

# PHILO Members Have a Long History of Rowing in Philadelphia



PHOTO CIRCA 1941

Two of the Founders of **The Philadelphia Girls Rowing Club** are pictured here and were Philo members. In the top photo, Helen Muldowney-Kiniry (center), was President of the PGRC at the time of the photo. Her cousin, Margaret Cantwell-Sonzogni (right), was Secretary. Helen went on to become President of the Philo Associates for several years and was honored to receive the St. John Neumann Medal.

Shells named in their honor are still on the river today:



(L-R) Margaret and Helen assist other PGRC Founders with christening of the Spirit of '38

## Philo Members Whose Memorial Trophies are Presented Each Year at the Stotesbury Regatta



***The Joseph F. Brennan Memorial Coach Award:*** Inaugurated in 2010. Given to a Rowing Coach for Outstanding Dedication in the Development of Young Rowers. Mr. Brennan, a Korean War veteran, grew up in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia. He graduated from Roman Catholic and was a member of his high school rowing team, winning trophies with the Fairmount Rowing Association. In 1956, he became the first rowing-team coach at Monsignor Bonner High School. He later coached crew at St. Joseph's Preparatory School, Mount St. Joseph Academy, and St. Joseph's University. In the 1950s, he helped found the Manny Flick Regatta, a high school rowing competition on the Schuylkill.



### WINNING PHOTO CIRCA 2018

Mr. Brennan's two daughters (also Philo members), Claire Brennan-Sereni and Judy Brennan-Thompson presented the trophy that year to winning coach Craig Hoffman, of Malvern Prep. Also pictured are Mark Valente, (left) and Jim Barker (right).



***The James R. Muldowney Trophy:*** Lightweight Eight. Honors James R. Muldowney, who grew up in the Fairmount section of Philadelphia. In 1947, he was captain of the Roman Catholic Lightweight team. He was a life-long avid rower and, as a professional printer, Jim (or "Mort" as he was known) was influential in documenting the history of rowing by reproducing historical pictures.



### WINNING PHOTO CIRCA 2018

The trophy was proudly presented to St. Joe's Prep by Mr. Muldowney's son, Michael and his cousin Linda Coyle-Robinson, Philo Board Member.



**The Sonzogni Trophy** awarded to Varsity Quad winners, honors the seven brothers of the Sonzogni family who rowed for the Fairmount Rowing Association. Roman Catholic donated this trophy in 2001.



**PHOTO CIRCA 2019**

The trophy is presented to Malvern Prep

by Jim Sonzogni (r.), son of rowing parents,

PGRC Founder Margaret Sonzogni and

oarsman Louis Sonzogni.

## **LYONS: Philo's Rowing Family of Olympic Competitors**



**SEPTEMBER 26, 1988**

Daniel Lyons and Robert Espeseth vie for the Gold in the pairs competition on the Han River Regatta Rowing Venue during the XXIV Olympic Games.

**Daniel K. Lyons**, (\*2<sup>nd</sup> generation oarsman), an American rower who competed in the 1988 Summer Olympics in the coxed pair. Brother of Joanne Lyons-Penttila, cousin of Chris & Mari Roan-Lyons (all Philo members), was born March 8, 1958 in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania.

Dan has rowed on 7 US National Teams, resulting in 2 world bronze medals, a world gold medal, and a gold medal at the Pan American Games. After winning 11 national rowing championships, he was inducted into the US Rowing Hall of Fame.

At the 1988 Olympic Games, his partner Robert Espeseth fell ill, and Dan finished in 11th place with a replacement partner. Lyons has also coached rowing since 1983 at the US Naval Academy, St. Joseph's Prep in Philadelphia, Oxford, Stanford, Drexel, and Georgetown Universities, and Penn Athletic Club in Philadelphia.

In 1981, Lyons graduated from the United States Naval Academy. In 1987, he obtained a degree in politics, philosophy and economics from Oxford University. In 1989, he earned his Master's Degree in American History with Villanova University. He later pursued a Ph.D. in Military History from Temple University and has taught history at the US Naval Academy and Rutgers University.

\*Dan's father Jim Lyons, and uncle, John Lyons were on the 1940 US Olympic rowing team. Those games were meant to be held in Helsinki, Finland, but were cancelled because of the outbreak of WWII in Europe.