

REFLECTIONS

WINTER 2017

NEWSLETTER: HAPPENINGS, ALUMNI NEWS AND EVENTS



Darren Fung conducts Rockway Grade 10 and Senior Choirs in the newly renovated Assembly Area.

ROCKWAY STUDENTS EMBARK ON A MUSICAL ODYSSEY

It is not everyday that highschool choir students have the opportunity to perform with a professional composer and conductor in a world class performance venue. But that is exactly what will happen next spring. Rockway's Grade 10 and Senior Choirs will perform *The Great Human Odyssey In Concert*, a CBC documentary by Canadian Anthropologist Niobe Thompson, with the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Orchestra. Thompson will narrate the documentary while the choirs and orchestra sing and play the accompaniment, all under the direction of Canadian Composer, Darren Fung. Join us at the Centre in the Square on May 4 and 5, 2018 (visit www.centreinthesquare.com for show and ticket information).

In preparation for these performances Mr. Fung visited Rockway this fall. He presented to Grade 9 music classes on the impact of music in film score music. He showed an image from a film with no music and then an image with four very different styles of music that he had composed. Students engaged in the possibilities of music and its effect on one's emotions.

Then Mr. Fung conducted the Grade 10 and Senior Choirs in the opening pages of *The Odyssey* score, which was tremendously exciting. This gave students a sense of what it will be like to perform next May under Mr. Fung's baton. At the end of the day Mr. Fung spoke with individual students and encouraged them in their efforts as composers and arrangers, even providing his business card to one and inviting further questions. This is the beginning of a wonderful musical odyssey for students this year.



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GLAD TIDINGS

It is a privilege and an honour to lead a school that can be unapologetically Christian during the Christmas season! At Rockway, we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace. We have the opportunity to sing sacred Christmas Carols in our Advent and Christmas Chapels, to listen to the music of the masters and the music of budding composers at Rockway's Christmas Concert, and to collect food for the annual Food Drive. Throughout Rockway's history, it has been a school committed to teaching students the Biblical story, having them learn and practice spiritual disciplines, encouraging them to make connections with other faiths and cultures, challenging them to address ethical issues, and inspiring them to ask enduring questions. May you also experience the peace, joy and love of Christ during this Christmas season!

Ann L. Schultz

Ann L. Schultz, Principal

SEEING RACISM WITH NEW EYES

This past September, we welcomed Dr. Drew Hart, professor of theology, author and activist, as this year's Spiritual Emphasis Week speaker. Hart teaches at Messiah College in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania and is in demand as a keynote speaker, where his presentations connect his pastoral experience with his academic training.



Dr. Hart gave three chapel addresses: "Taking Jesus Seriously" explored how Jesus challenges how we confront oppression; "Trouble I've Seen" provided the opportunity for Hart to tell some personal stories and challenged our Canadian history; and his final address, "Where Do We Go From Here?" provided us with Jesus-shaped practices for the journey. We are grateful to Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, who with the support of their member congregations, sponsored an evening session for the public.

Faculty, staff and students were challenged to see the world from below and find new eyes to see, un-learn and re-learn what is going on around us, show solidarity with those who are being oppressed, read scripture from new perspectives, and find those who are seeking "holy trouble!"

To continue the conversation, connect with Drew on twitter: @DruHart and read his book, *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism*, which utilizes everyday stories, Jesus-shaped lessons, and anti-racism frameworks to transform the church's understanding and witness.



Board Chair, John Torrance-Perks, and Director of Finance, Karen Martin Schiedel, confirm Rockway's commitment to being a Living Wage Employer, Champion level, at Rockway's recent Annual General Meeting.

Share the *dream* this Christmas

You may know that Rockway opened its doors in 1945. But you may not know the remarkable stories of our early alumni and the challenges they overcame to follow their dreams at Rockway. In a recent letter, Ferne Burkhardt, Class of '54, shared her story:

It was Labour Day, 1949. I was fourteen. Soapy water sloshed over the grimy clothes as I worked the hand-powered washing machine outside the summer kitchen door. My words spilled out with sad resignation. "Tomorrow school begins and I guess, I won't be going." ... "I guess you can go," responded my mother. I had no words. Was I dreaming? ... I would be heading to a public school. Rockway was far away and my family had no money for tuition. Always hanging over me was the sense that this year could be my last as a student. And two years later, my fear was realized. My dreams of going to Rockway were still alive, but I resigned myself to the reality that it could not happen. By November, fall work on the farm was done and at age 16 I started a job as a live-in maid at a home in the city.

In May, it was back to work on the farm. I loved the peace and pastoral nature of the country, but farm life was not for me. If only I could go back to school I would have more options for the future. Soon September was around the corner and once again students were heading back to school. I would not be among them. But then another miracle happened...My mother said I could go to Rockway! All these years later, how that happened is still a mystery. Where did my family find the tuition?

Paying to live in the dorm was out of the question as was a daily commute from home. But there was another option. With my experience, I could work for room and board as a live-in maid within walking distance of the school. The school's matron made the arrangements. Walking into the converted barn that first morning felt like coming home. I knew I belonged. Worship in chapel clinched the sense that these were my people. I already had some friends there and I made new ones beyond my Mennonite circle. These friendships remain strong more than six decades later. My two years as a Rockway student were rich and rewarding. Realized dreams was the subject of my valedictory speech.

My story is not unique. Many families make sacrifices to send their children to Rockway, as my husband and I did for our three children. I remain grateful that Rockway, with the support of family, friends and churches, was there for my children, helping to shape the dreams and values on which they have built their lives to serve God and humankind. All these years later, Ferne continues to volunteer and donate, and to share the dream of a Rockway education. Join her, and Lead Us Onward with your generosity: rockway.ca



CELEBRATE DENNIS WIKERD AND HIS LIFETIME OF SERVICE

It was an emotional time when Dennis Wiker, Assistant Principal, addressed the Connections Weekend Retired and Former Faculty and Staff Breakfast. Many memories, laughter and some tears reflected the respect and affection in the room for Dennis. He retires January 31, 2018. We are hosting an **Open House at Rockway on Sunday, January 14, 2018, 2-5 pm**. Please join us as we thank Dennis for his thirty-nine years of service.



Class of 1997— all grown up, building lives and families, and staying connected.



A record crowd for the **Spaghetti Supper** raised over \$3,000 towards the Gr. 10 Quebec Trip. Thank you for joining us for a delicious and worth-while supper. And thank you to the students, faculty, staff and volunteers who hosted such a tasty start to Connections Weekend.



New this year, we returned to our tradition of having a **Community Silent Auction**. We hosted it with the Spaghetti Supper and Alumni Sports Challenge to provide our Friday night guests with more value and fun. You raised over \$4,000 net for the Go Rockway! Annual Fund. Thanks to the many Auction donors and volunteers.



It was a friendly start to the **Alumni Sports Basketball Challenge** with alumnae and Rockway girls coming together to play the first game. The alumni men's team squeaked past the Senior Boys team in a last-minute thriller.



Saturday of Connections Weekend started with the **Retired and Former Faculty and Staff Breakfast** in the newly renovated Assembly Area. About fifty guests enjoyed fellowship over breakfast. After some heartfelt tributes from Bill Kruger, Judy Patton, Arnold Neufeldt-Fast, and guests, Dennis Wiker, retiring Assistant Principal, took to the podium to share a few thoughts. It was a touching start to our retirement farewell to Dennis. Thanks to all guests and volunteers for making it a very special start to the day.



We were thrilled to see **Class Reunions** for the classes of 1962 and 1997. Karen Balmer and Ken Gies hosted a lovely drop-in pot-luck during which classmates shared memories and stories. Afterwards, they headed out for supper before enjoying The Second City show. Meanwhile, over in the gym, the Class of 1997 and their young families enjoyed games and activities amidst photo albums, music and munchies.



BIG NIGHT OUT *The Second City*

BIG FUN WITH FRIENDS AND THE SECOND CITY.

How much fun can you have in one evening? Apparently a lot when you spend time with friends and The Second City improv stars. A full house for Dinner enjoyed a tasty home-cooked meal and some friendly bidding in the Live Auction. Guests raised over \$10,000 net for the Go Rockway! Annual Fund. Guests also heard about the new Leah & Emmanuel Martin Family Scholarship (see p. 7).

Afterwards, they joined pre-show guests for some fun 'mocktails' – did you try 'The Rockway?' – and more desserts before heading into The Second City show. A cast of six professional comedians with the assistance of several good-natured audience members made it an evening of laughter and memories – the perfect end to Connections Homecoming Weekend. Special thanks to our event sponsors without whom we could not have hosted such fabulous entertainment:



THE COMMUNITY PLAYERS
of New Hamburg



ROCKWAY ALUMNI



ALL IN FOR ALUMNI RECREATIONAL BASKETBALL

The inaugural season of Rockway's Alumni Recreational Basketball has finished. Ten to fifteen guys came out each week to play some hoops. Although it was recreational, the competition was pretty fierce. And while the guys enjoyed the competition, they thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of friendships, old and new. Special thanks to Convenor, Luke Moyer, Class of 2006, for leading the way.

Season two will get underway **Sunday, January 14, 2018**. It will run 10 consecutive weeks, not including long weekends. Game time at Rockway will be Sundays 7:30 p.m. Sign up in advance to play – visit www.rockway.ca/alumni/alumni-events/ and complete the registration form. Once you have registered, we will contact you.

The fee is \$75 (cash or cheque) for the full 10 weeks (due at the first session) or \$10/week (cash) for Drop-ins. All monies support Tuition Assistance. **Questions?** Contact Christine, 519-743-5209 x 3011 or advancement@rockway.ca.

NEW!

ROCKWAY ALUMNI GEAR

HOODED SWEATSHIRTS • GOLF SHIRTS • T-SHIRTS
(ALL ITEMS ARE UNISEX)

**WEAR YOUR ALUMNI PRIDE ON
ROCKWAY FOUNDER'S DAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018.**

PURCHASE ON-LINE:
<http://spirit.promoshan.com/RMCalumni>

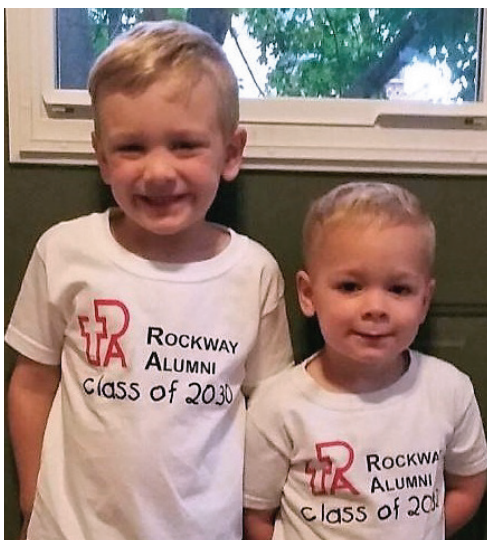
Order by January 25, 2018.
Orders will be shipped to Rockway
for pick-up in early February.

YOU'LL BE LOOKING AND FEELING GOOD
Thanks to PromoShan, \$5 from each item sold
will support Rockway Mennonite Collegiate





2017 CWOSSA 'A' Junior Boys Volleyball champions. Congratulations also to the Senior Boys who won silver.



ORDER YOUR ALUMNI *baby-T*

Be sure to let us know if you would like your complimentary future alumni baby-T for your little one born in 2017.

Contact advancement@rockway.ca or 519-743-5209 to order yours.

YOU SCREAM, I SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

Marble Slab Creamery ice cream sundaes with 'mixins' were a crowd favourite at the Connections Weekend Alumni Sports Challenge. They were quickly sold out while the Men's Alumni basketball team squeaked out a victory against the Senior Boys. But the real winners were the students – thanks to the generosity of attendees and Alumna and Marble Slab Creamery owner, Andrea Parsons, all proceeds will benefit students' Athletics extra-curricular activities. Meanwhile, Marble Slab Creamery coupons also supported Rockway's new Business Program, giving us one more reason to scream for ice cream.





The Leah & Emmanuel Martin Family Scholarship A LEGACY OF FAITH AND LEARNING

Forty years of graduates, descendants of Leah and Emmanuel Martin (pictured above with their family), have graced the halls of Rockway. This includes nineteen grandchildren and great grandchildren! Now, family members have taken up the torch of Leah and Emmanuel's legacy to enable other Mennonite students to receive an education rooted in the Anabaptist Mennonite faith and tradition.

At the Connections BIG Night Out dinner, we were honoured to announce the creation of The Leah & Emmanuel Martin Family Scholarship. Numerous family members came together to establish the scholarship, which will benefit any Mennonite Church Eastern Canada (MCEC) new or returning student in need of tuition assistance to attend Rockway (monies donated to the scholarship will be invested, the annual income of which will go to the Scholarship Fund in support of tuition assistance and distributed to MCEC students).

Fred Martin, the first Martin graduate (Class of 1980) spoke of his family's wish to support students. And parents of the most recent family graduate, Leah Bauman (Class of 2017), Janet (recently retired Rockway faculty member) and Trevor Bauman, were also on hand to fulfill their family's wish. The Scholarship is part of the Lead Us Onward campaign, which draws on the strength of Rockway's past to build bright futures for students and future Alumni.

Thanks to you, we are halfway there! Gifts and pledges of \$1.5 million have been confirmed to-date for the four year (2016-2017 to 2019-2020), \$3 million campaign. To learn more visit: www.rockway.ca/support/lead-us-onward or speak with Christine Rier in Advancement at 519-743-5209 x3011.

Thank you for leading us onward with your generosity.



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.

LEAD US ONWARD
The Campaign to Build Bright Futures



SEE YOU SOON! Upcoming Events

Join Us!

GRADE 9 INFORMATION NIGHT

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

Complimentary Dinner @ 6:15 pm • Information Session @ 7 pm



SAVE THE DATE
SPRING CONCERT
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018

THE
**ULTIMATE
ALUMNI PICNIC**
SAVE THE DATE!!
Saturday, June 2, 2018

ROCKWAY MENNONITE COLLEGIATE'S

GOLF CLASSIC

Wednesday, May 30, 2018

Proceeds support
Student Tuition Assistance

**SIGN UP
TODAY!**

**23RD
Annual**

GRADE 9-12 STUDENTS OF ROCKWAY MENNONITE COLLEGIATE
presents **Leonard Wibberley's**

The MOUSE that ROARED!

Comedy Adapted by
Christopher Sergel

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2018 @ 7:30 PM
SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018 @ 2 PM & 7:30 PM

TICKET SALE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT
www.rockway.ca

Presented by special arrangements with
The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois.

ROCKWAY ALUMNI...
MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Thursday, February 15, 2018

**"ONE DAY TO
CLICK AND CARE"**

Stay tuned to rockway.ca

Contact Us

For more information about
our school and mission:

**Rockway Mennonite
Collegiate**

110 Doon Road
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 3C8

T: 519-743-5209

F: 519-743-5935

advancement@rockway.ca

www.rockway.ca

Principal: Ann L. Schultz

Charitable Number: 119122091RR0001



#lifeatRockway

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x3011. Thank you.