

Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls

February 2017

Philadelphia High School for Girls

Tickets for the 128th Annual Meeting and Luncheon

The 128th Annual Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 22. The keynote speaker will be the Honorable Shirley C. Franklin. Tickets are now available; three purchasing options are provided.

Tickets are available through the direct link:

(https://www.eventbrite.com/e/128t h-annual-meetingluncheon-tickets-30468406825). Please note there is a \$5.00 surcharge when purchasing tickets online. The second, a paper option, can be accessed via a PDF link included in the Constant Contact email that delivered this newsletter.

The final option is an onsite payment on the day of the luncheon. Walk-in registrations will be accepted with a **cash or credit/debit card** payment of **\$80.00** (\$75.00 plus a \$5.00 surcharge). There is an ATM in the lobby of the hotel. Seating with your class cannot be guaranteed.

Upcoming Class Reunions

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Arrange a class reunion! We offer a very nice package to classes that join us on April 22 to have their reunions with the Alumnae Association. **A special invitation to the 204, January 1963 Class, Shirley Clark Franklin's graduating class:** We will help you to organize a reunion so that a great number of Shirley's classmates and friends will be with us to cheer her on and celebrate her!

The following classes have already arranged to have their reunions at our annual spring gathering! If you are a member of one of these classes and would like to participate in the reunion planning process, please contact the organizer listed below.

Graduating Class	Class Number	Contact Person	Email Address
June 1952	183	Sabina Gatti	sabinagatti@comcast.net
June 1962	203	Nancy Newcomer Donna Elman Fine	nanewc@yahoo.com caesertoo@yahoo.com
June 1972	216	Regina Simpson	rsimpson537@gmail.com
June 1978	222	Carol Eddicks-Wilson	twinwilson60@gmail.com
June 1982	226	Jean Atwell Tracy Sturgis Ferguson	atwell507@verizon.net ctferguson@comcast.net
June 1987	231	Lynette Jackson	nyasha@bellsouth.net
June 1992	236	Paula Antunes Schneider	schneiderfamily@gmail.com

Call Dorothy G. Kapenstein (215-331-2681) or email her (dorothyk08@aol.com) for more information.

The following classes also have milestone anniversaries this year:

1937, 1942, 1947, January 1952, 1957, January 1962, 1967, January 1972, 1977, January 1982, 1987, January 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2012. There's still time to contact Dorothy to arrange your reunion on April 22, 2017.

News from Our School

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Louis Austin, History Department Chair, and Joseph Marchetti, Arts Chairperson, have started work on a project that will delight students and alumnae alike. Mr. Austin sent us this message: "In June of 2016, two rising seniors, Tahira Ahmad and Darneisha Pressley, approached Mr. Marchetti with the idea of creating a school newspaper. Mr. Marchetti was more than willing to draw on his

previous experience as sponsor of the Iris to assist the students. He also suggested that the Newspaper Club pair with the Video Club, sponsored by Mr. Austin, to create a singular Journalism Club. Mr. Marchetti and Mr. Austin cosponsor the club, which consists of 15 students who attend after-school meetings on Tuesdays. The editor-in-chief, Tahira Ahmad, has assigned various school-related stories to club members. There are



Astral Artists from left to right: Julietta Curenton, Karen Slack, and Lura Johnson

about 15 articles ready for the first

publication. Mr. Marchetti is working with the students to produce an online PDF version of the *Iris*. The first issue of the *Iris* 2017 is just about complete and should be available online by February 1. The video production club films school events and edits the footage. Eventually the club hopes to develop the capability to link club produced video to the *Iris*.

Bonnie Richman Slobodien (Class of 212), Director of **Education and Community** Engagement for Astral Artists, brought us a wonderful chamber music concert on February 3, 2017. A trio of female musicians—Julietta Curenton (who also happens to be Distinguished Daughter Marietta Simpson's niece), Karen Slack, and Lura Johnson—presented a concert of mostly French music. The artists shared their very different paths to careers in classical music with the girls. Aside from the lovely performance, the artists had a great guestion-and-

answer session with the students. Thanks, Bonnie and Astral, for continuing to provide entertaining and educational programs, and for exposing our girls to music they might not otherwise hear.

News from Our Alumnae

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Dr. LeoNora (Nora) Marx Cohen (January 1962) wrote to us: "I enjoy



the Girls High newsletter so much. Here is some news about me: I graduated with the 202 class, January 1962. I wish I could

remember the name of my GHS Spanish teacher. Have tried to find out. Maybe you might know, but I owe her a debt of gratitude! Over the more than 50 years since graduating from Girls' High, I taught school, then started the Mentally Gifted Program for Philadelphia schools. I earned my doctorate at Temple University, then began university teaching at University of Oregon. Our curriculum and instruction unit was eliminated following a property tax limitation, so I taught at University of Melbourne in Australia, and then returned to Oregon to teach at Oregon State University, where I retired in June 2011. My husband of 43 years and I spend five plus months a year in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, a charming town in central Mexico rich with history. Here I volunteer with various non-profits that help kids. To this end, I write bilingual children's books in English and Spanish, with all profits from the books benefiting these organizations. I use high school students as my illustrators, paying them well for their illustrations, which need to be done using computer graphics programs. So, this is why I owe a debt to my GHS Spanish teacher!

Perhaps there are GHS girls who might like to illustrate a story for me. Thus far, I have 15 books on Amazon CreateSpace and am working on another dozen. My website is: http://leonoracohenbooks.webstarts.com/index.html If a student wishes to be in touch with me about doing artwork, my email address is cohenl@oregonstate.edu.

Have included a photo of myself. Again, thanks so much for all you do with keeping us informed about happenings at GHS!"

Dr. Rochelle (Shelley) Lindemeyer (June 1968) sent us information about her outstanding career in the field of pediatric dentistry. She attained great success in academia teaching pediatric dentistry and in a part-time private practice. After earning her GHS diploma, she obtained her BA from Westchester University in 1972. She earned her DMD degree in 1977 from the University of Pittsburgh School of Dentistry. In addition, she did postgraduate study at the University of Pennsylvania and earned a Certificate in Pediatric Dentistry in 1979. Dr. Lindemeyer began her very distinguished academic career in 1979 as a clinical instructor at Temple University's School of Dentistry. By 2002 she had risen to Associate Professor with tenure. She was appointed Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Pennsylvania Dental School in 2002. and held the post until 2011 when she became Associate Professor. From 2002 to 2016, she served as Program Director of Pediatric Dental Residency at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Dr. Lindemeyer has been a most active member of her professional

organizations and societies. She has served as an officer, board member, or committee member of such organizations as the American Dental Society, the Pennsylvania Dental Association, the Philadelphia County Dental Society. She is much involved in attending and organizing professional conferences and she is a frequent quest speaker. She is a prolific writer of articles and book chapters on professional topics and frequently writes book reviews. She has received many honors and awards, among them being named a top dentist by Philadelphia Magazine in 2010, 2012, and 2013!

Mary Zakarian (January 1945), an Armenian American artist, is the subject of a book titled Out of My Great Sorrows: The Armenian Genocide and Artist Mary Zakarian by Allan Arpaiian and Susan Arpajian Jolley, released January 6, 2017 by Transaction Publishers. Mary now lives in a retirement community but is no longer able to paint. The biography examines Mary's life and art, and in particular studies the effect of genocidal trauma on survivors and their descendants. The authors are brother and sister; they are Mary's nephew and niece. The child of survivors of the Armenian genocide, Mary was born and grew up in Philadelphia. After graduating from Girls' High, she studied at Moore College of Art, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the Cheltenham Art Center, and privately with various artists. Her teachers included Paulette Van Roekens, Leon Sitarchuk, and Paul Gorka. In 1971, she traveled to the former Soviet Armenia. Her journey served as an inspiration for her highly emotional works, which are characterized by an expressive and bold use of color and form. That same year, she founded the Zakarian School of Art in Philadelphia. Over the years, Mary was featured on television and in print media, delivered lectures, and did

portrait demonstrations for various audiences. She taught hundreds of students in her private studio, many of whom went on to art schools and colleges. People from all over the world have bought Mary's paintings, and she was one of seven artists in the United States commissioned to create an artistic representation of the immigrant experience for the 100th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty.

Mary's two sisters also graduated from Girls' High. Rose Zakarian graduated from Girls' High in 1942. She won a Mayor's Scholarship to study at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating



in 1946 with a German major, and earning a Phi Beta Kappa key.

After

The Zakarian sisters, zirca 1946. From left: Rose (June 1942) Sosie (Jan. 1944), and Mary (Jan. 1945)

graduation, she worked for several

years as a translator for an importexport firm in Center City Philadelphia. She married Vasken Arpajian in 1947, raised two children, and returned to work when her children were older as an aide in the Lower Moreland School District. Sosie Zakarian graduated from Girls' High in 1944. Her first of many positions in the business world was at Curtis Publishing in Center City Philadelphia. She married Rouben Kachikian, a native of Tehran, Iran, in 1951, and moved from Philadelphia as her husband was pursuing his doctorate in chemistry. As she raised two children, she continued to hold positions in businesses wherever she lived,

including New York, Tennessee, and North Jersey.

Charlotte Gordy Glauser (June 1944) emailed us to share some of her memories of her years at GHS during World War II. Charlotte said, "Among other shortages, substitute teachers were often difficult to find. In my senior year, a couple of us math majors were called upon to teach algebra or geometry to 9th or 10th graders if a math teacher was unable to get to school. We managed to do that since we had so recently been successful students in those areas.

I was taking physics as a senior when Miss Kirkpatrick became indisposed and no substitute was available. She told Dr. Hart, principal at the time, that I could teach the next topic, which was optics. I took the task, working with the class to keep a page or two ahead of them. When Miss Kirkpatrick returned, she gave an exam on the subject on which the class did not do very well. I had no trouble convincing her to skip the results because I was obviously not very good at getting the concepts across."

OOPS!

We admit it. Though we're Girls' High girls, we're not perfect. We (occasionally) make mistakes, but when we make 'em we own up to 'em.

In the January 2017 Alumnae Association newsletter, Nancy Ebenbach Newcomer's email address was incorrectly listed with an extraneous "i." The correct email address is: nanewc@yahoo.com.

Our apologies!

Alumnae in the News

Jasmine (Ellis) Alexander (2003) graced the cover of the Philadelphia Daily News on February 8, 2017. Jasmine is the producer of ESPN's highly anticipated relaunch of the 6 P.M. hour of SportsCenter. For the complete article go to http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/pattisonave/ESPN-SportsCenter-SC6-Jasmine-Alexander-Sixers-fan.html.



Iola Harper (1985), Deputy Director of Commerce for the City of Philadelphia was featured in the Winter 2017 edition of PRH Magazine. To read more, go to https://issuu.com/philadelphiarowhomemagazine/docs/winter2016v2.



News from Our Distinguished Daughters

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein



Vanessa Thomas Smith (June 1973) played many major roles in show biz. She is widely recognized as the first female African-American circus ringmaster. Vanessa and Robert Houston, a Philadelphia-based circus collector and enthusiast, appeared in a special presentation, "Our Circus Lives," on February 11, 2017 from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M. at the Mercer Museum located at 84 S. Pine Street in Doylestown, PA. The show was presented in collaboration with the African-American Museum of Bucks County. Costumes and other items from Smith's career as a performer, plus African-American circus memorabilia from the Houston collection, were on display.

Oren Whyche-Shaw (June 1976) has had a long and distinguished career in government and has held

several major posts. Her official and most impressive job description reads: "Oren E. Whyche-Shaw is Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Africa Bureau and Coordinator for President Obama's Trade Africa Initiative. Ms. Whyche-Shaw leads the Bureau's private sector, financial access and trade development activities on the continent and the USAID engagement with African Diaspora in the United States. Prior to this position, Ms. Whyche-Shaw led the Africa Bureau's Office of West Africa and the Office for Sustainable Development, She also served for three years as the Africa Bureau's Principal Advisor to the Assistant Administrator for Africa." Oren's most recent achievement was to serve as a member of President Obama's transition team. She emailed this update: "What an eventful year 2016 turned out to be! And 2017 promises to be full of challenging uncertainty. My wish for us all is a year of health, peace and prosperity. For me the new year has brought on a promotion and significantly increasing responsibilities at work (from leading the USAID work in only one region of sub-Saharan Africa to responsibility for all sub-Saharan Africa efforts) driven by the resignations and ongoing departures of the Obama political appointees. Wishing all a productive meeting and the successful kickoff for a dynamic 2017 for GHS and the Association!"



by Dorothy G. Kapenstein

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

Barbara Willig (January 1959) died on January 10, 2017. There is an ancient nursery rhyme that speaks of a woman with "Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes. She shall have music wherever she goes." Barbara Willig made music everywhere she went. She was both an educator and a performer. After her GHS graduation, she obtained her professional training at Temple University and The Curtis Institute of Music. She taught music at several Philadelphia public schools. She was a talented pianist and gave piano lessons privately. Reporter Kristen A. Graham authored the obituary that appeared in the *Daily News* of January 13, 2017. In it Ms. Graham noted that Barbara Willig was a longtime member of Singing City, a city choir founded to effect social change

through bringing diverse people

together and that was a mission

crucial to her life. She supported the

labor movement and was an active

member of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers. She was a member of the boards of the Jewish Labor Committee

and the B'nai Brith Educators

Unit. Alumnae News writer
Dorothy G. Kapenstein reports
that she first met Barbara Willig
when they worked together at
Wanamaker Middle School.
Dorothy was the librarian and
Barbara was the choral music
teacher. Brought together
by their great interest in
opera and social history, they
obtained a grant and created a course
called "On Wings of Song: Black
Artists in Opera." They taught it to a
class of 8th grade students and wrote

Charlotte Grice Williams (January 1950) passed away peacefully on January 6, 2017. She was born in Philadelphia, PA, on June 22, 1932, to John Grice and Louise Washington Grice, the second of six children. Following her graduation from Girls' High, she attended nursing school at Philadelphia General Hospital and

a teacher's manual to go with it.

Thomas Jefferson University. She had a 40-year career as a nurse anesthetist. She served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel. She was the wife of Sgt. Maurice Williams, Sr., a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. They had five sons, Maurice Jr, Michel, Myles, Mark, and Martin and eight grandchildren.

Emily Hardwick McDonald (January 1946) passed away on January 29, 2017, at her residence at Autumn Lake in Ocean View, NJ. She was 88 years old. Emily was born on January 1, 1929, in Philadelphia, to Thomas PA Frederick and Jessie Margaret Emily was a brilliant Hardwick. student at the Philadelphia High School for Girls. She not only graduated summa cum laude, but she had the highest average in her class.

She said later in life that she did not plan to become a teacher when she entered Girls High, but Miss Mary Baylson, teacher of Latin and English, became her mentor and role model. She convinced Emily that she would be an excellent teacher. Some years ago, Emily wrote a tribute to our dear Miss Baylson that appeared in the *Alumnae News*.

Emily won a tuition scholarship that took her to the University of Pennsylvania. She earned a bachelor's degree in Classical Studies and a master's degree in Education. She also met her future husband, Frederick McDonald, at Penn. Emily taught Latin

and Greek at Scarsdale High School in Scarsdale, NY, for 32 years. She was a member and officer of the Classical Society of New York State and sang for many years with the Westchester Chorale. She was a lifelong member of the Episcopal Church and attended services in Philadelphia, PA, White Plains, NY, and Somers Point, NJ. Emily's husband, Frederick McDonald,

died in 1973. She was preceded in death bv two brothers. John Hardwick and Norman Hardwick. She is survived by a sister, Mary Hardwick, 10 nieces and nephews and 11 great-nieces and nephews.

Emilv Hardwick (McDonald) and Dorothy Goldstein (Kapenstein) met on their first day at Girls' High. They were in the same advisory section and stayed in the same advisory for all four years. shared many They classes interests. Emily and Dorothy continued their friendship at Penn where once again they were in many classes together. Their friendship lasted some 74 years, even though they lived far apart. Says Dorothy, "Emily was a wonderful friend, a concerned and caring teacher, and an accomplished scholar. I will close this tribute to my friend by quoting a line (slightly amended) from Catullus, one of the Roman poets so dear to her: 'Atque in perpetuum, soror, ave atque vale.' And so forever, sister, hail and farewell!"

Celebrated Sisters

By Marcia L. Hinton

The Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls believes it is important to take note of dedicated alumnae, whose important contributions have eased the way for, and inspired so many women. Celebrated Sisters is an initiative designed to complement our Distinguished Daughters by highlighting the continued accomplishments of Girls' High graduates.

Darniece L. Shirley 1992 (236)

Editor's note:

While perusing social media, Facebook to be exact, I saw a post about a group of GHS alumnae who spearheaded a scholarship for a deserving Girls' High girl. Intrigued, I reached out to the outstanding alumna who currently cochairs this effort. Kudos to Darniece L. Shirley, and the outstanding alumnae who embody everything the Philadelphia High School for Girls stands for.

About the Scholarship

The scholarship was established in 2010 by a small group of Enon Baptist Church



members who are also members of the class of 1980 (224). These alumnae decided to celebrate

their 30th graduation anniversary by establishing a scholarship for Girls' High seniors who are also members of Enon

Tabernacle Baptist Church to pursue post-secondary education. The members of the 224 included Valerie Harrison, Robin Bush, Whitnye Wilmer Jackson, and Pamela Bell. Since then the scholarship has been funded by Girls' High graduates from all classes, as well as friends of Enon Baptist Church. At least one \$1,000 non-renewable scholarship to a Girls' High senior has been awarded each year since its inception. The requirements are: the student must be a member of Enon Baptist Church, must display leadership and community service, and most have a minimum 3.0 GPA. This is the 6th consecutive year that scholarships have been provided to at least one, and some years two, GHS students to help defray the cost of attending college. Lynette Hazelton, class of 1976 (220) and Darniece Shirley are currently cochairing this effort.

Life at GHS

Darniece was the first member of her family to attend Girls' High, but not the first in her family to go to Girls' High. Wait, what?, you say as you scratch your head. Her mother, Doris Shirley, was a college guidance counselor at GHS from the mid-'80s until the end of the

'90s, when she retired from the School District of Philadelphia.

Math and Spanish were Darniece's favorite subjects and her favorite teachers were Mrs. Mosley, Mr. Oglesby, and Mr. Partee. Among her fondest memories of GHS are the lifelong friendships that were forged in the pink marble halls, the annual Songs of the Season assembly, and County Fair.

Darniece led a very active life at GHS as a member of student government and Treble Clef while also serving as a Senior Sponsor. At graduation, she was acknowledged for perfect attendance (12 years) and was the recipient of the Service Club Dr. L. Ruth Murray Klein Award and the Frank Sullivan Human Relations (PFT) Award.

Education and Career

Darniece earned a BS in Mathematics from Hampton University and an MS in Mathematics from UMass, Amherst. Currently, she is a health actuary for the federal government. Prior to that, she worked as an underwriting officer for the Chubb Group of Insurance Companies.

<u>Leisure Activities and Community</u> <u>Service</u>

A self-avowed extroverted introvert, Darniece is a certified aquatic fitness instructor and personal trainer (land/aqua). Known as an aquatician, she helps people achieve physical health and wellness through aquatic fitness.

She works with people who have limited range of motion and those with chronic injury/illness (lupus, MS, fibromyalgia, and diabetes), as well as athletes and those looking to cross-train in the pool. Darniece likes to point out, this is not your grandmother's water aerobics!!

Darniece is an ardent supporter of the National MS Society and the work they do in Washington DC, and across the country. She also volunteers with several different organizations in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area.

Something to think about

"Don't let anyone live in your head rent free" is Darniece's personal motto.

One last thing...

On a final note, Darniece shares that the 236, the class of 1992 will be celebrating its 25th reunion in 2017. They'll be just one of the classes celebrating their reunion at the 128th Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

Girls' High instilled a great sense of one's self... this allowed me not to back away from barriers or challenges that confronted me.

Our Alumnae Association Matters!!

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

Please continue to send information if you or someone you know is serving or has served in our Armed Forces. Please email your news to dorothyk08@aol.com.

Do you have news about a retired faculty member or are you a retired faculty member? Please email your news to dorothyk08@aol.com.

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

What's New? Send your news items and pictures to dorothyk08@aol.com and to communication@ghsalumnae.org. GHS classmates and friends love to read the latest news about each other!

Do you want to enjoy the intangible spirit of the days at Girls' High? Would you want to have items that have the Girls' High name or logo imprinted on them? If so, the Alumnae Association can help. Please contact:

communication@ghsalumnae.org 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.

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

Editorial Board

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

We look forward to hearing from you!



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