

C-HIST  
SIP

Sipherd, Ray.

Recognition ceremony in honor of Ray Sipherd / award presented by Mayor James Darcy. -- Valley Stream Historical Society, May 31, 1996.

1 cassette.

NOTE: Recognition ceremony was held in the CHS Keller Auditorium, honoring television and fiction writer, Ray Sipherd, Central Class of 1953.

1. Sipherd, Ray. 2. Valley Stream (N.Y.) - History. I. Valley Stream Historical Society. II. Darcy, James.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

1. Program from the Distinguished Alumni Award Program honoring Ray Sipherd - May 31, 1996.
2. Photograph of Ray Sipherd - May 31, 1996. \*

\* Original photograph is filed in the Valley Stream Historical Photograph Collection.

# RAY SIPHERD

Now residing in Connecticut with his wife Anne Marie, Ray Sipherd was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Long Island at the age of five. He attended the Brooklyn Ave. Elementary School and then Central High School for grades 7-12 (Memorial Junior High did not open until 1952). His family's home was at 100 Surrey Commons in Lynbrook. At the age of 14 he contracted polio and was in the hospital for part of his high school career, but attended Central fully for his senior year and was active in the life of the school. He played flute, piccolo, clarinet and saxophone, was co-editor of the Cadet yearbook, president of the History Club, and active in drama, writing an original musical titled "Holiday Hotel" with classmate Dick DeBenedictis (now a Hollywood composer and conductor) in his senior year. His class voted him "Most Likely to Succeed."

After graduating from Central in 1953, Ray Sipherd earned a B.A. in English from Yale University in 1957, minoring in drama. That year he joined CBS Television as a story editor, and later became assistant to the producer for a number of dramatic specials. In the 1960's he was a writer-producer for WNET, the public television station in New York, creating more than 30 programs including the award-winning documentary "Years Without Harvest"--which chronicled the plight of the farmer during the Depression--and the weekly hour-long arts program called "All Things Considered."

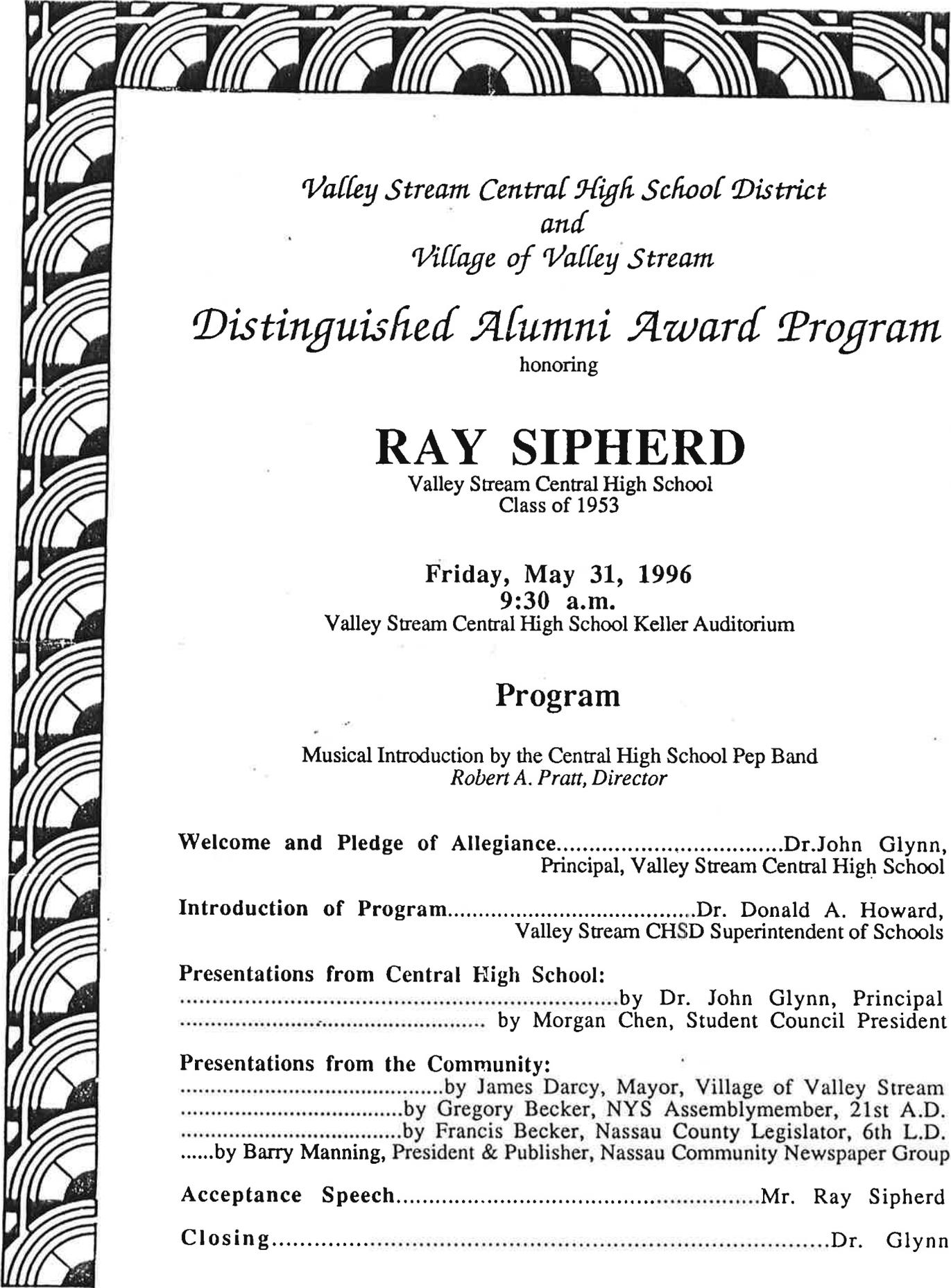


Ray Sipherd is perhaps best known as one of the four original writers of the children's television series, Sesame Street, which he wrote for 17 years (1968-85), and for which he received three national television Emmy Awards in 1969, 1974 and 1985. During his Sesame Street years, he also authored seven children's books including "Down on the Farm with Grover," "Big Bird's Animal Alphabet," and "When Is My Birthday?," and was a lyricist for several Sesame Street record albums and videocassettes.

In addition, he has served as a freelance film and television writer for soap operas (including "The Secret Storm" and "The Young Marrieds"), dramas and documentaries (including the NBC oceanography special, "Out of the Cradle"); was a senior staff editor for Readers Digest Books, editing and condensing selections for over 20 years; and served on the National Endowment for the Humanities' advisory panel for film and television.

More recently he has taken to writing adult fiction. A romantic novel, "The Courtship of Peggy McCoy," which reveals his love of sailing, was published in 1990; a collection of short stories, "The Christmas Store," came out in 1993. Soon to be published this summer is "Dance of the Scarecrows," the first of a series of mysteries about an ornithologist who turns amateur detective.

We welcome Ray Sipherd to Central High School as the 10th recipient of his alma mater's Distinguished Alumni Award since Central began bestowing the honor in 1989. Previous recipients have been television newscasters Ralph Penza and Mike Schneider; national advertising sales director Peter Spina; New York Times president Lance Primis; former professional baseball player Thomas Gorman; stage and screen star Fern Fitzgerald; international sports executive George Killian; Metropolitan Opera conductor John Keenan; and Warner Bros. Television president (now CBS Entertainment president) Leslie Moonves.



*Valley Stream Central High School District  
and  
Village of Valley Stream*

*Distinguished Alumni Award Program*  
honoring

**RAY SIPHERD**

Valley Stream Central High School  
Class of 1953

**Friday, May 31, 1996  
9:30 a.m.**

Valley Stream Central High School Keller Auditorium

**Program**

Musical Introduction by the Central High School Pep Band  
*Robert A. Pratt, Director*

**Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance.....**Dr. John Glynn,  
Principal, Valley Stream Central High School

**Introduction of Program.....**Dr. Donald A. Howard,  
Valley Stream CHSD Superintendent of Schools

**Presentations from Central High School:**

.....by Dr. John Glynn, Principal  
..... by Morgan Chen, Student Council President

**Presentations from the Community:**

.....by James Darcy, Mayor, Village of Valley Stream  
.....by Gregory Becker, NYS Assemblymember, 21st A.D.  
.....by Francis Becker, Nassau County Legislator, 6th L.D.  
.....by Barry Manning, President & Publisher, Nassau Community Newspaper Group

**Acceptance Speech.....**Mr. Ray Sipherd

**Closing.....**Dr. Glynn



SIPHERD, RAY -- May 31, 1996