

Alumnae Association Philadelphia High School for Girls

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September/October 2017

Perpetuate, Cultivate, Advance and Enhance

Perpetuate, Cultivate, Advance, and Enhance

By Elisabeth D'Alessandro

As the Philadelphia High School for Girls prepares to celebrate 170 years of providing high-quality education to the young women of Philadelphia, your Alumnae Association Board has been asking ourselves: Who are we? What is our 21st century role in support of our alma mater and our membership? Being Girls' High girls, we have a verbose statement and mission. That statement can be summed up in four words – perpetuate, cultivate, advance, and enhance.

Perpetuate – We all strive to perpetuate the traditions, lessons, and ideals that we experienced as students at the Philadelphia High School for Girls. Our traditions bind us together, and provide students of all generations with a common ground. They are part of the Intangible Spirit.

One of the wonderful things about Girls' High is that many traditions continue, while each generation adds its own. We respect the new while perpetuating the old.

Cultivate – Many of us consider Girls' High to be our first – or only – sorority. Cultivate the friendships and connections you made as a student. We all know that *Girls' High Girls Are Everywhere!* Seek each other out, and support each other.

Help to cultivate future students. Talk about what single-sex education meant to you. We are not shy about saying where we went to school – now we need to share our experiences with younger women and their parents.

Help to continue to cultivate an atmosphere of academic excellence. Attend Career Day, volunteer to do workshops, offer internships – whatever you can do to model being a motivated, driven, intelligent woman.

Advance – We've crashed through glass ceilings. We've defied norms. We've set new standards. We've redefined "a woman's place."

We, as alumnae of one of the finest college preparatory programs in the country – and one of the only public single-sex high schools – are in a unique position to advocate for opportunities for women and girls. We need to continue to lay the groundwork for women and girls to achieve.

Enhance – School funding is not what it once was. Consider donating time, energy, resources, or capital to enhance the educational opportunities of today's students.

Perpetuate, cultivate, advance, and enhance will drive all activities of the Alumnae Association in the coming months. We challenge you to look inside yourself and ask how you can help to perpetuate our ideals, cultivate our network of members, advance opportunities for women and girls, and enhance the education of current students. It's time for the thousands of voices to ring!

Upcoming Events

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

The class of 226 celebrates its 35th Class Reunion

Event: Cocktail Party

Date: Friday, October 20, 2017

Time: 7pm – 11pm

Place: Popi's Italian Restaurant, 3120 S. 20th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145

Please contact RMcCracken88@verizon.net to reserve your place.

The 221 will host its 40th Class Reunion

The Class of 1977 will gather on Saturday, October 28, 2017, at the Doubletree Airport Hilton from 6pm – 11pm. The celebration will include dinner and dancing, and acknowledging the comradery we've shared even though we may not have seen one another in many years! The planning committee is developing optional activities during the weekend, including a tour of our beloved alma mater on Friday and breakfast on Sunday morning. We have blocked rooms for both Friday and Saturday nights at a rate of \$122 plus tax. Spread the word! If you have updated contact information for those not on social media, please forward to Marci Miller Rowling (mrowing@aol.com) or to her via Messenger on Facebook. More information will follow. GET EXCITED!

Planning a Reunion?

Let the Alumnae Association help get the word out about your reunion. Our newly refurbished website and Member Planet interface offers advanced event management tools that will simplify and centralize reunion planning for all classes. Create an interactive reunion page specific to your class to promote the event, send invitations, and sell tickets. Create a contact directory of your class members and exchange email within the application. Member Planet offers reunion registration without third-party hassles, as well as one-stop payment management and tracking. And it's all free!

To get more information about planning your reunion, please send an email to news@ghsalumane.org.



Summer 2017

Carol (Dunn) May (June 1965) celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with a vow-renewal ceremony. Her husband George was, and still is, her high-school sweetheart! After the reception, the couple took a second honeymoon. To where else? Why, Niagara Falls, Canada, of course! Carol is making The Mighty Fine 209 proud, indeed!



Lynn Clayton (1974) reunited with her son in Europe this summer. Her son has been working in Japan for the last two years, and they made plans to vacation in Europe. Joining her on the Paris leg of her European vacation were her best friend **Kim Taylor Singleton (1974)** and husband Gerald. Her whirlwind vacation included London, Paris, Rome, Florence, and Venice. As you can see, Lynn shopped her way across Europe!



News From Our School

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Dr. Cristobal Carambo, chemistry teacher and leader of the Girls' High STEM project, has been awarded a \$4000 STEM Research Grant by the Society for Science & the Public. Through the STEM Action & Research Grant Program, the Society aims to fund cutting-edge, mission-driven organizations, and support teachers who are leading students in authentic STEM research projects. The GHS grant was obtained to provide resources to students wishing to engage in science research. The goal is to provide the resources and teacher mentors to any student or students wishing to complete a science research paper. These include the following groups:

- International baccalaureate students working on their internal assessment essay
- Science Fair students
- Juniors or seniors working on either their junior or senior research paper
- Students involved in the Junior Humanities Science Symposium

A select group of these research projects will be published in a journal. All papers will be chosen and edited by an editorial board probably consisting of seniors in an AP or Honors English course. The board will select a variety of papers for publication in the journal. The tentative name is *Philadelphia High School for Girls Science Journal* (or another name yet to be decided). The hope is to publish twice a year. This year there will most likely be only one issue published.

Dates to Remember

By Elisabeth D'Alessandro

October 20, 2017 – Senior Day

October 25-27, 2017 – Freshman Trip

Chaperones needed; contact jdmarchetti@philasd.org

Winter Concert – December 14, 2017

Songs of the Season – December 22, 2017

2018 The 170th Birthday of The Philadelphia High School for Girls

April 21, 2018 – The Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon – *Looking Back – Moving Forward*

News from Our Alumnae

Joan (Freeman) Barasovska (1970) reports that former faculty English teacher, Frankie Rubinstein, is now 99 years old and still living independently in the Philadelphia area. While she's not up for visits, she would certainly welcome letters and cards from former students and colleagues. Please write to me at msjoan9@gmail.com for Frankie's address.

Sharon Pinkenson (1966), Executive Director of the Philadelphia Film Office, was highlighted in the Sunday *Inquirer's* Health issue of July 23, 2017. See the article at <http://www.philly.com/philly/health/health-news/if-its-rude-to-call-old-people-old-whats-the-right-word-20170723.html>.



Tina Sloane Green (January 1962) has been selected for induction into the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association's inaugural Hall of Fame. She will be honored on Thursday, November 16, at the IWLCA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony during

the IWLCA Annual Meeting in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

Tina was Temple University's head coach from 1975 to 1992 and collected 207 career victories in 18 seasons. She was the first African-American

head coach in the history of intercollegiate women's lacrosse, and led her team to three national championships, claiming the AIAW title in 1982 and the NCAA crown in 1984 and 1988, and was named the National Coach of the Year. She is the founder of the Black Women in Sports Foundation and received the 2016 Spirit of Tewaaron Award. Tina was inducted into the US Lacrosse National Hall of Fame in 1997.

Marguerite (Brooks) Lenfest (June 1951) and her husband Jerry Lenfest, Philadelphia's loving and giving couple, have followed St. Paul's advice literally for many years. They worked industriously and amassed a great fortune and then proceeded to dismantle it and give it away to worthy causes. Articles in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *Daily News* of June 23, 2017, announced that the Lenfests will soon be on the receiving end of a great honor. Their names are listed among the recipients of the 2017 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy. First given in 2001, the award honored the 100th anniversary of the start of Andrew Carnegie's memorable career as a philanthropist. The Medal is given by a group of 20 organizations founded by Carnegie, who was a magnificent philanthropist himself. An official announcement notes that the Medal is given to one or more individuals who have donated their private wealth to good causes. The Lenfests have given away more than \$1.2 billion including 78 gifts of at least \$1 million. Their generous gifts have benefited universities, colleges, museums, libraries, and countless other institutions.

Marguerite was named a Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania in 2004. This is the highest recognition of achievement awarded to women by the state, and Mrs. Lenfest was one of seven women honored that year.

Both Lenfests will join the other honorees on October 3, 2017 to receive the Carnegie Medal in a special ceremony at the New York Public Library. Look for an update at that time.

Deborah (Soriano) Mahler (June 1982) is a longtime member of Philadelphia city



government and has served the city and its citizens since 1992, when she joined the staff of then City Councilman James Kenney, now Mayor Kenney, of Philadelphia. She is currently completing 25

years of service to the people of Philadelphia. She worked her way up through the ranks to become Councilman Kenney's Chief of Staff during the last 15 years of his tenure in City Council. In an interview, Debbie described her duties at that time, and noted that she worked on the development and implementation of Councilman Kenney's legislative agenda, focusing on green initiatives, governmental efficiencies, gender equality, and LGBTQ rights on all fronts. In addition, she played an active role in Mr. Kenney's efforts to make Philadelphia a tourism and hospitality destination city as well as making the city more welcoming to new immigrants from throughout the world.

Debbie served as a major advisor for Mr. Kenney's successful campaign for mayor. She had previously served as advisor on a number of municipal and state election campaigns. When James Kenney was elected Mayor of Philadelphia in 2015, he appointed Debbie to a high post in his cabinet, that of Deputy Mayor for Intergovernmental Affairs. This city official acts as the Mayor's chief liaison to City Council, and

state and federal governments as well. In a story that appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of November 14, 2015, when he announced his cabinet appointments, Mayor Kenney said of Debbie that she is the person he trusts the most. He noted that hers is a very important job, involving big issues such as school funding that must be negotiated with City Council and the state legislature.

Alumnae News reporter Dorothy G. Kapenstein first met Debbie in 2000 when Debbie was Councilman Kenney's Chief of Staff, and conducted an interview at that time. Girls' High was a good launching pad for Debbie's career in public service. Before Girls' High, she attended parochial schools in South Philadelphia. At GHS, her horizons were considerably broadened. Debbie spoke fondly of her schoolmates. She felt that the school was a great mixing place for girls from all over the city, who had many different talents that brought about a well-balanced community. Her two greatest interests, reading and sports, were encouraged and nurtured.

When Mayor-elect Kenney appointed Debbie to her current position, City Council President Darrell L. Clarke issued a statement of approval to the media on November 13, 2015. His words summarize her past success and look forward to the future: "Debbie will bring deep institutional knowledge and fine interpersonal skills to the position of Deputy Mayor for Intergovernmental Affairs. She has a keen mind and political sensibility, and most importantly, she is a straight shooter who is fair and respectful to officials and staffers alike. I congratulate Debbie and look forward to working with her once again." We agree!

News from Our Distinguished Daughters

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

Distinguished Daughter **Sandra (Dungee) Glenn**



(1975) former Chair of the School Reform Commission, announced that she will be stepping down as CEO of Harambee Institute of Science and Technology Charter

School. She will join the board of trustees once a replacement is named.

Marcia (Devins) Greenberger (June 1963) has



retired after an impressive career. In 2006, attorney Marcia Greenberger was elected to our Court of Honor of Distinguished

Daughters, the highest award conferred on a graduate by the Philadelphia High School for Girls and the Alumnae Association. This recognition honors her lifetime achievement as a champion of the cause of legal equality for women and girls in such areas as education, employment, health and reproductive rights, and family economic security. *The New York Times* spoke of her as "guiding the battles of the Women's Rights Movement." Marcia has devoted the major part of her professional life to this vital and noble cause. In 1972, she founded the National Women's Law Center in Washington D.C. to further the work. Until her recent retirement, she served as Co-President, spearheading the accomplishments of the

organization. The group's slogan is, "With the law on your side, great things are possible." The mission statement reads, "To protect and advance the progress of women and girls at work, in school and in virtually every aspect of their lives, including retirement."

Marcia has been a leader in securing the passage of major legislation and counsel in landmark litigation establishing new legal protections for women. Among many examples are the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1991 providing critical protections against sexual harassment on the job, and Supreme Court victories strengthening protections for students and teachers against sex discrimination in schools and in the workplace. She has received so many honors and awards for her work that we can list only a few here. She was elected to the National Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY, in 2015. She was selected by the American Bar Association Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice as a recipient of the 2016 Civil Rights Hero Award. She has been given the James Wilson Award and the Alumni Award of Merit from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the Trustees' Council of Penn Women "Beacon" Leadership Award, the American Bar Association Margaret Brent Award, the National Association of Women Lawyers' Arabella Babb Mansfield Award, and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Lafayette College, as well as the Woman Lawyer of the Year Award by the D.C. Women's Bar Association and the William J. Brennan, Jr. Award by the District of Columbia Bar. As for the future, Marcia sends her regards to all of us at Girls' High, and the following words, "I plan to stay in the fight, with the National Women's Law Center and the causes I hold dear."

Brenda Alston-Mills (June 1962) is very busy! In



2012, Brenda retired from twin careers of more than 40 years. She was famous in the academic world as a distinguished educator in biology, and she was equally lauded for her role in championing the cause of diversity and equity in

access to education. In that same year of 2012, we elected Brenda to our Court of Honor of Distinguished Daughters. In 2007, we presented her with the Alumnae Award of Honor. There have been many other honors and awards. However, retirement for Brenda does not mean sitting at home and doing crossword puzzles. She is still a most active contributor to her two chosen fields of endeavor. We quote her own words about her present work, "From January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2012, I served as the Associate Dean and Director of the Office of Organizational and Professional Development for Diversity and Pluralism, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Michigan State

University. Since that time, I continue to facilitate diversity workshops and to present seminars for higher education, both nationally and internationally. I serve on the Board of Trustees at my undergraduate school, Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA. I am a member of the Academic and Student Affairs committees. During the summer, the college offers a two-week program, LycoPrep, to rising seniors and provides them with an opportunity to experience a Liberal Arts education. I have assisted in that program since its inception. Because my passion is access to education, I serve on the Board of the Urquhart Memorial Foundation. We offer scholarships to high school seniors from Philadelphia who enroll in college/university in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I continue to be a part of the scientific community either through writing articles and serving as an ad hoc peer reviewer for several scientific journals or working with an on-going project relating vitamin D concentrations in the blood to the effects of nicotine from cigarettes." And we must not forget to note that Brenda does volunteer work in two churches!

A Writer's Ocean Adventure

By Jenny Woodman, Class of 1991

On August 5, I joined oceanographer [Robert Ballard's](#) Corps of Exploration as a science communication fellow for the Ocean Exploration Trust. Founded by [Ballard](#) in 2008, the trust is an organization dedicated to ocean exploration and marine science, with an emphasis on biology, geology, and archeology.

As a writer (and recent MFA graduate), much of my research is done on a laptop. The non-profit publication I write for doesn't really have the budget to send me to a variety of locations for reporting. This is what a new media landscape is for many early-career writers. I applied for a fellowship that would get me on a research or exploration vessel to gain first-hand knowledge of the work. When I received word that I had been accepted as a science communication fellow for 2017, I felt like I had been selected to be an astronaut! This represented a chance to really experience life and science at sea.

The 2017 expedition season runs from May through November; the team is traveling up and down the West Coast of North America studying a variety of unique landscape features including [paleo-shorelines](#), hydrothermal vent fields, methane seeps, and deep-sea coral communities. The work takes place on board the Exploration Vessel (E/V) Nautilus, a 64-meter former East German [fishing vessel](#) that can host a 31-person science team and 17-member crew. The ship is outfitted with a wide range of [equipment](#) for scientific research and education.

Once on board, we spent a week exploring newly mapped



A map of the distances traveled to reach Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary each summer. Image Credit: [NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries](#)

regions in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, 57 miles northwest of San Francisco in order to help sanctuary managers better conserve this precious natural resource. The sanctuary was expanded in 2015, and managers had no idea what was contained within much of the boundaries of the 1286-square-mile territory. Using remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), we spent our time in underwater canyons, deep below the surface, looking for and collecting samples from rocky habitats, which are [hotspots](#) for marine life, because this terrain gives organisms something to hold on to.

Thanks to [upwelling](#) – a process generated by surface winds and currents, which helps bring cold, nutrient-rich water from the deep ocean up to the upper layers of the water column – the region is a magnet for marine mammals and seabirds; these creatures travel great distances for an all-you-can-eat buffet each August.

Above water, I spotted hundreds of black-footed albatross, pink-footed shearwaters, and common



E/V Nautilus at sea in 2015. Image Credit: [OET/Nautilus Live](#)

murres. I've never been much of a birder, but I know from friends that these encounters were special. Albatross spend much of their lives at sea and sightings are rare.



*These deep-sea octopuses, *Graneledone boreopacifica*, were abundant in the area; they are known to brood eggs over four years.*

Image Credit: OET/Nautilus Live

Underwater, we spotted numerous species of octopuses, skates, rockfish, and lots of squishy invertebrates that I found utterly mesmerizing, like the comb jellies we saw each night. These jellies have lived in our ocean for 500 million years and their combs generated a rainbow of colors as they drifted past our camera lens.

We found abundant corals, sponges, and associated organisms – some of which may unlock the next wave of anti-cancer drugs, like the small unassuming [green sponge](#) found in the Gulf of Alaska in 2005. This sponge contains compounds capable of “selectively targeting and killing tumor cells,” according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

In my work as a science writer for [IEEE Earthzine](#), I've learned that 50% of the cancer-fighting drugs on the market today come from marine resources. This knowledge made each watch shift I served while on the Nautilus feel that much more pressing. Given that we've only explored about 5% of the ocean, imagine what we will discover in the coming years, as technology takes us deeper and closer towards knowledge of our home planet?



A scientist from NOAA watches the video feed from the ROVs in the control van and confers with scientists on land about collecting samples.

Image Credit: OET/Nautilus Live

We didn't get much sun during our week at sea. Gray skies dominated, but it was of little concern to us. Our eyes weren't fixed on the horizon; rather, they were glued to the many television and computer screens found all over the ship. In particular, we sat in the control van -- two cargo shipping containers joined atop the Nautilus -- in the dark for eight hours each day as we performed our various jobs as members the Corps of Exploration. As science communication fellow, my primary responsibility was to moderate the conversations taking place between the scientists on the ship and viewers tuning in live from all over the world to watch our adventures.

But, then on August 12, our dives were canceled due to 20-foot waves. The sun finally appeared -- nudging our collective disappointment aside. We lingered on the social deck, watching the seabirds watch our boat in the hopes that we were a fishing vessel. Exhausted ROV engineers and interns reclined on the upper deck, basking in the warm rays after days upon days of 20- to 24-hour dives. The ROV team never seemed to rest. When they weren't piloting the ROVs, they were furiously at work maintaining and repairing Hercules and Argus -- our remotely operated vehicles of exploration.

In the distant horizon, a whale exhaled forcefully, sending a small geyser of air and

water above ocean surface. Then another appeared and another. Over three hours we scurried from one side of the ship to the other as hundreds of humpback whales surrounded us – cresting gracefully above the surface and disappearing again like dancers crossing a stage. It was breathtaking and awe-inspiring. Two blue whale sightings got even the most experienced marine wild-life spotters on board jumping up and down, shouting, and pointing at the water where the whales appeared for an instant.

It was like they knew we had something to celebrate.

In more than 92 hours of diving during our expedition, we collected 10 push core samples; 89 biological samples, divided up in to 233 samples for researchers all over the country; filled 22 [Niskin](#) bottles, providing 54 water samples for environmental DNA analysis and other research about changing ocean chemistry;



Humpback whales spent the afternoon with us in

expanded known ranges for marine organisms like ctenophores, fish, and coral species; and collected a sample of a corkscrew coral (for which there is no previous record in North America).

The expedition offered an “entirely new way to think about this area and an entirely new way to talk about this area,” said Dani Lipski, lead scientist for the expedition and research coordinator for Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

In other words, it was a huge success.

[Jenny Woodman](#) is a science writer and educator; she lives in Portland, Oregon.

Follow her on Twitter [@JennyWoodman](#).

This article was adapted from Jenny’s live blog for IEEE Earthzine during her time on the E/V Nautilus; you can read more [here](#)

Image Credit: Jenny Woodman

Cordell Bank on August 12.

In Memoriam

Ida M. Atterbeary, a retired public-school educator, died on August 4, 2017, while in hospice care in Columbia, MD. She was 94.

She was born on November 19, 1922 to the late Eva and Roger Wright in Philadelphia. She was educated in the public-school system and graduated from the Philadelphia High School for Girls. She earned her teacher's certificate from West Chester State College and her master's degree in education from Temple University.

Ida taught in the School District of Philadelphia for 25 years. She spent most of her teaching career at the Joseph C. Ferguson Elementary School.

Ida was known for her quick wit, infectious smile, and high-spirited laughter. Among her social and civic organizations, the Philadelphia Moles was a favorite, along with reading to and playing with her grand and great-grandchildren. Needlepoint, cross-stitching, and craft gatherings were a pastime.

She was a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Knowlton R. Atterbeary.

Ida is survived by her sister, Miriam Turner (husband, Dudley); son, Knowlton R. Atterbeary Jr. (wife, Rosalynne); daughter, Marlyn Atterbeary Oatts; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

http://www.phillytrib.com/obituaries/ida-m-atterbeary-retired-educator/article_025a8357-abbf-59ca-8f39-2c4cc78e4bd9.html

Belinda V. Barnett, a missionary, died on September 27, 2016. She was 66. She was born on November 17, 1949, to the late Margaret and Paul Frederick in Philadelphia. Belinda attended

Catholic grade school and was later educated in the Philadelphia public-school system. She loved to sing and had her own group in junior high school.

Belinda was better known as "Blinkey." Her family said she will be remembered for her outgoing personality and was always the life of the party.

At an early age, she met Paul "Tufty" Barnett. They were married on June 5, 1966. They celebrated their 50th anniversary last year. Two sons were born to their union, Derek and Eric "Mil Mil."

Belinda was saved at an early age at The Holy Light Baptist Church. She and her husband later joined the Good Samaritan Baptist Church. Barnett was president of the church's Missionary Ministry. Her church family called her "Missionary Barnett" as well as Deaconess Barnett. She truly loved the Lord and was devoted to helping the sick and shut in.

She loved her family and cherished, Keith, Dwayne, and Kiki, as if they were her own children.

Her cousin, Joyce served as her caregiver during her illness. She never missed a day with her.

In addition to her husband, Belinda is survived by: her sister, Doris Gibbons; brother-in-law, Barry Gibbons; sister-in-law, Mildred Barnett; nephews, Keith and Scooby; nieces, Kiki and Ulonda; three great-nephews; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; godson, Curtis Bradley; cousin, Paulette; and special friends, Clara, Geraldine and Missionary Thompson; and other relatives and friends.

Angelica Eisenhardt (retired faculty) passed away at 92 in her Oakland, CA home on July 8, 2017, surrounded by her family. She lived in West Mt. Airy for many years and taught foreign languages at Girls' High, Northeast, and Central

before retiring. She is survived by her three children, Miriam, Peter, and Monica, and six grandchildren. A celebration of her life will take place September 23 in Berkeley. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the American Friends Service Committee (<http://www.afsc.org>) to support their efforts in promoting world peace.

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<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/philly/obituary.aspx?pid=186249909>

Hanna Henja Aufschauer passed away July 22, 2017. Contributions in her memory may be made to:

Fleisher Art Memorial
719 Catherine Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Elizabeth L. (Rilling) Williams (January 1946) passed away on December 24, 2016, after an extended battle with cancer and stroke. She was 86 years old. Born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Girls' High and Ursinus College, Collegeville, PA, before serving as a high school teacher and then focusing on being a homemaker and mother. Betty was predeceased by her husband, Donald J. Williams, Esq. and by a son, Donald J. Williams, Jr. Surviving are two sons, Scott G. Williams, Esq. (Elaine) and Dr. Craig D. Williams (Yvette) plus four grandchildren – Trevor, Shelby, Craig, Jr., and Courtney. She had two sisters, Wilma Rilling Stahura and **Ruth Rilling Porter (1958)**. Betty was a devout churchgoer and a parishioner of Bethesda By-the-Sea in Palm Beach, Florida, and St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Whitmarsh, PA, where the Williams family has a family plot and where Betty is buried alongside her husband and son.



Dr. Gertrude (Freeman) Copperman (June 1939) passed on March 1, 2017, after a long and rich life. She was a primary care physician for 50 years, some with her past husband, Reuben. She was

anti-war and pro-abortion, and involved in the civil rights movement as well as many community causes.

Gertrude was the author of *I was a Felon: And Other Stories From the Life of a Woman Doctor*. This slim volume of autobiographical anecdotes should be required reading for anyone interested in the history of women in medicine in the 20th century. Gertrude received her medical degree in 1949, was in the vanguard of many activist movements of the '50s, '60s, '70s, and beyond. She was a courageous supporter of reproductive choice in the pre-Roe era, as well as a champion of women's athletics, and a pioneer in cross-cultural medicine who was one of the first physicians to visit and study in Communist China. Her memoir gives us valuable insight into the day-to-day challenges of women physicians of her era, as well as conveying her passion for her work. The tone of the stories is earthy and entertaining. This is a sparkling, spirited set of reminiscences that should not be missed. (This would be a wonderful gift for a female physician or medical student!)

She enjoyed a long life of athleticism and many eclectic friends, and was mother of two beloved daughters. Gertrude will be remembered and missed by many, most notably Joan of Massachusetts and Barbara of California. She leaves a smile in many hearts.



Rose (Polonsky) Feldman (January 1938) passed away in 2016 but at that time we had little information on her. We have dug down deep in our archives and found that she was a loving wife and mother, a brilliant

research scientist, and a community benefactor. During her childhood, girls were not much encouraged to seek education or careers in science. When Rose was in eighth grade she kept a notebook in which she recorded her thoughts. On a page called "Goals in Life" she wrote that she wanted to be a boy because boys could do anything they wanted to and girls couldn't. But when she reached Girls' High that was not the case. Two wonderful teachers encouraged and supported her in her wish at that time to become a doctor. Alas, she did not record their names.

The intrepid Rose graduated first in her GHS class! In the summer after graduation she and a classmate volunteered in the clinical chemistry lab at Philadelphia General Hospital. Among many other things, they were taught to analyze various fluids for cholesterol and vitamin C.

won a scholarship to study at the University of Pennsylvania. There she met gender bias head on. Penn's College, the liberal arts school, did not accept women, who had to take separate classes in the College for Women. She and two other women raised battle flags and finally won the right the right to shared classes, but they still were not allowed in the labs when the men were there.

Even so, Rose did some interesting research. For one class, students chose a research project and then designed and carried out the experiments. She studied the salt content in the skin of frogs. In another class, worked with a doctor to select and work with apparatuses for one of the first

blood banks in Philadelphia. Rose met and later married Cyrus Feldman, a Penn fellow chemistry student, in the grim stark years of World War II. They graduated in 1942. Cyrus was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, "under sealed orders " to do secret research. In 1942, Oak Ridge was the site of the massive American, British, and Canadian operation that developed the atom bomb. It is still the site of Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL). Rose joined him there and after the war they made the site their home until his death in 1990. They raised their five children there. The two were most active in both community and Jewish organizations as well.

In 1961, with love and support from her husband, Rose entered ORNL as a full-time chemist and biomedical researcher, and excelled in the job for many years. One of her obituaries said of her work, "Her role in her supervisors' research on atherosclerosis and RNA transcription earned her co-authorship on a number of published papers. Rose was known and loved for her sunny disposition, eager intellect and perpetual enthusiasm. She made a habit of befriending visiting scientists from all over the world, inviting their families to dinner, tutoring their spouses in English and teaching their children music or crafts."

Pearl (Bliss) Olanoff (January 1944), a woman of



compassion and talent, passed away on June 29, 2017. Her life and talents impacted

many people, and she was dear to a great many members of our Girls' High family. The headline on her July 4, 2017, obituary trumpeted these words: "Pearl B. Olanoff, 91, a teacher of deaf children." Pearl was influenced in her career choice by her mother-in-law, Rose Silnutzer

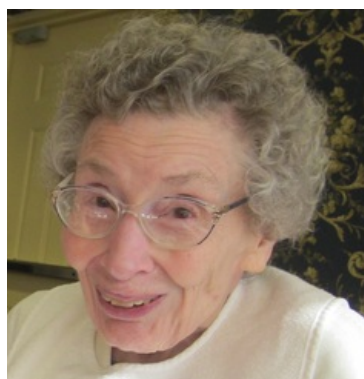
Olanoff, a GHS graduate of 1913, who served the hearing impaired as an interpreter in the Philadelphia Courts for many years. Pearl began her career teaching hearing-impaired children in the private sector at Friends of the Deaf Nursery School and then at St. Christopher's Hospital. She later taught for years in the Philadelphia Public Schools. At the same time, she taught lip reading and signing to adults in night school in the suburbs. She retired in the late 1980s. Her last post was as Special Education Teacher of the Hearing Impaired at Rhodes Middle School. Pearl's work as a teacher continued after she retired. She volunteered as a reading tutor for young children and also worked with graduate students from other countries who were at Drexel and Temple and needed help with their English language skills. In retirement, she had more time for her own artistic interests. Pearl was a patron of arts and had the works of local artists adorning her home. She was a talented fiber artist. She was a seamstress, knitter, and did needlepoint as well. She also worked in ceramics.

Girls' High was a happy choice for Pearl. She was grateful for the excellent education that enabled her to go on to obtain her bachelor's degree at the University of Pennsylvania, and then to earn her master's degree at Temple University. She entrusted the education of her four daughters to her alma mater. She was elected to the Board of Directors of the Girls' High Alumnae Association, and served for many years. She held offices and worked on various committees. She kept up with her class, often working with her classmate Marguerite Hess Wells to arrange reunions.

The family has stated that memorial contributions for Pearl may be made to the Alumnae Association of the Philadelphia High School for Girls, P O Box 845, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey 08054.

Ethel Laura (Davis) Dorfman (January 1941)

Ethel's daughter emailed this loving request: "My mother recently died. Would you please put this in your alumnae newsletter?" We quote (in part)



this equally affectionate essay. "Ethel Laura Davis Dorfman (January 1941) aged 92, passed away on June 28, 2017, in the presence of her family and

her Savior near Allentown, PA. After graduating from Girls' High, Ethel went to Penn State, and then had a long career as a librarian in Buffalo, New York, with a break to raise her two children. In retirement, she moved to Allentown to be closer to her children and grandchildren. She fondly remembered her time at Girls' High, and returned for many reunions until she became too frail to travel.

Ethel was a graduate of both Penn State and Drexel University. She loved languages, books, birds, bulldogs, chocolate, and especially music of many types. She was a music-cataloging librarian for years at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, and enjoyed sharing wonderful books, movies, and music with her family during retirement. She used her librarian skills to enrich her children's and grandchildren's lives in so many special ways. Ethel organized book sales of quality children's books at a Grand Island, NY elementary school for years, and also led a Great Books program there. She was a volunteer at the Archives of the Lehigh Valley Hospital, Allentown, PA, in later years."

Shirley (Forte) Guydon (June 1947) passed away on August 11, 2017. She was an employee of the School District of Philadelphia for more than 30 years.

Ruth Hirshey Lincoln: Communications Specialist

By Dorothy G. Kapenstein

A funny thing happened to GHS and Temple University alumna **Ruth (Hirshey) Lincoln (1971)** on her way to a show biz career. She was totally focused on theater and dance, and prepared well for a professional life in these disciplines. She explained the detour and change of focus in a 2005 interview in the Temple University publication, *Temple Review*. She said: "After (Temple) graduation, I spent a semester at NYU's educational theater program working on a master's degree. I was commuting between New York and Philadelphia and teaching. I came to the realization that if I wanted to pursue a life in the theater, I would be pounding the sidewalks of New York while living eight in a room. I really didn't have the guts to do that." She went on to a fabulous career in other fields.

At Girls' High, Ruth had focused on preparing to be a professional entertainer. English was her favorite subject, and her later success as a writer and creative publicist had some of its roots in the basic training given by her favorite teacher, English Department Chair Jack Edelson. She took full advantage of the extracurricular activities offered by the school back then, concentrating on those connected with theater and dance. In the interview she noted that, if there was anything connected with dance, she was in it. In 1968, she was the only member of the 9th-grade class to appear in the play *Half a Sixpence*, a Girls' High/Central production. At various times in the past, students from Central and our girls had collaborated on plays. An article in the *Iris* of April 3, 1968, reported on the production and listed Ruth Hirshey as a member of the dance

troupe. Ruth also assisted with the choreography.

An article in the November 21, 1968, *Iris* carries the headline "GHS Offers Modern Ballet and Interpretive Dancing." The article noted that the dance techniques were offered in two sessions, the Tuesday Dance Club and the Thursday Dance Club, and the girls could choose one. Ruth served as manager of the school's Thursday Dance Club.

She appeared with the dance clubs in Arts Night and Holiday Program performances. She also must have been good at gym, because she stated proudly, "I was Captain of the 11th-grade Light Blue Contest Team!" By the time she was in 12th grade she was already auditing theater classes at Temple University. At her Temple graduation, when she received her BA, she also earned the Alumni Award for Outstanding Student for the development of a children's theater workshop.

During her years at Temple, Ruth continued to concentrate on theater studies and training for the career in show biz. With the realization that she would need to change career plans, she looked for a job and entered the field of book publishing. She described it, "I returned to Philadelphia full time. I got a job at the J.B. Lippincott Company on Washington Square as Assistant to the Production Manager for Medical Journals because of the mention of 'producer/director' on my resumé, along with demonstrated knowledge that I knew how words got into type. (Hard to believe now, but there were still a few journals set in hot metal.)



After one year at Lippincott, I became Production Manager when the man I had been working for left after Harper and Row bought the company. While at Lippincott, I attended the Wharton Graduate Management Program. *Philadelphia Magazine* was my next professional stop, beginning as Assistant Production Manager and then becoming Promotion Manager. Working at a city magazine means you can be interested in anything from politics to fashion to food to real estate, and I loved being part of the city. The 'Best of Philly' parties in the mid-80s were my creation."

Ruth moved on to public relations work and became Director of Public Relations for the elegant Four Seasons Hotel of Philadelphia. She described this exciting professional phase in the article in *Temple Review* cited above. She observed that in a sense she was still onstage there, and that the hotel was one of the premiere metaphoric stages of the city. Everything – politics, the arts, the community in general – comes through there, and the job called on all her skills. Knowing a little bit about a lot of things, like where to get Mikhail Gorbachev's suit cleaned in less than one hour so he could make a speech in it, or where to rent a gigantic fiberglass elephant to greet visitors in front of the hotel during the Republican Convention of 2000, served her well. Among the perks of the job were wearing a gown designed by Edith for actress Joan Fontaine, and having tea with actor Peter O'Toole.

When the famed hotel elected to move to a new site and closed in 2015 to wait for a new location, Ruth decided to open her own public relations consulting business, Hirshey & Co. Communications, LLC, with a variety of clients that have included the Barnes Foundation, Visit Philly, the Morris Arboretum, Yemin Orde Youth Village in Israel, Woodmere Art Museum, and the National Jewish Community Legacy Project.

In answer to our question about marriage and family, Ruth said, "My husband, Joe Lincoln, is an attorney with Reed Smith. In addition to our twins, David and Samantha, who just graduated from college, I have two stepdaughters and three grandsons."

Ruth is the niece by marriage of alumna **Elsie Lincoln Rosner (January 1930)**. We wrote a tribute to Elsie when she passed away in 2002. She was a well-known and highly respected writer of articles about science and medicine. Mrs. Rosner's works appeared in top journals such as *Medical World Medical News*, *Time Magazine*, *Physicians' Weekly*, and others. While she was working on her master's degree in entomology at the University of Pennsylvania in a study directed by Professor Philip Calvert, Elsie identified a previously unknown dragonfly. It was named *Aeshna elsia calvert* for both of them. (As far as we know, Elsie Rosner is the only GHS grad ever to have a bug named for her. If you know of anyone else, notify us immediately so we can write about it!)

Wonderful, Wise, Winged Victory Women!



Thank you to our sisters who shared their selfies and sightings of Nike of Samothrace, or Winged Victory, around the world.

Gabrielle Mappone (1990)
Carolyn Holley Jones (1971)
Malika Hook Muhammad (1997)
Chan B. Ung (2000)

Tamia Preshia (2014)
Chris Rudyj (1990)
Lynne Clayton (1974)
Nancy Schenk-Correa (1990)

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. The state of the School District of Philadelphia was reviewed eloquently at the Annual Meeting & Luncheon. 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 any 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 dorothyko8@aol.com.

Do you have news about a retired faculty member or are you a retired faculty member? Please email your news to dorothyko8@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 dorothyko8@aol.com or call her at 215-331-2681. Please do not send items directly to the school.

What's New? Send your news items and pictures to news@ghsalumnae.org. 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 somewhere on your Facebook page, and your name at graduation if it was different than our current name. While you do not have to be a member of the Alumnae Association to join the group, it is limited to alumnae and faculty.

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Elisabeth D'Alessandro, Co-editor
Ruth Brown, Copy Editor
Dorothy Kapenstein, Features Writer

We look forward to hearing from you!



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Alumnae Association for Philadelphia HS for Girls

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