

THE Alumni JOURNAL

Spring/Summer 2020

2020 MARCH							2020 APRIL						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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31													

COVID-19 Forces Unprecedented Changes At Central

For the first time in Central's long history, commencement exercises were held remotely; speeches and the conferring of awards recorded in advance. Caps and gowns were distributed via a drive-up procession at Central.

The 2019-2020 school year was prematurely ended on March 12th, when the School District of Philadelphia announced the closure of some schools, including Central, followed by the closure of all schools and a transition to online learning to prevent the spread of the novel Coronavirus. This necessary closure trimmed nearly three full months from the in-person academic year.

The students of the 279th class were deprived of the rites of passage reserved for high school seniors. All Central students lost the opportunity to compete in spring sports, activities, or to complete the school year the way they'd planned.

Our remarkable faculty, led by President Tim McKenna, worked tirelessly to ensure our students had the resources, tools, and support necessary to engage in their studies for the remainder of the school year. They changed their plans to fit a brave new world of instruction, all while juggling other responsibilities born out of this new work-from-home necessity.

In this edition of the *Journal*, you'll see the mark of COVID-19 and the changes its required in our society and lives throughout - including in the delayed publication of this *Journal*.

We encourage you to read some of our student's reflections on this unique time in *The Centralizer*, available online at <https://thecentralizer.com>.

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The Alumni Journal

The Associated Alumni of the
Central High School of
Philadelphia

www.centralhighalumni.com

Alumni Journal Editor

Neil Deegan, 263

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Merrill Freedman, 208
Stephen Chappell, 209
Gerald S. Kates, 194
Yvonne Dennis, 246

Development Director

Lynn Norton Robins

Read more about what's happening at Central and with your fellow graduates, and make a contribution to support the work of AACHS at

CentralHighAlumni.com

Make sure to keep AACHS updated with your contact information and life updates.

AlumniOffice@CentralHighAlumni.com
215-845-3308

Let us know what you'd like to see in the next Alumni Journal!

AlumniJournal@CentralHighAlumni.com

FROM THE EDITOR

Neil Deegan 263

Editor, The Alumni Journal



This edition of the *Alumni Journal* comes to you during an unprecedented and tumultuous time in our history.

As you know, Central students had their in-person school year prematurely terminated on March 12th, due to the spread of the deadly novel Coronavirus. For the first time in history, classes were conducted remotely. Commencement occurred remotely, through a web and television broadcast.

More broadly, over 100,000 Americans - and 475,000 people worldwide - have perished as a result of COVID-19.

Millions are out of work. Our global economy is facing challenges not seen since the Great Depression.

And, in recent weeks countless Americans have taken to the streets to raise their voices against the unjust treatment of African Americans by our justice system, and the racism and injustice in our society. They are demanding equality for all from a society that for too long has looked the other way in the face of inequality, injustice and intolerance. Signs of change are finally, though too slowly, beginning to emerge. It's long past time for change.

Central High School has remained through the Civil War, two World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the tumultuous 1960s, the Great Depression, 9/11 and the Great Recession. Central students were forged in the challenges of those times, and came into the world equipped to lead and to make positive change in our society.

The same will undoubtedly be true of members of the 279th class, who graduated in June, for students who will return to Central in the 280th, 281st and 282nd classes, and those who will begin their Central careers in an incredibly uncertain time - the 283th class.

You can play a role in improving their experience, in what we can expect to be a challenging period ahead. Reach out to the AACHS to learn more about how you can invest your time and your dollars to make a real and lasting impact on those who will lead next.

Wishing you continued health and safety in the weeks and months ahead. **-Neil**



"Let others sing of college days, their Alma Mater true..."

How many times have we heard or sang that verse?

But the true meaning refers to what so many Central Alums state - that they have a greater feeling for Central, than for their colleges and graduate schools.

Yet, when those colleges, with their vast development departments call or write, looking to add to their billion-dollar endowments, often times, our first dollars go to them, rather than to Central.

I wrote this initial paragraph to be included in this newsletter, which was to be published in early April.

Then the world was turned upside down by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Central has been closed to all students and staff since March 13th. The senior class, the 279, did not have all the fun events traditionally expected of senior year: Prom, the senior trip, parading with their caps and gowns, and celebrating with their families.

But the Alumni Association has not ceased its operation. Indeed, our board and our committees have met regularly by teleconference or video conference since mid-March.

We have begun the search for a full-time Executive Director, because we believe that in order to best serve Central students now and in the future, we must evolve from an organization

AACHS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Chuck Steinberg, 221

President@centralhighalumni.org

run almost exclusively by volunteers, to one managed by a professional with robust support from our alums. With this necessary and important evolution, **we need your help.**

If you are among the many who identify more closely with Central than with your undergraduate or graduate institution, join us in supporting Central today.

The current students at Central, from the 280th to the soon to begin 283rd class, need you now.

Please make a contribution - of equal or greater value than you might to your college or graduate school - to support our Capital Campaign, or to our Annual Fund, which goes to support the day to day work of the AACHS at Central.

We cannot evolve as we must to support the future of the greatest kids without you.

A little-known fact is that due to Federal spending, Central High School receives less per student than all but one school in Philadelphia, and substantially less than schools in the neighboring suburbs.

I believe that it is our responsibility as alumni to invest in Central's budget to help right this wrong.

Please join us in supporting Central - and consider doing so before our fiscal year ends on June 30th.

I hope you will consider coming to our rescheduled Annual Reception, now scheduled for October 1 at Banca. It will give you a chance to meet some of our great kids, and hear about all that is happening at Central.

CORRECTIONS

In the Fall 2019 edition, Mark Lipshutz (224) was inadvertently left off of the listing of members of the Board of Managers. He is an elected member of the board with a term expiring on June 30, 2022.

Also in the Fall 2019 edition, a typo appeared at the end of Bruce Yasgur's Column A, spelling "Central" as "entral".

Finally, Bruce Yasgur was incorrectly identified as a member of the 229 and the reporter of an Alma Matters item.

We regret these errors, and appreciate those who have spotted them. Should you identify an error, please contact us at alumnijournal@centralhighalumni.com.

CENTRAL PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



Timothy McKenna
President, Central High School

Central High School students spent the last three months of this past school year working in virtual classrooms from home. Our faculty did exceptional work to make sure our students remained engaged in research, analysis and exploration of academic content. I was able to join these virtual classes and observe the interactions between our students and teachers. I was so impressed by the level of rigor being offered and the authentic engagement of our students. We may have been separated because of the pandemic, but technology allowed our teachers and students to continue the Central High School academic program. They rose to the occasion. I am so very proud of our teachers and students.

As we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult not to feel despondent for the members of the 279th graduating class of Central High School. They are now members of the Associated Alumni of Central High School, but did not have the opportunity to enjoy a senior prom or revel in the pride of a graduation ceremony in the traditional sense. They are an incredible group of scholars that are moving on to new campuses next year. I take solace in knowing that the members of the 279 are prepared for new challenges and will continue to strive for excellence at colleges and universities across the nation.

The CHS Administrative Team and faculty planned and executed a virtual graduation for the 279. This will be the first time in our school's storied history that has occurred. We will honor the 279th graduating class again next year at some point when our world returns to some sense of normalcy.

I thank all the members of the AACHS who have reached out to me in support of our entire student body. We will persevere through this historic time and return to "Dear High" motivated to offer the best educational experience to our students.

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the pain, anger and despair that the members of our school community are dealing with as our nation grapples with how to address the institutional racism that is prevalent in our world.

We need to discuss and explore these issues to prepare our students for a world that needs leadership. A world that needs our young people to right the wrongs that have been prevalent for too long. The next generation of leaders walk the halls at Central, and it is our responsibility to prepare them to take on systemic problems and create solutions for the betterment of all.

I am hopeful that you and your family are safe and healthy. The 2019 - 2020 school year has been like no other in my 24-year career. I am looking forward to welcoming our new class, the 283rd graduating class, this August and getting back to the business of educating our brilliant students.

279 Commencement on Youtube

The commencement ceremony for the 279 class was unlike any other - exclusively digital. The ceremony was broadcast on the School District of Philadelphia's television channel and website, and produced by Peter Kelsey, a member of the faculty. You can watch this remarkable presentation on Youtube by [clicking here](#).

AACHS HOLDS FIRST EVER VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

Neil Deegan, 263

In a year filled with historic firsts, the AACHS added another one to the list - the first ever virtual Annual Meeting.

Nearly 60 members of our alumni community came together via Zoom to hear from AACHS President Chuck Steinberg and President Tim McKenna about the unique challenges 2020 has brought to Central, its students and our Alumni Association.

President McKenna discussed the impact of COVID-19 on the students and faculty - particularly the loss of signature events and moments for the senior class, the 279th graduating class.

AACHS President Steinberg made clear that the efforts of the AACHS continued, though remotely, during this unique time, and discussed progress on the Leading the Way Capital Campaign, including the nearing completion of Phase One of the project.

Elections were held for the 2020 - 2021 year. The following were elected to positions on the AACHS Board of Managers for terms beginning July 1, 2020.

President: Charles S. Steinberg, 221

Vice Presidents: Robert Del Femine, 235; Neil Deegan, 263; Cynthia S. Lech, 263; David W. Birnbaum, 265

Treasurer: Gene Marks, C.P.A., 241

Secretary: Marisa Block, 265

Archivist / Historian: David R. Kahn, 220

Board of Managers

Term Expiring June 30, 2021: Julian D. Perlman, 256

Term Expiring June 30, 2023: Stephen L. Burnstein, D.O., 222; Rudy A. Cvetkovic, 239; Andrew S. Kessler, 243; Stephen J. Klein, 229; Benjamin G. Lipman, Esq., 224; Elina Magid, Esq., 257; Alana McGill, 256 and Kenneth Wong, 232.

CHS Doctors Leading the Charge on COVID-19



Twin sisters **Dr. Elana McDonald (251)**, a pediatrician and **Dr. Delana Wardlaw (251)**, a family medicine specialist, have been on the front lines of the fight against the coronavirus this spring, helping to lead efforts to increase testing in the African American community, working with the Black Doctors Consortium, elected officials, clergy and other community leaders.

They've been working to educate the public about COVID-19 through a wide range of media appearances, and through their social media profiles.

Drs. McDonald and Wardlaw also participated in an AACHS webinar on COVID-19 along with City of Philadelphia Acting Commerce Director

Sylvie Gallier Howard (253), and COVID-19 survivor **Jordan Yuter (243)**.

Follow them on [Facebook](#), on Twitter [@twinsisterdocs](#) and on Instagram [@twinsisterdocs](#).



**Congratulations to the 279th Graduating Class,
and welcome to our alumni community!**

THE 1836 SOCIETY

Named in honor of the year that Central High School was chartered, the 1836 Society is a group of supporters of the Associated Alumni of Central High School who have given or pledged at least \$1,836 annually to the AACHS.

This level of support allows us to continue the work that we do every day to support the school, our students, and to help build a Central that continues to equip the students of tomorrow with the tools, skills and knowledge necessary to be leaders in our community - locally and globally.

A minimum annual contribution of \$1,836 offers members special benefits and privileges reserved only for 1836 Society members, including an invitation to an annual Members-only reception, updates on our *Leading the Way* project, happenings at Central, and other topics of interest, and recognition at the AACHS Annual Dinner and Meeting, where each 1836 Member is presented with an 1836 Society pin.

Donors may join the 1836 Society through a donation or pledge of \$1,836 or more annually. Donors who have previously made donations in the same fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) may add to that amount to reach a total gift of \$1,836. Matching gifts made through your employer are also counted in the total.

Consider joining the 1836 Society now with a tax deductible contribution of \$1,836 or more today! For more information on becoming a member of the 1836 Society, please contact Lynn Norton Robins, Director of Development, at 215-400-3590 x3130 or development@centralhighalumni.com.



2019-2020 1836 SOCIETY MEMBERS

251 Kyle Andeer	207 Dr. Steven Hausman	222 Thomas Schaeffer
231 Kenneth Berman	242 Aubrey Jones	229 Ira Siegal
222 Rick Bernstein	204 Richard Josephs	221 Dr. Richard Silverman
226 Kenneth Bluford	194 Gerald Kates	212 Dr. Edward Soll
249 Karima Bouchenafa	191 Herbert Kean	198 Bernard Spain
211 Ira Brind	190 Arthur Kohn	199 Harmon Spolan
235 Robert Del Femine	214 Fred Levin	221 Charles Steinberg
214 Mark Dichter	247 Joshua Liss *	258 Anix Vyas
207 Dan Drozd	208 Dr. Leon Malmud	231 Jerrold Walton
212 Dr. Lanny Edelsohn	204 Allan Marmon **	230 Elliott Weiss
192 Joseph Field	209 Josef Nathanson	238 George Williams
227 David Fineman	213 Michael Nissman	213 Prof. Alan Wolfe
231 Cary Flitter	240 Darryl Pereborow	221 Joel Zumoff
198 Albert Gold	212 Richard Prinz	Friend Jenifer Trachtman
230 Kenneth Goodson	243 Dr. Marc Reider	
229 Frank Gruber	222 Charles Rose	

*Chair, **Past Chair

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Lynn Norton Robins

AACHS Director of Development

The last three months have been challenging in so many ways.

Even though students at Central stopped physically coming into the building on March 11, 2020, the mission of the AACHS is nonstop. The AACHS supports the students at Central High School through the funds we raise. While we aren't exactly certain what the next school year will look like, as of the writing of this message, we know for a fact that the funds raised from Central High Alumni will be in even greater demand – to support our students, fund supplies and programming for the school, and to invest in the future through the Leading the Way capital campaign.

We need your help now to ensure we are well positioned to support our students and faculty in the coming school year. Please consider a contribution to the AACHS before the end of our fiscal year on June 30th.

Visit centralhighalumni.com/support to learn more and make a contribution to our annual fund or the capital campaign today!

Engaging More Alumni

During these months, we have continued working to engage and connect with alumni every single day.

One way we've done that is through our Central Produces Leaders email series. Over the last year, we've featured a variety of alumni; including **State Representative Morgan Cephias (261), Michele Hangle (243), Ella Greene (278), Nicole Van Buskirk (257), Audrey Huntington (266), Jason Weldon (256), Joseph Carlini (239), John Durso (256), Leon Malmud MD (208), Trans "RJ" Lualhati (271), and David Reich, MD (236).**

With every message we send out, we receive even more accolades, suggestions, and contributions.

#GivingTuesday

Giving Tuesday in 2019 was a huge success for the AACHS! Thanks to you, the AACHS raised over \$63,000 on Tuesday, December 3, 2019. This year's Giving Tuesday will take place on Tuesday, November 30, but you don't have to wait to support AACHS! Visit centralhighalumni.com/support to learn more about how you can support the Central students of today and tomorrow!

But, we know we aren't reaching all of our alumni – and so we need your help.

Will you share with us the contact information you have for your fellow Central alumni? That information will help us to expand our current database, update old information and ensure that we are able to communicate with as many of our alumni as possible.

It's easy to do. Just send your contact list – in whatever form you have it – to alumoffice@centralhighalumni.com!

Recurring Contributions

Recently, many members of the 258 have begun to make recurring or repeat gifts to the AACHS on an annual or monthly basis. You can do so for either the annual fund or the capital campaign, and it all starts at centralhighalumni.com/support.

As always, reach out to me at Lynn@centralhighalumni.com with your questions, suggestions and ideas to better engage our alumni. Stay safe, stay well, and stay connected!



This past fall, alumni and student volunteers came together to participate in a series of alumni phone-a-thons! The goal of these events was to reconnect with Central alumni and encourage their support for the school and AACHS. Thanks to all who participated! (Photo Credit: Lynn Norton Robins)



COLUMN B

Bruce Yasgur, 216

In The Time of the Covid-19 Virus, stay safe. 'Nuff said.

From the 216

As a retired interventional cardiologist, **President Eddie Anderson** might have had to go to work in a California hospital today if he were still practicing. Reaming out and stenting blocked arteries, like repairing damaged lungs, is still a hands-on procedure. Unlike some docs and healthcare pros who can ply their trades via technology, ER docs, surgeons, nurses, techs, public works, food prep, service, military and retail personnel all risk contagion just doing their jobs. Hats off to you all, especially guys like retired hospice medical director **Harry Collins**, who still doctors part-time, attending to COVID-19 victims among his roster of patients. As of late March, happily, Harry and his colleagues are able to visit patients remotely. Even though he's retired from the 9 to 5, **Alan Frankel** is still spending part of his week attending board meetings for one or more of the civic organizations he supports, as well as campaigning for his political issues. **Mark Forstater** writes from London that he's staying at home and engaged by (what else?) producing a documentary - *The Lockdown Collective* - a virtual studio of homebound media personalities who've joined forces to create a film about how the pandemic started and developed. Looking forward to seeing that, Mark. Good luck! **Rich Manser** and I joined forces back in the '60s when we taught in the Upper Merion School District. Rich has passed on the torch to both of his sons and daughters-in-law, all of whom are running classes online. Like many of us in various stages of retirement, Rich is pursuing hobbies, watching TV, engaging in porch-to-porch discussions, strolling the neighborhood when he can find a free lane between dog walkers, and thinking about cleaning out his closets, basement and attic. Sounds

frighteningly familiar. **Neill (Vic) Ridgley** has retired from teaching, linguistics, civil service, and a long career as a geologist, international consultant and editor, and has recently been devoting time to hosting and chauffeuring his grandchildren till the schools closed. While we're hanging out in Maine, we'll think of Vic and wife Marina enjoying their dream-come-true retirement in France. Speaking of foreign languages and exotic destinations, University City resident and globetrotting photographer, author, and polyglot **Laurence ("Have Camera - Will Travel") Salzman** has lately been working on photo exhibits of the Florida Keys and Cusco, Peru, and is to be featured in an early 2021 retrospective at Woodmere Museum Art in Chestnut Hill. How does that sound as a venue for a 60th reunion? My fellow Oak Laner **Frank Kochman** still practices law, remotely when possible, in Burlington, Vermont, upstate from where I lived in Putney in the '60s. Neighbors twice-over? Now that business has slowed down, Frank says he's taking more time to clean house and catch up on "scholarly reading." Me too, guys. Me? Janice and I are hoping to spend time in Downeast Maine this summer and fall, just up the road from Oak Laner (talk about neighbors twice-over!), **George Borowsky**, and his wife Irene in Surrey, Maine, where they retired after George's noted career in city planning, pioneering loft housing in Philly's Olde City, developing computer systems products and management consulting. We missed going to Maine and seeing George and Irene last summer, which I spent asleep in Pennsy Hospital hooked up to machines, including those ventilators we've been hearing about, IVs and gastric feeding tubes; and the fall and winter learning to remember, solve problems, talk, walk, swallow, eat, drink, write, shower and dress myself all over again. I know first-hand the amazing job our health-care professionals do in normal times, and find it difficult to imagine doing their jobs under current conditions. Thank You All! We can't leave this segment without remembering our late classmate **Ian Portnoy**: husband, father, friend, respected D.C. attorney and supporter of numerous artistic and cultural institutions.

continued on page 18

REUNIONS

Given the current public health crisis, please reach out to reunion organizers if you have questions about scheduled events proceeding as planned.

205 The 205th class will celebrate their 65th reunion on **Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 12 noon** at Maggio's (400 Second Street Pike, Southampton, PA 18966). For more information, please contact Ted Rothman at 267-269-7045 or arshopper12@yahoo.com.

214 The 214th class will hold its 60th Reunion on **Friday, October 2, 2020**, with lunch and meeting with President McKenna and students and evening celebration at the Marriott Old City (formerly the Sheraton Society Hill). Contact Rich Shulman at rshul1942@comcast.net or Steve Green at shg214@gmail.com.

229 229 will hold their 50th Reunion during the weekend of October 16th, beginning with a free, catered luncheon at the school and a student guided tour of school, followed by happy hour in Center City on Friday, October 16th, a Gala evening event at The Bellevue at 7PM on the evening of Saturday, October 17th, and a brunch in Center City on Sunday, October 18th. For more information, contact Central229class@gmail.com.

234 Save the date for the 45th reunion of the 234th class on **Friday, October 16, 2020 from 7 PM to 11 PM** at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue (4200 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131). This reunion is for members of the class only. Rooms are available - mention Central High School, ask for Randy. In addition, members of the 234 will be offered a school tour on Friday, October 16 at 11 AM. Come and see how the school has grown! For more information, visit the Central High School of Philadelphia 234 Class Alumni page on Facebook, or contact Rocco Pagano (609-412-5704), William Nasir (267-250-7974), Joe Pailin (215-441-3281), Kevin Stepanuk (215-906-6167), Vince Hill (856-467-9378) or Joe Abbruzzi (609-304-5058).

239 The 239th class will celebrate their 40th reunion on **October 9th and 10th, 2020**. The festivities will begin on Friday, October 9th with a return to Central High School for a school tour and luncheon. Also on Friday, October 9th, a cocktail reception will be held at the New Wave Cafe. Finally, on Saturday, October 10th, the official reunion celebration will take place at the Village at Cottage Green (9001 Ashton Rd, Philadelphia). For more information, contact David Brown & Marvin Johnson at Foreverchs239@gmail.com.

249 The 249th class will celebrate their 30th reunion on **Saturday, June 19th, 2021 from 7 PM to 11 PM** at the Waterfall Room (2015 Water Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148). The cost is \$75 per person, which includes open bar, dinner, DJ, photo booth and favors. For more information, contact Maria Yanga (Mattei) at chs249@gmail.com or 267-243-3989 or Stephanie Mattei (Ostrich) at sbmattei@msn.com or 215-219-1684. Information is also available on the CHS249 Facebook page. RSVPs are requested by June 12th, 2021 to Maria at chs249@gmail.com. Tickets can be purchased using PayPal (chs249@gmail.com) or Venmo (@maria-carpentryanga). Checks may be mailed as well - please email or text for address. Parking at the venue will be available on street and under I-95 (across from the venue).

254 The 254th class will celebrate their 25th reunion at Yards Brewery on **November 27, 2020**. More details to follow.

264 The 264th class will celebrate their 15 year reunion on **November 28, 2020 from 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM** at Vue on 50 (Three Logan Square, 1717 Arch Street, 50th floor, Philadelphia). For more information, contact Michael Segal at (215) 681 9328 or michaelsegal72@gmail.com.

269 The 269th class plans to celebrate their 10th reunion on **November 28, 2020**. More details to follow.

Editors Note: If you are planning an upcoming reunion, please send details to reunions@centralhighalumni.com. Details of your class reunion will be posted on the AACHS web site and included in the next Journal!

TAKE YOUR SEATS, PLEASE!

The restoration of the fire-damaged school auditorium is complete, and many alumni have availed themselves of the opportunity to dedicate the new, upholstered seats. Opportunities remain to dedicate a seat "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" family or individuals you wish to honor. Classes can organize and purchase entire rows. A brass plate will memorialize each dedication. Seats are available for a \$300 tax-deductible donation per seat. Please use the form on this page, or donate at centralhighalumni.com/support. [CLICK HERE TO PRINT COUPON](#)

AUDITORIUM SEAT DEDICATION APPLICATION

Name	Class
Address	
City, State, Zip	
Telephone	Email
Inscription (up to 3 lines; 30 characters per line including spaces):	

Single seats or rows, in groups of 9 to 23 seats, are available at \$300 per seat. Make check or money order payable to AACHS and mail to: AACHS, P.O. Box 26580, Philadelphia, PA 19141-6580

ALMA MATTERS

188 According to Variety, **Kal Rudman (188)** has retired the *Friday Morning Quarterback* radio industry publication after 52 years.

198 The 198th class held it's 10th annual Florida reunion on February 21, 2020. **David Naide, Jules Kay, Gerry Feldman, Gerry Cooke, Jack Rounick, Mike Rosenfeld, Jon Blum** and organizer **Bernard Gross** attended.

199 **Albert Fishlow, PhD** was awarded the 2020 Centennial Citation by the Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for his work in Brazilian economics. [Click here to read more.](#)

200 The 200th class has donated \$45,977 to the AACHS Capital Campaign! Together with their previous gift of \$50,000, the class has given over \$95,000 to the Leading the Way effort. Thank you!

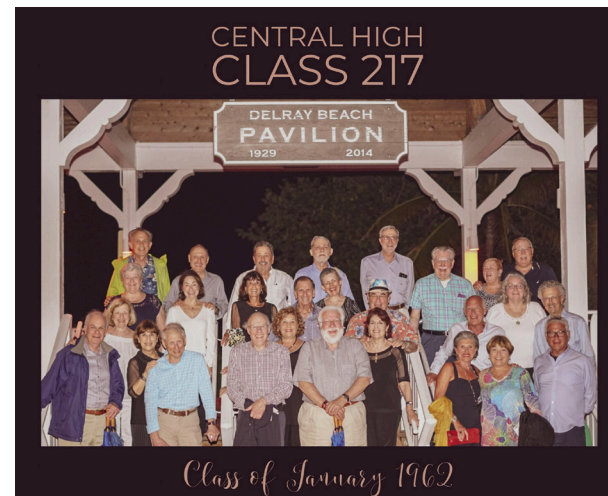
200 **Robert Singleton** and his wife Helen were featured on Spectrum News1's LA [Los Angeles] Stories with Giselle Fernandez. They are Freedom Riders and civil rights activists, and Robert served as president of the UCLA NAACP. [Click here to read more.](#)

202 **Coleman Paul** published a novel, *Will to Survive*, available on Amazon.

213 **Michael H. (Mike) Levin** is a lawyer, renewable-energy financier, solar energy developer and part-time writer, based for 50 years in Washington DC. His award-winning books of poetry, *Watered Colors* and *Man Overboard*, remain available on Amazon and www.michaellevinpoetry.com, with a third volume, *Falcons*, due in 2020. He recently co-wrote and co-produced Two Pianos: *Playing for Life*, a multimedia concert documentary with live classical music on two grand pianos about young Jewish mothers juggling families and child care while concertizing under and after the Third Reich. *Two Pianos* premiered at Philadelphia's Settlement Music School in June 2018, has been performed in Leipzig, Germany and Newark NJ, and is moving on to other venues. For more, visit www.linkedin.com/in/mike-levin-16ab15b.

217 **Neal Steiger** reports that the 217th class held a very successful reunion last May 3rd and 4th. There were 17 members with their significant others in attendance. It was held at Delray Beach. Neal is the administrator for the class's private Facebook Group, which can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chs217> As an aside Neal's cousin is **Jerry Kates (194)**.

227 **Glenn "Hurricane" Schwartz** has published a novel titled *The Weathermaker*, available from your preferred bookseller.



229 **Robert Harry Lane, PhD** has been awarded the the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award by Marquis Who's Who. Dr. Lane is the CEO of Lane Services LLC , a premier technology consulting firm that specializes in working with the association and not-for-profit communities.

230 A children's book has been published about the life of late, famed architect **Philip Freelon**. The book, titled *Dream Builder*, is available from your preferred bookseller.

232 James Donio has written a children's book titled *Zane to the Rescue*, available from your preferred bookseller.

235 **Ron Wilson** reports that **Daryl Murphy** was selected as a KYW Game Changer Award winners. "Selected from a group of more than 120 nominees, the station selection committee chooses 10 individuals they deem have made a significant impact on communities of color in the city of Philadelphia in the previous year." [To learn more, click here.](#)

235 **Kyle Bowser** served as executive producer of a documentary on the life of Fritz Pollard, who was among the first black players in the NFL and the league's first black coach was shown on the NFL Network in February.

236 **Dr. David L. Reich**, an anesthesiologist who has been president and chief operating officer of Mount Sinai Hospital, was interviewed on 60 Minutes on April 19th regarding COVID-19. You can watch the [full episode by clicking here](#), or [read about it here](#).

240 **Jon McGoran's** latest book, *Spiked*, noted as a "thrilling conclusion to the Spliced trilogy" by Booklist, was published in May. You can purchase it at your preferred bookseller.

245 **Leah (McCloe) King** was named president and CEO of the United Way of Tarrant County, Texas in late 2019.

247 **Eric Owens** starred in the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Porgy and Bess* this past February, which was broadcast to movie theatres around the country.

247 **Ryan Smith** was signed to a long term contract with ESPN as a correspondent on *E: 60*, panelist on *Outside the Lines*, and as a rotating host on *SportsCenter*.

251 **Dr. Delana Wardlaw** was named 2020 Physician of the Year by the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians.

251 **Sharne Burrell** was profiled by NBC 10 News for her 'Wine and Workout' classes. Check out the video by [clicking here](#).

252 **Joe Khan** was appointed solicitor of Bucks County on January 6th by the Bucks County Board of Commissioners.

253 Technical Sergeant **Jonathan Ervin White** was presented with a citation from the Council of the City of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Office of Veterans Affairs for retiring from the United States Armed Forces with over 20 years of service. He also received the Air Force Commendation Medal from the 111th Operations Support Squadron for responding to an accident in which he rescued a father, his five children, and their dog, from their overturned smoking minivan on I-295 in New Jersey.

254 The film version of *In The Heights*, written by **Quiara Alegría Hudes**, which was planned for theatrical release in June of this year, will be released in June 2021. Hudes won a Tony award for the stage production of the work in 2008.

255 **Elease Lui Stemp** served as supervising producer for a 5-part documentary series on PBS about Asian American history. She is a filmmaker living in Los Angeles. Learn more about the series by [clicking here](#). **continued on page 19**

Share your news with AACHS!

New Job? New Degree? New Baby? Just Married? Unique Central Story?

We want to hear about it, and so do your fellow alumni!

Send us an update on you or a classmate, and we'll include it in the next edition of the *Journal*. Please include class number, email address and name. Submissions under 100 words appreciated.

Please email to alumnijournal@centralhighalumni.com!

Don't forget to share with the CHS community on Facebook - join the Official Central High School in Philadelphia Alumni Group.

[Check it out by clicking here!](#)

Alma Matters on Facebook

This edition includes a number of Alma Matters and reunion photos posted to the Official Central High School in Philadelphia Alumni Group on Facebook. We hope to continue to include your updates as posted to the group in these pages going forward!

IN MEMORIAM

Below is a listing of our fellow alumni who have recently passed.

While some of those listed below are known globally, others are known within smaller circles.

All are listed here by name, class number and nothing more. We are all Central High alumni.

173	Bernard Finkelstein	194	Ronald Baron	211	Elliott Klein
176	Meyer Kolodner	194	Dr. Joseph Berger	211	Harvey Mathason
177	Morton R. Kaufler	194	Leroy R. Loewenstern Ph.D	211	Bob Weiss
178	Bernard Schlecker	196	Sander Robert Gorberg	212	David Miller
180	Karl Borish	196	Dr. Leonard S. Katz	214	Barry Bornstein
181	D. Bruce Hirshorn	196	Harry K. Schwartz	214	Alan Joel
181	William Jarrett	196	William Steerman		Garber, MD., PhD
182	Henry E. Collyer	199	William Raymond Crumley Jr.	216	Frank Novek
182	Thomas M. Poole	199	Burton Lavin, DDS	216	Ian Portnoy
184	Benjamin Adelman (Faculty)	199	Charles S. Mack	224	David A Bechtel
184	Richard Fox	200	Gordon Hahn	225	Nicholas W. Iadicicco
184	Sydney M. Jaffe	200	Jay M. Karfunkle	225	Earl Silverstein
184	Jerry Mandel	201	Albert Kline	226	Perry Isaac Pfeffer
184	Donald E. Orr	201	Gerald Kushner	229	Howard Hyman
186	Allan J. Oliner	204	Morrie E. Kricun M.D.	229	Sheldon Michealson
186	Milton Silver, Ph.D	204	Rabbi David Packman	229	Frank B. Phillips
186	Robert John Stewart	204	Peter Palena, M.D.	231	William Noce
187	Hy Lovitz	204	Stephen Davidoff, PhD	233	Eugene Mario
188	Joseph R. Katz	204	Sidney "Spike" Schneps		Di Marco, D.O., M.S.
190	Richard Dash	206	Phil Greenspun	234	Kevin Smith
190	Edward Magliocco	206	Harry E. Obedin	236	Ernest Salandria
190	Dr. Leon Steinberg	209	Arthur D. Katz	238	Reese Brown, III
190	Saul Winegrad	209	Barry Pogach	239	Reginald Blocker
190	Norman P. Zarwin, Esq.	210	Noel Ignatin	243	Mervyn J.H. Jones, Jr.
191	Irving Richard Stein	210	David Tovia Lowenthal	246	Troy Hughes
192	Martin P. Gouterman	210	Bruce Seward	251	DeAnna Hall
192	Stanford Goodman	211	George Stephen	255	Samuel Luis Gonzalez, Jr.
192	Bernard J. Korman, Esq.		Friedman, Ph.D	270	Chelsea Barnes
193	Peter Binder	211	Robert N. Hunt MD	278	Jessica Mark
193	Gilbert Tabby, D.O.	211	David Hanwell		Jerome Ruderman (Faculty)
193	Morton Bernard Wapner	211	Michael (Mickey) Horen		Dr. Joel Simon (Faculty)

Should you learn of the passing of a fellow alum, please forward information including name and class number to obituaries@centralhighalumni.com so that we may update our records and note their passing in the Journal. Thank you.

CLASS REPS

The Alumni Association's Class Representatives Committee strives to maintain contact with every class through its designated representative. In order to ease our administrative burden, we ask each class to designate just one person to serve as the official liaison between the class and the Association.

The Association has launched an effort to confirm the suitability and dedication of every rep, new and existing. As a result, several changes and vacancies have occurred. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your class rep, or if you would like to apply for or recommend someone for a vacant rep position, please email the Alumni Association at alumnioffice@centralhighalumni.com. If email is not an option, please call (215) 927-9550. If you would like to contact your class rep, please email the Alumni office in care of her or his name. (Email addresses are not shown here in order to avoid their being harvested by spammers.). - Rudy Cvetkovic (239)

175 – Bernard C. Gross	204 – Arthur D. Magilner	230 – Larry Plotkin	256 – Dan Taraborrelli
177 – Milton Dienes	205 – Ted Rothman	231 – Vacant	257 – Angela Reale-Povia
179 – Samuel J. Silk	206 – Robert J. Stern	232 – Hon. John Younge	258 – David R. Hildebrand
181 – Jules Silk	207 – Arthur Hausman	233 – Sidney Ozer	259 – Jeff Goldberg
182 – Len Garrett	208 – Marshal Greenblatt	234 – Kevin Stepanuk	260 – Angelina Banks
183 – Dr. John Senior	209 – Stephen Chappell	235 – Pete Forjohn	261 – Chantay Thompson
184 – Edward Itzenon	210 – Paul Hirschman	236 – Mark Lomax	262 – Canh Trinh
185 – Jay Rosen	211 – Bill Labkoff	237 – Dominic Orlando	263 – Justin Simmons
186 – Norman Salvat	212 – Otto Mills	238 – Joe Deal	264 – Michael Segal
187 – Vacant	213 – Jeff A. Weiner	239 – Rudy A. Cvetkovic	265 – Gina Bryan
188 – Matt London	214 – Steve Green	240 – David Smedley	266 – Agin Thomas
189 – Saul Carroll	215 – Gerry Kean	241 – Nick Taweel	267 – Sophia Hines
190 – Jere Neff	216 – Larry Arnoff	242 – David C. Mack	268 – Chansophea Ten
191 – Phil Alterman	217 – Bill Carlitz	243 – John Loesch	269 – Alexis Jenkins
192 – Irv Matusow	218 – Barry Brait	244 – Joseph Q. Mirarchi	270 – Nikita Shah
193 – Stan Fischman	219 – Mike Love	245 – Jonathan Kine	271 – Ramon Guzman
194 – Jerry Kates	220 – David Kahn	246 – Julie Stevens	272 – Natalie Fox
195 – Ed Benoff	221 – Chuck Steinberg	247 – Tracy Allen	273 – Cam-Tu Vuong
196 – Jerry Miller	222 – Mike Radel	248 – Keeya Branson Davis	274 – Anh Cao
197 – Robert M. Cohan	223 – Lenny Seidman	249 – Maria Carpenter Yanga	275 – Rucksar Rahman
198 – Stanley H. Cohen	224 – Saul Langsam	250 – Audra King	276 – Michael Behanan
199 – Bob Rosenstein	225 – Stanley Sokolove	251 – Leigh Whitaker	277 – Chris Carson
200 – Mark Kay	226 – Zachary Rubin	252 – Gina Meissler	278 – Tristan Jennings
201 – Vacant	227 – Gary Koupf	253 – Mike Ambrosius	279 – Viktor Shamis-Kagan
202 – Bob E. Spivak	228 – Bob Barthelmeh	254 – Lisbeth C. Lopez-Little	
203 – Philip Remstein	229 – Frank Piliero	255 – Broderick Jones	

ALUMNI BOARD OF MANAGERS

THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020

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REUNIONS IN PICTURES



The 238th class held their 40th reunion on November 30th at the Waterfall Room.
(Photo Credit: Floyd Kelley, 238)



Members of the 227 met for dinner in February 2020.
(Photo Credit: Barry Reddish, 227)



The 248 met for their 30th reunion at the IATSE Ballroom on November 30. The evening's festivities included an 80s theme!
(Photo Credit: Lamont Griggs, 248).



Members of the 238 meet for a bowling reunion at Erie Lanes in Philadelphia in January 2020.
(Photo Credit: Joe Deal, 238)



The 257 met for a 21st reunion in November 2019.
(Photo Credit: Kate Comber, 257).



The 268th class met for their 10 year reunion at the Felt Factory.
(Photo Credit: Chansey Ten, 268)

Leading the Way Capital Campaign Update PHOTOS FROM PHASE 1

Phase 1 of Central High School's Leading the Way Capital Campaign neared completion this spring. This phase of the project transformed the famed "blacktop" into a safe and appealing portion of the school's campus. The parking area now includes safer entrance and exit ramps, roads and walkways, improved stormwater management, and additional greenery.

Phase 1 paves the way for the future addition of a performing arts center, dedicated STEM education space and important improvements to the existing school building to prepare for the Central students of tomorrow.

This portion of Leading the Way was funded by the School District of Philadelphia, but for this project to reach it's full potential, we need you!

Learn more about the campaign and donate today at CentralHighAlumni.com/capital-campaign-leading-way.

Photo Credit: Steve Innamarato (Faculty)



From Friends with Class

Jerry Bonn (202) is still practicing psychiatry, part-time and from a distance. Jerry says it's not so bad using FaceTime to communicate with patients: at least you can read their expressions. It's also a blessing to hold a Zoom Passover seder with children, including **Jessica (243)** and family in Jerusalem and her sisters in Boston and Greater Philadelphia. **Michael Silverman** has reconnected. He would've graduated in the **215** had his family not moved to Cheltenham. Some of Michael's enduring memories during and after his time at CHS are of English teacher/college counselor **Bill Disharoon**, who took young Michael under his wing as a courtesy to his older brother, the late **Harry Silverman (205)**. We are eagerly awaiting Michael's memoir on his encounters with "Dish," now that he's retired from his psychotherapy practice and is devoting more time to writing and painting. Attorney **Lenard "Len" Cohen (235)**, who starred in my very first government/economics class, has further expanded his talents in collaboration with his executive-producer wife - Lauren - in the soon-to-be-released (June 3) feature film, *The Fifth Borough*. Although set in NYC, this cop-family-blood-is-thicker-than-money drama promises to be GRITTY. In addition to surviving my class and homeroom, casino exec **Anthony "Bert" Bertino (237)** writes from his AC home that his industry is taking national, local and additional safety warnings seriously in its efforts to protect workers and patrons alike when and if the popular palaces reopen. As much as we

love to stuff ourselves at the buffet tables en route to or from the gaming tables, we can expect them to look very different next time we spin the wheel of fortune or lift the lever of the one-armed bandit. Meanwhile, keep some of your chips (from the last time you were in them) stored next to your toilet paper and other valuables. J.P. Morgan Chase Associate Medical Director, retired US Navy Public Health Director and Navy veteran **Ken Lankin (238)** also survived my classroom as well as Antarctica, Afghanistan and a variety of military/medical assignments around the world, including doctoring on a US warship that rescued more than 8,100 Cuban refugees from makeshift rafts in 1994. Ken is also known for his recent Linked-In postings honoring our unsung C-19 heroes; not to mention Dr. Lankin's Nuts & Seeds. Still available, Doc? In addition to **Chris Fried's (255)** usual Friday investment tipsheet, Chris recently attached a copy of the Drexel University Lindy Institute's research paper on the likely economic impact of the pandemic on our city. While it may be hard to read for non-economics majors like most of us, it's even harder for those of us who've tried to save something for retirement. Worth perusing, anyway. I'd offer my handkerchief, if you know what that is, but you'd no-doubt decline because ... you know. With eyes and mind firmly directed toward outer space, **Joseph ("Colorado Joe") Gruber (257)** turned his sights earthward to note that, as of this month, Boulder set a new snowfall record of 151+ inches. And for this, Joe, you left Philly, where we seem to be in a perpetual state of spring? Gotta wonder what summer will bring.

Thanks to Cambridge High and Latin alumna, **Janice**, for editing. Got something to say, add or ask? E me at byasgur216@gmail.com.

255 Jaime Gauthier was sworn in as a member of Philadelphia City Council on January 6th. Councilmember Gauthier represents the 3rd Councilmanic District, which includes most of West Philadelphia.

255 Dr. Anthony Grant was named the Athletic Director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

256 Tiffany Green, Assistant Professor of Population Health Sciences and Obstetrics and Gynecology in the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health was interviewed by NBC 15 in Madison, WI regarding COVID-19. You can watch the segment by [clicking here](#). Dr. Green was also interviewed by Medical News Today regarding COVID-19 racial disparities, which you can read by [clicking here](#).

256 Idris Abdul-Zahir was featured in the New Yorker in a piece discussing the challenges religious leaders have faced in deciding how to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. He is the head imam of the Masjidullah mosque in West Oak Lane. Read more by [clicking here](#).

257 Napoleon Nelson won the Democratic primary in the 154th state legislative district, which includes Cheltenham, Jenkintown and Springfield. He faces a Republican candidate in the general election. Visit Napoleonfor154.com to learn more.

258 Sultan Howard was featured on 6ABC Action News for answering the call to assist in treating COVID-19 patients in Newark, NJ. He is a licensed practical nurse, and a veteran of the United States Army. He was interviewed by **Maggie Kent (267)**. Learn more by [clicking here](#).

262 Peter Biar Ajak was released from a South Sudanese prison, after having been imprisoned in the summer of 2018 for speaking out against the country's government. The country has been embroiled in a bloody civil war which has claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands since 2013. Ajak is a prominent scholar and economist, and has returned to Philadelphia, his wife and two children. In a statement, he said, "Words cannot express how grateful I am for their support...It's a new year and a new decade, and my wish is that this year will be the start of lasting peace in South Sudan." Read more by [clicking here](#)

263 The 263rd class held a 16 year reunion (making up for a missed 15 year reunion) via Zoom on June 13th.

263 Rich Severin's paper titled *Respiratory Muscle Performance Screening for Infectious Disease Management Following COVID-19: A Highly Pressurized Situation* was published by the American Journal of Medicine. Rich is a cardiovascular and pulmonary clinical specialist. He earned his doctor of physical therapy degree from University of Miami and is pursuing a PhD in rehabilitation science at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He serves as a visiting clinical instructor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is a part-time clinical assistant professor at Baylor University. He is also the winner of the 2020 Dorothy Briggs Memorial Scientific Inquiry Award of the American Physical Therapy Association.

263 Sabir Peele, men's clothing designer, entrepreneur and influencer, was featured in an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer in February. Read more by [clicking here](#).

271 Trans ("R.J.") Lualhati, a 3D clinical engineer for Johnson & Johnson, working with a mentor at LaSalle, manufactured hundreds of face shields and donated them to local hospitals and nursing homes. Read more from the Chestnut Hill Local's **Len Lear (209)** by [clicking here](#).

277 Marcela Dow and **Elya Kaplan** organized a march against police violence and racism in Mt. Airy and Chestnut Hill on Friday, June 5th. You can read more about the march by [clicking here](#).

279/280 A film, titled *Diverse City: Residential Integration in Philadelphia's West Mount Airy*, created by **Lily Cohen (279)**, **Emmett Gordon (279)**, **Isabella Greene (279)** and **Margaux Engel (280)** has been chosen from among hundreds of submissions nationally for an online showcase through the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Smithsonian Learning Lab. The film was created as a part of National History Day competitions; the film succeeded in competitions at the city and state level before being selected as a part of this national showcase.

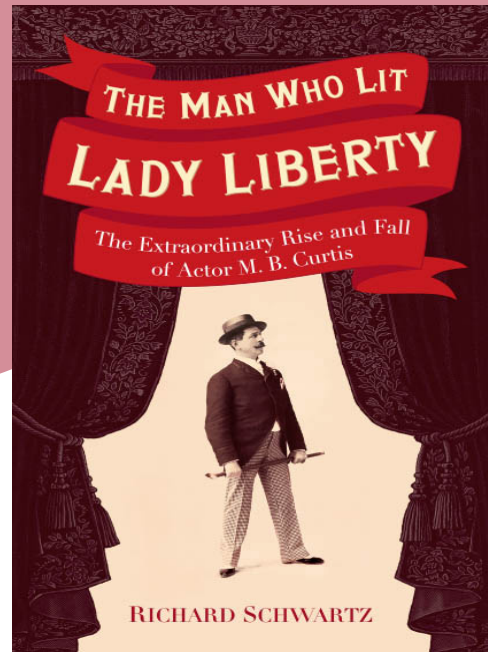
If I asked you who is the only US citizen to personally pay to light the Statue of Liberty when Congress refused to fund the statue's lighting right after she was dedicated in 1886, I would be almost certain you would not know the answer. The historians at the Statue of Liberty National Monument did not know the answer either until they read the book "The Man Who Lit Lady Liberty, The Extraordinary Rise and Fall of Actor M. B. Curtis."

A six-year old M. B. Curtis arrived with his Hungarian family in New York in 1856. Mauritz Bertrand Strelinger ran away from home at 14 and followed his dream of becoming an actor. Immigrant Mauritz chose to become American actor M. B. Curtis. After years of cutting his teeth on every imaginable role, Curtis took on the role of Sam'l of Posen, an awkward Jewish immigrant who procured his first job in America as a "drummer," or traveling salesman. The role catapulted Curtis to fame and fortune overnight as the country could not get enough of his gossamer performances. The role making him one of America's first theatrical superstars.

Immigrants were pouring into the country and this play gave the nation a way to process that wave in a positive and humorous way. The always adlibbing Curtis mesmerized audiences and they could not stop laughing from the moment he waddled on stage. Critics, including Philadelphia ones, called him an artist and the first male Jewish actor to portray a Jewish character onstage, and do so with humanity. Curtis played to rave reviews in all the major theaters in Philadelphia and was a big favorite here. The Free Library of Philadelphia at Logan Square has a large treasure trove of his posters, reviews and playbills from his local performances in their Special Collections room.

Prior roles of Jewish males were limited to a pile of negative stereotypes and not a human being and were imported whole cloth from Europe. The change made by Curtis was seismic and his play massaged the nation's cultural trajectory for decades.

In 1905, twenty-five years after the play was introduced, President Theodore Roosevelt was compared



to Curtis's theatrical alter-ego, Sam'l of Posen. Curtis's talent was such that even Mark Twain approached Curtis to produce Twain's new book "Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" on the New York stage.

Curtis's drama was not limited to the theater. In 1891, he built the tallest hotel in the Bay Area in Berkeley, CA. It was a lavish and stately building with 37 towers. He paved streets and paid for their first street lights, a fire station, a train station and was always mounting benefits for people and causes in need. He was a founding member of the Actor's Fund (formed to help injured or ill actors) and performed the very first benefit performance to fund it. His philanthropy was legendary.

But not all his life's experiences floated his art and humanity. One night in San Francisco, Curtis was late picking his wife up from a play and found himself mugged on a dark street. The policeman that responded while walking his beat was shot to death and Curtis was accused of the crime. Curtis pleaded that the policeman had put nippers (a one-handed handcuff that tightened if one resisted) on both the mugger and his hand and was pulling them to the police station, a half a block away. He stated that the mugger, out of the blue and in one motion, swiftly drew a revolver from his long coat, put it to the policeman's forehead, fired, then attempted to shoot Curtis and ran off. The mayor of Philadelphia tele-

graphed Curtis immediately and assured him that Philadelphians knew he did not commit the heinous crime. Curtis read the telegram from his jail cell. M. B. Curtis endured three trials on this charge.

After the trials Curtis immediately tried to revive his career. Today we would say he suffered from PTSD. Back then, he just drank to excess.

The actor became a pioneer in the nascent silent movie industry, starring in one of the first silent movies in 1899. In that same year, an older Curtis, now a producer, took one of the most talented troupes of African American performers of all types ever assembled to Australia and New Zealand. In 1910, a

continued on page 21

Merrill Freedman, 208, Columnist At Large

As I write this, sequestered in my home, there are a few days remaining before Passover. Growing up over my parent's Jewish bakery, Passover was a very special time for our family. It was the only respite we had from working in the shop. Seder was at our only grandparent's house behind their closed bakery in South Philadelphia. I'm guessing that the last one there was in 1953. The day following Seder the family's annual adventure began. We left for Atlantic City.

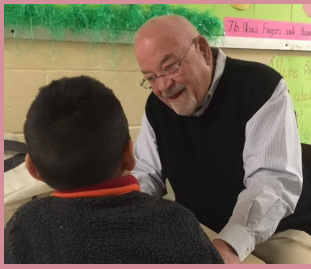
Each year we stayed in a different hotel. Some years, if we were lucky, Passover and Easter Sunday coincided. That meant that the boardwalk would be filled with people in all sorts of colorful outfits. I remember one lady walking a pet racoon. But the best part of the vacation was that each year I met new kids to hang out with. Invariably they were from New York or North Jersey, which I always thought that made them a bit exotic. And, other than meals, my parents let me hang out with them.

Most of the time it was all boys, but once I met the most beautiful girl I had ever seen. For the three days we had together, we were as in love as ten year old's could be. I think of her sometimes, but I never saw her, or any other kids again.

Ever since some recent surgeries leading to my being unable to drive any distance, and not at all at night, I've become very disconnected from my fellow Central alumni. Now, it seems that the COVID-19 nightmare has disconnected us all from each other and everybody else, so we're sort of even.

At first, being home didn't seem so bad. I missed my daily mornings at the gym. More to the point, I

missed seeing my friends at the gym. While I did as little as possible on the equipment, the social interaction kept me somewhat sane. It took me a long time to learn everybody's first name, and now I doubt I'll ever learn their last names. For the most part they're rather old (not as old as I am, but then, not many people are.), so I hope they stay safe and don't die.



While it sounds like I'm complaining, I know that there is almost never a better time to be retired. No worries about losing a job, or laying-off employees. We're scheduled to move to an apartment on April 30th, so we'll no longer worry about weeds on the lawn or minor repair issues. The downside is that we're already beginning to miss our neighbors.

Now, without putting too much pressure on our intrepid editor, Neil, this *Journal* has become an ever more important means of staying in touch with dear old high. Having spent several years as volunteer co-editor with Steve Chappell, I know the job is both difficult and relatively thankless. While some people gave us an occasional kudo, most had something to complain about. I used to think that most alumni read the Journal more to find errors than to enjoy the articles. I don't miss the job.

I do miss the Central connection.

This pandemic can't last forever, so if we choose to remain in touch with the school and the alumni, this thing you're reading is a great option.

From The Author (continued from page 20)

major film company purchased the rights to make a full-length silent movie of his famous play. The movie was titled "Samuel of Posen" and Curtis was billed as "Curtiss." (The Library of Congress recently found and magnificently restored this lost movie and allowed author Richard Schwartz to post their work on YouTube. [Click here to view](#)).

There is evidence M. B. Curtis influenced Charlie Chaplin's "The Tramp" and, indeed, Chaplin arrived in America the same year Curtis's movie was released nation-wide. Curtis also worked with Fatty Arbuckle and his work influenced Jack Benny, among others.

While Curtis's life was filled with fame, philanthropy, drama and stratospheric artistic talent, his life reads like a classic Greek tragedy that encourages us to dream big while warning of the dangers of success. No hero is invincible, and the life of M. B. Curtis serves as both an inspiration and admonition to modern readers.

"The Man Who Lit Lady Liberty, The Extraordinary Rise and Fall of Actor M. B. Curtis" won the Bronze Medal for Biography from the Independent Publishers Book Awards and is on sale at the Statue of Liberty National Monument, bookstores and online. It was accepted in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Margaret Herrick Collection. Author Richard Schwartz is a member of the 228th class.



HONOR THE TRADITION AND ENSURE THE FUTURE OF CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

Your financial support can help the Associated Alumni of Central High School to meet its mission to ensure the continued success of Central High School and the achievement of its students, now and in the future!

Your **tax-deductible** contribution will go to support AACHS's efforts to support Central's academic programs and extracurricular programming. Without you, the incredible programs enjoyed by Central students may not be possible.

The **Annual Giving Fund** helps to support the operation of the AACHS, and to help the AACHS to support student programming including needs that the School is simply not able to handle without our support.

And, donations to the **Leading the Way for Innovation and Creativity capital campaign** will help us to reach our goal of remaking Central High School for the students of tomorrow.

Please consider a **tax deductible** contribution before the end of the year to help support the work of the AACHS, our students and our ambitious goals for the future.

If you prefer to give online, please visit CentralHighAlumni.com/Support!

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Yes! I will make a tax-deductible contribution to the Associated Alumni of Central High School!

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Annual Giving Campaign Leading the Way Capital Campaign

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ALMA MATTERS SUBMISSIONS

Keep us posted! Send your submissions to alumnijournal@centralhighalumni.com!

Or, if you prefer, mail to: AACHS P.O. Box 26580 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19141-6580

When submitting, please include your name, graduating class, and email address.