



THE 2016 OVERBROOK EXPERIENCE



The Overbrook Experience evening began with guests enjoying cocktails in the cloister

More than 200 friends and supporters of Overbrook School for the Blind attended the Third Annual Overbrook Experience Dinner on World Sight Day, Thursday, October 13th, 2016.

Guests were welcomed by OSB Executive Director and CEO, Gerald Kitzhoffer, and OSB Board of Trustees President, Rick Wheeler, who introduced the evening's special guest speaker, Jane Pepper. Ms. Pepper is President of the Board of Trustees of Longwood Gardens and former President of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, and she delivered remarks on the impact that horticulture/agriculture opportunities can have on OSB's students.

One of the highlights of the evening was the naming of the future OSB Greenhouse, now to be known as the **M. Christine Murphy Horticulture Education Center**, thanks to a generous contribution by OSB Board Member, Sid Rosenblatt, in memory of his wife. He was joined for the announcement by

his daughter, Anna. Ms. Murphy was a Board Member, neighbor, and longtime friend of Overbrook School for the Blind.

This year's Overbrook Experience Dinner featured a cocktail hour that incorporated a beer garden featuring Moss Mill Brewing Company, Yards Brewing Co. and SLY FOX BEER. An outdoor tented dinner followed on the grounds near the OSB Edible Orchard. Guests also had the opportunity to purchase a bottle of wine from the wine wall and bid on amazing items during the silent auction like Philadelphia sports packages, gift baskets, hand crafted home decorations, and much more.

More than \$90,000 was raised at the Overbrook Experience Dinner in support of construction efforts for the M. Christine Murphy Horticulture Education Center.

Special thanks to the event's Co-Chairs, OSB Board of Trustee Member, Robert L. Pratter, Esq. and former OSB Board of Trustee member, Pooh Gephart.

continued inside

Overbrook School for the Blind Announces Upcoming Retirement of Executive Director and CEO Gerald Kitzhoffer



**"Jerry's retirement will cap
nine years of achievement
and growth."**

After forty-two years of service in the field of special education for persons with visual impairment, Gerald Kitzhoffer has announced his retirement as Executive Director and CEO of Overbrook School for the Blind effective June 30, 2017.

"Jerry's retirement will cap nine years of achievement and growth," said Warwick S. Wheeler, Chair of OSB's Board of Trustees. "He has left a tremendous legacy that we are excited to capitalize on as we begin the search for a new executive director."

Under Kitzhoffer's leadership, Overbrook School for the Blind has substantially improved programming for its students, further developed the staff's expertise, completed an aquatic center and plans for a new horticultural center, instituted systematic planning procedures, and grown its financial resources to ensure that OSB is well positioned for the future.

"The year 2017 will be a milestone for Overbrook School for the Blind, marking the organization's 185th anniversary," noted Wheeler. "The Board of Trustees and I thank Jerry for fostering and maintaining Overbrook School for the Blind's rich legacy in the field of educating students with blindness and visual impairment."

Overbrook School for the Blind will be conducting a national search to identify the next executive director. Details of the search process will be posted on the school's website at www.obs.org.



OSB students celebrated the grand opening of the Huskies Cafe this fall. Formerly known as Cody's Cafe, the Huskies Cafe has a new logo, new look, and new snacks and treats for staff and students to enjoy.



TOWERS NEWSLETTER
Vol. 70, No. 4, Fall 2016
Overbrook School for the Blind
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
Established 1832

OVERBROOK SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2016-2017

President
Warwick S. Wheeler

Vice Presidents
Robert L. D'Anjolell
Robert B. Gallant
J. Freedley Hunsicker, Jr., Esq.
Elizabeth Passanante Rodriguez

Treasurer
Joseph T. Doyle, Jr.

Secretary
Marjorie G. Stein

Members
F. Howard Braithwaite
Bruce J. Fenster
John W. Goldschmidt, Jr.
Bryant M. Greene
Jacqueline Keenan
Anne Marble
Vincent McVeigh
James J. Murphy
Robert L. Prattter, Esq.
Sid Rosenblatt
David B. Ross
Emmeline VanderZwaag

OSB Executive Director and CEO
Gerald Kitzhoffer

Gloria A. Pfeiffer
gloria@obs.org
Editor

Denise Mihalik
denise@obs.org
Photos



00816

FOLLOW US



THE 2016 OVERBROOK EXPERIENCE



1. OSB Board of Trustees Member Sid Rosenblatt with OSB Executive Director and CEO Gerald Kitzhoffer
2. Special guest speaker Jane Pepper
3. OSB Board of Trustees Member, Emmeline VanderZwaag, who has assisted with the planning of the Overbrook Experience Dinner since its inception three years ago.
4. OSB Experience Co-Chairs: former OSB Board of Trustee member Pooh Gephart and OSB Board of Trustee Member Robert L. Pratter, Esq.
5. Guests Richard Fidler and Joanne Hunter enjoyed the presentations.
6. Guests enjoyed dinner under the tent and a video presentation about the projects and programs at OSB, including the M. Christine Murphy Horticulture Education Center.
7. A rendering of the future M. Christine Murphy Horticulture Education Center, provided by Daley & Jalboot Architects.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



(pictured left to right), New OSB Board Members Bruce Fenster, Anne Marble, and James Murphy

BRUCE FENSTER

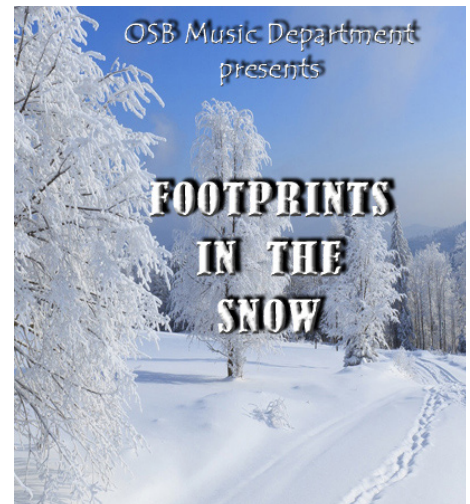
Mr. Fenster is a Partner with CIO Wealth Partners. He has also been Executive Director and Personal Financial Services Practice Leader at Ernst and Young, and a Director at Price Waterhouse Coopers. Mr. Fenster is a graduate of Drexel University, a Certified Public Accountant, and a Certified Financial Planner. In addition, he has a Masters of Taxation from Villanova Law School.

ANNE MARBLE

Ms. Marble has served as PC Clerk of Overseers and Overseer for the William Penn Charter School. She is also the Founder and President of the Caramanico Foundation which has established three schools in rural Cambodia. She is a fine art printmaker and painter and has served on the boards of Wilmington College, Main Line Art Center, and Friends School Haverford. She was formerly the CEO of A.D. Marble and Company. Ms. Marble holds a degree in biology from Earlham College and a Masters from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Fine Arts.

JAMES MURPHY

Mr. Murphy is the Chief Financial Officer for Patriot Financial Manager of Philadelphia. He is also the proud father of an OSB Elementary Program student. Mr. Murphy is a CPA and Chartered Global Management Accountant who has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Temple University. Mr. Murphy has also cofounded a young professionals group (GF Network) that meets regularly and uses the proceeds from their events as a donation to various charities, of which OSB has been the recipient. He is also a Founding Member of the Aniridia Running Club that benefits the Vision for Tomorrow Foundation.



Save the Date!

THE OSB MUSIC DEPARTMENT
PROUDLY PRESENTS
FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH AT 7 P.M.
MAIN AUDITORIUM

Footprints In The Snow is a musical concert featuring the talents of our Mixed Ensemble, Mixed Choir, Encore Singers and Bell Choir. Under the direction of Mr. Christopher Sapienza and Mr. James Palmer, OSB students will share their talents as they present songs which welcome in the holiday spirit.

From *Christmas Is Coming* to *A Hanukkah Wish*, *Candlelight Canon* to the title song, *Footprints In The Snow*, you will be taken back to a simpler time when what was important during the holiday season wasn't shopping and receiving gifts, but rather, spending time with family and friends.

PEACE, LOVE AND JOY TO ALL!

NEW COORDINATORS

Two familiar OSB faces have taken on new positions this year. Bob Ashbridge, who previously led the School To Work Program, is now the Coordinator of Transition Services. Susan Vaughan, formerly an OSB High School teacher, is now the Coordinator for the School To Work Program.



NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Top Row, left to right: Zachary Altman (Lifeguard), Allison Failing (Middle School Teacher), Joseph Arana (Housekeeping)

Middle Row: Sarah Keenan (Middle School Teacher)

Bottom Row, left to right: Jessica Suppa (Physical Education Teacher), Maria Santana (Housekeeping), Darina Cici (ParaEducator Substitute)

Not Pictured: Elizabeth Fox (School to Work Teacher), Lisa Wilson (ParaEducator Substitute), Marquise Nelson (ParaEducator Substitute)

HAPPENINGS AT OSB



1



2



4



3

1. Walter Ducret

OSB Orientation and Mobility Instructor, Walter Ducret, was chosen as the Outstanding Provider of Outreach Services by the Principals of Schools for the Blind and received this national award at the Council of Schools and Services for the Blind meeting in October in Louisville, KY. Congrats, Walter!

2. VisionWalk

Three students from the OSB Music Department sang the National Anthem to kick off the 10th Annual Foundation Fighting Blindness VisionWalk Philadelphia. Students Shaniyah S., Madeline N., and Elijah M., joined OSB Music Director Christopher Sapienza, to lead the nearly 100 VisionWalk participants as they set out on a one-mile walk through Old City to bring awareness to visual disabilities.

3. OSB Student Shaniyah S.

participated in Space Camp for Interested Visually Impaired Students (SCIVIS) in Huntsville, Alabama for a week. Shaniyah took part in camp sessions that were designed around simulated space missions conducted in Space Shuttle orbiter mockups. Trainees learned the basics of shuttle operation, how astronauts live in a space station, and the science and history of the space program.

4. Student Council

Congratulations to the newly-elected 2016-2017 OSB Student Council Officers: Treasurer Angela C., President Shaniyah S., and Secretary Tyler R. (*not pictured*: Vice President Shamirah B.)



6333 Malvern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 7472
Philadelphia, PA

Last Notes...

We recently improved our online presence, profile and—most importantly—our online accessibility for web users who are blind and visually impaired. Take a look around our remodeled website at www.obs.org for the latest information on what's happening on our campus each day.

Visit www.obs.org

SPECIAL THANKS

To PERC

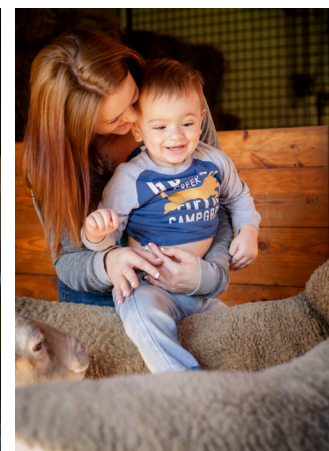
Our parent organization—for contributing to the purchase of the new performance wardrobe for the Encore Singers in the Music Department.

For the recent donations:

Over \$4,000 worth of contributions—to the OSB Music Department: Stage lighting for the auditorium: Dewey Oriente, from the Jack M. Barrack Hebrew Academy

For the following Instruments:

Violin/Saxophone—JoAnn Logowski; Cello—Joy Doherty; Violin—Carole LaSala Gammarino; Clarinet—Karin McGettigan; Fender Acoustic Guitar—Anonymous; Microphone/Mic stand/Amp—Mr. and Mrs. James Madden



WE ARE GRATEFUL TO The Barn at Spring Brook Farm

for hosting our Early Intervention and Outreach families. The Barn at Spring Brook Farm is a non-profit organization in West Chester, PA, that provides animal-assisted activities to enrich the lives of children with disabilities.

