

Alumnae Association Philadelphia High School for Girls

Late Spring/Summer 2018

Perpetuate, Cultivate, Advance, and Enhance

The 129th Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

On April 21, 2018, 300 alumnae, faculty, and students of the Philadelphia High School for Girls gathered at the Downtown Sheraton Hotel for the 129th Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon. **"Looking Backward: Moving Forward"** was our theme for 2018; it perfectly reflected our continued commitment to Girls' High.

For the first time in many years, there was no keynote speaker. Instead, the Alumnae Association wanted to reaffirm the connection to the school and its girls. The keynote address was replaced by a 20-minute video about the impact of Girls' High on its graduates. The video—created, directed, and edited by GHS senior Isis Truxton—was an instant hit. The choir enthralled with three selections, and it was an opportunity for everyone to see that excellence is still the focus at Girls' High.

There were activities to rekindle the GHS experience. Alumnae, old and young alike, were invited to participate in a contest to make a Contest flag, or to "leaf" a recollection on our memory tree.

Lifetime members were acknowledged with specially designed membership pins, and the oldest member of the Alumnae Association, the indefatigable **Mrs. Clarissa Dunston Wilson (June 1936)** was feted with a standing ovation.



Save the Date!

130th Annual Meeting and Luncheon
April 13, 2019

Photo Memories



Reunion Classes at the Luncheon



The 184th Class, January 1953.



The 222nd Class, June 1978

GHS #194 Celebrates its 60th Reunion

Submitted by Mary LaVerne Wright Miner

The last January class (1958) to be graduated from the Girls' High building on Spring Garden Street celebrated its 60th reunion on April 20, 2018, at Maggiano's in Center City. There were members of the 194 from places as far away as Australia, California, Illinois, and Florida.

Ruth Rilling Porter provided a floral arrangement in GHS colors in honor of Bonnie Poeppel Livezey, who died in November 2017, just as she began to organize classmates to plan the gathering. Ruth also provided at each place a single red rose and a copy of the graduation program, with the school songs included.

Carol Silcox Ketchen and Marilyn Levitt Kraft notified graduates for whom there were known postal and email addresses. Gwendolyn White Anthony, Valerie Russell LaBohne, and Barbara Reese Streamer were also supporting planners.

After hugs and laughter, the business included silence to honor the 11 known deceased classmates. LaVerne Wright Miner read a letter of thanks to the 194 from the Financial Secretary for the \$556 donation to the Alumnae Association in 2013 for a deserving graduate. She also gave greetings from Beatrice Koffman Ruiz, the 194's 10th-grade sponsor who lives in Massachusetts. When invited by phone to attend, Mrs. Ruiz happened to be wearing earrings that were a gift from an Elizabeth in 194 who had traveled to Spain and had brought a souvenir for her Spanish teacher.

Festivities ended with the singing of the school songs led by Freida Lee Stevenson, who had gifted each classmate with an original CD. Marilyn Levitt Kraft read her poem, given as a meaningful memento on a card with a GHS decal on the cover, to each attendee. We share it here because we believe Girls' High has been a gift to all who have attended.

The Girls' High Gift to the 194

*Today marks the crowning of the past 60 years,
to the day we met our extraordinary peers.*

*Standards so high and talents so great
molded our character and gilded our fate.
Binding a rational mind and relational heart
afforded our careers a prestigious start.*

*Though being human brings both joy and strife,
we learned to weather the challenges in life.
Fellowship and selfhood wrapped the school's gift,
and inner strength gave us a needed lift.
To sustain us through the rest of our days,
we attached creative thinking to loving ways.*

*The golden thread to which we belong
taught us to be smart, steady, and strong.
For the education and friendships that are our pearls,
we are grateful to be Philadelphia High School Girls.
Because we were transformed into ladies of success
all that was given rendered us blessed.*



CAREER DAY 2018

“Today’s Professional
Women Mentoring
Tomorrow’s
Professional Women”

Friday April 20, 2018

8:00AM-12:00PM

Kudos to Mrs.
Nichole Akinwande,
Career Day
Coordinator for
another successful
Career Day.

More than 60 GHS
alumnae and
representatives
participated in three
45-minute sessions to
impart vital
information about
their careers and the
preparation needed



for their chosen vocation.

Mrs. Akinwande and her coterie of student hostesses ensured that the event was executed flawlessly.

Representatives from the world of professional dance, nursing, engineering, law, athletics, education, finance, municipal government, and the U.S. Diplomatic Corps all came back to share their success stories and their wisdom.

At the conclusion of the presentations, all were invited to a luncheon buffet provided by the Alumnae Association.



SAVE THE DATE!

CAREER DAY

FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2019

Upcoming Reunions

50th Reunion—Class of 1968

The 212th class is celebrating its 50th reunion on Saturday, October 6 from noon to 4:00 PM. Luncheon will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel at 237 South Broad Street in Philadelphia. (All payments must be received no later than September 21, 2018.) All 212ers who are on our email list will receive an invitation by email in June.

20th Reunion—Class of 1998

The 242nd class is celebrating its 20th reunion on Saturday, November 24, from 7:00 to 11:00 PM. Dinner and drinks will be at Romano's Catering and Banquet Hall at 1523 East Wingohocking Street in Philadelphia. Tickets are \$65 per person until June 1; after that, \$75 per person. (Payment is due by September 30 and includes a school gift.) Payment can be made through PayPal (242GHSreunion@gmail.com) or check; payment plans are available. For more information, contact 242GHSreunion@gmail.com or see our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/242GHSreunion.

Back to School Fundraiser

The age-old adage says the early bird gets the worm, but on Saturday September 1st, the early riser gets the flapjacks! Please join the AAPHSG for a Flapjack Fundraiser.

SHORT STACKS FOR A
TALL CAUSE



**FLAPJACK
FUNDRAISER**

BACK-TO-SCHOOL!

Saturday, September 1st
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Applebee's at 323 Old York Road
Jenkintown, PA 19046

*Join us to support the
Alumnae Association General Fund*

Supporting GHS School and Alumnae Association needs

Students
Alumnae



Families
Teachers

We're raising funds to support student activities, teacher classroom requests, and other funding needs requested by the school. Mark your calendars now! ***See you there!***

News from Our School

Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching



Mrs. Nichole Akinwande is one of the winners of the 2018 Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching. Articles in the *Inquirer/Daily News* (March 27, 2018) noted that 59 Philadelphia School District elementary, middle, and high school teachers have been honored with the awards

which have been given by the Lindback Foundation since 2008. Each honoree receives a \$3,500 award. Mrs. Akinwande serves our school as Athletic Director and Chairperson of the Physical Education Department. Many alumnae know her as the faculty sponsor for our annual Career Day when they come back to Girls' High to speak to the students about their jobs. To read the complete article

<http://www.philly.com/philly/education/lindback-foundation-2018-distinguished-philadelphia-teachers-20180326.html>

LaSalle University Partners With GHS

LaSalle University's Transformative Scholars program offers free college coursework to 20 local students of exceptional promise on a competitive basis. Lynda Lam, Quynh Nguyen, Jenny Tan, Jennie Barthelemy, and Hadya Ghanem will be representing Girls' High in fall 2018 and showing them how incredible Girls' High girls can be!

Announcing GHS News Facebook Page

Mr. Joseph Marchetti, Chair of the Humanities Department, has debuted a brand-new Facebook page highlighting the good news at the Philadelphia High School for Girls. The Facebook page is aptly named the Philadelphia High School for Girls News Page.

Instrument Strikes a Chord With Philly Students

See how some Girls' High students are learning to play harp!



March 31, 2018

<http://www.philly.com/philly/education/philadelphia-school-district-harp-program-students-girls-high-elizabeth-hainen-orchestra-20180331.html>



The Tri-M Music Society

By Elisabeth D'Alessandro

The Philadelphia High School for Girls reactivated our Chapter of the Tri-M Music Honor Society® on April 30, 2018. Students performed solos and chamber music as part of the induction program. Our service projects this year have been primarily school-based—performing for special events (such as the Alumnae Luncheon) and activities—but we look forward to performing some out-of-school service activities during the 2018-2019 school year.

- The Tri-M Music Honor Society is a program of the [National Association for Music Education](#) (NAfME), which focuses on creating future leaders in music education and music advocacy.
- Tri-M is the only music honor society for junior/middle school and high school students in the country.
- Tri-M recognizes students who have gone above and beyond both academically and musically.
- Tri-M also provides students leadership opportunities to make a difference in their community through music-based service projects.
- There are more than 1,800 chapters across 50 states and 15 countries.
- Tri-M involves more than 75,000 students in grades 6-12.
- Each year, student members contribute more than 750,000 service hours to their schools and local communities and raise nearly \$1 million for causes they care about.



Bread Upon the Waters Scholarships at the University of Pennsylvania

by Dorothy G. Kapenstein

"Cast your bread upon the waters for you will find it after many days"

~Ecclesiastes 11:1

Our school is dedicated to educating young women to go on to higher education. Many have done so, but some have not been able to, for several reasons. I am writing this article to bring news to GHS alumnae of scholarship help at the University of Pennsylvania. For the past 30 years, the Bread Upon the Waters Scholarship Fund has been providing women over the age of 30 with the chance to earn their undergraduate degrees at the College of Liberal and Professional Studies at Penn Arts and Sciences. Direct tuition grants are available to women over 30 years of age who intend to pursue their undergraduate degree in the liberal arts through the College of Liberal and Professional Studies on a part-time basis. Funds for these scholarships are provided by donations from many private sources and from former College of Liberal and Professional Studies students who want to help others benefit from the programs. Bread Scholars are selected based on academic excellence and financial need. Recipients are awarded two College of Liberal and Professional Studies courses in the fall and spring terms and two LPS 12-week courses in the summer, up to the minimum 32–36 course units required to graduate in the chosen major. Elin Danien, the founder of Bread Upon the Waters, enrolled at Penn as a 46-year-old freshman and graduated seven years later summa cum

laude and Phi Beta Kappa. Her academic awakening and positive experience as an older woman student led her to establish the scholarship to help other nontraditional students realize their dreams.

Over the years, the fund has supported more than 100 scholars, many of whom have graduated with honors. It continues to assist 25 academically gifted women each year on their journey to complete their undergraduate degrees. The scholarship relies on annual donations to ensure that current students have the resources to achieve their goals.

Contact information for questions about the BA Program, and/or the scholarship is:

Kathy L. Urban, Director/ Undergraduate Programs

College of Liberal and Professional Studies,
University of Pennsylvania

3440 Market St., Suite 100

Philadelphia, PA 19104

215-746-7040: Schedule a phone or in person appt.

215-573-7536: Direct line

The information above was provided by Jen Kollar, Associate Director of Undergraduate Degree Programs of the College of Liberal and Professional Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. She also provided the names of two Girls' High graduates who were awarded Bread Scholarships, and both agreed to be interviewed.

Gloria Getter Gray (January 1963) decided not to go on to college right after walking down the graduation aisle. She said, "Right after graduation from GHS, I chose to work instead of going to college. I had been accepted to West Chester College, Cheyney College, and Howard University. Both my parents worked and neither had attended college. I also knew that college was expensive, despite their having saved some money for it. And so, I modeled what they did. My first job was with Bell Telephone Company as a telephone operator at Trinity Station, 52nd and Lancaster Avenue. A year later Bell promoted me to Service Observer in Center City. And yet another year later, I was hired by the United States Postal Service at 30th and Market, for eight years as a clerk."

At this time Gloria met and married Nick, her husband of 24 years. They had a blended family of three daughters, Nicole, Shannon, and Sharla. Gloria, a widow for many years now, has eight grandchildren, ranging in age from 14 to 20. She held jobs with Bell Telephone and the United States Post Office while raising her family.

The seeds of a great longing to learn had been planted in her at Girls' High. Like certain bacilli that can remain dormant in soil for many years and then spring into life again, they remained with Gloria and caused her to enter Manor Junior College, Jenkintown, PA, in 1977 and earn her Associate in Science Degree in 1979. "After graduation from Manor, I was hired by Moss Rehabilitation Hospital as Office Coordinator with Dr. Thomas Strax. A few years later, I worked at Temple University Medical School as Office Coordinator in the Anatomy Department, to the freshman medical students, with Dr. Rasbert Troyer."

Then Gloria, went on to work at the Law Enforcement Department of the U.S. Post Office. She wrote that the culmination of the influence of GHS as preparation for college and academic achievement was yet to be realized. The GHS "thing" inside would not be still. In 1989, she attended a community meeting at St. Peter's Lutheran Church and heard about the Bread

Scholarships from a Penn recruiter. She applied and became a recipient. She studied part time while continuing to raise her family and work full time. She obtained her degree in urban studies in 2009, even though the loss of her husband of 24 years caused her great personal sorrow. Gloria was inspired to continue her studies and earned her Master of Liberal Arts at Penn 2012.

Now retired, Gloria has a full cycle of community volunteer activities to help others. She serves on the Education Committee of the Mount Airy Community Council. The committee gives significant support to four neighborhood schools, including financial support. Gloria reported that "for the Office of the District Attorney of Philadelphia, I'm a Youth Aid Panel (YAP) volunteer. YAP is a juvenile diversion program for first-time offenders. YAP volunteers are adults in police districts across the city. The youth are given the option to appear before a YAP panel rather than enter the juvenile justice system. They are given the opportunity to enter into a contract. If the youth chooses a contract, he or she is also involved in the decision-making process of their contract obligations to be satisfied at the end of 90 days. As a YAP volunteer for the 14th District, I help a youth for the duration of the three-month contract."

Gloria's church, Enon Tabernacle Church, supports several community and charitable causes and Gloria takes an active part. She is a member of the Joint Board with a leadership position in the Deaconess Ministry. She also serves on the nursing home ministry. In addition, Gloria has a place on She's My Sister, an anti-human trafficking ministry chaired by Dr. Ellyn Jo Waller, wife of Dr. Alyn E. Waller, the Senior Pastor. Gloria went on to say that in her spare time she loves to be with family members, and she likes to read and do puzzles.

Looking back, Gloria offered great praise to the Bread Scholarships for giving life-changing help to many women. She noted, "Because of Elin Danien's vision through the Bread Scholarship, women like me were able to complete educational goals at Penn. We, as non-traditional

students, who were working or had families or needed money or who were experiencing personal challenges or for whatever reason circumstances had been unfavorable, could now start a new beginning with endless possibilities. I am grateful, and the Bread Scholarship has been more than inspirational to me to give back. "

For Gloria, as it did for so many of us, it all began at Girls' High. She wrote, " As I look in retrospect, we knew that a GHS education provided the academic tools for college success. We were young, idealistic, and enthusiastic about our futures. But also, during our four-year development, the intangible spirit of GHS told us that we could achieve despite any obstacles that might be in our path. It is the discipline and hard work that was required from Girl's High which helped to shape my future. When I went to work I brought that attitude into the workplace and was often seen as a leader. I learned team work but was also confident with the completed job."

Michele Bell (June 1983) is also a Bread Scholarship recipient. She said that her years of education at Girls' High brought her a twofold benefit. She wrote that English was one of her favorite subjects and she enjoyed reading and writing. She noted that reading Shakespeare was a great experience for her. She recalled that she especially enjoyed *Taming of the Shrew* because of the efforts of her teacher, Ms. Brindle. Michele also had fond memories of Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Bernstein, and Dr. House.

Michele studied at Community College and then went on to the University of Pennsylvania, where

she completed her undergraduate work and earned her degree.

Michele described her long career in the insurance business. "I began in the insurance industry as a customer service representative. I learned patience and empathy when dealing with people. I branched out from there, working as a receptionist and handling administrative duties for a global insurance company. I realized that I really liked insurance but wanted to learn more and make much more money in doing so. I pursued underwriting and studied for the Pennsylvania State Licensing Property and Casualty exam. After passing that exam, I continued into the commercial side of the industry and worked in marketing and underwriting handling middle-sized to large accounts. The opportunity to help businesses and organizations in this way made working one-on-one with individuals rather than companies appealing. I realized that I was passionate about helping others and have now worked on personal lines for nearly 10 years. I believe my success is based upon my life experience, work background, and true desire to educate individuals about properly protecting their assets and their families. "

In addition to her career works, Michele has taken part in community activities. She has participated in several for women's rights and the rights of African Americans with groups such as Black Lives Matter and Mothers of Black Sons. She noted that she is closely involved with the local VFW organization, helping them with club issues and insurance.

NEWS & notes

News from Our Alumnae

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Charlene P. Bayne (1978) reports that Mrs. Naomi S. Strange has relocated and is settling in at the Springfield Residence in Wyndmoor, PA. Mrs. Strange would love to hear from her former students, especially members of the class she sponsored. (I believe it's the Class of 224, 1980.) Her contact information is as follows:

Mrs. Naomi S. Strange
Springfield Residence
551 E. Evergreen Avenue, C-205
Wyndmoor, PA 19038

Deborah Gross-Zuchman (January 1965) is both an artist-illustrator and an author.

Her latest work, *Becky's Braids*, is a collaborative project with children's author Susan Weiss (not a Girls' High Girl) who provided the heart-warming text. Deborah created the charming collage illustrations. The plot revolves around Becky, a little girl whose hair is messy because she doesn't know how to make braids. However, the problem is solved when Becky's grandmother teaches her to make challah, braided Jewish bread, and the technique is applied to her hair.

Deborah also has two solo books to her credit. Her book, *Seder for the 21st Century*, is a haggadah for today's diverse families with an emphasis on social justice and to this end she re-wrote the classic original and provided modern illustrations. The haggadah is the book read aloud at the Seder, the traditional dinner held at the Passover holiday. Deborah noted that she also authored and illustrated the book *Windows Into War (a mother's lament)*. It focuses on poems and paintings about war from a mother's point of view.

Deborah has had a wonderful lifelong career as both a professional artist and a teacher of art and it all began at Girls' High where she was a student of the legendary art teacher, Gladys Bloch, who was a notable painter and art historian. Mrs. Bloch is remembered also for her mentoring and meticulous training of future artists and art teachers.

Deborah noted that her GHS years prepared her well for the what lay ahead in education and professional life. She earned her BA in art education at Temple University and her MA in painting from the Goddard Graduate Program of Norwich University in Vermont. She did additional graduate study at Temple, Gratz College, and the University of the Arts.

Deborah taught art in the Philadelphia public schools for 35 years, crowning her career with an appointment as a Demonstration Teacher. After her retirement from teaching, she began a second career as a project manager with the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program (MAP). She served as liaison between MAP and the Philadelphia schools.

Through the years and careers, Deborah created her own works of art, paintings, and collages. Some have been in exhibits and won awards and honors. For more than 43 years, Deborah has been married to artist Philip Zuchman. They have two sons and five grandchildren. The two artists live in a house in West Philadelphia that is not only their home but their gallery as well. They re-designed it and did most of the re-modeling work themselves. Each artist has an individual studio and they continue to work at their art.

Dr. Judith (Judy) Van Buskirk (June 1972) recently completed her second book, *Standing In Their Own Light: African American Patriots In The American Revolution*. Thousands of African American soldiers served in the troops fighting under George Washington for American independence. Since they did not leave many diaries or letters (as their white comrades in arms did) not many of their names were known and historians have tended to write about them as a group. Not nearly enough was brought to light about their heroism and serious contributions to the great struggle. With this book, Judy sheds new light and offers more information. She did an in-depth study of sources such as pay records and veterans pension files and her book is the welcome result.

Judy received her PhD in 1997. She has worked as a history professor at the State University of New York (SUNY) Cortland for more than 20 years. She is a full professor. She published her first book, *Generous Enemies: Patriots and Loyalists in Revolutionary New York*, in 2002. Judy is also active in community and neighborhood theater, an interest that began in 2005 when she helped to organize and implement a theater program in the newly opened Center for the Arts in the town of Homer, New York. Since then she has acted and directed in various venues. She has incorporated the idea of using plays to teach history into her own classroom.

Dr. Myna German (1969) and Dr. Lynda Murray-Jackson (1978) are faculty at Delaware State University.



Martha Kriebel (January 1953) Sunday, April 29, 2018, was designated as "Pastor Martha Kriebel Day" in Collegeville, PA as she celebrated the 39th anniversary of her installation as pastor of Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ. Pastor Martha is a noted public servant.



Robyn Hatcher (1974) filmed a segment on "Women Speaking up After the #Me-too Movement" for "Good Morning America" with Deborah Roberts.



Joann D'Armi Cortese (1974)



Chemical engineers just want to have fun too! While visiting Wildwood, NJ, she had to be lured off the carousel by her family with the promise of ice cream! It's okay, Joann, we totally understand.

Joan Freeman Barasovska (1970)



Is proud to announce her new book of poetry book, *Birthing Age*, will be released from Finishing Line Press in September. Among the accolades, the former Poet Laureate of North Carolina, where Joan lives, writes

"Barasovska's sacramental language lends itself to ritual. Each poem is crucial, dire, praise-song and cautionary tale wrought from experience deeply rooted in the ken of women."

<https://www.finishinglinepress.com/product/birthing-age-by-joan-barasovska/>

News from Our Distinguished Daughters

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Carole Y. Johnson (January 1958) (Distinguished Daughter Class of 2016) was a guest speaker on April 15, 2017, at Arcadia University in a presentation called "Film and Conversation with Carol Y. Johnston." Carol showed the film "Moving with The Dreaming" and clips from the video "NAISDA's 40th Anniversary." Carol was deeply involved in helping the Aborigines, the native black population of Australia, to gain full civil rights. Carol was an internationally lauded dancer, educator, and human rights activist. She was Founder and Director of the Naisda Dance College and The National Dance Theatre and she is now retired but still involved.



Eleanor (Ellie) Horowitz Gesensway (January 1953) (Distinguished Daughter Class of 2014) is well known in our town as a historic preservationist with a strong commitment to maintaining the unique buildings and landmarks that reflect the history of our city and the nation. She was a forceful leader in the movement to save the Lit Brothers department store at 7th & Market, a 19th-century classic, from destruction, one of many such deeds. In 2017, the 30th anniversary of new life for the Lit Brothers building, the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia presented Ellie with their Preservation Achievement Award.

Ellie has a long record of activities with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Temple University (OLLI). It is a lifelong learning academy where people 50 years and older attend classes and can pursue the joy of learning as both an instructor and a student. An article in *Olli Notebook* no. 24 December 2017 honors Ellie and her achievements.



Nancy Santiago Negrón (June 1987) (Distinguished Daughter class of 2014) Vice President of Hispanics in Philanthropy, presented on the topic "Supporting Small Business Recovery and Resilience" at the Clinton Global Initiative Action Network on Post Disaster Recovery at the University of Miami, FL, April 2018. The meeting brought together more than 350 leaders from government, business, and civil society to discuss and develop solutions that address immediate and long-term hurricane recovery needs facing the region.

In Memoriam

Veronica Marie Goode Johnson

March 18, 2018

Barbara Lightfoot (1958)

April 22, 2018

Claire Grant Williams (June 1957)

March 23, 2018

Though Claire lived in Bear, DE, she was very active with her fellow alumnae of the class of June 1957. She and members of her class formed an organization called "Nubians Class of 193." For more than 20 years they raised scholarship money for deserving students. She served as correspondence secretary. Even during her time of illness she would travel from Delaware to Philadelphia, where she could be counted on to render inspirational prayers.



Clair (3rd from right) is pictured with fellow Nubians 193, Class of June 1957.

Wanda M Drayton-Starling (1981)

May 2018

Stella Thomas Johnson (January 1944)

July 1, 2018

A Girls' High Girl to Remember

by Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Elizabeth (Betty) Purvis Allen (January 1950) passed away on January 30, 2018, according to her obit in the *Inquirer/Daily News* of February 13, 2018. Betty was a woman of great ability with many talents and a high degree of compassion. She gained great success in her professional endeavors. She retired from a career as a public relations and human resources specialist and a fund raiser. Much of her work focused on the area of public health. For some years she was Public Relations and Development Director at hospitals including Graduate, Taylor, Nazareth, and Bryn Mawr. In the 1970s, she was in charge of development and public affairs at the Academy of Natural Sciences (now part of Drexel University). She directed a fund raising campaign that raised \$10 million dollars used to fund a new research wing and an auditorium. Later, Betty served as Associate Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. She retired in the late 1990s after her last job as Human Resources Executive and Senior Vice President with Garofolo, Curtiss & Co., a firm specializing in human resources. She was a devoted wife and mother. She also found time to serve in community and charitable activities.



I decided to write a tribute to her not because of the impressive resume appearing above but because she was a co-founder of the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation along with her husband, Robert C. Allen, and a group of concerned parents. The Allens learned that a neighbor's little girl had this terrible illness, which usually led to death in childhood years, and they asked how they could help. Once they learned that most children with cystic fibrosis at that time did not usually outlive childhood, they knew something significant had to be done. With parents of some little patients, they founded the National Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and became fund raisers for it. It has made a big impact on research: The progress and efforts made by the foundation have helped extend the life expectancy of those with the disease. I once had a student with this illness, a wonderful little boy. I cried when I heard the news of his death after he left the school. Thanks to Elizabeth and Robert Allen, there is now hope for these children.

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.

2018 Luncheon Patrons, Sponsors and Friends

Sponsor (\$85)

Almaz Kinder-Crowe *June 1993*

Patron (\$100)

Merrill Dyshel Hakim, *June 1963*

Marjorie Toll, *June 1970*

Lynn Hubschman, *January 1953*

ChrisAnne Smith, *June 1970*

Anita Winters Green, *June 1957*

Marilyn Bobo, *June 1951*

Alice I. Wells, *January 1964*

Angeline Campbell, *June 1988*

Susan Trulear Hall, *June 1988*

Dr. Debbera Peoples-Lee, *June 1976*

Sabra Lynn Townsend, *June 1978*

Friend (\$125)

Stephanie Snead Poellnitz, *June 1965*

Sponsor a Student (\$75)

Tracy Birch, *June 1988*

Diane Lo Castro, *June 1982*



By Barbara Dowdall, Editor Emerita

Transcript of the Testimony of Barbara Dowdall to the SRC

April 26, 2018

Barbara McDowell Dowdall

English Department Head (Retired) A. Philip Randolph Career Tech High School

Member, Alliance for Philadelphia Public Schools (APPS)



As a longtime member of the Public-School Library Donation Community, tracing my trail of gift reading materials back to 1983, I pause today to consider whether my intended gestures of generosity have had the opposite of their intended effect. For instead of helping expand the holdings of libraries in schools across the city through careful consultation with Certified Teacher Librarians, I fear that I have somehow sparked or facilitated the inexorable cuts to staff and demise of this precious resource. Research affirms that economically stressed minority youngsters benefit most and mightily from fully resourced and professionally staffed school libraries. Students I have conversed with recently wince at the mention their absence. Won't you now, before the bell tolls on June 30th, give voice and hope to these youngsters with your budget resolution for the next academic year and onward?

Listed below are 35 years of donations. Donations will never replace real school libraries with certified teacher librarians. Our students are not a charity. Thank you.

1983-84

Philadelphia High School for Girls

- 10 years of *Ms. Magazine*
- William Shakespeare *Concordance*

1984-85 William Penn High School Varied African American authors

- Germantown Lankenau Motivation
Lay Bare the Heart by James Farmer
- Germantown High School
Harvard Music Dictionary

1989-97

- Rush Middle School
Gifted Support Classroom Library
- Roosevelt Middle School
Richard Wright and the Library Card by William Miller Illustrations by R. Gregory Christie.
Memorial gift for friend Gee Gee White

1994

Philadelphia High School for Girls

- 206th Class Gift – Works of fiction

2010

- Edwin H. Fitler Elementary School
Richard Wright and the Library Card by William Miller Illustrations by R. Gregory Christie

Gift books for Philadelphia public school libraries from Dowdall Retirement Party

Overbrook Elementary School

- *Cat Is Back At Bat* by John Stadler (Karen Bynes)
- *Dinomummy: The Life, Death, and Discovery of Dakota, A Dinosaur from Hell Creek* by Dr. Phillip Lars Manning (Cooper Komatsu and Nad Rosenberg)
- *The Hallelujah Flight* by Phil Bildner (Seth McDowell)
- *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* by Dr. Seuss (Linda and Michael Marder)
- *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey (Barbara Dowdall)
- *Miss Nelson is Missing!* by James Marshall (Karen Bynes)
- *Outer Space Fun* [3 copies] (Rhona Cooper and Tina Grau)
- *Phillie Phanatic's Galapagos Islands Adventure* [one of seven titles] by Tom Burgoyne and illustrated by Len Epstein (Jen Kramny and Kathy Killick)
- *The Little Prince* by Antoine De Saint-Exupery (Laura Jacklin)
- *A Treasure of Cats* (Linda and Michael Marder)
- *We're Back! A Dinosaur's Story* by Hudson Talbott (Karen Bynes)

Hill Freeman Middle School

- *Are You There, God? It's Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume (Faith McDowell)
- *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli (Faith McDowell)
- *Dork diaries* by Rachel Renee Russell (Vera DaVinci)
- *Open the Door to Liberty! A Biography of Toussaint L'Ourverture* by Anne Rockwell (Barbara Dowdall)
- *The Popularity Papers* by Lydia Goldblatt & Julie Graham-Chang (Isabel Kaufman and Nad Rosenberg)
- *Uprising: Three Young Women Caught in the Fire that Changed America* by Margaret Peterson Haddix (Sam Kaufman and Nad Rosenberg)

Nicetown Boys and Girls Club

- Classroom Library (Rick and Sandi Miller)
- **A. Philip Randolph Career Tech HS** (*Entrusted to the care of SRC and Dr. Hite*)
- *Black Scholar: Horace Mann Bond* by Wayne Urban
- *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie* by Ayana Mathis
- *Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery* Deborah Willis and Barbara Krauthamer, editors
- *Bayard Rustin Letters*

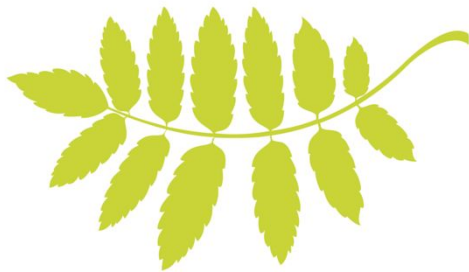
2013 to the present

- 1,000 random magazines from Unitarian Society of Germantown congregants donated in response to an appeal for "Philadelphia schools without libraries."
- 100s of *New York Times* health, social studies, fashion, art and music sections (to Girls' High, Randolph, and Dobbins)

Current state of libraries in schools provided with donated reading materials

"A well-stocked, well-staffed library is like a gardener who plants books, knowledge, and dreams, and grows readers, learners, and do-ers."

-Laura Purdie Salas



Philadelphia High School for Girls 5 years without a librarian

William Penn High School—closed

Site purchased, and school razed by Temple University

Germantown High School—closed in 2013

No librarian prior to closing

Lankenau (previously Motivation) Environmental Science High School

No librarian

Rush Middle School (now Northeast CAPA)

No librarian

Roosevelt Middle School (now Elementary)

No librarian

Edwin H. Fitler Academics Plus

No librarian

Overbrook Elementary

No librarian

Hill-Freedman

Staff listing unavailable. Library required for IB status.

A Philip Randolph CT High School

Library space emptied; no librarian

Murrell Dobbins CT High School

No librarian

Celebrated Sisters

Editor's note: I didn't have to look far for this month's Celebrated Sister. I have the pleasure of serving on the AAPHSG Board of Directors with the force of nature otherwise known as Dorothy G. Kapenstein. Here she shares her first-hand account of receiving recognition from her peers as a nonagenarian.

Ninety Is A Beautiful Number!

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein (January 1946)

"Old age is a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

Satchel Paige

When I retired from the School District of Philadelphia in 1991, I decided to maintain my longtime Philadelphia Federation of Teachers (PFT) membership and to become a life member of the Philadelphia Public Schools Retirees Employees Association (PPSREA). This has proved to be a happy and wise decision.

PPSREA explains its role and scope in a website statement: "Philadelphia Public School Retired Employees Association serves Philadelphia School District retirees in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. If you were a teacher, classroom assistant, NTA, paraprofessional, cafeteria worker, building engineer, school police officer, administrator, bus driver, or any other employee of the Philadelphia School District, our services are for you. We help our members become aware of many benefits, resources, and available support. PPSREA has more than 60 years of experience servicing our members."

For many years, this organization has had the pleasant custom of recognizing and honoring members who

have become 90 years of age during a calendar year. I was happy to receive a letter with an invitation to be one of this year's group of 24 nonagenarians being honored at the organization's annual spring luncheon on May 17, 2018. Only 15 of us were physically able to be there, but the others were mentioned in every phase of the lovely program. Each nonagenarian entered the dining room on the arm of an escort; in my case, it was

my son Larry Kapenstein who came in from Harrisburg to be with me. We were treated to special gifts including a framed photo and bios, a folder with a personalized message from Mayor James Kenny, and a little bag of candies and a beautifully decorated cupcake to enjoy later.

Would you believe that within about 20 minutes of walking through the front door of the Penn's Landing Caterers I met three other Girls' High girls and a retired GHS administrator?

I immediately got their contact information and will interview them for future issues. Sherry O. Morris, PPSREA President, is also one of us! I give heartfelt thanks to Sherry, the officers, and board members, especially Theresa Jackson, the nonagenarian recognition chairperson, for making 90 such a beautiful number!



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.

Editorial Board

Marcia L. Hinton, Editor
Elisabeth D'Alessandro, Co-editor
Barbara Dowdall, Editor Emerita
Ruth Brown, Copy Editor
Dorothy G. Kapenstein, Features Writer

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/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/36428977491/>



<https://twitter.com/ghsalumnae>



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8566434>

Alumnae Association for Philadelphia HS for Girls

P.O Box 21471

Philadelphia, PA 19141-9998