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Columbia
College
Today 

Fall 2021

GENE GENIUS

SAMUEL STERNBERG '07 IS ON
THE CUSP OF A BIOCHEMISTRY
BREAKTHROUGH

DEEP STATE

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A
JOURNALIST IN NORTH KOREA?

A BETTER HOLLYWOOD

ORION PICTURES PRESIDENT
ALANA MAYO '06 IS MAKING
REPRESENTATION A MANDATE





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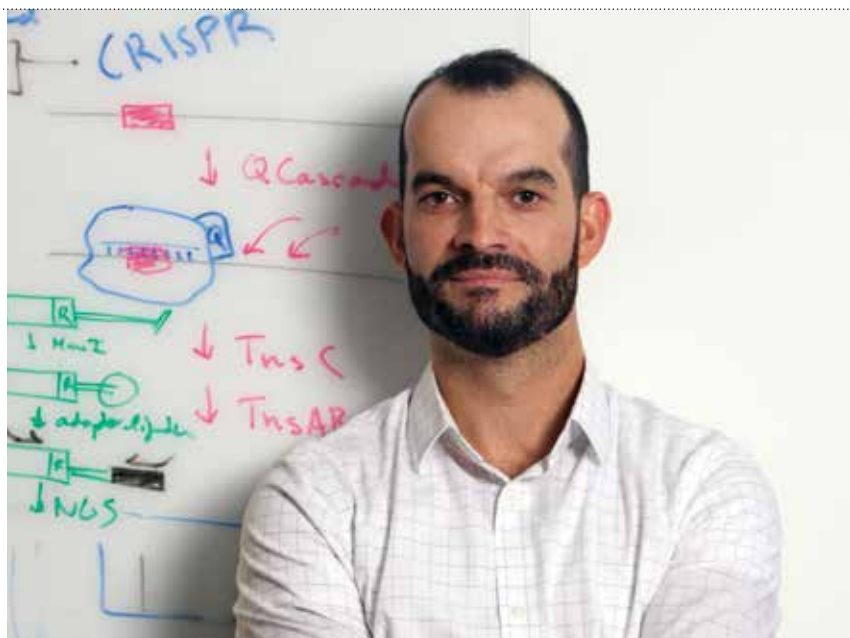
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Your Favorite Campus Places

We asked, you answered: These are the nine spots that Lions love!

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The subject of a popular show at the Met immortalized alumni, faculty and neighbors.

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Within the Family

A Welcome Season

It's hard to write this column when the world outside my door continues to change so quickly. I've delayed as long as I can, but on this hot afternoon in August, the procrastination has to end. Covid-19 still fills the news. Vaccination rates have risen, happily. But so, too, has the insistent strain known as the Delta variant, sending us into yet another phase of uncertainty. I'd like to say something timely, but what will have changed in the month between when I write these words and when you read them?

Still, the current uncertainty feels different, less overwhelming; I think it's because we've been heartened. We've recovered parts of our lives — both the dear and the mundane — that had been lost for so long. Many of us are having meals with friends again. There's some travel. We are preparing to resume commutes, return to the office, dust off the furniture and computers that sat untouched for more than a year. On campus, professors are again criss-crossing College Walk and students are returning to classrooms. The start of the fall semester typically brings a shot of new-pencil optimism and resolve to make it a good year, and this September is no different. Indeed, we have never been so ready to make it a good year.

We welcome this season of return with a commemorative *CCT* cover; inside the issue, we feature three alumni who have each in their way broken new ground.

Biochemist Samuel Sternberg '07 is an expert in CRISPR, the revolutionary technology that enables gene editing with relative ease and precision. (Scientists have likened it to placing a cursor next to a typo and deleting a single letter.) Now, several years into overseeing his own lab at Columbia, Sternberg is on a path of innovation: His research into so-called "jumping genes" could show them to be even better than CRISPR for gene editing. We profile this home-grown scientific star, who graciously welcomed us into his lab for a conversation about his team's pioneering work.

We also introduce Alana Mayo '06, who is marking one year as the president of Orion Pictures, the recently rebooted division of MGM that is focusing exclusively on underrepresented voices. With the studio's first film in production — and at a time when Hollywood is prioritizing diversity at all levels of movie-making — she's poised to redefine what it means to make intelligent, inclusive, forward-thinking cinema. Here, the longtime film buff opens up about her career path and influences, as well as her ambitions to transform an industry.

Finally, Jean H. Lee '92, JRN'95 is a former foreign correspondent with a remarkable story to tell: She founded the Pyongyang bureau of the Associated Press in 2012, making the AP the first international media with a full-time presence in North Korea. Lee recalls the enormous challenges that came with reporting in the notoriously repressive country, yet the word she ultimately uses to describe the experience is "illuminating." Read our feature to understand why.

I'd also urge you not to miss our back page, where we're thrilled to publish three portraits by the great 20th-century painter Alice Neel of her sons, Richard Neel '61, LAW'64 and Hartley Neel '63. Alice, who was the subject of a major retrospective at the Met this past summer, in fact had many Columbia connections, and immortalized a number of alumni, faculty and neighbors in her works. We share more paintings online, along with the exclusive stories behind them: college.columbia.edu/cct.

Welcome to all our CC'25 parents reading *CCT* for the first time. And to all of us, welcome back. May the subway ride to 116th Street never feel so uniquely notable again!

Alexis Boncy

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Beloved Butler

To celebrate the return of students to Morningside, CCT made a list of alumni's favorite campus spaces, culled from more than 150 responses in our online "Take Five" archives and polls across our social media channels. No spoilers, but the stacks, reading rooms, large tables and cozy corners of Butler Library secured it a spot near the top. "I know it's geeky but I loved every part of it," one alum says. "Being in Butler always made me feel that I was never alone in the struggle," says another. Check out "Your Favorite Campus Places" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

the **BigPicture**





Message from the Dean

An Optimistic Return to Campus

I write this letter on a day in late July after a long conversation with the student leaders responsible for planning and implementing our New Student Orientation Program (NSOP). Like so much else in the past 18 months, it will be an Orientation like no other. It addresses our newest students, the Class of 2025, and also our rising sophomores, the Class of 2024, who had a purely online Orientation last year. As the students and I sat and talked in Lerner Hall, all of us wearing masks, I learned a lot about their plans for NSOP. I also learned something else, something much more important: that despite all the challenges and difficulties each of these students has faced for a year and a half, a span of time representing more than a third of their undergraduate experience, they were as optimistic and enthusiastic, as imaginative and creative, as any NSOP leadership group of the past. They acted in the spirit of Beginner's Mind, seeing new possibilities for how to design this experience. Possibilities for our new students and for our not-so-new students, as well as possibilities for themselves. It made me feel — and I think should make all of us feel — optimistic about this year with our return to on-campus classes and residential life.

As I write the verb “return,” I realize that while it is an accurate word for the time — as we indeed are coming back to both a place, our campus, and a set of activities, the education of our students — “return” does not convey what this fall really means for us. That is because we all carry an experience of disruption that will change how we think about our campus and our education. The aphorism “It is impossible to step in the same river twice,” frequently attributed to the pre-Socratic philosopher Heraclitus, comes to mind as a wonderfully evocative metaphor for our “return.” How I think about our College and the experiences our students will have within it has been altered from what I thought when writing my dean’s letter for CCT’s Fall 2019 issue.

This year’s NSOP leaders are not trying to replicate the structure, the substance or the feeling of 2019’s Orientation. They know that the river they are stepping into is a quite different one, even if it looks the same. I know we are all cognizant of that, but I hope that in this academic year we take time, individually and collectively, to consider how we see our college now, with the new perspective that disruption has provided. How has our assessment of the undergraduate education we offer been changed? What new opportunities has the pandemic made us aware of? What have we learned that we can use to be an even better college?

I spent a lot of time during the pandemic thinking about the meaning of Heraclitus’s river analogy as it pertains to Columbia College. I would sit on the bank of the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook, just a few steps from my house, which has been my office during much of the last 18 months, and watch the ever-changing water flow by; some-



times I even waded into it. And while I have “returned” the Dean’s Office to Hamilton Hall, I still think about the flowing water in that brook.

As I begin my 11th year as dean, and my 32nd as a Columbia faculty member, I have been thinking about the flow of students through our college, the thousands I have taught, advised, written letters of recommendation for or just chatted with over the years. This issue of CCT has particular meaning for me in that regard. One of the feature stories is about Sam Sternberg ’07, a biochemistry major who graduated during the time I chaired the chemistry department. Sam was a remarkable student in the classroom and in the lab, and an engaging interlocutor outside those scientific spaces. There is a particular pleasure for me in seeing him, the successful academic researcher, in these pages, and thinking back to seeing him in Havemeyer as a student.

For all of us who are faculty members, experiences like this inspire pride in what we do at the College. And no matter how things might continue to change, we know that we will always draw encouragement and satisfaction from seeing our students develop into successful and unique citizens. Roar, Lion(s), Roar!

James J. Valentini
Dean

Bowled Over!

The legendary *College Bowl* quiz show was back on TV this summer, with a fearsome threesome from Columbia vying for the first championship of a new era. Tamarah Wallace '22, Shomik Ghose SEAS'23 and Jake Fisher SEAS'22 had made it to the finals by the time this issue went to press, defeating Morehouse College, the University of Tennessee and Auburn University along the way.

The revived show, which originally aired in the 1960s, is hosted by NFL Hall of Fame quarterback Peyton Manning; students compete for a share of \$1 million in scholarships.

The semifinals match on August 24, against Auburn, turned into a real nail-biter, with the Columbia team falling behind by as much as 220 points. Asked how they were feeling, Ghose said they were just trying to channel the spirit of New York City: hungry, scrappy and resilient. "We hope we can show that



GREG GAYNE / NBC

same resilience and bounce back," he said with a smile.

And they did; the final score was 735–695.

If the Columbia team wins the championship, scheduled for September 7, it'll be its second time capturing the crown. The four-man team of Elia Racah '67, Jeffrey Rosen '68, Derek Randall '67 and Steven

Ross '68 won the 1966–67 season with a perfect 5–0 record. Their student foes included teams from Providence College, Indiana University, Michigan State University, William & Mary and, finally, Smith (which notably attempted to intimidate the Lions with a sympathy card sent before the taping). Columbia took home a total of \$10,500 in scholarship money.



MICHAEL DIVITO

New Leader for University Life

Dennis Mitchell, senior vice provost for faculty advancement and a professor of dental medicine at the Columbia University Medical Center, has been named executive VP for university life. Mitchell succeeds Suzanne Goldberg, who led the office for more than six years before stepping down in January to join the Biden-Harris administration.

Mitchell, who earned a doctorate in dental surgery from Howard University, joined the Columbia faculty in 1991 and has held a number of positions at the Dental School. From 2004 to 2021, he was the first diversity-focused dean at a U.S. dental school in his role as its senior associate dean for diversity; he was responsible for a nearly seven-fold increase in the percentage of students from underrepresented backgrounds.

Mitchell also has been in the Office of the Provost for the last seven years, helping to oversee the University's now more than \$185 million investment in faculty diversity.

"An expert clinician, researcher and administrator, Dennis has devoted his 30-year career at Columbia to strengthening our community, perhaps most notably through his commitment to fostering an inclusive campus climate for new and rising faculty members," President Lee C. Bollinger said in an August 17 announcement. "He is a natural leader for University Life's critical work of building community among

the next generation of thought leaders, researchers and innovators — our students."

In taking on his new role, Mitchell wants students to know that they have an advocate in him and in University Life. "I know how central the student experience is to everything we do at this university," he said. "We wouldn't be who we are or do what we do without our students, and I'm committed to making their time at Columbia as rewarding as it can possibly be."

Public Health Dual Degree

Undergraduates with an interest in public health now have a dual-degree option — a so-called "4+1" program that combines a B.A. from the College with an M.P.H. from the Mailman School of Public Health. The result of a new partnership between the schools, the dual degree enables students to earn an M.P.H., usually a two-year program, at an accelerated pace.

Students can apply in their junior year, and upon acceptance will spend the fall semester of their senior year enrolled at Mailman, before returning to the College in the spring semester to complete a B.A. After graduating they will matriculate at Mailman to complete a practicum and a year of coursework and thesis work to earn a master's.

"Over the past several years, we've seen an increase in interest among our students in matters related to public health," Dean James J. Valentini said. "This partnership between the College and Mailman creates a remarkable opportunity for students to

combine an exceptional liberal arts undergraduate foundation with a world-class professional education in public health in five years. We're delighted to be able to offer this special preparation for the future leaders in the fields that support the health and well-being of populations around the world."

College Co-Chairs for CAA

In a first for the Columbia Alumni Association (CAA), which serves alumni across

all University schools, a pair of College graduates have been elected to lead the organization as co-chairs: Michelle Estilo Kaiser '87, PH'92, PS'97 and Mary Kuo '92. The duo will lead several important initiatives during the next two years, including the development of the next five-year strategic plan. The CAA will also launch the CAA Scholarship program in September, addressing financial, career and life concerns for students across all 17 Columbia schools. Other College alumni elected to their first term on the CAA's Board were Peter Kang '05 and Danielle Maged '89, BUS'97.

LookWho'sTalking

Tara Hanna

Associate Dean of Undergraduate Student Life and Executive Director of Residential Life

You've been at Columbia for nearly a decade! And much of that time was in Residential Life. What drew you to the College?

The opportunity to work with high-achieving students. The College's students are so incredible and passionate — being a small part of their journeys has been amazing and has kept me engaged year in and year out. Residential Life is incredibly dynamic, which is what makes it exciting. We see students at all times of the day, in their homes, during their good times and their not-so-good times. We really get to know students holistically; it's challenging but fun at the same time.

What's a typical day for you?

There is no typical day, and I love that! Each day brings new challenges and experiences. Much of my day-to-day involves supporting the Residential Life staff in their work with students — programming, leadership development, crisis response, wellness, behavioral conduct concerns, housing issues and so on.

What's the best part of your job?

Helping students feel more at home in the Columbia community, whether that be by supporting them through a crisis, or helping them find connections through fraternities, sororities, special interest communities or in their residence halls. It is rewarding to see students develop a sense of belonging.

How has the experience of the pandemic and being remote changed your thinking for the year ahead?

We all have gone through so much during the past year and a half, and many students haven't been on campus. Moving into this year, Residential Life wants to be intentional about connecting with students to support them as they integrate or reintegrate themselves into the community.

What are you most looking forward to as students are welcomed back to campus?

The ability to see folks in person — meeting students over Zoom is just not the same! Being able to connect in person is

so valuable, and I really look forward to getting back to that.

Do you have any advice or encouragement to share with students as they adjust?

My advice to all students would be to remember the many resources that are available to you on campus and to not hesitate to reach out if you need something. I encourage everyone to take it one day at a time and to be patient as you experience the highs and lows that come with any big transition.

What's one thing about yourself that would surprise readers?

I am a Broadway fanatic and have seen more than 100 shows. I'm very much looking forward to Broadway reopening this fall! If anyone is looking for a new show, I highly recommend *Six*, which comes back on September 17. It is super fun and upbeat — like being at a concert. Also, great for any history buffs because it centers on the wives of Henry VIII (I majored in history so this really hit the spot!).



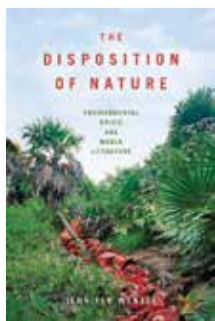
ESON CHAN

Jennifer Wenzel

By Jill C. Shomer



It might sound counterintuitive, but Jennifer Wenzel, an associate professor of English and comparative literature and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS), and a scholar of postcolonial literature, is deeply interested in fossil fuels. Wenzel helped to found the relatively new subfield of energy humanities, which considers the relationship between energy systems and literature, and the ways that easy, inexpensive access to fossil fuels shapes our dreams and desires. “If you wake up in the morning and ask yourself what you might do that day, fossil fuels are silently shaping your expectations,” she says.



“You could drive somewhere. You could fly somewhere.”

Wenzel started thinking about the relationship between literature and oil 20 years ago, while teaching a course about

West African novels. In three Nigerian texts the commodities of palm oil, petroleum and publishing were interconnected; she was intrigued and dove into further research. Today, “Literature and Oil,” a

course that investigates the connections between literary and cultural production and the substance that literally fuels the world, is one of Wenzel’s favorite classes to teach.

She’s been writing on the subject for more than a decade; her most recent book, *The Disposition of Nature: Environmental Crisis and World Literature*, was published in 2019. “When I was working on the relationship between literature and oil extraction in Nigeria, the field of literary studies was of no help to me — no one else was working on this. I had to turn to anthropology, geography, political ecology. But now energy humanities is a really burgeoning field.”

Wenzel spent her childhood in Pittsburgh, then her family moved to Texas when she was 10. She was always a voracious reader — Wenzel describes herself as a lifelong English major — but says her undergraduate education at a small liberal arts college in Sherman, Texas, was “canonical.” A few classes in Japanese fiction and Chinese poetry, however, started her thinking about other kinds of literature.

She had the opportunity to travel to India one summer with a friend who was studying Hindi; instead of traveling the country, she taught herself Devanagari, the characters in which Hindi is written. “I turned myself into a student,” she says.

Reading paperbacks by Indian writers, she had an epiphany: Postcolonial literature could be her research focus.

Wenzel enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin, and earned a Ph.D. in ethnic and third world literatures in 1998. She taught in Montana and Boston, then spent 11 years at the University of Michigan before joining the College faculty at 2014.

“What’s so amazing about Columbia for me is that it’s an ideal combination of an approximation of a small liberal arts college, where I really thrived and became a scholar, and a world-class research institution,” Wenzel says.

“The English department and MESAAS are the places where [the field of] postcolonial studies was born,” she adds. “Edward Said really transformed literary studies; his student Gauri Viswanathan TC’85, whom I am proud to call a colleague, made an important argument about where literary studies as a discipline originated — with British colonialism in India. And then [University Professor] Gayatri C. Spivak is a world-class scholar of postcolonial theory. So I was thrilled to be joining this vibrant and important intellectual community.”

As part of her dual department appointment, Wenzel teaches one class a year in MESAAS, including “The Novel in Africa,” and “Literature and Cultures of

Struggle in South Africa: Generation of Resistance.” She taught the latter online this past spring. “I love that class — I have all sorts of audio/visual material from the decades of the anti-apartheid struggle and the transition to democracy to accompany the literature we read. I wasn’t sure it would translate from Hamilton Hall to Zoom, but I was humbled by the students’ dedication and the energy we were able to create.”

Wenzel says she missed being in the classroom during the pandemic year.

“What I love most about teaching is being surprised by my students,” she says. “To be standing in a classroom and just listening to intelligence coalescing in the comments of students. I love the cognitive energy you get from different kinds of brilliance — sometimes conflicting kinds of brilliance. There’s something electric about that to me.”

Wenzel is about to leave Morningside for a year in Paris; in the spring she’ll teach in the Masters in History and Literature

program at Reid Hall (part of Columbia Global Centers), but first she’s taking a semester of sabbatical to work on a project she’s calling “The Fossil Fueled Imagination: How and Why to Read for Energy.”

“The news already informs us how oil saturates every aspect of our lives,” Wenzel says, “but I do feel like there are things that I can contribute as a student of the imagination and narrative — like the ways that fossil fuels affect the stories we tell about ourselves and the world we inhabit.”



MIKE MCLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

DidYouKnow?

The Third Time Was the Charm for the Bubble at Baker

On January 26, 1972, a storm swept across New York City with winds of more than 60 mph; Columbia wasn’t immune from the destruction it wreaked. *The New York Times* reported: “At the northern end of Manhattan, the Dick Mason Air-dome, known as the Bubble, at 218th Street near Broadway, collapsed shortly after noon. ... Damage was estimated at \$100,000.” The air-supported athletics space — 250 ft. long and 60 ft. high — had been erected just two years earlier, and was state of the art at the time.

The dome was reconstructed, but blew down again during 55-mph storm winds on February 2, 1976. At that point, the

dream of the Bubble at Baker burst, and the University relocated the track team’s practice site to South Field for the next few years.

On February 21, 2017, the Bubble rose once more, as advances in technology made a seasonal structure feasible again. The new Bubble cost approximately \$10 million; it is inflated annually from December through March, and is used by the football, men’s soccer, women’s soccer, baseball, softball, field hockey and lacrosse teams. In April 2020, during the height of the pandemic in NYC, the Bubble was converted into a field hospital for treating Covid-19 patients.

ROAR, LION, ROAR

Congratulations, Olympic Lions!

A veritable pride of Lions traveled to Tokyo for the Summer Olympic Games, with two getting to show pride of another sort by carrying their countries' flags in the Opening Ceremony.

A record nine former varsity student-athletes, a former club rugby player, a skateboarder competing in the sport's Olympic debut and one current student-athlete participated in the games, held from July 23 to August 8. The flagbearers were **Nadia Eke '15** of Ghana and **Yasmeen Al Dabbagh '19** of Saudi Arabia, both track and field athletes; the honor also made them the first female Olympic flagbearers in Columbia school history.

In addition, **John Tanguay '20** earned a spot on the Paralympic rowing team; at press time, his first race was scheduled in Tokyo for August 26.

HERE'S HOW THEY DID

Maodo Lo '16, who competed on Germany's basketball team, started all of the team's games at point guard and led in scoring (13.5 ppg) and assists (5.0 apg). The team ultimately placed eighth in the bracket, falling in the quarterfinals to Slovenia.

Charlotte Buck '18 rowed in the U.S. women's eight, which was seeking its fourth straight Olympic gold; they just missed the podium, however, placing fourth at 6:02.78.



Yasmeen Al Dabbagh '19



Nadia Eke '15



Jackie Dubrovich '16 and Nicole Ross '13

Also in rowing, **Jakub Buczek '16** represented Canada in the men's four without coxswain; they earned an eighth-place finish overall and, notably, notched the boat's fastest finish ever, at 5:58.29.

As part of the U.S. women's foil team, **Jackie Dubrovich '16** and **Nicole Ross '13** helped the Americans reach the bronze medal match; there, the team fell to Italy, 45–23. Individually, both Dubrovich and Ross lost in the early rounds.

On the men's side, **Jake Hoyle '16** fell in the opening round of the individual épée tournament to a competitor from Korea; he also competed as part of the U.S. men's épée team, which lost in its opener to Japan.

Robb Paller '16 was a left fielder on Israel's first Olympic baseball team and started twice during the Olympic tournament, batting seventh; the team finished fifth overall.

In track and field, Eke competed in the triple jump, though she fouled in all three attempts during preliminary competition and did not advance. Al Dabbagh, meanwhile, ran a 13.34 in the preliminary round of the 100m dash, which was not enough to qualify for round one. She holds the Saudi Arabian women's record in the 100m with a time of 13.24.

Isadora Cerullo '13 competed as a member of the Brazilian rugby team, which placed 11th in the tournament.

Evita Griskenas '24 represented the United States in the women's rhythmic gymnastics individual all-around competition. Her score of 91.700 wasn't enough to take her from the qualification round to the finals; she earned 12th place overall.

Finally, in the Olympic debut of women's street skateboarding, **Alexis Sablone BC'08** just missed a medal for the U.S., capturing fourth with a score of 13.57.



COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

McGill Drafted by Atlanta Braves

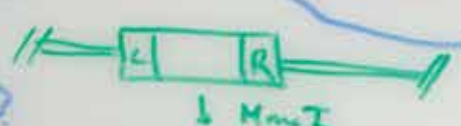
Liam McGill '20, a four-year catcher for the Lions, was selected by the Atlanta Braves as the 277th pick in the ninth round of the MLB Amateur Draft in July. McGill, who hails from Wakefield, R.I., played a graduate season this year at Bryant University, where he earned All-America status and Northeast Player of the Year honors. "To be drafted in the ninth round is a huge honor and to be drafted by such a great organization like the Braves is an even bigger honor," McGill says.

At the College, McGill was a two-time All-Ivy League selection and a *Collegiate Baseball* Freshman All-American in 2017. He posted a career .316 batting average with 14 homers and 83 RBI in three-plus seasons with the Lions.

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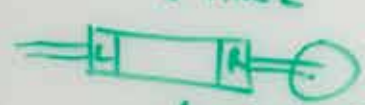


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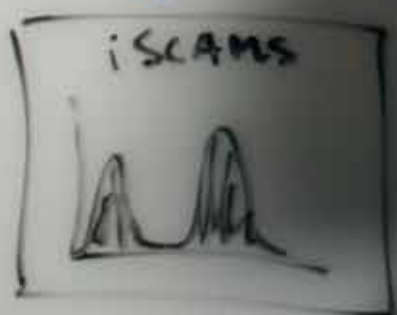
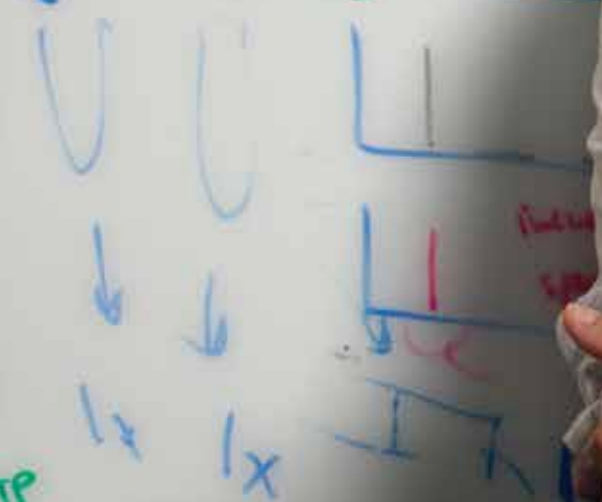


↓ adaptive integration

↓ TnsAR



↓ NGS



JU



**SAMUEL
STERNBERG '07'S**
LATEST DISCOVERY
COULD BE A
GIANT LEAP IN
GENE EDITING

BY MATTHEW HUTSON

MPSTART

When biochemist Samuel Sternberg '07 returned to Columbia in 2018 to set up his own research lab, he wasn't sure he was up for it. After finishing his Ph.D., he'd spent a year writing a book, then a year at a biotech startup, forgoing the more traditional route of a multi-year fellowship in academic research. "I came back here with a huge bag of insecurities and a case of impostor syndrome," he says. "I felt like, gosh, I hope that I'm going to be able to pull this off." After not pursuing his own research ideas for a while, he says, "We had to kind of start from zero."

What's more, his Ph.D. advisor and co-author, and a co-founder of the biotech startup, was Jennifer Doudna, the biochemist known for her revelatory work showing how a molecule called CRISPR-Cas9 could be used to edit an organism's genetic material; the discovery earned her a share of the Nobel Prize in chemistry last year. "I wanted to make sure I put my head down and worked

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
JÖRG MEYER

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on our research program, and didn't try to rest on the laurels of Jennifer's accolades,” Sternberg says.

Insecurities aside, Sternberg had in fact established himself as one of the country's leading experts in CRISPR-Cas9 — with patents and prominent papers to his name — and he had ideas for expanding on the promise of that technology. His focus paid off almost immediately. Within months, Sternberg's Columbia lab had a major paper in *Nature*, about so-called “jumping genes,” which could prove even better than CRISPR for gene editing. “Now we're doing all these things that three years ago would have seemed well beyond reach,” he says. The work could someday help researchers treat cancer, produce biofuels, or make crops harder and tastier. Indeed, last year Sternberg won a \$2.4 million grant from the NIH, awarded to “especially creative” scientists working on innovative, high-impact projects.

I mentioned Sternberg's initial self-doubts to Sanne Klompe GSAS'22, a graduate student in his lab and

took chemistry and biology courses at the College. In high school bio, he'd learned about leaves and frogs, but not molecules. “It was taking organic chemistry sophomore year that I remember as being pivotal in awakening my true scientific curiosity,” he says. “Learning how chemicals can transform in very predictable ways. And that there's a kind of logic.”

Carrying coffee, a textbook and a stack of plain white paper, Sternberg would go to Butler Library and sit at a wooden table under the high ceiling and draw out chemical reactions, exploring all the ways basic building blocks could transform under various conditions.

The other pivotal point came junior year, when he joined the lab of Ruben Gonzalez, an enthusiastic researcher “at the top of his game” who served as a great mentor. Sternberg was inspired enough to take on his own project in the lab — studying how cells complete the production of proteins — an unusual opportunity for an undergrad. “He was fantastic at the lab bench, and quickly became a voice in research meetings,” Gonzalez says. “I always told him he operated like a graduate student.” Sometimes he operated like a sailor. “His notebooks were very colorful,” Gonzalez says. “Let's just say that when experiments weren't working, you could tell.”

Sternberg stayed a year and a half past graduation to finish the project, becoming the lead author of a paper in *Nature Structural & Molecular Biology*. “Having gone through my first experience of not just how you do research at the bench,” Sternberg says, “but also how you plan experiments, how you put together a series of data into one story. That was an invaluable experience.”

STERNBERG JOINED Doudna's lab at UC Berkeley as a grad student in 2009, shortly before she made the discovery that would earn her a Nobel Prize. The lab had just begun working on CRISPR, which was a bit risky professionally, because at the time it was just “this very niche, esoteric thing in bacteria,” Sternberg says, and not the tool for studying cells or the therapy for treating genetic diseases that it is today.

In five years at Berkeley, including a six-month stint back at Columbia working with biochemist Eric Greene, Sternberg co-authored several important papers focusing on the Cas9 enzyme — a feature of many CRISPR systems — and how it works. One showed how to engineer versions of Cas9 that snip DNA more accurately, work that several companies have since licensed.

“When he was in the lab, I thought of him as our Renaissance man,” Doudna says. “Wonderful scientist, incredible musician, loved to have a good time and share ideas, a deep intellect, loved to debate ideas in science.” When asked for possibly embarrassing material, she mentioned his Michael Jackson tribute band. “The lab finally talked me into going to one of his performances in San Francisco, and it was a ton of fun,” she says. “I just loved it. It was a side of Sam that I hadn't had a chance to experience.”



COURTESY SAMUEL STERNBERG '07

Sternberg with his Ph.D. advisor, biochemist Jennifer Doudna, and Columbia lab colleague Sanne Klompe GSAS'22.

the lead author of the *Nature* paper. “That's funny you say that,” she says. “I don't know if he realizes how good he is.” Reflecting on her decision to join his lab, she says, “I knew he was going to be great. And I wanted to be part of that.”

STERNBERG GREW UP in Lancaster, Pa., playing piano, saxophone and baseball. (He almost went to Oberlin for musical performance.) His dad was a geology professor, and Sternberg did science fair projects, but he was never passionate about the subject until he



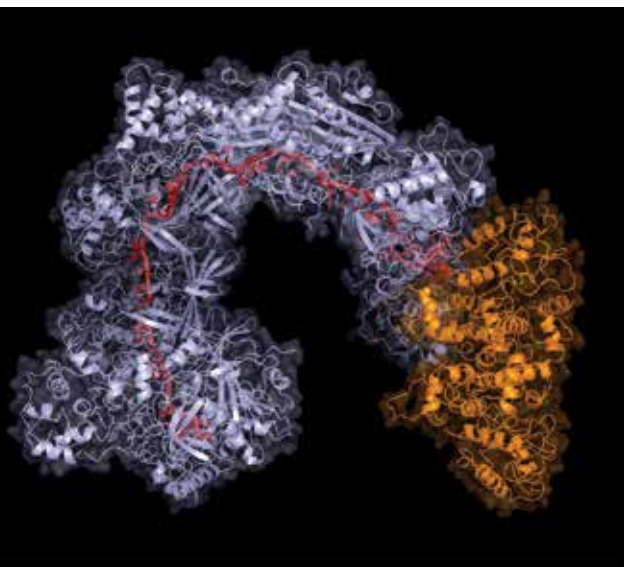
Sternberg and Klompe analyze the 3D structure of the CRISPR molecular system called Cascade (also seen at left).

Sternberg didn't co-author Doudna's breakthrough paper demonstrating how CRISPR-Cas9 could edit genes, but he was there at the time, and suggested to Doudna that they write a book for general audiences about the discovery. When an agent reached out, they went for it. "It seemed like a bit of a gamble, but I also knew that I would probably never have a better oppor-

tunity to write a book like this," Sternberg says. "And I think it was important for me to put my scientific work and the field's development in a broader context." *A Crack in Creation: Gene Editing and the Unthinkable Power to Control Evolution* (2017) covers not just the science but also the ethics of gene editing (think designer babies). *The New York Times* called it "required reading for every concerned citizen."

Sternberg worked with Doudna again at Caribou, the company she co-founded to further develop gene-editing technology; he was an early employee, acting as both a scientist and a leader of the technology development group. He learned a couple of lessons there, he says. First, he picked up the managerial professionalism he would bring to his lab at Columbia a year later. Second, he learned that he preferred academia — having the opportunity to experiment and explore ideas without concern for a bottom line.

"The first discovery we made in my new lab is the perfect example of a project that would have been too speculative for a private company to pursue," he says, "but has been absolutely transformative in creating new versions of CRISPR."



SAMUEL STERNBERG '07

DO JUMPING GENES HOLD THE KEY TO A SAFER, MORE RELIABLE GENE-EDITING TOOL?

ONE DOWNSIDE of CRISPR-Cas9 as a gene-editing tool is that it slices through DNA, which a cell must then repair. Many things can go awry in this process. While working at Caribou, Sternberg came across a paper on transposons, or jumping genes, which could offer an alternative. A jumping gene is actually a cluster of genes that reproduces by taking over bacterial machinery. It inserts itself into a bacterial genome and essentially forces the cell to reproduce it. Its clones then hop over to new bacterial cells and repeat the process.

Critically, a jumping gene inserts itself into a genome without creating the kind of DNA damage that CRISPR-Cas9 does. What's more, the paper's authors noted that some jumping genes contain the genetic code for a CRISPR system called Cascade, raising the possibility that jumping genes use it to target specific sites in bacterial genomes. Sternberg hoped to test this hypothesis in his Columbia lab (he had applied for faculty positions and been welcomed back in 2018). If jumping genes insert DNA into genomes without harming them, and do so in precise ways, they could perhaps be harnessed as a new gene-editing tool — one that would be safer and more reliable than any other at scientists' disposal.

Sternberg recently gave me a tour of his eponymous lab, a series of rooms at P&S with his office in the

center. He and Sanne Klompe, whom he'd known as a Caribou intern, started the lab from scratch, ordering pipettes and scrounging for equipment. (Sternberg actually used his jumping genes theory as his pitch to persuade Klompe to stay in the United States rather than return to the Netherlands for a Ph.D.) The pair were soon joined by two more graduate students, Tyler Halpin-Healy '11, GSAS'21 and Leo Vo GSAS'21.

On our tour, Sternberg pointed out various machines that duplicate DNA or purify proteins. I watched as Klompe used a device to "heat shock" cells so that the DNA designed by the lab would enter them. "To be quite truthful, we don't have much distinctive equipment," Sternberg told me. "Our distinction is discovering new CRISPR systems."

Much of that discovery happens on computers. "In the first few months in the lab, Sanne was spending most of her time at the computer sifting through genomes, deciding which candidate genes to prioritize to go after this hypothesis," Sternberg says. On a computer in his office, he showed me the sequence of DNA letters for Cascade, alongside its 3D rendering. The cluster of proteins vaguely resembled a seahorse, with a spine made of guide RNA. Guide RNA is the genetic sequence a CRISPR system uses to target specific locations in a host genome. Wherever this bit of guide RNA matches a stretch of DNA, CRISPR does its gene-editing work.

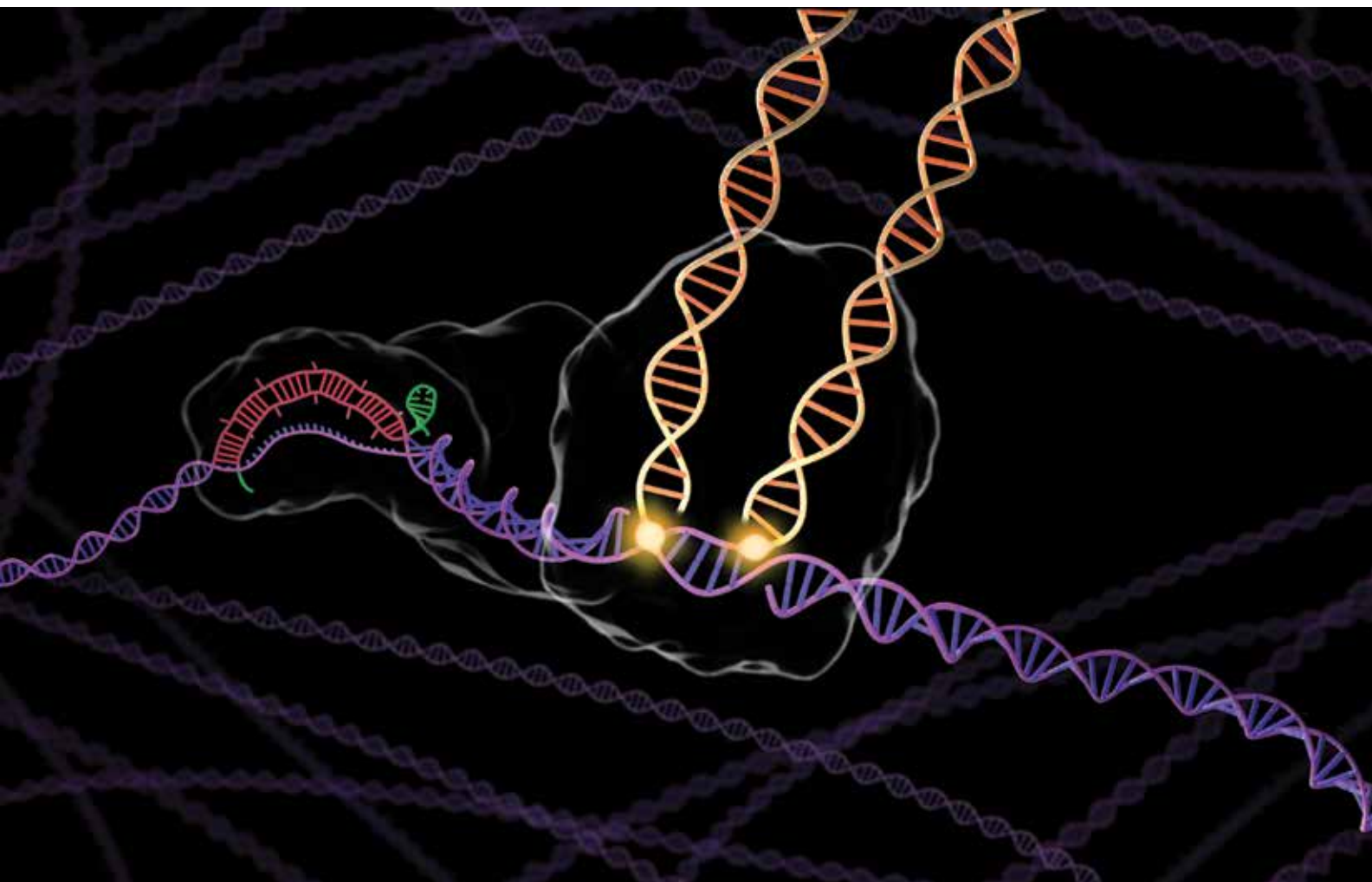
In those early months, deciding on the exact Cascade design to test required "a zillion decisions," Sternberg says. Once he and his team were ready, they made the DNA for their jumping gene and inserted it into bacteria. The genes dutifully targeted the bacterial genome in the right spot, and inserted their DNA payload. To see the results, they ran the bacterial DNA through a gel and looked for a telltale band of color, indicating that the bacteria now had the desired genetic code. "And my God, Sanne saw a little smudge of a band," Sternberg says. They reran the experiment. "And now," Sternberg says, "that smudge on the gel was a big fat band. And then within days of that, Sanne had sequenced that band and we knew, boom, it's happening."

They ran more experiments and published the *Nature* paper, which, Sternberg says, "landed the lab on the map, landed Sanne's career on the map and in a ridiculous way played out the exact way that I had hoped and dreamed when I first proposed: Hey, what about we go after this project in my new lab at Columbia?"

Sternberg's lab — and others, too — are now expanding on that research. For example, his lab is applying the tool to human cells and is working with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to replace the defective gene that causes the respiratory disease. They're working with Harris Wang, a synthetic biologist at Columbia, to engineer jumping genes that can operate in the complex environment of the gut microbiome. And they're looking for even better versions of

Sternberg and Dennis Zhang '24 discuss data while plotting future experiments.





MYLES MARSHALL

Cascade in the diversity of living organisms. “We can barely compete with what nature has already invented,” Klompe says.

STERNBERG’S LAB now stands at about 15 people. “What I really appreciate in him as a mentor is that everything is a conversation,” Klompe says. “Instead of telling me what to do, it’s almost like, OK, what shall we do next?” When the lab was small and people stayed late to work on that first paper, Sternberg would order dinner. “It was like a little scientific family having dinner in the break room,” she says. The lab’s walls feature fliers celebrating members’ achievements; one advertises a lab outing to the sci-fi movie *Rampage*, in which a CRISPR-modified pathogen leads to the creation of a giant gorilla, wolf and crocodile. According to Sternberg, “We built an environment that’s not just about the science, but also a place where people will grow as individuals and develop their career aspirations.”

Colleagues have not been surprised to see Sternberg’s success. “His scientific instinct is amazing,” Ruben Gonzalez says. “It’s been a lot of fun to watch.”

(The two still get beers and are collaborating on a project.) According to Doudna, “He’s doing some of the most creative work in the discovery of CRISPR systems right now and figuring out how they work.” Walter Isaacson, who wrote the best-selling biography *The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race*, met with Sternberg regularly to pick his brain. “There’s a boyish enthusiasm,” Isaacson says. “He’s excited about the smallest details of how nature works.”

Sternberg still sometimes questions why he’s the one with an office. He notes that some members of his lab have expertise surpassing his own. “My biggest learning experience here has been realizing that that’s actually OK,” he says. “Being a good scientist doesn’t mean you know how to do everything. One of the best skills I learned from Ruben and from Jennifer is to be resourceful, and to engage with your colleagues. It’s all about putting all the different skills in the pot.”

Matthew Hutson is a freelance science reporter in New York City and a contributing writer at The New Yorker.

The above rendering shows a new CRISPR technology, developed in the Sternberg Lab, that enables RNA-guided DNA integration. Unlike conventional CRISPR-Cas9 tools for gene editing, this technology inserts DNA without cutting.





Lee prepares to give a live broadcast from Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea, in April 2013.

**Jean H. Lee '92,
JRN'95 looks
back on three
"illuminating"
years working in
North Korea**

By Nathalie Alonso '08

A JOURNALIST'S UNMATCHED ACCESS

In February 2013, after conducting a widely condemned nuclear weapons test and just days before leader Kim Jong Un infamously welcomed visiting NBA star Dennis Rodman, North Korea launched its first mobile internet network. Though it was only available to foreigners, it was a newsworthy move for a totalitarian regime with a decades-long policy of extreme isolation.

As the Korea Bureau chief for the Associated Press, Jean H. Lee '92, JRN'95 reported all of this news from the capital city of Pyongyang. The day the internet service went live, she tweeted, *Hello world from comms center in #Pyongyang*. It is considered the first Twitter missive sent from a cellphone inside North Korea. "It was a significant moment, connecting North Korea to the outside world," says Lee.

In an extraordinary three-year period that began in early 2011, Lee spent most of her time working in North Korea, which rarely grants entry to Western journalists. In addition to covering the rallies and military parades that have become emblematic of the communist nation, she visited farms, villages, schools,

factories, military academies and private homes — an unmatched level of access for an American reporter. Lee was responsible for officially opening the Pyongyang bureau in January 2012, making the AP the first international media outlet with a full-time presence inside the country.

"Jean was there when news happened," says the AP's former chief Asia photographer, David Guttenfelder, who helped to open the Pyongyang bureau and often worked alongside Lee. "She was there for some of the most heated moments between North Korea and its neighbors and the United States. She was there when North Korea expanded and tested its nuclear capabilities. But more than that, we both had a chance to see real people with real lives."

Lee was the only AP reporter allowed to stay in the country for extended periods. She believes her Asian heritage — she was born in Minnesota to South Korean emigres and is fluent in Korean — was key to securing such unprecedented access. "I didn't look like anybody they thought of as American," Lee says. "That worked to my advantage."

A North Korean soldier on the steps of Panmungak Hall, on the North side of the Demilitarized Zone that divides the two Koreas. Behind him are the Military Armistice Commission buildings (guarded by both North and South Korean soldiers), the Military Demarcation Line and the Freedom House, located on the South Korea side.



JEAN H. LEE '92, JRN'95

A decade after her pioneering efforts, Lee is now a senior fellow at the Hyundai Motor-Korea Foundation Center for Korean History and Public Policy at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The highly regarded Washington, D.C.-based think tank informs public policy debates about the Koreas through research.

Lee hopes her work will prepare journalists who will be reporting from North Korea understand what they're getting into, while allowing her to continue processing her own experience there. Working in an impoverished country where life is rigidly controlled by the state — and where, as a foreigner and a journalist, she was under constant surveillance — exacted a mental and emotional toll; however, Lee calls it “a dream for any correspondent covering Asia to go to North Korea.”

“As traumatizing as my assignment was, and it really was traumatizing, it also was so illuminating,” she says. “That’s what you want as a journalist.”

Lee’s first day as AP’s Korea Bureau chief was September 9, 2008. The date was no coincidence; it marked the 60th anniversary of North Korea’s founding, an occasion that was to be commemorated with a massive military parade.

Within an hour of arriving at the AP office in Seoul, Lee was given her extraordinary mission: to establish a full news operation in Pyongyang, where the agency already had a video bureau. “I remember thinking, ‘I don’t even know how to get into the country legally,’” Lee says. “How do you open an office in a country that considers *your* country an enemy?”

But Lee had no time to ponder the enormity of her assignment. North Korea leader Kim Jong Il was a no-show at the parade, a stunning development that suggested he was incapacitated or dead, and sparked fears of political unrest in a country with a nuclear arsenal.

With no time to settle into her job, Lee had to mobilize reporters around the globe.

It turned out Kim Jong Il had suffered a stroke, but, according to Lee, he was eager to reach out to the U.S. to help chart a path forward for his son and heir, Kim Jong Un.

Lee visited Pyongyang for the first time in 2009, a few weeks after President Clinton met with the elder Kim to negotiate the release of two American journalists whom North Korea had accused of trespassing and sentenced to 12 years of hard labor, presumably to use them as political bargaining chips. “It was a really nerve-wracking time,” says Lee. “I thought, ‘Am I going to be the next American journalist they’re going to take into custody?’”

Nonetheless, unsure that she would ever return to North Korea, during a stay in the capital, Lee took a



JEAN H. LEE '92, JRN '95

calendar from her hotel room as a souvenir. She was “flabbergasted” when she checked into the same hotel a year later and was asked to pay for it.

“It could have been a very serious offense,” says Lee.

Eventually, Lee became the first American allowed to join the foreign press corps in Pyongyang, which gave her access to state events. “I think I was seen as part of that larger message that they wanted to send — that they were ready and prepared to open up to the West,” she says.

North Koreans on the plaza outside Kumsusan Palace of the Sun, where the body of North Korea’s first president, Kim Il-Sung, lies in state.

LEE HOPES HER WORK WILL PREPARE JOURNALISTS WHO WILL BE REPORTING FROM NORTH KOREA UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY’RE GETTING INTO.

In December 2011 she was in Beijing, waiting to board a flight to Pyongyang to inaugurate the AP office, when news broke of Kim Jong Il’s death. A mourning period and transition of power followed, resulting in tighter restrictions for journalists. “All of the ambitious plans I had fell by the wayside,” says Lee.

During her three years covering North Korea on the ground, Lee typically spent four to six weeks at a time inside the country before returning to Seoul for a day or two. Initially, she neglected to pack medicine, which is scarce in North Korea, as are most supplies. Often sick due to a lack of clean water, Lee learned

to travel with everything from portable solar panels (electricity, plumbing and running water are often nonexistent in the countryside) to food and coffee, which meant buying everything from the Starbucks at the airport in Beijing.

But it was the psychological strain of surveillance that really tested Lee. The hotel room in Pyongyang

IT WAS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL STRAIN OF SURVEILLANCE THAT REALLY TESTED LEE.

that she considered home was bugged. “Feeling like anything you said could put you in harm’s way was really difficult,” Lee says.

During early reporting trips, Lee was accompanied by two minders, or, as they preferred to be called, “guides.” Later, the North Koreans she hired to be her drivers, reporters and photographers monitored her activities. “You can choose to be aware of it or be oblivious to it,” Lee says of the surveillance. “But given the amount of time I spent there, and the candid conversations I had with North Koreans, they wouldn’t let me be oblivious. I was privy, and I was made aware of all of that, because I speak Korean.”

And then there was the isolation from the outside world. It wasn’t until 2013 that Lee was allowed to bring a cellphone into North Korea. Before that, like all foreigners, she had to leave her iPhone at the airport, which made her feel “really stranded.” (Word of

the tsunami that triggered a nuclear disaster in neighboring Fukushima, Japan, in March 2011 did not reach her in Pyongyang.)

The insular environment made basic journalistic tasks, like filing a story, absurdly difficult. Yet although the state controls all media in North Korea, Lee says she never showed her writing to government officials before publication: “I just told them they could google it, which they did.”

Nonetheless, in a country where hard labor is a common punishment for minor offenses, Lee knew her work could put locals in danger, which meant weighing potential ramifications for her sources. “It was impossible to report properly from North Korea,” says Lee. “You worry what is going to happen to the people you interview and you work with.”

“Who would I have been? How would I have survived?” These questions swirled in Lee’s mind as she traveled around North Korea for the AP, witnessing the poverty and malnutrition in one of the world’s poorest countries. Eager to help her local sources but mindful of U.S. sanctions, Lee limited gifts to baby items, like newborn clothes and soap, which she knew the recipients would not sell on the black market.

“I have an incredible amount of compassion for the North Koreans because they’re not so different from me,” says Lee.

Lee also negotiated the right to distribute foreign reading material, like dictionaries and novels, which is usually forbidden. “I wanted to try to share what North Korea is like today, but I also wanted them to see what America is like today,” she says.

To blend in, Lee dressed and styled her hair like North Korean women and adopted the local dialect. Being inconspicuous allowed her to take candid videos and photos, a selection of which she uploaded to her Instagram account. Some of the images are expected: soldiers goose-stepping; children receiving red scarves in an initiation ritual. But it’s the glimpses of everyday life that are the most compelling: a woman at a beauty salon with a head full of curlers; children buying Mother’s Day gifts; three women on a bench at an ice-skating rink. Such moments defy the propaganda that often depicts a robotic society.

Lee’s work was not always well received, however. The AP, which shared office space with state media, drew criticism from journalists and human rights activists for operating in North Korea. But Lee and Guttenfelder defend their work. “As complicated as it was, as imperfect as it was, as challenging as it was, and not being able to work like you would in any other country, I would argue it was very important and valuable to have independent eyes on the ground there,” Guttenfelder says.

North Korean girls in traditional dress for Kim Il-Sung’s birthday, April 15, known as Day of the Sun.



JEAN H. LEE '92, JRN '95



COURTESY JEAN H. LEE '92, JRN'95

Lee speaking with a tour guide at Mount Paektu, North Korea, in April 2012.

Lee says she was called a propagandist, an accusation she decries as “racist and sexist.” “People took one look at me and saw an Asian woman and assumed I would be a convenient puppet for the regime,” she says. “I was constantly characterized as ‘naive.’ But anyone who knows me well knows how wrong that characterization is. I was the toughest person on our team.

“It’s true that I didn’t get all the access I wanted. North Korea is a tough place to be an American foreign correspondent, especially when it comes to the written word, and it wasn’t easy being the first. But I pushed and got more access than anyone before me.”

Lee grew up in Orono, a suburb of Minneapolis. Her maternal grandfather, a journalist in South Korea, introduced her to the profession. At the College, where she majored in East Asian studies and English, she was on the staff of *Spectator* each of her four years. “I considered learning the craft of journalism at *Spectator* just as much a part of my education,” she says.

Equally important was the experience of coordinating Asian Pacific American Awareness Month on campus as a senior, which Lee says proved useful when she found herself organizing reporting trips to North Korea.

After graduation, Lee worked for two years at *The Korea Herald*, an English-language newspaper in Seoul. Her work there caught the eye of the AP, but Lee had already decided to pursue a master’s at the Journalism School. After finishing that degree in 1995, she accepted the AP’s offer and was posted to

the agency’s bureau in Baltimore. She bounced around from California, to New York, to London before landing her dream job as bureau chief in Seoul.

Lee’s post on the Korean peninsula ended in 2013. Staying with the AP would have meant being relocated to another country, but she wasn’t ready to move on from North Korea. “I wanted to take the time to understand what I saw there,” she says.

That’s how Lee ended up at the Wilson Center, which she first joined as a public policy fellow in 2015. She was the director of the Center for Korean History and Public Policy from April 2018 until this year, when she transitioned to senior fellow, which allows her to devote all her energy to research and writing. “My role is to provide context and analysis,” says Lee, adding that she always tries to “position things from the perspective of the North Koreans.”

Lee is still very active in the media world, often as a guest speaker. This year, she was featured in the *National Geographic* special *North Korea: Inside the Mind of a Dictator* and the Netflix series *How to Become a Tyrant*. She also co-hosts *The Lazarus Heist*, a popular BBC podcast about a high-profile cyber-crime that investigators have linked to North Korea.

Yet even as she educates others about North Korea, Lee continues to try to understand it herself. “It’s still this cipher, even for someone like me,” she says.

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



Moving the Film World Forward

By Scott Meslow



**Orion Pictures
president
Alana Mayo '06
wants audiences
to see themselves
on screen**

**Photographs by
Da'Shaunae Marisa**

Mayo and actor Michael B. Jordan in February 2020; the two teamed up to help create a more equitable Hollywood at Jordan's production company, Outlier Society.

You could build a solid “Intro to Film” course based solely on the movies Alana Mayo ’06 watched and admired before she graduated from the College. *Apocalypse Now*, which she saw on LaserDisc when she was 10. *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which she eventually studied for an entire semester under film professor Richard Peña. The complete works of Alfred Hitchcock, consumed in a single eyeball-glazing summer, when she decided to rent every one from her local video store. (For the record: That’s 53 movies, or roughly one movie every two days, though she acknowledges she might have stopped a little shy of the finish line.)

Most of all, there was Spike Lee, a director whose films Mayo loved so much, she confesses, that her personal email address contained the word “Spiky.” It was *Malcolm X*, Lee’s 1992 biographical drama about the legendary activist, that first opened Mayo’s mind to the full range of what a film could do. “I remember

watching Spike Lee on *Inside the Actors Studio*, and him talking about how he went to all of these Black celebrities to get money that he needed to finish this film,” she says. “Hearing the story got me thinking, ‘Wow, this is a powerful political medium, and it’s bigger than just the entertainment piece of it.’”

If this were a superhero movie — a genre Mayo, admittedly, doesn’t have much tolerance for — this moment might be cast as her origin story. Speaking today, with one year as president of the MGM division Orion Pictures under her belt, Mayo is making exactly the kind of movies she might have devoured as an eager young cinephile: intelligent, forward-thinking, diverse and unapologetically political. If her vision succeeds, Orion could emerge as both a template and a beacon for a Hollywood that is only just beginning to reckon with its deep-seated inequities. Mayo — who is Black, and identifies as a queer woman — recognizes the responsibility, the privilege and the opportunity she has to reach filmgoers who have, historically, been either marginalized or ignored entirely. “We’re going to invite audiences to see themselves on screen,” she says.

Mayo grew up obsessed with stories. As a child in the Chicago suburbs, she’d sometimes end up reading in the shower because she couldn’t put a book down. She came to Columbia confident that storytelling, in some capacity, was her calling. While studying both film and English, she landed an internship with up-and-coming director Lee Daniels, and was soon plucked out of the pool to become his personal assistant. It was a quick education in the never-ending hustle required of any talented filmmaker with something to say, as Daniels courted investors to help finish his debut film, *Shadowboxer*, while simultaneously preparing for his next project, *Precious: Based on the Novel ‘Push’ by Sapphire*. (The latter went on to earn six Academy Award nominations, including one for Best Picture.)

After Mayo graduated, Daniels recommended her for a personal assistant gig for rocker Lenny Kravitz. She might have taken it, if not for a five-minute phone call with a family friend at the storied Hollywood agency CAA, who helped Mayo figure out the career track she actually wanted to be on. She told him she wanted to work in production and development; in very short order, he mapped out the trajectory of someone who wants to do that professionally. “And then he said, ‘But you’ve got to come to L.A.’”

For Mayo, who loved New York and had long fantasized about remaining after graduation, this was extremely unwelcome news. Undaunted, she sat down and made a concrete, five-year plan to conquer Hollywood so she could bring a thriving career as an executive back to New York. Speaking now — 15 years later and in the heart of Los Angeles — she smiles at the memory. “I was naive and foolhardy.”



ANDREW TOTH / GETTY IMAGES

AARON J. THORNTON / GETTY IMAGES



Mayo spoke on a panel about women-run productions as part of last year's ESSENCE House: Hollywood Edition.

If Mayo's ambitions were a bit starry-eyed, she was also uniquely well positioned to recognize and adapt to a seismic change in Hollywood. "I could sense that there were these massive shifts happening in the movie business from the moment I landed here," she says. "The studios were all shifting very quickly from making any kind of original films to these huge, branded, IP-driven blockbusters. *Exclusively*. That was clearly the bread and butter."

These were not the kind of movies that appealed to Mayo. But it was an opportunity to rethink what a career in Hollywood might look like, and carve out the middle ground that might still exist for anyone who was canny enough to pursue it. She was eventually hired to work under producers Andrew Lazar and Miri Yoon, who were creating their own intriguing niche. "It was not the sexiest deal, at the time, at Warner Bros.," she says. "We weren't making *Harry Potter* or *Batman*. But we *were* making movies. And I quickly realized: You want to make movies that people see. Some of them can be for a smaller audience, but

If Mayo's vision succeeds, Orion Pictures could emerge as a template and a beacon for a Hollywood that is only just beginning to reckon with its deep-seated inequities.

it's a good thing if you make something that's accessible to a lot of people."

The job was an education in the sheer range of possibilities at any major Hollywood studio. Within the same year, Mayo worked on *Get Smart*, an \$80 million action-comedy based on the beloved '60s TV series, and *I Love You Phillip Morris*, a \$13 million dramedy about two prison inmates who fall in love. The experience helped her pin down the kind of movie she would — in a perfect world — get to make. "To be crass about it, I love movies that are made at a price point where you can have originality and experimentation. Which is usually \$30 million and under," she says.

That philosophy was put into practice in her subsequent job at Paramount Pictures, where Mayo developed, among other projects, the horror script *A Quiet Place*. The movie drew some notice when *The Office*'s John Krasinski signed on to direct, with his wife, Emily Blunt, in the lead; but as one of the many, many scripts kicking around Hollywood pretty much all the time, there was nothing about *A Quiet Place* that screamed "blockbuster." It wasn't based on a well-known intellectual property, like the previous year's horror hit, an adaptation of Stephen King's *It*. The scope was relatively modest, with a \$22 million budget to match. But Mayo, while not exactly a horror junkie, saw something unique in it. "What I loved was that it was an opportunity to do a silent film today. For the right director, to tell a story through sound design

and performance ... It is thematically, and technically, exactly the kind of movie I love," she says.

As it turned out, *A Quiet Place* was exactly the kind of movie audiences loved, too. The movie grossed \$350 million and spawned a hit sequel earlier this year, with a third movie already in the works. "It really validated my belief that art and commerce don't have to be mutually exclusive," Mayo says.

By the time *A Quiet Place* hit theaters, Mayo had already shuffled jobs and was head of production and development at Outlier Society, a production company founded by *Black Panther* star Michael B. Jordan. When Jordan first approached Mayo about the job, she admits, she had "unfairly prejudged him" as an actor seeking a vanity deal. But even when their tastes didn't overlap, she was moved by Jordan's



earnest commitment to leveraging his star power to build a more equitable, diverse Hollywood than the one he had come up in. “What I really wanted, more than anything, was to work someplace where there were shared values,” she says.

Those values were soon turned outward, as well. By 2018, Outlier Society became one of the first Hollywood studios to publicly commit to “providing opportunities for individuals from underrepresented groups at all levels” from the start of a movie’s production, beginning with the legal drama *Just Mercy*. Mayo had finally found a creative home that matched her priorities, and it’s not hard to imagine a world where she would have stayed for many more years. But then, in 2019, MGM came calling.

Mayo certainly wasn’t looking for a new job when MGM got in touch, but when she heard them out, she found the pitch hard to resist. The idea? A relaunch of Orion Pictures — the MGM division whose run of hits in the ’80s and ’90s included Best Picture winners *Platoon*, *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Dances with Wolves* — with a mandate to focus “exclusively on underrepresented voices,” and Mayo as president.

Even at the best of times, moviemaking is an inexact science, which means that Hollywood studios typically decide whether they’ll greenlight a movie by looking at comparable films from the recent past and determining whether they succeeded or failed at the box office. *If a similar movie, with similar stars, was a hit* — the thinking goes — *our movie is more likely to be a hit, too*. There’s a fuzzy but cowardly logic to this calculus. It’s also a self-fulfilling prophecy: If you’ve only made movies centered on cisgender white people, your historical precedents for the *new* movies you could make will nudge you toward more movies centered on cisgender white people. Hollywood has operated that way from the very beginning, and — despite a number of pioneering non-white filmmakers pushing back against the inequalities baked into the system — the system has proved mad-deningly resistant to genuine, lasting change.

This is how a film buff like Mayo can begin an interview by rattling off the classic movies she admires — *2001*, *Apocalypse Now*, that seemingly bottomless pool of Hitchcock thrillers — while advocating for a cinematic future that’s, in many ways, vastly different. Mayo’s belief, which she’s now putting into practice at Orion, is that making Hollywood more diverse isn’t just the right thing to do; it’s smart business at a time in which movies must appeal to an increasingly diverse and global audience.

This argument doesn’t *feel* like it should require hard evidence to shift the culture at every studio in Los Angeles, but if it does, she says, the massive successes of movies like *Black Panther*, *Get Out* and *Moonlight* (“stories by Black filmmakers that uniquely sit in Black culture”) should have been more than enough.

At times, Mayo confides, she’s been so frustrated by Hollywood’s resistance to genuine diversity that she’s considered quitting the industry altogether. “My job is to facilitate money and resources to artists,” she says. “I have spent my entire career in this industry dismayed by how hard it seems to be to attach that kind of value to content made by Black people. And then you think about women. And queer people. How to get them the money and resources that they often deserve, and don’t get. It has been one of the banes of my existence.”

Orion’s first feature, *What If?*, is currently in production. It’s being directed by Billy Porter, the star of FX’s *Pose*, who recently became the first openly gay Black man to win an Emmy Award. Mayo says it’s “a proper coming-of-age movie” in the vein of films by director John Hughes: Kids “learning about themselves and testing boundaries and falling in love.” The difference, in this case, is that the two lead characters happen to be a Persian cis boy and a Black trans girl. It’s a movie that will break ground just by depicting the diversity of the actual world so matter-of-factly.

By the time she’s talking about the type of movies she intends to make at Orion, Mayo is fully on a roll. “Is this something that people love so much that they want to watch it multiple times? That they want to put the poster up on their wall? That it was meaningful

Mayo’s belief is that making Hollywood more diverse isn’t just the right thing to do; it’s smart business at a time when movies must appeal to an increasingly diverse and global audience.

to their lives?” she says. The vision and enthusiasm is undeniable. You can only imagine what the film industry might look like if more studio heads approached their slate of movies with the same ethos. Hollywood would, quite literally, always have benefited from the wisdom and perspective of someone like Mayo — but now more than ever, it looks like Hollywood might actually be ready for her.

Which means, the work is just beginning. “It’s going to require consistent, applied pressure, and an unwavering commitment,” she says. “But the way I’ve always looked at it is: Look at all the work that was done prior to me, to create the position I now enjoy. If I move the needle? If *we* move the needle? It will have been time very well spent.”

Scott Meslow is a senior editor for *The Week* magazine and a writer and critic for publications including *GQ*, *Vulture* and *The Atlantic*. His first book, *From Hollywood With Love: The Rise and Fall (and Rise Again) of the Romantic Comedy*, will be published in February.

The City That Never Sleeps — or Stays the Same

A historian takes a deep dive into the last four decades of New York’s metamorphosis

It can sometimes seem that there’s not one square foot of New York City — vertical or horizontal — that hasn’t been written about. So a reader might be forgiven for wondering if there’s anything new for an urban historian, no matter how talented, to say. But make room for novelist and historian **Thomas Dyja** ’84’s sweeping study of Gotham’s recent past, which critics have acclaimed as an “outstanding” new work that takes a fresh view of the metropolis.

New York, New York, New York: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation (Simon & Schuster, \$30) covers the last 40-odd years of

the city’s trajectory, from 1978 to the Covid-19 pandemic. Dyja delves into the history of the last five mayoral administrations — Koch, Dinkins, Giuliani, Bloomberg and de Blasio; and tracks New York’s metamorphosis from a dangerous, decaying nightscape — “that thrilling cesspool where anything could happen,” Dyja memorably puts it — to a luxurious Bloombergian tourist attraction that seems to be, as one reviewer says, “wealthier, healthier, safer, greener” than ever before. Dyja’s take on New York’s so-called progress is both astute and nuanced: He knows that today’s NYC is “flush with cash and full of poor people, diverse but deeply segregated, hopeful yet worryingly hollow underneath the shiny surface.”

New York, New York, New York’s panoramic narrative is studded with colorful detail; Dyja name-checks the significant cultural and political milestones of the city’s recent history, from “broken windows” policing to *Yo! MTV Raps*. The book took eight years to finish; his massive first draft was cut in half to produce the final product. Dyja compares the process of composing an intricate history to cooking a stew: “layering ideas and

images, letting them cook and melt together,” he told *CCT*. Over coffee in a Morningside Heights restaurant, he shared a small section of the paper timeline he used to guide his writing process; by the end, his timeline, dense with scribbled text, had grown to eight feet long.

Dyja’s ambitious feat has been met with equally high-flown praise. A long rave from novelist Kevin Baker ’80 landed on the cover of the March 21, 2021, *New York Times Book Review*; Baker called it “a tour de force, a work of astonishing breadth and depth.” Dyja admits: “When I first saw it, I just sat with it for an hour. I didn’t tell anyone, didn’t call anyone. It had been such a long journey and to have this at the end was overwhelming.”

New York, New York, New York isn’t Dyja’s first city exploration. *The Third Coast: When Chicago Built the American Dream* (which won the *Chicago Tribune*’s Heartland Prize in 2013) was a highly personal book for Dyja, who grew up in a Polish working-class neighborhood on Chicago’s Northwest Side. But he feels just as close to his latest work. Dyja has spent most of his adult life in New York; he says he sees the



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book as “a journey of discovery of my own past and the city’s past.”

His time at the College was a crucial part of that past, especially the formative English courses he took with legendary professor Edward Said, which, Dyja says, “really opened up my brain.” Said and other professors, like George Stade GSAS’65, taught him “an enormous amount,” including the best way to eloquently and cogently frame an argument. “This book wouldn’t exist without Columbia,” he says.

Dyja isn’t certain what’s next for him — or for the city. His book ends with the devastation of the pandemic; the heartfelt epilogue is a plea for New Yorkers to address the social and economic inequality that still smolders. “We need a New York built on a bed-rock of justice, not just *noblesse oblige*,” he writes. Despite this caveat, Dyja’s affection for the Big Apple rings out as clearly as the words of William “Holly” Whyte, the celebrated urbanist whom he quotes in the book’s epigraph, and its title. When Whyte was asked, “What are your three favorite cities?” he answered firmly: “New York, New York, New York.”

— Rose Kernochan BC’82

Introduction

Now again this morning — four inches, said the AccuWeather Forecast — after a foot and a half last week. Snow across the hundred acres of broken boards, mounds of brick, bent pipe, and garbage around Charlotte Street and Boston Road. Snow edged the sills of burnt-out apartment buildings, dusted shards of glass and mattresses left behind. There’d been some 63,000 fires in the South Bronx in the last two years; little point in plowing.

Today, Valentine’s Day 1978, was officially “I Love New York” Day.

Jimmy Carter had visited these desolate blocks last October, made thin promises as photographers focused on a landscape hopeless as the moon. We’d given up on the moon by then, along with just about everything else. Saigon had fallen; Nixon had resigned. Three decades of economic expansion had ended with a thud. Factories were closing. A dollar bought half of what it did ten years before; the speed limit, to save gas, was now a poky 55. So as America’s big, bright, exceptional promise of eternal growth blew apart, Carter had offered up Charlotte Street as a ruin so apparently complete that the rest of the failing nation could say that at least they weren’t *there*.

At Southern Boulevard, 18 feet in the air, the #5 train emerged from behind a hollowed building, bubbly orange, green, red, and blue words — “Daze,” “Blade,” “Futura” — painted on its sides. Inside, it stunk of pot and piss; dense black scribbles over the windows and walls. Every stop along the way to Brooklyn, bundled riders winced at the graffiti, at the smell, at the parade of annoyance and threat that was daily life in New York circa 1978: track fires and dog shit, bad reception and cockroaches, that high-heeled lady upstairs with no rugs and the mugger around the next corner. “Hello from the gutters of N.Y.C.,” wrote serial killer Son of Sam to the *Post*, “which are filled with dog manure, vomit, stale wine, urine and blood.” In their camel hair coats, Frye boots, and shiny Yankees jackets, New Yorkers stepped over and through it all this “I Love New York” Day, shoved past mounds of uncollected garbage bags. Some 6.8 million people lived in New York City in 1978, down a million from ten years before; middle-class Blacks and Puerto Ricans had joined the White Flight. Pocked with cracks and empty corners, old New York was coming apart in chunks. A dump truck fell through the West Side Highway. Famed exorcist Malachi Martin knew for a fact that demons hunted lost souls on the benches of Bryant Park. Few New Yorkers bothered with

self-control. “People see it as bad,” one young man told the *Times*, “and they feel they can’t do anything about it. So they do their little bit to make it worse.” Public space was yours to use as you pleased — go ahead and toss your hot dog wrapper on the sidewalk, piss between parked cars. Keepers at the Children’s Zoo had stood by watching as a man molested one of their geese.

Then the change began. Over the next thirty-five years, three different New Yorks evolved in lurches; three very similar cities with much of the same DNA, but each bigger, faster, and sleeker than the one before, each one more merciless and beautiful. The Koch era was the Renaissance; after brutal Retrenchment came dazzling, greedy years that spiraled back down amid crack, AIDS, and a social gout of too much too fast. The next four years of David Dinkins left the city’s liberal traditions battered but laid the foundation for the safe streets and dotcom excess of Rudy Giuliani’s Reformation in the ’90s. After the planes hit on 9/11 and a brief state of grace, the shaky city handed itself over to technocratic, philanthropic billionaire Michael Bloomberg, who wove City Hall into his personal empire, reimagining New York to look very much like him: visionary and strategic, driven by data and good taste, rich beyond measure, and fatally detached from those it left behind.

By New Year’s Eve 2013, when Bloomberg delivered his goodbye atop a desk in City Hall, New York had experienced the most dramatic peacetime transformation of a city since Haussmann rebuilt Paris, greener and safer than it had ever been, from Bryant Park’s lawn and the blocks of tidy homes across the South Bronx to the million-dollar brownstones in Bed-Stuy. Rumpelmayer’s and Billy’s Topless were gone, along with CBGB, subway graffiti, and that dog shit on the sidewalk. Good luck finding a place to smoke. The murder rate had dropped to a then all-time low of 333. Entire neighborhoods had been culturally, racially, economically, and physically remade; bedraggled Williamsburg was hip, Sunset Park burst with Fuzhou Chinese. Altogether some 3.6 million immigrants had come through since 1978, and 1.5 million — the entire population of Philadelphia — stayed. City Hall was solvent.

But the city of our memories, that thrilling cesspool where anything could happen, site of secret rituals officiated by Santera priests, home of dowagers on Beekman Place, refuge from every-

thing straight and common — *that* city seemed to have slipped under a sea of gold. The rich were no longer rich; they were imperial. Chain stores devoured mom and pops. Camp had been domesticated; rage, sex, and high art defanged, rents out of reach, the NYPD an army. Hip Hop was mainstream, but the Twin Towers were nowhere to be found. Depending on your mood, your age, your bank account, New York was now horrifying, or wonderful, and even that changed day-to-day, moment-to-moment.

That was the fall of 2013, when I started this book, angry at the closing of Big Nick’s, a pretty lousy burger place and longtime symbol of the free-for-all character of the Upper West Side I’d moved to back in 1980. The election of progressive Bill de Blasio had surely signaled the end of an era; it was time, I thought, to sort through the facts of those years and get to the bottom of this slimy feeling I had that while so much had gone right in New York, way too much had gone wrong. Everyone had their opinions about what had happened: Some saw only villains and victims, used terms like Neoliberalism, Quality of Life, Broken Windows, and Gentrification with little sense of their original meanings, context, or applications; others told rose-colored stories about Giuliani’s cops cleaning up Dodge and Bloomberg’s enlightened reign, ignoring the profound damage done to the city and its people. Either way, four complex decades were reduced to a morality play. I wanted to get down to the actual ideas, policies, and technologies behind it all. What was the process? Who were the people?

As I researched and wrote over the next seven years, some things about the city and the world changed in remarkable ways — Donald Trump, for example, whom I’d originally seen as a bit of side comedy occasionally bursting in the door with a wacky catchphrase, became president of the United States. In other ways, the city stayed tragically the same.

Then, in a matter of days Covid-19 thrust New York back to the dark, empty streets of our memories, but this time no one was allowed to wander them. A city fueled by the energy of density, the pressure, the motion, the countless daily face-to-face interactions was suddenly frozen, and we sat helplessly listening to the sirens that never stopped. Some 17,000 New Yorkers died over three months, six times as many as died on 9/11. Hundreds of thousands lost their jobs. And then a White woman in the Central Park Ramble threatened to call the police on an African American birdwatcher, George Floyd was murdered by cops in Minneapolis, and the streets of New York burst into violent protest along with other American cities.

We no longer have the luxury of dogma, assumptions, and unexamined opinions about New York, not from any side of the many divides that separate us in this city. A fourth evolution of New York is clearly imminent; economics, public health, and social justice demand it. And that makes it crucial to learn the practical lessons of its earlier transformations. Covid has revealed cities, as nothing ever has, to be organisms built of countless intricate networks that exist to facilitate human exchange; their general health, maintenance, and momentum, their need to stay afloat through whatever hits them, transcends politics and sometimes, sadly, individual need. For us to learn anything from how New York became at once kinder and meaner, richer and poorer, more like America and less like what it had always been, we need a fine-grained look at how New Yorkers, public and private, created new methods of urban living that together saved the city, then in too many places overwhelmed it. We must confront the bitter fact that the things that brought New York back — connection, proximity,



ERESA ZABALA / THE NEW YORK TIMES

President Carter visits a desolate stretch of the South Bronx in October 1977.

density — are exactly what sent Covid-19 burning through its streets, that too much that was objectively “good” depended on casting off, pushing aside, building upon, chewing up, and spitting out New Yorkers simply trying to make their own lives. And we must understand that the greatest challenge we will face is one that New York failed badly in its last three evolutions: the cure can’t be worse than the disease.

Seven main themes weave through this book and point to the future: how City Hall made an ungovernable city governable; how the one Great Conversation of New York culture broke apart; how AIDS transformed Gay New York and the city as a whole; how the built landscape and public space were fundamental to new growth and community while also creating inequality and new forms of control; how millions of immigrants stabilized and globalized the city even as its People of Color confronted diminished power, dislocation, and brutality; the impact of technology on nearly every aspect of life in New York; and finally, the rise of Brooklyn as an expansion of the city’s consciousness of itself.

All these themes hang on the deeper structures of how people connect in cities. New York’s passage through Renaissance, Reformation, and Reimagination was really a shift from mass society to networks. Until the ’70s, political scientists described New York as a game played by all its interests with City Hall as the referee. But as Information took over from Industry, the collective world of unions, borough machines, the archdiocese, and even the Mob gradually gave way to one of individuals who define themselves primarily by the networks they belong to. The gameboard became what I imagine as a galaxy of 8½ million lives connected to each other in ways beyond counting: those with the most connections — and therefore the most access to favors, advice, job tips, and string pulling — shone the brightest, and the reconnection and reorganization of New Yorkers sent new tastes, ideas, resources, and behaviors coursing through every borough, unleashing financial, human, and social capital. Like a giant brain, the more connections, the more synapses ring, the higher functioning New York became. Those without wide connections, or with none at all, were left behind.

But social capital isn’t an unqualified good; a street gang can produce just as much as a congregation, and the same kinds of connections that catalyzed the response to AIDS and spread Hip Hop also produced toxic levels of social capital in Wall Street, Nouvelle Society, and post-gentrification PTAs, until, by the end of the Bloomberg years, New York was one vast web of business, government, philanthropy, and culture that exemplified the best and worst of a networked world. “[T]he larger the web gets,” writes historian William McNeill, “the more wealth, power, and inequality its participating populations exhibit.” And the more vulnerable it is to any sort of contagion, including a very nonmetaphorical virus.

The energy released by all this breaking and building of new connections, the movement between Order and Disorder, is the catalyst of urban life, the human fission that fuels a city. Though much visible effort goes into preserving Order, cities, especially democratic capitalist ones, thrive on the energies and possibilities of toggling back and forth, so how New York manages and manipulates Order and Disorder explains much of what happens during these years. Deregulation of markets, for example, creates profits by creating Disorder to speculate on; the Mob made money by enforcing Order on the Disorder of places like the Garment District and Fulton Fish Market. Hip Hop came to life out of Disorder and then became an Orderly thing, while Koch’s Housing Initiative helped create Order



Activists at the 47th Gay Pride Parade marching in Midtown in June 2017.

in neighborhoods. The most familiar example — enforcing Order in the streets and parks — touches the troubling knot at the core of the city’s transformation: Using Order to facilitate exchange between people wasn’t the same as using it to enforce oppressive, if familiar, norms about sex, race, and class. And a city without Disorder, or at least *public* Disorder, is barely a city at all.

That brings us to *Who*. Over these thirty-five years, the greatest changes were the work of New Yorkers obsessed in their own individual ways with fixing, changing, building, saving, serving the city more than their political party, social ties, or corporate affiliation. Even when it was a fig leaf for their own agendas, you still find possibility, identity, history, justice, and a sense of Home — a search for actual results, not just votes or dollars. Elizabeth Barlow Rogers was obsessed with Central Park, just as Marcy Benstock was obsessed with stopping Westway, Larry Kramer was obsessed with fighting AIDS, Jack Maple was obsessed with crime, and Reverend Johnny Ray Youngblood was obsessed with affordable housing. Everyday New Yorkers rebuilt communities by rebuilding their connections to government and to each other. What happened in these years didn’t just happen *to* New York; its people had agency. Not all the time and not nearly enough, but when people connected in practical, humane ways, when they participated in urban life, sometimes — many times — they found sweet spots that balanced the networks of power and money, that made us love the place even as we hated what it was becoming. Instead of standing by and watching Jane Jacobs’s street ballet, they jumped in and danced. New Yorkers rediscovered trust which, deserved or not, offered hope even as they despaired at what was lost. The greatest lesson of these thirty-five years is that keeping a city fertile demands the active, daily participation of its citizens.

From the book *NEW YORK, NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Four Decades of Success, Excess, and Transformation* by Thomas Dyja. Copyright © 2021 by Kelmscott Ink, Inc. Reprinted by permission of Simon & Schuster, Inc.



alumni news



NOW ARRIVING: 116TH STREET

While Columbians today may travel to campus in a different kind of car — and often underground — the view of campus is not much different than when the Broadway Trolley rolled past in 1911.

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Two alumni were immortalized on canvas by their mother, painter Alice Neel.

ARTHUR W. THOMAS SEAS 1912, GSAS 1915 / COURTESY ARTHUR L. THOMAS '50

A Community Comes Together Again

By Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94

As I write this letter, Columbia College is preparing to welcome many of its students back to campus for a long-anticipated return. The Columbia College Alumni Association (CCAA) applauds the work done by the College and the University in navigating a course that has valued the safety of its faculty and students above all other considerations. While we suspect Covid-19 and its variants will be with us for years to come, we hope never to return to such a severe lockdown and remote life.

With the start of the new academic year, we remind ourselves of the CCAA's mission to further the vibrancy of the College and forge meaningful connections among alumni. Thousands of alumni volunteer time and give generously to support the dean's priorities. This steady commitment fuels the University and is part of what enables it to provide the very best to all students, who then go forth and change the world.

The CCAA is particularly proud of the strong alumni support of the Columbia College Fund during the past year. Thanks to these groups for the fundraising success: (1) our donors, (2) our alumni volunteers and (3) the unstoppable staff at the Dean's Office and the Alumni Office. The financial support provided by the College Fund is essential to students, the majority of whom benefit from financial aid.

Relatedly, a few months ago Dean James J. Valentini announced the College is joining the University-wide effort made public by President Lee C. Bollinger to launch the largest financial aid initiative in our history. As a community, we are committed to raising \$500 million in financial assistance by 2025, which will

significantly expand the scholarships that ensure that any student can attend and thrive at the College, regardless of family income. As the dean stated, the commitment to financial aid is inspired by its triple impact: It can change the student, the College and the world. As president of the CCAA, I am enthusiastic about this initiative and excited for our community to learn more in the months ahead.

During the pandemic's worst, and even now, the College community stayed in touch and came together through virtual programming, most of which was created in response to Covid. Multiple outlets flourished, including speaker series and literary fora. I was fortunate to participate in many of these virtual assemblies and admired the quality of the offerings. It has been said that "necessity is the mother of invention." But there were other aspects at play aside from rallying at a time of need. Indeed, we were reminded of the phrase "cometh the hour, cometh the man [and woman!]." It was humbling for us to see the outpouring of energy and enthusiasm from our alumni community during the last year and a half. Volunteers gave that much more in whatever capacity they could.

As we look ahead to a new year, we'll retain some virtual programming. Planning is also underway for our annual events and traditions, including Homecoming and Columbia Reunion. Look for more information as these milestones approach.

On another note, we are thrilled to welcome nine new CCAA Board of Directors members to their initial two-year term, which began on July 1. These alumni have been stalwart in their support of the College, and we are pleased to have such an interesting and dedicated group. They live as close as the Upper West Side and as far as São Paulo.

- Uchenna Acholonu Jr. '96
- Armond Adams '06
- Nihara Choudhri '96, LAW'99
- Michael Lee '96
- Diana Nasser '87
- Heather Ruddock '88
- Khadijah Sharif-Drinkard '93
- Matthew Sodl '88
- Zahrah Taufique '09, BUS'15, PS'15

There are myriad ways to get involved with Columbia, and I encourage you to seek them out (college.columbia.edu/alumni). We are particularly excited about Homecoming, scheduled for Saturday, October 16. We hope to see you in the weeks and months ahead!




JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY



Guevara (center) rings the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange in January 2020.

COURTESY BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NEW YORK CITY

Alicia Guevara '94 Believes That Mentorship Is Meaningful

By Jill C. Shomer

Alicia Guevara '94 is one of those fortunate people who has felt a calling in life — in her case, to be in the service of young people. After a 25-year career as a fundraiser in the nonprofit sector, bringing in millions of dollars for organizations such as The Osborne Association and the Abyssinian Development Corp., Guevara is currently fulfilling her personal mission as the CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of New York City (BBBS), whose aim is to help young people reach their full potential through mentoring relationships. Matches are made between caring adult volunteers and children across the five boroughs, and are inclusive of guardians and families.

"I was a young person with a really strong family network who also benefited tremendously from the contributions of others.

I know what's possible when we invest in our youth," she says. "I have committed my life to creating access to opportunities and to making room for others."

Guevara is proud to be the first CEO in the organization's 117-year history who identifies as a woman and as a woman of color. "It's important to me that 89 percent of the participants we serve, who are young people of color, see me not solely for my accomplishments, but as a representation of their own possibilities."

A major component of Guevara's work at BBBS is amplifying the idea that mentoring is essential, and helping people understand the impact it has on young people and communities as a whole. "Mentoring creates access to social capital and opportunities — especially now, as New York City begins to reenvision its future. It's

definitely important to invest in our next set of leaders, in our next workforce, in our next corps of decision makers and influencers.”

The work of mentoring never stopped during the pandemic. “Bigs” and “Littles” usually meet in the community twice a month; instead they FaceTimed, played video games, created TikToks, did homework together virtually. “Our Bigs were telling us that pre-pandemic, they were reaching out to their Littles; this time around, it was the Littles who were initiating contact,” Guevara says. “They were mutually connecting.”

Guevara knows firsthand how empowering a connected community can be. She grew up in the Fordham section of the Bronx, the first generation of Cuban immigrants. Her mom was a “modern-day grassroots activist,” Guevara says; “she took care of her community, and she instilled that sense of responsibility in me.” In the midst of the 1980s crack epidemic, Guevara saw friends being torn apart from their parents because of addiction. “But ours was the household that always had a cup of milk to offer, a plate of rice. We provided a safe haven for the kids in our neighborhood,” she says.

Guevara embraced the expectation that she would succeed. “There was a lot of hope placed in me — not just from my immediate family but also from a whole neighborhood that was really banking on me. It was incredibly affirming during my adolescence,” she says. Her mother believed that a good education was paramount, and Guevara left the Bronx every day to travel to The Marymount School, an independent Catholic academy on Fifth Avenue. “That’s when I really came to understand the haves and the have-nots, and the schism between the two,” Guevara says. “With the opportunities I was given, I realized I had some important choices to make about responsibility. And Columbia was really the first place I got to exercise those choices.”

Guevara honed in on creating communities on campus, organizing and addressing issues of social justice at a time when that phrase wasn’t so buzzy. In her sophomore year, she was the presi-

dent of Alianza Latino Americana, a now-defunct umbrella group for Latinx students, and was an active member of the Black Students Organization. She also co-founded two student groups serving members of the first decade of Latinx College women. “We recognized there wasn’t a social, cultural response to sisterhood as we were experiencing it. We said, ‘We’d better do something about it.’”

“There’s great power that comes from community building,” she adds. “I’m a firm believer that there’s a tremendous amount of energy and potential for transformative change that comes with locking arms and doing the work.”

She majored in political science and history, and thought she would become an attorney. But after landing an internship at the Hispanic Federation of New York City, which she had randomly seen advertised on a flier outside the Dean’s Office, Guevara found her launching pad into the nonprofit world. At the Hispanic Federation she learned to write grants and began her decades-long role as a fundraiser. “The entire course of your career can unroll from one small encounter,” she says with a laugh. “Thirty years later, I’m still asking for money from the City of New York!”

Guevara has maintained ties to Columbia; she earned an Executive Leaders certificate from the Business School in 2014, and was recently appointed to the 2021–22 Board of Visitors. “To me it speaks to the College’s commitment to create a sense of belonging for its alumni,” she says. “As a student, I didn’t have any role models who worked in the nonprofit sector. My appointment affirms the spectrum of professions, careers and lived experiences that are valuable to the College.”

Guevara says she’s inspired by the commitment Columbia has demonstrated to building trusting connections for its students and she is motivated, now more than ever, by the impact of youth mentoring relationships created within BBBS. “The pandemic has really put a spotlight on the need for social connectedness,” she says. “And that’s what mentorship does — it’s a relationship that safely grounds you.”

Marianna Wright ’91 Is “the Butterfly That Roared”

By George Spencer

Some people are social butterflies. **Marianna Wright ’91**, executive director of the National Butterfly Center (NBC), uses butterflies for social justice.

More than 240 species flutter in the center’s 100-acre gardens, located a mile from the Rio Grande in Mission, Texas, at the state’s southern tip. As many as 200,000 butterflies, notably migrating Monarchs, have been seen at the center in one day. For nine years Wright has made it her mission to educate NBC’s 35,000 annual visitors not just about butterfly mating habits (“It could be a four-hour experience with a nap and flying conjoined!” she says) but also about climate change and environmental justice issues.

While bees may be the better-known pollinators, butterflies do their fair share — but global warming, commercial pesticide use and habitat destruction have been steadily eroding their numbers. “We’re going to have to be tough to defend our planet and the

things that support human life, if we want to survive,” says Wright, a history major who headed fundraising and donor development at a local nonprofit hospital before joining the NBC. “We have a motto at the National Butterfly Center — ‘If we can save the butterflies, we can save ourselves’ — and it’s really that simple.”

Wright believes that engaging Hispanic visitors in environmental conservation education and climate change activism is “critical work” — especially for students. “For people of color, the outdoors is traditionally associated with danger and fear,” Wright says. “There’s a stigma associated with enjoying the outdoors. That’s something we need to change.”

The center, which also boasts 350 bird species as well as endangered plants and wildlife, annually hosts more than 100 school field trips, which largely comprise Hispanic students. “These children are often loaded with baggage from the legacies of immigration,

migrant and other farm work, and colonizer settlement of this region, all of which involve terrorism,” Wright says. “The work we do — sharing our wonder, knowledge and skill — gives children and families a safe start outside and the confidence to navigate nature. The healing has to start with helping them fall in love with the beauty and magic of butterflies.”

Wright has dual U.S.-Mexican citizenship and grew up in McAllen, Texas; she remembers watching restaurants refuse to seat her Hispanic father. “I began experiencing racism at a very early age. I have very little tolerance for injustice, and it is something that unfortunately is abundant,” says Wright. “The South had Jim Crow. In Texas, we had Juan Crow.”

Her parents wanted her to leave Texas for college. They knew she loved the state so much she was likely to spend her life there, and



VERÓNICA G. CÁRDENAS

thought she needed to see some of the rest of the country first. UC Berkeley was Wright’s first choice. Her father said to her, “You cannot go to school in California because they smoke dope there.” She remembers thinking, “Dad, have you heard of Allen Ginsberg [48]?”

Wright and the butterfly preserve became a hot spot in national politics in July 2017. As she drove her black Honda into the sanctuary and down a steep embankment, she spotted five workmen on the property using chainsaws, a brush hog and a brush boom to mow vegetation and chop down mesquite trees.

The men told the astonished Wright they were clearing land for the construction of the Trump administration’s border wall, even though this was months before a congressional vote of authorization. Had it been built, the wall would have cut nearly through the middle of the Butterfly Center.

Today, after four years of struggle, Wright calls herself “the butterfly that roared.” The NBC’s lawsuit against the federal government for violating its procedures and taking property without compensation is wending its way to trial. In the interim, former Trump advisor Steve Bannon and his business associates built a wall adjacent to the NBC and alleged that Wright and the center were involved in “human trafficking” and “drug smuggling.” She is suing him for defamation.

Wright worries the new administration will confiscate the same land for a patrol road as part of a “border wall system.” “Biden has not raised a hand against us, not yet anyway,” says Wright. “I am cautiously concerned. It’s still the government.”

During the furor over the proposed border wall, the Butterfly Center found itself the recipient of a nearby 350 acres, a gift from The Nature Conservancy. While Wright is “thrilled” by the donation, she says it couldn’t possibly make up for the wholesale negative impact of a wall in the Rio Grande Valley conservation corridor. “It doesn’t even begin to address it,” she says.

George Spencer is the former executive editor of Dartmouth Alumni Magazine. He lives in Hillsborough, N.C.

A Pioneer in the Field of Gay History

By Eugene L. Meyer '64

A cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the College with a newly acquired doctorate in history from the University, **John D’Emilio ’70, GSAS’82** eagerly applied for teaching jobs in academia in the early 1980s. But his dissertation subject — the history of gay activism — was unheard of then, and he faced a wall of rejection from dozens of institutions where he’d sought employment.

Times have changed. Forty years later, D’Emilio is regarded not only as a leader in the field of gay history but also as a rock star at the University of Illinois at Chicago who has won numerous awards and honors, including a dissertation prize bearing his name.

“He was absolutely a pioneer,” says Estelle Freedman BC’69, the Edgar E. Robinson Professor in U.S. History at Stanford,

with whom D’Emilio collaborated on the 1988 bestseller *Intimate Matters: A History of Sexuality in America*, now in its third edition. “His work has been incredibly important and influential.”

D’Emilio has won wide recognition: He was inducted into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame in 2005, has been a Guggenheim fellow and is the author of several more books. His 2003 biography of gay civil rights leader Bayard Rustin earned wide acclaim; a memoir, *Memories of a Gay Catholic Boyhood: Coming of Age in the Sixties*, is due out next fall.

His rise to prominence was hardly meteoric — it was a struggle against a homophobic society not yet ready to accept nonconforming sexuality as an academic field. D’Emilio was born to working-class Italian immigrants in the Bronx, and raised in the Catholic

church. He attended Regis H.S., an elite Catholic boys' school in Manhattan, on scholarship. (Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, chief medical advisor to President Biden, is also an alumnus.)

Once on campus, D'Emilio moved into a John Jay Hall single. For a teen grappling with his emerging gay identity, New York City seemed to offer a relatively safe space, but he was still closeted. He was, he says, "coming to grips with being gay at a time when it was impossible to be gay"; he was also involved in the antiwar movement. Needing a break from academia, D'Emilio landed in the library of Long Island University, reading radical publications and heading in a new direction.

"What I was learning through them was a revisionist view of U.S. history, consistent with what the antiwar movement was shouting at demonstrations," he says, "and I realized I'd never taken a U.S. history course."

So, back he went to Columbia. He had an idea for a doctoral dissertation on a subject of great personal interest, and brought the topic — the history of homosexuality in America — to his advisor, historian William Leuchtenburg GSAS'51. D'Emilio still recalls his wry response: "John, I think you need to narrow your topic somewhat. You have an area, not a topic."

D'Emilio focused on the history of gay activism from 1940 to 1970. His dissertation would become his first book, *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities*, in 1983.

Though he'd begun graduate school in 1971, D'Emilio didn't get his doctorate until 1982. Even then, supporting himself with several freelance jobs, he saw his future in writing. But eventually, he applied for teaching positions with an emphasis on gay history.

"I had recommendations, publications, a book under contract. But in the early '80s, what the hell is gay history? No one was teaching it," he says. D'Emilio finally landed at the University of North Carolina Greensboro in 1983 and stayed until 1995. He left to found and chair the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute, and, in 1999, the University of Illinois at Chicago came calling.

Since 2014, D'Emilio has been emeritus professor of history and women's and gender studies, but still speaks and writes about gay



history. His most recent work, *Queer Legacies: Stories from Chicago's LGBTQ Archives*, was published in 2020.

"I've retired in the sense that I don't have to go to faculty meetings, prepare syllabi, and grade papers and exams, but I still get to do research and writing," he says. Composing his memoir, however, has been a new and different experience: "It's so weird to be publishing a book about me instead of about something else."

Eugene L. Meyer '64 is a former longtime Washington Post reporter and editor and author, most recently, of *Five for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown's Army*.

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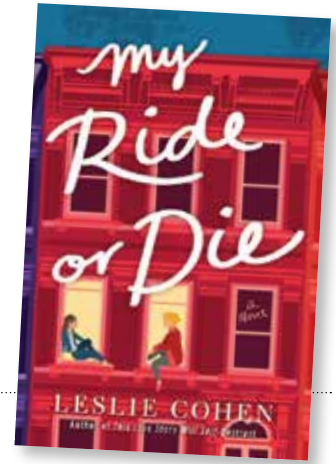
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A New Novel That Celebrates BFFs

By Jill C. Shomer



Novelist **Leslie Cohen '06** has been described as “a young Nora Ephron,” an impressive analogy that might imply publishing doors swung open easily for her. But Cohen’s career path was a lot more unusual, and much less assured. She was a mountain-town music writer before deciding to attend law school, then wrote a handful of novels that went nowhere before she was finally published in 2018. Her debut, *This Love Story Will Self-Destruct*, is a classic New York romantic comedy; in the first chapter, Eve, an arty dreamer, and Ben, an orderly engineer, meet cute as students at Columbia.

Now more confidently through the door, Cohen decided to change things up for her sophomore novel. Her latest, *My Ride or Die* (William Morrow, \$16.99), puts female friendship at the forefront, telling the relationship story of two millennial New Yorkers: Amanda, a successful but anxious lawyer, and Sophie, gorgeous and more free-spirited, but struggling to find her way as an artist.

After two romantic disasters — Sophie calls off her wedding minutes before walking down the aisle, and Amanda learns that her boss/boyfriend is most definitely *not* divorced — the friends decide to flip the script and forge a new partnership ideal: They will commit their lives to each other and relegate men to the periphery. The pair buy a fixer-upper on Convent Avenue and start a blissful platonic life together, and while you just know one of them is about to fall in love, the genuine humor and relatability of their friendship and Cohen’s knack for spot-on cultural detail keep the pages turning.

“I felt more secure taking risks with this book,” she says. “I could be a little zanier and use a voice I felt more confident about. I could step into my own shoes more.”

Cohen says she sees some of herself in both her main characters (I was not the first to ask, tritely: “Are you an Amanda or a Sophie?”), but she clearly shares some qualities with Sophie, who yearns to be

a painter but is desperate for affirmation and professional guidance. A New York native, Cohen was an English major and in the Undergraduate Creative Writing Program; she wanted to be a writer, but she didn’t know if she was good enough. One professor in particular helped her find her conviction — Leslie Woodard GS’94, then head of the program. Woodard, who died in 2013, told her she had a unique voice. “She had so many students, so [her validation] was a really big deal,” Cohen says. “I owe a lot to her. Especially as a 21-year-old, you really need someone to tell you they see potential in you.”

Intimidated by the competition for writing jobs in New York and also seeking adventure, Cohen spent a year in Aspen, Colo., writing a music column for the local newspaper and as an assistant editor at one of the village’s luxe glossies. “It was a year where I grew a lot, personally and professionally,” Cohen says.

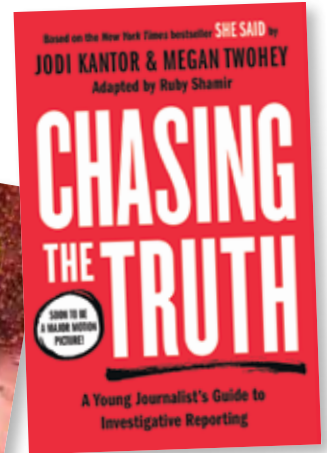
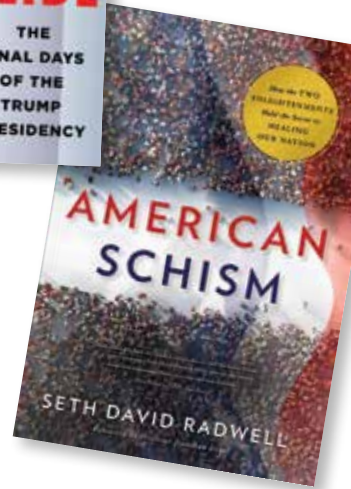
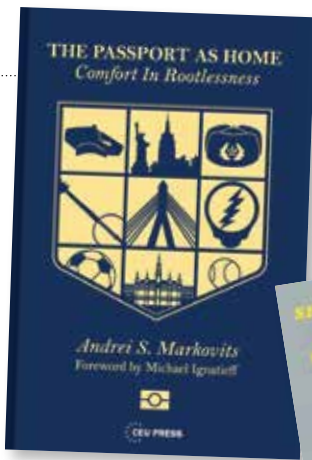
But a year in a small town was enough. When she returned to New York, the competition for writing jobs was still fierce, and Cohen quickly felt lost. She decided to change direction and went to law school, which she now admits was a mistake. But sometimes clarifying what you absolutely do not want to do helps to shine a light on your true passion — soon after taking the bar, Cohen was applying for jobs at literary agencies.

She eventually landed at Writers House. “I could have kissed the ground every day, I was so happy I wasn’t working at a law firm,” she says. “It gave me a huge appreciation for the publishing world.” (Amusingly, her first book included five characters who are associates at a law firm.)

Cohen is now at work on her third novel (albeit slowly — she and her husband, David Verbitsky SEAS’06, have a 3-year-old daughter and she is seven months pregnant with their second child). “It takes place in the south of France, mostly for selfish reasons because I’d like to go there,” she laughs. “But also, who doesn’t want to read a novel set in the south of France?”

By the end of *My Ride or Die*, both young women are creating meaningful lives in their own ways; the author is also happy that despite her circuitous journey, she is now where she always wanted to be. “I was meant to write fiction,” Cohen says. “I’m lucky I’ve been able to make that work, and I feel grateful all the time.”





Once Upon a Time in Aleppo by Fouad M. Fouad, translated by Dr. Norbert Hirschhorn '58. The poems of a Syrian physician and refugee are translated from Arabic by Hirschhorn, a poet and physician who specializes in international public health (The Hippocrates Press).

Afro-South Asia in the Global African Diaspora edited by Dr. Kenneth X. Robbins '63, Omar H. Ali, Beheroze Shroff and Jazmin Graves. Over three volumes, contributors including historians, anthropologists, linguists and art historians discuss the influence of South Asia on Africans and people of African descent (independently published, \$49.99 per volume).

Until We Meet Again: An American Woman and Her Family in Civil War China by Marshall S. Clough '67. The story of Clough's mother, Mary Lou Sander Clough, who died in Shanghai in 1950 while her husband, Ralph, a

Foreign Service Officer, was trying to get his family out of Communist China (independently published).

The Passport as Home: Comfort by Ruthlessness by Andrei Markovits '69. Markovits's memoir includes a chapter about the College, as well as a panorama of key events that shaped the second half of the 20th century (Central European University Press, \$22.95).

Shooting Midnight Cowboy: Art, Sex, Loneliness, Liberation, and the Making of a Dark Classic by Glenn Frankel '71. Frankel, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, considers the controversial 1969 Academy Award-winning film (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, \$30).

Leonardo's Salvator Mundi and the Collecting of Leonardo in the Stuart Courts by Robert B. Simon '73, Martin Kemp and Margaret Dalrymple. The authors detail the discovery of *Salvator Mundi*, a painting attributed to da Vinci, and examine evidence that the work was included in 16th-century royal collections (Oxford University Press, \$40).

Landslide: The Final Days of the Trump White House by Michael Wolff '75. Wolff, the author of several books about the Trump administration, details the last year of Trump's presidency (Henry Holt and Co., \$29.99).

Fatal Infraction: A Mike Stoneman Thriller by Kevin Chapman '83. In the fourth book of the series, detective Stoneman and his partner, Jason Dickson, investigate the murder of a controversial NFL quarterback (independently published, \$29.99).

It's Not All About You: The Secret Joy of Practical Humility by Daniel A. Cohen '84. This audiobook offers simple, easy paths to a happier life, addressing the lack of humility in our society that can affect our mental health (Findaway Voices, \$19.95).

City at the Edge of Forever: Los Angeles Revisited by Peter Lunenfeld '84. In this urban portrait, Lunenfeld, a professor and vice-chair of UCLA's design media arts department, describes how L.A. went from a dusty frontier town to a global super city (Viking, \$28).

American Schism: How the Two Enlightenments Hold the Secret for Healing Our Nation by Seth David Radwell '85. Radwell looks back to our nation's founding to provide a distinctive perspective on the recent corrosion of American civic life (Greenleaf Book Group Press, \$25.95).

Chasing the Truth: A Young Journalist's Guide to Investigative Reporting by Jodi Kantor '96 and Megan Twohey. A young reader's adaptation of Kantor and Twohey's

bestseller *She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite a Movement*, which will inspire a new generation of investigative journalists (Philomel Books, \$17.99).

As If She Were Free: A Collective Biography of Women and Emancipation in the Americas edited by Tatiana Seijas '95, Erica L. Ball and Terri L. Snyder. Biographies of 24 women of African descent reveal how enslaved and recently freed women sought and found freedom in the 16th–19th centuries (Cambridge University Press, \$29.99).

No One Succeeds Alone: Learn Everything You Can from Everyone You Can by Robert Reffkin '00. The Compass CEO distills the wisdom he's gathered along his professional journey to help readers realize their full potential (Mariner Books, \$27).

Cool for America: Stories by Andrew Martin '08. Martin expands on characters from his hilarious debut novel, *Early Work*, in this collection of overlapping stories about artistic ambition and achievement (Picador Paper, \$17).

Other People's Comfort Keeps Me Up at Night by Morgan Parker '10. A reprint of the debut collection that launched the career of one of America's most important young poets (Tin House Books, \$16.95).

— Jill C. Shomer

SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

Alums! Have you written a book in the last year? Tell us about it!

college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf

classnotes



JENNA BASCOM PHOTOGRAPHY

Columbia's crown — symbolizing the former King's College — has been a beacon of learning for centuries.

1940s

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Dr. Martin L. Beller '44, PS'46 writes: "This is my final goodbye to Columbia. I lost my beloved wife, Wilma, in 2020 after 72 years of marriage. We retired to her hometown of Gaines, Pa., in 1987 after a long and successful career as an orthopedic surgeon in Philadelphia. I have three children, 13 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. I have enjoyed good health. Columbia College and P&S were lifelong educational experiences."

Thank you so much to Martin for writing in. *CCT* and your classmates would enjoy hearing from you, too.

You also are welcome to share news of your career, retirement and/or family, as well as a favorite story or memory from your days on Morningside Heights.

Please send an email to cct@columbia.edu, or use the online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and your thoughts will be shared in a future issue. Enjoy the fall!

1950

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT reached out to the class and heard from three alumni. Thank you to these gentlemen for writing in. Please share your news with us via the

above email address. Enjoy the fall!

David Berger writes: "*CCT* asked for news on career and retirement. Columbia contributed to both.

"Career: I was well grounded at Columbia for making research useful, but my major contribution through the decades in our U.S. offices and overseas was actually as the team leader of 30 research directors in 20 countries. For that I credit baseball, football and basketball teammates and coaches John Balquist CC 1932, Phil Bucklew SIPA'48, Jim Moore and Lou Rossini TC'47.

"Retirement: I'm the major cook and kitchen man at home and have been since I retired in 1987. My experience handling dirty dishes in the Johnson Hall cafeteria as an undergraduate informs what I do now every day."

Michael Loeb says: "It's been a lucky life. Married to Ann for 65 years, three children (each married for more than 25 years), nine grandchildren (two married), one great-grandchild. All healthy and happy. Sorry to have missed our 70th reunion."

And from **Arthur Dayton Trezise**: "In August 1950 many friends from Barnard and Columbia boarded the chartered (and decrepit) *S.S. Liguria* in Hoboken bound for Europe. The \$600 package covered everything and was organized by many live-wires in the national New-man Club organization. All told, a thoroughly satisfying experience that also created and nourished lifetime friendships. The draft marked my return with the reactivation of the 4th Infantry Division and shipment out to post-war Frankfurt, never mastering German but did ski on 2-meter wooden boards.

"Starting to work in 1952 at the American Can Co.'s yearlong training program in Jersey City, I ended up running its subsidiary in São Paulo in 1968 until Canco/Dixie left Brazil. By then I had married Maria Lúcia Bezerra and we had three young ones. We decided to stay in Brazil. We had some ups and downs: running a smaller metals company, translations, teaching English and then [becoming] president of a larger impact extrusion company. Having passed all the U.S. Foreign Service exams earlier, I accepted a posting in São Paulo as the commercial attaché, followed by three years in Bogotá and then in Paris as commercial counselor until retirement in 1994.

"Fortunately, we have had a mountain aerie base at the Mad River Glen ski area in Vermont since 1966: a cedar pre-cut log dwelling where one can bush-whack through some woods, skiing down to the lift line. Whenever possible we repaired here.

At 93 and alone now, few classmates remain but I try to keep in touch with **Bob Socas** and Bill Dowd '49's widow, Pat Curran Dowd BC'50."

1951

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT reached out to the class and heard from two alumni. Thank you to these gentlemen for writing in. Please share your news with us via the above email. Have a pleasant fall!

Herman Bieber SEAS'62 writes, "Except for some balance problems due to severe neuropathy in hands and feet, I am still chugging along at 91. For safety, I abandoned my canes for a rollator. So no more driving, and only essential travel in the outside world.

"Recent times were occupied with coping with the pandemic by 'staying safe.' My senior residence, Lantern Hill, has done an amazing job minimizing infection in both residents and service personnel. But following masking, distancing and other safeguards meant a great reduction in my usually plentiful social activities.

"But all residents here received early vaccination, and pool/gym have reopened, as well as all social activities. And thanks to Zoom, I now 'meet' with my scattered family weekly, which is much more often than I used to visit with them before the pandemic.

"I also zoomed the 70th class reunion, but it was sad to see that so few were still with us or able to actively participate.

"Finally, I still spend much time reading the technical literature, and consulting on environmental problem like global warming."

Peter H. Schiff "finally retired as a lawyer in spring 2020."

1952

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT reached out to the class and heard from **Joseph Di Palma**, who shares: "On a happy note, my wife of more than 50 years, Joycelyn Engle, and I enjoyed a relaxing trip to Palm Beach in March, and my younger

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
HN	Institute of Human Nutrition
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

daughter, Julianne Michelle SW'17, who has a master's from Columbia, is filming another TV series, *Little Cupid*. Her character name is 'Chloe Taylor.' This makes about 34 movies and TV shows in which she has starred.

"On a very disturbing note, my family and I are fighting the biggest battle of our lives over the custody of my grandchild, whom we helped raise, with malfeasance of certain lawyers in New York County Family Court. We haven't seen my grandchild, who misses us so much, in more than six months as of June. My daughter, my wife and I are extremely upset over this.

"My best wishes to everyone."

Thank you to Joseph for writing in. Please share your news with us via the email at the top of the column. Enjoy the fall!

1953

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

CCT reached out to the class and heard from **Bernard L. Epstein** SEAS'58: "The day before formal graduation I was commissioned in the regular Navy and reported to my ship in Norfolk, Va. For a bit more than three years I sailed the

Atlantic, Pacific, Caribbean and Mediterranean — lots at sea, little in port. I then transferred to the Navy Reserve: two weeks a year to ships and once-weekly nightly meetings. While in the reserve I went back to Columbia to finish my B.S. in engineering and got a job, with more schooling at night, where available for advanced degrees. Married Naomi, who recently passed away after 60 great years together. I have two boys (lawyers). Retired to a house in East Hampton and now am in an apartment in NYC due to the virus. I have no other family."

Thank you to Bernard for writing in. Please share your news with us via the email at the top of the column. Have a safe and healthy fall!

1954

Bernd Brecher
brecherservices@aol.com

Gentlemen of '54, greetings once again from your class correspondent and president, doing my best to keep an upper chin while trying to tummy classmates into more joyful responses during a time of Covid-19. While we begin to exit our caves we realize that we are still in a state of mental lockdown. Further, it is

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. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on *CCT* Online and in archives.

always challenging to write this Class Notes column for thrice-yearly publication several months ahead while hoping to project/guess/predict a positive view within a national political climate that is akin to global warming. So ... are you with me? Then let's get going!

You realize of course that not only is '54 at the beginning of this Class Notes section, but also that the four classes or groupings before us have a generic *CCT* staff "editor" gathering the class news rather than a real classmate (me!). Right now I am still smarting over New York State having appropriated my perpetual column charge and sign-off — "Excelsior!" — for its new license plates. I've received no recognition for this contribution but still feel honored.

We owe an apology to **Harvey Rubin** SEAS'58, who sent us a joyous and informative biographical essay but in a handwritten format that was difficult to decipher in time for publication.

Harvey, I am able to share your opening but request that you send typed copy of the rest that we can then share in the next Class Notes column.

Harvey writes: "On March 1, 2020, just before Covid-19, I celebrated my 87th birthday with my family ... I realized that what I said at our 65th reunion last year — that the best thing that happened to me at the College was that I met Judith BC'55, my wife. She was a freshman at Barnard at age 16 and I was an 18-year-old sophomore. We married a year later, on December 7 no less ..."

With a trailer like that, Harvey, how do we dare miss the rest of the story?

From **Arnold Tolkin**, world traveler and frequent correspondent, comes "An update. Well, we survived the pandemic so far, but arthritis and a reaction to the Covid-19 vaccine did my wife, Barbie, and me in for a month or more. My arthritis has gotten so bad that physicians won't even consider surgery on the knees. My wife had a serious reaction to the Covid vaccine.

"Other than that, we are expecting our 13th great-grandchild, another Tolkin boy. Everything being equal we will fly to Monte Carlo in November and cruise back to Miami, [with a total of] 26 days at sea. We have been to every port of call numerous times, so the ship is our destination. Plenty of time to read, exercise and play bridge. Children are all fine, grandchildren even better and great-grandchildren, five of whom were born during the pandemic, will I hope get to know us better when we go north in August.

"Still booking lots of cruises, tours, and now even villas for family vacations. Between the travel business and my work on genealogy I am extremely busy.

"Stay well, and I wish all classmates good health. Stay active."

Thanks, Arnie for sharing ... there may even be a surgeon in our class who can help those knees.

Hon. **Alvin Hellerstein** LAW'56, who is a regular presenter at all our reunions, writes: "We have survived a difficult period. The federal district court on which I serve continued to function, but at a reduced level, and individual judges became more and more adept at 'virtual performances' — hearing arguments in civil cases, criminal pleas, and sentencing, and many other functions, coming into chambers from time to time but basically working from home, or wherever we hunkered out the pandemic. But we're all anxious to get back to the courthouse to perform our jobs.

"In May," Alvin continues, "I broke out of my cocoon, traveling first to family in Los Angeles, and then to Israel to see family there (and two new great-grandchildren). We all are living years that most of us never thought to reach. But here we are, in our late ages (most of us), still vital and doing important things (many of us), still looking forward to new experiences. Midst all the heartaches, nationally and personally,

we are blessed, even as we mourn for departed friends and classmates.

"Good health to all (or a passable resemblance to same)."

Thanks, Alvin, for your thoughtful comments, and all our best to you and great-grandchildren number 2 and 3.

Our class's "diabetes scientist," **Dr. Richard Bernstein** SEAS'55, has offered to "send my College memoir, *Big Ben*, about a legendary CC professor," to interested classmates. Let me know if you need his email address.

As a last-century *Spectator* associate and features editor, I continue to take great pride whenever the paper and its staff are recognized for their efforts and achievements. I am pleased to share the following excerpt from a *Spec* story this past June:

"Many of our staffers went home from the office on March 8, 2020, just like any other normal Sunday night — for the last time in what would eventually be over a year. However, despite being physically apart, our staff was able to produce some of our best journalism in recent years, bringing us to win the Best All-Around Student Newspaper award by the Society of Professional Journalists. This award celebrates *Spectator* journalism during the 2020 calendar year, which was considered outstanding work worthy of a national honor."

I am sorry to share the news that **John H. Timoney** died peacefully at home on July 3, 2021, after a long illness. You can read more about John in this issue's "Obituaries" section. His 2008 memoir, *From La Paz to Princeton*, tells his story. We offer heartfelt condolences to John's widow, Ana; and his children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, and extended family.

Our next "gathering," men of '54, will occur in mid-January 2022, in the Winter 2021–22 issue of *CCT*. I'll begin preparing copy for that issue at about the time you receive the issue you are now holding. I invite and remind you to get your news to me *right now* so we can begin immediately plotting our biggest column ever. *CCT*'s associate editor, Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09, with whom I have worked all along — having just had her first baby — will be back from maternity leave and raring to go. (We are appreciative that Lisa Palladino, *CCT*'s executive editor, has been

pitching in during her absence.) Please inundate me with copy about your families, colleagues, retirement, new jobs, pets, Covid inoculations, and other adventures; wishes and nightmares; aches and pains — we have no shame — presidential hopefuls, favorite restaurants, and recent observations about alma mater.

As always, reach me by email, U.S. mail, telephone, Amazon, FedEx, carrier pigeon, or whatever your favorite route. Be well, do well, and help cure the world, and hug your significant others, kids, grandkids, g-grandkids, neighbors, friends, and political enemies (or not). C U soon. Luv, Bernd. Excelsior!

1955

Gerald Sherwin
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CCT reached out to the class in the late spring and was pleased to hear from the following class members:

Lewis Sternfels writes: "I have been semi-retired since December 1988 but still practice intellectual property law in my home office (got to keep the gray cells going!), helping inventors to obtain patents and all to obtain trademark and service mark registration in the U.S. and foreign offices. You may have experienced the use of several of the inventions I patented for a former client — Waterfree urinals in men's restrooms. Aside from that, I am active, involved with our synagogue and other worthwhile activities, and working out with my wife, Diane, twice a week with a trainer and, I must say, in very good health. We missed very much our 2020 class reunion and reuniting with classmates (so much fun), and look forward to our 2025 one; Columbia does such great presentations. In the meantime, my wife and I visited our daughters, their families — including granddaughters, grandpuppies and grandkitties — in Decatur, Ga., and Wake Forest, N.C., in May, as well as explored interesting parts of our country."

Dr. Allen I. Hyman replies: "Hello, Class of '55. My wife, Valerie, and I decided to make Stockbridge, Mass., our domicile. We live near the Bowl and two miles from the Tanglewood gate. We will still keep our NYC apartment. It may seem trivial, but psychologically,



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:
college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.



CC'56 held its 65th reunion virtually on June 6. In a screenshot from the gathering are, left to right, top row: Bob Siroty, Dan Link, Ralph Kaslick, Dick Capen and Fred Kutner; second row: Ralph Longworth, Richard Schwarzstein, Paul Bergins, Phil Liebson and off-camera, Donald Roth; third row: Peter Klein, Grover Wald, Robert Milburn, Stephen Easton and Alan Broadwin; fourth row: Jerry Fine, Jack Katz, Ron Kapon, David Orrik and Jonas Schultz; and bottom row: Joost Oppenheim, Gerald Farber, Eric Shea, senior director, alumni relations, and off-camera, Michael Spett.

it was 'a big move.' Valerie is on the advisory board of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and Jacob's Pillow has become important to us. Come up and see us sometime."

Ralph Wagner BUS'58 shares: "In the midst of the pandemic, my wife, Audrey, and I were charmed to buy a farm complex in Little Compton, R.I. The property consists of a main house, a barn with ample family space and sleeping accommodations, and gardens of flowers from spring to fall. Our adventure at age 87 was published in the June 18, 2021, issue of *The Wall Street Journal*."

William Kronick updates us: "I've spent the pandemic year-plus working on my seventh novel (the preceding six are available on Amazon), with a screenplay, completed just as Covid-19 struck, about to make the rounds. For classmates interested in my prior career in film, much of my work as writer and/or director can now be seen on YouTube. One just has to type in my name!"

Mike Vaughn writes from afar: "I am alive and well and have been living in Australia since 2017, having retired from Northeastern University in Boston in 2010. We have seen the pandemic, not so pervasive as elsewhere in the world but totally disrupting universities here, as elsewhere. We hope to visit the United States when(if?) interna-

tional travel from Australia resumes. Best wishes to all."

Gordon Silverman SEAS'56, SEAS'57 writes more than just this Class Note: "A note for a '55C Lion. The fourth edition of *Cognitive Science: An Introduction to the Study of the Mind*, of which I am co-author, will be published this fall."

Anthony Viscusi GSAS'58 shares news of himself and his family: "My wife, Margo, and I have been more or less happily ensconced in our country home in the woods surrounding the Village of Rhinebeck in the Hudson Valley since March 2020. This has enabled us to marvel at the changes brought about by the passing of seasons and to enjoy the wild animals paying us frequent visits. We are in better health than we were 10 years ago, but alas, our level of energy is much lower. We spend too much time in front of the computer in an attempt to remain in touch with the rest of the world."

"Unlike ours, the life of our progeny has been very eventful. Our granddaughter Cleopatra McGovern, after completing her residency at Mount Sinai in June 2020, gave birth to Calliope on July 15, 2020. We find her delightful and do not resent her turning us into great-grandparents. Cleopatra's older and unmarried brother, Elvis McGovern, who has founded and heads medical

marijuana companies in California, in order not to be left too far behind, fathered a baby boy, Zeus, born on June 1, 2021. Their mother, our daughter Athena Viscusi, is a psycho-social specialist for Doctors Without Borders. She recently returned from a stint in the war-ravaged Tigray region of Ethiopia."

If you have news, please email the CCT staff at cct@columbia.edu, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note, and it will be shared with me for a future issue.

Love to all! Everywhere!

1956

Robert Siroty
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What a wonderful "virtual 65th reunion" on June 6, 65 years and one day after we sat at Commencement. Twenty-four members of the class gathered on Zoom for two hours of memories and reports (see the nearby photo). Present were **Paul Bergins, Jerry Breslow, Alan Broadwin, Stephen Easton, Gerald Farber, Jerry Fine, Ron Kapon, Ralph Kaslick, Jack Katz, Peter Klein, Fred Kutner, Phil Liebson, Dan Link, Ralph Longworth, Robert Milburn, Joost**

Oppenheim, David Orrik, Donald Roth, Jonas Schultz, David Schuster, Richard Schwarzstein, Edward Smith, Mike Spett, Grover Wald and yours truly. We are hoping to begin planning for our 70th reunion on campus soon. Or perhaps one in between.

I received notice of the deaths of **Fred Lewis** in September 2019, and **Stanley Stier** in April 2021. Stan, after graduating from New York Medical College, served in the Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis, and then served patients at The Hospital of Central Connecticut - New Britain General Campus, Yale New Haven Hospital and Griffin Hospital. He had a private practice, and later was a medical director in the healthcare industry. After relocating to Florida he continued his advocacy work as a volunteer at a local hospice. He had been a world traveler, as well.

Ron Kapon reports the May 28, 2021, death of his friend and fraternity brother **Frederic Brooks**.

1957

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9-11

Reunion Contact

ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact

ccfund@columbia.edu

Herman Levy
hdleditor@aol.com

Erich S. Gruen writes: "The Covid-19 year meant much sheltering in place. I managed to get in one last trip at the end of February 2020, for a lecture at the University of Colorado. The rest of the year, and half of 2021, found me holed up at home. The enforced confinement did allow me to finish [writing] a book, *Ethnicity in the Ancient World: Did it Matter?*, which came out in September 2020. And I was especially humbled and honored when the Society for Classical Studies announced the creation of the Erich S. Gruen Prize, to be awarded annually, funded mostly by my former graduate students (who are now professors in various universities), to commemorate my 85th birthday. That eased the pain of reaching yet another unwanted reminder of age. Now fully vaccinated, I expect to resume traveling soon. The first stop in the fall will

be to address a conference in Berlin. We are entering the new normal.”

Please send your news to me at the email address at the top of the column and I will include it in a future issue.

[Editor’s note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information.]

1958

Peter Cohn
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As this issue goes to press at the end of August, it looks like Covid-19 is finally on its way out, and New York, as well as the rest of the country, should be relatively normal by September, though we do have to keep an eye on those pesky “variants.” How we survived since March 2020 varies from person to person and group to group, but **Peter Barth** has offered his thoughts on what seems to have worked for some classmates (me included). He writes: “The pandemic was made a bit more tolerable by the regular Zoom sessions joined by five classmates, all AEPi fraternity brothers, and their wives. Beginning in spring 2020 and continuing to the present, every second Monday **Peter Cohn**, **Bob Levine**, **Walt Lipow**, **Carl Stern** and I (along with our spouses) spent a pleasant hour on a variety of subjects including the latest streaming of movies and shows and book recommendations, pre- and then post-election observations, where and how to obtain Covid vaccinations and other news of the day. An interesting diversity of views emerged on a host of topics. No agenda is prepared for the sessions, but they invariably maintain active conversation for an hour or so until the scheduled Zoom time expires.”

Charlie Feuer writes about his fond remembrances of 329 Livingston, a dorm room he shared with **Gerry Simon**. They were often visited by **Roger Lass**. Charlie adds: “How Roger disappeared from my radar has been a mystery that might attract some leads from readers of the Class Notes.”

Any takers?

On a sadder note, I saw an obituary notice for **Maurice H. Katz** in the June 20, 2021, edition of *The New*

York Times. Soon afterward I received emails from **Ira Carlin**, **Ernie Brod** and **Shelly Raab** (who roomed with Maury in their third year of law school) all calling my attention to the same obituary. Maury died on June 5, 2021, in Los Angeles, where he had lived and worked for many years after graduating from Harvard Law in 1961. Very active in the cultural life of Los Angeles, he also made time for trips back to New York. He leaves his wife, Margery; a sister; three sons; and six grandchildren. [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries.”]

Our condolences to the family.

As of this writing, no word yet on the resumption of the class luncheons. Please keep sending news about yourself or classmates.

1959

Norman Gelfand
nmgc59@hotmail.com

Steve Trachtenberg moved to Minneapolis, on Lake Harriet, on July 7 to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

Louis Stephens writes, “My wife, Karen, and I have found studios in Newburg close enough to NYC to commute any day. Metro-North to Beacon then cross the river. It’s an old brick factory that was once operated by Regal Bag, converted to studios and right on the river. Rent is cheap. Actually, Karen was the one who found the place; she writes, I paint. Got a big enough space for my seven-day paintings all in a row. Glorious!”

Herbert M. Dean writes, “I am very disappointed in Columbia and [what I see as] its culture politics of continuing to link individuals by groups based on skin color, sexual orientation, country of origin or left- or right-leaning (good versus bad!), therefore rather deliberately or by some false belief in its correctness, contributing to divide our society rather than bring us together through promoting separateness and what feels like modern-day tribalism. Haven’t our Columbia teachers learned anything from Humanities and CC? I think *Alma Mater* has tears in her eyes.”

From **Benjamin J. “Jerry”**

Cohen GSAS’63, we hear, “After an academic career stretching back to 1964, I have decided to retire.

Following our graduation, I earned a Ph.D. in economics from Columbia and then for two years was a research economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York before taking my first teaching position at Princeton. I spent seven years at Princeton; 20 years at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts; and 30 years at UC Santa Barbara.

“The arc of my career has been a story of gradual transition from the historical discipline of economics to a new hybrid field of study known as international political economy. Prior to the 1960s, the two academic specialties of international economics and international politics rarely spoke to each other. I was privileged to be part of a generation of scholars who sought to merge the two in order to provide a more complete understanding of behavior and trends in the global economy. At Princeton I was an assistant professor of economics. At Fletcher I became the William L. Clayton Professor of International Economic Affairs. And at UCSB I have been the Louis G. Lancaster Professor of International Political Economy, now to become emeritus. This past year, in anticipation of my retirement, I decided to gather my recollections in a brief, private stab at autobiography. My effort gradually grew into a full-fledged public memoir that will be published this summer under the title *Lucky Jerry: The Life of a Political Economist*.

“The title is deliberately chosen. I do indeed count myself as lucky. The story of my coming to Columbia is illustrative. As I approached graduation from high school in the small town where I was raised in upstate New York, the key question facing me was: Where would I go to college? I knew absolutely nothing about the comparative merits of different universities; nor, regrettably, did the high school guidance counselor. ‘What would you like to study?’ she asked. At the time I was thinking of law. So she handed me an encyclopedia of colleges and universities and suggested I search for any that listed pre-law as part of its program. That was the extent of her guidance. The blind leading the blind. The first four schools I came across were Bucknell, Columbia, Cornell and Lehigh — admittedly, a rather mixed bag. But what did I know? I was accepted by them all and, lacking good advice, might as easily have gone to one as to another.

“Happily, sheer dumb luck took over. First was my good fortune to be awarded a New York State Regents scholarship, which I could receive only if I chose to study at a university in the Empire State. That ruled out Bucknell and Lehigh. And second was the fact that I had recently met the young woman who was to become my first wife. She happened to live in New York City — specifically, Queens — and was about to start her studies at Queens College. That ruled out Cornell, which would have made seeing her rather difficult. So, by a random process of elimination Columbia became my choice. On such fragile foundations did I construct one of the most important decisions of my life. I have never regretted that decision — the first of many key moments where serendipity played a major role.

“Over the course of my career, I have authored 16 books, as well as scores of journal articles and other professional publications. But none has given me as much pure pleasure as my reflection on the role that luck has played throughout my life. It’s been a fun ride.”

Ben Janowski wants us to know, “Fortunately, I remain in excellent health, enjoying retirement, and especially the birth of my third granddaughter. No grandsons. Our family sustained Covid-19 without event. For a whole year we had a Saturday night Zoom get-together that really was a blessing. And now, we are all in the family pod once again.

“Life has been good to me. I am very thankful for that.

“Here’s to seeing you at our 65th!”

Josh Fierer writes, “As a result of the pandemic, after 49 years working at UC San Diego School of Medicine, I reluctantly decided in September 2020 to become an emeritus professor and to retire from the affiliated VA where I was chief of infectious disease. As such, I was very involved with planning for the pandemic before it hit San Diego. That was before we had enough testing capacity to know who was infected and who was not. One of the planes taking Americans from China landed at MCAS San Diego, and the first two patients were treated at UCSD Hospital. We saw then how unprepared the United States was, with the only diagnostic tests being done at the CDC, and they misinformed us about a test result, so a patient was discharged prematurely.

"At the VA we had to convert many patient rooms to negative pressure isolation rooms in our 50-year-old building. I also ran the microbiology lab at the VA, and we had to scramble to get testing supplies when the PCR assays became available and develop protocols for handling patient samples. There were lots of decisions to be made to get ready, and then the pandemic hit us, and patients began arriving with Covid. It was overwhelming and beyond frustrating for me not to have anything but oxygen with which to treat them. There were lots of crazy ideas and desperate use of 'repurposed' drugs, and it took a long time for enough evidence to be collected to convince frustrated panicked providers not to do useless things.

"As it became clear that nearly all the mortality was in people my age, and that I had nothing to offer the SARS-2 victims, I gave in to the pleading of my colleagues and stepped down from my position to allow younger people to take my place. Things are much better now, and we have no more than one of two Covid cases in the hospital on any given day, so I am volunteering my service twice a week. The VA got RNA vaccine in December, and it vaccinated all willing employees, including me. My wife, Norma, got vaccinated a few months later through UCSF. We remained holed up anyway. Now we are finally able to do more, and attended my daughter's wedding anniversary party in the backyard of her San Diego home. We also took a chance and flew to the East Coast for a family funeral and then took Amtrak to New York to see my son and his wife for the first time in nearly two years; we went to the Bronx Zoo with them for Mother's Day (my first trip to that venerable old zoo). We went out to eat with them on the Upper West Side, near Columbia, sitting outdoors. I swear, the noise level from ambulances and motorcycles was so awful that it was hard to enjoy the meals; much quieter eating outdoors in La Jolla, where we live.

"I will try to get back to my research lab soon to try to finish up the project I have been working on for years. We are hopeful that we will be able to travel more while we can still do it physically."

I am saddened to have to report the death of **Roger Spivack** on January 3,

2021. May his memory be for a blessing. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

CCT limits each class to 1,500 words, so that means that contributions from **Jerry Friedland** and **Mike Tannenbaum** will have to wait for the Winter 2021–22 issue. I apologize to them and to you. I will include their submissions in the email that I will send to classmates. If I don't have your email, please send it to me. I don't send it to Columbia. [Editor's note: If you wish to update it with Columbia, however, you are welcome to do so: email cct@columbia.edu, or use this webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/update_contact_info.]

1960

Robert A. Machleder
rmachleder@aol.com

Len Berkman, playwright, essayist, librettist and teacher of theater at Smith College as the Anne Heselstine Hoyt Professor of Theatre, writes, "Like many of us especially in theater and opera, I will dearly miss **Terry McNally**. We were often seatmates in Professor Andrew Chiappe CC 1933, GSAS'39's fascinating yearlong Shakespeare course, and subsequent path-crossings and mutual friends enlivened our times at the Sundance Institute and Manhattan Theatre Club.

"I'm now in my 51st year on the theatre faculty of Smith, cherish my students and will bop till I drop. My latest play, *We Three/Wir Drei*, translated into German by Yannik Raiss, is next headed for post-Covid-19 presentation at the Hamburg Kunsthalle, the city's central art museum, where the remarkable paintings of Philipp Otto Runge (1777–1810), whose life and works inspired my ahistorical script, boast the first major retrospective in more than 30 years. I've also drafted an opera libretto, *The King Without a Voice (Le Roi Sans Voix)* for my composer collaborator, Marco Rosano of Sicily, who's best known for his *Stabat Mater*, recorded and performed internationally by German counter-tenor Andreas Scholl.

"A major portion of my professional life continues to focus on new play development dramaturgy, my current projects being *The Investor* by Bill Martin for Epic Theatre Ensem-

ble (NYC) and *The Singing River* by Jerry Patch (of Manhattan Theatre Club) for Red Mountain Theatre in Birmingham, Ala. Among an array of other theater affiliations, I've been with NY Stage & Film Summer Seasons for more than three decades and almost as long an editorial associate for London's quarterly journal, *Contemporary Theatre Review*. My most recent publications include a memoir of Greenwich Village in the 1950s for the premiere issue of *Caffe Cino* and an essay, 'Insiders/Outsiders on the U.S. Stage,' for *Massachusetts Review*."

Len has received numerous awards, including the Charis Medal for academic excellence and commitment to teaching, and the Sherrerd Prize for distinguished teaching.

Stephen Ollendorff LAW'63 writes, "This is one of the most exciting times of my life. We completed a movie, *The Match*. It involves many Academy Award winners, including the production, script and music. I was gratified to be one of the writers and The Ollendorff Center for Religious & Human Understanding as one of the three major producers."

Three notes of explanation: (i) *The Match* was inspired by an actual event: a football match in 1944 organized by Nazi soldiers to commemorate Hitler's birthday. The game was played by an elite Nazi team against a team of Hungarian prisoners; (ii) Stephen is the founder of The Ollendorff Center for Religious & Human Understanding. Established in 2001, the center, through a broad-based spectrum of projects, seeks to provide answers for living a spiritual, ethical and rational Jewish life and present practical solutions for a modern Judaism; and (iii) Stephen, a Holocaust survivor, fled Nazi Germany to England the day after *Kristallnacht* due to the efforts of his maternal grandmother. They made it to this country in February 1939.

His entire family on his paternal grandfather's side died. One uncle worked for the underground and was shot trying to escape from a concentration camp.

Stephen founded The Ollendorff Center in honor of his grandmother Valli, who was sent to her death in the Theresienstadt concentration camp.

"We have been funded to produce two additional movies based upon scripts of which I am one of the principal writers," Stephen adds.

"In addition, I am deeply involved in trying to get Israel to adopt a constitution to guarantee the existence of Israel as a Jewish state as well as guaranteeing the rights of all Israeli citizens. I have proposed such a constitution and have been interviewed on Israeli TV and radio. I am extremely hopeful that it will be favorably considered very soon. It is time that Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's dream be realized."

Don Altschuler writes, "Before entering Columbia, I lived in Brooklyn. Manhattan was really the center of the universe. My mother took me to Broadway shows, Leonard Bernstein taught me about classical music with the best orchestra in the world and there I saw the famous works of art. Entering this land of Oz, I roomed with a friend from high school, **Michael Hertzberg**. I thought I wanted to be an architect although I questioned whether I had the talent to support myself in that profession. I was active in the Columbia Players and participated in a number of productions. In senior year I thought of going into theater. But I knew I did not have **Brian Dennehy**'s talent. It seemed that all my classmates were going to law school or med school. I chose law school.

"With my friend **Bob Abrams**, I went to NYU. While in law school I got married. After law school I worked at a Wall Street law firm, then as house counsel to a large international corporation. My father died and I had a mid-life crisis. I remembered my desire to be an architect. I created my own construction company and started designing and building homes. I created a number of communities in New England.

"I was living in Westchester with my wife, Carol, and my children, Deborah, Douglas and Sarah. But in the early '70s I had a second mid-life crisis. In 1974, I signed up for the *est* seminar and then became an *est* seminar leader. Although my business life was very successful, I discovered a spiritual side to my life that was completely undeveloped. My wife and I separated and I moved to Lenox, Mass. I purchased a property owned by George Westinghouse on which he discovered AC current with Nikola Tesla. The property was sold to the Vanderbilts, who had the Boston Symphony perform each summer in what became the Tanglewood concerts.

"In 1977, I met my now-wife, Jean Macfarland, and we have been together for more than 40 years. During the '70s and '80s I developed a number of communities in the Berkshire area, including the Ponds at Foxhollow. During the mid-'80s there was a downturn in the real estate market and I decided to retire to a home we had in Santa Fe, N.M. I failed terribly at retirement and started creating a number of projects, including one of the first cohousing communities in the United States, The Commons on the Alameda and a major affordable housing project for the City of Santa Fe, Tierra Contenta. I am still failing at retirement and have a few projects I am trying to complete."

Doug Eden writes from the United Kingdom: "Coronavirus and accompanying events on this side of the pond seem rather less frantic and damaging than on your side. The last two generations here have only just discovered a number of statues to slaveowners still erected in Bristol and elsewhere, many of whom received handsome compensation from the U.K. government when their slaves in the Caribbean were emancipated between 1833 and 1838 (and of course received no compensation). So, there is much arguing now about what should be done 200 years later, amid current arguments about the pandemic."

"I was recently involved in the publication of Labour Leader Jeremy Corbyn's biography, *Dangerous Hero: Corbyn's Ruthless Plot for Power*, by Tom Bower, which had a significant influence on the last British general election."

"Some very dear alumni friends have sadly lost their spouses in recent years. I am still in close touch with Dr. **Vince Russo** and aware of **George Camarinis** and **Tom Palmieri** thanks to Vince, but have lost touch with my roommate **Bob Coppola**, who left his California home after the passing of his wife. I would be grateful to know he is in reasonable health and to be put back in touch with him. I have known Vince since high school, some 67 years, and thank him for keeping up contact all this time."

"My early mentor, Professor Henry Graff GSAS'49, now deceased, introduced me to Theodore Roosevelt. I became a biographer of TR, am still a professor at the Theodore Roosevelt Association and

was an advisor to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. I've spent my life in London as an historian at the University of London and Middlesex University London and in politics since 1965 when I left the Army, where I handled the 1964 Vietnam press conferences in Honolulu for Robert McNamara and Gen. Maxwell Taylor. I recall Ron Sommer '59, whom I often saw in London in 1960-62. I'd be glad to see him if he passes through London again. I was affected when I learned **Brian Dennehy** died. I last saw him when he performed as Willie Loman in London."

"I've been happily married to my Scottish wife, Janette, since 1973, who is unfortunately not in the best of health, at home in Highgate, North London."

1961

Michael Hausig
mhausig@yahoo.com

Mel Urofsky has written a new book on campaign finance. It's a good read, according to **Mickey Greenblatt**, and best of all, it is dedicated to the CC'61 lunch group and book club, which has been a happy beneficiary of Mel's presence and great insights. Campaign finance cases included are Buckley, McConnell, Citizens United and McCutcheon.

John Learned writes that things are getting more painful, as his old friends are disappearing so frighteningly rapidly. A *Festschrift* (celebration for academic work) was planned for John last year with people coming from around the globe, but it was canceled because of Covid-19. He has asked them not to try again until he passes 90, should he be so fortunate. Then it will have to be almost all young friends. All is quiet in Hawaii, but John says he hopes to get back to in-person teaching in the fall.

Doug McCorkindale has some good advice to all classmates: Do not become the president of a new, high-end condo association, especially if the owners include attorneys, financial experts and retired politicians! Also, for those who play golf: Technology is not keeping up with the aging process.

Dr. Carl Saviano was elected president of the Pioneer Valley Physicians for Social Responsibility. They



JOHN AIBEL

Three generations of the Silverman family (left to right), Alexander Aibel '23, Leonard Silverman '61, Sarah Silverman Aibel '92 and Madeline Aibel '25, celebrated Madeline's graduation from Crossroads H.S. in Santa Monica, Calif., on June 8.

continue to demand that our leaders do everything they can to prevent nuclear war. Please see "Back from the Brink, the Call to Prevent Nuclear War" at preventnuclearwar.org to learn more about this effort.

Bob Salman LAW'64 was elected to his sixth consecutive term as a member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee, representing Monmouth County. In his five prior four-year terms, Bob was appointed to the primary ballot by the county chair. This year he had to win a pre-primary election among Monmouth County committee people and officeholders to gain his spot on the ballot.

On June 16, Bob and his wife, Reva, celebrated their 58th anniversary. At our 60th (virtual) reunion Bob joined **Stu Sloame** LAW'64 in co-hosting a discussion comparing politics in 1961 with politics today.

Sam Rofman works part time as a psychiatrist and physician reviewer for Tufts Health Plan in Massachusetts. He was pleased to report that in April he was awarded the 2021 Clinical Psychiatry Award by the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society.

Regarding **Nat Reichek** PS'65's passing reported in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue's "Obituaries" section, with more in this issue, Sam received a copy of an email sent to **Oscar Garfein** PS'65, BUS'97 from the development director at P&S should anyone from the class wish to make a gift to the University in honor of

Nat: "Thank you for inquiring about a fund for students' needs other than scholarship support. We are creating the VP&S Medical Student Support Fund, the fund is to cover expenses such as technology and electronics, special devices that can meet the specifications for ExamSoft and Epic, etc. It would be great if Mrs. Reichek were to include that donations made in memory of her husband be directed to the VP&S Medical Student Support Fund. All donations will be acknowledged and the donor will receive a tax receipt for the charitable gift. Please let me know if you wish to discuss further." It was from Laura R. Tenenbaum, Senior Director of Development, 516 W. 168th St., 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10032; laura.tenenbaum@columbia.edu; 212-342-2108.

Mike Clark SEAS'62 wrote that there was nothing of significance to report from this "lone outpost" in Nevada and Arizona. Both he and his wife, Joanna, are still in relatively good health and enjoy their beautiful southwestern USA. Golf, fly-fishing, mountain climbing and good food consume most of their leisure time, they say. Mike went to Alaska to catch rainbows in July, then silver salmon in September and pheasants in South Dakota in October, and plans to fish for rainbow bass in Brazil in January.

Len Silverman shared the nearby photo of his three-generation Columbia family.

In May, the CC'61 TEP boys had a virtual reunion. Four doctors, three lawyers and an architect: **Ira Novak, Michael Schachter, Joel Blumen, Steve Shappell, Sam Strober, Ted Pincus and Hillel Hoffman**, were joined by Joel Merker '60. A good time was had by all, and they all agreed that their grandchildren were above average.

Ed Kaplan retired as a practicing attorney in 2006. As of July 2020, Ed and his wife, Phyllis, live in Salt Lake City with their daughter's family. Ed has been in contact with Bob Andersen '60, who also lives in Salt Lake, but only by telephone because of the pandemic.

Sadly, **Tony Adler** passed away on May 4 from pancreatic cancer. **Stuart Newman** spoke with Tony earlier this spring. They talked about the 60th reunion and both considered it a privilege just to be around for a 60th reunion! Not a hint from Tony of any distress or uncertainty about the June reunion. His passing so quickly was quite a shock. The NYC CC'61 lunch group, which Tony organized and ran diligently for so many years, created something very special for class solidarity and preserving the College spirit. Tony also created a class email list that allowed us to voice opinions and share information broadly. He deserves much credit for these accomplishments.

Tony is survived by his wife, Donna; sons, Peter and Erik and their wives, Holly and Julie; grandsons, Chase and Jet; and of course, the one (fish that is) that got away. Rest in peace, Tony.

The family welcomes donations to the American Parkinson's Disease Association (apdaparkinson.org/memorial-tribute-1907d31). Tony wished to support Donna's ongoing struggle with Parkinson's. In the "Donation Dedication" section, please check the "In Honor Of" button and specify "Donna and Tony Adler."

Alex Liebowitz informed me that **Dick Hall** passed away in early June. The funeral was June 19. It was pretty sudden. Heleny, Dick's wife, said that within three weeks Dick went from going out to a restaurant to being unable to eat.

Dick and Heleny had recently moved from Washington, D.C., to Williamstown, Mass. Alex and his wife, Denise, watched the funeral service remotely and said they found it very moving.

1962

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–11

Reunion Contact
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Development Contact
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In June I emailed half of our class (L to Z) to ask which two or three from a list of developments during the last 80 years were most significant for you and why. If you'd like that list, please email me at jf@bicyclv.com. This winter I expect to ask the same question to the balance of the class.

Rich Rothenberg picked two that affected him directly: "rearing children and the deaths and medical struggles of peers."

Jim Spingarn is most concerned about "lack of ethics and decency on almost all levels of corporations; they take advantage of individuals with little knowledge or defense, particularly in healthcare, drug and service industries. Next: the appalling self-interest of our elected representatives, local, state and federal. They stopped serving the country and public long ago, and the country is much worse for it. Third: choosing self-interest over public good. Also, global warming; racism; anti-Semitism; inequality in income, education and living standards; populism; theft of individual rights (abortion, healthcare and voting); and materialism. We seem to have lost our moral compass. But I am optimistic things will get better."

Toby Robison chose 1) The Cold War and fear of Communism: "My father was a communist before WWII, and I discovered this the hard way at 11, when he was compelled to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. I grew up thinking Commies were the enemy and became a closet son-of-a-communist. Later I had an awakening at a summer camp full of the children of communists, and married a wonderful red-diaper baby." 2) The assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.: "Each was a bullet shot through a light of grace and hope." 3) "Reliable contraception

was so significant we hardly thought about the alternative. I can't imagine our lives otherwise." 4) Finding your way in the world of work: "I grew up assuming I'd be an academic, although nothing in academia appealed to me. Then I discovered an affinity for programming computers, and a viable life opened before me."

For **Joe Nozzolio** it was 9–11.

On that morning Joe was in his AIG office, two blocks from the Twin Towers. A week earlier he'd had lunch on the 103rd floor of the South Tower with several folks from AON Group. His hosts included Tom, whom he later hired, and Frank, with whom he often visited clients. "After the death of my son Matthew in 1994, Frank was especially thoughtful in listening to my bittersweet stories about Matthew and giving me solace When the Towers came down, it sounded like a freight train hitting a cement truck. The sky blackened, and all I could see outside were floating papers and street lights. Then a miracle occurred — into our office walked Tom, white with concrete dust, and covered in sweat. He explained that when the North Tower was first hit, he and several colleagues decided to walk down 103 flights of stairs. It took them over an hour. I asked him about Frank. Tom answered 'He decided to stay.' I learned later that Frank perished, as did eight members of my brother Mike's law firm. Luckily, he was in Albany. When I returned to work a week later, the stink of concrete dust and a burnt building still lingered in the air."

From Helsinki, **Charles Morrow** wrote: "Your list of developments is sobering, starting with War against Nazism and Fascism and ending with the January 6 attack, which had the smell and horror of authoritarianism. Most significant for me: 1) Rearing children — being a parent is significant because of its permanence, depth of immersion, and the possibility to grow both a child and oneself. 2) Ubiquitous use of and reliance on internet, computing and AI. There is a steady recontexting of the lives of myself and others in the expanding digital world."

Jeff Milstein added the Great Depression. "It greatly affected my family. When I was a baby, my father had to move us to tiny rural towns so he could get work as a teacher. At one point he moved

away from us to earn a living. Top three on your list: 1) WWII and the defeat of Nazi Germany and Imperialist Japan was significant, because my father had to join the Army and was shipped to Europe. Thus, in my early years, my mother and grandparents raised me. 2) Finding my way through the world of work was a long, winding path. I first had an academic career teaching political science and international relations at Michigan State and Yale. Then I became a civil servant in Washington, D.C., and for 33 years worked in seven different departments and agencies, including the White House. 3) Rearing my six children and now watching my 13 grandchildren and one great-grandson grow up. 4) Living with the threat of war has been a lifelong preoccupation of mine. The real possibility of nuclear war darkened everything we enjoyed and accomplished. Nearly constant conventional wars and counterinsurgencies have influenced my thinking about humanity."

Charles Nadler was especially affected by 1) War Against Nazism and Fascism. "I was so impressed with my father's service as a naval officer on shore and ship that by 5 I swore I'd join the Navy: NROTC at Columbia; sworn in June 10, 1962." 2) The Cold War and fear of Communism. "I remember diving under my desk during air raid drills at elementary school in Bayside, Queens. But most of all I recall being called to the bridge of my WWII destroyer two hours before my watch began to find the captain standing in long johns beside the XO and senior watch officer. They said they'd heard on the sonar what sounded like a Russian nuclear sub, and our sister ship had assigned us to chase and sink it. The captain assigned me to take the bridge and carry out the order. I took the deck, looked out and saw there in the Bay of Fundy Portuguese and Basque fishing boats with their nets spread between us and where the sub had gone. I ordered the ship turned toward the nets and our speed increased. As soon as the screws were entangled in the nets, I ordered the ship to stop. After an hour we got disentangled, and WWII was out of sight!" 3) Assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. "I remember the horror of the assassinations, but particularly

that of JFK. I was in dress whites ready to go ashore when the public address system piped that President Kennedy had been shot. He'd been my commander-in-chief and had ordered my ship and me to Cuba during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Suddenly I was sure he was dead."

Frank Stoppenbach commented that "the pandemic and AIDS are tied together, as threats that resisted the scientific process of query, investigation and validation. Authorities believed they knew what was best without double-checking or resolving issues, even those raised by scientists. When desperate doctors in India tried unorthodox medicines, including ivermectin, which seemed to have an effect, Indian authorities — encouraged by the World Health Organization — abolished its use. WHO and U.S. officials believe that only vaccines, not medicines, can deal with viral diseases. But easy calculations show that an antiviral treatment of a viral disease that affects only a small fraction of a population is far more expensive because the entire population must be treated ... It is time to measure our health bureaucrats by results and to support open scientific inquiry ... [On a personal note,] 9-11 and the invasion of Iraq led to my running as a Republican for Congress in 2002. No luck in that race for me, our nation or Iraq. How do leaders face themselves in the mirror, following such failure?"

Anthony Valerio, Gerald Sorin, Dennis Wilder and Leo Swergold offered an assortment of developments I failed to list. Among them: the Women's Liberation Movement;

Playboy Enterprises between the '50s and '00s; Kamala Harris as Vice President; Mitch McConnell as Senate majority leader; the Big Lie; gun violence; white supremacy; resurgence of anti-Semitism, minority discrimination and hate crimes; the Great Recession; cell phones; and "the current 'woke' generation and its trite-filled reimagining of history." Dennis added, "I think many of us have had emotional reactions to events that did not directly affect us."

John Freidin said, "most significant to me is evidence that our democratic government may be dying. That leads me to choose 1) Widespread damage of natural environment and climate change: an existential failure of our collective will and leaders; 2) Consolidation of major corporations and banks: cause and symptom of disparities in incomes and power and 3) January 6 attack: manifestation of despair and rage against democratic processes."

And, finally, as **Jerry Speyer** wrote: "It's hard to pick just two, as all these issues/events/moments have influenced us!"

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1963

Paul Neshamkin
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It looks like these terrible months of pandemic are drawing to a close. I hope you and your loved ones have made it through. Please let us know how you are. We have continued to hold our weekly virtual lunches since April 2020, and are just now moving to biweekly, as we are able to finally get out of the house more. Let me know if you'd like to join us, and I'll send you an invite.

Ben Tua writes, "As I approach 80, I have lot to be thankful for. I am a new grandfather. Now I have three, two boys and a girl. I am reasonably healthy. Play tennis several times a week. And take no medications, apart from an occasional aspirin. I do a lot of work around the house, including mowing the lawn and splitting wood for our fireplace. I continue to serve as an elections official in Northern Virginia and

remain active intellectually. I attend a lot of virtual conferences, read a lot and share my views with others, including the Class of '63 weekly Zoom meetings, a great **Paul Neshamkin** initiative. I hope to finish President Obama's memoir and *Anna Karenina* this year. My wife has 'moderate' Alzheimer's, which is actually quite pronounced. But she understands a lot, is happy and has a good quality of life."

Doug Anderson writes, "Thirty-seven years later, my wife, Dale, and I have sold our Palm Beach duplex apartment. It took years. Don't buy or build a duplex apartment in a retirement community. We have bought a two-bedroom apartment on the Intercoastal Waterway in West Palm Beach overlooking Palm Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. The building was known as Trump Plaza and we bought it in time to vote to change the name to The Plaza Towers. We joke that we were part of the only impeachment that worked. I have been part of pretty much all our class Zoom lunch calls and have loved them. I missed the last four because I had open heart surgery; a great success. I returned home from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital exactly a week ago [as I write this], having had a double bypass, two valve replacements and one valve being fixed. The surgeon who spent eight hours working on me is Leonard Girardi. He is spectacular, and I am a very lucky guy."

Doug, it was great to see you looking so well on Zoom — congratulations!

Stephen Honig writes, "Having been locked for months in my third-floor home office trying to practice law, there was both bad news and good news to be found (putting 'stir crazy' aside).

"The bad news was meeting the mechanics of doing business. Without an assistant and a regular office, I found myself promoted to 'staff.' I ordered a high-speed printer/scanner. I ordered a large file cabinet. I set up my own files. Most frustrating was simply sending out snail mail and Fedex and dealing with moving documents. Until Covid-19, I dismissed infrastructure as overhead; now I dismiss my prior dismissal as ignorance.

"The good news is, all the time saved. No commuting. No business travel. No meandering luncheon meetings. The loss of mobility and society translated into many created

hours. I have used these hours, after the first month or two of indolence, to address my writing. This March, I published my third book of poetry, 'creatively' titled *Obligatory COVID Chapbook*. While it took Camus a whole book to capture the angst of pandemic, I found that poetry allows you to cut more quickly to the chase. I have also had time to edit a book of short stories and another poetry collection. Having been brought to my knees by dealing with three publishers, I have finally surrendered myself into the hands of an agent, who will deal with production of these next two efforts; I hope both out this year.

"In June I kicked out of my household and into college the last of my four children, Matthew (18) — full beard, hair to his waist, an Eagle Scout in love with the outdoors. Although I extolled the College, he pointed out to me that Columbia is proudly located in a 'city' with no adjacent mountain ranges. This fall he is off to Reed, in Oregon, where, I have determined, there is some semblance of a 'core' curriculum so all is not lost. He may be into Portland for the Great Northwest and the ubiquitous bars, but I still harbor hopes of an education for him.

"A final observation on the perverse consequences of pandemic: My wife, Laura, a family law attorney, has been swamped with work. It seems that closeness breeds contempt, which breeds marital strife. More subtle a fallout: parents moving kids between households suspect the rigor of Covid compliance practices of the other parent, and those differences also bring out the lawyers. Her phone rings at all hours."

Zev bar-Lev writes, "Inspired by a short talk at the Zoom luncheon on the possibilities for life in space, I gave a short talk at the next Zoom luncheon on my 'Magic Letters.' Magic Letters each have their own meanings, which in turn give 'Helpful Hints' about the whole word's meaning.

"Hebrew SHalom 'peace' and aMen 'agreed' are great examples. In Shalom, the MagLet Sh (think of Sh!) itself means 'peace and quiet, law and order' — so it is a helpful hint to the meaning of the whole word Shalom, just like English Shelter, Ship, Shirt, Shoes; and Russian Shinel 'overcoat,' Shapka 'cap,' and Chinese Shr 'ten, is, yes.' So MagLets help with the hardest part of Language Learning, vocabu-



Contact CCT

Update your address, email or phone; submit a Class Note, new book, photo, obituary or Letter to the Editor; or send us an email. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct.

lary, showing fascinating Parallels between languages.

"The MagLet M means '(pull) together' as in Hebrew iM 'with' and aM 'people,' and the plural ending -iM as in Cherub-iM. Chinese has Min 'people' and the plural ending -Men in Haydz-Men 'children.'

"I've discovered some two dozen Universal MagLets. They are part of my Hebrew courses sold at Cognella Academic Publishing and used at two universities and accredited private courses."

See languagebazaar.com for more information.

Peter Broido reports, "I recently celebrated my 80th birthday. It was a very formal family affair with 6-, 7-, 9- and 10-year-old grandchildren, as well as their parents. The catered haute cuisine consisted of pizza and ice cream cake, thoroughly enjoyed. Fortunately we are all well, and we headed to the Delaware shore in July."

Ed Collier reports that efforts of the CU Band Alumni Association and the appropriate University departments to restart a marching/spirit band are still ongoing as of this past summer. Let's hope they're successful. I miss the "Cleverest Band."

Hank Davis recently finished co-producing an eight-CD box set by country singer Bobby Bare and renowned children's author and cartoonist Shel Silverstein. "The 130-page book that accompanies the music was really a labor of love," he says. "It's a feast of previously unpublished photos, and contains the recent interview I did with Bobby, now in his late 80s. These men had an unexpectedly deep friendship and enjoyed a rich musical collaboration. The project was issued by Bear Family Records in Germany, which has won numerous awards for the high quality of its archival productions. I'm really proud of this project."

Frank Sypher GSAS'68 notes he has written another New York history, *Register of Marriages from 1783 to 1905 in the Collegiate Churches of New York*. Edited by Francis J. Sypher, Jr. Published by the Collegiate Churches of New York, 2020. Also, an online, print-on-demand edition of the *Register* is published by Reformed Church Press, 2020.

"The *Register of Marriages from 1783 to 1905 in the Collegiate Churches of New York*, designated as Liber F in the Collegiate Archives, presents upward of 6,300 entries

of marriages. These records provide vital statistical information from a period when there was, for the most part, relatively little official civil registration for marriages in New York.

"The primary aim of this edition is to present as far as possible an accurate record of the manuscript volume. However, from time to time when relevant background information is readily available, notes are given with historical details. The text is also accompanied by an introduction and an index to names and places.

"The *Register* includes Collegiate Church marriage data for people ranging from prominent figures such as J. Pierpont Morgan and others in government, the military and the professions, to mechanics, tradesmen, licensed cartmen and many other kinds of workers, men and women, in the city. In general, the data provide a vital snapshot of an important social cross-section of the New York City population during the period covered. The results should be of interest to anyone curious about people in New York."

I recently learned that **Joseph Frisch** died on November 10, 2020. He had lived in California for decades, and is survived by his wife, Sondra GSAS'69 (M.A. and incomplete Ph.D. from Columbia); son, Kevin; stepson, Steven; one grandchild; and two step-grandchildren. He had suffered for several years from a debilitating blood disease, which finally claimed him. Joe had worked in the computer/IT industry as a supervisor.

When you're back in NYC, you can reconnect with your classmates at our regular second-Thursday class lunches at the Columbia Club (we will still gather at the Princeton Club). We hope to meet again in the fall starting on September 9, and then on October 14, and on November 11. In any case, we will continue to meet virtually on Zoom every first and third Thursday at 12:30 p.m.

In the meantime, please let us know what you are up to, how you're doing and what's next. Stay safe!

1964

Norman Olch
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During the past 15 months I have started Class Notes expressing the hope that by the time the col-

umn appears in *Columbia College Today*, society's lot in the time of a pandemic will have improved. Alas, my hopes were dashed. More than 600,000 Americans have died from the virus, and many millions more are infected.

In my last note, written at the end of March, I mentioned that there are reasons for optimism: More and more people are being vaccinated. Now, as I write this at the end of June, there are more reasons for optimism here in New York City: Restaurants and theaters are opening, masking requirements are limited to certain places such as public buses and news reports say that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines will provide more long-term protection than originally anticipated. I, however, remain cautious, particularly in light of reports about powerful new virus variants: While I remove my mask for walks in Central Park, I wear it in enclosed spaces such as elevators and supermarkets. I hope all of you are being careful.

A visit to the Whitney Museum of American Art in lower Manhattan reminded me of one of the tragic public events of our College years: the September 15, 1963, bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., which killed four young Black girls, and was followed hours later by the killing of two young Black boys. I went to the Whitney to see the exhibition of Dawoud Bey's photographs. In one room were the diptychs from his 2012 *Birmingham Project*, which marked the 50th anniversary of the bombing. Each diptych has one photographic portrait of a young person the same age as one of the victims, and another portrait of an adult 50 years older — the victim's age in 2013 if she or he had survived. It is a powerful memorial to the victims, and a rumination on the passage of time and the meaning of innocent young lives cut short. The portraits also immediately brought to mind that only two months later we shared with the nation a second tragic public event: the assassination of President Kennedy.

On a lighter museum note: *The New York Times* had a wonderful story on the Alice Neel painting exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the role **Allen Tobias** played in Neel's now famous double portrait of brothers Jeff Neel

and Toby Neal, who were 8 and 9 when Neel painted them in the early 1960s. Allen had met Neel through a mutual friend, had befriended the Neal brothers while a summer playground teacher on West 145th Street and introduced them to Neel for what turned out to be several sittings. The full story of the painting and Allen's search for it (written by John Leland '81) can be found online: nyti.ms/3BxHciD. [Editor's note: Read more about Neel's many Columbia connections in *CCT*'s online exclusive, "Alice Neel's Columbia Paintings": columbia.edu/cct/issue/springsummer-2021/article/alice-neels-columbia-paintings.]

Jeff Newman writes: "My children in Los Angeles, New Orleans and San Francisco are all well, thank goodness, and moving forward. My daughter, Andrea, mother of a 17-year-old and 13-year-old, is executive producer and writer of the television show *Chicago Fire*, which is on NBC on Wednesday nights; my son David '02, father of an 8-year-old and a 6-year-old, continues his medical consultancy work; and my son Matthew is a professional baseball umpire and a bartender in the Bay area. The pandemic, however, has kept everyone apart for more than a year, as is true, I'm sure, for everyone else. Hope to start to travel to see them all by the fall."

Ivan Weissman reports that his son Jesse has graduated from the NYU School of Law, will work for a major New York law firm and is engaged to Emily Kling, whom he met in his freshman year at Cornell when they won their first competition as debate team teammates.

There are tentative signs that the informal class lunch in New York on the second Thursday of each month will resume in the fall as the Princeton Club (where we hold the lunch) begins to reopen. Your classmates want to hear from you, so write, and be well.

1965

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Dan Hofstadter '66's review of *The Florentines*, a new book by Paul Strathern, appeared in *The Wall Street Journal* on June 25. Read it online: on.wsj.com/3eMuYZH.

Mike Cook, who sent me Dan's piece, provided a brief review-of-the-review: "Makes you want to rush out and buy the book. He was not reviewing books 60 years ago in our Literature Humanities class but he did bother the famous Kenneth Koch."

Speaking of Florence and the Italian Renaissance, I reported in my Spring/Summer 2021 column that **Larry Guido** PS'69, PS'71 and his partner, Judith Kaplan, had purchased an apartment in the Palazzo Tornabuoni in Florence but that Larry was worried that the pandemic would prevent them from actually going there. He provided a brief update: "After this past year and a half of lockdown at Ocean Reef, Fla., Judy and I are back traveling again." They are at their new apartment now, "probably through November." He signed his note, "Lorenzo and Giuditta."

Sadly, news that we lost two classmates arrived recently.

Dan Carlinsky JRN'66 emailed on May 8 that **Edwin Goodgold** had died the night before: "He had been recovering nicely from back surgery a couple of weeks ago. Most of yesterday, however, he was feeling sub-par, and he died in bed near midnight. His death was apparently cardiac-related. As anyone who receives this email knows, Ed was one of a kind, a force of nature."

Ed and Dan coauthored a bunch of trivia-related books and started the tradition of trivia contests at Columbia, including a memorable encore at our 50th reunion. Ed managed the band Sha Na Na and was at the 1969 Woodstock festival with them. He was devoutly religious and a warm and generous friend to many. If any reader has recollections to share, please send them to me for a future column. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Overdue news that **Alan Green** died in his home on Thanksgiving Day (November 26) 2020. Alan was the Raymond Sobel Professor of Psychiatry and served as chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the Geisel School of Medicine and Dartmouth-Hitchcock (D-H) for nearly 18 years. Alan's family held a Zoom memorial service on November 29, and **Jim Siegel** sent me a copy of the remarks he delivered:

"I've known Alan for 59 years — since our freshman year at Columbia in 1961. He and I were fraternity brothers and members of a group

called the Van Am Society along with **Ben Cohen** and **Pelle D'Acerno**, who are both attending this service.

"The four of us lived together during our junior and senior years in a two-bedroom apartment on Riverside Drive, close to school, where we paid rent of \$225 per month — in total. I noticed a few years ago that our very apartment, many years after the building went co-op, changed hands for \$1.67 million.

"The four of us had an overflowingly pleasurable time together. We were serious students who could close our books and have fun. Lifetime friendships emerged from what seems in retrospect like a dalliance in Shangri-La.

"Alan had a formidable mind. He was equally interested in the basic sciences, the social sciences and the humanities, a rare trifecta. He knew he wanted to become a doctor — his father was a doctor and his two brothers also became doctors — but he wanted a well-rounded education.

"The four of us were living together when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963. We were disconsolate; he was our hope, inspiration and role model. A group of us went to a nearby church with Pelle to huddle and pray together in a sacred space. I hope the rabbi doesn't mind I said that. Alan had a truly catholic mind — catholic with a small 'c' — I hope the rabbi doesn't mind I said that either.

"I always had the sense that Alan wanted to use his prodigious talents to help make the world a better place. In his junior year, he won a fellowship and spent the summer in Yugoslavia. I remember how easily he acclimated to a country with relatively rudimentary living conditions, and how enthusiastic he was about the walled city of Dubrovnik. After graduating from Columbia College, he spent the summer doing education and civil rights work in Mississippi, skirting danger at one point. We all cared about civil rights issues but Alan was the one among us who headed South. [**Jerry Babbitt**, **Leonard Pack** and Nancy "Duffy" Campbell BC'65 were also in Mississippi with Alan that summer.]

"When I think of Alan, a word that comes to mind is that he was propelled — driving but also driven to make the most of his time and his ability. In the early '70s he was affiliated with a Harvard hospital and

was at the same time working in the White House on Nixon's so-called 'War on Drugs.' His interest was the necessity for the program, of course, not the administration of Tricky Dick.

"The driving/driven duality reminds me of Alan's driving habits behind a steering wheel. Always a fast driver, he had the curious habit, when approaching a toll, of slamming on the brakes at the last possible second. I don't think he knew that had become his *modus operandi*.

"Alan was a very loyal friend. When I needed to consult with him over the years on family health issues of one kind or another, he was always there for me. As busy as he was, he always called back immediately and gave me as much time as I needed. Just hearing him on the other end of the line was healing. Just knowing I could call him, even if I didn't, was a tonic.

"Alan married and became a father later than most of us. Maybe he knew something we didn't know. In all of our conversations he enthused about Franny, and then Henry [16] and Isobel. He poured his considerable capacity for love into them.

"I sent Alan an email tribute last month in which I said that Ben, Pelle and I will undoubtedly develop a ritual to salute you — not just because of your mettle as a person or that our roots are intertwined, but because you had a low threshold for filth and did all the cleaning in our apartment. I also told Alan he had earned my highest accolade: He had lived a life of integrity; he was always true to himself.

"Alan achieved ripeness in his life, a rare accomplishment, and that's probably why he could face death with such equanimity. Whoever's ripe is naturally ready to move to the concluding stage of life."

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

We also had a false alarm. *The New York Times* published an obituary of a Columbia alumnus with the same name (and of a similar age) as one of our classmates. With due respect to the deceased Columbian, and with some trepidation, I wrote to **Michael Friedman**, who, happily, responded that he is alive and well:

"Thanks for your concern, but I am happy to inform you that the reports of my death are premature. I understand why you might have thought this could have been me, but this must have been one of the

other many Michael Friedmans who were at Columbia. I believe that when I arrived on campus, I was the seventh Michael Friedman enrolled. So, no need to update your column for *Columbia College Today*."

Michael had sent me a social justice piece in April; I'll take this opportunity to share it with you:

"Author Unknown:

"I need to drive my two-year-old to daycare tomorrow morning. To ensure we arrive alive, we won't take public transit (Oscar Grant). I removed all air fresheners from the vehicle and double-checked my registration status (Daunte Wright), and ensured my license plates were visible (Lt. Caron Nazario). I will be careful to follow all traffic rules (Philando Castile), signal every turn (Sandra Bland), keep the radio volume low (Jordan Davis), and won't stop at a fast food chain for a meal (Rayshard Brooks). I'm too afraid to pray (Rev. Clementa C. Pickney) so I just hope the car won't break down (Corey Jones).

"When my wife picks him up at the end of the day, I'll remind her not to dance (Elijah McClain), stop to play in a park (Tamir Rice), patronize the local convenience store for snacks (Trayvon Martin), or walk around the neighborhood (Mike Brown). Once they are home, we won't stand in our backyard (Stephon Clark), eat ice cream on the couch (Botham Jean), or play any video games (Atatiana Jefferson).

"After my wife and I tuck him into bed around 7:30 p.m., neither of us will leave the house to go to Walmart (John Crawford III) or to the gym (Tshyrad Oates) or on a jog (Ahmaud Arbery). We won't even walk to see the birds (Christian Cooper). We'll just sit and try not to breathe (George Floyd) and not to sleep (Breonna Taylor)."

1966

Columbia College Today
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Hello, CC'66! Here is the latest from some of your classmates. Thanks to all who replied to CCT's call for news.

Calvin H. Johnson writes: "I gave a talk, 'Reflections on Combat in Vietnam,' for our Zoomed 55th reunion. I was assigned to an infantry reconnaissance platoon in 1967–68 that had a

death rate of better than 50 percent, lost to snipers and massive fire from the wood line and mines, but I am not sure I ever saw a live Viet Cong. The United States could blow up any football field-sized area if we could map it, which was sometimes handy, but I don't think a 'sweep' ever accomplished anything. Since I survived it, it was not uninteresting. Email me at cjohnson@law.utexas.edu if you would like to see the full writeup."

Michael Garrett notes: "The turn-out for our 55th virtual reunion was disappointing in numbers but entirely successful in the quality of our events and the participation of those who were brave enough to weather the rigors of Zoom. **David Gilbert, Dan Gardner, Kai Lee, Calvin H. Johnson, Randy Bourscheidt** and **Ira Katznelson** each delivered well-prepared, thoughtful and thought-provoking talks. Videos of those talks are available at college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion/2021/watch. Participation in our Class Gift far exceeded attendance at reunion and resulted in a \$151,537 gift from 111 classmates. Let's all try to stay healthy, safe and sane, so we can convene in person for our 60th."

From **Sylvain Cappell**: "A happy occasion for my writing is that two of my grandchildren are now undergraduates at Columbia: **Jonathan Cappell SEAS'24** and his sister **Julia Cappell '25**. Both are planning to major in math. Another granddaughter, **Liora Eiger**, is a sophomore at NYU.

"I was born in 1946 in Brussels, to parents who were Holocaust survivors there and who married after the war. My parental family immigrated to the U.S. in 1950 and settled in NYC. I graduated from Bronx Science in 1963 and was originally in the Columbia College Class of 1967, but I graduated in three years. At Columbia I had wonderful professors in humanities (e.g., studied Middle English) and of course, mathematics, and was mentored by one of the great mathematicians of the 20th century, **Samuel Eilenberg**. I completed my Ph.D. at Princeton in 1969 and then taught there to the mid-'70s. I then moved to the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences of NYU and still am there as the **Julius Silver Professor**. I've been a Sloan Foundation fellow and a Guggenheim Foundation fellow. At NYU I've chaired the Faculty Senate a couple of times.

"My primary field of research is geometric topology but I've also worked on its relations to algebra, analysis, algebraic and differential geometry and so on. I'm a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Mathematical Society, of which I was VP and received its Award for Distinguished Public Service. I've often mentored math students from high schools, college, graduate school and postdocs. I've been, and am, blessed with wonderful students, colleagues and research collaborators. I've been an academic visitor at Harvard a couple of years, at the Institute for Advanced Study, at Penn, at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques in France, at the University of Chicago and at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, and long served on the external review committees of many institutions, including Princeton, Caltech and Penn, and long served on the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Rothschild Foundation, in Jerusalem. These experiences were enhanced by my being fluent in French and Hebrew.

"In 1966 I married my high school sweetheart, **Amy Hoffman BC'67**, who also graduated from Bronx Science. We have four children and four grandchildren, all living nearby in the New York region. Amy is retired from having long taught art (art history, painting and computer graphics) at Stuyvesant H.S. We live in an NYU apartment in Greenwich Village and have a (mostly for summers) getaway cottage on a lake in Connecticut, to which we decamped during the pandemic. We recently celebrated our 55th anniversary."

Alan Feldman GSAS'69 shares an update: "I retired in 2008 from full-time teaching at Framingham (Mass.) State University where, for a while, I was chair of English and VP of the faculty union. With the windfall of free time that followed I could devote myself ever more single-mindedly to poetry. The resulting collection, *Immortality*, won the 2016 Massachusetts Book Award for Poetry; another collection, *The Golden Coin*, came out in 2018. I also narrowed the focus of my teaching to poetry writing, even teaching on a cruise ship while my wife, **Nan Hass Feldman** — the main attraction — taught art, offering

free workshops at the local library in Wellfleet, where I live during the summer, and in Framingham.

"In the corner of my study is a drawing **Edward 'Rusty' Spaeth** made of me as a young poet (pipe in mouth). Occasionally I address this portrait and report on how I'm doing. In a poem he wrote at 17 — about reading his fortune at the bottom of a cup of cocoa — he said:

The author was to die
In exultation
Where an exploding cloud passed
Into the upper atmosphere on the cup's rim.

"How many books will I write?" the author asked

His wife, for he was blind
Surrounded by her arms; she came
To read the signs for both of them.

"Your books are all these vacant ponds,
The first and third
Are the greatest, the second small
an ear

The bottom, but the fourth has the look

Of ending happily." The author was amused

That in brown fortune, this girl too

Took them to be the largest things.
Children were the size of peas
And lives were rivulets, yet these
Possessed the magnitude of

olives. "Only four,"
She apologized. But he who knelt
In hugging her young thighs
Adored the way her skin felt
And was delighted.

"Children (I have two, grown up) loom much larger than peas in one's life, I'd tell him. As for 'ending happily,' that's something books sometimes do. Still, I keep writing — it's part of my psychic metabolism — for the readers who may wish to know what people found to care about back then, when I lived."

Dan Gover is "currently writing about **Willie Mays** and the New York Giants, collecting stories like this: When Mays came up to the Giants in early 1951, he didn't hit at first. The pressure was causing him to press. His manager **Leo Durocher** boosted his confidence and told him to pull up his pants. Not for style, but because his pants leg down near his ankles led ump to believe his strike zone was as low as his pants

leg. They were calling low strikes on him. He also told Willie to stop pulling the ball and hit to right field. Both right and left fields were short in the Polo Grounds, the Giants's home park. Willie took Durocher's advice and started to hit. The Giants started to win and finally tied the Dodgers in the pennant race two days before the end of the season.

"I'd be interested in hearing any more good stories about **Mays, Durocher** and the Giants: dgover@kean.edu."

Neal Hurwitz writes: "After a terrific Zoom meeting with [Professor] **Mark Kesselman** on June 24, the 55th anniversary of MK's great 'Senior Seminar' on local politics, we have started a bimonthly Mark Kesselman Zoom 'seminar.' With MK on June 24 were **Barry Collier, Mark Levine, Jonathan Blank, Tom Harrold, Joel Blau** and me. All are returning for the bimonthly Kesselman Zoom! Anyone interested can participate; email neal.hurwitz@gmail.com, please.

"We were very sad to lose another Kesselman '65-'66 seminar alum, **Nick Weiskopf LAW'69**, who died on January 19, 2021. Nick was a math genius, great lawyer-educator and a fair poker player :). His obituary in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue shows 'a life worth living.' With his colleagues, friends and family, we miss him!"

Dr. John E. Harrington says: "It is with great sadness that I report the death of **Daniel R. Seigle** on June 24, 2021, in Las Vegas. I do not know the cause but spoke with him right up to the last day and then heard from his brother that he had died."

From **John Doody**: "With great sadness I report that **Ken Pearson** died on April 5, 2021, aged 76 and after a three-week hospital stay with a heart problem. Ken is survived by his wife, **Muriel**; son, **Carl**; and brother **Greg**. He was predeceased by his brother **Richard '65**.

"Ken was my freshman-year roommate in Carman Hall (née New Hall) in 1962 and we remained good friends over the subsequent almost six decades. He retired at 66 from a successful career in hospital management. In addition to having more time for **Muriel** and **Carl**, his new life included golf at his Tuxedo Club, fishing with **Greg** on Cape Cod and spending roughly a week a month at



NATALIE BOTHA

At the 1967 Lightweight Crew Informal Get-Together on June 24 in Barnard, Vt., were (left to right) Diane Chattman, Robert Chapla '68, Lenice Cicchini, Gerry Botha '67, Susan Botha, Eve Pranis, Bob Malsberger SEAS'67, Bruce Chattman '67 and David Blanchard '67.

his Fort Lauderdale 'time share,' i.e., his own bedroom in my home.

"Ken was fiercely competitive ... he won a golf tournament in fall 2019. He was always a friend when needed, which for me was often. His heart might have been his physical weakness, but it was his source of strength in his interpersonal relationships. Always open-minded and willing to offer advice when asked, I never heard him utter a cruel or nasty word about anyone. For the last 10 years we were roommates again, at least on a monthly basis. With all the memories and shared bad jokes, it was like there were no interim years at all. I miss Ken."

Best wishes for a happy and healthy fall, CC'66. This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'66 class correspondent." (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the CCT staff.)

In the meantime, send us notes about what you have been up to via the same email address, or use the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

1967

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9-11

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We heard from several classmates since the last issue.

Peter Basilevsky LAW'72 wrote: "I retired from the practice of corporate law in January 2016 as a partner and then counsel at my firm, Satterlee Stephens Burke & Burke, after 48 years at the firm and its many iterations. I was married to my lovely and brilliant wife, Bette Nyhlen '70 Vassar, for almost 49 wonderful years, and we had two great kids who in turn each had two remarkable children. Sadly, Bette passed away last April after a lengthy illness. After almost 25 years living in New York City and subsequently an almost equal amount of time in Cos Cob, Conn., upon my retirement we moved to Newtown Square, Pa., to be close to our son and his family. I try to remain in touch with my brothers at

Phi Gamma Delta, including Greg Stern GS'68, Bruce Sargent '66 and Robert Chapla '68. All in all, to paraphrase the title of the movie, it's been a wonderful life."

Art Garfinkel: "I live in Southern California, practice orthopedic surgery on a part-time basis and still love it. My wife, Sandy BC'71, remains the rock of our family. I love talking shop with my daughter, Rachel '14, an orthopedic surgery resident, and world affairs with my son, David LAW'13, a New York City attorney working at the mayor's office. I would love to hear from my lightweight football buddies. We weren't very good, but we were, in fact, the only football team to beat Princeton."

David Blanchard: "We had a lovely get together with a few classmates and wives on June 24, at Susan and **Gerry Botha's** home in Barnard, Vt. **Bob Malsberger SEAS'67**, who lives in Jamaica Plain, near Boston, made the trip to Vermont to visit with a few of his lightweight crew mates and take in our lush, verdant spring scenery. In addition to Bob, Gerry and Susan, and my wife, Eve, and I, Robert Chapla '68 along with his wife, Lenice Cicchini, and **Bruce Chattman** with his wife, Diane, made the trip to Barnard for a delightful afternoon."

See the nearby photo!

Eric Dannemann: "We continue to communicate with classmates and teammates from classes on either side of us whom we met on the lightweight crew. **Gerry Botha** keeps the list, which had grown to about 60, and sadly is down to about 55. Each of us has a story, every one more engaging than the last. I will leave it up to each of them to tell their individual stories, and I hope they will in future CCTs. This spring we invited Coach Nich Lee Parker to join us by Zoom and share with us the tribulations of the past year and the prospects for the coming year. Participating have been **Jeff Brensilver**, **Dave Blanchard**, **Gerry Botha**, **Bruce Chattman**, **Mike Ingber**, **Marty Goldstein**, **Bob Malsberger SEAS'67**, **Bob Mauri**, **Jim Mensian** and **Richie Miller**."

Harold Jawetz: "Covid-19 made me do it. I have not been sick but it forced me to do telehealth for months. It was interesting for two weeks but quickly lost its allure and made me realize that I preferred to

see patients face-to-face in the office. Now, 50 years after graduating from medical school, I have decided that it is time to retire and enjoy"

Romolo Maurizi: "I am doing well, as is my family. I have three grandsons and a granddaughter. Luckily the virus has left us alone. At 76, still playing soccer twice a week, I'm the oldest on the field. We have been playing maskless since last August. Regards to you and all classmates. I would love for my teammates to contact me."

Anthony Gronowicz: "My latest book, *Last Western Empire. A History of U.S. Foreign Policy*, is out. I am associate editor of the *Journal of Labor and Society* and an adjunct full professor of political science at the Borough of Manhattan Community College and CUNY Brooklyn College."

Doug Good: "After a 10-year stint as a legal services attorney in Rockland County, N.Y., and 40 years as a commercial litigator and law firm partner on Long Island, I am now what I describe as 'mostly retired.' Summers in the Berkshires (reminiscent of my summer camp days), and otherwise on Long Island, where the grandkids are."

Peter Engel: "I'm a cardiologist in a large community hospital in Cincinnati, specializing in a rare condition, pulmonary hypertension. Father to three wonderful wiener dogs. I plan to work a few more years before retiring. I'm so glad I got to see the '60s and the '70s because the future is looking kind of grim!"

Gino Sermoneta: "I've been selling real estate in Northern Westchester. Busy as can be, and loving it. After being in manufacturing and in retail in NYC since graduation, I moved to the North Salem/Bedford/Somers area in the late '90s and became a Realtor. I enjoy the challenges of helping buyers and sellers with their real estate needs, and I'm still at it and going strong."

Charles Saydah: "I've joined a biweekly gathering of 10 classmates for an hour or so of chat. The talk is mainly politics and current events. Only one of us, **Jeff Herrmann**, came to Morningside in 1963 from well outside the New York-New Jersey-Connecticut metro area, from Wisconsin. **Arnold Bodner** came from suburban Jersey, where he still lives and practices medicine. The rest of us all came from Queens or Brooklyn, out of general district

high schools. **Bill Anscher** and **Tony Greco**, from Queens; others from Brooklyn, **Mel Brender** (Midwood), **Bill Heinbach** and **Ken Kramer** (Lafayette), **Alan Sachs** (John Jay), **Ira Krakow** (Lincoln) and me (Fort Hamilton). So nearly 60 years after we first gathered on Manhattan's Upper West Side — 60 years of doing this and that and traveling all over the world; 60 years of marriages, children, and, in some cases, deaths; 60 years of life — we're right back in the old neighborhood, hanging out, shooting the breeze. It feels like we're extras in a *Marty* revival."

Gary Sanders: "After getting a Ph.D. from MIT in 1971 in high-energy physics, I spent the next 23 years in that field as an assistant professor at Princeton and at Los Alamos National Lab, experimenting at Fermilab, CERN and Brookhaven and culminating as the project manager of one of the two collider detectors at the Superconducting Super Collider. Congress terminated the SSC. Not choosing to then move with my colleagues to CERN to continue that work, I went to Caltech as the project manager of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory, and that worked out well with the first direct detection of gravitational waves. I continued from Caltech as the project manager of the Thirty Meter Telescope and retired from that early this year after 16 years leading that project."

"We live in Laguna Beach and also spend time at our home in Santa Fe. My retirement is with my wonderful wife, Marjorie, who has put up with me for 48 years, and we have recently had our first grandchild. Despite all the fun of retirement, I joined the leadership of the Simons Observatory, a bold search for signs of cosmic inflation in the very early universe, and under construction at 17,000 ft. in the Chilean mountains. It was a short retirement!"

Steven Allen: "My Columbia experience has served me well, first in an enjoyable career and now in a satisfying retirement. I was among the first practitioners to work with models for valuing and managing new financial derivative instruments. Over nearly 40 years, mostly with JPMorgan Chase and its predecessor firms, I initially headed a model development group and later was in

charge of evaluating and controlling the risks associated with these models. I transitioned to being a faculty member at NYU's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, where I taught and helped manage its master's program in the mathematics of finance. Much of my time in retirement has been involved, along with my wife, Caroline Thompson, with a peer-to-peer lifelong learning program, Quest Lifelong Learning Community, whose members are free to develop courses in any topic in which they are interested. The Core Curriculum has proved most valuable as background for learning about and teaching a wide range of subjects from history to philosophy to psychology to physics, along with my beloved mathematics."

Rich Frances: "I have had an interesting career in addiction psychiatry and as emeritus president and medical director of Silver Hill Hospital. I co-founded and was the founding president of the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry. I have a small practice and enjoy spending more time with grandchildren."

Be well, all of you, and do write.
[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1968

Arthur Spector
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Warm hello from Miami Beach, where as I write in June the summer heat is beginning to show up. The Columbia football season is around the corner. Heard from a few of us:

Gordon Harriss LAW'71 was observing some issues on the economic front; he sounds great. It seems Law School grads are in the news everywhere. Heard from **Robert Brandt LAW'71**; he is doing great and was in Chicago visiting with one of his sons. And heard from **Al Ballinger LAW'71**, BUS'72, whom Brandt says he called "Ally B" at the Law School. Al lives in West Palm, where he plays tennis, swims at the Breakers and has horses he sees daily; clearly a hobby in Weston. I was joking with them about Brandt, Ballinger and President Lee C. Bollinger being

Law School classmates. I am probably missing another classmate with a B. **Andy Herz LAW'71** ... nah, that doesn't work.

I have chatted a good bit recently with **Arthur Kaufman LAW'71**, who is "happily retired in Scarsdale and enjoying walking, swimming and my four grandkids." He adds that he is beginning his 20th year as a member of the adjunct professor group at the Law School. He and his wife, Susan Kaufman BC'68, LAW'71, celebrated their 50th reunion at the Law School. Congrats!

And then there is **Neil Anderson LAW'71**, who after law school went to Sullivan & Cromwell, and **Paul de Bary LAW'71**, BUS'71, who is an entrepreneur now, having been a gem of a municipal finance lawyer at Hawkins (renowned in my world and a banker and advisor).

I usually don't mention departures, but **Seth Weinstein** recently lost his dad, Jack Weinstein LAW'49, a Lion on the bench and a professor at the Law School. He was known to be an amazing judge and professor. Aged 99 and a half; we now have a record to exceed. Condolences to Seth and his family.

I heard from **Lenny Oppenheim** briefly but he owes me more. Lenny and his wife, Dena, did get sick from Covid-19 but are doing great now.

Frank Dann PS'72 reports from sunny Hawaii. He started out noting **Ken Tomecki PS'72's** role as president of the American Academy of Dermatology this year, and salutes Ken, as we all do, of course. Frank adds that his 50th P&S reunion is approaching. He writes, "As our class reunion co-chair, I will be in New York in April. Will visit the main campus on 116th Street, of course. It is a long haul from Honolulu to NYC but this is gonna be a big deal! To add to that excitement, my med school class is having a pre-reunion weeklong party here on Kauai in February, a first of its kind. Perfect weather for golf and swimming."

Frank is planning a 19-day cruise from Miami this Christmas so I hope to see him.

He finishes with: "I thank the Lord daily for all my blessings, and right up there is my great good fortune to have attended Columbia for eight years. Opened so many doors for me I can't even imagine."

He adds he doesn't feel 74, which is the new 44, for sure.

Frank is still swimming: "It is who I am; a combo of ocean and pool swimming." **Neil Gozan** also is still swimming. Frank does 4 miles a week. Hawaii's ocean temperature is 78 degrees F year-round.

Frank, I try to swim every day. I find it helps me enjoy the day. I also walk a lot, jog a little and go to the gym. Some of you might remember that at our 50th reunion **Nigel Paneth** highly recommended exercise, and **Tom Sanford** years earlier at a reunion stood up and said the same. For some of us it is a challenge to swim or get exercise in, but for sure it is a good way to spend some time. **Arthur Kaufman** tries to swim year-round too ... but he doesn't have Hawaii or Miami Beach.

I was happy to hear from **Tony Kao** and **George Ting**. I am, it appears, an unreliable reporter, as I guess I got the **Randy Vaughan** BUS'70 story wrong in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue (but I believe I did get the Istanbul part of the story right).

From Tony: "I just read the Spring/Summer 2021 Class Notes. I'm glad you had the chance to connect with many classmates, including my college roommates (at different times) **Randy Vaughan** and **George Ting**. Maybe I can update you on the past and what's happening now."

"Randy spent his junior year mostly in Beirut, Lebanon, and probably not Istanbul. Yes, he did total his car that he got anew, thinking he would become James Bond II in exciting Beirut — he believes that someone ambushed him and planted a bomb in his car. The car was not a Porsche, but was a Jaguar XKE, you know, the flashy car that looks like it's going 100 MPH even when stopped at a light. Actually, he had consulted me on whether he should ask to get a Mercedes 230SL or the Jaguar XKE, a serious problem and decision he had to make at the end of his sophomore year at the College."

"And, yes, I moved to Sudbury, Mass., 20 minutes west of Arlington, your hometown, two years ago from Seattle and Tokyo. I had just completed a small project for George in 2019. He called me one day in late 2016 from California and said he was looking for an architect to work on his pet project, in one of the nicest parts of Tokyo. The building, which includes his penthouse apartment, was handed over in 2019,

but I don't think he got the chance to enjoy living there for any length of time because of the Covid-19 situation that ensued. He actually resides in the Bay Area, and used to visit Tokyo only once in a while when things were normal. I enjoyed working with George on the project, and we came together often during the design and construction stages.

"Things are good here in the peaceful suburb of Boston, where my daughter's family and my grandson live about 10 minutes away. But when things get better in NYC, I wouldn't mind returning to the Big Apple for some good dining and fun. Randy said he'd join me, and maybe George might even show up if we press him a bit."

I like the idea of a pre-reunion event. I am thinking of organizing an event in Miami. If you like palm trees, warm weather and beaches, send me a note on the topic. I hope you are well, ambulatory and in good humor.

I have come to know Peter Hiebert '71, from a class that boasts a marginal group of talent, unlike our class He lives in Miami Beach some of the time and has been a prominent member of the Washington, D.C., legal community and a big fan of Columbia football. Peter urges everyone to watch Al Bagnoli's student-athletes.

I also keep in touch with **Hollis Petersen** BUS73. I hope to see him and his wife, Ann, in Key West. Alas, maybe this winter. I saw Hollis at a football game many years ago. He also has a place in Greenwich, where he was before heading to

Newport for the summer. In the Keys, Hollis is involved with the Everglades Foundation, which has been successful in getting reservoirs started below Lake Okeechobee to regulate the flow of fresh water into the Florida Bay, and much more.

Maybe Homecoming, Hollis? I am going to be there (Saturday, October 16) and hope you will be, too.

Hoping everyone is well. We were the most exceptional group to arrive on campus in modern times, for sure!

1969

Nathaniel Wander
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Joel Solkoff is a writer with interests in architecture and in food policy, and "a disability rights advocate and how." His website, joelsolkoff.com/about-me, notes: "One consequence of the treatment for cancer that saved my life was that radiation permanently damaged my spine. For over twenty years, I have been a paraplegic — not in a wheelchair but in a battery-powered mobility device which takes me so rapidly to my destination that friends and strangers on the street comment on the speed."

Joel followed this with something about virginity, its loss and the dormitory policies of Barnard and Columbia, the details of which I expect *CCT* would have edited out anyway. He continues: "While I did miserably in Latin and Hebrew, I did perfect the art of demonstrating. I lived for a week in Grayson Kirk's office after the Rembrandt was returned to the police and after his Havana cigars were smoked. Alas."

Joel is proud of having been arrested not once but twice during the occupations.

He adds: "I am 73, which seems improbable. We Baby Boomers were, it seemed, forever young. I ain't young anymore. I am a grandfather of four (read: Zeyda). I have four teeth."

Joel concludes: "I am currently an architecture critic for e-architect UK." He refers us to his piece on the Penn Station redevelopment: bit.ly/3wYZrdo.

Despite advancing years, Dr. **Neal Handel** actively pursues a plastic surgery practice from his office in Beverly Hills while

being a clinical professor in the UCLA Medical School Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, supervising senior residents undergoing aesthetic surgery training. Having had his first child at 57, Neal says he is fortunate to now have five: Madeleine (3), Liam (5), Hunter (15), Hendrix (16) and Brooke-Lynn (17). With the younger children aspiring to matriculate into preschool, the older are now applying to colleges, their sights set on Columbia.

This issue's "The Things They Carried" encouraged reports from classmates who didn't graduate in spring '69.

Neal finds time to connect on a regular basis with **William Stadiem**, who describes himself as "a Hollywood chronicler and restaurant critic." The two are often seen sharing a meal and reminiscing about their Columbia days at some of Los Angeles's trendiest eateries.

I've remained friends with Randy Mound '70 since the lights came back on after an 8 a.m. art history class and we found ourselves slumped over the intervening desk.

Randy writes: "It amazes me that it's been 50 years and counting since I graduated from Columbia College — it doesn't seem all that long ago since the common refrain was 'Never trust anyone over 30.' My memories of those years and the adventures I had are fairly clear, except for the fact that it was the '60s and my contemporaries will remember (or not) what that means. [It's often been said, 'If you remember the '60s, you weren't there.'] Recently I read a stream-of-consciousness autobiography written by [James Wisniewski] and found myself nodding in recognition at descriptions of Hartley Hall dorm life and neighborhood hangouts like The Gold Rail and The West End.

"What followed college was far less exciting and much more conventional. I attended New York Medical College and graduated in 1974. I moved to L.A. because it seemed less crowded and competitive than New York (ha!) and spent seven years at LAC + USC Medical Center, first as an internal medicine intern and resident and then as a radiology resident and fellow. I partnered for 25 years in a radiology group, covering several L.A. hospitals and imaging centers.

"I lived in various parts of L.A., eventually ending up on an island on an artificial lake in Ventura, complete with a dock and an electric party boat. When I became an older dad to twin boys and realized that L.A. might not be the best place to raise kids, I moved to Denver so that my sons could grow up in a healthier environment. After eight years with a group here I retired five years ago and, with my new wife, moved into an over-55 community near Boulder. These days walking the dog is as exciting as it gets; I quite like that. I work a few days a month at Denver Health Medical Center for fun."

I last saw Moshe Tov (Peter) Kreps in Oregon in summer 1971. He says: "Inspired by Israeli music performances and Jewish spirituality while living in California in the '90s, I moved to Tzfat (Safed), Israel, an ancient reservoir of Jewish and Arabic culture and spirituality in the Upper Galilee. There, under the further influence of South American plant medicines, I founded the culture and performance venue Khan of the White Donkey in 2010, and in 2016, the Maqamat Music Center and School of Eastern Music as a platform for the performance and teaching of a wide range of Middle Eastern musics. Beyond musical goals, these projects intend to bridge the numerous local and intersecting foreign cultures. My other strong interest is in psychedelic medicine and therapies for mental and physical health. I helped establish research studies in Israel leading to acceptance and legalization of these substances for medical and personal use. My daughter and granddaughter live in Berkeley, Calif., my former home."

William Rosenbaum was a close Stuyvesant H.S. friend: our first Columbia adventure came during the Dean's Day reception, when the 'Hooray Henry' behind us in the receiving line left me wondering whether I shouldn't have elected Brooklyn College after all.

Bill writes: "I entered with the Class of 1969, stayed almost one year, rooming on campus. It was very much the '60s, and although not interested in the more potent experience-enhancing substances, which were not impossible to locate, I managed to participate. I did not manage to be a diligent student, however. I left to write poetry and explore the other coast. Fast forward

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several years: I found that I had developed an interest in building things and was determined to become an engineer. My financial situation had changed, and I enrolled in the CCNY Grove School of Engineering, which was still tuition-free. I lived in squalor in Hell's Kitchen and finally graduated as an engineer. I found out that, if you do not make a point of touting your lack of experience and skills, people will let you tackle whatever you like. I learned a lot of real-world stuff, proceeding to a 45-year career ranging from office work, to construction supervision, to commissioning, to department management, to vice presidency, still not letting on about my experience and knowledge deficits.

"Not incidentally, I got married, have two children, am divorced and, slow learner that I am, still consult in my chosen field. Best thing in my life: happy children. Worst thing: unhappy children. Go figure."

David Powell, my first College roommate, left in our sophomore year to pursue an early love, working with horses, his studies "already taking second position to riding commitments on Long Island."

Via a stint in Newmarket, Suffolk, England, David returned to his stepfather's homeland, France, in 1971, "where I did the officers' course at the French National Stud after working with various trainers. From there, I began to manage a nearby stud, simultaneously developing a career as a turf journalist specializing in the study of pedigrees. In 1976, I set up on my own and 'bought the farm' in 1981, breeding thoroughbreds there until my son Richard took it over in 2016."

David developed an international reputation as "an equine journalist, breeder and bloodstock agent, serving as a breeder who pretrained clients' stock; a manager for major owners, principally Magalen Bryant; a bloodstock agent; and for the last few years, keeping a rehabilitation clinic for racehorses." His three grown sons have followed him into the profession: Leo, as a trainer based out of Santa Anita Park in California; Freddy, as director of the Argana thoroughbred/purebred auction house in Deauville; and Richard, as owner of the family stud, Haras du Lieu des Champs, in Coupesarte, Normandy. "My French wife, Elisabeth, and I have 14 grand-

children, most of them passionate about horses," David said.

Sad news: **Gary Gunas's** husband, Bill Rosenfield, writes, "I'm sorry to tell you that Gary passed away on February 22, 2021, at 73, after a four-year battle with pancreatic cancer."

Gary was a popular Broadway producer who presented such musicals as *The Who's Tommy*, *Ragtime* (based on the E.L. Doctorow novel) and *Seussical*. After moving to London, Gary and playwright-record producer Bill shared insiders' memories of backstage Broadway at the end of its Golden Age over two years of the *Playbill* video series *Old Show Queens*. Obits can be found online at *Playbill*: bit.ly/3yp65uX and at *Deadline*: bit.ly/3fwf7E. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Did you fall in love with some novelist while at Columbia? Have you carried on the affair?

[Editor's note: In the Spring/Summer column, **Gregg Geller's** reference to the student band The Montgomeries was changed to the Montgomery Brothers, a result of a mistake made during our fact-checking process. *CCT* apologizes for any confusion or embarrassment this might have caused.]

1970

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Hope everyone is well and resuming more normal post-Covid-19 lives. I will start with a note from first-time contributor **Mark Braverman**, and encourage others to do the same:

"I've often thought of submitting to Class Notes, and I'm finally ready to take the plunge. Here goes: An intersection between my time at Columbia and what would have seemed then a completely unlikely destination in later life concerns Edward Said, in 1966 just starting out as an assistant professor of English and comparative lit, his status as a famous public intellectual and proponent of Palestinian liberation still in the future. I gravitated to him because there was nothing I wanted to do more than study late 19th- and early 20th-century English lit, and he was brilliant. I took every course he taught, writing papers for him that drew heavily from psychoanalytic theory (I went on to be a

clinical psychologist). Coming from a Conservative Jewish background and steeped in the romance and mythology of Zionism, I knew nothing of Palestinians — there were only the 'Arabs' who wanted to slaughter Jews and that's why we had Israel.

"I circled back to Said a few years after his 2003 death, when, following a trip in 2006 to the West Bank that flushed the last bit of Zionism out of me, I turned to writing, lecturing and activism for Palestine that pretty much took over my life. I have a couple of books, a slew of papers and co-founded two NGOs to show for it. The latest reinvention of myself is a 12-acre farm in Washington State with my wife, son and son-in-law dedicated to regenerative agriculture in advance of the climate apocalypse. If it doesn't come, wonderful — we've created a small corner of the planet devoted to local sourcing and cooperative community. If it does come we did the right thing for our children and grandchildren. See markbraverman.org and [@watermoon_farm](https://watermoon_farm) on Instagram."

My friend, Professor **David Lehman**, wrote to thank **David Bogorad**, editor-in-chief of our yearbook, for his first-time note in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue: "I am writing now just to thank you and **David Bogorad** for filling us in on what he has gone on to do since the yearbook he edited, which I recall vividly, along with the atmosphere of playful wit and sometimes impish invention at yearbook headquarters."

David also reported on his recent publication: "My new book of poems, *The Morning Line*, will be published in fall 2022. I write the 'Talking Pictures' column on classic movies for *The American Scholar* online (theamericanscholar.org/dept/sections/departments/talking-pictures)."

David also thanked me for mentioning Professor **Robert Launay's** translations of French poetry of the Renaissance in an earlier column. Robert gave me a status report: "Alas, our plans for travel do not take us any further than Ann Arbor to see my daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren for the first time in a year and a half! All my age mates in my department (anthropology at Northwestern) are retiring this year, and I will be left as the (chronologically) senior member. But I remain active, particularly as a mentor for international graduate students."

Hoyt Hilsman LAW'75 writes: "I continue my work in writing and politics. I recently completed a pilot for a TV series; am the head of the regional Democratic party; and am on several Boards of Directors, including a theater where I am also the resident playwright. My son and daughter-in-law live up the street from us after moving from NYC. My wife has retired from teaching but has an active career as an artist. We look forward to resuming travel after a year at home. Best wishes to all CC'70 classmates."

Chuck Silberman (who worked with me on the fifth and 10th reunion, oh so long ago) reports: "My wife, Susan, and I have a new grandson, Jack Owen Silberman. His dad is Jeff Silberman '08, BUS'18, with a J.D. from Yale in between. Jeff is now climbing the ladder at Boston Consulting Group."

Another first-time writer, **Paul Spooner**, writes partially in response to my request for notes that referenced the Byzantine Cathedral on the Greek island of Paros: "Greetings from Macau! The fall of Constantinople 1453 always plays a major role in discussions of the Portuguese arrival in Asia: Goa 1510, Malacca 1511 and Macau 1556. On the CC basketball front, so sad to have lost **Jim McMillian**, **Heyward Dotson LAW'76** and **Bruce Metz SEAS'69**. Look forward to your updates from Eastern Rome!"

Carl Hyndman GSAS'74 was also encouraged to write in response to my reference to Paros: "I have been to Paros three times: 1972, 1976 and 1999. My favorite Cyclades island. Inspired a chapter in my novel, *Bookstore on the Seine*. All the best."

Jack Probolus wrote after a long absence: "I have been delinquent in any class correspondence save for a small group of classmates with whom we have had many mini-reunions over the decades. I finally retired at the end of January and have eased into civic retirement with trips to the Caribbean. My wife, Susan, and I enjoy time with our four grandchildren, who are thankfully nearby. I have managed to continue rowing since graduation, but not competitively. It's been a great connection, and has helped keep continuity with a pack of former oarsmen. Looking forward to the emergence from the pandemic."

Ralph Allemanno gave me an update: “The pandemic and lockdowns have, of course, put most activity on hold. Fortunately, all family and friends have got through it all reasonably well — just the lash of frustration and ennui. I live in rural Wales and the difference between pre-Covid-19 and lockdown tempo of life is a bit hard to distinguish. Still, as we tentatively edge toward normality I have to admit that the thought of traveling further than the supermarket at Carmarthen is rapture!”

Larry Rosenwald GSAS’79 also gave me an update: “I expect to retire in June 2022, which is ponderous for me, having taught at Wellesley since 1980. I’m giving most of my available time to a book on being a pacifist critic, a book about me but also not about me. In the meantime, somewhat surprisingly, I’m having a lot of my scripts and song texts for early music theater performed by very good ensembles: Les Delices in Cleveland, Calextone in Berkeley and Texas Early Music Project in Austin.”

My RC from Fernald Hall, **Andy Kiorpes**, reports, “My daughters (36 and 40) are well and live in Madison, Wis. (‘26 square miles surrounded by reality’). I stay active. I finished my tours of duty as president of the American College of Toxicology and the American Board of Toxicology. I will be inducted as a fellow of the Society of Toxicology this year. I am starting to slowly wind down my professional activities, but am still editor-in-chief of the journal *Toxicology and Industrial Health*. I have been seeking successors but so far, no volunteers. I love biking and recently completed the Tour de Pepin (around Lake Pepin in Minnesota/Wisconsin), and am going to ride the Root River Trail near Lanesboro (Minn.).”

1971

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Congratulations to **Peter Hiebert**, who chaired the Reunion Committee for our 50th. They provided our class with a platform to have a virtual reunion, limitations from Covid-19 restrictions and precautions having turned our 50th into an online event, and yet, they succeeded in creating an enjoyable experience. As a class we

boldly went where no other class in the history of Columbia College had gone before — a virtual 50th reunion (with my apologies to Gene Roddenberry). So thank you to all the committee members who worked over months and months on the events for this reunion. Your classmates appreciate your efforts.

Peter also informs me that if virtual is not your cup of tea, a group of classmates are working on an in-person get-together on campus during Homecoming weekend (October 15–17). So please set aside that weekend. We share an experience unlike any other class of any other college. It makes us special and creates a bond; the fellowship should stay alive.

Peter took the opportunity to give *CCT* a small recap of where in life he stands. He retired from the practice of law last year. He worked on Capitol Hill for five years after graduation, and then attended Georgetown Law. For the last 36 years Peter practiced law at the firm of Winston & Strawn in Washington D.C. His wife, Elaine Chan, graduated in the first class of women from Princeton, and they have been married for 40 years. She is a retired marine biologist and lawyer. They have two sons, both of whom graduated from Colorado College. Peter presently splits time among Chevy Chase, Md.; Miami Beach; and the West Coast. He gets to New York frequently, as he has become, and I quote, “an unrepentant fan of Columbia’s [football] team over the years.” He leaves a standing invitation to meet at Robert K. Kraft Field at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium for a football game or even drinks afterward.

Greg Wyatt, as president of Fantasy Fountain Fund, has joined in partnership with the Rockland Community Foundation to create a grant program in 2021. It is meant to help artists sustain their creativity and offers financial support during the difficult environment for the arts created by the Covid pandemic. The community has suffered loss of financial backing because of the economy. Greg, who has been the sculptor-in-residence at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine since 1983 and has many of his works prominently placed in sculpture gardens and national museums, is fortunate enough to have a studio in the cathedral. Many sculptors don’t have similar

resources. The awards program offers \$2,500 to four professional sculptors who are working/living in the five boroughs of New York City, or in Rockland County or Westchester County. Greg, along with C. Scott Vanderhoef, has put together this program. It follows logically from their efforts to promote education in the arts for emerging and professional artists.

Last and not least, I will toot my own horn, as I have self-published my first mystery novel, *Identically Dead*, under the tricky pseudonym of L.A. Preschel, via Kindle Direct Publishing. I hope it is the first in a series featuring a female detective, Sam Cochran.

We are a special class and the bonds from more than 50 years ago should remain strong because the forge in which they were struck was such a unique home for us.

If you have a story you wish to tell classmates, let me know.

Be safe, be well and remember to roar, because once a lion, always a lion.

1972

REUNION 2022 JUNE 9–11

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Would you characterize our class as shy and retiring? Well, maybe not shy, but the latest batch of missives to arrive from our classmates suggests that we certainly are retiring.

Take **Doug Weiner** GSAS’84, for example. After 33 years as a professor in the Department of History at the University of Arizona, Doug taught his last course this past spring. He’s now on a yearlong research leave, after which his retirement becomes official. What next? “I would like to travel more once the pandemic is under control worldwide,” with the national parks in the west his first destination. “We’ve made plans for an August sweep through Zion and Bryce Canyon national parks with one of my closest friends. We’ll then meet friends in Salt Lake City and see the

bison herd on the Antelope Island peninsula of the lake. We’ll head back to Tucson via Arches. Not as exciting as Carcassonne, Provence and Spain, but a nice trip.”

Very nice indeed.

Another of our retirees is **Mark Mandell**. “I finally stopped working last March after almost 40 years in an emergency department, 20 years as the physician director of a very large and busy emergency department. Working in an ER is definitely for young people, not so much because of the stress but because you can’t control your workflow and because there is little opportunity for downtime during the course of a shift.”

Covid-19, of course, played a role: “It certainly didn’t make it any easier having to work 12 straight hours with a mask.”

In the meantime, Mark has found plenty of things to keep busy with, including family, gardening and studying a variety of languages: “French, which is pretty passable after working in Montreal for two years; Hebrew which is getting better; and Yiddish, which seems of sentimental value more than anything else.”

Mariano Rey, another of our physicians, who has been retired since 2014, sent an update of the last 50 years. “I met my wife, Mona, at Ferris Booth Hall, in summer 1970 when we worked together in the neighborhood around Columbia. I was the head of the student-run Community Service Council and she was a Block Association organizer. We have been together for 50 years, married since 1977. We have three wonderful children: Kathleen (a family practice physician north of Boston), Christine (a pre-K teacher in Washington, D.C., public schools) and Michael (a pulmonologist in Philadelphia), and five perfect grandchildren.”

After Columbia, Mariano went to medical school at NYU, where he spent the rest of his professional career. “I chose to be at NYU-Bellevue because of the exceptional care that all patients receive there, regardless of race or nationality, whether poor or rich.” Following a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology, his first faculty job was director of the Bellevue Adult Cardiology Clinic for Working Men and Women, and he was simultaneously involved on a variety of National Institutes of Health-supported

cardiology research projects. Mariano created the Non-Invasive Cardiology Center at Bellevue and the Division of Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehabilitation at the NYU Rusk Institute, and taught students in all four medical school years, in courses including cardiac physiology, clinical cardiology, electrocardiography and advanced coronary care. “The students voted me ‘Teacher of the Year’ twice,” he says, “once for teaching in the clinical sciences and the second for teaching in the basic sciences. Because of my impact on medical students, the NYU administration appointed me associate dean for student affairs (dean of medical students) in 2000. During my seven-year tenure, there were no academic failures.”

His last years at NYU saw Mariano involved in the establishment of The Center for the Study of Asian American Health, essentially creating an academic discipline to address the health of Asian-American populations. The center was a site for research on health issues affecting this population, with findings published in the 2009 textbook *Asian American Communities and Health*, for which he was senior editor. “For other community contributions,” he says, “I was honored in 2012 to receive the Haven Emerson Lifetime Achievement Award for Engagement, Education and Research from the New York City Public Health Association.”

Mariano retired from NYU in January 2014 at rank of research professor of medicine (cardiology) and population health. “Mona and I moved, with our two Havanese dogs (appropriately called by Cuban names — Marti and Maceo), to the island of Martha’s Vineyard, Mass. We love the island for the beautiful nature, the peacefulness and its community. We live here quietly, except, of course, when our precious grandchildren — Sophie, Lydia, Ryan, Eliza and Hannah — visit. They too love the island.”

Of course, retirement doesn’t necessarily mean the end of significant contributions to the broader world. **Gene Ross** retired from his career as an otolaryngologist more than a year ago, but when Covid struck he “answered the call to arms, and became a volunteer physician vaccinator for the Middlesex County, N.J., Health Department, from February 2021 (after becoming

immunized myself) until late June, when the bulk of the populace had been vaccinated and demand dropped off. I personally vaccinated several thousand patients, principally with the Moderna vaccine. Hard work. Sites would often inoculate 1,100 people per day with a handful of vaccinators.”

Fortunately, Gene and his family emerged mostly unscathed, though they did lose an elderly family member to the virus. “I sold my Riverside Drive condo just before the siege,” he adds, “and currently split time, with my wife, between New Jersey and Florida homes. My sons are all successful and paired off contentedly with girlfriends or fiancées. My magnificent wife helps me keep life vibrant and joyous. I haven’t forgotten that our 50th reunion is imminent.”

Funny you should mention that, Gene. Even (maybe especially) if you haven’t come back to campus for any of our reunions, next spring will be the time to do it. It will be very special to celebrate our lives over the last 50 years together; the more of you who come, the more special it will be. Details will follow but do plan to join us. And stay well.

[Editor’s note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1973

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These are the balance of the notes I got when I emailed “all” accidentally for the Spring/Summer 2021 issue. Apologies for the delay!

Steve Flanagan sent regards from Jan Lookingbill, former head resident of Hartley Hall. Jan stepped down as pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Bethesda, Md., in 2017; many of us remember him fondly. Last November marked Steve’s fifth anniversary at the Rand Corp.; he’s also an adjunct professor at Georgetown. He and his wife, Lynn, are well; their younger son, Neil ’08, lives nearby, while their elder son, Brian, lives in Los Angeles.

Joel Pfister, among others, hopes we’ve all stayed safe. He continues as a professor of English and American

studies at Wesleyan, and is writing a book (number 7) on American movies as social critiques.

Brad Poulos was director of a tissue bank for 20 years, sending human tissue for research across North America, resulting in more than 250 journal articles. He says he was proudest of the one that defined the growth factor that could help ALS patients. Unfortunately, a congressional committee put a stop to the research. He reports on Ed Cranswick ’75, who started as

where he posts little-known facts about people of that time. Obviously interesting — he has 7,600 people who “like” his Facebook page! He is also developing several original screenplays.

Steve Oney writes from the Cape, where he and his wife, Annie, live. Steve continues to write and produce the Cape Cod Radio Mystery Theater. They have put up some of their earlier radio mysteries for free during Covid, including one, *Stalking Lions*, which takes place at

Andy Kiorpes ’70 will be inducted as a fellow of the Society of Toxicology this year, and is editor-in-chief of the journal Toxicology and Industrial Health.

a ’73er and eventually went back to his motherland, Australia, and became an active antiwar protestor. Ed evidently passed away on July 3, 2020, in Adelaide, unfortunately.

Robert Pruznick lamented the necessary but unfortunate stoppage of the wrestling season, but still keeps in touch on the board of Beta Theta Pi, which he notes is the only non-CU real estate of West 114th Street! They have recently refinanced the mortgage; he and retired judge **Bob Sacavage** have been doing the heavy ... lifting.

Russ Goldberg wrote that after graduating from NYU Med in 1978, he did a residency in internal medicine in Chicago, where he met his wife, Linda. They moved to Seattle in 1983 and have “two great kids.” Russ retired in 2018 after 30 years, now filling in part time and volunteering as a Covid-19 vaxxer. He says he’s enjoyed the Northwest, and recently took up golf at 68! If anyone wants to get in touch, email him: russgoldberg@gmail.com.

Steve Messner transitioned to professor emeritus on February 1; he began his academic career at CC in 1977, and was at SUNY Albany for 38 years. He and his wife, Jill have begun to plan to travel more.

Erik Bergman spent much of this last Covid year birding all over Oregon (masked and socially distanced); he says he’s grateful for the wide-open spaces in the PAC-NW!

Christopher Koefoed is the founder of peopleofthecivilwar.com,

... Columbia. Steve sends a shout-out to Tom Kitt ’96 and Ben Platt GS’14 for their “Oh, Columbia” — “beautiful song, beautifully rendered.”

Maurice Peterson is at a high-point in his career; he was featured in a one-man show at the Norman Rockwell Museum, the last stop of a two-year museum tour that took him to France, as well. The show originated with one painting, but has grown to a 13-work solo exhibition; his website is popspeterson.com/copy-of-press.

And last: In 2019, **Jose Sanchez** and colleagues were able to get a street in Williamsburg named after **Angelo M. Falcón**, at South 1st and Havemeyer Streets, as an acknowledgment to his contributions to city and national politics. Bravissimo!

1974

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For the first time in more than four decades, there was no class news in an issue of *CCT* (Spring/Summer 2021). Ph.D. oral exams, marriage, the birth of two children, the 9-11 attack and all the other disruptions during this time period had failed to halt this column. Hospitalization with Covid-19 proved to be too great an obstacle to overcome. Therefore, this column will contain updates from classmates from more than the last few months.

This column wasn't the only thing postponed by the pandemic. Dr. **Steve Blumenthal's** son, Andrew, had planned a wedding and reception for July 2020. The wedding took place on time, but the reception was scheduled for this past summer. Steve was a longtime pediatrician in Portland, Maine, but retired at the end of 2020. Also retiring at the end of last year was **Tom Sawicki** JRN'77, who served for many years as the associate director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Jerusalem.

Two classmates have written in to tell us of new grandchildren. Dr. **Peter Zegarelli** DM'78 now has a second grandchild (granddaughter Lane), and **Ed Berliner** GSAS'80 now has eight grandchildren with the arrival of grandson Andrew.

Chris Hansen wrote that he moved to the United Kingdom in 1994. He says, "I've been a British citizen for 21 years — an anniversary of consequence!"

Few classmates have made a radical career change like **Marc Reston** did. For eight years (until 2016) he was an attorney at Chadbourne & Parke in its Washington, D.C., office. He then moved to become director of business development at Impairment Science in Cambridge, Mass. He describes the firm as an "applied neuroscience startup" that has developed a smartphone application that provides "an objective test for cognitive and motor impairment due to marijuana, alcohol, opioids and motor impairment (including concussions)."

On a personal note, I am pleased to report that Katie, the daughter of **Fred Bremer** and his wife, Susan, graduated in May from American University in Washington, D.C. She received two degrees: a B.S. in public health and a second B.S., in environmental science. Because classes were remote, her final exams were all "take-home" (or should they be called "stay-at-home"?). Students were allowed to use Google. I was jealous until I realized that Google did not exist in 1974 — and there weren't even PCs!

There you have it. The Class of '74 expands as our kids marry and others have kids of their own. Classmates are retiring while others are busy in new careers. "The times they are a-changin'," as Dylan said.

1975

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Classmates, I have no news to share this time, but don't be shy about sending me some! Use the email above or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). See you in the Winter 2021–22 issue!

1976

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Flipping on the Technics turntable once again with *Bookends* by Simon & Garfunkel, and now off to the column!

First, many thanks to the Bicentennial Class of 1976 for attending our 45th reunion virtual events during the past year. Our attendance and giving exceeded all expectations. In addition, the Zoom events (we did seven!) were a tremendous diversion for my cat, who was happy to have me otherwise occupied during quarantining.

A recap of the last two Zooms: Early April had a theme of memories of the One Big Thing that happened at Columbia during our four years. That Zoom also had a question and answer with Cat Sposato '21. Hearing firsthand the on-campus student experience during the pandemic and a recap of her college years was very interesting. The next Zoom featured the One Big NYC Thing that would not have been seen if we were not students. The session was lively; good stories and a lot of laughs.

Thanks to everyone who participated online or sent their messages to be included in the sessions. In previous columns, I mentioned a lot of participants, but these last two Zooms had two new attendees: **Reynold Verret**, president of Loyola University in Louisiana, and **Toomas Hendrik Ilves**, former president of Estonia.

Dave Getty was one of a number of classmates who could not make the One Big NYC Thing Zoom but sent in a great memory: "On a cold Sunday morning in December 1972,

my good friend **Bobby Werber** on Carman 9 offered me his family's extra ticket to the Jets-Saints game. We escaped from final test cramming and took the subway to Shea, where we witnessed two all-time great QBs face off in my first NFL game. The lowly Saints (2–8) defense shut down Broadway Joe all day, much to my delight, being a Bears fan and hating all sports New York. Archie Manning was an incredible one-man show, passing, running and leading an upset until the final second, when the Jets kicked their sixth field goal of the game to win 18–17. I have told this story many times, usually when watching Archie's sons play or seeing Joe Namath's Medicare commercials."

Mark Abbott was another '76er with a great memory of his One Big NYC Thing: "My big thing was discovering the downtown NYC rock scene in 1975 and 1976 at Mother's, Max's and CBGB and seeing live shows by Television, Talking Heads, Ramones, New York Dolls and Patti Smith, and several nights of late-night jams by Smith, Lenny Kaye, Lou Reed, Iggy Pop, John Cale, Mick Ronson and David Byrne at the Lower Manhattan Ocean Club in 1976! Started buying 45s at Bleecker Bob's!"

During our June virtual reunion, Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74 led a conversation about what endured from our Columbia experience, and it spun out in many interesting directions. That virtual Zoom-union ended with a surprise for Roger as the Kingsmen sang both "Sans Souci" and "Roar, Lion, Roar" as a '76er thank-you to him. See the nearby photo!

So, I eased out of my Zoom-antennae with a trip to South Jersey for a round of golf with **John Connell** and then lunch with him and his wife, Colleen. Next was a trip to Syracuse to see Mika and check up on her at Chez Goodrich.

After a visit to Chincoteague Island in Virginia, I drove up the Atlantic Coast, stopped in Rehoboth Beach, Del., and had a great lunch with **Mozelle Thompson**. After lunch, Mozelle gave me a tour of the town, including a drive-by of the Delaware White House. Afterward, I took the Cape May-Lewes Ferry back to the Garden State Parkway, then counted cars on the New Jersey Turnpike (keeping with this column's record album theme!) before returning to Hoboken.

Now to the updates. **Patrick Bergin** checked in from Oregon last spring: "Patiently awaiting Death of Covid-19 here in Oregon. I am an interventional cardiologist, so I get to mix with the sickest patients a lot. I mean that in a good way. :) Despite best efforts, failed to contract Covid, so settled for Pfizer vaccine, administered on New Year's Eve."

Doug Halsey writes: "At the end of June 2017, I retired from White & Case, where I was head of the Environment and Climate Change Practice Group. I continue to do work for a handful of clients in Florida and New York and have a nice balance between work and family. My wife, Amy, and I have three grandchildren: 6 months, 3 and 5 from our son (a dermatologist) and daughter-in-law (an orthopedic surgeon). Our daughter married this past June and is part of a pediatrics group in New London. Amy and I will celebrate our 45th anniversary this year. We split our time between Miami and Bridgehampton, N.Y. We trust there will be a Class of '76 reunion and think the fall would be a great time to have this event."

Doug is right! The Reunion Committee is discussing an in-person event in addition to Homecoming on Saturday, October 16.

With the new use of remote technology, **Ken Tamashiro** had this suggestion: "I am thinking that in future years we could have an in-person reunion on campus in June and a virtual 'homecoming' in October or November, when hotel rooms are scarce and dorms are not an option."

Great idea, and this year's Homecoming would be a good time to try it if classmates cannot get to New York.

Some classmates were exhausted by Zoom and are eager to see everyone in person. **Jonathan Margolis** summed up that opinion: "I couldn't do one more Zoom or virtual meeting without pulling my hair out (and judging by the pictures, I have a lot more than most of our colleagues). I will definitely be at Homecoming and look forward to seeing everyone."

I received this message from **Joshua Zakheim**: "My youngest daughter is in a joint program between the Jewish Theological Seminary on West 122nd Street and General Studies, so it's been fun visiting the campus (except last year) and seeing all the changes,



CC'76 held its 45th reunion virtually on June 2. In a screenshot from the gathering are, at top (left to right): Ken Howitt '76; Roger Lehecka '67, who led a conversation about what endured from the class's Columbia experience; John Connell '76; Tom Motley '76; Michelle Martin, assistant director, student-alumni programs; and Steve Davis '76. The main photo is the Kingsmen, who sang "Sans Souci" and "Roar, Lion, Roar" as a thank-you to Lehecka.

some for the better and some for the worse (in my opinion). I still forget to call Livingston by its 'new' name, whatever that is. A shoutout to my old friend **Louis Steinberg**. I would mention some more old comrades, but I'm supposed to be working right now (from the basement)."

I saved our sitting Federal District Court judge for the last update. (When Judge Judy retires) So, even though he is far from retirement, **Vinnie Briccetti** checked in: "In April, I passed my 10th anniversary on the bench, which gave me a chance to reflect on how blessed I am to have the best law job on Earth. Never a dull moment, and during Covid-19 we all worked harder than ever. We never closed; we just found different ways to do our jobs (like everyone else). Seems like everyone I know is retired (or is about to retire), but I have no intention of doing so. I'll keep plugging away for as long as I can do my job. One fun fact: Ted Green '77, LAW'80 (he was managing editor of *Spectator*) frequently appears before me; gives us a chance to reminisce.

"On the personal side, I now have two grandkids — 2-year-old Felix and 3-month-old Molly. I finally figured out why we bothered to have children! One last thing: In the Spring/Summer 2021 issue, *CCT* included a piece about the "most nostalgic noshes and hallowed hangouts." But how could it not include The Mill Luncheonette, on Broadway between 112th and 113th Streets? It's where most of us got our first egg cream. Also, the proprietors, husband and wife, were Holocaust survivors

— I will never forget the tattooed numbers on their arms."

Bookends was a great choice since "Old Friends" is now playing. Our voices are still young, our memories are still fresh and your outreach created a great reunion year! Thanks!

1977

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–11

Reunion Contact
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A year ago, **Walter Simson** gave a shoutout to **Bill Gray** in this column. That was in the middle of the pandemic, of course. And the fact that it was reminded Bill, as he explains, "how important — and pleasant — it is to maintain connections." ... But I will now hand the mic over to Bill (the remaining quotation marks being his):

"I am still a working attorney. I no longer resent the 'When are you retiring?' query except from work colleagues. Speaking of working attorneys, **Michael Sherman** and I have maintained a great friendship throughout the years despite being separated by a continent since graduation. We met in Hamilton Hall on 'Accepted Students Day' in spring 1973. I easily identified Michael as

another 'potential' student from the look of terror on his face and his new blue blazer, which set him apart from the sea of 'actual' students whirring through the corridors. (If memory serves, I blended in much better as my blazer was a tad more shopworn, but that might be self-serving.) Our wives and children have been regaled with stories of our Columbia days and enduring friendship more times than may have been strictly necessary, but that hasn't deterred us yet.

"My wife, Monica; our three children; and our new son-in-law have been hunkered down in our new home on City Island, the Bronx, not to mention three canine companions. We sold our home in Larchmont in 2018 and escaped to this 'fishing village' off the northeastern tip of the Bronx. It has become a great sanctuary during the pandemic, especially for my daughters who live in Manhattan. Even our Barcelona-based son has made it home for the holidays. Becoming a true local here is a bit of an effort, but Monica and I are enjoying the challenge. Proximity to the sea (Eastchester Bay, south and west; Long Island Sound to the east and north) is a big draw. The mini-beach at the end of our street offers an often-spectacular vista of the Manhattan skyline that is hard to beat. The island is less rustic than rusty, but charming if you know where to look. Classmates interested in a visit or a tour know how to reach me.

"The devastation of Covid-19 lies all around us. Nobody needs to hear more about that from me. But I would like to mention a small loss that crossed my mind when reading *CCT*. For the previous eight years, I have hosted 'Mini-Core' courses organized by Professor Deborah Martinsen, associate dean of alumni education. (Her mentor was our own beloved dean, Robert Belknap.) Billed as opportunities to reconnect to the Core Curriculum, the Mini-Core courses connect great Columbia teachers with grateful alumni of all ages to explore triumphs of art, music and literature in a symposium setting. Professor Martinsen has curated an eclectic program through the years: presentations on ethics by Professor Philip Kitcher; Chaucer readings (sometimes in Old(e)English!) by Professor Eleanor Johnson; a guided tour of the art of Monet, Picasso and Warhol, directed by Professor Noam Elcott '00; and

Professor Martinsen's presentations on *The Brothers Karamazov* and on the unlikely trinity of Augustine, Dostoevsky and Nabokov, to name a few. Enjoyable as those classes were at the time, the memories of sitting in a room exchanging ideas and thoughts (often fortified by light libations) with 25 fellow Columbians, and a sprinkling of Barnard graduates and other friends, are all the more cherished in this year of social deprivation. It was a bit of an adjustment, I confess, listening to professors who were not only smarter than I, but considerably younger and infinitely hipper. Things change; life goes on.

"Here's hoping that we can soon again enjoy those simple social interactions which added so much to the fabric of our lives. With 2020 in the rearview mirror, let's 'fight on to victory evermore.'"

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1978

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It's great to be hearing regularly from so many classmates these days, and especially from some new folks in each column. We are limited in the number of words we get, so I'm doing my best to get everyone in each issue. Keep the cards and letters coming, as they say.

Ronald Koury, managing editor of *The Hudson Review*, writes to tell of a great Columbia story: "It was thanks to a job listing at the Columbia employment office that I landed my first job at *The Hudson Review*, a quarterly magazine of literature and the arts, in 1981. In June I celebrated 40 years at the magazine.

"In April, my anthology, *Places Lost and Found: Travel Essays from the Hudson Review*, was published. Columbia professors such as Edward W. 'Ted' Tayler (his famous class on Shakespeare) and Robert F. Murphy '49, GSAS'54 (anthropology) inspired my lifelong love of travel. This is my second anthology published by Syracuse University Press.

"I am a bachelor living in Manhattan."

Kevin Vitting, at the Suburban Nephrology Group in Ridgewood N.J., writes: “As a citizen living in one of 13 former colonies, I pause, writing this on Independence Day 2021, to ponder the notion of freedom in the present moment: freedom to again move about and gather with friends and family, freedom to receive a miraculous vaccine at public expense — and freedom to denounce said vaccine and to espouse bizarre conspiracy theories and racist ideologies.

“This is certainly not the first time our republic has been so deeply polarized by such conflicting viewpoints. Previous generations of Americans learned to acknowledge, if not condone, ideas that to them were preposterous. Democracy is messy and noisy and frankly inefficient. But it is the noble vessel that has borne our imperfect but hopeful Union through many ages ... and no, I didn’t lift this from an old CC paper!”

Tim Weiner JRN’79, one of 1978’s most well-known multi/major award-winning authors and journalists and former fellow WKCR board member, looks back with these positive thoughts: “It’s been a good life: one amazing marriage for 27 years, two beautiful daughters (25 and 21), long stints at *The New York Times* (16 years) and *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (11 years), lots of amazing adventures in places like Afghanistan and Sudan, six books published including histories of the CIA and FBI, and a seventh underway.

“I still have (almost) all my hair. Am I a lucky guy or what?”

Rob Blank, at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research and a fellow Five John Jay alumnus, notes: “We’re in Sydney, Australia, and in full lockdown. It’s tougher the second time around. We were more or less back to normal except for the foreign travel ban until about two weeks before I wrote this. Looking forward to sufficient vaccination for travel to resume.

“How did Columbia prepare me for this last year? Reading Thucydides on the plague remains insightful even in the modern world. Looking ahead it is hard to know where America is going from where I am. Sadly, I am not greatly optimistic.”

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit Judge **Joseph A. Greenaway Jr.** writes an opinion for us, “Family Fun — my son Joe SPS’17 had a Covid-19 wedding last

July and recently moved to California. My daughter Sam finished USC (no, not that one — South Carolina) and recently moved into her first apartment. My youngest started eighth grade in September. The bench is still great fun, and my wife’s professorial life means learning all the time. Hope to see you guys before our 45th in 2023.

“I am really looking forward to seeing friends and experiencing some sense of normalcy in the coming year.”

David Margules, a long-time partner at Ballard Spahr in Wilmington, Del., says: “My wife, Michelle BC’77, and I have become grandparents. Our son, Andy, and his wife had a baby girl, Margot Elizabeth Margules, on July 1.

“I’m enjoying the emergence from my cave after Covid-19. There have been some great positives. After almost 40 years, my marriage didn’t suffer from a year and a half of confinement with my wife. I also gained an appreciation for telecommuting. I’m still trying to figure out how to turn off my cat avatar on Zoom. I am looking forward to being able to hug lots of people this fall!

“I do remain very concerned that our national polity is sharply divided in half, that each half is convinced the other is trying to destroy the country and that each believes everything is a lie.”

Joel Levinson is an attorney in Red Bank N.J. “The highlights of this summer included my grandson Leo turning 2 this September, and me and Larry Sackler ’79 going to see the Grateful Dead this August,” he writes.

“Among many other items, Columbia gave me a love for Shakespeare, which made for some great reading while stuck in the house this year. This fall I plan to get out on the water and row more.

“As for the future, I fear we are heading for another shooting Civil War, thanks to spineless Republicans who cater to baseless conspiracy theories and a criminal demagogue just to get reelected. And I am a registered Republican, although I must say my party left me, not the other way around.”

Barry Rosenblatt, of SME Biotech Consulting in Boynton Beach, Fla., shares: “I am living in Florida, consulting for the pharmaceutical industry remotely. I retired twice, but I keep getting pulled back in. I got married last October, pandemic-

style, outdoors on the lanai of my house on our lake.

“I am struck by the fact that no one was really prepared for 2020. As for the changes for the next few months, I’m going to start eating at restaurants again ...

“And, as for our country, until Americans start acting with civility instead of politics, our society will continue to degrade.”

Dr. **Marcel Favetta**, who has an M.B.A., is at Geisinger Health System in Wilkes Barre, Pa. He writes: “As an ob/gyn working for a large healthcare organization in northeast Pennsylvania, the past year has had an unusual effect on our lives. The increased reliance on telemedicine has significantly changed how I can interact with my patients.

“My spouse is a recently retired infectious diseases specialist whose former partners have been crushed by the onslaught of Covid-19 patients cared for by the same organization.

“Interestingly, our social interactions among a close group of friends were never significantly impacted as we rode out the worst of the pandemic.

“One of our children moved back home. As a ‘background’ actor in numerous film and TV productions, his career has been in limbo for more than a year. Luckily, he has been able to transition to online voice acting and sound editing. Our other son works for a large entertainment company in central Florida. The fear of interacting with potentially unvaccinated guests on a daily basis has been incredibly stressful, but he has been able to work through the process. Luckily, the availability of a Covid vaccine has positively impacted our entire family.

“I think America is doing poorly. Many in this country have not learned the art of critical thinking, which is at the core of a liberal arts education. This is not in the least a condescending thought.”

Joseph Schachner SEAS’79, a veteran at Teledyne LeCroy in Suffern, N.Y. writes: “I took the five-year plan at Columbia, ending up with a B.A. and a B.S.E.E. I wanted to be an engineer, and I have been for most of my career. Now I am a manager of a small group of software engineers and, having turned 65, I think my ‘career’ will be coming to an end within two years. It’s been a very good career. But it’s time to retire My older daughter

has two kids, our grandchildren. The second is now a year old. We went to meet her only a couple of months ago, after they and we were all vaccinated. Planning another visit soon.

“In March 2020 I brought home my laptop and its dock and very happily worked from home for the full year. After being vaccinated I started going back.

“I kept thinking, thank heaven we have a normal President again. But I do harbor a fear that this is not a permanent course correction, but just a brief pause from a party that denies climate change — denies reality in some cases — and believes that they should choose who can vote easily, if it will help them win.”

In my own life, my eldest daughter, Elana (31), was married to Sean Young in April in our New Haven backyard (bigger event next Memorial Day). They live in New Haven, where Sean is part of an interesting computer space simulation environment/game called Space Engine — sort of Google Earth for the universe. Younger daughter, Joy (27), is back from two years living and working in Shanghai, to accompany her partner, Austin Brown, to San Diego, where he is starting a two-year international policy master’s at UCSD. After two years at the global video recipe giant Side Chef, Joy is looking for marketing jobs in food or environment, if anyone on the West Coast has any ideas. My wife of 36 years, Marian Chertow BC’77, continues her international leadership in the fields of industrial symbiosis and ecology as a professor at Yale. Budderfly, our startup in the area of energy as a service, is growing well, and I hope you will see it near the top of the *Inc.* 5,000 by the time you read this.

Until next time, cheers and be well!

1979

Robert C. Klapper
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Jace Weaver SIPA’81, LAW’82: “The article on Columbia hangouts in the Spring/Summer 2021 *CCT* [‘The Places You Called Your Own’] got me waxing nostalgic. I thought of all the places that it excluded. They’re too numerous to mention; places now gone in a city that constantly changes. I’ll mention just a few favor-

ites. The article, of course, mentions the late-lamented The West End, but it fails to mention The Gold Rail, closed in 1978, where the pitchers were cheaper. The Hungarian Pastry Shop was an ancillary to The Green Tree Hungarian restaurant, where I downed many a delicious cold cherry soup and chicken paprikash. Ta-Kome, where Morton Williams now operates, competed with Mama Joy's. Hungry Mac's was where H Mart now is. For years after it closed, I had its sign '70 Seats Upstairs' on my kitchen wall. Then there was Moon Palace, home to cheap Cantonese fare that the *Times* described as a 'frayed local gathering place' and that folded in 1991. For those of us willing to venture slightly farther down Broadway, there was La Bella China Restaurant, a bastion of that vanishing New York institution, the Cuban-Chinese restaurant, and Cannons, a working-class Irish bar that finally gave up the last ghost in 2004.

"When I returned to Morningside Heights in the 1990s for my master's and Ph.D., I worked in Washington Heights, where I found a new set of hangouts, some immortalized in Lin-Manuel Miranda and Quiana Alegría Hudes's *In the Heights*. But that's a tale for a different day."

Robert C. Klapper: "For the last 10 years I have hosted a radio show in Los Angeles on ESPN, *Weekend Warrior*, which has given me a unique opportunity to combine my love of sports, art history and medicine, and discuss the connection among these seemingly diverse worlds. My weekly guests include professional athletes, artists, physicians and renowned experts from academia. The mix of disciplines makes for a one-of-a-kind listening experience, and is unlike any other traditional sports radio show.

"Kobe Bryant recorded the promo that I use each Saturday encouraging Laker fans to 'get your weekend started off right by listening to the *Weekend Warrior* show with Dr. K-l-a-p-p-a-h.' I continue to play the promo on the show because of how much Bryant meant to me and to all of Los Angeles.

"Because I took the Core Curriculum, and despite being pre-med majored in art history, now each Saturday for two hours I get to combine the worlds of art, sports and surgery.

"My guest can be from Hollywood (Dustin Hoffman and Wil-

liam Shatner) or from sports (NBA Hall of Famer Isiah Thomas and football legend Dick Butkus). But it is when I venture with my guest into the world of art that I really feel my Columbia College vibrations.

"I recently was given a birthday gift of a new book about my favorite artist, to whom I was introduced during our sophomore year while taking art history. Sculptor Michelangelo and his life's work changed my life forever, leading me to ultimately travel each summer to the mountains of Carrara so I can sculpt like he did using the same rock that he used to make the *David*. The book, *Michelangelo, God's Architect: The Story of His Final Years and Greatest Masterpiece*, is by William E. Wallace GSAS'83, the Barbara Murphy Bryant Distinguished Professor of Art History at Washington University in St. Louis. It is the eighth book he has written about Michelangelo, and the focus is on the last 20 years of the master's life (age 70–89), which involved building St. Peter's. Wallace argues this was the most productive time in the sculptor's life, not because of the amount of sculptures he makes, but rather in his creativity as an architect, and getting others to carry out his vision.

"[In the foreword,] Wallace acknowledges his mentor, Howard Hibbard, and I learned that Wallace earned a Ph.D. in art history at GSAS. I was so excited to read this because my love affair with Michelangelo achieved a great height when I took a course my junior year with Hibbard. I called the publisher and was able to connect directly with Wallace, and the friendship was instantaneous, knowing that all these years later we probably ate at V&T, The Hungarian Pastry Shop and Mama Joy's at the same time. My radio interview with him opened the eyes of many sports fans in Los Angeles, but how special it was for me to continue to connect the worlds of art, sports and surgery because of what I learned 40 years ago at the College.

"Roar, lion, roar!"

1980

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After spending 18 months in hibernation, NYC is back, almost! We survived the pandemic and the

new normal is slowing taking hold. Midtown is starting to pick up with professionals retuning to work, and the city that never sleeps is feeling like its old self.

One of the first restaurant events was a wonderful dinner at Carmine's, near campus, with **Eric Blattman**, **Jack Hersch SEAS'80** and **Dave Maloof**. We toasted with a glass of chianti to our friend Harlan Simon '81, whom we lost to cancer. Jack has taken his passion for flying to a new level with his book *The Dangers of Automation in Airliners: Accidents Waiting to Happen*. Both Dave and Eric were in good spirits and glad to see familiar faces.

A group of CC'80 football players — **Scott Ahern**, **Eric Blattman**, **Joe Ciulla**, **John Hall** and me — spent a great weekend at the home of **Shawn FitzGerald** on the North Fork. Wonderful food, great wines and amazing renditions of classic southern rock songs. Not quite sure if Joe remembers all the words, but his performance is epic!

I thank all my classmates who checked in with me over the last year. Please feel free to reach out to me with news.

1981

Dan Albohn, **Kevin Costa**
and **Rich Gentile**
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Like the weddings, anniversaries, graduations and other celebrations held over the last 15 months, our quinquennial reunion was different this year. Rather than sharing handshakes, cocktails and family photos, we shared stories over Zoom.

More than 40 Columbia and Barnard College Class of 1981 alumni spent time on June 2 reliving life in Morningside Heights during the late 1970s and early 1980s. With **Rich Gentile** and **Jean Pedersen BC'81** setting the stage, any concerns that this virtual reunion might be awkward were quickly allayed once participants began sharing their stories. From **John Luisi** doffing his much-too-small C'81 beanie, to discussions of classes, restaurants, professors and the infamous Pub, together with an unexpected showing of a Sam Steinberg original, the

evening showed that our college years remain very much with us. And let's not forget the amazing but true tale, recounted by **Richard Silbert**, about why you shouldn't decorate your dorm room with a very, very heavy, rolled-up carpet found on a Broadway sidewalk. The great debates of the era, of course, remained unresolved: Ta-Kome or Mama Joy's? Tom's or College Inn? CC or Lit Hum? (Well, we didn't really debate the Core.)

For those who were unable to attend but would like to hear some of the evening's banter, it's memorialized on YouTube: "Reunion 2021: Class of 1981 | A Stroll Down Memory Lane." Here's a link: bit.ly/CC81REUNION.

Rich Baugh has attended nearly all our reunions, and greeted us this year from Harrisonburg, Va., in the bucolic Shenandoah Valley. Rich continues to practice law for Hoover Penrod and served for 12 years on the Harrisonburg City Council, including a stint as mayor in 2011–12. He and his wife, Cathy, a proud alumna of James Madison University, are season ticket holders for Dukes football. Rich is a great storyteller, and shared some of his recollections on Zoom and in correspondence with **Dan Albohn**. Rich applied to Columbia with tepid support from his family, but once he arrived, he "really wanted to be here. I wanted to take in the whole experience, and admittedly, spent more time checking out bands and eating interesting, cheap food, giving perhaps less attention to my studies." Rich frequented Yung Yuan Szechuan on Broadway, The Green Tree and La Bella China Restaurant, which "people either loved or hated." He also recalled what we believe to be The Edelweiss Café, situated across from campus on the corner of Amsterdam and 116th Street — does anyone else recall the place? During junior and senior year, Rich lived in Plimpton Hall, which was renowned for its Thursday night happy hour, followed (for some) by a sequel at The Pub.

Speaking of The Pub, **Dan Tamkin** weighed in from NYC and told stories of many hours there as part of a crew whose final, preferred destination was The College Inn. Dan also "ran the category" on watering holes in the neighborhood, sharing some history of the Marlin Café, the

Third Phase, The Gold Rail and the iconic The West End. Check out the video for the rest of the story.

Manny Tirado, a regular at Columbia football games and exuberant as ever, recalled Chock full o' Nuts for its quality cup of coffee at a great value. Manny, who served in the Army Reserve, always seemed to be involved in local political campaigns during college. True to form, he's now managing a friend's campaign for judge in Dutchess County, N.Y. After 24 years with the New York City Transit Authority, Manny retired in August 2021 and moved up the Hudson to Greenwood Lake, N.Y., where he enjoys boating, fishing and some good BBQ. He remains in touch with "my best friend from college," **Ricardo Salaman**.

In addition to the rolled-up carpet, **Richard Silbert** recalled a different harrowing experience for some: the infamous Columbia College swim test. Your humble correspondents recall that bathing suits were optional. In retrospect, the swim test was our first Pass/Fail course, and those who failed landed in a remedial swimming class for gym.

Also joining the re-zoom-ion was **Erik Jacobs**, a native of Morning-side Heights, who joined us from his favorite bench in Central Park.

Erik recalled the Barnard frosh who was hypnotized and made to cluck like a chicken in Ferris Booth Hall during Orientation — he was sitting next to her and swears that she had no recollection of the hypnosis, let alone the clucking — and the antics on 3 Hartley, where he was placed as a freshman with some students who had been at Columbia "on the seven-year plan."

Erik claims to have gone helicopter skiing and rented Madison Square Garden to play full-court basketball for his 50th, but admits that since his knee replacements at 55 he's had to stick to bicycle riding around the city like he did in high school: "60s is the new 16," he exclaims.

Erik reports that **Harvey Sawikin** (whom he's known since fourth grade) had the B-52s play at his 60th birthday fest last February 29 (and no one got Covid-19!), that **Mark Magnier JRN'84** has just moved back to the Big Apple after more than 30 years living and working in Asia as a journalist and that **Dr. Basilio Pace** was to be busy all summer with his latest urgent care

facility — on Long Beach Island, N.J. — where Basil also teaches surfing in the winter.

Dr. Mike Mercandetti, a surgeon, also zoomed in, from Florida. Mike has had a few surgeries himself over the years, having just hung up his skates after a near 50-year career as a hockey player. But Mike couldn't stay for long, as he was, coincidentally, visiting with college wrestler **Dr. Steve Eskin**. Steve, now an emergency room doctor in Columbus, Ohio, also made a cameo via Mike's mobile phone.

Returning to the subject of restaurants (because reunion attendees understood that you're never far from your next meal), another favorite eatery for locals and students alike was Moon Palace, which had outstanding roast pork with bean sprouts, and other delicacies. Speaking of palaces, we encourage classmates to search the Memory Palace to generate stories for future columns. The memory palace idea is a mnemonic metaphor: You store your memories in a place you remember well. Wherever you may be, stroll out to the Sundial, grab a coffee or beverage of choice and hang out on the Steps to chart your course. We look to build on this theme in subsequent columns, and as always encourage you to share your news and stories. We understand that Class Notes remains the most popular destination in CCT, where we all turn first. Let's also make it our favorite part — and have some fun doing it together.

1982

REUNION 2022 JUNE 9–11

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Well gents, we drew a donut this time. I guess you're all busy attempting to refurbish your homes or going out for dinner, or implementing some other home-grown economic stimulus plan.

Given the circumstances, I'll prattle on with a proud-parent mo-

ment. On January 31, my daughter Hannah submitted her Ph.D. dissertation to the London School of Economics and the following day joined the faculty of the Harvard Business School. I've decided to forgive her for this.

Other than that, I got nothin'. Hope to hear from you guys next time around. We have a really easy-to-remember email address, so take a minute to fire off a note!

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1983

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Greetings, classmates. I am finally making a dent in the backlogged emails sent last year. Please send updates.

Carl Birman: "After graduating from Duke Law in 1987, I worked and lived in Brooklyn for more than 15 years before launching my own law practice in Westchester in 2005. From 2005 until early this year, I worked in the family courts and local criminal courts, as well as at the Appellate Division, Second Department, as an assigned attorney on behalf of indigent adult clientele and youth and children in need of representation. Then in January 2020, my wife, Beth; son, Jared; three cats; small lizard; and I relocated to the Albany suburb of Colonie, N.Y. Just before the Covid-19 shutdown we sold our house and got the heck out of Dodge, so to speak. I took a position as assistant county attorney with the Albany County Department of Law prosecuting child maltreatment and abuse matters in Albany Family Court as well as handling fair hearings involving child protective investigations. It's compelling, challenging and important work. In many ways Albany in 2020 reminds me of Brooklyn in the 1980s.

"Although I am probably the antithesis of an active Columbia alumnus, I frequently have occasion in my professional life to brag about graduating from college with **Barack Obama**, even though I never had the good fortune to meet the future President; indeed I did

not even know his name until many years after graduation.

"Not only does a Columbia degree still mean so much, it is also a piece of my sense of having grown into the person I am today thanks to living, studying and working in the city with all its challenges, grit and excitement in the 1980s and 1990s. Also, every couple of issues I do enjoy reading the Class Notes, and I'm happy you tracked me down to be included in this section."

Dante Alencastre: "Oh, boy! I think that I was probably smoking too much weed, like Barack, to remember much about campus life. What I do remember well, and changed my career path, was I started as a premed student, and attended a Columbia Players play in the black box in Ferris Booth as a sophomore.

"I was already a theater buff, but that experience made it more accessible. The group was a little snobbish and I never thought that they would give me a chance, but in summer 1980 I studied with Ionesco in Paris and that impressed them, so that fall I directed *The Bald Soprano* and *The Lesson* and I cast a male student to play the role of the female lead. That was pretty subversive for us then. I have been a storyteller ever since, for the last 15 years a documentary filmmaker based in Los Angeles.

"Alas, I don't keep in touch with anyone from the class, but most of the gay guys I knew died of AIDS or left NYC. I did run into my first crush a couple of years back. He is a CC'84, and he and his husband came to one of my NYC screenings. It was great fun to see him after all these years.

"This week I am locking picture on my latest documentary, *AIDS Diva: The Legend of Connie Norman* (2020), about the late trans activist, an icon of L.A.'s ACT UP chapter and pioneer spokesperson of the trans community in the late '80s and early '90s.

"My mom passed away almost 10 years ago and that is the only family I had aside from my chosen family here and in NYC.

"Thanks for sending me down memory lane. Follow me @dalencastre."

Eduardo Diaz-Perez: "I am a managing director in credit risk management for Credit Suisse, running the Real Estate and Asset Management team. On a whim I enrolled in a civil war history class taught by

James Shenton '49, GSAS'54 and it is my most memorable education experience ever. I remain in contact with **Brian Neary SEAS'83**, **Ken Popovec** and **Tom Doyle**, all of whom I met freshman year. Married for nearly 40 years to Melissa, and we have three adult daughters."

Gardner Semet BUS'91: "I took over as the business line manager of the commercial real estate lending department of Israel Discount Bank of New York this past March. Ninety percent of my time is spent working from home. My son, Victor, who worked all through the lockdown with my wife, Daphne, at Mount Sinai Hospital, decided to move into NYC. Both Victor and Daphne are participating in a coronavirus vaccine trial. My daughter, Gabriella, made the opposite decision and moved back to Pompton Lakes, N.J., in June.

"I am in contact with **Doug Novins PS'87** and **Jon Ross**. Doug is a pediatric psychiatrist in Denver, and Jon is running his charity, MicroAid, from New York.

"I hope you and the rest of our class are well, and I look forward to a time when we can all be together again."

Michael Azerrad: "I now have audiobook versions of two of my books. Famed former MTV anchor and *Rolling Stone* journalist Kurt Loder read *Come as You Are: The Story of Nirvana* and Jeff Tweedy, Sharon Van Etten, Fred Armisen, Stephin Merritt, Jonathan Franzen and many others read chapters of *Our Band Could Be Your Life: Scenes from the American Indie Underground 1981-1991*.

"I profiled Merge Records founder and Superchunk leader Mac McCaughan '90 in *Columbia* magazine's Winter 2019-20 issue (bit.ly/3BwnoMt). I'm at work on an annotated version of *Come As You Are*, with a publishing date TBA."

Michael Broder: "The year 2020 marked some important anniversaries for me. Ten years ago, I finished my long-deferred doctorate in classics at the CUNY Graduate Center, with a dissertation on queer kinship and camp aesthetics in Juvenal's ninth satire. Twenty years ago, I met Jason Schneiderman, the man who would become my husband in 2004. Thirty years ago, I became HIV-positive. I'm grateful for the years of life and health I've had, and I hope anyone reading this will take a moment to think of the Columbia

peers we lost to AIDS. As for more recent news, my husband's fourth book of poems, *Hold Me Tight*, came out in 2020. Jason insists the title is not a Beatles reference, but I suspect my friends **Jordan Shapiro** and **Lou Orfanella '82** would have a thing or two to say about that."

Dion Macellari: "In these crazy times it's been a blessing to have Columbia years to think back on and from time to time drift away for a minute. Recently, I was talking with a friend about my junior fall semester in Paris at Reid Hall, where I met two of my oldest friends, **Jeff Thomas PS'88** and **Andrew Weisman '82**. These are friends I've had for almost 40 years, which is pretty amazing.

"Last December my mother passed away at 90, after a brief illness. It was a perfectly timed exit and up until a month before she had been incredibly energetic, taking daily long walks and visiting a nursing home regularly to provide companionship to hospice patients.

"I've been a professional artist for more than 30 years, working first at various NYC ad agencies. When I moved to Los Angeles in 1991, my focus shifted to the entertainment industry and I have been doing murals, art for TV, theater, concerts and film ever since. Most recently I did the paintings for the Judy character in the Netflix comedy *Dead to Me*. Other notable shows include *New Girl* and *United States of Tara* as well as a sequence in *500 Days of Summer*. I consider myself incredibly lucky to be able to do what I love and get paid for it."

Wayne Allyn Root: "Just another 'Only in America' story for this CC'83 grad. I've been in the sports gambling business my entire adult life. Within two years experts believe 40-plus states will have legal sports gambling. I recently went public with my company, now called Winners Inc. And we recently announced our new national spokesman, Pete Rose. When I was a kid, he was one of my heroes. What an honor to spend time with 'Charlie Hustle' and now call him a personal friend. As Don King used to say, 'Only in America!'"

Looking forward to catching up with you at CU sporting events. My sons and I still have our same seats for the basketball games behind the CU bench.

1984

Dennis Klainberg
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Celebrity Spotlight Time!

Since our last power-packed column, this writer regrets his failure to push you guys (and gals) for fodder via e-blast, as is my wont (and of course, there's nothing to stop you from ping me, as the kids say, at your convenience). Then, literally, in the 11th hour, as a result of a meeting between my brother Joshua (senior VP of the NY League of Conservation Voters) and — as it turns out, a fellow denizen of Nassau County — a long lost friendship was rekindled, leading to this most amazing contribution.

Ladies and gents, I give you **John J. Giuffré**:

"I went to Penn Law and, after a short stint of big-firm life at Morgan Lewis, I have embraced the life of a small-firm lawyer trying per-

most dedicated and most capable people you would ever want to meet. Check us out: giuffrelaw.com."

Love his catchphrase: "Don't delay, call Team Giuffré!"

John continues: "As a Long Islander with two adult children (John Paul, a recent Villanova grad; and Danielle, attending Providence College), my lifelong interest and participation in public service politics took a new turn. I was nominated to run for the Nassau County Legislature in the 8th Legislative District, where we have lived for 30 years. This run has been motivated by a deep desire to maintain the suburban quality of life that we currently enjoy in the 8th Legislative District, which encompasses Franklin Square, Floral Park, Bellerose, Bellerose Terrace, West Hempstead and portions of Elmont, New Hyde Park and Stewart Manor.

"I would love the support of fellow Columbians for this run for elected office. Please like our Facebook page: Giuffré For County Legislature.

Dion Macellari '83 has been a professional artist for 30-plus years, and is now in the entertainment industry creating murals, art for TV, theater, concerts and film.

sonal injury and medical malpractice cases, as well as the occasional commercial and estate matter.

"Columbia College will always have a close place in my heart because I proposed to my wife, the former Lauren Dippel, at our five-year reunion in Low Memorial Library. (FYI, my teenage daughter pilfered my five-year reunion T-shirt and made it her own!) Two of our groomsmen, Horace Cocroft '85 and Ignazio Fazio '85, were my friends from Plimpton Hall.

"It was great catching up with **Dennis Klainberg** recently and comparing notes on all the friends and professors we knew in common — **James Weinstein**, Professor Jim Shenton '49, GSAS'54; Professor Walter Metzger GSAS'46; and so many other luminaries among the Columbia College faculty.

"With Lauren's help, I started my own law practice in 1993 and have never looked back. Giuffré Law Offices is a team of 10 of the nicest,

"It was at Columbia where I learned — courtesy of Professor Metzger — so much about the Progressive Republicans, such as Theodore Roosevelt, and his initiatives to protect the environment, which means so much to me. From Teddy Roosevelt and the National Parks to Richard Nixon and the Clean Water Act of the early '70s, Republicans have an honored tradition of being good stewards of the beauty and quality of the natural world God has given us. I hope to continue that tradition. Professor Shenton ignited a lifelong interest in military history.

"Columbia College opened so many doors for me, both intellectually and practically, and I am always grateful for the education I received. Loved the Core Curriculum! Roar, Lion, Roar!"

Subject to our Spring/Summer 2021 column's "Spotlight on Eli White," we heard from none other than my CUMB bandmate Dr. **Thomas D. Shin**, assistant professor

of ob/gyn at Columbia University Medical Center/NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital: "I also was a resident of Eli White! That was one crazy semester to start freshman year. I'm pretty sure **Mark Siegel** also lived there with us."

1985

Jonathan White
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First of all, I hope that you and yours remain safe and well, and that we, individually and collectively, will enjoy a healthy and prosperous balance of 2021. For so many of us, 2020 was a year of many challenges. Thanks to many of you for your observations about the impact of Covid-19 on your world.

Luis Miniet reported, "Our offices in NYC were one of the first to close down in early March with a confirmed case of Covid-19. We then quickly realized that we could not even gather with our three grown children (in three different cities) because of so many unknowns, including the severity of the virus. In those first few months we lost one of my children's godparents and several older relatives of friends and acquaintances. The biggest fear was the unknown ... how long, how bad and how will we find a way to defeat the virus? Although things were very difficult, one positive effect was the opportunity to reconnect with friends and family (even if by phone or Zoom) and reconfirm how important they were to us. I hope this is something we can keep and expand thanks to the pandemic.

"Around the middle of the year, my employer, TIAA, offered a voluntary separation package in an effort to reduce expense to the company given the forecasted effects of the pandemic. I took the package and the opportunity to move closer to friends and family and headed to South Florida. The move has also given me the opportunity to start a new professional chapter. I am looking for my next adventure using my expertise in change management, business transformation and M&A integration. I am reconnecting with alumni in South Florida, who have been a great resource in offering their advice and recommendations. As with so many who have gone

before us, I continue to benefit from our great education and Columbia network of extraordinary people."

John Phelan "missed singing the most, seeing my daughter Unity perform at Lincoln Center and hanging with my other three great kids in NYC. As for me during Covid-19, I met a woman, and followed her to Charleston, where I hung out for five months, realized she was not for me and came back to NYC. My dog, Toby, was my constant companion. I learned that I love dogs more than I thought I did. I now say that when I die, I hope that where I go is filled with dogs. I am happily in a new relationship. Found someone else who loves dogs, among other things." John sent a great *Spec* article about dogs in the time of Covid: spectator.org/dog-adoption-covid-new-best-friend.

Judah Cohen GSAS'94's twin boys, Jordan '21 and Jonathon '21, graduated this past April. "I was really looking forward to returning to campus to celebrate but the entire graduation was virtual. So definitely a Covid-19 bummer.

"We had all of our children home with us from March through September. I felt bad for my sons, missing the Columbia campus experience, but it was nice having this unexpected time with all of our children. That for me might have been the most rewarding consequence of Covid. Maybe you would be particularly interested in this as well: I started drinking coffee regularly during Covid, something I never did. My daughter and son-in-law also moved in with us and they brought with them their Keurig machine, and I got hooked. I really look forward to starting my day with a cup of coffee. They took their Keurig when they left in August but I bought a Nespresso machine and a French press and I enjoy both. Now instead of commuting in the morning I drink coffee, a win-win for me!"

Seth Radwell notes: "I have been working for two years on a book project, *American Schism: How the Two Enlightenments Hold the Secret to Healing Our Nation* (June 2021). It has an introduction by Professor Jonathan Israel, one of the world's most renowned academics of the Enlightenment, and has been endorsed by both academics and journalists, including Ana Navarro from CNN, Pulitzer Prize-winning

author David Garrow, Yale Professors Jacob Hacker and Stephen Darwall, and Harold Meyerson from *The American Prospect* and *The Washington Post*. See americanschismbook.com."

Fortunately, the world rolls on with our normal activities. **Tom Wheeler** is still practicing maternal fetal medicine in Fort Wayne Ind. His son, Evan, is a USMC designated marksman in Eastern Virginia, awaiting deployment.

Thank you, Evan, for your service.

Paul Bongiorno is proud to report that his son Gabriel will attend Harvard Law School this fall.

Getting into school these days is a special challenge, particularly at the College. You might have heard that applications were up 50 percent, with more than 60,000 students seeking admission. Less than 4 percent of students were offered admission. No idea how I would come close to getting in today

As for my Covid experience, we were truly very fortunate. My wife, Allison BC'86, had Covid-19 in March 2020, and although I was asymptomatic (aside from a few evenings with slight chills and a bit of a stomachache), I had positive antibodies through all of 2020. We spent a month in Florida last winter (two two-week stretches), where Zoom meetings are just like a Zoom meeting in New York. I have been back to the office pretty much full time in 2021. The majority of our employees had Covid at one point or another. Gratefully, no one was severely ill, although several folks have lingering symptoms.

For those of you who have left the New York area, it is astonishing how quiet the Midtown business district remains as of this writing. I hope by the time you get this issue, as Broadway shows and more regular office visits return, activity will look a bit more normal, although the impact on the economy is likely to linger for some time.

My true pride and joy are my three kids, out conquering the world in their own way. Isaac '14 was part of *The New York Times's* Pulitzer Prize-winning team for its coverage of Covid. He assisted on some of the programming and has also been working extensively on its election coverage. He and his wife celebrated their first anniversary/delayed wedding celebration in Vermont in September. Noah is enrolled in graduate studies at UC Berkeley, while working/climbing at the leading climbing gym and in Yosemite. Josh is enrolled at Miami in an M.B.A. program, and spent the summer in Tennessee calling games for the Kingsport Axmen, a program under MLB supervision.

And to help transition out of Covid, I've been at Citi Field every chance I get. Columbians who joined me included Corey Klestadt '86, Leon Friedfeld '88 and several Law School classmates.

If you are on campus, at Homecoming (Saturday, October 16) or at football games, please let us know who you run into, and what folks are telling you. And keep sending me your updates. This column gets pretty boring without you!



A June 25 celebration at The Flying Lobster, in Red Hook, Brooklyn, marked the 75th birthday of Don Hahn, former Columbia Jazz Ensemble director and legendary trumpeter. Gathering were former Jazz Ensemble members (left to right) Mark McGowan, Paul Foglino '84, Gil Aronow '83, Ted Houghton '87, Mike Skrebutenas '86 and Frank Napolitano '86.

JOHN MOSC

1986

Everett Weinberger
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Imagine if I told you in 1986 that in 2021, our 35th reunion would be canceled due to a global pandemic, and in its place, we would have a video reunion in which we'd socialize together on our computers or cell-phones. As a cocky 22-year-old, you would first joke at how freakin' old we would be then. And then you would be shocked that there was a pandemic but you would at least understand what had transpired. It would be most difficult for you to comprehend that we filmed ourselves at home and met virtually through something called the internet. I have to admit, though, that there is nothing like seeing each other in person, particularly friends we haven't seen in years. The very definition of a reunion is physically returning to campus, eating and drinking together, and reliving old times with friends. So the virtual reunion did not do it for me. Oh well, I hope we'll party twice as much at our 40th in 2026. Until then, my strong advice to you is *carpe diem* and YOLO. If there is something you've always wanted to do, don't wait!

You Sung, however, was more positive about the experience. "I attended reunion and particularly enjoyed the 'Today's Columbia College Student Experience' segment and the Virtual Social Hour. I will say that the former was quite enlightening, as I was essentially a commuter student for my first three and a half years. I'm in my 26th year in private practice as a gastroenterologist in a large group in Eastern Connecticut. I have a wife and two sons: one in college and the other starting to look at some."

Scott Weber wrote: "Having gotten divorced about four years ago, I remarried two years ago. Alicia and I were able to get in an extended honeymoon to Australia and New Zealand before the world shut down. I stay busy with my small law firm (Norris & Weber), specializing in trust and estate litigation. I also am a mediator for trust and estate controversies, which I really enjoy. We have a small (112-acre) ranch an hour and a half northwest of Dallas, and I relish getting away to hunt, fish and tinker in my woodshop. I

hated to miss out on our 35th, but look forward to catching up soon. Let me know if anyone's travels will bring them through north Texas."

Frank Napolitano: "Was able to catch up with **Mike Skrebutenas** and other Columbia University Jazz Ensemble alumni in June when we attended a 75th birthday get together/gig for our former band director, trumpet player Don Hahn, who still sounds great (see the nearby photo). Mike is a senior VP at Community Preservation Corp. in Albany. My days are spent as the risk manager and insurance director for the Catholic Archdiocese of New York. In September, my novel, *Day of Days*, about the fire service at the World Trade Center on 9-11, will be published. It's based on my experiences there that day, and afterward at Ground Zero with my volunteer fire company."

1987

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9-11

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As the world begins to emerge from the pandemic, we can start looking forward to our next reunion, which is less than a year away. How wonderful it will be for all of us to gather together again in person!

Lloyd Lim reached out: "The pandemic lockdowns gave me more time to focus on the piano, which I began as a freshman at CC. I recently played for my current piano teacher a transcription of Beethoven's *5th Symphony*, which shows that one can learn an instrument even if starting relatively late."

Sally Patrone represents indigent criminal defendants by day and paints and writes at night from her home in Beverly Hills. In June, she had three paintings in the Spectrum Gestalt 8 show at bG Gallery at Bergamot Station. Sally is also looking to connect with a publisher for a legal thriller she wrote.

In sad news, you have probably heard by now of the June passing of **Eric Rogers**. His news has graced

our column many times over the years. **Nancy Rabinowitz Friedman** was gracious enough to share some of her reflections with us:

"Eric and I met during Freshman Orientation and started dating before freshman year even officially began. We were together for almost our entire college careers, and stayed in touch regularly in the decades since. After college, Eric moved back to Los Angeles, where he worked for a short time in banking, and then — as Angelenos do — went into the entertainment business.

"Eric's biggest success was in the reality TV genre, with a few extreme sports shows that were popular in the East Asian market. Eric spent a lot of time in Thailand, and spoke Thai fluently. It was amazing to see the astonishment on people's faces at Thai restaurants when he started to chat! In 2006, while on a trip in Thailand, it was discovered that Eric had advanced thyroid cancer. When the usual treatments failed, Eric pulled his two kids out of school, and he and his wife took them on incredible international adventures: He wanted Ethan and Lindsay to witness and share his love of travel, and to make memories that they could treasure when he was gone. But then he was put on an experimental drug, and lived 15 more years. No one lived those years more fully than Eric. He was an unbelievable enthusiast, relentlessly positive and upbeat until the end. Eric's wish was to visit 100 countries — he made it to 77 — before he died on June 10, 2021, surrounded by his family and his fiancée, Kate.

"Eric was an indomitable force. We disagreed about almost everything except that we valued each other's friendship and the history that we shared. I will miss him always." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9-11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information.]

1988

Eric Fusfield
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Our classmates continue to inspire, impress and occasionally warm our hearts. One example is **Nairi**

Checkosky Balian, who offered her thoughtful reflections on some relatable experiences.

"My family and I are grateful that we have made it through this difficult time and finally see some light," she wrote. "We lost a dear uncle and sweet cousin early on in the pandemic and we are left with beautiful memories and a sadness we have yet to fully realize. We are moving onward and upward, though, keeping in mind that there is no room at all for division in society — and I know we all hope that the world comes to understand this as we all realize how intertwined we actually are when things start to unravel.

"As for Columbia, I remain very involved, serving on the Columbia College Board of Visitors and volunteering as a Class Agent and for the Alumni Representative Committee," Nairi continued. "It is so wonderful to connect with fellow alumni. I have said a number of times (to many people!) that volunteering in any capacity should be meaningful, easy and fun. Meaningful, because we should be having an impact; easy, as it shouldn't be something that is onerous and painful; and fun, as we all have enough going on in our lives and our work that volunteering should bring us a measure of joy. And working with such fantastic alumni and staff at Columbia especially has been all three!"

Jeff Katz, who has been at the Boston office of the Ropes & Gray law firm since 2001, has used teleworking as an opportunity to meet **Aaron Pressman** for regular coffee stops at the French Press Bakery & Cafe in Needham, Mass. "A good day turned great if Aaron's wife, **Whitney Connaughton**, joined," Jeff said. "Aaron recently left *Fortune* to join *The Boston Globe* to cover technology for that paper's business section. Whitney is a United States and Canada HR leader at Mercer."

Carlos Cruz sent a note about world-class chef **Anita Lo**, who received the Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Merite Agricole from French Consul General Jeremie Robert in New York. Robert praised Anita for her dedication to the French culinary arts and for being "a pioneer who paved the way for more diversity and more women in the field of cuisine," according to the Consul General's tweet.

Chapeau, Anita!

Congratulations to **Adrienne “Rennie” Brodeur** for winning the New England Society Book Award last year. “After a career spent in publishing and helping other writers find their voices, I finally carved out time for my own writing,” Rennie said. “In 2019, my memoir, *Wild Game: My Mother, Her Lover, and Me*, became a national bestseller, and while on book tour, I had the opportunity to reconnect with some classmates. *Wild Game* is currently in development, so with luck there will be a film. I also just sold my next book, a novel, which will publish in spring 2023.

“I am the executive director of Aspen Words, a literary nonprofit and program of the Aspen Institute, a job I love and that takes me to Colorado frequently,” Rennie added. “After living in New York for 25 years, my family and I relocated to Massachusetts (Cambridge and Cape Cod) in 2019, where we enjoy a less urban and hectic existence. I would be thrilled to connect with any fellow Massachusetts- or Colorado-based classmates. I hope you all are thriving, and I look forward to hearing your updates.”

Shari Hyman enjoyed a dinner with classmates in Chelsea Market. “I wish we had taken photos ... we simply enjoyed each other’s company,” Shari wrote. “**Claire Theobald, Stephanie Schwartz** and I got together for dinner at Buddakan. (Yes; we are still that cool!) Claire has relocated to Charleston, S.C., from NYC, and Stephanie has a new

job with Tufts’s Fletcher School as director of communications, public relations and marketing. With Claire in town, we used it as an excuse to have a post-vaccination dinner together.

“I changed jobs just before the pandemic and am now heading up government relations and external affairs for Turner Construction Co.,” Shari said. “It is not a new job in that I’ve been there 18 months, but given the pandemic, it certainly feels new to be in-person at a full office again.

“The three of us managed to stay healthy and busy during the pandemic, with the upside of Zoom making it easier to connect more frequently than we otherwise would have.”

Stay in touch! We look forward to our classmates’ tales from the post-pandemic world — both of new paths taken and familiar patterns renewed. Be well.

1989

Emily Miles Terry
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As I write this column this summer, we’re happy to be shaking off the pandemic (I hope!) and beginning to reconnect. It was wonderful and reassuring to hear from so many of you — thanks for writing in with your inspiring updates. From planting a stunning garden in a previously dead patch of Earth (**Margaret Cosgrove!**) to discussing Russian cybersecurity threat on *This Week*

with **George Stephanopoulos (Niloofar Razi Howe!)** our classmates found myriad ways to live fruitfully during the last year or so.

From **Anne Pfitzer** (whom we happily claim as Class of ’89 even though she graduated in 1988!) “Greetings from your not-very-frequent Class Notes contributor. Quarters were tight in our Takoma Park, Md., home with two adults working remotely and two teens doing virtual school for all but a few final weeks of the school year. I and my oldest son spent six weeks in Maine last summer, and we are repeating it as I write this. He found summer jobs and I can still work remotely for a couple of remaining months. What will normal look like in the fall? Probably not exactly how it was before. But thankfully all of us are vaccinated. The same can’t be said for hundreds of my colleagues who live in low- and middle-income countries around the world. So international travel is still likely to be on hold for a while yet.”

Thomas Spencer’s son is now officially employed by alma mater! Tomas writes that he is “very proud to say my son Michael now works for Columbia! He is a research assistant in the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene. He is on the path to becoming a clinical psychologist. I spend my time lately in my pool and reading the latest by Christopher Paolini. My mother’s new book, *Miriam’s Life*, is due out soon. My daughter is in her third year at Mount Saint Mary College.”

A huge congrats is in order for **Tim Kelly**, who had an “interesting 2020” but for a vastly different reason than the rest of us. Tim writes: “I waged a campaign for mayor here in Chattanooga (an adventure in and of itself in the midst of pandemic) and managed to actually pull off the caper in April of this year, after a long and grueling campaign and a subsequent runoff. So, I’m writing you from the Mayor’s Office two months in, just really starting to dig into the bulk of the work around (really interesting) public policy challenges. I was fortunate to be joined by a few classmates on the night of my victory: **Brent Forrester ’90, Wade Graham, Mike Falk** and **Tim Cabot**. It was quite an evening.”

See the nearby photo!

From the West Coast, Columbia University Trustee **Wanda Holland Greene** TC’21 wrote in on her first

day of vacation to catch us up on what she’s been up to during the pandemic and her experience as head of Hamlin School, a K–8 all-girls school in San Francisco: “After leading Hamlin nearly nonstop since the pandemic descended, I am proud that I opened the school in the fall for in-person instruction five days per week. Doing so required courage, decisiveness, collaboration and the conviction that opening schools was essential to excellence in education, equity and the economy. By the end of the school year, it was so gratifying to have so many people vaccinated and feeling more calm and joy as the city reopened. We hosted two graduations — maskless and in-person — because the regulations had shifted by the time we hosted our ceremonies for the Classes of 2020 and 2021.” In addition to being Hamlin’s head of school, Wanda worked throughout the pandemic as a trustee and vice-chair alongside **Lisa Landau Carnoy, Victor Mendelson** and **Julie Jacobs Menin** and as a member of the Columbia Alumni Association and working on the Task Force on Inclusion and Belonging. Of this experience, Wanda says, “It was also wonderful to be a part of several Columbia virtual panels that brought truly inspiring programming to alumni worldwide.” And if that wasn’t enough to keep her busy, Wanda finished another master’s during the pandemic (a master’s of education in organizational leadership from Teachers College), and writes, “So I am a three-time graduate of Columbia! Roar!”

Congratulations and thank you, Wanda!

I caught up with another educator, **Peter Metsopoulos**, who said the pandemic “has been like entering The Upside Down.” Peter is the founding director of a Leadership & Entrepreneurship Institute at a K–12 private school in Baltimore, and he worked throughout the pandemic to meet his school’s equity promises while the school worked to bring students and faculty back safely. Peter says, “Hybrid teaching and training was ... not ideal, but we persevered, and I feel lucky for the health of my family. This summer saw me bringing my son back for his third year of college at UMD, seeing my daughter off to her first year at Parsons (another excuse to visit NYC!) and preparing my youngest for his 10th-grade year. Having helped



Tim Kelly '89, the recently elected mayor of Chattanooga, celebrated his win on April 13 at the Chattanooga Brewing Co. with (left to right) his wife, Ginny; son Cannon; son Jack; and Tim Cabot '89. Also joining the party but not shown were Mike Falk '89 and Brent Forrester '90.

the Leadership Institute weather the storm, I'm off in search of new adventures in building innovative programs in education or the nonprofit sphere, and happy to talk with anyone who wants to partner or brainstorm (pmetsop@gmail.com)!"

Jason Carter wrote in that his summertime "highlights" plans were to reconnect for the first time in a year with his sister, Jamie Carter Jorif '91, SW'93, and her husband, Darien Jorif '92, SW'97, on a short vacation to Vermont. Jason wrote: "As I write this I'm on day three of a 10-day journey by car from Washington, D.C., to Los Angeles, where my son will be moving to work in Hollywood for William Morris Endeavor, the big talent agency there. I've passed through the Cumberland Gap and visited Nashville and now Memphis. I am traveling alone and will visit Little Rock, Oklahoma City, the Texas panhandle, parts of New Mexico, the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas and finally L.A."

Bonnie Host has been sharing some lovely photos on Instagram of outdoor walks with her older brother, who is a couple of classes above us at Columbia. Bonnie writes, "We hadn't seen each other for more than a year We had so much fun spending the weekend together!"

David Halberstam writes another hopeful note: "I have been on the faculty at the University of Michigan Law School, along with my wife, since 1999. (She teaches voting rights and anti-discrimination law, I teach constitutional law and EU law, and we've both been worried our fields might go extinct.) The big news is that our daughter is a member of the Class of 2025! Her twin brother and older sister are on the East Coast, too. I hope folks are holding up in these difficult times. And if anyone has advice on empty nesting, do let me know."

Dolores Sukhdeo's (née Wilson) middle son, Charlie '25, is also now on campus. "He's a double legacy with both me and my ex-husband, his dad, Devand Sukhdeo '90," Dolores notes.

Congrats!

In case you missed the announcement in the Spring/Summer 2021 Bookshelf section, my Carman 11 suitemate **Beth Kissileff** edited *Bound in the Bond of Life: Pittsburgh Writers Reflect on the Tree of Life Tragedy*, an anthology with essays written

by journalists, academics, rabbis and other community members, which reveals a city's attempts to cope, make sense of and come to terms with the shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh's Squirrel Hill neighborhood. In the book the three impacted congregations are able to reflect on their experiences in a raw, profound way, and local reporters who wrote about the event contribute stories that they were unable to earlier. This is Beth's fourth book.

Happily, some of our classmates' offspring have now joined us as Columbia alumni—Congrats to **Rob Laplace** and **Cristina Benedetto**, **Raymond Yu**, and **Pat Ryan SEAS'89** and **Jen Fudge Ryan** and your kids!

Speaking of Cristina, a huge, heartfelt thank you to her for writing such a great column for us in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue. And also wanted to let you all know that our Winter 2021–22 column's guest writer will be Berkeley, Calif.-based **Erik Price**. Please contact me if you're interested in guesting a column, and don't forget to check out our Facebook group, Columbia University Class of 1989 Undergraduates. If you have a problem joining, contact **Jared Goldstein**: facebook.com/jaredbgoldstein.

1990

Rachel Cowan Jacobs
younggrache@hotmail.com

This is an exciting column for me to write and I hope for you to read, because many classmates are making their first appearance! First off, **Ramon Camacho**, who majored in English literature and then earned a J.D. from Penn in 1993. For more than nine years, Ramon has led the international tax practice in the national tax office at RSM US, the fifth largest accounting firm in the country. His daughter graduated from high school in June and starts at Northeastern this fall. During the pandemic, he was a CC mentor to an undergrad English major and says he found it immensely rewarding.

Folks, if you're looking to add meaning to your life, sign up for the Odyssey Mentoring Program through the Columbia College Alumni Association: college.columbia.edu/alumni/odyssey-mentoring.



Longtime friends (left to right) Sharon Rogers '90, Rachel Cowan Jacobs '90, Laura Frank '90, Judy Shampianer '90 and Robin Wald SEAS'90 gathered in Silver Spring, Md., on June 27.

Sam Bae, a gastroenterologist with a specialty in cancer prevention, is fellowship-trained at Memorial Sloan Kettering in New York. He is the past chair of gastroenterology at Hunterdon Medical Center and is currently professor of medicine at Hackensack Medical School. He's also chair of The Asian Cancer Prevention program at Englewood Hospital. Sam has been married to Jade Bae, a malpractice attorney, for 24 years, and no, they did not meet in the courtroom. They are almost empty-nesters, with three children who attend Harvard, Boston U and Boston U, respectively, and the youngest almost out the door, as Sam puts it. In college, Sam was part of the CC-Juilliard program, and today we can find him playing violin with the Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, and on the tennis courts, where Jade routinely wins. He regularly sees Auggie Cheh SEAS'89, BUS'91 and Monica Kim BC'90, and caught up with **Luke Shin**, who was visiting from Korea.

Lara Beaty had planned to dance for a few years after graduation and before starting graduate school, but her dance career ended prematurely when she was hit by a car during a 1991 Gulf War protest on the Brooklyn Bridge. The accident secured her commitment to activism on a range of social issues and brought her to union work. Lara is a professor of psychology at CUNY LaGuardia Community College, and is the Professional Staff Congress CUNY LaGuardia Chapter chair. The PSC represents 30,000

CUNY faculty and staff. Lara recently finished a sabbatical, the timing of which was both good and bad. Good because it meant not having to continue to teach online during the '20/'21 school year, but bad because planned travel abroad was canceled and plans for a book were postponed. Lara earned a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the CUNY Graduate Center in 2005. Her research is about student-school relationships, with a focus on development and the struggle to succeed in college. She lives in Astoria, Queens, with her children, Styliane ("Stella") Apostolakis-Beatty (she/her), who is currently attending City-As-School H.S., and E. Terrence Apostolakis-Beatty (they/he), who is 22 and busy with art. When Lara was married, the family spent a few years in California and Idaho, but she says she's much happier back in the Big Apple.

Wade Anderson emailed from Westchester County, N.Y. He married Leslie Cohen BC'90 in 1995, and they have two sons, one of whom graduated from the University of Miami in the spring and the other who is a junior at CU Boulder. Leslie has been teaching in Ardsley, N.Y., since graduation, initially for first-graders and now in the middle school. Wade earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Fordham, and later did psychoanalytic training in Westchester, where he works in private practice. He keeps in touch with his dear friends and former throwing teammates from the track team, **Chris Young**, Seth Dailley '91 and Marc Volpe '89, as well as

his high school quarterback, **Terry Elliot**. In closing, Wade says, "I miss the ease of seeing everyone on the Steps or milling about on campus. Great memories!"

Brent Byerly wrote from his home in Phoenix. He met Teresa, the most gracious person he knows, right after graduation and has been married to her for 26 years. Their children are Bryan (22), who majored in business administration in college, enjoys sand volleyball and was job hunting as of June; Kaylee (21), a junior at Wheaton College, majoring in Spanish, following a pre-med track and on the volleyball team; and Ben (14), already 6-foot-5 and the family's tech guru. Brent spent his first 19 years after Columbia in property casualty insurance. In 2010, they bought an Aqua-Tots Swim School franchise and now have two year-round, indoor locations in Phoenix. What the future holds, only time will tell, Brent says.

Our final first-timer is **Michael Anastasio**. In September, he and his wife, Annmarie, will celebrate their 23rd anniversary. They have three daughters: Bianca (20), a senior at Temple; Carla (19), a sophomore at SUNY Cortland; and Daniella (16), a high school junior. Mike says, "After growing up in Brooklyn and attending CU in NYC, my wife dragged me, kicking and screaming, to suburbia about 20 years ago. We have lived in Massapequa, L.I., since then. I have remained active on the alumni front, specifically in regard to football. I am on the board of the Columbia Football Players Club, which helps raise money for the

football program as well as provide guidance and support to current Columbia football players through a mentoring program. I have found participation in the CFPC mentoring program quite rewarding: It has allowed me to give back by lending a helping hand to players in need of off-the-field guidance as they navigate their way through the challenging experience of playing D1 football while handling the academic rigors of Columbia. I was even asked to write a Rhodes Scholarship recommendation letter for the first player I mentored several years ago. I felt more pressure than writing a 10-page Lit Hum paper freshman year!

"I regularly see and/or speak to several of my former teammates. A couple of years ago, **Paul Tomasi** was honored at the annual Columbia Football Alumni Golf Outing. The showing of support for Paul was fantastic, as several of our teammates, including **Scott Buitekant**, **Larry Rancilio**, **Brad McCormick**, **Mike Pennekamp**, **Will Knight**, **Chris Reed**, **Ed Takvor**, **Mike Henry** and **Paul Myott**, showed up, many of them traveling from out of state to do so. In addition to the aforementioned classmates, I also keep in contact with **Greg Palega**, who lives in Sweden, as well as teammates including **Chris Della Pietra '89**, **John Alex '89**, **Dave Putelo '88** and **Mike Bissinger '88**. I will try not to wait another 30 years before submitting more news."

When we last checked in on **Lauren Bauer Zinnman**, her twins were about to enroll at Columbia. Now they are seniors and her youngest is a first-year at Harvard. Preparing for their empty nest, she and her husband bought a house in Southampton, N.Y. While walking their two Shih-Tzus, they bumped into **Jim Barkley** and his wife walking their dog, Lila. Turns out they have a house five properties away from Lauren's. Jim recognized Lauren from her Columbia hat! It pays to dress well.

Lauren Z. often sees **Lauren Roberts** (née Felton), who has been a public defender at the Bronx Legal Aid Society since 1993. Lauren R. is teaching a legal writing class at Fordham Law this fall, has a son who is a junior at Columbia and has a daughter earning a master's at Columbia in communication sciences and disorders.

With respect to the pandemic, **Justin Abelow LAW'95** reports, "After some months of work from home spent largely in Tuxedo Park, N.Y., the Abelow family has returned to Manhattan, at least for weekdays. This event has been met with various degrees of relief by the human members of our family and with sheer, unadulterated disgust by Mopsy the Wonder Dog."

Domestically, the increase in vaccinations and the decrease in Covid-19 cases has improved the lives of so many, in multiple ways. A positive impact it has had on my life is the ability of my children to have

on May 24, 2021, for their efforts toward reunion planning and for their enthusiasm and spirit! A huge thank-you to everyone on the Reunion Committee for all that was done to make our 30th virtual reunion a reality!"

It was so great to see **Betsy Kalin** recently when she visited Orlando the week of our virtual reunion, and to help her start the next chapter in her life. She reports: "It was amazing seeing our classmates at the virtual reunion! I especially want to thank the Reunion Committee for inviting me to share my award-winning documentary, *East LA Interchange*. Of

Brent Byerly '90 and his wife bought an Aqua-Tots Swim School franchise and now have two year-round, indoor locations in Phoenix.

gone to sleepaway camp in June, and days after their departure, to host in my home (without masks) for the weekend **Laura Frank** (née Shaw), **Judy Shampianier**, **Sharon Rogers** and **Robin Wald SEAS'90** (née Zornberg). Too much fun, too little sleep and not enough time together. We remain eternally grateful for Columbia Housing's matching skills and our general good fortune that we ended up not only roommates but also lifelong friends. See the nearby photo!

I look forward to hearing from you about your news and good fortune so we can read about you in a future column.

1991

Heather E.G. Brownlie
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Heather E.G. Brownlie writes: "Our 30th reunion festivities were an amazing success thanks to our Reunion Planning Committee co-chairs, **Laurel Abbruzzese**, **Kenyatta Monroe-Sinkler** and **Alexandra "Lexi" Diamond**, who did a fabulous job from start to finish! And who can forget the An Evening of Cocktails, Music and Magic event with the Foodie Magician? Our amazing co-chairs were awarded The President's Cup

course, our classmates had amazing questions! The best part of reunion was spending it with **Heather E.G. Brownlie** and her husband, Douglas Smith. My wife, photographer Chris Chew, and I stayed with them as we prepared to move from Los Angeles to Orlando, where I accepted a position teaching in the Film Program at the University of Central Florida.

"I'm also continuing my work as a documentary filmmaker on my projects *Dreaming in Somali*, which follows four Somali Americans in their daily lives as they confront racism, Islamophobia, sexism and police violence while advocating for their Twin Cities community; *Phoenix: The Life and Death of Alice Herz*; and *Lesbians in Boystown*. Additionally, I'm one of the producers on Kenneth Eng's *Birth of an American Museum*, a timely documentary that addresses anti-Asian sentiment and the need to protect Asian cultural resources through the story of the Museum of Chinese in America. In March, my film *Vision 2030: Future of SoCal* won the Golden Mike Award for Best Television Documentary from the Radio and Television News Association of Southern California. The Emmy-nominated documentary premiered on Spectrum News 1 to two million households.

"My background is in social impact documentary and I strongly believe in the power of storytel-

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ling to inspire dialogues, challenge perceptions and educate a wide audience around issues of human rights, peacebuilding, and social and environmental justice.”

Betsy’s films are used by hundreds of universities, libraries and community organizations worldwide.

Dr. **Marc Eisenberg** PS’95, a cardiologist and one of the authors of *Am I Dying?! A Complete Guide to Your Symptoms and What to Do Next*, now has a weekly column: doctoroz.com/rounds-dr-eisenberg-health-myths.

Alethia Jones reported from Brooklyn: “I’m director of the Open Society Fellowship Program at the Open Society Foundations. I credit the ‘village’ of Eme, Christopher and Natalie for the love and support needed to complete my Ph.D. (Yale 2005). And still dancing.”

Chris Petrovic checked in from Switzerland with this update: “[As of June,] it’s now been about six months since we moved to Switzerland, and we have very much enjoyed getting to know our new country, and were looking forward to traveling around Europe this summer (safely and fully vaccinated, of course!) as the situation continues to improve and borders start to open up. We have no time-frame for whether and when we are coming back to the United States, so we are treating this as a one-way trip, at least for now! We’re always happy to see and host CC’91 classmates. If you find yourself in Switzerland, please let me know.”

Jimmy Windsor reported from his home in Iowa: “I am director of pediatric cardiac anesthesiology at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital. It’s a great place to work, and you might have heard of it on the news, as the hospital is located across the street from the football stadium. At the end of the first quarter the whole stadium stands up and waves to the children (bit.ly/3karQdF). My daughter graduated from NYU this past spring with a dual major in mathematics and psychology.”

It has been so wonderful for me to work with our class as class correspondent and to see so many of you through the various reunion activities this past spring! I encourage you to submit news and notes to me at the email address at the top of the column, or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note! Wherever you

are and whatever you are doing, we want to hear from you, so please take a moment to submit today!

1992

REUNION 2022 JUNE 9–11

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Hello, classmates! I don’t think I shared a wee update of my own. SiriusXM laid me off in late 2020, and I have found a new home at *The Washington Post*. I’m the lead writer of *The Daily 202* newsletter about policy and politics. Please consider subscribing!

With that out of the way: I heard from **Rachel Gleeson**, a landscape architect, “which I love. For the last 20 years I’ve worked for Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates. The MVVA project that most New Yorkers will probably know is Brooklyn Bridge Park,” Rachel wrote. “I live in beautiful Seattle with my husband, Matt, and our amazing daughters, Luci (18) and Charlotte (14).”

And a June 24, 2021, article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* bears the byline of one **Hilary R. Hatch** Ph.D. “Missing the Point: How Primary Care Can Overcome Covid-19 Vaccine ‘Hesitancy’” looks at our national vaccine strategy to date, notably the focus on large centers over getting Americans the jab where they regularly get family care.

“Going forward, the sidelining of primary care clinicians and the health systems that people trust could hinder progress and undermine equity, especially if booster shots become necessary,” Hilary and her co-authors write.

David Abbott reports: “I’ve been a music therapist for the last few years (having gone back to school to get an M.A. at NYU). This June I began work on my Ph.D. in Lesley University’s doctoral program in expressive therapies. I plan to pursue research on the impact and experiences of disabled music therapists.”

And I heard from **Benjamin Ortiz**: “I’ve been at Regeneron for two years as senior medical director

in immunology. I’ve had a long academic, FDA and industry career since graduating from Mount Sinai med school in 1998. Most importantly, my older daughter graduated from Elon University this past May (and has a job!), my younger daughter graduated from high school and is now attending UT Austin and my wife and I had our 25th wedding anniversary in August.”

A little personnel update, via the White House, on July 9: President Biden has nominated Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti** SIPA’93 to be ambassador to India. From the 300-plus word statement: “Garcetti earned a B.A. and M.A. at Columbia University, where he was a John Jay Scholar.” As I write this, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has not yet set a confirmation hearing date.

Self-described “class update newbie” (and, really, many more of you should be emailing) **Susan Welber** says she lived in NYC from graduation until just a few years ago, when she moved with her husband, Eric, to Garrison, N.Y.

“I’ve been a lawyer at The Legal Aid Society for nearly 20 years, focusing on social welfare (after a corporate welfare big law stint). My most recent career highlights include being lead counsel on a case challenging the Trump administration’s ‘public charge’ rule and teaching poverty law at Fordham Law as an adjunct professor,” she says.

“Like many new Hudson Valley residents, I enjoy hiking, kayaking and checking out remote dining establishments in my spare time. I would love to connect with any alums in the area!”

During the pandemic, I’ve been borrowing language from real estate shows and calling myself “well-adjacent.” Here’s hoping you are all there, too.

[Editor’s note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

1993

Neil Turitz
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Well, at long last, after almost 30 years of running from this job, it has caught up with me. Greet-

ings, friends and classmates, it is I, **Neil Turitz**, your new CCT class correspondent. I succeed my dear friend **Betsy Gomperz**, who ably and beautifully filled this spot for 10, the last dozen or so years, expertly corralling us and reporting our news. Betsy probably would have continued in the role indefinitely, but the combination of a thriving law career, two teenagers at home and a little internal bureaucracy here all ganged up on her, and so she decided it was time to move on. Thanks, Betsy, for all your hard work.

Enter Turitz, to what I hope will be the great entertainment of classmates, and I suspect the deep chagrin of the CCT editors.

Sadly, I must start with devastating news. After 25 years of health issues and ongoing battles with cancer, **Mike Sardo** died on July 2, 2021. Mike was a spectacular athlete in college, and genuinely one of the nicest people I’ve ever met. A real mensch. A GoFundMe campaign has been started for his wife, **Kathleen Johnson**, and their two sons (bit.ly/3e2QMqj). I’ll write more about Mike in the next issue.

There’s no easy way to segue into this next item, so I’ll just jump into some exciting news that has been in the works for a long time now, which I can finally share publicly. As of July 1, the scholarship fund begun in honor of our 25th reunion has been officially renamed to honor our class and the woman who started the fund, my dear friend and Reunion Committee co-chair, **Rachel Mintz**, who died of cancer just months before the reunion she worked so hard to shape and plan. The fund is now known as the Class of 1993 Rachel Mintz Memorial Fund (college.columbia.edu/givenow). Every penny goes to aid graduating seniors, and each scholarship is \$25,000. I ask everyone to contribute so that we can help a minimum of four seniors each year, and in our reunion year of 2023, we double that. I believe it’s a goal we can reach.

For the Spring/Summer 2021 issue, my Carman 11 floormate **Joe Calcagno** wrote in with a wide-ranging report about his life and those of several classmates. For reasons not worth exploring here, only Joe’s news made it into the issue, but now I’m happy to share the rest of it.

Joe writes, “Every time I receive CCT I go right to our Class of 1993

column, and I see nothing. I have a few hours to kill so I will give you some updates.

"I spoke with **John Cerza**. I remember meeting him and **Gus Leming**. Cerza's first words to me were, 'How much do you bench press?' Cerza practices law in New Jersey. His oldest child, Jack, plays lacrosse at Villanova. I am not sure how much Jack bench presses.

"**Billy Basso**, **Mike Jelinsky**, **Scott Spivey** and I are on a text strand, so we speak often. Billy has three girls with his wife, Danielle. His oldest daughter, Juliette, attends Bucknell and plays softball. Jelinsky has three kids with his wife, Kristie, and coaches an impressive 13U AAU basketball team, the Ivy Lions. Spivey and his wife, Teena, have four children. They keep him very busy.

"**Ari Perlman** and I had a Zoom call with Alexandra Luchow Rosenberg BC'94 and Nancy Soleymani Badner BC'94. Both Ali and Nancy are both married with beautiful families and look exactly the same as they did 25-plus years ago. We had a ton of laughs. Ari has two children with his wife, Hillary.

"I saw **Joel Cramer** at a wrestling tournament. Joel's son is following in the old man's footsteps. **Des Werthman** has two daughters with his wife, Katie, and owns, like, 65 horses. His daughters are equestrians, and it's comforting to know that Des spends way more money on his daughter's equestrian sport than I had to on my daughter's Irish dancing.

"As for me, my beautiful wife, Julie, and I have four kids. They

are all good kids, as far as I know. I've put on a couple pounds since 1993, but I still have all my hair. I may even bench press more than **John Cerza**. As for the rest of you, including but not limited to **Julie Davidson Hassan**, **Betsy Gomperz**, **Ali Towle** and **Sandra Johnson**, send in some updates. Looking forward to the 30th reunion!"

Speaking of reunions, our long-lost classmate **Jeff Sweat**, who left school after our first year for his Mormon mission, then showed up at our 25th reunion and became an instant favorite among the attendees, had us fairly terrified last winter as he battled Covid-19. Jeff was in a coma for three weeks, the ICU for five and the hospital for two months. He said that he and his wife, Sunny, "were strengthened by all of our Columbia friends who supported us." They're now writing a memoir about it, tentatively titled, *From Covid, With Love*. There was also a lovely piece about them on *CBS This Morning*, which aired Father's Day weekend (bit.ly/3yPGV8B).

Jeff is an author. His first novel is the YA thriller *Mayfly*. **Paul Sangillo** LAW'96 is likewise published. His first novel is the thriller *The Golden Prison: Legal Mystery*. A sequel is already on the way.

Another lawyer, and very dear friend of mine, **Alan Freeman**, along with his wife, Remy, have joined the ranks of empty-nesters. Their younger son, Matthew, heads off to his first year at the University of Rochester, with older brother Teddy in his junior year at Elon University. Alan was exceedingly proud of Teddy's summer internship with the Israel Association of Baseball in Tel Aviv. "It's not only his dream job," Alan said, "it's mine, as well!"

There's still time for you, Alan!

Keeping with the theme of proud parents, a host of classmates have produced progeny who will extend the Columbia tradition by entering the Class of '25. **Rhanda Moussa** and **Dan Gillies** SEAS '93 are thrilled to be welcoming their daughter Mimi Moussa Gillies '25 into the Columbia family, as is **Eric Alto** GSAPP'96, whose daughter Chloe will be in the same class. "Needless to say," Eric writes, "I am so proud of her and look forward to her creating her own experiences and memories at the place that was, and continues to be, so formative for me!"



ZUZANA RIEMER LANDRES

Left to right: Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf '95, Allyson Baker '95 and Shawn Landres '94 in Washington, D.C., on June 28. As Landres put it, the get-together was "entirely unexpected and unplanned until fewer than 24 hours beforehand; after three weddings, six baby namings and one (Zoom) bat mitzvah, it was the first time we managed to get all of our respective spouses and children — not to mention ourselves — in the same place at the same time."

Aileen Torres Martin TC'00 shared that her daughter Lucía — a National Merit Scholarship finalist who dreams of becoming a biomedical engineer — accepted her admission to the SEAS Class of 2025. The proud mama says, "I could not be happier with her choice! She is going to the greatest college in the greatest city in the world!" The same can be said of Leah Barcelo, daughter of **Luis Barcelo**, who joins the Barnard Class of 2025.

Fabulous news all around, that Columbia continues to be a multi-generational experience for so many.

Old friend **Jennie Kim Harman** likes to lament that her life is boring, but she's actually got her hands full. She and her husband, Jason, have two kids, son, Jack (9), and daughter, Ellie (5), and recently "bought a house and schlepped to Scarsdale after decades of happy living in Manhattan, most recently the Financial District."

Not sure how anyone could call living in FiDi "happy," but whatever.

Jennie is a lawyer, and is the manager, enforcement counsel, for CME Group in the rough and tumble, high-stakes world of derivatives and futures exchanges, and recently complained about the end of the wonderful FX drama *Pose*, which completed its three-year run in June.

Rebecca Boston moved to Baltimore from her native Texas, and wants everyone to know that she is happy to meet up with any and all for crab cakes or an Orioles game if you're in the area. Meanwhile, **Kate Steinhacker** said, "Although I read the CCT Class of '93 report every time it comes out, it's too embarrass-

ing to contribute any news, so I would prefer to continue to be a troll."

You're not alone, Kate; otherwise this column would be 10 pages long each issue.

I'd like to end on a personal note. After years of being in the dating wilderness, I have finally found my match. **Jessica Goldberg** '03 Dartmouth and I are getting married on October 10 in the Berkshires. The ceremony will be small, with a larger celebration in New York City in November (which will double as a combination 50th/51st birthday party and sort of mid-cycle reunion) for any and all who would like to join. More details to come this fall on the CC'93 Facebook page, so if you're not yet a member of that group, go ahead and join, even if you're not a Facebook person (facebook.com/groups/cc93reunion). It's where all the cool kids are!

I will leave you with a threat: If you don't reach out to me with news of your life, I will be forced to use this space to complain about my awful fantasy baseball team, and nobody wants that.

1994

Leyla Kokmen
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Exciting news from **Stephanie Geosits**, who has taken on the role of executive director of the Carnegie Initiative, a recently announced not-for-profit focused on building diversity and inclusion in hockey throughout Canada and the United States. The foundation, named in



Let us know if you have a new postal or email address, a new phone number or even a new name:
college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect.

honor of hockey legend and social justice pioneer Herb Carnegie, will work with partners across the sport, including teams, leagues, brands and academic institutions, to promote the success of diverse audiences in hockey, address issues in the game on all levels regarding diversity and provide academic grants and other incentives to those who are positively changing the sport. Steph's new role builds on work she did at the National Hockey League, launching the league's first diversity programs.

In other news, **Erik Groothuis** was recently appointed to the management committee of his law firm, Schlam, Stone & Dolan. **Marina Groothuis** (née Gurin) is running marketing and sales operations for software company SundaySky. Their older daughter, Maddie '24, is in her second year at Columbia and anticipates a "reorientation" after spending her first year learning remotely. Their younger daughter, Maya, is in her senior year in high school.

Ayanna Thompson (née Parish) shared news from Phoenix, where she was recently promoted to a Regents Professor, the highest honor at Arizona State University, and has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Ayanna has also joined the board of the Royal Shakespeare Company and is on the staff at the Public Theater as its Shakespeare Scholar in Residence.

And finally, **Kay Bailey** has taken on a new role as proposal manager for M.C. Dean, a government contractor specializing in design-build, communications, electronic systems, energy and automation. When not working, Kay continues to create art, including

innovative projects with some of the many, many cicadas that emerged in the D.C. area this past spring.

Thanks to all who shared these great updates — and congrats! Hope the rest of you are all staying well. Please send in your news!

1995

Janet Lorin
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Thanks to **David Light** SOA'03, who answered my call for an update. He and his wife, Rabbi **Sharon Brous** GSAS'01, send love from Los Angeles, where they celebrated their 24th anniversary in May.

"David is creator and executive producer of Disney's *ZOMBIES* trilogy, which your kids can catch on Disney+. Sharon is the founding rabbi of IKAR, a justice-driven Jewish community that's the spiritual home to many Columbia alumni.

"Sharon blessed President Biden and Vice President Harris at the Inaugural National Prayer Service in January, and led the White House Seder with Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff this spring. Her 2016 TED talk, *Reclaiming Religion*, has been viewed almost 1.5 million times (bit.ly/36EJPRG).

"They have three eye-rolling kids (17, 14, 12) who wish their parents would stop writing about themselves in the third person and go make dinner already," David writes.

See the nearby family photo!

Jed Weiner; his wife, Veronique Nussenblatt; and their girls, Emilie (7) and Eva (4), live in Potomac, Md. Jed is head of corporate at the

boutique Washington, D.C., law firm Mei & Mark, known for its IP practice. He founded grIP Venture Studio, an accelerator alternative where investors and entrepreneurs can engage professional and sector specialists on an a la carte basis, as a division of his law firm last year. Jed deactivated from the Navy Reserve as a lieutenant commander in 2012, and was officially discharged last year. Veronique, an infectious disease physician, is associate director of the Infectious Disease Fellowship Program at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda.

Foreign Relations; **Ravi Amara-vadi**, associate professor of medicine at Penn Medicine; and **Barbara Antonucci**, partner at Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete in San Francisco. The panel was very interesting and dynamic, and expertly moderated by **Harriet Ryan**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter at the *Los Angeles Times*.

I enjoyed the Mixology Happy Hour virtual get-together as well, seeing many familiar faces and friends: **Whitney Chiate**, **Pete Freeman**, **Daria Ibn-Tamas**, **Noah Corman**, **Elizabeth Yuan**, **Moha**

Rabbi Sharon Brous '95 blessed President Biden and Vice President Harris at the Inaugural National Prayer Service, and co-led the White House Seder.

Send your news to me by email or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note! Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1996

Ana Salper
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Happy fall, classmates! I hope you had a great summer. What a whirlwind this has been since last year at this time. I, for one, enjoyed traveling again and being able to spend time with loved ones I had not seen in ages. I hope you did too.

I loved seeing many of you at our virtual 25th reunion, but let's face it — it just wasn't the same as it would have been in person. I held out hope that maybe the virtual format might bring those of us spread around the world closer together, but alas, the lure of Zoom is not quite that of Morning-side Heights. I get it. Here's to future reunions, whether formal or informal.

Some notes from the virtual reunion: Kudos to the wonderful classmates who participated in the Covid-19-focused Class of 1996 panel: **Tom Bollyky**, director of the Global Health Program and senior fellow for global health, economics and development, at the Council on

Desai, **Michelle Esposito**, **Mila Tuttle** and many others. In the spirit of being honest, however, those of us who took the Columbia Bartending Agency course (was anyone sober during that practical exam?) felt, shall we say, that it was not the most innovative mixology course ever. The dialogue, however, made up for it. My favorite moment was when the mixologist reported that another Columbia class explained where Columbia's light blue/white color scheme had originated: Thomas Jefferson, who apparently was taken with the color light blue. Really? Given that Jefferson not only had zero connection to NYC, and that his political rival was Alexander Hamilton CC 1778, we all raised our eyebrows at that one. Thank you to **Pete Freeman**, who reported that the color scheme originated from the Philolexian Society, one of the oldest college literary and debate societies in the United States and the oldest student organization at Columbia. Columbia's blue is "Philolexian Blue," and it was combined with white, which was the color of the Peithologian Society, a debate society founded in 1806 at Columbia, four years after the founding of the Philolexian Society. I found that bit of Columbia history fascinating, and particularly so given the absurdity of the "Thomas Jefferson" theory advanced by another (clearly less informed) alumni class.



David Light '95 and Rabbi Sharon Brous '95 (center) with their children (from left), Levi Brous-Light, Sami Brous-Light and Eva Brous-Light, posed for the In Place | Portraits of a Pandemic photo project in Los Angeles on May 18, 2020.

I wish I had more to report from our reunion or otherwise, but alas, I do not. Which means that all of you need to send me more notes! Stay safe, stay well, and consider this:

“Those who stand for nothing
fall for everything.”
— Alexander Hamilton CC 1778

1997

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–11

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Dear classmates, I hope that you are doing well and that you enjoyed a nice summer!

Michael Wachsmen has a nice long update for us: “As each successive issue of this magazine is published, I more acutely feel how remiss I am in not having provided any recent updates, so I am communicating now to rectify this omission.

“Let me take you back to the pre-Covid-19 days, as a lot has happened in the intervening years. My wife and I have been living in Riverdale (the Bronx) since 2000. Through the subsequent years, our family has grown to six, and to the point where we felt too crowded in our apartment. Realizing that if we didn’t move soon we never would, we performed some renovations to

our apartment, put it up for sale and, to our amazement, received three offers within a few days at full ask without having even had time to post any pictures. This was in 2018. So we moved to a rental apartment — a far smaller place than we already had, but we had to take what we could get — for a strict one-year deadline, hoping to find a house.

“As it turns out, with the entire continental United States at our disposal we could only agree upon a 10-block radius from where we already were. The housing stock here is minimal, and overpriced. So the months passed. We were getting desperate, and almost had to resort to the unthinkable prospect of moving to New Jersey. But as fate would have it, before that dreaded possibility came to fruition, we managed to snag a house from an estate sale; the sellers, after years of an unsuccessful listing, just wanted to be rid of it and accepted our offer. The house was very modern — if you lived in 1940, the last date the kitchen was redone. It also took forever to close, as the sellers, who did not have their paperwork in order, had to track down every single living relative, including some in Poland.

“Suffice it to say we had no time to finish renovations by the time we needed to move out of our rental at the end of summer 2019, and ended up moving into the house without even having hot water. Our kitchen sinks were installed a week before Rosh Hashana, and our dining room table was put together three hours before the holiday started, which was rather important because we had invited 15 people for the meal.

“But we consider ourselves lucky — we got in this house just before everyone needed to be confined to one for months on end. Now almost exactly a year later, my elder daughter commented, ‘It just dawned on me. Rena’s [my younger daughter] class was one of the first quarantined in this country!’ And so it was. She and her classmates were in the epicenter, attending the same celebration in New Rochelle that started it all. At the time (early March 2020) we were wrestling with whether to have her bat mitzvah. It was not at all clear what to do, and upon inviting input from my daughter, whom we advised it likely that fewer of her friends than expected would be attending, she decided to

cancel it. And of course that was the right decision, as having a celebration then would have been a super-spreader event — plenty of people who had planned on attending, we found out later, were in fact infected but didn’t know it. (The irony is that sitting here now, exactly a year later, the poor girl is again quarantined for her second successive birthday. At this rate she’s shooting for a sweet 16.)

“But she bore it with grace, we all made the best of the situation and salvaged what we could from the year and the summer. My elder daughter established a backyard camp for a couple of weeks, and launched a small baking business. My younger daughter learned how to ride a bike and taught herself

harder and longer than ever, not only because of the volume of work, but also, paradoxically but I imagine not uniquely to me, the result of saving commuting time, which has then been transformed into longer working hours.

“I, probably like most of you, am a bit stir-crazy from all this but did manage to salvage a short vacation to Lake Placid this January. It was quite fun — a few days of skiing, some ice skating on a lake and snowmobiling. It was the first vacation I took in two years. I recall with envy what I did two summers ago: In lieu of my son having a bar mitzvah party, he wisely (and not without some soft encouragement on my part) opted to accompany me on a bucket-list trip, in which we hiked and rafted

Michael Wachsmen '97 took his first vacation in two years this winter, to Lake Placid, for a few days of skiing, some ice skating on a lake and snowmobiling.

Spanish. She and I also went kayaking practically every Sunday, and she is now turned on to a healthy, outdoor activity she wants to continue and that we can share. I consider that a win! Deprived of the walking I usually did for my commute (up and down a steep, long hill) I went on frequent and lengthy outdoor jogs and got to explore some really nice local trails.

“On the professional front: My wife, a psychologist who specializes in treating people with anxiety, is busier than ever. As for me: surprisingly, after a panic-induced but temporary lull that seized the real estate markets, the self-storage sector, in which I am professionally employed, has done remarkably well. I was lucky to be able to make some key hires, employing first an associate, then two analysts, then a transaction coordinator. This gave us the bandwidth to do more deals.

“Our company, Andover Properties, already one of the top companies in the sector, has forged some key partnerships, with Blackstone and Angelo Gordon, through which we were able to literally double the size of our holdings within one year, and this torrid pace is still continuing into 2021. I find myself working

the Grand Canyon. Can’t wait to do these things again, and in fact I am planning my next trip already this summer, Covid or not. Hope the rest of you are holding up.”

Thank you, Michael, for that update!

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I was delighted to get to attend my daughter Amara’s two dance recitals this spring, one for her ballet class and the other for her tap dance class, which were at different studios. She is just 4 and these were her first dance recitals. Due to the pandemic, the ballet recital was held outdoors (luckily, we have a large outdoor stage in our neighborhood) and broken into five smaller acts in order to keep crowd size down during each act. It worked out well because instead of me having to sit through a three-hour recital, I only had to sit through one 30-minute recital and then the audience got dismissed at the end of each short act. And then her tap dance recital, which was choreographed to the bubbly song “Under The Sea,” was shown as part of a student movie at our local movie theater rather than presented as a live performance. It was really exciting for the children to watch themselves on the big



Contact CCT

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

screen at a real movie theater. During the filming at the studio, their tap dance routine had been recorded with a green screen behind them, so that the video editors could add animation to the movie, which then added to the children's glee when they watched themselves performing in an animated movie.

I wish you all a wonderful autumn and winter as I sign off now and sprinkle you with some magic dust from a few hopeful lines of my daughter's recent ballet recital:

"Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight ...

"I wish I may, I wish I might

"Have the wish I wish tonight

"We'll make a wish, and do as dreamers do

"And all our wishes will come true!"

Blessings to all, please say safe during the pandemic and do send us your updates.

In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information.]

1998

Sandie Angulo Chen
sandie.chen@gmail.com

Hello, Class of '98. I hope that by the time this issue arrives, most of you are back to work, school and your post-pandemic lives. I haven't received many updates this year but did want to congratulate proud mother **Anne Ugarte**, whose oldest daughter, Chiara, graduated from high school in June. Chiara is attending Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Anne, who lives in Manhattan, is a senior client relations manager at Ingram Content Group.

Another set of congratulations are in order to **Lisette Camilo**, who welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Celina Grace, on April 2, 2021.

Best wishes to the two moms on their daughters' milestones!

Share your news with me via the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note! Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

1999

Lauren Gershell
lauren@gershell.com

Hi, everyone. I am thrilled that several of you wrote me to share life updates; please keep them coming!

Juliana Gebb PS'04 (née Sanchez) has been moving frequently in pursuit of becoming a fetal medicine expert. After graduating from P&S and training at Montefiore in the Bronx, she spent a year learning fetal surgical techniques from experts in Paris and London. Upon return, she left Brooklyn for Philadelphia and is now a fetal medicine and surgery specialist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She and her husband, Luke, enjoy a busy Philly life with their boys, Matteo (14), Alec (11) and Jude (9). Juliana sends love to her fellow Columbia alums and can't wait to get back to seeing friends when the pandemic officially ends!

Natasha Johnson is an activist (activist and artist), advocate, academic, attorney, entrepreneur and yoga instructor. She was also recently appointed executive director of the North Brooklyn Coalition Against Family Violence, which supports survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault by challenging the systemic racism, institutional injustices and cultural barriers faced by survivors by creating a community-based support network, providing supportive services and engaging the community through outreach, education, advocacy and activism.

Rahwa Haile lives in Bed Stuy, Brooklyn, and has a 3-year-old daughter and a 7-year-old son. Her wife is a marketing executive and makes documentaries. Rahwa is a social epidemiologist who earned a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan in 2009 and is an associate professor of public health at SUNY Old Westbury. She is interested in the ways in which Black populations in the United States have been systematically deprived of the social determinants in health, in large part due to the centuries-old "lie" identified by James Baldwin: the belief that Black people are less valuable than those in other groups. This lie has shaped policy for centuries, through ahistorical discourses that reproduce the notion that Black health and social inequities are driven by their own allegedly deviant nature. Rahwa argues

that eradicating racial inequities in health requires acknowledging "the lie" and its consequences, rejecting it and choosing to instead adopt policies that value Black life. Only then will it be possible to unravel centuries-old, calcified patterns in policy-induced health inequity. One of Rahwa's most memorable moments at Columbia, she says, were the powerful protests in favor of ethnic studies in the mid-1990s.

Please share your news with me by sending me an email or submitting news through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2000

Prisca Bae
pb134@columbia.edu

Classmates: Sadly, no news for this column. My hope is that you are all too busy being outdoors and with people for the first time, so I look forward to hearing those stories for the next issue. Please send me all of the news — personal, professional and anything in between! Send notes about what you have been up to via email or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

2001

Jonathan Gordin
jrg53@columbia.edu

What a summer — for many, it was the first time out of a pandemic "feeling" in a very, very long time. I'm sure some of you had fantastic summer plans that we'd love to hear about. As you know, I've been reliant on social media for most of my updates, but for this column I continued my canvassing effort and reached out to another one-third of you via email. I know, who emails anymore? Anyhow, some of you do: I got great responses. I will reach out to the final one-third for the Winter 2021–22 issue. Stay tuned, or just write in before I nag you directly.

Annie Lainer LAW'06 has two boys (7 and 3) and lives in Los

Angeles and says, "I am a public interest lawyer at Public Counsel advising tax-exempt organizations."

Seth Morris writes, "I live in Berkeley, Calif., with my wife, Gitanjali Morris (née Dadlani) BC'08, and our son, daughter and rescue pup. After nine years at the local public defender's office, I am now in private practice with two partners at our law firm, Cooper, Cooper & Morris. We practice criminal defense and focus on blue-collar crime, representing mostly poor Black and Brown clients on serious cases like shootings and murders. I am also on the board of the Prison Law Office, a California nonprofit that advocates for the fair and humane treatment of people in prison, jails and juvenile facilities, and on parole."

Julie Rhee (née Kim) writes, "Jason Rhee '00 and I got married in 2005 and have three children and a dog: Sydney (12), Oliver (10), Teddy (7) and Oscar (2-year-old Labradoroodle).

"We did our medical training in Boston and moved to St. Louis in 2012 to do our fellowships at Wash U. Jason is a trauma surgeon and I am a reproductive endocrinologist and fertility specialist in private practice.

"We moved not expecting to stay, but were pleasantly surprised and now call St. Louis home. Interesting fact: Both sets of parents moved here (from Boston and Los Angeles), and my younger sister and her family moved here from Manhattan during the pandemic. My brother, who lives in Boston, planned to move here in August as well. We can't believe it's been 20 years since graduation. We miss NYC a lot and hope to go back soon. Hope everyone is doing well!"

Cambria Matlow is a filmmaker (woodsridersfilms.com) living in Portland, Ore., with her husband, Ben, and son, Forrest (9).

Lauren Abraham Mahoney writes, "My family and I are doing great! My son (4) and daughter (11) are growing up fast. We planned to spend a quiet vacation at the beach this summer, and I was looking forward to some downtime together. About six months before the pandemic hit I left consulting and took a job at Herschend Family Entertainment (Dollywood, Harlem Globetrotters, Pink Jeep Tours, and other theme parks and aquariums). Despite the tumultuous year, I am

enjoying my role and happy to have made the switch. We have enjoyed a lot of outdoor time and hiking adventures, which has been fantastic, but are all eager to get back to traveling more soon."

I love spotting **Jonathan Lemire** on late-night cable news. While a White House reporter for The Associated Press, Jon covered the Trump administration, the 2020 campaign and the Covid-19 pandemic (college.columbia.edu/cct/latest/talking-points/reporting-trump-presidency-ap-insider). He now continues in that role to cover the daily workings of the Biden administration and has traveled domestically and internationally with the President. He also continues to be an MSNBC contributor and is a regular guest on shows like *Morning Joe*, *Deadline: White House with Nicolle Wallace* and *The 11th Hour with Brian Williams*. Jon lives with his wife, Carrie Melago GSAS '04, and their two sons, and is probably thinking about the Boston Red Sox as you read this.

Courtney Reum writes, "I'm still living in Los Angeles (although recently bought a place in Miami) if anyone is passing through.

"M13, the consumer tech holding company I started with my brother Carter '03 about four years ago, has now started 10 brands in the last two years. We have also invested in 100-plus companies and have half a billion of assets under management.

"Lastly, I am now a godfather of eight and am proud to say that the father is **Tamer Makary**, so we need to get an update from him on his fifth (and he claims last) child, Maxima!"

Great hearing from all of you!

first child (and pandemic baby), Teo Sol House.

Jackie Karp (née Cockrell) lives in Potomac, Md., with her husband, David Karp '99, and sons (5, 7 and 10). Jackie is a physician at the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, where she works in drug development for rare genetic diseases. She had a wonderful time catching up with **Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani** (that's me!) on a recent family trip to NYC!

Kyla Hayden (née Pavlina) works for Mesa Biotech, the firm that, at the start of the pandemic, produced the only POC PCR Covid-19 test. It was able to meet demand and grew 1,200 percent in production during the pandemic. Ultimately the business was sold to Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Jacob "Yaakov" Jaffe is a dean at a school in Massachusetts that worked hard this year "battling the epidemic" to stay open and support student learning and social/emotional health by having in-person instruction each day. All told, the school was in-person for all students each day and logged 160 days and nearly 2,000 hours of in-person instruction this year.

James Hudspeth ran inpatient floor response for Covid-19 for Boston Medical Center, Boston's safety net hospital. Sundry things on Twitter: @JamesCHudspeth.

As always, would love to hear from the rest of you! Please email your updates to me. Thank you!

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

2002

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–11

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ccreunion@columbia.edu

Development Contact
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Sonia Hirdaramani
soniahird@gmail.com

Hi, classmates. Hope you are all well and that life is returning to a (new) normal on your end.

Brian House and his wife, Lucia Monge, recently welcomed their

2003

Michael J. Novielli
mjn29@columbia.edu

I hope that you're enjoying the start to fall and that you are all healthy and well as much of the world begins to open up after what has been a very challenging year and a half. We have some interesting updates to share, so I'll move right into them.

Katori Hall continues to achieve amazing professional success, this time having received a Pulitzer Prize for *The Hot Wing King*, a comedy-

drama play that explores black masculinity. Katori also recently organized a virtual campaign event for **Marva Brown**, who is running for Kings County Civil Court Judge (District 2) in New York (marvaforjudge.com).

Justin Assad is the sailing master at Nantucket Yacht Club during the summer and the head sailing coach at Dartmouth during the academic year. He writes, "My partner and I have two lovely girls (4.5 and 2.5), and we are always down for playdates if any CC'03s with similar-aged kids are up north or out on the Cape in the summer."

Gabriel Gambardella owns Bloomfield Foot Specialists in Bloomfield, Conn., where he specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of foot and ankle pathology. His interests include reconstructive surgery, limb salvage, trauma surgery and deformity correction.

Priya Purushothaman, who continues her career as an Indian Classical vocalist and teacher/vocal coach, recently performed in an online concert organized by the NeoRakjot Foundation: bit.ly/3z2HKLn.

Share your news with me via the email at the top of the column or the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note! Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2004

Jaydip Mahida
jmahida@gmail.com

Jolinda Johnson was recently awarded the CEO Shine Award by Beautiful You Coaching Academy in Australia for her work as a life and health coach. She's on a mission to change the narrative around perimenopause and give attention to the voices that are typically left out of the conversation, including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and people under 45. While running her business serving clients around the world, she continues to enjoy life in Barcelona as a single mom with her 7-year-old son, Leonard.

Jayanthi K. Daniel JRN'05 is the executive management officer of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, after having worked for

four years in the administration of Mayor Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93. She helped to found the first Mayor's Office of City Homelessness Initiatives. After starting her career in journalism upon graduation, Jayanthi says she is pleased to apply her skills in writing and communication in the social services sector, addressing the region's biggest crisis, growing homelessness.

Christine Luu recently left DC Comics to join NBCUniversal as a director of business affairs, focusing on doing deals for scripted TV series.

Milka Milliance was promoted to head of consulting, impact and implementation for Collective, a diversity, equity and inclusion consulting firm, where he oversees all executive coaching and implementation activities for fast growth startups.

That's all for this issue! Please send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family updates are always fun, but please share about trips you may take, 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 the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2005

Sallie Touma
sallie@salliemathtutor.com

[Editor's note: CCT welcomes **Salwa "Sallie" Touma** as the new class correspondent! Share your news and updates with Sallie going forward at the email above or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos featuring at least two College alumni (or one College alum if a wedding photo) are welcome, too! Send those right to CCT via the Class Notes/wedding photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.]

Here are a few words from Sallie: "As the owner of salliemathtutor.com, I try so hard to make all of my students (K–12) feel confident and comfortable in their math and STEM skills. As a college math pro-

fessor, I was presented with a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in 2019–20! I'm also happy to be back on the dating apps. Send me your news and updates!"

And here are some notes that CCT gathered for this issue:

Maggie Gram writes: "After a rewarding but failed foray into the academic humanities, I now live in Brooklyn (Prospect Lefferts Gardens) and upstate New York (Roscoe); am an interaction designer at Google; and am trying to write a book. My wife, Jen, and I have a new baby, Gloria ('Glory'), who turned 3 months as I write this and an Italian Greyhound named Luca. Drop a note if you're in the area and want to go for a run, or take a walk with strollers, or meet for a bourbon or hang out at Prospect Park during off-leash hours; we'd love to reconnect with old friends: maggiegram@gmail.com."

Tanya Franklin shares: "In November 2020, I was elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. (I was a student in L.A. growing up and taught middle school there after Columbia.) Through distance learning, an uprising for racial justice, a superintendent search and unprecedented \$20 billion budget, my first year has been an incredible opportunity for change for more than a half million students. I hope many of them apply to Columbia their senior year; I recently met one who started this fall!"

Melanie Diaz updates us: "Graduated in May 2020 with my doctorate in education leadership, became Dr. Melanie Diaz, got married October 3, 2020, now Dr. Melanie Ortega!"

2006

Andrew Stinger
andrew.stinger@gmail.com

Many hearty thanks to our 15th Reunion Committee for organizing so many creative, virtual opportunities to connect. If it's possible to have such a lovely time through our screens, then I'm counting on an event to remember when we gather for our 20th! Until then, I'm grateful to stay connected with our astounding classmates through this column. Here are some updates.

Karen Sosa joined the Los Angeles-based law firm Werksman, Jackson, & Quinn, where she practices state and federal criminal defense.

Sam Schon recently completed an M.B.A., and was named a Jones Scholar at Rice. Sam and his family remain in Houston, but enjoy escaping some of the Gulf coast summer with visits to Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.

Justin Ifill loved seeing so many 2006 faces during our virtual wine tasting, and shared his hopes that we're able to gather in person soon. Until then, he invites you to join him for a yoga class, as he continues to teach online and in person.

We would love to hear from more of you! Please email your updates to me or send them through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2007

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9–11

Reunion Contact
ccreunion@columbia.edu
Development Contact
ccfund@columbia.edu

David D. Chait
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

I hope everyone had a nice summer!

Fiori Berhane shares, "I completed my doctorate in anthropology in May at Brown with the dissertation *Eritrea, A Diaspora in Two Parts: Memory, Political Organizing and Refugee Experiences Among Eritrean Exiles in Italy* and will be an assistant professor in the department of anthropology at the University of Southern California. If anyone is in the Los Angeles area I would love to meet up!"

Samantha Criss (née Feingold) writes, "My husband, Jonathan, and I welcomed our beautiful daughter, Emerson Scarlett, in December 2020. Her brothers, Miles and Hunter, adore her so much. We live in Boca Raton, Fla."

Thank you everyone who provided submissions. I encourage others to share updates with the class! We'd love to hear about what is going on in your life. Feel free to email submissions to me or to submit using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

2008

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Hi, CC'08! Thank you to **Rachel Belt** for responding to CCT's call for updates. She shares:

"Rachel has been working at Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance since 2016 as a senior country manager with a focus on the equitable reach of childhood vaccines, globally. As Gavi is the host of the COVAX Facility, a global risk-sharing mechanism for pooled procurement and equitable distribution of Covid-19 vaccines, she has been leading the planning and execution of the Covid vaccine introductions with the Government of Kenya and the Government of Rwanda and key UN partners."

This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'08 class correspondent." (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the CCT staff!) In the meantime, please send us notes about what you have been up to via email or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

2009

Columbia College Today
cct@columbia.edu

Hello, CC'09! The following class members replied to CCT's call for news:

Maxie Harnik (née Glass) shares, "My husband, Evan, and I welcomed our second daughter, Hazel Davey, on April 16."

David Derish "was the recipient of an educational grant from The Cooper Union to develop a curricu-

lum in sustainable art — 'Painting Green' — for the School of Art."

Thomas Anawalt spent this year of lockdown 17 blocks south of Columbia University, "caring for myself and my grandparents, Francis Cunningham and Katharine Cunningham BC'57, LS'63. The day they both received the second dose of the Moderna vaccine was a very happy day. In this challenging year, I learned to cook, became an uncle, started creating characters for online comedy projects (IG: @thomasanawalt and @onemansbeans; Tik-Tok: @actbackwards) and became a published art photographer in a monograph of my grandfather's work. I wrote my final paper for Art Hum on one of his life-size nudes, *The Resurrection of Christ*, which features the model, Tom Johnson, an aged man, as Christ emerging from darkness. My photograph of this painting and 167 others make up a majority of the images in the book *Francis Cunningham*."

Ralph DeBernardo and his wife, Kaitlyn DeBernardo '10 (née Busler) "welcomed their second little one into the world on June 1. Baby Liam is doing great and getting used to having a ball of energy for a big sister, Charlotte. They are coming up on their four-year anniversary of living in Austin, Texas, and love it. Ralph and Kaitlyn consider themselves trailblazers, moving long before Elon Musk and Joe Rogan. Ralph will start an exciting role in the fall as a partner with Sapphire Ventures as its head of investor relations. Kaitlyn is enjoying some time off with the baby and will return to work at Workrise, where she's helping change the future of work for the masses."

London-based **Sarah Hope** (née Ishman) "along with 17 other amateur cyclists, departed from Brest, France, to take on all 21 stages of the 2021 Tour de France as part of a team to raise funds for the U.K. charity Cure Leukaemia. Sarah was the only woman on the team and completed the entire route, arriving on the Champs-Élysées in Paris on July 11. Collectively, the team raised more than £1mn for the charity, which funds valuable clinical trials and TAP centers throughout the United Kingdom, with Sarah personally raising more than £35,000. Sarah also used the event to promote women's equality in cycling, as

Just Married!

CCT welcomes wedding photos where at least one member of the couple is a College alum. Please submit your high-resolution photo, and caption information, on our photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo. Congratulations!



JESSICA OH



AUSTIN HYLER



STEVE L. ROMERO



JENNIFER XIA

1. Stephanie Le and William Organek '10 were married on June 19 in New York City.

2. Paul Delaney '14 and Elizabeth Delaney (née Stachon) BC'15 were married on July 24, 2020, at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates in Des Moines, Iowa. Celebrating were, left to right: Caitlin Stachon '10, Hamilton Garner '14, Brian East '14, the groom, the bride, Luke Eddy '14, Karson Bodnovich '14 and Lauren Dwyer '11.

3. Eugene Stollow '14 and Jennifer Stollow (née Levine) were married on May 30 at The Mayfair at Coconut Grove (Fla.).

4. Ethan Wu '17 and Amy Xia '17 were married on May 11. Here they are after getting engaged!

currently only a handful of women in the world have completed an entire Grand Tour."

This column still needs a class correspondent. If you are interested in connecting, and reconnecting, with classmates and sharing their news in this column, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'09 class correspondent." (Never fear: You'll get lots of assistance from the *CCT* staff!)

In the meantime, please send us notes about what you have been up to via email or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Have a great fall!

2010

Billy Organek
william.a.organek@gmail.com

[Editor's note: *CCT* welcomes **William "Billy" Organek** as the new class correspondent! Share your news and updates with Billy going forward at the email above or via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos featuring at least two College alumni (or one College alum if a wedding photo) are welcome, too! Send those right to *CCT* via the Class Notes/wedding photo webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.]

Here are a few words from Billy: "After graduating from the College,

I started a business to raise money from investors in Asia to invest in U.S. real estate. I lived in Singapore for about six months and Shanghai for about two and a half years, and spent time with several CC alums who called those cities home during that time. I returned to the United States in 2013 for law school, and graduated from Harvard Law in 2016 (and reconnected with several CC alums while in Cambridge). I moved back to New York following graduation, where I clerked for a federal bankruptcy judge and worked at two law firms.

"This summer has been full of changes for me. First, I married my lovely wife, Stephanie, in a small, Covid-19-appropriate ceremony attended by our immediate family (and our cat, Kitty) in mid-June (see

'Just Married!', above). On July 1, I embarked on a new career path as a research fellow at Harvard Law studying bankruptcy law. And, most importantly, I took over the role of *CCT* class correspondent from **Julia Feldberg Klein!**

"I look forward to hearing about each of your lives and sharing these details with the class!"

Here are some notes that *CCT* gathered for this issue:

Jeff Witten BUS'15, LAW'15 "founded CoinOut, a leading rewards platform for more than 1.5 million U.S. shoppers, in 2014 at the Business School. This March, CoinOut was acquired by IRI Worldwide, one of the largest market research firms in the world! Columbia was crucial to the company's success, with several business

and law professors (including Ran Kivetz) helping as investors and advisors. Jeff will stay on with IRI to integrate the CoinOut platform and create a data solution for IRI's top clients like Pepsi and Unilever. He'll then likely start his next venture that is to be determined!"

Abby Finkel (née Oberman) writes: "My husband, Bryan, and I moved to Greenwich, Conn., this summer. Our sons, Asher (5) and Parker (3), are getting settled. We would love to connect with any fellow Lions in the area!"

Dean Forthun says: "I have some fantastic updates for you all. This has been a tremendous year, filled with many life changes. In December, my wife, Ellie, and I bought our first home in Southern California on a perfect cul-de-sac with lots of young families and friendly neighbors. Several months later, on April 15, we welcomed our first child, Lorenzo Arthur Forthun. He weighed in at 8 lbs., 6 oz., and was 20.5 inches long. In June, we took a family road trip to Big Sky, Mont., stopping in Las Vegas to introduce Enzo to his great-grandparents! Momma and baby are healthy and everyone is doing well, including our lovable Basset Hound mix puppy, Sambuca."

2011

Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell
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Hello, hello 2011. College reunions just aren't the same electronically — huge thanks to everyone who helped in planning our 10th, and here's to hoping we can all meet in person for our 15th! Of course, members of our class are continuing to thrive, and we're thrilled to share their updates.

Erin Meyer LAW'11 sent her first Class Note upon celebrating 10-year reunions with classmates at the College and the Law School. After graduating through the Accelerated Interdisciplinary Legal Education dual B.A./J.D. program, Erin launched her legal career as a litigation associate at Hogan Lovells US. In 2016, she joined Proskauer Rose, where she manages the global pro bono legal services program as the firm's pro bono counsel. Erin credits the College's women's and

gender studies courses with laying the foundation for her career in gender and sexuality law. At Proskauer, Erin's pro bono docket includes immigration, racial justice, housing law, disability rights, domestic violence, anti-trafficking and LGBTQ+ rights matters. She also writes for her firm's pro bono blog, Proskauer For Good.

Julia Putzeys is excited to announce that after 10 years of working in software development and getting certified as a nutritional therapy practitioner, she has launched the app Trash Panda with her company, SlyTrunk. Trash Panda empowers anyone to scan a food product to identify harmful ingredients, kind of like Think Dirty, but for food. It's been in the app stores for several months, and Julia says they can't wait to see where this exciting new adventure takes them! Julia is married to Philippe Putzeys SEAS'10, and they have one child.

Dr. Kerry A. Morrison PS'16 married William Bertrand Whiston on June 19. After their 2020 wedding plans were delayed a year due to Covid-19, Kerry and Will were married by Timothy Cardinal Dolan at the Church of the Resurrection in Rye, N.Y., and had the most joyous, long-anticipated celebration after at American Yacht Club, also in Rye, with many Columbians present.

In May, **Sean Quirk** graduated from the J.D./M.P.P. program at Harvard Law and the Harvard Kennedy School. He and his wife, Sue Lee Quirk, moved to Washington, D.C., where Sean will start at the law firm Covington & Burling this fall.

In June, **Nicole Cata** started a job as director of immigrant rights policy at the New York Immigration Coalition. She and her husband, Ben, moved to a new apartment in Kensington, Brooklyn. After months of canvassing, they are thrilled that the 2021 NYC municipal primary elections have finally ended.

And your correspondent **Nuriel Moghavem** has had a year of many changes: He married his partner, Stephanie Muscat, in March; finished residency in June; and moved back home to Los Angeles in July to start a fellowship in multiple sclerosis and neuroimmunology at the University of Southern California. He looks forward to attending the delayed weddings of, like, a half-dozen 2011 colleagues in the coming months.

That's all we've got for this issue! Thank you, as always, for sharing your updates and keeping us abreast of what's going for you. You can always send us an update via the emails at the top of the column or through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2012

REUNION 2022 JUNE 9–11

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Sarah Chai
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Meredith Bedi (née Perry) is happy to share that she and her husband, Amit Bedi SEAS'09, BUS'18, relocated from New York City to San Francisco in late July. She recently joined Modern Fertility (a Ro company) and looks forward to connecting with old and new Columbia friends on the West Coast. Please reach out at meredith.bedi@gmail.com if you're in the Bay Area.

Keating McKeon earned a Ph.D. in classical philology from Harvard in May 2020 with a dissertation exploring the role of nostalgia in fifth-century BCE Athenian constructions of autocracy. He published a separate piece, *Barbarians at the Gate: Herodotus, Bisotun, and a Persian Punishment in Egypt*, in the Fall 2020 issue of *American Journal of Philology*. In July 2021, he began a multiyear appointment as Preceptor in Expository Writing at Harvard, which allows him to pursue writing projects on topics both ancient and contemporary while offering courses of his own conception and design.

Keating is currently teaching a class on the intersection of sports and politics in the last century of American life, as well as a seminar on the diverse receptions of contagious disease in the cultures of ancient Greece and Rome.

Kristin Simmons will exhibit a new series of photographic works inspired by Slim Aarons. They will be premiered at Rosenbaum Contempo-

rary in Palm Beach, Fla., this November (palmbeachthenandnow.com or on Instagram, @palmbeachthenandnow).

It's always heartening to hear from classmates, so I hope to hear from others soon! We love to hear what our classmates are up to! Please feel free to reach out to me via email or the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

[Editor's note: Columbia Reunion 2022, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and the Class of 2021, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information!]

2013

Tala Akhavan
talaakhavan@gmail.com

Classmates, I have no news to share this time, but don't be shy about sending me some! Use the email above or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). See you in the Winter 2021–22 issue!

2014

Rebecca Fattell
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I hope you are enjoying the fall season. As always, please feel free to reach out to me or submit updates via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. We love to hear what our classmates are up to! Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Amanda Tien married her long-time partner, Dr. Sam Kaplan, in April 2020. Amanda recently started an M.F.A. program in creative writing at the University of Pittsburgh. She is enjoying writing her first novel, doing freelance graphic design and walking their dog, Indy.

[Editor's note: Tien was the alumni winner of CCT's personal



YANDERY SANCHEZ '16

Celebrating Francesca Fasullo SEAS'16's bachelorette party in Miami on June 4 were (left to right) Isabel Michaelides '17, Harmony Richman BC'16, Fasullo and Lily Liu-Krason '16.

essay contest; check out her piece in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue: college.columbia.edu/cct/issue/springsummer-2021/article/memory-and-metamorphosis.

2015

Kareem Carryl
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! I hope that you have been staying safe and healthy. Here are some updates:

Mitchell Veit married Lauren Yee BC'15 on May 20, eight years after they met at 1020.

Elizabeth Delaney BC'15 (née Stachon) shared: "In July 2020, eight Columbia scholar athletes gathered to celebrate the wedding of Elizabeth Stachon and Paul Delaney '14. The wedding was an intimate affair in the ornate World Food Prize Hall of Laureates in Des Moines, Iowa.

"The scholar-athletes competed in football and basketball during their years at Columbia. Paul was recently named to the Columbia Football All-150 Anniversary Team in recognition of his outstanding college career. The couple now live and work in Seattle." Congratulations! See "Just Married!" for a photo.

As always, your classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates by writing me or using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

2016

Lily Liu-Krason
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Hey, 2016. I hope things are looking up for you since the spring and summer. New York definitely feels in full swing.

On my end, I switched jobs and apartments. I'm now working for a meditation app, Waking Up with Sam Harris (let me know if you're interested in mindfulness and meditation!) and I now live in Williamsburg, where I've found out there's a pretty strong Lion contingent: **Timothy Hyde**, **Jackson Fisher**, **Francesca Fasullo SEAS'16**, **Matthew Sheridan SEAS'16**, **Gurbani Suri SEAS'16**, **Nikita Singareddy '17**, **Isabel Michaelides '17** and **Noah Stebbins SEAS'15**, to name a few. If you're also in Williamsburg or NYC, definitely let me know where you are!

Now onto your some actual updates from your classmates:

Eli Haims resides in San Francisco, where he is a product manager in cryptocurrency and drinks beer and makes pottery in his spare time.

Mohit Jain moved back to NYC from Chicago and works for Honeycomb Asset Management.

Kelly Echavarria started at Harvard Business School this fall after some time in finance and investing.

After a few years as a product manager, **Kalman Victor** will pursue a Ph.D. in psychology at NYU.

Yanick Couture graduated from Penn's veterinary school and was matched to a program in Oregon. He planned to drive cross country this summer and is looking forward to being an Oreganite (Oregano?).

Jonah Reider launched Pith Home Goods, a selection of quality essentials for cooking and hosting. You can find them at pith.store and a few locations across New York City.

Dan Schlosser SEAS'16 co-founded Ambrook, a platform building financial management tools for farmers.

Dan and I were lucky enough to be present for **Yih-Jen Ku SEAS'16's** engagement to his fiancée on May 17, 2021, a date I was reminded was almost exactly five years since our graduation. Follow @ccreunion2016 to keep up to date, and never hesitate to shoot me a note about what you're up to or if you're visiting.

As always, continue to send in updates or brag about your friends or this column may look more and more like Gossip Girl. You Know You Love Me, XO

2017

REUNION 2022

JUNE 9-11

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Carl Yin
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Taylor Fogg "was named Miss New Hampshire USA in June, and will compete at Miss USA this November! Would appreciate any and all support from my fellow Lions — feel free to follow along at @missnhusa :)."

Amy Xia and **Ethan Wu** were married on May 11.

Congratulations to the newlyweds! See "Just Married!" for a photo.

Bianca Guerrero works at Make the Road, leading a statewide coalition for workers excluded from unemployment insurance and federal Covid-19 relief (i.e., stimulus checks). In early April, after a year of actions including 23-day hunger strikes led by undocumented people in NYC and Westchester, the coalition won \$2.1 billion for a first-in-the-nation excluded worker fund, which will provide a one-time-payment of either \$15,600, or \$3,200 to eligible recipients, depending on the employment criteria they meet. Bianca and the coalition are now working on implementing the program with the state Department of Labor.

Outside of work, Bianca has spent time supporting progressive women running for local office, including City Council candidates **Felicia Singh** (District 32) and **Sandy Nurse** (District 37), and mayoral candidate **Maya Wiley** through an organization called Amplify Her.

Carolyn Kang launched an initiative in April to provide free safety alarms for Asian-Americans in NYC amid a surge in anti-Asian hate crimes during the pandemic. Since then, the initiative has fundraised more than \$9,000 and distributed more than 1,600 alarms to the Asian American Pacific Islander community in NYC,

focused on women and the elderly. Carolyn's work has been featured in an *ELLE* magazine article (bit.ly/3xM5fYU) and NBC News. If anyone would like to request an alarm, contribute to the fundraiser (gofundme.com/f/safety-alarms-for-asians-in-nyc), or reach out about the charity, please contact Carolyn at aapisafetyalarms@gmail.com.

Eileen Wong lives in Berlin and takes care of Klarna's Germany-based employees in org development.

Miranda Arakelian began in July at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. She says she is excited to join friend **Tatini Mal-Sarkar PH'19**, who is at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. The two jokingly shared a Neopets account in their sophomore year, not knowing that this would be the first of many collaborative care experiences in their future.

Aaron Kane recently helped elect Yassamin Ansari, the youngest woman elected to Phoenix City Council and first Iranian-American elected in Arizona history as her deputy field director. Aaron then joined Ansari's team at city council on Inauguration Day (April 19, 2021) and now serves as her director of outreach and engagement. In their new role, Aaron has been leading their office's efforts to vaccinate much of their district against Covid-19 due to their district's low vaccination rates (many ZIP codes only have around a 20 percent vaccination rate due largely to lack of nearby access, tech barriers, language barriers and misinformation).

Aaron has also been working to organize Phoenix's new ad hoc committee on electric vehicle equity



Enjoying a "friends trip" in the South Hamptons on May 30 were (left to right) **James Church**, **Amy Fu SEAS'15**, **Claudia Moreira SEAS'16**, **Joseph Powers '16**, **Mohit Jain '16**, **Kelly Echavarria '16**, **Danielle Kovarsky '16** and **Bryant Rockoff**.



Edwin DeJesus '19 (left) and Dylan Dawson '19 took a moment to enjoy the scenery while at an "Edwin for NYC" volunteer meetup in Astoria Park on March 21.

and implementation, which Mayor Kate Gallego announced in their first week in office, with Ansari as its chair. They will work to build a roadmap to make owning an EV in Phoenix as convenient and affordable as a gas-powered vehicle to make them more accessible to low- and middle-income families and tackle Phoenix's growing air quality issues.

It's been an exciting year so far, and Aaron says they have been excited to continue helping Ansari in her vision for a more sustainable and equitable Phoenix.

As always, it's great to hear from all of you about your experiences and accomplishments! Please share any updates with me via email or through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

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2018

Alexander Birkel and Maleeha Chida
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Hello, Class of 2018! We hope everyone is doing well! Please feel free to send us notes about what you have been up to via the email addresses above or the Class Notes webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). Photos and captions should be submitted directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

2019

Tj Aspen Givens and Emily Gruber
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Hi, Class of 2019! We hope that you enjoy the following updates from our class. Send yours along to us for the next issue!

Iqra Bawany recently completed a law degree in the United Kingdom. She is heading back to New York in September to pursue an L.L.M. at NYU.

Anna Bryan is starting a Ph.D. at the new Advanced Care Research Centre at the University of Edinburgh this fall, working on the research project "Music and the aging brain: can personalized music provision support communication skills and quality of life?" She is currently working in Maine and volunteering remotely with DOROT, a nonprofit in New York City that works to alleviate social isolation among older adults.

Miguel Tapia Colin recently committed to attending Rutgers Law School in the fall, fulfilling his dream to become a fierce civil rights advocate for all.

Edwin DeJesus is running for the 22nd District of New York City Council as an independent candidate. He is on the ballot for the November election to represent his hometown of Astoria, as well as parts of Woodside, Jackson Heights and East Elmhurst in Queens. He is endorsed by the Green Party of New York. If elected, Edwin would be the youngest member of the council in its history. He is seeking volunteers to fight for the most vulnerable in his community. You can get involved at edwinfornewyork.com. "Not a Democrat. Not a Republican. A New Yorker."

Tj Aspen Givens was recently recognized as one of the Mid-

Atlantic Real Estate Journal's 30 Under 30, highlighting the brightest young executives, innovators and game changers in the commercial real estate industry. The writeup acknowledged her commitment to mentorship, service and women's advocacy, and her two Gramercy Institute marketing awards.

Elif Memet commenced her role as an associate in the Core Private Equity Group at Apollo Global Management in New York in June. Prior to this, Elif was an investment banking analyst at Goldman Sachs in the Industrials group.

Sam Quillen recently published a book, *Under One Sun*, a quick overview of world history, after a lot of research, work and procrastination beginning in senior year.

Myles Zhang wrote his master's thesis at the University of Cambridge about surveillance architecture and prison design. This fall he will start a Ph.D. in architecture at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Inspired by taking undergraduate urban history classes with Professor Kenneth Jackson, Myles's graduate research will examine the history of American cities and suburban sprawl. He continues posting drawings and paintings to myleszhang.org.

2020

Stephen Cone and Kyra Ann Dawkins
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Sabrina Lautin, along with her husband, Philip, and dogs, Crouton and Waffles, lives in Denver and is studying mining engineering at Colorado School of Mines. They are also touring all of the western National Parks in their off time.

Daniela Riedlova moved to the Czech Republic for a few months to reconnect with family and then started her first full-time job, as a marketing assistant at Penguin Random House. She serves on the sustainability subcommittee and volunteers with Read Ahead. She is also now a vegetarian!

Remi Free was to graduate with an M.Ast. (master's in astrophysics) from the University of Cambridge this July. She will then start at the University of Michigan for a M.Eng. in space systems engineering.

On May 21, **Chris Boretti** was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marines. He will continue with more training this fall before being assigned to a duty station.

As an update, **Santiago Tobar Potes's** time as a class correspondent has drawn to a close. We've deeply appreciated his dedication and due diligence in consolidating the column. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors!

Thank you to all who submitted their notes to us, and we look forward to hearing from more of you. Please send your news to either **Stephen Cone** or **Kyra Ann Dawkins** using the email addresses at the top of the column, or submit them through the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note.

2021

REUNION 2022 JUNE 9–11

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Hello, CC'21! This column is your place to share news and updates with classmates. CCT needs one or two class members to oversee this column as class correspondents. Never fear: You'll get lots of help from the CCT staff. If you're interested, please email cct@columbia.edu with the subject line "CC'21 class correspondent."

In the meantime, send us all your latest news and happenings, and we'll share them in a future issue. Email us at the same CCT email, or use the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note. Photos should be sent right to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo.

Columbia Reunion, for classes ending in 2 and 7, and for your class, the newest members of the Columbia College Alumni Association, is scheduled for June 9–11. Watch your mailbox and inbox for more information.

Have a great fall, and welcome to the alumni community!

obituaries

Editor's note: With this issue, we bring the online feature "Lions We've Lost" to a close. At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, these tributes to alumni who died from the virus served as an important chronicle of the pandemic's impact on our community. But as vaccination rates rise and life resumes some familiar shape, the need for such a chronicle has lessened. We are grateful to the families who shared information with us. It's been an honor to tell their loved ones' stories.

1945

John M. Khoury, textile manufacturer, Harrington Park, N.J., on March 7, 2020. Born in Brooklyn to Syrian immigrants, Khoury fought with the 7th Army in France and Germany as a sniper and rifleman during WWII. He was awarded several medals for valor, including the Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, and described his wartime experiences in a book, *Love Company: L Company, 399th Infantry Regiment, of the 100th Infantry Division during World War II and Beyond*. After the war, Khoury joined his father in the textile business, married his childhood friend Grace Magrabi and moved with her to Tenaflly, N.J., to raise their family. Khoury and his brother, Russell, ran the family businesses until his retirement at 85. He was predeceased by his wife of 68 years and is survived by his daughters, Diane and her husband, Steve Seyboth, Jeanne and her husband, George Lambert, and Carol; son, John SEAS'79, SEAS'88, and his wife, Christiane; brother; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Presbyterian Church (tenaflypresby.org) or the Salvation Army (salvationarmyusa.org/usn).

1954

John H. Timoney, finance manager, Princeton, N.J., on July 3, 2021. Born June 14, 1933, in NYC, Timoney graduated from All Hallows H.S. in the Bronx and at the College was president of Alpha Delta Phi fraternity and captain of the swim team. He later played water polo for

The New York Athletic Club, the Army and various clubs in South America. After two years of Army service, Timoney became sales manager for Pan American-Grace Airways in Bolivia, where he met and married Ana Palacios of San Antonio, who was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in La Paz. His career in finance took the family from Bolivia to Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, New York City, the Midwest and Berkeley, Calif., bringing them to Princeton in 1978 when he left W.R. Grace to join Bio-Dynamics. Timoney was chief financial officer for Applied BioScience International until 1997 and subsequently was a member of the boards of Omnicare and International Schools Services. In addition to his wife, Timoney is survived by his sons, Francis GS'84, Mark '88, BUS'93 and Michael '88, GS'99; daughter, Maria Teresa ("Tess") NUR'99; sister, Susie O'Neill; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to All Hallows H.S. (allhallows.org).

Robert A. Weber, entrepreneur, Kingston, Mass., on February 11, 2021. Born in Brooklyn, Weber was a member of TEP fraternity, the Kingsmen and Columbia Chorus, and also earned a B.S. in 1955 and an M.S. in 1956 from Columbia Engineering, both in electrical engineering. After serving for three years in the Air Force, stationed in Morocco and Little Rock, Ark., he became an entrepreneur and founded several companies, including software and computer maintenance businesses in New Jersey. Retiring to Kingston in 2008, Weber was one of the founding members and president of the Friends of the Kingston Public Library (kingstonlibrary.org), was on the board of the Jones River Watershed Association (jonesriver.org/jrwa) and was a dedicated member of the Jones River Village Historical Society (jrvhs.org), all of which will accept memorial contributions in his name. Weber was predeceased by his wife, Gloria, and daughter, Nancy; and is survived by his sister, Judith Taylor; daughters, Susan, and Barbara Weber-Boustani; and three grandchildren.

1956

Michael H. Moerman, anthropology professor, San Francisco, on August 22, 2020. Born in the Bronx, Moerman earned a Ph.D. in anthropology from Yale in 1964 and began teaching at UCLA the following year. He was granted tenure in 1968, became a full professor in 1974 and remained until his retirement in 1993. Moerman's early work examined the social and economic organization, agricultural transformation and ethnic identity in Thailand. Inspired by Harvey Sacks, Emanuel Schegloff and Gail Jefferson, his research shifted mid-career



Michael H. Moerman '56

to conversation analysis, eventually resulting in the publication of his 1987 book, *Talking Culture: Ethnography and Conversation Analysis*. Following his retirement, Moerman shifted gears again, this time to begin a career in acting that lasted 20 years, with performances in venues throughout California. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Miller.

Stanley D. Stier, physician, patient advocate and medical director, Delray Beach, Fla., on April 23, 2021. Born in the Bronx, Stier graduated from New York Medical School and served in the Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He served patients at New Britain General Hospital, Yale New Haven Hospital and Griffin Hospital, all in Connecticut, and in private practice. Stier later became a patient advocate at Danbury (Conn.) Hospital and transitioned to administration, becoming a medical director. After moving to Florida, he continued his advocacy

work as a volunteer at local hospice. Stier and his wife, Suzanne, traveled to more than 20 countries. She survives him, as do his sons, Jeffrey and his wife, Marian, and Seth and his wife, Jennifer; daughters, Shari, and Ilisha Borek and her husband, Sam; and nine grandchildren.

1957

Alfred D. Fierro, attorney, Old Tappan, N.J., on May 1, 2021. Born on November 3, 1935, Fierro was class president at Fort Lee H.S., majored in Russian and economics and graduated from Fordham Law in 1960. A founding partner of Fierro, Fierro & Izzard of Fort Lee, he appeared before the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of *Shell Oil Co. vs. Marinello*. Fierro was a member of the Bergen County Bar Association for more than 60 years, chair of the Fort Lee Democratic Party, president of the Fort Lee Board of Education and a life member of the Fort Lee Athletic Club. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Juanita (née Tomasini); sons, Matthew and his wife, Nancy, Mark and his wife, Amy, and Paul and his wife, Kathleen; daughter, Tamara Fierro Barrera, and her husband, Peter; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Arthur T. Meyerson, psychiatrist, New York City and Shelter Island, N.Y., on January 27, 2021. A lifelong New Yorker, Meyerson grew up on the Lower East Side and graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. and P&S (1961). A gifted physician, he was a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and former president of the New York County Psychiatric Society. Meyerson championed the rights of the chronically mentally ill, and supported community mental health programming as an administrator and professor of medicine at several teaching hospitals, including Mount Sinai, NYU, the

Submit an Obituary

Please go to college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us.

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and the Hahnemann University School of Medicine, where he chaired psychiatry and neurology. Following 9-11, he was the clinical director for disaster psychiatry outreach at Ground Zero, providing free therapy to first responders, victims of the attacks and their families. Meyerson is survived by his wife, Carol A. Bernstein GS'76, PS'80; daughter, Samantha; two children from his first marriage and their spouses, son, Peter, and his wife, Kate Short Meyerson, and daughter, Jessica, and her husband, Michael Schwarz; and two grandsons. Memorial contributions may be made to the Young People's Chorus of New York City (ypc.org) or the University Glee Club of New York City (ugcofnyc.org).

1958

Sheldon B. Cousin, engineer and chief information officer, Edgewater, N.J., on March 17, 2021. Born in Brooklyn on November 23, 1938, Cousin earned an M.S. in engineering mechanics in 1959 and a Ph.D. in engineering in 1964, both from Columbia Engineering. In 1967, he moved to Houston and, for the next seven years, managed dozens of engineers in his work for NASA/Lockheed on Apollo Missions 8-17 and Skylab. From 1974 to 1979, Cousin was a senior engineer for HRB-Singer in State College, Pa., then he returned to New York to be the director of advanced systems and applications for Ebasco Services. In the 1990s, he was chief engineer for Stone & Webster in Boston, then was the chief information officer and computer consultant for a number of companies before retiring. Cousin is survived by his wife of 59 years, Lydia; sons, Brian '85 and his wife, Barbara, Keith and his wife, Karyn, and Wayne and his wife, Laura; daughter, Pam, and her husband, John; and nine grandchildren.

Maurice H. Katz, attorney, Los Angeles, on June 5, 2021. Born on January 18, 1937, in the Bronx, Katz graduated from Bronx Science, majored in history and earned a law degree from Harvard in 1961. Later that year, he relocated to Los Angeles, where he practiced law for the next 55 years. In 1962, Katz married Margery Rosenberg, whom he met while



Maurice H. Katz '58

leading a student bike tour of France. They shared a passion for travel, food, art, movies and culture and filled their house with German Shepherds, cats, dinner parties, love and laughter. In addition to his wife, Katz is survived by his sister, Maxine Kurtzman; sons, Brian and his wife, Kerry, Bradley and his wife, Mary-Beth, and Andrew and his wife, Francine; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The National Endowment for the Arts (arts.gov/about/make-a-donation-online).

Mark D. Luftig, lawyer and investment banker, Chapel Hill, N.C., on May 1, 2021. Born in the Bronx and a graduate of Bronx Science, Luftig majored in economics, and earned a B.S. from the Business School in 1961 and a J.D. from the Law School in 1962. He was in private law practice in NYC before becoming general attorney for rates and regulatory matters for New York Telephone Co. in 1968 and a VP at NERA Economic Consulting in 1989. He was senior VP and director of financial research at Kemper Securities 1992-94 and a partner in W.H. Reaves and Co., now Reaves Asset Management, 1995-2004, when he retired. Luftig



Mark D. Luftig '58

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.

- 1946 **James A. Manning**, pediatric cardiologist, Rochester, N.Y., on July 5, 2021.
- 1955 **Thomas M. Evans**, physician, Cincinnati, on July 13, 2021.
Norman Goldstein, dermatologist, New York City, on January 5, 2021.
- 1956 **Frederic H. Brooks**, businessman and entrepreneur, Greenwich, Conn., on June 25, 2021.
Elias Schwartz, pediatrician, Philadelphia, on July 17, 2021.
- 1957 **Jerome J. Percus**, professor, New York City, on March 7, 2021.
- 1958 **William Reichel**, physician, Timonium, Md., on May 14, 2021.
Robert W. Sandall, sales executive, Colorado Springs, Colo., on July 7, 2021.
William Schwartz, businessman, New York City, on July 9, 2021.
- 1962 **Harry J. Quayle**, science teacher, Steuben, Maine, on September 29, 2020.
- 1963 **Joseph Frisch**, IT supervisor, Del Mar, Calif., on November 10, 2020.
- 1966 **Michael H. Friedman**, professor, Winston-Salem, N.C., on May 27, 2021.
Kenneth L. Pearson, hospital manager, Ridgewood, N.J., on April 5, 2021.
Daniel R. Seigle, Las Vegas, on June 24, 2021.
- 1975 **Edward Cranswick**, social activist, Hawthorn, Australia, on July 3, 2021.
- 1987 **Eric G. Rogers**, entertainment executive, Redondo Beach, Calif., on June 10, 2021.
- 1993 **Michael J. Sardo**, Silver Spring, Md., on July 2, 2021.

loved to travel and avidly explored the world with his wife, Linda Stryker-Luftig. He was a math wizard who enjoyed playing poker, had an irreverent sense of humor and gave back by sitting on nonprofit boards and volunteering as a tax preparer for people in need. Luftig is survived by his wife; daughters, Lisa and her husband, Mark Zimmerman, and Jill and her husband, Patrick Campbell; stepdaughters, Wendy and her husband, Richard Robbins, Beth '93 and her husband, Hussein Saddique, and Jo and her husband, Ivan Rasnik; and eight grandchildren. Memorial contributions may

be made to the Chelsea Art Theater, 1129 Weaver Dairy Rd., Suite AB, Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

Howard Winell, market strategist, New York City, on December 29, 2020. Born in the Bronx and raised in Queens, Winell majored in economics and earned an M.B.A. in accounting in 1959 from the Business School. While working as an opera singer, Winell made a successful investment in Syntex in 1963 and became deeply interested in the stock market. In 1966 he joined Merrill Lynch as a broker and developed his market tools and



Howard Winell '58

investment techniques. In 1977 he paired with economist David Bostian to form an economic and market research and consulting company that they managed until 1989, when he formed Winell Associates. He continued to serve his clients, individuals and professional corporate money managers, until two weeks prior to his death. Winell was predeceased by his first wife, Cynthia Lillenfeld; and is survived by his second wife, of 36 years, Kathleen; sons, Jonathan, Daniel, and Jeremy and his husband, Abel Montez; and one grandchild.

1959

Clive Chajet, designer, New York City on February 3, 2021. Born February 27, 1937, in London, Chajet's family settled in New York City in 1960. He built a successful career in brand identity and image management, founding Chajet Design Co. and then becoming chair and CEO of Lippincott & Margulies. A leading corporate image consultant, Chajet helped create and shape the images of such corporations as Coca-Cola, Chrysler and American Express. He was the co-author, with Tom Shachtman, of *Image by Design: From Corporate Vision to Business Reality* (1991). Chajet is survived by his wife of 53 years, Bonnie Loeb Chajet; daughters, Lisa and Lori; son-in-law, Benjamin Wides; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Columbia (college. givenow.columbia.edu) or to the Park Avenue Synagogue (pasyn.org).

Georges L. de Gramont, business executive, Cliffside Park, N.J., on March 20, 2021. Born in Paris, de Gramont's father was a French

diplomat who died fighting as a member of the Free French during WWII. He became the stepson of a Belgian diplomat and lived in many countries as a child but adopted the United States as his home, becoming a citizen after serving in the Army. De Gramont majored in economics and captained the soccer team. He earned an M.B.A. from the Business School in 1963 and spent most of his career as an executive at the Thomas J. Lipton Co., the world's largest tea manufacturer. De Gramont loved history, literature, politics, music and the visual arts and was dedicated to his immediate and extended family. He coached his son's baseball and soccer teams and often traveled to attend the plays, sporting events, book readings and art exhibitions of his relatives. He is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Carol; son, Alex; and daughter, Nina.

Jerry Goodisman, chemistry professor, Syracuse, N.Y., on May 2, 2021. Born on March 22, 1939, Goodisman grew up in Brooklyn, graduated from Stuyvesant H.S. and earned a Ph.D. from Harvard. He was a chemistry professor at Syracuse for more than 40 years and also was vice-chair of the department. He mentored upper-level and graduate students and made introductory courses accessible to undergraduate students from all disciplines. Goodisman authored textbooks and scientific articles that advanced the field of physical chemistry and was most excited about applying his theoretical approaches in scientific collaborations that advanced human health. He enjoyed literature, puzzles, handball, tennis, cycling and cross-country skiing and was an enthusiastic supporter of Syracuse sports. He is survived by his wife of nearly 58 years, Mireille; brother, Leonard, and his wife, Nancy; son, Michael; daughter, Nathalie Cornelius; son-in-law, Eric Foster; daughter-in-law, Janet Hatt; two grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

J. Peter Rosenfeld, psychology professor, Glencoe, Ill., on February 16, 2021. Rosenfeld majored in biology and humanities and earned a master's in English and comparative literature in 1961 from GSAS. He also earned a master's in psychology in 1969 and a doctorate in physiological psychology in 1971,

both from the University of Iowa. Rosenfeld was a professor in Northwestern's Department of Psychology and its Department of Neurobiology and Physiology. He led an influential scientific laboratory devoted to brainwave research and was a pioneer in the field of concealed information detection, authoring more than three dozen scientific and academic papers. Rosenfeld is survived by his wife, Elba Del Carmen Olivares-Lopez; son, Jonathan, and his wife, Tamara Raab; daughter, Stacey, and her wife, Elizabeth Cappel; one stepson; two stepdaughters; 10 grandchildren and step-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wagner Society (wagnersociety.org) or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org).

Raphael "Ray" I. Schenk, engineer and furniture manufacturer, Menlo Park, Calif., on February 7, 2021. Schenk was born in Brooklyn, but lived in Sydney during his early childhood. Upon returning to New York, he graduated from Erasmus Hall H.S. and at 16 entered the College, where he played basketball and was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu. He earned a B.S. in 1960 from Columbia Engineering and an M.S. and M.B.A. from Stanford, focusing on industrial engineering. Schenk worked for Procter & Gamble and IBM, where he was a systems engineer, and Touche Ross, where he was a management consultant. Using his talent for design and craftsmanship, he later started his own company, which manufactured high-end furniture. Schenk is survived by his former wife, Alice; and daughters, Debra and Suzanne.

Roger E. Spivack, marketer and retailer, Sarasota, Fla., on January 3, 2021. Born in Boston, Spivack attended the Bordentown (N.J.) Military Institute and earned a master's in retailing from NYU. After serving in the Army, he worked in marketing for General Foods and Richardson-Vicks before opening his own specialty foods business in Pennsylvania. In retirement, he coached résumé writing and interview skills as a Salvation Army volunteer and at his church. Spivack was married to Ellen Sue Knopf for 32 years and they had three children before they divorced in 1992. As he approached retirement, Spivack married Elaine Mennen,

whom he had met as a member of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church in NYC, where he served as a deacon. They retired to Sarasota, retaining an apartment "up north" to stay connected with family and friends. After Elaine passed away in 2016, Spivack met Judith Landes at Province Presbyterian Church and they became close companions. In addition to Landes, Spivack is survived by his brother, Jolyon; sister-in-law, Dorothy; sons, Ira and Basha; daughter, Eileen; and one grandson.

1961

Richard M. Hall, attorney, Williamstown, Mass., on June 11, 2021. Born in Milwaukee, Hall rowed at St. Andrews in Middletown, Del., as well as at the College and graduated from the Law School in 1964. He clerked for the U.S. District Court judge in Alaska in 1965 before becoming an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York in 1968. Before assuming the position of assistant director for inspection and enforcement in the Office of Surface Mining in the Carter administration, Hall was one of the early staff attorneys at the Natural Resources Defense Council. He later served as principal counsel for the Maryland Department of the Environment. After a short time in private practice, Hall went on to lead Capitol Area Asset Builders, a nonprofit that strives to create financial opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals in the greater Washington, D.C., region. He coached women's rowing at August Wilson Senior H.S. in D.C. and loved sailing his 43-ft. wooden ketch with his family in Chesapeake Bay and Martha's Vineyard Sound. Hall is survived by his wife of 44 years, Helen Cook; sons, Tim and Andrew; daughters, Diana and Charlotte '08; and several grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Capital Area Asset Builders (caab.org).

Nathaniel Reichek, cardiologist, Northport, N.Y., on March 6, 2021. Born in the Bronx, Reichek graduated from P&S in 1965, was an intern and resident at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and spent two years in the U.S. Public Health Service at the CDC. He completed his cardiology fellowship

Edwin Goodgold '65: Father of Trivia, Manager of Sha Na Na

You can't tell the story of pop culture in the 1960s and '70s without spotlighting the contributions of **Edwin Goodgold '65**, who raised the profile of trivia contests from a college parlor game to a global phenomenon, and helped turn the a capella group the Kingsmen into the retro rock sensation known as Sha Na Na.

Born in Israel, Goodgold grew up in Brooklyn and graduated from Tilden H.S. before majoring in history and becoming features editor of *Spectator*. He spent more than two decades in the music business doing promotional work and managing rock groups, then pivoted to a 25-year career as a respected NYU administrator. He died on May 7, 2021, in New York City.

While at Columbia, Goodgold often gathered with friends in one of the dorm lounges, where they would discuss various subjects, including memories of their childhood influences in music, books and people. These led to Q&A trivia sessions, whose popularity spurred Goodgold to write a column for *Spectator* published on February 5, 1965, headlined "Glorious Entertainment." "Trivia is a game played by countless young adults," he wrote, "who on the one hand realize they

have misspent their youth and yet, on the other hand, do not want to let go of it." Those ties are the essence of true trivia, and what separates it from minutiae and random factoids. "Trivia is concerned with tugging at the heartstrings," Goodgold and Dan Carlinsky '65 wrote in their seminal 1966 book, *Trivia*, which introduced the subject to a national audience.

On March 1, 1965, Goodgold and Carlinsky hosted a trivia contest on the third floor of Ferris Booth Hall, which included several Kingsmen singing old rock tunes and the audience guessing their original singers. Thus from trivia was planted the seeds of Sha Na Na.

Goodgold and Carlinsky hosted late-night call-in trivia shows on WKCR where callers would often play "stump the hosts." They also organized a pair of trivia contests open to teams from the Ivy League and the Seven Sisters in October 1965 and February 1967.

Goodgold spent some time at NYU Law before choosing to work on writing projects, including collaborating with Carlinsky on several more trivia books between 1966 and 1970. Meanwhile, he was approached by several members of Sha Na Na, who knew him from Columbia, to

help them find a manager to handle the business aspect of their budding career. They soon decided they were more comfortable with Goodgold than anyone else, and he took the job.

"Ed was a great guy who got along with everybody," said Richard Joffe '72, LAW'93, an original member of the group. "He was so engaging and so diplomatic, everybody liked to do business with him. As a new group, that really helped to smooth our way into the music business."

Goodgold managed Sha Na Na through their iconic appearance at Woodstock and developed friendships with many veteran promoters including Bill Graham, who brought the group to his landmark venues Fillmore West and Fillmore East. Goodgold stopped managing Sha Na Na in 1971, by which time many of the original Columbia members had left the group, but he continued in the music business. Among his most famous jobs was as the American manager for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame group Genesis, whose members included Phil Collins and Peter Gabriel.

After more than two decades of frequent travel and high pressure, Goodgold decided he would prefer to stay closer to home. In February 1992, he took a temporary adminis-



BRUCE "BRUNO" CLARKE '74 / USED WITH PERMISSION

trative position in the NYU Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development because he thought returning to an academic environment might be fun. The gig was supposed to last six months, but Goodgold stayed for nearly 25 years; he retired in December 2016. He was assistant to the associate dean, academic affairs, and loved being around young people and his co-workers in the dean's office. The feeling was mutual; before he left, his co-workers gave him a retirement bash with, naturally, a trivia theme.

Goodgold is survived by his wife, Helene; and brother, Abraham '69.

— Alex Sachare '71

at Georgetown under the tutelage of Dr. Joseph Perloff and followed his mentor to Penn, where in 20 years he rose to the rank of full professor and director of the Noninvasive Laboratories. In 1992 Reichek moved to Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh as chief of the Cardiology Division, where he remained until 2002, at which time he became director of the Research and Education Department at St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, N.Y., and professor of medicine and biomedical engineering at SUNY Stony Brook. He went to part-time status in 2016 to continue his research. Reichek was regarded as one of the founding fathers in his field and was president of the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance, president of the Intersocietal Commission for the Accreditation of Magnetic Resonance Laboratories

and chair of the Council of Cardiovascular Organizations. He published more than 170 original articles and more than 300 abstracts. Reichek is survived by his wife, Lesly.

1962

Stuart M. Case, attorney and judge, Mystic, Conn., on January 12, 2021. Case enrolled in Columbia Engineering before transferring to the College and majoring in economics. After working in journalism, including media relations at the University of Connecticut, he earned a J.D. from the Western New England College of Law, ran a family practice in Connecticut and was elected to the Family Court. Case is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lenore; and son, David.

1963

Robert J. Pollet, physician, researcher and professor, Atlanta, on April 27, 2021. Born on January 24, 1942, in Brooklyn, Pollet fell in love with research during a college summer internship at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. He earned an M.D. and a Ph.D. in biochemistry from NYU Medicine, where he met his wife, Donna. After completing an internship at Chicago and residency at Michigan, he was a fellow in endocrinology at the National Institutes of Arthritis, Metabolism & Digestive Diseases in Bethesda, Md. Pollet held dual positions as the associate chief of staff for research and development at the Atlanta Veterans Administration Hospital and senior assistant dean of the Emory School of

Medicine. While at the Atlanta VA, he launched major cross-department research initiatives and brought in substantial funding to help build a world-class academic and medical research program. In addition to his wife, Pollet is survived by his sons, Adam and his wife, Natalie, and Joshua and his wife, Ashley; daughter, Sarah PH'07; and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Union of Concerned Scientists (bit.ly/3gPc1aC).

1965

Alan I. Green, psychiatric researcher, Hanover, N.H., on November 26, 2020. Born in Norwalk, Conn., Green majored in history before graduating in 1969 from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where

he became passionate about neuroscience research. He took a hiatus after his internship in medicine to spend a year as an investigator at the NIH and spent another year serving as director of research for the White House Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention. Following residency, Green worked at Harvard Medical School and the Massachusetts Mental Health Center, where he ran the Commonwealth Research Center, and later at Dartmouth, where he was the Raymond Sobel Professor of Psychiatry and chair of the Department of Psychiatry at the Geisel School of Medicine and Dartmouth-Hitchcock for nearly 18 years. While he mentored dozens of young researchers, his own research focused on understanding the basis of schizophrenia and substance abuse and developing better treatments for these disorders. Green is survived by his wife of 37 years, Franny; son, Henry '16; and daughter, Isobel.

1966

Paul J. Kastin, businessman, Atlanta, on June 12, 2021. Born in Cleveland, Kastin majored in art history, was a member of Beta Theta Pi, played on the tennis team and graduated in three years before earning an M.B.A. at Chicago. He worked for Dubuque Packing and Smithfield Foods as well as for an entrepreneur in Atlanta, who called on him to run his new company. In 1981, Kastin leveraged his experience and formed Service Marketing, a commercial meat brokerage business. He was a voracious reader, avid golfer, frequent traveler and patron of the arts, including The Woodruff Arts Center, Atlanta Symphony, Spivey Hall and other cultural venues. Kastin is survived by his wife, Rosthema; daughter, Leslie, and her husband, Tod Rubin; sons, Darren and his wife, Bonnie, and Avery '01; brother, Abba and his wife, Wei Hong; and four grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta (jewishatlanta.org) or the Emory Winship Cancer Institute's leukemia fund (winshipcancer.emory.org).

Frank B. Newell, attorney, Little Rock, Ark., on May 6, 2021. Born on September 22, 1944, Newell played football and ran track at Hall H.S. in Little Rock, majored in English

and played golf at Columbia, and graduated from the Law School in 1969. After starting his career in private practice, Newell became deputy attorney general under Gov. Jim Guy Tucker (D-Ark.) and helped with a monumental revision of the state's criminal code. After Tucker was elected to Congress in 1976, Newell stayed on in the attorney general's office under his successor, Bill Clinton. He was appointed to the state Public Service Commission in 1981 but his confirmation was blocked by lawmakers in the state Senate because some with utility interests feared he would be too devoted to the interests of consumers. Newell resigned and served on Clinton's staff as a legal assistant reviewing legislation before he was hired by the Worker's Compensation Commission as an administrative law judge, adjudicating hundreds of worker injury claims a year. He later joined the Laser Law Firm and retired in 2019 from the Barber Law Firm, both in Little Rock. Newell is survived by his wife, Dee Ann; daughter, Anna Asa Newell, and her husband, Dr. John Buchanan; brother, Henry; and sister, Leslie Peacock. Memorial contributions may be made to Arkansas Children's Hospital (archildrens.org).

1967

David E. Langsam, financial executive, Larchmont, N.Y., on January 24, 2021. Born in Brooklyn, Langsam was active in student government at Columbia and earned a Ph.D. in politics from Princeton in 1974, with a focus on Soviet politics. Langsam spent his career in finance, beginning at Chase Manhattan Bank before later working for Merrill Lynch, from which he retired in 2013. Langsam was passionate about Jewish life and Israel and was active at his synagogue and with nonprofits devoted to Israel. A tireless reader and consumer of knowledge, he was fascinated by history, politics, people and places, and was genuinely interested in the lives and stories of everyone he met. Langsam is survived by his wife of 46 years, Sandra; daughters, Melissa Braunstein and Nina Blachman; and six grandchildren.

Justin C. Malewezi, educator and civil servant, Lilongwe, Malawi, on

April 17, 2021. Born on December 23, 1943, Malewezi was educated at Robert Blake Secondary School in Malawi's Central region district of Dowa. A biology major and varsity soccer player at Columbia, Malewezi returned to Malawi and taught science, later becoming headmaster and chief education officer. An education reformer and a leader in combating HIV, Malewezi held several posts in the 1980s in the ministries of health and education before becoming secretary to the treasury. He also advised the governments of Tanzania, Ghana and Lesotho on education and public sector development. In 1994, in Malawi's first multiparty elections, he joined with Bakili Muluzi and dislodged the Malawi Congress Party from its 30-year hold on power. Malewezi served as VP 1994–2004. After losing in the 2004 presidential election, he spent much of his time as an activist on HIV and AIDS issues. Malewezi is survived by his wife, Felista Chizalema; sons, Justin and Qabaniso; daughters, Msaukiranji and Tione; and six grandchildren.

1969

Gary R. Gunas, theatrical producer, London, on February 22, 2021. Born on May 26, 1947, in Manchester, Conn., Gunas began his career on Off-Broadway in 1969 as an apprentice company manager for the musical *Promenade*. In the 1970s he joined Marvin A. Krauss Associates, where he managed Broadway shows and tours including *Godspell*, *American Buffalo*, *Beatlemania*, *Dancin'*, *Woman of the Year*, *Dreamgirls* and *La Cage aux Folles*, as well as revivals of *Gypsy* starring Angela Lansbury, *Richard III* starring Al Pacino and *Death of a Salesman* starring Dustin Hoffman. Gunas also managed Broadway performances by a host of artists that included Peter Allen, Ashford & Simpson, Charles Aznavour, Josephine Baker, Count Basie, Shirley Bassey, George Benson, Rodney Dangerfield, Ella Fitzgerald, Patti LaBelle, Bette Midler, Gilda Radner, Mort Sahl, Frank Sinatra and Lily Tomlin. Between 1993 and 2001 he executive-produced several Broadway musicals, including *The Who's Tommy*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Ragtime*, *The Civil War* and *Seussical*, before he relocated to London in 2002 and worked for Clear Channel's U.K. office until retiring

in 2005. Gunas and his husband, playwright and record producer Bill Rosenfield, were featured in the *Playbill* video series *Old Show Queens*, where they shared their memories of the end of the Golden Age of Broadway. In addition to his husband, Gunas is survived by two brothers. Memorial contributions may be made to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS (broadwaycares.org).

1971

John W. Borek, artist, bookseller and playwright, Rochester, N.Y., on April 2, 2021. Borek spent 15 years as a legislative aide to former Rochester City Councilman Adam McFadden, was a past president of the 19th Ward Community Association and worked with community advisory programs at the University of Rochester. He owned and operated The Village Green bookstore and was perhaps best known for his commitment to the city's arts and cultural scene. At 58, Borek took a sudden interest in the arts and began recording rap albums, including a song about Michael Jackson's monkey, Bubbles. He wrote deliberately odd plays and even performed in them, as artistic director at the Multi-Use Community Cultural Center. He had planned to perform a show called *The Book of Leuk* about his observations on his battle with leukemia, but a resurgence of the disease prevented that. Last year, Borek published *The Club Van Cortlandt*, a book about his freshman year at Columbia.

J. Hallock "Hal" Northcott, corporate advocate, Kensington, Md., on February 5, 2021. Northcott started his professional career in Washington, D.C., working for Rep. William Frenzel (R-Minn.). He then worked for a variety of corporate and trade associations, focusing on his strong interest in politics and international trade. Northcott traveled extensively throughout his career, loved the beach and was passionate about cars, particularly high-powered sports cars, and blues music. In retirement, he worked for his beloved Washington Nationals, and was an active volunteer in the National Presbyterian Church's Men's Ministry and 40Plus of Greater Washington. Northcott is survived by his wife, Karen; and sister, Heather Walker.

Hon. Robert A. Katzmann '73, Judge Who Taught the Court's Process to the Public

The Hon. **Robert A. Katzmann '73**, chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, was a strong advocate for civic education whose most important and beloved project, "Justice for All: Courts and the Community," continues to bring students and teachers to courtrooms across the Second Circuit to learn more about the rule of law.

"Together, we have a collective responsibility to promote civic education, so that our Constitution and government remain vital for generations to come," said Katzmann, who died on June 9, 2021. Through Justice for All, students and teachers participate in moot courts, attend and reenact important cases, do legal research and visit the Learning Center in NYC's Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor described the program as Katzmann's legacy. "Bob has opened the doors to the courthouse to students, teachers and the broader community with the goal of increasing public understanding of the courts and bringing the courts closer to the community," she said in a tribute to Katzmann.

Born on April 22, 1953, in Manhattan and raised in Queens,

Katzmann graduated summa cum laude from the College and earned both an M.A. (1976) and a Ph.D. (1978) from Harvard, where he studied with and worked for Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), who became a mentor. He earned a J.D. in 1980 from Yale, where he worked on the *Yale Law Journal* and clerked for Hon. Hugh H. Bowles of the Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Katzmann taught at Georgetown and was a fellow at the Brookings Institution, where he directed a project on the legal profession and public service. In 1993, Moynihan asked him to serve as his special counsel on the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59.

"When President Clinton nominated me," Ginsburg recalled, "Sen. Moynihan thought it would be useful for me to have a savvy, sympathetic counselor as I made my way from one senator's office to another's. Bob Katzmann was that counselor."

Thus began a deep, lasting friendship. Katzmann described Ginsburg as "a friend for all seasons, an incomparable friend, to me and to my wife, Jennifer." And the admiration was reciprocated: It was Ginsburg who administered the oath of office to Katzmann when he was nominated

to the Second Circuit in 1999, noting that this "insightful scholar of governance and interbranch relations" would bring "an enormous store of knowledge to his new commission, along with intelligence and personal qualities important in sound judging: an inquiring mind, extraordinary diligence, patience and a readiness to learn and listen."

Katzmann served as chief judge of the Second Circuit from 2013 to 2020 before taking senior status on January 21, 2021, and was a ranking member of the federal judiciary throughout his tenure. His expertise in judicial-legislative relations made him a natural for early service on the Judicial Conference Committee of the Judicial Branch, which he later chaired. In addition, he served on the Executive Committee of the Conference, an important leadership role, and chaired the Supreme Court Fellows Commission.

Speaking on behalf of the court on Katzmann's passing, Chief Judge Debra A. Livingston said, "Judge Katzmann led our court through historic challenges, from budget sequester and governmental shutdowns at the beginning of his tenure as chief, to the pandemic, which upended our court's opera-



tions only last spring. Throughout it all, Judge Katzmann provided sure and steady leadership. And more than this, Judge Katzmann, with his commitment to civic education, also had a vision for the circuit — that the judiciary might lend a steadying hand to our democracy by helping to educate the citizenry about the rule of law and the role of judges. His quiet confidence, determination, exceptional leadership and strong sense of justice inspired us all."

In addition to his wife, Jennifer Callahan, Katzmann is survived by his mother, Sylvia; brothers, Gary '73, his twin, and Martin '78; and sister, Susan.

— Alex Sachare '71

1972

Robert K. "Kayo" Hull, attorney and mediator, Penn Yan, N.Y., on March 16, 2021. Hull was born in Denver but his family moved to



Robert K. "Kayo" Hull '72

South America and he received his early education in Argentina, Venezuela and Portugal. He graduated from Woodberry (Va.) Forest School and took a \$10-a-day trip through Europe during a gap year before college. Hull then earned degrees from the Law School in 1977 and SIPA in 1978. He was a writing instructor at the Law School and an associate at Sullivan & Cromwell in New York City before moving to Penn Yan, where he practiced law. He was Yates County treasurer 1986–89 and mayor of Penn Yan 1987–91, had been a labor arbitrator and mediator since 1993 and taught at Cornell Law School in the early 2000s. Hull is survived by his wife, Anna Hurley; sons, David, and Charles and his wife, Lisa; sister, Elizabeth; and one grandson. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Michael's

Church (ourladyofthelakescc.org); the Struzzi Fund of the Finger Lakes Health Foundation (flhealth.org), the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (michaelfox.org) or the Woodberry Forest School (woodberry.org).

1984

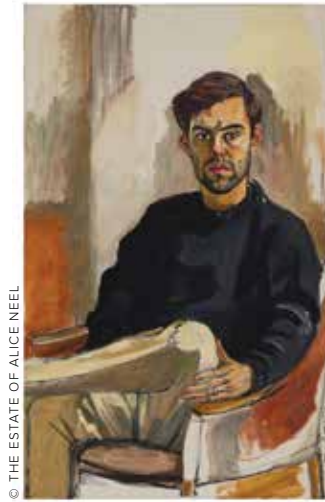
Eric L. Hansen, musician, New York on April 27, 2021. Born on February 18, 1957, in Grand Forks, N.D., Hansen moved with his family to Madisonville, Ky., where he was valedictorian at North Hopkins H.S. He majored in political science and minored in music, and became a devotee of the burgeoning new wave music scene and lifelong follower of The Residents and Tom Waits. Hansen was a member of the CU

Glee Club, the New York Choral Society and The Dessoiff Choirs, and the bass section leader and soloist in the St. John's Episcopal Church Choir in Larchmont, N.Y. He enjoyed nothing more than lugging his keyboard to open mic nights and doing his best Waits impersonation, which evolved into his "Tom Waits for No Man" finale performance in the annual Blowhole Theater show at Barbes Brooklyn. He is survived by his longtime partner, Anna; mother, Carolyn; brothers, Paul and his wife, Pi-Hsun, Daniel and his wife, Stacey, and Peter and his wife, Heather; sisters, Sonja and her husband, Dave, Kristen and her husband, Trent, and Rachel and her husband, Todd; and eight nephews and nieces. Memorial contributions may be made to The Dessoiff Choirs (dessoff.org).

— Alex Sachare '71

Alice Neel's Columbia Paintings

Alice Neel, one of the most powerfully expressive artists of the 20th century, was recently the subject of a hugely popular show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Fans may be surprised to learn that Neel had many close ties to Columbia, including both of her sons, **Richard Neel '61, LAW'64** and **Hartley Neel '63**, portrayed here. Read more about Neel's Columbia connections (and see more of her great artwork!) in our online exclusive by **Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80**, now at college.columbia.edu/cct.



Richard (1963)

Richard Neel '61, LAW'64 sat for his mother at a stressful moment in his academic career: His intensity is clear from the look in his eyes, the careful rendering of his mouth, the three-day beard.

"I'm in the Law School here, studying for finals," he remembers, "and I figured out that if I didn't shave, I would save 20 minutes a day. The extra time would be used for studying." He has long appreciated how well Alice Neel understood and expressed his state of mind. The canvas hung over his piano in a Riverside Drive apartment for many years.



Hartley (1966)

There's no mistaking **Hartley Neel '63's** troubled state of mind in this portrait. The distant stare and downcast mouth, each so finely detailed; his weighed-down slouch, arms akimbo; the deathly, ashen-green highlights on his face, his arms and the folds of his chinos. He was at a low point psychologically, Hartley says, and his mother captured it.

Then 25, he was a first-year med student at Tufts, having just finished two years of teaching at Dartmouth while he completed a master's in chemistry. At home for the Christmas holiday, he felt disillusioned and conflicted. What disturbed him most was the experience of dissecting cadavers in his gross anatomy class. He wondered if he should drop out, which would probably mean getting drafted into the military just as the Vietnam War was escalating. "Fortunately, I went back to school, finished up and got excited about medicine." He is still a practicing radiologist.



Richard and Hartley (1950)

Brotherly solidarity and boyish energy abound this work, which conveys Alice Neel's respect for the complexity of her sons' emotional lives. To her, children were not merely adults-in-waiting, but individuals to be taken as seriously as anyone else.

"There's great affection and warmth in it," **Hartley Neel '63** says. "In those days we were absolutely as close as you can imagine. Things were good, and Alice enjoyed doing that painting."

Richard Neel '61, LAW'64 adds: "I'm glad Alice did it. Later on, she wanted to paint us in our Columbia Glee Club tuxedos, but she didn't. It was just a concept."

“I was so fortunate that Columbia offered us such generous financial aid. That really is what allowed me to come here.”

– Amanda Daly CC'22

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