

# Louis E. Dieruff High School Alumni Association Newsletter



Volume 5, Issue 4

DHSAumniNews@ptd.net

December, 2019

## Carpenter Sing-Along Captures the Holiday Spirit

John Hughes '61



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Not quite as dramatic as old Saint Nick, Mr. Peter Carpenter knows how to make an entrance. Scores of alumni singers had gathered in the Dieruff Choir Room for the December 4th Holiday Sing-Along with Mr. "C". Several minutes before the 6:00PM scheduled start time, the bench at the grand piano was conspicuously unoccupied. Everyone anxiously awaited the arrival of our "living legend".

Suddenly, when out in the hallway there arose such a clatter... the jingling of bells and a hearty "Ho Ho Ho". We all knew in a moment that it must be Mr. "C". With the poise of a seasoned talk show host, our 92-year old honored guest strolled across the floor, welcomed by enthusiastic applause and Husky Hugs.

One by one, Peter greeted each participant, frequently identifying them and their graduation class. What a remarkable memory! He expressed his joy, returning to the place where he had spent 30 years

of his career. He commented, "I had such a phenomenal time here, and it is such a privilege and an honor to be back again." His adoring alumni choir members expressed their pleasure to have him back.

Peter explained that his failing eyesight has taken away his ability to read musical notes or lyrics on the song sheets; however, he assured us that he would be able to successfully navigate through each piece from memory. He then positioned a large manila folder on the piano's music stand. The folder contained a listing of the songs he intended to play, carefully prepared with handwritten 1-inch tall block letters.

Although Mr. "C" knew all of the lyrics, there were times when the choir members floundered (especially in the second verses), and resorted to humming or "la la las". Those occasions brought smiles, even laughter, to our joyous group. A sampling of the merrymaking can be seen by clicking on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/nv91KyySYgc>

Any Dieruff singing event would be unfilled without a heartfelt rendition of the school's Alma Mater. As the composer of that revered anthem, Mr. Carpenter proudly led his faithful followers through both verses. Glistening eyes were apparent. Click on this link to view the experience: [https://youtu.be/13BJLIG\\_3UU](https://youtu.be/13BJLIG_3UU)

As the songfest concluded and the group left the Choir Room and headed for the Meilinger Media Center for a reception, I paused and glanced back at the vacated room. On the far wall, I noticed a profound message formed in large letters: "Husky Pride is Alive". Into that empty room I shouted back, "Yes it is! It really is!"





## President's Message

Kay Kurtz '74

Dear Alumni Family and Friends,

Please enjoy this month's alumni newsletter. This month's newsletter features a number of heartwarming stories and feel-good activities...events characterized by peace, love, giving and appreciation and harmony.

Here's wishing all fellow alumni a healthy and happy holiday season and to a new year filled with good health and happiness.

Once a Husky, always a husky.

# THE OLD CLOCK

It was the dark of the midnight hour.  
The Old Clock eagerly waited.  
"I strike the New Year in," he said.  
"For so it has been fated.  
A hundred years I've ushered in!  
Full well I like my task.  
I think myself supremely blessed,  
No finer work I ask.



"A hundred years!" the Old Clock said.  
"Just think of the changing times!  
Think of the history in the making!  
It's a subject for ringing rhymes!"  
"I strike the New Year in!" said Old Clock,  
"And now the hour is here!"  
The Old Clock solemnly lifted its gong –  
And struck in another New Year.



by Lenore Hetrick

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## Alumni Profiles: Wall of Distinction 2019 Inductees: Dr. Kirk A. Shinsky '70 and Dr. John Stevens '63

*Joanne Ogrydziak '76*

The final two Huskies who were honored in our inaugural group hail from the Classes of 1970 and 1963. Representing the fields of Science and Medicine, respectively, the notable achievements of Dr. Kirk A. Shinsky '70 and Dr. John S. Stevens '63 undeniably set the bar high for our recognition of distinguished alumni.

A local hero in 1970 who put LED on the map, Kirk Shinsky was the Pride of the East Side when he won the Westinghouse National Science Talent Search, rising above other students who represented the top schools in the country. These photographs, kindly shared by his brother Kevin, were taken at the former ABE Airport upon Kirk's arrival from the competition to a jubilant crowd celebrating his national recognition. (Notice Kiska I in the foreground.)

Kirk continued his academic excellence at the prestigious Ivy League schools of Cornell and Princeton Universities, graduating cum laude in 1974 and going on to earn his Ph. D. in 1978. He fulfilled his dream of becoming a professor when he was appointed to the Physics Department at the University of California at Berkeley. He also served on the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory scientific staff and was responsible for the upgrading

of the Advanced Undergraduate Laboratory course in the Physics Department. With a hands-on approach to Physics, Kirk enjoyed challenges, devising solutions to technical problems, and interacting with his students.

Sadly, Kirk succumbed to cancer at the young age of 31. It was an honor, indeed, to present the Distinguished Alumnus Award to his family at our June Dedication. Please refer to the link below to view the video in which LED Class of 1969 President George Raad provided a touching memorial to Kirk and in which Kevin Shinsky accepted the award on his brother's behalf.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDSecwDEL8o&feature=youtu.be>

The last 2019 inductee on our Wall of Distinction is Dr. John Stevens '63. A local physician, Dr. Stevens takes every opportunity to share Husky Pride with his colleagues and patients while making time in his busy schedule to participate in our many alumni events. In addition to his professional, clinical, and volunteer activities, Dr. Stevens is a proud supporter of our students in the Allentown School District.

Raised in a family which taught the importance of serving others, young

John grew up with a strong work ethic at Second and Tilghman Streets. He is a proud graduate of both Temple University and the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, earning his DO degree in 1973. He then completed his internship and residency programs at the Allentown Osteopathic Medical Center in 1978. Today, forty-one years later, he practices obstetrics/gynecology for St. Luke's University Health Network and caringly treats his patients as individuals, acknowledging them for allowing him to serve them. He also has been a Clinical Instructor for Ob/Gyn surgery for PCOM, and has been an Associate Clinical Professor at DeSales University.

A most humble and gracious gentleman, Dr. Stevens has selflessly lived by his motto of serving God first, then his family and patients. My favorite story of Dr. Stevens is that his very first delivery (over the telephone!) was of a litter of Husky puppies. How appropriate! Please refer to the link below to view the video in which Dr. Stevens is warmly introduced at the June Dedication by our President Emeritus John Hughes '61.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=756J4eqd95M&feature=youtu.be>





Date Nomination Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Consideration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Louis E. Dieruff High School  
Alumni Wall of Distinction  
NOMINATION FORM**

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Reasons for nomination (attach additional pages if preferred)*

Education

Professional/Work  
AccomplishmentsLocal, State, National  
Awards/recognition

Publications

Community  
Involvement

Other

**Note:** Nominees stay on the consideration list for a three-year period. Deadline for entry is February 29, 2020



Nominator's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Return completed Nomination Form and photograph of nominee, if available to:  
 Dieruff High School Alumni Association  
 815 N. Irving Street  
 Allentown, PA 18109

## Kiska's Korner

By Kiska V w/Karen Coleman

Mom saw this on line and "borrowed" it for my message. These are definite doggie wishes.....

Dear Santa,

1. No more puppy mills.
2. No puppies in pet stores.
3. No flea market puppies.
4. No more on line breeders.
5. A loving home for every dog.
6. New animal cruelty laws.
7. Jail time for abusers.
8. Spay/neuter laws.

Of course I had to add some of my own wishes.

1. Every dog should have a warm bed.
2. Every dog should have belly rubs.
3. Every dog should have medical care.
4. Every dog should NEVER know hunger or thirst.
5. Every dog should feel love.

Even though I did my list in the Korner, wanted to add some more. Becoming a chatty husky. Also wanted to thank everyone for their acts of kindness the past two weeks.

Had a bit of a health scare. Mom was in worse shape than me. In fact I felt and do feel good. Had my yearly check-up, all was well. Then the next day the blood work came back and not good. Mom got the list of what it might have been and some things were serious. Yet I was showing NO SIGNS of anything wrong. So friends prayed and cried and sent well wishes. Mom had her fingers in my mouth all the time, checking my gums. Gums are healthy and pink. Thursday I had my ultrasound at Valley Central. Great care and I met and fell in love with Dr. Ron. Think he is pretty taken by me, too. Results: tumor on the liver, small and these are almost always benign. Fatty liver, a few gall and kidney stones, but nothing serious. Will have another ultrasound in three months. Whew....

Friday back to mascot duty. Nadia and I went to Westminster Village along with the alums and the Dieruff choir. We sounded good. I also could show off my new haircut. Then Uncle John surprised me and Mom with a beautiful watercolor he had done of me and a player. He had already given us the mounted photo,

but this is a masterpiece. Other than my health, the best of Christmas presents. Friday of this week, visit to Husky High to pass out candy canes.

So in addition to my wish list in the Korner, many thanks for all the support. It takes a whole village, well a whole school, to support a Diva. Please remember your animal shelters - they need food, cleaning supplies, money, and help. Maybe an adoption is in your future. No matter how hectic it gets, please take time for your critter. The walk, the hug, the belly rub mean so much to us. And the cats, too. Let us all try to focus on a Christmas of friendship, love, gratitude and service.

Love and a New Year's kiss,

*Kiska V* a happy and grateful husky



With Nadia and LED Principal Mike Makhoul

**Giant Gift Cards**

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Dieruff Alumni Association  
comes back to us. Visit  
[www.dieruff-alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org)  
to purchase your gift cards today!

## Caroling at Westminster Village

John Hughes '61

I am quite sure that the residents at Westminster Village in Allentown have never been entertained quite like they were on Friday, December 13th.

Each year, the Dieruff Alumni Choir has visited that senior citizens facility, delivering holiday cheer with festive carols. The choir was scheduled to do that again... but this year was different.

One of our premiere alumnae vocalists, Cindy Fidler Wolst, Class of '74, took the initiative to invite Choir Director Dr. Jennifer Dodd and the very talented Dieruff High School Choir to join our merry band of revelers. That combination of alumni and students, along with Dr. Dodd at the piano, would ensure a quality performance.

As if those powerful ingredients were not sufficient to guarantee musical success, a pair of furry huskies augmented the entertainment lineup. Our mascots, Kiska and Nadia provided a joyous canine contribution to the vocal package. So typical of the husky breed, they delivered audible howls during the singing. They both sing soprano.

Click on this link to view a brief video of the event: <https://youtu.be/ZZHIY-NsTe4>

The event powerfully reinforced the mission of our Alumni Association which is to promote Husky Pride among our alumni, current students and faculty, as well as the community. It also captured the spirit of the season with a warm expression of love and sharing of good will.



## Undefeated Football Team Celebrates 40th Reunion

John Hughes '61

What a grand celebration it was! On November 16, 2019 the banquet room at the Brass Rail in Allentown was rockin' and rollin'.

They were all there... the coaches, the cheerleaders, the players... anybody who wanted to embrace the memories of the only undefeated football season in the 60-year history of Dieruff High School.

For some attendees, details of that experience had some-

what faded. After all, it was forty years ago, in 1979. To help refresh those details, a corner of the banquet facility featured memorabilia documenting those glory days. Team photos, newspaper clippings, yearbooks, and the heralded trophy filled a large display table. A computer slide show projected images onto a large movie screen. The reunion committee even arranged to show grainy black and white game films capturing each victory.

Most of the folks in the room needed no reminders of that significant season. It was as if that success occurred last year. Particularly profound was the powerful bond that each participant had, and still has, with everyone else attending the reunion. Hearty handshakes and warm hugs were in abundance.

Head coach Bruce Trotter "worked the room" like a seasoned politician, embracing each person with sincerity. Donna Steckel, captain of the cheerleader squad, made sure everyone was aware of who else was among the 80 people in attendance. Team captain and quarterback, Rich Sniscak partnered with Kay Kurtz (President of the Alumni Association) at the Registration Desk, and welcomed people as they arrived.

Celebrants came from near and far to share in the joy. Vivian Riddick even made the trip from her home in California. She cheerfully expressed her sentiments, *"I just had to be here to reunite with the people who played such an important role in my life"*. I believe Vivian's words spoke for everyone in that room.

We salute these proud Huskies for keeping those memories alive. The complete photo album of their reunion can be viewed on our Website: [www.dieruff-alumni.org](http://www.dieruff-alumni.org).





## Basketball Unity Game: Cops and Kids

John Hughes '61

The goal of the program is obvious. We want to erode any barriers that may exist between the high school students and the men in blue, and develop a genuine bond between the two groups.

Now in its 5th year, the annual Unity Game brings members of the Allentown Police Department and the Dieruff High Basketball Teams (boys and girls) together for an evening of hoops and camaraderie. Rather than playing against each other, cops and kids are intermingled on the two teams.

Held on November 25, 2019, the venue for the event was Dieruff's Richard Schmidt Gymnasium. Students, alumni, faculty, family, and friends filled the bleachers. Allentown's Mayor Ray O'Connell and Superintendent Thomas Parker were also present. The Dieruff Marching Band and the Cheerleaders enhanced the excitement. At the announcer's microphone was school Principal Mr. Michael Makhoul; he provided an ongoing comical commentary.

Not only were the fans thoroughly entertained, they were truly impressed by athletic prowess of the Husky players and the members of the police department. Click on the following link to view a sampling of the evening: <https://youtu.be/bPWljhhOenQ>

It is interesting to note that Dieruff Boys Basketball Team is currently being coached by Jamil Newsome, a 4-year veteran patrolman of the Allentown Police Department. Coach Newsome is acting as the interim head coach while Joe Jarjous (who led the Huskies the past five seasons) is on leave of absence.

Newly assigned Chief of Police Glenn Granitz is totally supportive of Newsome's role. He sees this as a tremendous opportunity for the police department to make stronger connections with Husky Nation. Unity prevails!



**Dieruff Huskies**  
Join in the fun 9th Annual  
**Mardi Gras Party**  
**Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020**  
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**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

- January 8, 2020:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM  
**PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE**
- January 31, 2020:** Winter Pep Rally 1:30PM  
Richard Schmidt Gym—**All Alumni Invited!**
- February 5, 2020:** Alumni Association Monthly Meeting 6:30PM  
Meilinger Center
- February 22, 2020:** 9th Annual Mardi Gras 7PM  
East Side Youth Center (**SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS**)
- February 29, 2020:** Nominations for 2020 WALL OF DISTINCTION due  
(**SEE PAGE 4 FOR DETAILS**)

All events can be found on the DHS Alumni Website: [www.Dieruff-Alumni.org](http://www.Dieruff-Alumni.org)

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

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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](mailto:DHSAlumniNews@ptd.net)**

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