

## OFFICERS

### Beta Pi Alumni Association of PiKA

**Ross Weiner '80**

Alumni Association President  
[BetaPiAlumniPenn@gmail.com](mailto:BetaPiAlumniPenn@gmail.com)

**Bruce Wolfson '71**

Alumni Association Vice-  
President  
[bawolfson@me.com](mailto:bawolfson@me.com)

**Joel Catania '71**

Alumni Association Treasurer  
[jlclii@aol.com](mailto:jlclii@aol.com)

**Mort Cohen '65**

Alumni Association Secretary  
[fishfry1201@aol.com](mailto:fishfry1201@aol.com)

### Chapter Officers

**President**

Connor McQuillan  
[conmc@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:conmc@sas.upenn.edu)

**External VP**

Marcus Nowlan  
[mnowlan@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:mnowlan@seas.upenn.edu)

**Internal VP**

Brandon Kim  
[brandkim@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:brandkim@sas.upenn.edu)

**Treasurer**

Nicholas Youssef  
[nicky99@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:nicky99@seas.upenn.edu)

**Secretary**

Alex Schoeny  
[aschoeny@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:aschoeny@sas.upenn.edu)

## COVID-19

**NOTE:  
Founders Day 2020  
Canceled**

**Look for further details  
in the monthly eletter.**



March 2020

# Slices of Beta Pi

[www.pika-upenn.org](http://www.pika-upenn.org)

The Alumni Newsletter of the Beta Pi Chapter of  
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity

## EVENT RECAP

### Fourth Annual Beta Pi Dinner a Hit



A day that started with a heavy snow and ended with a constant rain could not keep Jeff Kaufman's fourth annual Beta Pi dinner from being a success. On Dec. 11, 2019, 41 hardy Beta Pi Alumni withstood the elements to enjoy a rousing reception and fabulous dinner at Ben and Jack's Steak House in New York City.

In the weeks prior to the event, Brother Kaufman solicited photographs from the Alumni, relating to Beta Pi members and their activities during their time at Penn. Jeff turned these photographs into a slideshow that was a big hit for all in attendance. Brothers were able to revive their memories and relive their time at Penn. There was an abundance of pictures from spring breaks, spring flings (skimmer), parties, formals, intramural sports and candid photos taken in the Chapter House. Besides the slides from the late 70s and early 80s, there were pictures of Julia, George and Ted. Also shown were Brothers from preceding eras, such as **Gregg Ormond '74**, **Dave Edman '73**, **Jerry Herman '72**, **Bob LaBonde '69**, **Nick Chimicles '67** and **John F. E. Hippel '20**.

To everyone on Brother Kaufman's email list, **Robert Ball '78**, sent the following message, "I do not remember, unfortunately, all the fun we had at PiKA and U. of P. and from the photos, we young adventurers had a great time! Thanks for the pictures to all you old photographers! Bringing back those memories is truly priceless!" Well stated. The slideshow played on a

continuous loop throughout the cocktail hour and dinner.

During the cocktail hour, 41 Brothers broke into small groups to discuss old times, present times and the future. Main topics of conversation centered on family and careers. In regard to "careers," retirement was a major topic.

As Brothers sought each other out, the small groups for conversation were constantly changing. Except for **Parker Weil's (Beta Pi '85)** get-together in the spring, this is the only time many of the attendees could actually see each other to check out hairlines and waistlines.

There must have been a great deal to discuss as everyone was reluctant to take seats when dinner was called. After everyone was seated, they enjoyed Ben and Jack's famous New York sirloin steak, filet mignon and other choices. The meal ended with dessert platters featuring an array of desserts that would destroy anyone's attempts to diet.

After the meal, a group picture was taken and everyone returned to pre-dinner activities: reliving old times and maintaining lifelong friendships. The Brothers of this era constitute a remarkable group, including the new member class of 1980 that had 12 members, and the new member class of 1981 that had nine members, in attendance.

Thanks to **Jeff Kaufman, Beta Pi '80**, for organizing another successful Alumni event.

## Paul Zaentz Debuts New Film

**Paul Zaentz, Beta Pi '69**, has produced a new film that is currently making waves at some of the most prestigious film festivals worldwide. His film, a documentary titled "COUP 53" has been accepted to be shown at the London, Telluride, Vancouver and Mill Valley Film Festivals. The Telluride Film Festival presented the world premiere, Aug. 31, 2019.

Paul is currently part owner and executive for Fantasy Films/The Zaentz Co., which made three movies that earned Oscars for best picture: "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Amadeus" and "The English Patient." Four years ago, Paul became a producer for "COUP 53," and he has worked tirelessly since then to produce the picture, which has intrigued viewers and received rave reviews since its completion. "COUP 53" is a documentary that follows the U.S. and British involvement in the 1953 removal of the democratically elected Prime Minister of Iran, and the reinstatement of the Shah as Iran's leader that eventually led to the 1978-79 installation of a fundamentalist Islamic regime in Iran.

Brother Zaentz produced this film as a collaborative effort with Taghi Amirani, a refugee from Iran whose family settled in England. Mr. Amirani acts as a writer and the director of the film. "COUP 53" received tremendous critical acclaim at the Telluride Film Festival.

Following two sold-out showings at Telluride, a third showing was added that was also sold out. WhatsOn, an internet critic for new films, after setting forth the historical events investigated by the documentary, describes "COUP 53" as "a captivating tour-de-force," and further states, "Amirani's compelling documentary ensures that this is one history lesson that you won't forget."

Here is how Todd McCarthy, in *The Hollywood Reporter*, an internationally recognized and influential critic of new films, describing the Iranian change in government and its treatment by the film-makers of "COUP 53," describes the documentary: "Arguably one of the most consequential but little-discussed decisions of the post-World War II era is entrancingly dissected in 'COUP 53.'"

He goes on to mention, "Amirani's passionate and fearless work" and "the centrality in world affairs that Iran has achieved over the past half-century almost



automatically bestows 'COUP 53' with special interest that is greatly augmented by the driven, eccentric and historical hyper-obsessiveness Amirani brings to the project."

He concludes "...the film will enthrall documentary and history geeks. After a run through festivals, this dense and idiosyncratic work should and must find homes on docu-friendly channels worldwide."

On Thursday, Oct. 17, 2019, "COUP 53" had a private screening to a full house in a Washington, D.C., theater. Brother Zaentz was very gratified by the warm reception the film received in D.C., but he could not rest on his laurels. The next morning, he had to scramble up to New York City to prepare for the private screening on Friday, Oct. 18, 2019, to be held at the SVA Theater in the Chelsea district of New York City.

To get the best seats available, NYC Pikes began to arrive at 6:30 p.m. for a program that was to begin at 7:30 p.m. First to arrive were **Morty Cohen, Beta Pi '65**, and **Joel Catania, Beta Pi '71**, accompanied by his wife, Donna. They were greeted by Paul Zaentz and partner, Eugenia Melian. Shortly thereafter, **Bruce Wolfson, Beta Pi '71**, and his wife Ellen arrived, followed by **Paul Newman, Beta Pi '73**, and his wife Carol. After settling into their seats, **Ross Weiner, Beta Pi '80**, came walking up the aisle. He had secured seats on the other side of the auditorium for himself and his wife Lisa Goldstein.

At 7:30 p.m., Taghi Amirani took the microphone to give an opening welcome to all in attendance. He explained why it took 10 years from beginning to end to create "COUP 53." Funding for a documentary was difficult and when funds were too low, there were



stretches when all production was halted.

He then introduced the persons primarily responsible for the film, including Paul Zaentz, the producer. After "signing on" four years ago, Paul was able to bring the documentary to completion. Also introduced was Walter Murch, world-renowned film editor, who gave an overview of how much time and effort was necessary to complete this "small film" that has evolved into a widely acclaimed major documentary. Brother Zaentz advises that the film will be in theaters early in 2020. He expects the film will receive an Academy Award nomination in 2021.

Following the showing of the film, the audience showed its appreciation with sustained applause, a reaction that you do not normally see in a movie theater. A panel discussion and Q&A closed out the evening. Our thanks to Paul for our invitations to an event Taghi Amirani described as the "New York Premiere of all Premieres," as well as our congratulations to Paul and his team on the completion of the film, and our best wishes for the continued success of his latest accomplishment in 2020 and 2021.



## A PIKA PHOTO'S WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Can't find the right words to share your PiKA story? Share your memories with a photo instead.

We have a ton of amazing photos from over

the decades up on the PiKA alumni website. Check out your Brothers in their finest '80s attire, sporting their most stylish sideburns or . . . well, whatever's going on in these photos.

Find more photos at [www.pika-upenn.org](http://www.pika-upenn.org) and submit your best PiKA photos for inclusion in the next newsletter/letter, by emailing [alumninews@affinityconnection.com](mailto:alumninews@affinityconnection.com).



PiKA Worksession - 1979



PiKA Worksession - 1979



PiKA Broom Hockey - 1981

## 2019-2020 HONOR ROLL

### Thank You!

*The following Alumni are recognized for their annual fund contributions in 2019-20. Reflects gifts received from July 1, 2019 through March 1, 2020*

#### Legacy Society (1,000+)

Anthony J. Stagliano	1964
Stephen Leventhal	1967
Mark Perna	1968
Richard Sussman	1969
Paul Zaentz	1969
Jeffrey Serota	1985
Richard Solit	1986
Adam Michaels	1997

#### Patron's Society (\$500 - \$999)

Gary Sachs	1974
Paul Reszutek	1976
Robert Oringer	1979

#### Garnet & Gold Club (\$250 - \$499)

J. Bosley	1961
Morton Cohen	1965
Daniel Darkes	1968
Joel Catania	1971
Richard Schorr	1972
Michael Halpern	1980



#### Sponsor's Circle (Up to - \$249)

Donald Schreiber	1947
Vincent Sheridan	1948
James Fish	1952
Craig Fenton	1962
Andrew Miscio	1962
Christopher Lacy	1963
Stanley Serocca	1966
Stephen Dreskin	1968
Kenneth Wideltz	1969
Craig Kline	1970
Richard Whealton	1972
Martin Conroy	1972
Jerome Herman	1972
Harvey Mackler	1972
Jerome Goldberg	1974
Bradford Yeager	1975
Steven Winston	1977

Scott Mackler	1977
Ronald Perilstein	1977
Gregory Sembler	1980
Chawner Hurd	1980
John Feder	1980
Ross Weiner	1980
M. Sila	1980
Kenneth Wyman	1981
Thomas Fogarty	1981
James Post	1981
Eric Morgenstern	1981
Ronald Pillar	1983
Robert Epstein	1983
Alan Frost	1984
Parker Weil	1985
Michael Troy	1986
Michael Franco	1987
Seth Shulman	1989
David Lazarus	1991
Joseph Cohen	2002
William Brown	1962

## PHILANTHROPY

### The Scott Mackler 5K Event for ALS Philadelphia is a Success

The annual Scott Mackler MD PhD 5k run/walk (Mackler 5k) took place at Temple Beth El, in Newark, Delaware, Nov. 3, 2019. This event was devised and is underwritten by 2019 Alumnus of the Year, as chosen by the Beta Pi Alumni Association, **Harvey Mackler, Beta Pi '72**, and the Mackler family, to honor the legacy of **Scott Mackler, Beta Pi '77**. All proceeds from the event are for the benefit of the ALS Association of Greater Philadelphia.

A 12-man delegation from Beta Pi participated in this year's fundraiser. Also attending was Brandy, the Beta Pi house dog. Special recognition is due to **Michael Bobrick**

**'77**, who makes an annual trek from his home in Virginia to participate. Besides joining in the festivities of running the Mackler 5k, these exceptional brothers voluntarily aided in the post-run clean-up.

The fundraiser was an absolute success. Nearly \$80,000 was raised by this year's event. Over the 20 years the Mackler 5k has taken place, Harvey and his family have presented over \$2,750,000 to ALS Philadelphia. This year, the donors from the Beta Pi chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha contributed more than \$5,000, including an astounding donation of \$2,460 from our undergraduate members. Special

thanks to **Obed Antoine '19** who coordinated the undergraduate contingent with brother Mackler. The total contributions on behalf of Beta Pi chapter for the 20 years of the Mackler 5k is now close to \$100,000. These donations allow ALS Philadelphia to provide technology and equipment to any person in the Philadelphia area who suffers from the debilitating effects of ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

To all those who donated their time and money toward the success of this year's Mackler 5k, we thank you.



## CHAPTER ETERNAL

### Brother David T. Jones, Beta Pi '60, Penn '63

It is with great sadness to report the death of **David T. Jones**, a life-long brother of Beta Pi chapter who truly exemplified our motto, "Once a Pike, always a Pike."

Brother Jones joined PiKA and was an active member during the years PiKA went from being an afterthought on Penn's campus to one of the largest and most diverse memberships of all fraternities at Penn. The brotherhood of his years set the groundwork for Beta Pi being a force on campus, in a brand-new chapter house, and later earning the Smythe awards in the 70s. He maintained a long list of life-long friendships with his Beta Pi brothers, including **Dr. Howard Myers '59**, **Peter G. Kutra Jr. '60** (deceased in 2009), **John Eldred '63**, **J. Conrad Bosley '61** and **William C. Gipe '59** (deceased in 2019).

Our sincere condolences are extended to his wife Teresa; his daughters Martha, Lisa and Margaret; and all other members of his family.

## ON THE WEB

### Have You Registered on the Alumni Website?



[www.pika-upenn.org](http://www.pika-upenn.org)

Brotherhood is unique. We spend four years on a college campus with our fraternity Brothers, and as a result, we have a community for a lifetime. We want to make the most of those connections. Our Brotherhood has a reach that extends across the country. It provides a resourceful network of support, professions and community.

We have provided an online forum on our website for you to connect with other alumni. By utilizing the alumni website, you can stay in contact with Brothers wherever life after graduation took them. Register online for our password-protected platform, so you can upload photos, utilize the searchable directory and read and provide updates. Visit the alumni page and get connected today! Register online and start the conversation that has been years in the making!