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Spring 2017

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Today 

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and energetic,
composer
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is turning the
classical world
on its ear

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Neda Navab CC'08

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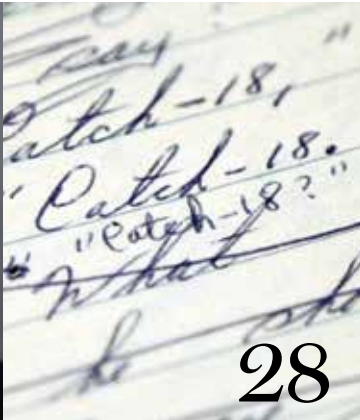


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COMMENCEMENT
COLUMBIA COLLEGE

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Within the Family

Telling Stories with Conviction

I started this editorship in February, on a day that once would have been called unseasonably warm. The rest of that week passed in a blur of orientations and meetings, so that it wasn't until the next week that I ventured from the Alumni Office on West 113th Street to campus — there, halfway down the march of College Walk, I paused and looked around. From that vantage point, many of the College and University's icons assert themselves: Hamilton Hall and Low and Butler Libraries; the pedestal on which once rose the Sundial; the seat where *Alma Mater* still watches over all. Geographically speaking, this is where the red pin drops: You are here, at Columbia.

And so I am, and I'm thrilled and grateful for the opportunity. It's my second go with *Columbia College Today*. I was managing editor for more than four years ending last January, and being back feels like a homecoming of sorts. It also feels in some ways like I never left. I may not have been on campus, but there wasn't a week that passed without my hearing about College alumni making their mark on the world. A comedy sketch gone viral, a presidential legacy debated, a Supreme Court nomination made. When you work with alumni the way we do at *CCT* — meeting them, reporting on their accomplishments, following the personal and professional turns in their lives — their names, *your* names, become braided into our consciousness. More than that: We feel pride in the ways you contribute to today's news and culture. We are curious about your challenges. We want to hear about the journeys that shaped you along the way. And we want to share those stories.

I cut my teeth as a journalist at a community newspaper on Martha's Vineyard, and from that experience came the conviction — if I may crib from something I wrote long ago — “that everyone has a story to tell and a passion of one kind or another. Sometimes the story spills out so fast the pen cannot keep up. Other times the conversation is more difficult, the essential thing flashes like a quarter on a sun-splashed sidewalk — and if you do not watch and listen carefully you will miss it.”

Those words remain at the core of my sensibility as an editor and writer. Learning about other people energizes me. So does finding the right words to convey their stories. It's what motivated me to attend the School of the Arts, where I studied nonfiction writing, and what drew me afterward to a human interest publication. It makes for a diverse beat, one that in fact contains many others — science, technology, business, politics, food, the performing arts. And the College is an ideal place to practice it.

In that same excerpt I wrote, too, of the importance of carefulness in listening, and I promise to carry that same



care and attentiveness into my stewardship of *CCT*. I also carry with me the lessons taken from Alex Sachare '71, whose warmth and thoughtfulness steered this magazine for more than 18 years. (You can read more in praise of Alex in this issue's “Letters to the Editor.”) One of the first things he advised me to do, as we sat across the table from each other in a conference room in November 2011, was to read Class Notes: “They're the best way to get to know our alumni.”

And how. Class Notes contain an incredible breadth of voices; they span more than 70 years and together reflect the collective intellect, eloquence and heart of College alumni. I learned about your families, pastimes, professions, causes and concerns; what animates and, occasionally, what angers you. To edit the entirety of Class Notes is also to begin to wrap one's mind around what it means to have a readership that is 52,000 strong.

In the end, that number is what I come back to time and again. The 52,000 whose connections to one another we aim to illuminate and deepen. The 52,000 whose perspectives we want to share and whom we want to put in conversation with one another. The 52,000 who form the community that this magazine uniquely represents. The 52,000 for and about whom we tell stories.

Being your editor is a privilege and a responsibility. I look forward to it.

Alexis Boney

Alexis Boney SOA'11
Editor-in-Chief



Thank You, Alex

Traditions matter. They define and bond us. Columbia College is no exception to this principle. We have, among others, the Core Curriculum, Convocation for first-years, the Senior Dinner and Class Day for seniors, sitting on the Low Steps on sunny days, and long days and nights studying in Hamilton and Butler, respectively.

Another tradition we have is an excellent alumni magazine, *Columbia College Today*, which is published quarterly. About 19 years ago, after a successful career as a sports journalist and author, Alex Sachare '71 became its editor. This development was the College's great fortune.

From the start, Alex understood the importance of emphasizing consistency and respect for the College's rich history while incorporating novel and entertaining features that appeal to our varied constituencies and generations. Each issue featured Alex's and/or the dean's message, Around the Quads news items, reports on our athletic teams' achievements, a message from the Columbia College Alumni Association, updates on new books penned by alumni and professors, Class Notes and Obituaries. Alex and his staff, plus a team of freelance writers, wrote in-depth articles about alumni, students exploring the world, rising faculty stars — as well as legendary professors — and campus issues.

Thank you, Alex, for your many years of great work and service to the College community. I hope this is not a full "retirement" and that occasionally you'll still put on your writer's hat and contribute your wisdom and warmth to *CCT*.

Brian Krisberg '81, LAW'84
New York City

In 22 years as a class correspondent, I've worked with two *Columbia College Today* editors, both of whom were terrific: Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80 and Alex Sachare '71. I almost missed the news of Alex's retirement in the last issue, with his modest farewell. [Editor's note: See "Within the Family," Winter 2016–17.]

Alex joined the magazine after a distinguished career in the world of sports journalism, including positions with the NBA and AP, another shared alma mater, and of course *Spectator*, where he was sports editor. (After I met Alex, my challenge was remembering how to pronounce his last name.) [Editor's note: It's "saa-share."]

Alex, thank you for your support of the class correspondents during your 18-plus-years tenure. I've always especially appreciated your help in publishing photos to commemorate events, such as the annual gathering of the new Roger Lehecka Summer Fellows. All best wishes for your retirement!

Janet Lorin '95, JRN'96
New York City

The Trustees of the Columbia University Club Foundation have long been cognizant of the dedication and outstanding service that

Alex Sachare '71 had devoted, since 1998, to *Columbia College Today* as its editor, and we wish him well on his recent retirement.

We learned late last year that University Archivist Jocelyn Wilk had desired to digitize all past issues of the magazine in order to preserve them for reference and ease the ability of anyone wishing to research them. Therefore, the foundation was pleased to have made a significant donation to help Vice Provost and University Librarian Ann D. Thornton, Wilk and *CCT* to undertake this project, and we have done so in honor of Alex.

Arthur M. Delmborst '60, BUS'64, president
Bernd Brecher '54, JRN'55, vice president
The Trustees of the Columbia University
Club Foundation

Thank you, Alex Sachare '71, for your many years of service to the Columbia College community as editor of *Columbia College Today*. I have eagerly awaited every one of

Contact Us

CCT welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not *CCT*, the College or the University. Please keep letters to 250 words or fewer. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and *CCT* style. Please direct letters for publication "to the editor" via mail or online: college.columbia.edu/cct/contactus.

the 87 issues that you have edited. It's amazing how well a magazine can continue to keep our College experience alive.

As the correspondent for the Class of 1963 for the past 14 years, I thank you for expanding the Class Notes section and allowing class correspondents to help our classmates stay in better touch with one another. You have kept me honest through the years by ensuring my notes are accurate without exerting a heavy editorial thumb. You and your staff have graciously accepted my natural procrastination and gently encouraged my submissions past deadline without making me feel too guilty.

You and I have shared a love of Columbia's past and present, and happily, on your watch, the online version of *CCT* has become a true archive and an extraordinary source of information about Columbia and its history.

Thank you for your friendship, for all you have done for *CCT* and for your promise to continue as a contributing writer.

Paul Nesbamkin '63
Hoboken, N.J.

Ignorance or Bias?

In the Winter 2016–17 issue, professor of political science Robert Y. Shapiro writes, "Another reason [Barack] Obama ['83] rates highly is that his administration has been strikingly free of scandals." I don't remember having even one professor in the early 1960s who was so ignorant or biased that (s)he would make such a claim. My fellow students would have detected sarcasm and laughed. Mr. Shapiro, just as an example, what do you think about Obama using the IRS to conduct political warfare? Watergate was a Sunday school transgression compared to Obama's lawlessness.

Jim O'Brien '66
Maitland, Fla.

Missing Voices

As a proud Columbia College alumna, I was dismayed to open my last *Columbia College Today* and see the egregious underrepresentation of women in the cover article ("The Experts," Winter 2016–17). Out of the 18 "experts" interviewed for the article, only three were women. Moreover, these three women did not appear until the final three interviews of the piece. (For context: The College has admitted women since 1983 and female students now make up 51 percent of the student body.)

I have always valued my College education, in large part due to the strong, smart women who were my classmates, roommates, professors and colleagues. I am greatly disappointed and ashamed that the writers and editors at *CCT* did not cast a wider net to include more of these women in the piece; we certainly merit a place at the table of CC experts.

Natalie Kimmelman '06
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Bring Back Orgo Night

In "Rituals, Traditions, History" ("Message from the Dean," Winter 2014–15), Dean James J. Valentini praised College traditions as "part of our identity and part of the legacy of every College student — former, current and future ..."

Which brings us to Orgo Night.

An undergraduate admissions brochure, "Columbia Blue," has included a student's joyous depiction of that twice-yearly event: "The main study room in Butler Library starts getting packed around 11:30 p.m. ... At midnight sharp ... the marching band storms into the room playing songs and reading jokes while the rest of us are standing on the tables and chairs dancing and laughing."

Admissions hasn't been alone in endorsing the more-than-40-year-old tradition. In a Class Notes column for the Class of 1955, Columbia College Alumni Association former president and current class correspondent Gerald Sherwin '55 cited "the always-sparkling Orgo Night." On its 250th-anniversary website, the University posted Orgo Night memories from two College alumni. The James H. and Christine Turk Berick Center for Student Advising as well as Columbia Family Engagement recommend attendance as a study break.

So we were saddened and distressed this past December when administrators declared Butler off-limits to the Marching Band because of "library rules." The brief midnight pause, they said, is too disruptive. Library rules? Really?

Orgo Night has always been like a "Cleverest Band in the World" halftime performance on steroids: more Friars Club roast than tea at Grandma's. But as hypersensitivity has swept American campuses, the administration has had to field a smattering of complaints from students who say Orgo Night jokes make them uncomfortable. So what to make of the sudden

demand for silence in a space where students have gathered twice-yearly since 1975 to laugh, cheer, clap and sing "Roar, Lion, Roar" along with the band?

We find the timing suspect, the "library rules" excuse disingenuous and the execution unbecoming.

On December 15, not content to let the tradition die, the band braved subzero wind chill and performed outside Butler before a crowd of hundreds. If any students remained in Room 209, we doubt their grades were improved by the extra half-hour of quiet time.

We applaud band members' persistence and their fellow students' appreciation of a valued tradition. (All four Columbia undergraduate student councils and the *Specta-*



CHAR SMULLYAN '05'98

tor editorial board spoke up on the band's behalf.) We urge administrators to rethink this latest casualty in what students call the "War on Fun." Students who see their sense of community weakened become alumni who just don't care, and that's in no one's interest. Let's go back to suspending the rules for a half-hour twice yearly — a reasonable accommodation. Let the band promote school spirit inside Butler as well as outside, in the name of tradition, for the sake of community building, and — dare we say it? — for the love of alma mater.

Steven Greenfield '83, Samantha Rowan BC'96, Morgan Robinson '08, Katharine Trendacosta '10 and Peter Andrews '14, directors, Columbia University Band Alumni Association; Ed Coller '63, Dan Carlinsky '65, JRN'66, J. Donald Smith '65, Peter Janovsky '68, Christopher Sten '77, BUS'79, Dennis Klainberg '84, Cathy Webster '87, Liz Pleshette '89, Betsey Benagh '94, SEAS'94, Ben Mills '06, Mark Tabry SEAS'07, Stephanie Tarras BC'10 and Kevin Gould '12, Advisory Board members, CUBAA
New York City

Message from the Dean

Our Community's Highest Priority

In early February we had a snow day on campus. Classes were canceled and nearly a foot of snow fell in New York City. I surprised students by joining a snowball fight on Low Plaza, while Dean's Office staff served hot chocolate in Hamilton Hall. It was an unexpected opportunity for us to come together as a community.

I've been thinking about that snowball fight lately because we have been very focused on campus wellness this semester. The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines wellness as "the state or condition of being in good physical, mental, and spiritual health, especially as an actively pursued goal." That's what our students seemed to feel during the snowball fight, and something they tell me they want more of in their day-to-day lives.

The essential goal of higher education is to prepare students for life after graduation. At Columbia College, we do this on a variety of levels, from offering a dynamic curriculum and extracurricular activities, to providing faculty the resources they need to best educate students, to facilitating student success through enhanced career advising and student wellness programs.

While we have had a strong support system in place for many years — including professional Residential Life staff and student RAs in all of our residence halls; academic, study abroad, fellowship, financial aid and student organization advisers; and access to University resources such as Columbia Health and Counseling and Psychological Services — we have been working to enhance and expand support for student health and well-being.

In Fall 2016, we created a director of wellness position to support the undergraduate community's priorities. In recent years, we have improved our Medical Leave of Absence Policy and have expanded support for first-generation and low-income students and other communities.

Recently, we augmented staff training for recognizing and responding to student mental health emergencies, retrained student-facing College staff and are now training all College staff (including me). We also plan in the coming months to train Core instructors, directors of undergraduate studies and student leaders.

As we work on these initiatives, I have been grateful for our students, alumni and parents, who have offered their time and thoughts as part of this conversation. Students have written op-eds and articles, told me about formal and informal initiatives that they have started on campus to support fellow students and volunteered to represent the College at the 2nd Annual Ivy League Mental Health Conference, which was hosted at Brown in February.

We also recently organized a community roundtable with student leaders and College staff to brainstorm ways to reduce the pressure that students feel. Ideas included adding mental health programming to the New Student Orientation Program and adding more small-scale opportunities for "fun," such as movies, concerts or games on campus.



MICHAEL EDMONSON '20

After the roundtable, I asked students why the snowball fight was such a special experience. One student said: "We know that every Columbia student is incredibly intelligent and takes very intense academic courses. So it's easy for us to forget that every Columbia student is also still a kid who enjoys snowball fights, loves to watch movies with friends on Low Steps, is excited by the idea of receiving free Columbia stickers and wants to take pictures with Roar-ee to put on their Instagram."

While we are focused on educating students for their lives after graduation, we also need to remember that they are kids, young people who are still developing the tools they need to succeed, personally and professionally. And though we cannot solve all of the problems that students face on- and off-campus, there are steps we can take as a community to instill a greater sense of health and well-being.

We are now making student well-being our highest priority, and we will continue to look at ways to address stress and to enhance student resources. We are committed to providing Columbia College students with health and wellness tools that will serve them not only while they are here, but also for many years to come.

James J. Valentini
Dean

Gorsuch Nominated to U.S. Supreme Court

Neil M. Gorsuch '88, a conservative federal appellate judge who has distinguished himself across a 25-year career in the American judicial system, has been nominated as the 113th justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The nomination was announced on January 31, ending weeks of speculation surrounding whom President Donald J. Trump would name. At this writing, the Senate hearing on the nomination was scheduled to begin on March 20, with a ruling not expected until at least April.

"Standing here in a house of history, and acutely aware of my own imperfections, I pledge that if I am confirmed I will do all my powers permit to be a faithful servant of the Constitution and laws of this great country," Gorsuch said after Trump's announcement, which was televised live

from the White House. He is currently a judge with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit, in Denver.

The seat Gorsuch would fill has been vacant since Justice Antonin Scalia died in February 2016. President Barack Obama '83 had nominated D.C. Circuit Chief

from the perspective of those who wrote it. He is also committed to textualism, the practice of considering only the words of the law being reviewed and not legislators' intent or the consequences that might come with a law's implementation. Within the legal community he is widely praised for

"If I am confirmed I will do all my powers permit to be a faithful servant of the Constitution and laws of this great country."—Neil M. Gorsuch '88

Judge Merrick Garland for the role, but Republicans refused to hold hearings to consider confirmation.

Gorsuch subscribes to originalism, a philosophy of interpreting the Constitution

his writing, a skill that — along with a penchant for strong opinions — he cultivated at Columbia. He penned an occasional column for *Spectator*, "Fed up," and co-founded the *Federalist Paper*, which at the time was part newspaper and part opinion journal; a 1989 *Spectator* article noted that "the *Federalist* established the validity of a conservative view at Columbia."

Gorsuch was born in Colorado and moved to Washington, D.C., as a teenager when his mother, Anne Gorsuch Burford, became the first woman to lead the Environmental Protection Agency. He was a political science major at the College, graduated from Harvard Law in 1991 and subsequently attended Oxford as a Marshall Scholar, earning a Ph.D. in legal philosophy in 2004. From 1993 to 1994 he was a law clerk to Justice Byron R. White, then a retired member of the Supreme Court, and Justice Anthony M. Kennedy. He practiced law for a decade at the Washington, D.C., firm Kellogg, Huber, Hansen, Todd, Evans & Figel before serving in the Justice Department from 2005 to 2006.

President George W. Bush nominated Gorsuch to the Court of Appeals in 2006, and he took office that same year.

If confirmed, Gorsuch would be the second Columbian to serve on the country's highest court. John Jay (Class of 1764) was the first chief justice, serving from 1789 to 1795.

—Alexis Boncy SOA'11



Gorsuch and his wife, Mary Louise, as he received the presidential nomination.



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Garcetti Re-Elected as L.A. Mayor



Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA '93 was elected to a second term as mayor of Los Angeles on March 7. While the ballots were still being counted as *CCT* went to press, the victory was said to be one of the biggest landslides in the city's history, with Garcetti, a Democrat, holding more than 80 percent of the vote over 10 lesser-known rivals. "I want to thank the citizens who voted for me; you made this moment possible," he told supporters at a victory party, speaking in both English and Spanish. Garcetti has been L.A.'s mayor since 2013 and is often mentioned as a future candidate for higher office. He is a fourth-generation Angeleno and a lieutenant in the Navy Reserve.



MICHAEL DIVITO

Dean's Scholarship Reception

On February 7, more than 400 guests gathered in Alfred Lerner Hall's Roone Arledge Auditorium for the Dean's Scholarship Reception, an annual event where donors and students meet and discuss shared College experiences. At right, speakers Li Lu '96, BUS'96, LAW'96, donor of the Li Lu '96 Scholarship, and Taylor M. Fogg '17, a recipient of the Philip and Cheryl Milstein Scholarship. Above, chatting at the reception (left to right), Stephen Case '64, LAW'68; Sohbet Dovranov '20, the recipient of the Charles Hayden Memorial Scholarship Fund; and Zachariah Calluori '17, the recipient of the Edwin H. Case Memorial Scholarship Fund. Dean James J. Valentini also spoke, thanking donors for their generosity.



Learn more about the speakers and view the list of donors and recipients: college.columbia.edu/namedscholarships.



COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Jackie Chulya '17

By Nathalie Alonso '08

Reigning Ivy League Player of the Year **Jackie Chulya '17** looks back with amusement at the disappointment she felt when her father announced that, as a gift for her 7th birthday, he would introduce her to golf. “I wanted an actual present, like a doll,” she recalls.

Chulya’s father, who had taken up golf recreationally as a graduate student in Cleveland, hoped to one day see his daughter on television playing the sport professionally. Through the years, as she honed her stroke under the searing Bangkok sun, Chulya made that dream her own. She now appears well-positioned to achieve it, following a standout junior season for the women’s golf team in 2015–16. After posting a scoring average of 74.95 — the second-best in Lions history in a single season — Chulya became just the second female Columbian to be voted Ivy League Player of the Year; she became so by a unanimous vote. In the process, she set single-season program records for most birdies made (62) and Par-4 scoring (4.16).

During the Fall 2016 season, Chulya, who shares the title of team captain with Camilla Vik '17, helped the Lions take

first place in two of their four tournaments. She says she takes most pride, however, in having “stayed committed through the ups and downs” of her career, including a frustrating performance at the U.S. Girls’ Junior championships in 2012 that led her to consider quitting the sport. “I’m just glad I never gave up and tried to find ways to improve,” she says.

It’s the mental challenge that golf poses, Chulya adds, that drives her. “No matter how much you practice or how hard you work, it comes down to being able to make clutch putts and overcome your fears when you’re under pressure,” she says.

Born in Cleveland, Chulya was just a few months old when her parents relocated the family — which includes her older sister, Jessica, who played golf at UC Davis — back to their native Thailand. Accompanied by one of her parents, from the time she was 12 Chulya spent summers competing in golf tournaments in the United States. She began her Columbia career at Engineering, but transferred to the College following her sophomore year after discovering that she preferred Core classes over engineering classes.

By the time she started college, the rigors of golf had diminished Chulya’s aspirations

fast facts

HOMETOWN: Bangkok, Thailand

MAJOR: Economics and math joint major

CLUBS: Women’s Golf Team, Thai Club

KUDOS: Dinah Shore Trophy, Ivy League Player of the Year 2015–16, Women’s Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar, William Terminello Award (co-winner)

to pursue the sport professionally. However, she says that her time at Columbia has rekindled that dream and in August she will attend the newly established qualifying school for the Symetra Tour, the official developmental tour for the Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour. Her goal is to qualify for the prestigious LPGA Tour. “[At Columbia] I started enjoying golf a lot more and I got better as well. That combination of being able to play well and enjoy it at the same time sparked my interest again in playing pro golf,” she says.

Nathalie Alonso '08, from Queens, is a freelance journalist and an editorial producer for LasMayores.com, Major League Baseball’s official Spanish language website.



FRANCIS CATANIA

DidYouKnow?

Columbia Has Miles of Books

You may have spent hours in the Butler stacks, but did you know that Columbia's on-campus and affiliate library system comprise **21 separate libraries?** All those libraries hold a total of **11.9 million volumes** — not to mention **179,457 videos, DVDs, CDs and sound recordings.** That adds up to **246 miles of materials!**

Learn more at library.columbia.edu/about/facts.

Five Alumni Honored

Five College alumni were honored on March 1 at the 39th annual John Jay Awards Dinner. The event, which drew upward of 400 attendees to Cipriani 42nd Street, raised more than \$1.3 million for the John Jay National Scholars Program. This year's honorees for distinguished professional achievement were (left to right) Toomas Hendrik Ilves '76, former president, Republic of Estonia; Joseph A. Cabrera '82, vice-chair – Eastern Region, Colliers International; Jenji Kohan '91, executive producer and screenwriter; David B. Barry '87, president, Ironstate Development Co.; and William A. Von Mueffling '90, BUS'95, president and CEO of Cantillon Capital Management.



BRUCE GILBERT

the Essentials

Dustin Rubenstein

Every spring Associate Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology (E3B) Dustin Rubenstein leaves behind the Columbia Lions for actual lions as the director of the Program in Tropical Biology and Sustainability, leading a small number of students on a semester abroad in Kenya. Rubenstein created the Kenya program in 2012, in conjunction with the Office of Global Programs (OGP) and Princeton. Rubenstein also teaches in “Frontiers of Science,” is the founding director of the Center for Integrative Animal Behavior and is on the faculty in the Program of Neurobiology and Behavior at CUMC. He spoke with *CCT* about science as a current event, living with wildlife and how Africa is for him a family affair.



JILL SHOMER

RUBENSTEIN GREW UP in New Jersey; his father teaches at Princeton and is also a scientist in the field of animal behavior. As a child, Rubenstein traveled the world on school breaks and summer vacations as his father did field work in exotic locales, including in Africa. “It was a good lifestyle,” he says.

HE EARNED A B.A. from Dartmouth in 1999. As an undergrad he was interested in using scientific tools from different disciplines to answer biological questions — in his case, applying techniques from stable isotope geochemistry to study migratory birds. After earning a Ph.D. from Cornell in 2006, Rubenstein joined Columbia as an E3B assistant professor in 2009.

IN “FRONTIERS OF SCIENCE,” Rubenstein teaches first-years how to approach a problem, analyze it, draw conclusions and communicate that information. “Those are skills that will be important in whatever they do, and I want them to have an understanding of how science plays a role in their everyday lives,” he says. “Frontiers of Science does a good job of teaching students to critique what they see and to recognize what fact is.”

WITH SCIENCE AND FACT under fire in our country, Rubenstein is concerned. “We’re suddenly in a period where facts are disputable, and it makes me think about my teaching. We can’t live in a society where this is acceptable; we as faculty have to teach students appreciation

for the scientific process. We will need to think about these issues given what might happen over the next four years.”

THE KENYA PROGRAM grew out of a course Rubenstein helped create as a graduate student. He initiated the semester-long program in 2012 at Columbia because he wanted to give students the immersive experience of field work, but in New York City they were limited to parks and the American Museum of Natural History. “Two or three weeks [on breaks] isn’t enough time to get a feel for the culture, so when we created the program we saw the value in doing a full semester abroad,” he says. Students apply for the program through OGP; three to five College and GS students make the trip each spring, though Rubenstein hopes more will decide to go in the future.

WHAT HE LIKES MOST about teaching is interacting with the students, and the field courses definitely provide that opportunity, he says. “I live with the students 24 hours a day for a month in very intense surroundings. These are the students I keep in touch with the most. I see them on social media and on campus when they come back for reunions and events.”

HIS WHOLE FAMILY spends time in Kenya. His father teaches a class in the program and his mother runs an after-school conservation club program in the community. His children, ages 5 and 7, join him on summer research trips and play with the local children.

RUBENSTEIN PRIMARILY studies birds, in particular the superb starling, which lives in large and complex social groups that interact much like humans. In the field he studies how the environment shapes the starling’s behavior, physiology and genetics.

INTERACTION WITH WILDLIFE is a big draw for the Kenya program. “What makes Africa a great place to do field courses is the density and the diversity of the big game; the students get really excited about that,” Rubenstein says. “We’re there to explore the landscape and conduct scientific projects rather than to find animals, but if we get a radio that there are lions or wild dogs nearby we might drop what we’re doing to look for them.”

ANIMAL SIGHTINGS aren’t always optional. “There are elephants and buffalos all around so you have to be aware,” he says. “We stay at a field station that has an electric fence around it, and when we’re out we always have Kenyan scouts with us for safety. We’re living with the wildlife, and the students get to understand that.”

EVEN AFTER SO MANY VISITS to Africa, Rubenstein still gets a charge out of seeing the local fauna. “It’s always fun. I’ve seen everything but there are some animals I’d like to see more. A honey badger is very rare; I always tell the students that if they can find a honey badger they’ll get an A,” he says with a laugh. “No one will ever see one.”

— Jill C. Shomer

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ROAR, LION, ROAR



MIKE McLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Behind Lightweight Crew's 2016 National Championship

Nich Lee Parker, head coach of Columbia's national champion lightweight crew, says he has three rules for his rowers: "You're responsible for your own development, for your own performance and for making yourself better. If you can do those three things, we'll be OK."

The Lions were more than OK in 2016. After finishing a disappointing second to Yale at the Eastern Sprints last May, Columbia exacted revenge by beating the Bulldogs by more than half a boat length at the Intercollegiate Rowing Association National Championships on June 5 on Lake Mercer in West Windsor, N.J. It was the first IRA lightweight title for the Lions and the first national championship for any Columbia varsity eight since 1929.

Columbia began defense of its crown with several Cup Regattas in March and April leading to the Eastern Sprints on May 14 in Worcester, Mass., and the IRA Nationals on Lake Natoma, near Folsom, Calif., June 2-4.

"Now that we've climbed the mountain, we've got to find another one," says Lee Parker. "It's like Usain Bolt in the 200m race at the Olympics in Beijing, when he got off to such a fast start. When you're up like that at the halfway mark, who is he racing now? Himself. That's our next step, to try to be even better. We don't want to lose a sense of who we are because we won one big race."

Lee Parker is constantly trying to optimize the Lions' workout regimen and has enlisted the help of P&S on physiological testing of the crew. This approach has impressed longtime followers of Columbia rowing, including Jim Weinstein '84, BUS'88, who says, "He's always trying to figure out every new training technique, always talking about physiology and biomechanics. He's also very good at communicating with his rowers on what they need to do."

Lee Parker joined the club rowing program while a student at Ohio State and quickly got hooked on the sport. "I went to a coaching conference as a senior and really enjoyed it. I got a fellowship to study kinesiology and help coach, and that's how I got started."

After time as an assistant at Ohio State and later Purdue, in 2007 Lee Parker became the program coordinator and head coach of the New Haven Rowing Club while assisting with the Yale heavyweight crew. He joined Columbia in 2010 as a heavyweight assistant coach while also assisting with the USRowing Boys Junior National Development team, which he guided to two national championship titles and two silver medal performances at the 2009 USRowing Club Nationals. After two seasons with the Columbia heavyweights he became an assistant on Scott Alwin's lightweight staff, and when Alwin became head coach of the heavyweights in 2013, Lee Parker succeeded him as head coach of the lightweights.

Lightweight rowing — no rower can weigh more than 160 lbs., and the average for the entire boat excluding coxswain can be no more than 155 lbs. — tends to rely more on body composition and technique rather than raw strength, as compared with heavyweight rowing, which is open to rowers of all sizes. "The weight is more of an equalizer on the lightweight side," says Lee Parker. "But rowing is still rowing, and that's one of the beauties of the sport."

Columbia finished third in the IRAs in Lee Parker's final season as an assistant coach, so he inherited a program that was on firm footing, but still, he says, "It felt like there was something missing." So when he became head coach, he placed a greater emphasis on training and conditioning and changed the rowing style to eliminate the torque on the rowers' backs. "Doing really hard things became really fun," he says.

The Lions again finished third in the 2014 IRAs, but their four-man boat finished first — the first individual 2,000m title for Columbia since the heavyweights in 1929. “That was significant,” says Lee Parker. “All the guys said, ‘We can do this.’” After Columbia finished second to Cornell at the 2015 IRAs, Lee Parker pushed the team hard in fall training for the 2016 season. “We learned our limits and adjusted accordingly,” he says. “Guys were throwing themselves at workouts like I had never seen, doing things they had never been able to do, and then they were doing them again and again.”

Despite losing team captain Jakub Buczek '16, who suffered a broken leg in a skiing accident, the Lions won six of seven races in the 2016 Cup season, bowing only to Yale in the Dodge Cup. At the Eastern Sprints, the Lions once again could not keep up with Yale and finished second. After those two losses, a tactical change was in order. “We had a very scripted race plan,” says Lee Parker, “but at the IRAs I told them, ‘We’re done with the race plan. You’re just going to get off the start line and you are just going to go.’” Rowing for Columbia at the IRAs, from bow, were John Maloney '18, Oliver Ingram '16, Jeffrey Monahan '18, Colin Ross '16, William Solberg '16, Jenson Carlgren '19, David Mottola '17 and Benjamin Landis '18, with Yih-Jen Ku SEAS'16 as coxswain.

The Lions won their preliminary heat on Saturday, but Yale was a second faster in winning the other preliminary heat. Although an impending storm caused officials to move the start time of Sunday’s final from noon to 7:30 a.m., the Lions were more than ready. “They came off the line really strong and they never slowed down,” says Lee Parker. “By the midpoint we had taken a length lead and everybody was moving beautifully, clipping along at a pretty high stroke rate, and they controlled the race to the end.”

The victory delighted the contingent of family, friends and alumni who attended the race, including former varsity rowers like Weinstein and Eric Dannemann '67, BUS'72, a member of the 1964 undefeated freshman lightweight crew. “When you’ve waited three-quarters of a century for something like this, you make sure you show up, even if it’s early in the morning,” says Weinstein. “Literally, tears of joy were flowing” among the Columbia supporters, says Dannemann. “These guys deserve great recognition. What they did was amazing. They awakened the echoes of the Hudson Valley.”

— Alex Sachare '71

To view a video of the championship race, go to gocolumbialions.com, click on Teams, click on Lightweight Rowing, click on News and scroll down to find it. For a close-up look at the rowers, go to yihjen.com/c150.html.



MIKE TURESKI / SPORTSPIX

Men’s Fencing Posts Ivy Four-Peat

Columbia won a share of its fourth consecutive league title by defeating Princeton 15–12 in the final round of the men’s competition at the Ivy League Fencing Championships on February 12 in Philadelphia. It was the 38th league title in program history. The Lions shared the championship with Penn and Princeton for the second straight year after all three schools posted 4–1 records in the two-day, round robin event.

After routing Brown 21–6, the Lions dropped a 14–13 decision to Penn to complete the opening day with a 1–1 record. They trailed Harvard 11–3 on Day 2 before rallying to win 11 of the final 13 bouts and claim a 14–13 victory, then beat Yale by the same score to set up their match against Princeton, in which captain Porter Hesslegrave '18 won his final épée bout for the clinching point.

Columbia’s women came as close as possible to a third consecutive Ivy League title but lost to Princeton 14–13 in the final round to finish second with a 5–1 record. Margaret Lu '17 won the individual women’s foil championship, compiling a 13–2 bout record.

Lu was among the six Columbia fencers who earned All-Ivy recognition. Joining her on the First Team were Nolen Scruggs '19 (men’s foil), Sara Taffel BC'17 (women’s foil), Katie Angen '18 (women’s épée) and Lena Johnson BC'18 (women’s sabre). Gabe Canaux '19 (men’s épée) earned Second Team honors.

The Lions sought to defend their national championship when they competed in the NCAA Regional Championships in New Haven, Conn., on March 12 and the NCAA Championships in Indianapolis, March 23–26.

ROAR!

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SCOREBOARD

38

Ivy League championships won or shared by men’s fencing, the latest in 2017

37/19

Points/rebounds by Camille Zimmerman '18 in a 91–88 4 overtime win at Dartmouth on January 27

2

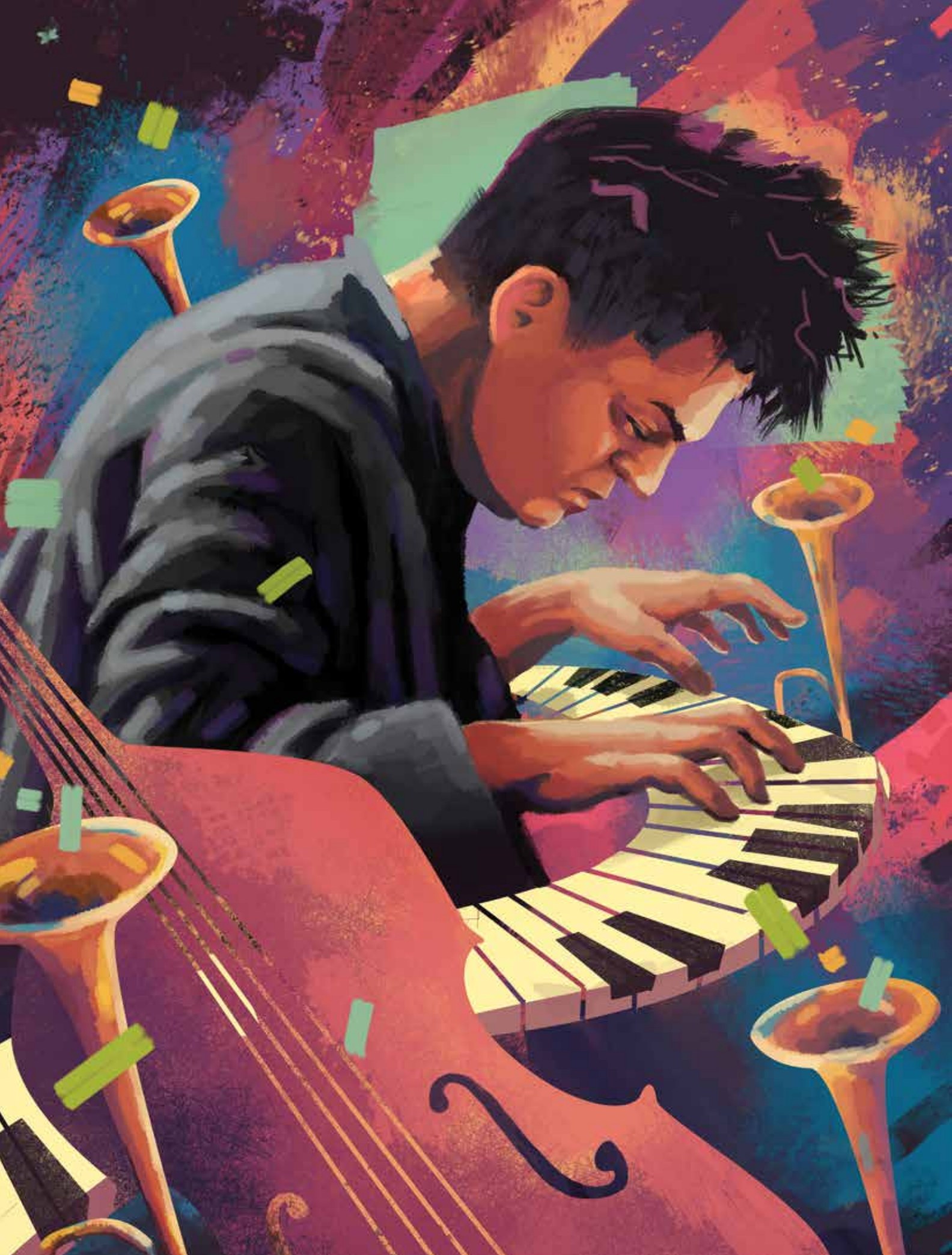
National ranking of men’s squash on January 20, highest in program history

21–0

Three-year Ivy League dual meet record by Jayden Pantel '18 in three-meter diving

6

Columbia fencers named to 2017 All-Ivy League First and Second Teams



Irreverent
and energetic,
composer

Nico Muhly '03

is turning the
classical world
on its ear

By Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80

THE
MUSIC
MAN

Illustrations by Derek Heldenbergh

here's a delicious scene in the third season of Amazon's *Mozart in the Jungle* in which Nico Muhly '03, Juilliard'04, playing himself, introduces an aria he has composed expressly for La Fiamma, a Maria Callas-style prima donna portrayed by Italian actress Monica Bellucci. He demonstrates her singing part on a grand piano in her Venetian parlor, explaining that the piece will also feature pre-recorded sounds and fragments of text that she will sing into a microphone and then repeat using a foot pedal. Before the proud La Fiamma will agree to this departure from her standard repertoire, however, she needs some convincing. "What is the story about?" she asks.

"The character is a young American woman named Amy Fisher," Muhly tells her. "She's having an affair with an older man, and she goes over to his house and shoots his wife in the head. His name is Joey Buttafuoco."

He pronounces it the American way, the way newscasters did when the "Long Island Lolita" made sensational headlines in the early '90s: Buttah-*fewco*. La Fiamma corrects him. "Boota-*fwocko*," she says.

If this were an old-school sitcom, the laugh track would kick in right about here. But while *Mozart in the Jungle* is fun, it takes music seriously enough not to waste a cameo by the world-renowned Muhly, who in his 20s became the youngest composer ever commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera. So we're treated to a glimpse of the real Nico: artistically adventurous, charming and sensitive to the hopes and agonies of Fisher or anyone else whose private passions lead to public tragedy.

"Fisher's world is really intense," Muhly reflects in his West 37th Street music studio in Manhattan. "Like Romeo and Juliet, she's in this highly charged erotic and emotional situation — only it isn't in a glamorous place. It isn't Verona; it's Massapequa. But I don't like this idea of high versus low [culture], because it's really just people."

Muhly often turns to such real-life dramas in his works. His first opera, *Two Boys*, which had its Met premiere in 2013, was inspired by the fatal stabbing of a Manchester, England, youth by a lover he had met in an Internet chat room. His song cycle, *Sentences*, contemplates the life of Alan Turing, the pioneering British computer scientist who cracked top-secret German codes during WWII and was subsequently prosecuted as a homosexual. A second opera, *Dark Sisters*, springs from the story of a fundamentalist, polygamous Mormon community in Texas whose children were removed by state officials concerned about child abuse.

Even before his Met commission, Muhly had impressed the classical music world with his sensibility and originality. As early as 2004, *New Yorker* critic Alex Ross had flagged the "spiky-haired, healthily irreverent" Muhly, still studying at Juilliard,

as "poised for a major career." Ross presciently wrote: "If Muhly simply dumped his diverse musical loves into a score, he would have an eclectic mess. Instead, he lets himself be guided by them, sometimes almost subliminally." In a short piece performed at the conservatory, "he asks players to be 'spastic,' to 'smudge' certain notes, to 'ignore the conductor'; he is trying for a raucous, un-'classical' sound. But the work itself is austere and solemn in intent ... The music spins away into a kind of gritty ecstasy ... a cool balance between ancient and modern modes, between the life of the mind and the noise of the street."

Since then, Muhly has emerged as one of the most highly acclaimed composers of our time, putting his stamp on an astonishing variety of projects: chamber and symphonic works, choral and sacred music, a cantata based on Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* — all fair game for the prolific Muhly. "Nico is the hardest working person I've ever met, a furious producer," violist Nadia Sirota says in her award-winning *Meet the Composer* radio/podcast series. Even back in their Juilliard days, she

RAYON RICHARDS



says, “It was well known that if your recital program was coming up short, this kid Nico would totally write you a piece to hit your desired run time.”

The ability to work within strict formal constraints and mesh with other artists (Sirota calls him “a virtuosic collaborator”) has opened many paths for Muhly. He has scored movies — among them *The Reader*, *Joshua* and Kenneth Lonergan’s *Margaret* — and plays, including Broadway revivals of *The Glass Menagerie* and *The Cherry Orchard*. He has joined with choreographer Benjamin Millepied on works for major ballet companies in New York and Paris. The perpetually-in-motion composer has also worked with singer-songwriters Björk, Sufjan Stevens and Rufus Wainwright, Brooklyn rock band Grizzly Bear and chamber cabaret group Antony and the Johnsons. A YouTube search turns up hundreds of Muhly items. (For a quick sample of his gestalt, check out “Nico Muhly and Ira Glass/Live from the NYPL.”)

Muhly’s idiosyncratic website highlights three dozen CDs, including his latest, 2016’s *Confessions*. The album is a collaboration with Teitur, a singer-songwriter and producer from the Faroe Islands, the isolated North Atlantic archipelago whose 50,000 inhabitants speak a language closely related to Old Norse. (“I’m obsessed with it,” Muhly says.) One track on the album, “Drones in Large Cycles,” is studded with little pops and skips that bring to mind an old, damaged vinyl LP, or the tiny bubbles that diffuse randomly in hand-blown glass.

These imperfections are not trivial, Muhly says.

“Teitur is so good at taking what is an incredibly clean audio landscape and letting it fuzz at the edges, so there’s a real sense of grit on the sound,” he says. “If you’re working with electronic sounds, it’s important to me that they have some sort of actual acoustic property, in the same way that the early Disney cartoons or Disney movies are sort of these beautiful watercolors. You can see the hand of the artist even in an electronically reproduced medium.”

Muhly’s compositional hand is “strange, unsettling and often golden,” in the words of critic James Jordan. Met general manager Peter Gelb observes, “He’s what we’re always looking for today in new composers of classical music — compositional voices who are original, but are also accessible.”

“Nico’s music is a bit like him as a person,” says English mezzo-soprano Alice Coote, who played a leading role in *Two Boys*. “He can produce the most incredibly moving, lyrical writing that can be otherworldly, or can be just a scream for humanity. And he can also create the most amazing textures in the chorus. It can be like an Elgar oratorio, huge choruses where they join together, or other ones where they’re all practically singing their own lines, working against each other where they actually created the sound of a computer, the sound of

the Internet, where he’s using voices in that way. He’s like a painter — he has layers of paint that he can apply, or he can strip away. He uses the voice incredibly well that way.”

Layering, repetition, obsession, anxiety, subtle textures and juxtapositions all loom large in Muhly’s compositional vocabulary. “Quiet Music,” a solo for piano played by Muhly on *Speaks Volumes*, his 2006 debut CD, has “the haunting, fragmentary quality of an anthem heard from stone church steps through heavy ecclesiastical doors,” Rebecca Mead wrote in a 2008 *New Yorker* profile. “The Only Tune,” a song on his widely admired 2008 album, *Mother tongue*, deconstructs a macabre 17th-century English folk song, employing a sonic palette that includes, it is said, Icelandic wind samples and raw whale meat sloshing in a bowl. (Asked to confirm that instrumentation, Muhly emailed: “Only Tune’ is like, meat, hair, bones, oil, slippers ...”.)

In conversation, Muhly can unspool a thread of associations that are at once freely conceived and disciplined, like a great jazz improvisation that takes you far from its point of departure, yet maintains a sense of unity. Describing the experience of hearing his own works performed, he says: “I’m always nervous, or I’m off to the side or I’m backstage. And that’s so much more interesting to me, to be in a weird environment and to have the sound come as if from a distance, or from over here, or some weird memory of it. Watching an opera from backstage is amazing. I would pay great money just to listen to the stage management call of a Mozart opera. It’s so fascinating, because it has its own rhythm that is completely in counterpoint to the rhythm of the music. But when you have to call things to make the lights go, and to make the scrim go down, it’s this whole other text, as it were, that the score produces.”

Friends, colleagues and patrons speak of Muhly with a blend of awe and affection.

“He’s such a prodigious talent that music seems to flow out of him,” says Gelb, recently back from London, where he took part in workshops for *Marnie*, Muhly’s second Met commission (a co-production with the English National Opera). The libretto is adapted from Winston Graham’s 1961 novel, which was also the basis for the Alfred Hitchcock film of the same name; it will open at the Met during the 2019–20 season. “I’ve known many composers in my life,” Gelb says. “Usually they’re very slow in getting music to people who commission them. Nico is kind of the opposite. He’s really racing ahead with enthusiasm as he composes.”

“You can’t pin Nico down, as an intellect or a person,” says Coote. “His brain is going 15 times

“I’ve never met someone with such an energy.

It reminds me a bit of what I imagine Mozart would have been like.”

faster than anyone else's. I've never met someone with such an energy. It reminds me a bit of what I imagine Mozart would have been like. And I'm not being ridiculous. This man's brain is like an amazing computer. He's like a bag of nervous and emotional and receptive energy."

In late January, Coote premiered *Strange Productions*, a song cycle Muhly wrote for her, at London's Wigmore Hall. The text is based on the poetry of John Clare and a 19th-century asylum doctor's observations of a mental patient. "Nico just seems to express life, just living each day," Coote says. "He's a strange, phenomenal mixture of levity — an amazing sense of humor and sense of the absurd — and at the other end, he also has the most profoundly considered, darkest view it is possible to experience in life. He's just the most extraordinary person."

Elena Park, executive producer of the Met broadcasts and a well-known New York arts consultant, has known Muhly since his student days. "There's something incredibly endearing and refreshing about Nico," she says. "Being around him is really a total joy, although a little daunting in terms of the breadth of his knowledge, dizzying speed and near-perfect recall of the most minute details. He has this genuine open-heartedness and curiosity about the world, combined with a singular way of looking at things that comes through in his music. He'll add an original keyboard touch to Adele's latest pop album, then turn around and write an esoteric choral piece that harkens back to 16th-century sacred music by Thomas Tallis."

Muhly is clearly a kind of polymath, a voracious consumer of culture and experience who boomerangs it all back at the world with his own spin. One of his favorite authors is Salman Rushdie, whose densely lyrical *Midnight's Children* Muhly reads at least once a year. "I'm sort of addicted to his sentence structure," he says. "You just feel like you're in this kind of virtuosic language space, in a way that

pleases me viscerally much more than [James] Joyce, where I feel like I'm always unpacking these tiny little boxes. But with Rushdie, it's like, *pow!* It feels joyful and ecstatic." Rushdie has high praise, in turn, for Muhly, with whom he has socialized. "I find talent striking,"

the author says via email, "and in Nico's case the talent declares itself so strongly and at once that one would have to be deaf not to hear it."

That talent blossomed early. The only child of Bunny Harvey, a well-known painter and longtime Wellesley faculty member, and Frank Muhly, a documentary filmmaker, Nico was born in Randolph,

Vt., and raised in Providence, R.I. His cultural and linguistic horizons were much enlarged, he says, by extensive travel as a child, including long stays in Rome and Cairo. He plunged into music when he was about 10, taking up the piano and joining the boys' choir at an Anglican church in downtown Providence, an experience that left a deep imprint.

"They had a really divine choirmaster who was really steeped in the English tradition," he says on Sirota's podcast, "and [he] figured out how to have a choir of men and boys do two services a week. It was a really spectacular thing."

A turning point, he says, was performing the Stravinsky *Mass* for the first time — "a wild thing to have happen to you when you're 12." At that age, just hearing the first four notes was, he says in the podcast, "like a really erotic experience."

Muhly developed quickly enough that when he came to New York as a student, his fellow conservatory students and teachers — among them Pulitzer Prize winners Christopher Rouse and John Corigliano '59 — stood up and took note.

"By the time I met Nico at Juilliard," Sirota says, "he was already kind of a mythical figure, a Columbia-Juilliard double degree student studying English and composition and Arabic, who worked for Philip Glass afternoons and weekends, wore a colorful assortment of gardening clogs and had an affinity for dim sum."

Corigliano recognized Muhly's exceptional qualities early on. "Nico knew what he wanted to do, and he did it," he says. "He would write tons of music in a week. We'd go through 30 or 40 pages and cut half of them out, or change them, and he would be happy to do it. He was a very easy student, and very likable."

Like Muhly, many of Corigliano's students have opted for the demanding five-year Columbia-Juilliard program. "Columbia gives them something that Juilliard can't give them," Corigliano says, "and if they're able to handle the added load — and Nico certainly was — they love the challenges of learning in a way that's quite different from a conservatory."

Initially, Muhly had considered applying only to Juilliard. "I was so used to keeping a kind of academic rigor as the fundamental muscle of my thought, and the music was the thing that resulted from that, not a thing that itself was being studied," he says. "The primary thing for me was thinking about words. Essentially the thing I was the most interested in, and still am, is language, just as a concept."

Muhly has lived in an apartment in Chinatown for many years, but says he is exceptionally grateful for his time on and around the Morningside campus, first in Wallach Hall, then 47 Claremont Ave., then boarding in a faculty apartment on Riverside Drive.

"The fact that I had this whole other school to deal with downtown was a little bit complicated, but for me it was so important to live at Columbia and to feel connected to that," he says. "My classmates at

"Essentially the thing I was the most interested in, and still am, is language, just as a concept."



Juilliard I'm very close with, but my classmates at Columbia feel like family."

He lauds the Core Curriculum. "I feel like there's a limited time in one's life when one is forced to do things outside of what one thinks one wants to do," Muhly says. "And I think when you're 18, the last thing you need to do is be self-directed. So, I approached the Core in a kind of bring-it-to-me way, which helped, because I would never be disappointed or underwhelmed."

Muhly had the good fortune of landing in a Lit Hum section taught by former dean of the College (and Amherst College president emeritus) Peter R. Pouncey GSAS'69, "an unbelievable person," Muhly says. An English and comp lit major, Muhly also has high praise for professors Julie Crawford, an expert in 16th- and 17th-century English literature and culture; Jenny Davidson, with whom he did an independent study on Dickens; and the late Edward Said, whose understanding of musical counterpoint made a deep impression.

The thirst for knowledge, critical rigor and human values that Columbia nourished continue to animate Muhly, whether he's thinking about Glass' *Einstein on the Beach* or, for that matter, Britney Spears' "Oops! ... I Did It Again."

Muhly recently jetted off to Las Vegas with Sirota and a friend to catch Spears' live show, partly out of nostalgia for pop songs they enjoyed in college, partly

for the same sort of reasons that drew him to Fisher as a contemporary train wreck worth thinking about.

"There's an element of camp to Britney, obviously, but actually kind of not," Muhly says. "I think she's an interesting character because we're invited to share in her struggle — although it's unclear what exactly her struggle was, which I think is really interesting. She's a young woman from the rural South who was put through this kind of Disney wringer, and then suddenly we are all looking at a photograph of her actual vagina as she's getting out of a car. That level of tabloid violence against her body is extraordinary."

Muhly gets revved up talking about Spears, who is his age. What he doesn't do is dismiss her or make light of her travails. Where others make cruel sport, Muhly finds the humanity. "Seeing her perform was quite beautiful and strange and tragic and fascinating in a way," he says.

Muhly has a way of winning people over. In the *Mozart in the Jungle* episode, after some more backing and filling, La Fiamma closes her eyes and finally delivers her verdict on the Fisher aria. "*J'adore*," she says.

Former CCT Editor **Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80** has held senior editorial positions at *People and Vibe* and contributes to *Smithsonian Magazine* and other publications. His most recent CCT piece was a profile of architect *Robert A.M. Stern '60* in the Fall 2016 issue.



**HEAR
US**





History professor **Martha Howell GSAS'79** discusses gender inequality, feminism and how the Women's Marches have energized the movement





MICHAEL DAWES

TO CELEBRATE the 30th anniversary of the graduation of the first fully coeducational class, *Columbia College Today* spoke with Martha Howell GSAS'79, the Miriam Champion Professor of History and former director of the University's Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality. After completing her graduate work, which focused on social, economic, legal and women's history in northern Europe, Howell taught at Rutgers before returning in 1989 to Morningside Heights. In light of her professional expertise and experience with the women's movement and the College before and after coeducation, we asked Howell to share her perspective on how far both have come and what remains to be done.

– Shira Boss '93,
JRN'97, SIPA'98

CCT: We published an interview with you in the November/December 2010 issue in which you said that when you grew up in the 1960s, the only careers imaginable for a woman, other than being a mother, were being a teacher, a nurse or a secretary. How did it look in 1987? And what about now, 30 years later?

Martha Howell: If you're talking about entry into the learned professions, the liberal professions, I think that 1987 was a time when it became possible for women to aspire to those positions. Today, there's no question, but it's taken a long time for women to rise to the top. It's only in the past few years that major universities have had female presidents.

And yet, take a look at senior management in big corporations. There are not that many women, even though in 1987 it was possible for women to go to the top business schools and get the training that would have put them in a position for having these kinds of leadership roles. [Author's note: According to Catalyst, a nonprofit that researches women in the workplace, today women make up 5.8 percent of CEOs of S&P 500 companies and 25.1 percent of executives and senior management.]

So, yes — women in 1987 had access that women in 1967 absolutely did not have. And there have been changes from 1987 to 2017, but not as dramatic as those that occurred from the '60s to the '80s. Things are a little better because there has been a slight improvement in the number of women at the very top.

Can you contrast the environment on campus to the outside world? The College student body is currently 51 percent female, so you'd think it'd be equal opportunity out in the world, but is it?

No, it's not.

So in other words, the academy is ahead of the rest of society.

Yes, yes.

Do you think female students understand that?

The graduate students I teach all want to become professors and enter an academic community like this one. There's still sexism in some ways — leadership positions are dominated by men, white men, specifically, and there are still disciplines that have an unacknowledged and unintended, largely, bias against hiring women — but there's still terrific access, particularly in humanities and social sciences such as history and anthropology. So I think my female graduate students are looking at a world that will welcome them.

I think women in business school are more aware of what the barriers will be when they get out in the work world — much lower barriers than there used to be, but there are still barriers.

The students who are most innocent of all this tend to be my female undergraduates. They've lived in a world that tries to be gender-neutral. They're sitting in class with men, and most of the time they feel empowered and equal.

But what they don't understand is when they get into the working world and real life hits, the gender system is firmly in place. And if they marry and have children, that's when it really, really hits, because it's almost impossible to have a high-powered professional life and be a mother. There are some circumstances in which you can do it; one of them is when you hire people to help care for the children. It's a balancing act and crazy, but it's one way to manage what is a complicated arrangement.

The assumption is that the person who does most of the parenting is the female. Men are not expected to make the arrangements and adjustments that women are expected to. So, one of the things that could happen is the way work is organized could change. The other thing is the gender system could be altered so that men take more responsibility for parenting. There has been progress in that realm in my lifetime; however, it is still not equal — far from it.

What could the College be doing to help?

I think Columbia should work harder to put women in leadership positions. I think ways that show how gender hierarchy plays out in life should be talked about more. The discussion of gender needs to be distributed throughout the curriculum rather than segregated in classes revolving around gender specifically.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: Millions turned out on January 21 for Women's Marches around the world.

BRIAN ALLEN / VOICE OF AMERICA
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



“There’s sexism embedded in our culture and I don’t know when the time will come when the United States is ready to accept a woman as head of state.”

Could the Core Curriculum take better account of gender?

There have been many efforts to revise the Core to take better account of gender, but yes, more could be done. Reading lists could be reorganized. I think everyone should read Locke, Marx and Aristotle, but they should be taught and read with a much clearer focus on the ways they depend on gender hierarchy and on heterosexist hierarchy. Those issues are easy to pull out of those texts, and when I teach the texts I try to do that. There’s too much of an assumption that these are classical truths that endure through time. They’re not interrogated from the point of view of the hierarchies that we experience in our world.

Speaking of our world, where do you think we stand in terms of women taking leadership roles in government? Are we ready for a female President?

That’s a tough call. The United States is the most powerful country in the world, and I think that role carries more weight than a comparable office in other parts of the world. It’s a harder call for the country to accept that a woman can shoulder that burden. Hillary Clinton had her own problems as a candidate but I still think there was an element of, “Is this the right job for a woman?” There’s sexism embedded in our culture and I don’t know when the time will come when the United States is ready to accept a woman as head of state. I think it will, eventually, but what’s going to have to happen is we’re going to have to have a bigger stable of women in the Senate, in governorships, in places like that. Women generals: There are some, but there’s still more work to be done for it to be seen as normal.



ROAR, LIONESS, ROAR!

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF COEDUCATION

On Saturday, April 22, Columbia College Women (CCW) will host its first symposium to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the graduation of the first fully coeducational class. “Celebrating 30 years of Columbia College Women” is an all-day event at which alumni and current students will have space to network, build community and reflect on the successes College women have had and the challenges they, and all women, still face. More than 20 speakers will discuss topics such as the media’s portrayal of women; how to create a successful, inclusive feminist movement; and how best to develop today’s young women into tomorrow’s leaders.

The morning keynote, “Girls Who Thrive,” will feature two University trustees: reporter and author Claire Shipman ’86, SIPA’94 and independent school head Wanda M. Holland Greene ’89, TC’91.

Holland Greene helms The Hamlin School, an all-girls school in San Francisco where students are taught to overcome inequities and challenge societal biases toward women. She spoke to *Columbia College Today* about her time at the College in the early coeducational years and shared her thoughts on the goals of coeducation:

“As a proud alumna of an extraordinary all-girls school in New York City, I was purposeful in choosing to attend the College because I knew that strong, smart and confident women would be key to the long-term

success of coeducation,” she says. “Women like me didn’t just arrive — we *showed up!* We entered the Gates on College Walk with deep intellectual curiosity and the boldness to speak and lead, and we never looked back.

“The ongoing work at the University as a whole and at the College in particular is to ensure that women thrive at Columbia, not simply attend classes, eat in the dining halls and live in the dorms. Coeducation was not an endpoint,” she says. “It was the beginning of an essential conversation about equity and inclusion, and I look forward to a robust dialogue with Claire about the challenges and opportunities that women face and embrace in the decades since coeducation. We cannot assume that because women are present their issues are embraced and understood.”

Lilly Burns ’09, VP and head of development at Jax Media and the executive producer of the hit TV comedy *Search Party*, will co-lead a discussion on “Authenticity as Art” with designer Selby Drummond ’09. The discussion will suggest that women who display their true selves with confidence, brains and humor often exercise the most powerful form of feminism.

For Burns, “The best part of being at Columbia was the level of intelligence of the whole student body. I just wanted to hear everybody talk,” she says. As a more recent alumna, Burns says she accepted coeducation as the norm. “I never thought about it because I had never experienced

anything else,” she says. “I took for granted that it had always been that way.”

Lea Goldman ’98, editor in chief, *Lifetime Television*, was at the College when coeducation was still a newer change. She offers another perspective: “Having grown up in an ultra-conservative Jewish community, Columbia was my Xanadu on the Hudson — I could not for the life of me figure out why anyone would want to attend a same-sex college. Meanwhile, I spent most of my four years in a self-imposed, back-row exile, utterly cowed by the intellectual firepower around me. It was often the guys who sat front row and parried with the professors,” Goldman says.

“Fast forward 20 years — past all those sweaty, humbling years in the workforce trying to earn a seat at the table — and I do sometimes wonder if, in an all-women’s school, I might have found it all a little bit more encouraging,” she says. “Maybe I’d have found my voice earlier, and in the process, spared myself some of the painful scrapes and bruises I earned along the way. Who knows? But I have zero regrets.”

Goldman will speak at the symposium as part of the four-person panel “Women in the News,” which will discuss how media plays a powerful role in shaping and/or reinforcing perceptions of women, their roles and their stories.

— Jill C. Shomer

For more information about the symposium, go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/ccw30.

What did Clinton's run for the presidency teach us about feminism?

"Feminism" is a fraught word in American culture.

In what way?

There were contradictions inherent in second-wave feminism, in the '70s and into the '80s. The big one is that it was a white, middle-class women's movement. It didn't consciously exclude — but it didn't effectively consider — poor women, black women, immigrant women and so on. So much of the political action was organized around access to jobs, to political rights, to reorganization of the marital household and to challenging conventional notions of female gender roles, and a lot of those issues were not the issues of working class, poor or black women. So feminism as it was conceived in the '70s and much of the '80s was never able to speak for all women.

I have two nieces who are getting their Ph.D.s. A few years ago one of them told me she's not a feminist. And I said, "What?!" Boy, did I let her have it! "You are in a Ph.D. program because of the women who came before you who were feminists." She was so sorry, poor thing.

The feminist movement is definitely complex, but do you think it is evolving?

In the beginning, I was completely unaware of how incomplete the women's movement was — and in some cases inappropriate — for lots of women in the United States, let alone the rest of the world. I don't think we've found the narrative that can satisfy all women in all situations.

But I do think that there's a greater realization that there are many, many ways in which gender subordination — you can call it discrimination, you can call it patriarchy — unifies women. And what we need, I think, are better ways to organize around these different aspects and to find common ground in being women and yet a way to acknowledge that all women are not alike.

We share our femininity, but that doesn't mean that we share aspirations, life chances, social circumstances, sexual preference, so it's very complicated. But no, the women's movement is not dead, but it's both more general and more specific.

I am talking to a lot of people about the present political moment in the United States, and a lot of women are organizing around issues that are not gender issues. They are nevertheless organizing as women, as politicized women. And yes, a lot of what they're organizing around is particular to women, such as reproductive rights, but also generally progressive politics, about economic equality, about racism, about xenophobia and so forth. It's locating the issues that affect women in a larger terrain of political and social injustice.

What are your thoughts on January's Women's Marches?

They were terrific! I marched in New York. I thought they were both a protest by women about the threats to women's rights that are posed by the Trump administration and also, more generally, marchers were outraged by what Trump stands for on many levels and that's really what energized them, as much as any specific, identifiable threat.

Do you think they were effective?

Yes. They identified fellow travelers, which is important, so that people recognize that it wasn't just them and their small group of friends who were worried and scared and outraged. There's going to have to be follow-up, and that includes things like calling your representative, going to town meetings, writing letters, getting in the newspaper with op-eds and things like that. Marching on the street is important, but it's only the beginning.

"I do think that there's a greater realization that there are many, many ways in which gender subordination — you can call it discrimination, you can call it patriarchy — unifies women."



MARY MADIGAN / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Shira Boss '93, JRN'97, SIPA'98, CCT's contributing writer, was a freelance journalist for The Christian Science Monitor, *Forbes.com* and The New York Times, among other publications, and "Marketplace" on public radio. She is the author of *Green with Envy: Why Keeping Up with the Joneses Is Keeping Us in Debt* and runs the website *Zero Cost Kids*. She lives on the Upper West Side with her husband, two sons and two whippets.



MIKE LOVETT

Making a Masterpiece

Editor Robert Gottlieb '52 describes his collaboration with Joseph Heller GSAS'50 on what became one of the 20th century's great literary works

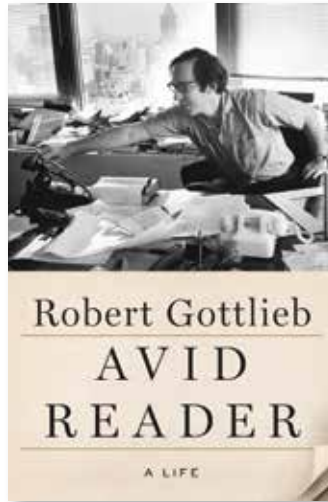
"For a long time when people asked me whether I was ever going to write a memoir or autobiography, I answered that all editors' memoirs basically come down to the same thing: 'So I said to him, "Leo! Don't just do war! Do peace too!""

*This astute, down-to-earth remark, which opens Robert Gottlieb '52's memoir, *Avid Reader: A Life* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$28), helps a literary outsider understand why so many of the 20th century's prominent authors chose to work with him. During his storied, decades-long career as a top book editor (from 1955 to the present), Gottlieb collaborated with Toni Morrison, John le Carré and Robert Caro, among many others. He also pulled off the publishing professional's equivalent of a Triple Crown win, by serving as editor in chief at two top publishing houses — Simon & Schuster and Alfred A. Knopf — and then leaving to helm *The New Yorker* (from 1987 to 1992).*

*Avid Reader follows Gottlieb through his early days as a College student (and editor of the influential *Columbia Review*) to his current role as Knopf editor, book author and contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and other publications. The resulting narrative is, as *Esquire* puts it, "a master class in how modern literature gets made."*

*Here, Gottlieb describes the making of one contemporary classic, Joseph Heller GSAS'50's novel *CATCH-22*.*

— Rose Kernochan BC'82



The literary agent Candida Donadio and I were only about a year apart in age, and almost instantly we became close, despite the radical difference in our backgrounds and temperaments. Candida was Sicilian, as she liked to boast — particularly about her taste for Sicilian cold revenge. She was short, plump, matronly, and always swathed in black — a figure from post-war Italian neo-realist film. Her deep voice was often filled with doom and anguish — “The children! The children!” she liked to cry, literally thumping her ample bosom. She herself had no children, but as Michael Korda was to write, “All writers were like children, but her writers *were* her children. She felt about them as if she were their mother.”

Our alliance, as it was thought of in our little world, would in the mid-sixties be officially cemented by *Esquire*, which named the two of us the “red-hot center” of the publishing world — momentarily gratifying but far from the way we saw ourselves. What connected us wasn’t ambition or the hope of public notice but the fact that we were obsessive readers whose tastes were highly similar, and our bedrock belief that writers came first.

Candida lived in a tiny apartment a few blocks from our floor-through in a dilapidated brownstone on Second Avenue in the Fifties — we had a blue-painted floor and there were old-fashioned fire escapes front and back. If she was sick, either my wife, Muriel, or I would carry over homemade chicken soup, while if we had an emergency babysitting crisis, she would pad over in her sneakers and take care of little Roger. We shared our problems, or as my great friend Irene Mayer Selznick liked to say, we “took in each other’s washing.”

On August 29, 1957, Candida sent me a note that read, “Here is the script of CATCH 18 by Joseph Heller about which we talked yesterday. I’ve been watching Heller ever since the publication of Chapter 1 in *New World Writing* about a year ago. He’s published a good bit in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Esquire*, etc. I’ll tell you more about him when I see you at lunch next week. As ever, Candida.”

About seventy-five pages of manuscript came with it, and I was knocked out by the voice, the humor, the anger. We offered Joe five hundred dollars as an option payment, but Joe and Candida decided to wait until there was enough of a manuscript to warrant an actual contract.

When I met Joe for the first time, for lunch at a hearty restaurant near our offices, he came as a big surprise. I expected a funny guy full of spark and ginger, but what I got was more or less a man in a gray flannel suit — he was working as an ad executive at *McCall’s*, and he looked it. And sounded it. I found him wary (which shouldn’t have been a surprise, given the paranoid slant of much of his book), noncommittal, clearly giving me the once-over. He told me later he found me nervous and ridiculously young. I was only eight years younger than he was, but he was a mature ex-vet, a former college teacher, and a successful business executive. I was twenty-six, still looking much younger than I was, and with no track record as an editor or publisher — this was well before *The American Way of Death*, *The Best of Everything*, *The Chosen*, et al. So it wasn’t love at first sight. But it proved to be something a lot more substantial: a professional and personal relationship that never faltered, despite gaps in our publishing together, and despite (or because of?) the fact that through the more than forty years we worked with each

other on and off, we rarely saw each other socially. As with Decca Mitford and Chaim Potok, there was never a disagreeable word between us, and there was always complete trust. I certainly always knew that I could turn to him in need, and I know he felt the same way about me. Indeed, there would be dark moments ahead in our personal lives — usually involving our children — which proved it.

The most significant trust was editorial. Once his book was completed, three or so years after we first met, I tore into it — relaxed about doing so because I had no notion that I was dealing with what would turn out to be sacred text. Or that Joe would turn out to be as talented an editor as he was a writer, and absolutely without writer ego. On *Catch*, as with all the other books we worked on together, he was sharp, tireless, and ruthless (with himself), whether we were dealing with a word, a sentence, a passage of dialogue, or a scene. We labored like two surgeons poised over a patient under anesthesia.

“This isn’t working here.”

“What if we move it *there*?”

“No, better to cut.”

“Yes, but then we have to change *this*.”

“Like this?”

“No, like *that*.”

“Perfect!”

Either of us could have been either voice in this exchange. I wasn’t experienced enough back then to realize how rare his total lack of defensiveness was, particularly since there was never a doubt in his mind of how extraordinary his book was, and that we were making literary history. Even when at the last minute, shortly before we went to press, I told him I had always disliked an entire phantasmagorical chapter — for me, it was a bravura piece of writing that broke the book’s tone — and wanted to drop it, he

“I felt then, and still do, that readers shouldn’t be made aware of editorial interventions; they have a right to feel that what they’re reading comes direct from the author to them.”

agreed without a moment’s hesitation. (Years later, he published it in *Esquire*.) Where my certainty came from I don’t know, but although I mistrusted myself in many areas of life, I never mistrusted my judgment as a reader.

Joe was so eager to give me credit that I had to call him one morning, after reading an interview with him in the *Times*, to tell him to cut it out. I felt then, and still do, that readers shouldn’t be made aware of editorial interventions; they have a right to feel that what they’re reading comes direct from the author to them. But enough time has gone by that I don’t think any harm will be done if I indulge myself by repeating what Joe’s daughter, Erica, wrote in her uncompromising memoir, *Yossarian Slept Here*: “My father and Bob had real camaraderie and shared an almost mystical respect. No ego was

involved, regardless of where Bob’s pencil flew or what he suggested deleting, moving, rewriting. To Dad, every word or stroke of this editor’s pencil was sacrosanct.” Even if this is friendly overstatement, and it is, it reflects the reality of our dealings with each other.

Not that there weren’t stumbling blocks along *Catch*’s path to publication. First of all, when the finished manuscript came in there were colleagues who disliked it intensely — they found it coarse, and they saw the repetitions in the text as carelessness rather than as a central aspect of what Joe was trying to do. Then we had a copy editor who was literal-minded and tone-deaf. Her many serious transgressions included the strong exception she took to Joe’s frequent, and very deliberate, use of a string of three adjectives to qualify a noun. Without asking me, she struck out every third adjective throughout. Yes, everything she did was undone, but those were pre-computer days: It all had to be undone by hand, and it wasted weeks.

But the biggest catch on the way to *Catch*’s publication was the title. Through the seven or so years that Joe worked on his book, including the four during which he and Candida and I grew more and more attached to it, its name was *Catch-18*. Then, in the spring 1961 issue of *Publishers Weekly* that announced each publisher’s fall books, we saw that the new novel by Leon Uris, whose *Exodus* had recently been a phenomenal success, was titled *Mila 18*. They had stolen our number! Today, it sounds far from traumatic, but in that moment it was beyond trauma, it was tragedy. Obviously, “18” had to go. But what could replace it?

There was a moment when “11” was seriously considered, but it was turned down because of the current movie *Ocean’s 11*. Then Joe came up with “14,” but I thought it was flavorless and rejected it. And time was growing short. One night lying in bed, gnawing at the problem, I had a revelation. Early the next morning I called Joe and burst out, “Joe, I’ve got it! Twenty-two! It’s even funnier than eighteen!” Obviously the notion that one number was funnier than another number was a classic example of self-delusion, but we wanted to be deluded.

To talk of a “campaign” for *Catch-22* is to put a label on something that didn’t exist. There was no marketing plan, no budget: Nina Bourne — who was the brilliant advertising manager at S & S and my closest collaborator and friend there — and I just did what occurred to us from day to day, spending our energies (and S & S’s money) with happy abandon. We began with little teaser ads in the daily *Times* featuring the crooked little dangling airman that the most accomplished designer of his time, Paul Bacon, had come up with as the logo for the jacket. We had sent out scores of advance copies of the book, accompanied by what Nina called her “demented governess letters” — as in, “the demented governess who believes the baby is her own.” Almost at once, excited praise started pouring in. Particularly gratifying to Joe was a telegram from Art Buchwald in Paris:

PLEASE CONGRATULATE JOSEPH HELLER ON
MASTERPIECE
CATCH 22 STOP I THINK IT IS ONE OF THE
GREATEST
WAR BOOKS STOP SO DO IRWIN SHAW AND
JAMES JONES.

The range of early admirers was astonishingly broad, from Nelson Algren (“The best American novel that has come out of anywhere in

years”) to Harper Lee (“*Catch-22* is the only war novel I’ve ever read that makes any sense”) to Norman Podhoretz [50](!). There were at least a score of letters from notable writers, but, perversely, the one we most enjoyed was from Evelyn Waugh:

Dear Miss Bourne:

Thank you for sending me *Catch-22*. I am sorry that the book fascinates you so much. It has many passages quite unsuitable to a lady’s reading. It suffers not only from indelicacy but from prolixity. It should be cut by about a half. In particular the activities of ‘Milo’ should be eliminated or greatly reduced.

You are mistaken in calling it a novel. It is a collection of sketches — often repetitive — totally without structure.

Much of the dialogue is funny.

You may quote me as saying: “This exposure of the corruption, cowardice and incivility of American officers will outrage all friends of your country (such as myself) and greatly comfort your enemies.”

Yours truly,
Evelyn Waugh

We didn’t take him up on his offer, though we probably should have.

Reviews were mixed, veering from ecstatic to vicious, but the success of the book built and built. It was slow, though — never strong enough at any one moment to place it on the bestseller list, yet sending us back to press again and again for modest printings. Meanwhile, Nina and I unleashed a series of ads that just occurred to us as things happened, all of them rehearsing the ever-swelling praise from critics, booksellers, academics, and just plain book-buyers: We had enclosed postage-paid cards in thousands of copies and got hundreds of responses, positive (“Hilarious”; “Zany”) and negative (“A complete waste of time”; “If everyone in Air Force was crazy — How did we win war?”). Many of those who loved it were demented governesses in the Nina mold, like the college instructor who wrote,

At first I wouldn’t go into the next room without it. Then I wouldn’t go outside without it. I read it everywhere — on the buses, subways, grocery lines. If I did leave it out of my sight for a moment, I panicked . . . until last night I finally finished it and burst out crying. I don’t think I’ll ever recover . . . But before I die of *Catch-22*, I will do everything to keep it alive. I will change ads on subways to “Promise her anything but give her *Catch-22*.” I’ll write *Catch-22* on every surface I can find. I’ll pirate and organize a *Catch-22* Freedom Bus . . . I’m a happier person today for *Catch-22*. Happier, sadder, crazier, saner, better, wiser, braver. Just for knowing it exists. Thank you.

Comparable if less rhapsodic communications poured in from a put-and-call broker, a New Jersey die-casting manufacturer, a New York grandmother, a fifteen-year-old boy from Eugene, Oregon, a housewife (“I am now getting phone calls in the middle of the night from people I’ve given the book to who want to read him aloud to me!”) It was this kind of unbridled enthusiasm that sealed Joe’s success — the impulse of his readers to keep the ball rolling. (A well-known example was the concocting of thousands of

“Yossarian Lives” stickers by the NBC anchorman John Chancellor, which blossomed on campuses and public buildings everywhere. Another fan came up with, and widely distributed, “Better Yossarian than Rotarian” stickers.) *Catch*, indeed, swept college students up with its challenges to authority and the establishment; again and again commentators compared its influence on young people to that of *The Catcher in the Rye* and *Lord of the Flies*.



RICHARD OVERSTREET

Robert Gottlieb '52

Because *Catch* became such a phenomenon, because the work Nina and I did to sell it was so highly visible and remarked upon in the publishing world, and because Joe never stopped talking about what he saw as my crucial role in editing it, I became highly visible myself — it’s still the book I’m most closely associated with among the kind of people who think about such things. But in the years that followed its publication, I more or less put it out of my mind. I certainly never reread it — I was afraid I wouldn’t love it as much as I once had. Even so, when in 2011 its fiftieth anniversary was being widely celebrated, I agreed to take part in the celebrations.

But there was a catch: *Catch-22*.

There was no way I could talk about it without reading it again. It was a big relief to find that I still did love it, that Nina and Candida and I — and Joe — and the world — hadn’t been misguided in our passion for it. I was bowled over once again by the brilliance of the construction, the exhilaration of the writing, the humor (of course), but also by the bleakness of Joe’s vision of life. To me, *Catch-22* was always more tragic than comic — a judgment confirmed by his magnificent second novel, *Something Happened*, which came along eight years later. There was certainly nothing funny about it!

Excerpted from AVID READER: A LIFE, by Robert Gottlieb, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux, LLC. Copyright © 2016 by Robert Gottlieb. All rights reserved.



*alumni*news





DAVID DINI SIPA '14

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WHO WAS VAN AM?

Springtime means lounging with friends in Van Am Quad, but how well do you know Van Am the man?

John Howard Van Amringe (Class of 1860) was a Columbia mathematics professor for 50 years (1860–1910) and the first dean of Columbia College (1896–1910). He was reportedly very popular with students and was known for protecting the undergraduate College from being folded into the University as Columbia grew over the years.

Upon his retirement in 1910, a bust was commissioned from sculptor William Ordway Partridge (Class of 1883). The sculpture that now sits in the Van Amringe Memorial — the quad's official name — is actually the third bust produced from the mold. The memorial's rotunda and benches were dedicated at Commencement in 1918 and the top of the rotunda is ringed with the words "Honored and Beloved by Generations of Columbia Students, His Life and Influence Will Be Example and Inspiration to Those Who Come After."



COURTESY WOODLAND PARK PRODUCTIONS

Alumnae Duo's Film Spotlights Autistic Athletes

By Melanie A. Farmer

In the documentary *Swim Team*, athletes with autism find their way, both in and out of the pool.

Produced and directed by **Lara Stolman '91** with co-producer **Shanna Belott '91**, *Swim Team*, which premiered last October on the film festival circuit, follows the Jersey Hammerheads, a competitive swim team whose 17 members, ages 8–22, all have Autism Spectrum Disorder. The film focuses on three teammates and their families: Mikey McQuay Jr., now 20; Robert “Robbie” Justino, now 20; and Kelvin Truong, now 25.

In their first season, 2014, the Hammerheads won an impressive 85 gold medals. *Swim Team* gives viewers an in-depth look at these athletes as they become strong, competitive swimmers, interact with the coaches and with one another, and experience exciting wins. The film combines the key ingredients of classic sports drama — the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat! — with a portrayal of the real-life daily challenges young people with autism and their families face.

“I’m not like other teenagers. I’m autistic,” says McQuay in the film’s opener. “When I’m swimming, I feel normal.” McQuay, now a student at Middlesex County College, competed in the 2014 Special Olympics USA National Games, nabbing two gold medals, one bronze and one silver. He and Justino continue to swim competitively on elite swim teams in New Jersey. Truong, who also has Tourette Syndrome,

still swims with the Hammerheads and is enrolled in a job-training program sponsored by New Jersey State.

Stolman met McQuay’s parents, Mike and Maria, at the Perth Amboy, N.J., YMCA in fall 2013 while researching swimming lessons for her own children, now ages 7, 10 and 11. Doctors had informed the McQuays early on that their son would never walk or talk, but that did not stop them from challenging him to have a more fulfilling life. Their tenacity stuck with Stolman.

“These people were being told ‘no’ in so many ways from the time their children had been diagnosed as toddlers,” she says. “They were told ‘no,’ their kids couldn’t be in the regular class, ‘no,’ they couldn’t keep up in Little League, ‘no,’ their kids would not go to college. And yet in creating this team, they were saying ‘yes,’ and I found it incredibly inspiring.”

Universal themes of hope and triumph drew Belott to the project. “As a mom, I could relate to the determination of these families to build a future for their kids,” says Belott, whose sons are now 3 and 5.



While *Swim Team* marks their first feature-length project together, Stolman and Belott's partnership — and friendship — dates back to their time in Morningside.

As first-years, they were both in the fall musical, *Anything Goes*, and both took School of the Arts courses in film and the art of cinema. "I was thrilled to have the opportunity to take those courses and have access to the film school as an undergraduate. That was partly how I was able to find my passion in film," says Stolman, who majored in political science. Belott, who majored in English and American history, grew up in Los Angeles and had a strong interest in musical theater and journalism.

But it was their time at Columbia University Television (CTV) that cemented their bond. Belott and Stolman were the creators, writers and producers of *Cinema Catch-Up*, a comedic send-up of Siskel & Ebert's movie review show. It aired regularly during the 1990–91 academic year on CTV and public access television.

Those Columbia connections were just as strong for *Swim Team*. Several undergraduates worked on the film as interns, organizing a focus group and helping during the rough-cut stage. Mark Suozzo '75, who composed the score, describes Stolman as a "great leader" and her work on the film as "thoughtful" and "articulate." "It was a pleasure working with them," says Suozzo, who has composed scores for films such as *Barcelona*, *American Splendor* and *The Nanny Diaries* and is music associate professor and co-director of the program in Scoring for Film and Multimedia at NYU Steinhardt.

After graduation, Belott and Stolman headed west. "We wanted to stay in New York City but we knew the business was in L.A.," says Belott. After living in L.A. for a year, Stolman, who was born in Canada but was primarily raised in New Jersey, moved back east a few months before Belott did.

From there, the pair cultivated careers in film and TV, working separately for NBC, HBO and 20th Century Fox and then together at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Stolman carved a niche in news and documentary, and Belott built a career in producing, writing and social entrepreneurship.

Stolman and Belott worked on *Swim Team* from 2013 to 2016. The film has already won a number of awards, including Best docu-

mentary over 60 minutes (2017 Picture this ... film festival), Spa City Best Sports Documentary (2016 Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival) and Best New Jersey Film & Audience Choice Feature (2016 Monmouth Film Festival). *Swim Team* was also rated one of the top 10 films of the year in the 2016 IndieWire Critics Poll, for Best Undistributed Film. Funding came from private donations and grants, including the Loreen Arbus Disability Awareness Grant from New York Women in Film & Television and a grant from The Karma Foundation, in New Jersey. In post-production, Stolman and Belott were commissioned by *The New York Times* to produce a short film, which focused on Justin's story, for its website. That gave *Swim Team* a bit of media buzz well ahead of its debut.

Central to the film project is a national screening and social impact campaign to kick off in April, for Autism Awareness Month. With Easterseals as a partner, Belott and Stolman are making the film available for screenings at Easterseals affiliates and with other organizations nationwide. They continue to promote autism awareness and spread word about the film via social media and traditional media, inviting the wider community to host its own screenings (anyone can host a screening: swimteamthefilm.com).

The two are also preparing for a theatrical release later this year and an eventual television broadcast. More festival screenings are already lined up, including this March at SXSWedu Conference & Festival in Austin and ReelAbilities: New York, the largest festival for films by and about people with disabilities.

"The next chapter is really focused on getting [the film] out there and using it as a mobilizing force to activate more awareness and opportunity for inclusion and community," says Belott.

"We want to change people's perceptions," says Stolman. Adds Belott, "That's what 2017 is all about."

Melanie A. Farmer is a freelance writer and editor who has written for CNET News, DiversityInc and CBS' MarketWatch. She is the former editor of Columbia Engineering, the school's semi-annual alumni publication.

Mr. Habib Goes to Washington

By Jonathan Lemire '01

The Republican electoral victories last November have led to a lot of hand-wringing about the next generation of Democratic Party stars. One potential contender is 3,000 miles away from Washington, D.C.

Cyrus Habib '03 is an avowed liberal and the new lieutenant governor of Washington State. He's the child of immigrants and the highest-ranking Iranian-American in public office. Also, he's blind.

"Donald Trump has put forward a white nationalist vision of what America's greatness is and I am someone who stands in opposition to that," says Habib, who took office in January.

Habib believes Trump's rhetoric makes it especially vital for the Democratic Party to showcase its own diversity, even when it falls

under attack. During Habib's campaign last year, he faced "birtherism" charges similar to the ones Trump levied at Barack Obama '83 when Habib's opponent, Marty McClendon (R), cast doubt as to whether Habib was a U.S. citizen.

"Is he legal?" a woman shouted at a McClendon rally in Olympia, Wash., in September. Another man, whose voice was also captured on video, yelled "What about his birth certificate?"

McClendon responded, "Right. I don't know," refusing to set the record straight about Habib, who was born in Maryland and moved to Washington State as a child.

Habib was "shocked" by the ugly moment but believes his election points to a brighter future. "If a man with the last name 'Habib' can win a primary and win a general election and become one of

the youngest statewide office-holders in the nation, that shows growth as a nation,” he says.

Habib’s journey to a career in politics began across the country from the statehouse in Olympia. Growing up outside Baltimore, he recalls being drawn to books and movies about New York City and found the academic energy of Columbia’s campus in Morningside Heights irresistible.

Habib lost his eyesight at 8 due to a rare form of cancer. He says he has refused to let it limit his opportunities; he jokes that Columbia’s “compact campus was well suited” for his condition. He learned how to ride the subway.

Habib fell in love with Literature Humanities, became an English major and, with excellent grades and a growing interest in politics, landed a summer job on Capitol Hill in 2001. That experience led to a fall internship in the Manhattan office of then-New York Sen. Hillary Clinton.

His first day working there was September 14, 2001.

“It was an intense time to be working in that office. Normally, an intern would be answering run-of-the-mill Social Security and immigration queries. But paperwork at that time meant helping displaced individuals and businesses from Lower Manhattan,” he recalls. “It really showed me the value in public service, whether that is helping an individual, a family, a city or a country in crisis.

“My experience at Columbia was really bisected by 9-11,” he says. “I started to think about being Iranian-American for the first time.”

Habib dove into the Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies department, taking classes in Islamic civilization, and found that he was able to connect the theoretical work of his classes to his real-world experiences in a powerful new way.

A Truman Scholarship and a Rhodes Scholarship followed, then a degree from Yale Law in 2009 and a prime law firm job back in

“My experience at Columbia was really bisected by 9-11,” he says. “I started to think about being Iranian-American for the first time.”

Washington State. But it was the experiences — both inside and outside of the classroom — in the aftermath of the terrorist attack that drove Habib to a career in public service.

“I wanted to help people,” he says simply.

Habib ran for a seat in the Washington State House of Representatives in 2012 and won, then won again two years later when he ran for the State Senate. He represented the Seattle suburbs, which are home a thriving tech sector, including giants like Microsoft and Amazon.

“I counted Bill Gates and Jeff Bezos among my constituents,” says Habib. “It would have been easy to stay, as things in the district are going well. But those economic benefits were not being experienced statewide.”

Though he had served in government for only four years, Habib announced in 2016 that he would run for lieutenant governor,



COURTESY WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

taking on 20-year incumbent Brad Owen (D). In Washington, the lieutenant governor runs independently from the governor, runs the state when the governor is out of town and can request a portfolio of state issues to supervise.

Owen abandoned his reelection bid. Habib ran against a crowded, 10-person primary field and won. He was endorsed by Obama, who recorded a robocall on behalf of his campaign, and his general election victory was supported by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee (D).

“Gov. Inslee looks forward to a productive working relationship with the new lieutenant governor,” says Tara Lee, deputy director of communications for the governor. “He enjoyed working with him when Mr. Habib was in the Senate.”

Against McClendon, Habib ran a solitary campaign ad: “When I lost my eyesight as a child, I learned to listen,” Habib intones in the powerful ad that stresses his constituent outreach efforts and ends with the tagline, “Because anything is possible, when you really listen.”

As he presides over the state senate in his new post, Habib relies on a newly installed braille terminal that allows him to instantly recognize and call upon senators looking to be recognized on the floor.

Habib believes that much of the next year will be spent reacting to changes coming from Washington, D.C. He hopes to find areas of agreement — such as joint state-federal response to summer wildfires — but also vows to stand up to President Trump when needed.

“His America is not the America I believe in,” Habib says.

Jonathan Lemire '01 covers *The White House* for the *Associated Press*.

Tech Insider published a roundup of “100 of the most exciting startups in New York City” in December, and College alumni were well represented. Featured were Codecademy, founded by **Ryan Bubinski '11** and Zach Sims; Compass, founded by **Robert Reffkin '00, BUS'03**; Fundera, co-founded by **Jared Hecht '09**; and Upworthy, co-founded by **Peter Koehchley '03**.

In early January, **Xiyin Tang '09** and **Kendall Tucker '14** both made the 2017 *Forbes* “30 Under 30” list in the law and policy category. Tang is an intellectual property associate at Mayer Brown, where she works on copy-right litigation with a focus on digital music and licensing, while Tucker is the CEO and founder of Polis, a mobile canvassing and in-person analytics startup.

On December 16, Rabbi **Alvin Kass '57, GSAS'58** was awarded a third gold star — a first for an NYPD chaplain — at a ceremony marking his 50 years of NYPD service.

The New York Times reported on February 6 that **Janice Min '90, JRN'91** planned to step down after seven years as *The Hollywood Reporter's* top editor at the end of February. Min has joined Eldridge Industries in a new role in which she will devise a “media-investment strategy.”

On December 15, President Donald Trump nominated **David Friedman '78, LAW'79** as the United States Ambassador to Israel. Friedman is a founding partner of the law firm Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman and advised Trump on Israeli and Jewish issues during the presidential campaign. At press-time, his nomination had not been confirmed.

Robert K. Kraft '63, owner of the New England Patriots, made the news during Super Bowl LI when his team made a spectacular comeback against the Atlanta Falcons. Coming from a 25-point deficit in the second quarter, the Patriots tied the game in the fourth quarter, forcing the first overtime in Super Bowl history. A final touchdown gave the Patriots a 34–28 victory and their fifth title.

In January, President **Barack Obama '83** appointed **Herbert Block '87** to the role of member, Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, “an independent Federal agency established to help preserve cultural sites in Eastern and Central Europe associated with the heritage of U.S. citizens. These include synagogues, cemeteries and other historic Jewish places, as well as sites of other faiths, and Holocaust memorials in the region.”

Erik Feig '92, co-president of Lionsgate, and **Dede Gardner '90**, a producer with and co-president of Plan B Entertainment, both had films rack up multiple 2017 Academy Awards. Lionsgate's *La La Land* won six awards while *Moonlight* took home three, including Best Picture. With her 2017 win, Gardner became the first female producer to win two Best Picture awards (she won in 2013 for *12 Years a Slave*). Films produced by Lionsgate earned 26 nominations, including a record-tying 14 for *La La Land*, while Plan B's *Moonlight* received eight.

— Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09



COURTESY NYPD

bookshelf

Middle Ages *Tale* for Middle-Schoolers

By Jill C. Shomer

Adam Gidwitz '04 won a prestigious Newbery Honor in January for his book *The Inquisitor's Tale, Or, The Three Magical Children and Their Holy Dog* (Dutton's Children's Books/Penguin Young Readers Group, \$17.99), a quirky and funny middle-grade children's novel that reads like *The Canterbury Tales* meets *Game of Thrones*, but for kids. According to Gidwitz, who specializes in what he calls "scary fairy tales," this story of three "magical" children — Jeanne, William and Jacob — and Jeanne's reincarnated "holy" greyhound, Gwenforte, "presents questions of belief and prejudice to young readers with historical context."

Born in San Francisco and raised in Baltimore, Gidwitz came to Columbia as an "I-think-I-know-everything" kid, and was interested in the Core Curriculum because he valued a challenge. But a course in East Asian texts freshman year introduced him to Taoism and Buddhism and changed his outlook.

"I felt euphoric in my embrace of it; it was more fundamental than anything I had found," he says. On a quest to learn "the truth about life," Gidwitz considered further study in philosophy or religion before ultimately landing on English lit. "The truth is in literature,"

he says. "If you describe something that communicates the truth without actually saying it explicitly, that's your best shot at getting at it."

As a break from his studies, Gidwitz would read children's books for fun ("Now, ironically, I read adult fiction for fun," he says). His hobby led him to take a children's lit class that proved to be influential. After graduation, while teaching second-graders at Saint Ann's School in Brooklyn, Gidwitz discovered he was good at storytelling and began writing out ideas. Though he wrote as an undergraduate and while earning a master's at the

Bank Street College of Education, he insists, "I learned a lot more from telling stories to kids than I ever did in a writing class."

Gidwitz's first three books were fairy tales; he says he intentionally made those characters two-dimensional so that young readers could put themselves into the story and experience the things the characters

were experiencing. For this book, he wanted to create richer characters with fuller, more human lives.

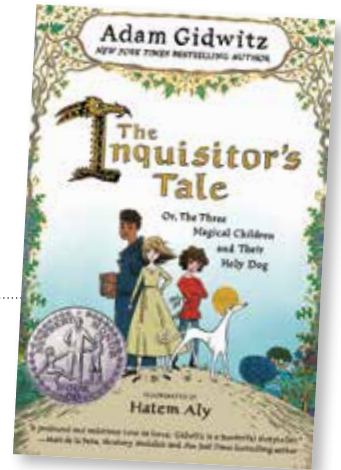
He turned to history for inspiration. Gidwitz's wife, Lauren Mancina '05 (they met at the College in a Chaucer class), is a professor of medieval history at Brooklyn College; the couple travels to Europe regularly for her research and lived in France for a year. While there, Gidwitz dreamed up stories inspired by their surroundings and The Middle Ages that Mancina was studying. Some of his characters were actual people, like King Louis IX, some were based on real people, like Joan of Arc, and some were entirely made up (a fascinating Author's Note at the end describes each in detail).

The narrative of the book was shaped by a real event Gidwitz learned about in 2012 while visiting the Museum of Jewish Art and History in Paris. A small plaque explained that in 1242, all the Talmuds of the Jews of France — about 20,000 handmade holy books — had been burned in front of them by the king and his mother, Blanche of Castile. The discovery "was like being kneed in the stomach," Gidwitz says. "It took me a few days to feel OK again, like I had experienced a great loss." The burning of the Talmuds in Paris forms the climax of the novel, after the magical children and their holy dog are pursued as heretics through France. Gidwitz's experience of loss comes through as the characters are devastated by the destruction and a fatality at the pyre site.

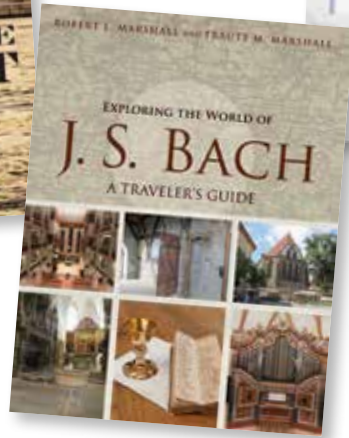
The 13th century was a brutal time, and *The Inquisitor's Tale* is an atypical children's book in that it features intense death scenes and adult wisdom amidst farting dragons and other kid stuff. But Gidwitz believes "children are capable of a lot more than we give them credit for, like asking hard questions and imagining things that are beyond the scope of their world."

The book's illustrations, by Egyptian-born artist Hatem Aly, are drawn in a style reminiscent of Islamic art and alternate between enhancing the narrative and turning it on its ear — some of the images contradict what is written or have nothing at all to do with it. Gidwitz felt it was important to provide a Muslim perspective on a story that features Judaism and Christianity prominently. "I wanted a different voice, a different perspective and a different life experience around the edge of the pages," he says.

It will be clear to readers of any age that the story's themes of religious persecution and racial prejudice are all too relevant, and tolerance is a critical takeaway. "When I go to schools to read the book I talk about scapegoating," Gidwitz says. "If young people read this, maybe they will see what's going on in our world today through a different lens. I hope I wrote a book that will maybe make people better people."



LAUREN MANCINA '05



With All Due Respect by *Lewis Segal* '56. Segal's first novel tackles issues of embedded bigotry within the context of a prestigious law firm. Thrown into a work environment with a Nazi sympathizer, attorney Michael Cullen must face the responsibility of the law profession while addressing the personal conflict he feels, forcing him to define justice for himself (Tupelo Press, \$17.95).

Exploring the World of J.S. Bach: A Traveler's Guide by *Robert L. Marshall* '60 and *Traute M. Marshall*. A biography, travel guide and encyclopedia, this book tracks the life of composer Johann Sebastian Bach through all the places where he may have lived, visited or worked. Combining careful research with historical illustrations, photographs and maps, the authors aim to inspire adventure in even the most settled of readers (University of Illinois Press, \$29.95).

L.E.L., Letitia Elizabeth Landon, The English Improvisatrice: Catalogue of a Collection Held by The Rare Book & Manuscript Library of Columbia University by *Francis J. Sypher Jr.* '63. Sypher has been studying the works of Landon — who signed her poems as “L.E.L.” — since the 1980s and has donated more than 200 manuscripts, books, prints and other materials to the Rare Book & Manuscript Library (New York: Columbia University Libraries, 2016).

Alfred Wegener: Science, Exploration, and the Theory of Continental Drift by *Mott T. Greene* '67. More than 20 years of research and travel culminate in a thorough portrait of Wegener, the scientist best known for his theory of continental drift. Greene argues Wegener deserved more credit for his accomplishments (Johns Hopkins University Press, \$44.95).

Photographs of My Father: A Lost Narrative from the Civil Rights Era by *Paul Spike* '70. Reeling with confusion and anger after the murder of his father, clergyman and civil rights leader Robert W. Spike, the author dives headfirst into reflection: upon the Civil Rights Movement, his father's position in the fabric of history and his own experiences at Columbia coming to terms with the world. Originally written when Spike was 23, this revised edition offers readers a new opportunity to engage with his story and that time (Cinco Puntos Press, \$17.95).

No More Dancing the Jig: A Novel by *Michael Haley* '77. This novel follows Margaret, a 30-something English teacher who, after a prophetic dream, is struck by the desire to change her life and unabashedly pursue happiness. As she fights to reclaim her creativity and her purpose, our heroine finds wisdom and friendship in those who bolster her (iUniverse, \$14.95).

A Legacy of One by *Kevin G. Chapman* '83. Inspired by Chapman's experiences on Morningside Heights, this novel follows fictional alumnus Jonathan Prescott III '93, a U.S senator on track to run for President. When the keeper of his biggest secret threatens to reveal information that would jeopardize his political career and family name, Prescott must grapple with what it means to leave a legacy (CreateSpace Publishing, \$16.28).

The Art of Fact Investigation: Creative Thinking in the Age of Information Overload by *Philip Segal* '84. Through the lens of the Cubist tradition in art, investigative attorney Segal suggests we need to recognize different perspectives in order to best distill an extraordinary amount of information into something productive. Attorneys, investigators and other researchers must review data with an inquisitive and thorough eye; for, as Segal says, “it is not the abundance of information that is alluring ... but the absence of it” (Ignaz Press LLC, \$22.95).

100 Years: Wisdom from Famous Writers on Every Year of Your Life selections by *Joshua Prager* '94 with visualizations by *Milton Glaser*. This collection of quotations sews common threads from the past and the future with words about every year from birth to 100. Prager

urges readers to “... get *happily* lost” amidst these pages, as in life (W.W. Norton & Co., \$17.95).

Notched Sunsets by *Tim Wood* '96. In this experimental poetry collection, Wood allows the reader a glimpse at his process. He presents a sonnet created one line at a time followed by the abstraction of the sonnet into inspirations and influences and concludes with a recapitulation of the lines reedited and in reverse chronological order (Atelos, \$12.95).

Worth It: Your Life, Your Money, Your Terms by *Amanda Steinberg* '99. The founder and CEO of DailyWorth.com aims to recalibrate the toxic relationship many women have with money and self-worth. Steinberg redefines money as a source of personal power and freedom rather than one of anxiety, offering women a way to break through to the financial independence they desire, but often don't achieve (North Star Way, \$26).

Beyond Crimea: The New Russian Empire by *Agnia Grigas* '02. Political risk expert Grigas presents a critical analysis of Vladimir Putin's foreign policy that demonstrates the dangers of Russia's expansionist tactics. The question of how post-Soviet borders will be reconstructed is currently relevant and remains unanswered (Yale University Press, \$40).

— *Aiyana K. White* '18

classnotes



COURTESY WILL CSAPLAR '57, BUS '58

An early rendering of Columbia's Morningside Heights campus.

1940

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530
New York, NY 10025
cct@columbia.edu

Milton Kamen lives in New York City. He writes: "I look forward to attending my 77th class reunion this spring thanks to my cardiologist, urologist, nephrologist, dermatologist and others too numerous to mention. It Takes A Clinic."

Milton can be reached at miltkamen@gmail.com.

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University.

CCT, and your classmates, would love to hear from you. Please share an update about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — by sending it to either the postal address or email address at the top of the column.

1941

Columbia College Today
Columbia Alumni Center
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New York, NY 10025
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CCT was pleased to hear from **Ray Robinson**. Ray (97) lives on the Upper East Side with his wife, Phyllis. He called CCT before the winter holidays to alert us to a December 11 *New York Times* obituary, "Ken Hechler, West Virginia Populist and Coal Miners' Champion, Dies at 102." Ray shared a story from his undergraduate days that involved Hechler, along with James Aloysius Farley.

The following is Ray's contribution to the 2010 book *Lasting Yankee Stadium Memories: Unforgettable Tales from the House That Ruth Built*. Ray, a celebrated sports writer, contributed this on pages 34–36:

"I have many memories of Yankee Stadium, but one that comes to mind is a brief encounter on a subway ride up to the Bronx many years ago. First, let me give you some history. Like my father before me, I attended Columbia University. In 1940, the year before America's involvement in World War II, Dr. Kenneth Hechler, a young, energetic instructor of politics, introduced some quirky innovations in his class, presumably to keep students awake. He invited a number of prominent figures of that era, literally a who's who in public affairs, to appear in person in the classroom at Morningside Heights. When these famous folks arrived they were pelted with questions by curious students.

"Should a guest speaker be too busy to attend, Dr. Hechler broadcasted the lecture over speakerphone to his

Government 21-22 class, enabling students to eavesdrop on Supreme Court justices, maverick *Emporia Gazette* editor William Allen White, Republican presidential candidate Wendell L. Willkie, and Communist party chieftain Earl Browder.

“When the students arrived to class, they never knew who might wind up on the other end of a long-distance call.

“One heavy hitter who appeared in person, not once but twice, was Farley. At the time, Farley — known to intimates as ‘Big Jim’ — was head of the Democratic National Committee, postmaster general of the United States and President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s former campaign manager. He helped guide FDR to two victories in his race for New York governor and two triumphs in his run for the presidency.

“Farley was also a man of the diamond, that is to say a man of baseball, especially the Yankees.

“Farley never met a baseball game that he didn’t like. Born in Grassy Point, New York, thirty miles outside of New York City, in 1888, he grew up wanting to be a Yankees first baseman. He played semipro ball in Haverstraw, New York, before getting into local politics.

“When the Yankees moved into their grand new ballpark in 1923, Farley immediately bought a season ticket. In April of that year, he was one of 74,000 fans who jammed into the new baseball palace to see Babe Ruth bang the Stadium’s first home run and lead the Yankees to victory over the Red Sox. Farley remained on the precious season ticket list for the rest of his life, attending games whenever he was in New York. According to no less an authority than the late historian Arthur Schlesinger, Farley rarely missed an opener.

“He was also in attendance on July 4, 1939, along with Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, to hear Lou Gehrig deliver his touching valedictory.

“I was a nineteen-year-old spectator that day at the Stadium, sitting in the faraway right-field bleachers, unlike Big Jim, who watched the proceedings from a box seat.

“That same year, after Yankees owner Jacob Ruppert died, Farley, who had dreamed often that he might buy the club, put together a consortium of backers who shared his desire to own the Yankees. Not a rich man himself, Farley enlisted the

help of FDR’s former law partner Basil O’Connor, who was also a prominent money-raiser in the fight against infantile paralysis, a disease that FDR contracted in the 1920s.

“When the negotiations fell through, Farley was distraught. Around the same time, his effort to become the Democratic nominee for president in 1940 also collapsed, as did his relationship with FDR.

“But one constant in his life remained: the Yankees. And he never stopped showing up at the Stadium.

“In his appearance at Dr. Hechler’s class that spring morning in 1940, Farley delivered a chatty, ‘off the record’ talk. When he finished his remarks, Farley suggested that each student be introduced to him.

“My recollection is that I spent about three seconds in front of Big Jim. Dr. Hechler announced my name to him, Farley shook my hand, then he greeted the next student. And so it went. Maybe thirty students passed through the ritual.

“I never saw Farley again, outside of seeing his picture in the newspapers, often when he was attending Yankee ballgames.

“That was until some thirty years later, when I shared a subway car with him en route to Yankee Stadium.

“Then in his early eighties, the ruddy-faced Farley sat across from me, a straw boater atop his bald head. A dark suit covered his broad-shouldered, 6-foot-2 frame. As our eyes met, he nodded at me and smiled.

“How are you today, Mr. Robinson?”

“In a state of utter amazement at Farley’s exercise in mnemonics, I returned his smile. Farley had known and met thousands of the most celebrated people in the world. Yet his mind, a multilayered index of names, faces, and places out of his colorful past, also had room in it to recall those eager Columbia students, including myself.

“Perhaps the most amusing tale ever told about Farley’s total recall was written by popular *Hearst* columnist Bugs Baer. Kiddingly, Baer challenged the notion that Farley was the ultimate master at matching names with faces.

“He’s just a fraud,” wrote Baer. “The way he gets the name is to keep shaking hands with the stranger, and slapping him on the back with his other hand. All the while he’d be telling the guy how glad he is to see

COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

BC	Barnard College
BUS	Columbia Business School
CP	Pharmaceutical Sciences
DM	College of Dental Medicine
GS	School of General Studies
GSAPP	Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
GSAS	Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
JRN	Graduate School of Journalism
JTS	Jewish Theological Seminary
LAW	Columbia Law School
LS	Library Service
NRS	School of Nursing
PH	Mailman School of Public Health
PS	College of Physicians and Surgeons
SEAS	The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
SIPA	School of International and Public Affairs
SOA	School of the Arts
SPS	School of Professional Studies
SW	School of Social Work
TC	Teachers College
UTS	Union Theological Seminary

him. Eventually the bum’s calling card would pop out of his vest, and Jim’s got the guy’s name!”

“For a few moments on the subway, Farley and I exchanged comments about the state of the Yankees instead of the state of the Union. Then we each went on our way.”

CCT wishes all of you a pleasant spring. If you wish to share news or a favorite memory of your time at Columbia in this space, we would be happy to receive it! Please send notes to either the mailing address at the top of this column or email us at cct@columbia.edu. Be well!

1942

Melvin Hershkovitz
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I am sorry to start these notes with the sad news of the death of lifelong friend **Robert J. Kaufman**, of Scarsdale, N.Y., at 95 on October 30. Bob was a naval officer (1942–46) on a destroyer escort, after which he graduated from Yale Law in 1948 as a member of Corbey Court. He had a long, distinguished career as VP and general attorney for the ABC Network, during which he worked with Roone Arledge ’52

to establish the televising of the Olympic Games and Monday Night Football. At Columbia, Bob was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and the Senior Society of Sachems. He was the coxswain of Varsity Crew and maintained friendships with his oarsmen throughout his life.

Bob was a devoted golfer; a loyal fan of the New York Giants; a devoted husband to his wonderful wife, Sue; a loving and admiring father to his sons, Peter and Jimmy; and a happy grandpa to his granddaughters, Maddy Kate and Ruby Lee, who all survive him.

This correspondent met Bob at Horace Mann School in 1935, the start of an 80-year friendship. We both attended our 70th Reunion Luncheon in Hamilton Hall in 2012, the last time we were together, after which we kept in touch with phone calls and notes via regular mail.

A sad farewell to the end of an extraordinary friendship, and condolences to all members of Bob’s family.

On December 9, I received the annual holiday family report from Marie McIlvannan, wife of **Stewart McIlvannan LAW’48**, in Lakewood, Colo. Several months ago, Stew entered an assisted living and memory care facility near his home. He was functioning poorly in a wheelchair, with falls and cardiac problems, as he anticipated his

96th birthday on January 24. Marie visited Stew every afternoon, had dinner with him and arranged visits with their sons, John, Len and Phil. At Columbia, Stew was affectionately known as “Snuffy” among his friends and was a member of the varsity basketball team. He was a star halfback on our football team and always took great pride in being a Columbia Lion.

In WWII, Stew served in the Navy; in 1945, he was on an escort ship for the battleship *U.S.S. Missouri* in Tokyo Bay when Gen. Douglas MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender to end the war. Stew returned to Columbia, earning his law degree, and had a stint with the FBI before starting a long career as an executive in the trucking industry, which included intense negotiations with the notorious Jimmy Hoffa. In retirement, Stew was a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather. We send warm greetings to our distinguished classmate and his family.

Dr. **Gerald Klingon** (96) calls me every evening from his apartment on York Avenue in Manhattan to discuss Columbia athletics and world affairs. He remains perfectly lucid, with an encyclopedic memory of Columbia football, baseball and basketball games. He recently sent me a list of 23 potential incoming football recruits for 2018, including four from Florida, where our baseball team has been successful in recent years. Gerry was a distinguished neurologist on the staff at Cornell University Medical College and Memorial Sloan Kettering, and a prominent medical-legal consultant when summoned to testify in court in contentious malpractice cases. His son, Robert (Amherst College and Boalt Hall (UC Berkeley’s law school)), and daughter, Karen (Rhode Island School of Design), are also loyal to the Lions.

I am in contact with John Robbins, who lives in Mount Dora, Fla., and is the son of the late Dr. **William Robbins**, who died last June (see my tribute to Bill in the Fall 2016 issue). John follows in his father’s footsteps as a loyal fan of Columbia Athletics. He has attended some of our baseball team’s pre-Ivy season games in Florida and recently reminded me that he saw on YouTube a replay of Columbia’s January 1934 Rose Bowl victory over Stanford, featuring Al Barabas ’36

scoring on our famous KF-79 play with a run around left end.

Kind regards and best wishes to all surviving classmates and their families for a good and happy 2017.

1943

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My wife Audrey’s and my trip to the United Kingdom in late September went well. We attended a wedding near Cambridge and a christening in the Highlands. There was time for side visits, notably to a cattle auction where some of our host’s herd were sold, and a visit to Cromarty. The latter is a charming, largely unspoiled Georgian village on the Cromarty Firth.

October was Dante-esque. I walked about as a zombie, with concomitant flu and a throat infection that affected both sides — one after the other, right before left. I earned my Ph.D. in sleep, abed hour after hour, dead to the world. An ER visit at 2 a.m., in-patient antibiotics and steroids reversed the last episode and I was out of hospital in 36 hours. Excellent care at Penn Medicine. Sad part: Our trip to Boston for the Wittenborg lecture had to be cancelled. I had very much looked forward to that lecture, which was to be given by my young Penn colleague, Dr. Surbhi Grover. We did later go to Massachusetts to visit my wife’s best friend in Weston, Mass.

The election left us aghast. “Keep calm and carry on,” the phrase that kept Britain going during WWII, was the best we could do.

Our Thanksgiving Day was spent with my son and his family. It was a chance to catch up with my great-grandchildren, Maggie and Charlie, and their parents before they all left for Kennebunk, Maine, in December. We used the train and had a roomette on the way south — very comfortable way to travel; highly recommended.

I developed double vision in my left eye early in December. This was followed a few days later by double vision on the right. These are the fourth and fifth head and neck episodes during 2016. They have become so familiar that Audrey and I look on hospital admissions as

two-day holiday breaks in the routine. I am admitted to a huge single room in the hospital — the last had great views of center city Philly under snow. Audrey moves in with me — she should not be home alone — and spends a comfortable night on a couch or reclining sofa while my IVs run in overnight. I am home the next afternoon. The food is good and there is lots of TLC, directed at me for a change and not her! I was found to be severely anemic and ran in a unit of blood. No wonder I was played out after walking half a mile!

There is a hunt on for the basic cause of these repeated bouts. Nothing found so far. They are now believed to be non-bacterial but inflammatory episodes. We’ll see.

A Columbia nugget: Daniel De Leon (Class of 1878) was a multi-lingual prominent Marxist on the world stage at the end of the 1890s and in the early 1900s. Of Dutch-Jewish

Most of my bit was excised for space, but I have sounded off on the subject elsewhere so do not feel cheated; however, I can’t resist briefly telling those of you who don’t know that it’s an all-Columbia story. William A. Dunning (Class of 1881, GSAS 1884) became a Columbia faculty member in 1893 and remained one until his death in 1922. He wrote extensively on the subject of Reconstruction and supervised dissertations that became books that reflected his views. It was all done scrupulously from research in primary sources, and all concluding that the Republican governments set up in the defeated Southern states were corrupt and inefficient. They worked hardships on the South that ended only when they were restored to white control. And all showed an innate racial and class bias that Dunning and his acolytes honestly did not recognize in themselves. Since the 1960s, those views

Bernie Weisberger ’43 collaborated on an article in the Chronicle of Higher Education on the trap of the doctrine of complete objectivity.

descent, he was born in Curaçao in 1852. De Leon exerted a strong influence on the turbulent, multi-national Socialist world of that time.

Bernie Weisberger reports: “Hi classmates, in whatever numbers are reading this. I can’t remember an autumn as tumultuous as this year’s has been for the nation at large, or one so relatively free of important personal news. In my case, the ‘no news is good news’ bromide works. I continue to plug away at writing because the itch to do so is hardwired into me. The only result of my work in the last few months that’s been published so far is a collaboration with an economist friend in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. It deals with the traps that can be laid for social scientists by the doctrine of complete ‘objectivity.’ That doctrine discourages scholars from addressing controversial issues for fear of letting an ‘unprofessional’ private opinion sneak in through the back door. My part was to show the problem at work in the discipline of history when it dealt with the subject of Reconstruction after the Civil War.

have been extensively challenged and revised for the better. The star performer is Professor Eric Foner ’63, GSAS’69, who recently retired after 28 years as Columbia’s DeWitt Clinton Professor of History. Excuse the digression, but I am very proud of good old alma mater and the fine education she gave me.

“To return to the present, just as was the case last year, I was heavily absorbed in following the rise of the Chicago Cubs from years of futility to a near-miss in 2015 and finally, this year, to the World Championship. It may sound trivial and, in the grand scheme of things, it is. But truly, from the late weeks of August through the final first week of November, I watched every game I could on TV and virtually ate, slept and breathed baseball. And glad of it.

“Then came the election. I have said in Class Notes that it’s probably not a good idea to provoke political arguments in this forum. I simply have to report that Trump’s win has cast a pall over my spirits that keeps me from finishing in my usual chipper tone. I’ll stop there.

“The only traveling I’ve done since my last Class Note is to New York for the Thanksgiving weekend, accompanied by my wife, Rita. She has what might be called a bi-national, trans-oceanic family — some are in New York and some are in Israel, to which she went on to visit while I returned to Chicago. The table was occupied by a large crowd of in-laws, who I am glad to say are also friends, and a good time was had by all — except, of course, the turkey. Good wishes to all of you for the New Year, and let’s hear more from you.”

1944

Columbia College Today
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No news this time! *CCT*, and your classmates, would love to hear from you. Please share an update about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column.

1945

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Dr. **Louis G. Harris** writes: “Finished Columbia College in 1944 due to WWII. Roomed with close high school buddy Dr. Henry Shinefield ’45, PS’48 but got kicked out of Livingston Hall when the Navy took over. Went on to Duke med school and a medical internship and residency in internal medicine in California and practiced in Encino for about 35 years, followed by seven years in San Diego doing Social Security evaluation. Still stay in touch with Henry.

“I served on many hospital committees and was a chief of staff. Kept very busy in my spare time as a long-distance runner, having run track for four years in high school. Did eight marathons and hundreds of shorter races, finishing in the top three in my age group most of the time.

“I lost my beautiful wife of 67 years, Edith ‘Edi’ Belle Harris (U of Wisconsin ’48), about 15 months ago [as of January]. She taught modern dance and health ed at Los Angeles City College and was a docent at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. When first retired, I spent four years motor-homing, hiking and fly-fishing in the western United States, from Alaska to Mexico. Nothing beats that. After a five-year stay in Prescott, Ariz. (magnificent area), I moved into a retirement community in Carlsbad, Calif.

“Still have all my own joints, walk one hour every morning and 30 minutes in the gym three times a week. Now 93 and a half and fortunately still able to drive and keep very busy with the programs available here. Can’t top the climate.”

CCT, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you too! Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email address or postal address at the top of the column.

1946

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Ira Millstein has authored a new book, *The Activist Director: Lessons from the Boardroom and the Future of the Corporation*, published by Columbia University Press. Ira founded and developed modern-day corporate governance practice. The book chronicles 50 years of his life inside the boardroom during major corporate events, such as the Drexel Burnham Lambert collapse and General Motors’ mid-1990s recovery.

Mel Holson says life is slowly getting back to normal after knee replacement surgery. By the time this column is published he may have already donned his skis and returned to the slopes.

Herbert Gold got a mention in *The New York Times* obituary for noted biographer Aileen Ward: “When (Vladimir) Nabokov was trying to find someone to replace him when he left Cornell shortly after the publication of *Lolita*, it was she (Ward) who came up with

a successful recommendation, the novelist Herbert Gold.”

Cornell agreed with her recommendation and Herb taught there.

Arnold Zentner is “still chugging along” in the warm climes of Sarasota, Fla. He says he cut back on tennis and golf because of spinal stenosis and now finds biking and playing the electric organ to be important and fun. He writes that, four years after his wife’s death, he is lucky to have the companionship of a lady to share the pleasures of theater, music and travel. Arnold sends warm regards to classmates and looks forward to being contacted at aszentner@yahoo.com.

Every edition of *Columbia College Today* carries the ’46 Class Notes column with news that I receive from you. News about travel, family, current work, special projects, personal happenings, book reading suggestions and personal thoughts are read with interest by your classmates. Please send me your updates and information, which will run in this publication. Write to me at the address at the top of the column or send me an email at bsuns1@gmail.com.

1947

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REUNION 2017

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Come back to campus for your 70th reunion! Find out more: college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017.

1948

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Robert Randel SEAS’49, who lives in Oberlin, Ohio, writes:

“1. Life has been good. I am 93 with only age-related physical and intelligence handicaps. No question that I am slower in both areas. I know this because I can measure my capability against the modern college student. I am a regular unregistered visitor at Oberlin College, which has given me privileges to listen in on a variety of liberal arts courses, the number of which is now approaching the requirement for a liberal arts degree. But, while I have updated and improved my intelligence, I have never passed an exam and I know I am not the intellectual equivalent of today’s college student in the classroom.

“2. Physically, I walk, one mile in 40 minutes (probably twice a week when the weather is good) and play doubles tennis twice a week with a younger group, all of whom recognize that my partner must cover at least 80 percent of our court territory.

“3. Socially, I am alone. My dear wife, Helen (TC’45 or ’46, if memory serves), died last year. We had been married 69 years. However, once-married people of both sexes are numerous in retirement communities and it is not too difficult to satisfy a friendly relationship.

“4. My four-year Columbia experience was split, with three years occurring after three years in the military. Thank you, GI Bill. By then I was married and had one child before graduation. In other times this might have been unusual, but not so post-WWII. A large portion of my time while at Columbia was spent with family and part-time jobs. I never lived at the College. Courses were just something to pass with a satisfactory grade (I was Phi Beta Kappa). The goal: Graduate and get a job. That was my Columbia life. As a result, I have been a very disinterested alumnus. Not Columbia’s fault, but probably a product of the times for some people.

“5. After Columbia, 36 years were spent with a large American manufacturing corporation, at several locations in the east and Midwest. In that period, I was able to ascend the corporate ladder with a variety of interesting and rewarding jobs. It is difficult to pin down, but I believe my Columbia experience played a role in my career.”

Paul Robert Homer also reached out: “I am retired from The State University of New York after 43 years

of service. I am a church organist and choir director in Buffalo, N.Y. My wife, Kathryn, is still with me after 52 years, and our three children have given us four grandchildren. Naturally, all are intelligent and beautiful!”

CCT, and your classmates, would love to hear from you, too! Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email address or postal address at the top of the column.

1949

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Right off the bat I want to thank classmates from whom we have never heard for throwing a “lifeline” and rescuing this column from another desperate outcry! **Joe Russell**, who has been the most generous provider of content, has not been obligated to come to our rescue this time. We have heard from **Julian Rolandelli** BUS’50; I quote his entire letter because he tells a story so admirable. He appears to credit the College for all his success and, in that sense I think we all might take a moment and recognize that as a common connection among us.

Julian reports: “Many are the exciting occurrences in my life linked to Columbia. I especially remember the people who made them possible — like meeting Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, then-president of the University!”

“For me, Columbia athletics were huge. It was Coach Carl Merner’s inspiration that led to my record in the 1,000-yard-run that held for 17 years. While winning two-mile relay championships at Heptagonals, Ivy League and New York Metros, I made lifelong friendships with **Dave Ilchert** (godfather to one of my five children), **Bill Berger SEAS’49**, Charles Cole ’48 and John Zegger ’50.

“At the Business School, Warren Buffet BUS’51 was a class behind me. If only I paid as much attention as he did! Yet, what I did learn helped me big-time. Assigned to Columbia while I was at the Business School was FBI agent and Olympian Fred Wilt, then



COURTESY WILL CSAPLAR '57, BUS '58

America’s fastest miler. No longer Varsity eligible, I was working out — just for enjoyment — at the mid-campus outdoor running track when Fred stopped me. He could quickly get me back in competitive shape running for the New York Athletic Club, he said, using little known Swedish techniques. I don’t know why Fred bothered with me. Whatever, it was good enough — with the help of former world record holder and Olympian Bill Hulse — to take third place in the two-mile relay at the AAU Nationals (USA Championships).

“I tried to give back by officiating at Columbia track meets and Madison Square Garden, and I was chairman of the Varsity C Banquet and on track advisory committees. I interviewed applicants for Columbia and hosted Columbia track, football and wrestling coaches in Ohio. I volunteered to coach track at my Ohio church and to run a huge track meet for more than 450 boys and 20 parishes on Memorial Day 10 years in a row.

“Indeed, again and again, Columbia people played a role that I can never repay. Bill Sanford ’30, captain of Columbia’s only National Heavyweight Crew Regatta champion, was my Scoutmaster and an inspiration in my youth. Carl Sayers ’46, who headed up stadium food concessions during our football games (which helped me earn a few bucks), mentored me to the rank of Eagle Scout and then on through

Columbia. I met John Garibaldi of Manhattan University, in second place right behind me, at the New York Metropolitan Championship Mile Run. Later, newly married, we found ourselves next-door neighbors in Yonkers, N.Y., and became lifetime friends. Incredibly, my sometime roommate Bill Vessie ’48, PS’54, Columbia’s IC4A Champion (high jump), and head nurse Elsie Rolandelli (my wonderful wife of 63 years, who passed away in April) worked together at the largest hospital in Ohio.

“While serving as president of the Columbia Alumni Association of Cleveland, I worked with high-powered Columbians like Jim Berick ’55, Frank Joseph LAW’53 and Al Lerner ’55. Al was to own the Cleveland Browns and finance the fabulous Alfred Lerner Hall on campus. I also rubbed shoulders with distinguished folks like President Bill McGill and Dean David Truman during our annual Columbia in Cleveland programs. I’ve gone back to Columbia to represent Cleveland at alumni meetings and for reunions, reuniting with **Gene Rossides, George Sayer, Bill Lubic, Bob Rosencrans, Marv Lipman, Bob Lincoln, Gene Shekita, Pete Smedley, Jim Shenton, Chuck Tulevech** and many others. And it’s classmates like you, John, willing to write *CCT* Class of ’49 notes for so many years, that moti-

vated writing this note. In the end, I am but a part of all those I’ve met. Thanks, Columbia, for helping to put so many good people there.”

Nick Zules sent two separate emails, one with a sampling of his paintings and another with a brief resume of his time since College. Nick worked at a number of jobs to supplant his earnings as an artist but never abandoned his calling. The several works he sent me are striking and impactful. Regardless of the limitations of viewing paintings on the small screen in digital format, his work is clearly filled with a forceful and emotionally moving effect.

I did not know Nick during our undergraduate years. My loss. His brief personal history follows: “The years I spent at the College occurred during a period of momentous worldwide change. I am grateful that the knowledge I received there helped me understand, helped me make sense of the events that ensued.

“I graduated and worked in an art office for several years, married and joined my father as partner in his fur business, but always indulged in my passions, painting and writing. I did better with the artwork, had art shows all over Long Island; in New York City; and in Taos, N.M.; and Miami; and did line illustrations for *The New York Times*, *Newsday* and many magazines, meanwhile mainly providing for my family and three children with the fur work. When

the fur business folded, I was a salesman in an art store. Both were vacations in comparison to the hectic life creating and selling mink coats. I recently self-published two novels and a book of short stories — and illustrated the covers for all three.”

Al Scherzer PH'50, TC'54, PS'63, obviously, has a gift for understatement. His note reports ever-so-briefly on an extraordinary career, reaching around the globe and returning home, sharing his energy and knowledge in the service of the most important members of all our families: our children. Al says, “After five years of international public health work in Southeast Asia and the South Pacific with the United States Public Health Service and WHO and 50 years as a developmental pediatrician, I finally retired in March 2016 and am now clinical professor emeritus of pediatrics at Weill Cornell Medical College. I have captured my journey so far away from West 120th Street and the College in a memoir: *Taking on Global Health Issues: Odyssey of a Developmental Pediatrician*. It is available from Amazon or on lulu.com. I invite classmates to peek in and see where my travels have taken me.”

Paul Meyer sent his note, as he and his wife, Alice, had a genuinely exciting December: “Alice and I spent a month cruising from Miami through the Caribbean and then 2,000 miles up the Amazon River to Manaus. There, I had my dream experience: To sing in the 1884–96 opera house built in the middle of a rainforest. While only a Gilbert and Sullivan ditty (‘I am the very model of a modern Major-General’), I made my debut. Of course there was much more to the experience, but the main thing was that we did it. Used walking sticks to climb about 300 ft. to the top of Devil’s Island — although Dreyfus was imprisoned on an adjacent island we could only view at a distance.”

It is impossible to ignore the political turmoil that is abroad in the nation and Paul adds the following as we all contemplate the importance of maintaining order and civility in the ongoing debate as we struggle to stay firm in our unanimous support of the Constitution as the structure upon which our national house is built.

He says, “I take great pride in having been a founder of the Ameri-

can Civil Liberties Union affiliates of both Connecticut and Oregon and having served on the National Board and National Executive Committee for more than 25 years. Boy, do we need the ACLU now!”

Thank you all for sharing. I know there are many more of you out there. Let us hear from you. We live in unsure times and whatever reassurance we can glean from hearing from our classmates is ever more appreciated. We are all survivors and we have the opportunity to show, by example, that our identities, so firmly grounded in our common College experience, are joined in hope and conviction that the future is ours to make. In this I include every alumnus/a from Page 1 of Class Notes to the Class of 2016.

In a final note, I report, sadly, the loss of a dearly beloved classmate. In November, **Dick Kandel** took his leave of this earthly community. Dick was a friend from my earliest days on campus, separated by the glass that defined the engineer’s domain and the performer’s in the WKCR studio. A serious and enthusiastic member of our alumni family and a generous friend, Dick’s loss is personal and profound.

1950

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Class of 1950, CCT wishes you a warm and pleasant spring. If you would like to share your news or a favorite memory of your time at Columbia in this space, we would be happy to receive it! Please send notes to either the mailing address at the top of this column or email us at cct@columbia.edu. Be well!

1951

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CCT was pleased to chat with **Joe Sirola** on the phone in December. His voice may be known to

you from his many years doing voiceover work (for example, Boar’s Head commercials: “Compromise elsewhere!”). Joe remains active in the arts, having performed at NYC’s Metropolitan Room on November 20 in his one-man show, “With A Little Bit of Luck: Stories, Songs & Shakespeare.” Here are details from the show’s Facebook page:

“Joe Sirola, who has starred in more than 600 television shows — including his own series *The Montefuscos*; in films with the likes of Rock Hudson, Gina Lollobrigida, Clint Eastwood, and James Cagney; and on Broadway in *The Unsinkable Molly Brown*, *Pal Joey*, and *Golden Rainbow*, among others — will be bringing stories of his life through words and song to the stage at Metropolitan Room.

“In addition to his acting career, *The Wall Street Journal* named him ‘King of the Voiceovers,’ having recorded 10,000+ commercials, and he has been called ‘the green thumb of the Upper East Side’ for his amazing rooftop garden.

“Sunday’s performance will also have snippets from his one man show, Shakespeare’s *Ages of Man*, in which Joe portrayed 18 of the bard’s famous characters.

“In the last few years, Joe returned to Broadway ... this time as a Tony Award-winning producer with shows such as *A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder*, *The Trip to Bountiful*, *The Motherf**ker with the Hat*, *Love Letters* (revival), *Ghetto Klown*, *Rodgers + Hammerstein’s Cinderella*, *Stick Fly* and *Time Stands Still*. He is currently involved in *Cagney the Musical*.

“... and it all started ‘With A Little Bit of Luck.’”

Read about Joe in CCT’s 2011 profile: Go to college.columbia.edu/cct and search for “Joe Sirola.” For a look at Joe’s recent work on *Cagney*, go to nytimes.com and search for “Remembering James Cagney, a Tough Guy With a Green Thumb.”

Elliott B. Sherwood got in touch: “I am living happily in a wonderful retirement community, Willow Valley, in Lancaster, Pa., with my wife of 69 years, Helen. We have two loving daughters nearby and our families get together often.

“I retired early, at 60, from a rewarding career in banking, with First Pennsylvania Bank, N.A., of Philadelphia. We then traveled exten-

sively in the USA and Europe before settling down in central Pennsylvania.

“I never expected to live until 90 but here we are, in relatively good health and enjoying a full life.”

Joseph V. “Joe” Ambrose Jr. shares: “Three years ago my wife and I moved from our home of 45 years in Irvington, N.Y., to a retirement community in Lancaster, Pa., where we are enjoying a relatively carefree life, despite a few minor medical issues. We still go to Florida each winter and have a fairly active life there.”

David Kettler GSAS’60, professor emeritus in political studies, Trent University (Ontario), and research professor in social studies, Bard College (Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.), sent a comprehensive update: “I am not strictly a member of the Class of 1951. I entered with the Class of 1952 but accumulated enough credits to enter graduate school in fall 1951. As a result, I did not know many members of the earlier class, especially since friendships were often formed in the required early courses. Then, too, I commuted from Jersey City for the first two years and had a near full-time job there, teaching veterans to take high school equivalence exams, until I completed my course work for the Ph.D. in 1954 ... Columbia opened possibilities I had never imagined. And I remain loyal (as long as I am not required to root for athletic teams).

“There will not be (m)any more opportunities to report to fellow-survivors what I have been up to in the 65 years since our graduation.

“For me, Columbia College was first of all about the classes: I loved CC and Humanities and the history and economics and government classes. Even the mandatory composition class was a revelation. My background was a little unusual. I’d gone to a terrible high school in Jersey City until I walked out on the first day of my senior year, took the \$500 I’d saved for college from my summer jobs and entered a local private high school, whose principal claim was that it prepared students for state equivalency tests in half the normal time. It happened also to have some good teachers. The principal talked me into applying to Columbia and for all I know doctored my very ordinary transcript to get me admitted.

“I worked two jobs during the half year I’d spared myself and accumu-

lated the first year's tuition. For the first two years, I commuted daily, organizing my schedule so that I could return in time for my 5:00–10:30 p.m. job as 'registrar' for the evening division of the school I had attended, mostly doing the paperwork for the veterans who came under the GI Bill. After a year, I started teaching the last two hours of the day. It was a great job, as it paid well and gave me weekends free for studying.

"Of course, it meant, first, that I had as good as no social connections with classmates, and, second, that I had to commute five days a week to Jersey City, in the other direction, even after I rented a bed on 118th Street.

"So Columbia for me meant classes, except for my first semester when I somehow found time to impose my abysmal trombone playing on the Marching Band. The band was always brilliant at rehearsals because many Julliard musicians liked to take part. But not at the games, when Mr. [Hunter] Wiley had to improvise. But that was true of Lou Little too, if I remember right, since it was the year after [Gene] Rossides [49, LAW'52] and [Bill] Swiacki [BUS'48, '49].

"But back to class. At the time, you will recall, we did not have to declare a major but to take enough advanced courses to accumulate the required 'maturity credits.' So I ended up with an equal number of courses in economics, history, philosophy and government, but committed to the last of these, thanks to the political theory courses taught by John B. Stewart GSAS'53.

"I have to qualify that characterization of 'my' Columbia in another way. In my second or third year, I became active in the minuscule Leftist fraction of the Young Progressives of America — the only College member of the group, and the only one who was not a Communist Party member. The four other members, GS students, used to caucus before they met with me, to lay down the party line. They thought of me as a fellow traveler, but I thought that I was driving the bus. We denounced an honorary degree for a Chilean dictator, I recall, and chanted 'No degrees for dictators; jobs for Negro educators.' There was a photo of me in one of those demonstrations in *Spectator*: I was looking scornfully at the surrounding skeptics. We did in fact

run a good series on 'Negro History,' although we considered it a triumph if we could double our members in the size of the audience. That was my Columbia too. No regrets and no apologies needed.

"So what was the upshot? After entering graduate school in public law and government, I completed an M.A. in 1953 and finished my course requirements and doctoral orals in the following year. By then, I was married to a sociologist who worked at 'the Bureau' [Editor's note: Paul F. Lazarfeld's Bureau of Applied Social Research at Columbia], and we had a child, Ruth Finkelstein, now an assistant professor at the Mailman School of Public Health after a distinguished career at the New York Academy of Medicine. After a year on a Rockefeller Foundation fellowship, I became an instructor at Ohio State, where I taught for 15 years, from instructor to professor. The dissertation took some five years to complete and cost one marriage, as well. I married again in 1961, to Janet Leight, a psychology graduate student, and we have twin daughters, Katherine and Hannah. Katherine, a lawyer, is married to a woman, and they have three children between them. Katherine directs the management of grievances at Intel Foundation. Hannah, an economist, has a responsible position at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and will be a senior lecturer at MIT next year. She was selective and waited until last year to marry; she and her husband, Steve Hindman, ski, hike and bike a lot.

"In 1970, I was tripped up on the way from Ohio State to Purdue, and spent a year instead at a small 'experimental' college in New Hampshire. From there, I went off to a professorship at Trent University, an undergraduate university in Peterborough, Ontario, established to counter the 'Americanization' of Ontario universities. I 'retired' early and became a professor emeritus, in good part in order to follow my wife, who'd gotten a job she much liked at Bard College during a sabbatical year we spent there (coinciding with our daughters' senior year of college). After a year as visiting professor at the CUNY's Graduate Center, I settled in at Bard, teaching a partial load and being designated as a research professor. My name is on the title page of some 15 books, counting edited

as well as written volumes, none of them known except to small specialist audiences but all of them in determined pursuit of questions first posed for me at Columbia. The work in (halting) progress is a study of a Columbia teacher, political and legal theorist Franz Neumann. I am 200,000 words into the text. The length of this missive will help you understand why the manuscript is not really of publishable length.

"We certainly did not think that we would leave our (grand)children with the world of Trump, but we trust that they will resist. I was born a Jew in Leipzig, Germany, in 1930 and benefitted from the juxtaposition of luck and circumstances that enabled my family to come to New York in spring 1940 on the last Italian Line ship to make the crossing. That is the pre-history that enters into every detail of the story I've told. Even the semester in the band, since my arrival in the fourth grade of Roosevelt School in Bayonne, N.J., in spring 1940, devastated not only by the forced emigration and its prelude but also by the death of my father at 35 one month after our arrival, was eased by a wise teacher with my initiation in the drum and bugle corps that had four marchers in its repertoire to march the students to their classes."

CCT, and your classmates, would love to hear from you too. Please share news about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory — using either the email or postal address at the top of the column.

1952

REUNION 2017
JUNE 1–4

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REUNION2017

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Thanks to all who wrote in! As a reminder, Reunion 2017, at which

you'll celebrate your 65th, is Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4. Learn more here: college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017.

We look forward to seeing you back on campus!

From **John Benfield**: "I am delighted that our oldest grandson, entirely on his own after an extensive evaluation of colleges in the United States and Europe, made Columbia College his first choice and will enter with the Class of 2021 this fall."

Pete Vayda GSAS'56 writes: "I spend most of my time at home on Morningside Heights but still take trips in connection with an ongoing research project on fires and greenhouse gas emissions in Indonesian peatlands. For example a three-week trip to Indonesia in February and a shorter trip to Australia in April."

From **Daniel Seemann**: "Barely graduated from Columbia, but got through. Eventually got a Ph.D. and attained the rank of colonel in the USMCR. Taught at the University of Toledo for almost 50 years."

From **Howard Hansen**: "Our 1951 WINNING football team lost another valuable teammate in Mitch Price '53 on January 8, 2016. When you get returned mail at our advanced ages, it invariably indicates 'something is up.' I found this out once again with the valuable help of the *CCT* Class Notes editor, who passed along Mitch's obituary to me.

"As some of you know, a special group of Columbia athletes from several sports (and their 'gals') have met periodically at various off-campus locations through the south for three-day rendezvous since 1986, including a seven-day cruise. Eleven gatherings have been logged in, to be exact, and our veteran planning committee members included **Mel Sautter**, **Tom Federowicz** (now deceased) **Dan Seemann** and me.

"I always tried to get Mitch and his wife, Norma, to join our rendezvous. However, he had physical problems and long-distance travel was out of the question from Utah. My last phone conversation with him was at our 2012 dinner gathering at Shyla and Stephen Reich '53's beautiful lakeside residence in Winter Springs, Fla. He spoke to several of our guys present and couldn't say enough great things about his four years at Columbia. From professors to coaches to teammates, he wasn't shy about



From this vintage photograph's original caption: Coach Lou Little will offer one of the "best backfields of the Ivy League this season" with his veteran quartet. Left to right: Little, Mitchell Price '53, Vernon Wynott '52, Howard Hansen '52 and Frank Toner '52.

expressing his true, heartfelt, outstanding experiences. This included QB coaching from Paul Governali '43, former Maxwell Award winner and Heisman Trophy runner-up.

"I have Mitch in some of my 'Lion's Den' action game photos hanging on my den wall, but perhaps the best is featured here, with Lou Little, Mitch, Vern Wynott (deceased), me and Frank Toner. Also included is Coach Little's newspaper comment (excuse me, Mr. Little's comments, as we only knew him in our playing days).

"Mitch was an outstanding athletic passer and, like many of today's QBs, could run effectively as well! When I look back, Vern was Honorable Mention All-American scatback, Frank had excellent speed as captain of Columbia's track team and, I'm sure, as fullback I was the slowest in our T and split-T formation backfield! Since Mitch was one year behind us we were fortunate to play as a unit for two years. An additional tribute to Mitch is that he won the Football Cup two years in a row for best scholastic average of all 44 teammates in 1950 and 1951.

"We were a pretty strong and balanced backfield, if I don't say so myself, and lost to Penn, Army and Navy. We played only eight games my senior year as our opening game was canceled because, sadly, two of our teammates, Don Page and Bernie Jansson, came down with polio during pre-season camp in Connecticut.

"Correction: In CCT's Winter 2016-17 issue Class Notes it was

stated in my article that as time wore down at Army Frank Toner scored to win but was flagged for offsides. Frank was not offsides, but our end was!"

1953

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Several months ago I received an email from Roland Plottel '55 with sad news about the distinguished and memorable Professor Richard Brooks GSAS'59. "My friend, Professor Richard Brooks (Junior Phi Beta Kappa) passed away suddenly, a glass of wine on a table nearby."

"Richard, an eminent scholar, earned a Ph.D. in French from Columbia. He was the author of a book on Voltaire and Leibniz, and the general editor of the *A Critical Bibliography of French Literature*. He taught at Columbia College, NYU, the College of Staten Island and the CUNY Graduate Center, where he was a full professor for many years. He was married to Professor Eva Stadler BC'52, GSAS'67, also now deceased and who also earned a Ph.D. in French from Columbia."

Richard will be sorely missed by everyone who knew him!

I received a delightful email from John Lustig: "Hello! What could bring the long-absent back to life? In my case, writing is prompted by the addition of two grandchildren, born

five days apart. Our daughter, Jill, was inducted into the grandmother sorority when her son and daughter [each] became parents! Now one has to be fairly old (or ancient, as one granddaughter describes me) to reach that level, so I thought an update might be of interest to someone.

"My wife, Anne, and I shall soon reach 62 years of married life; there are now five children, 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren in our extended family. Anne and I have lived in Leisure World (now Laguna Woods Village) in southern California for more than 25 years! The ailments of old age — bad back, replacement parts — limit our travel much beyond a 500-mile radius.

Our children live inside that radius so all is OK. We keep busy with the multitude of activities available in our retirement community. We are starting to miss more and more the friends who are no longer with us; we also miss our travels back to Austria (land of my birth) and miss the ability to taste all those rich pastries. All in all, we keep busy, enjoy our growing family and stay fairly healthy! Not a bad life at all! With fond memories of life at Columbia."

If my memory is correct, I remember my first day on campus when I noticed John wearing "dirty white bucks" and a freshman beanie while strolling across Van Am Quad.

I'm sorry I missed writing the Class Notes for the Winter 2016-17 issue. Unfortunately, my wife, Sara-lee, fell and broke three ribs and her nose. She's now much better! However, while she was recuperating, I spent most of my time shopping, cooking and transporting us from place to place.

Joel Danziger sent an informative note about his and wife Joan's wonderful life during the last 59 years: "I am still practicing law, albeit part time with a law firm I founded 57 years ago in White Plains, N.Y. The firm has grown from a single practitioner (me) in a one-room office to a firm employing more than 50 about to move into a new space of 15,000 ft.

"Joan and I live on a horse farm (no horses at present) on a dirt road in Bedford, N.Y. We get to NYC less frequently, but we did attend Professor Gareth Williams' course last semester on Greek tragedies at the Heyman Center. Williams taught Latin to our daughter, Sarah

Danziger Valentino '00. The instruction must have struck, as Sarah is now chair of the Classics Department at Rye Country Day School.

"Our son Bob is a managing partner in our law firm and our son Marc is a urologist in New York City at New York and Lenox Hill Hospitals. We have five grandchildren, ages 4-22, and we see them all frequently.

"Joan and I have traveled extensively, with trips to Myanmar, Pakistan (pre World Trade Center), the Silk Road in China by car and more. Our most recent trip was to Florence with our family to visit our granddaughter, who spent a semester there, along with a week in Rome."

"I spend my four-day weekends reading, working in our greenhouse and worrying about the future of our country. I saw Pete Pellett a couple of months ago. Pete's wife, Doris, passed away and he moved to New Haven, Conn., to live with his daughter. Joan and I subscribe to the Yale Rep Theater, so we hope to see Pete at our next visit.

"I am a great admirer of [Barack] Obama [83] but remain perplexed at the little he refers to his years at Columbia.

"I have been blessed with a wonderful marriage, family and a rewarding career."

1954

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Gentlemen, as I start to share these observations and items of information with you in early February — while listening to CNN, MSNBC, NPR, even FOX News, doing my best to stay on top of what is real in this new year and what is *Saturday Night Live* or *The Daily Show* reality — I realized once again that our Class of Destiny is at the "front of the book" in CCT's Class Notes. Not just because we assume that we deserve to be, but because there are only 13 classes with active class correspondents older than we. Sixty-two Columbia College classes have graduated since we and our brethren stood up on South Field to receive our diplomas from President Grayson Kirk. (No, Toto, we're not in our Cold War "here we come,

world” mode anymore.) And our diplomas, in Latin, which we picked up later, were signed by Kirk and Dean Lawrence Chamberlain (a humble leader and a true friend of Columbia, students and alumni).

Matter of fact, given all that, when I’m asked to give my birthday for an I-don’t-think-you-really-need-to-know-that probably-marketing questionnaire, I take the approach that 85 is the new 65 and put down the year 1952. I have yet to be challenged, albeit politeness might be a factor.

Our classmates, bless them, continue to read newspapers and to write to the editors. Fraternity brother **Manfred Weidhorn** GSAS’63 had a letter in *The New York Times* on February 8 in response to a column titled “Trumpian Characters Are the Stuff of Fiction,” which cited books such as *1984* and *It Can’t Happen Here*. Manny wrote: “To round out Francis X. Cline’s fine reading list, consider this: We are living in an Ayn Rand novel. President Trump’s career, consisting of putting up big buildings, flaunting brashness, cutting moral corners, using an outsize ego to squash mere mortals, is typical of the unregulated and amoral capitalism that Rand celebrated, and Mr. Trump is the ultimate Rand hero brought to life.”

Richard Werksman writes that he continues to volunteer for Columbia and that “by next time I will have interviewed a couple of applicants for the Class of 2021. Yes, Bernd, 2021! And, I will report on the experience. Meanwhile, best wishes to all.”

Thanks, Richard, for helping to keep the pipeline supplied with top candidates. (A Washington pool? No lobbyists, please!)

Our champion fencers continue to be an active group. **Herb Zydne** SEAS’55 reports, “Last fall I was at Lincoln Center and picked up a copy of the *Juilliard Journal*. There was a column asking for who might know who was pictured in a photo of a fencing class. I wrote back and the *Journal* commented: ‘He identified the teacher as Irv DeKoff, who taught fencing in Juilliard’s opera department from 1947 to 1951 and 1956 to 1962. Zydne fenced for DeKoff at Columbia, where he was head fencing coach.’

“I sent the clip on to current Columbia fencing Coach Michael Aufrecht, who replied, ‘This is really cool! Thank you so much for sharing. I had the opportunity to meet Irv about two years ago down in Florida and spoke to him for a few hours about his time as a coach. I only aspire to be as great of a coach as he was.’”

Herb further reports: “As a combined program graduate, I traveled to campus for my 60th Engineering reunion in May 2015. I was one of a few SEAS’55 grads, but the days were well spent. One calculation: When I graduated, someone coming for their 60th reunion was Class of 1895. Hmm. For the winter, I’m in West Palm Beach, Fla., where there’s an active South Florida alumni group. In 2016 I attended a private home party with others from all schools/years and a great brunch at the International Polo Club with other Columbians. I was the earliest College year at both.”

Thanks, Herb, keep the news coming.

Mendacity, beware the Class of ’54! Several classmates have reported over the last several years about their personal and professional lives as writers, teachers, lawyers, activists or observers that are, to some extent, devoted to truth, facts, ethics and justice. To that end, **Harold Stelman** PS’58 tells us: “I continue to function in the pro-bono position as chairman of the department of ethics at Hudson Valley Hospital Center. Our hospital has now been integrated into the health care system of New York-Presbyterian Hospital-HVHC. I am still a member of the cardiology department a HVHC. At this point in my life, every day is a gift. Wife

Barbara and I celebrate 61 years of marriage in May.”

Harold, give us your take on the place of ethics in 21st-century America from your perspective as a doctor in suburban New York. (Bless the CORE!) And happy, happy, happy anniversary to you and Barbara.

The latest from Hollywood: Proud dad **Saul Turteltaub** LAW’57 wants us to know that his son Jon recently finished directing his latest movie, *Meg*, in New Zealand, and that his son Adam was recently quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* on business compliance and practices. Saul says that his “movie *For Roseanna* was optioned for a Broadway musical, to be titled *My Marcello*. (Don’t hold your breath.) I’m looking forward to reading about my amazing classmates who are doing and have done wonderful things. Proud to be a member of the Class of ’54.”

We’re all proud of you, Saul. Memory: The day you bumped into comedian/teacher Sam Levenson and his brother downtown and brought them to campus for a dirty joke contest for our class. (Remember? Sam was great. His brother won!)

A note from one of ’54’s Energizer bunnies: **Arnold Tolkin** wants us to know that “life is good while many of our class will turn or have reached 85 this year. My wife, Barbie, and I recently returned from a cruise around South America and back to Miami. Don’t get out as much, been there and done that. Now it is all about relaxing, exercising, reading and just living the good life. Flew up to NYC to see one of our new great granddaughters, as our family keeps expanding.”

Arnie says he’s “still working at selling travel and I am off to Havana to set up bridge tournaments between member of the American Contract Bridge League and members of the Cuban Bridge Association. Keep very busy and am still active in genealogy.”

(Don’t get out as much, huh!?) I received a lovely note with a just-right touch from a son of ’54 that I herewith share with all: “My name is James Moche ’81 and I am **Leonard Moche**’s son. I am not sure if we met, but I wanted to thank you for the fond mention of my father via *The New York Times* article in the Fall 2016 issue of *CCT*. Of course, it was a big thrill to see the article and

certainly apt, given my father’s female connections at the Hebrew Home. And of course, it’s only too bad he didn’t see this article while alive to savor fame through *CCT*. I hope this finds you in good health and, as you suggested therein, ‘living it up.’ Warm regards, James”

Which brings another thought on “keeping up.” Every issue of *CCT* has an all-class obituary section that requires separate lookups for classmate inclusions. I hope in future issues to list in our Class Notes any ’54 names that may have more detailed coverage in that section.

A note about some of my ventures on behalf of alma mater and otherwise: I have always considered Humanities, Contemporary Civilization, colloquia, great teaching, and the “bundle” of all related curriculum experiences that are part of Columbia’s Core program to be forever part of my DNA. Columbia may be the last higher education stronghold to hold high this torch of civilization ... of humanity. Many of you feel as passionate about this as I do. So do my fellow Trustees of the Columbia University Club Foundation, of which I am the Vice President. This academic year, the CUCF made our third annual substantial contribution for this great cause. The Foundation supports numerous scholarships every year, special programs such as the Society of Senior Scholars, and lectures at the Columbia Club by ambassadors of various nations to the United Nations and by senior officials of our State Department. And ... drum roll ... we have just underwritten the digitizing of all past issues of *Columbia College Today* in order to preserve them for future reference purposes. We did so in honor of Alex Sachare ’71’s 18-plus years of dedicated service as editor in chief of *CCT*.

Off campus, in a moment of weakness mixed with hubris, I publicly announced the start of my “five-year project” to research, write and edit my memoirs. This is in many ways to fulfill my promise to my seven grandchildren. I did so in a presentation last November at Knesset Israel, a synagogue in Pittsfield, Mass. **Joel Belson** and **Jack Blechner** and their wives (Barnard alumnae both) traveled to bear witness and add support.

The title of my presentation was *Damn the Holocaust — Full Steam Ahead*, outlining events in my life in



Contact CCT

Update your contact information; submit a Class Note, Class Note photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click “Contact Us” at college.columbia.edu/cct.

Europe leading into WWII, then in New York and at Columbia, the United States Army, and my years to come as an advisor and consultant to institutions here and worldwide. (Of course, all of you will be mentioned in the memoirs.)

Until next time, be well, bless the CORE, do good, help save the world, write often, and many thanks, Bernd. Excelsior!

1955

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Lots of activity over the past few months, such as the Dean's Scholarship Reception in February (we have a Class of '55 scholarship) and the John Jay Awards Dinner in March.

Stanley Lubman is keeping in touch. **Herb Cohen** is still practicing medicine in Westchester. **Ed Francell** is holding down the fort in Atlanta and will be at our 65th reunion. **Jack Freeman** told us about his summer and family life.

The Ford Scholar program turned out to be an interesting item — a lot of guys heard from **Richie Ascher**, who had some pithy sayings about the new College survey.

Dick Kuhn is still following the Columbia basketball team from New Jersey and Staten Island. The team has played to consistent sell-outs and had great receptions in Philadelphia, Providence and Boston.

There are a few words to be said about using alumni as a marketing tool.

As various sports move into their season of tournaments, alumni have been getting more engrossed in how they can contribute more to their school's successes. I feel they can do so by increased attendance (attending playoff games), team spirit (getting all the elements of the campus involved in the community), bringing other alumni to local games and pep rallies with key faculty members and students, and/or bringing equipment for the team. All sports-related activities would be done within NCAA guidelines, especially in the matter of jobs.

Another idea is participating in job fairs (bringing other alumni to campus to speak on how to be successful) and helping young alumni

transition into solid citizens with strong school ties. Support can be expanded to include help with resume-writing as well as jobs in training programs, or even entry-level positions.

Alumni can also be used to develop scholarships, which we saw at the Dean's Scholarship Reception.

There are many ways to use the strength of alumni, whether young or old — it's a matter of utilization and the right plans. Garnering alumni support can be arduous, especially setting up programs from different parts of the country, so it's helpful to share the challenges nationwide.

Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

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Several members of the Class of 1956 met on campus in October for lunch at Faculty House and in December on West 43rd Street at the Columbia University Club of New York. We welcomed some "new" attendees: **Ed Gordon** and **Gordon Silverman '55**, **SEAS'56**. Also present were yours truly, **Gerry Fine**, **Ralph Kaslick**, **Buz Paaswell**, **Alan Broadwin**, **Pete Klein**, **Jack Katz**, **Stephen Easton**, **Mark Novick**, **Maurice Klein** and **Al Franco SEAS'56**. Ed practices psychiatry in North Salem, N.Y. Just a thought: While we have luncheons in the New York area, why don't some of you scattered classmates arrange them in your neck of the woods, then let me report attendance? You can get a limited address list from the Alumni Office, including CC and SEAS classmates. I promise to send out only very occasional blast emails to the entire class — it still numbers more than 500 of us.

I heard from **Kenneth "Mike" Nelson** from Columbia, S.C., who reported little damage from last summer's flooding.

Jay Martin writes from Claremont, Calif., that he is still teaching at a college and practicing psychoanalysis. He promised to attend our 75th (65th?) reunion.

Stephen Easton was scheduled to be in Mexico in February and in Florida in early March.

Keep sending updates on your activities for Class Notes. Hope 2017 is healthy and happy.

1957

REUNION 2017
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REUNION 2017

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John Ahouse: "I was classical music director at WKCR 1956-57. My predecessor was Henry Roth '55, but I am not certain who followed or if there was even a group comparable to ours to carry forward the classical programming. In addition to me, 'we' were **Sam Rosenberg** (by far our best microphone voice), **Erich Gruen**, **Bill Jordan** and **David Kaufman**, with **Bill Zalkin** during our senior year. Each hosted a two-hour evening program of recorded music once a week. At one point, we were organized to the extent of typing up and circulating a program to the 'King's Crown Concert.' The campus radio station was my main student activity as an undergraduate. Naturally the programming reflected individual tastes and preferences: David played opera, Sam mostly the music of the late Romantic period.

"The evening concert used Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* as its intro and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Russian Easter Festival Overture* to go out. These were my choices, as I recall. In view of how popular the Copland piece has since become, I think it was a good innovation for the time. The two themes replaced the ubiquitous *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Mussorgsky that had been used before.

"Engineering of the classical shows was often a headache. The student engineers were invariably trained to work pop music and prided themselves on hair-trigger segues and close riding of the gain (volume) control — with disastrous results

for our product. We had to threaten and cajole to achieve a calmer pace between voice and selections, between musical movements and between record sides; and we found ourselves monitoring the engineers who were monitoring the signal, to prevent them from leveling off the loud and soft passages in the music. One solution was for the classical music presenter to engineer his own show from the booth, dee-jay style.

"Carl Stern '58 was general manager at that time and of course went on to a career at NBC News. He had a (twin?) brother George Stern '58 [who was] business manager. [WKCR President] **Jeff Kuklin** did a late-night pop music show and sold advertising for the station. He and his Barnard girlfriend, Karen, were almost continually on hand at the studio, even during classical segments. Didn't they ever study?

"We broke the pattern of King's Crown Concert a few times. I recall doing a 'Berlioz Week,' programming only that composer's music. This came at a time when there had been a rush of interest in his music on the part of the record companies. There was a Berlioz Society in existence then, and we interviewed its president. We also invited Jacques Barzun '27, GSAS'32, who through his writings was closely involved with the Berlioz revival, but he declined. WCKR was too close to home, I guess.

"There were also a number of contemporary music specials. I recall a touching occasion when we aired music of Solomon Pimsleur. His son was a student at Columbia and brought his father, who was extremely frail, to the station in order to hear the broadcast within the studio. The WCKR signal wasn't audible much beyond the campus, but this became a command performance of some privately made recordings that were none too clear to begin with.

"I know that John Corigliano '59 was involved in some of our contemporary programming as well. It's possible that he was the one who took over classical music [at the station] after 1957. John became a distinguished composer, but at the time we were in awe of him as the son of the New York Philharmonic's first violinist.

"The station's classical library was kept in a cramped little vault under

the basement steps, across from the broadcast booth and studio where our programs originated. The whole operation at the time was beneath the annex connecting Hamilton and Hartley Halls. We worried about protecting the collection and came down hard on anyone who forgot to padlock the flimsy wood-slat door to the 'classical music closet.'

"Acquisition of new classical records (LPs) was a surprisingly lively activity. We had a small budget from the station and we received some promo records from the companies, most often on the Columbia label, as I recall. Our musical mainstay was the Record Hunter, still at its Lexington Avenue address and without doubt the most advantageous classical outlet we could have dealt with. In return for airing its promotional spots, we had our pick of a certain number of long-playing albums from its extensive stock each month. I think we must have managed this fairly democratically, covering all of our enthusiasms for composers and musical artists and building a stronger collection in the process.

"For a while we also borrowed records from the University's music library, which was then located on the top floor of Journalism. [The staff] didn't really trust the station to use its records and the situation occasionally became a little tense. Still, I imagine we took better care of its discs than its own faculty and patrons did.

"I've never again been in a position to plan classical listening for other people's enjoyment since those undergraduate years, but music has

remained a consuming interest of mine. I always identify with those stations that offer an all-classical format, like KUSC here in Los Angeles, imagining the effort it takes to make the selections fit within a given time segment and recalling what a challenge it was at WKCR to have the evening concert come out even."

John Ahouse was a teacher and translator in Germany in the 1960s, then special collections (rare books and archives) librarian at University of Texas at El Paso, then at CSU, Long Beach, and 1991–2005 at the University of Southern California. Today he is a consultant at the Wende Museum of the Cold War in L.A.

Denis Frind LAW'60 died on October 6 in Portland, Ore. He had retired as of counsel at the NYC law firm of Goetz Fitzpatrick in 2006; he and his wife, Donna, moved to Oregon to be near their daughter and her family.

Harry Siegmund: "My wife, Peggy Anne, and I are well. We recently returned from a far-too-quick three-day loop of the Island of Hawaii. It's nicknamed the Big Island. They got that right.

"There was some personal stuff I wanted to accomplish on my 81st birthday. It could have been done on a one-day, dawn-to-dusk excursion, but I'm too old for that jet-set frenzy. Peggy Anne could squeeze three days off in Oahu into her commitments, so off we went.

"Weather could not have been better, [but] all we could do was the crater rim stuff. I've run an arduous marathon from the lookout. It descends 2,000 vertical ft. (about five miles), hangs a left across pumice (maybe four miles), then slogs its way up 2,000 vertical ft. and [perambulates] thereafter for a dog leg of the remaining 17.2 miles. That includes the final mile running through sulfurous steam vents.

"That race is no longer scheduled. It was incompatible with cultural practices. Regardless, I had zero interest in trying to do better the next time. The race did not have many participants. If you lost sight of a runner ahead, there was big risk of going off course. You basically ran between/around fairly smooth lava, jagged lava and pumice that was not packed. Course markers were little pennants, which stood about one ft. when inserted the day before. For the most part they blew/toppled

over during the night. Experienced runners ran with gloves to protect their hands from lava cuts from falls, which were inevitable.

"Got my money's worth; it was a long day at the running office.

"I'm in and out of Brooklyn and NYC on occasion. I have an MTA Reduced-Fare MetroCard, big spender that I am. I pretty much hang/help out in various music performance recording venues. In March 2016, there was a significant performance of Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time* from the Temple of Dendur in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I basically was a [gofer] running digital cables, schlepping sound gear and moving the hauling SUV.

"It was not unlike submarine duty. It's fairly boring if you are not on watch with real-time responsibilities. At least on submarines you could go to your bunk and nap if your work was done.

"I ran a half marathon when I was [in the NYC] area — the Sleepy Hollow Half Marathon above Tarrytown, N.Y. I hoped that colder weather and shorter distances would improve my running performance. It was about 35 degrees at the start and it was dry. So far, so good. The hilly course I knew, so that was not a negative. The bottom line is that the enemy is me; it's not the weather, distance, or terrain.

"I'm intentionally skipping this year's Honolulu Marathon. Thirty consecutive years of starts is more than sufficient; there also have been 30 marathons elsewhere in the United States and in Europe. I'm now using a road bike to log mileage and see more places on Windward Oahu.

"Oh yes, there are bike racks on the front of all Oahu buses. For \$1 and my Medicare card I can ride the bus as far as I want and make two transfers. The general plan would be to bike between bus routes.

"At a minimum the bike ride creates a cooling breeze."

Ed Weinstein: "When **Alvin Kass** and I recently lunched together, I learned that he was to be honored by the New York City Police Department for 50 years of service as a chaplain to the NYPD. That was confirmed in an invitation to the event, which was held in the auditorium at One Police Plaza, NYPD headquarters, on December 16. **Bob Lipsyte** and I attended the event. A luncheon followed the ceremony.

"Alvin, who had been senior rabbi at the East Midwood Jewish Center in Brooklyn, N.Y., for many years, retired from that position several years ago and now lives in Manhattan. His service to the NYPD has been extraordinary. He is now chief chaplain, supervising seven other chaplains of various religious denominations.

"Alvin is known throughout the NYPD and is universally revered. I have been told by one senior member of the NYPD that he has heard Alvin speak on many occasions and never heard him repeat a story, message or reference. After hearing one particularly inspiring message at a NYPD event several years ago, I asked Alvin's daughter if she could get me a copy of it for submission to *CCT*. Unfortunately, she said, she could not comply; all of Alvin's remarks are delivered extemporaneously and he never has a written version or even notes.

"... My relationship with Alvin has grown and strengthened since the mid-'90s, when I joined the Board of Trustees of the New York City Police Foundation. We then found we had another common interest and have seen each other at NYPD events."

Yours truly attended "What Now? An Election Post-Mortem with Olivier Knox '92," in Washington, D.C., on November 16. Knox is chief Washington correspondent, Yahoo! News.

1958

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Congratulations to **Jim Margolis**. His brother, Don Margolis '63, reported: "On October 20, Jim was officially, and most deservedly, inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. Jim came to Columbia with no fencing experience but became a starter as a sophomore, and won the NCAA National Epée championship as a junior. Due to injury, he could not defend his title as a senior. After graduation, he qualified for the 1958 World Championships, the 1959 and 1963 Pan American Games and the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome."



Send in Your News

Share what's happening in your life with classmates. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct, or email or mail to the address at the top of your column.

Steve Jurovics advised us of two corrections to the Class Notes that appeared in the Fall issue of *CCT*: first, his current email address is saj18@bellsouth.net; and second, he has retired from corporate environmental work and is now writing, as well as serving as a member of Interfaith Power & Light's North Carolina affiliate.

CC'58 was well-represented at the Harvard Law Class of 1961's 55th reunion in October. Attending were Carol and **Barry Dickman**; **Bernie Nussbaum** and his wife, Nancy Kuhn; Judy and **Shelly Raab**; Linda and **Sid Rosdeitcher**; and Joan and **Mark Weiss**. The guest speaker at lunch was Laurence Tribe, professor of constitutional law. The reunion also featured a "conversation" with our law school classmate, United States Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, along with former Justice David H. Souter.

Lew Fineman '59 and his wife purchased a condo in Hollywood, Fla., and split their time between there and Alaska.

Although he didn't attend the 55th reunion, **Loren Wittner** submitted a biographical sketch to the reunion directory: "Dianna, my wife, followed me into retirement here in Phoenix. We've lived in the desert since 1994; too many winters in our otherwise beloved Chicago, where I was a partner at Winston & Strawn. After our move I worked extensively with large law firms around the country, advising partners on business development, client relations, marketing/communications, etc. Dianna was the star receptionist for Perkins Coie's Phoenix office for 20 years. We've traveled extensively during the last decade, indulging a general curiosity and our shared interest in military history: ... all the Normandy D-Day beaches, several Civil War battle sites [and] virtually all of Canada's provinces have been highlights.

"We recently attended our oldest grandchild's college graduation; a sure sign of advancing years. Our older daughter (Harvard College '84) and her family live in Chicago, where she works for a nonprofit and

her husband heads a religious school. Our younger daughter and her family live in Charlottesville, Va. Both she and her husband are on the faculty at UVA, where she teaches foreign teaching assistants how to cope with American undergraduates and he is chairman of the economics department. We have five grandchildren. We'd welcome classmates' visits — plenty of room, plenty of sun, dry heat. Rates upon request!"

Another landmark reunion, the once-*Spectator*-related (but now expanded) annual New York metro area Homecoming party, was held at the Brooklyn Heights apartment of **Arthur Radin** and his wife, Miriam Katowitz BUS'74. Attending were Carol and **Barry Dickman**; Eileen and **Joe Dorinson**; Audrey and **Harvey Feuerstein**; Andrea and Ira Jolles '59; Anita and **Howard Orlin**; Judy and **Shelly Raab**; and Linda and **Sid Rosdeitcher**. Ruthie

and **Ernie Brod** were in London for a family celebration, but Ernie loyally phoned to make sure things were proceeding smoothly despite his absence.

Incidentally, we do get reports on the periodic Southern California get-togethers, but if there are any other classmate gatherings, annual or otherwise, please send in information.

Your reporter hopes too much space isn't being given to a non-classmate, but we couldn't resist. In a *New York Times* Book Review interview, when asked "which writers ... working today do you admire most?", comedian-actress-author Amy Schumer was quoted as saying "Emily Nussbaum, who is a television critic and writer for the *Times*, is my favorite person to follow on Twitter, and her articles inspire me and make me think. I want her to be proud of me more than my parents, I think." Emily is, of course, **Bernie Nussbaum's** daughter.

The class lunch is held on the second Tuesday of every month in the Grill of the Columbia University Club of New York, 15 W. 43rd St.

(\$31 per person). Email Art Radin if you plan to attend, up to the day before: arthur.radin@janoverllc.com.

1959

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I am sorry to inform you of the deaths of **Richard Dobrin**, who died on January 12, 2016, and **Ira Jay Plotinsky**, who died on June 11.

Jerome Charyn's latest novel, *Jerzy*, about the rise and fall of novelist Jerzy Kosinski, is scheduled to be published in March.

Lew Fineman reports: "My wife, Ann, and I have sold our home and purchased a condo in Hollywood, Fla.: 2810 N. 46th Ave., Apt. F 255, Hollywood, FL 33021. We are snowbirds. We continue to travel to Alaska in April, volunteer at Kenai Fjords National Park in Seward, Alaska, each summer and then stay in Anchorage until the end of October. We feel we have the best of all possible worlds."

Bennet Silverman made a holiday visit to Aruba.

Mike Tannenbaum has "some good news. My first grandchild, Tiye Tannenbaum Castelli, daughter of my daughter Nina Tannenbaum '99 and her husband, Robin 'Cino' Castelli, was born two months ago."

Steve Basson and his wife, Mary, continue to "commute" from Milwaukee about every six weeks or so to see their boys, one in Brooklyn and two in Washington, D.C. — astonished each visit by what the big cities cost these days. Mary's book, *Saving Kandinsky*, has been bought by a German publisher and is scheduled to be out for Christmas 2017. Regards to all, and some of you may remember my brother, Geoff Basson '60, an almost-retired doctor living in Manhattan.

Ben Miller writes: "My wife, Pat, and I are in our 78th year and just moving along. The last few years have provided enough ailments that moving along means, 'What doctor do we see today?'"

"We are both retired. Pat finished 25 years of teaching, and then opened her own tutoring business

that lasted 13 more years. I spent the '70s in what is now the Department of Energy, then chose the rocky road of entrepreneurship, focusing on high-risk, high-reward ventures in renewable and cutting-edge technology. I raised a lot of money and lost more than I raised, not a Trumpian performance (lol), but I am proud of what I have done. I look back with no regrets. Maybe one: I should have been a real doctor!"

"We live in a golf course community in Bethesda, Md., though neither Pat nor I have ever picked up more than a miniature golf putter. Our children live near us. Our daughter, Beth, and her husband, Greg, have two daughters, Kayla (17), going off to college in September (who knows where), and Annie (15), the equestrian who jumps over large obstacles at a gallop on a 1,400-lb. beast. Where did those genes come from? Not from us!"

"Our son, Jeff, teaches at the University of Maryland's Smith School of Business in College Park. He is a natural and loves his work. He and his wife, Shawn, also have two children. Ben is 16 and smarter than all of us combined. His sister, Megan, is all about theater. If you listen to her, her next stop is Broadway.

"We have been traveling, slowly crossing things off the 'bucket list' while we can. It gets harder each year. We are in touch with **Irwin 'Buddy' Jacobs**, Cathy Mendrzycki (who lost her husband, **Ed Mendrzycki**, two years ago), Harvey Brookins '60, Linda and **Gene Appel**, **Dave Clark** and **Phil Matthews**, who lives in Fort Myers, Fla. We enjoy hearing about classmates and what they are doing."

Gil Wright and his wife, Diane, sold their house in Florida and now live full-time in Maryland. They sound like they are thriving in their new digs.

Stephen Trachtenberg has been his usual active self. He writes: "Doing what I can, but I confess it is more of a struggle as the years go on. A travel tip: If your trip involves flying, carry a cane. The staff will look after you with great tenderness."

From **Bernie Pucker**: "We are just 18 months into our gallery space at 240 Newbury St. in Boston and love it. All of the work is on one floor: Some 5,000 square ft. that we have devoted to the art that we have collected over nearly 50 years

as we embark upon our 50th year celebration in September. We will be bringing together folks who have worked as part of the gallery staff, as well as artists, over this half-century. Seems a bit weird to even think back over those years!

"In addition, we are planning a celebration that will include a thank-you to gallery patrons and a chamber music concert. We have now added chamber music to the gallery's offerings and will host a cycle of the early Beethoven String Quartets during the next 18 months. On top of that, we continue to host at least three not-for-profits on a monthly basis in the gallery, having recently hosted the St. Boniface Haiti Foundation as one of the charities that are doing amazing work in the world. Boston is a center for not-for-profits and the opportunity to learn about their efforts is remarkably nourishing.

"We hosted a dialogue between artist Samuel Bak and Professor Lawrence Langer, moderated by Marc Skvirsky of 'Facing History and Ourselves' dealing with the Bak works, *Just Is*, or the theme of Lady Justice or the lack there of on January 29.

Ralph Risley contributes: "The following is a brief update and attempt at an expression of life's philosophy. Since graduation I have been married for 55 years, had three boys, five grandchildren, four careers, owned and lived in 13 houses in five states and owned 150 classic/vintage automobiles. To me, life is all about growth, change, renewal and exploration. The most important thing I gained from Columbia was the ability to think. A first-year professor said in his introduction to the class that if all we got from the Columbia experience was the ability to think the College had succeeded.

"At this stage of life the impact of physical conditioning tilts in favor of mental conditioning. I hope all of us remaining ancients will reach the same conclusion."

Stephen A. Kallis shares with us his memories of the attack on Pearl Harbor. "While shopping recently, I spotted a new item among the magazines in a rack near the cash register: a special *Time-Life* publication commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor attack.

"To the vast majority of U.S. citizens, the event is distant history. Some years ago, the Pearl Harbor



Survivors Association, composed of servicemen who survived the attack, formally disbanded.

"Time passes, and what once was enough to galvanize the nation into united action has become little more than an entry in history textbooks.

"Almost immediately after news of the attack was broadcast, the slogan, 'Remember Pearl Harbor,' was born. Pin-on buttons were created and were worn. A 'Remember Pearl Harbor' song was composed and a record was released, with the tune being performed by Sammy Kaye, a popular U.S. bandleader of the time.

"Those who know me and/or my sister are aware that we survived the attack as youngsters; we both recall the event vividly, though neither of us witnessed any carnage.

"I was 4, and I had no idea of what was happening. We were inside the house my father, at that time a captain in the Army Coast Artillery, had been assigned, Quarters 25, Officers Row of Fort Kamehameha. (Fort Kamehameha eventually became a Historic District of Hickam AFB and the house stands today, but soon will be razed; the whole district is to be 'developed' for some new civilian use. Even the homes that survived the attack are passing.)

"Neither I nor my sister witnessed the attack. We were kept inside and the window shades were down, blocking the view from

outside. The explosions were loud and the house shook while my sister and I stood in interior doorways, instructed to do so by our mother, as makeshift shelters.

"Neither of us saw my mother, standing in the doorway at the front of our quarters, as my father sprinted to his duty station. Both he and she were shot at by the pilot of a Mitsubishi A6M aircraft, known to the U.S. service people as the Zero. Fortunately, neither was hit, but both faced enemy fire. Both are now buried in Arlington National Cemetery, which is only fitting.

In time, the attack passed, and we were evacuated via bus to a makeshift bomb shelter, where the women and children were moved for safety ..."

From **John Clubbe** we hear, "Ever since I had sciatica attacks in 2014 and 2015 we haven't been able to do much traveling. But we would gladly come to a 60th reunion if that should be a possibility. I continue work on my Beethoven book and may even have something to send the press (Norton) soon. It's been a long and hard struggle of well over a decade and I am tired of it, though never of Beethoven."

For those of you who express thanks or appreciation for the work that goes into preparing these Class Notes, I thank you for the kind words. I appreciate them. I also ask your indulgence for the errors that I make in putting them together.

1960

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Kudos to **Larry Mendelson** BUS'61 for his exemplary service, commitment and generosity to Columbia. On November 21, Columbia held an event in recognition of a \$10 million gift from Larry and his family in support of The Mendelson Center for Undergraduate Business Initiatives, a joint program between the College and the Business School offering exceptional undergraduates access to a special concentration in business management as a complement to the liberal arts foundation of the undergraduate curriculum. The Mendelson Center offers opportunities for undergraduates to gain business and leadership skills. Attendees at the event included President Lee C. Bollinger, Dean James J. Valentini and Business School Dean Glenn R. Hubbard. In addition to some family and other friends, **Bob Abrams**, **Peter Fischbein** and **Harris Markhoff** (and their wives) were invited.

Larry and family live in Miami, where he has been since 1969. He remains active as chairman and CEO of HEICO, working with his sons,

Eric Mendelson '87, BUS'89 and Victor Mendelson '89, co-presidents. HEICO is one of the world's leading companies in the design, production, servicing and distribution of products and services to the aviation, defense, aerospace, medical, telecommunications and electronics industries. Larry gets to New York not only on business, but also to visit his four grandchildren. He must possess the unique distinction of having a grandchild in every class at the College: "Freshman, sophomore, junior and senior — we have all grades covered," he says. You can choose your sports metaphor — in racing, the superfecta, in baseball, a grand slam — Larry's got it.

Larry's sentiments are summed up in a sentence: "The Mendelson family is very pleased to have been able to give back to Columbia for all of the wonderful opportunities that Columbia has afforded us."

A tip of the hat and a standing ovation would be most appropriate for Larry and the Mendelson family.

A bench for **Richard Friedlander**: Richard's widow, Iris, "adopted a double bench for Richard in Riverside Park South, just below West 69th Street." She describes the vista: "The view from the bench on the edge of the Hudson River is lovely, serene, facing two beautiful weeping willows and mica-flecked granite boulders. Canada geese nestle there. A line of water-worn pier pillars stretch out like skipping stones. Richard lived by the river and park he loved for more than half a century. Visit if you can. Sit, rest and think of him ..."

The Riverside Park Conservancy has placed a plaque on the bench that reads: "In loving memory of my beloved husband Richard David Friedlander 1938–2014." 2014? Is it possible that much time has passed, as Richard has been and will remain so ever-present in our thoughts?

Tom Hamilton does not forget; will not forget. On October 5, he wrote: "On October 4, 1957, 59 years ago yesterday, the old U.S.S.R. successfully launched the first artificial satellite, *Sputnik 1*, into orbit. As it made its first pass over the United States, a crew from WKCR took an Ampex tape recorder (30 lbs.) to the campus ham radio station, W2AEE, where they taped *Sputnik's* beep. They then took the tape back to the WKCR studios and broadcast it repeatedly that night. The next morning (59 years ago today) at 9:05

a.m., two FBI agents came into the station and stole the tape. After 59 years of not returning, paying for or replacing the tape, I feel more than justified in calling this theft. During my 34 years of teaching astronomy I told this history to my classes. Once a student objected to my saying his uncle, an FBI agent, worked for a pack of thieves. In front of a lecture class of 90 college students, I offered him an A+ in astronomy with no need for further tests, papers or even class attendance if he could get his uncle to arrange for the tape's return to WKCR. Three days later I got a drop notice with his name."

Ah, but whatever became of the tape? Is it still beeping in a desk drawer somewhere in Washington? An action in replevin certainly would lie to recover the purloined tape, and had I known years earlier I would have prepared a writ of replevin. Alas, my recollection of the statute of limitations on actions in replevin is rather jaded, but I'm quite certain that in the 59th year following the event the claim is time-barred. I trust and am counting on the fact that Tom will drop a reminder this coming October; I will include it in our Class Notes and we will commemorate the onset of the space age and commiserate on the 60th anniversary of the perfidious incident that befell our beloved WKCR.

We have come to know and appreciate **Paul Nagano** as a magnificent artist. But Paul has redefined himself. Let him explain: "I began a public group Facebook site: Paul Nagano Art and Exhibitions, where I wrote this year of changing my profession from 'artist' to 'picture-maker.' To clarify: It has to do mostly with the way I perceive that the word 'art' is used so freely today to describe almost anything that has to do with a certain creative impulse and the resulting product, object or idea resulting from that impulse. I don't argue with those who describe their works as 'Art.' Or with those who describe what I do as art. But for me, it seems no longer a very useful word, encompassing too many different things. I like the specificity of words. I thought about what it is I really do, and somehow 'making art' seemed too vague, too general. What best describes my activity is: Making pictures. Be it a sketch, a photo or a watercolor, it is a picture. I see or imagine something

I want to 'capture' — a thing, a landscape, a mental image — and I record it (usually on paper), using a variety of media. But the result is a picture. Hence, Picture Maker."

Following a productive 2016, Paul exhibited his pictures in January at Gallery on the Pali in the First Unitarian Church of Honolulu. Included are his wonderful sketches and drawings that celebrate the Lunar New Year, the Year of the Cock.

1961

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Alex Liebowitz reports that 2016 was especially notable thanks to events involving fellow CC'61ers. In March, as regular readers of Class Notes will recall he does, he spent his annual ski week with **Mike Hausig** and Mike's wife, JB, on the slopes of Copper Mountain, Colo. In May, Alex and his wife, Denise, traveled to Massachusetts to celebrate their son, David Liebowitz '99, receiving his doctorate of education. They were joined by Alex's brother, **Jon Liebowitz**, and Jon's wife, Ruth. In June and September, Alex helped Dick Hall '64 sail his gorgeous boat from Oxford, Md., to Martha's Vineyard, Mass., and back. And then, in November, he and Denise joined Dick and his wife, Heleny Cook, for a two-day cruise on the Chesapeake Bay. Finally, Alex and Denise visited **Jeff Riker** and his wife, Barbara, in Los Angeles, where Alex reports that Jeff and Barbara treated them royally and showed them all of Los Angeles and Santa Barbara's key sights.

A ringing endorsement for Clyde May's straight bourbon whiskey was included in the December issue of *Forbes*. **Jim Ammeen** BUS'62 has been running the company for a group of classmate investors.

Gene Milone is completing a paper on the modeling of an eclipsing binary in a galactic cluster, the distance to which his colleagues and he have determined to within about 10 light years, an unprecedented precision (and accuracy) for this cluster, 1,530 light years distant. No other method to get the distances of distant clusters can touch this.

Albert Kirsch's company, KCC Productions, recently produced the four-day South Beach Jazz Festival, highlighted with performances by Raúl Midón and Diane Schuur. KCC also showcased Brian Lynch, David Gilmore, Ignacio Berroa and Will Calhoun during the annual conference of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters in early January in New York City.

David Konstan GSAS'67 recently finished his semester as a fellow of the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Uppsala, Sweden. He will spend the spring months as a fellow of the Institut d'Études Avancées de Paris.

Bob Salman LAW'64 gave his assessment of Hillary Clinton's loss at our January class lunch and [was scheduled to do so again on] March 13 at Brookdale Community College. He will also teach another session of his "Great Trials" class at Brookdale this spring, covering the following trials: the Rosenbergs, Patty Hearst and Pamela Smart — the latter drawing on **Bob Juceam** LAW'64's luncheon presentation.

Bob is active in Ambassador Philip Murphy's 2017 campaign for governor of New Jersey. As Bob and his wife, Reva, approach their 54th anniversary, they say they enjoy spending time with their four grandchildren.

In Design Within Reach's December blog (blog.dwr.com) and January catalog there was a favorable article about Smith and Thompson Architects. Gwendolyn Horton wrote, "Few architects are able to evolve old into new while maintaining equal respect for both. **Phillip Smith** [GSAPP'69] and Douglas Thompson are the exciting exception. The talented duo have had their work featured in several DWR catalogs, beginning in 2010 when we used their Manhattan office for a photo shoot. That was soon followed by a shoot at their East Hampton home and studio, a stunning property that showcases how they can nurture a structure with interesting historical lineage — in this case, a 1920s tractor barn — into one that's more relevant to our time. For our January catalog, we returned to that very same house, as well as to a cantilevered residence they recently completed."

Barry McCallion's exhibition "Paradise Lost" was held October 29–November 21 in Amagansett, N.Y. It was inspired by John Milton's

poem. The exhibition included an original book, which alternated the poet's text with 48 India ink and acrylic paintings. Milton's brilliant imagery sets worlds in motion and positions angels and demons in the cosmic struggle between good and evil. Also on display was a limited edition of *20 Paradise Lost* prints in five sets (numbered 1–5), made with archival inks on archival paper.

On a sad note, **John Tsucalas** passed away on September 21; his wife of 23 years, Joanne, was by his side. John was deputy auditor general of Pennsylvania, receiving commendations from the State Senate and House for "Outstanding Public Service to Pennsylvania." He was a C.F.A. and principal of John James Tsucalas & Co., was VP of leveraged buyouts and private placements for Butcher & Singer in Philadelphia and was investment officer for John Hancock Financial in Boston.

John served as 1st lieutenant in the United States Air Force, receiving the Air Force Commendation Medal for "Meritorious Service" and the National Defense Service Award during the Vietnam War. The interment, with full military honors, was at the Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, Pa.

to 9–11, and I am not optimistic that we will escape significant negative worldwide consequences. We have survived worse circumstances and events and I am hopeful that we can do similarly in the years ahead."

From Connecticut, **Anthony Valerio** offers to talk politics with any classmate at avalerio@wesleyan.edu. He recently published a digital version of his new work, *Dante in Love*, a modern retelling of Dante's story of unrequited love. Anthony writes: "Maybe I could not have attempted this risky work at an earlier age, when the form of love unrequited was not as powerful and pure as it was when I looked again at Dante's *The New Life*, here in the country, at an advanced age." He has also published a digital novel of "love of a more carnal nature," *Conversation with Johnny*.

Hal Watson recently visited the Truman Library in Independence, Mo., and recalled that Truman had spent time with our class in 1959. "As I sought the dates and subject matter [of that visit]," Hal says, "I found an archive that chronicles our entire four years on campus: spectatorarchive.library.columbia.edu. I especially liked the first issue from the September of our freshman semester."

Stuart Pellman recently celebrated his 25th year in the San Francisco Bay Area. It was, he says, "a truly wonderful decision for health, mind and the ability to balance life and work. The best part is that I met my wife, Elyse, shortly after I arrived. She and I had both lived in Manhattan before moving to San Francisco and were introduced by a mutual friend. Three years ago, after living almost exclusively in cities, Elyse and I moved to Mill Valley, Calif., a small town 14 miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge. I regularly ride a road bike and hike literally out of my door. I also take interesting classes at a local college. We have easy access to the city for culture and restaurants as well as to Napa and Sonoma for lunches in wine country. Not bad for a kid from Brooklyn!"

"I am close with **Gerry Sorin**. We talk regularly and recently and saw the Cubs play at Wrigley Field."

Stuart coaches attorneys throughout the country on how to develop their practices. He enjoys the work and says, "It keeps me involved with bright, talented, younger people.

"As for the recent Presidential election, it was a stunning and disappointing result. So I have taken a sabbatical from watching news on TV and read only a few articles. Not sure how long my sabbatical will last, but it's working as of January 1!"

Joe Nozzolio writes to "request all Class of '62ers to contribute to Columbia for the all-weather bubble to be constructed at Baker Athletics Complex in memory of **Bill Campbell TC'64**. **Jerry Speyer BUS'64** has committed to match donations up to an aggregate of \$500,000. It's a good cause and will aptly honor Billy for all he did for Columbia." [Editor's note: Go to columbiacampaignforathletics.com/#current-initiatives/bubble-at-baker-athletics-complex for more information.]

Peter Javscas and his wife, Anne, founded and are active board members of an aging-in-community group, Northwest Village Network, in Philadelphia. At the end of 2014, Peter retired as head of a transportation advocacy group, Pennsylvanians for Transportation Solutions. He still writes its e-newsletter.

Peter pursued a career in films, first as an editor and then as a producer and director of films, videos and multimedia works, mostly for nonprofits. Starting around 1971, he writes, "Anne and I lived the alternative lifestyle on a farm in central Pennsylvania. After seven years and two kids, we moved to the nearby town of Bloomsburg, Pa., and in 1989 to the Philadelphia area. By then I had gone into development and fundraising and Anne was principal of a Quaker elementary school.

"Around 1998 I got the transportation reform bug and began working to promote alternatives to driving — public transportation, car sharing, public transit and the like.

"I didn't graduate from Columbia, but always rave about the Core Curriculum and my junior year at the London School of Economics. I'm glad Columbia is no longer all boys. I assume the women brought some more adult behavior with them. Or maybe not! I would be glad to hear from classmates to share more about our lives — and futures."

As co-chair of the Syrian Refugee Relief Committee at his New Paltz, N.Y., synagogue, **Gerry Sorin** helped raise a sizable donation to HIAS, the 125-year-old immigrant and refugee aid organization.

In late 2016, the history department at SUNY New Paltz celebrated Gerry's 50 years as an American and Jewish historian, writer, intellectual and university professor. The invitation to the celebration stated: "From 1965 through 2016, Gerald Sorin's work as a contributing member of the history department, university community and broader New Paltz community has been remarkable. Embodying teaching, research and service, Dr. Sorin continues to make a mark on history graduates and the community of ideas."

More than 125 people gathered to hear remarks from New Paltz President Donald Christian; Deborah Dash Moore, the Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor of History at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor; and Rabbi William Strongin, among many others.

Gerry tutors for the Ulster County Literacy Association and is working on a new project — he refuses to call it a book, yet — about Saul Bellow. Gerry would be delighted to hear from classmates who have thoughts or anecdotes about the 1976 Nobel laureate: gerald.sorin70@gmail.com.

Writing from Irvine, Calif., **Carl Schubert** reports: "From the perspective of a senior citizen, who visited more than 50 countries and lived for months in several, I thought I had seen not all, of course, but most of it until the election. My three children voted, one in Austria (with its own recent electoral mess). The political discourse twixt their generation and ours is strained; and I don't blame them. A year ago I sent my kids an apology for the mess we're leaving them. I remember Castro visiting Columbia and the effusive welcome he got. Later, while in Miami getting a Ph.D. in oceanography, I heard the other side of the Castro story.

"I was NROTC and could not fathom why it was kicked off campus. Nobody wants to live in a situation where a military is an absolute necessity, but realistically we need one, and I for one would rather have its leaders educated at places like Columbia. Retired now, still travel and garden a lot, and am rarely without a crossword puzzle."

Dan Fife is reading *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari and says he "can't overstate how much fun it is, and how

1962

REUNION 2017
JUNE 1–4

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REUNION2017

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Thanks to all of you who sent notes. **Frank Strauss** retired from the practice of nephrology two years ago. He and his wife, Merle, spend time in their homes in Los Angeles and Santa Fe. Frank hikes, bicycles and sings opera in the Verdi Chorus of Santa Monica, of which he is president. He and Merle also play in a string quartet. Frank writes, "The election of Donald Trump is a negative event for the United States on a scale comparable

nice it is, to take the long view after the recent election. If my grandsons were a little older, maybe we could read it together.”

Steve Bravy offers some thoughts on the 2016 election: “Democracies are said to get the governments they deserve. We now have an ignorant, vicious, narcissistic monomaniac and liar as our president, who has never helped anyone but himself. Looks like our educational system needs a thorough overhaul, particularly in fostering critical thinking. On the other hand, some help for the work-dislocated and rebalancing of the financial rewards is essential.”

Writing from New York City, **Russ Warren** confesses to working out regularly and enjoying the practice of orthopedics at the Hospital for Special Surgery. He claims to have turned his gig with the New York Giants over to an associate, but he’s still frequently seen standing

many ventures, most of them political. Last April, the voters of New York’s 20th Congressional District elected him a Bernie Sanders delegate to the Democratic National Convention. “Naturally,” he says, “I regretted that Bernie was edged out. Even so, it was an exhilarating campaign and I was heartened by the level of popular support Bernie garnered.”

Since then Larry has been co-chair of the national board of Peace Action, the nation’s largest membership peace organization. At the end of 2016, after six years as executive secretary of the Albany County Central Federation of Labor, Larry stepped down but continues on the labor council’s executive committee. “Union picket lines,” he says, “are good for the body as well as the soul.”

Larry writes on political affairs, foreign policy and nuclear weapons in op-ed pieces online and in newspapers. One of his most enjoyable

Parks Canada to honor Heaps as a person of national historical significance. “Other than that,” Dan writes, “I pursue my Morris dance hobby despite increasingly creaky knees, and I’m glad that circumstances steered me to Canada in 1969 so I don’t have to take the recent U.S. election quite so much to heart.”

From his farm in Leesburg, Va., **Andy Jampoler** SIPA’81 writes: “I’ve not yet regained the power of speech after the election. My view of the outcome is necessarily shaped by the fact that I’m a war refugee (from Poland, 1946) and the possibility that the United States will close its doors to this generation’s desperately needy from abroad (and its heart to the needy at home) makes me despair.

“Suzy, my wife of 51 years, and I are well enough, the foregoing aside. The next year will see us (her) continuing to raise guide dog puppies for the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind, and me writing and speaking about maritime history in museums and at sea. Soon we’ll need to think about moving from our Loudoun County, Va., farm to someplace more urban and smaller. I suspect that many classmates are in that same process.”

Bernie Patten PS’66 and his wife, Ethel BC’63, had planned to vacation in Iran this year but changed their minds when P&S asked him to be its alumni speaker at Alumni Day. His talk recounted the events and personalities that led the medical team, of which he was a member, to discover the L-DOPA treatment for Parkinson’s disease. The discovery got two Nobel Prizes and was hailed by the *New England Journal of Medicine* as the greatest neurological discovery in a century.

Bernie recalled that at the beginning of the team’s work, “It was rough sledding, because the National Institutes of Health turned down our grant applications four times in a row. The last rejection claimed we were unscientific and going to hurt patients. That meant no money from N.I.H. In the medical research game you can’t wiggle without money. So we had to scrounge for it. Finally, major support came from the Department of State and then-Vice President Richard Nixon. He reasoned that if a treatment could be found for Parkinson’s disease it would help Chairman Mao of China, who suffered from it, and that help would improve Sino-

American relations. Mao became one of the first patients to benefit from our discovery; American relations with China improved and, significantly, Nixon made his historic visit to China in 1972. In Mao’s *Little Red Book* he famously stated that all political power comes from the muzzle of a gun. We proved his statement wrong. Political power can also come from a medicine bottle. My books, *Quia Imperfectum* and *The Great Cotzias*, cover the events, personalities, ideas, petty jealousies, back-biting and the red thread of life that led to a major treatment for what was previously thought to be a hopeless degenerative disease of the nervous system.”

1963

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Homecoming brought together **Steve Barcan, Jerry Dwyer, Lee Lowenfish, Bob Kraft, Phil Satow, and Paul Neshamkin** and his wife, Ruth. It was a challenging day weather-wise, but more of you should have come — we won!

Our monthly class lunch is now in its 15th year. Amazingly, we average about 10 classmates at each lunch. In the last three months, we have seen local regulars **Steve Barcan, Henry Black, Ed Collier, Jerry Dwyer, Doron Gopstein, Bob Heller, Lee Lowenfish, Don Margolis, Paul Neshamkin, Larry Neuman, Tom O’Connor, Barry Reiss** and **Harvey Schneier**. In addition, we have had visits from **Joe Applebaum**, from Boca Raton, Fla., **Peter Broido** from Baltimore and **Alan Wilensky** from Seattle. **Paul Gorin** has threatened to take the Acela from Delaware but has repeatedly cancelled.

Come on, Paul!

Family members are also welcome, especially if they went to Columbia. **Doug Anderson** brought his 96-year-old uncle, Milton Kamen ’40 as his guest. His humor and sharpness showed us that there is still hope for us youngsters.

Our 55th reunion is only 14 months away. Please mark your calendar and hold the (expected although not finalized) dates, Thursday, May 31–Sunday, June 3.

Frank Stoppenbach ’62 grows moderately rare fruit trees; at a county fair he sponsored a “Guess the Fruit” competition.

on the sidelines beside Coach Ben McAdoo. Russ’ wife, Laurie, recently had a knee replacement at HSS, which does about 5,000 a year! She is progressing but says the rehab is tough. Just ask **Burt Lehman** or **Paul Cooper!** Russ and Laurie celebrated Thanksgiving with eight grandchildren, one of whom plays high school football in Greenwich, Conn., and scored 25 touchdowns this fall! The acorn doesn’t fall far ... Russ is pleased to see the progress in Columbia football and finally won a dollar bet with Giants’ long snapper Steve DeOssie, who played at Brown.

Paul Gitman offers some advice about recent history: “Forget current events and stop to smell the roses. Life is short enough and very fragile. So make the most of your time. I am retired and have spent as much time as possible traveling and enjoying the world. Photography has been a wonderful pursuit and I make every effort to enjoy time with my grandchildren. Life is good.”

Although he retired as a professor of history at SUNY Albany, **Larry Wittner** GSAS’67 remains active in

projects was writing a satirical novel about university corporatization and rebellion, titled *What’s Going on at UAardvark?* Its second edition is available in paperback.

Frank Stoppenbach also devoted himself to the Sanders campaign. For much of the last half of 2015 and the first half of 2016, Frank visited county fairs, local events and colleges to recruit volunteers to help Sanders get on the New York primary ballot. “It was pretty easy,” Frank recalls. “There was great enthusiasm and, in the view of many New Yorkers (as well as me), Bernie’s candidacy was the best chance in our lifetimes for real change. We also had fun. I grow some moderately rare fruit trees, and we sponsored a ‘Guess the Fruit’ contest at one fair. Two-hundred people tried and one got them all: Persimmon, pawpaw, hardy kiwi and Chinese dogwood!”

Dan Stone works with the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada. Recently he gave a talk about Canadian politician and labor leader A.A. Heaps at a ceremony organized jointly by the center and

We have started to organize in true Class of '63 fashion — early and with enthusiasm. **Joe Applebaum, Henry Black, Peter Broido, Ed Collier, Jerry Dwyer, Mike Erdos, Doron Gopstein, Bruce Kaplan, Don Margolis, Paul Neshamkin, Larry Neuman, Barry Reiss and Harvey Schneier** have already joined the Reunion Committee. Please contact me if you want to help organize and gather classmates. Let's make it a great party.

David Alpern writes, "I am plugging away at a weekly podcast for the World Policy Institute, interviewing from home (via the Internet) experts on a variety of foreign affairs who write for the quarterly *World Policy Journal* and website. One recent guest, I was delighted to discover, was a College grad and intern on my former *Newsweek On Air* radio show. She's Daniella Zalcman '09, now a prize-winning documentary photographer whose new book, *Signs of Your Identity*, tells the brutal tale of Canada's infamous Indian Residential Schools. She updated me on a platoon of other Columbia interns from the same era who, like her, she said are 'all still trucking along in journalism' at *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *New York Daily News*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Houston Chronicle*, *TIME* and *Harper's*.

"About the same time, I congratulated another former intern, Brad Stone '93, on becoming senior executive editor at Bloomberg, to which he replied, 'Thank you for bringing generations of young Columbia students into *Newsweek On Air*, giving us our first taste of the media profession and being a great mentor!'

"To end the premature (I hope) eulogy, one of my first interns, Soterios Johnson '90, JRN'97, in saying farewell after more than 20 years as morning anchor for WNYC public radio added: 'Thank you for helping me launch my career. Your generosity in creating the *Newsweek On Air* internship and being a mentor has had a profound impact on me and so many others.'

"Makes an old guy proud. But also making me proud these days is my late mother (who was two months shy of 99 in 2014). We found her dusty 78s from her time as a 'girl singer' on the road and on New York radio (circa 1939–41) while cleaning out her apartment. We had them digitized

and posted online, where she is fast approaching 500 plays at soundcloud.com/david-a-69158822. In the cloud in both senses: Go Mom!"

David, I love your mom and I love your radio debut on track number eight, "I May Be Wrong But ..."

Bernie Kabak writes, "After completing law school at a Cambridge, Mass., university disparaged during our freshman orientation at Columbia as being along a 'smaller river,' I returned to New York City, where I have been an active member of the Lincoln Square Synagogue. It's on the Upper West Side, about two miles south of alma mater and not all that far from the World Trade Center. On September 11, 15 years to the day since the WTC was destroyed, the synagogue held a commemoration, which I was asked to chair, to mark that terrible day.

"Two extraordinary speakers addressed the congregation. Steven M. Davis, of the firm Davis Brody Bond (name partner J. Max Bond, Jr. was the architecture division chairman of GSAAP), spoke first. Davis carried us through his design for the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center, a site, wrote Adam Gopnik in *The New Yorker*, that 'contains more contradictions, unresolved and perhaps unresolvable, than any other eight acres in Manhattan.' Next, Bill Keegan gave a riveting account of serving as night operations commander of the 9-11 WTC Rescue/Recovery Teams.

"America withstood the 9-11 assault on our democracy from the air. Now I wonder how well we'll withstand the corrosion of our democracy from within. I write this note just a few days before the first presidential debate in an election campaign rampant with belligerence and hatred. Professor Fritz Stern '46, GSAS'53 urged us to push back against such impulses. In *The Varieties of History: From Voltaire to the Present*, he wrote: "The generous faith in rationality and the possibilities of human progress which underlay much of earlier historical thought seems discredited today, and yet the deepening of our historical experiences need not lead to its abandonment, but perhaps to a stronger sense of the precariousness of human freedom and to a still greater dedication to it."

"Professor Stern died last May. I mention him wistfully, recalling his

course in European history as one of the glories of my Columbia education." [Editor's note: See Obituaries, Summer 2016.]

Richard Goldwater (né Goldwasser) writes, "I was Bernie Sanders married to Hillary Clinton. I am happily divorced; my two sons are professors.

"My partner (a physicist) and I (a retired psychiatrist) have been working on a new theory of economics since the Crash of 2008. You can view a summary at profitandentropy.com. The thesis is that contemporary economics is inadequate because its basis in science is Newtonian mechanics, which describes an economy as a perpetual motion machine. We propose a new model taken from thermodynamics, in which an economy is an engine, and in which cash-fuel flows from hotter Buyer to cooler Seller. Profit mathematically is increasing entropy, which explains the Crash of 2008 as thermo-financial equilibrium. We propose a Non Value Added Tax on profits that skim value out of the economy and deposit it in McMansions. We are near completion and are looking for critical readers to share in the accomplishment.

"The Columbia course most relevant to my life and work was Professor Andrew Chiappe '33, GSAS'39's Shakespeare, since it taught me how to perceive the world as two realms, such as Belmont (meaning) and Venice (money) in *The Merchant of Venice*.

"My partially completed work, *Marriage Is for Men and Divorce Is for Women*, is at rolesandrules.com. I miss the days when JFK was immortal and democratic progress post-FDR was assured."

Nick Zill writes, "Please take a look at a short article I wrote on what recently released Census data tells us about the strengths of immigrant families. It was posted by the Institute for Family Studies: family-studies.org/most-immigrant-families-are-traditional-families. I think you will find it of interest."

David Orme-Johnson has written about his early experience with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi and Transcendental Meditation in *Enjoy TM News*. You can find his article at enjoytmnews.org/a-scientists-quest-for-enlightenment. This is the beginning of a book he is writing on Maharishi and how the scientific

research on enlightenment evolved. If you are interested in learning more about David's life work, friend him on Facebook.

Remember our regular class lunches at the Columbia University Club of New York are always a great place to reconnect. If you're in NYC, try to make one of the next lunches — it's always the second Thursday. Check out cc63ers.com for details.

1964

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Greetings. As I write at the end of January, the new presidency is only 10 days old and, while the issues are different in 2017, already I have a feeling that the tumultuous 1960s are back: Large crowds marching in the streets, a flurry of controversial executive orders, protests at the airports, the emergence of "alternative facts" and the press told to "keep its mouth shut." I hesitate to predict what will unfold between now and the publication of these Class Notes.

Jonathan Goldberg GSAS'68 writes: "I retired on August 31 after 10 years as Emory's arts and sciences distinguished professor (and spent 20 years before that as the Sir William Osler Professor of English Literature at Johns Hopkins for a total of almost 50 years of teaching). *This Distracted Globe*, a collection of essays mainly by former dissertation students of mine, was published last spring. My latest book, *Melodrama: An Aesthetics of Impossibility*, was published last fall. I continue to have writing projects in my retirement, which I celebrated with Michael Moon, my partner of more than 30 years, with a trip to Italy last September. After these many years, thoughts about Columbia classmates occur often to me, so I thought I would get back in touch this way."

We are happy, Jonathan, that you did get back in touch, and your classmates wish you much joy in the years ahead.

A recently released and well-reviewed Jim Jarmusch '75 film, *Paterson*, tells the story of a New Jersey bus driver who is also a poet. The poems heard in the film were actually written by **Ron Padgett**. Jarmusch

selected some of the poems from Ron's collected works; Ron wrote two more poems specifically for the film. In 2012, Ron was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in poetry.

Speaking of the movies, in January, **Ira Jaffe** and his wife, Joan, paid a visit to New York City from Mountainair, N.M. While here, they went to my son Alexander's Metrograph movie theater in lower Manhattan, which has two screens, a restaurant and a bookshop specializing in books about film. Ira founded the film studies program at the University of New Mexico and has written several books on film. He writes of the Metrograph: "The whole place is very special. Watching Eric Rohmer's *Claire's Knee*, I particularly relished the sweep of the screen and the comfort of the rough-hewn but elegant wood-backed seats."

Thank you, Ira. I have passed along your thoughts to Alexander.

Finally, on a personal note: After teaching constitutional law for many years at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice I have hung up my professor's cap. I will continue to practice appellate law and try my hand at other things as well. I plan to continue the informal class lunch the second Thursday of each month at the Columbia University Club of New York. Join us.

1965

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Joel Berger (joelberger1955@yahoo.com) was quoted in *The New York Times* on September 9. The article dealt with NYC's Law Department, which is fighting multiple court battles maintaining the secrecy of the city's records of police officers' misconduct and that of Mayor Bill DeBlasio's communications with advisers. Joel commented on the Law Department's battles to maintain this secrecy: "The city has been doing it all along, but they've been doing it even more strenuously in this administration than in the precious one." Joel wrote to me that he, himself, is an alumnus of the NYC Law Department: "Before entering private practice I was one of the highest ranking lawyers in the

NYC Law Department, 1988–96 (the 'Executive Staff,' the corporation counsel's inner cabinet). I was recruited by corporation counsel Peter Zimroth '63, who felt that someone with my background (NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, arguing death penalty cases and other civil rights matters 1977–88) should be on his staff. Peter is now the court-appointed monitor in the stop-and-frisk cases. So it is particularly painful to see my old office behaving so badly on issues of transparency, especially in police misconduct cases."

I heard from **Ben Cohen** (becoh@aol.com): "Last year, at the annual meeting of the Texas Society of Plastic Surgeons, I was honored as the first recipient of a new lectureship, 'Texas Legends of Plastic Surgery.' (Texans are programmed to embrace hyperbole!) In addition to speaking about advances in plastic surgical methods, I discussed seminal aspects of my background, speaking of family and mentors and playing clips from some of the Macon music of that era — Little Richard, James Brown, Otis Redding. Another main theme was the role of chance events and meetings that have unexpected consequences in determining the course of a person's life and career. My years at Columbia were certainly filled with many such pivot points.

"Speaking of pivot points, I recently transitioned in my career as a clinical and academic plastic surgeon in Houston to a more controlled practice, still with resident trainee teaching responsibilities but, after 30 years, am no longer a residency program director. This change is a 'glide path' to a full retirement. Family wise, Helen and I are still happily married after 46 years and, thanks to our daughter Sarah, we now have three lovely grandchildren to enjoy spending time with. Sorry to have missed the 50th reunion, but I was busy recouping from hip replacements that have gone well. See you at the 55th!"

I wrote in a recent column about **Niles Eldredge** GSAS'69's book *Eternal Ephemera: Adaptation and the Origin of Species from the 19th Century through Equilibria and Beyond*, a tome of 416 pages. Niles recently sent me a link to a recently released academic video based on his book. Not exactly CliffsNotes, but you



Jay Woodworth '65 (left) and Larry Guido '65 met at Fornos Restaurant in Newark, N.J., to begin planning for the Class of '65's 55th reunion.

might want to give it a try: vimeo.com/196393849.

Dan Hofstadter's review of a new biography of art historian Kenneth Clark appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* in November. Dan mentioned Clark's television series, *Civilization*, which many of us remember as a welcome postlude to Art Humanities at Columbia.

Bob Kolodny (rckolodny@aol.com) wrote to request a copy of our Reunion Class Book. I responded, of course, by asking him for some news. Bob's response: "I've led a somewhat bifurcated existence for the past 35 years, pursuing two quite different career tracks. In my medical career, I did a lot of research (and writing: 15 books, 100-plus journal articles) in the area of human sexuality and I continue to lecture widely around the world, teach and consult on research design matters with many university groups. Starting in 1981, I also founded a group of hedge funds that I continue to run. When I moved to New Hampshire 10 years ago, I became a state registered investment adviser, although I do not do financial planning with individuals, nor do I see patients any longer.

"I saw a lot of **David Denby** JRN'66 and his family in the '80s and '90s. In fact, he read me a first draft of his opening chapter for what would become his brilliant book, *GREAT BOOKS: My Adventures with Homer, Rousseau, Woolf, and Other Indestructible Writers of the Western World*, about returning to Columbia at 48 and retaking the first year of Humanities and Con-

temporary Civilization — he was surprised at how blown away I was by his perceptive and skillful writing. I also stayed in touch with my close friend (and freshman cross-country teammate) **Rikki Haber**, who also became a physician and won awards for his excellence as a teacher at UCSF Medical Center. Ditto for my fellow Hartley Hall resident **Bill Brenner**, who became an exceptional cardiac surgeon and continued his lifelong interest in photography.

On a few occasions, a CC classmate has come up to say hello when I've lectured at some large medical meeting or at a continuing medical education course — not only in NYC and Boston, but also in Montreal, at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., in London and in Amsterdam."

Jim Siegel BUS'68 (jimsiegel77@yahoo.com) wrote to tell me about a lecture I wish I had known about in advance: "I went to a lecture by noted musicologist **Richard Taruskin** GSAS'76, principally because it was last year's annual installment of a lecture series at CUNY Graduate Center funded by a beloved friend of mind, a preeminent cancer researcher who died five years ago, and his sister. Taruskin's name sounded familiar, but I didn't know anything about him. In his lecture he mentioned he had taught at Columbia for many years before decamping to Berkeley. Consulting Wikipedia when I got home, I learned he is a classmate!

"Richard's lecture, which he gave on December 7, is part of

the Lloyd Old and Constance Old Lecture Series. His topic was 'Music in 21st Century Society: The Many Dangers of Music.' The CUNY website refers to Richard as 'America's Public Musicologist.' While I could not find a video of the lecture online, I did stumble on a tremendous list of YouTube videos featuring Richard's lectures: youtube.com/results?search_query=richard+taruskin."

Neil Silver (nsilver@designno motion.com) sent a nice update from his submission in our Reunion Class Book: "Since late 2015, I've fallen into a rut, defined principally by four of my post-retirement pursuits: lots of exercise, foreign travel, language study (Chinese, Japanese and Spanish) and consulting (for the State Department). Until 2015, I also had 'the big project' on this list. That consisted of editing and translating a book on the Korean War by a leading (fairly independent) Chinese Cold War scholar and teaching a course (Modern Japan: Euro-American Perspectives) at two Chinese universities. The big project ended in 2015 when new Chinese visa regulations required universities to get government approval before hiring foreign teachers and set a 60-year old ceiling on foreign teachers. I taught at two very different places, one a graduate program (many of the students had formed their own ideas while teaching high school history) and the other to college juniors (many of whom had serious cases of cognitive dissonance caused by the difference between Euro-American approaches to Japan

and what they had studied in their high school 'patriotic education' courses). The payoffs for me were some interesting papers by students in both universities.

"Most recently, I spent five weeks (October–November 2016) puttering around historical sites in Kyushu, a part of Japan I had never visited during my six years in Japan as a student and then as a U.S. diplomat. My fondest memories of that trip are the huge, blood-red mandarin orange of a moon hanging (what seemed to be) two ft. above a bay on the East China Sea, and a very un-Japanese huge mug of coffee accompanied with steamed milk, cinnamon toast, a small dessert, 1940s-era American jazz and a garden view from a residence kitchen/coffee shop located on a unique street. [The street was] created by village samurai who had traveled to Kyoto and Edo (Tokyo) with their daimyo lord in the mid-18th century and then built miniature gardens outside their homes patterned on the larger gardens they had seen on their travels."

Barry Solomon (barry@raval.co.il) contributed this: "Thanks for your work as class correspondent, Leonard. I guess you are having a slow news day if you have to ask me what I am doing. I haven't had much contact with classmates because after six years on Morning-side Heights (1961–67) I left the States and, aside from three years in London and a sabbatical in Poland, I have been living in the Middle East ever since. Ironically, after all this time, my son-in-law is now at Columbia for a post-doctorate and so my wife and I go to New York about three times a year to see our grandchildren. For the first time since 1964, I voted in an American election. Until now it seemed wrong to try to influence what goes on in a country in which you no longer live. You can imagine why it was important for me this time around (even though it didn't help).

"I am still working and have no immediate plans for retirement. My work involves solutions for preventing pollution from vehicles running on fossil fuel. If everyone moves over to electric or solar powered cars I will be out of a job but I won't be sad if the world will be better for the next generations. I recently returned from a business trip to Europe and was excited to see our

products being used in fuel systems for Mercedes, BMW, Jaguar, Audi and Bentley. I, myself, as a poor member of a kibbutz, can't think of ever owning one of those babies. I drive the Ford that is leased for me by the company.

"You asked about life in Beer-Sheva — the Chinese curse 'May you live in interesting times' is all-too-relevant for Israel. It is always interesting here and sometimes I wish we could have boring times like in Finland or New Zealand.

"I got the Reunion Class Book and enjoyed seeing what others are up to. I managed to get to the 50th reunion and had a great time talking to former roommates **Dave Halperin** and **Lou Goodman**. It is a shame that others didn't attend. In addition I had good friends in the classes one year ahead of us and one year behind us and would have liked to see those people, as well.

"Keep up the good work with *CCT*. Unfortunately I stopped getting the hard print version and can't figure out how to get the e-version (I only get *Columbia* magazine, which I enjoy reading)." [Editor's note: Find *CCT* online at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

Finally, I heard from **Larry Guido** (lguid44@gmail.com) and **Jay Woodworth** (woody17620@aol.com), announcing that they had recently "met at Fornos Restaurant in Newark, N.J., to begin planning for our 55th! The accompanying photo shows the two escaped alums from the 'PC Prison of Columbia College' (according to the *New York Post!*)"

I asked them what they had been doing in Newark; Jay sent this response: "Sounds like a question asked by a New Yorker. Fornos is a great Newark landmark. It's one of the Spanish restaurants in Newark's Ironbound District (so named because the location was surrounded by railroad lines). It's about a two-minute walk from Newark's Pennsylvania Station. I introduced the Guidos and Judy to Fornos a year ago. Larry said we had to return because the paella was so incredibly good. He dined on the paella again that night, Judy had an octopus dish and I feasted on a huge, thick veal chop. The place was jammed with dinner guests and we had a 45-minute wait. It was worth every minute. The prices for far more food than we could consume were about 50 percent

of peer restaurants in Manhattan, some dozen miles to the east."

Larry got the last word, adding: "There, Leonard. Now you know the full story from a serious economist: Quality, Quantity, Price Ratio. Not just from a flaky neurosurgeon."

1966

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Hello, again. Another excellent response from the class. Maybe it is because more and more of you have less and less to do. Or perhaps it's because of my long-standing promise to fill in meager columns with tales of myself and/or amusing (?) fictional anecdotes of randomly selected classmates.

Before proceeding, I want to express my sincere appreciation to those many of you who reached out to me with your good wishes after reading of my health issues in the last edition. These included most recently **Neal Hurwitz**, **Michael Garrett**, **Tom Harrold**, **Jonathan Kleefeld** and **Alexander Auerbach**, among a great many others. Thank you. Not wishing to conduct an ongoing personal diary of the subject, this will be the last time I mention it, but I do want to pass along a general hope for respite and comfort and hope to all of our '66 members who are faced with critical health situations. Our hearts and thoughts support you.

On a happier note, my son Rich recently accepted his second clerkship, this time for the superior court in Newark, N.J. He recently completed a one-year stint as clerk for a federal judge in Norfolk, Va., and wished to return to the New York area. Thanks to his mentor and my good friend **Harvey Kurzweil** for all his advice and support.

Geoff Dutton from Belmont, Mass.: "Tech writing was getting boring, so now that I've left the software factory I've been editing articles and writing fiction; almost full-time, but finding it hard to market my writings without getting sucked into Facebook and tweeted to oblivion. Don't travel much, except for a conference now and then and to Turkey to see the in-laws every couple years. When



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my girl graduates from high school I will be more fancy-free, assuming we all survive the regime change. And while we await the apocalypse, anyone have a lead to a publisher/agent who would salivate over an international literary thriller about the life and times of a cell of (partly cyber) terrorist wannabes? Give a shout to geoff@maxentropyproductions.net about that or anything for that matter. (I'm the guy whose picture wasn't in the yearbook.)"

Your columnist responds: Geoff, having spent the bulk of my career in the software/hardware field, I don't envision a difficult transition for you from tech writing to fiction. Joking aside, best wishes on your venture.

Bruce Trinkley: "My profound appreciation and thanks to everyone who participated and assisted in the performance for the 50th reunion last June of the *Varsity Shows of 1966-67, The Bard's Opera* and

faculty composers like Jack Beeson and Otto Luening; the wonderful performers, directors and staff of Columbia Players and Oats Harvey; and the singers in the Columbia Glee Club 1962-70.

Jonathan Kleefeld, a long-lost classmate, writes from Massachusetts that he is a "nearly retired" radiologist and, for some reason, enjoys reading this column when it appears.

Welcome back, Jonathan. We hope to hear from you again soon.

Jerry Hartman BUS'68: "I attended the 50th reunion, where there was great pleasure in seeing folks I had not seen for many years. I have kept up with **Josh Hauser SEAS'66**, **SEAS'68**, who is my fraternity brother and was my roommate. Josh was at reunion. As a result of reunion, I connected with my freshman roommate, **Frank Mirer**, who is a professor in New York City and my sophomore room-

mate, **Joe Chartor**, who is a doctor outside of Boston. "That said, I retired as a partner at Drinker Biddle in its Washington office on January 31, after being there for 15 years practicing employment and labor law. I have been a lawyer for 44 years. I will remain at the firm running the foundation (mcdowellfoundation.org) that I established for my late wife, Barbara McDowell, who was a well-known appellate litigator. She was a partner at Jones Day and then assistant solicitor general in the United States Department of Justice, where she argued Supreme Court cases for seven years. She had been a law clerk to Justice Byron White after Yale Law. At the time of her death from brain cancer in January 2009, she was head of the Appellate Advocacy Program at Legal Aid in Washington. Barbara's foundation makes grants to social justice organizations that support social justice litigation. Last year, the foundation made five grants, totaling \$125,000.

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"The other component of the foundation is to engage in high-

impact pro bono cases in conjunction with attorneys in my law firm. During the last six years, we have participated in food stamp, jury selection, death penalty and immigration cases, among others. I have also set up an endowment at Barbara's church, Westmoreland Congregational, where I took over her place on the church's social justice action committee. In addition, I established an endowment at Legal Aid to support the appellate advocacy program, which has been named the Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Program in her honor. I serve on the board of Legal Aid.

"As a footnote, my path after college was varied. I graduated from the Business School and was an account executive at a large Madison Avenue advertising agency. Later, as a lawyer I represented several large advertising agencies. Upon completion of law school at George Washington and clerking for the chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans, I have been a partner at several large Washington law firms, interrupted by a four-year stint in the United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division, where I tried cases in Mississippi and Alabama, 1976-80. During my time at the Justice Department, I received the Department's Special Commendation Award for defending the constitutionality of the Commerce Department's minority set aside program. One of the cases I defended went to the Supreme Court, where the court upheld the affirmative action component of the program (*Fullilove v. Kreps*).

"My other foray outside of law firm practice was time spent as a tenured law professor at Wake Forest School of Law; I had been an adjunct law professor at The George Washington University Law School for many years. I live in Falls Church, Va., on a private lake 11 miles from Washington.

"I suspect that I will be working pretty much fulltime at the law firm doing the aforesaid pro bono work, as well as playing lots of tennis and biking. I am working on a novel and a collection of short stories. I hope I will have more time to write now. I will live part-time in New York in a new apartment on East 57th Street, which I recently purchased with my significant other, a gastroenterologist

in New York. She attended Barnard and her two children attended Columbia; she attended the last reunion with me. Lastly, I am a die-hard Nationals fan, having had season tickets from the team's founding. I plan to attend spring training again this year with my brother, who foolishly is a Yankees fan."

Pete Wernick GSAS'73 launched a music teaching system for bluegrass jamming. The Wernick Method teaches the ear skills and protocols used worldwide in informal bluegrass jams. More than 5,000 students have graduated from classes and music camps in 42 states and 11 countries.

Pete and his wife, Joan, recently performed a vocal duet with banjo and guitar on *Good Morning Denmark*, live from Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen. Pete will be on tour coast to coast this year with the Hot Rize band, a bluegrass mainstay since 1978. Peter claims that at this stage of his life, he finds playing bluegrass more enjoyable than smoking it.

Your erstwhile former class correspondent **Stuart Berkman BUS'68** continues to be semi-active in Columbia affairs, as he usually interviews three to five candidates for admission in the Rio de Janeiro area. Writing on a torrid January Rio afternoon, he had just returned from a frigid two-week holiday visit to New York.

Randall Bourscheidt: "I'm creating an analytical record of everything the City of New York has done since the 19th century to support culture, called the Archive of New York City Cultural Policy. The archive is taking shape at the New York Public Library — one of the great institutions made possible by financial support from the city government. This is a summing up of a career spent mostly in the world of nonprofit culture, which is uniquely at the heart of what makes this city great, and focused on urging the city to maintain and expand its support of culture. Few people entering the Metropolitan Museum of Art realize that there's only one reason it's in Central Park: The museum signed an agreement with New York City to create and run the greatest museum in America in return for the city building its facility in the park and contributing substantially to its operation. The same is true for Carnegie Hall, the New York Botanical Garden,

Randall Bourscheidt '66 is creating an analytical record of everything the City of New York has done since the 19th century to support culture.

Feathertop. I was thrilled to dust off and remount scenes and songs with so many members of the original casts, including Anthony Abeson '67, director of *Feathertop*, and Penelope Parkhurst BC'68, one of the greatest stage managers ever. I have been fortunate to work with some gifted and talented collaborators, including **Michael Feingold** and the beloved, now-deceased **John Litvack**. Many of my more recent works, written with my collaborator Jason Charnesky, can be found on YouTube. Just google "Trinkley Opera." There, among others, you can see a *Buzz & Bud*, which was the centerpiece of a January session at the National Opera Association Convention in Santa Barbara with student performers from the music theater program at Penn State. Also my magnum opus, *York: The Voice of Freedom*, about the only African-American on the Lewis and Clark expedition, was filmed for PBS with principals from the old New York City Opera . . .

"Reunion brought to mind the great experience of working with

the Brooklyn Museum, the Public Theater, the American Museum of Natural History and the Bronx Zoo, among others. New York City has the largest budget for culture in the United States — larger than the federal government and all 50 states.

“My timing turned out to be good, as the city is currently preparing its first formal cultural plan to extend its already generous support for the arts to every neighborhood. The project will build on New York’s cultural diversity — based on America’s golden secret of welcoming immigrants and providing opportunities for the advancement of every community. This is also an opportunity to borrow former Columbia professor Allan Nevins’ brilliant invention — recorded oral history — and use it to chronicle New York’s great record in cultural development (thanks to an insight provided in my sophomore year by the great history professor James Shenton ’49, GSAS’54).”

Mark Levine JRN’79: “I heard an interview with **Mark Naison** GSAS’76 on WNYC and thought you might want to write an update about him for Class Notes. The show’s description is: ‘Robert Gumbs, graphic designer, photographer, artist and raised in the South Bronx, and Mark Naison, professor of history and African American studies at Fordham University, co-authors of *Before the Fires: An Oral History of African American Life in the Bronx from the 1930s to the 1960s*, tell the stories of a neighborhood and 16 African-American men and women who lived in the South Bronx before the ‘Bronx is Burning’ era that threatened to decimate it, and what contributed to its revival.’

“From the book jacket: ‘People associate the South Bronx with gangs, violence, drugs, crime, burned-out buildings, and poverty. This is the message that has been driven into their heads over the years by the media. As Howard Cosell famously said during the 1977 World’s Series at Yankee Stadium, ‘There it is, ladies and gentlemen, the Bronx is burning.’ In this new book, Naison and Gumbs provide a completely different picture of the South Bronx through interviews with residents who lived here from the 1930s to the 1960s.’”

As someone who was born in the Bronx and lived in NYC at that

time, as did many of you, your columnist appreciates Mark L.’s update, and will check out Mark N.’s book. I heard Cosell’s comment at the time, while the Goodyear blimp panned over the glowing South Bronx landscape that evening.

1967

REUNION 2017
JUNE 1-4

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REUNION 2017

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Our 50th reunion is approaching and the mailbox overflowed ...

Jack Harris: “I enjoy a quiet retirement in Troy, N.Y., after a career in academia that included research in Antarctica. The only part of my life now that might interest classmates is my continuing involvement in research into the biophysics of the golf swing. I would be happy to share our findings with classmates wishing to become the cleverest player on their own course.”

Harold Wechsler GSAS’74 earned an M.A. and a Ph.D., both in history, from Columbia. His thesis research included several months spent in the Columbia archives, unearthing the history of admission to the College. His book, *The Qualified Student: A History of Selective College Admission in America*, includes this history with its impactful and seamy sides. He often writes about the history of Columbia and is finishing work on a history of minority access to U.S. higher education. Harold has taught at Albany, Rochester, Buffalo, Chicago and Northwestern. Since 2005, he has co-directed NYU’s program in Education and Jewish Studies, the first program of its kind in a secular university. He also co-directs the Columbia University seminar on the History of Columbia University. Winner of the Greatest Mets Fan contest in 1969, he won again in 1981 when he married Lynn Dorothy Gordon BC’68. Lynn passed away in

2012 after a long struggle with cancer. He has two children, a 2-year old granddaughter and a spaniel, Homer — all avid Mets fans.

John Marino retired two years ago after 42 years as an internal medicine physician, and now travels frequently around the world and is active with bike riding, skiing, gym workouts and grandkids, and does not miss working.

Jon Buller: “After graduating magna cum marginaly, I tried various sorts of work but found nothing that really suited me until I began illustrating children’s books, first getting published in 1984. I have done most of my books in collaboration with my wife, Susan Schade, who does most of the writing, while I do most of the drawing. Together we have published 59 books, the most recent being *Anne of Green Bagels*, published in August. Some of our books have sold well. Lately business has been a little slow, which is appropriate, because I am also getting a little slow. We live in Lyme, Conn.

Larry Kirkman is a professor of film and media arts and dean emeritus of the School of Communication at American University. His work in public-purpose media has encompassed documentaries, social advertising campaigns, strategic communications for nonprofits, digital journalism and communication policy. He is an executive producer in the Investigative Reporting Workshop and senior research fellow in the Center for Media & Social Impact.

Larry Miller: “I live in Manhattan on the Upper West Side. I have two boys, 24 and 22, who are just moving into their own apartments. I am president of Corinthian Media and president of the Corinthian Foundation. My work allows me time to work out, take dance lessons and travel. I recently returned from Botswana. I hope to retire [but that] seems to move itself farther into the future each year.”

Jerry Lozner: “After completing my surgical residency at the University of Cincinnati in 1978, I served in the Navy for two years and then joined the Summit Medical Group, where I have been a partner for 37 years and am the senior breast surgeon. On July 4, Barbara, the love of my life, and I will celebrate our 47th anniversary. We have three children, Amy Lozner, Josh Lozner ’96 (varsity basketball) and Stacy Lozner ’01,

LAW’04, and seven wonderful grandchildren. I am the youngest member of our class. I practice full-time, but enjoy spending time in Naples and the Berkshires. I have taken great pride through the years in helping to train Columbia surgical residents. I look back at the years we spent at Columbia with great fondness and am grateful that my children were able to share that experience.”

Mike Jackson: “I retired on June 1 as a commodity broker after 43 years and couldn’t be happier. My nephew, Alex Jackson ’20, is the eighth member of our family to attend the College. Roar, Lions ...”

Marty Nussbaum LAW’70: “Practicing corporate law as an associate then a partner, currently at Dechert, still working. Married, divorced (no children), married (35 years), two children (daughter and son), both of whom got married this past year (not to each other ... there are laws about that). Live in NYC, having returned to the city from the suburbs when the nest emptied. Still on this side of the grass with every intention of staying a while longer.”

George Danziger: “Passed 70 last October. Married three times: four years, seven years, 33 years and counting. I finally got it right. Attended GSAS for anthropology. No career actually, rather a career: computer consultant, carpenter, ran a factory, taught grade school, restored furniture, did statistics work, ran (and sometimes was) several IT departments. In 2011, I beat better than one in 1,000 lifetime odds to get AL amyloidosis. A fatal disease does focus the mind. I’m still working though, mostly to fund my flying habit. I have a 70-year-old Aeronca 7DC 85 hp two-seat tailwheel airplane and fly it 125-plus hours a year, whenever weather, my health and its maintenance demands allow. I live in Northampton, Mass. All classmates are invited to contact me if they are under 220 lbs. dressed and want to see what civilian flying was like when we were born.”

Phil Greco: “I have been retired from my 35-year career as a psychiatrist for three years. My wife and I live in Philadelphia, near our son, Eric, and his three children, and we are enjoying retirement. Our daughter, Bonnie, is expecting her second child in April.

Bob Brancale: “I practiced anesthesia and critical care medicine

for 40 years, initially at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital and then at South Shore Hospital, where I was president of the medical staff. My wife is an artist, one son is finishing an internal medicine residency at UMass and another son is working at start-ups in San Francisco. Now happily retired, I am a master gardener on Cape Cod."

Roy Vogel: After medical school at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, an ophthalmology residency and two years in the Army, I practiced ophthalmology 1977–2005 in New Jersey. Retired 11 years and living with my wife, Christine, in Charlotte, N.C. Two children, Sean and John, each married with children. My passion is to travel, which I have done for 47 years."

Bob Rudy: "I retired from the County Attorney's Office in Minneapolis in 2008 after 34 years. I was a supervisor for the last 20 years. Supervising lawyers is like herding cats. If it didn't interfere with boating and cruises, I tried some cases and have been a mediator and arbitrator. My daughter was married last summer. Life is good out here in the middle of the country."

Travis Brown: "I work daily as a consulting geologist, primarily in oil and gas. I have kept busy and productive through the price swings and don't perceive retirement as an immediate option. I enjoy good health and look forward to our 50th reunion, hoping to reconnect with classmates."

Adam Kotlewski: "I am happily retired from my cardiology practice. My wife, Renee, and I took our entire family to Poland to visit places I lived in during my childhood, my parents' birthplace and the extermination camps where most of my parents' families were killed. It was an emotional experience for all of us. I'm learning to play the cello, reading, enjoying life in Southern California and watching our beautiful 4-year-old granddaughter grow up."

Amnon Igra: "Retired and living in Sacramento, Calif., after a career in state government. Enjoying lots of leisure pursuits, travel. In touch with **Billy Hurwitz, Peter Miller and Ron Lane.** I can easily be reached."

Bernard Rosner: "I am professor of medicine, a biostatistician at Harvard Medical School, specializing in breast cancer modeling, norms for childhood blood pressure and ophthalmological applications. My

textbook, *Fundamentals of Biostatistics*, has been used by more than 100,000 people during the past 30 years."

Bruce Donnell: "I am a stage director in opera. I worked at the Metropolitan Opera for 34 years. I have a freelance career and am based in Santa Fe."

Tom Blinn earned a doctorate in statistics from Teachers College and got involved with computing, eventually working for Digital Equipment Corp. (then Compaq and then Hewlett-Packard) until he retired in 2005. He lives in Amherst, N.H., with his wife of 30 years, Susan, and their three cats.

Gerald Weinstein: "I recently retired after a long career as a cardiac surgeon and live in NYC with my wife of more than 45 years. I am so grateful for the education I received at Columbia — it made so much of my life possible."

Eric Schwartz GSAS'73: "I completed a Ph.D. in physics, then changed fields into neuroscience. I have been professor of electrical and computer engineering and professor of neurobiology and anatomy at Boston University since 1992. I have been married to Helen Eckstein BC'67, GSAS'76 for close to 50 wonderful years. Our daughter, Anna, is working toward a Ph.D. at City University. We live in Brookline, Mass."

George Farkas: "Upon graduation I married my college girlfriend, Laura Feldman BC'67, to whom I was married for eight years. I earned a Ph.D. in sociology from Cornell and was hired by Yale in 1972. I married a colleague, Linda Perry. We were married for 32 years, until she passed away from cancer in 2008. After Yale, I taught at the University of Texas at Dallas and at Penn State. For the last 30 years I have done quantitative studies of educational inequality and how it can be reduced. Since 2008, I have been professor of education at UC Irvine. In 2010, I married Judy Kaufman. My son, David, is 30. In 1990, I created a tutoring program, which helped spawn President Clinton's America Reads initiative. I have published four books and numerous research articles. But perhaps my greatest accomplishment, and certainly greatest adventure, is having been married to women from Barnard, Radcliffe and Brown."

Steve Salant: "I began my career as an economist at the Federal

Reserve Board in 1973, joined the Rand Corp. in 1980 (where I co-edited *The Rand Journal of Economics*), migrated to the University of Michigan in 1986 as a full professor and retired in June 2015. Since then, I have divided my time between Washington, D.C., (where I am a research professor at the University of Maryland), Michigan and California.

"Aside from building microeconomic models to explain observed behavior, I have puzzled over what transpired in the 'spy case' of Alger Hiss, a project that I began in high school. I have documented that Hiss' legal team was penetrated by an undercover special agent of the Army's Counter Intelligence Corps a month before Hiss' accuser reversed his sworn testimony (and decade-long insistence) that Hiss had committed no espionage.

"In 1980, I married Katherine Blair, a Harvard-trained architect recently back from several years in Nepal on a Fulbright and later a columnist for *The Washington Post*. Katherine was the sister-in-law of **Dick Goldensohn**, one of my closest friends at Columbia. We have three daughters, Daisy (31), Claire (27) and Shelley (27). I had no idea how much I would enjoy being a dad."

Out of space, unfortunately. Please look for more news from **Steve Rice, Arthur Rhine and Mark Steinhoff** in the Summer issue. Steve is scheduled to receive a lifetime achievement award from the American College of Sports Medicine in June.

I hope to see you at our 50th reunion, Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4! Go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017.

1968

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I received some wonderful notes for this issue. **Jim Pharris**, part of the large Idaho contingent in our class, wrote in. He describes this column as "chatty." I thought the column would be described as cerebral, entertaining and prescient in many ways. I am somewhat embarrassed that I visited Olympia, Wash., for public finance efforts and didn't real-

ize I could have walked down the hall and seen Jim.

Jim, we expect to see you at the reunion!

Jim writes: "I was disappointed to find none of your usual chatty Class Notes in the Winter 2016–17 issue, so I decided to stir myself and report on a half-century's events in my life.

"Columbia is still a vivid memory decades later — the long train rides (when trains ran and before airlines offered student fares) from Idaho to New York and back, the variety and depth of classroom experiences, good friendships, exploring New York and, of course, Spring 1968, with two months of chaos punctuated by the assassinations of Dr. King and Sen. Kennedy. There isn't much of a Columbia diaspora here in Olympia — I know only two or three other graduates living here — but it's nice on occasion to find someone to exchange memories of CC and Humanities, or dorm life or student hangouts near the campus.

"From Columbia I moved to law school at Harvard and then, in 1973, I accepted a job offer from the Washington State Attorney General, where I worked happily for 39 years. I served four Attorneys General — principled and high-minded public servants of both genders and both parties — and ended up in the Solicitor General's office as part of a team that handles many appeals, particularly those involving state or federal constitutional issues. I traveled to the United States Supreme Court once (the attorney general himself did the argument, but I was only a few feet away), successfully defending Washington's 'top two' primary. I also appeared in other appellate courts many times and wrote some 50 formal attorney general opinions.

"I retired in 2012 and haven't practiced law since, though I wouldn't rule out dabbling in it again if the opportunity arose. I rekindled my passion for music and am a church organist, as well as reading and listening to classical music of almost every era (but especially German baroque). I am an amateur genealogist and, lately, a kind of professional grandfather. I have been married to Rebecca Anderson Pharris since 1975 (she is a preschool teacher and has undoubtedly done more good for humanity than I did in my entire

legal career). We raised two sons and a daughter. I couldn't persuade any of them to apply to Columbia, but they all had fine educations and all have advanced degrees. My two older children both live within a mile of our home and each have two children, all of whom frequent our house and occupy center stage in our lives. My youngest is working on his dissertation at the University of Minnesota and hopes to become a sociology professor. We travel some (Europe two or three times, Hawaii recently) but enjoy staying at home and exchanging horrified reactions to the advent of President Trump (Olympia is one of the 'bluest' cities in one of the 'bluest' states).

"Greetings to the rest of the Class of 1968 and best wishes. I may yet make it to a reunion!"

Jim — I think a Bach organ recital would be a good idea for reunion.

I heard from **David Heim**, who is clearly engaged with an art form and still editing and writing as I would expect (and with two books on their way). David writes: "Yes, it's been a while. But I finally have something worth sharing with classmates. I live with my wife, Kate, and son, Theodore, in the peaceful little town of Oxford, Conn. In late 2016, I was elected to the board of directors of the American Association of Woodturners, the preeminent organization of its kind in the world. In addition to oversight of its publications — chiefly *American Woodturner*, a bimonthly magazine — I'll be leading the organization's work in expanding to Central and South America. (Thank heaven for Google Translate, as I don't speak Spanish.) I also have two books due to be published by Spring House Press, a small shop run by two alumni of *Fine Woodworking* magazine. The first is a book of woodturning patterns — everything from salad bowls and Christmas ornaments to baseball bats and chopsticks. The second, due out in early 2018, is *Success With SketchUp for Woodworkers*, a primer on using a very cool 3D design program."

Spectator has produced an array of talent. I did a little reading about woodturning; it's a fascinating topic. I look forward to reading the books.

From **Chris Friedrichs**: "It is high time to send you an update. I am sad to report that I am now a widower. My wife, Rhoda Friedrichs

BC'67, GSAS'74, died of cancer in summer 2014. In some ways, Rhoda was even more of a Columbian than I was. She did her B.A. at Barnard and then crossed the street to do her master's and Ph.D. in medieval history. She was a fine historian of late medieval England and a beloved instructor at Douglas College in New Westminster, B.C., where she taught for 25 years. Her death was a terribly sad loss for me after 44 years of marriage, as it was for our children, grandchildren and Rhoda's huge circle of friends.

"But I am adjusting, as one must, to this new phase of my life. I am still at the University of British Columbia, but I now teach part-time and I expect to fully retire in 2018. My three kids and three grandkids all live in New York (all of them in Brooklyn, in fact), but I get there two or three times a year and they often visit me in Vancouver, so our family remains very close.

"I have been traveling a lot. In February 2016 I was in India for two weeks — my fourth trip there — to visit friends and to lecture in Delhi and Pondicherry. During the summer I was in Europe again. My trip this time included a great visit with **Charles Jarowski** and his wife, Joan, at their home in Provence. Charlie retired after a long career as an oncologist in New York and he and Joan are now enjoying life in southern France. Together with them I visited our almost-classmate Michael Agelasto '69, who spends part of every year in Sanary-sur-Mer on the Mediterranean coast. If more of my Columbia friends would kindly move to Provence, I would have even more people to visit on future trips to France!

"My trips to New York rarely seem to coincide with Columbia events but I very much hope to get to Columbia for our 50th reunion. It would be great to see classmates."

Paul de Bary; his wife, Stefa; Bob Costa '67; and his wife, Joan; and Hilal and I had a meal at Le Monde (the food there is very good) before the Columbia-Cornell game. The Lions were upset, but the team is full of talent, so we shall see how the season progresses. We did beat Cornell in Ithaca! Paul and Stefa recently spent time in Hollywood, Fla., and I went to Miami Beach to my new home recently. I was looking forward to the palm trees and

the ocean, though I do hope to get to the country on occasion and back New York City once in a while, too.

I recently spoke to **John Roy** and **Greg Winn** of the mighty Naples, Fla., triumvirate of them along with **Neil Anderson**. Neil apparently has a prodigy off to the SEC (I hope I have that right); John is still teaching, it seems; and Greg (in addition to completing a book shortly) is on the golf course, preparing to achieve greatness for his age group.

By the way, congratulations are in order — **Frank Dann** was married recently.

Congratulations, Frank! One should always end on good news.

I hope to hear more from you all. I have been a bit lax in relentlessly pursuing updates; I will try harder. I hope all is well with you and you are in good health. Hard to believe it's 2017 and not that far away from 2018 ... 1968 was a long time ago (that was quite a year). Let me know if you are going to be in Miami this year. I have discovered there is a Columbia alumni crowd there. **Ira McCown** has been living there for quite a while.

I recommend attending Homecoming 2017. The football program is on the upswing and beating Dartmouth at Homecoming 2016 was a leading indicator.

1969

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Every two years, I've been lucky to have a dependable recurring news item. On November 8, **Jerry Nadler** was reelected to Congress, representing New York's 10th Congressional District. Jerry entered Congress in 1992 and has now been elected to his 13th full term.

Reading newspapers delivered an item on **Paul Auster** — actually, several items, as Paul's latest book, *4 3 2 1*, was covered by *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker* and *Esquire*, among other publications, including *CCT*. [Editor's Note: See Bookshelf, Winter 2016–17.]

Quite a few classmates responded to my January email calling for news

or recollections of our College years; most appear here, but some are being held for the next issue.

From **Henry Jackson**: "I particularly recall Professor Howard Davis' art history courses. Years after graduation, I had the opportunity to go to Bruges, Belgium, and see many of the Jan van Eyck paintings to which he had introduced me. It was a most gratifying experience."

From **Lee Percy**: "A Georgetown senior recently interviewed me about Columbia in 1968 for a class project for a course on the 1960s, and I found it a real challenge to convey to her how different the texture of life was in our college years. (It looks as though her generation may see something like the same political churn and turmoil that we did.) Otherwise, not much news: I've just come off a term as interim president of the Classical Association of the Atlantic States, I edit the journal *Classical World* and I'm working on a book on the *Aeneid*. All this happens from my post-retirement academic home at Bryn Mawr College. I'm also studying painting and drawing at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and watching my grandchildren grow."

From **Michael Jacoby Brown**: "My freshman year I had 'Mr. Roosevelt' for CC, who turned out to be FDR III (Franklin Delano Roosevelt III SIPA'64, GSAS'68)! He was wonderful enough to invite us to his apartment on Riverside Drive, where I was amazed to see photos of him sitting on Eleanor Roosevelt's knee.

"That year I was fortunate to be in Kenneth Koch's (of blessed memory) creative writing class. What a great teacher! When I was arrested for over-staying my welcome in my American History lounge in 1968, I recall how the NYPD beat up the young black teens first and most violently, before laying into to us privileged white students. I wonder how much has changed?"

"Now, I co-lead with Ron Bell, a black colleague, community organizing workshops (called 'Building Powerful Community Organizations: Power, Relationships and Race') at Stonehill College in Easton, Mass. I will also lead a workshop series, 'Facing Race,' using the Visions Inc. curriculum at my temple. My 70th birthday dance and music party (to be held on June 3, 7–11 p.m. at First



COURTESY WILL CSAPLAR '57, BUS '58

Church in Jamaica Plain, Mass.), will be a fundraiser for the Union of Minority Neighborhoods. If anyone is retired and interested in an 'encore' career, you might want to contact my daughter, Corita Brown, who works for encore.org."

I was also in FDR III's section during Spring 1966 and always was amused to look at him and his grandfather's image on a dime at the same time.

From **David Sokal**: "Contemporary Civilization made me realize that most of our ideas have deep roots, and what I learned in CC still influences my thinking. A couple of books that I've read over the last few years would make a great addition, and I like the following quote from Howard Aiken: 'Don't worry about people stealing your ideas. If your ideas are any good, you'll have to ram them down people's throats.' The two books I mentioned are *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion*, by Jonathan Haidt, and *Decisive: How to Make Better Choices in Life and Work*, by Chip Heath and Dan Heath."

From his family's holiday message, I learned that David and his Male Contraception Initiative colleagues had their first in-person board meeting in Dallas in October and that David was interviewed by NPR. MCI recently received serious funding from an anonymous donor. "Next year looks to be exciting," he writes.

From **Bruce Gillers**: "There are two recent events for our family. The primary joy was that we had a sixth grandchild, Zeva Florence, born in December to our youngest son, Joseph. In mid-December I was awarded the Distinguished Service Award at the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees and medical staff of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, which provides ophthalmic and ENT care for the Massachusetts General Hospital."

John Gaguine, a retired lawyer from Juneau, Alaska, "went from having no grandchildren at 64 to having four at 68. His son and his son's wife live in Portland, Ore., and they have a son (4) and a daughter (1.5). His daughter and her husband live in Juneau, Alaska, and have a daughter (3) and a son (nearly 1)."

From **Steve Ditlea**: "I have some news: This lifelong New Yorker (grew up literally across the street from Furnald, then always lived close by the Hudson River, from Manhattan to Tarrytown) is now a resident of Philadelphia. My wife of 24 years, Nancy Stedman, and I were fortunate to find a charming 1862 house in the historic Chestnut Hill neighborhood. We decided to relocate to a less expensive part of the world (cost of living is about a third less than in the Empire State) as we wind down our careers in journalism into semi-retirement. We both cover health topics these days; our most recent stories for separate

publications have been about staving off the threat of Alzheimer's disease. We chose Philly because Nancy still has family here and I learned to savor the area when I went with her to see her father, Murray Stedman GSAS'47 (now deceased). He taught CC at Columbia soon after WWII and I always thought I gained his approval because I was 'a Columbia man.'

"I highly recommend Philadelphia to anyone thinking of moving into retirement. Aside from first-rate housing and medical facilities for an aging population, 'The City of Brotherly Love — and Sisterly Affection' (as it is known these days) boasts affordable world-class restaurants and bars, welcoming cultural venues and a thriving music scene. What surprised me most was the friendliness and sense of community here. Total strangers say hello to you on the street. Maybe someday I'll get to say hello to a classmate here."

From **Bill Bonvillian**: "I stepped down at the end of January as director of MIT's Washington Office after 11 years. But I'm not really retiring. I will be teaching a course at MIT on innovation policy, finishing my book on advanced manufacturing (due out this fall) and will be affiliated with an MIT policy center."

From **Jesse Goldner**: "Last June I became the John D. Valentine Professor of Law, Emeritus, retiring from active teaching after 43 years at Saint Louis University's School of

Law (with secondary appointments in the departments of psychiatry and pediatrics at the university's School of Medicine and School of Public Health, and the university's Center for Health Care Ethics). The second edition of my book *Ethics and Regulation of Research with Human Subjects* (co-authored with three lawyer-bioethicists) was published in July 2015. I was fortunate in having had a career that allowed me both to teach in a wide range of legal areas and to live abroad for extended periods of time as a visiting professor (in Warsaw, Coventry, Madrid and Berlin). My wife, Judy Cromwell, and I recently returned from a trip to Cuba through the 'Road Scholar' program, which I highly recommend. We spend a fair amount of time in Chicago, where both of our children and our three grandchildren reside. If any Chicago-based classmates would like to get together, let me know."

From **Donald Schenk**: "Three years ago my wife, Deborah, and I moved from Brooklyn to Bainbridge Island, Wash., to be close to our children and grandchildren, who live in Seattle. We would never have left New York if it had not been for the grandkids, but with the benefit of hindsight it was a great move. When we are not hiking, biking, kayaking, babysitting or taking care of the oysters that I grow in front of our house in the Puget Sound, I focus on using aviation to inspire teenagers. This project started in South Africa (wondersofaviation-southafrica.org), but has expanded to include teenagers in Kitsap County, Wash. The kids are wonderful and it keeps me involved in aviation. Philanthropy is a big part of our life on Bainbridge.

"Our lives are clearly focused on the West Coast, but we still spend most of the summer at our family farm in Pennsylvania and several weeks avoiding Seattle's winter by traveling in the southern hemisphere. Deborah edits the *NYU Tax Law Review* and has board work that brings us back to Washington, D.C., and New York several times a year."

From **Jonathan Adelman** GSAS'76: "I have been elected president of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East. This organization consists of American and European faculty who want to fight BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) of Israel. I also am an affiliated professor at the University of

Haifa. I continue to be on the road, giving talks on Israel. In December, I gave talks for The American Israel Public Affairs Committee in San Antonio and in Fort Lauderdale. Since the second intifada began more than 15 years ago, I have gone on more than 400 speaking tours in the United States and abroad. I recently was in Washington, D.C., speaking on a panel of AEPi fraternity as an honorary 'bro.'

"My son, David, who speaks fluent Mandarin, works for a major Chinese venture capital firm in Shanghai. David will, in the coming months, lead groups of Chinese investors on trips to Texas and Israel in search of companies they can buy. I also am working on my 13th book, a co-edited volume on Russian-German relations."

From **Peter Behr**: "We just had our third grandchild, great news for us — another little girl. I am semi-retired, working two days a week. But I am busy with a reserve forces unit, men's groups and a bit of work for hospice and a gerontology group. Our house on the beach has recently provided us a view of humpback whales. Turning 70 this year, dang! I am featured in a new movie about hippies those many years ago: prfilmfestival.ca/films."

From **Neal Handel**: "You are correct that 'there are many classmates who have retired from a job ...' and 'there are undoubtedly grandchildren who have been born to classmates.' I don't fall into either of those categories. I am working as hard as ever as a plastic surgeon (and after 38 years in practice, I am finally beginning to 'get the hang of it'). As far as grandchildren go — not yet. But I am pleased to report that I'm the proud father of a 9-month-old son, Liam Takeo Handel. He is my fourth child (the others are 10, 11 and 12). My wife and I recently took Liam to Hawaii, where all his relatives on his mom's side live."

From **David Bradley**: "I have recently retired from being professor of linguistics at La Trobe University in Australia, and become president of the UNESCO Comité International Permanent des Linguistes, which, among other things, organizes the International Congress of Linguists, with the next congress scheduled for July 2018 in Cape Town. CIPL and I are also closely involved in work on documenting

and preserving the world's many endangered languages."

From **Patrick Mullane**: "The two professors who had an enduring impact on my personal life were Joel Newman LS'42, GSAS'62, who taught an amazing course in American music, and Melvin Schwartz '53, GSAS'58, who taught an equally amazing introductory physics course. My daughter, who is a college freshman, is probably tired of hearing me talk about these incredible teachers, but they remain my fondest memories of classes at Columbia."

1970

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Carl Hyndman GSAS'74, who had not communicated for quite a while, sent two reports, including news of a recent book. He writes: "My wife, Leigh, and I retired to a horse ranch in Ojai, Calif. The pace is slow but we keep up via the Internet. You haven't really experienced life until you can say that you mucked 10 horses before 7 a.m. My career included 35 years in domestic and international finance, including overseas assignments with Citibank and domestic assignments with Wells Fargo and the Federal Reserve Bank. I consult part time and will continue until I can no longer make the drive to Los Angeles. We would love to hear from classmates. Please reach out at atchyndman@aol.com."

"I have published my first novel. *Bookstore on the Seine* is available on Amazon and Kindle. The book includes a nostalgic look at the 1968 Columbia student revolt and a night in the Tombs jail; Woodstock and the origins of Sha Na Na (i.e., the Kingsmen) and many references to Greenwich Village and the Columbia campus. All in all, it should bring back fond memories to all who survived the '60s. For those who are really interested, visit bookstoreontheseine.com, where you can find a soundtrack that goes with the mystery novel."

David Lehman GSAS'78 wrote a thought-provoking essay on Robert Frost's most famous poem, *The Road Not Taken*; the essay appeared in *The*



Sha Na Na rocked out at Reunion Weekend 2016; George Leonard '67 shared this screenshot and suggests you relive the moment by searching "Sha Na Na at Columbia" on YouTube. Kneeling: Leonard; second row, left to right: Rob Leonard '70, Al Cooper '71, Joe Witkin '70, Donny York '71; third row, left to right: Elliot Cahn '70, Jocko Marcellino '72, Rich Joffe '72; and fourth row, left to right: Henry Gross, David Garrett SEAS'70, Bruce Clarke '74 and Scott Powell '70.

Wall Street Journal on October 14. David notes, "Generations of commencement speakers have quoted [the poem] because of its perceived message. Avoid the common route. Go your own way. Be a maverick, a nonconformist in the great American tradition of Emerson and Thoreau." And yet David believes that the poem is also about the inevitability of regret: "You cannot 'be one traveler' and take both paths. At any crossroads you must choose, and though you may keep alive the hope you'll return someday, you know deep down you will never get a second chance. I doubted if I should ever come back."

David then focuses on the proud boast in the last stanza, which begins with, "I shall be telling this with a sigh" and ends with a declaration of independence, "I took the one less traveled by/And that has made all the difference." David concludes, "[the] declaration may be a case of a proud man praising his own past."

I thoroughly enjoyed the essay. **Peter Schubert** GSAS'88 and I wistfully recalled recently departed Columbia College music professor Howard Shanet '39, GSAS'41 as I congratulated Peter on receiving McGill University's Lifetime Achievement Award for Leadership in Learning. The award given to Peter recognizes "sustained excellence in leadership and innovation, as well as the active integration of

teaching and learning with inquiry, scholarship and research." Among Peter's pioneering innovations was "the use of videos as a tool for teaching" and, in one instance, he made a video on how to improvise canons in the Renaissance style.

The tribute to Peter ends with this accolade: "Peter Schubert is always engaged with people, continuously finding new ways to understand, perform, compose, talk, write and think about what he loves: Music."

1971

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Disappointed not to see your classmates here? They are disappointed not to see you! If you don't write in, I write the column for you. Here goes:

A 15-year-old today was born about the same time 9-11 happened. A 15-year-old when the Cubs last won the World Series (1908) before ending their 108-year drought was 68, our age or thereabouts, when Roger Maris broke Babe Ruth's home-run record in 1961. You remember Maris? How does that 15-year-old today perceive us? How do we perceive that person's perception of what is real life and what is history?

On the other hand, when I go grocery shopping, I hear the rock and pop music of my junior high and high school days — and in the original versions, not elevator music. (The customer cohort is millennials.)

So is time expanded or compressed?

Know the names of the tall police officer and the short squat cab driver in *It's A Wonderful Life* who save George Bailey (played by Jimmy Stewart)? Respectively, Bert and Ernie. So generations may be more connected than you think.

I'm sure that you can write a better item than my off-the-cuff note. Now prove it. Even better, you probably have news about yourself, your family or your classmates. Or share your best Columbia story. Send them my way at jes200@columbia.edu.

That brings me to my trademark sign-off: Remember back 50 (50!) Septembers ago and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. *We are still connected.*

1972

REUNION 2017
JUNE 1-4

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REUNION 2017

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As a group, we '72ers are clearly entering a transitional period. Many classmates are moving into retirement, planning to do those things they never had time for, while others are thinking about the final stage of our careers and what's still left to accomplish. Along those lines, **Bill Hudgins** retired in March 2016 after a 23-year career as an editor and writer at Hammock Publishing in Nashville. While at Hammock, he wrote for and edited magazines and other media for a variety of clients, including a trucker-oriented magazine for TravelCenters of America, the former investment firm of J.C. Bradford & Co., First Data Corp., the Daughters of the

American Revolution (DAR) and the Marine Corps League.

Bill notes he is neither a trucker nor a Marine, but is a fast study. See this piece he did for *CCT*: college.columbia.edu/cct_archive/nov01/nov01_feature_boards.html.

Bill contributes articles and book reviews to the DAR magazine *American Spirit*, but is enjoying the freedom to study Spanish (which led to a three-week sojourn in Cuba in mid-2016) and to work on the 20-acre hobby farm where he and his wife, Wilda Dodson, have lived since 2002. For nine years, they have partnered with a local equine rescue group that uses the farm to rehabilitate equines rescued from abusive and neglectful owners.

Richard Macksoud was interested in the Fall 2016 Class Notes column, in which I described the magical Sha Na Na concert at Reunion 2016. "Wish I had been there to see Sha Na Na. I remember well their first performance in old Ferris Booth. People dancing on the tables and having the time of our lives. Oh well, I get to keep that memory."

Richard has a question for **Beresford Hayward**, whose multicultural music programs in Paris were also described in that column: "I noted that in the discussion of Berry Hayward you mentioned he presented a program on American music. Perhaps you can ask him what is 'American music'? Is it the blues or bluegrass? Or jazz? Or country? Or gospel? Or all of them? I do not know. His opinion would be interesting as he has lived overseas for so long.

"All the best from, of all places, Mississippi."

This will be the last column published before our 45th reunion, Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4. You can get more information at college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017.

I hope to see many, many of you there.

1973

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Y'all will be reading these in 2017 — may this year have started well for you! **Don Jensen** has been

named editor of *Base Ball: A Journal of the Early Game*, succeeding MLB official historian John Thorn. This journal will be published yearly; Don is looking to add new authors, so write in!

Michael Shapiro has some new CD releases, one the score to *Frankenstein* and one a sonata for violin and piano. He recently collaborated with Paul Shaffer (of Letterman fame) in performance.

Allen Schill says he lives an uneventful life, spending most of his time on his "I hope idiosyncratic still-life photography." His website (to see if he lives up to his self-description) is allenschill.com, strangely enough. He has, of late, been associated with a Swiss gallery,

stone reached in the stock market. Most of us saw the "Dow 20,000" headlines trumpeted in every newspaper in January. Some may have noted that the press reports often mentioned that the Dow Jones Industrial Average first broke 1,000 in November 1972. That made me wonder how tuition increases compared with stock market gains.

Ivy tuition in 1972 was around \$2,600 per year. This year's Columbia College tuition is a mere \$52,478, or almost exactly 20 times the 1972 tuition. Thus, the 20-fold increase in Columbia's tuition was identical to the 20-fold increase in the stock market. (That still doesn't make those tuition checks any less painful!)

For many years, **Kevin Ward** (a

Bob Adler '74 enjoys the retired life in Belfast, Maine, where he is taking a course on the development of the state of Israel at the University of Maine.

Photographica Fine Art. Scuttlebutt is that he will have an exhibition there this year.

Lastly, a query: **Steven Starr** took a course in 1971 at Barnard called "England Under the Tudors and Stuarts." He lost the syllabus in a flood — if anyone knows where another copy might be, he would be most appreciative.

Send notes to beta1@bellsouth.net to be included in the Summer or the Fall issue. Hasta.

1974

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It is frequently commented that the cost of college tuition has gone up far faster than almost anything else. However, as we all learned from the "alternative facts" stated during the presidential election, even that which is stated repeatedly is not always true.

What brought this to mind was not only the Brandeis tuition bill for my son, David, and the forthcoming American University tuition for my daughter, Katie (recently admitted early decision!), but also the mile-

financial adviser at Merrill Lynch in Paramus, N.J.) has lived in Glen Rock, N.J., raising four sons in a large suburban home. Now that their sons have moved out, Kevin and his wife, Maureen, have downsized and moved to Montvale, N.J. Their youngest son, Brian, attends Fordham for undergrad, although he is currently studying abroad in London at the Gabelli School of Business. Kevin tells us that his oldest son, Matthew '11, lives in San Francisco and is engaged to a Barnard alumna he met while on campus. About nine months ago Matt left a position at YouTube to join a tech startup, Mux. Seems strange to we geezers that someone would leave an established tech giant for a high-risk venture, but then I recalled **Rob Knapp** (partner at the law firm McKenzie & Knapp in Manhattan) saying a few years back that his son, Henry, had left a job at Facebook to join a startup. Incidentally, Rob told me that company was bought out by Microsoft and Henry is back pounding the pavement for a new venture. These kids!

A while back (ca. 2012) **Mark Lebowhl**, chairman of the Department of Dermatology at Mount Sinai Hospital) told us that his son, Andy '04, LAW '07 had just opened a bar in New Haven, Conn., called

Karaoke Heroes. Now we learn Andy has sold the bar and for the past year has been the chief strategy officer and general counsel for a restructuring company. Not a lot of details yet, but it sure smells like another startup.

The retired life in Belfast, Maine, seems to agree with **Bob Adler**. Having left a lot of work and other responsibilities behind in Montclair, N.J., Bob says he is able to enjoy the many cultural events in this small artistic community. He is also attending a class on the development of the state of Israel at a “senior college” on the local campus of the University of Maine. Last January, Bob took a two-week trip to Israel to join his son Jake. Together they will research the Jewish Brigade of the British Army and the then secret underground Haganah (a Jewish paramilitary organization, which became the core of the Israeli Defense Forces). Bob’s father served in both. Jake is only a year from receiving his ordination as a rabbi. Bob’s daughter started a master’s program in occupational therapy at Temple University last summer. Looks like 2018 could be a big year for graduations in the Adler family!

We have learned that **Jon Cuneo’s** law firm, Cuneo Gilbert & LaDuca, has consolidated two of its main offices (downtown Washington, D.C., and Baltimore) into a new principal office in another part of D.C. (near American University). The 20-person firm maintains satellite offices in Boulder, St. Louis and Brooklyn.

Word came from **Mike Slater**, in the Midwest, who was a colleague in

the Columbia Bartending Agency, the student-run business that provided bartenders for private parties all over Manhattan. After regaling with a few choice (unrepeatable) memories, Mike wrote, “Someday I’d love to see a collection of anecdotes from my fellow bartenders. I think after 40 years we are released from our oath of secrecy!”

Something tells me that **Steve Dworkin**, at Citigroup in Los Angeles, might have a lot to contribute! Mike is a social and behavioral professor at the School of Communication at The Ohio State University in Columbus. He tells us he has a daughter in Los Angeles and a son in Shanghai, who works for SAP China.

Chris Hansen (retired in London) wrote in to recommend classmates join him in helping the Alumni Representative Committee to interview applicants to the College (and Engineering). Go to admissions.columbia.edu/arc for more information. “You’ll be helping to choose the next generation of Columbia College and Engineering students.” Chris says he does some interviews via Skype when geography is challenging, so you can contribute no matter where you live.

A quick note to make sure you saw the feature in the Winter 2016–17 issue of *CCT* featuring photos by **Timothy Greenfield-Sanders**. As noted in previous columns, Timothy is a highly acclaimed portrait photographer and videographer who has produced a series of photographic exhibitions and PBS specials that highlight various segments of society (blacks, Latinos, women, and the gay and the transgender populations). Last September, a composite exhibit of 151 of his portraits opened at the Annenberg Space for Photography in Los Angeles.

What caught my eye was part of the preamble that revealed how Timothy had a very different freshman year than most of us. When he came to New York he contacted a family friend — an actress who happened to travel in the flamboyant NYC underground scene of the early 1970s. On their first excursion she took him to a party at the Chelsea Hotel, and he met Andy Warhol, Lou Reed and others. Timothy is quoted, “I quickly shifted my morning classes to the afternoon.”

There you have it. Our kids ditching dream tech jobs for start-

ups. Classmates downsizing their homes and exploring new interests as they contemplate the next phase of life. Take a moment to send in what you are up to and what dreams you still harbor!

1975

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It’s not often that I receive an email that can fill an entire set of Class Notes, but here is one, from **Charlie Lindsay**.

Thanks, Charlie!

“Having received a recent issue of *CCT*, along with its celebration of the newly installed Class of 2020, I was thrown into depression at the mere mention of a date (2020) that should still be part of science fiction, in my mind. Where has the time gone?”

“**Ira Malin** and I share the equally amazing experience that the last of our children will graduate from Columbia College this year, although my wife, Fern Lindsay BUS’82, and I will contribute for one more year for our other daughter’s Law School bills. Empty Nest Syndrome all around.

“I’m in touch with old friends.

I spoke with **David Stein** while visiting friends in Washington, D.C. David still has the best business card in the world (Office of the Secretary of Defense, Senior Policy Advisor: Nuclear and Missile Defense) — if that doesn’t start a conversation, nothing will.

“I suffered through the Columbia-Princeton football game with Joe Seldner ’74 and his far-too-lovely-for-him girlfriend, topped off by a late lunch at V&T.

“I regularly see and speak to now long-suffering brother-in-law, Steven Solmonson ’76. Steve is married to my wife’s sister, the former Leslie Morgan BC’77. Leslie and Fern’s father, David Morgan, was a graduate of Engineering, then called the School of Mines, in the 1940s.

“Once all the tuition bills are finished, I will move away from the advising and financing of new technology and media companies and will spend more time on my hobby that has turned into a full-time job, producing movies. My latest, *Sexual*

Healing: The Marvin Gaye Story, will be released this year. I’m also doing a series of seven 45-minute IMAX 3D documentaries to be shown in destination theaters located at some of the most iconic tourist locations in the world (the Taj Mahal, the Great Wall, Angkor Wat, etc.) starting this year. Should be very exciting.

“Anyone who finds themselves in the Palm Beach, Fla., area is welcome to drop me a line and come by for a cocktail, in the welcoming tradition of the 1754 H.C. Earwicker Heeltap Reunion. Roar, Lion, Roar!”

1976

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No column this issue, but one will be coming in the Summer issue! I hope you are all well. Please send news to kenhowitt76@gmail.com.

1977

REUNION 2017
JUNE 1–4

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REUNION 2017

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See you at Reunion 2017, Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4! We are on track for a very satisfying 40th. For general information and registration info, go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017.

As of this writing (in February), I see that 16 of us pledged to attend, most recently **John Santamaria**, who speaks for the rest when he writes, “I do hope to be at the reunion — looking forward to seeing everyone.”

Along with the on-campus activities that are open to all alumni, the Class of 1977 is planning a get-together with the Barnard Class of 1977 as well a panel of classmates to speak at our Saturday dinner.

Read
CCT Online

To opt out of the print edition, click “Manage Your Subscription” at college.columbia.edu/cct and follow the domestic instructions. You’ll receive an email when each new issue is posted.

We also have a class mystery afoot! A non-alumnus reached out to the Columbia Alumni Center because he found a '77 class ring in the Appleton, Wis., region. If you lost your ring in Wisconsin, please contact CCT at cct@columbia.edu.

1978

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Strange things afoot in the nation, no longer led by a Columbia man, but a fine time to contemplate democracy, liberalism and the role of man and government. Good news on the basketball court as the Lions seem to have returned to form, reminiscent of the 1970s and Coach Tom Penders' teams of **Mike Wilhite** and the like.

For this column, I asked you to remember the January 1977 presidential inauguration when we were all on campus — that of Jimmy Carter, who had beaten Gerald Ford in a strange election that hinged on support for an evangelical Southerner (who was a Democrat), the Ford "Poland" gaffe and his Nixon pardon. Seems like a long time ago in a different land, perhaps. I also wanted to know your favorite vacation spot and, of course, any thoughts about the first 100 days of the New Yorker in the White House.

My good friend and fellow Connecticut man **John Flores** LAW'81 notes that there "is nothing much new with me. I am approaching my fifth anniversary as general counsel for Boston Mutual Life Insurance Co. Since my wife, Lucille, and I turned 60 around the holidays, we decided to take the girls (plus husband and fiancé) on a trip to Disney World/Universal Studios on my nickel. In this way they would not have to go through the stress of throwing a surprise party for us. We had a great time.

"I guess I was working as usual in Ferris Booth Hall during the inauguration but I don't really remember ..."

Another Connecticut alum is **Alex Demac**, who writes, "I have been developing a tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art based on its architectural collection history."

Alec's favorite place to vacation is New York City, no surprise, and

he is very worried about the new administration.

Also thinking about museums is **Peter Samis**, the associate curator of interpretation at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. "We held a book launch event this winter, (it's about creating the visitor-centered museum) at the Oakland Museum of California, co-sponsored by the John F. Kennedy University Museum Studies Program. Looks like there will be another event at the closing plenary of the annual Museums and the Web conference in Cleveland. You can get more information at amazon.com/Creating-Visitor-centered-Museum-Peter-Samis/dp/1629581917.

Ronald Koury, managing editor of *The Hudson Review*, writes: "I have edited an anthology, *Literary Awakenings: Personal Essays from the Hudson Review*, which was published in January. It is a collection of memoirs that function as literary criticism, from a period of more than 30 years of the magazine."

We have not heard from our sports maven **Tom Mariam** in a while, so it was great to learn that "My wife, Alyce, and I proudly celebrated the bat mitzvah of our daughter, Madison, in November. It was especially nice to share this milestone with a number of friends who go back with me to my Columbia days. I do remember watching the Carter event in John Jay and then heading out on the road with the basketball team to Ithaca to broadcast its game."

Tom's favorite place to vacation is Israel — where he will soon be able to visit ambassador **David Friedman** LAW'79 — and his favorite spot in town? Levien Gym, of course!

Speaking of David, **Gary Pickholz** SIPA'81 wrote, "I remember David fondly; he had a fantastic sense of humor and a brilliant mind. My lab at Oxford is starting to take off and is occupying most of my time now (weirdsciencelab.com).

"I drafted a few position papers for the Trump campaign and transition team, which was certainly a unique experience, but I will not be joining the new administration. I was in Washington, D.C., for the Carter inauguration, standing next to three of my Columbia professors, all of whom would soon be sworn in for the White House or State department staffs."

Gary's favorite vacation location, not surprisingly is the "Zionist

Riviera," which he claims is "simply the nicest beaches anywhere in the Mediterranean, with twice the days of perfect weather as Côte d'Azur."

Song man **Henry Aronson's** whole family is busy, as he notes: "Dates have been announced for the Rocktopia Live spring tour, for which I'll be playing piano and conducting. Not all the dates are up on rocktopialive.com, but keep checking. Also, *Loveless Texas*, the musical my wife, Cailín Heffernan, and I have been developing for about 10 years, will have its premiere production in NYC this fall, probably in September. Negotiations are under way with venues."

Brian Guillorn LAW'82 remembers spending the inauguration watching the swearing-in while he was applying for law school. Brian has made a change in his world, reporting, "Four years ago, my wife, Polly Gregor BC'79, GSAS'86, and I semi-retired to our weekend place in the mid-Hudson Valley.

"We live in High Falls, N.Y., next door to New Paltz and across the river from Poughkeepsie. To my bemusement, we now run a small, high-end poultry farm, selling pastured heritage ducks, geese and chickens. It has been quite an experience. The Hudson Valley is filled with an incredible variety of farms growing and raising superb vegetables, fruit and livestock. A significant number of the farms are operated as second-career farms by transplanted metro NYC people. Poultry farming is very much a 'hands-on' business, a far cry from my first career as a commercial litigator and Polly's life in scientific research."

Another man of law, **Ed Ferguson** of Brooklyn, does not mince words about the new administration, joking, "An oft-maligned minority — shallow, lying braggarts — will finally have their day in the sun. I'm looking forward to 2016 receding in the rearview mirror. Some things thankfully happen only once — like turning 60 and watching a complete jackass become President. It was definitely not the time to quit drinking, though I did manage to stop sniffing glue."

Ed will probably spend time in Kauai, Hawaii, if the glue doesn't get him first.

Ironically, given the new class connection to official United States policy on Israel, **Michael Glanzer**

is not happy about our old school's handling of various issues that you might have read about concerning academics and the Jewish state. "A year and a half ago, I wrote Dean James J. Valentini a five-page letter discussing the experiences my daughter had in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies. She had to switch majors to the economics department.

"Tragically, the University has now been identified in a report released by Brandeis University as one of the most hostile schools for Jewish students in the United States. No other Ivy League institution was on that list, although other less prestigious schools were. ...

"From tragic to comic, Samantha Bee's comedy show recently featured a photo of Low Library when discussing academic anti-Semitism. Although under a most generous interpretation this development has escaped the attention of the administration, I think it more likely that institutional inertia and defensiveness account for the singular lack of any action. When will this change?"

Chuck Callan was celebrating his 20th birthday on 6 John Jay during the Carter festivities. Chuck is "looking forward" to an "increase of 1.7 degrees Fahrenheit during the Trump term" and is looking forward even more to our 40th reunion next year. "I plan to host a party for the pre-reunion activity (40th) and have started to discuss this with the Alumni Office. The one I had for the 35th was a blast."

On a somewhat metaphysical tour, Chuck writes his favorite place to visit would be to "read the classics again and be transported on a shield to Elysian Fields. It's all about the text!"

Kevin Vitting retreats to "Sanibel, Fla., a lovely, affordable island off Fort Myers without traffic lights or neon signs — 'Nantucket on the Gulf coast'" — when he takes time off from the Suburban Nephrology Group in Ridgewood, N.J. Kevin's advice for the President: "I hope he will streamline the economy in ways that help the nation at large without hurting too many people in the process. I hope he tones down his rhetoric and turns off his Twitter — and he needs to listen!"

Joseph Schachner, of Teledyne LeCroy in New York, is all about Southern California these days: "I'm a grandpa! You see, my older

daughter, now an associate professor in psychology at UCSD, had her very own infant development subject! We'll be going to San Diego frequently; this is my new favorite place to visit. But actually I think slightly north of the city, La Jolla or some of the other coastal towns, are really worth recommending.

"I don't remember the Carter time well, but I was in the 'combined plan' so this was my first year in the Engineering school and I was probably up in Columbia's amateur radio station, W2AEE. As for the President, I predict that Trump will probably be impeached before the end of four years, and then the question is, how will Mike Pence change the country?"

Lots to think about what America is all about in 2017, and who better than those of us with classic "Great Books" training — this is exactly what we were programmed to take on. Where was I in January 1977? Sitting at The Gold Rail with Peter Low, discussing various plans for the coming semester at WKCR. I remember he was not happy that I kept leaving our table to move closer to the small TV over the Rail's bar so I could hear Carter's speech. Different times for sure, and while I was excited about the first Democrat since I had become a political being, the technology at the bar was a far cry from the fancy Ampex decks and high quality sound we were used to at our little college radio station.

Hope I saw you at Levien this winter and perhaps at an early round game for the NCAA tournament this March. Who knows? As we saw in November, anything is possible.

1979

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It has been a busy year for Tom Kligerman with the release of his second book, *The New Shingled House*, co-authored with his two partners at Ike Kligerman Barkley. According to Tom, "It features 14 of our shingle-style houses. We traveled the country giving talks and joining panels discussing the work in the book as well as architecture in general.

"I took a six-week sabbatical starting in mid-January — the first

time I took a real break since before I was a freshman at Columbia. [At this writing, I planned to] be at the American Academy in Rome, working on the outline for a book as well as traveling in the footsteps of regency architect Sir John Soane, retracing part of the Grand Tour route he started in 1778. I will draw and watercolor in my spare time.

"My girls are doing well. Rebecca lives in New York and works in marketing. Katherine studies architecture and interior design at the University of Texas, Austin. Magdalen is a junior in high school and has her eye on a few colleges, maybe in Europe.

"We bought an apartment in Manhattan, so I'm spending more time in town between trips to far-flung projects that I am designing across the United States. It's nice to wake up in the city.

"Wishing classmates a fantastic 2017!"

Tom, I need a review of your next book, *The Old Shingled House That I Lived In!*

Jack J. Lipari is based at Helmer, Conley & Kasselmann in Somers Point, N.J. "The law firm has various branches, but I work primarily out of the Somers Point location, which is close to my house in Egg Harbor Township. I retired at the end of 2012 from the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office. I concentrate on the practice of criminal law, with an emphasis on legal writing, but the firm practices in a number of areas. I enjoy working among my colleagues, a number of whom have had similar previous professionally rewarding experiences in government employment."

Jack, I wonder if you live near my old township, Lox & Egg Harbor!

Gilead Lancaster's book, *EMBRACE: A Revolutionary New Healthcare System for the Twenty-First Century*, was published last summer. He says, "It details a healthcare system reform plan that a group of healthcare professionals and I have been working on for almost 10 years. Details can be found on theembraceplan.org.

"In the meantime, I keep my day job as director of non-invasive cardiology at Bridgeport Hospital in Connecticut, along with several other Columbia alumni who became cardiologists, Charles Landau SEAS'80, Craig McPherson '72 and Kieve Berkwitz '75."



John Oberdick '79 shared this photo from the 2016 Alumni Parade of Classes.

Gil, I'm an orthopedic surgeon and the only brace I know surrounds the knee!

John Oberdick GSAS'88 writes, "This is my first Class Notes update, so it's long overdue! Last May, I attended Class Day for the graduation of my daughter, Meena '16, which I guess is what inspired me to take pen to paper. I am an associate professor of neuroscience at Ohio State. My research specialty is the molecular genetics of cerebellum development and function, but most recently I am working on a preventive pharmacotherapy for neonatal abstinence syndrome. I moved to Columbus for this position in 1992 with my wife, Dina Roldan BC'87. We have three children, Meena, Gus and Nicholas. Meena (23) graduated cum laude with a B.A. in political science and history. She lives in Brooklyn and is a paralegal at a small immigration law firm in Chelsea. She plans to go to law school. Gus (22) studies engineering at Ohio University and majors in computer science. Nicholas (14) is in the eighth grade, and plays travel soccer and the trumpet. Dina and I are so proud of them all. We spent the Christmas holiday as a family in Amsterdam; kind of a celebration of Meena's graduation and my upcoming 60th birthday. Wonderful time!

"On Class Day and at the Legacy Luncheon for legacy parents, I reconnected with **Bob Deresiewicz**, whose daughter, Ellie '16, graduated with Meena. It was great meeting up with Bob again, a co-resident of 9 Jay my sophomore year and a

brilliant pre-med I had to compete with (only moderately successfully) in Professor Charles Dawson's orgo class! So very odd and exciting that after all these years our paths would cross again. After 9 Jay I moved to the new ZBT Delta Chapter house on West 115th Street, in my junior year. Calling the 115th Street house home for the first time were a mostly iconoclastic and aspirationally diverse band of brothers who were surprisingly cohesive. A quick shout out in hopes of a reunion someday soon: Kevin 'Father' Barrett '80, my roommate at ZBT (and another former 9 Jay denizen) and who attended my wedding in San Diego in 1991; **Joseph 'Jeph'/'Muddy' Loeb** (also of 9 Jay), founding father of the new Delta house in 1977; and others who come to mind in no particular order: Cal and Mal, Daz, Flash and the Z-men, to name a few. Some free association geezer flashbacks of ZBT, Columbia and NYC in the late '70s: Nymphs and Satyrs, Come as Your Dead, Needle Dik, Sick Dick and the Volkswagens, Trader Vic's, Buffalo Roadhouse, Kings Pub, The West End, Mama Joy's, Sam. Go Lions!"

John, here's a geezer flashback: The eggplant pizza at V&T!

Happy New Year greetings from **Michael P. Kelly**, who has been chairman of McCarter & English since July 2009. Mike writes, "At the ripe age of 60, I still enjoy an active trial practice. I celebrated 33 years of marriage to Deanna and am blessed with two great children, Joanna '14 (24) and Patrick (21). No grandchildren, at least none that I know of.

"I am still mourning the loss of my Columbia football coach, Bill Campbell '62, TC '64. I stopped by his pub, The Old Pro, while I was in Palo Alto, Calif., for business.

"Please give my best to all of my old friends."

Mike, I have fond memories of meeting your father during freshman orientation in his cowboy hat and giant belt buckle. He was so proud of you and your twin brother.

Geoff Newman: "In 2016, I continued my work in aerospace for UTC Aerospace Systems and branched out to support our micro electromechanical systems business as well. I traveled heavily, with five trips to Japan, four to Korea, two to Israel, two to England and one to Singapore. I live in West Hartford, Conn."

Robert C. Klapper: "This column's Columbia memory will really move the grey matter around in your brain because it involves the telephone — not the iPhone, cell phone, flip phone or whatever it is we call the walkie-talkie that's in your pocket right now. I'm going back to our sophomore year, when I lived in Hartley Hall — God knows what the name of that place is now, probably Sports Authority of America Hall or whoever the latest billionaire donor was — so I am going way back to rotary phones and Hartley Hall. [Editor's note: It's still Hartley Hall.]

"I was so excited to get this room, which was my second to start the school year because my first roommate was expelled for being an ax murderer or something similar. To this day, I do not know what happened to him. I didn't know the science of the ax was a major at the College.

"I was so excited to begin cohabitating with a quiet, courteous and less-threatening scholar. The moment I settled into this paradise of a room on Morningside Heights, the phone rang. You all remember those days. I picked up the phone, excited to speak to someone clearly wishing me well in my new humble abode when the caller said, 'Hello, is this the reservation for the squash courts?' Emotionally crushed, I replied, 'No, I'm sorry, this is my dorm room, you must have the wrong number,' and hung up. Two minutes later, the phone rang again, interrupting my unpacking. Again I was excited to speak to the potential Barnard caller on the other end and was crushed to hear the same request: 'Hi, I'd like to make a reservation for

the squash courts.' Well you can only imagine what happened next — the phone continued to ring with folks trying to make reservations for squash. After the first 10 calls, I was really starting to lose my patience and my new quiet paradise of a room was becoming a nightmare. Apparently the phone number for this room was one digit off from the squash court reservation line.

"So I ask you, fellow '79er, almost 40 years later, what would you have done to solve this problem? Clearly asking the gym to change its phone number was not going to happen and neither was the bureaucratic phone system at the College going to change my phone number, but the solution I came up with (and where this memory came from) is due to a solution to a similar problem I incurred in 2016.

"OK, time's up. I'll give you the brilliant solution I came up with. I mean, I had to study. I needed the phone to stop ringing with squash enthusiasts because organic chemistry was in my future and no one cared why I was unable to sleep or study. So here it is ...

"I started taking reservations. Everyone who called, I acknowledged that I was the squash reservation line and gave them the same date and time to show up at the court. This must have led to all kinds of confusion, but it was the only way to train the gerbils of squash that the pellet has been moved in the cage. When they all showed up at once and realized the futility of making a reservation by phone, I was finally able to get some peace and quiet.

"We all learned a lot more during those years at the College than what was in the classroom. Now you know why I learned to hate squash. Roar, lion, roar!

1980

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Spring is in the air and NYC is starting to bloom. Yankees, Mets, Columbia baseball and golf are on my mind.

I attended our annual dinner at Carmine's with **Jack Hersch**

SEAS'80, Dave Maloof and Harlan Simon '81. The food was plentiful and the conversation enlightening. Dave has written a new book, *Christianity Matters: How Over Two Millennia the Meek and the Merciful Revolutionized Civilization — and Why It Needs to Happen Again*. In these trying geopolitical times, I suggest reading Dave's book to see how you can make a difference.

This year's John Jay Awards Dinner honored my former football teammate Joe Cabrera '82. **Shawn FitzGerald** and I attended; it was nice to see many of our footballers in good form.

A blast from the past: **Shahin Shayan** was honored with the '79 soccer team at the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame inauguration dinner in October. Shahin was one of the first people I met on 13 Carman and was one heck of a soccer player. He has spent his career as an international finance dealmaker on both sides of the world. Shahin and his family live in Los Angeles but he still has his CU roots.

Drop me a line at mcbcu80@yahoo.com!

1981

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CCT welcomes your new (returning) class correspondent, **Kevin Fay**. Thanks, Kevin!

Kevin writes: "To the Class of 1981 — I have decided to take on the role of class correspondent for what I believe is the third time in 35 years. This is the least I can do for the College that provided me (and our class) the opportunity to be surrounded by outstanding faculty members in the most stimulating city in the United States. Of course, at the time we were at Columbia the city was filthy, crime-ridden and broke, however, you could get a beer and a shot at Cannon's for less than a single cup of Starbucks coffee. Oh, how the neighborhood has changed! Please send updates to kfay0516@gmail.com or to the mailing address at the top of the column.

"I did not see in the Winter 2016–17 issue of *CCT* any mention of the 150th anniversary celebra-

tion of Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) at Columbia. The event was black-tie and was held in Low Library on October 22. There must have been 150 alumni brothers in attendance (my roommate, George Watson SEAS'80, came all the way from New Mexico!). From the Class of 1981, in addition to me, were **Ed Klees** and **Brian Krisberg**. While we no longer own the fraternity house, the Fiji spirit is still evident on campus. Regardless of how the University views fraternities on campus, to have an organization survive 150 years (established the year after the Civil War ended) is amazing."

Daniel Gordis lives in Jerusalem and works at Shalem College, which uses a core curriculum influenced by Columbia's. He recently published his 11th book, *Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn*. It was awarded the 2016 National Jewish Book Award for "Book of the Year."

From **Ed Savage**: "I have not had contact with any classmates or people whom I knew from Columbia for many years. I also have not attended alumni events, mainly for lack of time and other life interests.

"One thing I have done, for the past 20 years, however, is regional interviews for the Alumni Representative Committee. I have found this to be very interesting and rewarding, though also frustrating because very few of the candidates I have interviewed were admitted. One thing that is important about participating in these interviews is the questions the students ask me. Whether it is 'Why did you chose Columbia?' or 'Why did you like attending Columbia?' or 'Would you attend Columbia again?', they all provoke a common thought — what did this four-year period of my life mean to me and do for me? Here is the short answer: Confidence, independence, competence, accomplishment and breadth. Confidence in myself and ability to pursue new interests, independence to pursue my interests, competence in my pursuits, accomplishment in my field of interest and an expanded breadth of academic interests fostered by the Core Curriculum.

"I have three children. None were interested in attending Columbia. My daughter went to Bryn Mawr and teaches middle school math, my older son went to Washington University and is an engineer in the utilities department there and the

third, also a son, is a musical theatre major at Penn State, aiming for a Broadway career. Very different from their father's choice of career!

"After Columbia, I went to the Yale School of Medicine, trained in general surgery at Penn and cardiothoracic surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. I have been a practicing cardiothoracic surgeon since finishing my training in 1994. I have worked and lived in a number of cities, but settled where I am now in 2009 and hope to complete my career here. I'm a fitness enthusiast and earned a black belt in Shotokan karate.

"I do say that I envy those of you living in New York, but only a little! Having lived in Florida for seven years now, I do miss the fall. However, if I never see another snowflake, it will be too soon!"

Seth Haberman: "With the help of **Tom Glocer**, I sold my latest company to Comcast and have a job for the first time in 30 years. So now, I'm leaving Comcast and on to my next ventures in educational technology with an Israeli startup."

From **Jay Craddock:** "After a full career in my hometown caring for my friends and neighbors as a firefighter/paramedic, I retired. Now I care for my disabled parents and 6-year-old son. However, I have a servant's heart and the need to help more. Early life as the son of a statesman, lessons learned in scouting and, of course, the Columbia experience have instilled a desire to fix what's broken. In 2018 intend to run for U.S. Senate in my home state of Nevada.

"We all sail aboard the same ship. Yet everyone is afraid the other will run us aground. The Elephants fear the Donkeys. The John Birchers fear the Rhinos. The Reformers fear the Socialists.

"Our ship, the U.S. Constitution, is a superb vessel, designed by the Founding Fathers and constructed of their genius. Their genius included foresight, and that forethought included Article V. We must abandon the contentious issues, whether port or starboard, and tend to the needs of the ship. We must use Article V to clean the barnacles from her hull before the weight of our own neglect sinks our ship and drowns our liberty.

"Here is my platform:

"1. Legislative: A) Take career politicians out of the equation. Create term limits for Congress. Establish term limits like the President for both Senators and Representatives. As I have said before, power is a carcinogen to the mind, and power held too long a malignancy. B) Take control of the Senate from the corporations and return control of the Senate to the state legislatures. Rescind the 17th Amendment to the Constitution and allow each state to determine how its own state's Senators shall be selected and/or recalled. C) Rewrite the long-standing rules of the Senate and the House to promote coalitions of the like-minded to imagine and then build a great society.

"2. Judicial: A) Create term limits for Supreme Court Justices. B) Recognize each state's Supreme Courts as final judicial authority in that state unless a matter is between two or more states. C) End the practice of federal judicial review.

"3. Presidential: A) Give the President the line item veto, then give the Congress the power to override the use of a line item veto with a simple majority. B) Limit the life of Executive Orders to the term of the executive. C) Limit the scope of Administrative Regulations as not to create unfunded mandates or permanent bureaucratic expansions.

"4. Political: A) Create real campaign reform with contributions removed from the equation. Not just corporate money, ALL private money. When someone runs for office, give him/her a tax-supported campaign fund and that's all. No personal money, no other monetary contributions and no paid campaign

employees. Give every candidate the same set budget (what a great test of fiscal responsibly), say a campaign debit card with \$5 per registered voter in the district they are running in. B) Free but equal U.S. postage for small districts. Free but equal newspaper advertising for larger districts. Free but equal TV time for national races. C) And for humanities sake, censor negative, dishonest and unproven material before release.

"5. Financial: A) Bring the Federal Reserve Bank out of the shadows. Nationalize the Federal Reserve and broaden its Governance. B) Establish a flat income tax on all individuals. C) Collect taxes at the state level in each state as determined by each state's needs. D) Then require each state to pay upkeep of the federal government according to each state's income. E) Require the federal government to maintain a balanced budget. F) Constitutionally prohibit unfunded federal mandates.

"Contact me at jaygregorycraddock@gmail.com. I would appreciate your support."

1982

REUNION 2017
JUNE 1-4

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REUNION2017

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Greetings, gentlemen! I trust all is well. Upon receipt of this edition of *CCT*, you'll have but a few weeks to make arrangements to attend our (gulp!) 35th reunion. It will take place during Reunion 2017, Thursday, June 1-Sunday, June 4. For those planning to attend, let everyone know you'll be there: college.columbia.edu/alumni/events/reunion/2017/pledged-attend. For general information, go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017."

You should be aware that rooms are actually available on campus at a low cost. During last year's All-Class Reunion I stayed in Carman Hall.

Surprisingly, it had fully functional air conditioning. It was truly a "DeLorean-flux capacitor moment" for me!

This year's Reunion Committee is staffed by generous and stalwart classmates **Joe Cabrera, Frank Lopez-Balboa, Victor Lopez-Balboa, Alex Moon, David Filosa, Edward Lopez, John Dawson, Arthur Staub, James Altuner, Andrew Danzig, Max Dietshe, Shahan Islam, Dan Horwitz and Jim Shehan.**

Thanks, gents!

For those who plan to attend, please also consider the cocktail reception hosted by the Society of Columbia Graduates. The society, along with the deans of the College and Engineering, will honor this year's Great Teachers Award recipients, one professor from the College and one professor from Engineering. At the time of writing, it's scheduled for 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, and is only \$20 to attend. It's a wonderful event, especially for those whose lives were so positively affected by great teaching.

I look forward to seeing you all there!

1983

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My son David (12) and I were happy to attend Columbia's first Homecoming win since 2000. **Kevin Chapman** and his wife, Sharon Chapman BC'83, **Steve Coleman** and **Ed Joyce** also attended. It was a windy, rainy day, but David insisted we go. He has attended every Homecoming since birth.

I, David and my other son, Ricky (9), attended several pre-season basketball games and Columbia's home opening loss against Cornell. **Jim Weinstein '84** also has season tickets this year. Jim is in touch with former Columbia basketball guard **Grant Mullins '16**. Grant started for the California Berkley Golden Bears this season (he missed playing one year at Columbia due to an injury). We also saw at the games **Michael Schmitzberger '82**, **Donna MacPhee '89**, **Ken Howitt '76** and Senior Associate Director of Admissions **Diane McKoy**.

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Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more.



Chris Wood '83 (left) and David Hershey-Webb '83 (right) recently visited Mark Robin '83. The three met at freshman orientation in 1979 and lived in Carman.

David and I performed a juggling club passing routine, which I shared with several classmates. From **Eddy Friedfeld**: "Impressive! When are you going to start teaching him Cervantes and Boccaccio?" **Adam Bayroff** commented, "The kid was very good but the old guy was a little shaky!"

Thank you, Adam.

I am in touch with **Seth Farber**. Seth's daughter, Anna, attends Hunter College. Seth is an Alumni Representative Committee (ARC) member and active in our class. I also have spoken recently with **Eric Epstein**. Eric's daughter, Esme, is a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt H.S. Eric is also an ARC member and a Class Agent. Eric's wife, Michele Shapiro BC'85, JRN'92, is VP of her Barnard class. Eric's father, William Epstein '55, SEAS'56 has been a class officer for many years and is also a loyal alumnus. Eric is one of the most active members of our class and we are lucky to have his entire family as such strong supporters of alma mater.

I sat next to **Mark Kerman** at the Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner. Mark is Columbia's assistant VP of residential and commercial operations. I also spent time at the dinner with **Steve Coleman** and his and his wife Laura's daughter Sarah '15. Steve and Laura's other daughter, Madeleine '21, will start at Columbia in the fall.

Peter Rappa: "I recently completed a book, *A Hero in Time*, available at peterappa.com. Just getting the word out; however, I am interested in having a screenwriter look at the

novel with the aim of it being a movie. Any Columbia alum(s) you know who I might reach out to?"

Steven Greenfield: "As was the case in 2014, I am coming out with this survey so late in the following year (each year, I try to get this out earlier than one full year late and recently I am failing utterly) that I am not going to take the time to make general comments on the year in popular music, except to say that 2015 strikes me as a relatively weak year. There were few albums I felt strongly about, but a number I liked reservedly. I nearly managed to get through all the pop records I accumulated this year (all with the exception of Bomba Estéreo's *Amanecer* and Small Black's *Best Blues*), but once again, due to time constraints, I was not able to review any of the jazz, classical, Latin or African recordings I had, for which I am sorry. Annoyingly, it is becoming ever more common for albums to be released either in MP3 format only or in MP3 and vinyl only. While I do own a nice turntable, I am reluctant to accumulate LPs in my tiny apartment. For this reason, certain records that might have made the 2015 survey, including Thundercat's *The Beyond/Where Giants Roam*; The Harrow, *Silhouettes*; and the fka Twigs E.P. *M3LL155X* (pronounced 'Melissa') will not appear here. My thanks once more go to **Steve Holtje** and to my brother, Douglas Greenfield, for their suggestions about what was worth paying attention to in 2014, and to my partner, Melissa, for her moral support throughout the time it took

to get this survey finished. My list of the Top Twelve (of the pops) for the year follows:

1. Panda Bear, *Panda Bear Meets the Grim Reaper*
2. John Zorn, *Simulacrum*
3. The Maccabees, *Marks to Prove It*
4. Foals, *What Went Down*
5. Battles, *La Di Da Di*
6. Gwennno, *Y Dydd Olaf*
7. Joe Satriani, *Shockwave Supernova*
8. Pond, *Man It Feels Like Space Again*
9. Public Service Broadcasting, *The Race for Space*
10. Beach House, *Depression Cherry*
11. Dungen, *Allas Sak*
12. Floating Points, *Elaenia*"

Jeff Walker: "It has been oh-so-many years since we have been in touch. I have had the privilege and the luxury of keeping abreast of the world of Columbia through your hard work and tireless and optimistic communications. You grind out the Class Notes and I have taken them for granted (much the way I preach to my kids that we take advantage of NPR or other public trusts and therefore must religiously contribute). It was not until recently, when I was on campus at an info session with my 18-year old, Harris (he is a second semester freshman at Oberlin College and considering transferring), that I came to fully appreciate your effort. For that I am sorry and say thank you.

"In many ways it is shocking how connected I am to the school on a visceral/personal level (many of my closest friends continue to be those I grew up with at Columbia — **Marc Stieglitz**, **Aidan O'Connor**, **Neal Smolar** and **Adam Nadler**, to name a few) while being disconnected from the institution. It was only as I was sitting with Harris in Low and somewhat mindlessly absorbing the description of the Core that it all came into focus. He leaned in and said, 'So this is what you have been talking about all these years ... this is what you meant about having the perspective to see where you are going based upon where we come from'. I looked at him, laughed and told him I was not sure anyone had been listening. Harris has had a social and political awakening over the last 18 months that has been empowering to him and inspiring to me. In any event, it made it clear what a central element in my own transformation Columbia played when I entered as a kid from

Queens. I run a small real estate business in New York, live in Cobble Hill, Brooklyn, am married, have three children (8–21) and consider myself very much at home in NYC, where I grew up."

Kevin Chapman: "I disagree with the University administration's ill-conceived decision to terminate the traditional Orgo Night performance by the Marching Band in Butler Library. Not only was the decision wrong-headed, but it was implemented without any notice or discussion — a *fait accompli* by University administrators to end one of the few remaining Columbia student traditions, and one that seems to be an attempt to censor the content of the band's performance in direct contravention of the principles of free speech for which Columbia purports to stand. The reasons stated by the University for this decision don't hold up to even slight scrutiny and, when the band leadership attempted to meet with administrators to discuss options for compromise, the University rejected all suggestions. I realize that many alumni will feel that this is a small issue affecting only the Marching Band. I disagree. This is the worst kind of heavy-handed administrative diktat, which stifles student expression and sends the clear message that administrators will take whatever action they want without seeking input from students and without concern for the intangible things that make Columbia a unique and wonderful place. I intend to work with other concerned alumni to convince the University to reverse this decision. If you wish to join me and other alumni in communicating with the administration on this subject, please let me know."

Wayne Allyn Root: "Big week, my CC friend! A new America! As you're reading this column, I'll be in Washington, D.C., as a guest of President Donald Trump at the inauguration. I'm proud and honored to have made the friends and family list. It's been quite a journey. I was the first (and perhaps only) national political commentator to endorse Trump, in June 2015. I stuck with him, defended him in more than 1,500 media appearances for the next 18 months and publicly predicted his victory in the media when no one else thought it possible. My book, *Angry White Male*:

How the Donald Trump Phenomenon is Changing America—and What We Can All Do to Save the Middle Class, accurately predicted the entire Trump path to victory. Being here in Washington, D.C., as our new President's personal guest will be the experience of a lifetime. My parents, David and Stella Root, who fought so hard to convince me to attend Columbia, were lifetime Jewish Republicans. They are both in heaven but I know they are looking down proudly."

Teddy Weinberger sent me a copy of the 1983 Class Day booklet, showing very clearly the name **Barack Hussein Obama**. January 20 was President Obama's last day in office, having served as the 44th President, 2009–17. I am honored to be his Columbia classmate and wish him well.

The online mentoring community is now open for all alumni to join (college.columbia.edu/alumni/join-student-alumni-mentoring-community). Any members of the class who want to submit their profile should please contact me.

Ed Joyce: "I was asked to join the Board of Directors of the American Friends of ALYN Hospital in Jerusalem. In March, I was elected treasurer and a member of the executive committee of the Fordham Law School Alumni Board of Directors. And in May my wife, Linda Gerstel BC'83, and I will be honored at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School's Annual Benefit."

Eddy Friedfeld's interview with Norman Lear appeared in *Cinema Retro* magazine. Eddy writes, "The first two people in my life who taught me to think deeply about social and political issues and argue cogently and passionately for what I believed in were my late father, David, and Norman Lear. Lear, the 94-year-old entertainment icon is the subject of a terrific American Masters documentary, *Norman Lear: Just Another Version of You*, which premiered nationwide on October 25 on PBS.

"In the 1970s, Lear singlehandedly changed television with *All in the Family*, which became a platform for social discussion and reform. Norman Lear revolutionized the sitcom, taking the American family from the antiseptic and idealized to the contentious and dysfunctional. The show became a megahit; it was the top-rated show on American television and the winner of four consecu-

tive Emmy Awards as Outstanding Comedy Series. Archie Bunker and his family were followed by *Maude*, *The Jeffersons*, *Good Times*, *Sanford and Son* and *One Day at a Time*, as well as *Fernwood 2 Night*, a talk show parody dedicated to battling bigotry and social issues through art, and *Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman*, a parody of soap operas. In the 1970s, most of America was laughing and thinking because of Norman Lear. With appearances ranging from Carl Reiner, Rob Reiner, Mel Brooks and Amy Poehler, and directed by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady and executive produced by American Masters' Michael Kantor, the film offers a unique insight into a 'Gadol Hador,' a giant of his generation and those to follow. When asked about what advice he would give to students who are embarking on artistic careers, especially comedy, Lear said: 'Go with your gut. Deliver on your intention and go with it — it's golden.'"

Chris Wood and David Hershey-Webb visited **Mark Robin**, who was sadly recently diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. Mark's blog is markymooseinbigsky.blogspot.com. David sent a photo of them wearing t-shirts stating "CARMAN SUCKS."

Joseph Cabrera '82 was one of this year's John Jay Award honorees. Joe is vice-chair, Eastern Region of Colliers International.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2017.

1984

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The Last to Go: **David L. Cavicke** of Chicago and Lyme, Conn., married Mary Houston Wright of Middleburg, Va., at Trinity Episcopal Church in Upperville, Va., on July 30. A reception was held at the Metropolitan Club of Washington, D.C., where one of the tables was named in honor of Professor Jacques Barzun '27, GSAS'32. Columbians in attendance: groomsmen **Andrew A. Byer**, **James Donald Weinstein** BUS'88 and **David Nelson** BUS'90; **Edwin J. Wang**, **Steven M.H. Wallman** LAW'78 and **Edward A. Weinstein** '57.

Anthony E. Kaye recently left Penn State to become VP for scholarly programs at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina.

Robert Retana writes: "I am the deputy general counsel for the State Bar of California. I live in San Francisco with my husband, Juan Carlos."

Says **Frederick Fisher**, "My wife, Mary BC'83, LAW'88, and I enjoy Orlando, where we have lived for three years. I building the vascular surgery department at the Orlando VA and teach medical students at University of Central Florida College of Medicine. Mary and I are planning a trip to Italy to celebrate our upcoming 30th anniversary. We are looking forward to celebrating daughter Rebecca '17's graduation from the College to complete the family's Columbia history (along with daughter Talia '13).

Peregrine Beckman reports from the left coast: "I've managed to move into editing for the magical Internet content, working on shows for Netflix (*Chasing Cameron*) and YouTube Red. I lead a Proust reading group on Sundays. They say Los Angeles is anti-intellectual, but there are some interesting folks in the group.

"My daughter, Eleanor Beckman '16, graduated last May (love putting that "16" after her name!) and promptly moved back to Los Angeles, declaring that she'd missed the weather and that living in East Campus made her appreciate life with a car. She works for a new TV production company in Burbank, Calif., and lives at home. **Gregory Lynch**, my roommate from my days at 2850 Broadway above Koronet

Pizza (which I'm appalled to see still exists!) and still a close friend, has actually married and settled down at 54. He and his wife, Melissa, had a son, Sebastian Wilder Lynch, in January 2016. Anti-establishment to this day, he'd probably be annoyed to see this in *CCT* but screw it — thousands loved him back in the day and will be glad to hear this news."

Happy news from **Harry Chefitz**: "My daughter, Leora, married Ezra Spero from Cleveland last summer. At the wedding I enjoyed a Columbia reunion with my freshman roommate, Leon Paley SEAS'84, and my sophomore roommate, Bruce Abramson '83.

"Interestingly, both Leon and Bruce were at my wedding 30 years ago, albeit without their spouses, who attended this wedding. During these 30 years, I have remained in close contact with Leon, even reenacting our freshman year by dorming with him in Carman at our reunion a few years ago. I stayed in contact with Bruce until he moved to the West Coast, then reconnected with him after seeing him quoted in a *Wall Street Journal* article. Fortunately for me, he lives on the East Coast again. I am now an avid photographer and was concerned about finding a good wedding photographer. I remembered that I have been following Ryan Brenizer's career online after I saw his photos of Columbia on Flickr and contacted him to see if he was available. He was!"

Adam Dicker: "My fourth book recently came out (demomedical.com/quality-and-safety-in-radiation-oncology.html). Also, my son,



Left to right: Leon Paley SEAS'84, Bruce Abramson '83 and Harry Chefitz '84 reunited last summer at Chefitz's daughter's wedding.

Shimshon Dicker '21, will start at Columbia in the fall (he deferred for two years)."

Chris Nollet: "I continue to be the hardest working actor north of Minneapolis, while still holding down the job of being the system administrator at Amsoil. This June, I'll head to Slovenia with members of a polka band.

"And just so you remember — we are NOT an all-male, as most of us only learned on Class Day!"

Patricia Huie will be CFO at The Public Theater, which produces Shakespeare in the Park and, in the recent past, also produced *Hamilton* and *Fun Home*. She has been the CFO at the New York Hall of Science, a children's interactive science museum in Flushing, Queens, on the site of the 1964 World's Fair. Prior to joining NYSCI, Patricia was executive director of finance at Columbia Technology Ventures, Columbia's highly successful technology transfer group, which is responsible for patenting and licensing Columbia's science-based inventions. She also managed the group's financial resources, which the executive vice provost used to fund various strategic initiatives at the University.

Earlier in her career, Patricia was a management consultant with one of the then-"Big 8" accounting firms, Arthur Young & Co. She earned an M.B.A. in finance from NYU and a B.A. in art history. She says, "I'm eternally grateful to Dean James Parker at SEAS for advising me to major in whatever subject matter spoke to me. My experience at the College has fostered a lifelong love of the arts and I'm happy I can use my financial expertise in furtherance of the arts at The Public."

And finally, where in the world is **Neel Lane**? "In August, I joined Norton Rose Fulbright as a partner in the San Antonio office," Neel writes. "I could not resist the opportunity to join an international firm that is so well-connected to my clients in the insurance and reinsurance world — particularly in London, where the firm's headquarters are located. The move has been even better than I expected.

"I am also chairman of Episcopal Relief & Development, the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church. The organization supports programs in nearly

40 countries that help improve the lives of three million people each year, mostly in partnership with Anglican dioceses and agencies. We have a supremely professional staff headed by Robert W. Radtke '87.

"In January, I joined the Presiding Bishop's Reconciliation Pilgrimage to Ghana. We traveled to the north to meet farmers and artisans who benefit from our programs, as well as to see the slave camp at Pikworo. We also visited the slave castles overlooking the Atlantic in Elmina and Cape Coast. The slave castles are haunting reminders of the cruelty endured by Africans who were kidnapped in their homeland and taken far away to suffer a life of servitude and privation. It was an overpowering experience, [and is] really difficult to convey in words.

"My daughter is a junior in high school and, for the second year, the starting goalkeeper on the girls' varsity soccer team. Her brothers have both graduated from college; Andrew lives in Boston, while Shelby lives in Northern California. It seems my children don't want to make it easy for me to combine visits ... I do not see my classmates often enough, but when Shelby was playing college basketball in Southern California, **Pete Lunenfeld** and **El Gray** met me in Claremont for several games and we had a blast. We also got to spend a festive and memorable Thanksgiving with Pete and his wife, Susan, and their charming daughters, Kyra '16 and Maud. Pete has been researching a book at the Huntington Library — he is always into the coolest stuff — and El has been building and managing his investment firm, Seven Post."

1985

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Not too much news to report, so please send updates at your earliest convenience so we can be ready for the Summer issue. I hope you saw the Winter 2016–17 issue, where my coffee-making skills were featured in the feature "The Experts." I know that many of you have lots of special talents (new or longstanding) that we want to share as well!

For this issue, we have some wonderful highlights and, unfortunately, some horrible updates as well. Starting with the positive, my wife, Allison, and I were fortunate to attend a holiday presentation of *The Nutcracker* at Lincoln Center, where **John Phelan's** daughter, Unity, elegantly danced one of the major roles, Hot Chocolate. The following week, Unity danced the lead role of the Sugarplum Fairy and was featured both in *The New York Times* (the review said her role of Dewdrop had "fantasy, poetry, and liquidity") and was on the cover of *Dance Magazine* as one of 25 dancers to watch in 2017.

Kudos to John for organizing — Columbia alums got a backstage tour, similar to what we did at our reunion in 2015 (but this time we got to see all of the Nutcracker props). John also had a great December, as he added the "P" for parent, to his Columbia credentials with his son, Joseph '21!

Congratulations!

I am fortunate to be on **Denis Searby** GSAS'86's holiday card list and received his annual Christmas poem! And, as any College student would be, he was inspired by ancient Greek. He writes, "As you can see, I have been teaching too much Greek this semester. My goal was to write a comical nonsense poem to lighten up everyone's mood ... and included a poem in which all the nonsense words actually mean something, because they come from ancient Greek (lots of them can be found in an English dictionary — well, in a very, very large dictionary). I want to give you Greek-less people some idea of what a page of ancient Greek looks like to my students after a year or two of studying it; it's still Greek to them, but there is some kind of rhyme and reason (in this case lots of rhyme and little reason)."

Dennis is at Stockholm University, where he continues as director of Lärkstaden's college residence (larkstaden.org).

Thomas Vinciguerra JRN'86, GSAS'90's *Cast of Characters: Wolcott Gibbs, E. B. White, James Thurber, and the Golden Age of the New Yorker*, continues to get great reviews. Luxury Reading's Kate Schafer said that she "remained interested and engaged throughout, and that's the mark of a solid biography. Often humorous, occasionally emotional, and always educational, *Cast of Characters* is a

must-read for anyone wondering how such a ubiquitous publication could emerge from relatively humble and innocent intentions."

On a recent trip to San Francisco, I had the pleasure of having dinner with **Jon Orlin** and his wife, Mary. Jon lives in the San Jose area, after spending an extended stint in Atlanta with CNN. His wife writes for the *Bay Area News Group* and is also a certified sommelier (leading to an enjoyable conversation about the similarities between wine and coffee tasting).

And now for the truly terrible: **Bruce Shapiro** wrote in with some very sad news. "Glenn Alper passed away earlier this year. Glenn and I met in fall 1983 at Reid Hall and we quickly became, and remained, good friends. He was magnetic, interesting, kind, funny and genuine. He deeply enjoyed his study of French and French culture, both in Paris and on campus. A fund has been established in Glenn's memory with the French department to help undergraduates in need to purchase books for their French studies. If you are interested in contributing, please send a check, made out to Columbia University, to Chair of the French Department, 515 Philosophy Hall, 1150 Amsterdam Ave., MC 4902, New York, NY 10027, indicating that it is in Glenn's memory."

I met Glenn on my freshman floor on Jay 11 and second all of Bruce's comments.

1986

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It was fun to be able to say that the President of the United States overlapped with us for one year at Columbia College. Drop me a line if you have any connection to President Trump or his administration.

Thanks to everyone who responded to my request for news, especially first timers!

Alejandro Guerrero: "I am an educator and have been for 20-plus years. I am a Spanish teacher in Murrieta, Calif., teaching 9th–12th grade students all levels of Spanish, including Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes. I love what I do and when

students ask me why I did not become an architect, as was my original plan, I tell them I am an architect of another kind. Whereas I was taught to design buildings, I am now helping to design the young minds of today for a better tomorrow. My beautiful wife and I have been blessed with good health and two children. Our son is in his sophomore year at The California State Maritime Academy in Vallejo, Calif., where he is studying marine transportation on his way to becoming a deck officer. Our daughter is a senior in high school who would like to study speech pathology or nursing. I am looking forward to President Donald J. Trump making America great again!"

Mark Slatof: "I have lived in New York City since graduation, the entire time with my Barnard sweetheart, now wife of 18 years, Dana Points BC'88. We haven't moved too far from our college days—we've lived in Harlem for the last 17 years, nostalgic all the time as we drive up

Holland. He recorded an album, *Spinoza's Dream*, which was funded by a Kickstarter campaign. He had a release party in Berkeley, Calif., performed several shows in a tour of the Midwest and taught at the International Guitar Camp in Los Gatos, Calif., for the third year.

From **Joel Berg**, executive director of Hunger Free America: "My biggest news is that, in February, Seven Stories Press published my second book, *America, We Need to Talk: A Self-Help Book for the Nation*, which is both a humorous parody of self-help books and a serious public policy book proposing concrete ways to fix our politics and economy."

Eric Hamel: "I'm on my second iteration of graduate school, the first in comparative literature (Ph.D., CUNY), now in classics (M.A., University of Oregon), remembering fondly Greek and Latin classes in Hamilton with my professors Laura Slatkin, Steele Commanger, Bob Lambertson, Richard Janko, Peter Pouncey, Darice Birge, Matthew San-

cal activism since 1985 during the divestment campaign.

"I started my own marketing strategy firm a few years ago and incredibly, we are doing really well. I stay in touch with **Saul Fisher, Matthew Epstein, David Hammond, JD Scrimgeour** and Eric Wakin '84—all wonderful sources of support and inspiration."

Joel Bloom SIPA'87: "I recently accepted an offer to be senior director of accreditation and assessment at Long Island University (moving from my current position as director of academic assessment and survey research at the University at Albany: SUNY, where I'll leave behind **Mitch Earleywine**). [At this writing I was scheduled to start] at the end of February. The family will still be based in the Albany area, so I'll commute quite a bit. I hope classmates in the area will look me up! My kids are in grades 12, 10 and 8, and my oldest has wrapped up his college applications, which include a regular deadline application to Columbia. Time flies!"

Jack Merrick: "About 10 years ago I told you about a crazy idea I had of throwing colonoscopy parties: Scopefest. With the American Cancer Society declaring colon cancer a national health emergency, I turned Scopefest into a 501(c)(3) to raise awareness and funds to combat colon cancer through early detection. The organization will unveil Scopefest USA in March during National Colon Cancer Awareness Month with coordinated events around the country.

"Former Columbia Alumni Association president (and now chair) **Kyra Tirana Barry** '87 will head up an all-girls team in New York City to 'compete' with teams in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, Houston, Las Vegas and Miami. **Bruce Skyer** '84, former CEO of the National Kidney Foundation, joined our board and management team. **Philip Nevinny**, senior counsel for House of Blues/Live Nation, joined as director of legal affairs. We recently inked a partnership with the country's largest colon cancer charity, Colon Cancer Alliance in Washington, D.C., which hopes this becomes a breakout sensation in the vein of 'the ice bucket challenge meets Movember.' I invite everyone, especially those classes rapidly approaching the age of 50, to get

involved and to help us make this a real thing. After all, 'friends do not let friends scope alone,' especially when we can turn the dreaded colonoscopy into a national team party event that saves lives! We are looking for regional captains so check out scopefest.org or contact me at jcm@scopefest.org. With the participation of the Columbia alum network, we can make March synonymous with life-saving colonoscopy parties. Together, we can measurably kick colon cancer's ass."

1987

REUNION 2017
JUNE 1-4

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REUNION 2017

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At the risk of stating the obvious, remember that our 30th reunion is just weeks away. It's not too late to join the party! Register now! You know you want to...and you know your roommates, suitemates and floormates want you to!

Sharon Block wrote in as she was preparing to end her seven and a half years of service for the Obama administration. She said, "It has been a remarkable privilege to serve President Barack Obama '83 at the Department of Labor, National Labor Relations Board and the White House. I'm ending the administration as the head of the DOL policy office and as senior counselor to Secretary of Labor Tom Perez. I'm excited, however, for my next adventure."

In February, Sharon began this next adventure as the executive director of the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law.

In more news from the outgoing administration, President Obama reappointed **Herbert Block** as a Member of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, an independent federal agency

Demetrios "Jim" Econopouly '86 is a certified Professional Association of Diving Instructors rescue-level scuba diver.

and down Amsterdam Avenue to our home, a hop and a skip from the quad. We have two boys, born and bred New Yorkers. I've been in the music industry for 30 years (wow!). I was active in the campus music scene, playing in a couple of bands and working on the concert committee. That was my start in the music industry. I recently found the records of the bands we booked in '84-'85, which brought back many fond memories. Dana works in media as a magazine/content editor. I love reading about our class but, to be honest, I barely remember most of my college years (what DID I do in class?) and I don't really find very many familiar names in this column. I'm in touch with a handful of college friends and social media has put me back in contact with a few as well."

From guitarist and singer **Dave Nachmanoff's** website (davenach.com), I see that he had a busy 2016. He toured with Al Stewart in the United Kingdom, Germany and

tirocco, Helene Foley and the great Helen Bacon, quite a department in that brief interval. Does the classics department keep up the tradition of performing a Greek tragedy?"

Demetrios "Jim" Econopouly: "I live in Oradell, N.J., with my wife and three kids. I am chief of foot and ankle service at Hackensack UMC Palisades and residency director of the Podiatric Surgical Residency program. I am a certified PADI rescue-level scuba diver and I have been to the most thrilling places in the world. It is a different kind of trip when you can go under the water or live aboard in places like the Maldives, Galapagos, Micronesia or even the Caribbean. Biking, however, is my passion."

Andrew Goldsmith: "My family participated in the Women's March on Washington, where I had the pleasure of walking for a while with members of the wonderful Columbia/Barnard Hillel. I have not had that much fun doing politi-

established to help preserve cultural sites in Eastern and Central Europe associated with the heritage of U.S. citizens. These include synagogues, cemeteries and other historic Jewish places (as well as sites of other faiths) and Holocaust memorials in the region. Herb is the principal at Montrose Strategies, a position he has held since 2015, and he was first appointed to the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad in 2011.

Paul Verna, Daniele Baliani and **José Calvo** had a mini CC'87 and Reid Hall reunion at José's home in Beaulieu-sur-Mer, France, last November. They were there ostensibly to run the French Riviera Marathon, which goes from Nice to Cannes. However, Paul had to withdraw because of injury and José because of work commitments, so only Daniele ran the full length. **Stavros Zomopoulos** joined the party by Skype after the event.

Once again, I feel privileged to link the Class of '87 with the Class of '57. My brother, **Danny Kass '95**, and I had the honor of a front row seat to watch as our father, **Rabbi Alvin Kass '57**, was honored by the New York City Police Department for 50 years of service and was promoted to a three-star chief in the department. Joining us at this amazing celebration were **Ed Weinstein '57**, father of my dear friend **Ilene Weinstein Lederman**, and **Bob Lipsyte '57**, my former colleague from our days in the sports department of *The New York Times*.

See you all at Reunion 2017, Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4! Go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017.

1988

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It's a familiar question posed by Ivy Leaguers, whose ranks often boast high achievers in an array of fields: Who is the most famous member of our class? The Class of 1988 appears to have a new answer to that query. **Neil Gorsuch**, who graduated with our class after matriculating just three years earlier, assumed his place in the pantheon of high-profile

Columbia alums when President Donald Trump nominated Neil for the Supreme Court on January 31. I vaguely recall Neil from my time on *Spectator* and from his involvement with *The Federalist*. Others who knew him better weighed in on the Class of 1988 Facebook page following the White House announcement. He had a clear ideology, even as a student, but seems to have been well-liked, even by those who disagreed with him. Kudos to him; he is a source of pride for our class and for the school.

I met **Sharon Levin** for the first time at a tribute dinner for *Moment* magazine in Washington, D.C., in December. Sharon is a women's rights lawyer in D.C., currently consulting for NARAL Pro-Choice America. She is also a cousin-in-law of my friend **Chris Tahbaz '86, LAW'90**, who hosted us at his table, so the College was well-represented at the event.

David Stoll wrote, "I am a trusts and estates partner at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy. I live in Carnegie Hill, where I am active in landmarks preservation efforts. I am teaching again this semester at Yale Law (from which I also graduated). My weekend jogging route takes me through campus and Riverside Park, which I think look better than ever — certainly better than they did 1984–88!"

Another classmate with a Yale connection is **Dr. Stephanie Sudikoff**, director of simulation for Yale New Haven Health, where she holds primary responsibility for the SYN: APSE Center for Learning, Transformation and Innovation. According to the Yale New Haven Health website, the center "provides simulation expertise to collaboratively innovate cutting-edge solutions to the challenges that exist in complex health care environments."

Stephanie leads her team "in the design support, and sustainment of education, workflow analysis, device testing, facility design, and other initiatives ... As a pediatric critical care physician, she provides the team with insight into the clinical environment and the context in which learners must apply and translate their skills. She has published and presented widely, and is a recognized leader in both the national and international health care simulation communities."

Bill Seeley sent the following: "I live in Bath, Maine. I am a philoso-



In September, Margaret Traub '88 caught up with Jacob Goldberg '88 when Goldberg went to SoCal to move his daughter into UCLA.

phy professor at the University of New Hampshire and Bates College. I am working on a National Endowment for the Humanities grant developing software to help folks in the humanities learn to use digital image analysis techniques to study painting. We currently have a couple of programs that help analyze how elements of artistic style contribute to our ability to recognize paintings as belonging to different schools and eras. I am also working on a book about the role of memory and attention in our understanding and experience of art, called *Attentional Engines*. I ski a bit and have been playing hockey several nights a week. And I have been working summers as a wilderness canoe guide in Ontario.

"I am in touch with **Brendan Mernin**, Sam Shinn '89, **Muffy Srinivasan**, **Henry Jackman** and **Chris Bakkila '91**. All are thriving (although Chris has given up football)!"

Margaret Traub, a frequent contributor to this column who is in contact with many classmates, wrote from Los Angeles: "Had a lovely visit in September with **Jacob Goldberg**, who was in SoCal to move his daughter, Hannah, into UCLA."

Margaret, head of global initiatives at International Medical Corps., appeared last fall on *PBS NewsHour*, where **Sara Just** is executive producer; Margaret spoke about her organization's hurricane relief work in Haiti.

Keep the updates coming! I look forward to hearing from you at ericfusfield@bigfoot.com. And start planning to attend next year's

reunion on Morningside Heights. Wait — how many years has it been?

1989

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Once called the "Patron Saint of Boyle Heights" by *LA Weekly*, **Maria Cabildo** was appointed by Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93 to the city's Planning Commission in 2013 and served until 2015. Maria now works for Los Angeles County, helping to oversee the homeless initiative it adopted last year. Fearing that the affordable housing programs, consumer protections and community reinvestment requirements are at risk, Maria has decided to take the fight to Washington, D.C., and recently announced that she is a Democrat running for the 34th Congressional District seat.

Of her run, Maria says, "As a longtime advocate and builder of affordable housing, I know that without a stable home, families cannot create security, support their children's education or build a future. Unfortunately, housing in Los Angeles is in crisis. Too many Angelenos can't afford to keep their homes. Seniors and many others are doubling up. Homeownership is growing further out of reach for working families. And we have the largest unsheltered homeless population in the country."

I caught up with **Anne-Marie Wright** (née Lampropoulos), who is VP, corporate communications of Merit Medical Systems in Salt Lake City, and was elected as the Republican National Committeewoman from Utah earlier this year. Anne Marie will serve a four-year term on the Republican National Committee. Of this position she writes, “It should be interesting during this unusual and challenging time. The RNC is responsible for making the rules, creating the platform, raising money and putting on the convention for the Republican Party. We will also be electing an RNC chair with the vacancy left by Reince Priebus, and I will also be a liaison between the national party and the state party in Utah.”

Anne-Marie has a busy family as well — her daughter, Annie ’17, is a senior at Columbia College, majoring in mathematics. Her son Michael is a junior at the University of Utah, majoring in business and her son Sean is a fourth-grader who

I heard from **Cristina Benedetto** and **Rob Laplaca**, who went to the Homecoming game last fall and saw lots of old friends, including **Bonnie Host**, **Mike Behringer**, **Donna MacPhee** (née Herlinsky) and **John MacPhee**, Wally Yassir ’88 and Matt Sodl ’88, to name a few. Christine and Rob also wanted to share some happy news: “Our daughter, Caroline ’21, will be a first-year in the fall. We are very excited for her, and for us, and can’t wait for her to experience all that Columbia and NYC has to offer.”

1990

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Happy 2017 to all of us in the Class of 1990. Who will follow in our footsteps? As of early decision admission, at least three descendants

heroine to me ever since my days at Columbia. In fact, I wrote a paper about her in a Women and Religion class I took at Barnard (with Sharon Rogers)! Through the years, Blu has become a close friend and mentor to me, and it is such an honor to be published in her *festschrift*.”

Gemma Tarlach reports: “I know 2016 was a trying year for many of us (am I the only one who spent much of January 2016 sitting in a dark room watching Alan Rickman movies and listening to Bowie?) but there were some highlights for me. I was promoted to senior editor at *Discover Magazine* and was immediately corrupted by the absolute power. Absolutely. I started a blog for our website that covers paleontology and archaeology, in my own personal idiom, which no one else on staff dare question; the blog is called Dead Things; check it out at blogs.discovermagazine.com/deadthings. My favorite emails/tweets about it come from the researchers whose work I cover: ‘I never expected a science journalist would quote Sir Mix-a-Lot when describing a sauro-pod braincase’ and ‘We love that you called the mass extinction events we study ‘Death Glitter.’”

“I also had a great time on vacation traveling through the Republic of Georgia on my own in May, even though the sight of a woman behind the wheel was so odd in the rather conservative countryside that I often had crowds gather wherever I parked. ‘It’s a girl! It’s a girl!’ one old man proclaimed (in Russian) as I exited my rental car outside the achingly beautiful lakeside castle of Ananuri. I felt like I should give him a cigar or something. And yes, while in Georgia I was happy I was able to dust off the ol’ Russian from my days in Moscow. It allowed me to have several, ah, spirited conversations with the local men about a woman being perfectly capable of driving, thanks very much.

“Speaking Russian turned out to be no help, however, when I encountered a man on horseback while I was hiking in the otherwise deserted Truso Valley. He spoke only the local dialect of Georgian, but through enthusiastic hand gestures made himself understood. Propositioned by a man on horseback: That’s bucket list territory right there.

“Georgia is absolutely gorgeous, by the way, and delicious,

too: Two thumbs up for the qvevri wine, made in a traditional style that dates back thousands of years (check out blogs.discovermagazine.com/deadthings/2016/06/17/was-georgia-the-cradle-of-wine-who-cares-lets-drink). Special shout-out to my favorite Columbia professor, Paul Olsen, for being the guy who showed me you could have a lot of fun doing serious science. His ‘Intro to Paleontology’ class is the spirit animal of Dead Things, and I’m carrying that attitude into ‘It’s Only Science,’ a podcast we’ve recently launched.”

Finally, a word from **David Mandell**: “I’m at Penn, where I direct the Center for Mental Health Policy and Services Research. I also started a new role in the Penn Health System, in which I lead quality improvement efforts in specialty and integrated mental healthcare. I’ve become an ice hockey and tennis dad as my kids explore their sports interests. Alas, no one is interested in fencing.”

Keep the news coming to youngrache@hotmail.com, people. Without you, this column would be blank.

1991

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By the time this is published, Super Bowl LI will be long gone and the Patriots’ miraculous comeback will be a faded memory (condolences to Falcons fans). But I have to mention what a fabulous weekend I had in Houston for the Super Bowl, courtesy of Lucinda and **Javier Loya**, **Annie Della Pietra** (née Giarratano) and Chris Della Pietra ’89. It was a weekend full of festivities and fun. If you were at Javier and Lucinda’s party during our reunion last summer, you know that the Loyas are the consummate hosts and think of every last detail ... even ones you don’t think you’ll need! The icing on the cake was that we got to hang out with other Columbia Lions — Matt Assif ’89, Marcellus Wiley ’97 and Alex Guarnaschelli BC’91.

In other CC’91 news, **David A. Kaufman** PS’97 will take on the position of director, medical intensive care, and associate professor of medicine at NYU Langone Medical

Gemma Tarlach ’90 is senior editor at Discover Magazine, where she writes the blog “Dead Things,” providing coverage of paleontology and archaeology.

won United States Kids Golf Player of the Year in Utah.

Like Anne-Marie and Maria, Neil Gorsuch ’88 (who entered with our class), also resides in the Western half of our country. Neil is a federal judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. He writes to us about his life in Colorado: “[I and my family] live outside Boulder on a small farm, with the girls’ horses and a bunch of fruit trees. Together with some great colleagues, I work in Denver hearing appeals from across the Tenth Circuit (largely the Rocky Mountain states) and teach on the side at the University of Colorado’s law school. My wife, Louise, and our girls and I love to ski the bumps in winter and hike, fly fish and row and scull in summers.”

Neil has been a federal judge for 10 years; prior to that he was deputy associate attorney general at the Department of Justice. On January 31, he was nominated as a Supreme Court justice by President Trump.

of classmates will enter as members of the Class of 2021. Congratulations to Ally, daughter of **Sherri Pancer Wolf** (of Newton, Mass.), and twins Matthew and Samantha, children of **Lauren Bauer Zinman** (of Harrison, N.Y.). Sherri is a partner at Newport Board Group and Lauren is corporate counsel for Tradition Energy and TFS Energy in Stamford, Conn.

Many years ago, **Laura Shaw Frank** left the law for academia. She has some news. “I recently had my first article, ‘Yeshivish Women Clergy: The Secular State and Changing Roles for Women in Haredi Orthodoxy,’ published in the book *You Arose, A Mother in Israel: A festschrift in Honor of Blu Greenberg*. The book launched in January at the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance’s International Conference on Feminism and Orthodoxy. It is particularly meaningful to me to have been asked to contribute a piece to this book because Blu Greenberg has been a

Center in April. He is glad to be back in the NYC orbit!

This is a short column, so please send updates to margiekimkim@hotmail.com. Until next time, cheers!

1992

REUNION 2017
JUNE 1-4

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REUNION2017

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Maybe it's our looming 25th reunion? I got some lovely, lengthy updates from **Dara Kubovy-Weiss** (née Dara-Lynn Weiss), **Brian Farran** and **Jeff Lovell**. Keep 'em coming, everyone! And I look forward to seeing all of you on campus as we celebrate our vanished youth and acknowledge the march of time at Reunion 2017.

Dara writes that her daughter became a Bat Mitzvah on November 19: "Betty Kubovy-Weiss read from the torah at Town & Village Synagogue in Manhattan and spoke of her feminist response to the Bible and the work left to do to ensure equality for women in today's society," Dara writes. Prior to the service, there was a lunch at The Library at The Public Theater, including guests like **Peter** and **Hilary Hatch**, **Nina Chaudry**, **Rita Pietropinto-Kitt '93**, **Doug Meehan '93**, **Peter Sluszka '93**, **Robin Frank BC'92** and **Lily Binns-Berkey '03**.

Mazel tov!

Brian Farran and his wife, **Mindi**, live in South Orange, N.J., where they moved from his hometown of Brooklyn in 2005. They've been married since 2005 and have a son, **Sam (13)**, and a daughter, **Abby (9)**. Brian works as a clinical psychologist at the VA Medical Center in East Orange and has a part-time private practice in town.

He writes that he's "keeping busy with family life, homeownership, socializing with friends, going to local and NYC events of interest, and travelling whenever vacation

time rolls around." The next big step will be getting a family dog — an Australian Labradoodle — after resisting "for many years."

Brian stays in touch with quite a few CC'92ers — **Jim Cheydleur**, **Lauren Hertel**, **Jake Martin**, **Chris O'Brien** and **Heather O'Farrell Townsend '93** and **Sophia Seidner BC'92** — who are all doing well in their different lives and he says it's great to connect when they get the chance. "I'm sorry that fellow CC'92er and great friend **Meredith Norton** is no longer with us on the journey, may she and others we lost rest in peace," he adds.

When the family spends the day in Manhattan, they like to grab a meal at ... wait for it ... V&T. "My kids love the food, we all appreciate the unpretentious vibe and parking the car uptown is easy," Brian writes. "And we then usually visit campus and the four of us sit on Low Steps; it's always a surreal experience for me to do that with them. I remember spending a lot of time on those steps, at all hours of the day and night, and feeling so adult at only 17 years old. It's been a long time for us all since then. Wishing everyone from CC'92 good health, prosperity and peace. Keep on keeping on, and I will hopefully see some of you at Reunion 2017 this summer."

Jeff Lovell wrote in from Melbourne, Australia, gamely attempting to summarize the last 25 years. He spent some time in NYC after graduation, working in commodities training, then shifted to software in the early 2000s "via a love of MMO gaming."

"Said love of gaming introduced me to lots of good people around the world, including a wonderful woman who lived in Australia. After accepting my proposal, I expressed joy and promised she would love living in California with me," Jeff writes. "She said, 'What are you talking about ... California?!!' So now I live in Melbourne."

Jeff has been working in software development for 10 years as a project manager and middle manager, as well as a few years "making investment accounting software for banks and such, and lately with a growing company in the field of supply chain and logistics planning."

Right now he's "working on projects to improve planning and safety for a petrol distribution company, as well as a global hunger



Left to right: Former Vice President Joe Biden, George Kolombatovich '93 and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti '92 chatted at a January fundraiser for Garcetti's 2017 reelection campaign.

charity helping them improve food distribution. Our lead business consultant just did a TedXBreda talk on how mathematics is helping world hunger, related to how we approach solving the puzzle, without naming my company or the client."

Jeff's wife wants to move to Perth, "where it's warmer and she has family," while Jeff is eyeballing beach houses.

He adds, "About a year ago I did a quick United States tour to catch up with family in Vegas and Iowa and spent a few days in Jersey/NYC with **Joel Rubenstein '91**, where I was also able to meet up with a few members of the old swim team, including coach **Jim Bolster** and **Cliff Blaze** (who I believe recently won a national title in Master's swimming, going very nearly as fast in the 100 fly as he did 23 years ago, a simply astounding feat). Dropped by the KDR house as well, and paid respect to Alma Mater."

As everyone who attends Reunion 2017 on June 1-4 surely will!

1993

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Greetings, classmates! I heard from **George Kolombatovich**, who lives in Los Angeles and is deputy counsel to Mayor Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93. In January, Garcetti held a fundraiser for his 2017 re-election campaign honoring Vice President Joe Biden; Wah Chen '92 also

attended. George sent great pictures that included one of George, the mayor and the Vice President, and one of Eric, Wah and her children.

Thanks George — everyone looks the same (if not better!) than they did 20-plus years ago!

I had a busy summer and fall after I took on the role of chief of practice development at Ropes & Gray. I've been at the firm almost eight years (since I decided to stop practicing law) and now head up my department, which focuses on business development and strategic planning globally. I oversee a team of roughly 80 people, so it was a big adjustment during the last several months and at times I was drinking from a fire hose.

Fortunately, I've been able to spend time with classmates as I've traveled. I spent time with **Patti Lee** while in San Francisco, **Jenny Hoffman** while in Washington, D.C., and **Robyn Tuerk** and **Neil Turitz** while in New York. **Ali Towle** left San Francisco last summer and relocated to Boston, so I get to see her a lot more! She works for the New England Patriots as senior director, brand and fan experience. As of the day I am submitting this column, she is heading to Houston for Super Bowl LI, where the Patriots will play the Atlanta Falcons!

Congratulations on the new role, and go Pats!

Please fill me in on your own news, as well as news from classmates: betsy.gomperz@gmail.com. I am planning to attend the Saturday, April 22, Alumni Office symposium, "Celebrating 30 Years of Columbia College Women." I hope

to see many of you there and to get updates from you! [Editor's note: See the feature "Hear Us Roar" for more on the symposium.]

1994

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First up, a lovely update from far away: **Seema Balwani** is the NOAA Regional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands and lives in Honolulu: "I recently bought a home and love life in Hawaii, where I get to play in the ocean and work on marine conservation issues," she writes.

Happy news from **Karen Sender**: On June 4, she and John Kirkwood SEAS'92 were married in John's parents' garden in Haddonfield, N.J. **Chessa Contiguglia Mercier** was maid of honor, Drew Stevens SEAS'93 did a reading and Xavier Smith '99 serenaded the couple during the reception. Other Columbia guests included Joe DeSimone '92, Susie Baldwin '90 and Jennifer Good BC'93.

Congratulations to **Miriam Gohara**, who was recently appointed to the Yale Law faculty as a clinical associate professor of law. She has taught at Yale since 2014, both as a clinical lecturer in law and as a presiding visiting professor. She leads the Challenging Mass Incarceration Clinic and co-teaches the Educa-

tional Opportunity and Juvenile Justice Clinic and the Advocacy for Children and Youth Clinic.

Shawn Landres shared the good news that he has been elected chair of the Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission. Shawn has been a member of the commission since 2013 and previously led its "Digital by Default" report on digital government.

Steve Cohen sent a nice update from the Philadelphia area, where he lives with his wife, Kathleen, and kids, Alexa (12), Will (10) and Ty (8), and is a sports medicine orthopedic surgeon. "After nine years of assisting with the Philadelphia Phillies, in 2015 I was named head team physician. So 2016 was my second full season," he writes, adding that he also is team orthopedist for the Philadelphia Flyers. "I follow Columbia Athletics and my daughter hopes to play soccer there," he writes.

From Palo Alto, Calif., **Anne Kornblut** writes that she is at Facebook, overseeing policy communications and working on the company's journalism and news-related efforts. She and her husband, John, have two children, Audrey (4) and Arlo (5). "During the winter break, I caught up with **Eliza Lowen McGraw** and **Rebecca Weinberg Femia**, as well as with Paula O'Rourke BC'94, when we were all in D.C. for Eliza's daughter's bat mitzvah," she writes. "It's amazing to think that pretty soon, the children of our classmates will be applying to college!"

And finally, a remembrance of our own college days from **Kay Bailey**, sparked by recent events:

"During the January 21 Women's March on Washington, I remembered my first Washington protest, on January 15, 1991," Kay writes. "I had driven to D.C. with **Josh Shannon** and **Janet Balis**, who were covering the march for WKCR, and we would be spending the night at Janet's parents' house in Bethesda, Md. When we got to the National Mall, we agreed to have Josh and Janet go do some reporting while I marched. We would meet up again after the protest at the Smithsonian Metro station. As it turned out, there was no such thing as 'after the protest.' It continued into the night and I used my freshman PE class running skills to sprint back and forth from the post-march rally at the White House to the tunnels of the Smithsonian Metro. After five hours, when the crowds had dwindled and marchers beaten a retreat, I heard my name booming over the loudspeaker, spoken as if by God. I was rescued.

"Twenty-six years later cell phones have replaced the need to plan or be in shape. Josh's kids have played with my kids in my suburban backyard, though not enough. My Columbia experiences continue to frame the rest of my experiences through life. What I wouldn't give to be a freshman at Columbia again, and what I wouldn't give to have George H.W. Bush back."

Thanks for the updates and memories everyone. Until next time.

1995

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We all know Columbia College's history of political figures, dating from Alexander Hamilton (Class of 1778) to Barack Obama '83. One of our classmates also joined the ranks of elected officials on the national stage.

In November, voters in El Paso returned **Robert "Beto" O'Rourke** to office for his third term in the House of Representatives. A Democrat, he has sat on committees including Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs.

Beto splits his time between Washington, D.C., and El Paso, where he lives with his wife, Amy,

and their kids, Ulysses (10), Molly (8) and Henry (6). He and Amy, who is from Chicago, met on a blind date and have been married for more than 11 years.

Beto ended up at Columbia for the reason many of us did: New York City. He learned about the school from a high school friend already on Morningside Heights.

During college, Beto rowed crew and played the guitar in some bands (including Swipe) that opened for larger groups, including Jonathan Fire*Eater. They played in Ferris Booth Hall and The West End. During summers, he also toured with another band from El Paso, Foss: "We played in bars and basements and clubs," Beto says.

His memories of those years at Columbia also include several work-study jobs, like checking IDs at FBH and various residence halls, including those dreaded Sunday morning shifts. He also delivered the Sunday *New York Times* to Barnard residence halls.

After school, Beto lived in Williamsburg for three years before moving back to his hometown of El Paso, where he started a technology company, now owned by his wife.

Before winning a House seat, he served on the El Paso City Council for six years.

1996

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Greetings, classmates! **Barbara Antonucci** has joined Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete as a partner in the firm's recently opened San Francisco office. Barbara focuses her practice on labor and employment litigation prevention and defense.

Parag Gandhi is an attending ophthalmologist and assistant professor at Duke Eye Center. Since 2015, he has been working with the Virtue Foundation in NYC on an annual surgical and teaching mission to Mongolia each May. On the mission trip, the doctors screen and operate on patients with eye and orbital diseases that can affect their health or vision; while many of their patients are adults with traumatic injuries and cancerous growths, many



Karen Sender '94 and John Kirkwood SEAS'92 were married on June 4 in Haddonfield, N.J. Left to right: Bill Gildea JRN'61, Deborah Mason GSAS'76, Steve Gelman JRN'57, father of the bride David Sender JRN'61, Susie Baldwin '90, Xavier Smith '99, the bride, the groom, maid of honor Francesca Contiguglia Mercier '94, Jennifer Good BC'93, Drew Stevens SEAS'93 and Joe DeSimone '92.



Parag Gandhi '96 and Tanya Khan '06 traveled to Mongolia with the Virtue Foundation on a surgical and teaching mission in May 2016. This photo was taken in Khovd, a western province bordering Kazakhstan.

are also young children losing vision from drooping eyelids and other disorders. Parag writes that it has been an extremely rewarding experience overall. On the May 2016 mission he was accompanied by Duke ophthalmologist fellow Tanya Khan '06. A photo of them proudly displaying Columbia regalia was taken on a short break during one of their busy mission days in Khovd, a western province bordering Kazakhstan. Parag hopes to return there on future missions.

Malik Rashid writes that he has had a great four and a half years living and working in Manila, all with the Asian Development Bank. He was recently elected chair of the Columbia Alumni Association Philippines Board of Trustees, so that keeps him busy. His wife, Sheena, has been active with social work locally since they moved to Manila in 2012 and their daughter, Ariana, is in kindergarten at the Chinese International School. Malik writes that there is nothing he enjoys more than learning Mandarin with his daughter. The family made the decision to return to the United States in 2017 and they have identified a short list of metro areas they could move to this year. Malik hopes to reconnect with many of you as he explores his next professional opportunities back home. You can still reach him at mmr20@columbia.edu.

Sandhya Nankani SIPA'97 is the founder of Literary Safari, an award-winning company that creates children's content celebrating play, literacy and diversity. Sandhya spends a lot of her days trying to figure out

how to parse research about children's technology and media use. She then incorporates that research into the creation of children's print and digital content that is designed to be diverse and inclusive, and to help families play and learn together. Last year, Sandhya created and launched two children's apps (HangArt and Grandma's Great Gourd), both of which made it to *Common Sense Media's* Essential and Best of Apps lists, something about which Sandhya is thrilled, she says.

Sandhya is also a founding member of an initiative focused on helping children's media producers create diverse and inclusive digital media. Diversity in Apps is soon to be rebranded as KIDMAP: Kids Inclusive and Diverse Media Action Project. The group is currently collaborating with the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop to create a best practices kit (the DIG Toolkit) for children's media producers on how to create better children's content.

That's it for now — please keep sending in notes! And, because it is with great restraint that I write these notes with absolutely no commentary on our current political state of affairs, I leave you with this call to action:

"Our Constitution is a remarkable, beautiful gift. But it's really just a piece of parchment. It has no power on its own. We, the people, give it power. We, the people, give it meaning. With our participation, and with the choices that we make, and the alliances that we forge. Whether or not we stand up for our freedoms. Whether or not we respect and enforce the rule of law. That's up to us."

— Barack Obama '83

1997

REUNION 2017
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John Dean Alfone was credentialed press for the Day for Night Music

Festival in Houston, December 17-18, and penned this: whereyat.com/day-for-night-festival-takes-on-houston-tx. He also interviewed up-and-coming band Night Drive, which has toured with cutting-edge acts Yacht, Psychedelic Furs and Chvrches: whereyat.com/ones-to-watch-night-watch.

Rachel Mann is excited to announce that her debut YA novel, *On Blackberry Hill*, won the 2016 National Jewish Book Award for Young Adult Literature.

Kerensa Harrell and her husband, Manu Sehgal (Mayo Medical School '95) celebrated the arrival of their first child, Amara Vey, to whom Kerensa gave birth on October 27 in Florida. Amara is a Sanskrit name meaning "immortal and indestructible." Kerensa has had a career in dance, having performed on stage at Radio City Music Hall, Lincoln Center's Metropolitan Opera House, The Theater at Madison Square Garden, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Sullivan Street Playhouse et al. She was the waltz choreographer of The Viennese Opera Ball in New York 2006-09 at the Waldorf Astoria ballroom and has had her own NYC-based choreography practice since 2000. She plans to be a stay-at-home mom in Florida, where her husband is an interventional radiologist in private practice. They met in 2015 and married the same year at her grandparents' estate in Florida, and are now excited to be starting their family. Kerensa quips: "We're both late bloomers ... but, better late than never!"

Rabbi Sharon Brous '95, GSAS'01, founder and rabbi of IKAR Synagogue in Los Angeles, spoke at the Women's March in Washington, D.C., on January 21. Her full remarks can be found here: jewishjournal.com/nation/213661/hush-uniform-67439.

As for me, **Sarah Katz**, along with husband, David, and proud big brother, Micah, joyfully announce the birth of our daughter, Eliana Nia Katz Love. Eliana was born October 24, surprising us two months early. After a two-month stay in the NICU, she came home on December 23. Since then she has been busy delighting her brother with snuggles and keeping her parents up at night, as it should be. Looking forward to seeing everyone and getting more

updates at our 20th reunion! It will be here before we know it, Thursday, June 1-Sunday, June 4: college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017!

1998

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Hello, classmates! It occurs to me that while a small percentage of us are dealing with our firstborns being in high school, another small percentage of us are dealing with becoming parents. In a blink of an eye, some of us might have another generation of Columbia-bound students.

Congratulations to new parents **Jeff Cohen-Laurie** and his husband, Tim Cohen-Laurie, who became fathers to daughter Dylan Aubrey Cohen-Laurie. Dylan was born at 6:15 p.m. on December 1; she weighed 6 lbs., 14 oz. As Jeff and Tim shared on Facebook: "She is perfect."

Jeff, Tim and Dylan live in Los Angeles, where Jeff is an attorney at the L.A. County Alternate Public Defender's Office.

Lea Goldman continues to be one of our class' fiercest media bosses. She's now the editor in chief of *Lifetime & FYI* networks after a stint as editorial director at *Refinery29* and eight years in various editorial roles at *Marie Claire*.

Congratulations, Lea!
Send your news to sandie.chen@gmail.com — your classmates want to hear from you!

1999

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Greg Nihon let us know about yet another new lion cub in the pride — he and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed Scarlett Evangeline in June. Scarlett joins her delighted sister, Adriana (4). The family lives in Nassau, Bahamas, though Greg is

keeping up with his classmates and recently met up with **Matt Beckerleg** for an NHL hockey game.

We also heard from **Riann Smith**, who offers a dispatch from the glamorous world of writing and celebrities. Riann “co-authored a women’s style bible with Emmy award-winning fashion guru Carson Kressley.” *Does This Book Make My Butt Look Big? A Cheeky Guide to Feeling Sexier in Your Own Skin & Unleashing Your Personal Style* was published in October. Riann says she “had a ball writing the sassy style tome and is on the hunt for [my] next celebrity book collaboration.”

That’s all we’ve gathered for the continuing adventures of the Class of ’99, but we hope to have many more reports next time. Send us your news to either adeliz@gmail.com or jennajohnson@gmail.com!

2000

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Class of 2000, what’s the news? I hope everyone is having a great 2017 so far — great enough to share in CCT! Email me at pb134@columbia.edu to tell me how hobbies, work, family, travel and life in general are going. Your classmates want to hear from you!

2001

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Lauren Abraham Mahoney gave birth to a son on November 20. Alexander David is doing great and Mom, Dad and big sister are enjoying the addition to the family.

Andrea Cherkerzian Denigan, her husband, Peter, and her son, Levon, welcomed Khoren Joseph on June 15. Levon and Khoren already enjoy getting into lots of trouble!

John Balouziyeh recently published *Hope and a Future: The Story of Syrian Refugees*, a book documenting his travels to Syrian refugee camps in Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. The

book discusses how anyone can have a positive impact on Syrian refugees through corporate partnerships with aid organizations, civil society initiatives and volunteer opportunities. All book proceeds will be donated to charities assisting Syrian refugees.

A thought: Facebook has helped me stay in much better touch with all of you. I am able to find out who had a baby and who got married in almost real time. It also helps me stay connected when classmates are traveling recreationally or for business. Although Facebook wasn’t my source, I was recently on a short trip to Seattle in December and I carefully planned my time to ensure a long coffee break with **Marla Zink** (née Goodman). As usual, Marla and I had a great time catching up. I think some of you have planned similar junkets with our classmates. Please share and let me know how your classmates are doing, so I can share more broadly.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2017! Send me a note with your updates to jrg53@columbia.edu.

We want to hear from you!

2002

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REUNION2017

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Hi friends! Our 15-year reunion is around the corner, Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4; go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017. **Pooja Agarwal** is on the Reunion Committee so we will hear from her. She had a son, Rohan, on January 3. Pooja also has a daughter, Meera (2.5).

GAP hired NYC-based director **Mike Mellia** to film a series of video loops, advertising classic underwear in a surreal yet effortless manner. Under Mike’s signature whimsical aesthetics, the everyday never looked so good.

Su Ahn works at Farfetch in a global role, so she is constantly on the move!

Allison Lloyds O’Neill and **Matt O’Neill** welcomed their son, Alexander Grant O’Neill, on February 2.

2003

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Wishing you all a very happy (lunar) Year of the Rooster — many of us are roosters, so special wishes of health and happiness to you all.

Brandon Victor Dixon ’07, who entered with our class and plays Aaron Burr in the Broadway production of *Hamilton*, made international headlines for his speech to Vice President Mike Pence when Pence was in the audience for the November 18 show.

Congratulations to **Cyrus Habib**, who was recently elected Lieutenant Governor of Washington State, making him the first and only Iranian-American elected to state office in the United States and the highest-ranking Iranian-American in public office. [Editor’s note: See “Lions,” this issue.]

Simone Sebastian was recently named to lead the America Desk at *The Washington Post*.

Emily Broad Leib topped the *Fortune* and *Food & Wine* list of “Most Innovative Women in Food and Drink” for her role as director of the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic. The announcement reads: “According to the United Nations, the world produces more than enough food for everyone on the planet. Yet billions of pounds end up in landfills every year. Leib is taking on the hunger epidemic by focusing on legislation to address labeling and to make donating easier. ‘For most foods the date on the label is about freshness, not safety,’ she says. ‘There are no guidelines at the federal level and inconsistent ones on the state level that are not based on actual science. We want to make labeling laws clearer, so when people pick up a yogurt, they know when it’s OK to eat it and when to throw it out.’ This common-sense approach has the potential to transform our system,

with the ultimate goal of getting more food to those in need.”

Sam Polk ’01 writes, “I opened Everytable in Los Angeles, a social enterprise making healthful food affordable for all. We sell healthful grab-and-go food, and price the meals according to the neighborhoods we are in. We are creating a system where everyone gets great value and we can open stores in every community, no matter the demographic profile.”

Rachel Sundet invites classmates to stop by her two restaurants in Kendall Square in Cambridge, Mass.: State Park, which is also a bar, and Mamaleh’s Delicatessen and Restaurant, a Jewish deli.

Sheila Dvorak Galione lives in the Hudson Valley and, in 2016, began working in development at SUNY Ulster as development associate and scholarship coordinator, where she manages social media strategy and messaging. Her band, Sheila Dee and The Dazzlers, has been performing throughout the Hudson Valley since 2014. The band will be in the studio (Roots Cellar) recording its first full length album this year. On January 21, Sheila Dee attended the Women’s March on Washington, where they filmed the official music video for the first single, “Happening,” due early this year. Listen at sheiladeeshow.com.

Jenny Bach earned a master’s in mental health counseling and is a full-time psychotherapist at New York Psychotherapy and Counseling Center in the South Bronx. Jenny also is a board member/officer for The Shine Foundation (shine-foundation.org; chapters in New York City and Baltimore), a nonprofit that works assiduously to help provide assistance to survivors of domestic violence.

Jeffrey Hsieh, an anesthesiologist at CarePoint Health, and his wife, Jacqui Wu, welcomed son Hunter.

2004

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Hi CC’04. No updates this issue, so please send in news, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always

fun, but please reach out to share about trips you may be taking, events you have attended or are looking forward to, or even interesting books or shows you have come across.

You can send updates either via the email at the top of the column or through CCT's Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2005

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Happy spring, Class of 2005! Send updates to CCT at cct@columbia.edu for a future issue!

Steph Katsigiannis Benecchi:

"I, along with my husband, Kevin Benecchi SEAS'05, and our daughter, Liliana (born July 2015), relocated from Manhattan to Haddonfield, N.J., last summer. I joined Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads as an associate in its Philadelphia office, where my practice focuses on representing individuals involved in government investigations, as well as commercial litigation and white collar criminal defense.

"Kevin works for LoyaltyEdge, formerly a division of American Express and currently with Meridian Enterprises, where he is a senior manager in charge of the analytics and data

science team, focusing on customer loyalty and consumer rewards. We would love to connect with classmates in the area, or those passing through."

Darren Bolton was married to Jessica Marie Dunbar (Loyola) on November 19 in Doylestown, Pa. In attendance were best man Conall Arora '06 and groomsmen Faisal Saidi '07 and Roel Garcia '07. Says Darren, "We recently returned from an amazing honeymoon in South Africa. Jessica and I now live happily in Old City, Philadelphia.

"I am an assistant golf professional at the Springdale Golf Club in Princeton, N.J., and am working on earning my Class A membership with the PGA of America. I am also training to compete in my second Olympic-distance triathlon this July and will run in the Philadelphia Marathon in November."

2006

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Dear friends,

Here are some exciting updates from our classmates!

Teddy Dief writes: "I released the videogame 'Hyper Light Drifter' for PC, PlayStation 4 and Xbox. The game received two Game Award nominations in 2016! I recently moved to Montreal to be creative director at game studio Square Enix Montreal."

Jose Montero BUS'13 has been working on a line of foods, Wickedly Prime, for Amazon and launched in 2016. Bon appétit!

Justin Ifill recently traveled to Cuba and was pleased to spend the holidays in a warm climate! In February, he started yoga teacher training; he is looking forward to this next chapter and starting a new business.

Jonathan Ward successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis at Oxford on China-India relations and has begun an active public speaking life on China-India, Indian Ocean and Asia Pacific regions. Here's a link to a recent talk at the Economic Research Council in London: ercouncil.org/events. He plans to return to the United States this year.



SRINIVAS PRASAD

Friends celebrated at the wedding reception of Radha Ram '06 and Raj Sahoo. Left to right: Gopi Nayak '06, Vinita Venkatesh SEAS'05, the bride, the groom, Gauri Saxena BC'06, Kingsley Christopher Cruickshank '05, Srinidhi Raghavan '06 and Amit Gupta.

C. Mason Wells is working with Cohen Media Group to relaunch New York City's first multiscreen movie theater, Quad Cinema, which was established in 1972. He will be the cinema's director of repertory programming when it reopens in April.

Megan Ivey and Daniel Turner were married on April 2, 2016, at the Redondo Beach (Calif.) Historic Library. Bridesmaids included Jackie Adelfio SEAS'06, Amy Cass '07, **Lauren DeLauro Senno** and **Lauren Baranco**.

After getting engaged on Columbia's South Lawn at her 10-year reunion, **Radha Ram** married Raj Sahoo in Dallas on December 9. There was even a performance by Radha's former dance team! The performers were alumni from Columbia Taal, including her sister Gita Ram '04 and friends Vinita Venkatesh SEAS'05, Kingsley Christopher Cruickshank '05, Gauri Saxena BC'06, **Srinidhi Raghavan** and **Gopi Nayak**. Other alumni in attendance were **Neeta Makhija**, **Michelle Oh Sing**, **Matthew Dinusson SEAS'06**, **Sonali Lala** and, of course, Radha's mother, Asha Ram School of Pharmacy '76.

Alexia Connellan (née Innis) launched a signature collection of couture jewels inspired by extraordinary gems she has gathered over the years. The newest jewels can be found on alexiaconnellan.com. The collection was photographed by Chad Johnson GSAS'09. Alexia's pieces have been worn on the red carpet and have won several prestigious jewelry design awards. She lives in San Francisco with her

husband, Irish playwright Brendan Connellan, and their young son.

2007

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JUNE 1-4
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REUNION 2017

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It's 2017 and I can't believe our 10-year reunion is just around the corner. I hope to see you all there! Until then, here are some exciting updates from classmates:

Allie Córdova (née Mirkin) and **Clay Córdova** welcomed their daughter, Chloe, on May 20. They "can't wait to pressure her to apply to Columbia and are looking forward to showing pictures to anyone they can corner at reunion this year."

Jake Olson and **Luciana Olson** (née Colapinto) welcomed Lucas William Olson into the world on September 25. Jake says, "Everyone is doing great!"

Philippa Warodell (née Ainsley) and Johan Warodell GS'09, GSAS'12 welcomed their first child, Johan Hugo, in August. Philippa writes, "He's a strapping lad and we look forward to his being Class of 2038!"



FIGLEWICZ PHOTOGRAPHY

Megan Ivey '06 married Daniel Turner on April 2, 2016, in Redondo Beach, Calif. Left to right: bridesmaid Jackie Adelfio SEAS'06, bridesmaid Amy Cass '07, the bride, bridesmaid Lauren DeLauro Senno '06 and bridesmaid Lauren Baranco '06.



David Berlin '07 married Alexandra Bronson in Brooklyn in October. Left to right: Emily Msall '07, Christina Giaccone BC'07, Greg Wing '07, Nick Klagge '07, the groom, Joseph Anzalone '07, the bride, Andrew Russeth '07, Elizabeth Klein '07, Subash Iyer '07, Gillian DiPietro BC'07, Joel Ryzow '07, Helam Gebremariam '07, Rishen Brown '07, Amanda Levy and Tyler Brown.

David Berlin and Alexandra Bronson were married in Brooklyn, N.Y., in October.

After 31 years in New York City, **Kate Hurwitz** is "moving to Los Angeles to pursue her nightmare of constantly being in a car."

Becca Hartog shares, "I'm in residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in combined internal medicine and pediatrics. I'll finish in May 2018 and I'm getting married in June 2017."

Caitlin Raux (née Gunther) writes, "I cannot believe our 10-year

is almost here! I've been a food writer and editor for the Institute of Culinary Education since last spring and doing freelance writing, photography and social media consulting. Also, I got married this past fall and am now Caitlin Raux (sounds like 'row' with a French 'rrr'). Hope to catch up with everyone at reunion."

In November, **Earnest Sweat** was a featured panelist for Kellogg School of Management's Growth Forum. Earnest participated in the "Pockets of Potential" session, which focused

on the importance of investing in women and minority-led businesses.

See you at Reunion 2017, Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4! Go to college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017.

2008

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Here are the latest updates for CC'08! **Scott Hughes** married Shelley Jacobson (Penn'08) in July in the Poconos. Several friends from Columbia were in attendance, including Cody Steele '09, Andrea Steele '07, **Jon Kamran, Marissa Weldon, Thomas Weldon, Liz Hormann, Craig Hormann SEAS'08, Mark Dato '10 and Gavin Harris**. Though the Columbia attendees were outnumbered by their counterparts from Penn, the group sang a spirited rendition of "Roar, Lion, Roar!" on the dance floor that startled the crowd and definitely won the enthusiasm battle.

Scott and Shelley live in Washington, D.C., where he works in private equity for the Carlyle Group and she works in charter school finance. For Manhattanites tired of small apartments and high rents, they say come check out D.C.!

Lauren Arnold PS'17, PH'17 married Brandon Bell on May 29 in Memphis.

Earlier this year, **Avanti Maluste** co-founded a cat day care in Mumbai, "The Kitty Litter." The concept was so successful for dogs that she decided to expand the idea of pet daycare "to our feline friends." Avanti says, "The initial response has been tremendous, including cats of two Bollywood stars. We offer daycare, grooming and transport. The Kitty Litter has also been fortunate enough to benefit from the guidance of international board members **Zander Bauman** and **Paula Cheng**, who provide insight from across the pond. We are excited to see what next year brings."

Last summer, **Ronald Towns** and good friend Zach Bell launched Camp Common Ground (campcommonground.org). Their goal is to disrupt racial and economic segregation in the Bay Area.



ALEX YOUNG

In January, Elizabeth Monson '08, Rohini Sengupta SEAS'08, Victoria Gerstman '08, Christine Espinoza '08 and Eve Torres '08 met up at the W South Beach in Miami to celebrate Gerstman's 30th birthday.

"How do we do this? We help kids from different racial and economic backgrounds build strong relationships with one another, so that they can build and lead integrated communities as adults," says Ronald.

"This past summer, we brought 27 kids of all different racial and economic backgrounds together for a two-week, overnight summer camp experience. While at camp, our Commoners (the name we give our campers): a) learn about their identity and how their identity influences their perspective, b) learn empathy skills to help them listen and understand others and c) practice leadership skills that will allow them to build relationships with people across cultural lines and bring those people together."

Athar Abdul-Quader married Sharmin Ahmed BC'10 on July 17. They celebrated with many of their Columbia and Barnard friends and family, with Columbia/Barnard classes represented from 1999 to 2012.

2009

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Aditi Nim and Hans Sahni '08 were married in December in Laguna Beach, Calif., surrounded by their closest friends and family. They met on Columbia's Bhangra dance team in 2006, started dating in 2011 and got engaged in 2014. Their wedding was



Athar Abdul-Quader '08 married Sharmin Ahmed BC'10 on July 17. From back: Adil Ahmed '09, Giselle Leon '10, Amy Chen '10, Robyn Burgess '10, Saira Siddiqui BC'09, Whitney Green SEAS'10, Ali Shafei '10, Farah Ahmed, Tahir Qadir SPS'09, Alice Sturm '10, Kashif Siddiqui SEAS'04, Sakib Khan SEAS'07, Taaha Shaikh SEAS'05; middle row: Henna Mahmood '11, Saffiyah Madraswala BC'09, Katie Palillo BC'10, Annie Taylor BC'10, Muzna Ansari BC'10, Tarnima Ahmed BC'08, Diana Hsueh GSAS'09, Jennifer Pyne BC'10, Prema Choudhury BC'10, Meena Azizi BC'10, Deysy Ordóñez '10, Kabita Parajuli '10, Azhar Abdul-Quader '02, Mohamed Haroun SEAS'08, Mona Soliman '09, Ahmed Khan '09, Ayesha Khan '03, Fatima Fasihuddin BC'99; front row: Amreen Vora BC'09, Ameera Nauman BC'10, Zeest Haider BC'10, the bride, the groom, Sherif Farrag '09, Yusuf Ahmad '12; and seated: Sairah Anwar BC'11, Jafreen Uddin BC'07, Naureen Akhter BC'09 and Dilruba Parveen BC'11.

attended by more than 40 Columbia alumni from various classes, including **Ravi Singh, Amar Doshi** and **Salina Bakshi**. Highlights included a massive reunion dance at their sangeet and exchanging vows in both the Hindu and Sikh traditions. The couple lives in Los Angeles.

Stephanie Chou recently released her third album, *Asymptote*, which features fresh arrangements of Chinese classics, including “Kangding Love Song” and “In the Moon (You’ll See My Heart).” Another song on the record, “Eating Grapes,” is based on a tongue twister. And another is about Li Bai’s poem, “Quiet Night Thought.” Plus, there are songs influenced by her love of mathematics and literature. Stephanie celebrated the release with a performance at Joe’s Pub in New York City on January 14. Check out audio, video and more: stephaniechoumusic.com/asymptotelinernotes.

Stephanie received the 2016 Jerome Fund for New Music, a grant from the American Composers Forum with funds provided by the Jerome Foundation to write, record and premiere a new piece of music with the China Institute.

Michael Grinspan is a comedy touring agent at ICM in Los Angeles, working with stand-ups like Jay Leno, Jay Pharoah, Bob Saget, Cecily Strong and Marlon Wayans. Michael also represents up-and-coming comics, focusing on diverse, underrepresented voices. If you need

a comedian for an event, reach out to him on Facebook.

Want to see your updates here? Send me an email at damooci@gmail.com!

2010

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Hi 2010. This is a quieter issue for our class, but exciting nonetheless. Thanks for sharing your updates. I look forward to reading more next issue.

Michael Bossetta recently launched a podcast series, “Social Media and Politics” in connection with his Ph.D. research at the University of Copenhagen. In the podcast, Michael interviews leading academics, politicians and industry experts to explore how social media is changing politics in the digital age. You can download the podcast on iTunes or Google Play, or send a tweet for more info: @SMandPPodcast.

Morgan Parker’s second book of poetry, *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé*, was scheduled to be published in February. Recently, her work has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, *The Nation*, *The Best American Poetry* and elsewhere. She also received a 2017 Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment



JAMIE CLAYTON PHOTOGRAPHY

Lauren Arnold Bell '08, PS'17, PH'17 married Brandon Bell on May 29 in Memphis. In attendance were (fourth row, left to right) Laura DiCola PS'16; Paul Blackcloud PS'16; Adam Koneman; (third row) Erick Farrington; Kieron Cindric '08; Ben Weinryb Grohsgal '08; Michael Dreyfuss '08; Beth Leopold PS'16; Andrea Gillis '12, PS'16; Tate Andres PS'16; Ian Wolfe; (second row) Michaela Bamdad '08; Jeremy Lyon; Melissa Arnold Lyon TC'21; Sally Cohen-Cutler '08; Zoe Sansted '12, PS'17, BUS'17; and (front row) Randall Lee PS'16; Joanna Tu PS'17; the groom; the bride; Nina Ragaz PS'16; Joshua Rosner '08 and Marlene DeOliveira SEAS'08.

of the Arts. She'd love to see you on her book tour!

And now, the latest from **Chris Yim**: “Oh, boy! The meaning of life ... what is it and how do we figure it out? In my past posts, I have made a number of Christian allusions and talked about my faith. However, in the past few months, I've actually felt more distant from that walk of life. Not for any one reason, but just feeling this uncertainty around whether or not this is all random — our lives and our existence. I struggle with the idea of time, how our lives are constrained by the time we have. This transience urges me to seek meaning, but I wonder if we can find meaning in a world that clings to chaos and dismisses my ideals for justice. Maybe we don't need to find meaning in our lives and, if we can find a way to enjoy the process, it's just as powerful to be present and pursue the day to day.

“I was in the woods with **Varun Gulati SEAS'10** a few months ago. We were snacking on vegetables and roaming the wilderness when we started talking about how much we'd miss each other when he moved to New York. He has since moved to New York to be with his girlfriend. We discussed how lucky we were to have met and how the stars aligned throughout our lives for us to spend so much of our 20s together — six

of the last 10 years! Overwhelmed by the profundity and gratitude, we shed tears. I wondered if there was any design to it, if there was any intention, as the answer to that question would help clarify things for me.

“I wrote a status on Facebook about the power and liberation in being vulnerable. I had a few relationships in the past few years, dating back to college, that took advantage of my vulnerability and earnestness. Over time, I became hardened and it has become harder for me to show my compassion and let go of my cynicism. Also, living in New York just makes you a jerk. Through trying to make strides in bridging relationships, extending hands to others that I've disagreed with and sitting down to have tough conversations, I have witnessed how moving it is to be vulnerable. It sounds ultra-cheesy, but when you take off your armor, offer peace and say, ‘Hey, I'm here to work it out,’ you'd be amazed by how disarming that can be. If you're reading this and thinking about a strained relationship with a parent, sibling, friend, work colleague or whomever, then you have something you want to and can improve.

“I'll close this loopy submission with a few notes. I'll be in San Francisco for another year, moving



Scott Hughes '08 married Shelley Jacobson in the Poconos in July. Several friends from Columbia were in attendance, including (left to right) Cody Steele '09, Andrea Steele '07, Jon Kamran '08, Marissa Weldon '08, Liz Hormann '08, Thomas Weldon '08, the bride, the groom, Craig Hormann SEAS'08, Mark Dato '10 and Gavin Harris '08.



Julia Garrison '11 married Philippe Putzeys SEAS'10 on July 23. Columbia alumni in attendance were (left to right): Jordan Kobb '10, Hannah Mercuris '10, Dan Nassar '10, Erin Conway '11, Gene Kaskiw '09, Robert Frawley SEAS'10, Kate Omstead '10, Adam Bulkley '10, Eric Tang SEAS'10, the bride, the groom, Nick Barron '10, Lauren LaMura SEAS'10, Eric McKenna SEAS'11, Colleen McNutt '11, Ross Ramone '10 and Lauren Byrne '11.

into a new home with my wife and two more roommates. We went from having one roommate (Varun) to two roommates. I guess this is the modern marriage. I am pursuing hobbies now that I have never done before — yoga, improv and ceramics, and am writing again. I have a beautiful community here in San Francisco, consisting of a number of Columbians, including Nidhi Hebbar '12, Erin Tao '11, **Tiff Jung**, Geoffrey Charles SEAS'12, **Jake Grumbach**, **Dario Abramskiewn** and Alex Millet '12. Outside of them even, we have this group out here that is really open, honest, compassionate and invested in one another's lives. It took me a while to find this, but I feel really grateful for what we have. I still can't forget how privileged I am and that people of less fortunate backgrounds don't have the opportunities that I have had and may not have them. This year is also about trying to find ways to serve so that others may have the

several Columbians at the wedding of fellow Carman 9-er Lauren Pully SEAS'11 and Dylan Graham (Cornell'11). **Yaniris Gomez**; **Zila Acosta-Grimes LAW'15**; **Brian Grimes**; **Ali Krimmer**; **Sean Udell**; **Dhruv Vasishtha**; Molly Spector BC'11; Elizabeth Pitula BC'11; Sarah Sullivan BC'11; **Lia Bersin SEAS'11**; **Daniel Izquierdo SEAS'11**, SEAS'16; and **Elizabeth Rodan SEAS'11** all dashed to "Dazzling Dallas" to celebrate the New Year and the Pully-Graham wedding. It was so nice to reunite with Columbia friends, especially Dhruv, whose Lululemon-Orange Theory-Flywheel persona really hit its stride in Dallas.

Michael Bruno, it turns out, moved to a far superior part of the country while we were drinking in Dallas. You can now find him in the Bay Area, where he is working at Facebook on the data science team. Facebook is cool and all, he says, but really he's just thrilled to have

band was abruptly prohibited from playing in the library last semester, Nicole contributed to an alumni fund that supplied hand warmers and coffee to the performers playing instruments and making merry in 18-degree weather. Nicole is rooting for the return of Orgo Night to Butler 209 in May! (Hear that, PresBo?)

Ben Gaston, a beard role model to at least one of your correspondents, founded digital marketing agency Open Oceans, which uses lean startup strategies to provide high-return digital marketing solutions to growing businesses. The business is based out of San Francisco and is rapidly building a diverse client set across the United States. Ben is happy to speak with entrepreneurs or business leaders looking to improve their digital marketing strategies.

Following up on our many marriage announcements from the last three issues, another Twenty-Eleven-er left singlesville last summer: **Julia Garrison** married Philippe Putzeys SEAS'10 on July 23. The couple met during our sophomore year at Columbia. Many Columbia alumni attended the nuptials, including Jordan Kobb '10, Hannah Mercuris '10, Dan Nassar '10, **Erin Conway**, Gene Kaskiw '09, Robert Frawley SEAS'10, Kate Omstead '10, Adam Bulkley '10, Eric Tang SEAS'10, Nick Barron '10, Lauren LaMura SEAS'10, Eric McKenna SEAS'11, **Colleen McNutt**, Ross Ramone '10 and **Lauren Byrne**.

Finally, these med school correspondents are thrilled for **Tanisha Dee Daniel**, who was accepted to Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where she will join the Class of 2021 this summer. This means that Tanisha gets to stay in New Jersey, where she has been living while commuting to New York City's Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital.

2012

REUNION 2017
JUNE 1-4

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REUNION 2017

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The beginning of 2017 brought exciting changes for some classmates!

Pat Blute is mapping out 2017 plans for the beta launch of *South of Market: The Musical*, which hit three tour venues in January. Listen to a sneak preview of some of the music by going to SoundCloud and searching "South of Market: The Musical."

Caden Greenberg Brecher was born on December 24. He came as an early surprise. Mom **Jessica Greenberg** and dad Oren Brecher '11 are overjoyed.

After graduating with a master's from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts' Department of Art and Public Policy in May and working for the American Associates of the National Theatre, **Elizabeth Kipp-Giusti** started the year by transitioning to The Public Theater as a development associate, managing a portfolio of institutional partnership grants. In her spare time, she co-chairs the Columbia Alumni Association Arts Access Committee, curating arts events throughout the city and engaging CU alumni in conversations about creativity and cultural stewardship.

Mrinal Mohanka left New York, where he was a consultant after

Nicole Catá '11 spent a week in Cuba, traveling to the Bay of Pigs, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara, Trinidad, Viñales and Havana.

opportunities that I have been fortunate enough to have. You can keep me accountable to that here.

"Lastly, Tiger Woods will win one golf tournament. You heard it here first. Love you all, muah!"

2011

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Happy spring, Twenty-Eleven! We hope that 2017 is treating you well so far. Since we're writing these updates in January, we can only speculate on how the first 100 days of life without a Columbia College alumnus in the White House will pan out for all of us. Sean, at least, memorably rang in 2017 with

escaped the cold of Chicago, where he had lived the past five years.

Annie Tan also left Chicago to come back to New York City, where she now teaches fifth-grade special education in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. Prior to her move, Annie had been working for Chicago Public Schools and served as a delegate to both the American Federation of Teachers Convention and the Democratic National Convention last July. (Hit her up, NYC folk!)

Nicole Catá, an avid CCT reader, recently spent a week in Cuba, traveling to the Bay of Pigs, Cienfuegos, Santa Clara, Trinidad, Viñales and Havana, where her father and his parents were born. She memorably saw the house her great-grandfather built in Havana, which she had never thought she would get to see. Nicole also cheered on the Columbia University Marching Band from afar (middle Brooklyn) as it hosted Orgo Night in front of Butler Library in December. Because the



Oren Brecher '11 and Jessica Greenberg '12 welcomed son Caden Greenberg Brecher on December 24.

graduating, in 2014 to experience fellowship, start-up and venture capital life in India. He returns to Morningside this spring to start an M.B.A. and looks forward to seeing many of you before or at reunion!

Gillian Rhodes says hello from South Korea: "It's been a year and a half of living in Seoul. This fall, after a year of dancing with Second Nature Dance Company, a Korean contemporary dance company, I was moved from guest dancer to member. The year was filled with training and performances, but in between, I organized the first virtual summit (thousandvirtuallsummit.com) for the international Thousand Network around the theme 'New Archetypes of Peace.'"

Chuck Roberts is a 2L at Stanford. He plans to spend this summer working for Sullivan & Cromwell and the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

Hope to hear from the rest of you soon and to see you all at our five-year reunion, Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4! Go to college. columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2017.

2013

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Jide Adebayo SIPA'14 recently moved to Miami Beach (by way of Venture for America), where he is a senior strategist out of the office of the CEO at Rokk3r Labs. Jide is responsible for co-building tech companies, as well as leading the overall vision and development of Rokk3r Labs itself. Rokk3r Labs has sent Jide on a one-year entrepreneur-

ial pilgrimage around the world in partnership with Remote Year. Each month, he will travel to a different country across Asia, Africa, Europe and South America, where he will speak with entrepreneurs to understand what investors are looking for and to connect the so-called "global collective genius" in the VC space.

Born and raised in Memphis in a Nigerian family of four boys, Jide graduated with a B.A. in philosophy and economics and earned a master's in public administration from SIPA through an accelerated five-year program. Before his role at Rokk3r Labs, Jide started a company with Ramzi Abdoch SEAS'17 and was accepted to the inaugural Columbia Startup Lab.

To contact Jide or follow his story, go to jideadebayo.com.

Ryan Mandelbaum moved back to New York City after two years as a healthcare software implementer in Madison, Wis. He finished a graduate program in science journalism at NYU and now writes full-time for the tech website Gizmodo. His work has appeared in *Scientific American*, *Popular Science*, *The Washington Post* and *The Atlantic*. In his own words, Ryan is "essentially still sending class emails, but now sends them daily to several thousand more people ... and only on science. He has also dyed his hair and eaten organs from various non-human animals, among other things. So all-in-all, things are going pretty well."

Glad to know the CC'13 spirit is alive and well. After many years in New York City working in consulting and then for Uber NYC, I've moved back to Los Angeles and am a regional operations manager for Uber's United States and Canada businesses. When I'm not working (or traveling for work), I plan to hike with my puppy regularly and I hope will learn how to surf! Shoot me an email with your news: talaakhavan@gmail.com!

2014

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Happy spring, 2014! Classmates were busy during the winter months, but this means we should have a full column for the Summer issue!

Amanda Marie Buch, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in neuroscience at Weill Cornell, was recently featured in an episode of the podcast *Story Collider!* The shows take place around the United States and the United Kingdom and involve a live performance, which is recorded for an online podcast. Amanda's episode was recorded in March 2016 while she was a Bridge to Ph.D. Scholar at Columbia; she performed at Union Hall in Brooklyn as part of Brain Awareness Week: storycollider.org/stories/2016/12/2/amanda-buch-my-fathers-brain.

One of Amanda's public talks at the Columbia University Medical Center was covered by the Dana Foundation: danablog.org/2015/07/20/focused-ultrasound-how-sound-can-heal-your-brain.

2015

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The Class of 2015 is truly up to some amazing things! **Adrian Alea** has been in Los Angeles for the past year working as a management associate for Benny Medina and Jennifer Lopez. He says, "I look forward to returning to NYC this summer, where I'll be assistant directing Shakespeare in The Park with The Public Theater."

Doreen Mohammed '17 writes, "I have a role at MyCareerHacker as a career consultant. I am looking to diversify my resume with other experiences. Can any classmates help me out? Reach me at drm2144@columbia.edu."

Alyssa Menz recently completed a master's in nature, society and environmental governance at Oxford.

Highlights from her experience include exploring the discourse of food insecurity and urban food deserts in the United States for her master's dissertation and leading the Oxford University Varsity Ultimate Frisbee Team to a third place finish at the U.K. National Championships.

Alyssa recently accepted a position on the Energy and Resources Group team at Development Alternatives, an international development firm in Washington, D.C., and is looking forward to starting this next adventure, she says!

And that's it, folks! Want to get your story out there? Please submit updates to me at the address at the top of the column, emailing me at kdc2122@columbia.edu or submitting via the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2016

REUNION 2017
JUNE 1–4
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REUNION 2017

Lily Liu-Krason
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Hey, 2016. I recently moved back to NYC and work in midtown. If you want to reach out at liliukrason@gmail.com to catch up, I would love that! Otherwise, please send me your notes and updates as always!

Eyvana Bengochea LAW'19 recently gave birth to a baby boy! Her partner is Ziyad Al Rasheed-Wright GSAS'15. Not being able to get enough of the Pantone 292, Eyvana finished 1L at the Law School and will pursue a human rights internship in the United Kingdom this summer through the Law School's Social Justice Initiatives program.

Don't forget that this summer is our first-year reunion! Come back to campus Thursday, June 1–Sunday, June 4, to catch up with friends and make Columbia memories.

obituaries

1942

Leonard I. Garth, federal judge, North Branford, Conn., on September 22, 2016. Garth was one of the longest serving and most highly respected federal judges in the country, having served for 48 years. He was a Rockefeller Foundation Scholar and fought as a first lieutenant in Africa during WWII. After graduating from Harvard Law, Garth practiced at Cole, Berman & Garth (now Cole Schotz), a prominent New Jersey-based firm,



Hon. Leonard I. Garth '42

where he developed his reputation as a leading trial and transactional lawyer, before being appointed to the federal bench. Garth first served on the United States District Court, District of New Jersey, for four years beginning in 1970 and the last 44 years on the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He handled many high-profile cases, including some involving the Three Mile Island disaster, congressional redistricting, organized crime, political corruption and immigration. Recently, the atrium of the U.S. Courthouse in Newark, N.J., was named in his honor. Garth is survived by his daughter, Tobie Garth Meisel; son-in-law, Michael S. Meisel; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. His wife of 72 years, Sarah Kaufman Garth, passed away in 2016. Memorial contributions may be made to Temple Beth Tikvah, 196 Durham Rd., Madison CT 06433; the American Heart Association; or the American Diabetes Association.

Robert J. Kaufman, retired corporate attorney, Scarsdale, N.Y., on October 30, 2016. Kaufman was a graduate of the Horace Mann School. At the College, he was Phi Beta Kappa, a member of Sachems and coxswain of the Varsity Crew. Kaufman served in the Navy 1942–46 and was a communications officer aboard a destroyer escort. Kaufman graduated from Yale Law in 1948; he was a member of Corby Court. Having started as an associate with Gale, Bernays, Falk & Eisner, Kaufman became assistant general counsel of the DuMont Broadcasting Corp. and later spent many years as VP and general attorney for ABC. Kaufman frequently said that no one enjoyed working for a living more than he did. He was profiled in *Who's Who in America* and was an enthusiastic golfer and a great fan of the Giants football team and Camp Kennebec. Kaufman is survived by his wife of 65 years, Susan Sanger Kaufman; sons, Peter S. and James H.; daughters-in-law, Theresa and Teresa; and two granddaughters. Kaufman was predeceased by his brothers Edwin and William. Memorial contributions may be made to Columbia University and designated for men's rowing: giving.columbia.edu.

1949

Robert B. Goldberg, retired business executive, Manhasset, N.Y., on April 2, 2016. Goldberg was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he graduated from Boys H.S. After graduation from Columbia, he served in the Merchant Marine and the Air Force, attaining the rank of second lieutenant. Goldberg worked in the textile and personal computer businesses and was president and a member of the Board of Trustees of Temple Hillel in North Woodmere, Long Island, as well as a member of the Local Development Corp. of the Town of Hempstead. His love of his alma mater was everlasting, and as an avid fan of Lion sports he even got to enjoy basketball's CollegeInsider.com Postseason Tournament Championship in March 2016. Goldberg was predeceased by his wife, Lora, and is survived by his sons, Jerry and his wife, Marla, and Andy and his wife,

Irene; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

1951

Robert B. Kaemmerlen, architect, Hingham, Mass., on November 30, 2015. Born in Albany, N.Y., Kaemmerlen grew up in Hudson, N.Y. He was a member of Columbia's lightweight crew and earned an M.Arch. in 1954 from GSAPP. Kaemmerlen developed his architectural partnership, Salisbury & Moore, in Avon, Conn. Notable projects included the Hartford Hospital School of Nursing, Hartford YWCA, Kent School facilities and several ski lodges at Pico Mountain and Mount Snow, Vt. Having designed and built sets for The Simsbury Light Opera Co.'s many productions, Kaemmerlen's highlight was the giant tree and mushrooms from which emerged the fairies of *Iolanthe*. He built two houses, one in Simsbury and one on Prudence Island, R.I., that used solar heat and hot water; he was ahead of his time. Kaemmerlen enjoyed skiing, sailing, rowing, painting and always taking a summer camping trip to the mountains with his family. He was married to Joann Rice for 62 years, and they have three sons, Steven, Thomas and James, and a daughter, Betsy. In addition to them, Kaemmerlen is survived by five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; older brother Paul; and older sister Helen. He was predeceased by older brother Jack '50.

Beverly James "Jim" Lowe, retired rear admiral, U.S. Navy, Daytona Beach, Fla., on February 13, 2017. Born on June 4, 1929, in Keyser W.V., Lowe earned a B.A. in physics and mathematics. Upon graduation, he entered the submarine service. After two years of submarine operations, he was selected for a three-year program at MIT, from which he received advanced degrees in naval engineering and an M.S. with a specialty in nuclear engineering. Lowe served 33 years in the Navy. Upon completion of his naval service he was a program manager, VP and CEO of various engineering companies including Westinghouse, United Nuclear Corp. and Tacoma Boatbuilding



Rear Adm. Beverly James Lowe '51

Company. Lowe retired in 1987 and lived in Albuquerque, N.M., where he volunteered for many community organizations. He was an influential leader in the return of ROTC to Columbia University. Lowe is survived by his sons, Stephen and Paul; daughters, Kimberly Chalkley and Pam Krieger; and five grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother, Brenton, and wife, Suzette. Memorial contributions may be made to the Columbia Alliance for ROTC, Box 422, Waldwick, NJ 07463.

1952

Stanley I. Rubenfeld, tax attorney, Aventura, Fla., on September 3, 2016. Rubenfeld was born on December 7, 1930. At the Law School, from which he graduated in 1956, he was editor-in-chief of the *Law Review*. Rubenfeld served as a lieutenant in the Navy during the Korean War and then joined Shearman & Sterling in New York City. He was a senior partner at the firm and spent his entire career there, becoming head of the tax department and one of the country's leading tax attorneys. Rubenfeld was an avid tennis player and shared his wife Madeleine Conway's devotion to the building of the new Pérez Art Museum Miami, and her love of travel. Rubenfeld is survived by his children, Leslie Dealy, Lise Oelbaum and Kenneth; his wife and her children, Andrew Conway, Victoria Newman and Allie Marks, and their families; his five grandchildren; one great-grandchild; sons-in-law, Andrew Oelbaum and Kevin Dealy; and nephews, Andy Rubien and

Davie Rubien. He was predeceased by his sister, Sheila Pakula. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Southeast Florida Chapter, 3333 Forest Hill Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33406; or the Alzheimer's Association, Long Island Chapter, 425 Broadhollow Rd., Ste 307, Melville, NY 11747.

1953

Mitchell Price, retired fire department personnel director, Hudson, Fla., on January 8, 2016. Price was born in Midvale, Utah, on January 10, 1931. He graduated from Jordan H.S., for which he was student body president.

He was awarded a four-year scholarship to the College. After graduation, he joined the Navy and became a pilot. After retiring from the Navy, Price worked for the *Miami Herald* and later was in charge of the personnel department for the Dade County Fire Department, from which he retired. Price was very active in sports, working under Dunn "Snide" Taylor at Jordan H.S. and Lou Little at Columbia. He lettered in football, basketball and baseball at both schools and was an All-American quarterback at Columbia. He married Virginia Brooks, who is the mother of his sons, Blake and Van, and daughter, Kathy. They later divorced. Price married Norma Costello and shared many happy years

with her until her death several years ago. Price is survived by his children; brother, Don; sisters, Ann Theos and Amelia; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers George, Proko and Bob; and sisters Sophie, Mary, Mamie, Dorothy, Ruby, Rose and Ellen.

1957

Ira Lubell, physician and medical administrator, San Francisco, on June 12, 2016. Lubell was born on June 20, 1936, in Brooklyn, N.Y. He graduated from Stuyvesant and SUNY Downstate, and earned an M.P.H. in 1964 from the School of Public Health. Lubell served as a lieutenant commander in the Navy, an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service and as the physician at the American embassy in Moscow. He returned stateside and became chief medical officer of Lincoln Hospital in NYC. Lubell was the first community health officer for Bergen County, N.J. He worked in more than 150 countries, specializing in population control through his work with the Association for Voluntary Sterilization. Following his tenure with AVS Lubell became medical director of Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center in NYC. In 1988, Santa Cruz County hired Lubell as its chief medical officer. In 1996, he became medical director of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, where he worked for seven years. After his 2003 retirement, Lubell was medical director for the San Francisco Fire Department for four years and also on local boards and committees. He is survived by his husband of 36 years, Louis Judd Bonsignore. Memorial contributions may be made to The Diversity Center of Santa Cruz, PO Box 8280, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

1968

Michael F. McGuire, plastic surgeon, Los Angeles, on November 14, 2016. A native of St. Louis, McGuire earned a degree from P&S in 1972. While at the College, he was president of Columbia Students Agencies, was on the Board of Managers and was a member of the Senior Society of Sachems. He practiced in Southern California for more than 30 years and was a clinical professor of plastic surgery at both UCLA and USC. Widely recognized as a leader of organized

Obituary Submission Guidelines

Columbia College Today welcomes obituaries for College alumni. Deaths are noted in the next available issue in the "Other Deaths Reported" box. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at the editors' discretion. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct, or mail materials to Obituaries Editor, *Columbia College Today*, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10025.

OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

Columbia College Today also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear.

- 1948 **Richard J. Calame**, retired ob/gyn, Vero Beach, Fla., on January 31, 2017.
Wagner P. Thielens Jr., retired professor, New York City, on August 6, 2016.
- 1949 **Walter A. Schlotterbeck**, retired attorney, Mercer Island, Wash., on February 5, 2017.
- 1950 **Daniel Brachfeld**, real estate executive, New York City, on February 3, 2017.
Mario A. Palmieri, retired editor, Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., on September 23, 2016.
- 1951 **Stanley I. Schachter**, attorney, Boynton Beach, Fla., on January 25, 2017.
Schulyer Sharp, Tulsa, Okla., on October 31, 2016.
- 1952 **Melvin Tresser**, retired physician, Winter Park, Fla., on January 17, 2017.
- 1956 **William A. Schaffer**, retired attorney, consultant and author, San Jose, Calif., on February 5, 2017.
- 1957 **Joseph Feldschuh**, physician and medical researcher, Bronx, N.Y., on January 31, 2017.
- 1959 **Richard Dobrin**, retired professor, founder and director of healthcare group, Santa Fe, N.M., on January 12, 2016.
Ira J. Plotinsky, physician, San Francisco, on June 11, 2016.
- 1962 **Jules R. Alcorn**, Austin, Texas, on September 3, 2015.
- 1967 **Harold S. Wechsler**, professor and author, Rochester, N.Y., on February 17, 2017.
- 1979 **Keith S. Orenstein**, on January 14, 2017.
- 2015 **Catherine M. Johannet**, teacher, Scarsdale, N.Y., on February 5, 2017.

plastic surgery, McGuire was president of both the California Society of Plastic Surgeons and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. He was a director of the American Board of Plastic Surgery at the time of his death. Although partially handicapped by a stroke several years ago, McGuire was an avid gardener and world traveler, as well as a tireless advocate for his profession and for patient safety. He is survived by his brother Patrick. Memorial contributions may be made to The Plastic Surgery Foundation, Attn.: The Dr. Michael McGuire Leadership Fund, 444 E. Algonquin Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005.

William B. Parmer, retired physician, San Francisco, on October 2, 2015. A Phi Beta Kappa alumnus of the College, Parmer earned a degree from P&S in 1972 and completed his internship and residency at Montefiore Medical Center in New York. Parmer was affiliated with California Pacific Medical Center (CPMC) in San Francisco and practiced medicine for more than 35 years. He was an avid reader and had deep knowledge in many areas, including classical music, literature, politics and sports. Parmer was also an accomplished tennis player, gardener and landscape painter. Survivors include his wife, Joan; daughters, Julia and Ilana; mother, Miriam; and sister, Laura Skodol. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Dr. William Parmer Memorial Fund in Support of Medical Resident Education, CPMC Foundation, 2015 Steiner St., San Francisco, CA 94115; cpmc.org/giving; 415-600-2415.

— Lisa Palladino

Going the Distance for Women's Health

Running for social change with Alison Mariella Désir '07, GSAS'11, TC'16

To raise money for Planned Parenthood, activist and long-distance runner Alison Mariella Désir '07, GSAS'11, TC'16 and a team of four runners (joined at different points by more than 1,000 supporters) ran the 250-plus miles from NYC to Washington, D.C., in three days, culminating at the Women's March on Washington on January 21. After coordinating the relay in less than three weeks, Désir raised \$103,544. Here, she writes about what inspired her to run.

When I reflect on my time at Columbia College, I cannot say that I knew then that I would become a community leader and activist. In fact, I was not as engaged as an undergraduate as I wish I had been, and felt far more lost and confused than I like to admit. But while going to school in the city was a distraction from my schoolwork, it was also the perfect environment to come of age. Columbia's campus is visited by world leaders, is often the site of protests and is a space where casual conversation leads to radical movements.

I believe these conditions led to my core belief: I have a voice and I am powerful.

When I founded Harlem Run, a running group focused on community and service, in November 2013, I wanted to share the transformation I experienced through running. I'd begun endurance running the previous year while going through a period of depression. While I had been active growing up, I had never been a long-distance runner — the 400m and 400m hurdles were my events in track and field. But when I saw on Facebook that a friend's brother was training for a marathon while raising money for a nonprofit, I decided to sign up and do the same. Training for my first marathon brought me back to life and helped me to cope with the stressful circumstances that caused my depression: unemployment, a breakup and my father's worsening Lewy Body Dementia. I knew that I could either continue to do nothing or I could take action — no matter how impossible running 26.2 miles seemed — to make my situation better.

By the time I founded Harlem Run the following year, I was in a much better place mentally and was determined to share the experience with my community. Despite its slow start, the group has become a social change movement that attracts hundreds of runners of all abilities on a weekly basis. To date, we have raised thousands of dollars for local nonprofit Harlem United, and we integrate our runs with an appreciation for and deeper understanding of our community and its needs.

In January 2017, I launched Run 4 All Women, a running initiative created to support women and to provide a hedge against political efforts to defund Planned Parenthood. Much like the founding of Harlem Run, this initiative was borne out of a desire to take action. I launched the (4 Women) Run 4 All Women GoFundMe campaign on January 2 and, eight days later, I reached the original goal of raising \$44,000 (chosen in honor of our outgoing 44th President, Barack Obama '83) for Planned Parenthood. But the donations kept rolling in, and in 30 days we had raised more than \$103,000.

I never anticipated that the initiative would snowball into a movement. In fact, when my mother donated \$200 on the first day, a sum that was a sacrifice for her, I assumed that might be the single largest donation I would receive. However, I quickly saw that many men and women were inspired — hundreds of people reached out, looking for ways to be involved. On January 18, the evening we took off, I was joined in Harlem by 250 men and women for the start of the journey; hundreds more joined us along the way in four mile stretches. It was this support that made running the grueling mileage possible: I ran 75 miles over the course of three days.

The amazing aftermath of the run is that Run 4 All Women is now going national, continuing our fundraising efforts and activism. We are hosting a summit in April to train and empower Run 4 All Women ambassadors with the tools and network to host their own long-distance relay events and, in August, several runs will take place simultaneously around the country, all to benefit Planned Parenthood. You can find out more on Facebook (facebook.com/run4allwomen), on Twitter and Instagram @run4allwomen, or on run4allwomen.com.

People think you need tons of money to make a difference. People think you need to be Oprah or Bill Gates to make a difference. People think you need to have 50,000 followers on Instagram to get a message across. I don't have any of that. But I'll tell you what I do have:

1. A voice.
2. A pair of sneakers.
3. Two feet to put in them.
4. Enough passion to organize people for a cause.
5. The willingness to sweat for what I want.

It's like legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden said: "Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."

Any person at any point has an opportunity to act. What's important is that you set a goal and that you're willing to sweat for what you want. Pick a mission and organize others; it doesn't even have to take that long. The best reward is that you might inspire others to do the same.

There will always be a reason not to take action. Some "thing" you don't have. But, there is always something that you do have. Some resource or some reason that makes you best-suited for the task at hand. In my case, it was my voice, my sneakers, my two feet and my passion — and that was more than enough.



RACHEL LINK



CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF COLUMBIA COLLEGE WOMEN

The first women of Columbia College crossed the stage at Class Day in 1987, after transforming campus, dominating student leadership positions and sweeping the graduation awards.


Join us on **April 22, 2017**, for an all-day symposium to reflect on our successes and the challenges still faced by women today, and to build a powerful community of alumnae at Columbia.

Topics include the media's portrayal of women, creating a successful feminist movement, developing girls today to be leaders tomorrow and much more, with more than 20 alumnae speakers.



**COLUMBIA
COLLEGE
WOMEN**

Register today: college.columbia.edu/alumni/ccw30
Questions? Email ccwomen@columbia.edu



“As is the generation of leaves, so is that of
humanity ... the live timber burgeons with leaves
again in the season of spring returning.”
— Homer, *The Iliad*

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an exceptional undergraduate education by encouraging generations
of students to develop a well-rounded, thoughtful perspective
on the world for both personal and professional
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