

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter

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DHSAumniNews@ptd.net

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Rekindling Your Kris Kringling Spirit

John G. Hughes, Jr '61

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The Holiday Season is upon us, indeed! Some folks have no difficulty getting into the spirit. They get their jollies bumping bellies with the crowds on Black Friday. They relish the challenge of finding the deals on Cyber Monday. And PPL stockholders smile as they drive by the exotic light displays that illuminate their homes.

On the other hand, there are those who resist the lure of shopping discounts, opting for last minute gift buying. Subdued decorations remain in cartons until a few days before the Holiday. And the cards, well they'll get done when they get done.

Although I would never exclaim "Humbug", my style does lean toward the procrastinator. Yes, I must admit, I often need a jumpstart, a spark to ignite the spirit. This year that rekindling came in the form of a visit to a senior living facility in Allentown.

Cindy Fidler-Wolst, Dieruff Class of 1974, organized a handful of Alumni Choir members to do some Christmas Caroling at Westminster Village. On Saturday, December 5th, we donned our festive Santa hats and met at the front door of the facility. Cindy distributed song sheets. Our gracious guide greeted us in the lobby, and we began our wandering songfest. We filled the halls with the sound of familiar Christmas carols, and appreciative residents came to their doorways. Their faces glowed; their eyes sparkled. Many joined us in song, their voices weak, yet joyous.

As we paused by one room, an attractive, impeccably attired lady came to the doorway. With confidence she smiled and began to sing. Her crisp quality voice blended beautifully with our choir. As we encouraged her, her volume in-

creased, and we all watched and listened to her angelic rendition. Had we just experienced "divine intervention"? We learned that this lovely lady had been a member of the esteemed Bach Choir.

Further along the hallway, we were told that we would be entering the room of a Dieruff graduate who has been a resident at Westminster Village for several years. When she heard of our visit, she requested that we come in and share our Husky Pride. We entered her quarters and positioned ourselves at the foot of her bed. She smiled warmly and told us that she was a member of the Class of 1962. After singing several Christmas Carols with us, I asked her if she would join us singing the Dieruff Alma Mater. Mr. Peter Carpenter would have been so very proud; our voices blended in perfect harmony. As the final phrase was sung, "*to you we ever will belong, we salute you Blue and Grey*", I had difficulty peering through the viewfinder of my Canon. Not a dry eye in the house.

One of our final stops at the senior center was the apartment of a dear soul who had been a best friend and neighbor of my parents for over five decades. Now in her late nineties, she stood without assistance in front of her wreath-decorated door. Although she is now blind, her mind is incredibly sharp. Our choir sang carol after carol, and she joined in with each verse, without hesitation. As we wished her a Merry Christmas, her face was radiant. My face was dampened as I applied a loving kiss on her cheek and bid her fare-



well.

This wonderful experience of sharing Husky Pride and the Carols of the Season with the residents and staff at a senior living center will certainly become a tradition for the Dieruff Alumni Choir. I would personally like to thank Cindy Fidler-Wolst who has been our "Fiddler on the Roof" establishing the tradition. My sincere appreciation is also extended to the other Huskies who joined us for this inaugural caroling venture: Peter Kemmerer ('79), Karen Coleman (Kiska's Mother), Lisa Skelding Bucklin ('84), Ann Blacker ('84), and Jinny Bankhard Hughes ('61).

This has been the spark that I needed. In turn, I would like to wish all of you, our Dieruff High School Alumni Family and Friends, a most Blessed Christmas and Holiday Season. Let us pray that this coming year can bring an abundance of joy to the world.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, from all of us on the Newsletter Staff. May 2016 be a safe and prosperous year for you and your family!



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Life's Lessons From The Coach

"Disciple of Discipline". That is term that a Morning Call sports writer affectionately used to describe a Dieruff High School basketball coach, after he had suspended two star players and tossed a third player off the team. The year was 1978. The coach was Mr. Terry German.

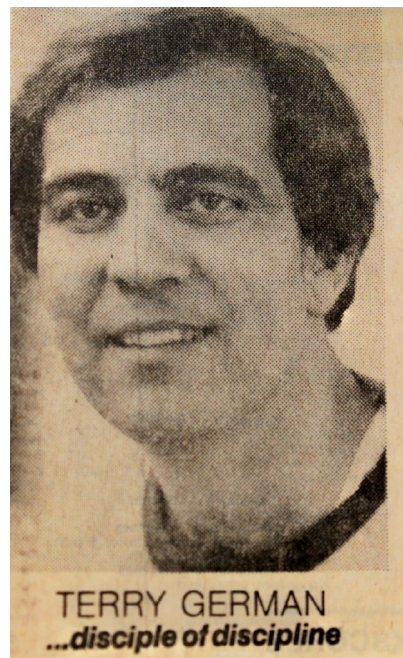
The fact is that Coach German did not initiate those punitive actions. He simply made sure the consequences were carried out. The rules had been defined explicitly. The desired behavior was quite clear. The consequence of non-compliance was never in doubt. It was a simple matter of cause and effect. Behavior produces consequences. The word discipline comes from disciple. The goal is not to punish; the goal is to teach. Lesson learned!

Coach German was tough, but he was fair. And he cared about his kids. For eight seasons (1974 – 1981), Terry German served as head basketball coach at Dieruff, and earned the respect of his play-

ers, and the entire basketball community. His teams won competitive championships. Mr. German personally earned his share of trophies and plaques. His players developed their basketball talents, and life skills as well.

On January 30, 2016, players, cheerleaders, and colleagues will gather at the Dieruff vs. Allen basketball game to celebrate "*The Terry German Years*", with a follow-up reunion scheduled at the Brass Rail.

Three and a half decades after Coach German touched the minds, hearts, and souls of Husky ball players, our Dieruff High School is blessed to boast a cadre of like-minded coaches, determined to build character as well as successful athletes. These coaches have established clear rules, defined expectations, and promised serious consequences for noncompliance. Inevitably, there will always be kids that will test the system. As a result, we have seen a talented quarterback sidelined for missing practice, a skilled soccer goalie thrown off the squad for a flagrant



violation of rules, and a Division 1 basketball candidate dismissed for frequent behavior issues.

We salute these coaches for embracing their integrity, holding true to their values, and teaching important life's lessons.

Warm Husky regards,

John

Dieruff High School



Dieruff Alumni Association Enters Fifth Year

David Ziegenfuss '86

It was December 11, 2011 and a small group of former Dieruff High School Alumni, led by Fred Schuler, met to discuss something that was very much needed...a dedicated alumni association for Dieruff High.

Four years and over 2500 members later, the DHS Alumni Association enters its fifth year and we continue to grow each and every day.

During that first January meeting it was determined that a dance in Feb-

ruary was needed to formally introduce the Dieruff Alumni Association. That dance, which today is our Mardi Gras dance (to be held this year on February 26), is now in its fifth consecutive year.

With year round activities, including the Fandangle, Tailgate, Christmas Caroling and various other events, the DHS Alumni Association not only helps our own Alumni, but has also been reaching out to current Dieruff students with the Sew-What Club,

CAD Club and assisting in various fundraising vehicles such as the Giant A+ Rewards Program.

Here's to many more years of continued success with the Alumni Association. We thank you all for your great support as we continue to "Hail our Alma Mater strong!"

Alumni Profile - Ruth O'Connell '61

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61



With dignity and humility. Always! Ruth accepted her plaque as "Citizen of the Year" in the same manner that she does everything: with dignity and humility.

Ruth E. O'Connell had been selected to receive this award by the Midway Manor Community Association, and the officers chose their year-end December 7th meeting to make the presentation. Dick Wilburn, President of the Allentown east-side community association developed a plan to surprise Ruth, and also to have my wife, Jinny, and me at the presentation. Ruth and I are cousins, and the three of us are proud members of the Dieruff Class of 1961. We are also active in the Dieruff Alumni Association.

Dick told Ruth that he wanted to have all three of us on the meeting agenda. Ruth and Jinny would make a presentation on the "Sew What?" Club, the after-school sewing club sponsored by the Alumni Association, and founded by Ruth and Jinny. I would then present an overview of the Alumni Association.

A long-time resident of Midway Manor, Ruth lives in the home her parents owned for decades. She takes immense pride in the simple, two-story white brick house, handsomely set on a corner lot. The yard is graced with a number of towering trees and manicured bushes and flowers. Several years ago, the City of Allentown recognized Ruth with a Property of Merit People's Choice Award. Totally in character, she accepted the honor with dignity and honor.

In preparation for her role in the December Meeting, Ruth placed a card table in the front of the room, and displayed projects the "Sew What?" Club had completed. She explained that the club selects projects based on their community service value. Ruth and Jinny then showed the audience each project. The mastectomy pillows are an on-going project and are donated to Muhlenberg Hospital. The large heart-shaped pillows are also delivered to that medical facility, and are given to cardiac patients. The colorful cat beds were delivered to a rescue facility in Nazareth.

The stuffed teddy bear project received a special round of applause. At the time, the story had received coverage by Channel 69 WFMZ. Acting Police Chief Joe Hanna (now, newly elected Sheriff of Lehigh County) had been invited to the Sew What classroom to accept a donation of 45 teddy bears for distribution to police officers, to be carried in their patrol cars, and used to comfort a child in distress. Joe Hanna, a 1974 Dieruff Alum, had also been one of Ruth's students when he was in Ritter Elementary School. (Ruth retired after 30 years of teaching in the Allentown School District.)

The most recent of the projects completed by the club was the Christmas stockings, sewn and delivered to the "Stockings For Soldiers" program. At the conclusion of Ruth's presentation, she passed around an album containing photos of the student members of the club, the projects, and a host of thank you letters. Not only are Ruth and Jinny teaching these young people a valuable skill, they are also serving as powerful mentors and role models.

Next on the agenda, I described how the Dieruff Alumni Association had been founded four years ago, with the expressed mission of promoting Husky Pride among alumni, current students, faculty and staff, and the community. Ruth E. O'Connell has played a vital role in our association since its inception. Not only has she organized and conducted the weekly "Sew What?" Club meetings, she has served as official lifeguard at our annual swim party for the Dieruff Football Team. Ruth's most recent contribution occurred last weekend when she joined a

group of Alumni Choir members for a Christmas Caroling visit to two local senior living facilities.

Following my address, Dick Wilburn invited Ruth to join us at the front of the meeting room, where she was presented with a handsome plaque, suitably engraved with her name and the designation "Citizen of the Year" for 2015. Obviously surprised, and pleased, she remained dignified and humble.

Ruth's lifestyle represents an enviable model for all of us. Her hobbies and interests include walking, hiking, bird watching, kayaking, gardening, quilting, and swimming. She thinks nothing of driving up to Maine to do some ocean kayaking, paddling into coves to observe feathered wildlife up close and personal. She belongs to several quilt guilds where they work on challenging projects. Her passion for swimming translates into daily visits to the Allentown "Y" where she routinely completes a one-mile swim and aerobics.

Ruth E. O'Connell has been appropriately honored by the Midway Manor Community Association as their "Citizen of the Year". She is now featured in the Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter. Personally, I am proud to call her my best cousin and friend of a lifetime.



Ruth with Jinny Hughes, displaying items made by their Dieruff High School Sew What members over the years



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Dieruff Band To Play At Carnegie Hall

Frank DiSimoni, Dieruff High School Band Director

The Dieruff Band has been invited to perform at Carnegie Hall on Saturday, March 5, 2016 and we are extremely excited to return! As you might know, the L.E. Dieruff HS Band was the first high school in our region to perform at the world renowned hall back in 2008 when we performed as part of the NYC Windband Festival.

This year, we have been asked back to perform in a unique concert that will feature a Beatles Tribute band called "Liverpool Legends: The Beatles Experience". This group won a Grammy Award for an album they made a few years ago and are managed by George Harrison's sister. We will be one of 4 high school bands that will join them on stage during the second half of the concert. This concert is special because they are recreating the Beatles performance at Carnegie in 1963. Our part will be focused on the Sgt. Pepper years. We hope that the Alumni will be interested in seeing us. I am hoping to run a bus for that day for people who want to see us - I will need a minimum of 50 people to run the second bus.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at school at (484) 765-5623.

THE BEATLES



The Dieruff Band is performing the music of the Beatles with the Grammy Award Winning Liverpool Legends: The Beatles Experience

Saturday, March 5th 2016 7pm
Live at World Renowned
Carnegie Hall, New York City, NY

We are running a bus for anyone who would like to see the show and have a great day in New York

Cost is \$110 and includes

- Concert ticket
- Bus

Bus will leave 9:30am from Dieruff and will drop off at Carnegie Hall where you can have a day in NYC then meet at the hall for 6:15. Concert starts at 7pm after the bus will meet you outside Carnegie Hall and bring you back!!

Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

Merry Christmas Fellow Huskies,

The house has been decorated in silver and blue, modified husky colors. Mom and I have been singing carols, but sometimes we end with a rousing chorus of "We salute you blue and grey." We made our donations to various critter charities. Being a rescue dog, I remember. Mom is baking and we decided to share Peanut Butter Pumpkin dog treats with you. Make them for your favorite dog or for friends with dogs....

Since there are no preservatives, shelf life is like cookies. Or you can freeze them.

And Friends, slow down and enjoy the Season and the Reason we celebrate.

Please remember the critters in the shelters and on the streets.

LOVE,

Kiska V Diva Dog

Peanut Butter Pumpkin dog treats

2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour

2 eggs

1/2 cup canned pumpkin

2 or 3 tablespoons of peanut butter

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

a bit of water just to make a stiff dough.

Mix all ingredients, adding water if needed. Dough will be stiff. Roll to a half inch thick. Easy to roll. Use cookie cutters for a festive look. Bake at 350 for 40 minutes until hard.



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Dieruff Basketball, Allentown Police Join Forces On The Court

Dana Ziegenfuss, Editor

On November 19, 2015, a unique and uplifting event took place at the Dick Schmidt Gymnasium at Dieruff High School. It was a Thursday night and basketball was on the schedule. But what made this basketball game different from any other game were the participants. The Dieruff Boys Basketball team was hosting the Allentown Police Department in an event which would attempt to bridge the gap between the two groups.

Envisioned by Coach Joe Jarjous as a way to foster a positive relationship between young men and the APD, this game did more than entertain. Given the recent events which had occurred in the Lehigh Valley, there was a need to see that there were positive events taking place between young people and those in authority. Although this game was scheduled prior to the incidents, the timing could not have been better. It served as a catalyst for unity and cooperation between the two groups. Even more unique was the idea that rather than opposing each other on the court, members from both groups exchanged uniforms and merged into two teams consisting of both Dieruff & APD players, symbolizing the emphasis on unity and respect. There was no "us vs them", no "kids vs cops", but rather an example of learning about the meaning of teamwork and how different groups can come together through a common interest (in this case, basketball) and enjoy the camaraderie that a simple game can bring. Both teams played hard & there were many laughs



and good hearted ribbing throughout the game, but what it showed was hopefully the beginning of a new understanding between the two groups. For those of us who were there, it was an enjoyable evening of basketball.

Dieruff can be proud that they are taking the lead in sponsoring events such as this which serve to teach both students and adults more about each other and that there can be a positive relationship between the two. It would be great if this could grow into an annual event, and I, for one would be sure to come back and watch.



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hang out with us for awhile.**

Chicago Restaurant
1179 Airport Rd
Allentown, PA 18109
(It is in the Redner's shopping Center)

The owner and many of the staff members are Dieruff Grads!!!

Attention DHS Class Reunion Committees

Kay Kurtz Vogel '74

Whether your Class has an established reunion committee, or you're starting from square one, the Dieruff Alumni Association is here to assist you with your reunion plans.

Since 2012, we've assisted individual classes plan their reunion, and in some cases, help plan a milestone birthday party for their class (DHS '73 turns 60!). We can help in the following ways:



1. **Reunion Surveys** - We've contracted with Survey Monkey to send out reunion questionnaires to your fellow classmates regarding ticket pricing, type of meal, music, location, etc. Information is compiled to help reunion planners to not second guess what their fellow classmates want in a reunion.
2. **Create a Reunion Link specific to your event** - reflects tickets prices, promote additional events related to your reunion weekend (tour of school, next day breakfast, golf tournament, etc.)
3. **Train a Class representative to serve as administrator of your class information on our all-year alumni website** – no need to have multiple databases. Our 21,000 plus database is backed up every evening.
4. **Ability to accept online registration and credit/debit card payments** – no need to establish an organizational checking account at a financial institution that only has activity every 5 years. We can maintain separate registers for individual classes.
5. **Ability to purchase DHS alumni lanyards** with badge holders for name tags.
6. **Assistance the night of your event** at your registration table – allows your committee to mingle with your classmates during your happy hour versus manning the table!

If you partner with us, our gift to you is an "In Memory" book listing deceased classmates and their obituaries.

We're here to help. Send us an email via our website and we will answer any questions you may have.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- December 10:** Dieruff High School Holiday Concert 7PM
DHS Auditorium
- January 6:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- January 30:** DHS-WAHS Boys/Girls Basketball—DHS Alumni Basket
ball Reunion & Coach Terry German Tribute 1:30PM
Dick Schmidt Gym (East Side Gym)
- February 3:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Meilinger Center
- February 26:** 5th Annual Mardi Gras Dance 7PM-11PM
East Side Youth Center - Details to follow
- April 2:** Class of 1986 Cherry Blossom Trip To Washington, DC
\$79.00PP
Details to follow soon!
- July 30:** Fandangle IV
2PM - 6PM
East Side Youth Center - Details to follow soon!
- August 19 & 20:** Class of 1966 50th Year Class Reunion Weekend
CLICK ON LINK FOR DETAILS:
[/000/2/6/8/20862/Userfiles/file/DHS-66_50th_Reunion.pdf](http://000/2/6/8/20862/Userfiles/file/DHS-66_50th_Reunion.pdf)

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Louis E. Dieruff High School

Alumni Association Newsletter

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