

Social Circles



Congratulations to Mae (nee King, PHS '51) and Tim Suter of Gibbstown, who celebrated 63 years of marriage on Sept. 13. The couple traveled to Minnesota where they celebrated their anniversary with their son, Fred, and his wife, Judy (nee Stevenson), both PHS '82. In the left photo, Tim, a Pittsburgh native, poses with Mae on their wedding day. The couple has eight children, 21 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

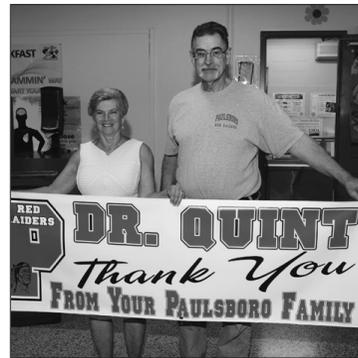


Photo by Marc Kamp

Passing the baton — A surprise retirement luncheon was held for the interim superintendent of the Paulsboro Public Schools, Dr. Walter C. Quint, in the high school cafeteria on Aug. 28. Accompanied by his wife, Cindy, Quint holds a banner that was presented to him for his service over the last two years during the school district's search for a new superintendent after Dr. Frank Scambia retired. Dr. Laurie Bandlow was hired for the position and assumed the post on Aug. 1.

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42 years ago, but my mother said I lost it 44 years ago on my class trip to Washington, D.C." Hackett found the ring when she was 18 years old and put it in a jewelry box where it remained safely tucked away for some 40 years. Her mother recently returned the jewelry box to her. When examining its contents, she stumbled on the ring again.

"The find itself was anticlimatic and doesn't lend itself to an exciting story," said Suter. "It's not like someone fillet a fish and found the ring."

However, the final outcome of the story is what Suter will always treasure.

"I offered to pay her to send the ring to me, but she said it wasn't necessary," said Suter. The ring was delivered to his house just a few days after their

correspondence in September, and out of gratitude, he sent her a gift certificate.

"Having the ring returned to me is like being reunited with an old friend," said Suter, who traveled the world as a squadron helicopter pilot from 1983 to 1988 for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush and served as a commanding officer in the U.S. Marine Corps before retiring with 33 years of military service in 2004.

Planning to attend his 45th class reunion next year, Suter said he won't be wearing his ring. Instead it is tucked away for safekeeping in his jewelry box.

"It doesn't fit," said Suter with a laugh. "But it looks like it's brand new. My ring is probably in better shape than most rings in the Class of '71."

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Discovery of ring inspires search for original owner

By Katherine L. Shawaryn

The story begins with a lost class ring. The plot thickens when a person googles the high school name inscribed on the face of the gold band she found about 40 years ago.

Paulsboro High School Principal Paul Morina intercepts her e-mail inquiry. The initials JRS inscribed on the band and the class year provide Morina with important clues that he tracks down in a 1971 yearbook. He makes an instant connection.

Jack Suter, a former stand-out PHS wrestler and member of



Photo by Teresa Colanero

Jack Suter, left, and Paul Morina the N.J. Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall, is a match. In turn, Morina forwards the e-mail

to the 1976 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and the journey to reunite the owner and his class ring starts.

The news that his ring has resurfaced after all these years amazes the Gibbstown native, especially since he vaguely remembers losing it in the first place. He follows up immediately with the original e-mail sender, Vickie Hackett of Camp Hill, Pa.

"I was more intrigued by the story behind the ring," said Suter, a father of four who now lives in Jacksonville, N.C. "It

was so long ago, and there were a lot of intangibles.

"When you think about it, she could have sold it for gold," said Suter. He remembers going hunting and wrestling in Pennsylvania and contemplates whether he might have lost it in the woods or in a locker room. Ironically, Hackett also does not remember where she originally found the ring.

"At first I thought this was odd, but then again, I couldn't remember when and where I lost it," said Suter. "I thought it was

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and school board members, the project's architectural engineer, and Dr. Walter Quint.

"The project would not have been completed or on time without Dr. Quint," said Kelly. The former superintendent of Paulsboro Public Schools, Quint was the site project manager.

One of the biggest challenges he oversaw occurred when plans to move the library across the street to the historic Paul House were halted after archaeological finds were made at this site. Plans were then revised to go back to the library's original location where it stands today at the corner of Broad and Commerce streets.

Another challenge and example of teamwork occurred last year when the library was closed during construction. During this time, arrangements were made by the Paulsboro Board of Education to share the Paulsboro High School Library with Gill Memorial patrons.

In recognition of his dedication to the project and countless volunteer hours, a room in the media center was named in Quint's honor.

Before taking a tour of the library, local, county, state and federal officials lauded the library's board of trustees and all those responsible for helping to create the borough's new technology center. Proclamations from state Senate President Stephen

Sweeney and U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross were also read and are now on display for the public in the center. A letter of congratulations was also received from U.S. Sen. Cory Booker.

"People went above and beyond to make certain this building became a reality and will serve many generations in the future," said Kelly, crediting the board of trustees for saving \$1 million to fund the largest portion of the project. Additional funding was secured through a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a loan from borough council.

"It was a good investment that provides an access and portal to the world for both young and old; it makes a world of difference for them and may change lives," said Assemblyman John Burzichelli. He was the mayor of Paulsboro when plans for the project were first discussed.

"I commend the board of trustees for its prudent management of resources to complete the project," he said. "You don't know who you will touch, but you know it will be good. The media center will make people better and give them access to the world."

A challenging design

"When the people of Paulsboro come together as a team, they come through as champions," said Judy MacKenzie, president of the Paulsboro Greater Chamber of Commerce, who was among

the guest speakers. Architect Martin Kimmel agreed. His firm, Kimmel Bogrette of Conshohocken, Pa., teamed up with Eagle Construction of Burlington to complete the project.

"There is no project more special than seeing a community come together to do something great," said Kimmel. He too commended members of the board of trustees for their vision to translate the history of Paulsboro into the renovations and expansion of the library.

Glass doors of the center lead into a brightly lit, spacious room where the original build-

ing's outside gray stone wall serves as the backdrop of the media center's welcome desk area. Freshly painted walls in tranquil hues of green create a smooth transition from room to room.

"All the books are on the downstairs level," said librarian Violet Valentin. "The new flow of the building is excellent, and we can offer more programs for the children."

For more information on the history of the library and its hours of operation, visit gillmemoriallibrary.org or call 423-5155.



Photo by Marc Kamp

A grand reopening — Gill Memorial Library Board of Trustees vice president Virginia Scott, left, and president Rita Kelly cut the ribbon during a community celebration of the new media center that was added onto the library. Equipped with computers, new bookcases, furniture, study areas and a stage for children's programs, the library offers an expanded selection of books, research materials, WiFi, and a complete selection of DVD titles.