

MINUTES of a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc held at the offices of Shereff, Friedman, Hoffman and Goodman at 919 Third Ave., New York City on May 7, 1989. Present were:

Norman Bernstein
Alvin Dobsevage
Lester Friesner
Irving Gerber
Julius Graber
Arthur Graham
Saul Grossman
Gerald Halpern
Eugene Heil
Arthur Katz
Malcolm Largmann
Morton Lisser, Presiding
Maury Paprin
Ted Peck
Henry Shereff
Kenneth Shorter
Sidney Silverman
Dan Wallach

Also present were Peter Joseph and Mike Prujansky of the PTA.

Henry Shereff opened the meeting and informed us that Hal Spielman couldn't make this morning's meeting due to his wife's illness and Mort Lederman was in the hospital recuperating from a gall bladder removal. We all wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them soon. Henry also distributed the list of colleges which have accepted THHS Class of '89 students. The Board was duly impressed!

Henry was informed by an acquaintance who works at the UN that THHS students have won two medals in an essay competition in four categories of current affairs.

Maury Paprin urged all Board Members to contribute at least \$100. to an Alumni Fund in honor of Henry Shereff. Mort Lisser noted that we have already received several contributions totalling more than \$3,000. Sid Silverman and Gene Heil spoke glowingly of Henry's contribution to this organization. Ted Peck pointed out that the absence of a contribution did not show a lack of affection, just a lack of funds.

Sid Silverman proposed that the funds collected be set up in our records as the Henry Shereff Fund and that \$2,500 of this amount be used to endow an annual award for leadership and the balance of the income to be used for general purposes.

Henry claimed he was paraphrasing a well known quote by saying that he has never been so honored as in his departure. Maury Paprin proposed Henry for the Townsend Harris Medal awarded by the CCNY Alumni and urged all of us to call committee members who make this selection.

Mort Lisser called our attention to Norman Merino's letter. Mort said he had met with a group of officers just prior to the meeting and proposed that 1) Minutes be sent out in draft form when they are prepared rather than wait for the next meeting when they are approved; 2) A liaison person be appointed for each Chapter. This person will be in call each chapter president after every Board meeting. Mort also reviewed for the Board the history of the \$800. refund sent in by the Florida Chapter.

Sid Silverman wanted to know if chapter news is written up in our newsletter. He was assured of that by Irv Gerber. Sid suggested that the chapters be advised of publication dates and requested to get their releases in on time. Gerry Halpern recommended that a Board representative attend all annual meetings of chapters, travel expenses to be borne by the Alumni.

The following volunteered and/or were appointed as liaisons to the chapters: Southern California - Mort Lisser; Florida - Irv Gerber; New England - Julie Graber; Washington, DC - Ted Peck; San Francisco - Saul Grossman; Arizona - Irv Gerber. Sid Silverman suggested a letter go out to all chapters notifying them of these appointments. Mort assured his this would be done. Henry said that he had spoken to Norman Merino about the need to get more dues paying members among the many Alumni now living in Florida.

Mal Largmann reported on recent school activities. He referred to the list of college acceptances which had been distributed to us. THHS alumni are doing well at colleges as witness the greater number of acceptances from schools which have Alumni attending. Mal called particular attention to Cornell which has accepted 24 seniors to date. Mal noted with pride the number of minority students from THHS who were doing so well at the various colleges. Dr Leonard Goldwater Class of '17 or '18 (endowed the Dept of Occupational Medicine at Duke U.) has contacted Mal asking for a THHS diploma that he never got around to picking up. Mal will comply. This prompted Gene Heil to request a

diploma since he never "bothered" to go back to school and get his after graduation. The school was visited by representatives of the US Dept. of Education in connection with the search for "Schools of Excellence". Mal believes that we made a good impression.

Mal continued, noting that the senior class was in Colonial Virginia this weekend. Graduation was scheduled for 7PM on June 22nd. There will be a school orientation for the new class on June 1st. A total of 245 acceptances were mailed out and an entering class of about 200 was expected. Mal is concerned about one class which was admitted without interviews or papers. They don't seem to have the same enthusiasm as the other classes. The 19 who were enrolled from Andrew Jackson last year are a continuing problem. A few are leaving in June, some are marginally passing but the remainder are failing one or more subjects but are "having a good time" in a non threatening atmosphere and are just staying and repeating.

Gene Heil spoke to us of a conversation he had with Ken Shorter. We are too defensive when we speak of the need for superior education for bright students. There is no need for us to be so timorous. Let's speak out for what we believe!

Gerry Halpern asked if we could get an evaluation of grading processes at various schools so we could properly score the students' averages. Gerry also asked if the Board Of Education

had resolved the problem of timely notification of applicants to THHS and why don't we disregard regulations forbidding essays as part of the admission process.

Mal replied 1) No formal evaluation but we are developing a historical record; 2) Not completely, Exam schools still get a one month edge in the mailing of notifications; 3) Cannot! In any event there isn't enough time between receiving the list from the Board of Education and the time when selections must be made. Mal believes that we are doing an excellent job selecting students now and it would not be significantly improved by an exam. Henry pointed out that our present plan was to have the exam as only one step in a multi phase process of admissions. Mal concluded adding that Elizabeth Holzman and Joseph Flom had been invited to commencement.

Gerry Halpern asked how many of our graduates are in Queens College? Mal told us that between 30 to 35 are presently enrolled, most in the honors program with full tuition paid. Dr. Kenny is delighted with the quality of the students from THHS. Mal added that all concerned are surprised at the number of students opting for Teaching.

Mort Lisser noted a most positive meeting with Henry and the representatives of the Dept of Education when they were at the school. Mort then asked for our approval of June 18, Sept 10, Oct 15, Nov 12 and Dec 10 as our meeting dates for the balance of

the year. So approved.

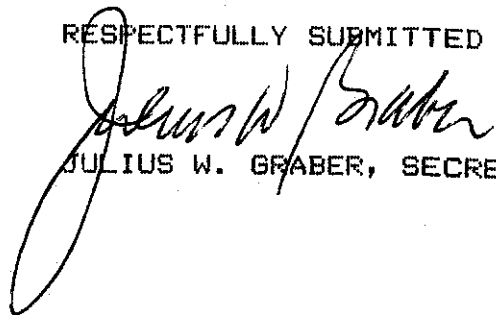
Ted Peck reported on the status of the Hall of Fame Dinner. No formal choice has been made but the committee is leaning toward the Plaza Hotel on either Nov 12 or 19. The selection of the Plaza being contingent on Mary Paprin exercising his charms on Leona Helmsley and getting a substantial price break. In the absence thereof we would consider the Hyatt. The Board consensus was for the Nov 19 date. Ted proposed Richard Rodgers, David Schonbrun, Edward G. Robinson, Ira Gershwin and Bennett Cerf as the posthumous awardees and Jonas Salk, Herman Wouk, George Weissman, Eugene Lang, Stanley Fuld, Herbert Hauptman, Julian Schwinger, Leon Levy, Kenneth Arrow and Joseph Flom as living awardees. Ted is writing to all of them and hopes to get most of them to the dinner. Ted requested approval for his appointment as "Director of the Hall of Fame" and setting aside the sum of \$15. per ticket for a public relation fee and costs. It was so approved. We were all reminded that we are committed to purchase two tickets!

Sid Silverman emphasized the importance of getting class tables together.

Mort presented the 1989/90 budget which was approved with the addition of another \$1,500. for Faculty Enrichment Programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julius W. Graber". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned over the printed name below it.

JULIUS W. GRABER, SECRETARY