

Sigma Alpha Rho Fraternity Alumni Association



The A.K. NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2018

www.saralumni.com

Sigma Alpha Rho Alumni Association Board of Directors

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* Deceased

President's Message . . .

WE DID IT! After almost 3 years of phone calls, emails, meetings and planning, the 100th Anniversary Reunion of Sigma Alpha Rho became a reality on October 15th. Six Hundred brothers converged on the Marriott Hotel in downtown Philadelphia to celebrate this momentous occasion. This was truly an event to remember.

At the Reunion we had brothers in attendance from 22 states, the Cayman Islands, the Virgin Islands and from Canada.

In this newsletter we will have random photos from the Reunion. We are revamping our Alumni website which will have an area dedicated to photos from the Reunion which will be posted at **www.saralumni.com**. If you have pictures from the Reunion that you would like to be included on the website, please email to sg196@aol.com.

I want to thank Jerry Segal and Stuart Discount for their fantastic job in planning and running this event. Every detail was addressed and the brunch went off like a "well-oiled machine". You could feel the energy in the room. I received dozens of emails after the event from brothers noting what a great time they had.

I also want to thank Carl Bagell and Fred Ratner for putting together an amazing SAR 100th Anniversary Tribute Book.

Many attendees commented on the quality and content contained in the book. Our 100-year history was very well represented.

Without the sponsors many of the amenities at the Reunion would not have been possible. On behalf of the Alumni Association and every brother attending the Reunion, we want to thank you for stepping up to help make this event such a success.

On the days prior to the Sunday brunch, the Alumni Association hosted a hospitality suite at the Marriott. Local, as well as out of town brothers, were able to stop by to socialize and catch up with old friends.

I would like to ask everyone to please check the paid membership list accompanying this newsletter. If your name is not on the list, please consider joining the Alumni Association. The dues are very reasonable and help to keep the Alumni Association going.

Thank you for making the decision in high school to join Sigma Alpha Rho. Without you, SAR could never have reached this milestone.

Wishing you and your family a Happy and Healthy 2018.

Fraternally,

Steve

Brother Steve Greenberg Alumni Association President

100th ANNIVERSARY REUNION

October 15, 2017. After 100 years in the making and 1000 days in the planning, Philadelphia's reputation as the "City of Brotherly Love" was forever cemented as more than 600 Sigma Alpha Rho alumni from more than 22 states and 5 countries gathered at Philadelphia's center city Marriott to celebrate and commemorate the hundred years' worth of "honor, truth, and wisdom" that "built our great fraternity".

Four miles and four generations from the West Philadelphia neighborhood where 11 young men first banded together as a "social club," hundreds of SAR men ranging in age from their 20's through their 80's gathered together to rekindle old friendships, share stories, catch up on the latest gossip (even if some of it was decades old), and just embrace the joy of being together.

Despite the more than ample space of hotels' massive breakfast ballroom (the size of a football field), the room was too small. Too small to contain all the love. Too small to contain all the smiles. Too small to contain all the memories...not to mention too small to contain all the handshakes or the hugs. And yet somehow, it was it was perfect.

The several dozen Past Supreme Exalted Rulers, International Honorary Active and Royal Order of the Gleaming Eye alumni seated on the two-tier dais were able to look out upon the entire ballroom, and what we saw was beautiful. Table after table filled with "brothers all". And just like every gathering of SAR men the decibel level was through the roof, and in the words of a one-time pledge from Brooklyn's Erasmus High School it was a "Beautiful Noise".

It would be irresponsible and irreverent to simply recall how much "fun" the day (and for some out of towners the weekend) was, and not, as our fraternity's song demands... "tell about

the memories of those of us who died". Every Brother who was in attendance could easily recall two or three or four or more "guys from their chapter" whose untimely passing diminished all of us. Especially poignant were the losses who were more than just "guys from their chapter". Too many brothers in the room had lost extended or immediate family members, a loss that all of us sincerely share.

It would also be irresponsible not to lavish credit and praise on those brothers who spent the better part of the past four years making the "concept" of a 100th AnniverSARy into the wonderful weekend enjoyed by all. The backbreaking, painstaking, time consuming hard work of the Alumni Association Board, their Members at Large, those who made the Tribute Book an editorial and financial success, the amazing financial generosity of key alumni, and the many other brothers who just "kinda' helped out" all played a role in creating the greatest chapter of SAR history...so far.

The first hundred years of SAR is now history...and what a magnificent history it is. It was a history in which each and every one of us played a vital and important role. Who knows what the next hundred years will bring? Personally, I don't have a clue. But I know that the alumni association will always be a big part of it. And (hopefully) when we all get back together for the 200th AnniverSARy (site to be determined), we'll still be filled with the "spirit of the greatest organization on earth (or anyplace else). Fraternally,

Don Benn

Don Benn – Omega Past Supreme Exalted Ruler

An Event to Remember . . .

THE A.K. NEWSLETTER

















More Reunion photos available at www.saralumni.com

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ALUMNI NEWS

Seymour (Sy) Beiser (Theta lota) is still practicing two days a week after more than 50 years. Sy is a Past president of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons and also Past President of the Florida Podiatric Medical Association and resides in Miami. . . Ben Lafazan (Upsilon 63) is a C.P.A. with Wolinetz, Lafazen & Co. CPA's PC. . . Martin Weissman (Sigma 47) is retired from the development and construction business. Martin is active in many organizations. . . Bruce Genter MD, FACS (Omega 66) runs the Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Center in Feasterville, PA . . . Gordon Basichis (Zeta Tau 64) is the co-founder of Cora Group which conducts employment screening, due diligence, corporate research and investigation both domestically and globally. Gordon recently authored his fifth book "The Cuban Quartet . . . Michael Neff (Delta Theta 69) connected with Bro. Steve Kaplan to do a home & home at both of their golf clubs this year. Michael lives in Florida 6 months a year and is married to the girl he dated in his SAR days. . . David Schiff (Upsilon Kappa 56) is a retired school psychologist. David volunteers with many organizations, Habitat for Humanity, Hospice care and AARP. . . Mark David Seltzer Esq. (Xi 63) has moved his career from a litigation practice to Gestalt Based Therapeutic Support, Counsel & Coaching; in office, concierge and on line. Mark also serves as a volunteer Judge Pro Tempore for the Philadelphia Common Pleas Courts. . . Bruce Pearlstein (Tau Xi 63) has retired from the Kansas City Star Newspaper. His last position was publisher of the Book Publishing division. He still is doing some freelance writing. Prior to joining the Star, Bruce had an Advertising Agency which he sold in 1999. . . Harvey Salkow (Epsilon 68) lives in Scottsdale, AZ and works in commercial real estate with Berkshire

2018 SOUTH FLORIDA REUNION

Save the Date! The 2018 South Florida Reunion will be held on Sunday, February 25, 2018.

A good time, great memories and friendships (then and new ones made now) are the foundations of this Reunion. If you vacation or winter in Florida, try to be in town on February 25.

As in past years, all brothers are invited to this brunch. Last year, brothers from the following 19 chapters attended the brunch: Phi, Sigma, Theta, Omega, Eta, Gamma, Iota, Delta Theta, Theta Epsilon, Beta Tau, Theta Iota, Delta Nu, Zeta Theta, Zeta Sigma, Zeta Iota, Theta Theta, Alpha Sigma, Phi Omega and Tau Lambda. It would be nice to see more brothers and more chapters represented this year.

For further information or details please contact:

Mike Jacobs (305) 466-9527 mikejacobsfl@aol.com **Joel Hollander** (814) 931-7473 jhollander1@yahoo.com

HOPE TO SEE YOU ON FEBRUARY 25.

Hathaway. . . Richard Gittelman (Phi 53) is a retired Associate Professor of Accounting at the University of Maryland. Richard also retired from his Tax Accounting Practice and lives in Gaithersburg, MD. . . Ted Spivak (Sigma 54) is retired and splitting his time between Florida and New Jersey. Ted still enjoys playing golf and tennis. . . Stuart M. Lazar (Tau Xi 64) is the owner of a worksite Marketing Insurance Agency providing benefit communication and voluntary benefits to employees of larger employers. Stuart resides in Phoenix AZ. . . Emanuel (Manny) Gladstone (Theta Epsilon 43) 89 years' young included a copy of his induction card from August 13, 1943. The card was signed by SER Robert Miller and Supreme Exchequer Harold "Whitey" Weissman. Manny was a Marine Infantry man in latter part of World War II and claims that "He can Still Kick Ass". . . Ed Pressman (Tau Xi 54) was a realtor and after 18 months of retirement decided to "get back into the game". Ed lives in Delary Beach Florida. . . Eddie Brown (Tau Xi 63) is the CFO of Cherry Hill Volvo for the past 11 years. Eddie has been CFO at many dealerships during his career. . . Bruce Bruskoff, DPM (Tau Xi 66) is a Podiatric Surgeon. . . Edwin Ogen (Epsilon 52) is a retired Pharmacist. . . David Rosenfeld (Sigma 62) is a retired attorney. . . Gene Wolff (Sigma 54) is a retired revenue agent who worked for the IRS. . . Marvin Frankil (Tau Epsilon 52) contacted 7 or 8 members of his chapter and most attended the Reunion. All had fond memories of SAR and many recalled the 1954 Convention in New York. . . Ronnie Chakler (Omega 68) is a Senior Managing Director with American Portfolios in Newtown PA. . . Jerry Warshaw (Alpha Sigma) was President and COO of presidential Life Insurance Company. Jerry has been a frequent lecturer at Stern College Graduate School of Business at New York University. He has also written for many industry magazines and periodicals as well as speaking at many International conferences. Jerry is the Vice President of the Board of Directors of Share Africa and is an advisor to the United Nations, helping member states develop their insurance industries. . . Barry Novick (Delta Omega 66) is the owner of Accu Claim Public Adjusters and recalls the great memories of his days in SAR.

Website Update

The Alumni Association is consolidating our website and our Reunion website into one site. The updated website address will be **www.saralumni.com**. Hopefully by the time you receive the newsletter most of the updates will have been completed.

The new site will have tabs with the Reunion, chapter and era photos. We currently have approximately 125 photos from the Reunion already on the site. If anyone has Reunion, chapter or fraternity photos that they would like posted on the site, please email the photos to **sg196@aol.com**.

Past editions of the Alumni Newsletters will also be available on the updated site.

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!

If your name DOES NOT appear below your dues have not been paid. The list includes those Brothers who will have their dues expire at the end of 2018 or later. If your Dues/Membership expired in 2017, your name is NOT on the list. PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES NOW!!!

Dues are nominal, \$10.00 per year, \$36.00 for five years or \$150.00 for a lifetime membership. We cannot afford to continue sending you information about our Association unless you are a member. **PLEASE HELP!**

PLEASE USE THE FORM ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE FOR YOUR DUES OR TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION. A RETURN ENVELOPE HAS BEEN PROVIDED.

MICHAEL ABELSON DOUGLAS ABRAMSON GILBERT B. ABRAMSON, ESQ. RUDOLPH ARKIN, CLU BOB ARONSON LARRY SCOTT AUERBACH, ESQ. MATT BAGELL CARL BAGELL LEONARD BALK LESLIE BANKOFF MICHAEL BARMASH HENRY S. BERKS LARRY BLUMENTHAL CLIFF BOTWIN, M.D. BARRY BRANDEIS CHARLES BRODSKY NEAL BROIDY LARRY CAPLAN **BICK CARTIFR** MARC COHEN

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SIGMA ALPHA RHO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Dues Payment & Information Update Form

If your name does not appear on the preceeding lists PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES NOW by choosing one of the following membership options and filling in the info below:

\$10.00 – One Year

\$36.00 (DOUBLE CHAI) Five Years

\$150.00 Lifetime member

Please enclose your information and dues made payable to SAR Alumni Association in the enclosed envelope and mail to:

Brother Jerry Jaffe 5027 S. Convent Lane • Apt. B Philadelphia, PA 19114

PLEASE SEND US		
YOUR		
E-MAIL ADDRESS		

If you have already paid your dues please send us the updated information below.

Name	Chapter
Address	Approx. Induction Year
City	State Zip
Email address	
Cell Phone	Home Phone
BUSINESS DIRECTORY INFORMATION (Will not be shared with anyone outside of SAR)	
Occupation	Company Name
Business Phone	Business E-mail
College Attended	Graduation Year

TELL US WHAT YOU ARE UP TO!

We are always interested to know what our fellow Brothers are doing and including the info in our newsletters. Fill us in!