

Spring 2021

# Abington Ghost Stories



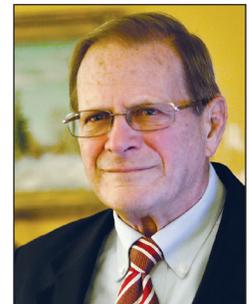
## From the President

To say that this has been an unusual year is an understatement. The vast majority of Abington students were not in their regular classrooms from March 2020 to February 2021. Virtual instruction was the mainstay. The students and their families have responded admirably. The School Board has supported community, Administration and staff efforts. The Administrative Staff and building Administrators worked tirelessly to accommodate the needs of their students and staff. The maintenance staff too often goes unnoticed but they too are to be commended. Lastly, but certainly not the least is the teaching staff. The hours and hours that have gone into the planning, preparing and presenting lessons are beyond comprehension. Unless you are a teacher or live with one it is difficult to appreciate the extent of this undertaking. Teachers and their families deserve a special Standing Ovation!! A big thank you to the entire Abington Community.

Some readers may have noticed that the “Ghost” image on the front page of Ghost Stories is missing. On July 20, 2020, Tim Simmons '65 and I met via Zoom with Abington School District Officials, Dr. Jeff Fecher, Superintendent, Dr. James Melchor, Assistant Superintendent, and Dr. Kristopher Brown, Equity Officer. During that meeting, Dr. Fecher explained to us concerns regarding images of the Abington High School’s mascot, the Ghost. More specifically he focused on the Alumni Association’s use of the Ghost in the publication Ghost Stories, sharing some related correspondence.

Dr. Fecher indicated that he and his staff were to prepare a survey seeking community input in regards to numerous School District initiatives and would include the issue of the High

School mascot. He requested that we, the A.H.S.A.A. suspend the use of the Ghost image in our publication, Ghost Stories until the community survey has been completed and analyzed. We agreed to Dr. Fecher’s request and offered the Association’s assistance in the distribution of the survey. The continued disruption of the School District’s everyday business of educating students by the pandemic has delayed the preparation of that survey. It is still on the Superintendent’s agenda.



*John Worthington '60*

I have observed over the years that the image of the Ghost has appeared in numerous versions and venues. To assure that the students and community would not be negatively impacted by associating the Abington Ghost with some dark periods in our Nation’s history, Abington High School administrators over the years have removed many of the images of the Ghost from athletic uniforms, letterheads, merchandise and public areas of the Senior High School.

I am not sure where this is headed with strong feelings on both sides of the issue. Our Alma Mater comes to mind as I try to convey what is transpiring. From the first stanza one “Rise up and stand as one for dear old Abington”, stanza two “Storms may rise and winds may blow, but our thoughts to thee will go”. We will keep you informed regarding the resolution of this situation.

# STEPHEN A. SCHWARZMAN CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## Now Open at Abington Senior High School

In February 2021, the Additions and Renovations Project at Abington Senior High School reached a significant milestone: the opening of the Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology, a 157,000 square-foot addition that was built as a new wing onto the 1950s-era high school. Thanks, in part, to a \$25 million donation from Mr. Schwarzman, a 1965 graduate, the Additions and Renovations Project at Abington Senior High School also includes:

- An expanded administrative and guidance area with a new career center (complete)
- The addition of a new cafeteria (in progress)
- The construction of an auxiliary gymnasium (in progress)
- A 93 percent renovation of the existing facility (in progress)

The Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology was designed to accommodate growth in the District's enrollment, in addition to transitioning the building from one that houses grades 10-12 to a true grades 9-12 high school. Once the Additions and Renovations Project is complete in the fall of 2022—which is when ninth grade will move into the building—the wing will house science, art, and general education classrooms. In the interim, space is being utilized to temporarily house other content areas while adjacent wings are being renovated. Currently, classroom spaces that previously housed science, math, English, and world language classes have been moved into the Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Science and Technology while those other areas of the building undergo renovation.

As part of the project, new and renovated classroom spaces are also being outfitted



with state-of-the-art technology, such as wall-mounted, flat-panel monitors for instruction, which ties into the District's Digital Transformation Plan, an initiative to expand the use of technology in classroom instruction and prepare students for the nation's fastest-growing industries and jobs of the future. Earlier this year all Senior High students were assigned a personal Chromebook device for instructional use inside and outside the classroom as part of the District's one-to-one computing initiative.

Looking ahead, along with the addition of an auxiliary gymnasium—which will be named The Billy Wilson Gym—the overhaul of the athletic wing, soon to be called The Bobby Bryant Athletic Center, will include features such as a new weight room and a new sports hall of fame. The Coach Jack Armstrong Athletic Hall of Fame will feature sports highlights from throughout Abington Senior High School's history, including photos and awards from Coach Armstrong's championship-winning track teams, one of them being the legendary 1965 team on which Schwarzman, Wilson, and Bryant all competed.

The entire complex is anticipated to be finished by early 2022.

Also happening during the 2021-2022 school year, construction will begin on the final phase of the project, the area known as the "S Wing", which currently houses the social studies department, but was originally built for vocational instruction. The entire Abington Senior High School Additions and Renovations Project will be completed by September 2022 in preparation for the ninth grade to move into the high school, while the sixth grade concurrently moves into Abington Junior High School to free up space in the seven elementary schools.

To follow along with the progress of the Additions and Renovations Project, you can subscribe to the construction blog on the Abington School District website: [www.abington.k12.pa.us/construction](http://www.abington.k12.pa.us/construction).

# Fall Sports

## SOCCER

Coach, Rick Tompkins, '72, girls' soccer team won the league championship and ended with an 8-1-1 record. Led by Casey Touey, conference player of the year, Abington won in the second round of the states beating West Chester 3-2 on her two goals. They lost in the semi-finals 3-1 to state champions, Pennridge. Touey, Allison Holden, and Maura Day made all-league.

Randy Garber '71 led his boys team to a 9-2 overall record, 9-1 in the conference. Senior Bryce Lexow was the all-state player-of-the-year. He and senior Gavin O'Neil made the all-league team.

## FOOTBALL

Coach Kevin Comlin's football squad finished a short season 3-2. Defensive and running back, Oreck Frazier, received the Mini Maxwell award for the season. Frazier, Billy Everitt, Caleb Baker, and Jamie Rivera made the all-league team.

On a sad note, former Abington teacher (1963 to 1965) and former Philadelphia Eagles star defensive back, Irv Cross, passed away in February at the age of 81. He was 1 of 15 children and played for the Eagles in the 1960's. He was a punt and kick-off return specialist, and had 22 career interceptions and 14 fumble recoveries. In 1971 he joined CBS Sports as an anchor on the NFL Today show where he spent 23 years. He will be missed.

## BOY'S BASKETBALL

Abington had two former basketball stars playing Division I college basketball. Eric Dixon played for Villanova and Robbie Heath played for Pepperdine University, a strong western team. Lucas Monroe at U of P did not play because the Ivy League teams did not have a season due to covid.

## BOY'S BASKETBALL (cont.)

Coach Charles Grasty, '90, had a great season. Going into the Districts, Abington was seeded 14th. The team beat Kennett 39-36 in Round 1, beat Plymouth Whitemarsh in Round 2 66-48, and West Chester East 56-54 in 2 overtimes in the semi-finals. They lost in the final round to a strong Lower Marion team. Senior Oreck Frazier scored well in these games. The two-sports star will attend Harvard to play football in the Fall. Robert Bell and Caleb Baker also scored well in these games. The team finished with a 13-6 record once they put it all together.

## GIRL'S BASKETBALL

The team was led by coach Daniel Marsh, and the girls made the Districts as a 13 seed. In the first round, they beat Methacton by 75-66. In the quarter-finals, they were beaten by Spring-Ford 68-41. The team finished with a good record of 14-5, and were led Jaida Helms.

## WRESTLING

Coach David Osei '09 led his team to a 15-5 overall record and a 7-0 league leading conference record. The team was led by Soph Matthew Mc Caughey at 126 pounds, Jr. Shane Kidler at 152 pounds, Sr. Nick Castorino at 172 and Sr. Robert Glemser at 189 pounds. Three of the wrestlers were ranked in the top three in their respective weight class by The Intelligencer newspaper, and all four wrestled in the first round of the Districts. No Abington wrestler was able to bring home a medal from the State Championships.

*Congratulations to the coaches and players of these teams for their accomplishments.*

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## Class of 2020 Scholarship Winners



Shayna Eubanks  
(Towson University)



Michele Bowen  
(Bucknell University)



Eshen Brinkert  
(Muhlenberg College)



Leon Hertzberg  
(University of Pennsylvania)

# Where are they now?

**Katie Katro class of '11** went on to graduate from Temple University in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. From there her first job was as a news reporter was at 5News, the CBS affiliate in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Moving on to Fox61 in Hartford, Connecticut, Presently working for 6ABC Action News as a reporter in Philadelphia. When back at Abington she received the gold medal congressional award for doing over 400 hours of community service and currently active with Northeast Community Church's Albanian outreach. She is of Albanian descent so she loves volunteering with their congregation.

In her free time, she plays tennis and was on Abington's tennis team all four years serving as captain of the team in her junior year.

She loves to vacation in Athens, Greece because she was born there and still has family living there.

**Gary Barkov class of '82** was appointed Vice President, Healthcare Technology Management for Advocate Aurora Health. AAH is based in Downers Grove, IL and Milwaukee, WI, and is the ninth largest not-for profit healthcare system in the US. Gary joined the organization in 2009, and previously served as HTM Operations Director and Multi-Site Clinical Engineering Manager. During the Pandemic, the HTM team at Advocate Aurora is ensuring availability of critical equipment such as ventilators and ECMO systems and working to increase ICU and other in-patient capacity in response to the surge of sick patients in Wisconsin and Illinois. Gary lives in Skokie, IL.

**William Bergan class of '75** retired as aquatics center manager at the Plymouth community center. This was his second career. Before that he was contracting officer for public works at the Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster up to the time of its closure in 1997.

Bill still resides in the home where he was born and raised and still has the telephone number that was first assigned. In case you were wondering, the telephone is still rotary having never developed the need for cell phones or internet services. He still lives in the 20th century world. In between visits to Renaissance Fairs and World War II airshows, he spends his retirement days taking care of the house, yard and working on a family history project.

**Ellie Artur class of '05** after graduating from Abington, it was off to the University of Richmond where she majored in Rhetoric and Communications Studies. In 2018, she was appointed to the position of Coordinator of Communications for the Abington School District. She is married to **Ryan MacNair, '05**. Ryan graduated from Penn State University. He joined the Abington School District teaching staff in 2010 and currently teaches Social Studies at Abington Senior High School. Ellie prepared the article found on page two "The Stephen A. Schwarzman Center for Arts and Technology now open at Abington High School."

**Lou Russo class of '65** retired from teaching in 2003 after 34 years of teaching at Abington. Lou and Lynn have 2 children Anthony and Lauren. They have been graced with five grandchildren. Lou spends time reading both fiction and non-fiction, and enjoys doing the Sunday New York Times crossword puzzle. He has also become a moderator at a World War II website. His knowledge of the war has increased substantially. They reside in Hatboro.

**Ben Sanchez class of '93** After graduating from Villanova University, he became a CPA while working for an international accounting firm. In 2004, he graduated from Temple Law and then worked as a real estate lawyer at a Philadelphia law firm for almost a decade before opening his own law practice. He served as Abington Township Commissioner from 2014-19 and then was elected State Representative for the 153rd Legislative District. Now Ben's in his second two-year term. He has also served on the board of Jefferson Health and continues to serve on the board of the Inter-Faith Housing Alliance of Montgomery County which oversees the Inter-Faith Food Cupboard in Abington. Ben married an Abington alum, **Karen Geld Sanchez, '96** and all three children will attend Abington Schools. Ben and Karen reside in the "Jenkintown Manor" section of Abington Twp. When free time and circumstances allow, they love vacationing at the Jersey Shore, or travel anywhere. Our activities include golf, fishing, skiing, and anything that involves quality family time.

## Life Members

Class MEMBER

2019 Perry W. Carpenter

2019 Allyson M. Dasilva

2012 Zachary T. Oertel

1983 Kenneth N. Stoeffler

1981 Charles M. Pingue

1978 Barbara H. Smally

1977 Jerome Dean

1972 Linda Hoyle

1968 Robert M. Hersch

1968 Lynne Schmidheiser Rinius

1967 Theodore C. Schmidt

1965 Alan W Kohr

1965 John Van Buren

1962 Bill Schutt

1959 Karen E. Woodley Guy

1958 Irene S. Franklin Cunningham

1957 Lois Black Amato

1956 Harry H. McKinny

1953 Dr. Leonard Frank

1952 Ronald G. Cheek Sr.

1952 Herman H. Kluver

1952 Jean Claushouse Roberts

1951 Sara Jane Hay Tredinnick

1948 Russell K. Tredinnick

**Frank Fryburg class of '44** after serving as an electronic technician in the Navy during World War II he graduated from Penn State in 1949 and then received his MBA from the Wharton School in February 1954. For 37 years he worked for RCA in the color picture tube division. November 1991 he retired and moved to Ormond Beach Florida and in April 1998 he moved to Lancaster in order to be near some of his grandchildren. He currently lives in the Brethren Village retirement facility. He has four children, three stepchildren, 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

# ANNUAL 50+ CLUB LUNCHEON

**Friday, October 8, 2021**

**YOUR HOST THIS YEAR – CLASS OF 1966**

**Mr. Leigh Altadonna, Emcee**

**OLD YORK ROAD COUNTRY CLUB, 801 Tennis Ave., Spring House, PA**

Social Hour and Cash Bar – 11:30 a.m. • Luncheon – 12:30 p.m.

**For general information please contact:**

Patti Hartman ('87) 302-632-7978 pattihartman@comcast.net

or Joan Z. Mosler ('54) 267-575-0647 jzimmie@aol.com.

**Please keep this portion as your only reminder!**

Remember your menu choice by checking it here:

- CHICKEN FLORENTINE
- FILET TIPS
- BROILED FLOUNDER
- PASTA PRIMAVERA

**Luncheon Price – \$34**

*Any profit from the luncheon will benefit the Scholarship Fund.*

## Fifty Plus Luncheon Reservation Form

### Menu Choice:

*(Check one per person attending)*

- CHICKEN FLORENTINE
- FILET TIPS
- BROILED FLOUNDER
- PASTA PRIMAVERA

**Reservation deadline:**  
**OCT. 1, 2021**

Please make checks payable to: **50+ Club**

Send with bottom portion of this form ASAP to:

**Patti Hartman**  
301 Church Road  
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Reservations will not be acknowledged.

Class year \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden if applicable \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse or guest:**

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden if applicable \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Class year \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ x \$34 per person = Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please make checks payable to: **Fifty Plus Club**

Table preference: Seat me/us with the Class of 19 \_\_\_\_\_.  
Please use a separate sheet for any additional notes or special needs.  
*Thank you!*

I cannot attend but want to contribute to the scholarship fund and alumni association. Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Membership and Donations 2020

## • Century •

\$100.00 Grant Kerrick '03  
 \$100.00 Paul W. Hoffman '63  
 \$100.00 Ernest James '63  
 \$100.00 Lois Black Amato '57  
 \$100.00 Paul J. Haye '73  
 \$100.00 Alan W. Kohr '65

## • Maroon and White •

\$50.00 Renee Oppenheim Handwerk '65  
 \$50.00 Wayne C. Ambler '65  
 \$50.00 John Van Buren '65  
 \$50.00 Edith Sautter Miller '67

## • Donations •

\$800.00 Raymond F. Arment '65  
 \$50.00 Louise Wilhjelm Baker '49  
 \$25.00 Nancy L. Ogle Macur '63

## • Memorials •

\$25.00 In memory of Carol Unger Finlan '65 by her husband Louis '65  
 \$100.00 In memory of Steve Ballard '80 by Mark Muller '80  
 \$200.00 In memory of J. Ed Schmidheiser '56 by his sister Lynne Schmidheiser Rinius '68  
 \$25.00 In memory of Ed Mullen '68 by Nancy Weiss '68

## Memorials continued...

\$50.00 In memory of Russell Tredinnick '48 by his wife Sara Jane Hay Tredinnick '51  
 \$50.00 In memory of Peggy Shaffert '59 by Judith Northam Oppasser '59  
 \$25.00 In memory of Kevin E. Sylvester '67 by Annette Sylvester  
 \$100.00 In memory of Robert G. Hower '58 by K. Bruce Ulrich '57  
 \$100.00 In memory of Cathy Spahn Barndt '73 by the Spahn Family, Peggy '52, Connie '71, Warren '77  
 \$35.00 In memory of William Yoder '35 by Alexandria Yoder Miller '63  
 \$100.00 In memory of Ed Schmidheiser '56 by David Powers '56  
 \$100.00 In memory of Jeanne Toothill McClelland '59 by Carole Johnson Hiddemen, Linda Breeze Reese, Carol Smith Carlson '59  
 100.00 In memory of Robert M. Hersch '68 by his wife Trudy Hersch  
 \$200.00 In memory of Ed Mullen '68 by Mr and Mrs Charles Kalb  
 \$25.00 In memory of Ronald Cheek Sr. '52 by Alan & Beth Cherry '56  
 \$25.00 In memory of Harry McKinny '56 by Alan & Beth Cherry '56

# Membership and Donation Form

## Membership

- Life, \$25 (one-time donation)  
 Maroon & White, \$50  
 Century Club, \$100  
 500 Club, \$500  
 K Club, \$1,000  
 Bronze, \$5,000

## Donations (any amount)

- Booster donation  
 Memorial donations—other than life membership memorials  
 I am willing to give a little time to work for the Alumni Association.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Class year	Present membership	
First name	Maiden if applicable	Surname
Address—please check here if this is a new address <input type="checkbox"/>		
City	State	ZIP Code
Phone number	Email address	
Spouse's full name		
Please add memorial donation information here. Attach second sheet if needed.		
Total enclosed (make checks payable to Abington High School Alumni Association) _____		
Please detach form and mail to AHSAA at P.O. Box 55, Abington, Pa. 19001.		
Memberships also can be purchased online at <a href="http://www.abingtonalumni.com">www.abingtonalumni.com</a> using credit card or Paypal.		

# BILL HOWER CELEBRATING 20 YEARS ON AIR

One of our own board members celebrates 20 years on the air. **Bill Hower** celebrated his 20th year in February as a broadcaster at radio station WDVR. In the radio business five years is a lifetime; 20 years is a major accomplishment. The radio station is 40 years old and Bill has been on staff for half the station's time. The station studio is located on Old York Road in Hatboro and the transmitter is in Warminster.



Bill has resided in Glenside for over 75 years. He worked a couple of years at his family soft ice cream business in Flourtown then 29 years at Resco Electronics and as an accounting clerk, retired in 2001.

At WDVR he does his Beautiful Music Show on Friday night 10 PM to 1 AM. His Music Box is a specialty show where he provides music from his own collection. Bill's collection started small and has grown over the years including music known and unknown to many.

The Big Band era is one of the most important periods in music history. Many of the tunes in the Great American Songbook were created during that time; jazz, rock 'n roll, and rhythm and blues had their roots in that era. RDV-FM broadcasts this format during the day and overnight on weekdays. Beautiful Music was a mainstay on FM during the late 50's to the early 90's.

During the 20 years' Bill has only missed doing his show a few times and programmed the shows during recuperation from surgery a few years ago.

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## Hall of Fame Nomination Form

*The next Hall of Fame induction is planned for Fall 2021.*

I wish to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

to the Abington High School Hall of Fame in the category of \_\_\_\_\_  
(categories are Arts, Athletics, Business, Education, Government, Science and Service. Posthumous nominations should be referred directly to the Abington Senior High School Alumni Association.)

Reason for nomination (attach extra sheets if needed) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's address \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's phone number (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's e-mail address (if available) \_\_\_\_\_

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your phone number and e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form by **June 30, 2021**, to William Penderghest, Chairman, Hall of Fame Committee,  
Abington Senior High School, 900 Highland Ave., Abington, Pa. 19001

Or the form can be attached as a document and emailed to:  
WilliamPenderghest@abington.k12.pa.us

Abington High School  
Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 55, Abington, Pa. 19001  
Return Service Requested



Non-Profit Org  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 444  
Lansdale, Pa..

# Ghost Stories

## Spring 2021

- **Attend the annual Association business meeting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in the Alumni Office in the Administration Building on Highland Avenue in Abington.**
- **Contact your class coordinator now to plan your next reunion!**
- **Visit the Association's web page for reunions: <http://www.abingtonalumni.com>, email [alumni@abington.k12.pa.us](mailto:alumni@abington.k12.pa.us), or phone 215-572-8899.**

### ABINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Alumni Association 2021 Officers

John Worthington '60  
*President*

Tim Simmons '65  
*Treasurer*

Marilyn J. Levit '81  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Jane Sheppard Bean '65  
*Recording Secretary*

#### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Wayne Cunningham '50

William Hower '57

Joseph Muldowney '85

Patti Hartman '87

Joan Zimmermann Mosler '54

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tim Simmons '65, Chairman

Hank Brusca '60

Joseph Muldowney '85

#### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Stacy Eberz Condeelis '87

Wendy Snyder Kaye '87

Rachel Hogg Edwards '87

Alina Morawski Marone '91

Samuel Hogg '61, Chair

Jane Lyon Scarborough '59

Regina Johnson '91

John Worthington '60

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Tim Simmons '65

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Virginia McClay Cunningham '51

Wayne Cunningham '50

Jane Sheppard Bean '65

Joan Zimmermann Mosler '54

William Hower '57

Joseph Muldowney '85