 2012.

**Doris Primavera Dushoff** (June 1942) died April 19, 2015.

**Sandra Goodwin Samkavitz** (January 1952) died August 4, 2015.

**Normal Kramer Shanzer** (January 1937) died August 11, 2015.

**Helen Arrow Fenster** January 1947 died April 22, 2016.

**Margaret Vecchio** (January 1942) died February 25, 2016.

**Anne Sauerwald Becker-Decker** (June 1943) passed away June 11, 2016.

**Lucia Russo Addario** (January 1940) passed away July 1, 2016.

**Elizabeth Ammerman** (January 1934) June 14, 1916 - August 14, 2016.

**Alexandra Milas** (January 1961) died August 11, 2016.

**Tatiana Tania Levine** (1976) Died tragically in a house fire October 5, 2016. Philadelphia at the college two children and

**Rose Polonsky Feldman** (January 1938) died December 3, 2016.

**Charlotte Elizabeth Williams** (January 1951) died January 6, 2017. Received nursing degrees through Philadelphia General Hospital and Thomas Jefferson University. She served as a nurse anesthetist for 40 years with the US Army and Kaiser and Methodist Hospitals in California. Services were held in Lincoln, California.

**Dr. Julia Glover Hall** (June 1947) died January 26, 2017. She was a noted professor and criminologist.

**Mary Hampson Friend** (June 1940) died February 3, 2017

**Marilyn Semple Michel** (January 1949) died February 17, 2017. She worked for 42 years at the Federal Reserve in Philadelphia

**Marion Smith Lavery** (January 44) died March 29, 2017. She received her RN at Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a BS in Nursing Education.

*Your life was a blessing  
your memory a treasure...  
You are loved beyond words  
and missed beyond measure...*

# Celebrated Sisters

By Marcia L. Hinton

**Editor's Note:** We recently received this moving letter from Rosalie Greenberg Cohen. Her hauntingly beautiful words brilliantly summarize the Celebrated Sisters initiative. This month we salute Rosalie Greenberg Cohen as our Celebrated Sister. Her letter was also read and received with thunderous applause at the 128<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon, April 22, 2017.

## Rosalie Greenberg Cohen (January 1954)

For all the daughters of the Philadelphia High School for Girls:

The word distinguished according to Webster's dictionary means "marked by eminence, distinction or excellence (leadership)". The greater majority of Girls' High School graduates are truly distinguished, but will never be recognized. Some have had long careers teaching not just subject material, but values as well. They have touched many lives, and even as senior adults continue to do so. Many went into careers in medicine, helping people live longer, healthier lives, as well as counseling those whose lives would soon end. Some of us found our way into careers previously run by men. Then there are those who spend time as stay-at-home mothers guiding young lives towards wonderful careers before returning to the workplace to expand their own careers.

So, this acknowledgment is for all the daughters of GHS who wrote unpublished books for their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, telling them of their family's past or about family members who were extraordinary. Perhaps the books were about leaders of organizations, churches, synagogues, or about someone who was just loved.

This is a thank you for all the unknown distinguished daughters of the Philadelphia High School for Girls. Stand up! Be proud! You have accomplished so much in your life.

Rosalie Greenberg Cohen (January 1954)

### More About Rosalie

After years of teaching in Philadelphia schools, Rosalie became a docent at the National Museum of American Jewish History where she volunteered for six years. For the last 14 years, she has been the librarian in her synagogue's library. In addition, she teaches American and American-Jewish history. She has written books for her grandson and great grandchildren.

Married to Gary Cohen for 61 years. Their loving union has produced three children, eight grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren, with the eight due in September!! Though they have been married for 61 years, they began dating while she was a student at GHS. After years as an electro-mechanical engineer, Gary now accompanies Rosalie to the synagogue where she is the librarian.

Rosalie's love for GHS is so strong that when questioned about schools, GHS is the first school she mentions - not Drexel where she did her undergraduate work or Temple Nursing School.

Giving back to the school that gave her so much, Rosalie is donating her class ring, pin, and prom key to the Alumnae Association archives.

*"No one knows my name, but I have accomplished much. I am one of thousands who are quite happy with our lives."*

# Girls' High Girls Are Everywhere!

## Gabby Price Certainly Does Get Around

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

**Gabrielle Price (236 Class of 1992),**

Gabby to her friends,  
is a career  
diplomat who  
has lived and  
worked in  
many areas  
of the  
world. In  
our  
interview,  
she  
described her  
world-wide ways  
with these words:



"I am a U.S. Foreign Service Officer (FSO). Foreign Service Officers advocate American foreign policy, protect American citizens, and promote American business interests throughout the world. FSOs staff our Embassies, consulates and other diplomatic missions, and serve in several different capacities. I am a Public Diplomacy Officer, which means that I specialize in explaining U.S. Government policies, the U.S. political system, and American culture and society to foreign audiences. I began working for the Department of State in September 2000 and have been assigned to our Embassies in Manila, the Philippines (2001-2003), Seoul, Korea (2003-2005) and Consulate General Istanbul, Turkey (2010-2013). Domestically, I have worked at the Washington Foreign Press Center and in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, most recently as the Director of the Public Affairs Office for that bureau. In fact, most of my career has been focused on public affairs work, and I have served in the capacity of a State Department spokesperson both in Washington and in Istanbul, Turkey.

I am currently studying Arabic in preparation for my upcoming assignment as head of the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy in

Tunis, Tunisia where I will oversee the full range of U.S. State Department engagement with media, academic, and cultural institutions in the country. Over the course of my Foreign Service career, I've met heads of state, U.S. cabinet officials, Pulitzer Prize winners, Nobel Laureates, acclaimed actors, musicians and other luminaries. This is one of the most exciting jobs in the world and one in which I feel humbled to have been entrusted with, the honor and responsibility of serving and representing my country abroad."

Gabby noted that Girls' High gave her a firm foundation that has supported and sustained her throughout her professional life. She studied AP U.S. History and IB World History. "My history courses gave me ample room to not just learn about the world around me, but to cultivate my original thoughts on politics and society. "Gabby has fond memories of her teachers. She said: "Although all of my teachers at Girls' High left an indelible impression on me, I will always cherish my time in Mr. William Oglesby's freshman year World History class. He opened my eyes to seeing the world in so many different ways. I will also always remember our class sponsor, Mrs. Arlene Amoroso, who proved herself to be a great role model and a good friend."

Gabby noted that she took full advantage of the many student activities that were available during her time at Girls' High and this, too, helped her on her way to a successful career. She wrote "I was captain of the Debate Team and participated in Service Club, Band, Treble Clef, and several of the cultural groups at school. Upon graduation, I was honored with various awards for my academic achievements and leadership abilities. My motivation for being such an active student was to satiate my never-ending curiosity, but the real reward

was being given the opportunity to attend the college of my choice so that I could continue to indulge the habits I developed at Girls' High even further." Gabby graduated from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Foreign Service. She spent her junior year abroad at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques or Sciences-Po in Lyon, France. In 2013, she was granted a position as a Counterterrorism Fellow at the College of International Security Affairs at National Defense University. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Strategic Security Studies in 2014.

Gabby described the intensive training and preparation she is working on to prepare for her new job in Tunis, Tunisia. She wrote: "Foreign Service officers are hired for their general knowledge of international affairs, but typically develop considerable expertise in each of the geographic regions where they serve. Much of that expertise begins with the intensive language training offered by the Foreign Service Institute or FSI. FSI provides opportunities for employees of the U.S. Department of State and other foreign affairs agencies within the U.S. Government to develop substantive linguistic and area expertise and promotes leadership, resilience, and innovation within the foreign affairs community. While careers in government may not be able to match the glamorous perks offered by some private sector employers, it is the rare employer that offers multiple opportunities to their employees to become full-time students at various intervals in their careers.

Career-long learning has recently crept into the lingo of many institutions but has long been a focus at FSI, which is celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year (2017). In addition to traditional language training, for example, FSI offers distance language courses in some languages on "Contemporary Topics." These courses help Foreign Service officers already at their posts abroad to talk about relatively new issues such as big data, 3D printing, and transgender issues, in a foreign language.

FSI has developed more than a dozen mobile apps and is busy working on more. These apps allow officers to quickly find phrases they learned in training but may not use on a daily basis. FSI is unique in terms of the number of languages it teaches: 62-65 in any given year and its "students" range from newly-minted Foreign Service officers to career Ambassadors with 25+ years of experience.

As an entry-level officer, I spent six months studying Korean language and culture full-time. Six years later, I committed to nine full months studying Turkish language and culture and am now devoting two years of my career to studying Arabic and the culture of the Middle East and North Africa. Acquiring professional-level proficiency in foreign languages such as Turkish and in Arabic (inshallah!) is key to my ability to comprehend and analyze local social, cultural and political developments and, is crucial to my ability to communicate U.S. policy and explain American society and culture to those I encounter abroad. Furthermore, the ability to communicate one-on-one with various interlocutors is an important component to building professional relationships based on trust and mutual respect, which are at the heart of international diplomacy. The skills I have acquired through the Foreign Service Institute are not just useful for furthering the goals of the United States Government or my career at the State Department. On a personal level, I use my language skills to stay in touch with friends and contacts abroad and to enjoy the rich ethnic diversity we benefit from in the United States."

Wanda Nesbitt, currently the Dean of the School of Language Studies at FSI adds: "Along with a backlash against globalization, we are seeing a resurgence of cultural identity that makes it more important than ever for our diplomats to speak to people in a language that resonates with them. Luckily, we have more tools than ever at our disposal to help FSO not just learn, but **enjoy** learning a foreign language."

**BON VOYAGE GABBY!!!**

# Our Alumnae Association Matters!!

Did you know that you can designate the Alumnae Association in your will or trust? Did you know that you can donate life insurance contracts, stocks, certain bonds, and/or mutual funds? These gifts may provide needed tax benefits for you, the donor, and help our Association promote and sustain its mission for many years to come. As we age, we all talk about leaving a legacy. This is your opportunity to do so for generations of women to come, as well as to help the school and the students as they battle the financial hardships they may be facing. If interested in helping or donating, please contact Joy Pollock at [jepollock@aol.com](mailto:jepollock@aol.com).

We are very interested in receiving gift items for the Archives such as yearbooks, commencement programs, gym contest, concert, drama, or other memorabilia that will enhance and substantiate GHS history. Please email Dorothy G. Kapenstein at [dorothyk08@aol.com](mailto:dorothyk08@aol.com) or call her at 215-331-2681. Please do not send items directly to the school.

**What's New?** Send your news items and pictures to [news@ghsalumnae.org](mailto:news@ghsalumnae.org). GHS classmates and friends love to read the latest news about each other!

Do you want to enjoy the intangible spirit of the days at Girls' High? Would you

want to have items that have the Girls' High name or logo imprinted on them? If so, the Alumnae Association can help. Please contact [communication@ghsalumnae.org](mailto:communication@ghsalumnae.org) to find out which items are available for purchase. You can also go to our website to see items that are available to order. To visit, click [www.ghsalumnae.org](http://www.ghsalumnae.org).

Please join our Facebook group, the Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls. All social, no business! When you ask to join, please be sure that you have indicated your year and class, and your name at graduation if it was different than our current name. While you do not have to be a member of the Alumnae Association to join the group, it is limited to alumnae and faculty.

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We look forward to hearing from you!



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