

Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 8

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

April, 2018

Hitting The "HIGH NOTES" At The Annual Gala

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| President's Message | 2 |
| Alumni Profile — Steve Long 1964 | 3 |
| Kiska's Korner | |
| DHS Alumni Yearbooks For Sale | 4 |
| Class of '68 Set To Applaud for "Side Show" | 5 |
| A Salute to AFJROTC Cadets at the Military Ball | 6 |
| 3d Annual Wrestling Reunion | |
| Following In Her Footsteps | 7 |
| Fandangle Save-The-Date | 8 |
| Crossword Puzzle | 9 |
| Husky Fest May 4 | 10 |
| Upcoming Events/ Masthead | 11 |

The High Notes Gala, produced by the Allentown School District Foundation, is designed to profile and promote the musical talent of students in the school district. On March 24, 2018, the Gala placed over 100 high school and middle school students on the stage at Miller Symphony Hall in Allentown.

The contribution made of the Dieruff contingent was most impressive. First, there were three selections from "Side Show", the Dieruff Theatre Department's musical for this season. Playing the role of Buddy, Danny Garcia lights up the stage. Last year, his performance in "Jesus Christ Superstar" earned him a coveted Freddy Award. Jackie Morales plays Daisy Hilton, and Abby Schoepple portrays her conjoined twin, Violet. For a preview of their performance, click on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/2kpqwqHZwY8>



The Dieruff Select Choir was featured at the Gala, and sang "One Song". The choir will be performing in their Spring Choral Concert on May 10 at 7:00PM. Click on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/Z8nPjVf2nXg>

Kenneth Marte, Trumpet player and Dieruff Jazz Band leader, brought the house down when he lead the Jazz Band in "Shiny Stockings". This year, the Instrumental Spring Concert will be held on May 8 at 7:00PM.

Click on this link for a preview:

<https://youtu.be/v8qEQqV48gk>

It was an exciting evening for everyone involved with the High Notes Gala. It was a particularly proud evening for those who don the Blue and Grey.



President's Message

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

"It's all about the kids..."

A fellow alum who had attended our Mardi Gras Party in February meant it as a compliment. He exclaimed, "The Dieruff Alumni Association is pumping on all cylinders!" He then proceeded to express his enthusiasm for the "Fandangle", that mega-reunion for all classes that is scheduled for July 28th.

I suppose I should have been pleased; however, I raised my hand in a gesture designed to interrupt his kind words. "Yes, we are sincerely excited about the success we have enjoyed bringing Dieruff Alumni together", I asserted, "but really, ***it's all about the kids.***"

Our expressed mission is to promote Husky Pride... among alumni, current students, faculty and staff, and the community. That's

true! But our focus is truly on the current students.

This issue of our monthly Newsletter reflects some of the "backstories". We want to publicize the fact that our alumni are making a difference at the high school. Even though we are touching many hearts, there are countless stories that remain untold. We hope the handful of positive tales expressed here will encourage many more to shine brightly.

We also invite all alumni to join us in our quest to promote Husky Pride. We have a unique story to tell, and we want you to be part of it.

With warm Husky regards,

John



Alumni Profile - Steve "Speedo" Long '64

Joanne Ogrydziak '76

As this year's District XI 3A Swimming Champion Phillip Rishel was heralded throughout the hallways of Husky High, a smiling face emerged from the crowd to meet the senior who had once again put Dieruff back on the map. Beaming with Husky Pride for the young man who had just broken his 54 year-old record, this former Dieruff swimmer graciously congratulated Phillip and his parents for the long-awaited achievement. Surely, Coach McGinley must have been smiling down from Heaven's pool-side bleachers at the sight of their heart-warming introduction. The '64 grad, who had taken a break from his busy schedule to attend the early morning School Parade to honor Phillip and his teammates, enthusiastically exclaimed, "There was no way I was going to miss this." The LED Alumni Association is proud to salute this month's distinguished alumnus, Steve Long '64, who humbly passed the baton to the newest generation of record-setting Husky swimmers.

The son of a WWII naval officer, Steve grew up in Allentown's Midway Manor and first learned how to swim at the Pilot's Club near the old ABE Airport. His Dad would tether Steve with a rope and a broomstick, and then walk along the length of the pool to keep his young son afloat while

teaching him to swim correctly. His childhood lessons continued when, at only seven years of age, he joined the Allentown YMCA when it was still at the Seventh and Hamilton Streets location near Center Square. Under the guidance of dedicated athletic mentors, it was there that Steve's swimming skills really took off and prepared him for competition.

Steve's best learning experience, however, was about to be underway when he entered the doors of Dieruff as a sophomore in the Fall of 1961. Coached by the legendary Dennis McGinley, he was taught all strokes with proficiency, including how to leave the starting blocks and, most importantly, how to assist his fellow swimmers. Steve and his Husky teammates Stephen Morrow, Walter 'Gene' Fischl, and Bruce Constantine formed the 1964 quartet whose school time in the 200-Yard Medley Relay enduringly stood on the natatorium's records board until 2018. The wisdom and expertise of Coach McGinley's training further paid off when Steve, recognized for his outstanding swimming skills and nicknamed 'Speedo,' was awarded a scholarship to attend the University of South Carolina. Two months after graduating from USC with a B.S. in Business, Steve was drafted into the United States Army and sent to Vietnam. Placed in charge of Night Operations in a Chinook helicopter company, he proudly served his country following his four years as a collegiate swimmer.

Continuing in the footsteps of his father's strong work ethic, Steve returned to Allentown after his assignment in Vietnam and joined his Dad in his epoxy production business. His father, Jack, had developed a formula to glue tiles to the inside of WWII submarines, and later created PC-7,

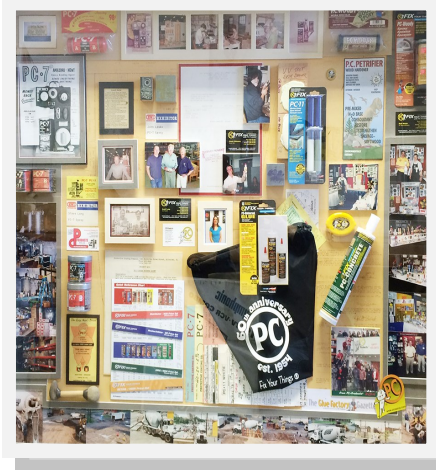


the first paste epoxy to be sold in hardware stores. Founded in 1954 by John 'Jack' Long, Protective Coating Company (PC-Products) is still a family-run operation in its third generation of Longs. It is interesting to note that a display of Jack's ingenuity can be seen today at Washington DC's Smithsonian Institute in the American Folklore Division.

A few years into retirement, Steve and his wife Louise currently reside just outside of Emmaus in the home in which they raised their two children, Scott and Cyndi. From his childhood roots in Midway Manor, Steve is very active in the Moravian Church and serves on his church's board. He has also officiated at the PIAA State Swimming Championships and is a familiar face at many LED alumni events. A loyal member of Dieruff's fifth graduating class, Steve Long '64 exemplifies the true spirit of Husky Pride. The LED Alumni Association is proud to call him one of our own.

As for swimming? His early years in the water led to a life-long commitment to fitness and self-discipline. Steve can still be found every morning in the pool at the Allentown Y and jokingly remarks, "I still keep my Speedo wet."

Thanks, Speedo. You've shown us that Huskies love the water as much as the snow.



Kiska's Korner

Kiska V w/Karen Coleman



North Of
RainBow Bridge

I am very sad. I lost my best friend Misha on Saturday, April 14th.

When a husky passes, they are awarded a silver harness so that beyond the Rainbow Bridge they can play, run and frolic and all the pains and age are gone. Wear your harness proudly, my dear friend. You deserved it. In memory of Misha, please Google the poem North of the Rainbow Bridge.

Husky Pride my buddy and teammate.
Love,

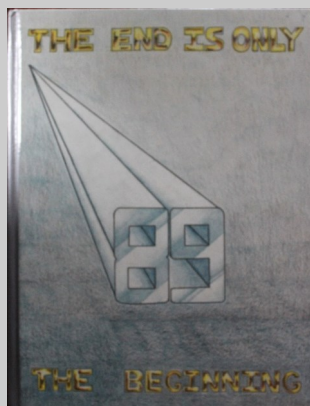
A very sad Kiska V

<http://www.novareinna.com/bridge/northrainbow.html>

DHS Alumni Association Selling Old Yearbooks

Your Alumni Association has been given old yearbooks from the School Library. They were taking up valuable real estate and they were planning to recycle them!

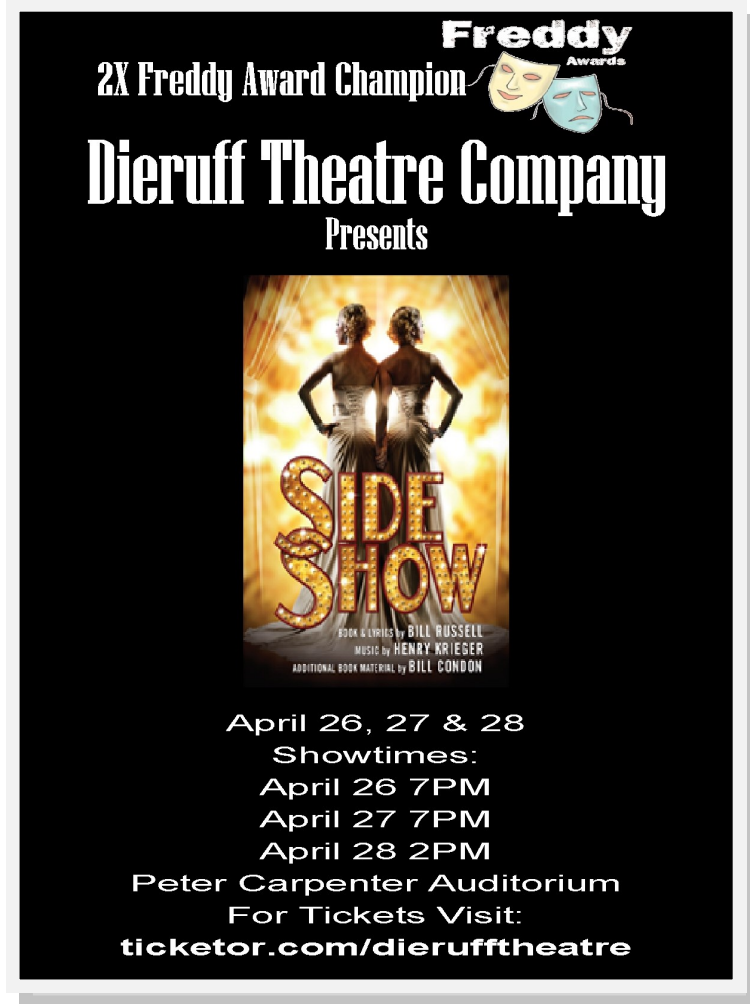
This Month's Featured Yearbook is:



DHS Class of 1989

Cost is \$25.00. First Come, First Served. Proceeds from the sale of yearbooks will support the many initiatives your alumni association supports at DHS.

Complete the online order form found on the homepage of our website. Reach out to a fellow classmate if they are in need of a yearbook!



Class of '68 set to applaud "Side Show"

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

According to Janice Besecker Onieal ('68), a block of seats has been reserved for a faithful troupe of theatre fans from the Dieruff Class of 1968. They are anxiously awaiting the curtain to rise on "Side Show", the Dieruff Theatre Department's musical, scheduled for April 26, 27 and 28.

The ambitious reunion campaign of that energetic class is worthy of a standing ovation itself. Last Fall, the Class of 1968 launched a plan to celebrate the "50th anniversary of their senior year". Their goal is to get their classmates together throughout the year, rather than for one singular reunion party. They began their quest at the Alumni Association Tailgate Party preceding the Dieruff vs. Allen Football Game. Then, many of the "sixty-eighters" munched through the snow to attend the Mardi Gras Party in February.

Now, it's time to gather for the musical. Janice has been a ardent fan of Dieruff musicals ever since she appeared in the production of "Brigadoon" back in 1968. (She confided that she played the role of a prostitute.)

"Side Show" is a play based on the real-life story of conjoined twins, Daisy and Violet Hilton. Born in England in 1908, these "Siamese Twins", connected at the hip, toured the sideshow and vaudeville circuit in the United States during the 20's and 30's. The roles of Daisy and Violet are being played by Dieruff veteran actresses Jacqueline Morales and Abigail Schoepple. These talented young ladies gave us a preview of their prowess during the High Lights Gala in March. A short video can be seen by clicking on the link:

<https://youtu.be/DSKssroUy50>

After the play, the next major event planned for the '68 alumni is the Dieruff Commencement, which will be held in the PPL Center on Saturday, June 16th. Continuing the tradition begun several years ago, alumni celebrating their 50th class reunion will march in the procession ahead of the graduating class. This has become a most rewarding experience for all involved.

A Salute to AFJROTC Cadets at the Military Ball

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

How appropriate it was that handsome trophies served as center pieces at each table. Another table, strategically located just inside the banquet room entrance boasted a massive display of additional trophies earned in recent competitions. With one more competition remaining in the year, the Cadet Corps expects to beat their all-time yearly trophy count for the second year in a row.

The 25th Annual Military Ball for the Dieruff High School Air Force Junior ROTC was conducted with the same precision and attention to detail as one of the award-winning routines in the drill competitions. If there were any flaws, they certainly were not evident. And the cadets did it all, under the leadership of Group Commander C/Maj Bandon Berke, a senior at Dieruff.

The venue for the April 6th event was the Best Western in Bethlehem, PA. With meticulous efficiency, arriving guests were greeted by cadets at the registration table. On cue, cadets and their families proceeded through the impressive receiving line. The cadet saber squad then formed a steel gauntlet, honoring the head table, instructors, and special guests.

The presentation of colors was accomplished with distinction. It is always so rewarding to observe young cadets honor Old Glory. The National Anthem was then sung by a talented female cadet.

What followed was a mix of serious tributes and toasts, as well as good-natured spoofs with the "Kitty Litter Cake" and the "Grog Bowl". (You had to be there.)

Following dinner and a heart-felt address by the Keynote Speaker, a series of awards and recognitions were presented. One award deserving our special attention was one presented in honor of Master Sergeant Ronald Coleman. Given by his widow (and ever-faithful mother of Kiska V), Mrs. Karen Coleman, this award includes a generous scholarship check. It is presented to a fourth year cadet "who has shown superior leadership, outstanding performance, and academic excellence, and is likely to go on and become a role model in our society." The recipient of this year's award was C/Capt Liz Perez, who is slated to attend Lehigh University next Fall.

The Alumni Association proudly salutes the Cadet Corps for their commendable contribution to Husky Pride.



3rd Annual Wrestling Reunion

All Alumni Wrestlers
& Coaches are invited
to join us on

Saturday, July 28, 2018

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Hamilton Family Restaurant
2027 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18104**

SAVE THE DATE

Following In Her Footsteps

John G. Hughes, Jr. '61

Dennis stood confidently at the podium as he leaned slightly toward the microphone. He looked striking in his

there was a time when her son would never have been able to deliver that address. He had been an extremely

join the AFJROTC program. Her academic schedule permitted her to compress three year of the program into her final year. Master Sgt. Coleman was her instructor, and she readily credits him for turning her life around. He helped her develop her confidence and leadership skills. She graduated from Dieruff in 1990, and went on to LCCC.

The years passed, and Brenda met and married Andrew Paul. Their son, Dennis, was born in 2000. As he completed Raub Middle School, he was slated to attend William Allen High School. Brenda yearned for him to go to Dieruff, and she discovered that she could complete a "Reassignment Form", which would permit him to attend Dieruff High School in order to participate in the Air Force Junior ROTC program. Brenda persuaded her son that this would be a wise option for him.

Dennis recently told his mother, "Mom, I am so glad you put me in that program." We are all glad! Dennis is scheduled to receive his Dieruff diploma in June, and then continue his education at LCCC, majoring in Communications.

Dennis, we salute you! We also salute you, Brenda and Paul!

military uniform. With a steady and enthusiastic voice, he delivered the prepared introduction for the keynote speaker.

His audience in the crowded banquet hall listened carefully to each and every word. His fellow AFJROTC cadets and their families seemed anxious to hear his message. It was obvious that he knew the person he was introducing, and he wanted everyone to share his passion.

Dennis' mother and father were in that audience, seated at a banquet table near the head table. Neither of them knew in advance that their son had accepted that assignment to introduce the speaker. When he positioned himself at the microphone, his mother quickly reached for her cell phone to record the moment.

I am proud to say that I was the recipient of those kind introductory remarks. I was the keynote speaker for the AFJROTC Military Ball on April 6, 2018. It was, indeed, an honor for me to have Dennis Paul introduce me.

I have known this young man and his mother, Brenda Nieves, for about six years. Brenda informed me that

shy boy, lacking poise and confidence. His involvement in the ROTC program at Dieruff High School changed all of that. And so it was with Brenda.

Brenda Nieves had come to Dieruff from Harrison Morton Middle School. She liked athletics, but admitted that she lacked the skills...and confidence.... to make the teams. On a whim, she offered to assume the role of the Husky Mascot, donning the furry costume. Behind that mask, she could be anything she wanted to be. She could build her confidence.

In her senior year, Brenda decided to



Dieruff High School Alumni Association

Husky Pride... Unleashed



Dieruff Fandangle

A Mega-Reunion For All Classes

Join fellow Dieruff Alumni (All Classes) and Friends
for an afternoon of great fun, music, drinks (beer,
soda, water), and all-you-can-eat catered food.

Saturday, July 28, 2018
2:00 - 7:00 PM

East Side Youth Center
1140 East Clair St., Allentown, PA

Advanced Tickets Only

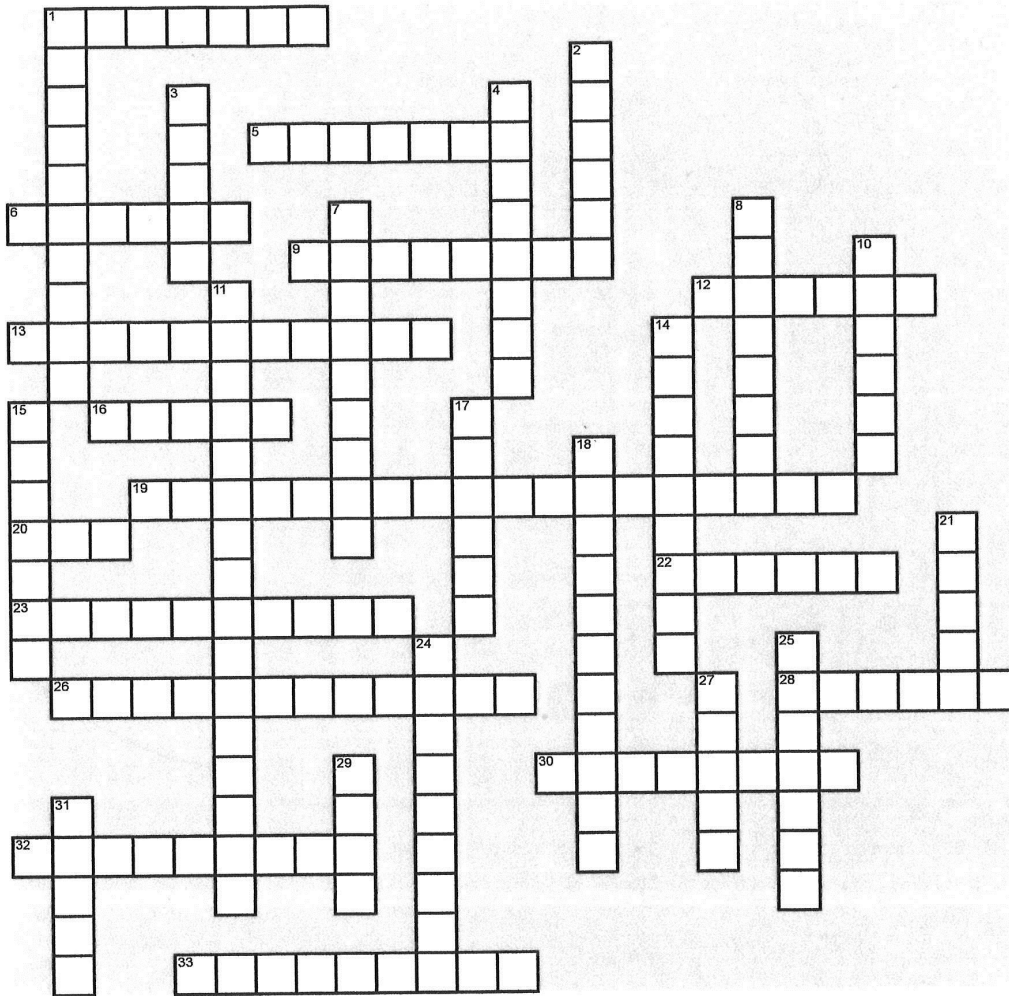
\$20 Per Person

**SAVE THE
DATE**

www.dieruff-alumni.org

Dieruff Huskies

Created by Ann Blacker



Across

- 1 Kiska's Mom
- 5 Legacy group
- 6 Hoops Leader Terry
- 9 Comes out once a year
- 12 Cross-town rival
- 13 Keeps us in stitches
- 16 Hoarse or rough in quality
- 19 Popular food destination
- 20 Our Music Man
- 22 Smart banquet
- 23 Home of the Husky Swimmers
- 26 Practice gets you here
- 28 Our Michael Phelps
- 30 Current musical
- 32 Mega Reunion
- 33 Pre-Lenten Carnival

Down

- 1 She absolutely floored us
- 2 Please don't take his Kodachrome away
- 3 Middle Name
- 4 Ruled the pool
- 7 Nice Addition
- 8 A kind of son
- 10 Theatre award
- 11 Without them it's all instrumental
- 14 Follows Dieruff High School
- 15 Hallway Intersection
- 17 A principaled woman
- 18 Star Sightings
- 21 Husky _____
- 24 She's not wimpy
- 25 Legendary Scorekeeper
- 27 Diva Dog
- 29 Pro Football Hall of Famer
- 31 Drama Mama

Answers Next Month

Dieruff High School

Husky

Fest



**May 4,
2018**

3:00PM TO 7:00PM

Dieruff High School
Rear Gym Parking Lot
Rain Location: Gym

Get the Word Out!

**COME OUT AND
MEET SOME OF
THE LOCAL
MASCOTS
INCLUDING
MELVIN FROM
THE PHANTOMS!!**

**LOCAL FOOD
TRUCKS!**

**FREE MUSIC AND
ENTERTAINMENT**

**GAMES AND
PRIZES**

**BRING FRIENDS,
FAMILY AND
NEIGHBORS**

**VISITS FROM LOCAL
COLLEGES AND
BUSINESSES**

Sponsored by Dieruff Student Council, Clubs and Activities

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- April 26, 27, 28:** Dieruff Theatre Company "Side Show"
Peter Carpenter Auditorium (SEE PG 5 FOR DETAILS)
Visit www.ticketor.com/dierufftheatre/ for tickets
- May 2:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Dieruff High School Meilinger Center
- May 4:** HUSKY FEST 3PM-7PM
Rear Parking Lot (SEE PG 10 FOR DETAILS)
- May 12:** 6th Annual Golf Outing 8AM
Allentown Golf Club 3400 W. Tilghman St
(Visit www.Dieruff-Alumni.org For Details)
- May 19:** Class of '86 Turns 50
Coplay Saengerbund (SEE PG 11 FOR DETAILS)
- June 6:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM
Dieruff High School Meilinger Center
- July 28:** 3rd Annual Grapplers Get Together 11AM-1PM
Hamilton Family Restaurant (SEE PG 6 FOR DETAILS)
- July 28:** 6th Annual Fandangle 2PM-6PM
East Side Youth Center (SEE PG 8 FOR DETAILS)

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



After work, after the game, after EVERYTHING, where all the good times are!



Visit us on Facebook or Stahleys.com

Stahley's Cellarette

1826 Hanover Ave
Allentown, PA
610/433-2468

Advertise With The Newsletter

Now is your opportunity to get your message to over **8,000** former Dieruff Alumni emails!

Ads are only **\$25.00**
(DHS alumni only \$20.00)

Coupons Encouraged

Place your ad today!

Email: dhsalumninews@ptd.net



Class of 1986

50th Birthday Celebration

Saturday May 19, 2018
5:00PM - 10:00PM
Coplay Saengerbund
205 S. 5th St, Coplay, PA


\$35.00 PP

- Hot & Cold Buffet
- Soda & Iced Tea
- Coffee & Hot Tea
- Dessert (Birthday Cake)

- 4-Hour Photo Booth
- Dancing & Entertainment
- Special VIP Guests
- Cash Bar Available

Deadline to purchase tickets: May 1, 2018
Order Tickets:
www.Dieruff-Alumni.org
email any questions or reserve tickets at:
DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net





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

Publication dates may vary, but most issues will be published by the 20th of the month. Deadline for inclusion for each month's edition will be by the 5th of the current month, unless arrangements are made. Please email articles, advertising and events to:

DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net

All articles and photos are property of the DHS Alumni Association Newsletter. Visit the Alumni Association website www.Dieruff-Alumni.org for more information and advertising opportunities.