

Louis E. Dieruff High School
 Alumni Association Newsletter



Volume 4, Issue 4

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

December, 2018

MERRY
 CHRISTMAS

Home For The Holidays

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

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For Mr. Peter Carpenter, our legendary music director, it sure must have felt like "home". He certainly was in his comfort zone, poised in front of that grand piano, strategically positioned in the orchestra pit of the high school auditorium. His alumni choir surrounded him with adoration. The special occasion was a Holiday Sing-A-Long.

Affectionately known as Mr. "C", Peter Carpenter was present when Dieruff High School opened its doors in 1959. For three decades he served as the choir director. He composed the music for the school's alma mater. A large bronze plaque with his image graces the entrance to the auditorium, and his name appears over the doorway. Designated as the "Peter Carpenter Auditorium", the facility is certainly his second "home".

As the song lyrics proclaim, "there's no place like home for the Holidays". Our Alumni Association embraced that concept when it organized an event entitled **Holiday Sing-Along with Mr. "C"**, held in the auditorium on December 5, 2018. With unbridled affection, Peter Carpenter greeted the alumni as they returned "home" for the celebration.

As Peter took his seat on the piano bench, the alumni singers, donned in festive holiday apparel, arranged themselves on the adjacent risers. Peter had prepared a hand-written list of musical selections, placing the large sheet on the music stand above the keyboard. There was no need for complex musical scores, as Peter was intimately familiar with each piece. Truth be told, with his eyesight failing, he would find it a challenge to read those notes. Nonetheless, Peter's fingers faithfully found their home, producing the melodies he desired. His choir followed his lead, singing without song sheets.

The auditorium was alive with the joyous sounds of the holiday music, interrupted only by Peter's charming

banter and loving laughter. As the last of the melodies were sung, we encouraged Mr. "C" to lead us in the Dieruff High School Alma Mater. With a nostalgic glow on his face, a renewed nimbleness in his fingers, and an undeniable bundle of pride in his heart, Peter Carpenter shepherded his merry band of faithful carolers through that revered anthem. What a thrill it was to experience that passion.

Click on the following link to view a YouTube video of the program's highlights:

<https://youtu.be/5mwCtXkFP8w>

Our Holiday Sing-Along with Mr. "C" was wonderful gift for all of us. Indeed, there is no place like home for the Holidays.

THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

PEACE JOY LOVE

HAPPY NEW YEAR

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG WITH MR. "C"

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE MERRY AND BRIGHT

Mr. Peter Carpenter
 Legendary Choir Director and member of the Dieruff High School Alumni Association. He was Director and Conductor of several Dieruff High School and Dieruff Alumni Chorus and was a founding member of the Dieruff High School Alumni Association.



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Rejoice! Rejoice! It's the Holiday Season!

Members of our Alumni Association have immersed themselves in exciting activities that capture the spirit of the season. Harmony! Unity! The joy of giving! Our December Newsletter provides a glimpse of these significant events.

Harmony, indeed! Not only did our *Holiday Sing-Along with Mr. "C"* deliver harmony in the musical sense, it bestowed a huge dose of personal accord among Husky Alumni and Mr. Peter Carpenter. It would be difficult to identify another gathering that could rival the joy and harmony of this December celebration.

Unity was the theme of the Unity Game in late November. An impressive representation of alumni attended the event and cheered on the Allentown Police Department and the Dieruff Basketball Teams as they blended in fellowship and sportsmanship.

In the true spirit of giving, the "Sew What?" Club creates and distributes items selected for their community service value. As in past years, the after-school sewing club sponsored by the Alumni Association focused on two projects during November and December. The first was "Stockings for Soldiers", and the second was Children's Pillow Cases for the Ronald MacDonald House. Both projects were well received by the

students in the club, as well as the grateful recipients of their gifts.

This December also marks the seventh anniversary of the beginning of the Dieruff High School Alumni Association. It was in 2011 that Fred Schuler, Class of 1974, had a vision to unite Husky alumni in an association, with the expressed purpose of promoting Husky Pride.

As the expression goes, "we've come a long way, baby". Our Alumni Association has continued to grow and develop, promoting that Husky Pride among alumni, current students, faculty and staff, and the community. I would like to drink a cup of kindness yet to those faithful alumni who have contributed to our success.

It is our dedicated officer group who is deserving of our gratitude. My heartfelt thanks goes out to Steve Long, Kay Kurtz, Joanne Ogrydziak, and David Ziegenfuss, shown here in the accompanying photo.

And so it is with much warmth and affection that I extend to all of you my best wishes for a wondrous Holiday Season and a spectacular 2019.

With warm Husky regards,

John



The Power Of Unity

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Cops and kids playing basketball together! What a heart-warming sight! Coming together, in unity, at the Dick Schmidt Gymnasium at Dieruff High School on November 19, 2018. A large contingent of Dieruff



Alumni were on hand to bolster the sizable audience.

Now in its fourth year, the "Unity Game" brings members of the Allentown Police Department Basketball Team together with the Dieruff Boys and Girls Basketball Teams for an evening of hoops. Players are mixed into two squads for a fun-filled game.

Our own Joyce Reed-Ebling (Class of 1962), stylishly fitted in a black and white referee's shirt, did the tip-off honors. Assistant Principal Mike Makhoul served as the announcer, providing an entertaining play-by-play commentary. The Dieruff Cheerleaders and the Marching Band delivered additional excitement.

The following link will connect you to a YouTube video of the Unity Game highlights:

<https://youtu.be/kyLBtklcYZs>

Dieruff Huskies
Join in the fun 8th Annual
Mardi Gras Party
Saturday, Feb. 23, 2019
7:00 - 11:00 PM
East Side Youth Center
1140 East Clair Street
Allentown, PA

Sponsored by:
Dieruff Alumni Association
Ticket Price: \$15 in advance
\$20 at the door
Includes beer, soda, mixers,
and snacks Dancing to live DJ

Save The Date

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Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

Went to the Alumni Carol with Mr. C. Knew it would be the highlight of my holiday season and it was. Had fun meeting and greeting people. Gave out a lot of husky hugs and kisses. Ate a lot of cookies and even cut-outs, which are a labor of love. Aunt Cindy made husky dogs and doggie bone cookies, which were excellent. Mom did the usual chocolate drops. Nadia came, and we played a little. She has that shrill, puppy soprano so I let her sing. She sang and sang and sang. We moved to the back of the auditorium to allow the serious singers some peace. There we feasted on salmon treats. For a pup, she is pretty good. Remember with some shame, my puppy days.

Mom was a bit worried about my tummy after easting salmon

treats, lots of cookies, and I found some great stale gum under the seats. Shocked Mom when we got home because I downed two cups of kibble topped with whipped cream. Kibble with whipped cream is my usual supper. Had a great time and I did not barf. It is a lot of fun and fellowship and a great way to start the Christmas Season. Plan on coming next year.

Not much on the December calendar. Going up to visit the students and pass out some treats, candy, not salmon. Might make a cameo at one of the basketball games. Rarely go to those because there is really no safe place for me in the gym. Also, too hot and noisy. So will have to content myself with sleeping on the

couch and dreaming of cookies.

We did put up the tree and it is blue and silver, Dieruff and Dallas colors. Instead of the tree top angel, we put my cheer bow on the top, looking utterly awesome. Even Willow and Kibbee are grey, so they fit in with the color scheme.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2019.

Love,

Kiska V. Diva Dog



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comes back to us. Visit
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More Blessed to Give Than Receive

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

That famous expression about giving has resonated in our ears since we were children. It is inspirational when we actually experience that lesson in action.

Well, the "Sew What?" Club at Dieruff High School is a living, breathing example of that lesson being embraced, over and over again. The after-school sewing club is sponsored by the Alumni Association and is organized by Ruth O'Connell and Jinny Bankhard Hughes, both of the Dieruff Class of 1961.

Projects for the club are selected for their community service value. During the year-end Holiday Season, two particular projects have become an annual tradition. The premier project is called "Stockings for Soldiers". Club members sew high-quality Christmas Stockings that are delivered to a central location where they are filled, and then distributed to Pennsylvania military personnel stationed around the world.

The second noteworthy project for the Holidays is creating children's pillow cases. These colorful, festive pillow cases are then donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Danville, Pennsylvania. A certificate and a heart-felt thank you note was recently received from Mr. Michael Turlis, Executive

Director. The note read, "Dear Sew What? Club: You are amazing! I am quite moved by your ongoing support of the Danville Ronald McDonald House. Please know your kindness has and will continue to touch many families who have ill children."

We sincerely extend our congratulation to the members of the "Sew What?" Club, who faithfully fulfill the needs of others with their gifts. We also applaud Ruth and Jinny for extending their time and talents to these appreciative Huskies.



7 Is A Lucky Number

David Ziegenfuss '86

In December, most people are gearing up for the end of year business dealings. Purchases to claim for the current tax year, gathering of receipts and final audits to "zero out" the year.

But with anyone who has a December birthday knows, it can be the best time of the year to start anew. There's a twinkle in everyone's eyes, most people are happier and the world, for the most part, is a prettier place.

The Dieruff Alumni Association too has a December birthday. We've been around for 7 full years!

When Fred Schuler held that first meeting on December 3, 2011 he was "Bound and determined to 'give it wheels'". Would enough LED graduates help build a foundation that could make an Alumni Association grow? Going into year eight, that mission has to be validated with an emphatic "YES!"



With over 3,000 registered members (about 13% of LED graduates), and an additional 4,000 classmates who receive emails and announcements, the Dieruff Alumni Association is growing every day.

With annual events like the Mardi Gras, Fan-dangle, Tailgate and Holiday Sing-A-Long, there are many reasons why our Alumni Association is so successful and a model for other schools looking to start or enhance an alumni association of their own.

As we enter year number 8, let's keep the momentum Fred started 7 years ago growing. If you haven't joined us at a monthly meeting yet, then plan to do so. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM (January's meeting will be on the 9th), in the Meilinger Center at LED.

UPCOMING EVENTS

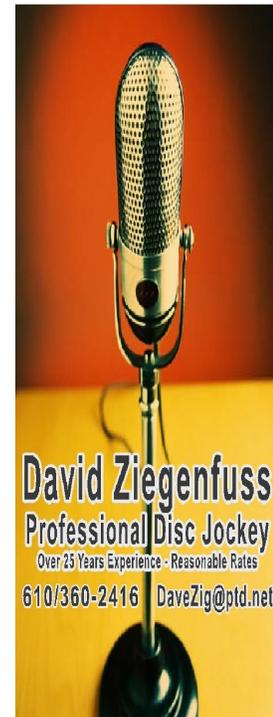
To get your event listed, please email event before the 24th of each month to: dhsalumninews@ptd.net

- December 25:** MERRY CHRISTMAS!
January 1: HAPPY NEW YEAR!
January 9: Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
 Meilinger Center - PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE
February 6: Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
 Meilinger Center
February 23: 8th Annual Mardi Gras 7PM-11PM
 East Side Youth Center (SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS)

All events can be found on the DHS Alumni Website: www.Dieruff-Alumni.org



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Louis E. Dieruff High School
Alumni Association Newsletter



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We publish an online digital.pdf copy of the Newsletter 10 times annually.
 All digital copies will be emailed monthly between September — May and a double issue will be emailed for the June/July Fandangle edition.
 There is no August edition

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DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

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