



Newsnote

Towson High School Alumni Association

Inside This Issue

PAGE 2
Annual Fund Donors &
New Lifetime Members

PAGE 3
Annual Senior
Scholarship Awards

PAGES 4
Reunion News

PAGE 5
Edenwald Reunion
Teacher Wish List
2024 Alumni Teachers
Administration
and Coaches

PAGE 6
In Memoriam

PAGE 7
Membership
Donor Form
THSAA Contact
Information

PAGE 8
Serial Mom
Addition and Renovation
Project Update

WANTED: Talismans

The Alumni Association is launching a project to collect and digitize as many Talisman newspapers as possible for our archives.

Although we have received alumni donations over the years, we are still in need of many issues, and often complete volumes.

Please check your closets, your attic, your basement, wherever you keep your mementos, to see if you can find any old Talismans.

If you have Talismans, but don't want to donate them, please consider loaning them to us temporarily. We will happily return them unharmed once digitized.

We will accept all issues, even if they are duplicates of what we have. (If you are

interested, you can check our current inventory by going to the main page of our website www.towsonhighalumni.org and clicking on the picture of the Talisman.)

To make a donation (or loan), you can drop them off at the school (between 7:30 and 3:00 weekdays) or mail them to: Towson High Alumni Association, 69 Cedar Ave, Towson, MD 21286. Please include a note with your name and graduating year and indicate whether they are a donation or on loan.

If you have any questions, call 443-809-7600 or email towsonhighalumni@bcps.org.

Thank you for helping us keep the 123-year history of Towson High alive!

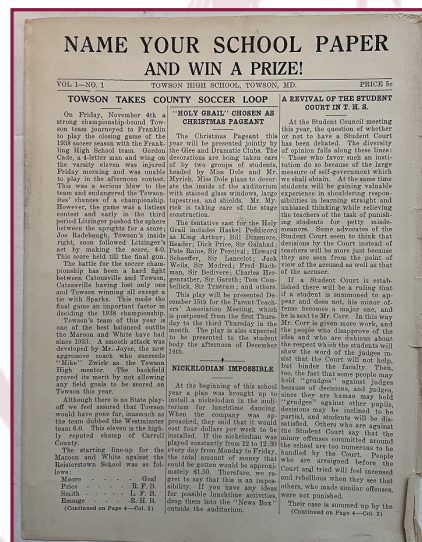


A Brief Talisman History

Throughout the early years of Towson High, several school newspapers were started by the students. However, all were short lived, lasting a few years at best. These included The Aurora of the early 1910's, and the Highlights, The Tatler, and The Torch of the 1930's.

In the fall of 1938, a group of determined students again attempted to start a paper. The headline of the first issue read "Name Your School Paper and Win a Prize!". The winner would win a free subscription to the paper. The cost was 5¢ per issue.

By the fall of 1941, those determined students, with the full support of the student body and the administration, had successfully launched a newspaper that would stand the



The first introductory issue of what would become The Talisman is published.

Continued on page 2

Annual Fund Donors and New Lifetime Members

We thank everyone for their support! For those that did not donate to the Spring 2024 Campaign, please consider a donation to the Fall 2024 Campaign. (Meginnis Fund donors are denoted with an *.)

Donations listed were received between May 1, 2024 and September 30, 2024.

"GENERAL" KEY TO DONATIONS

- ★★★★★ \$ 1000 +
- ★★★★ \$ 500-\$999
- ★★★ \$ 250-\$499
- ★★ \$ 100-\$249
- ★ \$ 1-\$99

★★★★★ GENERALS

1954 Clay Warrington

★★★ GENERALS

1960 Anne Sartorius Payne *
1973 Theresa Beck
2006 Devin O'Donnell

★★ GENERALS

1953 Richard Herd
1953 Janet Otte Holbrook
1954 Dick Stephenson

1958 Nancy Ingalls Crossfield *
1959 Jim Hildenbrand
1961 Don Keyser
1962 Claire Payne Greenhouse *
1962 William Kakel
1964 Bill Pullin
1966 Grace Venable Jenchura
1969 Janet Farrell
1971 Michael Buchanan
1974 Jeffrey Lunnen
1979 Bob Winchester

★ GENERALS

1949 Gordon McPhee
1958 John Davis
1958 Lou O'Donnell
1959 Jim Shea
1961 Jeanne Dykes Bowman
1962 Suzanne Goll Reinke

1964 Carol Prichard MacDougall
1965 Sue Smyth Dietrich
1967 Michael Seidel
1967 John Tydings
1968 Dave West
1987 Randy Bowers

LIFETIME MEMBERS

The following Lifetime membership were recorded May 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024.

1979 Kerry Donoho Jeffers-Parente
1983 Jennifer Webb Rigot
1990 Scott Philips

Talisman

Continued from page 1
test of time. The Talisman.

From 1940 to 2013, the newspaper was published monthly and covered a wide range of topics including current events, school news, sports news, editorials, interviews, photographs, advertisements, and more.

Typically, the most popular issue was the last issue of the year, the senior issue, which often included a photograph of the entire class, Senior Superlatives, senior's Last Wills and Testaments, and a recap of the school year.

In 2013, the last paper issue of the Talisman was printed. The following year, in the age of technology, the internet, and digital publications, The Talisman went online.

Today, 84 years later, the format and content has changed significantly. However, the Talisman and the tradition is still alive. You can read last issue at <https://towsontalisman.com/>.

THE TOWSON HIGH NEWSLETTER

In addition to the student published Talisman, the administration at Towson High publishes a comprehensive bi-weekly, online newsletter of school news and events. You can read it on the Towson High website or at https://towsonhs.bcps.org/general_info/newsletter_archive.

Talisman Banners Through The Years



1940-1953



1954-1955



1955-1959



1964-1968



1970-1972



1970



1983-1987



1998-1999



1940-1953



1954-1955



1955-1959



1964-1968



1970-1972



1970



1983-1987

Annual Senior Scholarship Awards



Toyosi Dada

Alumni Medal of Excellence

Founded in 1907 by William Cole the founding father of the alumni association. This award has been the most prestigious award the alumni association gives and is given annually to the student who graduates with the highest academic average.

Tori Kerr

Ted Prince Memorial Scholarship Award

Founded in 1919 in honor of the only THS student killed in WWI. This award is given annually to a senior that, in addition to being a good student, possesses integrity and strength of character as well as showing a spirit of loyalty and service to Towson High School.

Frank Zhang

Arthur C. Crommer Mathematics Award

Founded in 1928 and named in honor of a revered principal that served from 1905 until his death in 1928. This award is given annually to a student that, in addition to being preeminent in character and conduct, has excelled in mathematics.

Vivian Sanchez Neyra

R. Louise Balls English Award

Founded in 1928 and named in honor of an English teacher who taught at THS for 50 years. This award is given annually to a student for ex-

cellence in classroom and creative English.

Katherine Morton

Nannie Feast Law Award

Founded in 1932 and named in honor of a commercial and business teacher that taught for 50 years. Today, this award is given annually to a student for excellence in the law and public policy program.

Runa Matsushita

Frances Shores Meginnis Award

Founded in 2016 and named after a teacher fondly recalled by the many students she taught during her 14 years at THS. This award is to be given annually to a graduating senior who shows promise as a scholar in the humanities of Literature, Language, History, Drama, Art or Music.

Lily Zhu

Mansoor Johnson

Gunther Werner Science Scholarship

Founded in 2018 and named after alumnus Gunther Werner '38 who, upon his death, bequest the Alumni Association a most generous gift. The Werner Scholarship is to be given annually to one or more deserving students whose academic and career focus is in a field of Science.

Julian Joseph

Allan Machesney Memorial

Computer Science Award

Presented to a deserving student for excel-

lence in computer science. This award was established in 2019 and funded annually by alumnus Allan Machesney '53, who spent his career on the cutting edge of technology. Mr. Machesney passed in August 2023. This year's award was sponsored by the Alumni Association in his honor, and with gratitude.

Ryan Jones

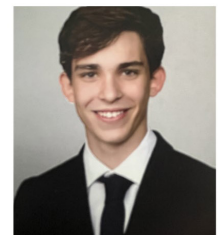
Charles B. Elder, Sr. Memorial Scholarship

Presented to a deserving senior enlisting in the military. This award was established in 2023 in memory an in honor of Mr. Charles B. Elder Sr., who fought in the Korean War. Mr. Elder was a 1945 Towson High graduate and a 2020 Towson High Alumni Association Hall of Fame inductee. This award was funded by the Ensign C. Markland Kelly, Jr. American Legion Post #174.

Jesse Van Doren

John Love Moring, Jr. Memorial Law Scholarship

Presented to a deserving senior who excelled in the Law and Public Policy program, and whose ambition is to study law and become a lawyer. This award was established in 2024 in memory and in honor of alumnus John Love Moring, Jr., class of 1949, a lawyer who was passionate about the field of law. The award is funded by Mr. Moring's family.



Reunion News

Class of 1949

A 75th reunion was held Monday, June 10th, 2024 at The Peppermill Restaurant. Email or phone Don McWilliams at maxalea1@aol.com or 410-294-2234 for future reunion news.



Class of 1954

The Class of 1954 celebrated their 70th with a “Reunion Time, Reflection Time” email reunion, where classmates shared the highlights of the last 70 years since graduation. Stories and photos were compiled and distributed to all that participated by Ellen Moyer at ellenmoyer@yahoo.com.

Class of 1959

A 65th Reunion was held in 2024. Contact Janice Krach 410-321-1785 or janice_8325@yahoo.com.

Class of 1964

A 60th Reunion luncheon was held October 12th, 2024 at Hightopps in Timonium. Contact the organizers below for future reunion news or to be added to the class email list. Lone Tidemand Azola 443-277-5874 or email lazola@azolainc.com; Alicia Tucker Ruppertsberger 410-371-7087; Jan Davis Hallahan 443-386-6702.

Tours of Towson High

Did you know that you can arrange a tour of Towson High as one of your reunion activities? Contact Thomas Blair at tblair@bcps.org or the Alumni Office at towsonhighalumni@bcps.org to learn more, or to make arrangements.

Do you have a reunion coming up? Make sure we have your current address, phone number and email address so that we can share it with your class. Email towsonhighalumni@bcps.org with updates.

Class of 1974

A 50th Reunion was held October 19th, 2024 at the Charles Village Pub in Towson. Contact Christine Skipper O’Shea at christineskipperoshea@gmail.com for future reunion news. Facebook: Towson High School Class of 1974 Reunion.

Class of 1979

A 45th Reunion is not being planned for 2024. Facebook: Towson High School Class of 1979

Class of 1984

A 40th Reunion was held September 7th, 2024 at the Towson Tavern. Contact Terri Bowers Smith sandtsmith92@gmail.com to be added to the class mailing list. Facebook: Towson High School Class of 1984.

Class of 1989

A 35th Reunion was held Saturday, November 16th, 2024 at Ryleigh’s Oyster House in Timonium. Email Rob Armetta at rarmetta@aol.com or visit us on Facebook Towson High School Class Of ‘89.

Class of 1994

A 30th reunion was held Saturday, October 12th, 2024 at Barley’s Backyard in Towson. Contact: Bre Brown Fortkamp at brebrownie@yahoo.com for future reunion news. Join us on Facebook at THS class of 1994 30 Year Reunion.

Class of 2009

A 15th reunion was held Saturday, November 30th, 2024 at Barley’s Backyard in Towson. Contact Andrew Reighart at AndrewReighart@gmail.com or (240) 577-5849 to be added to the class mailing list. Find us on Facebook at Towson High School Class of 2009.

*We do not have any reunion information for the following classes:
1969, 1999, 2004, 2014 and 2019*

Reunion News *(continued)*

Edenwald Reunion



Eleven alumni living at Edenwald Senior Living got together for a Towson High reunion luncheon this spring. In addition to lunch, the participants from the Classes of 1946 to 1968 enjoyed a fun quiz, browsing through old yearbooks, some Towson High swag (courtesy of Principal Culbertson), and a tour of the school. Big thanks go out to **Fran Huber Wagner '62** for putting it all together. Special thanks go out to teacher and tour guide **Tom Blair**.

To see the complete listing of class reunions and up-to-date reunion news, visit the Reunion News page of our website www.towsonhighalumni.org.

2024-25 Teacher Wish List

Math

(30) Graphing Calculators \$ 4,169.70

Music/Theater

Apple iPad 300.00

(8) Wireless Microphones and Receivers 576.00

(10) Microphone Cords and Headset Mics 130.00

Physical Ed

(2) Vertical Challengers 1,199.98

(4) Bonded Foam Mats 4' x 8' x 2" 1,851.96

Science

Vernier Force Plate Sensor 319.00

Power Amplifier and Accessory Speaker (Sound Waves) 384.00

Total Wish List

\$ 8,930.64

Newsnote Delivery

Missed a Newsnote?

You can read missed issues on the website!

Delivered to your SPAM folder?

Add towsonhighalumni@bcps.org to your address book or contacts.

2024 Alumni Teachers, Administrators and Coaches

TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Peter Merani '78 (Social Studies/Retired 2024)

Gil Stange '82 (Social Studies, Track)

Karen Waters '91 (Social Studies)

Laura Meisler Russo '92 (Nurse)

Brad Eastham '95 (Phys Ed)

Kevin Dalsimer '97 (Math)

Michael Fast '04 (Para-Educator)

Tom Geilfuss '05 (Social Studies/Psychology)

James Chrismer '07 (World Language/Spanish)

Clara Bryant '13 (Science)

Whitney Swoboda '17 (Special Ed)

COACHES

Randy Dase '72 (Soccer, Lacrosse)

Pat O'Connor '79 (Lacrosse)

John Darlington '80 (Annual Golf Outing)

Gil Stange '82 (Cross Country, Track)

Ed Pfaff '84 (Football, Softball)

Bob Pomponio '86 (Lacrosse)

Matt Bayne '89 (Baseball, Alumni Baseball Game)

Oliver Goodwin '00 (Baseball)

John Karsos '02 (Baseball)

Scott Bracken '07 (Lacrosse)

Steven Page '09 (Badminton)

Eric Dorsey '14 (Soccer)

Grace Murray '19 (Lacrosse)

In Memoriam



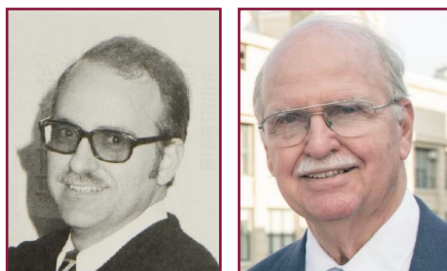
Ralph A. Gakenheimer '53

1/17/1935 – 6/17/2024

Towson High Alumni Hall of Fame

Ralph Gakenheimer, a 1953 graduate of Towson High and a 2003 Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, was a highly respected urban planning expert. His career in the Urban Planning Department at MIT spanned 40 years. During those years, he consulted with many countries in addition to the United States including Egypt, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Thailand, Sri Lanka, China, India and several Latin American

countries concerning urban planning problems. Ralph died on June 17th, 2024, at the age of 89, in Concord, Massachusetts.



Fernando M. Estaban

2/24/1935 – 5/31/2024

Fernando Estaban, who taught Special Education from the mid-70's to mid-80's, died on May 31, 2024, at the age of 89, at his home on Nantucket. In addition to teaching, he coached men's soccer, leading the team to the 1982 State Championship game.



Matthew Jochmans

2/17/1981 – 8/18/2024

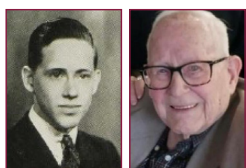
Matthew Jochmans, a well-respected and loved physics teacher, died August 18th, 2024, at the age of 43, just days before the school year was to begin. Jochmans, who spent his entire 18-year teaching career at Towson High, celebrated the end of the summer by taking an annual bike ride on the NCR trail. Unfortunately, it was to be his last, suffering a fatal heart attack that day. His passing has left a huge void in the Towson High School community who gathered in the school auditorium on September 21, 2024, for a Celebration of Life memorial. To learn more about the panda-loving Mr. Jochmans, you can find tributes online from the Baltimore Banner and Baltimore Sun.

Centenarians In Memoriam

Centenarian alumni who passed away at the age of 100+!

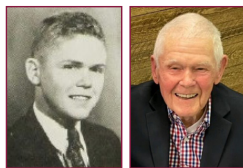
Albert Long '40

Born January 21, 1923, Albert was 101 years old when he died on May 29th, 2024.



LeRoy Shanklin '40

Born on April 15th, 1923, LeRoy was 101 years old when he died on June 1st, 2024.



Mary Johanna Heiss Freeburger '40

Born July 11, 1923, Hannah was 101 years old when she died on June 6th, 2024.



Mary Elizabeth Black Francis '41

Born on September 2nd, 1923, Betty was 100 years old when she died on November 23rd, 2023.



1940	Hannah Heiss Freeburger	6/6/2024
1940	Albert Long	5/29/2024
1940	LeRoy Shanklin	6/1/2024
1942	Janice Wolfkill Foessel	11/6/2021
1942	Edith Murray Harris	3/21/2022
1942	Margaret Wetters Hornick	11/4/2022
1942	Helen Heubeck Jacobs	4/2/2024
1943	Peggy Bartholomee Burk	8/27/2024
1943	Pete Francis	12/4/2021
1943	Doris Shade Koerner	9/3/2022
1944	Betty Dietz Aleshire	7/6/2024
1944	Lois Koenig Rider	3/10/2024
1945	Fred Groom	5/30/2024
1945	Betty Carroll Hoeck	3/19/2024
1945	Justin Vitrano	7/14/2024
1945	Jeanne Hyatt Weaver	7/17/2023
1946	Mimi Schisler Mules	9/24/2024
1947	Doris Fix Buck	4/15/2024
1948	Lee Mothershead Martin	9/29/2023

Continued on page 7

Membership Renewal & Donation Form

Towson High School Alumni Association, 69 Cedar Ave, Towson, MD 21286

First Name _____ Maiden _____ Last _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____ Class Year _____

Telephone _____ Email _____ Birthdate _____

Dues and Donations (Gifts are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations):

- Annual Dues \$20
 \$ _____ General Fund
 \$ _____ Wish List Fund
 Lifetime Dues \$150
 \$ _____ Scholarship Fund
 \$ _____ Other (Specify)

How would you like your **Newsnote** delivered? Email copy Print copy

Make checks to **Towson High Alumni Association** or pay online with a credit card at www.towsonhighalumni.org.

The Towson High School Alumni Association is a private, non-profit organization under IRS section 501©3.

In Memoriam

Continued from page 6

1948	Charlene Thibeault Murphy	4/24/2024
1949	Ruth Pritchett Riley	5/7/2024
1951	Jack Armstrong	12/27/2023
1951	Betsy Fauntleroy Marker	5/24/2024
1951	Richard May	3/4/2022
1951	Nancy Murray Wilhelm	8/14/2020
1952	Mary Lou Lynch Corbin	11/19/2023
1952	Frederick Feder	5/1/2024
1953	Ralph Gakenheimer	6/17/2024
1953	Nancy Sharrer Kinnear	7/26/2024
1953	Allan Machesney	8/3/2023
1954	Bud Aro	12/30/2022
1954	Jean Borges Hagen	10/6/2023
1954	Frank Kinnear	1/20/2020
1954	Phyllis Rosso Kress	7/9/2024
1954	Shirley Chenoweth Potter	2/14/2022
1954	Edward Walton	9/10/2023
1956	Dick Irvin	6/24/2024
1956	Edgar Kauffman	5/21/2024
1956	Dottie Hill Kaufmann	4/27/2023
1956	Frank Persohn	7/1/2024
1957	Priscilla Purington Daigle	5/7/2022
1957	Carl Hill	2/4/2011
1957	Tom Irvin	2/18/2022
1957	Bill Maxfield	4/4/2024
1957	Jane Feder Ringrose	4/7/2019
1958	Laurence Boardman	10/16/2023
1958	Patricia Ohler Hoffman	6/2024

1958	James Kane	2/26/2024
1958	Robert Turner	6/24/2024
1959	Sally Bishop Fronk	7/3/2024
1959	Kathy Hess Tenley	5/3/2024
1961	John Popp	10/19/2023
1962	Marcia Sibley Burgoon	3/31/2023
1963	Liz Lancaster Niner	5/8/2024
1963	Robert Noble	9/6/2024
1963	Carla Rozek Waple	6/24/2024
1964	Michael McCalley	4/27/2022
1965	Tom Garey	4/6/2024
1965	Glenn Hartman	5/25/2021

1965	Ray Wall	4/14/2023
1966	Deborah Hetzner Ridgely	1/2017
1966	Judy Belsinger Sams	5/28/2024
1966	Mike Schmidt	6/23/2024
1967	Barry Philipp	11/9/2023
1968	Patty Cox Waldman	3/28/2024
1969	Harold Bolton	3/13/2024
1970	Mike Eller	6/10/2024
1970	Bob Sleeper	6/24/2024
1971	Michael Buschman	Unknown
1973	Robert Fagan	9/15/2024

Continued on page 8



Towson High School Alumni Association

69 Cedar Avenue
Towson, MD 21286
Phone: (443) 809-7600

EMAIL
towsonhighalumni@bcps.org

WEBSITE
<http://towsonhighalumni.org>

FACEBOOK
Towson High Alumni Association, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janet Houck Kines '76
President

R. Todd Sestero '69
Vice President

Jennifer Green '90
Secretary & Social Media

John A. Hoffman '76
Art Direction & Publishing

Randy Dase '72
Board Member

Gil Stange '82
Board Member
Teacher Liaison

Mary Osmeier Weldy '76
Alumni Director



Towson High School Alumni Association
 c/o Towson High School
 69 Cedar Avenue
 Towson, MD 21286

Non Profit
 US Postage
 P A I D
 Baltimore MD
 Permit No. 1262

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Serial Mom

This year is the 30th anniversary of the John Waters film ‘Serial Mom’ which was filmed at Towson High School and in the surrounding neighborhoods.

The 1994 American cult classic, satirical dark comedy film, directed and written by John Waters, and starring Kathleen Turner, Sam Waterston, and Ricki Lake is the story of a seemingly perfect wife and mother from Baltimore, who gains celebrity status as a serial killer.

The film was recently release on Netflix and other streaming services. Watch it again or watch for the first time!



Towson High School Rebuild and Renovation Project Update

The very first stage of what is estimated to be a 5-year construction project has begun! A temporary building is being constructed on top of the tennis courts to house the classrooms needed to replace the modular classrooms currently on campus. This temporary building will have 20 classrooms, 2 bathroom, and be climate controlled.



In Memoriam

Continued from page 7

1973	Janice Franke	Unknown
1973	Harriet Boyd Funk	6/5/2024
1973	Peter Matt	11/22/2023
1973	Kathy Burkart Salter	8/1/2024
1976	Adele Shilko Akehurst	12/7/2023
1976	Robert Beasley	4/12/2024
1976	Scott Buschman	2/11/2024
1976	Wade Driscoll	11/9/2019
1976	Chip Gray	4/10/2024
1976	James Nelson	6/2024
1976	Bob Scodari	1/18/2024
1978	Peggy Gorman Crockett	2/26/2024
1978	Steven Verde	5/14/2024
1980	Karen Hevell	4/11/2010
1982	Shawn Ryan	5/11/2024
1983	Robert Diffenderfer	8/10/2024
1984	James Arthur	1/30/2023
1984	Thomas Becker	6/27/2023
1986	Dave Venable	7/8/2024
1991	Steve Kim	7/16/2023
1997	Missy King	10/12/2023

Do you know of anyone that has passed away recently? Please let us know so that we can share the information with classmates.