

Alumnae Association Philadelphia High School for Girls

Fall 2018

Perpetuate, Cultivate, Advance, and Enhance

Flapjack Fundraiser

By Elisabeth D'Alessandro



Members and friends of the Alumnae Association, current students, and staff members gathered at the Jenkintown, PA Applebee's on September 1, 2018, for our Back-to-School Fundraiser. Your Alumnae Board arrived at 7:30 with an energy and excitement for which the Applebee's staff was not ready. (They were awesome!) We served up pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice, and a whole lot of sisterhood. Lifetime members were able to pick up their pins, someone won a swag bag, and Alumnae Association gear was sold.

A total of \$1656.49 was raised. We thank everyone who participated—either in person or through donations—in this activity. As always seems to happen when we gather in intergenerational groups (or even with our classmates), we were filled with the Intangible Spirit. We left with full bellies and the warm glow of sisterhood!



Please Save these Dates:

Save the Date!!

CAREER DAY

Friday

April 12, 2019

GHS



News from Our School

Calling all alumnae musicians! The Winter Concert is December 13, 2018, at 6:00 PM. We are inviting all alumnae to participate in the Hallelujah Chorus. Please let Ms. D'Alessandro (edalessandro@philasd.org) or Ms. Aish (eaish@philasd.org) know if you are able to perform.

Astral Artists Visit GHS in Memory of Erica Zissman (212)

Bonnie Richman Slobodien (212) brought a harp and trombone duo to the Philadelphia High School for Girls on June 1, 2018, in memory of 212 classmate **Erica Zissman**. Joining us were 212 classmate **Joan Rhodes** and Erica's sons Adam and Joshua. The program was presented under the auspices of Astral Artists, of which Bonnie was Director of Engagement and Community Relations until July 2018. We thank Bonnie for the many concerts and opportunities that she has provided to Girls' High through the years. We wish her well in her future endeavors.



Happy Birthday to Leonard Bernstein from Girls' High

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Leonard Bernstein was born in Boston, Massachusetts, on August 25, 1918. He was, and still is, a gigantic and magnificent figure in music history both in his native land and around the world. Music scholars have praised him as a splendid composer, conductor, author, lecturer, educator, and pianist. He was also a social activist working for equity and justice for all people. He was famous as conductor of the New York Philharmonic and he frequently served as guest conductor of major symphony orchestras around the world. His admirers arranged for two years of worldwide concerts honoring the 100th anniversary of his birth. These musical events were held in 2017 and 2018. Philadelphia was the scene of several concerts and observances.

One such event will always hold special memories for GHS alumnae because a talented GHS musical graduate played a major role in it and brought honor to our alma mater. This event was described in an article by Bethany Ao that appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of August 9, 2018.

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts, Philadelphia's lovely outdoor venue for musical performances, commissioned four local African American composers to create special music interpreting and celebrating Bernstein's opus, *Mass*, a work for musical theater with its roots in the Catholic Mass but with wide scope and applications. The four chosen composers were Rollo Dilworth, Ruth Naomi Floyd, Jay Fluellen, and Evelyn Curenton. Ruth Naomi Floyd is a GHS graduate of the Class of 1982 (226). A concert version of their work, *Philadelphia Community Mass*, was offered to the public on August 11, 2018, and was co-sponsored by the Mann Center

and NEWorks Productions headed by Nolen Williams. Ruth Naomi Floyd expressed her joy at taking part in this experience with this statement on August 12.

"Thank you to each and every one who attended (400 people attended in the pouring rain) '*Philadelphia Community Mass*,' presented by the Mann Music Center and Nolan Williams, Conceiver/Artistic Director, NEWorks Productions! Bravo to Jay Fluellen, Music Conductor/Director/Composer and a beautiful spirit whose brilliance, artistry, and humility is a stunning example of a true artist. To the composers, Rollo Dilworth, Evelyn Curenton, and Jay Fluellen, I am truly grateful to have composed this music with you. You are all my heroes! Special thanks to artist and visionary, Nolan Williams; what an amazing wonder you are."

The following words of praise for Ruth Naomi Floyd are based on a statement on the website of Contour Records, of which she was the co-founder. "Ms. Floyd is a gifted composer and vocalist who has for many years been creating vocal jazz settings that express Christian theology. She has made and released many highly acclaimed recordings. She has been endowed with the gift of a beautiful mezzo soprano singing voice. Music critics praise her work for its distinctive sound of progressive ensemble seamlessly blended with messages of unwavering faith in God. She leads her own ensemble and her recordings are for the most part original compositions. She has been a totally committed educator in the field of music education for many years. She continues with her activism and devotion to providing serious care and spiritual solace to people suffering from HIV and AIDS."

Scholarships and Awards to the Class of 2018 (262)

The awards listed below were given at Senior Day in June 2018.

To endow a scholarship or award, please contact Joy Kleiner Pollock at jepollock@aol.com.

Naomi Fisher Glaeser Scholarship
Eleanor W. Thompson Scholarship
Anne M. Georgeson Scholarship
Class of 1946 Scholarship
Dorothy T. Chalikian Scholarship
Fred Gowing Award
Fay Mashen Lurie Award for Excellence in Mathematics
Marion L. Steet Memorial Award
Alumnae Grant for Nursing
Sisters Grant
Alumnae Grant for the Study of Instrumental/Performing Arts
Alumnae Grant for Visual Arts
Bebe Moore Campbell Memorial Grant for Creative Writing
Dr. Ethel Jackson Evans Grant
Miriam P. Webb Grant
Sandra Myers McLean Grant
June Stone-Chestnut Memorial Grant
Class of January 1939 Dr. Mabel Harmon Morris Memorial Award
Alumnae Art Prize
Class of January 1947 Award
Sarah Walker Dungan Prize for Athletic Excellence
George and Anna Doring Dance Award
Jeanne Rosenstein Ossip English Award
Sallie-Ruth MacCorkell Award

Helen Cheyney Bailey Prize for Creative Writing

Jack Edelson English Award

Phyllis Ruscoff Dembitzer Award for English Progress

Alumnae Business Prize

Ruth B. Hoffsten/Georgine Wickel Latin Prize

Alumnae Chinese Prize

Alumnae Latin Prize

Mabel Haller International Language Award

Naomi Zieber Spanish Prize

George Eib Mathematics Prize

Class of June 1940 Music Award

Class of June 1958 Andrea Del Vecchio Music Award

John and Rose Cianciarulo Music Award

Alumnae Science Prize

Vida R. Byers Award of Excellence in Science

Sarah Schagrin Memorial Award

Nubians 193

Class of June 1933 Youth Citizenship Award

Class of 1976 - The 220 Award

Class of 1973 - 217 Award

Class of 1966 - 210 Award

Class of June 1964 - The 207 Award

Carol Rodgers Sensenig Harrison Award

Isabel Haslam Award

Class of June 1958 - The 195 Award

Alumnae Faculty Memorial Prize

Anna F. Palumbo Russo Memorial Award

Class of 1879 - Lida Roberts Brandt

Class of 1906 Memorial Prize

Class of 1911 - Jane Riehl Reed Award

Class of 1980 Memorial Award

Class of 1980 "Just Between the Girls" Service Award

Class of 1981 - The 225 Class Memorial Award

Diane Mitchell Unsung Hero Award

Emily C. Schaffer Prize

Estelle Shanes Marcus Memorial Award

Marilyn Newby Cooper Memorial Prize for Service

Nelly Mattern Prize

Renee Perl Young Memorial Award

Ellen Sue Gesensway Memorial Award

Alumnae Award to Class President

Cynthia A. Dorsey Brown Memorial Award

Frankie Rubinstein Award

Mort Fish Award for Mathematics

Spencer Solodar Memorial Award for Dentistry

Sylvia Harrod Blackwell Award for Journalism/Communications

Alumnae Association Scholarship Award



*Awards, Grants
& Scholarships*

AAPHSG is seeking Directors for 2019



Have you been wondering what you can do to help our alma mater?

Are you a team player?

Do you have skill that would move the mission of the board forward?

Do you have five hours a month to spare?

The Alumnae Association Needs You!!!

If you are interested or would like more information please contact us.

The Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls is seeking Directors eager to lead the organization in a new phase of growth and expansion.

We are looking for Directors to help set the organization's strategy in the coming three to five years, increase the sustainability of the organization, and increase its ability to meet the needs of the GHS community.

The AAPHSG is especially interested in Directors with skills and experience in law, finance, higher education, economic development, entrepreneurship, individual fundraising, corporate sponsorship programs, and large foundation or corporate grants.

Interested candidates are asked to complete an application and submit a resume. Please contact news@ghsalumnae.org for more information and an application, or visit www.ghsalumnae.org for a link to the application packet.

Applications will be reviewed as received. All prospective candidates will be contacted regarding the decision to pursue your candidacy. Those prospective candidates advancing will be contacted to schedule a phone interview.

In early winter, ballots for the 2019 Alumnae Association officers and directors will be mailed to all AA members in good standing. If your membership dues are not current, please visit www.ghsalumnae.org to update your information. The newly elected Directors will be announced at the Annual Meeting & Luncheon on April 13, 2019.

NEWS & notes

News from Our Alumnae

Lynda Murray-Jackson, Ph.D. (1978) has been named to the Deans Council, Division of Academic Affairs for Delaware State University in Dover, DE. Lynda serves as Assistant Vice Provost for the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. She also oversees the Offices of Teaching, Learning and Assessment and the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Analytics.

Lynn Sandler Hubschman (January 1953) is proud to announce that her book *Woozie (aka Grandmother) Wisdom (About Life, Sex and Love)* was the first runner-up for the Eric Hoffer Award and had a fabulous review in *The US Review of Books*. She spoke at the Komen event in Philadelphia at the end of September to 1,000 people! She shared an update about her family.



Her grandchildren are doing wonderful things: Her grandson Daniel is a specialist at Comcast. His sister Alina completed the entire Appalachian Trail after college graduation and has hiked all over the world. Amelia is in her last year at Harvard

and is tops in her class. Lynn and her husband Emil are snowbirds and leave to winter in Florida.

Aishah Shahidah Simmons (1987) was invited by Tarana Burke, founder of the Me Too Movement and Guest Editor of the November issue of *Essence* magazine to contribute to a series of articles and profiles of the anti-violence movement featured in the November edition. Aishah was asked her to share steps that we can each take to end sexual violence. Get your copy today!

AAPHSG Board member **Cristine Sadijan Peacock**; Girls' High 213th class at the Winged



Victory in the Louvre in Paris. See you all at the luncheon in May . . . 50th reunion this year!

Girl's High Judges!

Former AAPHSG Board member Shanese I. Johnson, Judge Court of Common Pleas, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania, shared this photo from the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges Annual Meeting in Hershey, PA.

Row 1: President Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper, Gwendolyn Bright, Idee Fox

Row 2: Sharon Williams Losier, Kai Scott, Lyris Younge, Shelley Robbins New, Shanese I. Johnson, Marlene Lachman, Marissa Brumbach

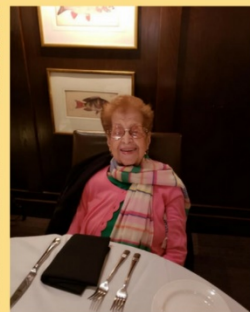
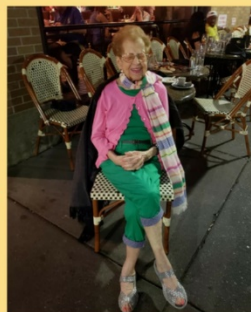
***Elizabeth Jackson is not pictured.



Clarissa Dunston Wilson Celebrates Her 102nd Birthday in Style!



• A Queen Celebrates •



Eight Great GHS Grads Elected to our Court of Honor

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Election to the Court of Honor of Distinguished Daughters of the Philadelphia High School for Girls is the highest accolade presented to alumnae by the school and the Alumnae Association.

It is awarded for outstanding lifetime achievement. The first members were elected and installed in 1998 in a ceremony that was part of a series of events celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of our school in 1848. The election process is an ongoing event that takes place every two years in even-numbered years.

The 2018 honorees were recognized in a ceremony in a special assembly in the school auditorium on Friday, November 16, 2018. Classmates and friends of the honorees and other interested alumnae were in attendance.

And the winners are:

Evelyn Sydnor Bouden, M.D. (June 1941) is an African American physician who devoted her professional life to providing excellent health care for women and children. She was particularly active in obtaining equitable care with equal access for poor and needy women and children and for minority patients. She continued her caring activities in retirement for many years as a volunteer.

Thelma Terdiman Reese (June 1950) is a retired college professor. She is the co-author of two books and is now working on a third on her own. She served in Mayor Goode's cabinet as Executive Director of the Mayor's Literacy Program. She was a co-founder of Philadelphia Young, an organization that encourages and trains students to write their own plays. She has served as chairperson or member of many non-profit boards.

Nancy Gold (June 1958) is a successful business founder and owner. She worked with others in the city to revitalize the Philadelphia Center City business district and then did the same in Ardmore. She is a published author now working on her second book. She has raised over a million dollars for non-profits that respond to community needs.

Tina Sloane Green (January 1962) was a star high school and college athlete, a winning sports coach, a university professor, and author of several books. She is credited with leading the fight to make lacrosse an accredited and recognized sport in the world of high school and college athletics. She is a founder of the Black Women in Sport Foundation, an organization that "vigorously advocates for the inclusion and rights of women of color in all aspects of sport—from the field to the board room."



Patricia Hill Collins (June 1965) is an internationally respected and honored sociologist, professor, expert researcher, and author. Her work focuses on race, gender, social class, and sexuality. She is the author of many award-winning books and numerous articles. She was elected 100th President of the American Sociological Association, a prestigious group then in its 134th year. She was the first African American woman ever elected to this high post.

Kim Richards Harris (June 1974) is a professor in the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University of Los Angeles. She is a liturgical consultant for the Office of Black Ministry in the Archdiocese of New York. She is a talented composer and performer as well. For many years Kim and her husband Reggie Harris travelled around the country giving concerts that used songs and stories to teach Black history and keep it alive.

Kimmika Hawes Williams Witherspoon (June 1976) is Associate Professor of Urban Theater and Community Engagement in the Theater Department of Temple University. She teaches classes including Creativity Basics, Theater of Protest, Literature Criticism, and Urban Theater. She is not only an award-winning playwright; she is also a highly regarded stage performer. She is the author of 11 books and a wide range of poems that have appeared in a great number of anthologies and periodicals.

Raheemah Abdulaleem (June 1994) is an attorney now serving as Senior Associate General Counsel in the Executive Office of the President, Office of Administration (OA). She advises the OA on compliance with various federal administrative laws and represents it in administrative proceedings. She has received various awards for her work, including national recognition as one of the top lawyers less than 40 years of age. Previously, Raheemah advanced the cause of civil rights as Senior Trial Attorney for the United States Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.



News from Our Distinguished Daughters

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Marietta Simpson (June 1976) appeared in a new opera presented by The Philadelphia Opera Company. Festival 2018 ran September 20th through 30th. Five very modern operas on topics not usually covered in opera were staged. Marietta co-starred in *Sky on Strings* by Lembit Beecher. Marietta's co-star was mezzo soprano Frederica Von Stadte of Metropolitan Opera fame. The plot deals with Alzheimer's and its effect on two older women who are afflicted with it.

Howardena Pindell (January 1961) has some of her paintings on display in the exhibit *Art in the Age of Black Power* at Aaron Galleries in Chicago. The show runs from September 14, 2018 to February 3, 2019. Howardena has graciously and generously made a beautiful gift to the school and the Alumnae Association of two copies of the book *Howardena Pindell: What Remains to Be Seen* by Naomi Beckworth and Valerie Cassell Oliver. The meticulously researched work gives a detailed account of Howardena's life and work to date. It is superbly illustrated with examples of her work.

Distinguished Daughters Court of Honor of the Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls

Raheemah Abdulaleem
Erika Alexander
Gloria Bloom Allred
Annie B. Andrews
Elaine Nachman Alter *
Lila Oliver Asher
Helen Cheyney Bailey*
Miriam Balaban
Leslie Esdaile Banks*
Arlene Parsons Bennett
Shirley Melvin Blumberg
Doris Polsky Blumberg
Evelyn Sydnor Bouden, M.D.
Sallie C. Boyer*
Elizabeth (Bebe) Moore Campbell*
Mary Schmidt Campbell
Buntzie (Ellen) Ellis Churchill
Constance E. Clayton
Lois Kushner Cohen
Patricia Hill Collins
Annette Tyree Debisette
Linda Lieberman Dennery
Norma Molitch Deull
Ruth arburg Dubois
FrancesL. Edwards
Jessie Redmon Fauset*
Alma Cuppinger Forman
Patricia Giorgio-Fox
Shirley Clark Franklin
Joan Parker Frizzell
VanessaNorthington Gamble
Sara Garonzik
Julie Gold
Nancy Gold

Eleanor Horowitz Gesenway
Penny Leon Glackman
Perry Raefsky Gilmore
Sandra Dungee Glenn
Mildred Gross Gordon*
Tina Soane Green
Marca Devins Greenberger
Edith Dorph Grossman
Prathia Hall
Helene Hanff*
Rt. Rev. Barbara Harris
Kim Richards Harris
Mae Henderson
Mary Hinkson
Edith Houghton
Germaine Ingraham
Sonia Stupniker Isard*
Loree Jones
Lisa Glauser Kaplowitz. M.D.
Minnie McNeal Kenny
Esther Moyerman Klein
Janet Surman Klein
June Klinghoffer*
Virginia Wright Knauer
Lila Stein Kroser*
Pinkie Gordon Lane
Cecilia Lediger
Terri Hendler Lipman
Frederica Massiah-Jackson
Carol Yvonne Johnson
Valarie Swain-Cade McCoullum
Lucy Taxis Shoe Merritt
Linda Mill
Brenda Alston-Mills

Pauline Oberdorfer Minor*
Mabel Harmon Morris*
Wanda L. Nesbitt
Barbara Nissman
Sally Wendkos Olds
Margaret Gatter Payne
Ann Hobson Pilot
Howardena Pindell
Sharon Pinkenson
Johnelle Procope
Thelma Terdiman Reese
Marguerite Rennern
Linda Restifo, M.D., PhD
Blondell Reynolds Brown
Barbara Chase-Riboud
Lisa Aversa Richette *
Judith Seitz Rodin
Ilana Diamond Rovner
Nancy Santiago Negron
Jill Scott
Dolores Korman Sloviter
Zoe Strauss
Sandra Strokoff
Janet Schwarz Theophano
Vanessa Thomas Smith
Anne Jenkins Thompson
C. DeLores Nottage Tucker*
Roselyn Jones Watts
Oren Whyche-Shaw
Marietta Simpson
Anna Alt-White
Judith Marianno Winston
Kimmika Williams Witherspoon
*Deceased



In Memoriam

A Last Blessing on Three of My Girls High Friends and Classmates

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

~

"Music when soft voices die vibrates in the memory." ~Percy Bysshe Shelley~

Three wonderful alumnae of my Class of January 1946 are no longer with us. Each was endowed with a talent for music and other gifts as well. Their life stories enhance the history of the Philadelphia High School for Girls. Their friendship was dear to me.

Elaine Greenbaum Gilberg passed away on November 18, 2017. Elaine was known as "Sis" when we were Girls' High. As Greenbaum and Goldstein, we were in the same advisory during our years at GHS. Sis was great at belting out a song and creating dance steps. She was a cheerleader for our Green and Blue Teams in the Gym Contest in 11th and 12th grade. She was a kind, cheerful classmate and friend who was always there when help was needed. After graduation, we went off to family life and careers.

Sis went on to become an administrative assistant in the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania and I became a teacher and school librarian in the public schools of Philadelphia. We kept in touch.

It was in retirement that Sis reactivated the talent and charm that had often urged us to give our all in the Gym Contest. She became a member of New Horizons Senior Glee Club of Narberth, a volunteer chorus of swinging, singing elders who specialize in concertizing in senior centers, nursing homes, churches, synagogues, schools, and similar venues. During Older Americans Month in May every year, they give a free concert at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia to honor their fellow senior citizens. The chorus specializes in performing show tunes from Broadway and the "silver screen," songs from the Big Band era, and many other old favorites. During holiday seasons, they perform music for Christmas and Hanukah. The volunteer entertainers range in age from 59 to 90; Sis was still singing when she was 85!

Members of the Glee Club remember her for being a delightful, devoted, and spirited member. And that is how her Girls High friends remember her! "A fellow chorister said of Sis, "May she sing with the angels." Amen to that!

Leah Lipschutz Sherer left us on December 30, 2017. She was very tall and I was extra short and we two were chosen to play the roles of the two mascots, Gordo and the Widow Gonzalez for our Green Team in the Gym Contest that today is called just Contest. When we were students, Leah had to make a tough choice about what would be her life work. She had a great love of classical music and fine talent for playing that music on the piano. She also had a real interest in science and also a great feeling for the nursing profession. In the end, nursing won and she studied at and graduated from Einstein Hospital (formerly the Jewish Hospital) School of Nursing in the Olney section of Philadelphia. She worked as a surgical nurse in the operating room but she never stopped loving music and playing classical piano. Leah left this area after her marriage to physician Max G. Sherer. They lived in

Maryland in the Washington D.C. area. They had four children, Deborah, Lisa, David, and Daniel. Leah's husband and their daughter Lisa predeceased her. Leah was blessed with a grandson, Liam Sherer; a granddaughter, Mia Pomerantz-Amaral; and a great granddaughter, Adele.

Tossi (Thelma Blumberg) Aaron died on March 21, 2018. Her classmates at GHS were aware of her many talents including an ability in fine art, a lovely singing voice, and a fine talent for modern dance. She was headed for arts training at the School of Industrial Art, but this never happened. Tossi became involved with music both professionally and personally. She married Leon Aaron and took Tossi Aaron as her professional name. She was a music educator using the Orffschulwerk, AKA the Orff approach, a system developed by 20th-century German composer Carl Orff. It has been defined as "a developmental approach used in music education. It combines music, movement, drama and speech into lessons that are similar to a child's world of play." Tossi taught children using this method; additionally, she trained other teachers and she authored several books about the method. She was a founding member of the Philadelphia chapter of the American Orff Schulwerk Association which supports the system and its members.

Tossi became a beloved folk singer and performed solo and with her husband. She was a founder and an active member of the Philadelphia Folksong Society and of the Folk Festival. She and her husband worked together to keep Jewish folk music alive and in the public eye and ear.

A tribute to her talents appears in the Orff Association newsletter and describes her as, "folk singer, recording artist, visual artist, folk dancer, author and editor." What a great legacy she has left to Girls' High girls and so very many others!

Barbara Lightfoot (January 1958)



Barbara passed away on April 22, 2018. She gave outstanding love, loyalty, and support to her children, her church, and her community. Two of her daughters and a granddaughter followed her to GHS. Her daughter, Karen Dean, sent Dorothy Kapenstein the following email, which gives loving tribute to Barbara:

"It was great talking to you about Mom. As a member of the January 1958 class, she loved Girls' High and was proud to witness daughters Karen Brown Dean (#220, 1978) and Carla Brown Sanders (#225, 1981) and granddaughter Angela Dean (#258, 2014) continue her legacy there. You made it known to me that Mom shared with you her delight in the three of us attending her alma mater. She had her own fond memories of County Fair, school plays, literature read in English classes, and attending annual Mother-Daughter Breakfast events with

her granddaughter. In addition, Mom's first cousin, Debra Pollard Ford (216 Class, 1972), was a Girls' High girl.

Mom retired from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Daily News* in 2000, as Computer Systems Analyst and Supervisor. In retirement, she enjoyed serving at her church, working on political campaigns, traveling to dream destinations such as Hawaii, and having weekly lunches with seniors' groups. On her final hospitalization, Mom was so concerned that she would miss her 60th class reunion, held on April 21; on April 20, she came up with the idea to even have Carla attend and represent her. Mom's determination remained with her to the very end."

Virginia Ammon Warburton (June 1955)

Jinny, as she was known to family, friends, and classmates, passed away on Wednesday, May 9, 2018. She was the beloved mother of Julie Hauck and Jon Warburton and a devoted grandmother and aunt as well. She was a

member of a Girls' High "dynasty," the oldest of the three Ammon sisters to attend and graduate from our school. Freda Ammon Miltner graduated with the 199 Class of June 1960 and Carole Ammon DePue with the 203 Class of 1962. The three Ammon sisters were all educators.

After graduating from Girls' High, Jinny went on to obtain her degree in education at West Chester State Teachers' College. Her teaching career began in the Lower Moreland School District in 1959. There she taught second grade for six years. At that point she embarked on what became her lifetime career of 37 years at William Penn Pre-School Center of Fallsington, Pennsylvania. She served as Director of Pre-School Education of four- and five-year-old students. She retired in 2012.

One obituary noted that she was "Miss Jinny" to generations of pre-schoolers, their parents, and school staff who will never forget her creativity in instilling curiosity in her students, especially about nature, music, art, poetry, and books. She was a lifelong and very active member of the Lutheran church, playing piano and hand bells, and taking part in and leading many other religious activities. She was an organizer of reunions and a lover of museums, concerts, and plays.



Joanne Ochman Weinberg (January 1963), A Maven of Mathematics.



Joanne passed away on May 18, 2018. As a student at Girls' High, she had already evinced great talent for and interest in mathematics. After her graduation from GHS, she earned her bachelor's degree at the University of Pennsylvania. She then obtained her master's degree in math and education at the University of Chicago. She met her future husband Mark in Chicago and they were married there. In 1970, the Weinbergs moved to the Washington, D.C. area. Joanne was appointed as a teacher of AP calculus and other advanced math classes at Yorktown High School in Arlington, Virginia. In 1975 she began her 37-year lifetime career at Prince George's Community College in Landover, MD, becoming a tenured full professor and rising to Chair of its Math Department for four years before retiring in 2015.

Her obituaries noted that she was a passionate advocate for feminism and other liberal causes and that she attended every major national political demonstration she could, from the Counter-Inaugural at the National Cathedral on January 20, 1973, to the Our Lives Matter March earlier this year. Joanne was a devoted member of her Synagogue, Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, MD, where she was an active member for 38 years. In her retirement years she became very active in planning trips and later cruises for family members. She was a great puzzle enthusiast and completed the *New York Times* Sunday crossword puzzle in ink!

Leon R. Stratoti, Retired GHS Faculty

Sharon Hannold (June 1965) contacted Dorothy Kapenstein in August 2018. She wrote:

"Dear Ms. Kapenstein, I recently learned of the death of Mr. Leon Stratoti, a former teacher of Italian and Spanish at GHS. I do not remember seeing anything in the Alumnae News about this, even though his death was in June 2017. Did I miss it? He was an extraordinary teacher and had quite an interesting life. I would love to see a short biography about him in an upcoming issue. Thank you in advance for your consideration."

Dorothy provides the bio of Mr. Stratoti below.

Leon R. Stratoti was a man of strong faith who achieved significant educational, professional, and personal success despite extreme trials. As boys, he and his older brother were stranded in their birth town of Calabria, Italy, during the World War II time of Nazi occupation and Allied bombing. They finally escaped to this country in 1941 as teenagers. An account in a newspaper story best describes Leon's life: "Leon learned English and thrived in his first American academic setting by completing eight years of grade school within a single year. Leon went on to excel at Southeast Catholic High School and LaSalle College, and in graduate programs at Middlebury College and Colgate University and a PhD program at Rutgers University. He became an award-winning Italian and Spanish teacher in Philadelphia public schools, most notably Girls' High. He transitioned from teaching to becoming a hotel business leader in Wildwood Crest. Nonetheless, his students continued to reach out to him for many years afterward. Leon was always an educator in his heart, most recently teaching Spanish to a nurse's aide and Italian to his granddaughters while he was in rehabilitation facility after a stroke. He loved learning and read three daily newspapers (including one in Italian) until the day of his death."

Shannon Hannold said of her late teacher, "His class was the one I looked forward to each day. I don't ever remember him being in a bad mood or out of sorts. He inspired me to want to learn the beautiful language of Italian, and all about the country and the culture. He was kind and treated everyone equally. He really connected with and cared about his students. Even after leaving the teaching profession and relocating to Wildwood Crest, NJ, he welcomed visits from former students and was interested in their lives."

Sharon Richie-Melvin (June 1967), Retired U.S. Army Colonel

No obituary was available the time of publication. The information below was gleaned from a Google search on our outstanding sister and a submission by Cheryl Evans Richie (210).

After graduation from GHS, Sharon matriculated at Wagner College, where she earned a degree in nursing. She went to boot camp for Army nurses after graduating Wagner in 1971. She also earned an MS in nursing from the University of Texas and a PhD in organizational behavior and development from George Washington University. Sharon found her home in the Army and became the first military nurse named a White House Fellow (WHF).



As president and CEO of SIR Consulting Services, Sharon provided testing and coaching for executives, managers, veterans/employees, and family members undergoing a stressful life transition or preparing for a major personal or professional move.

Sharon worked as an independent consultant to hospitals, nonprofit organizations, and in the private sector. She assisted in the upgrade of military health services for soldiers and their family members in the United Arab Emirates from 2000 to 2003 and served as the chief nurse for Zayed Military Hospital, Abu Dhabi and the chief nurse for the Directorate of Military Medical Services in the country.

She was a member of many professional organizations, including the national honor society for schools of businesses; the Association of Military Surgeons; and the Association of the U.S. Army. She served in President Reagan's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs from 1982 to 1983 as a White House Fellow (WHF). She also served on the board of directors for the Military Officers Association of America.

During her 26 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Army, she was awarded the Surgeon General's "A" Prefix for excellence in nursing administration, the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and two Legions of Merit. Richie was listed in "Who's Who of American Women," "Who's Who in American Nursing," and "Who's Who

Among Black Americans." Honored as one of "America's Best and Brightest Business and Professional Women" in 1992, she was also awarded the Presidential Service Badge in 1993 for her White House service.

A tribute website, <https://www.sharonirichie.com>, has been created to honor the life of Sharon Richie with remembrances from family, friends, and colleagues.

Pauline M. Garber (June 1965) regretfully informed us of the death of **Barbara "Bobbie" Averett, MD (June 1965)**, her friend and fellow member of the 209, in February 2018. After GHS, Bobbie graduated from Temple University and, after some years teaching high school biology, headed to medical school. She earned her MD from Hahnemann University in 1982 and then specialized in radiation oncology. She had made her home in Satellite Beach, Florida. She is survived by her sisters, Diane and Wendy; her daughter, Debbie; and three grandchildren. Pauline will remember Bobbie for her mile-wide smile and indomitable spirit. All who knew her will miss her greatly.

Reba C. Weiner



Teacher, textile designer, entrepreneur, and raconteur, Reba C. Weiner died on September 2, 2018. She graduated from GHS and obtained her undergraduate degree from the former Philadelphia Museum School of Art (now the University of the Arts). She went on to earn a master's degree in education from the University of Pennsylvania in 1939.

A real "Renaissance woman," she had many varied careers. She and her husband, Milton Weiner, started a home-based fabric design business at Broad and Pine Streets. Her textiles were sought after and were featured in magazines like *Harper's Bazaar*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Architectural Digest*.

As an educator she taught at the Stevens School in Philadelphia, where a young Grace Kelly was one of her students.

She and the Center City Residents' Association pressured the Philadelphia Board of Education to open an elementary school in Center City because there wasn't one. In 1954 the City Center School opened at 22nd and Chestnut Streets, and later renamed the Albert M. Greenfield Elementary School.

In 1960, Reba became a store proprietor and opened The General Store in Center City on 20th Street between Spruce and Locust Streets. It sold gifts, greeting cards, vintage Valentines, calico fabric by the yard, sewing notions, children's clothing, and, later, jewelry, soap, Christmas ornaments, and penny candy.

Dorothy Kiler Heebner (January 1944)

Dorothy Mae (Kiler) Heebner, 92, of Rydal—teacher, volunteer, wife, and aunt—died on Friday, October 26, 2018, in the Rydal Park Medical Center.

Dorothy was a gifted student who skipped the 3rd grade. "I remember my Uncle Gil (who was quite the intellectual himself) saying that Dorothy was always a few steps ahead of him," smiles niece Laura Anthony. "Reading, writing, and planning were my aunt's natural strengths," Laura continued. After graduating from Girls' High, Dorothy attended West Chester University, where she graduated with a degree in elementary education in 1948. Dorothy married the love of her life, Gil Heebner, in 1952.



Dorothy taught for a few years at Chandler Elementary in Philadelphia, then 1st grade at Pine Road Elementary School in Huntingdon Valley for 28 years. With no children of her own, Dorothy loved

"her kids" and her classroom. One of Dorothy's fellow teachers from Pine Road called her classroom "magical" as the children soaked up every word.

After retiring from her 30-year teaching career, Dorothy and Gil spent seven years in Society Hill, Philadelphia. Dorothy quickly became involved with the Philadelphia National Parks, serving as a docent for Independence Hall. She also tutored students in reading during those years.

Dorothy was blessed with 65 years of marriage. She and her husband traveled throughout Europe, Britain, and Asia. Of all the countries they explored, England was her favorite. "One of Dorothy's favorite pastimes was following the queen and the royal family," reflects Laura. "My aunt once invited me to explore London with her for a week. We saw the queen twice—it was special."

After the death of her only sister in 1973, Dorothy and Gil remained close to their niece Laura and two nephews David and Scott, and nine great-nieces and great-nephews. Every summer, the Heebners hosted a family gathering at their summer home in Beach Haven, N.J. "Times with my aunt and uncle at Long Beach Island with family are some of our most treasured memories. Says Laura, "Her legacy of thoughtfulness, hospitality, and generosity will not be forgotten."

Marianna Paone Gabbi (June 1946)



Retired music professor, Dr. Marianna Paone Gabbi, 90, of Las Cruces died on September 11, 2018. Marianna's love of music grew at an early age, as did her talent for playing the violin; she studied at the Philadelphia Settlement Musical Academy and later received a scholarship to the Ecole Normale de Musique in Paris, where she studied violin with Yvonne Astruc and Georges Enesco. She lived and studied in cities throughout Europe and later returned to the U.S. to study conducting in Texas under Anshel Brusilow. Marianna received an MA in music from Southern Methodist University and a doctoral degree in musical arts in violin and conducting from North Texas State University.

Marianna accepted a position at New Mexico State University in 1975 and very quickly demonstrated the vitality and ability to excite others into action that has enhanced the artistic quality of life in Southern New Mexico. In addition to the Las Cruces Symphony at NMSU subscription series, she instituted the Youth Concert Series, the Young Artist Competition, and the Summer String Workshop. The Las Cruces Symphony Association and its affiliate volunteer organization, the Las Cruces Symphony Guild were also her inspiration. She also brought many notable guest artists to play with the symphony, which served to put Las Cruces on the cultural map.

She had been honored by numerous local and state awards, including "Marianna Gabbi Day" (1982), as well as two Governor's Awards for Outstanding Women (1989), and Excellence in the Arts (1997).

Her talent gained her international fame and in 1988 she received an invitation from China to conduct two orchestras: the Beijing Central and Beijing Conservatory, reaching an enthusiastic audience of over 5,000. In January 1996, Marianna was guest conductor of the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra in Bolshoi Hall, the first woman to conduct that symphony and again in 1998 when she conducted a concert of all-American composers. She is in the international Music Museum (London) and performed in Italy, France, Germany, England, Switzerland, and Mexico.

The 1998-99 season of the Las Cruces Symphony at NMSU was called, "The Maestra's Farewell," and featured some of the outstanding guest artists she had brought to Las Cruces. Although retired, she continued to remain active as a violinist, conductor, and clinician and, in recent years, took up the baton again to conduct the New Horizons Symphony, where she worked until her passing.

In Loving Memory of Merrill Dyshel Hakim (June 1963), Former President of the Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein



As members of the Board of the Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls, we have more heartwarming memories of Merrill than we can list in this memorial. Merrill was an active, contributing member of our Board for multiple terms, eventually serving as President and remaining active as Past President. She shaped many of us as a mentor and friend and contributed to our most important initiatives and remained active through health challenges. Richly inspired by her courage, we all mourn her loss. On November 6, 2018, Merrill passed away at the age of 73, after a courageous six-year battle with lung cancer. She was a loving wife of 39 years to Nial McInerney; mother to Liora Hakim Kirby and doting grandmother to Dylan, Ashlyn, Joshua, and Samantha.

Merrill was born and raised in Philadelphia and Cheltenham. She attended GHS, the University of Pennsylvania, and Columbia University, and went on to a distinguished career as a teacher of French, Hebrew, and Italian at Central High School. She served for many years on the board of the Girls' High Committee and was a member of Alliance Francaise.

Merrill has been given the high honor of being installed 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. Your name was brought up before the Associated Alumni of the Central High Schools Board of Managers at its recent meeting and your induction was overwhelmingly approved. You were nominated as a result 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."*

Alumni, administrators, faculty members past and present, family members and friends of the inductees attended the ceremony. Merrill's citation in the program booklet read:

"The only teacher (1985-2001) in Central history to have taught three different languages French, Hebrew, and Italian in the same year, often in the same room. AP French students achieved superior results in AP placement. She developed a program in which AP students mentored and helped to teach beginners and she also resurrected the Hebrew curriculum. She served as Student Association Sponsor and Staff Liaison to AACHS and was one of the original sponsors of International Day. She maintained contact with many students through post-secondary education and sponsored many for international educational and vocational opportunities."

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 and when she returned, there were no permanent positions open for teachers of French so she was assigned to cover vacancies in other schools. She was assigned to Girls' High and said in an interview that she thought she had died and gone to heaven! But it turned out to be for only a month because of a School District error. Merrill was instead sent to Shoemaker Jr. High School for seven long years. She reported that, in 1985, she was given the opportunity to transfer to Central High School and there she spent many happy years until her retirement in 2002.

In 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, then as First Vice President.

Merrill noted that she felt her years at GHS prepared her very well for her future education and her career. The multifaceted education and thorough training she received at our school enabled her to go on to the University of Pennsylvania for her bachelor's degree and then to earn her MA 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!

Legacy Gifts to Our Alma Mater



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.





By Barbara Dowdall, Editor Emerita

Remarks to the Philadelphia Board of Education and Dr. William Hite Monday, July 9, 2018

Good afternoon. The air of excitement in the room, the building and throughout the city is palpable. As you, the newly-appointed LOCAL Board of Education commence your duties, and as Dr. Hite continues as superintendent -- but with the opportunity to focus his energies in new ways -- we citizens: parents, students, working and retired school staff, and voters -- all sense your dedication and commitment to restore, revitalize and rededicate this school district (the one I entered as a 4-year-old in 1950 at Edwin H. Fitler and retired from as English Department Head at A. Philip Randolph Career Tech High School in 2010) where the best of the old system -- music for all from early grades in every school; districts based on neighborhoods, not networks based on test-score-based labeling; professionally-staffed and fully-resourced school libraries; home-grown inspiring staff conducting professional development for their peers; adequate numbers of nurses and counselors; respect for institutional memory; attention to physical conditions in all buildings with no need for newspaper investigations and exposure; and equity in provision of resources -- meets the new.

I am reminded most powerfully of current Board Member, then SRC Chair, Joyce Wilkerson's admonition to the Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls at our 2017 Meeting and Luncheon: "Remember to care for and about all our schools, not just yours."

Philadelphia High School for Girls Alumnae Association Advocacy

After 16.5 years of state control, administration has been returned to a locally appointed (mayoral) school board. We offer kudos to our sister Sandra Dungee Glenn, who served on both the old board and the School Reform Commission, eventually as its chair. We are feeling somewhat disappointed that the new board, which took over on July 1 of this year, is lacking what every administrative body should have: a Girls' High alumna! We can point with pride, however, to Barbara Moore Williams, who served on Mayor Kenney's Nominating Panel and to Distinguished Daughter Lori Anderson, who was one of the nominees. If the subject is education, one of our sisters will be in the room!

For those who want to follow the happenings in the school district, from near or far, a best source is the Philadelphia Public School Notebook (<https://thenotebook.org/>). For those of us still in the Philadelphia area, follow the SDP at <https://www.philasd.org/>. And if you live in the city, with or without children in the public schools, citizen involvement is encouraged through opportunities to speak at school board meetings <https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/action-meetings/upcoming-meeting/> and/or, something new: participate in committee meetings <https://www.philasd.org/schoolboard/committees/>.

As always, Philadelphia High School graduates living anywhere in Pennsylvania can advocate for full and fair funding of public schools. Our school needs us to stand up and speak for the students of today who will be joining us as the citizens of tomorrow.

Barbara McDowell Dowdall (January 1964)

Our Alumnae Association Matters!!

What's New? Send your news items and pictures to news@ghsalumnae.org. GHS classmates and friends love to read the latest news about each other!

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 dorothyko8@aol.com or call her at 215-331-2681. Please do not send items directly to the school.

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 and you will be advised of which items are available for purchase. You can also go to our website to see items that are available to order. To visit our website, click www.ghsalumnae.org.

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We look forward to hearing from you!



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 somewhere on your Facebook page, and your name at graduation if it was different than your 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.

Don't forget to visit our website: <http://www.ghsalumnae.org/>



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