

THE SMOKE SIGNAL

AUGUST 2009 ISSUE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP
HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



Letter from the President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

On May 31, 2009 the Alumni Association dedicated the Korean War Memorial to the citizens of Susquehanna Township.

Appreciation and Thanks to the members of the Korean War Memorial committee under the leadership of co-chairs Dr. Tom Peck and Alumni Vice President Shirley Kannegieser. Special Thanks to committee members James Hartman, Claire Hetzel, Melvin Longenecker, and William Reynolds for their tireless efforts.

Appreciation and Thanks also go to the Susquehanna Township Commissioners, Susquehanna Township Alumni, Community organizations, and our Commonwealth representatives and officials.

The Memorial Gardens is now home to the Alumni memorials to World War II, Korean War veterans, and the Susquehanna Township Lions Club all Wars Veterans monument.

It is my hope that a visit to the Memorial Gardens will provide you comfort in the remembrance of the Veterans of Susquehanna Township who served our nations with dignity and honor.

Bob Chapman, Sr. '55, President



ANNUAL FALL ALUMNI BREAKFAST

WHEN: Saturday, September 26, 2009 at 9 o'clock A.M.

WHERE: Susquehanna Township High School Cafeteria
3550 Elmerton Avenue

COST: **\$8.00 per person**

Deadline for reservations: September 19, 2009

RESERVATIONS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER SEPT. 19, 2009 AND NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE AFTER THAT DATE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

PLEASE MAIL RESERVATIONS TO: PHYLLIS KEGERREIS
325 Wesley Drive Apt. 3229
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

ANY QUESTIONS CALL (717) 697-1562

RESERVATION FORM:

NAME: _____ PHONE # _____

GUEST: _____

RESERVATIONS _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Note: Reservations are pre-pay due to past late cancellations.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Katherine Witman Hocker, *Class of*



1924, a life-long resident of the Progress area in Susquehanna Township and a current resident of Homeland Center celebrated her 103rd Birthday on July 21. Katherine began her career at the former Penbrook Banking Company that became the Penbrook Trust Company. Katherine retired from the

Dauphin Deposit Trust Company when it replaced the Penbrook Trust Company.

Katherine has one daughter, Elaine Bogar '49, 2 grandchildren Susan Nichols of Camp Hill and Jeffrey, deceased, two great-grandsons, and a great, great grandson.

Scott Pugh, a junior at Oglethorpe University, was named the NCAA Division III Intercollegiate Golf Player of the Year in the state of Georgia. Scott helped lead the Stormy Petrels to their eighth Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Men's Golf Championship.

IN UNIFORM

William M. Dempster '07, enlisted in the Army following his STHS graduation. He then completed basic training and airborne training. William will begin attending West Point June 28th where he will be in the graduating class of 2013. He is the son of Robert J. Reichard '72 and Donna Reichard & William Dempster and Rosemary Chiavetta '72.

SSgt Adam L. Benfer '01 is now serving in Iraq with the PA National Guard Stryker Unit. He is scheduled to return in September 2009.

Justin Benfer '07, Adam's brother, will be deployed to the Middle East in August. Justin is an Airman 1st Class and will serve four months in Iraq and two to nine months in Afghanistan. He is stationed at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas.

Note: Adam and Justin are the sons of STHS secretary Debra Benfer.



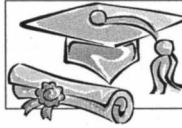
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Donna (Houseal) Bowers "74"
 Bronwyn (Isele) Alleman "61"
 Michael T. Allenman "61"
 Myrl Busler "61"
 Robert W. Chapman Jr "79"
 Nancy (Kreiser) Fearnbaugh "65"
 Dan Fuller - Associate Member
 Minerva (Rabold) Harper "42"
 Debra (Barrett) Leader "69"
 Sandra M. Leitner - Associate Member
 Tracey (Sneed) Lewis "85"
 Peggy (Kerlin) Olewiler "60"
 Richard Shepler "56"
 Richard C. Smith Jr "65"
 Jane (Stees) Thompson "61"
 Barbara (Poore) Trout "73"
 Neall H Trout III "69"
 Thomas C. Trout "73"

Did You Know—Top Members by Class ?

- ◆ Class of '97 - 38! Class of '60 - 37
- * Class of '54 - 35 Class of '71 - 33
- * Class of '49 - 32 Class of '50 - 32 (tie)

Alumni lifetime membership \$15
 Associate (non-alumni) lifetime membership \$20.



CLASS NEWS



The Class of 1949 held their 60th Reunion on Saturday June 20th.

The Class of 1954 will hold their Reunion on Saturday, August 29, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. at the Raddison-Penn Harris Hotel, 1150 Camp Hill By Pass, Camp Hill, PA.

The Class of 1969 will celebrate their 40th Reunion November 28th at the Commissioned Officer's Mess, Naval Support Activity in Hampden Township. Information contact: **Marsha Webster Wise-Conley**, 717-599-5625, email mconley@pahousegop.com or **Debra Barrett Leader**, 717-545-9411, email mizzdebbs@aol.com

STHS Alumni lunch in Laguna Beach, CA. This group of grads living in CA have kept in touch and continue to get together to reminisce.



In the photo, from left to right, **Deborah Brenner**, '67 lives in San Diego; **Harriet Maglin**, '67 lives in Los Angeles; **Lois Greenberg**, '67 lives in Seattle; **Heidi Bogin Oshin**, '71 lives in Santa Monica.

All membership items — new members, change of name or address, and obits should be sent to:

Membership Chairman

Carol Brightbill
 3817 Schoolhouse Lane
 Harrisburg, PA 17109

Please note!

All general correspondence should be sent to:

Dwayne DeFoor
 3404 Brookside Drive
 Harrisburg, PA 17109
 or
 defoord@verizon.net

LEST WE FORGET

Andrew W. Crosley '39
Alice Fearen '43 and former teacher
Gladys (Hallman) Flickinger '35
Martha (Knouse) Gaul '32
Richard D. Gill '48
James R. Greene '04
Paul F. Herre III '73
Anna (Richwine) Hess '37
John V. Kell '44
Marie (Leitner) Leiby '45
Kathryn E. Lerch
Florence (LeVan) Mummert '36
Charles E. Schmidt '39
Grace Kathryn Anderson Seygal '35
Audry Ann Shope Shultz '46
Emma Smith, Progress Elementary secretary
Lisa Marie Fox Snyder
Maxine Stewart Eads '43
R. Lee Wagner '61
Ralph E. Wilhelm Sr. '47



Scrapbook items should still be sent to **Pat Lebo's** address or email address found on page 3.

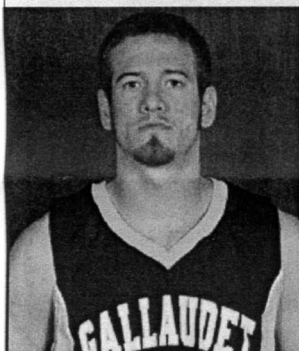


An Open Letter from Jeremy Thrush '06

USA Men's Basketball Team for the US Team to the 21st Summer Deaflympics

Dear Susquehanna Township Alumni and Friends,

This letter is to introduce you to the US Team, which will be competing in the upcoming **21st Summer Deaflympics September 5-15 in Taipei, Taiwan**. The Summer Deaflympics are expected to attract over 2,500 athletes from 67 nations to engage in international competition in 20 sports. In total, the 21st Summer Deaflympics in Taiwan expected to host 20,000 people to witness this world-class event for deaf and hard of hearing athletes.



Each athlete on Team USA will need to raise **\$4,500**, which includes uniforms, airfare, room and board in Taipei, transportation, registrations fees and expenses while in Taiwan for one month. I am hoping that you will share a contribution to help defray my costs. A partnership with the US Team will enable you to achieve international brand recognition and

enhance your commitment in supporting the deaf and hard of hearing.

It is a great honor for me to represent the United States Deaf Sports Federation as we train to make the USA Women's and Men's teams #1 in Taipei. This privilege is given only to athletes who have played internationally. In 2007, I played on the USA Men's Basketball Team in the PAN AM Games in Valencia, Venezuela. Together, our team brought home a Silver Medal. Now that I have been chosen to play in the Deaflympics, our ultimate goal is to bring home the Gold Medal and represent our country to the best of our abilities.

To learn more about the USA Deaf Sports Federation and the 2009 21st Summer Deaflympics, please visit

www.usadsf.org. *USA Deaf Sports Federation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.*

Editor's Note: Jeremy Thrush Donation

To make a donation to help defray Jeremy's costs to the 2009 Taipei Deaflympics:

Please forward your checks payable to:

Lisa Thrush
2323 Walnut Bottom Rd.
Carlisle, Pa., 17015

Checks will be consolidated and deposited collectively to the Director of the Olympics into Jeremy's account.

**HANNA EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**
*Serving the Students of
Susquehanna Township School District*

The *STHS Alumni Association* donated **\$250.00** to the Hanna Education Foundation to support a student enrichment program. The purpose of the Foundation is to generate funds to support a wide array of enrichment endeavors, which may include educational, musical, cultural, athletic and/or related school purposes that benefit the students of the District.

Please consider making a tax deductible donation to the **Hanna Education Foundation** in support of enrichment programs for students in STSD.

Checks Payable to:

Hanna Education Foundation
PO Box 60023
Harrisburg, PA 17106-0023

ATTENTION CLASS REUNION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We'd like to provide publicity for your Class Reunions. Please email your news items and/or digital photographs to

Dwayne De Foor at
defoord@verizon.net

or mail to:

3404 Brookside Drive
Harrisburg, Pa 17109



MEMORIAL GARDENS at Veterans Park



KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Korean War Memorial was dedicated on May 31, 2009 at Veterans Park, 1801 Elmerton Avenue, on a beautiful sun-filled afternoon. **Larry Babbitts**, Combat Infantry Veteran of the Korean and Vietnam Wars, delivered the Keynote Address. Guest Speakers included **Senator Jeffrey Piccola '66**, Senate of Pennsylvania 15th District; **Representative Sue Helm '61**, House of Representatives 104th District; **Chief Robert A. Martin**, Susquehanna Twp. Police Department; **Superintendent David Volkman**, Susquehanna Twp. School District.



VIETNAM WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

The Alumni Assn. is in the process of acquiring the names of all Vietnam Veterans who either graduated from STHS or lived in the Township during the period of time that they served in the service from *February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975*. We will be in the process of dedicating a Vietnam Memorial in the Memorial Gardens located at Veterans Park on Elmerton Ave. as grant funding and other donations become available.

Please send information regarding Vietnam Veterans to Shirley Kannegieser at 27 Hillside Rd., Dauphin, Pa., 17018 or call 921-8536.



MEMORIAL GARDEN "BRICK PAVERS"



The STHS Alumni Board and the Memorial Garden Committee are reaching out to the former graduating classes of STHS to obtain your class members support of the Memorial Garden Fund by purchasing a brick to honor their class.

EXAMPLE: **STHS**
CLASS OF 1950

The price per brick is \$100.00. Make check payable to "STHS Alumni Association" and include Memorial Garden Fund on check. Any amount donated above \$100.00 will help defray landscaping expenses.

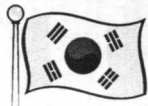
LET US SHOW OUR VETERANS THAT WE ARE
"SUSQUEHANNA PROUD".

Mail your check to Shirley Kannegieser, 27 Hillside Rd., Dauphin, Pa., 17018. Any questions please call Shirley on (717) 921-8536.

See order form located on page 7

Thank You to ALL of the Contributors that donated money and / or their time in support of this project.

A Special Thank You to **Steve Bomgardner** of *Romberger Memorials* for designing, engraving, and installing the memorial.....Outstanding!



Korean Memorial Committee

Dr. Tom Peck, Shirley Kannegieser, Co-Chairs
Robert Chapman-James Hartman-Claire Hetzel
Bill Reynolds- Melvin Longenecker, Treasurer

Digital Sign Capital Campaign

Have you driven by the High School and had difficulty reading the sign that has stood in front of the building as long as anyone can remember. Did you imagine what it would be like to see a state of the art sign highlighting events at the High School and throughout the school district? Now is your opportunity to help to make a lasting impact by partnering with the school district to usher in a new digital display billboard by making a monetary donation to the **Billboard Capital Campaign** today!

The proposed digital sign will sit at the corner of Elmerton and Progress Avenues. This location will provide the most visibility and enable the school to maximize communications with the community at large. It is a high-resolution freestanding sign with an LED matrix display. The top portion will say **Susquehanna Township High School** and the bottom will be 6 lines that can be modified from the front office on a daily basis. The digital sign will stand 20 feet high. The cost of the sign is approximately **\$52,000**. To date \$22,000 has been raised from generous donations from alumni and community members.

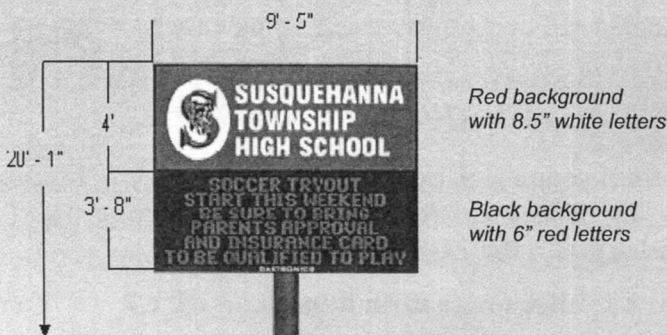
The successes of our previous endeavors such as the World War II Memorial have been possible because of your past generous contributions. The sign will be another enduring testament to the support the Susquehanna Township community has always provided. Please consider sending in your much appreciated gift today.

The donor form can be found on page 7. Your check made payable to the Susquehanna Township Alumni Association with "Billboard" documented in the memo may be sent to Carol Brightbill. A complete list of donor names will be provided to the school along with the consolidated Alumni donations we receive.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Please contact Bob Chapman at 232-0683 or Shirley Kanne-gieser at 921- 8536 if you have any questions or comments.

Go Indians!



Zembo Shrine Zembo Minicar Unit

Since retirement from his own business in 2000, **Homer Pontius '52** has devoted much of his time to charitable activities. He joined the Zembo Shrine in 1998 where he has been a member of the Zembo Minicar Unit for a number of years. His retirement has allowed him the additional free time 'driving' time with his unit. Each year from early March to late October the Minicar Unit participates in 30 to 40 parades in small towns throughout Central Pennsylvania.



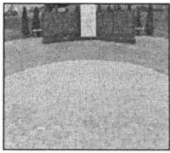
Homer also tries to attend the Mid-Atlantic Shrine Association's Convention held annually in September in Virginia Beach, VA, where the various Shrine Motor Corps gather for competition, fun, food, fellowship and a parade. Proceeds from Shrine activities help support Shrine Hospitals for Crippled Children.

Homer is also a sometime board member of the Susquehanna Township Alumni Association and was an active member of the World War II Memorial Committee. He most recently extended his assistance and advice to the Korean War Memorial Committee.

CLASS OF 1958 DONATES \$2000

Mr. David Volkman, superintendent, accepted a check for \$2000 from the Class of 1958 for the electronic sign fund. The digital sign will be located at the corner of Elmerton and Progress Avenues.





MEMORIAL GARDENS BRICK SALE

Make check payable to: Susquehanna Twp. Alumni Assn.

Please identify "Memorial Garden" on the bottom of your check



Inscription: _____

Your Name _____ Telephone Number _____

Return your order to:

Shirley Kannegieser
27 Hillside Rd.
Dauphin, Pa., 17018
Phone: (717) 921- 8536

ORDER DEADLINE:

Orders will continue
to be accepted

Sample Inscriptions

FOR VETERANS

SGT. JOSEPH JONES
US ARMY
WW II

FOR NON-VETERANS

SALLY SMITH
STHS - 1948

(Orders take 4-6 weeks to complete)



Digital Sign Capital Campaign Donor Form

Make check payable to: Susquehanna Twp. Alumni Assn.

Please identify "BILLBOARD" on your check

Your Name _____ Telephone Number _____

In Memory Of _____

Donation Amount _____

Return your donation to:

Carol Brightbill
3817 Schoolhouse Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17109

