

Former high school to be reborn as park

An early morning inferno on January 11, 1994, engulfed what had once been the second building to house Cheltenham High School. The fire, which has since been ruled arson by Cheltenham Fire Marshall **Michael Moonblatt, '64**, gutted the front building



Cheltenham's second high school building opened in 1905.

on the High School Road and Montgomery Avenue site. The building, which had been built in 1905, has played many roles in its 90 year history. Starting as the high school, it later became Elkins Park Junior High School and then the school district's administration building until the entire four-building, 11 acre complex was sold to a religious school in 1977.

The Cheltenham Township Board of Commissioners has, since the fire, decided that they would utilize funds from the Montgomery County Open Space initiative to purchase the property from developers

who had planned to convert the site into a senior citizen living facility. The Commissioners plan to demolish the buildings and convert the property into a park. Township Commissioner **Tom Ellis, '77**, who represents that area said, "The county will be providing 90% of the purchase price through its Open Space Program. The purchase price is \$1.1 million, of which the county is paying \$990,000 and the balance is to be paid by Cheltenham Township."

Ellis elaborated, "The use of the

top of the property will be passive park land and will be called High School Park. The old soccer field will be converted into use by the Cheltenham JVs. It will then be up to the township and the neighbors to decide if additional recreational facilities will be added."

It is hoped that in the process of demolition, some of the ornamental trim that had been part of the 1925 high school (main building) can be saved. This would include the engraved stone name over the main entrance and the blocks that were engraved with "service" and "wisdom" on either side of the plaza.

"Hopefully we will have a dedication ceremony sometime this summer", said **Ellis**. It is hoped that as part of the dedication ceremony, a commemorative plaque will be erected at the park to pay tribute to the site of the former Cheltenham High Schools.



Photo by Linda Nadjicka Obrecht '65

The first alarm was sounded at 4:30 AM on January 11. Firemen fought the blaze for days.



Photo by Linda Nadjicka Obrecht '65

The gutted remains of the building await the wrecking ball.

Alumni Association awards senior scholarships

The Cheltenham High School Alumni Association, for the 16th consecutive year, has presented three graduating seniors with scholarship awards. This year's three \$500 awards bring the total Cheltenham Alumni Scholarships presented to over \$32,000. The winners this year are Anne E. Miller, Elkins Park; Latelle D. Rogers, LaMott and Rachael G. Samberg, Cheltenham.

Anne E. Miller, while a student at Cheltenham, managed to carry a course load filled with honors courses, participate in a variety of extra-curricular



Board member Charles Stamm '67 presents (from left) Latelle Rogers, Rachael Samberg, and Anne Miller with their checks.

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Panther Spotlight

Stephan Rosenfeld, '69 is the Assistant General Manager for Public Affairs and Customer Service for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) and was their public spokesman during the recent transit strike in Philadelphia.

Shelly Robinson Pullian, '86 has returned to the Cheltenham School District where she teaches 6th grade at the Elkins Park School.

Chad Levitt, '92 became the fifth player in Cornell football history to rush for over 1,000 yards. Levitt, a sophomore, led the Ivy League in rushing with 1,319 and a 4.8 yards per carry average with 13 touchdowns. **Chad** was named first-team All-Ivy League.

Joel Levitt, '64 is president of Action Duplication a full service video duplication facility specializing in large volume VHS duplication and printing, packaging and fulfillment services. The *Philadelphia Business Journal* recently named his company the 2nd fastest growing privately owned company in the Philadelphia area. Together with his wife, **Patricia Asam Levitt, '64** a teacher at Elkins Park School, they manage to catch all of Chad's games.

Marjorie Weil Weintraub, '57 has won election for a four year term on the Board of School Directors for the Cheltenham School District.

Carl Kanefsky, '82 was recently named news director of WHY-TV Channel 12 in Wilmington. This is the PBS station that services the Greater Philadelphia area.

Connie Tavel, '71 is a producer and a personal manager to Helen Hunt of "Mad About You" and Craig T. Nelson of "Coach".

Jeffrey Wittek, '76 was recently appointed director of communications for Montgomery County's new 911 emergency system.

Dan Neducsin, '61 is one of the moving forces in making the Manayunk section of Philadelphia one of the city's hottest attractions. The largest property owner in Manayunk including two trendy restaurants, Sonoma and Kansas City Prime, **Neducsin** is called the unofficial mayor of Manayunk.

Robert Appel, '69 was recently sworn in as Vermont's Defender General, the man in charge of coordinating the state's public defenders. **Appel** never attended law school but instead worked as a law clerk for four years and "read" law in order to pass the bar examination.

Louis Rossman, D.M.D., '65 a specialist in Endodontics has been appointed President of the American Board of Endodontics. He is also an Overseer of the School of Dental Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and was recently appointed Chairman Emeritus of Endodontics at the Albert Einstein Medical Center.

Andy Snitzer, '80 is currently playing saxophone for the Rolling Stones on their world-wide Voodoo Lounge tour. Having spent the last few years as one of New York's top studio musicians, this tour represents a radical departure for **Snitzer**.

D. Richard Madorno, '56 was recently appointed Hardware Administrator for the Computer Services Group of the Coastal Federal Savings Bank in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. He recently retired from NCR as a system field engineer after 36 years in the Customer Service Division.

Alumni scholarship winners

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lar activities, hold down an after-school job as a baby-sitter and attend night school, all while maintaining a 3.89 average and a class rank of 9 out of 287. Anne is attending Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Anne was a major contributor to Cheltenham's music and theatre program participating in the honor's choir, touring ensemble, fall play and the spring musical. At night she attended classes to learn sign language. She continued her study this past summer spending two weeks at Gallaudet University for the Deaf in Washington, D.C. Anne plans to double major in math and philosophy and to work towards her teacher's certification in secondary math.

Latelle D. Rogers, senior class vice-president, is attending Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania to major in biology. Latelle has been an active member of the Cheltenham music and theatre program as a member of the honor's choir, touring ensemble, fall play and spring musicals. A leader in student government, she served on the Student Council Executive Committee and for four years on class administration. Latelle was first runner-up in the Miss America Coed Pageant for the state of Pennsylvania, winning the speech competition. Ms. Rogers attended Pennsylvania's Governor's School for Health Care Professions during the summer prior to her senior year.

Rachael G. Samberg is truly a Renaissance woman. During her four years at Cheltenham she carried a roster filled with honors courses in every subject. She has won first place in science fairs, problem solving bowls and was the first young author to win the Philadelphia Young Playwrights Festival twice! Multi-lingual, Rachael won the highest Latin award and teaches Hebrew on Sundays. She participated in debate and mock trial while writing for the *Quintessence*, Cheltenham's literary magazine. During the summer she attended the Governor's School for Agricultural Science. She has worked in a biochemistry lab for a year and volunteered in a hospital. Rachael is attending Tufts University outside Boston where she plans to major in biology and psychology with the possibility of some work in International Relations.

If you are reading the *Panther's Tale* we know where you live. How about friends and relatives who also graduated from Cheltenham? Help the CHSAA keep our records up-to-date. Notify us of all address changes.

Reunion Roundup

Class of '39 - 55th Reunion was held November 4, 1994 at the Warrington Lodge. 58 class members attended including **Florence Blakey** who drove from New Mexico with her husband in order to attend. Others came from Texas, Florida, New Hampshire, Vermont, North and South Carolina and Massachusetts. The reunion committee was chaired by **Fred Wieland** with help from **Don Toner, Henry Gartner, Claire Griesbock Gartner, Joe Stitz, Nancy Landis** and **Helen Bradley**.

Class of '44 - 50th Reunion was held at the Cedarbrook Country Club in Blue Bell on Saturday, October 15, 1994. With the room decorated with blue and gold balloons, 41 classmates met to renew old friendships. Everyone in attendance received a souvenir booklet and a ceramic mug. The reunion was planned by **Robert Brust** and **John Mawson**. Word is out that **Alan Brister** is already at work on another reunion in 1996.

Class of '54 - 40th Reunion was held Saturday October 22, 1994 at the Melrose Country Club. Some of the evening was spent reminiscing about Cheltenham teachers of old. Everyone is looking forward to the 45th in 1999. The reunion committee was chaired by **Ron Cohen**. He was assisted

by **Carol Hinkle Saltzman, Nicholas Melair, Sally Terry Caplan, Frank Caterisano, Judy Frankel Snyder, Peter Goss, Barbara Hunter Bartlett, and Edward Jackson**.

Class of '59 - 35th Reunion was held Saturday, November 26, 1994 at the Cedarbrook Hill Country Club. 145 people, including 86 classmates, attended the reunion. The reunion committee was chaired by **Joanne Feld Madorno**. She was assisted by **Bob Bronstein, Fran Fenkel Freedman, Leslie Fried Fields, Tom Garlin, Lonna Goodman Ettelson, Linda Greenfield Baldwin, Jane Johnson Kurceba, Maxine Lichtig Marlowe, Tom Madorno, Carl Marbach, Carol Milligan Horn, Julian Rackow, Michael Solow, and Peter Stern**.

Class of '69 - 25th Reunion was held Friday, November 25, 1994 at the Ashbourne Country Club. Attended by 175 people including 125 classmates the reunion was a great success. The evening was filled with renewing old friendships, dinner and dancing to a D.J. and getting names and addresses for the class address book. **Howard Rodstein** traveled from Oregon to be present while **Ellen Braman** called from Switzer-

land to give her regrets. The committee was headed by **Michael Shect** and consisted of **Bonnie Katz Rosner, Betsy Stein Rubenstone, Cheryl Talus Snyder, Amy Rubinsohn, Susan Goodman Goodman, Louanne Brandow Spielman** and **Tom Lieberher**.

Class of '74 - 20th Reunion was held at the Warwick Hotel on Saturday, November 26, 1994. Almost 50% of the class attended the buffet dinner. The reunion committee did a great job in their year and a half of preparation. The committee consisted of **Diane Currens Ordile, Renee Guarro Nocella, Janice O'Brien Schnabl, Andrea Labe, Arthur Pelullo, Mark Vosbikian** and **Barry Waxler**.

Class of '84 - 10th Reunion was held Friday, November 25, 1994 at the Abington Club. About 150 people attended the buffet dinner. The reunion committee consisted of **Amy Marble, John McGrath, Michele Masarsky Kaufman, Howard Jaffe, Beth Reed Goodman, Rachel Webber, Ike Richman** and **Christine Fox Adoni**.

Class of '89 - 5th Reunion was held December 30, 1994 at Glenside Hall. 80 classmates attended this very casual affair that was catered by **Sam Rizzo '55**. Everyone attending received a commemorative mug. The reunion was planned by **Franklin Turner, Amy Smith** and **Liz Dempsey**.

Show your pride in Cheltenham: Join the Alumni Association today.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND INFORMATION FORM

Name _____ CHS Class _____ Date _____
Maiden name (if applicable)

Address _____ Phone _____

Occupation _____

Recent Accomplishments _____

Make tax deductible check payable and mail to:
 CHS Alumni Association
 P.O. Box 217
 Wyncote, PA 19095-0217

___ Life Membership \$25
 ___ Century Membership \$100
 ___ M ___ C

Class of 1933 celebrates 60th



The **Class of 1933** has turned into real party animals when it comes to reunions! They celebrated their **60th Reunion** on November 5, 1993 with a luncheon at the Cedarbrook Hill Country Club. Thirty classmates attended including **Louise Stolp Nenecheck** who traveled all the way from California. They followed this party with a **61st Reunion** on April 25, 1994 at the Yorktown Inn. Now they are planning their **62nd Reunion!**

Future Reunions

Class of 1933 - April 28, 1995 at the Yorktown Inn. For further information contact Harry Meyers (215)887-1472.

Class of 1945 - May 6, 1995 at the Old York Road Country Club. Special guest of the class will be Bill and Sylvia Saltzman. For further information contact Louise Grossman Kleinman (215)635-0540.

Class of 1949 - Currently in the planning stages. For further information contact Charles Millili during working hours at (215)440-3661.

Class of 1955 - October 14, 1995 at Springmill Country Club. For further information contact Shirley Rosenthal (215)576-7387.

Class of 1960 - October 28, 1995 at Cedarbrook Hill Country Club. For further information contact Judy Hahn Kramer (215)884-2553.

Class of 1965 - November 24, 1995 at the Warwick Hotel. For further information contact Betty Steinberg Quindry (215)368-5882.

Class of 1970 - November 25, 1995 at the Reading Terminal Market. For further information, contact Lee Caplan (215)928-1052.

Class of 1975 - November 24, 1995 at the Marriott at the Philadelphia Convention Center, 8th & Filbert. For further information call Karen Cahall Elgart (215)646-0356.

Veterans' memorial plaque information needed

The Cheltenham High School Alumni Association would like to present a plaque to Cheltenham High School honoring those Cheltenham students who gave their lives during the Korean War and the Vietnam War. These plaques will join those from World War I and World II already on display at the high school. We need your help in identifying those men and women who gave their lives in the service of their country. Please send all names and classes to the Alumni Association as soon as possible.

Fox elected to Congress



Jon Fox, '65 became Cheltenham's first graduate to reach the hallowed halls of Congress. Fox was elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District which includes Montgomery County.

The Brecker Brothers

Cheltenham's most successful professional musicians, **Michael Brecker '67** and **Randy Brecker '63** hit Grammy gold this year. The Brecker Brothers won the Grammy Award for contemporary jazz performance for their album "Out of the Loop". In addition, **Michael**, won a second Grammy for instrumental composition for a song off the album entitled "African Skies."

For saxophone playing **Michael** these represent his second and third Grammys having won his first in 1988 for his second solo album. **Michael** along with trumpet playing older brother **Randy**, The Brecker Brothers have just finished a five-week tour of Asia including Japan, China and Hong Kong.

Sociology text author returns to CHS

The author's name on the cover of most textbooks is usually an anonymous, faceless person with whom the students have little or no contact. This was true for about forty of Dr. Stanley Goldhaber's sociology students until **Dr. John Macionis '65**, the author of their new textbook, made a return visit to his alma mater to speak to these budding sociologists.

Macionis, a professor at Kenyon College in Ohio, was in town for a convention and stopped at Cheltenham to speak to the students. Among his audience were two fellow classmates, Cheltenham School Board members **Emily Brecker Greenberg** and **Neil Sklaroff**, as well as CHS principal Joseph Rodgers and social studies department chairman George Reim who had arranged the visit.

Two years ago, the Cheltenham social studies department began looking for a new and exciting sociology textbook. Having looked at dozens, **Dr. Macionis' Sociology** 4th edition was selected. The ironic part is that

Cheltenham did not know the roots of its textbook's author and **Macionis** did not know that Cheltenham now taught sociology and had adopted his book.

To date, more than 1 million students in the United States and around the world have used one of **Macionis's** four textbooks. His major introductory text, *Sociology*, has sold more than 500,000 copies, more than many books on the *New York Times* "best-seller" list. He is the most successful textbook author, regardless of discipline, for Prentice Hall, Inc., the world's largest textbook publishing company.



Another year of blue and gold glory...

Cheltenham's Class of '95 boasted 16 National Merit Semi-Finalists, tops of any high school in the state of Pennsylvania.

The Panthers football team won Homecoming, defeating the Abington Ghosts 21-15 to cap off a winning season. The victory was the second in three years for the Panthers, and represented the culmination of outstanding performances from running back Jamy Smith '95 and lineman Curtis Schley '95.

A fourth board win by Bun Lai '96 gave Cheltenham's chess team a narrow 3-2 win over Lower Moreland to clinch the league title. This year's team was solid from top to bottom, with no team member finishing lower than 22nd in the league rankings.

The Lady Panthers basketball team won their ninth consecutive Liberty Division title,

going undefeated in league play.

Cheltenham basketball saw the 1,000 point mark surpassed by two players in the same season for the first time ever by Jimmy Garrett '95 and Brandi Butler '96.

Jonathan Kravis '95 and Semra Mesulam '95 won Cheltenham's first-ever regional varsity debate title, defeating a nationally-ranked Jenkintown team in the finals to clinch the Southeastern Pennsylvania tournament.

The wrestling team won its first division title since 1971. Led by tri-captains Tyrone Scott '95, Rich Shoemaker '95, and two-time regional champion Kevin Brandon '95, the Panthers finished with a strong 16-2 record.

Cheltenham's performing arts boasted some champions of their own this year. Bassist

Jacob Greenberg '95 and baritone Evan Rieder '96 head off to state orchestra and chorus respectively.

Continuing its long tradition of science fair domination, Cheltenham took top honors at the Montgomery County and Delaware Valley fairs. The Class of '96 won Montco., and Jill Rappoport '96, Brendan Brennan '95, and the team of Stacey Rubin '95 and Cara Spallone '95 were all invited to present at the International Science Fair.

Over the past several years, Cheltenham's playwrighting workshop has produced many winners in the Philadelphia Young Playwright's Festival. This year, however, Jonathan Kravis '95 became the first Cheltenham student in the competition's 12-year history to win the National Young Playwright Festival.

Cheltenham's great sports debate begins...

Who were Cheltenham's greatest all-time athletes? This is a question that could spark some real debate. Can you compare an athlete from the 40s with a competitor from the 80s? We would like to know who **you** think was the greatest athlete (male and female) from your Cheltenham years. Please keep the following criteria in mind: 1. The person should have played at least two sports to be eligible. 2. The person must have made an impact during their

Cheltenham years. Do not nominate someone based on post-high school performances.

When you write us, include why you think this athlete represents your era so well. We will publish the results in the next *Panther's Tale*. Just to start the list, the editor of the *Panther's Tale* would like to nominate **Mark Fifer, '66** for top male athlete of the 60s. Mark set the single season rushing record in football that stood until the mid

80s. He was first team All-Suburban two years in a row. He was a sectional, district and regional champion and state qualifier in wrestling. In the spring he set the school record for the shot put. He was captain of all three teams and received the Holden Award (top athlete as voted by his teammates) in football and wrestling. Would anyone care to put their favorite up against Mr. Fifer? **Let the debate begin!**

CHELTENHAM HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSN.
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