

GERMANTOWN STANDARD

**GERMANTOWN'S DARNELL "SPEEDY" ARTIS
INDUCTED INTO THE GWYNEDD MERCY UNIV. HALL OF FAME**



Photo Credit: Gwynedd Mercy Univ Athletics

Children rally in solidarity with Palestine for peace and ceasefire



Children and parents rally at Lovett Library to sign letters to send to U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans. (Photo: Irit Reinheimer and Elana Baurer)

By Rasheed Ajamu
Germantown Info Hub

Families gather in Mt. Airy to advocate for an end to violence in Gaza and send heartfelt letters to U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans

In Mt. Airy, outside of Lovett Library, over 150 people, kids and grown-ups, gathered on Sunday morning. They were part of the “Children’s Rally in Solidarity with the Children of Palestine,” this was the second time they came together to show their support.

The primary purpose of this gathering was to ask for peace. Kids and their supporters wrote letters to U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans. They wanted him to support the Ceasefire Now resolution, which, if approved, would have Congress officially endorse a ceasefire, calling on the Biden administration to help with the provision of vital supplies such as food

and medication.

Hannah Mermelstein, a parent and organizer of the event, expanded on the goal: “Thousands of Palestinian children have been killed since Israel started bombing, and we thought a children’s rally could draw attention to this devastating reality. We really wanted a message centered on children, and as parents, we also wanted a space where our kids could get engaged and easily be able to participate in social justice work at this important time.”

As of this past weekend, more than 7,300 Palestinians, over 3,000 of them children, have been killed, with over 1.3 million displaced since the surprise attack by Hamas on southern Israel on October 7.

The kids filled the letters with their feelings of care and love and put them into a big homemade mailbox, with plans to take them to U.S. Rep. Evans’ office after school the next day. There was also a huge letter, 7-foot-tall and 4-foot-

wide, that read “urgent” and had the names of over 50 kids on it. In their letters, the kids said, “There are more than 2 million people living in Gaza, and half of those people are children, like me. Since Israel began dropping bombs on Gaza, more than 2,000 children have been killed. This is unfair and wrong.” They wanted to ensure their letters were special, so each child customized their own.

Eleven-year-old Nadim said, “This is important because innocent people and kids are being hurt for reasons that are not good.” A 3-year-old named Fern wanted to help, too, and said, “I have a peaceful place, and I want kids in Gaza to have a peaceful place like me.” Six-year-old Birdie kept it simple but potent, saying, “Kids should be safe.”

Mermelstein said, “Some people think the U.S. should send more weapons and money to Israel to destroy Gaza. We say no! People in Palestine are asking everyone around

the world to call for an end to the violence (a “ceasefire” means stop the bombing right away) and to bring important supplies into Gaza, like food and medicine for people who are hungry and sick. We say yes to that!”

Parent Jenna Peters-Golden came to the rally with their 4-year-old child. They talked about how they, as an American and a Jewish person, believed it was essential to speak out against the government supporting the bombing in Gaza. They said that “never again,” a phrase associated with the lessons of the Holocaust, should mean protecting everyone, including the people in Palestine.

The Ceasefire Now resolution is noteworthy because it calls for an immediate end to Israel’s bombing of Gaza and to bring help to the people in Gaza. But Mermelstein says that “far too few representatives have signed onto” it,

though an overwhelming amount signed onto a passed resolution supporting Israel, which U.S. Rep. Evans supported. That resolution passed 412 to 10. At least one Pennsylvania representative has signed on to a call for stopping hostilities to allow aid to get in, but that resolution specifically avoided calling for a ceasefire.

As the rally concluded, the children’s mailbox filled with heartfelt letters was ready for its journey to U.S. Rep. Evans’ office, set to happen Monday, October 29, after school. These kids, families, and supporters stood side by side with the kids of Palestine, asking for an end to the fighting and a new time of peace and understanding.

UPTOWN ENTERTAINMENT,
KENNY EBO WITH JAZ OH
PRESENTS

Ralph Cunningham ANNUAL
TOY DRIVE
BRING A TOY AND SHARE SOME JOY

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 23, 2023**
EVENT TIME 6PM - 11PM
ADMISSION \$5 WITH A TOY

MUSIC BY
DJ BIG BROTHER

JULZ FORMALLY PLATINUM GRILLE
7719 CRITTENDEN ST
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19118

Germantown's Darnell "Speedy" Artis inducted into the Gwynedd Mercy Univ. Hall of Fame



By Rob "Gov" Holman,
President

Currently a member of the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters, Darnell "Speedy" Artis was the 2013-2014 Colonial States Athletic Conference (CSAC) Rookie of the Year, a three-time All-CSAC First Team selection, and the CSAC Championship Tournament Most Valuable Player (MVP) for a 2015-2016 run to the league crown. His 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 All-CSAC seasons were dignified with National Basketball Coaches Association (NBCA) DIII All-Region Second Team honors and City of Brotherly Love DII/ DIII All-City Second Team recognition.

He also garnered a 2015-2016 Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) All-Star selection and ranks among the program's Top-10 all-time in points (6th, 1,319), points per game (10th, 12.2), field goals attempted (6th, 977), three-pointers attempted (3rd, 168), three-pointers made (2nd, 473), field goals made (3rd, 327), field goals attempted (3rd, 439), assists (1st, 448), and assists per game (1st, 4.1).

Following his collegiate career, the communications major played professionally for Esporta Brazil (2017-2019) and was the 2017 Paulista Scoring Champion with 18.1 points per game over a 14-game season. In 2018, Artis was named to the CSAC 25th Anniversary Men's Basketball Team.

Darnell has been committed to establishing his program of "We not Me" and Lonnie Young Summer League over the pass 7years.

Darnell continues to contribute to the community and is respected within the community. Darnell has a passion to show the young adults that violence is not the answer. Everyone in the community respects Darnell and has now started to call him by his Harlem Globetrotters name speedy. He just finished his 5th year with the Lonnie Young Summer League.

Darnell also hosts a free community day at the end of the summer.



Carl T.
215-650-1155

ALL KINDS OF RODENTS & BUGS

- BEDBUGS & ROACHES
- RATS
- MICE
- FLEAS & TICKS
- TERMITES
- RACOONS & POSSUMS

25% Senior Citizens Discount
20% Multi-Property Discount

**GERMANTOWN
STANDARD**

James Williams
Publisher

Rob "Gov" Holman
President

EJ Holt
Editor

Published Monthly
phlstandard.com

Town Crier: Harrisburg Report



State Rep. Kinsey presents \$100,000 check to Grumblethorpe

State Rep. Stephen Kinsey, D-Phila., presented a \$100,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission to Grumblethorpe. Grumblethorpe is a historic landmark in the Germantown section of Philadelphia (part of the 201st Legislative District, which Kinsey represents) and part of the Colonial Germantown Historic District. “Grumblethorpe is an iconic landmark here in Germantown that does such a great job representing our community’s history, traditions and culture,” Kinsey said. “I was proud to present them this check today, and I can’t wait to see how they use these funds to better this wonderful establishment.” Kinsey was joined by Kayla Anthony, executive director of the Philadelphia Society for the Preservation of Landmarks; Tuomi Forrest, executive director of Historic Germantown; and Norman Marcus, Grumblethorpe House committee chair, PhilaLandmarks Board, Historic Germantown Consortium Board. ###

State Rep. Kinsey medical parole legislation approved by House Judiciary Committee

H.B. 587, introduced by state Rep. Stephen Kinsey, D-Phila., was approved with bipartisan support (15-10 vote) in the Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee and will head to the full House for future consideration.

tion.

This legislation would create a medical parole process authorizing a court that imposes a sentence to modify a term of imprisonment in a number of cases. Those eligible for this type of parole would be inmates with serious health issues, such as a chronic and debilitating physical or medical condition, as well as individuals 55 or older who have served the lessor of 25 years in prison or one half of their imposed minimum term and do not pose a danger to others if released.

There are currently more than 1,900 individuals 55 years old or older who have served at least 25 years in Pennsylvania’s prisons. Pennsylvania’s compassionate release program has been in use for 13 years and only 31 individuals have successfully petitioned for medical release due to serious illness.

Medical parole is an issue Kinsey has advocated for throughout his tenure as a legislator.

“I’m not a doctor or a lawyer, but as legislators, it’s our job to ensure all Pennsylvanians are treated by law with dignity,” Kinsey said. “It’s clear that our current corrections system has failed and that we need to do right by incarcerated individuals, particularly the aging and sick populations, to provide an equitable compassionate release.”

Prison-reform advocate groups including the Gray Panthers, Straight Ahead, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, Abolitionist Law Center, and Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration were in Harrisburg to show support for Kinsey’s bill. ###

State Rep. Kinsey, Cooper bill to foster dual enrollment passes House

H.B. 1258, introduced by state Reps. Stephen Kinsey, D-Phila., and Jill Cooper, R-Westmoreland, passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

This legislation would improve the funding mechanism for dual enrollment programs by removing the requirement that students enrolled in such programs are removed from the school’s average daily membership. Commonly referred to as the “ADM,” the average daily membership impacts state funding to local school districts.

Dual enrollment programs allow high school students to enroll in college-level classes, earning college credits while still enrolled in high school. In some cases, college classes are taught by certified high school teachers and in the high school facility.

“Dual enrollment programs provide excellent opportunities for students; however, those currently participating in them aren’t able to get the full credit they deserve for their work,” Kinsey said. “It’s important that we allow students to have as many pathways to a successful education as possible, and today’s passage of our bill in the House is a great step toward making this happen!”

“Harrisburg shouldn’t be hindering innovation; we should be fostering it. If schools are being penalized for providing these programs, they would likely cancel them and deny students access to a great advantage,” Cooper said. “I am familiar with a student from one of my local schools who began their first year of college as a junior, because they earned a two-year associate degree while they were in high school. Now, they will graduate and enter the workforce much earlier and having

saved a lot of money.”

House Bill 1258 will now head to the state Senate for future consideration.

Cooper and Kinsey worked together to draft this legislation and also came together as co-chairs of the Pennsylvania House Bipartisan “Meet Me in the Middle” Caucus. ###

Kinsey bill to ban police chokeholds approved by House Judiciary Committee

Legislation introduced by state Rep. Stephen Kinsey, D-Phila., to ban police chokeholds was approved by the House Judiciary Committee Wednesday and heads to the full House for future consideration.

House Bill 462 would outlaw the use of the standard chokehold in making an arrest as well as any action that inhibits breath or the flow of blood to the brain due to physical position.

Kinsey originally introduced this bill in 2020 following the killing of George Floyd, who died due to asphyxiation brought about by sustained pressure on the neck by law enforcement officers.

“We’ve seen far too many cases where individuals senselessly lose their life due to chokehold during an arrest- whether it be George Floyd, Eric Garner or anyone else, it must stop,” Kinsey said. “To clarify, this bill still allows police to take the necessary steps in making an arrest or dealing with a civilian, it just eliminates the dangerous and unnecessary tactic of chokeholds.”

###

State Rep. Parker’s Agricultural Education bill passes PA House

The PA House of Repre-

sentatives today passed legislation authored by state Rep. Darisha Parker, D-Phila., that would extend the due date of the Agricultural Education Excellence Commission’s annual report to Dec. 1. The Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence was formed in 2017 to develop state standards and report annually on the status of agricultural education in the commonwealth.

Currently, the deadline is May 1, but advocates have expressed the need for an extension to ensure proper data collection regarding agricultural education in Pennsylvania.

“As a member of the House Agricultural & Rural Affairs Committee, I understand how huge of an impact agriculture has on Pennsylvania’s economy,” Parker said. “We are a global leader in agriculture and food production, producing more than \$131 billion in total sales of products annually. “Agriculture brings learning to life, teaching students’ hands-on skills that they can utilize as a career or for entrepreneurship,” Parker continued. “The deadline of May 1 must be extended to ensure that in an ever-evolving field such as agriculture, students and teachers have the tools they need to be successful in their chosen field.”

Agricultural production in Pennsylvania encompasses 7.2 million acres, and the state produces and delivers fresh food to 52.3 million people in the northeastern part of the United States, which makes the industry vital to our state’s economy, Parker said.

Content provided by State Representative Offices Press Releases and Statements.

'This is about censorship': Lawmakers, experts debate the impact and consequences of book bans

'It's not just a Pennsylvania issue, it's a national movement to ban books, censor, and also totally dismantle our public school system,' Muth said

By Cassie Miller
Pennsylvania Capital Star

Banned Book Week is an annual, week-long event to recognize intellectual freedom and draw attention to the harm — both historical and contemporary — of censorship. This year, with book bans on the rise nationally, Democratic state lawmakers from both chambers gathered at the Capitol to hear from educators, parents, and policy experts about the impact of efforts to ban certain books from public school libraries throughout the Commonwealth.

State Rep. Paul Friel (D-Chester), issued a dire warning to his fellow lawmakers attending the hearing. "Our safe places are under attack," Friel said. "Our freedom of speech, our diversity, our history, is under attack. And we cannot allow those who truly do not believe in democracy or freedom to succeed, to decide whose story gets told." Friel, who is the prime sponsor for House Bill 1506, a bill that would create a uniform appeal system for the restriction or removal of books or other educational materials, said groups created to challenge access to certain books do so "under the guise of parental rights."

"This is not about parental rights," Friel said. "This is about censorship. It's about marginalizing people. It's about marginalizing communities. It's about marginalizing ideas. And I've said this many times, parents absolutely have the right to determine what is appropriate for their child. They just do not have the right to determine it for everyone

else's."

Keith Willard, a social studies teacher from Central Bucks School District — who stressed he was speaking for himself, not on behalf of the district — echoed Friel's comments about the motives of groups such as Moms 4 Liberty.

"Groups argue that certain books are 'inappropriate' for students, and they talk about 'parental rights,' but often, the targeted books are ones that address issues of diversity, inclusion, and LGBTQ+ identities," he pointed out.

Willard detailed for lawmakers how he became the target of a right-wing attack in 2021 after a collection of 50-60 LGBTQ+ books in his classroom, which were acquired with funds from a local educational nonprofit and in collaboration with school librarians, were misrepresented by right-wing groups on social media. "Political extremists trespassed into my classroom after-hours, created a video of the library that they set to creepy music, and then superimposed books into the library that are not in my collection when they didn't find the controversial titles they had hoped to, such as 'Lawnboy' or 'Gender Queer,'" Willard said. "This was floated on right-wing social media."

Willard added that the video continued circulating on right-wing social media, where new lies took shape, insinuating that he was grooming children and offering students extra credit to attend pride events.

"Right-wing groups such as 'Moms 4 Liberty' in Bucks [County] have used misinformation and fear tactics to gain influence in the Central Bucks community and others throughout the commonwealth," Willard said. "They spread false narra-

tives about the content of certain materials taking one line or excerpt, to nullify the value of an entire work. These books are not even being read by these book-banners. The book-banning effort is a highly organized political campaign to whitewash public education." Moms 4 Liberty, which has been designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, has led efforts across the country, including in Pennsylvania, to systematically remove Black history, LGBTQ+ history, and more from public school curricula.

The efforts of groups such as Moms 4 Liberty "has created another layer of censorship," Willard noted. "That is, the pressure on teachers who feel compelled to self-censor in the face of tension from external groups, unsupportive administrators, or even parents. Willard said the fear of backlash or potential consequences to job security has led teachers to reconsider introducing materials that hate groups consider "controversial," even if the materials have legitimate educational value, and promote greater empathy and understanding.

Deborah Gordon Klehr, executive director of the Education Law Center of Pennsylvania, a legal advocacy nonprofit, said that Friel's bill "establishes a good balance" of protecting parental rights while also protecting the First Amendment rights of students.

"It maintains and enforces school district book review processes while offering a neutral body — the intermediate units — for the appeals processes, which will de-politicize the process and ensure that final decisions are made by trained educators," Klehr said. Klehr also praised Senate Bill 926, sponsored by state

Sen. Amanda Cappelletti (D-Delaware), which she said "prohibits libraries and school libraries from removing books because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval, and withhold funds from library entities that practice unlawful censorship." State Rep. Darisha Parker (D-Philadelphia) expressed anger and frustration that lawmakers had to hold Thursday's hearing at all, questioning why so much emphasis was being placed on politicized efforts to challenge books rather than prioritizing legislative efforts to improve education, provide proper nutrition, and otherwise support children across the Commonwealth.

"What we should be doing is making sure that we fight for the decency, and the proper education, and making sure that our kids get the proper education that they're supposed to be having," Parker said. She added that reading is how she learned about her Black history and culture growing up.

"We need to be encouraging our kids to give them the values of reading, of writing ... We need to be encouraging them to get the proper education," Parker said. In her closing remarks, state Sen. Katie Muth (D-Montgomery) connected efforts to ban books to efforts to privatize education in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

"This is an effort to fear-monger," Muth said. "It's not just a Pennsylvania issue, it's a national movement to ban books, censor, and also totally dismantle our public school system."



S.O.F.A. 

THE STORM OF FASHION AWARDS

NOVEMBER THE 26TH

**HILTON GARDENS INN 1 PENN ST
CAMDEN, NJ 08102 3PM TILL 7PM**

WWW.STORMOFFASHION.CO

TO CAST YOUR VOTES.
ALL CATEGORIES AND NOMINATIONS WILL BE UPDATED AS WE SEE FIT.

Phillystormoffashion@gmail.com
@Phillystormoffashion | 215-929-6212

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE
eventbrite **\$25** children under 12 **\$45** adults
food will be served via the Hilton chef's.

Imhotep Charter's STEM Ambassador program addresses real-life challenges with experiential and classroom work



STEM Ambassadors in front of their hydroponic container garden.
Photo: Maleka Fruean

By Maleka Fruean
Germantown Info Hub

African-centered Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). What does that look like? It could look like 3D printing of water purifying filters made from recycled plastic water bottles. It could look like designing a hydroponic farm and selling the vegetables you grow in the community around you.

It looks like all this and more at Imhotep Institute Charter High School in Germantown, an “African Centered, science, mathematics, and technology-learning center whose mission is to provide a standards-driven, high-quality educational program for urban learners grounded in the Afrikan Principles of Ma’at and the Seven Principles of the Nguzo Saba.” Their STEM Ambassadors program is creating innovative and rigorous ways to learn STEM and serve communities in direct experiential projects.

“Last year was our first year really putting together what African-centered STEM looks like, what it feels like, what it sounds like, so we’re really excited about going into year two because we are jour-

neying into building a sustainable nation,” said Shirley Posey, the director of the STEM Ambassadors program at Imhotep.

“This is what we have here at Imhotep,” she continued. “We have our scholars who are literally taking what they have learned in the classrooms and literally saving the world and addressing climate change issues.”

This year, the team addresses the “plastic age,” our current time where the production of plastic has grown exponentially, and plastic pollutants are found throughout our natural world. They are taking recycled plastic bottles, putting them through a filabot, and creating mono-filament, which can be used in 3D printers. They will then use the filament in the 3D printer to create prosthetics and plastic hydroponic systems (systems that grow plants without using soil and instead nutrient-based water). Their main focus this year is to produce high-quality water filters to use in areas that need their water cleaned.

They’ve already made service trips to Jackson, Mississippi, and Ghana to

bring their tested 3D-printed water filters to these areas, both of which have had problems with clean water. Students made connections about how Ghana had a lot of plastic trash, and so did the city of Philadelphia. These water filters are one way to solve problems with growing plastic waste.

The program works in teams with an engineering and design team and, specifically, a water quality and air quality team. They’re learning through mission-driven research and conducting tests and trials to work out solutions to real-life problems here in Philadelphia and around the world.

It’s all timely, with head-



The STEM Ambassadors present their work and their plans for this school year. (Photo: Maleka Fruean)

lines like a water chemical spill and air quality alerts happening this year alone in Philadelphia.

Isaiah Prater, a scholar-athlete and STEM Ambassador said he and his classmates put the learning and exploring they’re doing in class into real-life situations all the time.

“The Canadian fires that were passing over,” said Prater. “We actually had air quality monitors, so we were finding out solutions the day it happened. We were texting in group

chats about how we could solve this on the day it happened.”

Prater is one of many STEM Ambassadors who are scholar-athletes, students in the program who are also in the Imhotep sports programs.

Kenneth Wosely Jr, a 12th grader and another scholar-athlete, who will attend Penn State next year, is proud of how the program represents athletes in particular.

“To me, I’m also a scholar-athlete,” said Wosely. “I play football at Imhotep Charter. My passion and working in the STEM field is changing the narrative of how they view us as young African American men... that they think all

we can do is play sports. Being in the STEM program made me passionate about doing the service work and being on the service trips. It shows that I’m bigger than just an athlete, and I can also be great on the field and off the field.”

Two Imhotep STEM Ambassadors went to the SEPTA Gas and Heating Plant in Nicetown’s permit renewal hearing this past summer to give testimony on air quality. Jeremiah White, who testified that living next to gas and

heating plants would impact nearby neighbors’ air quality, is also a scholar-athlete. He mentioned how important air quality is to athletes taking in more air as they participate in sports.

Jaida Jordan, a 12th grader and another STEM ambassador, said the program also improved her confidence in public speaking. “We do a lot of interviews and a lot of talking at conferences, so I have a lot of practice,” said Jordan. She feels more outgoing in all parts of school since she joined, with the recommendation from her mom and one of her teachers who said they needed more girls in the STEM program.

This fall, the STEM Ambassadors plan a trip to Sapelo Island, right off the coast of the state of Georgia, where they’ll be working with the revitalization project on the island to build hydroponics and help with their water filtration systems. They’ll also be returning to Ghana at some point next year to help sustain and stabilize the water filtration systems they were working on.

The work is all important and timely, says Posey, because many countries across Africa and Black and brown communities in the U.S. still have limited access to clean water.

To learn more about the Imhotep STEM Ambassadors and how you can help support their mission, check out imhotephighschool.com, where you’ll also find a short documentary on their service trip to Ghana.

ON LOCATION W/ROB "GOV" HOLMAN

HALLOWEEN TRUNK PARTY



LONNIE YOUNG BOXING MATCH





GOV'S HANDYMAN SERVICE

**QUARANTEED
FAST &
RELIABLE**

PAINTING

LITE PLUMBING

TV WALL MOUNT'S

LITE ELECTRICAL

LITE ROOFING

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
267 528-9264**