

# Husky Connections



December 2022

## Mr. Carpenter Leads Holiday Sing-Along

*"Oh come let us adore Him"* is a familiar phrase from one of the carols sung during our Holiday Sing-Along with Mr. "C" on December 6th. Obviously the lyrics refer to the Christ Child whose birth is celebrated during the Christmas Season.

It did not go unnoticed that many of those alumni who participated in the joyous event in the Choir Room had come with adoration for Mr. Peter Carpenter.

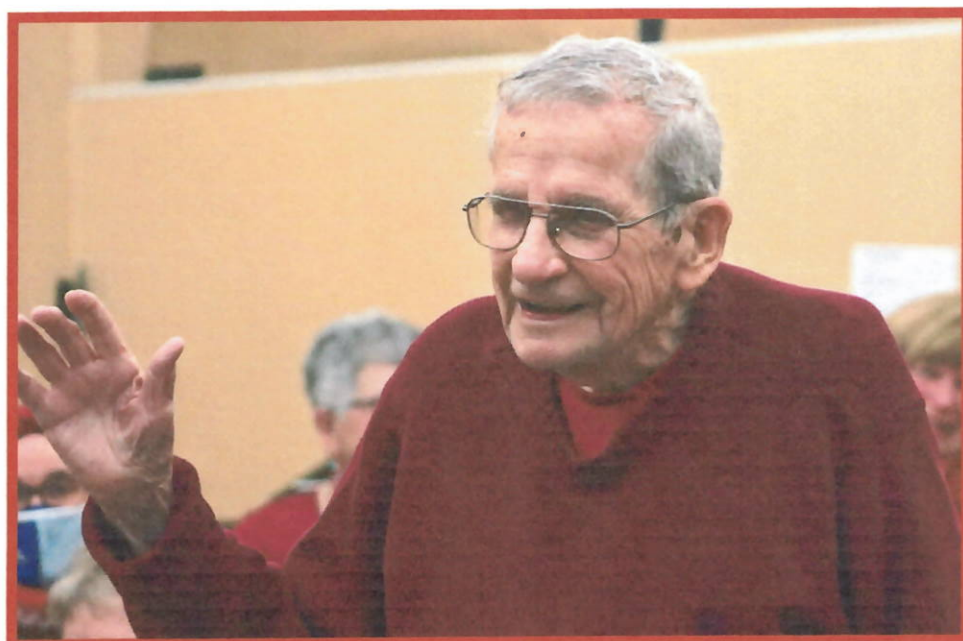
Affectionately known as Mr. "C", the 95-year-old man is truly a living legend. He was there at Husky High when the doors opened in 1959, and served as teacher and choir director for 30 years. He was the composer of the music for the Dieruff Alma Mater, a Teacher of the Year Recipient, Music Director and Conductor of Dieruff Broadway Musicals, and a faithful friend of our Alumni Association. On May 9, 2017, the Alumni Association was successful in having the high school auditorium dedicated to Mr. Peter Carpenter.

We last celebrated our annual Holiday Sing-Along in 2019. We then suffered a two-year COVID hiatus. It was particularly exciting to resume the celebration this year.

*(Continued on next page)*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Msg. 11th Anniversary	3
Tribute to Coach Bruce Trotter	4-8
Husky Happenings	9
Husky Happening	10
Ads & Gift Card Order Form	11
Upcoming Events	12
Husky Hugs & Howls	13



## Mr. Carpenter Leads Holiday Sing-Along (Continued from P1)

As Mr. Carpenter entered the Choir Room, he was greeted with emotionally charged applause from over 50 alumni, festively donned in gay apparel. Peter was genuinely touched. In fact, he admitted that he was "blown away".

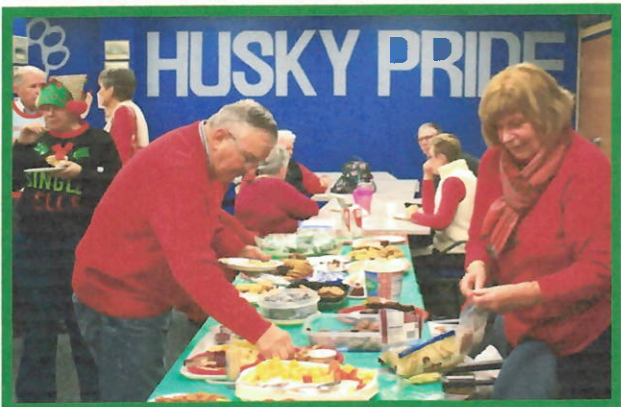
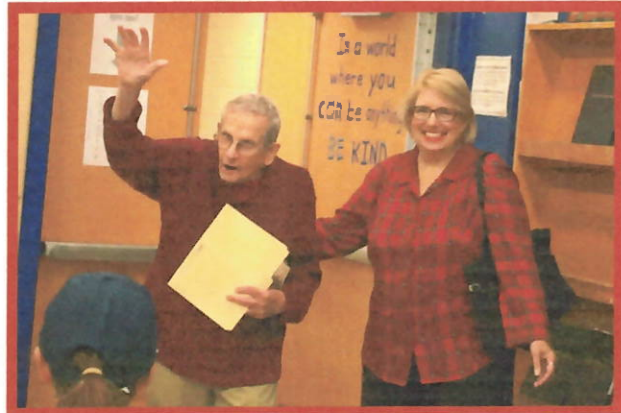
He began his presentation with several minutes of reflections and memories from those early years. He then sat at the grand piano and played "Memories" from the Broadway Show "Cats"

What followed was a non-stop, 90-minute sing-along of Holiday favorites, ranging from "Frosty the Snowman" to "Silent Night" and the Hallelujah Chorus of Handel's Messiah. Throughout the program, Peter provided his entertaining banter. As expected, the songfest concluded with a wonderfully spirited rendition of the Dieruff Alma Mater.

Participants then adjourned to the Media Center for a reception and refreshments. Peter had an opportunity to reconnect with former choir members, as well as become acquainted with new adoring fans. Even Kiska VI was among those who engaged with our living legend.

During a phone call the day after the event, Peter described it as *"one of the most amazing nights of his life"*. Obviously, we were as much of a gift to him as he was to us.

What a most memorable way to mark the beginning of the Holiday Season 2022!



## President's Message: Alumni Celebrate 11th Anniversary



**Kay Kurtz**  
President Alumni Association

The month of December always brings a bonus reason to celebrate for the Dieruff Alumni Association. In addition to the traditional year-end Holidays, we proudly mark the anniversary of the founding of our association. This year we check off our eleventh year.

We are grateful that the COVID pandemic is behind us, and we were able to enjoy an active and highly successful 2022.

Our plans for the new year are very encouraging. Like last year where we replaced our February Mardi Gras Party with an **April Fools Day Bash**, we have scheduled the April 1, 2023 event for the Fullerton Fire Company, with music provided by popular DJ Harry Remaly.

**Fandangle 2023** will be held at the South Mountain Grove on Saturday, July 29th. This represents a change in venue (from the East Side Youth Center). The new location offers a spacious covered pavilion with plenty of available parking.

We will be accepting nominations for the **Alumni Wall of Distinction, Class of 2023**. Watch for more information in future monthly bulletins.

We invite all of our alumni to join us for our monthly meetings, scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the high school's media center. Help us continue to promote Husky Pride.



**Kiska VI Leads Alumni Association into 2023**

## Tribute to Coach Bruce Trotter

***Legendary Allentown High star and Dieruff coach Bruce Trotter left an indelible mark on the kids he coached***

By Keith Groller

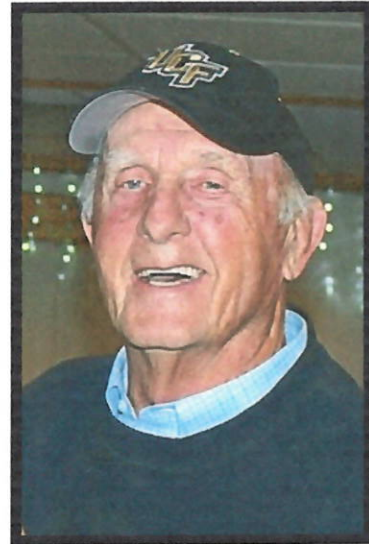
Published in The Morning Call on November 10, 2022

Permission Granted by Keith Groller to reprint

Two of the greatest teams in Allentown football history were Allentown High's undefeated team in 1957 and Dieruff's unbeaten squad in 1979.

It is not a coincidence that Bruce Trotter was the leader of both teams.

With the 1957 Canaries, he was a dominant force at offensive end, earning all-state honors from both the Associated Press and UPI. He was also selected to Pennsylvania's Big 33 team after leading Perry Scott's squad to a 9-0-1 record, a slate that included wins over Patterson Park, Maryland, and Memorial of West New York, New Jersey, and 6-0 victories over both Bethlehem and Phillipsburg and a 20-0 triumph over Easton.



Twenty-two years later he was the emotional, passionate leader of a Dieruff team that went 10-0-1 and gave the school its only outright championship in the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.

During a 25th anniversary reunion of the team in 2004, defensive back Ron Carl made sure that the credit for the Huskies' success in 1979 started at the top.

"The thing about Coach Trotter is that you would have taken on a truck for him if he asked you to," Carl said. "You believed in him so much. It was the culture he created."

The members of the '79 championship team and the countless students and athletes who learned from Trotter over his 38 years as a teacher and coach were better people for having him in their lives. He left an indelible spot in their hearts and minds.

Those hearts were filled with sadness with news earlier this week that Trotter had died at the age of 82. *(Continued on next page)*

## Tribute to Coach Bruce Trotter (Continued from Page 4)

His legacy spanned from one end of Allentown to the other and throughout the Lehigh Valley sports landscape.

Everywhere he went he brought an ability to engage with people, especially kids. He got to know them, laugh with them, cry with them and motivate them to become not only better student-athletes but better people.

“It’s funny to think back on the lessons we learned from being on that team,” Carl said in 2004. “So many things we learned from football have translated to our lives and our work. We learned about motivation, professionalism, getting through adversity.”

There was no better teacher than Trotter, who instilled in the Dieruff kids the meaning of Husky Pride.

“He was one of the most influential men I’ve ever known,” said Tyrone Reed, a receiver on Dieruff’s ‘79 team and the brother of Pro Football Hall of Famer Andre Reed. “I’ve had the opportunity to play on a variety of championship teams in my life in different sports and different levels. Coach Trotter was one of the best coaches and people I’ve ever met. He was absolutely the best.”

Reed said there were great athletes at Dieruff in the late 1970s and Trotter was the one who brought everyone together.

“We were able to peak in our athletic ability under his tutelage,” he said. “He enabled us to shine at each of our positions. Football is such a team game, and he brought us together as one because he had such great fire. My fondest memories are of how he would get us pumped up to play each game in that locker room. He would give one of his speeches and he would froth at the mouth he’d be so excited. You talk about getting a team ready to play a game, he would get so fired up and get us so fired up that we thought we could go out and beat a professional football team that day.”

Reed remembers how happy Trotter was to see so many of his former players three years ago at a 40th reunion of his Dieruff team. (*Continued on next page*)



## **Tribute to Coach Bruce Trotter (Continued from Page 5)**

“He was very sentimental that night and the guys would be talking about some of the games we played in 1979 and you could see Coach Trotter well up with sheer pride of what we were able to accomplish,” Reed said. “He had a lot to do with us being successful as football players, but also being successful in the game of life.”

Rich Sniscak, who would go on to coach district champions in baseball at Dieruff and also in football at both Allen and Parkland before becoming an athletic director, principal, and superintendent at Parkland, said that even though Trotter was known for his fiery and motivational pregame speeches he was much more than that.

“He was a very compassionate and caring person,” said Sniscak, who was the quarterback on the ‘79 team. “While he was highly competitive in athletics, he left a profound impact on so many people not only as a coach but also as a teacher, mentor, and professional educator. I’ve known him since the 1960s when he coached with my dad at Allen. Then he coached me and right out of college I worked with him as a young teacher at Dieruff and later at Allen. Then when Mike Dobil went out on medical leave as athletic director at Parkland, I brought Trotter in at Parkland and was there until this year.”

Sniscak said Trotter had enthusiasm and a love for the game that he conveyed to his players but motivated in ways that people wouldn’t recognize.

“He pushed us beyond our expectations, whether it was pushing us to exhaustion or pushing us mentally to a breaking point where you had to dig deep down inside yourself to find out how mentally and physically tough you could be,” he said. “He did that consistently and he made the good players great and the average players good. He raised the bar for every player. In turn, it formed this unique bond on his teams.”

Sniscak, who is a Flyers hockey fan, remembered the quote of legendary Stanley Cup-winning coach Fred Shero, who inspired the so-called Broad Street Bullies by saying: “Win today and walk together forever.”

“When I think of the ‘79 Dieruff team, that was the feeling we had when we beat Allen to complete the undefeated season,” Sniscak said. “Bruce built that culture and all these years later, our guys are still tight. We might not see each other every day, but when we do it’s like we didn’t skip a beat and Bruce was the main catalyst for that bond. He was just a special person.”

*(Continued on next page)*

## Tribute to Coach Bruce Trotter (Continued from Page 6)

Trotter once said that he wasn't the one who came up with the phrase "Husky Pride," which was started during racial strife in the country to unify a student body that featured great diversity. But no person embodied "Husky Pride" better.

"He was a great family man and the type of person people gravitated toward no matter where he went," Sniscak said. "Dieruff was always a great melting pot and he brought us together he just loved kids. He loved people. To me, he was one of the great ones. There's no duplicate for this man. None."

Tommy Young, a longtime Dieruff athlete, coach, and teacher, worked with Trotter for years and remained great friends in retirement.

"Bruce taught me to be humble," he said. "He said that if you were good, people would find out about you. He was my playground instructor when my mother was pregnant and she had a boy. She asked me and my brother Jim what we wanted her to name our new brother and we said 'Bruce.'"

"He was such a good athlete who could play anything. What people don't know is he was a great tennis player who won the city championship several times. He would tell me there's no competition in Allentown, but that was because he was so good."

*(Continued on next page)*



## Tribute to Coach Bruce Trotter (Continued from Page 7)

Dave Lutte, the current Dieruff coach, played as a freshman for Trotter and said he has had a profound effect on his career.

“He was a tremendous person,” he said. “He was the coach when I was growing up in the 1970s and going to Dieruff games and to me, he was the face of Dieruff football. He brought that toughness, that precision. Everybody in the stadium knew that Tony Jordan, Dave Kurisco, Kevin Easterling, and all of the great running backs we had were gonna run the toss sweep, but nobody could do a thing about it because he had his teams so disciplined. Francis O’Keefe, Ernie Wescoe, and Jeep Bednarik were the coaches who got Dieruff football started, but Bruce Trotter put Dieruff football on the map.”

Lutte said that Trotter would come by practice a few times a year just to check in and see how things were going.

“I wish my players could have gotten to know Coach Trotter because he would have been such a positive influence on them because he cared so much,” Lutte said. “He cared about kids, he cared about people and did everything he could for them.”

While best known in Allentown where he taught and coached for 38 years, Trotter was an assistant football coach and the wrestling coach at Lehigh from 1963-67; an assistant football and track coach at Saucon Valley in 1967-68; an assistant football and track coach at Whitehall in 1968-69 and was an assistant track and basketball coach at Dieruff over the years along with being Dieruff’s head football coach from 1973-82.

Trotter’s Husky football teams shared East Penn Conference championships in 1977 and 1981 in addition to the outright crown in 1979. He won the American Motors’ Coach of the Year Award in 1979 and was the Call-Chronicle’s Coach of the year in 1980. He was also a Big 33 Classic coach in 1980 and 1982 and coached in the LARC all-star game in 1977 and 1980.



## Husky Happenings: Cheerleaders Practice for Competition



## Husky Happenings: Cheerleaders Practice for Competition



## Giant Cash For Causes Gift Card Order Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \$25 cards \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \$50 cards \_\_\_\_\_



Number of \$100 cards \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Clip order form and mail, along with check payable to "Dieruff Alumni Association", to John Hughes, 2038 Majestic Overlook Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18015

**ADVERTISE IN OUR MONTHLY BULLETIN 1/4 Page Ad: \$20/ Mo. Business Card Ad: \$10/ Mo.**

*Family Restaurant & Bar Proudly Serving The Lehigh Valley Since 1968*

### ADVERTISE IN THE "Husky Connections" Monthly Bulletin

Reach over 5,000 Dieruff Alumni each month

**Quarter Page Ad - \$20 / Mo.**

**Business Card Ad - \$10 / Mo.**

See contact information in  
Masthead on last page of Bulletin

## GIANT GIFT CARDS MAKE WONDERFUL HOLIDAY GIFTS



**Place your order today!**

## Upcoming Events

**Girls and Boys  
Basketball Double Header**



**Dieruff vs. Wm. Allen  
Huskies Canaries**

**Saturday December 17, 2022**  
Dieruff High School Gymnasium  
Girls Game: 1:00 pm  
Boys Game: 2:30 pm

**Dieruff Alumni Association**  
invites you to our:



**April  
Fool's  
day  
bash**

Saturday, April 1, 2023  
Fullerton Fire Co.

**Save The Date**

**Dieruff High School Alumni Association**  
*Husky Pride... Unleashed*



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Dieruff Fandangle**

**A Mega-Reunion For All Classes**  
**Saturday, July 29, 2023**  
**South Mountain Grove**

[www.dieruff-alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org)



**Louis E. Dieruff High School  
Alumni Association**

**Louis E. Dieruff High School  
815 North Irving Street  
Allentown, PA 18109**

### **"Husky Connections"**

#### **Alumni Bulletin**

#### **Contact Information:**

**John G. Hughes, Jr.**

**2038 Majestic Overlook Drive**

**Bethlehem, PA 18015**

**(610) 868-4490**

**Email Address:**

**Jhughes2038@gmail.com**

**Website:**

**www.dieruff-  
alumni.org**

## **Husky Hugs & Howls**

As the new Husky Mascot for Louis E. Dieruff High School, I realize that I am going to meet some pretty important people. My dad (Curt Swoyer) and my "Aunt" Joni Tedesco, Class of 1972) try to keep me posted on who these people are.



Maybe it's just my nature as a 6-month old puppy, but I am not going to act any different for anybody I meet. If they are nice to me, I will be nice back.

Last month I had the opportunity to meet one of Dieruff's most famous alumni, Mr. Andre Reed.

Andre was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame in 2014. He had played for the Buffalo Bills following a successful career at Kutztown University.



Last week, I had the distinct honor to meet one of Dieruff High School's living legends: Mr. Peter Carpenter. I had attended the wonderful Holiday Sing-Along that he conducted, and had the good fortune to meet Mr. "C" at the reception that followed.

Candidly, when I met both of these dignitaries, I was most impressed by their down-to-earth humility. Plus, I could tell that they both sincerely loves dogs.

I would like to extend my best wishes to all of you for a joyous Holiday Season.

*With love, Kiska VI*

