

REFLECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2019

NEWSLETTER: NEWS, EVENTS AND ALUMNI UPDATES



LEARNING THROUGH HISTORY AND CULTURE. BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS AND COMMUNITY.

Each June, a number of Rockway students fundraise to experience a nineteen day exchange visit with Rockway's host school Weierhof Gymnasium in Germany. After visiting the Rhineland-Palatinate region, the group travels to Paris and then on to Strasbourg.

Faculty recall that early on, cellphones were cast aside on the grass while Canadian and German students played volleyball and ping pong at the hostel in Heidelberg. Teachers witnessed more community when students sang in harmony as soon as they got into the Mennonite church in Weierhof village.

Like anyone in Europe this summer, participants learned to navigate the exceptional heat wave. Without air conditioned rooms, they located public swimming places and took advantage of time spent on air conditioned buses and in air conditioned museums.

The trip did push students to do new things, and hopefully, grow as individuals. Throughout, students looked out for each other with care and concern, whether it was ensuring everyone got on and off the Métro or talking about making good choices. Students learned to face any challenges with maturity, and with support from faculty and host families; another lasting reminder of the value of new found friendships and community.

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Spiritual Emphasis Week

healthy relationships:

LET'S TALK ABOUT POWER, SEX AND SPIRITUALITY

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK 2019 September 24-26



We share parents' concern for students' health and well-being. And also appreciate that sometimes, students and families need space, support and resources to explore important conversations, particularly ones that relate to students' spirituality and making healthy choices. This is what inspires Rockway's annual Spiritual Emphasis Week.

This year, the conversation focuses on 'power, sex and spirituality'. Building healthy relationships in community involves careful choices about how we express our sexuality and spirituality. It means paying close attention to our bodies and to our own power.

At three all-school chapels with students, faculty and staff, Dr. Carol Penner will use a story from the Bible about Joseph to help us think about power and consent. We'll explore intimacy and abuse as we look at stories from our lives and our culture. We'll talk about learning to make good choices about sex and how bad choices impact our lives, and how our core spiritual values can help us survive and thrive.

Chapel titles include:

- Tuesday – *Joseph: Power and Abuse*
- Wednesday – *Healthy Relationships: Sex and Power*
- Thursday – *Living Out Our Values in Community*

Dr. Penner teaches practical theology at Conrad Grebel University College. She has a Ph.D. in Systemic Theology, and her area of expertise involves helping churches talk about the reality of violence and abuse. She has been a pastor and a freelance writer. Dr. Penner's blog of worship resources can be found at leadinginworship.com. Theatre of the Beat and the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region will also present workshops throughout the week.

We invite parents and community members to join the conversation for a special **Evening Presentation, Wednesday, September, 25, 2019, 7:00 pm. Healthy Relationships: Let's Talk about Power, Sex and Spirituality.**

The evening will include a summary of Dr. Penner's addresses, and a panel of people who will talk about these themes from the experiences of their various roles/perspectives. This *free* event is made possible with support from Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC). *There is no need to register. All are welcome.* Simply join us and participate in an evening of learning and sharing, as we support students in building healthy relationships.



(L-R) John Moyer, Lynette Gossen, Gail Snyder ('79), Rosemarie Tossell, and Helmi Wiebe gather for one last group hug with Principal, Ann L. Schultz ('84, third from left) at the 2018-2019 Faculty & Staff Retiree Luncheon.

OVER ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SERVICE



That's the combined number of years that faculty retirees John Moyer, Lynette Gossen, Gail Snyder, Rosemarie Tossell, and Helmi Wiebe served Rockway students. No wonder they are retiring!

We are grateful for the many gifts they brought to Rockway, both inside and outside the classroom; teaching, coaching, leading trips, contributing to stage and music productions, volunteering, supporting the Visual Arts, and above all, advocating for students. They touched the lives of students in every grade at Rockway. We will continue to be inspired by the rich legacy they leave here, and throughout our community.



Golf tournament champions, (L-R) Fred Martin ('80), Rob Klassen (retired faculty), Josh Klassen (2011), and Evan Bechtel (2011) visit with Principal, Ann L. Schultz ('84) on the Hole-in-One, sponsored by our friends at Cowan.

LEAD US ONWARD
The Campaign to Build Bright Futures

IN THE HOMESTRETCH



In 2016-2017, our Rockway community started a 4 year / \$3 million campaign to fuel bright futures.

Supporters have since led us onward with their generosity to over \$2.6 million in gifts and pledges.

By doing so they are revitalizing facilities, supporting families with vital tuition assistance, creating relevant academic programming for students, and building a more sustainable Rockway.

Thank you. This fall, students will: have access to a new English Language Learners classroom and enhanced computer technology; experience a better learning environment (due to updated HVAC); and, test out a resurfaced athletics track, to name a few of the latest improvements.

Stay tuned to rockway.ca to see what's next!

ALUMNI CHIP IN FOR STUDENTS

Alumni from 1955 to 2014 chipped in and raised \$35,000 (net) for tuition assistance. This brings the Rockway Golf Classic tally to more than \$500,000 over twenty-four years, helping at least 160 students. Thank you, Alumni and friends! And thank you to our host, Willow Valley Golf Course, for another year of golfing fun and friendship. **See you next year, Wednesday, May 27, 2020 for a very special 25th Rockway Golf Classic.**



ROCKWAY ALUMNI

Laverne Brubacher (left) shared a copy of the album, *Beyond the Sunset* (1960), with Rockway's Engagement Coordinator, Andrew McMurry (2014). It features *The Rockway Four*, a quartet of Laverne, Don Snyder ('62), Ray Gingrich ('63), and Richard Brubacher ('63).



Andrew also visited with (left) Ruth Bauman (Martin, '51) and (right) Alice Brubacher (Good, '51). Alice has given her Rockway memorabilia book to the school, adding to our rich archives in advance of Rockway's 75th celebrations.



Rockway's Director of Admissions and Recruitment, David Lobe ('96), welcomed Clarence Li (2017) back to Rockway for a visit this summer. David had also served as Clarence's host parent.



Bernie Burnett ('73) has stayed in touch with Rockway classmate, Tony Cheng ('73). They are planning a 50th reunion. Why not reconnect with your Class this October, during Connections Weekend, October 18 & 19?

ALUMNI BASKETBALL IS BACK!

Sundays, 7:00-9:00 pm. September 22 to mid December (not including long weekends e.g. Thanksgiving or Connections Weekend). Participation is free; donations toward Tuition Assistance gratefully accepted. To sign up and receive weekly basketball notices, please visit www.rockway.ca/alumni/alumni-events/ or contact **Andrew in Alumni Relations** at 519-743-5209 x3601 or andrewm@rockway.ca.

GATHER TOGETHER FOR CONNECTIONS WEEKEND 2019

We invite all Rockway Alumni, families (Alumni, current and future!) and friends to join us for Connections Weekend, Friday, October 18 & Saturday, October 19, 2019.



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18 – Bring the whole family for the *Grade 10 Spaghetti Supper Student Fundraiser* in Gym A – tickets at the door. Shop at Rockway's *Community Silent Auction*, also in Gym A. Then head over to Gym B/C for the always fun *Alumni Sports Challenge – Basketball*. If you would like to sign up for an Alumni basketball team, please contact **Andrew in Alumni Relations**, 519-743-5209 x3601 or andrewm@rockway.ca.

Connections Weekend is the perfect time for Alumni to gather together for a Class Reunion. If you're part of a 'Milestone Year' i.e. your graduating year ending in the number 4 or 9, start planning your Class Reunion today. Contact **Andrew in Alumni Relations**, 519-743-5209 x3601 or andrewm@rockway.ca.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 – Retired and Former Rockway Faculty and Staff will be invited for breakfast. In the evening everyone is welcome to the *BIG Night Out Fundraising Pig Roast & Barn Dance*, 5:30-11:00 pm. Buy your tickets online at rockway.ca, in person at the **Main Office** or by phone 519-743-5209:

- **Pig Roast & Barn Dance** – \$75 per person (maximum allowable charitable tax receipt)
- **Pig Roast only** – \$50 pp (maximum allowable charitable tax receipt)
- **Barn Dance only** – \$25 pp (no charitable tax receipt; includes late night snack)

The Pig Roast Dinner will include a **mini live auction**. This past spring, several Rockway folks (pictured below) gathered for a very special dinner, which they had successfully bid on at last year's *BIG Night Out Dinner*. Guests enjoyed a five-course dinner prepared by our very own David Lobe ('96), Director of Admissions and Recruitment. This 'fine-dining experience' will be one of the unique items up for auction again this year.



(L-R) Shirley Grove ('86), Wes Dyck, Phil and Linda Ruby, Scott Beech, Cindy Lebold ('82), Julie Snyder-Penner ('85), Russ Snyder-Penner.



"Just when the caterpillar thought the world was ending, it turned into a butterfly." PROVERB

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2019 AND GRADUATION AWARD RECIPIENTS:

- Abundance Spirit of Generosity Award – *Maria Klassen*
- Bridging Cultures Award – *Oswin Ho*
- Civic Leadership Award – *Vivian Chau*
- Dennis Wikerd French Language Award – *Anya Fieguth*
- English Scholarship – *Sophia Heidebrecht*
- Governor General's Award – *Sophia Heidebrecht*
- Leadership Award – *Tessa Hedrick*
- Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award – *Leah Shapansky*
- Lobe Cross Cultural and Service Scholarship – *Maria Klassen*
- Math & Science Academic Achievement Award – *Sophia Heidebrecht*
- Peter Hallman Athletics Leadership Scholarship – *Joseph Boehm*
- The Record – *Thea Andres and Maya Morton Ninomiya*
- Rockway Diploma Scholarship – *Anya Fieguth*
- The Salome Bauman/Benjamin Eby Scholarship – *Ashley Brubacher and Katie Martin*
- William Kruger Scholarship – *Andrew Willms*
- Valedictorian Scholarship Award – *Maya Morton Ninomiya*
- Visual Art Scholarship Award – *Grace Kim*



WELCOME ALUMNI – CLASS OF 2019



Special thanks to our Graduation Banquet volunteers, Rockway's Banquet Committee, and Faculty and Staff for officially welcoming the Class of 2019 as Rockway Alumni, with food and fellowship. Alumni, new and current, can update their contact info with us at <https://rockway.ca/alumni/rockway-alumni/>.



THE WILMER MARTIN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND



This school year will be the first year we award The Wilmer Martin Family Scholarship. Monies donated to this Scholarship are invested, the annual interest of which will be used to financially assist a student. Preference will be given to a student entering Grade 7, who is from a Mennonite family for which tuition is a barrier to enrollment, but all students are welcome to apply. This annual scholarship is given in honour of the lifelong commitment of Janet Martin (d. 2016) and Wilmer Martin to Mennonite education. Wilmer (seen above, second from right) explains:

"Education has always been an important focus for Janet and me. Our parents set an example for us in the value of Christian education. Janet's father sent all six of his children to Lancaster Mennonite High (LMH) School. That was twenty-four years of tuition. After all of his children had graduated, he decided to pay tuition to assist some children whose families didn't have the means to attend LMH. He did this for an additional ten years.

My parents did not finish Grade 8 and were required to leave school and help their parents on their family farms. However, they were committed that their four children would finish high school. They too sent us to Lancaster Mennonite High School for Grades 11 and 12 as dorm students since we lived a hundred miles away from the school.

Janet and I were grateful for Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. Our children, Janelle ('86 – above, right) and Alan ('89 – above, centre), both attended and graduated from here. After our grandchildren Matthew and Miriam were born, Janet expressed the desire that she hopes and prays that Alan and Christiane will choose to send them here too. After Janet died in September 2016, I discussed with my children my desire to do something here at Rockway in honour of Janet.

The scholarship announced signifies the commitment of our family to continue the vision that Janet held close to her heart. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to partner with you in providing educational opportunities for other students."

If you would like to discuss a donation to this or another Named Scholarship fund, please contact **Christine in Advancement** at 519-743-5209 x3011 or advancement@rockway.ca.

SEE YOU SOON! Upcoming Events

ROCKWAY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All are
welcome!

fanning
THE flame

Wednesday, November 20, 2019
7:00 pm • Rockway Assembly Area

DISCOVER ROCKWAY

Thursday, November 7, 2019 • 7 pm

Join Us!

"The extremely dedicated, caring and genuine teachers at Rockway provided me with the skills and attitude I will need to face the challenges of life after high school."

Claudia Heeny – Class of 2019



rockway.ca

GRADES 7-12

Register at rockway.ca



SAVE THE DATE

Christmas
Concert

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019
7:30 pm
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Kitchener



ROCKWAY'S MISSION

As a Christian educational community within the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition, Rockway Mennonite Collegiate integrates sound academic learning with growth in character and faith, together with a passion for peacemaking and service to God and all creation.

Contact Us

We'd love to hear from you!

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#lifeatRockway

FOUNDERS' DAY CHAPEL 2020 MARKS 75 YEARS OF ROCKWAY MEMORIES

Join us for Rockway's 75th festivities on **Sunday, February 9, 2020, 2:00-5:00 pm** when we will gather for a special **Founders' Day Chapel**. *We invite Alumni and friends to participate in our Founders' Day Choir that afternoon and share the gift of music.* For more information and to sign-up for the choir, please contact Andrew at andrewm@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 x3601.



'Sharing our story' is one of the key elements of Rockway's 'Going Beyond' strategic plan (2018-2021). 2020 will be a milestone year in the life of our school community; it will mark 75 years of mission, students, Alumni and community.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned also for details of Rockway's **All-School Musical, The Sound of Music, June 3-6, 2020.**

To participate in the orchestra, please contact **Jen** at jenhb@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 x3547. We look forward to welcoming and honouring Rockway's community.

Reflections is a publication of Rockway Mennonite Collegiate. If you prefer to receive your copy by email please let us know at advancement@rockway.ca or 519-342-0007 x3011. Thank you.