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are not complete, but a nominal fee will be charged.

For those wishing to wallow in nostalgia, there will be yearbooks, class rings, and various paraphernalia, such as caps, T-shirts, for sale.

Next on the Centennial agenda will be the traditional Turkey Bowl football game against arch-rival Overbrook High School, Thursday, November 24. West Philly will be the host team. The half-time program will include a Centennial Tribute.

When Overbrook High School opened in 1928, many of its teachers came from West Philadelphia's faculty, as did many students who transferred there.

On the following day, there will be an Open House and Tours of the new school, giving old grads the opportunity to experience what the high-school of today is like.

The Centennial Year festivities will end with a two-day week-end program that will feature a Saturday Dance, and a Sunday Gala, including the return of the Outstanding Alumnus Award. On this special occasion, there will be awards to more than one person.

Because details of these—and possibly other—activities are not complete, at this writing, Association members are advised to keep in touch by going to the website—www.wphsaa.edu—or calling 215.471.3941.

**WPHS Alumni Ass'n
48th and Walnut Sts
Philadelphia, PA 19139**

Address Correction Requested

OBITS, from page 3

In 1957, Sailor and her husband, Alexander, a jeweler, opened Roslyn Sailor, a women's clothing and jewelry shop on Walnut Street. Sailor sketched the designs, and her husband then fashioned the pieces from gold, silver and gem stones. They created custom jewelry for celebrity clients, and made a malachite and gold desk-set for President Richard Nixon.

In the late 1950s, the Sailors also established a shop in Palm Beach.

In 1979, the couple closed both stores and attempted retirement in Miami for several years. They got bored, and in 1986 they opened Roslyn Sailor Fine Arts Gallery in Margate, N.J. After her husband died in 1994, Sailor operated the gallery until 2006.

Robert F. McGovern

Robert F. McGovern (June 1950), a professor emeritus at the University of the Arts whose wood carvings and sculptures adorn numerous churches, has died at age 78.

He was attending West Philadelphia when he was stricken with polio at age 16. He was encouraged to pursue his art and, while wearing full braces on both legs and using crutches, he commuted from his home to the Philadelphia College of Art, now the University of the Arts. After his graduation, he joined the faculty. For the next 43 years, he taught

Association Now Tax-Exempt

The West Philadelphia High School Alumni Association has now become a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization.

Therefore, membership dues, as well as contributions, will be tax exempt.

freshmen drawing and design as well as printmaking and other courses until retiring in 1999.

Leon E. Smith

Leon E. Smith (June 1951), a former educator and one of the first African-Americans to play on previously segregated basketball courts, when he played for Temple University, has died at age of 77.

Smith starred on the 1956-56 team which was labeled "the greatest team in the history of Temple basketball," by a former Director of Athletics at the school, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its first Final Four team.

After receiving his master's degree in education, from Temple, he began a 40-year career in teaching at Sulzberger Junior High School for 26 years before ending his career at William Penn High School, in 1996. He taught English and Social Studies.

His teaching years were interrupted by a two-year-stint in the U.S. Army.

Centenary Schedule

The present schedule of events for the Centenary Year includes:

June 26 – Closing Ceremonies at Present School

November 24 – Turkey Bowl, at Pollock Field, 48th and Spruce Streets

November 25 – Open House & Tours at New School

June 23, 2012 – Centennial Dance at New School

June 24 – Gala Celebration at New School

Arthur H. Chambers

Arthur H. Chambers (June 1961), an editorial assistant at **The Inquirer** from September 1970 to November 2005, has died at age 65.

Chambers, who was appointed night clerical supervisor in 1986, helped stitch together the nighttime news operations of the paper for decades.

Though a clerk, Chambers often reported and wrote stories at night, and was credited with contributing to deadline stories as part of the newsroom team that fanned out across South Philadelphia on the evening of the 1980 murder of crime boss Angelo Bruno.

He had a byline to himself in a profile of Steve Bouras, reporting on the night in 1981 that the reputed member of the so-called Greek mob was killed inside a South Philadelphia restaurant.



Volume I, Number 2

West Philadelphia High School Alumni Association

April 2011

Bowling Night Fun Evening to Aid Scholarship Fund

In what has now become a tradition, the Alumni Association's 3rd annual Bowling for Scholarships, this year will be on on Friday, April 29.

Once again, it will be held at the Gehris Bowling Lanes, 67th and Market Streets, Upper Darby. The festivities will begin at 9.30pm.

The \$30 cost will include all food and drinks, entertainment, and the charge for bowling ball and shoes.

Last year's event netted \$1300, which provided \$500 Book Awards to two 2010 graduates and also

See **BOWLING**, page 2

Mentoring Project Set Up To Aid School's Youngsters

A Mentoring Project has been established for West Philadelphia High School, and influential business-men and -women who have some time on their hands are being asked to consider being mentors for the youngsters in the school.

Set up by Alumni Association Board member Eric Ward (1971), the Nu-Juice Foundation hopes to assist in empowering youth to have a positive learning experience while in school and provide them with the tools necessary to excel in the workplace, higher education institutions and entrepreneurship.

In stressing the importance of the Project, Ward said, "Today's young

School is Refuge For Fire Victims

When the disastrous fire at the Windermere Apartments, at 48th and Walnut Streets, made 90 families homeless, last January, the West Philadelphia High School became a temporary refuge.

The school's West Auditorium and gymnasium were utilized during the day, until more satisfactory lodgings were available at facilities nearby.

WPHS Alumni News

Year-long Program of Events To Mark School's Centenary

Alumni Group Photo Set for May 7

All Alumni are invited to report for a group photograph in front of the current School building, May 7, at 10am, at the 48th Street entrance.

This photograph, with the "old" building as a backdrop, will be displayed on a wall in the new School.

Do not miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be forever linked with the present building.

The "rain date" will be May 14.

Visits to Old, New Buildings To End With Gala Weekend

An ambitious program to mark the centenary of the West Philadelphia High School will begin on June 26, after the last classes leave the present building, and will run till June, 2012.

The first class to enter the present building was in September 1912.

Athletic Field Improvements May Begin Soon

The Alumni Association's long-time effort to modernize Pollock Field, at 48th and Locust Streets, where the baseball and football teams play, looks like coming to pass.

Following long negotiations with the School District's Athletic Department, a top-priority list of improvement was agreed with \$1,112,458 assured. However, the Association's "wish-list" totaled \$3,141,654.

Although work is to commence shortly, it is hoped that, since the field can be used by community organizations, outside groups and citizens will help provide the difference needed to make the short-fall.

Student in First Lady's Box At 'State of Union' Speech

All's Well That Ends Well, as the Bard said.

Last September, West Philadelphia High student Brandon Ford and his team of automotive engineers traveled to the nation's capital to listen to President Obama talk about the importance of science.

It was right up his block. A leader of the West Philly Hybrid X Team at the school, Brandon knew all about the advantages of the sciences.

At the White House, as his classmates and teachers entered the airtight security, to his dismay, Brandon had forgotten his ID at home and had to be turned away. As a consolation, White House officials promised the teen they'd make it up to him.

On February 1, as the President addressed the nation during his second State of the Union Address, Brandon and his mom, were seated in First Lady Michelle Obama's box.

The new building, at 49th and Chestnut Streets, will admit its first class, in September.

The Year's activities, fittingly, will begin at the present building, on Sunday, June 25, from 2 to 4pm with a nostalgic tour of the school—the halls, the classrooms, the gymnasium, etc.—and will include an entertainment program in the West Auditorium. At this

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WestFest Date Set; Volunteers Needed

Mark your calendars.

The Fourth Annual WestFest Picnic is set for Sunday, August 7, at the North George's Hill pavilion, in Fairmount Park.

Although there is no charge, the purpose of the WestFest—in addition to having a good time with family and friends—is to encourage graduates to join the Alumni Association. A one-year membership is \$20; a life-time membership is \$200 (see and use the form on page 3).

The festivities—including music provided by a DJ—will begin at noon and will end at 6pm.

Alumni should bring their own food or the necessary equipment to prepare the food on-site.

The planning committee has not been completed for the WestFest, so volunteers are being sought to help. Those interested, should call Paula McKinney-Rainey, (267) 608-5819; Michael Brown, (215) 275-7633; or Cheryl Smith, (302) 559-3224.

WPHS Alumni **News**

is a published by

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President Paula McKinney-Rainey
Editor Andrew Kevorkian

From the President. . .

On behalf of the leadership team and editor, I am delighted to welcome you to the second edition of the WPHS Alumni News. Many readers are acquainted with our work but for those unfamiliar, we revitalized the Alumni Association in 2007, building on a proud tradition from its chartering in 1952.

Our active membership includes graduates spanning several generations, from as early as 1943 and as recent as 2008. We sponsor Career Day events to bring alumni back to the school to share their career paths with the students; staff an alumni office in the school to maintain a consistent presence of support; actively participate with the parent and community represented school advisory council.

As you will read in this issue, we look forward to our 3rd Annual Bowling for Scholarships which funds book awards for graduating seniors and the 4th Annual WestFest Membership Drive on North Georges Hill Pavilion in Fairmount Park on Sunday, August 7, 2011.

This year is full of anticipation and excitement as WPHS prepares to move into a new, state-of-the-art building at 49th & Chestnut Streets, designed by noted local architect and WPHS alumnus Emanuel Kelly. The new school will open in September with a new leader at its helm, Ms Mary Dean. She was the principal of Mastbaum High School during tremendous student achievement; we are excited about her track record, energy and vision for this next era of WPHS.

This year is truly a new era, as

Association Letter in ‘Inquirer’

As evidence of the Alumni Association’s concern not only about the activities of graduates, but also of the students in school, a letter from the Association appeared in the **Philadelphia Inquirer**, last September 15, following the visit of President Barack Obama to a Philadelphia school.

It speaks for itself:

Obama visit would have meant more to West

President Obama gave his back-to-school address Tuesday at Masterman. While we applaud his selection of a Philadelphia public school, and acknowledge the superior accomplishments of Masterman, which regularly place it in the nation’s top 100 public schools, those students are destined to succeed with or without the president’s visit. But what would a visit from him have meant to a comprehensive high school like West?

West has not had consecutive years of annual progress under NoChild Left Behind; only this year was it removed from the state’s list of persistently dangerous schools.

Imagine if the president had not only acknowledged West’s existence, but honored it; the impact would be immeasurable. West students are so earnest and hardworking. So many West students have not been privy to the resources and cultural capital available to Masterman’s.

A visit from the president would have demonstrated that they are valued, not because they are already top performers, but because, with positive attention like the type that regularly gets doled out to the Masterman students of this country, they can strive to be.

Paula McKinney-Rainey, President
Norman Brown, Board Chairman
West Philadelphia High School Alumni Association

Major Academic Changes in Store When School Enters New Year

West Philadelphia High School has been selected as one of the Year II Promise Academies in the School District’s new initiative to improve what has been described as “failing” schools.

Unfortunately, West Philadelphia had been listed as such.

The Year II schools will continue to operate as neighborhood public schools for the students and communities they now serve. The designation means that the school will provide more time for teaching and learning.

Principals of the Year II schools, as well as union and elected officials, have been briefed on the models for each school. Parents at these schools have received letter indicting the significance of the designation.

The changes inherent in the program will affect both the teachers and the youngsters, and will include longer hours—and Saturday classes.

The approach will be to establish a “university-centric culture,” the obvious aim being to prepare more pupils for university.

Parents will be involved, and there will be a dress code.

The Alumni Association was involved in much of the discussions concerning the School, and supports the initiative. It is hoped that when the call goes out for more alumni to join in the support for the ambitious program there will be an enthusiastic response.

Paula McKinney-Rainey

Reunions Set

June 1945 – 67th Anniversary reunion, June 12, 2011, Llanerch Country Club. Contact 215.642.0864

June 1966 – 45th Anniversary reunion, August 10, 2011, Harrah’s Casino, Chester. Contact jeromehjohnson@aol.com

June 1971 – 40th Anniversary reunion, August 6, 2011, Galdo’s. Contact 609.386.7510, 215.292.2371, 267.560.4951

June 1986 – 25th Anniversary reunion, June 25, 2011, Park Avenue Banquet Hall. Contact 215.220.5646

June 1987 – All Alumni Cookout/BBQ, August 27, Cobbs Creek Park. Contact 215.840.2379

Class of ‘87 ‘Reunion’ Draws more than 100

The Second Annual Almuni Cookout/BBQ sponsored by the Class of 1987, that took place on August 28, 2010, in Cobbs Creek Park, at 63rd Street and Cedar Avenue, attracted more than 100 people, including members of the classes of 1965, 1969, 1974, 1976, and throughout the 1980s.

The event drew alumni and families from as far as Florida and Virginia.

The driving force behind the now-annual event is Ann Nettles, of the Class of ‘87. She was assisted by Lori Dickerson, Steven Sanders, and George Turner.

BOWLING, from page 1

enabled two young ladies to attend the Senior Prom, by paying for their tickets, and their dresses and shoes.

In addition to aiding a good cause, bowlers and lookers-on will be able to buy WPHS T-shirts. Some lucky attendees will win door prizes.

The members of the Bowling Night committee are: Chairman Michael Brown, and Norman Brown, Andrew Johnson, Diane McKinney-Whetstone, Paula McKinney-Rainey, Cheryl Smith, Jeanette Taylor, and Dr. Dee Williams.

Milton D. Shapiro

Milton D. Shapiro (June 1934), a longtime librarian and volunteer, has died at age 93.

After he was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1937, Shapiro then went to work for the family children's dress business, Shapiro Manufacturing Co. at 56th and Spruce Streets, handling deliveries, accounting, sales, and scheduling.

Shapiro served as a first lieutenant in the Army from 1942 to 1946 in New Guinea, the Philippines, and Japan. After his service, he returned to the family business, but found sales waning and decided to change careers.

In 1964, Shapiro earned a master's degree in library science at Drexel University and became head librarian at the Helen Kate Furness Free Library, in Wallingford.

In 1983, Shapiro retired, but volunteered one day a week at various libraries. He also volunteered at the American Philosophical Society, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, and the Special Collections Department at Penn.

Bernice Rider Evans

Bernice Rider Evans (June 1939), a former teacher and counselor for the Philadelphia School District, has died at age 90.

She began her 35-year career as a

Obituaries

kindergarten teacher and retired as a guidance counselor in 1983. Evans taught at the former George L. Brooks School at 57th Street and Haverford Avenue for 18 years and at the Anna L. Lingelbach School in Germantown for five years.

After taking graduate courses at Temple University, Evans was a counselor at the John G. Whittier School for 12 years.

She took courses at the Abington Art Center when she was younger, and in retirement developed her watercolor skills at Center in the Park in Germantown.

In the 1990s, her work was exhibited at what is now the Moore College of Art and Design and at the October Gallery in West Mount Airy.

A watercolor by Evans won first place in a contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Aging in 1992.

James Nannos

James Nannos (June 1940) who retired in 1984 as vice president of the international department at Meridian Bank, has died at age 88.

After being graduated from West Philadelphia, he attended what is now Drexel University.

After a brother, George, a Navy pilot, was lost in the Pacific during World War II, Nannos enlisted in the reserves, was activated in 1943, and, as a meteorologist helped train Army Air Corps personnel.

Nannos earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Drexel in 1947.

He was manager of the Central Penn National Bank office at Broad and McKean Streets from the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s. While working there, he took courses in banking and finance through the American Institute of Banking.

Nannos helped start and manage

Frederick Stapleford

Frederick H. Stapleford (June 1937), a former executive with publishing companies, has died at age 89.

His working career began with Armstrong Cork Co., in the advertising and promotions department, before moving on to the Budd Co. He also served as executive director of Inquirer Charities Inc., then

Also. . .

Phyllis Bobrow, June 1945
Jack Diamond, June 1945
Doris Kensey, June 1968
Frances Rivkin, June 1945
Philip Rothwell, June 1945

. . .and. . .

Jerry A. Caponigro, who taught foreign languages at West Philadelphia, in 1947 and 1948.

the international department at Central Penn, continuing in that job after the firm was acquired by Meridian.

Irving Orenstein

Irving Orenstein (June 1948), a former journalist, photographer, and advertising agency owner, has died at age 80.

After earning a journalism degree from Temple University, Orenstein worked for a while as a newspaper reporter before joining an advertising agency as a copy writer. He left that firm to start Orenstein Advertising. He retired in 2001.

An award-winning photographer, Orenstein taught the subject in the evenings at Spring Garden Elementary School.

Roslyn Malis Sailor

Roslyn Malis Sailor (June 1948), a jewelry designer and art dealer who operated a “swanky” Center City boutique for 22 years, has died at age 80.

See **OBITS**, page 4