

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM OUR FRIENDS AT THE COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Columbia High School Scholarship Fund

The CHS Scholarship Fund was established over 80 years ago by the H.S.A. and endowed by Ida Grace Alexander, a CHS english teacher, to help students pursue post secondary education. Since then, hundreds of graduates have benefited from the program. Over \$52,000 was awarded to our recipients last spring.

With today's rising costs for education, more and more students apply for help. Many of our recipients are the first in their families to continue their education and the scholarships they receive are an integral part of helping them reach their goal. The awards are need-based and can be used for any kind of higher education: trade or technical school, two or four year college, and even graduate school.

The income from our endowment provides only a small portion of the money needed each year. We do extensive fundraising and community outreach. Some of our support also comes from individuals or groups who establish a scholarship to honor a particular person or the memory of a loved one. We are happy to report that some alumni classes have recently pooled their donations to establish scholarships.

Won't you please consider making a donation to help continue the tradition of a strong education that begins at CHS?

Please note that the Fund is operated by an independent group of community volunteers.

The CHSSF is a 501(c)3 corporation and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Matching gifts from employers are gratefully accepted.

For more information and to learn how we can work with you, please call our President, Joan Lee, at 973-763-8246 or email us at CHSSF2004@aol.com

Please make all checks payable to the CHSSF and send them to:

Columbia High School Scholarship Fund
P.O. Box 315 Maplewood, NJ 07040

The CHS Alumni Association wishes to thank the CHSSF for its contribution to helping make this newsletter mailing possible. The CHS Scholarship Fund would also like to recognize the recent donation of over \$7000 recently made by the class of 1956 after their reunion weekend. ♦

This mailing of THE COUGAR'S ROAR would not be possible without your support!

To pay your 2007 dues, fill out this form and return to:
CHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 242, Maplewood, NJ 07040
Dues for the 2007 Calendar Year: **\$25** if you graduated in or before 2001, **\$10** if you graduated in or after 2002.

NAME _____ (MAIDEN NAME _____) GRADUATION YEAR _____

ADDRESS _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues: \$ _____ Donation: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Looking for more ways to donate?

The CHSAA is currently investigating large-scale projects with possible naming opportunities. For more information, contact us at info@columbiaalumni.org.

Please make your checks payable to the Columbia High School Alumni Assn. If you would like to receive a membership card which will serve as your ticket into all sporting events, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope when you return this form.

Thank You!

**COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**
PO Box 242 Maplewood, NJ 07040
www.columbia-alumni.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
MAPLEWOOD, NJ
PERMIT No. 170

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Cougar's Roar



THE NEWSLETTER OF COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL'S ALUMNI ASSN.

Issue No. 2 February, 2007



Mark Your Calendars:

The 2007 Reunion of the CHS Florida Alumni Association will be held on February 24th and 25th in the Naples area. Contact Boies Coppinger, boiesc@earthlink.net for more info.

The All-School Musical, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" is the weekends of March 16-18th and 23-25th, 2007

The Class of 1957 Reunion will begin with a dinner Friday September 28th at the Maplewood Country Club followed by an afternoon of planned activities on Saturday. Contact Chickie Rosenberg at 973-325-0639 or email chickier@comcast.net for more info.

Class of 1977 30th Reunion will be on April 21st 2007

The 9th Annual Cougar Booster Golf Outing is on for Monday, April 30th at the Maplewood Country Club. For more information, go to www.chscougarboosters.org

The 2nd Annual Sports Hall of Fame Dinner will be on May 9th, 2007 at the Maplewood County Club. If you are interested in attending, please contact Roy Greenman '57 at 908-688-6444 for more info.

Class of 1987 20th Reunion will be November 23rd (for both the 1977 and 1987 classes) contact Reunions Unlimited at (732) 617-1000.

Class of 1997 10th Reunion will be over the Thanksgiving weekend, 2007. For more info or to get involved, e-mail ColumbiaHS1997@gmail.com

The class of '46 celebrates their 60th reunion

The following is excerpted from Bob Faig's newsletter to his classmates following the reunion.

In 1996, the class of 1946 held its 50th reunion which was attended by an inspiring group of 226 people. Unfortunately, this year's 60th reunion saw only a fraction of that, with 80 attending the "Saturday soiree" at The Madison Hotel in Morristown, NJ, on the 15th of September. Greeting the attendees in the Victorian Room for dinner were center pieces made of yellow mums and adorned with red and black ribbons arranged by Lou Bernstein and sponsored by Ted Baldwin. Lou had also restored a 7-foot tall "Joe Cougar" mascot-another "labor of love" for his classmates. Contributions to the record book for the event were made by '46ers Jeanne Schroeder Keyworth, Dorothy Huber, and Mary Muller Roller and contained art work by Carter Scattergood. The tables would not have been complete without some chocolate! June Poeple sponsored the commemorative wine glasses which were filled with cellophane wrapped red and black M&Ms which said "class of 46" on them!

A party is not complete without some music. In attendance were Susan Maskelaris (daughter of Steve, class of '45) who played the piano for the group. Two current CHS students also joined the party lending their talents to the soundtrack of the evening. The group sang the alma mater proudly which elicited some watery eyes. This tribute to the school was also a tribute to the parents of the alumni who were responsible for taking up residence in South Orange and Maplewood and choosing public schools for their children so that they may benefit from the marvelous curricula and warm

community that makes CHS what it was then and what it continues to be today.

Bob Faig, the coordinator of the reunion, wants to remind all his 1946 classmates and any other alumni who may be interested that a group of locals still meets every third Monday of the month at Charlie's Aunt, thier address is 8 South Passaic Ave in Chatham, NJ, for a "dutch treat." ♦

Class of '56 celebrates 50th

Excerpts reprinted from a letter to the Editor of the News-Record of Maplewood and South Orange.

On the weekend of October 21, 2006, 160 members of the Columbia High School Class of 1956 returned from near and far for a 50th reunion. We came to bask in the golden memories and old friendships. And, for those of us who hadn't been back for a while, we came to see how our school and hometowns were coping with the changes we had heard so much about.

Dr. Lovie Lilly, Columbia's acting principal, described the challenges and rewards of educating a diverse student population. Mayor Fred Profeta '57 discussed the problems Maplewood had experienced from changing and the actions taken to deal with them, as well as several interesting new initiatives. Alexandra Somers '97, a teacher at Columbia and President of the CHS Alumni Association, spoke to us about teaching in today's Columbia and took us on a tour of the high school. We recognized the unchanged core of the building, but we were amazed at all the wings that had been added.

The reunion continued at the Grand Summit Hotel on Sunday in Summit, NJ. The group had a record book put together for the event that included the senior section of the 1956 yearbook as well as current pictures and stories from classmates. ♦

When's my reunion?

The CHS Alumni Association is not currently centralizing reunion information because we often don't receive any information about them!

A great many classes use Reunions Unlimited who can be reached at (732) 617-1000. We will always try to post any information that comes our way on the website under "Reunion News & Info."

Please send any and all reunion information to the alumni association 6 months prior to the event so that it can be viewed on the website and possibly announced in the newsletter. Additionally, please DO NOT call the high school looking for reunion information.♦

CHS Alumni SPOTLIGHT

MAGGIE SUROVELL ACTRESS
Class of 1998

Most people remember Maggie from her high school days as the “white girl with the afro” who sings in the MLKA Gospel Choir. Maggie has taken that and many other experiences from her upbringing in Maplewood as well as her post-Maplewood life and rolled them into a one-woman show entitled *Warning Signs*. Maggie’s show has made its way from the Burgdorf Cultural Center in Maplewood to the Cherry Lane Theatre in Manhattan’s West Village neighborhood. Maggie’s success has been hailed by critics and fellow CHS classmates alike. Here’s a little more about her:

Maggie Surovell recently performed her comic one-woman show *Warning Signs* at Cherry Lane Theatre’s new after hours series *Cherry Pit Late Nite*. She has toured *Warning Signs* around the Metropolitan area including at Chashama, the Midtown International Theater Festival, Where Eagles Dare, ATHICA, Camp Kinderland, Underground Concert Series, Jimmy’s, and Stage Left Studios. She performed with Les Freres Corbusier in *Hell House* at Saint Ann’s Warehouse, with Alliance Theater Company in *Promise* in Atlanta, with Brat Theater Company in *The Vagina Monologues* in Philadelphia, with Stageworks/Hudson in *Dog Stories* in Hudson, NY and with FHB Productions in *Avalon* at The Looking Glass Theater where she was nominated for a spotlight award for best featured role in a full length play.

Maggie has done dialect coaching for shows at the Cherry Lane Theatre, New York Stage and Film’s Powerhouse Theater, Ensemble Studio Theater, Gotham Stage Company, and Broad Horizons Theatre Company. She received her MFA in Acting from the University of Georgia, holds a BA in Theater from Temple University, is an assistant Fitzmaurice Voice teacher and was a teaching apprentice with Pamela Prather in the MFA Actors speech class at the Yale School of Drama. Maggie is an Equity Membership Candidate.

Online at: <http://www.maggiesurovell.com>

JON REGEN MUSICIAN
Class of 1988

Listening to Jon Regen play is a wonderful experience. Having heard him for the first time on Valentine’s Day, 2005, I found that Jon puts forth so much emotion and playful enthusiasm into his music that music lovers of all genres can enjoy what Jon has to offer.

Jon was raised in Maplewood, New Jersey. Originally self-taught on his family’s aging grand piano at the age of five, Regen would lead his first professional group while still in his early teens.

He studied piano and music theory at The Eastman School of Music, and The University of Miami, eventually relocating back to his home state of New Jersey to apprentice world-renowned pianist Kenny Barron, at the Mason Gross School of The Arts, Rutgers University. Regen graduated with a Bachelor of Music degree, and quickly moved to New York City where his strong melodic and rhythmic approach to the piano did not go unnoticed.

Regen was named Runner-Up in the Great American Jazz Piano Competition, and was also chosen as one of only 2,000 pianists worldwide to hold the title of Steinway Artist. Bassist Kyle Eastwood asked Regen to anchor his touring band, where Regen remained until 2001, leaving to accompany jazz icon Jimmy Scott. Regen spent nearly three years alongside Scott, touring, recording, and performing across the U.S., Europe, and Asia. The New York Sun would write of Regen’s work with Scott: “Although the British press has described Mr. (Jamie) Cullum as ‘Sinatra in sneakers,’ he is a long way from having a Sinatra or Nat Cole-level vocal instrument. Likewise, he has less technique as a pianist than, say, Jimmy Scott’s prodigious accompanist, Jon Regen.”

Most recently, Jon has opened for world-renowned trumpeter Chris Botti on New Year’s Eve at The Blue Note in NYC; his new CD has been featured in Music Connection Magazine; and his song “Hold-Out Your Heart” was nominated for the 2006 Plain Folks Best Song Award.

Online at: <http://www.jonregen.com/>

CHS - ALUMNI Your News!

Thanks to **BOB MACKLER**, class of 1968 for sending this to us via e-mail:

I just recently began to receive the newsletter and, since I hold my time at Columbia near and dear to my heart, I thought I might briefly fill you in on this alum’s life.

I graduated Emerson College in 1972, went to work for NBC as a Page and from there went to CBS as a Post Production Editor. There, I was assigned to *As The World Turns* as an editor. In 2003 I won an Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Live-to-Tape Sound Mixing for a Drama Series, and this year I won again for Outstanding Achievement in Multiple Camera Editing for a Drama Series.

We tape our show in the old NBC studios in Brooklyn. The facility is now owned privately and is called JC Studios. The entire studio complex was built in 1906. It was called the Vitagraph Company and was the original Hollywood. It was sold to Warner Bros. in the 1920’s and then to NBC in the early 1950’s. It is where film history began.

When NBC owned it they produced The Kraft Music Hall, the *Perry Como Show*, the original *Cosby Show*, the long running daytime soap *Another World* and the Mary Martin version of *Peter Pan*, all done there. In the 70’s and 80’s when NBC would convert their Studio 8H to cover Election night, they would bring *Saturday Night Live* out to that location.

I currently live in Marlboro, NJ. I’m married with 3 beautiful children. How’s this for bizarre? My kids’ pediatric dentist is a guy I graduated Columbia with, Richard Heinowitz, class of ‘68. Also, living on a street behind me is another guy I graduated with Alan Truppo!

ROAR COUGAR ROAR!

Calling all Alumni Artists!

Were you an AP Studio Art student of **LARRY MCKIM**?

He is looking to put together a 20-year retrospective of past and current work of any alumni artists. If you are interested in getting involved with this project, e-mail him directly at ldmckim@earthlink.net.

Congratulations!

The CHSAA congratulates **CHRISTIAN SAHNER** class of 2003, now a senior at Princeton University, for being recently awarded the Rhodes Scholarship to study in England’s Oxford University. Christian is the first CHS alumnus to be awarded the scholarship since CARLA PETERMAN ‘93.

The Columbia High School community praises **JUDY LOBIANCO**, chairperson of the Heath and Physical Education Department, and her faculty for being awarded the NJ Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance’s Sal Abitanta Exemplary High School Physical Education Award for 2007.

This award recognizes outstanding high school physical education programs, which meet the highest standards of professional programming and provide a model that can be duplicated by other school districts throughout New Jersey.. Innovative courses like Women’s Health and Project Adventure contributed to the earning of this award.

COUGARS Online!

Follow alumnus **MICHAEL MANNING** class of 1998 on his journey through China, formerly teaching English and currently writing for Fodor’s Travel Guides. <http://china.notespecial.org>

Check out the website of musician **EYTAN USLAN** class of 1997 as he promotes his first CD *Carolina Moon* featuring songs from the ragtime and the roaring 20s era. Find samples from the CD online. www.uslanmusic.com

Are you a CHS FRIEND on FRIENDSTER? Send your requests to CHSFriendster@hotmail.com

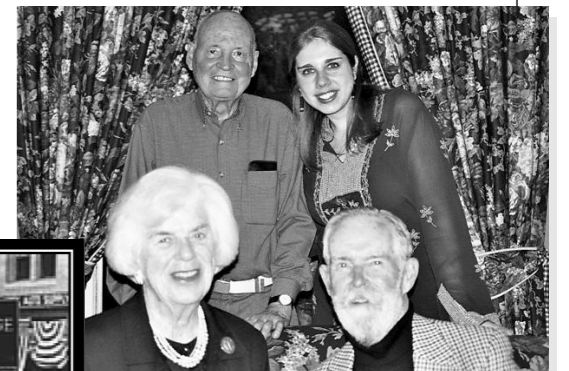
VISITING THE AREA? Want to attend a sporting event? Find all schedules online at www.chscougarboosters.org/schedules

A NOTE ON CYBERSPACE www.columbiahighalumni.com is not an official site of the CHS Alumni Association. Any information on that site is not maintained or checked by the CHSAA.

HAVE A BLOG OR A WEBSITE? Let us know! We’ll post the link online and in the newsletter!

Images of America:

South Orange Revisited



This fall, long-time South Orange resident and author Naoma Welk celebrated the release of her latest book *Images of America: South Orange Revisited*.

The success of her last book in the series on South Orange prompted the publishers to approach Naoma to do another one.

If you have seen any of these books, published all over America for hundreds of town, cities, and communities across the country, you know that the images from old postcards and photographs are price-less. The challenge Naoma faced in writing her new book was that she was not allowed to reuse any of the materials from the last book. Turning to Maryland of the Oranges, the CHS archives, the Seton Hall University archives, and many other individual sources, Naoma has once again put together a magnificent book!

In contrast to South Orange, which was published in 2002 and written by subject chapters, *South Orange Revisited* is presented

in a timeline format. Each chapter spans 20 years, beginning with events in 1860 and continuing until 1979. In addition to Village and residents’ events, Naoma includes world headlines and inventions that help put life in South Orange in context with the changing times.

There are several vignettes in the latest book, such as: Circa 1880, Herman Melville’s youngest daughter, Frances Melville Thomas lived with her husband and children on Vose Avenue. Her father (author of *Moby Dick*) lived in New York City and frequently took the train to Mountain Station, where he disembarked and walked the very short distance to his daughter’s home.

The picture above was taken at the book party held at the home of Naoma Welk, October, 2006. Back: Carlton Riker ‘37 and CHSAA President Alex Somers ‘97, seated: Mary Feketic ‘43 and Gates Helms ‘42.

South Orange Revisited (Arcadia Publishing) is available online through Amazon.com or at local bookstores in the Essex County, NJ, area. ♦

THANKS from the CHSAA president

I’m so very happy that this is the third newsletter we have been able to get out to you all. Whereas writing the newsletter is not so difficult for me, I am not very good at doing the graphic design...

I send my over-whelming thanks to **DAN PERLMUTTER** class of ‘79, for lending his expertise, time, and creative energy in designing a world-class newsletter for us, all the way from Scottsdale Arizona! Dan can be reached via his email at danoperl@cox.net

With any mailing comes returned mail. The time required for inputting your new addresses is simply unable to be completed by one person. My many thanks to current seniors **REGINA CHARLES**, **VETCHAY VILVERT**, **HADIXON MATTHEWS**, and **REUBEN LAURORE** for choosing the CHSAA to be the recipient of their volunteer time as now all senior health classes at CHS require community service hours.

Finally, thank you to my fellow trustees for their time and contributions to putting out this newsletter. However, without the dues paying members of the CHSAA, this mailing would not be possible! So thank you to all dues payers, too!! I hope you received our holiday note.

—Alexandra Somers ‘97