

# CCT

Columbia  
College  
Today 

Spring/Summer 2022

**A LOW PROFILE**  
THE CAMPUS JEWEL IS  
HAVING A BIG BIRTHDAY

**SPEAKING THEIR  
LANGUAGE**  
SHANA INO FUENTES '00  
IS HELPING TO MAKE  
QUECHUA INSTA-FAMOUS

**CONGRATS  
TO OUR 2022  
GRADUATES!**  
IN-PERSON CLASS DAY  
MAKES A COMEBACK

# THE END OF AN ERA

AFTER 11 YEARS AS COLUMBIA  
COLLEGE DEAN, **JAMES J. VALENTINI**  
REFLECTS ON HIS LIFE AND CAREER



“Financial aid has enabled me to pursue my education without any worry about student debt or concern for how I will pay for my everyday expenses. I am only able to be a part of this impossibly exciting, challenging and empowering experience because of generous donor support.”

— Joseph Nthumba CC'24



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CORE TO  
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## *Within the Family*

# The End of an Era

**M**y first day of work at Columbia came less than two months after James J. Valentini was appointed interim dean in September 2011. At the time, I didn't realize what it would mean to join the College at such a page-turning moment — that an institution such as this is far from static, and how a dean is not only entrusted with ensuring its continuance and well-being, but also is given an opportunity to set a direction and foster change in any number of ways.

I remember, early on, in a meeting with other teams that worked with alumni, that Dean Valentini redefined graduates as “former students” and prospectives as “future students.” The new vocabulary felt strange; wasn't it just semantics? As a writer, I should have known better. Those words contained a powerful vision — of a unified and connected community, made up of people at all stages of their College experience — that under the dean's leadership has been ushered from idea to reality. In retrospect, it was also evidence of his Beginner's Mind at work, approaching the world as if seeing everything for the first time.

Of course, I have been thinking about these early impressions because the dean's tenure is nearly at an end, bringing with it all the reflection such a moment requires. Dean Valentini will have been in his role for more than a decade when he steps down on June 30 — long enough to qualify as an era, and a transformational one at that. From the landmark fundraising of the Core to Commencement campaign, to the modernization of the Core Curriculum, to the changes in student culture engendered by My Columbia College Journey and Live Well | Learn Well, he has dramatically influenced every corner of College life.

I had the privilege of interviewing Dean Valentini for this issue's cover story. Though I'd spoken with him over the years, it had always been brief; this would be something new (and thus a bit nerve-racking). But there was no need for jitters. The dean was gracious and generous with his time, inviting me into his office on two occasions and staying open to my questions, wherever they took the conversation — from his upbringing in Lafferty, Ohio, to his life in college and early adulthood. He was modest, forthright and unerringly precise, often revising mid-sentence in the interest of absolute accuracy. I was moved that he shared so many vivid and personal recollections. And I am honored to share his story.

Elsewhere in the issue, we meet Shana Inofuentes '00, the co-founder of The Quechua Project, who is harnessing the power of social media to help preserve Bolivia's second-most common language. Here, she speaks powerfully about the dangers of Indigenous language erasure and her aim to empower and instill cultural pride in Quechua speakers — especially the younger generations. We also wish Low Library a very happy (125th!) birthday, with highlights from the Columbia University Archives and perspectives from alumni architects and historians on what makes it special.

I'd also urge you not to miss the Big Picture, where we introduce John Jay Hall's avian residents, or our coverage of Class Day and Commencement. The joy at Columbia's first in-person graduation ceremonies in three years was palpable, and we send all of our newest alumni best wishes for the chapters that lie ahead.

We send those same wishes to Dean Valentini: May you meet with sunny skies and an open road this summer; thank you for everything, and we're happy to know we'll be able to find you in Havemeyer again soon.

*Alexis Boncy*

Alexis Boncy SOA'11  
*Editor-in-Chief*

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Alexis Boncy SOA'11

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Lisa Palladino

**DEPUTY EDITOR**  
Jill C. Shomer

**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS**  
James C. Katz '72  
Alex Sachare '71

**ART DIRECTOR**  
Eson Chan

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**ADDRESS**  
Columbia College Today  
Columbia Alumni Center  
622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl.  
New York, NY 10025

**PHONE**  
212-851-7852

**EMAIL**  
cct@columbia.edu

**WEB**  
college.columbia.edu/cct

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# Hawk Eyed

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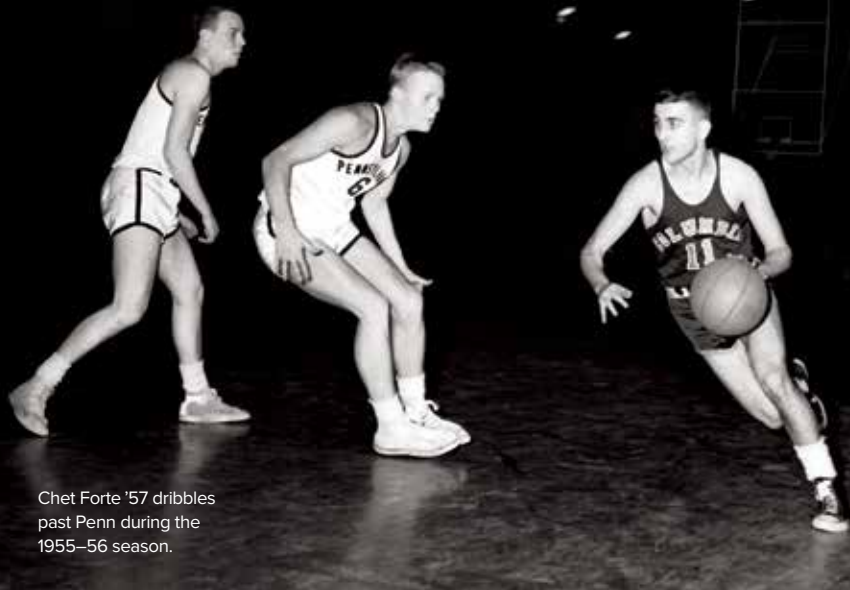
A pair of red-tailed hawks captured the hearts of students and alumni alike when the raptors built their nest on John Drotos '25's 10th-floor John Jay balcony this past spring. Soon three eggs appeared, and the watchful parents became social media sensations. An online naming contest led to the pair being dubbed Ruth and Martin Ginsbirds, in memory of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg LAW'59 and her husband. A webcam live-broadcast their every move, and when two eyases hatched in April, it was cause for celebration!

JÖRG MEYER



*the* **BigPicture**





Chet Forte '57 dribbles past Penn during the 1955–56 season.

COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

## What About Chet?

I enjoyed the “Roar, Lion, Roar” article “Memorable Moments in Lions Basketball” by Alex Sachare '71 [Winter 2021–22], but I was surprised that the 1956–57 season was not included. Guard Chet Forte '57 averaged 28.9 ppg, was first team All-America, UPI Player of the Year (beating out Wilt Chamberlain), first team All-Ivy and the Haggerty Award winner that season. His Columbia number, 40, is retired. He and Ted Dwyer '57, PS'61 forged a scoring duo, coached by the beloved Lou Rossini, that our class will never forget.

**Michael J. Messer '59**  
*Lafayette, Calif.*

Omitting the life and times of Chet Forte '57 from “Memorable Moments in Lions Basketball” is unforgivable! I was in high school when Forte played for Columbia and, largely due to him, the games were televised.

**Matt Chamlin '61, BUS'64**  
*New York City*

I enjoyed immensely the trip down basketball memory lane, courtesy of “Memorable Moments in Lions Basketball.” Reminiscent of the March 1968 victory over Princeton, another win of much more intensity occurred on January 18, 1964, in University Gym. The visiting Tigers, led by Bill Bradley, the best college basketball player I ever saw in person, never led the game. Despite Bradley's 36 points, Lion defenders put the lid on the rest of the opponent's players. Final score: Columbia 69, Princeton 66. Kudos to Coach Jack Rohan '53 and that wonderful squad of hoopsters! Meanwhile, Jim Larson '66 (ahem!) never made varsity but started one game on the Columbia frosh team in 1962–63. Fouled out early ... scored 0 points.

**Jim Larson '66**  
*Seaford, Del.*

## Art Hum Envy

As an irregular reader of *Columbia College Today*, I start but often don't finish the articles. Please accept my praise for the last issue [Winter 2021–22]. It was a pleasure to read and see the artwork in the article referring to the Core Curriculum [“What's New, Art Hum?”]. You managed to make me jealous of the new students, some of whom I am interviewing by phone through the Alumni Representative Committee for the Class of 2026.

The only bummer: I am forced to purchase Roosevelt Montás '95, GSAS'04's memoir, *Rescuing Socrates: How the Great Books Changed My Life and Why They Matter for a New Generation*, from Princeton University Press. OMG!

Keep up the good work and good reporting for our school.

**Bob Gabel '69**  
*Little Silver, N.J.*

## Must-See (College!) TV

Thank you very much for the Amanda Peet '94 cover story [“Twice the Talent,” Winter 2021–22]; it is always great to hear about prominent alumni. My wife, Randy Lara Sargent Lee NRS'82, and I loved the episodes of *The Chair* on Netflix! Thank goodness *CCT* provided us with the entertainment alert. Please keep up the good work. I always look forward to the latest issue.

**William Lee '79**  
*Valhalla, N.Y.*

## Wondrous Columbia

I just finished reading the CC'52 Class Notes column in the Winter 2021–22 issue. Wow! It is 70 years since I left the Columbia University campus but I have not forgotten the many memories of friends both in class and at extracurricular activities. It was at least in the 1970s, when out of the Navy and working, that I fully realized the wondrous education I had received at Columbia College. Now, at 91, I know how privileged I was to attend the College and then P&S. From the 17-year-old with a beanie in 1948 to 2022, I have been blessed, and I am thankful for my years at Columbia. Roar, Lion, Roar!

**Carl Meier '52, PS'56**  
*Fort Myers, Fla.*

## Contact Us



*CCT* welcomes letters from readers about articles in the magazine but cannot print or personally respond to all letters received. Letters express the views of the writers and not *CCT*, the College or the University. All letters are subject to editing for space, clarity and *CCT* style. Please submit Letters to the Editor online: [college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us).



## Message from the Dean

# The College's Collective Inheritance

Dean James J. Valentini steps down on June 30 as dean and vice president for undergraduate education. The following is adapted from remarks he gave at a special gathering of alumni, faculty, students and staff, held on April 27 at Gotham Hall in Midtown. To read more about the dean's decade-plus of leadership, visit [valentini.college.columbia.edu](http://valentini.college.columbia.edu).

When I became interim dean in September 2011, the College was in a difficult state. It was clear that I needed right away to say something assertive, something that certified the centrality and value of the College to calm the fears, but also something that clearly positioned the College as part of the University. But it had to be something honest, something I truly felt, and not something simply reflective of the moment of crises. It was with that aim that I wrote “Welcome to the greatest college, in the greatest university, in the greatest city in the world.”

I did not anticipate that this three-part refrain would become so frequently repeated. But that repetition, which continues today, indicates how much that refrain was needed. We all want to feel we are part of a community, and a special community at that, and this refrain has given us a memorable way to identify our community and its specialness. That College community is one of many people, and those many people are our only resource. Every single person — every faculty member, every alum, every staff member, every student — should know that their individual value contributes to that greatness, and should feel that that contribution is understood and acknowledged.

We rely on a thousand faculty and a few hundred professional staff to execute our missions. Faculty create the academic direction, they do not follow it; and the staff deal every day with situations for which there can be no rigid standard operating procedure. And the many thousands of alumni volunteers who work with us in support of our missions are not employees to be assigned jobs. So, a good dean knows that leadership is only really possible by logical reasoning and emotional inspiration of those people, and that emotional inspiration must express recognition of the value of every individual.

To present that reasoning and provide that inspiration, the dean has a large audience with whom to communicate, and a platform and a microphone with which to be heard. But the audience is only attentive, the platform is only supportive, the microphone is only useful when there are ideas to express. Those ideas have to be clear, honestly presented, open for debate by all, and easily recognized as advancing the best interests of the faculty and students of the College. Most importantly, those ideas have to be seen as respecting people, recognizing their needs and acknowledging the value of their contributions.

Pretty much all my time as dean has been focused on formulating and developing such ideas. First came the ideas, then the opportunity to inspire others to join in the action to implement them and then the satisfaction of seeing these ideas realized because of the work of tens, sometimes hundreds, of people, all working together



DIANE BONDAREFF

with a common purpose. That satisfaction has been great, greater than any other in my professional life.

Many students have asked me what I want my legacy to be. My answer is that my legacy is not for me to decide; rather my legacy lives within each of them, and in every other one who has been a student during my time as dean. What I mean by that is expressed in the funeral oration of Pericles that Thucydides records in the second book of the *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Pericles describes legacy as the “memory that remains eternal in men’s minds, which more than any monument will remain forever, always there on the right occasion to stir others to speech or to action.”

But there are more than memories. The many programs we have built and the many efforts we initiated — Core to Commencement, My Columbia College Journey, the Global Collaboratory, Live Well | Learn Well, the Odyssey Mentoring Program, the Holder Initiative, Undergraduate Entrepreneurship and many more are neither the monuments nor the memories to which Pericles refers. They are indeed part of my legacy, but more importantly, they are the inheritance of Columbia College faculty, students and alumni of the future. So, these things must be protected and extended into the future, not as an individual legacy but as that collective inheritance.

On June 30, Deantini vanishes to emerge once again the next day as Professor Valentini, but my experience as Deantini will remain forever as a greatly fulfilling and immensely rewarding part of my life. Thank you so much for the partnerships, collaborations and true friendships I have developed. I wish Columbia College and each of you individually great success in the years to come.

Valentini with students at an event celebrating his leadership on April 27.

James J. Valentini  
Dean



## Josef Sorett Appointed College Dean

President Lee C. Bollinger announced on May 24 that Professor Josef Sorett will be the next dean of Columbia College and vice president of undergraduate education, effective July 1. Sorett, who has been teaching at the College since 2009, is a professor of religion and African American and African diaspora studies, chair of the Department of Religion and director of the Center on African-American Religion, Sexual Politics and Social Justice. He earned a B.S. in health and exercise science from Oral Roberts University, an M.Div. in religion and literature from Boston University and a Ph.D. in African American studies from Harvard.

Sorett's scholarship explores the vital and complex role that religion has played in shaping the cultures of Black communities and movements in the United States. His 2016 book, *Spirit in the Dark: A Religious History of Racial Aesthetics*, examines the influence of religion on debates about Black art and culture in the 20th century. His latest work is *The Sexual Politics of Black Churches*.

Sorett was presented the Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching at this year's Commencement, held on May 18.

## Trilling and Van Doren Awards



Farah Jasmine Griffin

Farah Jasmine Griffin, the William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies, was honored with the 47th annual Lionel Trilling Book Award for her nonfiction book *Read Until You*

*Understand: The Profound Wisdom of Black Life and Literature* (2021). Griffin was the inaugural chair of the African American

and African Diaspora Studies Department. She is a 2021 Guggenheim Fellow and an Andrew Mellon Foundation Scholar in Residence.

David Lurie GSAS'01, the Wm. Theodore and Fanny Brett de Bary and Class of 1941 Col-



David Lurie

legiate Professor of Asian Humanities and an associate professor of Japanese history and literature, was presented the 61st annual Mark Van Doren Award for Teaching. Lurie was recognized for his dedication and his nuanced approaches to the Core Curriculum; students regard Lurie as a "captivating lecturer with a deep passion for [his] work on East Asian Languages and Culture."

## Enhancements to Undergraduate Financial Aid

In April, the College announced several enhancements to financial aid for students and families. Beginning in the 2022–23 academic year, families with typical assets and incomes below \$66,000 will not be expected to contribute to the cost of their student's education. In addition, students from families with typical assets and incomes up to \$150,000 will attend Columbia tuition-free.

"These enhancements will expand access for a new generation of Columbians, increasing opportunity for students who show the promise to thrive in our environment and the curiosity and commitment to take full advantage of all the possibilities

we offer," said Jessica Marinaccio, dean of undergraduate admissions and financial aid.

In addition, beginning in summer 2022, the College will offer new \$2,000 start-up grants for low-income first-year students. These funds, made possible through a generous donor gift, are designed to help incoming students cover a portion of the cost associated with starting their undergraduate journey.

## Guridy Named Next Executive Director of the Holder Initiative

Frank Guridy, associate professor of history and of African American and African diaspora studies, will become the next executive director and senior scholar of The Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights on July 1. Named for its co-founder, former U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76, the Holder Initiative sponsors courses, public events, internships and fellowships that extend the themes and questions of the Core Curriculum into a contemporary context. "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be the next director of the Holder Initiative,"



SIRIN SAMMAN

Guridy says. “I am especially excited to continue fulfilling the program’s mission to combine humanistic thinking with outward-facing social justice work here in New York City. I look forward to working with

Columbia students and our surrounding communities to create visions for racial and environmental justice, voting and labor rights, equitable housing and public health.

I believe that students at Columbia are well positioned to address the challenges faced by the city in which they live and study.”

.....

## Class of 2026 Admission Decisions

Following another year of extraordinary application numbers, 2,253 students have been offered admission to the Class of 2026 by Columbia College and Columbia Engineering.

Undergraduate Admissions announced final applicant numbers in March, which

reflect a combination of applications received during the early decision and regular decision cycles. The schools received a total of 60,377 applications, virtually unchanged from last year’s historic 51 percent increase to 60,551 applications. This year’s admission rate was 3.73 percent.

The admitted class hails from all 50 states and 86 countries. Reflecting the growing diversity of Columbia’s student body, the number of admitted students who identified as students of color increased by 4 percent over last year and first-generation students increased by 3 percent.

## In Memoriam: Douglas A. Chalmers, Political Science Professor and University Administrator



COURTESY JOSHUA CHALMERS '86

**Douglas A. Chalmers**, a beloved and esteemed professor of political science, died on April 4, 2022, from complications of Parkinson’s disease. He was 90.

Chalmers was born in 1932 in Madison, Wisc.; in 1936, the family moved to Geneva. In 1939, they relocated to Washington, D.C., and Chalmers graduated from Woodrow Wilson H.S. He completed his early studies at the University Laboratory H.S. (Uni High) in Urbana, Ill., graduating in 1949.

Chalmers began college at MIT, focusing on chemistry and physics. Moving

toward the humanities and social sciences, he finished at Bowdoin College in 1953, graduating Phi Beta Kappa with philosophy high honors.

He met his future wife, Janet Gerard BC’56, SOA’81, in New York City in 1953 while working a summer job in the mailroom at Western Publishing in Rockefeller Center. He caught the eye of Gerard, who was on summer break from Antioch College working in the layout department. As they tell the story, she contrived to spill a bottle of glue to ensure that the handsome mailroom boy would have to clean it up. They were married in 1957.

Chalmers had been in ROTC in college and was obliged to provide two years of service after graduation. As the Korean War was resolved before graduation, he spent two years in the Army in Bordeaux, overseeing trucking. Upon completion of his service, Chalmers and his wife moved to New Haven, where he completed a Ph.D. in 1962 in political science at Yale. His first teaching positions were at Swarthmore College and Douglass College, Rutgers (Newark, N.J.).

In 1967, Chalmers was hired by Columbia’s Department of Political Science; he was quickly drafted to join a group of administrators and faculty that had been appointed to communicate with

the student protestors occupying Low Library. After that tumultuous beginning, he spent the next 52 years at Columbia, teaching and writing in the field of comparative politics. He was department chair, dean of SIPA and interim director of the Institute of Latin American Studies.

Chalmers’s success as an administrator and teacher could be attributed to his intellectual concern for underrecognized participants in the democratic political process. He was attentive to the workings of power within Columbia’s academic hierarchy, and was an advocate for women in the University, especially regarding hiring, promotion and tenure. As a teacher, his dedication, patience and respect made him a favorite among students.

In 2005 Chalmers officially retired, though he continued to be active as an emeritus professor for 14 years. He was executive director of the Society of Senior Scholars, a special assistant to the provost for faculty retirement and a president of Emeritus Professors in Columbia (EPIC), which was reinvigorated under his leadership.

One of Chalmers’s great joys was teaching undergraduates; he started teaching Contemporary Civilization in 1984. He loved the seminar’s discussion-based format and encouraging students to debate the larger ethical and political questions.

He continued teaching CC and contributed to the evolution of its syllabus until he left Columbia in 2019.

Everyone who knew Chalmers describes him as calm, thoughtful, intelligent and sweet. He was unfailingly interested in all intellectual and artistic endeavors, and brought his quiet and attentive approach to loved ones and acquaintances alike.

In 2019, Columbia awarded Chalmers an honorary Doctorate of Letters. President Lee C. Bollinger's remarks focused

on his teaching and his leadership as director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, during which, Bollinger said, the institute "blossomed."

"As a mentor to generations of budding scholars and public servants, you offered guidance without ego or orthodoxy, creating networks of Latin American experts across disciplines and schools. In so doing, over the span of your illustrious career, you transformed the field," Bollinger said.

Chalmers is survived by his wife of 65 years, Janet; children, Jessica BC'84 and

Joshua '86; granddaughter, Lola; sister Tiela; and many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by his sisters Jean and Meg.

EPIC is establishing a lecture series for graduate students in Chalmers's honor, The Douglas Chalmers Research Presentation Award, with the inaugural lecture set for Fall 2022. A memorial, as well as a fund in his name, are being planned. Details will be announced on [douglasachalmersmemorial.net](http://douglasachalmersmemorial.net).

—Joshua Chalmers '86

### DidYouKnow?

## The College's Deans Have Served for 126 years

While Columbia was founded in 1754, the role of Dean of Columbia College has only existed since 1896. That year, President Seth Low CC 1870 officially designated the University as "Columbia University in the City of New York" and announced that, going forward, the undergraduate school would be known as Columbia College. Under this new designation, John Howard Van Amringe CC 1860, who had succeeded Henry Drisler as dean of the School of the Arts in 1884, became the College's first dean. He stayed in the job until 1910; 16 more deans have followed since Van Amringe led the way.

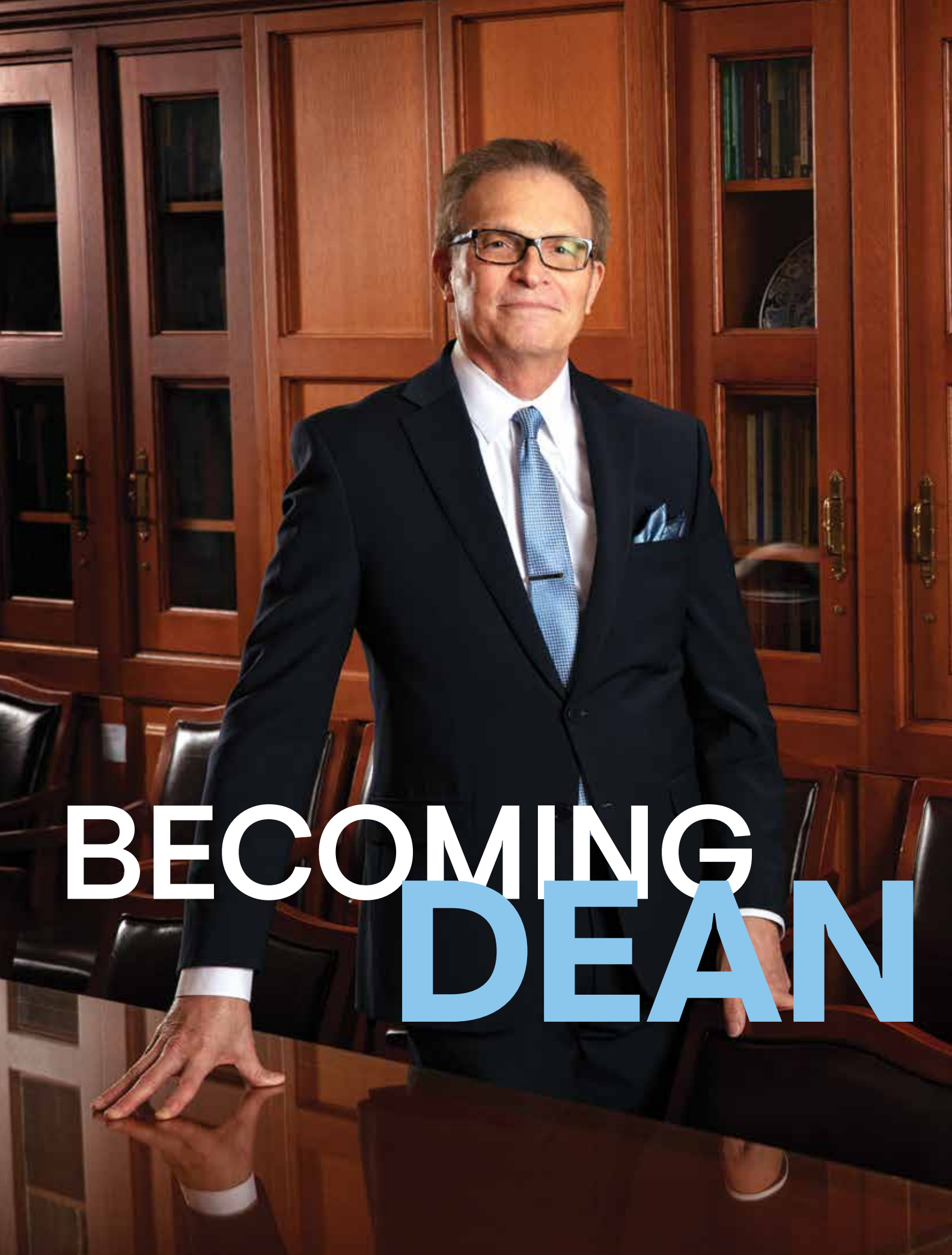


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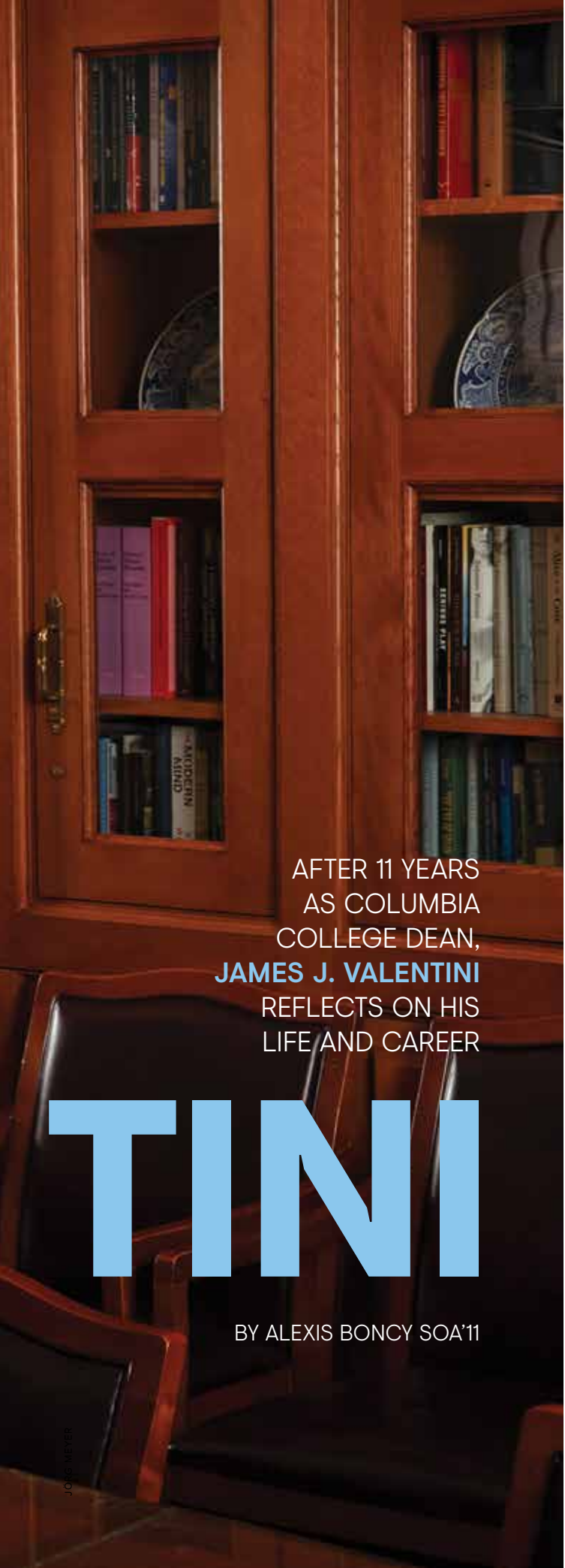
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# BECOMING DEAN



AFTER 11 YEARS  
AS COLUMBIA  
COLLEGE DEAN,  
**JAMES J. VALENTINI**  
REFLECTS ON HIS  
LIFE AND CAREER

# TINI

BY ALEXIS BONCY SOA'11

**O**n a Monday night in early April, under the dome of Low Library, Columbia College students gathered in their semi-formal best to celebrate their outgoing dean, James J. Valentini. The vibe was decidedly student-event-meets-going-away-party: free food and drinks (including specialty mocktails like the “Deantini Martini”); swag in the form of themed T-shirts (one bore the chemical symbol for coffee); and a banner and notecards for writing send-offs. “Thank you for responding to my email on Christmas morning after my backpack had been stolen,” read one. “I transferred to CC from SEAS bc of you!” said another. And a third: “Thank you for making each and every one of us feel special.”

The event had been planned mostly in secrecy, a feat considering Valentini doesn't love surprises. But there he was at the appointed hour, in his customary blue dress sneakers and with his pocket square just so, causing a traffic jam as students rushed to say hello and pose with him for pictures. The program itself included several sets of remarks and, the most-secret centerpiece, a special performance by the Varsity Show. True to form, the ensemble spun the dean's origin story into original song — “From Appalachia/Comin' at cha!” — and served up a skit that imagined the last Dine with Deantini lunch. Ample parody was made of Valentini's most frequent phrases (“the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the greatest state in the greatest country ...”). Near the finale, one of the students posed a question to the play's dean that the actual dean has been getting a lot: “What do you think your legacy will be?”

Valentini has in fact considered this question at length. His answer, however, sidesteps any attempt at prediction. A week earlier, in his office in Hamilton Hall, he'd explained his position to this reporter, who was also very interested in the topic. “I like to quote Pericles here, from Thucydides's

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JÖRG MEYER

*History of the Peloponnesian War.* Really, I'm paraphrasing. But he said, 'Your legacy is not written in stone monuments; it's written in the fabric of the lives that you have touched.'

"My legacy already exists in the many current students, alumni, parents and faculty members whom I've had a connection with. I don't know what that legacy is. In many regards, it won't be evident, and I won't see it because it'll happen long after I'm gone. But it's in their lives, and that's immutable."

**VALENTINI STEPS DOWN** on June 30 after more than a decade as dean of the College and vice president for undergraduate education. He is among the longest-serving College deans, having been appointed on an interim basis in September 2011 before becoming "the real dean" (as he says) the following June. Though he has agreed to this exit interview, he mentions repeatedly that the conversation makes him uncomfortable. It's not that Valentini is entirely reluctant to talk about himself or to reflect on his time as dean. But he doesn't like the imbalance of the setup — he wants to ask questions, too. By all accounts, this is one of Valentini's most defining qualities: his interest in *other* people. He wants to know where they come from and what they like to do, what they think and why they think what they think. He is always looking to learn. "And you never learn anything by talking."

He is also quick to deflect any notion that his deanship should be viewed through the lens of individual accomplishment. "I didn't do anything on my own — not a single thing," Valentini says. "To me, the greatest

satisfaction is to work on something with other people and succeed as a group."

Still, Valentini's vision has transformed the College in ways too numerous to count; any short list would include his leadership in developing a comprehensive strategic plan — "the owner's manual for Columbia College," as he puts it — and conceiving and launching Core to Commencement, the first fundraising campaign dedicated exclusively to the College (in June, the campaign reached its \$750 million goal). He recognized the need to connect the Core Curriculum more strongly to today's world, paving the way for a comprehensive reform of the Art Humanities syllabus and the creation of the Eric H. Holder Jr. Initiative for Civil and Political Rights. And he shifted the paradigm for alumni by painting the College as a unified and lifelong community — one where supporting and being a role model to students was as much a point of pride as their Columbia degree.

On campus, Valentini remade the culture twice over: He elevated student well-being to become a top priority, subsequently mobilizing the College community and many parts of the University to support student mental health through the Live Well | Learn Well campaign. And he introduced a new perspective on the College experience, deemphasizing academic success as the end-all, be-all — no small feat in the Ivy League. But Valentini was determined to break students' penchant for racking up credits and multiple majors. ("No one hires a transcript," he says.) His signature initiative, My Columbia College Journey, instead encourages undergraduates to take a holistic view by placing greater emphasis on personal growth and development. The essential underlying message: There's more than one road to finding fulfillment in life.

But for all of these and other concrete successes, Valentini is perhaps most closely associated with something far more conceptual — "Beginner's Mind." Indeed, it's hard to imagine anyone who has spent time in the dean's presence not being able to finish this sentence from the Zen monk and teacher Shunryu Suzuki: "In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities; in the expert's mind there are few." Valentini has introduced the principle of approaching the world as if seeing everything for the first time at every Convocation and Class Day since 2012. He also shares the philosophy in the first class of his science courses, illustrating his point with two photographs: one of a lit candle and one of a luminescent blue ball. It turns out the ball is also a candle, albeit one burning on the space station. "And I say to them, 'Beginner's Mind means to look at the candle on the left that you know with the same curiosity that you look at the candle on the right.'"

Valentini says that Beginner's Mind has been an integral part of his life for close to 30 years. "It basically develops empathy because it forces you to think about other people or situations and not make snap judgments," he says. "And it's a really hard thing to do — a

Teaching his science course on energy and energy conservation.







Life in Lafferty (clockwise from left): Valentini with his step-grandfather and maternal grandmother, Joseph and Christina Orell, outside their home in 1957; with his youngest brother, Thomas (far left), and parents, Dorothy and Julio, in 1964; his high school senior snapshot.



PHOTOS COURTESY JAMES J. VALENTINI

*really* hard thing. I still have to practice. But I think it may be the single most important thing in determining success in life.”

**VALENTINI GREW UP** in Lafferty, Ohio, a tiny town not far from the West Virginia border. “If you say it’s part of Appalachia, which it is, that’s more evocative of what it was like,” he says. Lafferty had two stop signs, no traffic lights and a population around 200; the majority were first- or second-generation Italian Americans. “They could trace their ancestry back to one small area of northern Italy, like to three towns,” Valentini says. “Everybody knew everybody else. I used to joke that my mother knew what I had done before I had done it.”

That part of Ohio is coal country. The industry was the base of Lafferty’s economy — originally deep mines, which gradually gave way to strip mines; there was one a few hundred feet behind the Valentini home. “All day long and certainly at night, I could hear the clanging of the dragline, which is a kind of excavator that removes the earth to expose the coal. It has lights on it, so at night I used to look out my bedroom window and I could see this huge rig and hear the clanging.”

Both of Valentini’s grandfathers were killed in mining accidents, and his step-grandfather owned a small mine. Valentini’s father, Julio, however, traveled a different path. He dropped out of high school in the 10th grade and, as a younger man, ran a combination candy store and pool hall; after marrying, he became a radio operator for the highway department. Valentini’s mother, Dorothy, was a bookkeeper before transition-

ing to work in the home. Valentini was the oldest of three boys, with two years between him and his middle brother, and six between him and the youngest.

“The town was very poor, with limited opportunities,” Valentini says. “Many men died or were injured in coal mines. And the ones who didn’t die ended up with black lung. There was a strong sense in my family, particularly by my mother, of the importance of finding another way. Because this was a dangerous way of life. The whole thing was, the next generation has to find something better. And school was really important in that.”

For Valentini, that meant first his local elementary school, a three-room building with no indoor plumbing, run by nuns; then later, a regional Catholic school. Both were rigorous, with high expectations for academic work and an insistence on discipline. His high school science teacher was encouraging, and particularly influential. “I had a fundamental interest in how the world works, and that got translated into chemistry, which was more interesting to me than biology or physics,” he says. His graduating class had 24 students.

Around age 10, Valentini started earning money by mowing lawns and washing cars. At 14, he began working in the local general store. “My first regular job paid 75 cents an hour,” he recalls. He was paid in cash but never spent any of it. “I would take the money and

**“THERE WAS A STRONG SENSE IN MY FAMILY OF FINDING ANOTHER WAY. ... AND SCHOOL WAS REALLY IMPORTANT IN THAT.”**

**“PEOPLE DON’T BELIEVE ME, BUT I AM FUNDAMENTALLY AN INTROVERT.”**

just jam it into my jeans, and I would come home and I’d iron the money flat — perfectly flat — and I’d organize all the bills. Then when I had enough, I’d go to the bank and buy a U.S. savings bond. That was how I paid for college.”

The general store is also where he learned how to talk to other people. Valentini was painfully shy. (“People don’t believe me, but I am fundamentally an introvert,” he says.) He also spent summers helping his widowed grandmother. “She had a big house, 14 rooms, and an old barn on two acres of property — we’d do yard work, maintenance, painting, whatever,” he says. “She could work all day long. That’s all she ever did in life. She taught me — without saying so — that hard work was its own reward.” In the evenings, she’d make dinner while Valentini read novels borrowed from the local bookmobile. “It came around every other week or so, a big truck with books in the back ... *Moby Dick*, Sinclair Lewis, *The Scarlet Letter*, Nathaniel Hawthorne — lots of American literature.”

Then, as now, he was fascinated with cars. As early as age 8, Valentini would sit on the floor at the supermarket and read automotive magazines off the rack while his mother shopped. Once he was tall enough for his feet to reach the pedals, he would drive his grandparents’ old car around the yard. “Around and around, until my mother would yell, ‘You’re wearing out the grass!’” he recalls with a laugh.

Valentini was the first in his family to go to college, attending on a mix of scholarships, loans and the money he’d saved. He chose the University of Pitts-

burgh because he wanted to be in “a real city, a place where I could have some anonymity.” Even so, he was terrified. “I had never slept anywhere other than my grandmother’s house or our house. I had never used a public restroom, never been on a bus, a train, a taxi, anything. And that was a time when you didn’t have a lot of orientation programs — people were admitted and it was, ‘OK, do the best you can.’”

For the first month, whenever he visited the library, he sat in the same seat near the entrance. “It wasn’t the place for studying — it had a stool without a back, and what was then called the *Reader’s Guide to Periodic Literature*, which is an ancient thing that predates electronic databases. But I didn’t know what it was for. I’d never been in a real library, certainly not in a place this big. I didn’t know how you were supposed to behave.”

Doing well on his midterms helped ease his discomfort, and by the end of the first semester, he realized he would be OK. “I was still awkward and out of place,” he adds. “There were so many kids who were from cities who had done things and seen things that I had no knowledge of. But I wasn’t terrified anymore.”

Valentini had roommates the first few years and lived in singles afterward. At one point, he was the only person on a floor of football players, “surrounded by guys who weighed twice what I weighed. They were just leading a whole different life than I was leading.” He laughs. “I was kind of like a little mascot to them.” Valentini recalls that he gained confidence as he succeeded academically. “I found a circle of people — not a very big one — but people with whom I had something in common, and I felt I could navigate and I wouldn’t say the wrong thing.” He considered majoring in philosophy, but was dissuaded after taking a course on Kant. “I couldn’t understand it at all, and I figured I had no prospects there, so I’d stick with chemistry. I think it was probably a good choice.”

**INSIDE VALENTINI’S OFFICE** in March, a flattened moving carton resting against one wall offers the only visible evidence that he’ll be leaving this space in three months. Above it hangs a piece of art — a curving, looped wood shape that turns out to be the outline of the racetrack at Monte Carlo (only two visitors have ever identified it). Nearby, a glass cabinet displays a shelf of Buddhas and many model cars; the latter are largely gifts from alumni and students. Valentini pulls out a small Ferrari. Asked what draws him to cars, he hesitates. “Going fast is one of the things I really like in life,” he says finally. “I rode my bicycle as fast as I could, pedaled full speed down a hill without a helmet. When I lived in New Mexico I learned to ski, and I wanted to go as fast as possible down the hill. Cars are about speed, skiing is about speed, bicycles are about speed.

“Cars are also about freedom,” he adds thoughtfully. “And when you’re trapped in a little town, a car represents freedom in a way.”

Many of the model cars in Valentini’s office were gifts from students and alumni.



Valentini speaks openly about his modest background, and often shares pieces of his biography in conversation. He says that Admissions even has a special letter that talks about his early life, sent to admitted students from rural areas and students who are first generation. Considering this, he again references empathy. “It’s extremely valuable as dean to have had these experiences, to have grown up in a small backwater town, to have had my college experience. It helps you understand current students, some of whom approach college in a similar way. I’m really grateful for it. It gives you such a perspective on life.”

That said, Valentini sometimes worries that students will view him and his story as being somehow exceptional. “And if it’s exceptional, then it’s not accessible.” He pauses before adding: “There’s nothing remarkable about me. I didn’t set out to be dean. I just did one thing after another, and it led to this; it could have led to something else. There’s serendipity in this, too.”

Some of that serendipity occurred in 1990, when Columbia chemistry professor Ronald Breslow gave a seminar at UC Irvine while Valentini was in his sixth year as a professor there. (Previously, he had been a member of the research staff at Los Alamos National Laboratory.) “Because Ronald was talking to everyone in the department, he talked to me,” Valentini says. “The next day, I got a call from Columbia saying, how’d you like to come here?” Another cosmic turn came in 1994, when he met Teodolinda Barolini at the first session of the newly elected Executive Committee of Columbia’s Arts and Sciences faculty. Valentini was making notes to help him remember who was who; when Barolini introduced herself, he wrote, “she’s the cute one.” They married in 2001. (Both have sons from prior marriages; Valentini’s are Evan and Colin GS’17, and Barolini’s is William.)

In his 32-year career at Columbia, Valentini has been chair of the chemistry department, director of the chemistry department’s Undergraduate Studies Program and sat on an array of College and University committees. He was instrumental in creating the Science Research Fellows program, a four-year designation for Columbia’s most promising science students.

Valentini recounts the moment he became interim dean in 2011: “They asked me at 1:00 on a Friday. I said OK, and they made the announcement at 4:00. I had no anticipation of doing it any longer than needed.” He wryly recalls the BWOOG headline upon his formal appointment in June 2012, “Deantini Is Now CC Dean Forever.” “It wasn’t forever,” he says, “but it was a pretty long time.”

Looking back on his tenure, the dean says his biggest takeaway is that people are the College’s most vital resource. “I already knew the importance of valuing people, but the *scope* of what we do is enormous. The role of the College in the lives of students and faculty has far more dimensions than what I anticipated.

“The success of a collection of people is not easy,” he adds. “The secret is to surround yourself with people



who are smarter than you, and to listen to them. I ask questions, and I expect people to be able to explain to me why they think something. Sometimes I’ll disagree and then we’ll talk about it. But everyone is willing to work together, and that’s why we’re successful.”

Despite Valentini’s discomfort on the question of legacy, he allows that there are some things that he would like to see continue: the strategic plan, Beginner’s Mind, My Columbia College Journey, Live Well | Learn Well ... and Pantone 292. “The last seems almost like a throwaway,” he says, “but it’s a visual symbol of our connection to one another. All you have to do is look up at the sky, and that’s Columbia College blue.”

Asked what he’ll miss about being dean, the answer is immediate: “The interaction with so many different people, every day. I am really going to miss that.” He repeats the last sentence, quietly. “That brings me to tears, actually.” He tells a story about a CC’20 alumna who approached him recently at an event in Los Angeles, to share how much it meant to her that he’d taken 10 minutes to chat on the Low Steps one afternoon. “There are so many episodes like that,” he says. “You can change a student’s life here by one small thing.

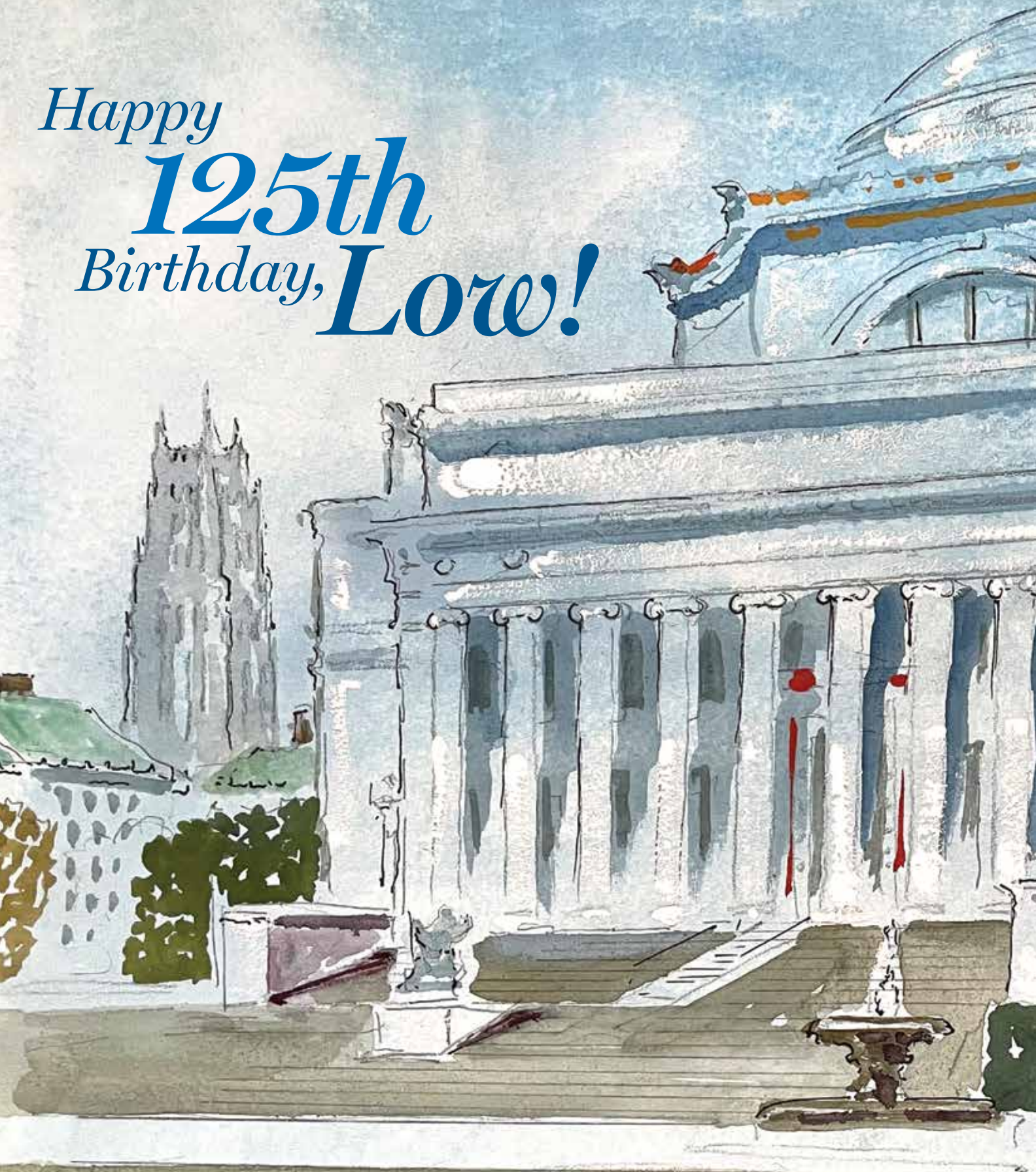
“I consider myself tremendously fortunate,” Valentini adds. “The most important good fortune is to have a strong family and good friends, but not far behind that is the good fortune to be able to do something in life, working with people whom you respect and who share a common sense of purpose with you. And you work together on something that is undeniably, unequivocally really important. Being dean is one of those things.”

Chatting outside Hamilton with Sina Ahdoot ’23.

### A LEADER’S LEGACY

Read more about how Valentini left his mark on the College, along with reflections from alumni, faculty and staff: [valentini.college.columbia.edu](http://valentini.college.columbia.edu).

*Happy*  
**125th**  
*Birthday, Low!*





**We pay tribute to the campus  
centerpiece, completed in 1897**

Illustrations by Adam Van Doren '84, GSAPP'89

**Low Memorial Library**, the first major building to be erected on the Morningside Heights campus, is having a big birthday this year. To celebrate, we raided the Columbia University Archives, requested insights from alumni architects and historians, and recalled memories from years of Steps fans. *We love you, Low!*

— Jill C. Shomer



Low Memorial Library, circa 1897.

## In the Beginning

Construction on Low Library began in 1895; it was to be the visual and academic heart of the new Morningside Heights campus, according to the plans created by renowned American architectural firm McKim, Mead & White. President Seth Low CC 1870 provided the cash (a million dollars, to be exact, in memory of his father, Abiel Abbot Low) and Charles McKim put forth the design, a neoclassical vision that was a hat tip to both Thomas Jefferson's rotunda at the University of Virginia, completed 60 years earlier, and Hadrian's second-century Pantheon in Rome.

An 1897 pamphlet summarizes Columbia's lofty aims: "[It] is not so much a storehouse for books as it is a laboratory for those who are to use books. Quite as much thought has been given to the reader as well as the book."

The Rotunda was conceived as the principal reading room, modeled after the main reading room of London's British

Museum. The architects designed a circle of tiered desks fitted with bronze reading lamps and bookcases that held 12,000 volumes. Stacks on the floors beneath the reading room housed an additional 150,000 volumes, while another 16,000 were shelved in the galleries above. At full capacity the library was expected to accommodate 1.9 million books.

Low would also be home to campus administrators: Seth Low held public office hours in the President's Room — Room 213 — but worked in Room 307. (In 1948, Dwight D. Eisenhower became the first University president to occupy the current suite of offices on the second floor.) The Trustees, meanwhile, have always convened in Room 212.

The building was renamed the "Seth Low Memorial Library" by President Nicholas Murray Butler CC 1882 in 1935, and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1987.

## When Columbia Hung the Moon

The best definition of a university is, to my mind, a city from which the universe can be surveyed.

Aesthetically ancient but technologically advanced, Low Library rose to this challenge. Its walls are several feet thick, thicker than was necessary in an 1890s America that had moved on from heavy stone construction to steel-frame skeletal structures for skyscrapers and railroad stations. Buried within hundreds of tons of Milford granite, Indiana limestone and the architecture of antiquity were the latest technologies: electricity, steam heating, Corliss steam engines and internal plumbing at a time when hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers still used outhouses.

The great library aimed to collapse the universe into the size of a room. From the dome's center was suspended a seven-foot-diameter white ball, which *Scientific American* described in 1898 as "Columbia's artificial moon." So that students could read by moonlight under a canopy of stars, the 500-pound ball was illuminated by spotlights hidden in upstairs galleries, reflecting the "moon" against the painted dark dome to resemble the night sky. (With no other point of reference except candles, *Scientific American* calculated the glow of Columbia's moon as equivalent in power to 3,972 candles.)

But light technology had yet to be perfected, and the lightbulbs' carbon filaments could only burn for two and a half hours before the moon went dark. As a result, Columbia needed to replace the filaments daily and could only illuminate the universe from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The moon came down to Earth in January 1965. As part of an extensive renovation, a new light and sound system was installed in Low and the lunar cycles were left to the real heavens above.

— Myles Zhang '19

*Ph.D. candidate in architectural history, University of Michigan*

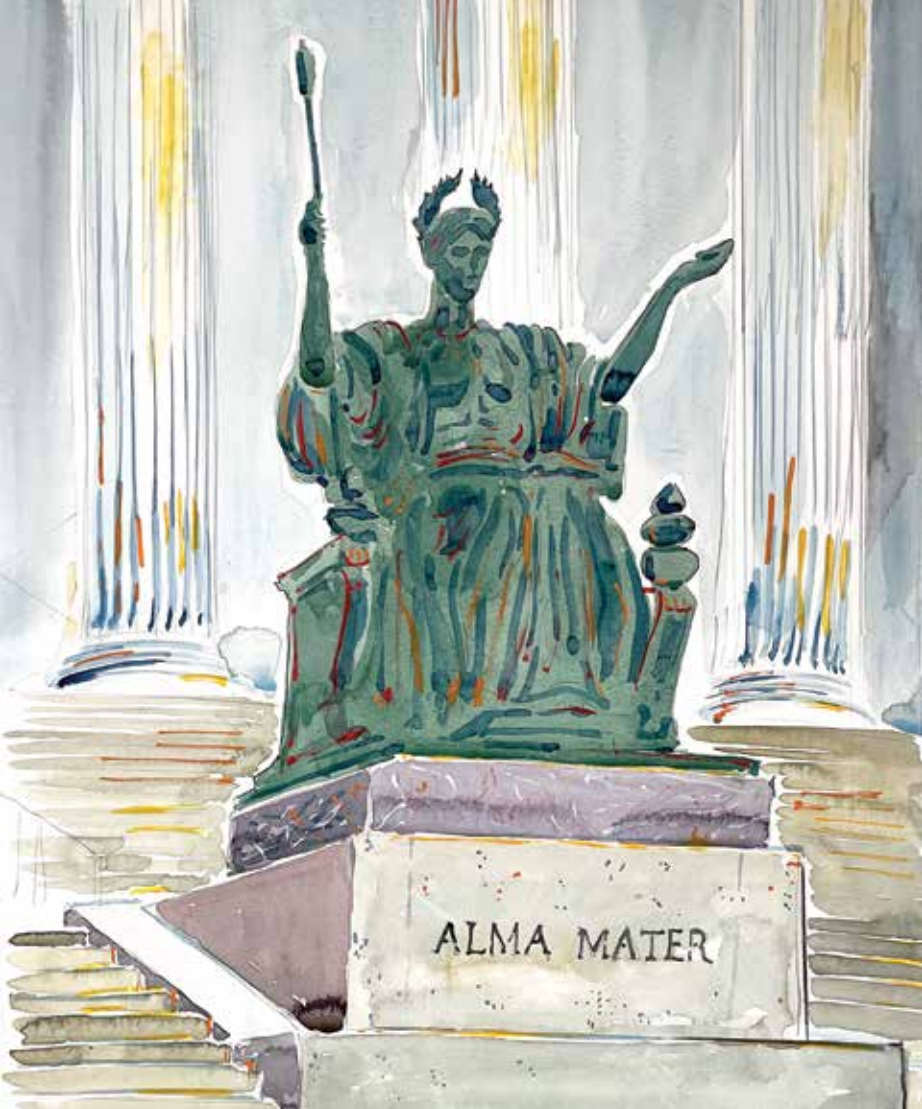
COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

## All About Alma

When Charles McKim designed Low’s front steps (see “Love for Low Steps”), he included an empty granite pedestal in the middle on which a statue might sit. In 1900, Harriette Goelet, the widow of prominent businessman Robert Goelet CC 1860, offered the Trustees up to \$25,000 to install a bronze statue representing “Alma Mater” in memory of her husband, who had died the year before.

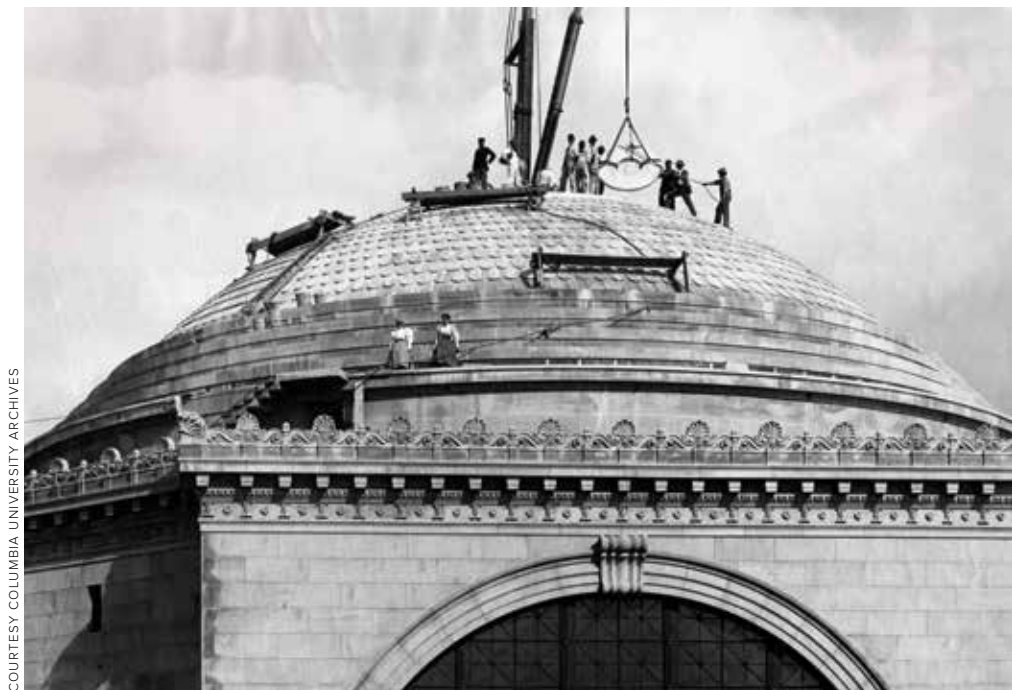
McKim recommended sculptor Daniel Chester French for the commission (the artist was well known at the time, and would go on to design the Pulitzer Prize and the statue of Abraham Lincoln inside the Lincoln Memorial, among other monuments). French aimed to create “a figure that should be gracious in the impression that it should make, with an attitude of welcome to the youths who should choose Columbia as their college.” Early drafts featured *Alma* with her hands in her lap; after a round of critique, French changed her arms to be outstretched and holding a scepter. His final design was approved by the Trustees on March 4, 1901; the total cost was \$20,000.

*Alma Mater* was installed in 1903. McKim was said to be delighted; he described *Alma* as “dignified, classic and stately ... exhibiting as much perception of the spirit and freedom of the Greek as any modern can.”



## A Major Dome, Oh!

Low’s formidable topper is the largest structure of its kind in the United States, and is built entirely of limestone-covered bricks and mortar. It stands 135 feet high and 100 feet wide, formed from steps that are four feet thick at the base and taper to a slim nine inches at the crown. A second dome, 70 feet wide and made of plaster and iron, is nestled inside it; arching 105 feet above the Rotunda’s floor, it was painted dark blue to look like the night sky (see “When Columbia Hung the Moon”). Stairs between the inner and outer domes lead to the roof; there were once designated hours to access the top — aviatrix Amelia Earhart famously enjoyed the air up there in 1920 — but the dome is no longer open to visitors.



COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The dome under construction in June 1897.



Nott Memorial library reading room, 1936.

## Where'd the Library Furniture Go?

Alas, the architects' ambitions for a central reading room didn't take, and in the early 1930s, thousands of books were carted across campus to the new South Hall, which was eventually renamed Butler Library. The Rotunda became a ceremony and event space (as it remains today), and the beautiful custom-designed McKim, Mead & White tables and bookshelves ended up in Low's basement.

Enter Dixon Ryan Fox CC 1911, GSAS 1917, a well-liked American history professor at the College. It was thought he would succeed Butler as University president, but in 1934, with Butler seemingly having no plans to retire, Fox left Columbia to become president of Union College in Schenectady. He returned to campus in 1935 to receive an honorary degree at Commencement; while visiting the Low ceremonial space, Fox found the old reading room furniture.

Union College happened to have its own iconic round building, Nott Memorial, and Fox asked Butler if he could have the McKim, Mead & White pieces for its library. With the Trustees's consent, they were loaned to Union; the Low Rotunda furniture remained in Nott until the library was relocated in 1963.

COURTESY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, SCHAFER LIBRARY, UNION COLLEGE

## Love for Low Steps

Even before we started gathering responses for our 2021 online feature "Your Favorite Campus Places" ([bit.ly/37XWHms](https://bit.ly/37XWHms)), we *knew* the Steps would be number 1. And it was, by a landslide — they're just that special to you. Here are a few of the memories we've heard through the years:

I always look to sitting on the Low Steps as a quintessential example of carefree youth and fun.

— **Dr. Diane Hilal-Campo '87**

I know it's cliché, but there was nothing like experiencing the Riot of Spring on the Low Steps. Glorious.

— **Lawrence Trilling '88**

Every spring, after a long cold winter, all these pale, eager students would venture out of hibernation, gathering on the Steps in T-shirts, shorts and sundresses, and hang out together until the sun went down. It felt like the ideal college experience.

— **Germaine Choe '95**

It was the jumping-off point for so many idyllic afternoons. It became increasingly difficult in the spring to go to your classes on that side of campus because every time you passed by, groups of friends would shout at you to come hang out.

— **Cassius Michael Kim '02**

Low Steps is the best place on campus to hang out, people watch, eat, talk, read and just *be*.

— **La Toya Tavernier '05**

## LOW ON THE SILVER SCREEN

The building has played a role in these films:

*Simon* (1980)

*Ghostbusters* (1984)

*Spider-Man* (2002)

*Spider-Man 2* (2004)

*Spider-Man 3* (2007)

*Hitch* (2005)

*The Nanny Diaries* (2007)

*The Post* (2017; acting as the U.S. Supreme Court)



## Expert Testimony

*We asked alumni who in various ways have made buildings their business what they think makes Low so special. They weigh in here and on page 20:*

There is a masterly sequence of spaces in the design of Low Library that starts on 116th Street and ends under the dome. It was meant to lead students and scholars from the New York City street, up a series of stairs funneling us progressively into the orbit of Low Library, a cosmic universe of knowledge where we would be conducted through a vestibule — stepping on the way over the signs of the zodiac — to the central desk of the reading room to request books from a desk that was both the center of the campus and in the axis of the heavenly spheres above on the inside surface of the dome.

— **Barry Bergdoll '77, GSAS'86**

*Interim Department of Art History & Archaeology chair (2021–22),  
and the Meyer Schapiro Professor of Art History*



When I first saw Low Library, I found it impressive yet unsettling. After attending high school in France, I found the Morningside Heights campus full of American bravado — overscaled — so unfamiliar to my refined continental eye.

The campus is inherently American: Charles McKim's urban ode to Thomas Jefferson's bucolic University of Virginia. The library, at the center point of the campus, is conceived on a brash 19th-century scale. The soft pink brick of Jefferson's rotunda is reinterpreted in Low's massive Indiana limestone walls, fluted ionic colonnade and dome that rivals the Pantheon's. And then there are the anthemion, Vitruvian scrolls, dentils, bead and reel, egg and dart — the goodies of Classical architecture. The building boldly and unapologetically proclaims the importance of knowledge as a higher purpose.

I quickly got over my French reticence.

The recent interior restoration shows us McKim's colorful intention — as though a gem-filled geode has been cracked open. The rich entrance vestibule showcases a marble bust of Pallas Athena, a marble floor beneath the intricate coffered plaster ceiling, supported by gilded-topped Connemara marble columns. Beyond is the voluminous former Reading Room. High above, four giant arched thermal windows send shafts of sunlight angling in. For those missing the sadly destroyed Pennsylvania Station, here is a hint of what that building was like.

Low is a fitting stage for luminaries (like Jacques Cousteau, whom I memorably heard speak there in 1978), modern thinkers in the tradition of Plato and his marble colleagues looking down from their perches on the parapet above.

— **Tom Kligerman '79**

*Architect, author and partner, Ike Kligerman Barkley*

I have long admired Low Library as an architectural masterpiece, not only for the building itself, but also for how it embraces its site. Low seamlessly integrates Columbia's upper and lower campus into one uniform plan, forming the heart of the University. Its inviting main steps, so beloved by generations of students, cascade toward College Walk like a stone waterfall. It is Classical city planning at its best (no surprise to students of the Core Curriculum).

I wonder, however, how many Columbia students have ever set foot inside Low's interior, other than for a sneak peek? Now that the Business School is moving uptown, maybe some of Low's offices could relocate to Uris, thereby allowing Low to provide more student-friendly spaces for classrooms, club offices, practice rooms and student publications. Just a thought — but I think McKim would approve.

— **Adam Van Doren '84, GSAPP'89**

*Author, artist and filmmaker*

To me, the most significant feature of Low Library is the way the building generously creates a backdrop for the most amazing public space at the heart of the campus. Perhaps it is the rising elevation from the plaza to the top of the Steps, which seems to place the activities and lives of Columbians on a pedestal for all to see. As a student, I had only been in the actual building a handful of times, but there was not a day that went by when I did not walk, sit, eat or drink on the Steps a few times.

— **Jenny Wu '97**

*Architect, designer and partner, Olyer Wu Collaborative*

# The Fluency Influencer

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

**Shana  
Inofuentes '00  
harnesses  
the power of  
social media  
for Indigenous  
language  
preservation**

Illustrations by  
Jennifer Albarracin Moya

**Cute bodegá cats.** Gravity-defying desserts. Thousands of #photooftheday-tagged sunsets. A quick scroll through Instagram brings up almost anything. But Indigenous languages? For Shana Inofuentes '00, director of The Quechua Project and head of its communications strategy, the photo-based app is the perfect medium to showcase something unique: “We get so many messages from youth in our community saying, ‘Why didn’t someone think of this before? I can’t believe I’m seeing and hearing Quechua on social media!’”

The Quechua people are an Indigenous community from the Andean region of South America, which stretches from Peru through

Bolivia and into Chile. Inofuentes is on a mission to keep Quechua — Bolivia’s second-most common language, with approximately 2.5 million speakers — vibrant and growing among the Bolivian diaspora. To that end she co-founded The Quechua Project, which places Indigenous pride at the forefront of social media with regular posts and stories that share Quechua language and culture with its eager followers.

Why Instagram? “I think it’s very important not to place us in the past,” Inofuentes says. “I can’t tell you how many times I read about Indigenous people in the past tense, like, ‘Our people *used* to, or we *used* to.’ It’s the idea that we’re relegated to vanishing into the

Allillan kakuychik



Take care

WHOLLY  
UNABASHEDLY  
FIERCELY  
US

THE  
QUECHUA  
PROJECT

I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.  
I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.  
I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.  
I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.  
I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.  
I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.  
I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.  
I CAN BE WHOEVER I WANT TO BE AND STILL BE QHICHWA.

OUR LANGUAGE HAS  
AN OFFICIAL ALPHABET.  
IN SPANISH AND ENGLISH,  
IT IS SPELLED "QUECHUA,"  
BUT IF YOU'RE WRITING  
IN OUR LANGUAGE,  
IT'S SPELLED  
"QHICHWA."

Imaynalla  
kachkanki?

Hi, how are you doing?



This is your  
inheritance.  
It lives within you.

KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY  
TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY  
TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY TO LIVE KAWSAY

QUECHUA BEAUTIFUL. QUECHUA STRONG. QUECHUA PROUD.  
QUECHUA BEAUTIFUL. QUECHUA STRONG. QUECHUA PROUD.  
QUECHUA BEAUTIFUL. QUECHUA STRONG. QUECHUA PROUD.

Munakuy  
munanaykipaq



In order to love, love yourself.

With our family?  
With our friends?  
Who will carry it on?

Building on  
our ayni.  
Hoy por ti,  
mañana por mi.

May this inspire  
other Native language  
inheritors.

Waway,  
you're  
going to be  
just fine.

past because we're prehistoric, and not compatible with modernity."

And what's more modern than apps?

"Something we like to say in The Quechua Project is that it's not about going back," she says. "It's about moving forward — without the baggage."

**Inofuentes grew up** just outside of Washington, D.C., which is home to the United States's largest Bolivian diaspora (approximately 300,000 people of Bolivian descent live in the D.C. metro area). She says that the community is extremely tight knit, with very active *pueblo* organizations (community groups tied to specific regions of Bolivia) keeping people strongly connected to their homeland. The Quechua Project grew out of that community's yearly *carnavales*, a months-long holiday that celebrates the harvest. Each Saturday, a different *pueblo* hosts the others for a day of singing, dancing and food. During that time, Indigenous languages like Quechua are ubiquitous; says Inofuentes, "If you go to a party or festival like that, which happens all spring and part of winter, you're going to hear Quechua — it's pervasive."

But Inofuentes says that Quechua, like many Indigenous languages, is endangered; while older generations speak it among themselves, younger people in the U.S. often end up fluent only in English and Spanish. This puts their Indigenous identity at risk of being

erased, forced under a larger "Latin American" identity that doesn't encompass their unique history and experiences.

The Quechua Project was co-founded by four Bolivian-American women from the D.C. area: Inofuentes, María Luz "K'ancha" Coco, Mónica Flores and Jennifer Albarracin Moya. Inofuentes met Coco, the project's Quechua language specialist, during *carnavales* in 2018. But it wasn't until summer 2019 — when the two had an *apthapi* (a meal with a focus on sharing food) with Flores — that they struck upon the idea of using media to revitalize Quechua use in the diaspora. That September, Inofuentes reached out to artist and photographer Albarracin Moya to ask her to contribute her expertise in the visual arts. The foursome decided that Instagram, with its focus on photos and short videos, was the perfect vehicle to showcase the beauty of Quechua — the app's quick, digestible bites are ideal for the younger generation.

The Quechua Project launched online in September 2020, and quickly began growing followers. Comments on posts are ebullient: "I love this way of learning Quechua!"; "I love this movement."; "I needed to read this. Thank you."

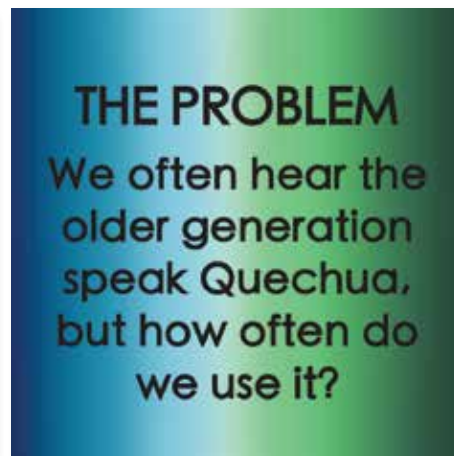
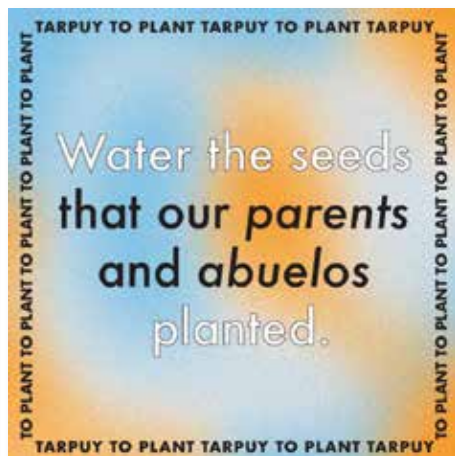
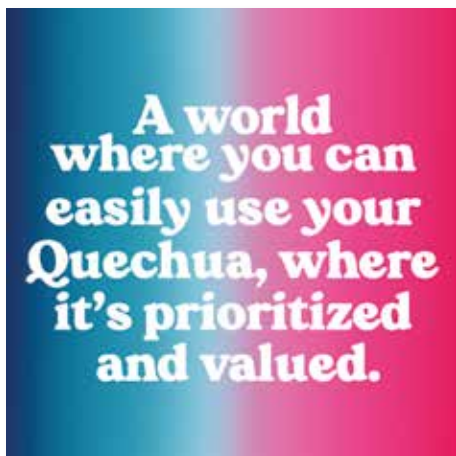
But the eye-catching posts do more than just showcase the Quechua language. Inofuentes elaborates: "In order to create a generation of people from Indigenous heritage like ours, who are going to be empowered to contribute to racial justice and a better world, they need to *feel* empowered." And for Inofuentes, part of this affirmation is to have people see their experiences represented on Instagram — to know that they don't have to hide parts of themselves, either in real life or online, and to see that they can be economically and socially successful while still celebrating their heritage. Adds Coco, "It's impactful to see four young women [from the community] focus on the language, even when Quechua isn't necessary for our lives in the U.S."

Inofuentes, wearing a Columbia sweatshirt and a traditional aguayo wrap, harvests potatoes in the Bolivian Altiplano, with the revered Illampu mountain in the background.



EBER MIRANDA, NACIÓN RAP





So what does a typical Quechua Project Instagram post look like? Some are educational, teaching Quechua phrases like *Kusikuy kay p'unchaypi* (“Be happy today”) or *Jamuy mikburikunki* (“Come eat”); some highlight the diaspora community through videos celebrating *carnavales* events; and others showcase Indigenous pride, like a series on *ch'uñu* — a preserved potato dish — and *ch'uñuchay*, the uniquely Indigenous process of creating the *ch'uñu*, which relies on the harsh Andean altiplano environment (freezing nights, hot days) for the preservation technique. The posts use a mix of English, Spanish and Quechua in order to reach their younger U.S.-based followers, who might not be fluent in Quechua but still identify with the culture or are interested in connecting with their roots. “[It’s about] embracing who we are and our various intersectional identities and allowing people to bring their whole selves to the table,” Inofuentes says.

She continues, “For centuries, European languages, like Spanish and English, have been viewed as though they have more value — that they are less backward, that they are better and that everything that we have is less than. We want our youth to feel confident in and proud of who they are. They don’t stop being who they are just because they, for example, decide to have a law degree and live in New York City. That’s a narrative that’s existed for centuries, and it’s been a way to erase us — that when we move from our communities to the city we’ve been told, ‘You’re no longer Indigenous.’ We’re fighting this big, long tide of erasure.”

In addition to The Quechua Project’s growing Instagram presence, the co-founders are conducting a survey of D.C.’s Bolivian diaspora to gather basic data about Indigenous language use in the community. Inofuentes, a Latin American studies and environmental science double major at the College, earned an M.A. from Georgetown in communications, culture and technology

in 2021; she worked with faculty there to develop the survey. She plans to use the results to guide the project’s strategies to support the survival of Quechua in the D.C. metro area. “The fact that it’s research *by us, for us* is very powerful,” she says. “It’s not an extractive model of research.”

Adds Coco, “Knowing and working with Shana makes it so that things aren’t so *pesados*,” [literally “heavy,” but has connotations of “difficult”]. “Maybe because we flow together — I’ve learned a lot working with her.”

**Ayni is the Quechua word** for the spirit of reciprocity; in English it’s expressed as “today you, tomorrow me” and in Spanish, “*hoy por ti, mañana por mi*.” Inofuentes says that spirit of *ayni* is what drove her to create The Quechua Project. She describes herself as “a proud daughter of the community,” and says growing up dancing at *carnavales* and participating in *pueblo* events

**“In order to create a generation of people from Indigenous heritage like ours, who are going to be empowered to contribute to racial justice and a better world, they need to feel empowered.”**

gave her a strong connection to her people and the desire to keep that connection strong among future generations. She is currently in Bolivia, creating short videos about people of Indigenous heritage reconnecting with their Andean homeland to share on The Quechua Project.

“Something like Instagram can seem so intangible and not impactful, but it is!” Inofuentes says. “This is the fuel to a certain kind of fire that I hope will grow — the untapping of our inherent power, our healing into the future after colonialism. We’d like to inspire a generation of people who are secure in who they are in their indigeneity.”



# HATS OFF TO THE CLASS

*The College joyfully returns to an in-person Class Day after three years*



Photographs by Eileen Barroso

**BLUE SKIES GREETED** the Class of 2022 as 1,272 students joined the ranks of alumni at the first in-person Class Day since 2019. The May 17 ceremony featured remarks from Dean James J. Valentini and keynote speaker Tom Kitt '96, the acclaimed composer behind the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning musical *Next to Normal*.

Graduating seniors who spoke at the ceremony were Zusi Inegbeniki '22, the Class of 2022 student speaker; Eva Bogomilova '22, senior class president; and Radhika Mehta '22, president of the Columbia College Student Council. Jaala Alston '22 was called to the stage as the inaugural recipient of the James J. Valentini Prize, a new award presented to a graduating senior who demonstrates the qualities of *Beginner's Mind* through their curiosity for and desire to learn from different perspectives.

Kitt, who is also known for *If/Then*, *Jagged Little Pill* and *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical*, among other works, delivered a speech that reflected on both the challenges of the pandemic and his own experience of transforming anger, frustration and disillusionment into "action, collaboration, inspiration and hope."

Turning to the present moment, he urged the graduates to find their stillness: "Stillness is not staring at a screen," Kitt said. "Stillness is sitting and getting lost in your thoughts. Stillness is listening to a piece of music that you never knew

existed and letting it wash over you. Stillness is reading, looking up for a second, and then reading again. ... Stillness is where your greatest realizations will come from."

Quoting a Stephen Sondheim lyric, Kitt continued, "It's life's ordinary moments that make the extraordinary ones so worth chasing. We want to bottle them, but we know we can't. So we keep searching for them. But how will we ensure our lives are filled with them? By going after what's in your heart. And looking out at all of you this morning, I can see that your hearts are full and you're ready for your moments. The world is counting on that."

Kitt closed with a final encouragement: "I believe in all of you and I can't wait to see what beautiful, spectacular, breathtaking, life-changing, glorious moments are in store for all of you. Go after them, and never look back."

The University-wide Commencement took place the next day, with President Lee C. Bollinger delivering his annual address. The Hon. Rolando T. Acosta '79, LAW'82; Rebecca Castillo '94, JRN'06; and Thomas Cornacchia '85 were among the 10 recipients of Alumni Medals, given for distinguished service to the University of 10 years or more; Jodi Kantor '96 received the University Medal for Excellence. On May 19, special ceremonies were held for the Classes of 2020 and 2021, whose Class Days had been virtual because of the pandemic.



OF 2022

“I CAN SEE THAT YOUR HEARTS ARE FULL AND YOU’RE READY FOR YOUR MOMENTS.”

— CLASS DAY SPEAKER  
TOM KITT ’96



**Jordan Kinard**

**MAJOR:** Anthropology

**WHAT'S NEXT:**

I'll work in journalism and human rights.

**THE CC TAKEAWAY:**

Anything is possible if you just go for it!



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JILL SHOWER

**JiHoon Ko**

**MAJOR:** Political Science and History

**WHAT'S NEXT:** I will attend the Law School next year!

**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** I think Columbia has a lot of resources — both academically and professionally — but you have to go out and get them, so self-advocacy is really important.



# LIVE, FROM NEW YORK ... IT'S GRADUATION!

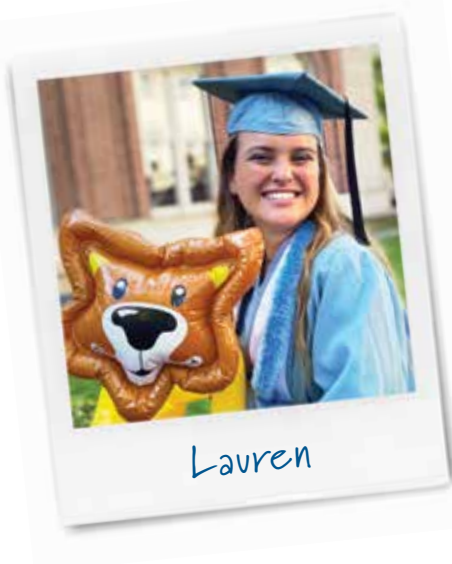
The excitement was palpable as the College's newest alumni lined up for (in-person!) Commencement on May 18. We asked a few of them what's next and what they are taking away from their College experience.

**Lauren Apollaro**

**MAJOR:** Sustainable Development

**WHAT'S NEXT:** I'm moving to San Francisco to work at an environmental consulting firm.

**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** Life is about balance — you have to work hard, play hard. You have time for everything — say yes to everything!

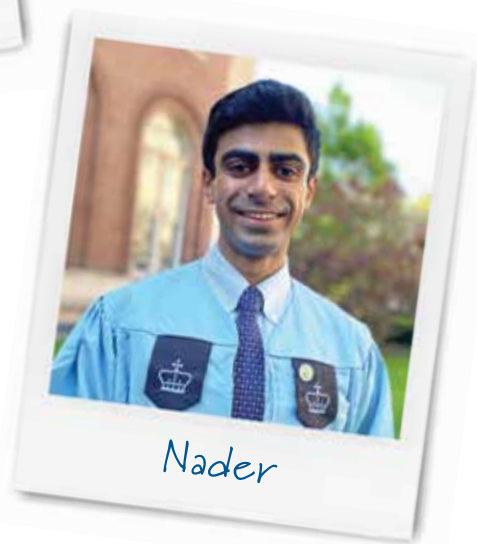


**Nader Babar**

**MAJOR:** Financial Economics

**WHAT'S NEXT:** I liked it here so much, I'm coming back for a master's in electrical engineering.

**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** Enjoy every moment, and don't stress too much about the far future.



**Emily Kaanelamakamae Stone**

**MAJOR:** Environmental Biology

**WHAT'S NEXT:** I plan to move home to Hawaii; I'm going to live on Maui and work at a bird conservation center.

**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** I love Deantini! But my big takeaway is to keep an open mind to the opportunities around me and to the people I meet — I've met a lot of great people here!





Samantha

**Samantha Figueredo Botello**

**MAJOR:** Information Science and Public Health

**WHAT'S NEXT:** I'm going to intern in the epidemiology department at Harvard this summer and then I'm starting a job as a software engineer.

**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** Resilience. Perseverance. Every day it gets a little easier!

**Dylan Roston**

**MAJOR:** Financial Economics with a concentration in East Asian Studies

**WHAT'S NEXT:** I'll be an investment banking analyst in New York City.

**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** I think you get what you give at Columbia. Saying yes to a lot of the opportunities here and leaning into the community is one of the most rewarding things you can do.



Dylan

**Asiyah Rajab**

**MAJOR:** Political Science and Film

**WHAT'S NEXT:** I plan to stay in the city on a gap year, work a little bit and then head to the West Coast for law school.

**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** No matter what hardships and trials and obstacles there are, it's the people that get you through. It's the people that make your experience, and I'm grateful for the people here.



Asiyah

**Sam Choi**

**MAJOR:** Visual Arts with a concentration in History

**WHAT'S NEXT:** I'm hoping to be a photographer's assistant.

**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** I've taken seven years to graduate, so my biggest takeaway is Be Patient. Everything you do will be rewarding at the end — it's OK to not know what you want to do when you first come to Columbia, because you will find something here.



Sam

**Tolulope Akinyede**

**MAJOR:** Financial Economics with a concentration in Sustainable Development

**WHAT'S NEXT:** I'm staying in New York to do consulting at Oliver Wyman.

**THE CC TAKEAWAY:** Be open minded; you never know who you'll meet or what path you'll end up on!



Tolulope

## A Reporter Returns

NBC New York's Jen Maxfield '99, JRN'00 follows up with the people she couldn't forget

Emmy Award-winning reporter and anchor for NBC New York **Jen Maxfield '99, JRN'00** estimates that she has interviewed more than 10,000 people during her 22-year career. While that might sound like a dizzying number, Maxfield says there are many stories she still thinks about; some she even has dreams about.

While covering a news event in 2021, Maxfield coincidentally spoke with an interview subject from six years earlier: the grandmother of a 15-year-old basketball phenom who had been murdered in a case of mistaken identity. The chance run-in — and learning what had

ultimately happened with the family — prompted Maxfield to reconnect with other subjects who had stayed on her mind.

The result is *More After the Break: A Reporter Returns to Ten Unforgettable News Stories* (Greenleaf Book Group, \$26.95). In it, Maxfield revisits the story of a waiter who lost his legs in the 2003 Staten Island Ferry crash, a young mother who was saved from a brutal stabbing by her toddler daughter and,

the subject of her Journalism School master's thesis, an Ivy League undergrad sentenced to decades in prison under the now-defunct Rockefeller Drug Laws.

"Part of what made these stories interesting to me is these people didn't ask to be in the spotlight," Maxfield told *CCT*. "What is it like to have your life upended, when everyone knows what happened to you — and then all the attention goes away?"

Maxfield is interested in demystifying the process of how news gets covered, and describes piecing these comprehensive histories together from eyewitness accounts, court transcripts, letters, archived news reports and more. She was able to get through to people who are now speaking for the first time, happy that someone cared enough to reach out to them.

Others were willing to reopen old wounds to talk with Maxfield again; an especially heartbreaking chapter, "Friday Night," revisits a 2011 story about the death of 23-year-old Tiffany Jantelle, who was struck by a drunk driver while trying to help an injured dog. Maxfield remained close with Jantelle's mother, Corinne, who was willing to participate in a follow-up in order to honor Tiffany's legacy and help other parents who have lost children.

"Telling stories with care opens up avenues for the families to heal," Maxfield says. "It allows other people to help, and encourages them to support their neighbors."

Maxfield frequently reports on her home state of New Jersey. The oldest of six, Maxfield was a varsity high jumper at Tenafly H.S. — she held the school's 5'3" record for 26 years — and planned to pursue a career in sports medicine. She joined *Spectator* because she loved to write; a political science major and news junkie, Maxfield wrote a snappy op-ed column, "The Max Factor." (She met her husband, Scott Ostfeld '98, LAW'02, BUS'02, in an art history class; they have three children.)

Though she says her time at *Spec* was formative, she didn't consider journalism as a profession until she got an internship with CNN covering the United Nations. "In the winter of my junior year I was going to the U.N. every Friday," she recalls.



JAMES CLARK, INSYNC NEW YORK PHOTOGRAPHY

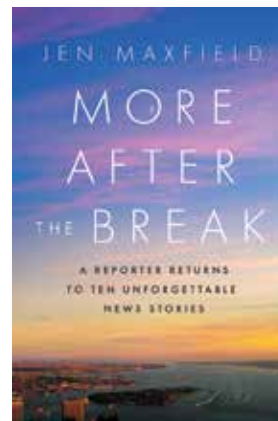
Maxfield was hired by CNN as a production assistant and guest booker while she was still an undergrad. “That behind-the-scenes experience really helped me to understand how the process works,” she says. She entered the Journalism School right after graduation; by that time, she knew she wanted to be the person going out and doing the interviews. “I understood the ownership of the story from that standpoint,” she says.

Her first reporting job was with an ABC affiliate in Binghamton, N.Y.; she moved back to the city in 2002 and spent 10 years at Eyewitness News (ABC7) before joining NBC New York in 2013. Maxfield became an adjunct professor at the Journalism School in 2016.

She researched and wrote the book in just 10 months, on her days off. Maxfield resisted following up with higher-profile subjects, like the heroic pilot Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger. “The people I was interested in were the ones who seemed to have faded back into obscurity,” she writes in the book’s introduction, excerpted here. “The men and women whose last Google search result dated back to when they first appeared on the news.”

The intro’s title, “The Door Knock,” references the difficulty of knocking on a grieving family’s door in search of accurate information. “A lot of reporters go into the business because they care about people, and they care about trying to get the story right,” she says. “And a lot of them feel like I do — we might be assigned to a different story the next day, but we’re still thinking about that person whose living room we were sitting in the day before. It’s just that we don’t always have the opportunity to return.”

— *Jill C. Shomer*



## The Door Knock

It’s not surprising that I occasionally run into people in our community whom I’ve met before on previous news stories. As a local TV news reporter since 2000, I estimate that I have had the opportunity to interview at least ten thousand people on camera for the more than four thousand stories I have reported. And when I say I interviewed them, I don’t mean on the phone, or quoting their tweets, or that a producer did the interview and fed it back to me at the office. I am talking about face-to-face meetings, seeing each other’s eyes, shaking hands, laughing and crying with ten thousand people. I have written and shared their stories with our community — their triumphs and failures, their near escapes and tragic losses.

I do all of this without any preparation. Yes, I worked at CNN, wrote for the *Columbia Daily Spectator*, and earned a master’s degree from Columbia Journalism School before I ever filed a single TV news report. But every day in local news is a fresh challenge, a journey into the unknown. We show up to work not knowing where we will go or who we will meet. This uncertainty poses some logistical challenges, a reporter version of Murphy’s Law. Wearing new shoes? You’ll be assigned to cover a flood. Have concert tickets with friends for seven p.m.? Practically a guarantee you’ll have a six p.m. live shot across the state. Think you got an easy assignment in a beautiful Jersey Shore town? Sure, until someone tries to run you down with their SUV when you’re covering their parish priest accused of embezzling millions. And yes, that all actually happened.

The story I am assigned after our morning meeting may be changed three times before noon. We could drive one hundred miles in the live truck for an interview, only to be diverted to breaking news as soon as we arrive. At least now we have GPS to prevent us from getting lost. When I started reporting in 2000,

we kept a milk carton full of map books in the live truck, and I navigated while the photographer drove. Find the right county book, look up the town in the index, find the street name, go to page 16, Grid C4. Map reading truly is a lost art.

All that effort was before we emerged from the live truck to start gathering interviews. We could knock on dozens of doors without getting a single person to talk. We could knock on one door and get screamed at before they slammed it in our faces. And yet, every day we went live from somewhere, broadcasting to our community, talking to our neighbors about what happened that day.

A frequent (and fair) criticism of local news that I've heard since I was a student at Columbia is that we don't do enough follow-up. We descend upon a news event, collect our information, broadcast our reports, and then move on to the next story. Every assignment ends with a cliffhanger and we never get to watch the next episode. Part of this is the business model of local news: reporters gather interviews, report, and write as many as three stories for broadcast every day. But part of this also feels like self-preservation. With all our exposure to chaos and sadness, the healthier option may be to not linger. We dip our toes in the pool of your grief but never jump in for fear of drowning.

Just because the news cycle has moved on and we are chasing another story, it doesn't necessarily mean the relationship between the reporter and subject ends. My first mentor in news, Gary Tuchman, a national correspondent for CNN, told me recently that he will come across a name in his address book and reach out years — even decades — after their stories have aired. People who lost loved ones in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, or on TWA Flight 800. "I call them to check in, see how they're doing," Gary explained. "I want them to know that I care, and that they meant more to me than just a sound bite on the news."

Speaking with other friends and colleagues, it's clear that many of us want to stay connected with people featured in our news stories long after the headlines have updated. Unlike my work conducted through texting, emails, and Zoom, short face-to-face encounters with strangers can have outsized impact. Many of us who interact with the public share this sensation of feeling like we intimately know someone soon after meeting them. Police officers who are humbled by a

particular 911 call. Nurses who never forget a patient. A military officer who remembers the children from the town where she served. A minister who counseled a couple and wonders if they stayed together. A store clerk who recalls an elderly customer. A social worker who is curious about what happened to that child he helped after she went back to her parents.

Since the first day I started reporting for NewsChannel 34 in Binghamton, New York, I have questioned my role and responsibility for telling other people's stories. I appear during traumatic times in their lives with no special training. I cannot offer medical advice or spiritual guidance. I cannot help them heal their pain, and I can neither arrest nor prosecute the person responsible. I do not deliver the bad news, but I am there to report on it and try to understand it, before rushing out to make my deadline for the evening news.

What I can offer is the space to tell their story. To listen and to repeat. To question and to share. Like our ancestors drawing on the walls of caves, humans all share the instinct to exchange information, and the most compelling way to do this is by telling a story. As difficult as it may be for a person to speak with us from their hospital bed, as excruciating as it may be for a family member to construct sentences in the haze of their grief, as overwhelming as it may be to make sense of a breaking news scene, the people who speak to me understand that they are constructing their legacy. And that their story will be an integral part of our community's shared history.

As an adjunct professor at Columbia Journalism School, I share the same wisdom with my students that was passed down by my news director at ABC in New York, Kenny Plotnik: "Find the eyewitness and tell me their story." Without the personal perspective, the news is just a collection of facts, the same thing you could find in your local police blotter. Yes, many stories contain object lessons for the viewer: look both ways before crossing the railroad tracks, read your teenager's text messages, learn the Heimlich maneuver. But the most unforgettable news stories include universal truths about love and devotion. We bear witness so that these stories are not forgotten.

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This excerpt of *More After the Break*, by Jen Maxfield, is presented with permission from the author and Greenleaf Book Group. For more information, please visit [jenmaxfield.com](http://jenmaxfield.com).



Contents

## THESE LITTLE TOWN BLUES ...

The Empire State Building was lit in blue and white on May 18 to mark Columbia's 267th Commencement, held in person for the first time in three years.

DAVID DINI SIPA '14 / COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY; THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING IMAGE ® IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF ESRT EMPIRE STATE BUILDING, L.L.C. AND IS USED WITH PERMISSION.

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Carillonneur George Matthew Jr. '56

# Thank You, Dean Valentini

By Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94

The John Jay Awards Dinner, held on March 2 at Cipriani 42nd Street, celebrated six bright stars in the College alumni constellation. We had a robust turnout, with a cautious optimism that the worst of the pandemic is behind us. This momentous ceremony had been postponed for two years, and given the extraordinariness of the recipients, it was worth the wait!

As I write, the revitalization of Columbia gains momentum as students are required to wear masks less and less. Just as the magnolia buds reveal their colors, so too the former campus life of lecture halls, outdoor study groups and sports unfolds in early spring air.

Despite these hopeful signs, students must grapple with shocking news from Ukraine — witnessing Vladimir Putin's attempt to rebuild the Russian empire of old, killing thousands of innocent Ukrainians in this quest. How do Columbia students reckon with these headlines? I imagine they, like many of us, feel powerless. I fervently hope a Columbia education will help them improve the world. Students leave Columbia armed with multilayered knowledge and a deep understanding of the value of liberty. They also participate in global engagement with micro-communities that encourage compassion and connectivity, and offer portals to other parts of the world. Indeed, global engagement has become central to the Columbia College experience under the leadership of Dean James J. Valentini, aka Deantini. College students will become empathic leaders and will, perhaps, help shield the global community from catastrophes.

**Valentini's 11 years of service** as the leader of Columbia College (10 as dean, and one as interim dean) conclude on June 30.

The one word I think of in this context is gratitude. Thank you for your unparalleled service, Dean Valentini. We recognize all you have done to make the College better.

Last summer, when I introduced Deantini at Convocation, I referred to Scottish philosopher Thomas Carlyle. In the 1840s Carlyle articulated the great man theory of history, which posits that heroes shape the world around them. This is a theme in many of the Core Curriculum readings.

Deantini fits neatly into the philosopher's paradigm. Not unlike Odysseus, or Alexander Hamilton CC 1778, the dean took action to improve his surroundings no matter the obstacles. The voice of such greatness might unsettle the status quo, but it is for this same reason that it reverberates and becomes a legacy. Only the resolute and courageous can leave a mark on history. In this spirit Deantini advanced College life for all.

During the last 11 years, among other things, he established a strategic plan for the College to ensure continued excellence of the student experience and the Core; raised funds to support financial aid; and articulated 13 competencies, aka My Columbia College Journey, to reorient thinking about the value of a College education. In



COURTESY TED SCHWEITZER '91, LAW'94

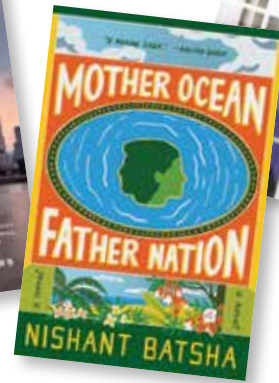
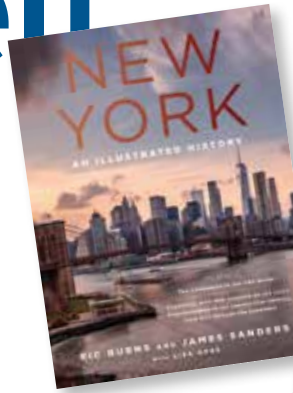
Schweitzer and Valentini at a March 15 reception in Beverly Hills.

addition, Deantini emphasized the importance of Pantone 292, our College's particular shade of blue, which visually unites us. While doing all this, he encouraged a philosophical mindset of the unjaded "Beginner's Mind." And, on a note of pure fun, he participated without fail in an annual snowball fight with students in front of *Alma Mater*.

In the realm of alumni engagement, Deantini brought vigor and fresh perspective, emphasizing how we are part of one community of past, present and future students. He also established the goal of 100 percent alumni engagement, sending a message about the strong role he envisioned us taking within our multi-generational Columbia community. For example, the Odyssey Mentoring Program was launched to facilitate both alumni-to-alumni and alumni-to-student connections. The dean also championed a new series of AlumniTALKs, many of which were presented online with a focus on underrepresented alumni voices. Deantini often refers to the College as the greatest college in the greatest university in the greatest city in the world. In so doing, he manifests his intent and instills an esprit of connection among alumni. A highlight for alumni during his tenure was the 100th anniversary of the Core.

Dean Valentini is first and foremost a scientist. And he brings a scientific approach to all, including the Core: assimilating data, combining it in new and startling ways, and thinking methodically through the implications of each new idea. We can all draw inspiration from this sort of discipline in our own pursuits. We wish the dean the best in his next chapter.

# bookshelf



**Weimar in Princeton: Thomas Mann and the Kahler Circle** by Stanley Corngold '55. Corngold describes Mann's early years in America and how he became part of a gifted group of émigrés at Princeton (Bloomsbury Academic, \$26.95).

**Choke Hold: A Paranoid Thriller** by Art Eisensen '63. A man is framed for the murder of his wife in this mystery penned under the pseudonym Frank Steel (Kindle edition, \$4.99).

**Beat Blues: San Francisco, 1955** by Jonah Raskin '63. Raskin's novel is set in the time and place when the American counterculture was born (Coolgrove Press, \$15.99).

**Elmer and Virginia: A World War 2 Romance in Letters** edited by John Odell '68. Odell's compilation was selected from hundreds of letters exchanged by his parents, Elmer Odell and Virginia Schill, while they were separated by war (Quickfoot Books, \$19.50).

**The Prince and the Emperors: The Life and Times of Rabbi Judah the Prince** by Dov S. Zakheim '70. A biographical account of the second-century rabbi Yehuda HaNasi and his interactions with the Roman empire (Koren Publishers Jerusalem, \$29.95).

## 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](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf)

**One Damn Thing After Another: Memoirs of an Attorney General** by William Barr '71. A candid account of Barr's tenures serving two vastly different presidents, George H.W. Bush and Donald J. Trump (William Morrow, \$35).

**Painful Joy: A Holocaust Family Memoir** by Max J. Friedman '71. Friedman did five years of intensive research to unearth stories of his parents, who met in Sweden after being liberated from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp (Amsterdam Publishers, \$28.95).

**New York: An Illustrated History (Revised and Expanded)** by James Sanders '76 and Ric Burns with Lisa Ades. The authors' acclaimed history of the city is updated with new chapters describing the last two tumultuous and transformative decades (Knopf, \$33.99).

**As I See It: A Life in Detours** by Tom Kligerman '79. Kligerman, an architect and avid traveler, captured vibrant images on his smartphone as he journeyed throughout the world; the collection includes QR codes that link to building sites and video content (Triglyph Books, \$17.95).

**Day of Days: September 11, 2001, A Novel of the Fire Service** by Frank Napolitano '86. The story of an FDNY engineman and jazz musician that culminates with the emergency response to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center (Toren James Publishing, \$16.95).

**Mass Pardons in America: Rebellion, Presidential Amnesty, and Reconciliation** by Graham G. Dodds '88. Dodds examines when and why Presidents have

issued mass pardons and amnesties to deal with domestic rebellion and attempt to reunite the country (Columbia University Press, \$35).

**111 Places for Kids in New York That You Must Not Miss** by Rachel Mazor '98 and Evan Levy. This illustrated guide will inspire readers to explore new neighborhoods, treat the kids in their lives to unbelievable experiences and make the city their own (Emons Publisher, \$23.95).

**Am I My Brother's Keeper: Educational Opportunities and Outcomes for Black and Brown Boys** by Adrianna Villavicencio '00. Villavicencio chronicles the Expanded Success Initiative, a four-year study focused on improving the educational outcomes of 15,000 Black and Latinx males in NYC public high schools (Harvard Education Press, \$33).

**Mother Ocean Father Nation: A Novel** by Nishant Batsha '10. Batsha's debut tells the story of a brother and sister, Jaipal and Bhumi, whose paths diverge after a nationalist coup in the South Pacific in 1985 (Ecco, \$26.99).

**Mrs. Watson: Untold Stories** by L.A. Fields '14. This collection of historically inspired fiction investigates the friendship between Sherlock Holmes, his former lover Dr. Watson and the doctor's clever and tolerant wife (Lethe Press, \$15).

**Queen of All (The Jena Cycle)** by Anya Josephs '16. In Josephs's debut YA fantasy, a teenage girl tries to save her beautiful cousin from a suspicious prince (GenZ Publishing, \$17.99).

— Jill C. Shomer



TOMO SAITO

## Jessica Kingdon '09 Ascends to New Filmmaking Heights

By Anne-Ryan Sirju JRN'09

For director **Jessica Kingdon '09**, the hype that surrounded her first feature-length documentary, *Ascension*, was a whirlwind. The film, which captures modern life across China, debuted at the Tribeca Film Festival on June 12, 2021, and nabbed the festival's Best Documentary Feature award. *Ascension* continued to rack up nominations and awards on the festival circuit (*Variety* called the film “a remarkable achievement” and “a window into a nation's soul”), culminating in a 2022 Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary Feature.

The film itself is unusual. It explores China's varied economic landscape, from a factory producing “Keep America Great” hats, to a business etiquette seminar, to a raucous party at a waterpark. But there are no main characters to follow, no interviews with subjects, no commentary or narration as the scenes move from one location to another. The end result is haunting, leaving viewers to draw their own conclusions about what they have seen. “[The structure] is pretty unconventional; I didn't know if I could pull off making that kind of film,” Kingdon says. “But I figured YOLO — why not just try? And somehow it worked. ... It did feel pretty ambitious and far-fetched at times, so the fact that it's had this kind of response is pretty unreal.”

By passively guiding viewers through China's financial boom, *Ascension* investigates what Kingdon calls “the paradox of economic progress.”

“Obviously in the past few decades China has lifted millions of people out of poverty, but with adopting this model of capitalism, it's also led to unforeseen consequences that have to do with environmental degradation, income inequality and the alienation of hyper capitalism,” she says. “When a society undergoes such a drastic change in such a short amount of time, it brings up a lot of questions.”

After spending two years traveling between America and China for filming, Kingdon wrapped her final shoot in December 2019, right before China began locking down due to the Covid-19 pandemic. (She spent another year condensing 200-plus hours of footage into a tight 97-minute runtime.) Each trip to China for filming spanned roughly five weeks, allowing Kingdon and her crew to be fully immersed in each location. Working with a small team — there were never more than three people at a time on set — helped them blend in, as well. “We were as transparent and detailed as possible with what we were doing, explaining that we were an independent documentary film crew from the States making a film about China's economic rise and looking at day-to-day



life,” she says, regarding how she captured such natural moments from her subjects.

Kingdon honed her directorial sensibilities as a film and media studies major at the College and earned a master’s in media studies from The New School in 2014. She began making a series of short documentaries set in China, gaining recognition on the documentary festival circuit. Her 2017 short, *Commodity City*, which takes place in the Yiwu Markets, the world’s largest wholesale mall, inspired her to delve more deeply into the Chinese economy with *Ascension*. “I was interested in connecting the invisible dots of the whole supply chain

and trying to give viewers a visceral sense of these hidden economies that power our day-to-day consumer lifestyles,” she says.

Kingdon is now researching global food supply chains as a possible topic for her next film. She says that her interests are in “finding the minutiae and specific moments in global systems,” something she explores in *Ascension’s* unflinching look at capitalism. “It’s a film that can have multiple meanings and is open for interpretation but, at the end of the day, one thing I really hope is that people can see themselves in it,” Kingdon says. “Even though it’s about China, it’s more universal than that.”

## Wheels Keep on Turning for Cyclist David Stanton ’77

By George Spencer

**C**hampion bicyclist **David Stanton ’77** has a not-so-secret alter ego — Captain America. Most mornings find the razor-lean cyclist in a skin-tight, stars-and-stripes jersey, powering through training rides as long as 60 miles near his Newport Beach, Calif., home.

Stanton, a gastroenterologist, earned the iconic shirt last September after winning a gold medal at the USA Cycling Master Track National Championship in Trexlertown, Pa. He took the 65–69 age group division honors (defeating a former U.S. Olympic cyclist), finishing the 2 km velodrome race in just 2 minutes and 36 seconds.

Donning the winner’s jersey gave Stanton “the thrill of a lifetime.” He’d wanted it since his first national competition nine years ago: “I really loved it, coveted it, and you never know if it’s going to happen for you,” he says.

A lifelong athlete, Stanton played on Columbia’s varsity golf team, and as an adult, took up competitive skiing. He came to cycling in 2009 when his wife invited him to attend her spin class;

realizing he had found a sport that would give him “a lot of athletic purpose later in life,” he took to it with gusto.

In 2010, to celebrate his first anniversary on wheels, he entered the Everest Challenge, a two-day mountain stage race in the Eastern Sierras that includes 29,000 feet of climbing. After suffering a broken collarbone at the start of a crowded race, in 2013 he switched to time-trial events. Racing on 24-mile courses, he then won six straight California championships in his age group.

Stanton loves cycling’s rigors. “You learn determination. You learn patience. You learn resiliency. But at the end of the day, bicycle racing is about tolerance of suffering,” he says. He paraphrases legendary Belgian cyclist Eddy Merckx: “I’m no better than anybody else. I can just suffer more.” For Stanton, the sport is “about pushing yourself to the so-called ‘pain cave’ and holding it for however long you need to hold it.”

He tested those limits in 2015 when, for six days and eight hours, he competed on a four-man team in the ultracycling event Race Across America. During this nonstop ordeal from California to Maryland, one team member continuously rides while the others rest in a van. “It was like nothing I’d ever done or would ever want to do again,” Stanton says. (His most memorable state? Colorado, because of the extreme temperature changes; in Durango, he says the day started at freezing and hit 85.) He only got one or two hours of shuteye that week— when the odyssey ended at 1 a.m. in Annapolis, he couldn’t remember how to open a champagne bottle.

“Cycling has taught me I thrive in an environment where the process is king. I like playing to big events, big things, big goals. I can set lofty goals, sometimes meet them and enjoy the process along the way,” he says.

Now in training for this fall’s national championship, Stanton has a new challenge — keeping up with, and beating, younger competitors. “As you get to the back end of your age group, it’s a whole ’nother challenge,” he admits. “But honestly, after winning it once, it’s now all gravy. It hasn’t diminished my desire, but it certainly diminishes the stress.”

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



COURTESY SAN DIEGO TIME TRIALS

# classnotes



COURTESY COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Dan Aykroyd and Bill Murray on campus while shooting *Ghostbusters* in October 1983; Low Library is featured prominently in the film. Go to page 18 to read more about Low, which is celebrating its 125th birthday this year.

## 1950

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

**Arthur L. Thomas** sent a note:

“Hello, Class of 1950. I am a proud Columbian who is happy to share with you his unforgettable experiences while an undergraduate.

“In September 1946 I went out for crew, where after rigorous daily practice on the waters of the Spuyten Duyvil at Baker Field and in the tank at 116th Street I rowed in a number of races for the light Blue and White over three seasons. I was in eight-man shells that raced in frosh, JV and varsity races in three New England and three mid-Atlantic states. We raced against only one other shell to several other shells at a time. I was never in a race where the Columbia shell caught a crab. The shells and oars were made of wood. They were three of the

most intensely focused and happiest days of my life.

“Long live the Lions, then, now and for evermore. God bless CCT for allowing me to once again reiterate the great moments of my student life at Columbia College.”

Thank you to Arthur for reaching out! Please share your news and updates by sending an email to cct@columbia.edu or use our online Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 1951

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

**Herm Bieber** SEAS'62 shared an update in response to CCT's call for news:

“Hi folks. Another year has passed, and I am still chugging along in my New Jersey senior residence (908-795-1219). There are too many

activities here, excellent food and only minor impacts from the pandemic, because we have diligently followed vaccination, person-to-person distancing, masking and all other required restrictions. And Zoom is a great near-substitute to meeting in person. I zoom with my whole world-scattered family once a week.

“Health-wise, I am getting along quite well, even with some normal age-related short-term memory loss. But, I have had no problems in writ-

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ing my memoirs (see \* later in the column), starting at age 5. My heart problems seem under control, but I have developed some neuropathy in my hands and feet. Likely this stems from a mid-life spine fracture (while mountain hiking) that is now getting arthritic. So I had to give up driving and use a walker to keep in balance. But, most importantly, I have absolutely no pain anywhere, and can get around on flat ground OK.

“Sadly, time has destroyed the Class of ’51, and the ravages of age made it impractical for me to attend the annual Columbia Reunion.

“I have had a most interesting life and career, managing to visit 122 countries on business, and to engage in my hobbies of bird-watching, mineral collecting and photography. But I take the most pride in my three children and four grandchildren. My daughters, the oldest one retired, are all doing well. And my four grandchildren, three in college, and the fourth now on a Fulbright fellowship in Germany, show great promise of having very successful careers, too.

“My best to all who can remember our wonderful Columbia days seven-plus decades ago!

“\*Memoir #15, ‘How I paid for my college education’ (eight years and three degrees from Columbia!), might be of interest to some. Copies are available, on request. Please send an email to hermbieber@aol.com.”

Thank you to Herm for reaching out! Please send your news and

updates via email to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu) or use our online Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 1952

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](http://cct@columbia.edu)

**Joseph Di Palma’s** wife, Joycelyn Engle, writes that he was selected to represent New York’s 12th Congressional District in a National Survey Project on proposed changes to Medicare, but he could not accept due to health and other commitments. Joseph and Joycelyn contracted Covid-19 on their way home from Palm Beach, Fla., in April 2021, but it was mild, and they were well again in about a week. Joseph celebrated his 91st birthday on January 17, 2022.

**Sholom Shafner** writes: “I was looking forward to the 70th reunion in June, and to seeing those who were able to attend.

“Upon graduation, I received a commission as a naval officer and was on active duty for three years during the Korean War. In 1955 I left active duty and joined my family retail furniture business in New London, Conn. I ran the business until 2001, when I reached 71 and time for retirement.

“Also upon graduation, I married Janet Schreier BC’53. Together we

### COLUMBIA SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS

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

raised four sons, until she passed away from lung cancer in 2011, after 59 years of a wonderful marriage. She was a remarkable artist and had a vast knowledge of art history. Fortunately, when I met her, my Contemporary Civilization and Art Humanities classes came in handy: I learned some art history and some art lingo that showed my interest in what she was doing. The rest is history.

“Speaking of CC, I found it very interesting. But after learning some critical thinking, I was surprised it presented Western civilization as beginning with the Greek and Roman empires! During the years since graduation, I have become aware of being intellectually short-changed: The seeds of Western Civilization go farther back. When I did my CC readings, the only mention of a Jew was a Jacob Fugger, who invented double-entry bookkeeping in the Middle Ages.

“It was Judaism that brought to the world the Torah, which said that ‘man was created in the image of God,’ which laid the foundation for democracy. And the idea of learning by questioning became the beginning of science and progress. These concepts and many others preceded the Babylonian, Greek and Roman empires that attempted to wipe out the Jews. And now those empires

are gone, and the Jews are still here, winning more Nobel prizes than their small percentage of the world population can explain.

“It’s time CC was updated.”

From Dr. **John Benfield**: “Dr. **John Laszlo** and I reconnected on April 12 at the Seven Lakes Country Club in Palm Springs, Calif. We met at John’s daughter’s home, located where Dwight D. Eisenhower achieved his only hole in one playing golf. (See the nearby photo!) Eisenhower became the president of Columbia in 1948, when John and I started as freshmen. During his welcome address to our class, he referred to himself as also a freshman.

“John and I have in common that we were Jewish refugees from the Nazis in Vienna in 1938. Each of us was named Hans before we became John. We both grew up in New York City, each of us a commuter to Columbia, one from Manhattan’s East Side and the other from the West Side. After three years at Columbia, we went to medical school, John to Harvard and I to the University of Chicago.

“For many years, John headed the Duke Cancer Center. My career was mostly at the University of Chicago (where John served his internship), and the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. I had the privi-



Dr. John Benfield '52 (left) and Dr. John Laszlo '52 reconnected on April 12 at the Seven Lakes Country Club in Palm Springs, Calif. Here, they pose near Laszlo’s daughter’s home, located where Dwight D. Eisenhower achieved his only hole in one playing golf — commemorated with a plaque.

lege of serving as president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons — the largest in the world in my specialty.

“We agreed that the United States had offered us outstanding opportunities, better than those we might have had in Austria. We remember and admired our parents for their courage to escape fascism.”

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## 1953

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

Four CC'53 alumni responded to CCT's call for news. Please send in your updates, so you can be in a future issue! Share news with us by email: [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu), or online using our Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

**Joel Danziger** writes: “As I enter my 90th year, my memories of my days at Columbia College and Yale Law School seem to take on increasing clarity and importance in my life. My friendship and educational experience with [Dean] Harry Carman, Irwin Edman CC 1916, GSAS 1920 and the rest of the CC faculty were truly extraordinary and defining.

“I live on a horse farm in Bedford, N.Y., with my wife of 64 years, Joan (no horses at present). Our three children (lawyer, physician and classics teacher) all live nearby and we see them frequently, along with our six grandchildren. I continue my association with our law firm, which I started more than 60 years ago and which is now one of the preeminent firms in Westchester County.

“We have spent the last 50 summers in Nantucket, where we were fortunate to have built an oceanfront house before such projects became unaffordable. I hope we will do the same this summer, if health permits. We have traveled extensively and we feel very fortunate to have done so while health and stamina permitted. Both my Columbia and Yale roommates have passed on so I rely on many happy memories.”

**Michael Guerriero** SEAS'59 writes: “It's hard to think that graduation was 69 years ago. I'm grateful that I attended both the

College and Columbia Engineering. My best wishes to the Class of '22.”

**Dr. Donald A. Taylor** writes: “I recently celebrated my 90th birthday, and it was uneventful. I am a retired radiologist and reside in a very pleasant condo in Holliston, Mass. I keep busy daily chasing my dog (he's a Yorkie); doing continuing medical education courses on the computer; watching the surging Boston Celtics, one of my favorite teams aside from the Patriots and Bruins; reading; and going for walks. I've had bilateral hip replacement so walking isn't as easy as previously.

“Unfortunately those Columbia classmates whom I kept in touch with have passed but I did attend our 50th reunion. I am a member of the 1754 Society.”

**Dr. Ralph G. DePalma** writes that he was born in the Bronx, attended public schools and graduated from Columbia College and the NYU School of Medicine with honors. He served as a flight surgeon in the Air Force and completed surgical training at University Hospitals of Cleveland, where he became a professor of surgery and subsequently chair of surgery at the University of Nevada School of Medicine and The George Washington University. From 2000 to 2008 he was national director of surgery in the Department of Veterans Affairs and currently is a professor of surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Ralph has research and clinical interests in shock, vascular disease, sexual dysfunction, blast and explosion injury and surgical quality that have led to more than 300 chapters, books and peer-reviewed publications and lectureships. He has received the Founder's Award of the American Venous Forum, The Distinguished Alumnus Award from NYU and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of VA Surgeons. He lives in McLean, Va., with his wife, Maleva.

## 1954

**Bernd Brecher**  
[brecherservices@aol.com](mailto:brecherservices@aol.com)

Despite the two-year Covid-19 lockdown, members of our Class of Destiny continue to make their mark as the world enters a third year of uncertainty, with the third year of

the disease still hanging on, Ukraine continuing to hold off the Russian empire, our economists trying to ward off coming inflation, climate change beginning to mark the end of the line for the Arctic polar bear, and science, truth, and facts being denied by bonobo-like dictators and politicians worldwide.

But there is hope, as several of you could still appreciate my comment that my Apple computer was going bananas. Our correspondents this issue once again include those who have previously enjoyed sharing their doubts, doings, and observations, as well as first-timers making their debuts. Welcome and bless us all!

**Sam Barondes** PS'58 is “pleased to report that The Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley has released the 390-page transcript of *Samuel Barondes: Integrating Molecular Neuroscience with Psychiatry*, an oral history of my life and career. In it I describe, with gratitude, and at length, my good fortune to have been a member of the Class of '54, along with a number of other transformative events. It's all available for free online. The link to the announcement includes links to the transcript and to video excerpts on YouTube.”

Sam sends “warm regards to classmates and invites them to please check it out” online at [bit.ly/3LWM5pI](http://bit.ly/3LWM5pI).

Congratulations, Sam, on continuing to make your mark in your profession and to sharing your progress with all of us.

As a founder in 1980 of the Alzheimer's Association and a recipient of its Genesis Award, I can readily identify with **Larry Gartner**, who penned the following. (While no one in my family had the disease, in 1980 I was the “professional” among the score of founders and a consultant to Jerome H. “Jerry” Stone, a Fortune 500 CEO and the man whose vision and determination virtually made the organization into what it is today.)

Larry writes: “I am writing this on my phone, so it will be brief because I cannot write with my thumbs like the young folks. Life on our little ranch north of San Diego has been good, but I miss having my wife here with me. Her Alzheimer's got so severe I could no longer safely care for her at home, as I had done for the last 15 years. She is in an excellent memory care center about 20 minutes away.

I remain busy with gardening and woodworking. Children and grandchildren are all well and doing very good things. I plan to go to Scotland and Ireland with my daughter and son-in-law and a group of neighbors. It will be my first escape from California in about three years.”

Thanks, Larry, for sharing and for your good works as a caregiver. We hope your “escape from California” turned out to be all you hoped. Stay in touch, old *Spec* editorial board colleague.

**Kamel Bahary** and his brothers, Emil BUS'57, SEAS'62 and William GSAS'61 — all active Columbians — were scheduled to move at the end of April to Kendal on Hudson in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y., which he has described as “for older persons who are able to live safely in a residential setting with many amenities, and where Susan will join me.”

Best of luck to all in your new abodes. We plan to visit, mainly to find out if our classmate is really an “older person”; Kamel appears neither to have aged since we met him in 1950, nor has his energy waned in working for or giving to alma mater. Thanks, Kamel, as always.

Another wandering celebrant comes home. Welcome back to **Bill Burleigh**, who writes, “I imagine those of us who are from the Class of Destiny are reaching 90 and do not provide many respondents who are still standing. I am one of those rare birds from Utah, along with **Bill Jackson** '52, **Mitch Price** '53, **Dick Wall**, **Cal Jenkins** '55 and several others who attended Columbia during the early '50s. I have lived, worked, and retired in several states, but returned home to the Salt Lake City area in 2015 to be close to family because of health problems. (Isn't it strange how so many of us return home — or never leave it?)

“I have many fond memories of the many friends I met at Columbia, who were from all parts of the USA and even the rest of the world. I remember the many bull sessions held in someone's dormitory room in which all variety of subjects were hotly discussed. The same types of discussions were held in some classrooms, which opened my mind to 100 different things. High school was easy because all it required was rote memory, but the hardest thing about Columbia was it required you to think.”



Zain Athar '21 (left) and Justin Ghaeli '22 spotted Dr. Elliot Gross '55's Columbia College cap while on a stroll through the Upper West Side on April 9 and approached him, striking up a lively conversation about their vastly different (and in many ways similar) Columbia experiences.

Bill appears to be ready for that terminal memoir or autobiographical novel. He continues, "My memory is still good, but my thinking has become a little fuzzy with age. I wish the best to all those of the Class of 1954. If any of you remember me, I would be happy to hear from you at burlyboy1@hotmail.com."

Thanks Bill. We're all ready to walk with you on the Great Salt Lake.

**Bennett L. Aaron LAW'57** writes: "My wife, Carol, and I will miss attending [the Law School] reunion this year. Carol was at the graduation in 1957. We have been married for 66 years.

"A little more than a year ago our law firm, Pepper Hamilton, merged with the Troutman firm based in Atlanta. I think that it was an excellent move for both firms. I had been going to my office on a daily basis with my usual suit and tie. The arrival of the pandemic resulted in closing our firm on March 13, 2020. I have not been back since. I do not miss wearing suits and ties! Carol and I are enjoying these extra years. We've had more breakfasts together since retiring than in all the previous years."

We hope all your comments and concerns have been addressed; still, due to external issues beyond our control — including my not-to-depend-upon back — if we missed one of your submissions or concerns, please email me at once and you will be included in the next issue. Thank you to all who have written — for your suggestions, news, and expressions of

personal appreciation or frustration. Stay in touch even between deadlines; sometimes that's even better than waiting. Be well, stay well, be good, do good, help heal the world.

Luv, Bernd.  
Excelsior!

## 1955

**Columbia College Today**  
[cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu)

[Editor's note: CCT was saddened to learn of the January 29, 2022, passing of longtime class correspondent **Gerald "Jerry" Sherwin**, also known as "Mr. Columbia." Sherwin not only helmed this column for 40 years and was this class's leader, but also was a ubiquitous presence on campus, especially at Lions men's basketball games and Columbia College alumni and student events. Read more about him in "Obituaries" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).]

**Dr. Elliot M. Gross** writes: "I and **Donald Laufer** attended the [March 5] memorial for **Gerald 'Jerry' Sherwin** in St. Paul's Chapel. I was impressed with the warm reminiscences of the Athletics staff and those who knew our classmate from his basketball team and Columbia College Alumni Association affiliations. The heartfelt expressions of gratitude for his mentoring of many College alumni during their undergraduate and later years were impressive."

**Costas "Gus" Katsigris BUS'56** sent an update: "Retired in 2001 after 31 years as director of the Food and Hospitality Institute at El Centro College, now El Centro-Dallas College. Currently writing a textbook, *Book of Wines, Beers and Spirits*. Have a house in Greece that I visit every summer."

**Stanley Corngold** checks in: "Although a member of the Class of '55, I graduated in 1957, as I chose to do my Army service before completing my requirements. My service took me to Mannheim and Heidelberg, which excited an interest in German thought. I then taught English for several years with the European Division of the University of Maryland, aiming to help soldiers with battlefield commissions to obtain their B.A.s. With the aid of a National Defense Education Act fellowship, generated by the provocation produced by the launching of Sputnik, I acquired a Ph.D. from the Department of Comparative Literature at Cornell, whose business was mistakenly taken to be 'psyching out' the mentality of putative enemies of our country, hence, the NDEA grant. In fact, the remit was learning theoretical deconstruction from Paul de Man. I thereafter taught German and comparative literature at Princeton for 43 years until my retirement in 2009. Since then, I have been writing books on works by Goethe, Kafka mainly, and, more recently, Thomas Mann. Two titles that have recently appeared are *The Mind in Exile: Thomas Mann in Princeton and Weimar in Princeton: Thomas Mann and the Kabler Circle*.

"My first wife, Marie-Josephine (née Brettle), became chair of comparative literature at Rutgers; my present wife, of 30 years, Regine (née Üllner), is an accomplished photographer. My stepdaughter, Natascha (née Weisert) runs strategic policy for UNIDO in Vienna. I seem to be in good health (walking, biking, cooking, washing up in a Zen trance), very grateful for the life I have lived and am living. I would be very happy to see classmates again!"

**Milton Finegold** shares a memory: "As assistant captain of the all-male cheerleaders, as well as the lightest weight member, I was selected to be lifted onto the outstretched arms of the West Point Cadets and passed down from the top of the Baker Field stands to the

field at halftime of the annual game in September 1952. It was the time when Columbia's then-president, Dwight D. Eisenhower, was running for U.S. President, and the game was among the first to be televised (but not recorded, to my knowledge). On reaching the ground and somersaulting, I was congratulated by the West Point cheerleaders and handed two quarters that had fallen out of my pants pocket."

Thank you to those who answered CCT's call for notes. Please share your news and updates by email: [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu), or online using the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

## 1956

**Robert Sirotky**  
[rrs76@columbia.edu](mailto:rrs76@columbia.edu)

**Newt Frohlich LAW'59** finished the first draft of his new historical novel on George Washington and how he came to free his slaves. While waiting for his editor to try to shorten the draft of 517 pages, he is working on a memoir that will include his days at Columbia.

**Jay Martin** had a volume of poems published in 2021, *Visions, Variations, Varieties*, and has recently published a book, *The Psychologies of Political Exile, from Ovid to the Dalai Lama*. His novel *The Last Gamble* was to appear this spring. Records that he was married five days after graduation and wonders if he is the longest married in our class.

**Ron Kapon** has been appointed the civilian representative for the NYPD for the Upper West Side — a volunteer position. He's still a basketball fan who attended all the men's games and 50 percent of the women's, who lost in the finals for the Ivy title.

**Buz Paaswell**, back at his office at CCNY, will start a big federal- and state-funded program to train people from underserved NYC areas for "new tech"-related infrastructure jobs.

After some difficult medical problems, **Jerry Kaufman** is still working in commercial real estate, having partnered for 15 years with Sammy Davis Jr. and for five with Michael Jordan.

The Palomares Veterans Act, designed to help veterans affected by exposure to Plutonium 239 during

the cleanup in Spain in 1966, is now ready for the President's signature and was passed with help from **Murray Watnick** in his role as a board-certified specialist in nuclear medicine. Palomares was considered the worst nuclear accident of the Cold War.

**Phil Liebson** reports hunkering down on the North Shore of Chicago during the pandemic, and has virtually completed "my latest Chicago Literary Club essay on cosmology and quantum mechanics."

**Alan Broadwin** SEAS'57 is still "active and kicking" and continues to work as a consultant for an aerospace company as a "quality systems consultant." Notes that the standard for the ultrasonic surgical devices that he helped write is about to be updated.

Living half the year in the Bay Area and the other half in Santa Barbara, **Joseph Berzok** has been retired for 32 years after a career at Macy's and British American Tobacco U.S.

**Martin Mayer** LAW'59 is planning a marketing campaign for a new instructional manual, *Traversing the Commercial Lease Minefield*.

**Stuart Cartoon** LAW'59 is in Palm Coast, Fla., is retired from the practice of law and is enjoying the absence of snow and ice.

**Bill Fischer** has relocated to Palm Beach, Fla.

**Michael Schwartz** is retired and living in Oakland, Calif., and in Hartsdale, N.Y.

**John Censor** is still in business working from home, and is still in-line skating.

**Seymour Zivan** SEAS'58, SEAS'59 reports on his career with Xerox, and after many years has relocated from Rochester to NYC. He is enjoying being a great-grandfather of 10.

**Allan Hoben** writes that he spends summers in Maine but most of the time is in Berkeley, Calif. He endowed a scholarship at Columbia last year. Would like to hear from classmates.

Waiting for warmer weather to return north, **Dan Link** looks forward to "reunion" in Westchester after returning from Florida.

**Jerry Breslow** keeps busy as office manager for his wife's clinical practice. This after having both knees replaced. Laments that his long-running poker game, which included **Frank Neuberger**, has failed to keep up. Saw **David Leive** at a law school reunion. Still on the board of the Strathmore Hall

Foundation, which operates the music center and other facilities in Montgomery County, Md. Hopes to resume tennis in July.

**Ed Botwinick** has been hunkering down in Charlottesville, Va., for the past two years enjoying what was normally a summer home.

**Jack Katz** is still in the solo practice of psychiatry, but is beginning to contemplate retirement. He has been reduced to pickleball, no longer playing tennis.

**Steve Easton** reports, as the remaining Class Agent, that the Class of '56 scholarships and the Class of 1956 Alan N. Miller Scholarship Fund performance increased more than 30 percent for the year ending June 30, 2021. After \$42,000 was distributed as scholarships, the year-end balance was \$987,000.

**Don Morris** sent a piece, *The Importance of Being Invisible*.

Now for the unhappy news: **Frank Thomas** LAW'63, described by *The New York Times* in a full-page obituary December 24 as "a path-breaking Leader of Charity" died on December 22, 2021. Frank was the first Black captain of an Ivy League basketball team and his accomplishments as president of the Ford Foundation are detailed. His tenure in the Air Force, then at the Law School, are documented. I remember his role in ending bias in the Columbia off-campus housing registry in our senior year.

**Jerome Schwartz** GSAS'65, a modern French scholar, died on January 10, 2022. After graduating, he went on to a Fulbright Travel Grant, joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh in 1965 and became full professor in 1989. He specialized in 16th-century French language and literature. He was an accomplished pianist and organist, and an artist.

[Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more on Schwartz, and go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct) for more on Thomas.]

## 1957

**Herman Levy**  
hdlleditor@aol.com

We heard from the following classmates for this issue.

**Paul Stanley Frommer**: "Sadly, I report that my [twin] brother, **Alan Frommer** SEAS'58, passed away

last spring at his home in Wellesley, Mass. He had fought Parkinson's for 11 years. Alan leaves his wife, Judy (née Goldman); his daughter, Michele '86, and granddaughter, Isabella Wade, of Atlanta; his son, Benjamin '91 (Martina); and grandsons, Emil and Erik, of Evanston Ill. Our older brother, Herbert '54, DM'57, predeceased him.

"In 1960, Alan and Judy married, having been introduced by **Lou Rothman**.

"Alan spent most of his working years doing financial analyses for major corporations. The highlight of his early career years was the three years he and Judy spent in Paris.

"... During the same time Judy and Alan were in Paris, I was stationed at the European U.S. Naval headquarters in London. Our visits with each other, back and forth from Paris to London ... were like living in Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*. That period turned Alan into a lover of French wine and food. Upon their return to the United States, Judy and Alan settled permanently in Wellesley.

"At graduation [from Columbia], Alan received a Varsity C for lightweight crew. At one time he was president of the Columbia Club of New England. He loved Columbia, always telling people what a wonderful education he got there." [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

**Erich Gruen**: "As I move into my late 80s, I can no longer get away with claiming that I am in advanced middle age. I got a sharp reminder of the passage of time when I spoke (remotely) at a conference honoring a retired professor in Berlin. He responded to my lecture by saying "I am very pleased that Erich Gruen participated in this conference for I remember reading his books when I was a student." This was meant kindly, but it was a mixed message. I felt like reaching for a wheelchair. I try to ignore the advancing years by staying active in the profession.

"I spoke at two other conferences, at Oxford and Utrecht, but both of them through the medium of Zoom. I did manage to make one [other] appearance in the flesh, at Brigham Young University, where the generous Mormons overlooked my heresies. Five more of my articles appeared in print in 2021, thus proving that I am still of sound mind (if not body). More importantly, I greeted a new grandson in Boston and an older

grandson in Providence who performed a solo concerto (cello) with the Brown University Orchestra. I was hoping to make it for the 65th reunion of our class in June. But that might be a stretch."

**Ron Hellman** LAW'60: "As the Class of 1957 nears perilously close to the front of Class Notes, I take this occasion to get my name in print in these pages for my one and only appearance. Although I spent seven years in Morningside Heights, four at the College and three at the Law School, I was a commuter from Jackson Heights, Queens, for much of that time. So I didn't get the full campus experience, with the exception of writing for *Spectator*. After graduation and military service, I atoned for that absence by attending a number of lectures and Dean's Day events, serving on the Alumni Representative Committee interviewing applicants to Columbia and sending my son to the Class of 1992. But I remain a Queens boy to this day, living in Flushing with my wife of 58 years, still showing up at my law office in Douglaston and playing some tennis in Bayside. (Both of my children and a granddaughter live in Manhattan.)

"For 17 years I produced 50 contemporary plays of significance at Queens Theater in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park with my semi-professional company, The Outrageous Fortune Company. The website is still up — take a look ([outrageousfortunecompany.com](http://outrageousfortunecompany.com)). I also did some community theater acting, running for President in *The Best Man* (Bill Russell), hanging out with a 6-ft. rabbit in *Harvey* (Elwood P. Dowd) and attending Columbia Commencements in *You Can't Take It With You* (Grandpa), among many other roles. Another artistic connection was with the Queens Council on the Arts, where I was president and a board member for quarter of a century.

"Covid-19 has denied [me] some of my favorite activities — traveling, theater-going and fine dining — but I remain upright and in good health. All in all, a good life, and being a former Brooklyn Dodgers fan and a present New York Mets one, has taught me to deal with adversity. Now we face many threats, climate change and anti-democracy heading the list, but I try to rely on this quotation from Horace Walpole: "The world is a tragedy to those who feel,

but a comedy to those who think. ' Classmates, take your pick!'

**George Lutz:** "I continue to practice mind/body medicine in Warren, N.J. I remain in basically good health, which I attribute to regular exercise and good nutrition. I enjoy learning opera with my designated expert, my wife, Eileen."

**Jacques Ullman:** "As I look out from my house in Sausalito, Calif., at the sailboats in Richardson Bay, I appreciate my good fortune at having had a long, rich and fulfilling life. [Having been] raised by intellectual, bohemian parents was a good starter. But, going from rural California to Columbia College in New York City was one of the wisest choices I have made. I had never been to an opera or a major museum, or taken a subway. And, although I was not an exceptional scholar, I did get a good, solid liberal arts education that has stood me well. My modest architectural practice produced some buildings that I think have enhanced some lives.

"It has been a joy for me to hear people who have been using a building I designed say that they are still experiencing it in new ways. But as I indulge in all this good feeling I am saddened that, as a generation that actually lived and suffered losses from the fight to save democracy from fascism, we are now seeing democracy again significantly threatened both at home and abroad."

**Herbert D. Sturman LAW'61:** Herb has been included in *Marquis Who's Who*. As in all *Marquis Who's Who* biographical volumes, individuals profiled are selected on the basis of current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility and prominence in a field are all taken into account during the selection process.

After 58 years of practicing law, Herb has recently retired. Previously, he was of counsel to Freeman, Freeman & Smiley; the senior partner of Fierstein & Sturman, a firm with 23 lawyers; and a federal prosecutor in the Los Angeles Office of the United States Attorney. Presenting numerous lectures for the California Continuing Education of the Bar, he has been a regular contributor of book reviews for tax publications and chapters for books as well. He notably contributed chapters for *Tax Practice in California* in 1984 and *Federal Tax Procedure for General Practitioners* in 1969, where

his chapter was devoted primarily to trust fund tax liability under Sections 6671 and 6672 of the Internal Revenue Code. These sections impose personal liability upon corporate officers and/or corporate employees who withheld taxes from employees of the corporation and failed to pay those withheld taxes to the IRS. The withheld funds constitute trust funds under Sections 6671 and 6672.

Herb was licensed to practice law by the New York State Bar and State Bar of California in 1961 and 1962, respectively. Additionally, he has been a certified tax specialist by the State Bar of California.

One of the highlights of his career was representing a taxpayer in the United States Supreme Court in *United States v. Janis*. Although the Supreme Court decision was adverse to his client, the matter was reversed and remanded for trial in the district court, where Herb was able to resolve the case and the taxpayer's liability for less than 5 percent of the amount claimed by the IRS.

He also received a personal commendation from Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and the Department of Justice for his work in handling Sections 6671 and 6672 cases under the Internal Revenue Code. As a result of his actions, the government's success rate increased substantially in all future litigation under these Internal Revenue Code sections.

Herb's career has had some interesting moments aside from typical taxpayer representation. Among other things, he was counsel for the Beach Boys and involved in their day-to-day operation. Additionally, he and one of his clients co-founded Harrah's Resort Atlantic City [N.J.].

Attributing his success to hard work, staying abreast of the law and being responsive to and patient with his clients, Herb has been the recipient of a number of honors and accolades throughout the years. Impressively, he holds an AV Preeminent Rating for legal ability and legal ethics from Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating in the field. Herb has been AV rated by both members of the bar for more than 45 years and the judiciary since the judiciary started rating lawyers. He has contributed his skills to Brentwood Country Club as a member and as chair of the Men's Division of the Jewish Federation; has been on the Board of Directors of the Stephen

Wise Temple; and has been a member of Stop Cancer, The Maestro Foundation, the Harmony Project and the Guardians for many years.

Born in New York City to Louis and Dora Sturman, Herb has been happily married to Beverly DM'57 for 60 years. He is also the proud father of Elise Museles, Tracy and Robert, and grandfather of Noah and Daniel Museles. In his free time, he enjoys golf, exercising in the gym, theater, reading, travel, sporting events and spending quality time with his family and dog, Harvey.

Please send me your news for a future issue.

## 1958

**Peter Cohn**  
petercohn1939@gmail.com

At the end of October, when the Winter 2021–22 issue closed, we were optimistic that once the Delta variant of the Covid-19 virus ran its course, the city, state and country would soon be back to "normal." Boy, were we wrong! The Omicron variant made its appearance and we were back in the wilderness. This time, we will hedge our bets: *If* there are no new troublesome variants, we should be back to "normal" by the time you read these Class Notes.

The mailbox contains a contribution from **Joe Dorinson** updating us on his recent activities, which are always interesting: "I published an article in Kishor Vaidya, editor, *Teach History with a Sense of Humor: Why (and How to) Be a Funnier and More Effective History Teacher and Laugh All the Way to Your Classroom*; Canberra, Australia, 2021, which pays tribute to our Columbia education, personified and inspired by Professor James P. Shenton '49, GSAS'54. My book, *The Black Athlete as Hero*, was to be published this spring. On April 20, I planned to chair a Brooklyn Public Library panel of prominent authors Peter Golenbock and William Rhoden for a discourse on the intersection of race, sports, history and politics. Stay tuned."

It is fair to say that Joe is one of the leading authorities in the country on this topic, so we will definitely stay tuned!

A few days before this issue of *CCT* closed we were saddened to learn of the death of **Bernie**

**Nussbaum**, former editor-in-chief of *Spectator* and lifelong leader in our reunions and other College activities. Bernie earned a law degree from Harvard and entered the legal arena. He began his career as an assistant U.S. attorney in Manhattan, served as a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee in the Watergate investigation, was White House counsel for Bill Clinton and was partner for many years at the New York firm of Wachtell Lipton. At his funeral before an overflow audience at the Park Avenue Synagogue, two of the eulogies were delivered by his lifelong friends **Ernie Brod LAW'61** and **Shelly Raab**. They emphasized how Bernie had risen from humble origins on the Lower East Side to become one of the nation's most successful corporate litigators, but had always remained an especially kind and generous person, a true "mensch."

Bernie was a widower, predeceased by Toby and Nancy, and we offer our condolences to his extended family. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

## 1959

**Norman Gelfand**  
nmgc59@hotmail.com

The last few months have apparently been quiet ones for our class, as I only got a few responses to my plea for news. I hope that with spring here and summer approaching (as I compile these Class Notes) you will all be more active and that you will share these activities and experiences with classmates.

**Ralph W. Wyndrum Jr.** SEAS'59, BUS'78 reports, "Recently, my age-related macular degeneration progressed rapidly, leaving me legally blind in both eyes. What a change in lifestyle. We returned our leased car, moved to Uber (my wife, Meta GS'60, no longer drives), forgot speed reading and acquired a lot of electronic gear for the visually impaired: 32-inch computer monitor plus Microsoft Magnify, small camera/LED screen reading devices and essentially a battery-powered tricycle that goes 15 mph and is good for 1–5 mile trips to stores and so forth. No more hops to ShopRite for milk ... we use the local Acme or 7-Eleven. We're stabilizing at a new norm, but want to be totally

self-sufficient and stay in our home on the water. I think we will.”

I am sure that you will. Our best to you and Meta.

**Steve Trachtenberg** moved from Washington, D.C., to Minnesota to be closer to family. He discovered that winters are cold there. Surprise, surprise. Steve's years at The George Washington University are still having an impact. Ten students from D.C. are being given a free ride to GWU, having been awarded a Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Scholarship.

**Jerome Charyn** has been busy. His new novel, *Big Red*, starring Rita Hayworth and Orson Welles, will be published in August, with a cover designed by celebrated satirist Edward Sorel, who has done more than 50 covers for *The New Yorker* and also designed the cover of Jerome's first novel.

Jerome's short story "White Chocolate" was selected as one of the best crime stories of the year by the Mysterious Bookshop Press; he is working on an animated TV series, "Hard Apple," based on his novel *Blue Eyes*; and his graphic novel, *Little Tulip* (drawn by François Boucq), will be turned into a live production by Barry Films.

**Mike Tannenbaum** GSAS'65 reports, "My wife, Barbara, and I visited CERN and Geneva in February 2020 and returned on February 27. There was a minor inspection at the Geneva airport on the way home but we didn't really understand why until we got home to Manhattan.

"We stayed two weeks and then moved to my daughter Nina

Tannenbaum '99's house on Long Island. I was planning to retire at the end of March 2020, but moved it to the end of September 2020. In this period, I was able to do a lot of work cleaning out my office and moving the most important material to another office I was given because I was awarded emeritus status at Brookhaven National Laboratory starting October 1, 2020. Since then, we moved back to full time in Manhattan, but go back and forth by LIRR to visit. Also, we did go to one of our favorite drug stores on Long Island to get vaccinated.

"Right now I am sitting at home in Manhattan with my granddaughter Tiye Tannenbaum Castelli (Nina's daughter), who goes to pre-kindergarten at P.S. 290 and is a great Columbia prospect when the time comes.

"For the past few years, I have been participating with the Columbia University Seminar on Science and Subjectivity, which meets monthly at Faculty House followed by dinner but has been only online during the pandemic (**Jay Neugeboren** also attends).

"As summer approaches, it seems that the vaccines are working so that things will be normal this fall and we can go to seminars, lectures, and football and basketball games at Columbia. Roar, Lion, Roar!"

**Robin Motz** GSAS'65, PS'75, who left physics to attend P&S, implores us to "get a booster and then check your Covid-19 antibody level every three months." He reports, "I have been to eight Off-Broadway plays in the past three weeks, all heavily attended and well written and acted. NYC streets are abuzz on the weekend, and the Village sidewalks are packed, especially MacDougal Street and the famous Cafe Wha, where I saw Dylan, Baez and Denver. Central Park is full of tourists."

From **Jerry Friedland**: "First, greetings to Class of '59 mates after this challenging year. My condolences to those who have lost family members and colleagues and friends to Covid-19 or other causes during this difficult time. I'm glad for the opportunity to provide some thoughts about my past year of living with Covid. To put these in context I should mention that before Covid took over our 'normal lives' and pushed aside our graceful aging, I had spent the last 40 years

as a clinician and academic infectious diseases physician confronting the previous and ongoing local and global pandemics of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis in the Bronx, New Haven, South Africa and globally.

"Although I have come to know these two intertwined diseases and their history, and the sorrow and havoc that they have wrought (as well as the great successes in combating them), the arrival of SARS-CoV-2 still came as an unexpected, unwelcome new pandemic. It sent me back to Albert Camus's novel *The Plague*, which I first read at Columbia, to remind me that as with the pandemics of HIV and TB and now, Covid, 'people always think that plagues just come out of a clear blue sky. But there have been as many plagues as wars in history, and always plagues take people by surprise.' In fact, globalization with climate change, population growth, rapid travel and communication and continuing racial, social and economic inequities has made this pandemic inevitable and in retrospect, we should have been better prepared. But our incompetent and dangerous national 'leadership' and accompanying denial and delay have made things immeasurably worse than they might have been.

"During the past year I have experienced personal denial, despair and isolation. I expect most or even all of us have felt this. This has also been a part of past pandemics, but knowing this has offered little consolation, even with the new normal of Zoom calls and meetings. I do think that one saving reality for me has been staying close (though virtually) to best friends, many of them Columbia classmates, including **Arthur Rudy**, **Jay Neugeboren** and **Arnie Offner**, and having the benefit and good fortune of living through this together with my wife, Gail, and being close to my three adult children and three not-yet-adult grandchildren. But, nevertheless, the feeling of separation, danger and anomie was intense. Maybe that's because we think we are so advanced that we are past this kind of seemingly uncontrollable and disorienting force of nature, or perhaps it was because of the lightning local and global spread of the Covid virus and its consequent huge amount of suffering and mortality, or maybe because of our own 'senior at risk' and with co-morbidities

status — or most likely a combination of all of these. The vulnerability for us and loved ones has been more palpable and unnerving than with other pandemics in my (our) lifetime, except perhaps polio — in the distant past when we were all young — or HIV for those at risk. But this has been thankfully softened by the remarkable development of effective SARS-CoV-2 vaccine(s), which has been a triumph of science, though the challenges of vaccine availability and implementation locally and globally have tempered their success and are sobering. Nevertheless, I suspect that all of us will always remember getting vaccinated once and then again three weeks later, and cherish that memory. I do, and can't wait until my youngest grandchild gets his.

"I am an emeritus professor but still working in a 'retire...ing' mode. Because of age and a frustrating decline in some skills, I have been more on the sidelines than in previous epidemics; realistic but still frustrating. But my younger colleague healthcare workers have been among the real and usually unsung, but now recognized, heroes and heroines of the Covid pandemic. Being placed in the path of the pandemic, they have been courageous, committed, competent, caring and so very admirable. They exemplify what Camus also concluded in *The Plague*: 'What we learn in a time of plague is that there are more things to admire in people than to despise.'

"I'm working now more indirectly on Covid alongside these wonderful colleagues. I have been able to provide some useful new information about this pandemic and written about the features of the response to the prior and ongoing HIV pandemic that could be of use in combating Covid. I have also participated in the performance of a Pfizer vaccine trial and a study to determine the level of benefit of the vaccine for people living with HIV. Knowing that plagues always expose and widen the flaws and faults in societies, and motivated and illuminated by both Covid and Black Lives Matter, I'm fortunate to be working with younger and more energetic colleagues to help design and implement a curriculum for medical and infectious diseases trainees and faculty on the history of and continuing effect of racism and structural and social inequities in creating increased vulnerability to and poorer outcomes



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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](https://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).



from infectious diseases. We are taking this a step further and designing what we hope will be feasible, acceptable and effective strategies to improve access to prevention and care among marginalized and underserved people and communities. We hope that this will be a small step forward in helping to heal these longstanding, wide open and painful wounds and faults in our society. I hope that we all stick around long enough to see this come to pass.

“My best wishes for good health and a safe and vaccinated year and future for us all.”

I am sorry to have to pass on the sad news of the deaths of **Robert E. Selz** on October 28, 2021, and **Myles N. Weintraub** on February 20, 2022. [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries.”]

## 1960

**Robert A. Machleder**  
rmachleder@aol.com

We’ve endured two years of the pandemic, an experience unlike anything in our 80-plus years. Due to the consequently reduced *CCT* print publication schedule, and the longstanding limited length of each Class Note column, some of the following notes might seem dated: Some are reflective, some uplifting; alas, some chronicle our losses.

**Peter Schweitzer** married Anne McBride on October 29, 2020, and offered these few words that speak volumes: “I have never been so happy!”

Our congratulations and best wishes to Peter and Anne.

Peter advises he stays in touch with **Rene Plessner**.

On June 4, 2021, **David Gordis** GSAS’67 noted: “I’m writing this on my 81st birthday. My wife, Felice BC’63, GSAS’70, and I moved to Albany from Boston 12 years ago when we retired, to be near our daughter, son-in-law and granddaughters. Daughter and son-in-law are clinical psychology professors at SUNY Albany. I was president of Hebrew College for 15 years and Felice chaired the social sciences department at Lasell University in Boston. We have a similar cohort in New York, where my daughter is a professor of English at Barnard and my son-in-law a professor at Fordham Law. My principal time is spent on music. I am a cellist and

do a lot of chamber music playing. I also read and participate in several study groups with colleagues and friends. Our health is good and we are enjoying a good life here.”

**Leonard Berkman**, 53 years teaching at Smith College, shares a reflection on his experience conducting classes via Zoom.

“Surprising to say, there were considerable pluses, definitely keeping the scale in balance rather than landing with a crash. My playwrighting classes — as my students also affirmed — had ironic elements of greater ‘actuality’ as we discussed their fresh-inked student scripts with the voices of their characters in our unrehearsed readings seeming to hail from an alternative universe, not from actors sitting around a circle in a classroom with fluttering typescripts in their hands. Except in one instance of contemporary drama that kept certain students from speaking as freely with their full-screen faces on view as when they could keep checking my or their classmates’ facial expressions for signs of shared insights or different perspectives, Zoom was comparable to actual face-to-face immediacy. A major further positive entailed my ability to enlist numbers of prominent professional playwrights in hour-or-longer Zoom interviews without having those playwrights need to find breaks in their schedule to travel to Smith in person. Lynn Nottage, David Henry Hwang, Kathleen Tolan, Sarah Ruhl and Charles Mee Jr. (et al.) became a glorious parade of playwrights my students (who adore their work) felt they were privileged to come to know in greater numbers than we can manage in more usual academic years.”

Our virtual monthly Class Luncheons convened by **Art Delmhorst**, employing **Claudio Marzollo’s** Zoom account, have been quite successful. The regular and occasional attendees include Art, Claudio, **Andy Kubishen**, **Bob Berne**, **David Kirk**, **John Pegram**, **Josh Pruzansky**, **Bill Host**, **Joe Giacalone**, **Larry Rubinstein**, **Frank Zmorzenski**, **Ira Jaffrey**, **Sid Hart**, **Harvey Snyder**, **Joe D’Erasmus**, **Jon Strimaitis**, **Mike Gelfand**, **Michael Katz**, **Paul Nagano**, **Bob Abrams**, **Ralph Galdo**, **Rene Plessner**, **Peter Schweitzer**, **Bob Berselli**, **Paul Chevalier**, **Rolf Weingardt**, **Stu Reuter**, **Harry Lenhart**, **Irnice Sollinger**, **David**

**Goldman** and **Victor Chang** (until, sadly, Covid-19 claimed Victor in October 2020). My own participation at the Zoom meetings has been limited by my acute technical ineptitude and my abject failure to adapt to this digital age. I miss our actual luncheons.

Many of the Zoom regulars were in NROTC. Consequently, stories of their Naval service abound. Art informed me of **Mike Gelfand** PS’64’s first appearance at the luncheons: “You and I remember Mike well as the coxswain in our freshman lightweight shell. Josh, Dave and I were the first three on the call and were trading sea stories when Mike came on. I apologized and said this is what happens when a few ex-Navy guys get together. Much to our surprise, Mike countered: ‘Well, I was in the Navy, too!’ After med school he entered the Navy, was a doctor on the aircraft carrier *U.S.S. Saratoga* and became chief surgeon for the entire Navy in the Mediterranean. He was a lieutenant commander, higher in rank than any of the rest of us at that time!”

Quite apart from this nautical revelation, Mike submitted a reminiscence of events that brought him to Columbia. “As a child, for many years, I spent eight weeks of the summer at Camp Paradox on Paradox Lake in the Adirondacks. During all of those years, the head counselor was basketball coach Lou Rossini. The staff was composed of the entire basketball team (including future coach Jack Rohan ’53) and members of the swim team and other sports. Their speech was peppered with: ‘See you around the Quad.’ I had no clue what that meant. In part, because of my summer experiences with those great guys, I was determined to attend Columbia. Flash forward to 1956 when, during my first day as a freshman on campus, a classmate, in parting, said to me, ‘See you around the Quad.’ I looked around and suddenly realized that having achieved my goal, I was standing in the Van Amringe Quadrangle: ‘The Quad,’ and the meaning of the expression suddenly became clear. Fortunately, no one noticed the tears streaming down my face.”

**Peter Phillipps** writes: “Until last year, my wife, Suzy, and I were enjoying a very interesting and active life in Florida with lots of exciting travel and time with family and several

community organizations, including the Columbia University Club of Sarasota and the Sarasota Opera Guild; I was president of both. At the end of 2019, Suzy and I traveled to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, our 69th country visited and unfortunately our last trip together — 2020 through the first half of 2021 was lost to us because of the pandemic and an escalation of Suzy’s health issues, which required me to become her full-time caregiver. She was diagnosed with cancer; fought a valiant, but losing, fight; and passed away on June 1, 2021, two weeks short of our 62nd anniversary. We had been married in 1959, and after spending 80 percent of our lives together, I am learning how to live alone.

“I renewed my involvement in community organizations, including a membership on the Board of Trustees of the Artists Series Concerts of Sarasota. My daughter, Debra, and my sons, David and Larry, are now beyond or approaching 60, and the youngest grandchild, Lucy, is 23. I am looking forward to the start of the next generation: grandson Matthew and his wife, Haley, for whom I performed the wedding ceremony in 2017, and grandsons Jake, William, Drew and Alec, who are pursuing different life paths. I plan to resume traveling — a Mediterranean cruise from Malta to Marseille. I watched a video about Columbia’s Manhattanville campus, and would like to visit that. It is nice to see the University is growing and evolving, but hard to believe it’s 62 years since we graduated.”

**Steve Lerner** passed away in 2021. This tribute was co-authored by **Norman Lane** and **Nathan Gross** with input from Steve’s widow, Anne.

“**Rabbi Stephen Lerner** passed away peacefully on January 27, 2021, at 80, a victim of Covid-19. His three great loves were his family, Judaism and the Jewish people, and alma mater. Survivors include his beloved wife, Anne Lapidus Lerner, a renowned scholar of Jewish literature; son, Rabbi David Lerner ’93, daughter, Rahel Lerner ’00, their spouses and five grandchildren, one of whom attends Barnard College.

“Steve was editorials editor of *Spectator*, and was a member of the Senior Society of Sachems. He was active in alumni affairs, helping to organize many of our class

reunions. Steve established an endowment at the Spectator Publishing Co., which will present an annual Stephen C. Lerner Award to a staff member for outstanding investigative or data journalism.

"After his ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary he served as rabbi at Town & Village Synagogue in Manhattan as well as at synagogues in Riverhead and West Hempstead on Long Island. In 1981, as part-time rabbi of Congregation Kanfei Shahar in Ridgefield Park, N.J., he founded the Center for Conversion to Judaism, now based at Town & Village Synagogue in Manhattan. In that capacity, Steve was responsible for more than 1,800 conversions.

"He was a lifelong friend to many classmates and colleagues, with whom he engaged in frequent spirited conversations. After posing the perennial question, 'And how is your spiritual health?' he would engage on a wide range of subjects: politics, baseball — a dedicated Mets fan! — movies or a recent program of Broadway songs at the 92nd Street Y.

"The warmth, enthusiasm and loving personality of our devoted, loyal classmate and dear friend will be deeply missed."

**Anton Klotz**, a longtime resident of Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., passed away suddenly on March 4, 2020. He is survived by his two daughters, two sons and nine grandchildren. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

## 1961

**Michael Hausig**  
mhausig@yahoo.com

**Jim Ammeen** BUS'62 continues as chairman of the board of Conecuh Brands. In January, the company broke ground on its distillery in Troy, Ala., to produce Clyde May's Alabama Whiskey, Bourbon and Rye. The distillery has been years in the making and will catapult Troy into the national spotlight. Named for an Alabama moonshining folk hero, the brand has won awards from the Ultimate Spirits Challenge, *Wine Enthusiast*, New York Wine & Spirits Competition and most recently the San Francisco World Spirits Competition. The Clyde May's brand is distributed in all 50 states and internationally, as well.

The distillery is expected to be completed in spring 2023; production will begin immediately and the first product produced from this facility is projected for release in 2027.

The George Washington University Jackie Robinson Project celebrated its 25th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of the integration of modern Major League Baseball on April 13. **Richard Zamoff** GSAS'63 is JRP's director.

After **Bob Salman** LAW'64's primary victory in 2021, he continues to serve as the senior male member of the New Jersey Democratic State Committee representing Monmouth County. He will be on the ballot in this June's primary, running unopposed for another two-year term as a member of the Monmouth County Democratic Committee, as will his wife, Reva.

In February, Bob underwent an ablation procedure at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Irving Medical Center and had Dr. **Oscar Garfein** PS'65, BUS'97 as a source of comfort.

Bob's grandchildren continue to be the source of much joy, he says. Jack is finishing his third year at Wharton, is a TA and will be an intern at Credit Suisse this summer. Sydney will be married in October to Tyler DeMontigny. She has a master's in nutrition and is a registered dietician at Hartford Hospital. Taylor, who is a member of Morgan Stanley's wealth management team, recently passed her Securities Investment Essentials Exam. Finally, Mackenzie finished her first year at the University of Florida at Gainesville.

**Stuart Newman** LAW'64 is actively practicing law with the anticipation of a dram of Clyde May's after dinner, courtesy of **Jim Ammeen**. Stuart writes that **Mickey Greenblatt** deserves kudos for stepping up to preserve the tradition of **Tony Adler**'s monthly class luncheon. As **Philippe de la Chapelle** observed when they spoke recently, our class is blessed with some very interesting and accomplished members, and Mickey is providing all of us with the opportunity to hear them speak about topics within their wheelhouse on monthly Zoom calls. Recording the Zoom calls serves as a great way to review specific points of interest.

**Gene Milone** continues to write journal articles on eclipsing binaries,

contributing articles to books on historical figures and refereeing papers for scientific journals.

Thanks to the use of hypotonic salt solution eye drops, the edema in Gene's right eye following cataract surgery two years ago has disappeared and he now has the best vision in that eye he has ever had.

In the not-so-good-news department, a full corneal transplant in his left eye is needed because of a technician's clumsy attempt to measure inter-ocular pressure with a handheld tonometer 13 years ago. This resulted in a "glaucoma attack," causing a pressure build-up that subsequently damaged the lens and cornea, and subsequent cataract and then partial corneal transplant that proved too inefficient to stem the edema.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused repeated delays in full corneal transplant surgery for several reasons, but mainly because installing foreign tissue in one's eye is particularly hazardous. Gene hopes to have full binocular vision again, someday.

**Mike Clark** SEAS'62 retired from Dow Chemical in 1994 and moved to Reno. He and his wife, Joanna, spent the winters skiing and the summers hiking the Sierras until 2009, when Mike had a knee replaced (it went poorly). That meant goodbye, skiing/tennis/volleyball and hello, golf.

When Mike and Joanna decided they had shoveled enough snow in Reno, they began spending and enjoying the winters in Tucson (pleasant to warm temperatures, and low humidity).

**Joe Rosenstein** published a book on April 15, *Reflections on Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers): Not Just What My Rebbe Taught Me*. Joe can be reached at joeroseinstein.com for further information about this and his other publications. He is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Mathematics at Rutgers.

**Barry McCallion** and his wife, Joanne, are well and have resumed traveling. Joanne went to London and environs to visit friends and from there to Paris for a few days. Then she flew to California to visit her sister. In the fall, they will join friends on a small boat tour of the Adriatic Coast so, barring a new Covid-19 surge, they will resume their normal routine.

Meanwhile, Stanford University, Emory University and several

private collectors have recently acquired Barry's unique books. New ideas keep appearing, and fishing will resume someday.

Sadly, **Sam Strober** passed away in February 2022 from myeloma, a B cell cancer originating in the bone marrow. **Max Cohen**, also a physician and close friend, discussed Sam's ongoing treatments, the effect they were having on his breathing and the attempts by his oncologist to ameliorate his symptoms with medications that were causing other side effects. They discussed the tradeoffs associated with the ensuing bargaining that Sam embarked upon to try to minimize his treatment dosages — discussions that brought memories of brainstorming in college on tough parts of physics, chemistry or calculus, and later on difficult medical topics for two years in the dorm at Harvard Medical School.

After the second year of medical school, Sam took a year off to do research at Oxford. Sam and Max both ended up at the Massachusetts General Hospital and the NIH, but parted geographically when Sam then went to Stanford to do medicine and research and Max to the NIH to do surgery and research.

Sam's 40-year career was committed to his long-term goal of eliminating the need for immunosuppressive drugs in patients with organ transplants. He wanted to establish in those patients an immune tolerance to transplants. He received a \$6.6 million grant to study the injection of blood stem cells and T cells from a kidney donor into a kidney recipient, in an attempt to increase tolerance to the transplanted kidney. This work did not prevent him from mentoring high school students interested in biomedical research, however.

Sam had four children and four grandchildren.

**Gerry Brodeur** passed away on March 13, 2022, after a long battle with cancer. Gerry began active duty in the Marines in 1961, serving for 20 years and retiring as a major. His service included combat tours in Vietnam and an advising role during the Yom Kippur War in Israel. While on active duty, Gerry became actively involved with the Toys for Tots program, something that he continued for the remainder of his life. Gerry had been a resident of Las Vegas since 1992.

A celebration of life will be held at a place and date to be determined, and his ashes will be scattered in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Memorial contributions may be made to the Las Vegas Toys for Tots: las-vegas-nv.toysfortots.org. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" for more on Strober and Brodeur.]

## 1962

**John Freidin**  
jf@bicyclelv.com

These notes will reach you after our 60th reunion. Please, if you were there, we'd love to hear about your experience, whom you saw, impressions of the College 60 years after you graduated and so on.

**John Garman** BUS'67 wrote a remarkable letter describing his decade-long search for a career that would harness his talents and give purpose to his work. Unfortunately, there wasn't enough space in the last issue to include John's letter. So here it is.

"Finding my way in work took 10 years. I was seeking not merely a job, but also a career to give me a purpose. In college I'd enjoyed being a politician. So I entered the Law School, because I'd been told that politicians needed legal training.

"However, after a semester and a half, I realized that neither law nor politics was for me. So I continued my search. First, traveling with only a backpack, I hitched across the country. Forty-thousand miles later, the Army drafted me, and I wound up fighting the Vietnam War in the 'five-sided funny farm,' aka, the Pentagon. Exploring the United States and learning about its worldwide reach became major building blocks for me.

"Realizing I needed to earn a living, I returned to Morningside Heights and got an M.B.A. That led, of course, to selling microfilm equipment for Eastman Kodak. Naturally, Kodak assigned this upstate New Yorker to the lower half of Mississippi and upper half of Louisiana. There I learned that sales was also not my calling. So I headed north to search along the east coast.

"After countless discussions seeking advice on how best to use my skills, I arrived back in New York City, where I happened upon a Mr. McGoy, VP of public rela-

tions for the National Association of Manufacturers. After listening to me for 20 minutes, he said, 'I think you need to sell a cause, not a product. Go see the people at Junior Achievement!' But what was JA?

"It was and is an organization that teaches high schoolers the fundamentals of free enterprise by inspiring groups of 20 to form a 'company'; sell stock; develop and market a product or service; and then liquidate the company to repay the shareholders' investments and distribute a dividend to them. To accomplish this required finding actual businesspeople to advise the virtual company, recruiting a board of directors from business and industry to fund a staff, establishing a Junior Achievement Center, recruiting high schools and businesses to participate and running a public relations program to engender community awareness. Although I was too old to be a participant, I was hired to help the students and adults who advised them. I recruited and managed a board of directors; enlisted and trained business advisors from companies that wanted to sponsor JA companies; found students from area high schools to create and operate more than 30 miniature start-up businesses; helped publicize JA; and organized annual fund drives to keep the program going.

"Because of the skills and the contacts I developed running the JA program, a nearby Chamber of Commerce recruited me to be its chief staff person. So began my 30 years as a chamber president, aka, a socio-economic problem-solver. I mobilized four communities to address daunting local issues.

"For example: rescuing a rail line to preserve 4,000 industrial jobs and save hundreds of households more than \$100 on their electric bills; attracting 2,000 industrial jobs to a vacant industrial park; reducing the annual death rate on an interstate highway from 63 to none; and removing the Confederate flag from a state capital.

"This career, my life's work, was based on bringing people together to meet communal and economic challenges. It meant recruiting the right people at the right time to develop a plan of action and to mobilize them to enact their plan. Unlike a politician, I was not a public leader. Instead, I found and supported

local individuals to use their power, prestige, knowledge and time to solve problems. They got the credit. I provided them with staff.

"My 10-year search gave me self-confidence and the knowledge that each section of our country has its unique norms and values, which if properly tapped could inspire a community to act. It was a lesson I learned from Columbia Oriental studies and by living by my own wits, hitchhiking alone."

**Ken Lipper**, who splits his time between New York/Easthampton and Santa Monica, is writing an autobiographical novel, parts of which, he says, "might become a film script." He wrote the novels *Wall Street* and *City Hall*, each of which became the basis of a successful movie.

I just had a grand time watching *City Hall*. The script, dialects, story and characters accurately portray the sound and spirit of the city.

Ken's daughter, Julie Wilcox, a nutritionist, this year published her first book: *The Win-Win Diet*. Ken continues to invest some portfolios in the equity market, which he finds "a little daunting these days."

Ken also has worked with the Rand Corp. on the subject of truth decay, "a necessary effort to restore the role of facts in the American discourse." He recently joined the board of Columbia's Mortimer B. Zuckerman Mind Brain Behavior Institute. Drawing on his experiences as deputy mayor of NYC (under Ed Koch) and as a commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Ken spent a year working on the development of President Biden's physical infrastructure plan. He also served on a pandemic study committee aimed at improving the effectiveness of the ways American hospitals deal with pandemics and mass casualty events.

## 1963

**Paul Neshamkin**  
pauln@helpauthors.com

Our terrific Class of '63 Virtual Lunches continue the first and third Thursday of each month. At least 20 classmates meet on Zoom for a lively hour-and-a-half discussion about just about anything. It's great fun and an unexpected benefit of the Covid-19 pandemic. Please join

us. Just email me for an invite. And please send me your Class Note! My mailbox has been pretty empty (as evidenced by this short column).

**Doug Anderson** passed on word of **Robert K. Kraft's** engagement to Dr. Dana Blumberg, an ophthalmologist at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

Congratulations, Bob and Dana!

**Phil Satow** passed on the good news that his foundation, The Jed Foundation (jedfoundation.org), the leading national nonprofit that protects emotional health and aims to prevent suicide in teens and young adults, received a \$15 million grant from MacKenzie Scott to expand its efforts to make a lasting impact on the mental health of teens and young adults. Phil and his wife, Donna GS'65, named the foundation in memory of their son Jed.

My fraternity brother **Jeff Parson** GSAS'68 writes, "I've gone by the name Jefferson since I began to write seriously after a diverse career as a social worker (NYC), English teacher (Fisk University) and award-winning stone sculptor (L.I., NYC, California and Brazil); writing first three albums of original songs, the most recently 'Hillbilly Hook,' produced by Grammy Award-winner Peter Rowan; then, plays and screenplays in Ashland, Ore., where I live with my third wife, Lauren Oliver, a clinical psychologist and founder of CirclesWork! I have six lovely daughters scattered around the globe as far as Belgium and eight awesome grandchildren, the most recent arriving just this year.



## 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](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

“Recently my play, *Antelope Girl: On the Edge of Extinction*, was in the Austin Film Festival’s competition for stage plays with film potential, and my screenplay of the same title was in the ScreenCraft Animation category.

“But after many attempts to penetrate the seemingly impervious wall of Hollywood via submissions to screenwriting competitions, and countless query letters to agents, literary managers and producers, I’ve come to the conclusion reluctantly that it really is about who you know. My wife was a classmate of Tommy Lee Jones at Harvard in the late ’60s, so — what the hell? — it’s worth a try. We recently reached out to him. Meanwhile, I’m wondering if you know of any classmates with Hollywood connections whom I might get to read one of my screenplays or a detailed synopsis of one.”

Can anyone help Jefferson?

Joel Magid ’64 writes, “**Paul Reale** GSAS’67, who died of prostate cancer in 2020, was a true Renaissance man: child prodigy pianist, gifted and versatile composer, and UCLA music teacher and professor, master architect and renovator of his remarkable house, motorcyclist and rebuilder of classic cars, sublime gardener, collector of early computers and virtuoso computer programmer, cook, marathon bicyclist, troublemaker, and good and very loquacious friend. After Paul’s death, a group of his Columbia friends (**Peter Belfiore**, **Richard Gochman**, **Alexis Levitin**, Jonathan Gold ’65, Steve Rock ’64, Joe Prijatel ’64, Neil Silver ’65 and me) joined his widow, Claire Rydell, for a Zoom memorial. In January 2022, we reconvened on Zoom in what one of us called a ‘Reale Symposium’ to remember Paul and update each other on our retired lives and interests. Our diversity is reflected in our majors and Paul’s incredible mind: chemistry, zoology, physics, English lit, business, music, philosophy, medicine, creative writing, poetry translations from Portuguese, comparative lit, and Chinese politics and culture. Paul had an amazing ability to read and absorb pages at a glance and to remember details and conversations from our Columbia days. For Paul, and all of us, Columbia College was central to our lives, interests and intellectual development.

“If Paul took you on his motorcycle down Riverside Drive, if you once argued with him or had a dark beer with him in The West End, if

you didn’t (or did) understand his music, or if you just knew and loved Paul and his special smile, you can join us in our next Zoom Reale Symposium sometime next year; sign up to receive details with Steve Rock ’64: ser84@caa.columbia.edu.”

I was searching the CCT online archives (library.columbia.edu/libraries/cuarchives/cctindex.html) for old Class Notes — yes, they’re all there for every issue since we graduated — and I stumbled on an article from the Summer 1972 issue about **Eric Foner** GSAS’69: bit.ly/3uNerxf. Worth a read.

The CCT Issues and Index online archives were funded by a grant from the Columbia University Club Foundation, of which I am a trustee. It’s a great way to relive the history of the College over the last 75 years. There is a great index for all issues, but unfortunately the Class Notes are not indexed.

Sadly, I report the death of **James Clevon**, who died on Christmas Eve from a fall after blacking out walking to his bathroom. Our condolences to his widow, Ellen. Rest in Peace.

When you’re in NYC, you might be able to reconnect with classmates at our regular second Thursday class lunches at the Penn Club. Please email me if you are interested and I can confirm the date of our next lunch. 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 A. Olch**  
norman@nolch.com

One of the cultural milestones of our senior year in the College was the arrival of The Beatles in America and their February 9, 1964, appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. A reported 75 million people watched that evening. Fifty-eight years later I started asking classmates what they recall of that famous night, and whether anyone thought we would be talking about them so many years later. Here are the replies so far:

**Merv Rothstein**: “Ah, The Beatles. No specific memories of their first appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*, though I watched it.

“I remember, though, in summer 1964, going to a special preview of their first film, *A Hard Day’s Night*, at the Beacon Theater on Broadway at West 74th Street and seeing it amid a horde of screaming teenagers. I was in my first professional journalism job, on the old *New York Post* (it was a very liberal newspaper in those days). And I interviewed for the *Post*, in his suite at the then-prestigious Plaza Hotel, Walter Shenson, who had produced The Beatles’s movies. It was one of my first professional bylines.

“We had decided at the very beginning that one thing we were not going to do was to give the film a chestnut plot, a formula story,’ he

shrillest noise I ever experienced. Afterward, taking advantage of the limo and still dressed as we were for the performance, we went to the Four Seasons for dessert and then on to the Playboy Club (my ‘cool’ uncle had a key). One of the Bunnies asked me ‘What do you do?’ When I told her I was in college, her response was priceless: ‘Oh, I would never have guessed. You look so spry.’ Needless to say, the PR campaign was a dismal failure, but thanks to Chicken Shirts, I had a truly memorable evening.”

**Gil Kahn**: “I remember being packed into the TV room in Hartley Hall watching them. I have a memory of people being held up

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### *Dean Gamanos ’65, who teaches entrepreneurship at the Fashion Institute of Technology, is also active in local initiatives to preserve historic buildings.*

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told me. ‘And we decided definitely to shoot the film in black and white, not Technicolor. Color on the screen has an unreal feeling, and the Beatles are real people.’ I searched for the article. At the bottom of a cardboard carton on the top shelf in the back of a deep walk-in closet, I found it. From 58 years ago.”

**Allan Sperling**: “I certainly did watch, and they were wonderful. But four days later it got even better. On February 12, The Beatles performed at Carnegie Hall, and I was there! How did that happen? Well, I was dating a girl at the time who happened to have an aunt in the PR business. She was in the midst of promoting something called Chicken Shirts — they were like the Izod shirts with their alligators, but these had chickens on them (I kid you not). I saw an opportunity and suggested that if she could get us tickets to the concert, we would wear the shirts and be photographed in them there. So she did. We arrived in a stretch limo wearing the Chicken Shirts but otherwise dressed formally (I had on an opera cape and top hat), and we were duly photographed. The only thing I remember about the performance was that we really couldn’t hear The Beatles because of the screaming. It was the loudest,

horizontally. A crazy night. The only other time it was that packed was when JFK spoke on the Cuban Missile Crisis. Hope everyone is well.”

**Joel Abramson**: “I remember watching and early on realizing that I was witnessing a transformative event. All the extensive hype was an understatement. Ed Sullivan was quite astute. When he had a super guest (think Elvis), they would perform two sets — first around midway through the opening half-hour and the second toward the end of the second half-hour. That way, he kept his audience. The Beatles were no exception that night, as I recall. I am pretty sure that they sang five songs, which was an exceptional number for the show. Among them were, I think, ‘I Want to Hold Your Hand’ and ‘She Loves You.’ I haven’t thought about this for years, but Norman’s question jogged my memory, which I hope is somewhat accurate. Stay safe, everyone.”

**Marty Isserlis**: “My parents took my little sister to a Chinese restaurant near the Ed Sullivan studio when she was 9. Ed himself came over and told her to hurry home to watch his show with The Beatles as guests. Later both my sisters were at Shea Stadium to see them in person!”

**Beril Lapson**: “I recall that when I watched the broadcast I had just

had a wisdom tooth out and was in a good deal of pain. It seemed rather funny at the time to see and hear a bunch of Brits singing in quasi-hillbilly accents.”

**Steve Rodner:** “I know I watched it but I can’t remember anything else. I was more into jazz in those days (still am) than rock ‘n’ roll.”

**Steve Case:** “At the time I neither had nor had convenient access to any TV set, this having then been a personal choice. Hence, foolishly, I missed the event. I remember reading in *The New York Times* about the general excitement surrounding The Beatles’s arrival in NYC and, then, after the *Sullivan* show, the happy buzz about their appearance. Unfortunately for me, in those years, not paying attention to what was going in popular music, I was, but for the *Times* reports, totally unaware of The Beatles. Happily, in times since, I have gotten caught up, and I enjoy listening to their wonderful music on and off, still, fairly often.”

**Jeff Newman:** “I watched and even got my father to watch even though he hated Ed Sullivan. I thought they were terrific and would be around for a while. But I wouldn’t have imagined the breadth and length of their impact. But journeying back to Columbia the next day after a weekend at home in Washington, D.C., I listened to The Beatles again and again and again by changing stations.”

**Dave Levin:** “The family watched, of course; who even thought about decades later?”

**Allen Tobias:** “I recall running into **Don Mintz** and his date on their way to a Beatles concert, dressed à la Beatles.”

**Tony David:** “I guess I was not as advanced musically as the rest of you guys. I watched The Beatles along with apartment-mates **Peter Thall**, **Abby Rudolph**, **Nick Rudd** and **Mark Rosenberg**. I was bemused by what I recall was a screaming audience, the bobblehead quality of the band’s presentation and the weird haircuts. As for the music, I just didn’t get it at that time and didn’t really like it for another year or two. Best to all from sunny California.”

**Ivan Weissman:** “I didn’t pay much attention to The Beatles in those early Ed Sullivan days. But **Gil Kahn**, my roommate, and I did listen to rock ‘n’ roll. In fact, one night, we contacted WABC Radio

disc jockey Bob-a-Loo (Robert Lewis Schwartzman) and he invited us to visit him as he broadcast the overnight show. We chatted while records were on, and had a great time. Then a trip back to our Columbia dorm in the middle of the night.” Gil adds: “We also discovered that he went to Brown because he always said, ‘And this is for the guys up on the hill.’ So we also called him intermittently when there were Brown-Columbia games.”

If you have any recollections of that night, send them in.

Ivan also writes: “I was in my seat at the 2021 Penn at Columbia football game when I suddenly saw Roar-ee (the Lions mascot) accompanied by several Columbia Athletics officials headed toward me. I had won a raffle among season ticket-holders, with the prize a genuine Columbia football helmet. Roar-ee presented me with my prize and the officials asked if I was willing to appear on the video board. Eager for recognition, of course I said yes. So thousands saw me with my helmet. I didn’t feel comfortable wearing it to travel home so I got some garbage bags from the maintenance staff to safely carry it home. Upon arriving at our apartment, I terrified my wife, Jane, with my plan to display the helmet in the middle of our living room. She vetoed that idea. But the helmet is actually quite attractive, painted with an American flag, the New York skyline and two Columbia Lions.”

**Jonathan Stein** writes from Philadelphia: “Here’s the link to my published essay/review in the online dance journal thinkingdance.net, which I have been writing for and editing since 2011 ([bit.ly/3DqTGtH](http://bit.ly/3DqTGtH)). It focuses on the Barnes Foundation’s new exhibition on Southwest Native American art, with a dance take. More importantly, come to Philly to see the show and the new Barnes, which moved its iconic modern art collection from its 100-year former location to Center City Philly. Best t’all, Jonathan. P.S. On the tD homepage, you should sign up for a free subscription to our publication.”

Finally, our man on the West Coast, **Bernard Catalinotto**, is hosting a monthly Zoom meeting for the class. He can be reached at [bernardcatalinotto@gmail.com](mailto:bernardcatalinotto@gmail.com) for the schedule.

Best to all.

## 1965

**Leonard Pack**  
[leonard@packlaw.us](mailto:leonard@packlaw.us)

In my last column, I included reminiscences of **Ed Goodgold** by **Arnold Fleischer** LAW’68 and a link to a video of Arnie’s banjo playing sitting in on “Earl’s Breakdown” with a bluegrass group, but there wasn’t enough space to give you Arnie’s personal update. Here it is:

“I retired from the NYS Attorney General’s Office in March 2003 as deputy chief of the Litigation Bureau and have not given the law a thought since. Instead, I’ve pursued my long-standing interest in bluegrass music, not only as a banjo player but also as a promoter. Since 2006 I’ve curated the bluegrass concert series for the Emelin Theatre in Mamaroneck, N.Y., just up the road from New Rochelle, where I live with my wife of 46 years, Linda Pallini, and seven banjos. I’m proud to say that the series is one of the premier events of its kind in the country, having been nominated five times for IBMA (the bluegrass trade organization) event of the year. Niche music genres like bluegrass have been especially hard hit by the pandemic, and it remains to be seen how the reopening of indoor venues will go.

“I reconnected with **Ed Goodgold** about 10 years ago when a group of Tilden H.S. alumni started getting together several times a year for lunch, thanks to the efforts of **Bill Wertheim** and Harvey Rubin ’54 (and since the pandemic, Zoom).”

I belatedly learned that **Robert Gunn** died on March 12, 2021. Bob was a regular contributor to this column over the years, writing about his service as an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, where he served several churches in New York City and on Long Island. What I did not recall is that he was also a Zen Buddhist monk and priest and taught the practice of meditation for years. He was also committed to seeking justice and bringing hope to the LGBTQ community. Bob wrote two books: *Journeys into Emptiness: Dogen, Merton, Jung and the Quest for Transformation (Jung & Spirituality)*, and *One Bright Pearl: An Unholy Memoir*. You can find an obituary and memories from friends (includ-

ing from his fellow Columbia Glee Club member **Peter Smith**) here: [legcy.co/3DqEltd](http://legcy.co/3DqEltd).

**Dean Gamanos** BUS’67, who lives in Greenwich, Conn., has been teaching entrepreneurship at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan and staying active in local initiatives to preserve historic buildings. He says he misses classmates, as it has been years since our last reunion, and therefore came up with this laudable proposal:

*“Let’s revive the Class of 65!”*

Warmer weather is here and Covid-19 appears to be waning, fortunately, and many people are starting to get out, regroup and reunite. I’m suggesting that the Class of ’65 do the same. Let’s start the process by those of us in the Tri-State area getting together for lunch in NYC as we have in years past (how about in Midtown or Morningside Heights?).

“I hope we can start planning for a larger gathering or a class party in the fall, or even a reunion later on (when classmates from further afield can join the fun). Who’s game? Please contact **Leonard Pack** if you want to get involved and we’ll plan a lunch.”

**Barry Levine** wrote that his wife, Shirley, was notified by **David Sarlin**’s wife, Istar (they have been in a book group together “forever”), that David died in his sleep during the night of November 3, 2021. Barry noted that David had been dealing with health issues. When we were still having regular NYC-area class lunches, David was a regular and enthusiastic participant. You can find memories of David here: [bit.ly/3JWWzVx](http://bit.ly/3JWWzVx). [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries.”]

**Bob Yunich** reports, “Life continues to be very good. As Covid-19 restrictions subside, we’re able to see our families. Joanne and I spent a weekend last July in Boston for a family reunion. My brother, Peter, and his significant other came from their home in New Hampshire; it was the first time we had seen them in nearly three years. My son and his wife, who relocated to Stoughton, Mass., from Fairfax, Va., joined us; it was the first time we’d seen them in 18 months. They visited us in NYC in mid-January; their first visit in nearly two years. We spent Thanksgiving in Richmond, Va., with Joanne’s nephews and their families.

“We continue to escape on weekends to our second home in New York’s Delaware County hamlet of

Andes. Delaware County is so rural it's sometimes said there are more cows than people. This was really good as the number — compared to New York City — of Covid cases, hospitalizations and deaths has remained relatively small. Delaware County had imposed fewer restrictions than NYC on gathering places and indoor dining — a welcome relief.

"For all practical purposes I have completely wound down my insurance practice and I have stepped up my volunteer work. I am a member of the executive committee of the New York State Council of Trout Unlimited, the premier national coldwater conservation nonprofit, with more than 300,000 members, each belonging to one of nearly 400 chapters. There are 36 State Councils that govern the chapters within each state. In New York, there are 27 chapters with nearly 9,000 members. As the VP, advancement, I am charged with reinvigorating a dormant fundraising platform with the appropriate infrastructure and crafting donor solicitation and retention strategies.

"I continue as a trustee of The New York Youth Symphony (NYYS), which has done a remarkable job of not missing a beat with practices and rehearsals despite the pandemic's restrictions. The orchestra performed with Billy Ray Cyrus as part of the *Fourth in America* celebration on CNN. Truly awesome. Now, live performances have resumed: the NYYS Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in November 2021 and again in March 2022; the Jazz Band at Birdland in December 2021 and again at Dizzy's Club (at Jazz at Lincoln Center); and many other venues for chamber music and composition.

"I'm now in my eighth year as financial coach with the Community Service Society of New York. I have been helping people in one-on-one meetings (lately remote sessions via the telephone or Zoom) deal with problems such as adverse credit reports, stifling credit card debt, default judgments arising from delinquent debt obligations and the quagmire around and crippling amounts of outstanding student loans. So far, I have helped more than 300 people.

"Tony Leitner and I enjoyed two days last June trout fishing from a float boat, with a guide, on the West Branch of the Delaware River. The Delaware is one of the best trout fish-

eries in the East; big Rainbows and Browns, all catch and release for the sport and the joy of fishing. We had another trip planned for mid-May.

"Joanne and I were hoping to visit Portugal and Spain this spring and Vienna and Amsterdam in late summer/early fall 2023."

Don Bachman PS'69 notified me that David Berke PS'69, a retired cardiologist in Castro Valley, Calif., died on December 27, 2021. A fine obituary and remembrances (including one from Don) can be found here: [legcy.co/3Ds5RGU](https://legcy.co/3Ds5RGU). This excerpt struck me: "[David] discovered the joy of backpacking in the Sierras in his forties and began mountain climbing. He visited all seven continents, summited Kilimanjaro in Africa, Elbrus in Russia, Aconcagua in Argentina and Denali in Alaska, and climbed the Himalayas. When asked for advice on climbing, he wryly offered 'Always come back!'" [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

I join Bob Yunich in hoping that Covid-19 will fade to manageable levels and that we all will be able to resume more normal lives. Please share with your correspondent and classmates the details of what you're newly able to do.

## 1966

Columbia College Today  
cct@columbia.edu

Happy summer, Class of '66! Please take a moment to write in and share your news with classmates. They would love to hear from you! Send us an email or use the Class Notes webform, [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note).

From Joe Lovett: "It's always a challenge to release an independent documentary feature film, but having Covid-19 interrupt the film festival run of our latest feature film, *Children of the Inquisition: Their Stories Can Now Be Told* ([childrenoftheinquisition.com](https://childrenoftheinquisition.com)) was more than a bit disconcerting. The film reveals what happened to families who were forced to convert or flee during the Spanish Inquisition and is told by their contemporary descendants, many of whom were just discovering their long-held secret Jewish roots. Luckily, we were able to create online screenings where we opened our link for 48 hours to membership organizations

like community centers, houses of worship, libraries, historical societies and educational institutions.

"We then created Zoom discussion panels on topics such as intergenerational trauma, why don't we know this history, and feeling and finding. We found that these online screenings attracted three times the audiences that our sponsors usually expected, plus the film became accessible to an international audience and guest panelists as well as to homebound people who normally weren't able to attend in-person screenings. The film will be offered by PBS stations next winter.

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*Joe Lovett '66's latest film, Something Terrible Happened to Joey, is an 11-minute animated film for children ages 6–96 who have experienced childhood trauma.*

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"Our film *Going Blind: Coming Out of the Dark About Vision Loss* ([goingblindmovie.com](https://goingblindmovie.com)) is also running on PBS stations.

"Our latest film, *Something Terrible Happened to Joey* ([sthjoe.com](https://sthjoe.com)), is an 11-minute animated film (my first animation) narrated by Rosie Perez. It is for children ages 6–96 who have experienced childhood trauma and subsequent chronic depression. The animator, London-based Oscar Wyndham Lewis, created the cell animation by an oil-on-glass painting technique. The captivating musical score is by Toronto-based Julia Vasiliev. The three collaborators worked intensely on the film for the past year due to Covid. We have only met on Zoom.

"The film also makes it clear that a traumatic incident endured by one person can affect an entire community and that it takes time — lots of time — support and hard work to lift the burden of depression off of our 'inner child.' The film also models supportive behavior and how to be a friend by just 'showing up.' During this dark period where the effects of childhood trauma are being recognized and openly talked about, I'm hoping that our film will be one more tool to help people in their healing.

"After a festival run, *Something Terrible Happened to Joey* will be available to individuals and families,

educators, therapists and counselors on our website for free."

From Geoffrey Dutton: "You won't find me, a forgettable ingrate, in the '66 *Columbian* or on a CU donor list. I've gotten over being omitted from the yearbook but not my aversion to donating to enormously wealthy institutions. (I favor funding those who jam pickaxes into the masonry of corporate edifices, e.g., Student Workers of Columbia - UAW.) I missed the student strikes and protest of 1968 and 1972, but even then felt they were CU's just deserts. (My meek contribution was dropping out of NROTC after

protestors laid down in our line of march at the Sundial; I nearly stepped on Mike Flug.)

"Speaking of those times, after reading excerpts of it published at [thewritelaunch.com](https://thewritelaunch.com), I'm excited to read the new novel *The Serpent Papers* by Jeff Schnader '75, set on and off campus in 1972 and capturing the zeitgeist of the CU antiwar movement. I don't know Jeff; just wanted to give a shoutout. [Editor's note: See Winter 2021–22, Class of 1975 Class Notes.]

"And speaking of novels, my second one, *Her Own Devices*, comes out in 2024. I felt compelled to write it to rehabilitate the female protagonist from my 2018 alt-political conspiracy thriller, *Turkey Shoot: He Might Not Be the Terrorist You Expected*, set in Greece and Turkey. Like Schnader's novel, it can be previewed at [thewritelaunch.com](https://thewritelaunch.com).

"Please stay healthy and feel free to say hi to me at [geoff@perfidy.press](mailto:geoff@perfidy.press)."

## 1967

Albert Zonana  
azonana@me.com

We heard from a few classmates for this issue.

David Bessman PS'72 has retired from active practice in hematology-oncology. His three

children are at mid-career, and there are seven grandchildren. He is writing a book on hematology and acquiring the physical fitness he says he wishes he'd pursued earlier.

**Marty Oster** PS'71: "I retired in August 2021, closing my practice of medical oncology at P&S, which I started in 1976. I had a wonderful time caring for patients, doing clinical research and teaching P&S students, interns, residents and oncology fellows. I was most fortunate to have my leaking aortic heart valve replaced at P&S one week before NYC locked down in March 2020 and have been doing well since, enjoying life in Westchester County with my lovely wife, Karen. Our three daughters and six wonderful grandkids are nearby. Busy with exercise, banging out Scott Joplin rags on the piano (more time now to practice but not getting any better!) and looking forward to the Met Museum, opera, Broadway, NYC restaurants, Columbia football games and traveling once Covid-19 simmers down. Of course, time with the grandkids is the BEST!"

**Leo Mavrovitis:** "I entered with the Class of 1966 and graduated with the Class of 1967 because of my father's untimely death and my own inability to complete my coursework in time. I then went on to NYU's Institute of Fine Arts to pursue a graduate degree in Egyptology. Before completing my degree, I bought an existing antique shop and have been in business for more than 50 years. I love what I do and consider myself fortunate. I have been at my second shop in the same location for more than 46 years, across from Lincoln Center on West 64th Street, and I married my longtime companion in 2010 when it became legal to marry in New York State. I am also a director of the Lincoln Square BID representing Small Businesses, as well as being secretary and treasurer of The Augustine Foundation. We fund the arts, classical guitar, and women's rights and education — all interests of our founder, Rose Augustine."

**Lloyd Dumas** SEAS'68, GSAS'72: "After teaching continually for 50 years at the university level, six of them at Columbia, I am professor emeritus of political economy, economics, and public policy at University of Texas at Dallas. My research and teaching has

always been motivated by my deep interest in and commitment to the issues of peace and the environment as is illustrated by the nature of my nine books, which include *The Peace-keeping Economy: Using Economic Relationships to Build a More Peaceful, Prosperous, and Secure World* and *The Technology Trap: Where Human Error and Malevolence Meet Powerful Technologies*. My most recent book, published in late 2019, is *Building the Good Society: The Power and Limits of Markets, Democracy and Freedom in an Increasingly Polarized World*. I have also published more than 120 articles in 11 languages in books and journals of seven disciplines, and periodicals such as *The New York Times* and *International Herald Tribune*. I have spoken at more than 260 conferences and special lectures since 1980. I have been quoted in *Bloomberg Businessweek*, *Financial Times* and *Barron's*, I have appeared on more than 300 TV and radio programs around the world."

**Elliot Bien** LAW'71: "I practice law in San Rafael, Calif., as an appellate specialist and enjoy it as much as ever. I am active as a musician (mostly flute, clarinet and guitar) but gigs are down, thanks to Covid-19. Best of all, though, I am greatly enjoying life with my wife of 47 years, Anne Zishka, nearby sons, Jordan and Adam, and wonderful grandkids, ages 8 and 6."

**David Zapp** LAW'70: "I am fine, healthy and a criminal defense lawyer in New York City. My daughter is my partner and is a joy to work with. Everybody should be so lucky."

**Mark Levy** PS'71: "I've been a psychiatrist, psychoanalyst and latterly a forensic psychiatrist in northern California for these many years since graduating from P&S. I'm still practicing, seeing a few individual psychiatric patients but primarily running a national forensic psychiatric and psychological practice with 20 experts including me. My wife, Liz GS'69, and I celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary. We met at Durham University in the United Kingdom when I took my junior year off from the College and studied English literature and physiology there 1965–66. Our sons, Noah '92 and Gabriel '95, live in Arcata, Calif., and NYC, respectively. Noah is an environmental consultant and has two sons. Gabriel, who has remained in NYC since graduating

from CC, has worked in the music business. He is director of U.S. label relations for Amazon Music and owns a nightclub. Liz and I live in an apartment in Tiburon, having moved out of our home in Mill Valley after 47 years. We enjoy travel; cycling, including cycling abroad; political discussions; and good food."

**Don Shapiro:** "I've retired from the practice of medicine. My wife, Karlyn, and I divide our time between our homes in Juno Beach, Fla., and Aspen, Colo."

**Herb Zarov:** "I retired in 2019 from a 40-year law career. I was for many years the co-chair of litigation at Mayer Brown. After retirement, I began writing a memoir. Discovering quickly that a little embellishment added drama to my stories, I switched to fiction and have since published three short stories and been chosen a finalist in several contests. I'm very happy in retirement: traveling, gardening, playing golf, writing, spending time with my eight grandchildren, the oldest of whom are in law school and medical school, and enjoying the immense pleasures of sharing life with my wife, Alice."

**Frank Tedeschi:** "After a long and fruitful career in communications and publishing in the nonprofit sector here in New York, I am a volunteer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I'm part of the front-line team in the Visitor Experience department. We, with our staff colleagues, welcome visitors, answer content-specific questions about the collections, give suggestions about what to see and help people navigate that beautiful and gigantic space. Among our regular visitors are many students from Columbia College who, through the lens of history, seem astonishingly young! And they're bright, curious, and articulate — of course!"

Be well, all of you, and do write.

## 1968

**Arthur Spector**  
arthurbspector@gmail.com

Greetings from Miami. Hope all of the class is well and thinking about our 55th reunion. The women's basketball team was sensational, as I predicted pre-season. I am sure there will be much written about this team. Send some news when you can by

emailing me or by using the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. If you'd like to share photos that feature two or more CC alumni, please submit them directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo. Take care!

## 1969

**Nathaniel Wander**  
nw105@caa.columbia.edu

**Henry "Hank" Reichman** informs his "third and final term as chair of the American Association of University Professors' (AAUP) Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure came to an end last July. After nine years in that role I have found myself reinvented as an expert on the subject, quite timely in a context of legislation restricting teaching on 'divisive concepts' (e.g., race and gender) and renewed attacks on tenure."

Hank's *The Future of Academic Freedom* (2019) — "mainly reworked and expanded essays for the AAUP — won the 2020 American Library Association Eli M. Oboler Award for the best book published in the United States on intellectual freedom." Last October, "*Understanding Academic Freedom*, a relatively brief introduction to the topic written during pandemic confinement, was published."

He continues: "Now that the pandemic is ending, I'm starting to promote both titles at colleges and universities around the country. The pandemic also saw the birth of our second grandchild, last August, granddaughter Nina, to join our grandson, Eli (3). They live in Los Angeles, which brings us there from the San Francisco Bay Area with some frequency, and has occasioned reunions with **David Turner**, **Bob Merlis** and **Jim Savage**. My wife, Susan BC'70, and I avoided Covid-19, but in January 2021, I had two emergency surgeries, which included the implantation of a long-expected cardiac pacemaker. I'm happy to report that not only did I make a full recovery, but also my assisted ticker has given me some new energy."

**David Turner** writes: "Greetings, classmates. We've sustained and dodged Covid-19 losses and had

been hoping for a springtime sensation. But the spring I was hoping for wasn't a reprise of Spring '68, bloody war and upheaval. Of Ukrainian and Jewish ancestry, I am as affected and afflicted by the Russian war in Ukraine as I was by the Vietnam War. Zelensky, perhaps a really distant cousin, TV series producer and comedian turned heroic wartime leader, seems to have brought all that's best about fiction and satire to bear in the world of speeches, sanctions, and tanks."

David adds: "Michael Agelasto and I have shared our deep interest in *Against the Country*, a searing and hilarious bildungsroman by Ben Metcalf, who had a teaching position at our dear old school. I loved it so much I wrote to ask him to do another novel, but so far he hasn't come through."

Novelist Francis Levy observes: "Due the extreme isolation of the early months of the pandemic, I connected to others through new forms of work, collaborating on the animation of one of my books, *Erotomania: A Romance*, with Joseph Silver '95, a brilliant writer and animator. View a two-minute promotional trailer: [bit.ly/3uZ7hVp](http://bit.ly/3uZ7hVp)."

In the argot of our youth, it's "way cool," but not for the prudish. Searching YouTube for "Erotomania" and "Francis Levy" will reveal additional interesting material.

Andrei "Andy" Markovits BUS'71, GSAS'76 reports "wonderful reactions to my memoir *The Passport as Home: Comfort In Rootlessness*, from across the world, including some from alumni who addressed a

number of points that I raised in my chapter on Columbia."

Vaud Massarsky, American Civics League president, reports the "ACL produced a national 30-second public service announcement that has been sent to all American TV and cable stations." Further, he "notes that the number of Americans able to cite the three branches of government increased in 2021 to 56 percent, from 33 percent in 2006: online at [bit.ly/3NKLkID](http://bit.ly/3NKLkID). On the other hand, 40 percent of Americans are fearful of an active civil war: [listenfirstproject.org](http://listenfirstproject.org). Go figure."

Vaud adds: "Reading Charles A. Beard's *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States* in Professor Louis Hacker's 'Economics 101' woke me up from my idealistic view of the way of the world. Made me a critical thinker. Hail, Columbia! Alma mater did her job."

David "Dave" Rosedahl LAW'72, "wintering in Santa Barbara," recollects reading Thomas Wolfe and F. Scott Fitzgerald at Columbia. "Now Paul Auster GSAS'70."

John W. Lombardo PS'73 writes: "I've been named the chief medical officer at MLMIC (formerly standing for 'medical liability malpractice') Insurance Company, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway. (I didn't say it was exciting news, just news!)"

Robert "Bob" Rabinoff has come through serious reconstructive surgery "three degenerated discs (C3-C6) replaced (with shims carved of cadaver tibias) and the whole held in place by a titanium plate screwed into the vertebrae. The engineering that goes into such surgery is quite amazing, as was the skill of the surgeon. Almost no post-operative pain. Had to be in a neck brace for six weeks, until right before Pesach. Can't turn or bend my head, as it takes time for the bones and shims to fuse. So I can't drive. I had been having a tiny bit of numbness in my hands, and I knew already that the discs in the neck were problematic. Having taken care of a dear friend for 16 years who was paralyzed from the neck down, I wasn't about to take nervous system damage lightly. It turns out there was also some spinal stenosis due to the misalignment of the vertebrae, now corrected. The first time I got up to go to the bathroom in the hospital, I realized that the lower back pain that I'd had for some years was

completely gone — apparently it was due to the spinal stenosis. That was an unexpected bonus."

John Schuster writes from Shell Cove, a new coastal marina community south of Sydney, wondering if, in these heated times, people are wary of sharing deep feelings or beliefs for not wanting to stir up political conflict. He observes that Australia has similar dividing lines to the U.S., a fracture between a Liberal Party of "roughly, old-style liberal Republicans" and "a deeply left, highly machine-oriented Labor Party." Although he holds his own strong views, fighting this corner is not how John wishes to spend his time, he says, preferring to work on a final couple of big projects in history of science, due 2024.

David Sokal wishes we attend the words of Jennifer Carman at the Citizens' Climate Lobby's March 2022 monthly meeting. "We need to talk more about climate change and get Congress to act. 'Here's the situation in five points in 10 words: It's real, it's us, it's bad, scientists agree, there's hope.'" The talk can be viewed online at [bit.ly/3MG2Pmm](http://bit.ly/3MG2Pmm) at about 2 minutes and 30 seconds from the beginning.

Henry Jackson reports having been "hooked on Barth, Heller and sot-weed too. I kicked the sot-weed habit long ago, fortunately."

Richard "Dick" Menaker writes: "I'm still playing the trumpet as seriously as I did in the Cleverest Band in the World, though reduced to pick-up gigs (mostly in abeyance during Covid-19), summer concerts with the local pops band (possible because outdoors) and a brass quintet that rehearses monthly. I've had some alumnus involvement in the effort to revive the Marching Band, which became disorganized in the past few years. Several of us, working with a cooperative athletics department and a new generation of undergraduates, are progressing toward restoring an on-field musical presence at next autumn's football games. Letters of support from classmates to the administration will be welcomed."

I note that, in 2020, after 116 years, the Columbia University Marching Band voted to *disband* following a number of controversies that some might view as a mixture of satirical commentary and "college hijinks" but others, including the University

administration at times, judged more seriously: online at [bit.ly/3Keu7Ph](http://bit.ly/3Keu7Ph).

Joseph Chasnoff addresses us poetically in his "Down to the River":

"We walked down to the river,  
Although my heart was torn./ My steps led toward the water's edge/  
Where I had knelt before.

"When we came near the water,  
To stand where prayers are born./ We bowed and joined hands, offering up/  
Our children to the shore.

"But they gazed beyond the river./ And tumbling rapids roared!  
A boat of faith sailed thither./ Our daring youth aboard.

"Across the racing waters./ Within a massive storm./ The future calls my daughters/ Whom hopes and dreams adorn.

"I walk down to the river./ Alas, my heart is torn./ My bare toes touch the water's edge./ And I kneel there once more."

Khalil Rashid (né Harold Kent Parker) also offers poetry. "Requiem for Sonora," by Arizona poet Richard Shelton begins: "a small child of a wind/ stumbles toward me down the arroyo/ lost and carrying no light": online at [bit.ly/3uc6sJN](http://bit.ly/3uc6sJN).

"John 1:14" by Argentina's Jorge Luis Borges begins: "This page will be no less a riddle/ than those of My holy books/ or those others repeated/ by ignorant mouths/ believing them the handiwork of a man,/ not the Spirit's dark mirrors": online at [bit.ly/3Kb06Qj](http://bit.ly/3Kb06Qj).

My first College roommate, David Powell, died in January in France, where he'd been living since the 1970s. David was a respected racing journalist, lauded breeder of thoroughbreds and a laurel-winning trainer of steeplechase runners. (See "Obituaries.")

## 1970

Leo Kailas  
[lkailas@reitlerlaw.com](mailto:lkailas@reitlerlaw.com)

I have had a difficult year with the loss of my brother Michael '68 in July 2021 and the loss of some younger colleagues and friends. I was also blessed with the birth of my grandson, Remy Elias, who joins his sister, Cassie, as part of our large extended family.

My friend Professor David Lehman wrote me the most

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comforting note about the people I had lost. Many classmates have commented on David's generous spirit, which I can attest to. But now for his report: "Thanks for your message a while ago about my new book *The Mysterious Romance of Murder: Crime, Detection, and the Spirit of Noir*, which was out in May. I continue to write the 'Talking Pictures' column about classic movies for *The American Scholar*."

My distinguished friend **Dov Zakheim** sent me this news: "I was named to the congressionally mandated National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology."

Professor **Fred White** LAW'73 wrote to me about the Frederic P. White Endowed Scholarship Fund, established in his honor by other faculty members and that awards annual scholarships to worthy students at Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

From **Lennard Davis** GSAS'77: "I haven't been in touch much. I don't know where to begin. I am a professor at the University of Illinois Chicago, where **John D'Emilio** GSAS'82 also was. His autobiography, which is due out in September and will detail his life as a young gay man, includes sections about Columbia. My autobiography, *My Sense of Silence: Memoir of a Childhood with Deafness*, includes sections about Columbia and the strike. My parents were deaf and I am a CODA (child of deaf adults). Although I came from the background, I didn't talk much or write about it until the 1990s. Before then, I wrote two books on the history and theory of the novel. I was a professor at Columbia for 10 years in the English department.

"When I started writing about disability, I published a book, *Enforcing Normalcy: Disability, Deafness, and the Body*, and was one of the founders of disability studies in the humanities. I've been doing a lot of work in that area. I'm working on a book tentatively titled *Poornography: How Those with Money Write About Those Without It*, which should come out next year. No immediate plans to retire. I stay in touch with **Ralph Bradbud** GSAS'76, an economics professor at Williams College."

**James Periconi** (who should have been a professor) reports: "For the last year, Jim Periconi, with the assistance of two young librarians,

has been photographing and cataloguing a part of his book collection and developed a website to display it: [italianamericanimprints.omeka.net](http://italianamericanimprints.omeka.net). The collection is of Italian-language American imprints, reflecting the literary and cultural world that Italians created in America in their language of origin between the end of the 19th century and WWII."

Jim notes, "The site has a robust search engine, so that you can find, say, Italian-language political published in New York (or any other place) in the 1920s, or you can narrow it down to anti-fascist works or anarchist works. Or you can find all works published by any particular writer, or read one or more of the five essays that treat different areas of the book and periodical culture in order to guide your research."

Concurrent with this effort, Jim quickly determined where he wants his collection to be housed "not after I pass, but now, so these hard-to-find works can be examined by scholars," he says. So as of January, the collection has been in the Charles and Szilvia Tanenbaum Special Collections and Archives Wing of the Queens College Benjamin Rosenthal Library. Jim continues his research in the field, concentrating now on the transition from oral to literate, which is "deliciously complicated," he says, by the use of dialects by most immigrants, rather than standard Italian, and the development and wide usage of "Itaglish," a hybrid Italian-English language, all on the way to learning American English and becoming Americans. "This should keep me happily occupied for a few years," Jim notes.

**Steve Boatti** writes: "I've been retired from corporate law practice for some years, after a career at Merck, Dun & Bradstreet and Nielsen. My wife, Linda, a retired teacher at Riverdale Country School, and I have lived in Riverdale in the Bronx since 1978. We have two grown sons and two wonderful grandchildren. Once the pandemic is behind us, we hope to resume our travels, especially to Italy and France. Ironically, our last big trip was to Russia just before lockdown. Sadly, we might never again get to see Russia, a beautiful country despite all else. We'd welcome hearing from classmates living in or passing through New York."

**Victor Hertz** says: "This has been an extraordinarily difficult two years, including some deaths of friends and colleagues as well as minor problems including business tribulations. But all said and done I count myself and my family fortunate. All in all I'm just feeling the march of time and keeping on moving forward. I guess the cliché summary is: 'Alive and Well and Still Living in NYC.'"

**Lewis Siegelbaum** notes that he wrote about Ukraine before the current crisis. "For those interested in a rather offbeat history of my engagement with Ukraine published several months before the current war, see the journal *Region: Regional Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia*. The title of the article is 'Bumping Up Against Ukraine as a Historian of Russia' ([muse.jhu.edu/article/840708](http://muse.jhu.edu/article/840708))."

My high school friend **Robert Launay** (always destined to be a professor) writes: "I was scheduled to travel to Moscow in April and give four lectures before stopping in Berlin on the way back to give another. In January, I was already getting cold feet, when Russian troops were amassing on the Ukrainian border, and I put it off (I hope!) until next year. I wish I had been wrong."

I love to get news from new contributors. Dr. **Peter P. Sordillo** GSAS'90 reports: "Peter P. Sordillo has edited two physics books that recently appeared: *Biophotonics, Tryptophan and Disease* and *Short Wavelength Infrared Windows for Biomedical Applications*. Peter is VP and chief science and medical officer at SignPath Pharma."

Fellow attorney **Phil Russotti** reports: "I'm still happily working, having become the senior partner of an 80-person plaintiff's personal injury firm in NYC. But more surprising is that I just had my first book published, on Valentine's Day. *The Essential Rules of Love: A Practical Guide to Creating a Harmonious, Healthy and Happy Relationship* is the story of my marriage and relationship with my third wife, Susan, which I wrote following her death from ovarian cancer in 2017 ... But equally satisfying was publishing the first in a series of children's books written with my 6-year-old granddaughter. *Stella and Her Magic Wand* is the story of a young girl living in Paris with her family during the

pandemic. She saved the world from the virus with her Magic Wand ... The second book, based in London, where she saves a whale trapped in the Thames, is being illustrated and we are working on the third book, which takes place in Hawaii. The theme of the series is empowerment of young girls."

And from Professor **Lawrence Rosenwald** GSAS'79: "This [was] my last semester teaching at Wellesley College, which feels portentous; I've taught here since 1980. Not sure what happens next, though I know I want not absolute freedom but a mix of freedom and obligation, perhaps tilted a bit more toward freedom. A dazzlingly generous colleague of mine is putting together a *Festschrift* in my honor, which however preposterous has the virtue of making me feel connected to teachers, colleagues, students, friends. I was to give a formal 'final lecture' in the final session course on translation and the multilingual world, which will also be the final session I teach at the college."

**Paul Spooner** reminded me of the passing of **Carl Chorba** in August 2021 and of **Heyward Dotson** LAW'76 in May 2020. Paul sent me a touching obit written by Heyward's daughter Kahlillah Dotson Mosley, which I can send to anyone who emails me.

**Ralph Allemano**: "I'm sure I'm tardy in joining the ranks of grandfathers! My first grandchild is due any day now [as I write]. Daughter Helen and her husband have returned from 10 years in Los Angeles to set up home in London. Daughter Alice was to get married in Devon on June 1. Looks like it won't be too long before the quiet home is overrun with grandchildren!"

Finally, from **Michael Braun** LAW'73: "I retired last February. My wife and I renovated a riad in Marrakech and now she is a resident here. I spend less than six months a year here, with the rest of my time in Connecticut near my three grandchildren. I got married for the third time in September 2020. And it's working like a charm. Retirement is all that it is cooked up to be and I am enjoying myself, although I must say that getting motivated to do anything productive is difficult. Still, there is plenty to do watching my children maturing and my grandchildren growing up."

## 1971

Lewis Preschel  
l.a.preschel@gmail.com

Hello, classmates. If you want to find out what others are doing, drop me a few lines at the email address above. I am glad to facilitate communications between classmates, as long as the communicators are willing to have me share their addresses with one another.

I recently helped **Reynaldo Bonachea** and other members of our freshman basketball team Zoom and communicate in an informal reunion. It was great to hear from people I remember from our college days. **Ron Rosenberg** spoke with me directly. He is retired. Others on the team who joined the Zoom call were **Elliot Wolfe** and **Paul Armstrong**. Rey had some emails that I don't have, so others may have been contacted as well.

**John Jaeger** had a small letter published in *The New York Times's* "Metropolitan Diary" section on September 26, 2021. It was quite good.

**Michael Straus** GSAS'09 checks in to say he practiced law for 25 years and then changed his occupation to managing investment funds. However, he says he has always had the desire to return to the classic literature and works of the Core Curriculum. He felt with further maturity and added life lessons he would approach them with a different perspective than a 17-year-old. In order to read them in their original form, Michael learned Greek and Latin subsequent to graduating from Columbia. He also speaks Spanish. He pursued his interest in Latin and Greek to the extent that he earned an M.A. in Greek and Latin from Columbia and an M.Phil. in Greek at the University of Cambridge. He has published translations not only from Greek but also from Spanish (his second language). His books are available on Amazon. In 2021, Michael successfully defended a Ph.D. thesis at the University of Aberdeen that crosses over a number of fields (philosophical linguistics, theology, history, philology and translation theory), with the degree conferred to him last Thanksgiving Day. He is not sure yet whether this ends his intellectual journey and will allow

him some actual form of retirement. He says he doubts it.

**Bill Christophersen** TC'78 recently published his fifth collection of poems, *Why the Gods Don't Get It*. He describes his poem as noir. I am quoting him as to the inspiration for his works, and I think it gives you an idea of his mindset. "I began writing in college, intrigued, baffled and provoked by *A Cinch: Amazing Works from the Columbia Review*, an anthology assembled by the editors of the College literary magazine. I didn't know what to make of most of the poems. But I got it that my contemporaries had jumped off the commuter train of formalist postwar poetry and were dancing on the third rail. I followed their lead until, eventually, I became less concerned with making it new, as the modernist dictum urged, than with making it real." Bill draws on growing up in the Bronx, and living on the Upper West side.

**William Barr** GSAS'79, the two-time Attorney General of the United States, had his book, *One Damn Thing After Another*, published in March. It was reviewed in *The New York Times* by Jennifer Szalai with the headline "William P. Barr's Memoir Is Part Lawyery Defense, Part Culture-War Diatribe." Szalai wrote, "In 'One Damn Thing After Another,' the former attorney general suggests that Republicans move past Donald Trump and his 'madcap rhetoric,' but saves his harshest words for the former president's critics."

Anyone who attended Columbia Reunion (June 9–12) is welcome to communicate their activities to me. I was not able to directly participate, but would love to keep classmates informed.

We as a class are still growing in so many ways. We should share the joy of new metiers and experiences gained through maturing. We are a class that symbolized an era. We march on.

## 1972

Paul Appelbaum  
pappel1@aol.com

**Reid Baron**, who recently published *All But One: A Collection of Stories and a Novella*, reflected on his time at Columbia: "I think it might be appropriate first to say with gratitude that my family and I spent a total of



ASHLEY BLEAM

Several members of the Class of 1972 Reunion Committee met on March 17 at the Upper West Side home of Bob Grey to kick off their 50th reunion planning. Left to right: George Arnold, Jim Wilentz, Jamie Katz (seated), Richard Halperin, Jeff Howitt, Lewis Fischbein and Grey.

\$200 over four years, during which time I soaked in a reasonable portion of the vast Western intellectual heritage, still a priceless treasure. I was also fortunate to befriend brilliant and talented classmates, great friends who advanced the learning process according to the strategy of the College. I guess my homage has been paid to our education by never abandoning the processes of reading, writing and searching conversation. This is what I took away from Columbia, rather than a stellar ambition. It has been impossible to forget Edward Said's lectures, or my independent study with Michael Wood, for example. The hours spent devouring Shakespeare's work with Ted Tayler and writing imitations of beloved poets with Kenneth Koch likewise stand out.

"If our class was special in a specific way, I think it might be in arriving at Columbia in fall '68, after the strike. When Dean Carl Hovde '50 welcomed us, someone stood up and cried out, 'He's not telling you about the IDA,' or something like that. However our sentiments might have developed later, I recall that moment of initiation not being overly popular among the freshmen present. Mark Rudd '69 greeted me genially on my second day on campus — a fleeting instant. Nevertheless, the brazen Vietnam War continued throughout our years, as did rightful protests. I was supportive, but not great in crowds. The war; civil rights struggles; sex, drugs and rock and roll; Bob Dylan; soul; jazz; and French New Wave movies composed our atmosphere, surrounding our learning. But I don't think the Class of '72 can claim this uniquely; I think graduates a couple of years younger or a couple of years older would have had similar influences. OK, fellas? The effects

for us? Perhaps a more concentrated political consciousness (of whatever ilk), an adventurous nature, a touch of psychedelia, creativity, idealism and an ability to connect our education to the today. We learned to keep reading for hours and also developed a refined alertness and appreciation for assorted items not included in the curriculum. Many in our class won't agree foursquare with my rendition. Some were less distracted by the fanciful zeitgeist, I'm sure. These are my abridged reflections. So much has been left out, not only in the interest of brevity, but to protect the innocent as well as the guilty."

**Jonathan Freedman**, whom I think is our only Pulitzer Prize winner (though **Sean Wilentz** was a finalist), shares his own reflections: "The Class of '72 started in fall 1968, a tumultuous time following the 'On strike, shut it down!' protests of the previous spring. None of our classmates really knew if and when classes would resume on Morningside Heights. About 48 years later, during the Covid-19 lockdown, Columbia students faced uncertainty about when and if they could attend in-person classes. There the parallels might end, but we 50-year alums are happy that there were to be in-person celebrations in June 2022. We were hoping that there will be something special to mark our climactic years, 1968–72, when we attended Humanities and Contemporary Civilization seminars in Hamilton Hall within earshot of megaphones blasting anti-Vietnam War and anti-racism messages on the mall. Which side are you on? We could not hide in an ivory tower while questions of life and death, war and peace, civil rights versus law and order faced us on the streets.

“Nearly a third of our class didn’t finish in four years. Yet it was a special time to attend Columbia and take classes at Barnard. Fittingly, the horror film auteur Alfred Hitchcock gave our Commencement address, contending in a sepulchral voice that he was actually a farmer raising ‘goose flesh.’ Each of us has a story (or several) to tell! Together, we constitute a weird mix tape of Jimi Hendrix, Sha Na Na, Joan Báez, Allen Ginsberg ’48, Kenneth Koch and Kate Millet; and political, anarchistic, intellectual, psychedelic, cynical, idealistic, yuppie to yuppie, ‘Me Generation’ that is reaching the generative stage of life. Speaking for myself, a Colorado boy whose mother told him to wear a suit to freshman invocation and who felt like an idiot when his tuition check was stolen, Columbia remains my intellectual/literary alma mater, with crocuses bursting from the gritty ice in the glorious springtime!”

And **Rich Halperin** PH’85 notes, “As we entered the approach to our 50th reunion in June, it seemed about time to send a long overdue update. I went on to medical school in Boston, deferring the rock ‘n’ roll dream because of a scarily low draft number (more on the rock ‘n’ roll dream later). Not surprisingly, the political and social atmosphere of the College years had a profound effect on me. I did my residency in pediatrics at Boston City Hospital and subsequently spent my career involved in primary care pediatrics in urban centers, working predominantly with disadvantaged children and families. I returned to NYC after residency and spent seven years in the Montefiore system in the Bronx. I earned an M.P.H. in 1985 from Columbia while working at the hospital.

“Our growing family prompted a move to New Haven a few years later, where I practiced pediatrics from 1987 until this year. My practice evolved into one with a large proportion of children with developmental and behavioral issues, and I found this quite rewarding. My wife, Patti (Simmons College ’73), and I raised our family of four children in Guilford, Conn. They are now all doing well, with varied careers, and are all parents themselves. We have six grandchildren, three in the NYC area and three in Colorado. Life threw us a curveball when we had twins (a boy and a girl) when thinking we were

going to have a third child. Amazingly, our twins both became parents on July 4, 2021, with our daughter having a girl and our son welcoming a boy. It’s like twins 2.0.

“Now back to rock ‘n’ roll. During our Columbia years, I often jammed with **Mark Schultz, John Schwartzberg, Doug Altabef, Bob Markison** and **Jeff Davidson SEAS’72**. We called ourselves The Young Cretins back in the day and were best known, if we were known at all, for such classics as ‘The I.M. Pei Blues’ and ‘The Mama Joy Blues.’ Fast forward a few decades. Mark, John and I have been playing again for the last 21 years as part of The Regressions. We are a large band (10 musicians and six to eight singers), covering classic rock and Motown favorites. We played at our 30th reunion in 2002 and were hoping to work out a return engagement this June. I would like to think that we put on quite a show. I was very much looking forward to reconnecting with classmates in June.”

I have the sad duty of acknowledging someone who won’t be with us for reunion in June. **Mariano Rey**, who went to NYU Medical School and spent the rest of his career in cardiology at NYU, rising to the rank of professor and senior associate dean, passed away on February 19, 2022. Mariano and I met during Freshman Week, and in the next four years I never met a nicer person or one who was more dedicated to relieving the suffering of those who suffered most in the world. A more complete obituary can be found in this issue’s “Obituaries” section. But I am sad to think that he won’t be able to join us one last time.

Speaking of our 50th reunion, planning had been underway since the winter for what we hoped would be a wonderful weekend. See the nearby photo of many of the members of Reunion Committee, gathered at **Bob Grey’s** apartment. I very much hope to have seen you in June.

## 1973

**Barry Etra**  
barryetra@gmail.com

Gonna be 70 soon, but most of us have been there, done that. I don’t feel that old — I hope that feeling is widespread among CC’73!

**Maurice Peterson’s** mural of Ruby Bridges on a concrete wall in Pittsfield, Mass., is more than 20 ft. high; “Walk With Her” is adapted from a 1964 Norman Rockwell painting, and is a celebration of the Jubilee Hill neighborhood there. “Pops,” as he is known, completed it last year. [Editor’s note: See bit.ly/3uP8luI.]

Not to be out-Peteroned, **Gregory Peterson** LAW’85’s book of New York photographs taken during the pandemic, *New York: Stilled Life*, captures the beauty of an NYC without people in its iconic public spaces. Well worth a look-through. [Editor’s note: See bit.ly/3NIWK9r.]

**Robert Abdo** recently retired after 38 years as a solo primary-care internist in Westchester County, N.Y. Rob says he’s “now onto a continually rewarding life with my wife, two children and four grandchildren.”

**Marc Gross** is senior counsel at Pomerantz and was honored by T’ruah, the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, for his social justice and philanthropic work. He recalls, once again, **Phil Schaap**: “My cousin was a high school friend of Phil’s, and connected us as we began our freshman year. As with many others, we bonded over jazz, though I was more drawn to the small quartets of Miles Davis and John Coltrane than the big Count Basie bands. So Phil ‘educated’ me one afternoon, first playing *Charlie Parker with Strings*, and then Duke Ellington’s *Newport 1958*. What a gift to us all.”

May we all keep teaching. Hasta.

## 1974

**Fred Bremer**  
fbremer@ml.com

As I “pen” this column in early spring, the “talking heads” on the business channels are making incessant reference that we have entered an echo of the economic conditions of the 1970s. While the specter of stagflation is new to many, members of our class are all too familiar with the then-new phenomenon that started as we first set foot on Morningside Heights. The resulting weak economy and high unemployment helps explain why so many of us ended up in graduate or professional school rather than entering the labor force. As many of us move into the “last innings” of our careers, it seems

unfortunate that we are once again facing these challenging economic times. Both bouts of economic malaise were at least partially caused by oil shocks, excessive fiscal spending and a loose monetary policy. Seems like our political leaders didn’t learn much in the intervening 50 years!

Once again I have the sad task of logging the deaths of another two classmates. News came of the passing of **Raymond Reed** on February 15, 2022, in Los Angeles due to complications of a recent stroke. Ray came to Morningside Heights from Oklahoma and earned a law degree in 1983 from Whittier College School of Law in California and an M.B.A. from UCLA. Various classmates tell us Ray was practicing law in Los Angeles representing entertainment clients. While on campus he was a member of the varsity football team and an active member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

A *New York Times* obituary alerted us to the death of **Dan Dolgin** LAW’81 on February 28, 2022, in New York City, from a progressive neurological disease. Some classmates might remember Dan as the business manager of *Spectator* but far more knew him as an affable intellectual with a wry wit. A few years after the Law School he co-founded a firm in Manhattan that eight years later became the New York branch of McDermott, Will & Emery. While Dan remained head of its New York office, he was gradually transitioning to pursue the life of a private investor in a range of businesses (commercial printing services, radio broadcasting, the web-based distribution of chemicals and real estate, to name a few). In 1997 he co-founded a not-for-profit corporation now known as PowerMyLearning, based on his vision of using home computers to support low-income student learning by linking students, parents and teachers into what he called a “learning triangle.” In 2015 Dan and his wife, Loraine Gardner, received the Outstanding Community Service Award from Community Impact, a community service organization at Columbia. Among Dan’s many other philanthropic endeavors was as director of the Pushcart Prize Fellowships, which grant literary awards from Pushcart Press. He also was a member of the Board of Directors of the Columbia College Alumni Association.

Having reported on three classmates succumbing to progressive neurological diseases in less than six months (**Chris Hansen, Brian Phillips** and now **Dan Dolgin**), this seemed more than coincidental so I reached out to one of our own who might shed some light on this phenomenon: Dr. **Mark Mehler**, chair of the Saul R. Korey Department of Neurology and director of the Institute for Brain Disorders and Neural Regeneration, both at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. He gave us good news and bad news (caveat: my interpretation of Mark's erudition is undoubtedly lacking). He said that the Class of '74 has moved out of the 40–55-year age category, where many serious diseases (like cancer) often tend to peak. The bad news is that the 65–85-year age cohort is when we are more susceptible to what he called the “classic diseases of aging” (like neurological afflictions such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and other progressive neurological diseases). So keep in mind Columbia College's official school song, “Sans Souci” (French for “without worry”):

“What if tomorrow brings sorrow or anything other than joy ... Tomorrow's the future still, this is today!”

One last morbid mention before more cheery news. A short note came in from **Dewey Cole** (who lives in Brooklyn) that said he keeps a photograph from our 45th reunion of the list of classmates who are no longer with us. “It reminds me how lucky I was to have spent four years with some extraordinary people and how much fuller my life is for having done so.”

Amen.

“My son is making history,” posted **Jon Mangana** (who lives in Newport News, Va.) on Facebook. His son, Adam, started the first virtual reality charter school, Optima Classical Academy. Emphasizing classical education (writing, reading and what we at Columbia call the “Great Books”), he has enrolled 1,300 students in a program for grades 3–8 this August in Florida with plans to expand both geographically and the grades served. Part of the school day involves virtual reality technology (with each student having an avatar) where they can do field trips into the ocean or trips to Mars. Says Adam, “We want to give all students the chance to get

a world-class education.” It is hard to do justice to this new approach in a short paragraph; best to google “Optima Classical Academy.”

Following retirement a few years ago from a long career at Merrill Lynch, **Kevin Ward** left the New Jersey suburbs to live full time on Long Beach Island, at the Jersey shore. As cold weather approached last fall, he rented a home in Palm Beach, Fla., with dreams of spending occasional evenings playing '70s classics on the pianos at bars frequented by aging baby boomers. Covid-19 spoiled his days as a “lounge lizard” this year, but at least he was near his Columbia buddy **Will Willis** (who lives in Palm Beach Gardens). You will have to wait for future columns to learn more about what each of them are up to.

One tidbit I will pass on is that Kevin and his wife, Maureen, admit to playing pickleball, and what says “I'm retired” better than playing pickleball in Florida?

Columbia's Black Alumni Council recently awarded **Ted Gregory** (who lives in Morningside Heights) the Black Alumni Heritage Award, joining recipients such as former U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76. Ted is senior advisor to the Columbia Alumni Association on diversity, equity and inclusion. In making the award, the council said, “Ted's contributions to Columbia, and Black alumni, are unparalleled.”

Some quick notes: While surfing through the channels this past January I saw the face of **Richard Briffault** (a professor at the Law School) pop up on NY1 talking about gerrymandering in the NYS redistricting. After a gap year in Israel, the daughter of **Abbe Lowell LAW'77** (a Washington, D.C., lawyer living in Potomac, Md.) is now attending Georgetown University. After 35 years in Europe, **Les Bryan JRN'75** has retired from the Navy and moved to Framingham, Mass. With the birth of Samuel last fall, **Scott Kunst** (retired and living in Ann Arbor, Mich.) now has four grandsons from his two sons. Dr. **Steve Blumenthal** (retired in Portland, Maine) now has two granddaughters (the latest is Evie, born in February). Alison Klayman, daughter of **Barry Klayman** (a Delaware lawyer who lives in Wynnewood, Pa.), has a new film on Netflix: *White Hot: The Rise & Fall of Abercrombie & Fitch*.

From the “old dog learning new tricks” file: **Alan Goodman** in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., tells us: “After a 40-plus-year career in music, TV and theater, I've launched Chapter 2 in electric health records.”

Before getting into the new venture, it's best to do a quick recap of Chapter 1: In 1981, Alan was part of the team that launched MTV (along with fellow Columbia radio alum Fred Seibert '73). Alan and Fred resigned from MTV to consult with Nickelodeon, which was having challenges finding audiences for its quality kids' programming. It must be here that Alan hooked up with **Albie Hecht** (producer of *Worldwide Biggies* and living in Montclair, N.J.) to create several television series.

Now to Chapter 2: Alan says a few years ago he got excited about blockchain technology and how he could use it to make financial tools for the 1.7 billion people in the world who are unbanked or underbanked. He writes, “We were busy with that when Covid-19 hit. In lockdown we realized we could convert what we had built to encrypt medical testing for Covid.” Their product is named TESTD and is now widely used in nursing homes, hospitals and other high-volume locations. Says Alan, “I find this all fascinating and I love what I'm working on. Never would have predicted this career for me, but here we are!”

There you have it. Amid the sorrow of losing some old friends we see the birth of grandchildren and new ventures (often with a digital aspect to them). Reports of retirement seem surprisingly muted, but I expect we will see an acceleration in this direction. Keep those emails and notes flowing in so we can all learn of what the class is up to as our 50th reunion approaches in just two years!

## 1975

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor's note: CCT was saddened to learn this past winter of the May 4, 2021, passing of longtime class correspondent **Randy Nichols TC'79**. Nichols helmed the column for 25 years, starting in 1996. You can read more about him in “Obituaries.” Starting with the Fall 2022 issue,

**Robert “Bob/Waz” Wazevich** will take over as class correspondent. Please send your news to him going forward by email (bwazevich@gmail.com) or by using the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.]

CCT received several notes this issue. Thank you to those who responded to our call for news!

**Mike Hirsh** writes: “I write this to say hello to my fellow grads. I stay in touch with a tight group, including crewmates **John DiMartino, Jim King, William Rigby '74** and **Henry Billingsley**. Then there's my BFF, **Mike Trock GS'75**, and **Richard Perniciaro '74**, both lightweight football players who lived in John Jay near our oarsmen nest. These friendships I was fortunate enough to make are the most profound of my life. We reconnect intermittently, but it is as if no time has passed. I am blessed to have met these great guys.

“I have made New England's second-largest city — Worcester, Mass. — my home. I am a pediatric surgeon and a professor of surgery and pediatrics in the UMass Chan School of Medicine. I am also the assistant vice provost for health and wellness promotion for the med school and the director of the Division of Public Health, and chief pandemic information officer for the City of Worcester. I have been happily married to my amazing wife, Julianne, for 42 years, and have two wonderful kids — Scott, an information technology expert, and Estelle, a psychiatry resident at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. It's been a wonderful life that started in many ways on College Walk and in the shells on the Harlem River. Could not be more grateful.”

**Glenn Spencer Bacal** writes: “I practice intellectual property law in Scottsdale with my partner, Sean Garrison LAW'92. My wife, Amy, our office manager, has some NYC chops, having worked briefly for *The New York Times* before settling into a prior career working for a congressman and two governors. Every now and then I hear from or reach out to classmates, and it's always nice to hear from others in the Class of '75. There are many colorful characters I would love to hear from again who started with the Class of '75 but who don't show up in alumni reports. One is Tom, from Tuscola,



KEN HOWITT '76

CCT class correspondent Ken Howitt '76 hosted a "Class of 1976 Two-Dimensional Reunion" with his classmates' cutouts from the attendance-limited 2022 basketball games. Howitt and his cutouts traveled through Morningside Heights and Hoboken posing for pictures. On March 14, they sat at his dining room table with his 1932 Wedgewood Columbia plates in the background. Clockwise from bottom left: Jim Berquist, Howitt, Steve Davis, John Connell and Bryan Alix.

Texas, who brought a downed NYC traffic light to his dorm room in John Jay our first year, and who joined the Columbia crew, which promptly hit a body while rowing."

**José Díaz** is the author of a "best-selling memoir, translated into six languages and distributed worldwide by Amazon, *From the Streets of New York City*, under the name José Cheo Díaz."

**Steven Krasner** writes: "I was a co-captain of the baseball team and sports editor of *Spectator*. I enjoyed a 33-year career as a sports writer for the *Providence (R.I.) Journal* newspaper, the last 22 of which I covered the Boston Red Sox on a daily basis before retiring in 2008. I covered many a Red Sox-Yankee game in New York, and, of course, on each trip I had to journey to the Columbia campus for nostalgia's sake before eating dinner at V&T and having dessert at The Hungarian Pastry Shop!

"As a sports writer, I have stories. I was there when the ball went through Bill Buckner's legs, interviewing him after Game 6 of the 1986 World Series against the Mets. I was there when the Red Sox broke the Curse of the Bambino (sorry, Yankee fans). I was there when an earthquake interrupted the 1989 World Series in San Francisco-Oakland. I was there when Doug Flutie threw his Hail Mary pass in Miami. Super Bowls. No-hitters. Fights in the locker room. I was there. I have stories.

"Since my retirement from the newspaper, I have been conducting interactive, collaborative classroom writing workshops and professional development sessions as 'Nudging the Imagination' around the country. I'm also a published children's author of picture books and nonfiction baseball books, one of which, *Play Ball Like the Pros: Tips for Kids from 20 Big League Stars*, won a Parents' Choice Award. In addition, I am executive director of Rhode Island Write on Sports, a nonprofit that runs after-school and summer sports writing camps for underserved middle-school students (this is our ninth year!). I have taught freshman writing classes at Bryant University in Rhode Island and I am a voter for the Baseball Hall of Fame. Best of all, I am 'Papa Stevie' to five grandchildren — enough for an infield with me pitching! My wife of 44 years, Sue Oclassen, and I are blessed!"

## 1976

**Ken Howitt**  
kenhowitt76@gmail.com

Switched to Amazon Music to inspire my writing. Recently, I have discovered the Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts in Katonah, N.Y. I went to a Stephen Sondheim 90th birthday concert prior to his death, rescheduled due to the pandemic. Then to a great venue there:

The Music Room, which seats about 200. I have seen two classical piano recitals — one with Stephen Hough and the other with Michelle Cann. As a result, I am listening to classical piano music for this column — solo piano works by Edvard Grieg.

The winddown to the pandemic seems underway, but I am still being careful. As a season ticket holder, I went to a handful of Columbia basketball games, both men and women. I very much enjoyed the post-season Women's National Invitation Tournament run of the women's team. They are graduating only one senior, so the future is bright for that squad.

Since there was limited attendance early in the season, **Steve Davis LAW'79** jumped on the opportunity to support the teams by purchasing a cutout of himself in Columbia swag mounted on an easel. Steve asked me to email all of you to join our 1976 section. Five brave '76ers were featured in the stands for both men's and women's varsity games. In addition to Steve and me, **John Connell**, **Bryan Alix** and **Jim Berquist** made up our Fab Five.

At the conclusion of the season, each cutout was autographed by both squads. At the last home game, regular attendance was allowed, and I picked up all the '76 cutouts, because I had an idea. (By the way, if you hear me say "I have an idea" based on the following story, please check me into a local facility.)

I decided that since we did not have an in-person reunion last year and instead had a virtual one, I would invent another type of reunion too — "A Two-Dimension Reunion." I took all the cutouts with me after the last game.

First, I took them all to Tom's and posed them outside the front door. Next, I got in my car and the **John Connell** cutout insisted on driving back to Hoboken. Arriving in Hoboken around midnight, I took the cutouts to Sinatra Park and took a picture next to the Frank Sinatra statue with the NYC skyline in the background. Back at my apartment, the cutouts and I posed while having drinks at my dining room table (with my collection of 1932 Columbia Wedgewood plates in my china cabinet; see the nearby photo!), at my piano with John (the former Kingsman) singing Columbia songs and finally to my reading room to read Columbia books.

The next morning, we returned to the Hoboken waterfront for more photos and a view of the skyline. Then back home to pack up the cutouts and send to classmates. I created a PDF with all the pictures and a narrative. Interestingly, John, Bryan, Jim and Steve all preferred the two-dimensional reunion to seeing me in person. Go figure. If you did not see the PDF (emailed to everyone), please email me and I will send you a copy.

That reunion was great fun for me and makes me want to see all of you in person soon. Please get in touch if you are coming to New York, so we can grab at least a cup of coffee. I hope to see a lot of you at Homecoming Weekend with the football team playing Dartmouth on Saturday, October 22.

Now, for some updates:

**Greg Niemi** reported from Florida: "After selling business computer software across much of the eastern United States for 30 years, I retired at the end of 2015. My wife and I live in Tampa, where we enjoy the beaches, parks and good weather. Our son lives in Boston with his wife and our daughter lives near Charlotte close to our grandsons, their partners and our two great-grandchildren."

**Joe Graif BUS'78** moved into a new home for his and his wife's retirement and they formed The Susan A. & Joseph N. Graif Foundation "to nurture, support and promote the musical performing arts in our home county of Isle of Wight (don't you just love the Beatles reference?) here in Virginia." Their retirement home "includes a two-story music room to accommodate our large, digital, electronic theatre organ and our Bösendorfer Grand. Our goal is to host five concerts each year (every two months from April through December) in our home (50-75 people), featuring both world-class and local talent, including promising youth performers. The concerts will include organ, piano, solo instrumentalists and vocalists."

**Rich Feldman**, as reported in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue, was cleaning out his Westchester home and sent an update: "Sold the house we built 30 years ago in Chappaqua and moved full time to Amagansett. Enjoying beach life with family and friends while continuing remote law practice. Greatly miss Manhattan but surviving the pandemic."

**Gary Lehman** BUS'80, SIPA'80 updated with the following: "Reporting in from Essex Junction, Vt. (near Burlington). Moved here a year ago to be closer to grandchildren. Had been working for the Transportation Security Administration, but I was on first shift (3:30 a.m. start time) ... that wasn't cutting it. Working now for the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a reservist and am certifying as a contracting officer. Recently returned from a six-week deployment focusing on increasing Covid-19 vaccinations and boosters for underrepresented and underserved communities. I believe we made a big, positive difference!"

Linda and **Dennis Goodrich** traveled to the United Kingdom last fall to finally celebrate daughter Katey's wedding in person. The whole family was there. Quite unexpectedly, Mika did not make the trip.

Colleen and **John Connell** "checked off a bucket list item with a 10-day road trip down the Pacific Coast Highway from San Francisco to Los Angeles, where we also visited our son, Will '19, an associate editor at ESPN. The weather and scenery cooperated."

I saved a special update for last. **Hasan Bazari** GSAS'79 and Wilson Ko '78 have teamed up in a worthy cause to honor former dean Patsy Geisler GSAS'79, the longtime Dean of Students Office pre-med advisor, and to benefit Columbia College undergraduates. Their generosity will establish the Patricia Dykema Geisler Scholarship in perpetuity by awarding financial aid scholarships to qualifying undergraduates. I am on board with some of the planning because right after our graduation, I moved into the apartment building on Morningside Heights where Patsy still lives. I stayed for six years. Patsy was my pre-marriage advisor (not pre-med), as she taught me to bake from scratch (no Bisquick!), encouraged me to read mystery novels by Rex Stout and has been a personal influencer ever since.

Hasan shared his thoughts in co-establishing this fund: "It is not often that any one person stands out as a model to generations of students who passed through the institution. We are deeply indebted to Patsy for understanding our passion and unleashing it on the world.

It was her faith that allowed that to happen." Hasan added: "The future of the world depends on attracting the very best students. Although they start out feeling imperfect, they are the perfect Columbia graduates. This award will stand in perpetuity to honor the potential of all students independent of their roots."

I enjoy publicizing efforts like this, and personally will contribute, because Patsy is still impacting me every day (being celiac now and still baking, I recall her lessons every time I step into my kitchen). If you are interested in participating, please email me and I will put you in touch with the right people.

A final word about another class correspondent, Gerald "Jerry" Sherwin '55. Jerry was my advertising mentor in 1975 in an Alumni Office initiative. He passed away on January 29, 2022, and is missed greatly. Columbia produces people who achieve great things, but Jerry's greatness was in helping all he mentored understand how to create greatness and support the College and University. He was and remains one of a kind. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).]

So, that's it! Classical music was very soothing and the rest of my day will sail by, floating on the memories that my friends still create.

Hope to see you at Homecoming or anytime you are in the area. The boat ride from Manhattan to Hoboken is fantastic in the summer!

Stay safe, stay well and stay in touch!

## 1977

**David Gorman**  
dgorman@niu.edu

"I send greetings to classmates, and wish them all the best as we (with continued good fortune) emerge from the Covid-19 doldrums and tragedy," writes **Ira Gottlieb** and, not being able to put it better than this, I second his wish, as warmly as possible. Ira goes on to mention, "I continue to practice union-side labor law with the same firm I've worked at since 1986," that being Bush Gottlieb, though he has now moved house from Santa Monica to Santa Barbara, about 90 miles up the coast.

**Artie Gold** also wrote in, to report a "Columbia moment" in March, "listening to **David Rothkopf** speaking

with [former president of Estonia] Toomas Ilves '76 on the Deep State Radio podcast concerning the Russian invasion of Ukraine."

**Ron Fried** and **Jim Reiman** report publications. Jim's book, *Negotiation Simplified: A Framework and Process for Understanding and Improving Negotiating Results*, came out in February. He adds that "**Jon Lukomnik**, a fellow 8 Carman alum, was kind enough to write a testimonial, for which I'm deeply grateful." Meanwhile, December is the publication date for Ron's book — his fourth — *Frank Costello: A Novel*.

A year ago, this column reported on the saga of Dewald Strauss, father of **Jerry Strauss**, now recognized as the subject of a portrait by Alice Neel, "The Fuller Brush Man." An article was then devoted to this story in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue of *CCT*. But that was not the end. Jerry informs us, "In November, I was featured on the Humans of New York platform on Instagram and Facebook, garnering 1.1 million likes and more than 14,000 comments. More recently, I completed a recording session for the audio guide for the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco's Alice Neel exhibition." As of May, Jerry was also expecting to give a livestreamed talk about his father and the painting at the de Young Museum in San Francisco.

Please share your news and updates by emailing me or by using the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to *CCT* using the Class Notes photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 1978

**Matthew Nemerson**  
matthewnemerson@gmail.com

While we had a great response as usual, it would be exciting to unlock the key to motivating the hundreds of you who have never responded in our 43 years of columns. People really do care about hearing from more of the class and many of you privately comment about the memories that are triggered when new people surface in *CCT*. So, please think about sharing news for the first time next time.

Thank you for the many notes on Russia's war against Ukraine. Given the delay in the publishing of this column I'm going to hold them for now.

**Bob Crochelt** opens our column: "Not much new to add here, as Northern California moves from spring to summer. Folks have discarded their masks and are going on about their business. My wife, Dr. DL Smith, and I are working away in Ukiah as before. Hoping that Covid-19 is indeed over but fearing that it may not be totally gone."

Columbia has always been well represented in show business and **Henry Aronson**, in Brooklyn, begins our round-up, reporting: "Now that theatre is returning, I've gotten busy with projects that were postponed by the pandemic. This past spring I was music director of a funny new show, *Pants! The Jimmy Pants Musical*, which is being developed by the York Theatre Company, and I am beginning rehearsals for Sarah Silverman's *The Bedwetter: Stories of Courage, Redemption, and Pee*, which will be a full production this spring. We are aiming for a Broadway production in the fall.

"I'm proud to be sustaining my career in theatre, which began Off-Off-Broadway while I was an undergrad!"

**Stuart Kricun** continues to keep things legal working at a big TV company in California, saying, "I'm celebrating my 17th year working at Disney!"

"My kids are both growing up quickly. Daughter Arianna is 17 and son Jordan (15) is taller than I am. This past spring my wife, Cipora, and I traveled to Santa Barbara to celebrate my 66th birthday."

Sort of in show biz, **Al Felieu** sent this note from New Rochelle: "Thank you for your persistence in attempting to herd a bunch of aged, senior citizen cats."

You have no idea!

Al goes on, "I continue my practice as an employment arbitrator, mediator and independent investigator.

"After a 37-year hiatus, Ken Turtoro, a high school friend and the best man from my wedding, and I are occasionally performing again as Two's Company, an acoustic duo. I need to have a backup plan in case this lawyer gig does not work out.

"My wife, Susan Hobart, is in her 32nd year at Shearman & Sterling, helping to keep the world banking system functional. Daughter Julie

is engaged, with a wedding date this October, and son Dan recently moved back into town with his wife, Juliana. My other son, Greg, is in marketing and lives in Brooklyn. I'm looking forward some grandkids."

Another traditionally strong Columbia industry is publishing, and our class is no exception. **Edward Rosenfeld** GSAS'80 heads up Rosenfeld Media in New York City, and writes, "We are the international leader in 'user experience' books, conferences and training."

"My partner, Karyn Grossman Gershon, is CEO of Project Keshet, which supports women and children in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. She has been working 12 hours a day with her network on the ground bringing her people to safety."

"My daughter was to get married in May and my younger kid is getting their degree in mechanical engineering at CMU."

Editor-in-chief of W.W. Norton & Co. **John Glusman** GSAS'80, of New York, tells us, "We have several books coming from Columbia professors, among them, a reissue of Saidiya Hartman's first book, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America (Race and American Culture)*; Chris Wiggins and Matthew Jones's book, *How Data Happened*; and David Hajdu's major new work of non-fiction on AI and the arts."

"Working remotely during the pandemic I've found the time both challenging and enormously productive."

"Son Graham '19, LAW'23 is a third-year at the Law School; daughter Isabel graduated with a psychology master's from the New School; and our eldest, Jenny, is a pediatrics resident at Chicago's Advocate Children's Hospital."

"We're a real Columbia family. My mother and father taught at P&S. My wife attended Barnard and she and I both earned a master's from GSAS."

"Looking back, it is clear that Columbia and the Core Curriculum was essential to all of our thinking and development in each of the fields we chose."

It seems retirement is the new hot topic, and we'll start with those who have thrown in knee replacements as well. **Billy Holden** PH'84 writes, "I finally retired as an epidemiologist after a career at Novartis, Sanofi Pasteur and Vertex Pharmaceuticals

and then at Mount Sinai Medical School. My wife, Karen Hart (Brandeis and Fordham Law), also retired as a lawyer, in June. We plan to travel more and enjoy our new free time after I'm fully rehabilitated from a knee operation."

"Son Bryce has an NYU sports management degree, but somehow is with a healthcare consulting firm, and daughter Hannah recently finished Sarah Lawrence and has spent time in London writing and working in marketing for the drug company AbbVie. My stepchildren are Julie GSAS'22, with a Columbia master's in anthropology, now with the Topos Partnership, and Robert, a recently married corporate lawyer from Fordham Law."

**Marvin Ira Charles Siegfried**, from Oceanside, N.Y., updates us on his own contribution to the multi-generational living together trends, "In the last column, I wrote that our kids were living with us while their house was being renovated, probably through December. Well, I was overly optimistic. They actually moved out in March. My wife and I are slowly getting the house back to normal. I say slowly because I am also recuperating from a partial knee replacement. Guess all the years of paddle ball, softball and biking finally caught up with me. I'm a little younger than many of us — turned 64 last December — but (with apologies to The Beatles) my wife still needs me and feeds me. Retirement is surprisingly busy, which is good. Hope classmates are doing well, and I'm looking forward to our next reunion!"

Complaining as someone who thought he had had a knee replacement, **Monte Nussbaum** PS'82, also from Oceanside, writes, "I had a rude awakening when I was told I needed to sign up for the *senior citizen* flu shot!"

"I will only consider retiring when the stress at work becomes greater than the stress at home, and that won't be from wife Myrna Keller BC'78, but I guess I'm worried about the stress of boredom from not working."

"We are both very proud of our kids: Shanna, a physical therapist; Avi, working for the NBA; Ayelet, a nurse practitioner; and Daniella, an anesthesiologist."

Continuing this theme, **Thomas Reuter** SEAS'79, notes, "My wife,

Grace DeSimone Reuter BC'78, and I have retired, and we are searching for where to settle. Son Matt '07 is an attending at the Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center of Newport Hospital. Ah, The Gilded Age lingers! Tim '11 works in higher education fundraising in Connecticut. We plan to make a return visit to the lovely mountain village of Cortina before the 2026 Winter Olympics take place."

**Gary Pickholz** SIPA'81 closes our retirement theme, writing, "Forty-eight years after first stepping into the oval Uris Hall library, going from freshman to faculty, I retire [this spring] from Columbia. Five schools, three research institutes. Celebrating my 'first retirement, to paraphrase Tom Brady, with a '65,000-mile tune-up and parts replacement,' to better enjoy retirement and the years ahead with family. In tragedy and in great joy, particularly with 35 years as an expat in Israel, this life bore no semblance to the naive expectations of my youth. If the College prepared me for anything, it was navigating uncharted waters."

"My wife and I celebrated our 20th anniversary, and we're having a hoot with our 3-year-old son. It's like crossing the international date line and starting over, but far more relaxed now than 30 years ago when I was a new father."

"I am reminded that Dean of Students Henry Coleman '46 said to us at our sophomore fireside chat that half of us will have careers in fields unimagined and not yet invented — and that will be the real value of the Core Curriculum. From computers, internet, financial innovation, globalization in politics and law, nuclear medicine and myriad other fields, Coleman proved prescient!"

Allow a few personal notes from your humble scribe. I'm proud to report that my eldest daughter, Elana, a graduate of Clark with an archiving master's from Simmons, followed up her Covid-19 mini-wedding last April with a formal gala at our Berkshire Farm this past Memorial Day. Her husband, Sean Young, has combined his skills in computers, astronomy and photography to help create Space Engine, which can best be described as an online self-guided way to explore the universe. Younger daughter, Joy, an American University School

of International Service graduate specializing in China, is following her mom and dad's footsteps by working for a trade association that represents food "upcycling."

My wife of 36 years, Marian Chertow BC'77, Yale M.P.M. and Ph.D., continues her great leadership in the critical field of industrial ecology as a professor at the Schools of the Environment and Management at Yale. My latest chapter is helping to build an industry disrupting 'Energy as a Service' company, Budderfly.

Looking forward to hearing from you all again soon!

## 1979

**Robert C. Klapper**  
robertklappermd@aol.com

**Miloon Kothari**, in New Delhi, reveals he holds a wide range of posts. "I am an independent expert on human rights and social policy based in New Delhi and Geneva. Since October 2021 I am a commissioner with the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel ([bit.ly/3wPoanX](https://bit.ly/3wPoanX)). I am also currently president of UPR Info, an international NGO working on the UN's Universal Periodic Review process ([bit.ly/3qO08pL](https://bit.ly/3qO08pL)), as well as a visiting professor at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies ([bit.ly/36zYMBi](https://bit.ly/36zYMBi)).

"Looking forward to hearing about what everyone else in the Class of '79 is up to."

Greetings from **Richard Perl** LAW'84, BUS'84: "A course I took our senior year, 'Approaches to World Order,' changed my life. Professor Saul Mendlovitz challenged us to make our lives about making the world a more just and sustainable place. I deferred law and business school and worked at think tanks across the UN; they assigned me to grassroots organizing for peace issues, making the link between nuclear power (it was the year of Three Mile Island) and nuclear weapons. After two years, I moved to the Lincoln Center area and started the J.D./M.B.A. program on our beloved campus. I'm still in the area, in a building I've lived in for 31 years."

“My career has been entirely in impact business, having had a role in initiating the impact business movement in the United States and Europe. After a range of business engagements all with some ‘mission-driven’ focus, I’ve spent the last 15 years building TerraCycle, the world leader in recycling hundreds of otherwise non-recyclable waste streams (pens, toothbrushes, flexible plastic, contact lenses, coffee capsules and so on). TerraCycle is also launching a promising venture, Loop, in multiple countries.

“My wife of 25 years died of cancer; my daughter is a schoolteacher and my son is a freshman in college. I’m loving life, work and NYC. All the best to each of you.”

We learn of the passing of **Robert S. Richman**, in May 2021. **Allan Hoving** writes, “I did not know Robert well, but he and I were in the same poetry writing class (it might have been Kenneth Koch’s). One day, Robert turned to me and invited me to submit poems to his soon-to-be-launched literary journal, *Some Other Magazine*. He published my work in several issues, and after we graduated he made his way to *The New Criterion*, where he was poetry editor for many years. He also was the author of several books of poetry and criticism.”

We also mourn the passing of **Michael P. Kelly**, who died on January 10, 2022, after a long battle with gallbladder cancer. His daughter Joanna Kelly ’14 recalls how deeply her father loved Columbia.

Our condolences to his brother, **John D. Kelly**, and the entire Kelly family.

[Editor’s note: See “Obituaries” for more on Richman and Kelly.]

**George Jirotko** writes, “I always enjoy reading this column. Recently, in perusing the current and back issues thereof, I noted with sadness the passing a while ago of my Phi Gamma Delta fraternity brother **Manuel Garcia**, and more recently another fraternity brother, **Michael Hodinar** ’77. My parents fled communist Czechoslovakia in the late 1940s just as Michael and his mother did later. Michael and I spent many hours at Columbia discussing our mutual experiences.

“Otherwise not much is new with me as I begin another year of being a Circuit Court judge in Florida.

I keep in touch with Columbia by streaming Ivy League sports on ESPN/ESPN+.”

**Robert C. Klapper**: “Today’s Class Notes thought comes from a grateful patient for whom I rebuilt their knee’s anterior cruciate ligament. When they returned to my office they brought a gift, a long-sleeved white Princeton University T-shirt. This young athlete was now going to return to school and participate in the Ivy League athletics at Princeton. I could not help having my memory jolted by looking at that white T-shirt with the orange and black Princeton logo.

“It took me back to our freshman year, when **Vincent Butkiewicz** and I, members of the freshman crew, left our crew race against Princeton in spring 1976 with two Princeton T-shirts. It became one of my most cherished possessions. I cried the day that this disintegrated *schmatta* had to be thrown out (probably 20 years later). Some of you might not know, but the phrase ‘losing your shirt’ comes from the beautiful tradition of racing crew. One of the things you learn when you begin rowing at Columbia is that before every race you bet your shirt, and since many of the fans are far away at the finish line on shore, it is easy for the spectator to know who won the race or more importantly, who lost, because it is now those eight men who are rowing bare-chested back to the dock.

“One of my fondest memories was being interviewed my senior year in high school on campus at Princeton. It was here that I learned not only what an ‘eating club’ was (the fancy-schmancy fraternity unique to this campus), but I also learned from my campus tour guide, just like our College’s unique requirement was the Core Curriculum, the unique requirement at Princeton for graduation was a senior thesis and I remember being told vividly about a Princeton senior who was supposedly expelled for writing his senior thesis giving the exact detail of how to make an atomic bomb. I don’t know if this is true or legend but it made for a great story on my tour.

“It was due to this concept put in my head of a senior thesis that led to the greatest academic experience I had at Columbia because I did just that. I did my senior thesis

on the first anatomy textbook by Vesalius, in 1543, and my advisor was my beloved art history professor David Rosand ’59, GSAS’65. Not a day goes by that I don’t think of his philosophies and the significant contribution to my life he made in encouraging me to pursue an art history major while still being a pre-medical student. Who could imagine that the simple gift of a T-shirt from a grateful patient could trigger so many Columbia memories from 46 years ago?

“Any Columbia *schmattas* in your closet? Let me know. Roar, lion, roar!”

## 1980

**Michael C. Brown**  
mcbcu80@yahoo.com

When I get older, losing my hair

Many years from now

Will you still be sending me  
a Valentine?

Birthday greetings, bottle of wine?

If I’d been out till quarter to three

Would you lock the door?

Will you still need me, will  
you still feed me

When I’m sixty-four?

— *The Beatles*

Happy birthday to all those 64-year-olds in the Class of ’80! Not sure we’re hanging out till “quarter to three” but I’ll take the Valentine and a bottle of wine.

Speaking of birthdays, Jolyne Caruso-FitzGerald BC’81 and **Shawn FitzGerald** hosted a party in Palm Beach for Fitz’s 64th. It was a wonderful evening of fine food, wine and tall tales with **Scott Ahern**, **Eric Blattman**, **Joe Ciulla** and me. We are aging like a fine wine but sometimes we forget to put the cork in it!

**Eric Young** published a book, *Declaration of Independence: How Independent Compliance and Directors Can Hold Management Accountable*, which provides professional lessons learned and legislative proposals to drive greater CEO and C-suite accountability to stop prioritizing “profit over safety.” It’s based on Eric’s 40-year career as chief compliance officer with five global banks including JPMorgan and BNP Paribas, and nonbanks including S&P Global Ratings and GE, beginning his career with the Fed after graduating.

Eric most recently became senior managing director with Guidepost Solutions, the global investigative, security, monitoring and risk management firm.

I recently had dinner with **Dave Maloof**, **Jack Hersch** SEAS’80, BUS’86 and **Eric Blattman**. Dave mentioned a wonderful book in which he was surprised to see his name referenced:

“Ken Dooley is 90; a playwright, author and screenwriter; and a guest columnist for *The Providence Journal*. In November he published a book, *Dooley Noted: Tales of an Ordinary Man Fortunate Enough to Meet a Lot of Extraordinary People in His Life’s Journey*, which covers covering the stories of the dozens of interesting people whom he met in Rhode Island. And he included me and the surprising story of how I convinced a Middle East leader (Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas) to give his first U.S. speech in English and pledge a commitment to peace with Israel and equal religious rights in a speech at The Cooper Union in September 2014!”

I welcome **Steve Kane** to the Class Agent program and look forward to working with him on the next reunion.

On a sad note, **Ed Shamy** passed away on November 27, 2021. Ed and I had many classes together, and he left fond memories with all who knew him. He played soccer, tended bar at Hanratty’s to offset costs and graduated with a degree in political science. His early adventures included a Jack Kerouac ’44-style hitchhiking journey across the United States and a Peace Corps stint in Paraguay, during which he acquired a rustic form of Spanish that served him well all his life, although he’d be the first to tell you he was (uselessly) much more fluent in Guarani. Ed’s career took him to various posts as reporter, editor and columnist in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Vermont and Virginia, where in 1990 he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist with a team of reporters at the *Roanoke Times & World News* for its coverage of the coal miners’ strike. His high standards as an editor could sometimes be maddening to the reporters on his staff, but they often later credited his coaching for improving their writing and honing their BS detectors. Readers responded enthu-



siastically to his colorful columns and incisive commentary.

Our condolences go out to his family. [Editor's note: See "Obituaries."]

Drop me a line at [mcbcu80@yahoo.com](mailto:mcbcu80@yahoo.com).

## 1981

**Dan Albohn, Kevin Costa and Rich Gentile**  
[daniel.albohn@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.albohn@gmail.com)  
[kevinyc@icloud.com](mailto:kevinyc@icloud.com)  
[r.gentile@snet.net](mailto:r.gentile@snet.net)

In this issue, we profile career changers, TV stars and more!

Following nearly 25 years practicing corporate law, during which he became partner at the Princeton-based firm of Gallagher, Briody & Butler, **John Butler** "got the call" and left the legal profession to study for the Roman Catholic priesthood. As a seminarian for the Diocese of Trenton, John entered the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at Seton Hall University in 2009, returning to the same campus where he had gone to high school. He earned a master's in pastoral theology and church history, was ordained to the priesthood in 2014 and on Palm Sunday 2016 became pastor of St. Michael's Church in historic Long Branch, N.J. Fr. John invites classmates who are visiting Monmouth County to join him at Sunday Mass.

John returns to Morningside Heights from time to time, and he often celebrates Mass as a visiting priest at Corpus Christi Catholic Church on West 121st Street, which is now the Catholic Campus Ministry parish for Columbia. These jaunts to the old neighborhood usually include visits to Tom's for a "cup o' cremo" and a cheeseburger deluxe while seated at the counter near the framed photo of Jerry, Elaine, Kramer and George, or to V&T for a pizza and a side order of garlic bread topped with mozzarella cheese, or revisiting The Steps to read the paper accompanied by a take-out sandwich from Milano Market (formerly Mama Joy's). Of course, John says, none of these victuals compare to those delectable, foil-wrapped hot dogs prepared early in the morning on game-day Saturdays by John, his good friend (and fellow swim team co-captain)

**Rich Hauptschein SEAS '81** and their teammates for sale at the home football games at Ye Olde Baker Field — an echo of their days when the swimming and diving team members staffed the Baker Field and Levien Gym Refreshment Agency.

John and your correspondent (Dan) enjoyed reminiscing during several recent telephone conversations. John said that "the call" to the priesthood always originates from God, and can happen at any age. The discerning process can happen swiftly or more gradually, nurtured by faith, prayer, family, friends and life experiences. John credited his Columbia years as an important part of that process. We talked about European history with Eugene Rice (who lectured on the Irish monks' contribution to the preservation of Western European culture during the Dark Ages); Lit Hum with Nathan Gross (remember that we read the Gospel of Matthew); CC (which included St. Augustine's *City of God*, St. Thomas More's *Utopia* and others); Art Hum (when Milton J. Lewine '52, GSAS'60 expertly guided us through the great cathedrals and basilicas of Europe with slides projected on a movie screen in Schermerhorn); and Music Hum (those soaring-heavenward melodies of Handel's *Messiah* and all the rest). John also recalled Sunday morning Mass at the Church of Notre Dame on West 114th Street, with President William McGill seated a few pews away. Finally, we wondered if Columbia sparked a religious vocation in other alumni.

One more recollection: a unique December evening in the John Jay Lounge listening to Professor Rice — who was seated by the fireplace like Alistair Cooke welcoming viewers to *Masterpiece Theatre* — as the professor rendered an unforgettable, animated, merry and uplifting reading of "A Visit from St. Nicholas ('Twas the Night Before Christmas)."

"Only at Columbia!" John recalled.

John followed a trail to Morningside Heights blazed by his parents, John "Jack" Butler '47 and Claire Garvey Butler TC'54, and followed by his brother Charlie Butler '85 and sister-in-law Sarah Lorge Butler '95. With 18 nieces and nephews, hope springs eternal that members of the Butler family will continue to find their way to alma mater on the Hudson Shore. Contact John at [jbutler1225@gmail.com](mailto:jbutler1225@gmail.com) or 732-222-8080.

The other half of the (unrelated) "Butler Brothers," **Dan Butler**, reports from Wareham, Mass., home of the Wareham Gatemen of the Cape Cod Summer Baseball League. After fulfilling careers with the Navy, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Air Force and Coast Guard, Dan is enjoying retirement with his wife, Karen. Their leisure time is spent sailing and playing lots of pickleball.

**Shane Triano SEAS '81** and Dinah Surh BC'79 check in from Staten Island. Dinah recalls their first encounter on 3 Hartley: "I heard loud singing — 'Keep in the middle, in the middle of the road' — by a guy in full stride passing my room and sounding more distant as he advanced to the end of the hallway. 'What a strange person,' I thought. I found out from my neighbor, **Dan Albohn**, that the singer was G. Shane Triano, a member of the Glee Club, an industrial engineering student and Dan's roommate. Dan and I enjoyed regular sojourns to Moon Palace, savoring shrimp with lobster sauce, roast pork with bean sprouts and other delicacies while catching up on the latest Columbia/Barnard news and the Lions' gridiron challenges. One weekend Dan asked me if Shane could join us. I agreed, and the rest is history. Shane and I couldn't stop talking during dinner and all the way back to Hartley, past Tom's, Mondel Chocolates and Ta-Kome. We started dating, dancing, singing and cooking together, and are now celebrating 39 years of wedding bliss."

Shane was for many years an industrial engineer designing factories that manufacture apparel, eyeglasses, jewelry, lighting and other products. For two years, he helped commercialize research performed by Columbia's civil engineering department.

Shane later made a move to teach mathematics and computer science in the New York public school system, from which he retired in 2017. He remains a do-it-yourselfer. Shane designed and built his and Dinah's home and continues to embellish this ambitious project with architectural and artistic details and custom furniture.

Shane and Dinah's son, Alex, is an electrical engineer at Texas Instruments, where he works on electric vehicles. Their daughter, Noelle, is an executive underwriter in the entertainment division at Chubb insurance company.

Dinah was for more than 35 years a senior hospital administrator in NYC, but her true vocation might lie at the intersection of food, cooking and entertainment. Living in the Barnard dorm "616" as a pre-med studying sociology, she "found a whole new world of cuisine." She recalls that her suitemates gave her "tips on how to make the best matzo ball soup," which she had never had. "Nearby," she said, "I had my first tastes of Greek, Hungarian and Thai food."

Dinah's culinary adventures extended beyond college. She entered local and national cooking contests, often creating dishes inspired by her Korean heritage. Then Dinah made her biggest splash on the nationally televised *The Rachael Ray Show*, where she won Ray's "Three Ingredient Challenge," to the accompaniment of Ray's resounding rendition of "Someone's in the Kitchen with Dinah!"

Dinah's "Poppin' Fresh" ideas continued, as she was a Pillsbury Bake-Off finalist in 2012, 2013 and 2014. When her best friend, Barbara Walker Nazkani BC'79, tipped her off that the Food Network show *Chopped* — which normally features professional chefs — was recruiting contestants for episodes featuring "amateurs, grandmas and heroes," Dinah applied, and won \$10,000 as a *Chopped* Champion in 2014. Later, she appeared on the *Chopped Ultimate Champions* tournament but was "chopped" in the qualifying round.

Not to be outdone, Shane begged the producers of *Wheel of Fortune* for a shot: "I told them I needed some help to save my marriage because my wife is winning all these cooking contests. I needed to win something! To my surprise, they called. I flew to Los Angeles, was a contestant on the show and won some dough."

Shane and Dinah enjoyed their five minutes of fame and look forward to someday seeing their kids or grandkids on screen. And to all our classmates, we encourage you to share your stories, journeys, and joyful experiences, even if you've never been on TV.

Recent alumni might be surprised to learn that our class drew primarily from the New York City area, with most of the remainder hailing from the Northeast or abroad. A classmate from a rural Midwestern town, like **Jim Privett** of Ellsinore,

Mo. (pop. 416), seemed as exotic then as one from Kuala Lumpur.

We recently learned that Jim died in 2017. **Bob Kanarkiewicz**, Jim's Carman roommate, remembers him "as a sharp young guy who wore his cowboy boots as a natural part of his person. He was proud to be from the state that he pronounced muh-ZUR-uh and liked the big city and Columbia. We had many adventures. He was a natural writer/observer and a romantic at heart."

Jason Zweig '82 remembered that "Jim cultivated an air of mystery. He wanted us to believe he was an Ozark hillbilly, but when he opined about Shakespeare or read aloud one of his marvelous short stories, I knew he was extraordinarily talented and literate. When you said something stupid, he would dangle that cigarette off his lower lip like a black-and-white era movie star, quizzically stare at you for 10 long seconds, and drawl, 'Ah don't think so.' He was always a gentleman; we called him Mr. P."

After graduation, Jim rode his way with words into a prolific advertising career. At Lois Pitts Gershon, he worked to launch MTV, VH-1, Nickelodeon and *USA Today*. In the early '90s, he and his wife, Dee, founded the successful advertising agency j/dp Concepts.

After working in several other high-level positions, Jim and Dee decided to return to Missouri. During his job search there, he began substitute-teaching high school in Lamar (pop. 4,266) and was so inspired that he changed professions. While teaching he earned an M.A. in education, magna cum laude, at nearby Pittsburg State University. As Dee says, "His desire to see his students succeed motivated him to use all of his talents to inspire and evoke curiosity in them not just in literature, but also the entire world beyond." Dee's recollections make clear that Jim was a great teacher as well as a dedicated husband and father to their son, Julian.

One final memory from Dee: "The day we married, Jim had the limo make a stop at the campus. We sat on the College Walk steps in our fine clothes and enjoyed the view with cheer and champagne. The pride in his eyes said it all, and he brought home this pride to his students as an example of what a small-town boy from Middle America can achieve.

All of his classrooms had his Columbia diploma prominently displayed as a reminder of what is possible."

Jim was taken too young. We miss him.

## 1982

**Andrew Weisman**  
columbiacollege82@gmail.com

Greetings, gentlemen. I hope all is well and that you're enjoying this neo-post-pandemic world, i.e., not entirely over but no one seems to care anymore. On a personal note, I've been doing a lot of so-called "revenge" travel, having been unable to go anywhere for almost two years. Really having fun with it!

Checking in this period, and setting a good example for all of us, the good doctor **Sal Volpe**.

"My elder son, Gino, has been working at Harbor Picture Co. since completing a master's in post-production at the Feirstein Graduate School of Cinema. My younger son, Salvatore G. '19, GSAS'21 is enrolled at SUNY Downstate Medical School since completing a master's in bioinformatics at Columbia. (See a photo near the CC'19 column.) Both young men live in NYC and indulge my wife and me with visits both virtual and actual. (We prefer the actual visits. Are we old-fashioned?)

"Rachel, my wife, is the director of operations for the Staten Island Heart Society. The mission is to promote 'Healthy Hearts on Staten Island' through educational activities, events and enhancement of public access to defibrillators, thus reducing the rate of death and disability from heart disease and stroke. Since 2021, Rachel has also been providing Covid-19 vaccinations at PODs (points of dispensing) and homes.

"I am the chief medical officer of the Staten Island Performing Provider System. Together with our clinical, community-based, government and managed-care partners we have worked to improve population health outcomes, to address social determinants of health and to combat the substance use crisis.

"I was looking forward to the warmer weather and walks throughout Staten Island, 'the borough of parks.'

"Shoutout to Pete Davidson and Colin Jost for rescuing the Staten

Island Ferry boat *John F. Kennedy*, to become a comedy club. We need more reasons to laugh.

"Stay safe, all."

The Volpe family is clearly continuing to do its part to improve the health of all New Yorkers. Thanks!

Also checking in this period is the exceptionally accomplished journalist **Fred Katayama JRN'83**. In January, Fred, after a long and storied (pardon the pun) career, retired from Reuters to join a nonprofit leadership/networking organization, the U.S.-Japan Council. Here's what he wrote about his final day at Reuters:

"I'll miss the newsroom. Friday was my last day at Reuters and as a journalist. I'm hanging up my hat after nearly four decades so I could pass the hat in my 'second act.'

"I woke up on this snowy Saturday overwhelmed with gratitude, a contrast to the stress I felt yesterday scrambling to get things done before I'd lose access to corporate email, phone and editing systems at midnight. I'm so touched by the flood of messages, tweets and posts from colleagues, market guests, mentors, friends, family and fans. I'll get back to all of you hopefully by day's end.

"Journalism was a joyride, even its roller-coaster moments. It was the only profession I had ever dreamed of, save for a passing fancy as a baseball announcer or far-fetched fantasy of playing lead guitar/vocalist for a pop rock band. Over four decades, I've had the privilege of witnessing and covering big events such as the rise and fall of Japan's bubble economy, the Kobe Earthquake, collapse of Enron, 9-11, dot-com boom-and-bust, Hurricane Katrina, and the global pandemic. I've interviewed the likes of Bill Gates, Jeff Skilling, Lee Kuan Yew, Henry Kissinger, LeBron James and Serena Williams. And I was blessed to have worked with the finest scribes at AP, *Fortune* magazine, NHK, KIRO-TV, CNN, and Reuters. But as The Byrds crooned echoing Ecclesiastes — 'To everything, turn, turn, turn, there is a season ...' — the season has come for me to turn and turn.

"Come Valentine's Day, I'll be joining a nonprofit I'm passionate about, the U.S.-Japan Council, as its executive vice president overseeing development. I'm just thrilled that I'll be working with someone I truly respect and have known for over a decade, Suzanne Basalla, her team,

boards of directors and counselors, and devoted members. As one of USJC's founding board members, I tip my hat to its co-founders who continue to inspire me to this day, the late Sen. Daniel Inouye and Irene Hirano Inouye.

"I am deeply indebted to so many mentors, advisors, colleagues, family and friends who've counseled me on my journey. You know who you are. Thank you from the bottom of my heart as I follow my heart."

Fred, on behalf of all of your Columbia friends and fans, congratulations on all your achievements as a journalist!

Gentlemen, please drop us a note by email or via the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. Looking forward to hearing from you!

## 1983

**Roy Pomerantz**  
bkroy@msn.com

Greetings, classmates. My boys and I have thoroughly enjoyed the tremendous success of the Columbia women's basketball team this season. We attended several games, including the most recent Women's National Invitation Tournament home wins against Holy Cross and Boston College. As of this submission, Columbia beat Boston College but was defeated by Seton Hall in the Quarterfinals. Columbia's 12-2 Ivy record (25-6 overall) is the best in program history.

**Eddy Friedfeld:** "I spent the last two years on two projects of a lifetime: The first was working with icon Mel Brooks on his autobiography, *All About Me*, which came out in November and debuted on *The New York Times* Bestseller List. The second was co-writing *Directed by James Burrows* with the legendary director of *Taxi*, *Cheers*, *Frasier*, *Friends* and *Will & Grace* fame, among his record 1,000-plus sitcom episodes, which [was due out in] June. Both books are available on Amazon."

**Larry Herman:** "A belated mazeltov to me as I married off my first child, Dr. Daniella Freyda Herman BC'17, to Dr. Brian Sanders. Daniella recently graduated from New York Medical College and started her residency in radiology at Westchester Medical Center. Brian is an otolaryngologist who recently



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A large group of alumni gathered at the wedding of Dr. Daniella Freyda Herman BC'17, daughter of Dr. Lawrence Herman '83, to Dr. Brian Sanders at the Rockleigh (N.J.) country club on July 20. Left to right: Dr. Miles Ladenheim '83, Leonard Rosen '83, Neal Smolar '83, Betsy Chutter Smolar BC'85, Pace Cooper '85, Aileen Herman Cooper BC'85, Cheryl Tager Goldschmidt BC'80, Joel Goldschmidt '79, Dr. David Kriegel '83, Herman, Mark Segall '84, Ellen Klestzick Goldschmidt BC'85, Jay Lefkowitz '84, Dr. Aron Kressel '81 and Dr. Saul Lebovic '83.

finished his residency at NYU and started private practice.

“You will recognize many classmates in the nearby photo from the wedding on July 20, 2021, at The Rockleigh country club in New Jersey. Pretty good turnout for a Covid-19 wedding. And all vaccinated pre-Delta.”

**David Lyle:** “My husband, Doug Murray, and I were in Harlaxton, U.K., January–April while Doug taught his Belmont University study-abroad students. On March 17, I met buddy Clare Delmar BC'83 for lunch in London. Clare and her husband, Brian Lynch, live there. We mainly talked about news of classmates, including **Ben Heimsath, Robert Lucero, Scott Brewer, Francisco Santiago, Roy Pomerantz** and John Phelan '85, plus some celebrity chatter about George Stephanopoulos '82 and **Barack Obama.**”

**Mark Licht:** “My kids left the nest so after living and practicing urology in Boca Raton for 20 years I moved up to Titusville, in central Florida, three years ago. Still working, but I now live near the world-famous Mosquito Lagoon. Some of the best redbelly fly fishing in the country. My wife, Margie SEAS'83, and I have been married for 37 years. Our three kids were not Columbia material so after donating to the College for 30 years straight I now give to their schools: UCLA, Grinnell and Northwestern. I stay in touch with **Myles Hansen** and **Matt 'The Boy' Samarel SEAS'83**, who is 60 but still looks 21.”

**Jon Lichtmacher:** “I earned an M.F.A. in fiction writing at Brown

and then attended the University of Rochester School of Medicine. I moved to San Francisco for psychiatry residency at UCSF, and was at UCSF for 21 years, the last seven as director of the Psychiatry Clinic. In 2013, I moved to Kaiser Permanente in Richmond, Calif., where I am site-chief. I love the collaborative culture and the people I work with at Kaiser. These are challenging times for the field of mental health, with national shortages of psychiatrists and therapists and a high demand for care. I am married to Liza Geary, whom I met during our pre-medical, post-bac year. We celebrated our 30th anniversary last fall and feel lucky to have raised our four amazing boys in San Francisco. Our oldest, Jeremy, is in a post-bac pre-medical program. Paul is a senior at UC Berkeley, majoring in computer science. Adam is a sophomore (and squash player) at Amherst and our youngest, Hank, is a junior in high school and a ballet dancer.

“My fondest academic memories are of taking Latin poetry in small classes on cold and windy fall afternoons in Hamilton with Steele Commager and Robert Brown. I have not stayed too connected with the original group from Carman Hall, but I remember **Mark Morris, Yu Jin Ko, Bill Spiegelberger**, Greg Sheres and my roommate, John Churchill, fondly.”

**Wayne Root:** “President Donald J. Trump was a guest on *Wayne Allyn Root: Raw & Unfiltered* on the USA Radio Network on February 8. It was the third time Trump has appeared on Root's show in the past nine months.

“Root reminded Trump that it was Root's idea for Trump to become Speaker of the House, if the GOP retakes the House in November. Root's idea has been featured in thousands of media stories since last May, when Root first asked him.

“Root also suggested to Trump that the GOP Senate must remove Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.

“Newlywed Root ended the interview by announcing he and his wife, Cindy Parker Root, were looking forward to their honeymoon in March at Trump's Palm Beach home, Mar-a-Lago. Trump replied that he looks forward to seeing Root soon.”

**Michael Lavine:** “I've been living near Lincoln Center for more than 32 years. I see and even stay with **Paul Lerner** in Los Angeles. I recently got back in touch with my high school and Columbia friend **Jim Trainor** after many years. I'm so happy to see he's doing so well in Chicago. I'm happily still coaching singers, preparing them for their Broadway auditions, helping them find new songs to sing for various reasons and working with them on the acting of the songs. Through the years, I've amassed a large collection of sheet music of all types, and I love sharing it with people (like Michael Feinstein; we write back and forth quite frequently) all over the world. I've done a number of concerts recently; all online during 2020 and 2021, but now I'm going back to live venues in New York City and around the country.

“I loved my time at Columbia. I've said this here before, but I still have several original Sam Steinberg drawings that I bought from him outside Carman in around 1980 (I've got the Big Ones!) ... I loved having Wallace Gray as my ‘Eliot, Joyce & Pound’ professor. The semester after I studied with him, I was in London for six months. I found myself in Dublin on what would have been James Joyce's 100th birthday, so I went to the Martello tower (now part of the James Joyce Tower and Museum), armed with several copies of the Dublin newspapers of the day. I got them all stamped at the museum and brought them back to Professor Gray. He gave them out as presents to the best students of the year for a while. I also loved Peter Awn, my Lit Hum professor. His curriculum was a bit different from a lot of the other Lit Hum professors, and it was a class I looked forward to every week.

“My mother is going strong at 97 in Bethesda, Md. My sister, Amy, and I visit her every month. Amy is the director of institutional giving at GLAAD and doing great. I'd love to hear from anyone who remembers me: [broadwaymhl@aol.com](mailto:broadwaymhl@aol.com).”

**Langham Gleason '84:** “It is with great sadness that I report the passing of my dear friend **Walter Melvin Roberts III Ph.D.** Walter grew up in Detroit and attended Detroit Catholic Central. Uncertain about his path after graduating from high school, he worked in a tractor factory for two years before college. Walter loved to tell the story of his application essay to the College, the only school to which he applied. In a burst of intellectual bravado, he advised the Admissions Office that letting him in would be ‘the best thing they had ever done for the school.’ Walter was not far off the mark. He graduated junior Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude with a double major in Greek and philosophy. He earned a master's in philosophy from Chicago. Subsequently he earned a Ph.D. in classics from UC Berkeley. He then taught at the University of Vermont, UMass Amherst and Wayne State University. Along the way he spent time at a Carthusian monastery in Vermont considering a life of the cloth, was a bicycle messenger carrying six-figure gems around NYC, taught chess to youngsters including one nascent grandmaster and barbacked at The Hard Rock Café in New York City alongside Vincent D'Onofrio serving luminaries such as Keith Richards.

“At the end of his life Walter was filming a series of instructional videos on Ancient Greek, which he narrates and that are based on the original texts ([bit.ly/3u6TaOt](https://bit.ly/3u6TaOt)). The 80-plus videos are used by beginning Ancient Greek scholars around the world.

“Walter battled gastric stromal cell cancer for two decades but ultimately passed away from coronary artery disease on August 29, 2021. He is survived by his brother, Anthony Roberts; a sister, Dr. April Roberts, and many close friends.”

In honor of Gerald “Jerry” Sherwin '55, I am ending my notes as he did for 40 years: Love to all! Everywhere!

Jerry, we love you, and we will never forget you.

[Editor's note: See “Obituaries” at [college.columbia.edu/cct](https://college.columbia.edu/cct) for more.]

## 1984

Dennis Klainberg  
dennis@berkley.com

Best wishes to **Jon Abbott**, longtime CEO of Public Media's GBH in Boston, on the announcement of his retirement. According to his bio on publicmedianow.org, Jon led "GBH (Formerly WGBH), America's preeminent public media organization, the largest producer of PBS content for TV and the Web, and a major supplier of content for public radio and digital audio services. A nationally recognized public media leader, Abbott has transformed the way GBH creates and distributes educationally rich content to millions of Americans throughout New England and across the nation."

As many of us know, Jon started his career at WKCR. He earned an M.B.A. from Stanford. He is a member of the boards of PBS, National Public Media, PRI/PRX, NEPM, Contributor Development Partnership, PBS Distribution and Project Healthy Children. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a 2016 recipient of a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement.

Here's hoping he'll regale us with amazing stories at our 40th reunion in 2024!

**David Branner**: "We remain in Taiwan. We had expected to be back in New York for part of every year, but the pandemic changed all our thinking. Yes, we still wear masks all the time. People in Taiwan are generally cooperative when the government asks them to do something. I'm getting a lot of scholarship done. I have a new translation under review at a publisher and am almost a year into forensic work in support of proofreading my late teacher's last book, containing his reconstruction of Early Chinese. He died rather suddenly and left some undated manuscripts, but no explanation of the principles underlying what he was doing. So in order to resolve numerous inconsistencies in the various manuscripts and earlier publications, I have had to try to model his thinking. It has, in the end, gone pretty well, and I expected the whole project to be finished in March and the book to appear this year (though I'm not the editor; merely proofreading)."

**Frank Lang**: "I have been working in the community development field for 28 years and live with my wife in Queens. I've worked the past 16 years in Brooklyn with St. Nicks Alliance. I earned an M.Arch. and my license and worked in architecture firms for a while. Now I can be the client for my former colleagues. I oversee staff development, property management and services for low-income residents. Right now, I'm working with **Craig Tooman's** firm, CTA Architects, on two preservation projects rehabbing a total of 122 buildings with 900 apartments in Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx. It is tough but rewarding work."

**Jim Satloff** attended a small 60th birthday celebration for **Frank Sommerfield**. Also present were **Stu Cane** and Michael Purves '86.

**David Stafford** recently caught up with old friend John Bonomi '83 on Zoom. They reminisced at length about their great memories together at CC, both on and off the tennis and basketball courts. David is the general counsel for education publisher McGraw Hill and lives in Scarsdale with his wife, Caryn Tager Stafford BC'85, LAW'88. They have three children in their 20s (Daniel, Andrew and Allison, who is a junior at Amherst) plus their tabby cat, Tommy, who is the only one standing between them and an empty nest.

**Wayne Weddington**: "I have been happily emerging from the constraints of the pandemic. Social and business gatherings are a life-affirming respite from the shackles of isolation. We gave birth to Augustus Pennoyer Weddington (b. April 20, 2021), who continues to grow in cognition, personality and energy. I required a longer runway, but could not be happier to be a dad! Were that we would be blessed to have more. We endeavor. Also, with all the wokeness that abounds, I am eternally grateful to Columbia for providing a strongly traditional education that exalted excellence in all endeavors. It has served me a lifetime. Stand, Columbia. Also, I am a catechumen; the big day [was scheduled for] April 17."

**Todd Sussman** is the liner notes editor for Barbra Streisand's *Release Me 2*. With this album, Streisand sets a record: She is the only woman with a new Top 20 (or even a Top 40) album in every decade from the

1960s through the 2020s. The album is the most elaborate release of her entire career, and Todd says he was honored to be part of this project, having been the liner notes editor for her 11th number 1 album, *Encore: Movie Partners Sing Broadway*.

Visit [cabaretszenes.org](http://cabaretszenes.org) for Todd's celebrity interviews and reviews. Recent cover stories of the Cabaret Scenes print edition include Johnny Mathis, Kristin Chenoweth and Stephen Schwartz, in honor of his Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Songbook Association. As a special surprise to Amanda McBroom (who wrote the music and lyrics for the iconic title song from the film *The Rose*), none other than Bette Midler provided Todd with a heartfelt quotation for the cover story. Online interviews include Dionne Warwick and Melissa Manchester. Write to Todd at [toddas@aol.com](mailto:toddas@aol.com).

**Richard Hester**: "My book, *Hold, Please: Stage Managing a Pandemic*, came out on March 29. I have spent my working life since Columbia as a Broadway stage manager, the last 16 years before the shutdown as the production supervisor of *Jersey Boys* here and all over the world. I am working on a new pre-Broadway musical version of *The Karate Kid*. We [were scheduled to] open in St. Louis in May with an eye to Broadway next year.

"When the pandemic hit, I started writing and posting essays on Substack about what was going on

every day ([bit.ly/3LjueZY](http://bit.ly/3LjueZY)). These have now been collected (and edited, lol) into a book."

**Adam Dicker**: "Our son Shimshon '21 was married in summer 2020. He and his wife moved to Tel Aviv in November, and he will serve in the IDF starting in the next few months. Our other son, Yisachar '25, is a freshman, so it has been interesting to see how Columbia has rolled with Covid-19. I continue to work at Jefferson, and I am more involved in the startup world both in the United States and Israel as it relates to digital health and the convergence of pharma. As I get older and see the impact of the pandemic on our patients, staff and family, I am even more appreciative of the blessing of health and wellness."

**Michael Hall**: "CC alums gathered at The Armory and had an off-campus dinner and drinks around the USA Indoor Track & Field Indoor Championships on February 26. In attendance: **Reggie Henderson**; Lance Warrick '79, LAW'82; John Schuttly '80; Peter McCart '82; Steve Carty '85; Tony O'Shea '85; Ward Bobitz '86; Dave McCarty '86; Terry Jones '86, BUS'87; and Doug Teasdale '89."

See the photo below!

Incidentally, Reggie continues to pole vault and is competing at the masters level with **Ron Hubsher SEAS'84**. Says Reggie: "We competed in the 2022 USATF Masters Indoor Championships at The Armory in NYC on March 20."



Gathered at the Ivy League Track & Field Championships at the Armory in NYC on February 26 were, left to right: Lance Warrick '79, Herman Kane '61 (track and field recruiter in the '70s and '80s), Tony O'Shea '87, Reggie Henderson '84, John Schuttly '80 and Peter McCart '82.



PASQUALE DEVITO '74

On April 20, several alumni got together at a Carnegie Hall concert organized by Dr. Joel Halio '74, who discovered — and helped organize the world premiere of — “Hymns from Auschwitz,” a long-lost orchestral work by Michel Assael, a Greek-Jewish Holocaust survivor. Left to right are David Sahar '75, Halio, Dennis Kleinberg '84 and Dr. George McKinley PS'80. Also in attendance were Pasquale DeVito '74, Nina Fleischman BC'76, Brian Eskenazi '74, Dr. Jacob Cohen DM'83 and Dr. Morris Sasson DM'83.

**Richard Brody:** “I did a Ph.D. in Russian history at the University of Michigan, then worked in government, winding up at the White House as Russia advisor to VP Al Gore. In 2000, I moved to Moscow with family to run United Technologies Corp.’s Russia operations for six years, then returned to Harford, Conn., to run international business development for UTC’s clean energy division. I’ve continued in the clean energy technology business at Lockheed Martin and a few VC-supported startups. I’m VP business development at Quidnet Energy (energy storage), one of Bill Gates’s Breakthrough Energy portfolio investments. My wife, Beate Dafeldecker, worked in international educational exchange and now is in real estate development. We have two grown kids. Adam’s a consultant at BCG in New York and Emma BC’20’s an urban planner at WSP in San Diego. Emma going to Barnard was my delight and somewhat Beate’s disappointment, as she runs Harvard alumni interviews in our region. While moving Emma into her room at 49 Claremont I had a major circle-of-life moment when I looked across the airshaft and pointed out my room at 47 Claremont, from more than 30 years before! I’ve always treasured the value of the liberal arts education at Columbia and the unparalleled experience of being a student in New York. Where else could you go on an all-night bicycle tour/history lesson through four boroughs and finish watching the sun rise in Brooklyn Heights? Thanks, Professor Jackson!”

At the memorial for Gerald “Jerry” Sherwin '55, aka “Mr. Columbia”

and “The Mayor of Morningside Heights,” held on March 5 at St. Paul’s Chapel, I was thrilled to get back to campus for the first time in two years, and gratified to share a moment of remembrance for a great friend and alumnus. Whether up front and personal, as he attended so many basketball games on the bench, or behind the scenes, as he helped advocate for the Marching Band in meetings with the University and Athletics, Jerry was, quite simply, a MENSCH. Among the luminaries paying tribute that day were Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74, our dean of students and professor emeritus; Kevin Matthews '80, chief of staff at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture; Lisa Carnoy '89, co-chair of the University Trustees; Ted Schweitzer '91, LAW'94, president of the of Columbia College Alumni Association; Mike Schmidtberger '82, LAW'85, chair of the Executive Committee at Sidley Austin; Dr. Elliot Gross '55, former NYC chief medical examiner; Richie Gordon '83, VP at Samuel A. Ramirez & Co; and dear friend Roy Pomerantz '83, CEO at Regent Baby Products (and a fellow class scribe). [Editor’s note: See “Obituaries” at college.columbia.edu/cct.]

## 1985

**Jonathan White**  
jw@whitecoffee.com

Thanks for your usual great updates. It’s always fantastic to hear from some folks after a few years, and others after a few decades. It’s never too late to send me a note.

After graduation **Larry Gallagher** meandered his way into the magazine business, “first as an intern at *Harper’s* before moving to *Esquire*, where I was an editorial assistant. In 1987 I jumped to San Francisco to join the staff of an ill-fated and short-lived travel rag, *Trips*. When that enterprise imploded I launched out on my own as a freelance writer, specializing in what once was called ‘immersive’ journalism. In that mode I explored (among other things) commercial fishing in Alaska; worked in a slaughterhouse in Nebraska; studied yoga in Mysore, India; smoked toad venom in the New Mexico desert; and studied Zen Buddhism in the mountains outside Los Angeles. It is the last of these that hooked my soul enough that I felt compelled to go back. This stint lasted three years before I burned out and found my way back to the Bay Area, around the turn of the century.

“My second stint in San Francisco lasted a good 15 years, during which time I made many a valiant attempt to resuscitate my writing career before giving up and throwing myself into carpentry. During that time I recorded five CDs of original songs, perhaps the accomplishment of which I am most proud in my life, although the universe received it with a cosmic shrug. When, in 2016, my first marriage imploded, I made the quixotic move of following an Irish woman I hardly knew to the west of Ireland to explore the possibility of lasting contentment. Miraculously that strategy seems to be panning out, so 2022 finds me living in the town of Sligo, on the Atlantic Coast, summer home of Yeats himself, restoring a pair of Georgian buildings from the 1880s. Any classmates passing through the area can bring along a copy of this entry for a free pint of Guinness, courtesy of yours truly.”

**Larry Rogers** made a big move during the summer, transitioning from the Watervliet Public Library in Upstate New York to a permanent reference librarian position in the larger city of Troy. “After 12 years of working 10 hours a week for about \$11.90 an hour, it’s been a real thrill to move up to a steady 20 hours a week and to make more than \$20 an hour. Gee, but I’m grateful to the Columbia College English department for the opportunities my English literature degree has opened up for me. Why,

if it wasn’t for my Columbia degree, I might not have been stuck in Watervliet for only 12 years. It might have been 20 or 30 years!

“Columbia sure has opened up a lot of doors for me. The older I get the more overwhelmed I am by feelings of gratitude. I can still picture the smiling faces of scholars like Howard Schless and Wallace Gray, saying over and over again how gifted I was, and how lucky I was to be a student at a school like Columbia. Thanks to all the encouragement and the individual attention I received, all my professional dreams have now come true. I feel a deep and lasting sense of indebtedness to the College. There’s definitely a debt there, and I’d love to repay it!”

**Derek Suite** JRN'88 and his wife, Darcel BC'83, JRN'84, met at Columbia in 1980 and married in 1988. They run the mental health businesses fullcirclehealthny.com, fccwellness.org, fullcircleconfidential.com and darceldillardsuite.com.

**Michael Reilly** says hello and sends good wishes to all classmates, and was inspired to write after seeing news from his TEP/IEP fraternity brother **Greg Jarrin** in a recent column. Mike lives in Wilmington, Del., where he and his wife have recently become empty-nesters with the Covid-19–delayed departure of his youngest (of three) kids to college. Mike is general counsel of FMC Corp. (where he has been in various roles for 20 years). FMC is a global agricultural sciences company based in Philadelphia. When not working, Mike is busy hiking, singing in his church choir or helping out various Wilmington and Philadelphia nonprofits. Summer getaways and many weekends are spent at Cape May Point, N.J.

Mike has stayed in touch with **Peter Georgiou**, **Dan Goroff** and **Joe Dapello**, and with other Columbia and Barnard friends via Facebook. He missed not seeing folks at our canceled 2020 reunion, especially the now-deceased **Tom Vinciguerra**, about whom Mike shared this reminiscence: “We all undoubtedly have our own memories of January 6, which now ranks alongside 9-11 as a ‘Do you remember what you were doing then?’ moment. For me, memories of that day are leavened by receiving, out of the blue, a call from ‘Thomas Vincig’ (as seen on caller ID). Could

it really be Tom? I picked up and sure enough, Tom's voice came through and we spent the next hour catching up and reminiscing, blissfully ignoring images of the riot and the talking heads on TV. Tom was the most passionate Columbia alum around, and his passing was a great shock and loss to his many friends and the College. I remain so thankful that he called me that day."

Also got quick hellos from my CC and Law School Class of 1988 classmates **Sebastian Sperber** (residing and practicing in London) and Hon. **Tim Tomasi** (now on the bench for 11 years in Vermont).

I am fortunate to celebrate the graduation from graduate school of my two youngest sons: Noah (from UC Berkeley) and Josh (from Miami). Both completed their studies while employed full-time and have great passion for their studies (Noah: global studies, and Josh: an M.B.A.) and their work (Noah: route-setting for a climbing gym, and Josh: sports info director for Miami college baseball). My wife, Allison BC'86, is leading a fiber arts project in our town. Through her efforts, she worked with many community organizations and dozens of community residents to crochet more than 500 granny squares that would be attached to 50 trees in town (with crocheted hands connecting them and hugging the trees) in celebration of Earth Month. She did a great job crocheting and organizing as always, and it has been so nice to see the community come together in today's excessively politicized world.

Finally, I was recently elected vice-chair of the National Coffee Association, my industry's leading advocacy and trade group; it has been a great way both to give back to the coffee community and to get to meet the largest participants in my coffee world.

Look forward to hearing from you soon!

## 1986

**Everett Weinberger**  
everett6@gmail.com

I'm always impressed by classmates and the interesting lives that we lead. We are still getting out there in the world and pursuing what we want to pursue. The pandemic and its after-

effects have caused us to heed the call: "Don't wait — do it now!"

**Peter McLaughlin** wrote from beautiful South Carolina. "This update finds my wife, Elizabeth, and me in Mount Pleasant, S.C., just north of Charleston. Though home is still in the Boston area, we're here for the month [as I write], as I've wanted for some time to find somewhere warmer for January–March. All the comfort with remote work has permitted us to be here for March, and halfway through we renewed for next year. Temps in the 60s and 70s works fine for an earlier start to my cycling season and to my golf game. It has been 25 years since I've regularly played golf (pre-kids, pre-marriage, when I lived in Dublin), and there is a long way to go. But still fun, somehow.

"I've been doing the lawyer thing for nearly 30 years now, and I've been fortunate to be in the privacy/cybersecurity space since 2000. While my career is a mix of in-house and law firm, the privacy area is fun, challenging and 'hot' so it will continue to allow me to pay the mortgage and cover my coffee fix. Elizabeth works in the residential real estate sector, which has been rather nutty since early 2020. It has been tough for her, though, because she moved her elderly parents from Cleveland to be near us; her dad died recently and her mom has Alzheimer's. While I consider myself to be young at heart, it is a reminder of how important family can be and it causes me to think about what 'quality of life' means.

"On the youthful side, our kids, Alex (21) and Grace (20), are doing well. Alex was finishing his third of four years at University of St Andrews in Scotland, where he has of course picked up golf. When schoolwork allows, he's playing golf two to four times a week on the Old Course, New, Eden, Jubilee, and so on. Rough life. He is working for PricewaterhouseCoopers this summer in New York. Grace is in her second year at Drexel, focusing on animation and digital media. We'll all be working for her someday, as she could go into game design, augmented and virtual reality, and/or entertainment/computer-generated imagery. She's enjoying Philadelphia and the co-op programs that Drexel offers.

"On the Columbia side, I stay in touch with **Ray Saltini**, **Bernard**

**Perlmutter**, **Mary Seterdahl** (née Bull) BC'86 and others from crew. The four of us have a monthly Zoom session, which is a really nice way to keep track of one another, respective parents, kids and so on."

**Anthony Tutrone** sent in a nice first-time update from NYC. "I cannot believe that it has been 36 years since we graduated. I have fond memories of my time at Columbia. My wife, Amy, and I have been married for 33 years. For the last nine years, we have been living in NYC in the Flatiron District (conveniently located across from the original Shake Shack in Madison Park). Since the beginning of 2002, I have been the head of private market investments at Neuberger Berman, and I feel fortunate to be working at a great company in a job that I love. Amy devotes much of her time to running our family and to philanthropic activities that focus on providing educational opportunities for low-income students, including establishing scholarships at the high school, college (including Columbia) and graduate school level. She is also involved in community outreach programs focused on alleviating homelessness. Our son, Will BUS'22 (29), will work in the video game industry (he always assured Amy and me that all his hours playing video games was not a waste). He also was recently engaged to Katie Skara, a fellow Holy Cross graduate. Amy and I could not be happier! Our daughter, Annie (26), graduated from Colorado College, and after being a graphic designer for a consumer products company in NYC for last four years, she has been accepted to several architecture graduate programs and is in the process of deciding which school is right for her."

Thank you, **Perry Van Der Meer**, for forwarding a *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) profile in February on **Jacob Collins**, a painter who has become a leading figure in the contemporary revival of classical painting. His work has been widely exhibited in North America and Europe and is included in several American museums. Jacob is the founder of Grand Central Atelier, an art school in Queens. He and other faculty members teach students "the old-fashioned precepts of painting, which emphasize direct observation, knowledge of anatomy, the use of

live models and years of practice in drawing techniques, perspective and color theory. It's no secret that the contemporary art world repels some people, turning them against art in general. I bump into people all the time who feel that either you have to be committed to the avant-garde's narrative or, if you reject it, you're considered a rube," Jacob says in the *WSJ*. "And I meet people all the time who say, 'I don't know anything about art,' but what they are really saying is that they are intimidated by the spin of the art world."

Jacob's paintings were to be shown in April at Adelson Galleries in Palm Beach, Fla.

**Goran Puljic** emailed from sunny Nantucket. "My update covers the last six years: In early 2016, I retired from Oak Hill Advisors, where I was a portfolio manager and partner in charge of structured credit investing. Since then, I've been on the advisory board of Strategic Value Partners, a distressed-debt investing firm. From early 2018 until mid-2019, my wife, Melinda, and I studied at Stanford as fellows in the Distinguished Careers Institute, where I focused on renewable energy and Melinda focused on



Racing for the Kings Crown Rowing Association at the Head of the Charles in Boston on October 25 — and having the best finish of any "old" Columbia alumni boat! — were, left to right: Carl C. Eierle '88, Terry Waldron SEAS'82, Mike McCarthy '83, James Murphy '88 and, in front, coxswain Conan Hom.



REGGIE HENDERSON '84

Competing at the 2022 USATF Masters Indoor National Championships at The Armory in NYC on March 19 were, left to right: Devon Martin '90, Heather Ruddock '88, Bonnie Eshel BC'88 and Lisa Carnoy '89.

sustainability. Our oldest son, Nicholas SEAS'19, graduated with a degree in computer science and joined Oscar Health. In mid-2021, and after Oscar Health's IPO, he left and became founder and chief technology officer of Stock Unlock, a fin-tech startup that is now part of Y-Combinator's 2022 H1 cohort. Our younger son, Tucker, left Tulane in 2016 to follow his culinary passion, and enrolled in the College of Food Innovation and Technology at Johnson & Wales University, from which he graduated in 2020. During Covid-19, he started 5 Mile River Baking, a cottage baking business, from our Connecticut home. He recently started Slow to Rise Bakery on Nantucket, after moving there full time. Melinda and I have also moved to Nantucket full time, where she is starting an organic flower business, Fleur Nantucket, on our property, and I'm involved in numerous renewable energy projects from investing in early stage cleantech businesses to developing a carbon capture project at an ethanol plant in Kansas. I'm also a board member at PureField Ingredients and continue to work with Strategic Value Partners."

**Paul Wojcicki**, in Illinois writes: "In a nutshell, my wife, Tricia, and I have four great kids. Erin, our eldest, is a PR professional and is getting married in October. Our second daughter, Jenna, recently passed the Georgia bar and is living and working in Atlanta. Our son Jack was to graduate from the University of Tennessee in May with a degree in architecture. Our youngest, Evan, is in his second year at Purdue pursuing a degree in civil engineering.

After 30 years in private practice, I became an assistant state's attorney in Cook County, in the Criminal Appeals Division. I am enjoying my second career immensely."

**Howie Oster** is busy with his five children in Tel Aviv: "We have been living in Israel for more than 20 years, and I am the director of the Department of Internal Medicine A in the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center. We were the first Covid-19 department at our hospital at the start of the pandemic; an unforgettable experience. I also have a growing outpatient practice with Maccabi Healthcare Services HMO. My wife, Marcy, works in journalism from Israel, and the kids are growing up. Sara is working on a Ph.D. in the immunology department at Hebrew University, Emunah is married and teaching in elementary school, Amichai is serving in the Givati Brigade of the Israel Defense Forces, Yonatan is studying at the Har Etzion yeshiva and Tova is in 12th grade, preparing for her national service next year."

Film editor **Eric Pomert** has enjoyed a fire-free period with his wife in the Bay Area and has been editing two short films for new filmmakers: *It Clicked Too Late for Kiligan Cruz* and *#FreeNias*. The narrative feature Eric edited and produced, *Barry & Joan*, will start running on Netflix in Europe this spring. He says he hopes the rest of the class is faring well in their late 50s, and he was looking forward to a family reunion on Cape Cod this summer.

Rev. **Jim Mitulski** started in October as the interim pastor of Peace United Church of Christ in Duluth, Minn., is on the faculty of United

Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and was recently appointed to the Minnesota Council for HIV/AIDS Care and Prevention.

**J.D. Scrimgeour** GSAS'87's bilingual collection of poetry, *Banana Bread: A Mandarin Pandemic Diary*, was recently published. J.D. is the chair of English at Salem State University in Salem, Mass.

Please send me updates by email or use the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 1987

**Sarah A. Kass**  
[sarahann29uk@gmail.com](mailto:sarahann29uk@gmail.com)

In inspiring news, **Lee Ilan** testified before Congress recently on behalf of the National Brownfields Coalition. She was invited to talk about cleanup and restoration of brownfields, sites where pollution interferes with redevelopment. You can read her testimony here: [bit.ly/3Jb4ptA](https://bit.ly/3Jb4ptA).

We must unfortunately add a sad note, as **Chris Lasch** has passed away. Chris had been a professor at the Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver. **Shona Chakravarty** and **Norbert White** shared with us some memories of Chris: "We three lived on Carman 6 our freshman year and by the end of that eventful year (dead body rolled in a carpet! fire set in elevator during finals week!), we were inseparable friends. During the fall of our sophomore year, Chris and Shona started dating and remained a couple until a year after graduation. However, this didn't stop the three of us from spending an inordinate amount of time together, despite the distance between Fairholm and Ruggles. Night-long poker games, lifting weights (not Shona), playing pool at FBH, watching movies, and then arguing about them, endless discussions about philosophers, endlessly hilarious games of Botticelli, Trivial Pursuit and charades, midnight runs to Koronet.

"Chris was a polymath, an iconoclast, a contrarian and a loyal friend. He seemed to excel at whatever he tried — music, art, lawnball, learning

languages (he took up German as an upperclassman, and then Japanese a few years later). Although a history major, he delighted in taking the most obscure courses he could find at the College, such as 'History of the Mongol Empire,' where he might have been the only student!

"Midway through our senior year, Chris decided he couldn't wait to get out into the 'real world' and graduated early, moved to an apartment in Washington Heights and got his dream job at the renowned Elias Sports Bureau, where he worked on baseball stats — his true lifelong passion.

"Although we would not have predicted that Chris would go on to become an important legal scholar and public interest attorney, the skills, values and passion he brought to his professional life were certainly evident at CC.

"We will cherish the all-too-brief time we had together — he was the best of us."

I look forward to receiving all your stories from reunion for our next column. It should be jam-packed!

Please submit updates by email or use the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 1988

**Eric Fusfield**  
[eric@fusfield.com](mailto:eric@fusfield.com)

The family of **Michael Argenziano** PS'92 boasts Columbia ties that few other classes can match. Michael reported, "I am still at Columbia after all these years, where I am a cardiac surgeon and associate chief of the Division of Cardiac, Thoracic, and Vascular Surgery." His wife, **Maria Rodino**, "is a busy private practice endocrinologist in New Jersey and seven-time New York City Marathon finisher. We have six children, the oldest of whom, Michael '18, PS'23, is in his last year P&S. The second oldest, Anthony '20, is working in the Pittsburgh Pirates' front office. Nicholas is a junior at NYU, where he is a captain of the baseball team, and Anna, Daniel and Emma, are in high school. Maria and I met at Columbia as members of

only the second fully coeducational class, and cherish the life-changing education that we (and some of our children, so far) have been privileged to receive. Go Lions!”

**Jon Bassett** has been a high school history teacher since 1990 and last year co-authored a book, *From Story to Judgment: The Four Question Method for Teaching and Learning Social Studies*. “I’m now working with my partner to develop open-source curriculum based on the method,” Jon said. “I remain in regular contact with **Jon Weiss**, **Jon Rosand** PS’94 and **Steve Sagner**. Steve organizes annual trips for us that combine baseball, food, tourism and family history. So far we’ve visited Baltimore, New York (three times), Boston and Philadelphia. This summer we’re headed to Chicago, where we hope to connect with **Tim Merello** and see the Cubs.”

**Thomas Cornfield** is a financial planner based in Michigan with Generational Financial Group. He says, “The pandemic taught me that I can work from home or anywhere I have an internet connection, so I plan to travel more (for pleasure and work) and avoid braving Michigan snowstorms.”

In the “Roar, Lion, Roar” category, **Carl C. Eierle**, Terry Waldron SEAS’82, Mike McCarthy ’83 and **James Murphy** have been rowing

crew for the King’s Crown Rowing Association and making the Class of ’88, and Columbia, proud. They competed in the Head of the Charles Regatta in Cambridge in the fall and “had the best finish of any ‘old’ Columbia graduate boat,” according to Carl. See the nearby photo!

**Darryl Pinckney**, his partner, James Fenton, and their Harlem home were the subject of the December 29 *New York Times* article “A Story of Love and Obsession”: [nyti.ms/370oIwF](https://nyti.ms/370oIwF).

Keep the updates coming! We look forward to hearing from you. Submit updates by email or by using the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). If you’d like to share photos, please submit them directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 1989

**Emily Miles Terry**  
[emilymilesterry@me.com](mailto:emilymilesterry@me.com)

As I write this it seems as if our world is opening up and most of us are enjoying reconnecting and gathering with good friends in ways we haven’t been able to during the last two years.

Many ’89-ers attended the John Jay Awards Dinner in March, which had been postponed from March 2020. Determined to see our deserving classmates receive their long-awaited awards, my husband, Dave Terry ’90, and I traipsed to Midtown to celebrate. Our ’89 attendance was spectacular — so large, in fact, we couldn’t fit at one table, let alone three or four, so we were dispersed throughout the large room. Yet we managed to find each other and come together. Perhaps it was the approaching stepping down as dean of our esteemed Dean James J. Valentini and the fact so many of us had been holed up for two years, or maybe the energy of the deserving recipients, but these awards seemed more ebullient than ever. **Lisa Carnoy** kicked things off by giving an enthusiastic welcome to the crowd. Award recipient **Wanda Marie Holland Greene**’s beautiful singing voice filled the room bringing us together further, despite her distance. As the highly committed head of The Hamlin School, Wanda remained in San Francisco that night to celebrate a reopening of a new campus: “I couldn’t miss the first day of school (after seven years of planning and construction!),” she said. Described as a “pioneer in secondary education and champion of student success” by Valentini, Wanda’s speech resonated with remembrances of her years as an undergraduate, reflections of her parents and thoughts of how the trajectory of her life was changed by education.

I also really enjoyed **Michael Barry**’s speech. The president and CEO of Ironstate Development, a developer of imaginative and environmentally sustainable commercial and residential properties, Michael spoke of Columbia as a “special place” and acknowledged “the spirit instilled by Columbia that enables us to pursue anything.” Michael even managed to work hydrogen fusion into his talk. The event closer was **Victor Mendelson**, co-president of HEICO Corp., an aerospace and electronics company, a University trustee and a person who always lights up the room. Victor thanked Columbia for “taking a chance on a kid from Miami,” and commended the “flawless” evening (so true), expressing so much gratitude for the Columbia leadership, his supportive and exemplary family and, of course, the magnificent Class of ’89.

**Thom Chu**, an estate attorney in NYC, had been looking forward to attending the event in 2020, and was able to get there: “Such a thrill to see so many of our CC’89 classmates both as honorees and as supporters of the John Jay National Scholars, the excitement around gathering in person after a two-year delay was absolutely electric!”

**Frank Seminara**, managing director and private wealth advisor, and global sports and entertainment director at Morgan Stanley, who was sitting somewhere in the Cipriani hinterlands with his son, Luke ’23, said, “I just think it is pretty amazing how our class values our time, friendships and legacy at the College to the point where we continue to show up to see each other despite all odds.” And congrats to Frank’s other son Benjamin, who will be entering Columbia this fall and playing baseball for the Lions, just like his dad did.

**Kaivan Shakib**, managing director at Morgan Stanley and global head of financial technology wrote, “It was nice to see everyone in person after so long. Some of us had definitely aged better than others. I, for one, barely squeezed into my tux. I was proud to see three ’89ers awarded!”

At our table was **Tom Yang**, who’s usually having the most fun of all of us (if you don’t believe me, follow him on Instagram), but who by day is a managing director and associate general counsel at Bank of America. Tom said, “Not since our 30th reunion did I get to catch up with so many classmates, which felt even sweeter after the world shut down. It was amazing to see such a terrific turnout from the Class of ’89 to honor Mike, Wanda and Victor for all their impressive accomplishments. Well deserved!”

From **Raymond Yu** SEAS’90, president of Yuco Management and Real Estate Co.: “I had an incredible time at John Jay with my wife, Amy TC’12, and son, Alex ’21. There was so much positive energy and excitement during the event and it felt like everyone was just so relieved and happy to be able to be around other people and share some laughter, food and drinks. It was a great night for Columbia and for alumni to reconnect.”

And **Michael Behringer** added, “The greatest joy to be at John Jay. I am so happy for Victor, Mike and



DAVID DINI SIPA'14

A group of alumni gathered at the John Jay Awards Dinner at Cipriani 42nd Street on March 2 to celebrate Michael Barry ’89, Wanda Marie Holland Greene ’89 and Victor Mendelson ’89, three of the six 2020 honorees feted this year. Front row: Kaivan Shakib ’89, Frank Seminara ’89, Lisa Carnoy ’89, Emily Miles Terry ’89, Donna MacPhee ’89 and Rebecca Fine ’89; second row: John MacPhee ’89, Raymond Yu ’89, Michael Behringer ’89, Mendelson, Tom Kamber ’89 and Souren Ouzounian ’89; third row: Barry, Steve Metalios ’89, Tom Yang ’89, Duchesne Drew ’89 and Ben Metsch GS’89; and top row: Kirk Ruddy ’89, Tony Calenda ’88 and Thom Chu ’89.



Wanda and appreciate all that they did for Columbia. The whole night also felt like a mini '89 reunion."

**Rebecca Fine** LAW'93 was pleased to cheer classmates at John Jay. She has built a unique and fascinating career. As the founder of Athena Art Finance, which was acquired by Yieldstreet in 2019, Rebecca is the managing director of art finance, where she offers investors a diversified art collection by a number of artists. Her company's recent fund, dedicated to the Artists of Harlem, highlighted Harlem Renaissance artists through Harlem artists from the present day. Yieldstreet's other noteworthy artists have included Alice Neel, Faith Ringgold, Norman Lewis, Glenn Ligon, Takashi Murakami, Banksy, Amoako Bofofo and Mickalene Thomas. Rebecca's career path shouldn't be that much of a surprise as art is in her DNA — her great aunt Rose Fried was the first female gallery owner in NYC, and her mother was an American sculptor, and, satisfyingly for fellow alums, Rebecca was an art history major. Happily, Rebecca says, her son, Marco Balestri '22, graduated this year.

Other classmates in attendance at the John Jay included New York-based actress **Diane Daltner**; John Jay Award recipient and physician **Stephanie Falcone Bernik**; New York City Council member and former University trustee **Julie Jacobs Menin**; **Tom Kamber**; **Ed Ruffo**; **Chris Della Pietra**; **Steve Metali**; Joy Kim Metalios SEAS'90; **John MacPhee**; **Donna MacPhee**; **Adam Klotz**; **Souren Ouzounian**; **Sam Marchiano**; and **Kirk Ruddy**. See the nearby photo!

I also heard from Dr. **Tony Vinals**: "I am proud to announce that last year I opened a modern 1,500-square-meter eye clinic, with two state-of-the-art operating rooms, and all the latest laser and diagnostic technology, in the suburbs of Frankfurt, where I have been practicing since 2007. The practice has a 30-year history of providing care to the area, and my wife, Dr. Lise Pieroth Vinals, and I, along with our partner, opened this clinic and surgical center to better serve the local and regional population. The practice is well known in our state as a main referral center for eye surgery and eye diagnostics. We have a close academic affiliation to the University of Mainz. Our clinic

is based in Bad Kreuznach, which was for more than 50 years one of the main headquarters of the U.S. Army in Europe, and is a lovely wine-growing area with rivers and castles. I certainly encourage anyone who is in the region to let me know, and I'll be more than happy to give them a tour of our facilities or provide them care if they wish."

After graduating from the College with a major in biology and a minor in art history, Tony attended Yale School of Medicine, where he was a Farr Scholar, followed by residency in ophthalmology at Harvard Medical School, and then a fellowship at Harvard in complex cataract eye surgery and corneal surgery, where he was also an assistant professor. He can be reached at [vinals@augenzentrumkh.de](mailto:vinals@augenzentrumkh.de).

I can't end this column without a heartfelt thanks to **Erik Price** for his phenomenal guest column in the Winter 2021–22 issue — his column was so good that many of us have requested, well, begged, for an encore. I so appreciate him and **Cristina Benedetto**, who did a superb job in the Spring/Summer 2021 issue, for stepping up. Who's next?

Also, quick sidebar. I have to thank Erik for recommending Nashville as a great destination for even "older" folks like me and **Amy Rinzler**, **Kim Harris**, **Jody Fidler**, **Kristine Barakat '88** and **Jenna Wright '88**, who escaped there for a festive getaway last fall.

One last reminder: our Class of '89 Facebook group is going strong, run by the very committed and enthusiastic **Jared Goldstein**: [facebook.com/groups/958657517602821](https://www.facebook.com/groups/958657517602821).

## 1990

**Rachel Cowan Jacobs**  
[younggrache@hotmail.com](mailto:younggrache@hotmail.com)

A first! I had so much to report in the last issue that I couldn't fit it all in and had to save some news for this column. Thanks for your patience to those whom I bumped.

**Dave Hunt** reports, "We're adjusting to a fully empty Oregon nest since our kids are both in the San Francisco Bay area. Son Andrew is a software engineer after graduating from Princeton, and daughter Emily is a first-year at UC Berkeley

Law after graduating from the University of Oregon. I'm still lobbying the Legislature and now am on the national board for the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists."

After getting a shout-out in the last column, **Lynn Murphy** was persuaded to send in her own update. "I live in Novato, Calif., which is in Marin County, just north of San Francisco. My wife and I have a blended family of her two boys (16 and 20) and my daughter, Maybell (15). We are both licensed marriage and family therapists. I am the mental health liaison for the San Rafael Police Department. The department created the position in 2013 with the foresight that mental illness should not be handled by law enforcement. It is fascinating and heartbreaking seeing how our system fails so many. I got to present to the California Department of Public Health Officers on the innovative ways that law enforcement can partner with mental health clinicians to better serve those in a mental health crisis. I also have a canine partner to help with the mental health of those in the department and those not in the department. He's a total game changer! I play soccer with a pretty competitive league and I pretend that I can still run as fast as I used to."

Hearing from Lynn gave me the chance to confirm a memory I had of her post-college — that she was a Hollywood stunt person.

"I did, in fact, move to Los Angeles to train as a stunt person!" she says. "I was inspired by watching *American Gladiators* late at night with fellow Furnald 9 friend **Ted Murphy** (no relation, but his claim to fame was his mohawk in our first year!). I said at the time that I was going to be on the show. Well, I pursued the stunt gig for a year and a half until I realized that that job is CRAZY, and I didn't want to die at 23. But, I did get on *American Gladiators*!"

In case you need a reminder about why attending our College reunions is a good idea, read on. From Chicago-based **Adam Grais** (rhyme intended!): "In February 2020, I joined McDonald Hopkins, doing transactional tax and family office work, after spending 15 years at another firm at which I was the managing partner for the last seven years. I am working with **Adam Lindgren** for a client with land use and real

estate issues in Northern California. Adam L. and I had reconnected at a reunion a few years ago, which is how I knew he did the type of work I needed help with for this client. I have clients all over the country, so I frequently work with local counsel, particularly in California.

"[Last fall] my wife and I became empty-nesters, with our oldest daughter graduating from Middlebury College and moving to Boston for work and our twin daughters starting their first year of in-person college in Los Angeles — one at USC as a sophomore (after completing her first year online) and the other at Scripps College as a first-year (having deferred last year). I continue drumming and play in a local rock band, Blind Trust (named before I joined the band), and we had our first post-lockdown gig at a bar in Chicago in October."

If you've been reading my column for the past 21 years and have a good memory, you know the dorm and floor I lived on first year. **Andy Greenspan** is the second person from that floor to make an appearance in this column. Prize goes to whoever emails me first with the correct dorm name, floor and other resident we lived with.

From Andy: "After graduation, I had trouble finding employment, so I decided to take pre-med classes and pursue a career that offers intellectual stimulation, positive impact and financial security. I attended Harvard Medical School and was happy to see many fellow Columbians in my class. During those four years, I met my husband, Dr. Ali Amirrezvani MIT'88, made lifelong friends and received excellent training. I yearned to return to NYC and trained in internal medicine at Cornell-New York Hospital. After a brief stint in patient care, I joined the pharmaceutical industry in 2003. I started at Janssen: Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson, and have been there ever since working on drugs for a range of diseases from cancer, to dementia, to chronic autoimmune diseases. I became chief global medical affairs officer for Janssen last fall.

"I still play the clarinet, obsess over the Olympics, stay in touch with many CC'90 friends and enjoy crabbing and clamming on the Jersey Shore. While I have forgotten the Russian and Hungarian that I

studied at Columbia, I have retained the discipline of effective writing and critical thinking, which I learned can take you very far. My email is [andygreenspan2468@gmail.com](mailto:andygreenspan2468@gmail.com).”

By the time you read this, Andy will probably have relocated from Philadelphia to Jersey City, N.J.

Finally, it's **Eric Horwitz** checking in. He still runs the Columbia Career Coaches Network and sits on the Columbia Pride board. His daughter Elizabeth SIPA'23 finished her first year at SIPA, and he recently welcomed his first granddaughter, Nomi Rachel Horwitz.

Mazel tov!

We have many classmates whose children will enroll at Columbia in the fall as members of the Class of 2026 (that's for the next column) and begin learning from esteemed, renowned faculty. One of those professors is **Jennifer Lee**, the Julian

**Lee Benaka** writes: “I live in Washington, D.C., and have worked for 22 years for NOAA Fisheries, currently as bycatch lead for the agency's National Observer Program. As a religion major, I wrote a senior thesis on ritual and religious imagery in professional wrestling, and I have returned to that area of interest via my recent election to the Executive Committee of the Professional Wrestling Studies Association. I also continue to play fiddle with my bluegrass band, Hollertown. My son graduated from Emory last year, and my daughter is a junior at UC Santa Cruz. My wife has become a skilled stained-glass artist in recent years.”

Congratulations to **Michael Gitman** on his appointment as executive director for the Long Island Jewish Medical Center of Northwell Health. Michael summed up his leadership

Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. *Sefer Ha-Yirah* is a short 13th-century essay attributed to Rabbi Jonah ben Avraham of Gerona, Spain, describing how a person should behave from waking in the morning until the end of the day. It emphasizes reverence, awe and love of God, and of remembering God's constant presence. (Many classmates will recognize Rabbi Jonah's better-known brother-in-law Rabbi Moshe ben Nachman, a/k/a Nachmanides.) In fact, **David Wacks** provided me with a translation of the work into Spanish that was published in Holland, probably by Jews who were expelled from Spain in 1492, which was helpful in writing my own translation.

“This is the first time the work has been translated into English, so I always meant to publish it. I have finally done so: It is available at the online Jewish library: [sefaria.org/Sefer\\_HaYirah](http://sefaria.org/Sefer_HaYirah). I discovered lots of interesting issues in translation and learned some surprising things about Rabbi Jonah's world in 13th-century Spain, especially relating to questions of gender. I've written about them in my translator's preface: [sefaria.org/sheets/369925?lang=bi](http://sefaria.org/sheets/369925?lang=bi). My wife, Hope, our sons, Eli (17) and Danny (10), and I have lived north of Indianapolis since mid-2019. It proved to be a tricky time to move, but I'm amused by the fact that I once again live between 116th and 125th Streets.”

**Jon Knapp** is the chair of the Columbia Men's Basketball Alumni Advisory Committee at the request of the men's basketball coach, Jim Engles. The group is social, and helps with fundraising, internships and sponsoring events for the Columbia student-athletes, so if you are interested in joining the committee or donating, please contact Jon at [knapp.jon@gmail.com](mailto:knapp.jon@gmail.com) or on his cell, 516-673-8084.

Rabbi **Haviva Ner-David** lives on a kibbutz in Galilee and runs the only *mikveh* (ritual immersion pool) in Israel open to all humans to immerse as they choose. She has a thriving spiritual companionship practice, with a specialty in dreamwork, which she also teaches. Haviva came out with two books in 2021. The first is her debut novel, *Hope Valley*, which is the story of the unexpected friendship between two Galilean women, one Palestinian and one Jewish. It

takes place in summer 2000, right before the outbreak of the second intifada, with a backstory in 1948 as told through the hidden diary of the Palestinian woman's father. The second is Haviva's third memoir, *Dreaming Against the Current: A Rabbi's Soul Journey*, and is about her journey into interspirituality and dreamwork, from Orthodox Jewish feminist to post-denominational interspiritual rabbi.

It is with great sadness I report that **Mary “Mellie” E. Anderson** died on January 21, 2022, in Sullivan, Maine. Please see “Obituaries.”

## 1992

**Olivier Knox**  
[olivier.knox@gmail.com](mailto:olivier.knox@gmail.com)

Classmates! Send me your stories from reunion!

I heard from **Jude Bond**. Make that Mr. Commissioner Jude Bond. In addition to being CEO of Cannaphyll, “America's Strongest Hemp Topicals,” which he cofounded in 2017, Jude started his first term as city commissioner of Indian Rocks Beach, a small town on the Gulf Coast of Florida, on April 11. He also recently celebrated 20 years of marriage to Jeni Bond, and has a son in his junior year of high school and a daughter in her first year of college. “I occasionally still make loud music,” Jude wrote.

**Greg Yahn** writes that he and his business partner have been running a flavored nuts company, BobbySue's Nuts, for seven years. “We recently moved the business from New York to Seattle, where our families live, and we have national distribution, most prominently in REI and Kroger with Murray's Cheese deli sections. We are also on Amazon.”

And how about **Cary Hall**? He sent in a “quick-and-dirty summary” of life since Morningside Heights. Cary went to the University of Miami School of Law immediately after graduation — “in time to experience Hurricane Andrew firsthand, eek” — then moved to Baltimore for five years. In 2000, he decamped for southeastern Pennsylvania, where he lives and works today. “Established my solo law practice 20 years ago, and still kickin' — doing primarily criminal defense, family law and civil litigation ... and whatever else is needed to bail my friends/fam-

### *Rabbi Haviva Ner-David '91 runs the only mikveh (ritual immersion pool) in Israel open to all humans to immerse as they choose.*

Clarence Levi Professor of Social Sciences. Jennifer has been named a Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University for the academic year 2022–23.

On behalf of our class, Jen, I extend you a huge congratulations and best wishes. If you want to borrow my “I was there to break the streak” T-shirt to wear on your first day, let me know. (Seriously, I still have it. It's tucked away in a closet with a few other choice T-shirts I saved from our college days.)

To everyone, I wish you good health and happiness, and don't forget to write!

## 1991

**Heather E.G. Brownlie**  
[heatherhj@yahoo.com](mailto:heatherhj@yahoo.com)

Yours truly, **Heather E.G. Brownlie**, is a now grandmother of three, having welcomed granddaughter Riley Morgan Smith on January 13. Please keep submitting your news and information to me throughout the year! I really appreciate all the updates!

philosophy: “At LJ, it is our belief that no one should have to leave their community to get world-class care, and we're going to continue to build the programs to provide that care to our local community on Long Island. My father, Paul Gitman '62, was the chief medical officer at LJ 1999–2007, so it is wonderful to be able to walk the halls that he did and continue his mission of providing service to our community.”

**Jacqueline Harounian** is the managing partner and owner of Wisselman Harounian Family Law in Nassau County, N.Y. The firm was recently recognized as the number 1 family law practice by *Long Island Business News*. Jacqueline was to present the topic “New Frontiers in Creating Families: Surrogacy, Fertility and Reproductive Technology,” along with a panel of Columbia physicians and bioethics experts, on April 13.

**Justin Kerber** checked in: “I wrote my rabbinical thesis, a translation of *Sefer ha-Yirah*, which literally means ‘The Book of Fear,’ but really ‘The Book of Awe,’ during my final year of seminary, 2006–07, at the

ily out of their various jams,” Cary wrote. “Three kids, all grown and flown. Been in and out of various classic rock cover bands for years; my current one, nine years running, is Rougarou (@rougaroubandpa on Facebook). Would love to get together with any other CC’92 alums in my area, especially beer snobs, heh.”

That’s it for this edition! Please send in your professional and personal news! Write to olivier.knox@gmail.com, with “CCT Class Notes” in the subject line. Don’t make me beg on Facebook. Uh, “again.”

## 1993

**Neil Turitz**  
lovematza@aol.com

Nothing but good stuff this issue, which I’m sure is a relief to us all. After last issue’s double-barreled news of classmates’ deaths, I heard from a bunch of old friends who wanted to share great stuff about themselves and their lives.

**Matt Swyers** and his family live just outside of Raleigh, N.C. Following a brief hiatus, he returned to run his original startup, The Trademark Company. Matt reports, “Madison, my 20-year-old daughter, won a bunch of state swimming championships, but has hung up her Speedo to focus on her pre-med studies at NC State University, where she’s a junior. She plans to go to med school in 2023. Kennedy, my 16-year-old son, a junior in high school and likely heading somewhere for a computer sciences engineering degree, is beginning his college search. We shall see what it has in store for him. Then I will be an empty-nester in a scant 15 months. It flies. Wow, does it fly.”

Matt recently published his first book, *The Maverick Method: How to Win the Startup Game from the Man Who Helped Launch More Than 100,000 Businesses*. He says, “It chronicles my experience in founding my original company, and what I learned from helping thousands of businesses to get started. I had a blast writing it and have already started on the sequel.”

**Linda Appel Lipsius** has been living in Denver for years with her husband, Adam, and their two kids. Recently, Linda took over leader-

ship of the Denver Urban Gardens (DUG) program, a 35-year-old organization that is the largest independent community garden organization in the country. “I joined the board, there was some drama and then I stepped in as interim part-time executive director,” Linda told me. “Since I’ve been there, we’ve built an amazing network of 190 gardens, which we’re now maintaining, making sure they’re used. The community we serve is super diverse, and it’s an incredible opportunity to bring together really different communities and backgrounds.”

The DUG grows roughly 650,000 pounds of food a year, 10 percent of which is donated.

“We have about 17,000 gardeners, and about 33 acres under cultivation. What we’re trying to do now is just make sure that all the gardens are optimized and serving their communities fully. People can grow whatever they want,” she said, then added with a laugh, “except marijuana. Where it gets really cool, though, is when you have immigrant and refugee farmers and gardeners who bring seeds from their home country, and are growing things we’ve never seen here. And they pass them through the generations. It’s so, so cool.”

Old friend, fraternity brother and CU basketball legend **Yon Okorodudu** reached out to tell me that he’s doing well, living in the Southern California town of Redlands. “I’ve been a high school teacher for 23 years, and a basketball coach at the high school level the whole time,” he said, adding, “In 2009, our town opened a new high school and I became the school’s first (and only) head varsity basketball coach.”

Yon also teaches American government, ethnic studies, Black history, AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and other courses at the school, and raves that he loves his job. Additionally, he joined with other community leaders to form advocacy groups to fight oppression and bias in all three high school campuses in Redlands. The program is called Students for Change, and Yon is head of the Black Student Union on his own campus.

“My wife, Jana Bailey GS’94, TC’97 and I have been married for 25 years and have two children. Daughter Amira (20) is an executive assistant in New York City, while son

Tse (18) played basketball for me at my high school and did so well that he decided to go to boarding school to challenge himself academically and athletically. He is a senior at the Peddie School in New Jersey, has applied to a number of colleges and is still waiting word. Columbia is on the list (fingers crossed).”

Another old pal, **Christine Raker Garcia**, wrote, “I started a role at Two Sigma in November after 10 years at Morgan Stanley. I’m a technical project manager, super happy, feeling valued and happy to be there. So glad to make the change. I was sort of dreading the commute but am happy to be in the office and see people.”

Chris posts her morning workouts on social media, every single day, and has been inspiring in how she’s transformed her life.

**Jacob Kramer** GSAS’98 reached out about a friend and classmate, who then decided he didn’t want to be included after all. Thus, Jacob talked about himself, which was plenty interesting on its own. He told me, “We have weathered the pandemic OK, no one got sick and we haven’t had any real setbacks in terms of loss of jobs or anything. My wife, Sara, works at Teachers College in external relations, and I teach history at BMCC. I had to learn to teach online, but it was kind of fun. Had to do a lot of in-house IT support, which was less fun.” He also was sure to mention that he has “two amazing children,” and that, while his daughter is going through New York City high school application hell, his son is very proud to have made the Yorkville flag football travel team.

Finally, my good buddy **Alan Freeman** wrote, first to remind us that he and his wife, Remy, are still getting used to life as empty-nesters, and that he’s open to suggestions about how to pass the time, especially if travel is involved.

But he also wrote about what sounds like a fantastic event he attended during Columbus Day weekend. I’ll let him tell the story:

“Just as the fall foliage season was hitting its stride, Remy and I traveled to the Berkshires for the highly anticipated October wedding of our beloved class correspondent, **Neil Turitz**, to Jessica Goldberg (Dartmouth ’03). Theirs is a true Covid-19 love story; it started during some of New York’s toughest days in 2020, but the pandemic was

no match for true love — or Neil’s famous persistence.

“The wedding weekend was a terrific way to emerge from 18 months of hibernation. In addition to meeting the happy couple’s non-Columbia friends, I got a chance to catch up with fellow Walt Whitman H.S. alum **Joe Saba** (Go Vikings!); Joe and Jennifer BC’93 (née Fetner) live in Brooklyn with their two kids, and Joe’s music production company continues to thrive.

“The welcome dinner was a lovely evening of fantastic barbecue and some grand speeches about both bride and groom. I even got up to say a few words on Neil’s behalf, though I may have stretched the truth a little when I was saying the *really* nice things.

“The wedding itself was beautiful, and took place on a farm surrounded by the green, gold and red of autumn. It was gorgeous, and the highlight was seeing the blushing bridegroom (resplendent in three-piece suit, lavender bow tie and matching shoes) eloquently talk about love. This was right before he broke the traditional glass, then threw his new bride over his shoulder as they marched back down the aisle to laughter and applause.

“The reception was great fun, with food trucks, a rocking band, the best wedding cake I’ve ever tasted and the heartwarming feeling of being surrounded by love. It was a joy to behold and to be a part of it. Yes, friends, our Neil is a happily married man!”

Wow! Sounds like such a wonderful time! Thanks for writing in, Alan, and congratulations to the happy couple!

Thanks also to everyone who reached out this time. I end things as I always do, with a threat. Tell me and classmates about your life, or else I’ll be forced to do something drastic, like printing my analysis of the new Mark Wahlberg movie. Nobody wants this, so reach out and say hi!

## 1994

**Leyla Kokmen**  
lelyakokmencct@gmail.com

Hello, everyone! It’s been an interesting couple of years, hasn’t it? Time has gone both painfully slowly and dizzyingly fast during the ever-

evolving pandemic. I acknowledge that my Class Notes scribe duties fell into a distant last place a few times over the past years. I can share that I have never been busier in my career (leading executive and internal communications for the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association during Covid-19 has been a challenge for sure; add on the company's first new CEO in 20 years and ... constant change calls for *lots and lots* of communication). Add to that the remote schooling and general uncertainty. Well, we've all been getting through it.

Here's the thing: I've been writing this column for 28 years. Since we graduated. More than half my life. Maybe it's reprioritization spurred by the pandemic experience, maybe it's turning 50 this year, but I realized this year that it's time to pass the baton. This will be my last Class Notes column. Lisa Palladino, the executive editor of *CCT*, is searching for my replacement. If you're interested, please reach out to her at [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu). I know one of you will bring fresh eyes and voice to it. And I promise to send in updates whenever you call for submissions!

[Editor's note: Until we have a new CC'94 class correspondent, please send your Class Notes to us via the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). If you'd like to share photos, please submit them via the Class Notes photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).]

I'm happy to report that my last edition has A LOT of news, so many, many thanks to all who wrote in.

**Denise Wallen** sent in a fabulous set of updates, noting that as many of us turn "the big 5-0 this year," there is plenty to celebrate. Denise lives in Yonkers, N.Y., with her husband and three daughters and works in business transformation and acceleration for Tapestry. She will also be honored as a distinguished alumna of DeWitt Clinton H.S in the Bronx this year. She also shared that congratulations are in order for Professor **Miriam Gohara**, who was granted tenure and recently promoted to clinical professor of law at Yale. Miriam spent 16 years representing death-sentenced clients in post-conviction litigation, first as assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and then as a specially designated federal public

defender with the Federal Capital Habeas Project. Denise also shared the great news that **Imara Jones** was recently recognized by Politico as one of the 40 most influential people at the intersection of politics and race for her investigative reporting on her Anti-Trans Hate Machine podcast.

Denise also shared an update from **David Myers**, who spent the bulk of his career since graduation in youth and workforce development, delivering federal worker training programs through partnerships with environmental justice organizations, the carpenters union, Habitat for Humanity and the New York City Housing Authority. David said he has also dabbled in spoken word performance poetry, winning the New York Foundation for the Arts Artist Fellowship for poetry and facilitating an online writers group called Melanation. He and his wife, Rajecyah, have a son, Zion (10), and a daughter Zora (3). David lives in Harlem and is an administrative staff analyst with the City of New York.

Denise also shared that **Sharene Wood** (née Barnett) continues to give back to the Harlem community as she continues to grow and expand her company as the CEO of Wood Enterprises. Most recently, her company sponsored the "Harlem Is the Future" mural on West 135th Street and 5th Avenue at P.S. 197. "She appears on many podcasts and sits on various panels to speak on her experiences as a Black executive, all while empowering and motivating others," Denise writes.

Sharene herself also sent an update: "Happy to report my spirits brand company — HH Bespoke Spirits, which includes an award-winning and critically acclaimed portfolio of rum, gin and vodka — expanded to HH Bespoke Spirits & Beverages during the pandemic and now includes Bespoke Water, an alkaline bottled water product. I'm celebrating 15 years of marriage to my business partner and husband, Guy Wood. And our beautiful daughter, Sydney, is headed to high school next year. Excited to turn 50 this year along with lots of classmates."

**Tania Secor** writes that she "wanted to send a huge congrats to most of our classmates turning 50! **Stacy Marano** and Shelly Sima Toussi BC'94 and I had a great time celebrating together our 50th, reliv-

ing the glory days on Baker Field. Go, Lions."

Lots of other classmates shared continued connections to Columbia. **Naomi Molner** lives in New York City and is a utilization review management physician for eviCore. "I recently enrolled in a continuing medical education course at Columbia," Naomi writes. "I have four children: two sons who are sophomores in high school and two daughters, 14 and 12."

**Dancia Ambron** writes that she has never left New York and still teaches yoga — "since 1995 so I am considered a senior teacher, ugh!" Dancia closed her studio in the early 2000s and now works privately, leads retreats and teaches programs for both the CU women's swim team and soccer team on- and off-season. She also was an adjunct professor at Barnard for its physical education department, teaching yoga to freshmen.

"Keeping with my theme of only doing what you love, I also turned my passion for rescuing dogs into a second career by becoming a dog trainer and then a canine behavior consultant," Dancia writes. "I was the trainer for a municipal city shelter for five years and am now heading up the behavior program at a private nonprofit rescue in Armonk, N.Y. I am super grateful to be able to help improve quality of life for people and dogs in many different ways ... and to never have to wear uncomfortable clothes! My son finished his freshman year and is wrestling for WPI in Worcester, Mass. I am psyched he can eat again after cutting weight non-stop: Shoutout to all you former wrestlers whom I somehow never knew went through that insanity. I bounce between Westchester and NYC, and surf at Long Beach and Gilgo beach, so reach out if you want to paddle around with me."

Some of our classmates' Columbia connections are continuing into the next generation. **Marina Groothuis** (née Gurin) shares that the biggest news for her and **Erik Groothuis** is that both their girls will be at Columbia. "Maya '26 will join Maddie '24 in the fall," Marina writes. "We are now a pride of lions." **Alex Metzger** and **Ritu Metzger** (née Mukerji)'s son Lucas '26 will also attend Columbia in the fall, Alex writes, "and we hope he will love his experience as much

as we did. I secretly hope he'll be placed on the 12th floor of Carman, but that might cause my head to explode." Alex and Ritu enjoy living in Marin County practicing medicine and raising their three kids.

**Yury Dubinsky** writes, "I hadn't been back on campus since the '90s, but visited in August with my twin daughters. Anna will attend NYU and Nina will be at Indiana University. Traveling to NYC for work, and had dinner with **Mark Salzberg** recently. Would be great to reconnect with others."

**Andrew Rasmussen** sent a note that he is married to Lina Villegas (a physician from Colombia, not Columbia) with two boys, Edward (7) and Martin (3), and lives in Brooklyn. Andrew was recently promoted to full professor at Fordham, where he has been on the psychology faculty since 2012.

**Christine Philliou** sent in her first update, sharing that after teaching for many years at Columbia, she is now professor of Middle East/Ottoman history at UC Berkeley. "My book *Turkey: A Past Against History* came out in 2021; it's a history of the idea of opposition and dissent in 20th-century Turkey and quite relevant to a lot of what is going on these days in Turkey and beyond. I'm also running a collaborative digital project, *İstanΠόλις*, the goal of which is to reconstruct the histories of the Greek community of Istanbul in the 19th and 20th centuries (looking for the 'polis' in Ottoman Istanbul, that is)."

She encourages everyone to check out [istanpolis.org](http://istanpolis.org), as they welcome ideas and volunteers.

From further down the California coast, **Placid Anissa Bone** writes from Los Angeles, where she and her partner, Bryonn Bain '95, live. "We have three boys," she writes. "One is attending Howard. I'm a doctor in emergency medicine at a local trauma center stamping out death and disease. My book, *Mortality and Magic—Facts & Fairytales for the Hereafter*, is a humorous guide to dying. Bryonn is a professor at UCLA, directing its prison education program and teaching in African American Studies, the School of the Arts and the Law School. His new book *Rebel Speak: A Justice Movement Mixtape*, was to drop May 19, with a foreword by revolutionary Angela Davis. His

solo show is also going to Broadway: lyricsfromlockdown.com.

**David T. Ho** GSAS'01 shares that he has been living in Paris, working on the science of climate change and climate solutions.

**Suzy Shuster** writes, "After spending most of 2020 working behind the scenes for The Lincoln Project, writing and producing some of its most impactful and news-making ads, I launched Magnetic Media Group, which consults and crafts political ad campaigns and strategies. In my sports lane, I launched Just Getting Started with Westwood One/Cumulus Podcast Network/Rich Eisen Productions, which delves into origin stories from the world of sports, entertainment and business. I still fill in for my husband, Rich, on his three-hour daily show, which allows a fantastic escape from our three kids."

**Frank Scaturro** is co-editing *Grant at 200: Reconsidering the Life and Legacy of Ulysses S. Grant*, a book of essays on Ulysses S. Grant being published for Grant's 200th birthday this year. It will include essays by leading Grant scholars, offering "fresh perspectives on Grant's military career and presidency, as well as underexplored personal topics such as his faith and his family life." Proceeds will support the Ulysses S. Grant Association and the Grant Monument Association.

And finally, a succinct update from **Robert-Paul Sagner**, one of the most amusing of the past 28 years: "I got an Instant Pot!"

Thanks everyone, for sharing your lives with me for so many years. It's certainly bittersweet to hang up my notebook/keyboard on this, but I'm happy to pass it on to the next great class correspondent. See you on the other side of Class Notes. xoxo

## 1995

**Janet Lorin**  
janet.lorin@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Grant Dawson** (a fellow Wien resident hall advisor junior year), who published his book, *Humans on the Move: Integrating an Adaptive Approach with a Rights-Based Approach to Climate Change Mobility*.

"I was happy to see that the Biden administration recently issued

a policy paper on the same topic, which adopted the proposals set forth in the book. So we are starting to get on the right track with this urgent and important issue," wrote Grant, who is based in the Hague.

After finishing seven years as the legal advisor of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Grant became the senior legal adviser and chief of cabinet at the United Nations Special Tribunal for Lebanon, which issued the Appeal Judgment in the Rafik Hariri Assassination-Terrorist Bombing case ([bit.ly/3x0O2gO](http://bit.ly/3x0O2gO)).

He is working on his next book, which deals with international law and sea-dumped chemical weapons. He regularly speaks at international conferences.

You can see the full scope of what Grant's been up to on LinkedIn: [bit.ly/3x6z2hd](http://bit.ly/3x6z2hd).

My apologies to **Sadri Shadman** for forgetting to mention his update in the Winter 2021–22 issue. Shadri is from Iran, but mostly grew up in Paris and Montreal and transferred to the College from McGill in our sophomore year, where he was among the first to major in economics-philosophy. He returned to Montreal for dental school and then returned to New York, where he has been a general dentist in the New York area for many years and still lives on the Upper West Side.

Congrats to **Dan Petroski**, who wins accolade after accolade for his Massican wine label, which he describes as bringing a refreshing, bright style of Mediterranean white wines to California. *Food & Wine* magazine named him Drinks Innovator of the Year in March.

Here's how the *San Francisco Chronicle* describes Massican: "Not that the Massican wines are identical to each other. Each wine performs its distinctions: a tart Sauvignon Blanc; a citrusy Chardonnay; a textured Pinot Bianco and Greco blend, called Gemina; a perfumed, mineral cuvee based on Ribolla Gialla and Tocai Friulano, called Annia. Yet they all, somehow, taste like Massican. Like paintings in a series, cast from the same color palette yet individual, the pieces cohere."

My husband, Scott, and I had the chance to catch up with Dan this spring at a Massican event at King restaurant.

Dan left his job as the longtime winemaker at Larkmead Vineyards

— where Scott and I visited him many years ago — to focus on his own wines.

Congrats, Dan!

And a brief congratulations to two friends:

Shahrazad Elghanayan '94 published *Titan of Tebran: From Jewish Ghetto to Corporate Colossus to Firing Squad — My Grandfather's Life*, a book that tells the story of her grandfather, "a self-made industrialist and the foremost Jew of his time in Iran, whom the Islamic theocracy targeted as the first civilian executed during the 1979 revolution." Shahrazad is a senior photo editor at NBC News.

François Furstenberg '94 is a professor of history at The Johns Hopkins University, where his research explores the history of the United States and the Atlantic World in the 18th and 19th centuries. He lives in Baltimore with his partner, Yliette Guzman, and their girls (4 and 6). Francois is the author of two books, *In the Name of the Father: Washington's Legacy, Slavery, and the Making of a Nation* and *When the United States Spoke French: Five Refugees who Shaped a Nation*. He's on sabbatical this fall in Montreal.

Please share your news and updates by emailing me or by using the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). If you'd like to share photos, please submit them directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 1996

**Ana Salper**  
ana.salper@nyumc.org

Greetings, classmates!

Congratulations to **Keith Simon**, one of 88 members of the American Institute of Architects elevated to the College of Fellows in 2022. This prestigious honor is awarded to individuals who have made significant contributions to architecture and society on a national level; only about 3 percent of AIAs more than 94,000 members hold this distinction ([bit.ly/3r7B78X](http://bit.ly/3r7B78X)).

**Omar Sayed** is in Surrey, England, with his wife and three boys. He is a senior portfolio manager at Millennium Capital, running an event driven strategy. Lately

Omar and his family have been into space a lot, viewing the stars through a telescope, visiting the Royal Observatory in Greenwich for the space show and even making a small investment in the Axiom Space Station. Omar writes that he was sad that our 25th reunion had to be virtual but is hoping for normal human contact at future reunions or maybe an opportunity to meet Columbians in the metaverse!

**Stefania Van Dyke** (née Rosenstein) is an associate director at the Denver Art Museum and oversees the interpretive engagement division, a team of museum educators who work in partnership with curators to envision and execute how the museum presents artworks in its galleries. Last fall, the museum reopened its historic building (the only completed building in the United States by Italian architect and designer Gio Ponti) after four-plus years of renovation. The renovated building houses all of the museum's permanent collections, so Stefania's team reimaged the stories the museum tells and the methods by which it tells them, across the board. Stefania hopes that any CC'96 classmates who visit will let her know so she can say hi ([svandyke@denverartmuseum.org](mailto:svandyke@denverartmuseum.org)!).

**Mary Carmel** works for the Chicken Alley Thrift Shop in Martha's Vineyard, which benefits Martha's Vineyard Community Services, a social service umbrella organization that houses an array of mental health, youth and family, disability domestic and sexual violence, senior, substance abuse disorder, peer recovery support and veterans services.

I had a great time hanging out with **Julie Satow** SIPA'01 and **Mirella Cheeseman** in NYC a few months ago. Mirella, who was back for a brief visit to NYC, lives in Rome and is head of international development for the Italian production company Wildside SRL. Julie signed a book deal for her second narrative nonfiction book, on the birth of American fashion and the rise and fall of the department store, told through the lives of three women who led the industry in the 1930s through the 1980s. Julie recently saw **Eric Cleary**, who is a neighbor of hers in the West Village and is associate general counsel at Omnicom Group.

Our beloved class president, **Uchenna Acholonu**, attended the

March wedding of **Dan Hess** and **Deena Bahu**, who were married in a beautiful ceremony in Yonkers. Uchenna writes: “In attendance were nine members of the legendary Carman 8 cohort and 10 Carman residents in total. Such a good time! Could not have happened to a nicer couple. On a personal note, Dan and I graduated together from elementary school, high school and college. To know him is to love him.”

Congratulations, Dan and Deena! Check out the great wedding shot in “Just Married!,” where you can see the rest of the Carman crew: **Matt Wirz**, **Adam Sinclair SEAS’96**, **Bich-Nga Nguyen**, **Thomas Humphries**, **Dan Lin**, **Ravi Iyer**, **Arnold Kim** and **Brendan Killackey**.

Here’s to a long, sunny, healthy summer! I leave you with this:

“I was within and without, simultaneously enchanted and repelled by the inexhaustible variety of life.”

— F. Scott Fitzgerald,  
*The Great Gatsby*

## 1997

**Kerensa Harrell**  
kvh1@columbia.edu

Dear classmates, I hope that you all had a pleasant winter and spring, and that everyone is in good health.

It is my pleasure to present the following update from **Rushika Richards Conroy HN’00**, who has been quite the busy bee keeping up with a bunch of classmates.

“Sadly, with Covid-19, we could not see people for a while. As more and more friends and family were vaccinated and restrictions were lifted a bit we have been able to, which has been wonderful. My first visit was to see **Lisa Ackerson SEAS’97** (née Gustafson). She lives in Connecticut with her husband and three little ones. I have also been in touch with a bunch of people but haven’t been able to see them in a while. **Matt Wang** is in NYC with his wife and twin girls. In November I visited **Naveena Ponnusamy** and stayed in her new home in Los Angeles. She hosted a fun dinner with **Carrie Mezvinsky** (née Bass), **Michelle Salcedo**, **Kip Hamilton** and **Sam Nouri ’98**. Carrie moved from Spain to southern California last summer with her husband and three kids. She is home full time

raising the little ones and is hopeful that she will be able to stay put in California for the long haul. She has moved quite a bit through the years, from Kentucky to Texas to Russia to Florida to Spain!

“Tara Nolting BC’97 (née Gallagher) is in Illinois. She is a family medicine physician and lives there with her husband and three kids. I was able to pay a quick visit to **Zaharah Markoe**, who is in Florida with her husband and two kids. She is an attorney. Last summer I saw **Jake Kemeny** in New Jersey. He is there with his wife and two kids. It was nice to catch up for a bit, as we hadn’t seen each other since his and my youngest were born. I also spent a few weekends with Uchenna Acholonu ’96 last summer. First was at his wife’s family reunion in the Catskills and then at the US Open. He is a gynecologist in New York and lives there with his wife and two kids.

“Oh, and last random encounter: **Adam Honig** and I reunited in western Massachusetts, when we found each other on a Zoom call that was for our kids’ school. It turns out we are sending our kids to the same junior high and high school! He and his wife have two kids, and he works at Amherst.”

See the nearby photo from Rushika of her, **Naveena Ponnusamy**, **Carrie Mezvinsky** (née Bass) and **Michelle Salcedo** in Los Angeles at a dinner party last November in Naveena’s home.

**Raji Kalra** shares the following: “I married Joe Potente in December 2020, pandemic-style. Rather than postpone, we pivoted to a virtual wedding (and not just a Zoom wedding; we had a full film crew with sound and various camera angles). It wasn’t the celebration we had envisioned but it was amazing to include folks who normally would not have been able to attend in person. It was live-streamed and had more than 400 attendees. In-person there were only six guests including the bride and groom and just as many staff between the film and set crew and pandit. It was before the vaccine so it was outdoors and cold but still memorable. There were more than 15 CC, SEAS and BC alums in attendance virtually. We live on the UWS in NYC but are looking to move to the suburbs in the near future. Joe has a band and with that comes many instruments and



CC’97 friends (left to right) Naveena Ponnusamy, Carrie Mezvinsky (née Bass), Rushika Richards Conroy and Michelle Salcedo met for dinner on November 1 at Ponnusamy’s Los Angeles home.

equipment that doesn’t really fit in a NYC apartment. We also adopted a cat, Jynx, in early March 2020. I was looking forward to catching up in person with many classmates at our 25th reunion.”

**Kerri Stone** recently published the book *Panes of the Glass Ceiling: The Unspoken Beliefs Behind the Law’s Failure to Help Women Achieve Professional Parity*. She writes: “My husband, Josh, and I live in Coconut Grove (Miami), Fla. We are the proud parents of Dylan Jacob (9) and Marlee Dina (6), and I am a professor at the FIU College of Law.”

As for me, **Kerensa Harrell**, I enjoyed a fun-filled Halloween last fall with my daughter, Amara (5). There were literally a couple thousand trick-or-treaters who descended upon our neighborhood (after all, we live in a town called Celebration!), and the two of us were delighted to drop candy to them via a tube from our second-floor balcony. Amara dressed up as Moana (for whom she was a dead ringer) and I took her trick-or-treating around our neighborhood. After we had recovered from Halloween, I rented a hall and had a big birthday bash for her to celebrate having turned 5. She loved her pumpkin-themed cake and her piñata. Then came winter break, and we went to my brother Ben’s house on Christmas Day. We also would have gone to my father’s house, but unfor-

tunately he got stuck in Roatán, Honduras, with ear problems from too much diving so he was unable to fly back in time.

I’ve been staying busy with taking Amara to her various activities while I am still a stay-at-home mom. I have her enrolled in Girl Scouts (as a Daisy), Cub Scouts (as a Lion), four dance classes (ballet, tap dance, creative dance and tumbling), two foreign languages with private tutors (French and Sign Language), martial arts (Korean tae kwon do) and two sports teams (tee ball and a cheerleading squad for basketball). I am dreading August when I will have to let her go to kindergarten, but luckily her school is only a five-minute walk from our home.

As I finish this column it is March. I’m planning to fly to NYC in June for our 25th reunion, which, by the time you read this issue, will have occurred. If you attended, please do write to let us know about your experience. And feel free to share your reunion, or other, photos with *CCT*, as long as there are at least two College alumni pictured (or one, if a member of the wedding couple, for “Just Married!”): college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

I wish you all a lovely summer! In honor of our reunion, I will cue our fight song, “Roar, Lion, Roar” as I sign off.

*In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

## 1998

**Sandie Angulo Chen**  
sandie.chen@gmail.com

We have two “book birthdays” to celebrate:

**Rachel Mazor**, who lives in Brooklyn, sent in a note that her book, *111 Places for Kids in NYC That You Must Not Miss*, was published on April 8. “Alums might be pleased to see old haunts Koronet Pizza, The Hungarian Pastry Shop and the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine among the places listed!” she wrote.

In February, **Clarence A. Haynes** had his first book, *The Legacy of Jim Crow*, a short middle-grade nonfiction title that’s part of Penguin Workshop’s new True History series, published. According to Clarence, the project looks at how discriminatory laws impacted African-American lives and the United States in general, shaping everything from migration and neighborhood development to prisons/policing and pop culture. The aim is to get young readers to look at history holistically, getting away from positioning the past as a decontextualized list of dates and facts, while unabashedly celebrating Black excellence and creativity.

**Joshua Ratner LAW’02** recently began a position as the rabbi of Congregation Beth El in Fairfield, Conn. After spending several years working for nonprofits, he says he is excited to be back in a pulpit where he can develop powerful connections with individuals and families in his community.

Congratulations are also in order for Joshua, whose eldest son, Dimitri, stated at Tulane this past fall. With three more children to go, Joshua is holding out hope that one of them will end up at Columbia!

**Christina Rapp Prescott** wrote from Westchester County: “After living in Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maryland since graduation, I am very excited to be back in New York! Last summer, I started as the vice-chair for education and the director of the Cornea Service at NYU. My husband and three children are all loving New York. I’m hoping to reconnect with classmates now that I am closer!”

Condolences to the family and friends of **Neil Suresh Patel**

**SEAS ’98, SEAS’00**, who died on January 6, 2022, at 45. Neil was a lightweight rower and an active member of the Columbia crew community. He graduated from SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, completed a residency in ophthalmology at the New York Eye and Eye Infirmary of Mount Sinai and then a fellowship in vitreoretinal diseases and surgery at UC Irvine School of Medicine. Neil returned to New York City and was the president and founder of New York Ophthalmology. He was an avid reader, surfer and rooftop gardener. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you, **Ted Rebholz**, for letting us know. Ted and his family live in Wellesley, Mass., down the street from **Dave Mack**.

Please send updates to me via the Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note, and they’ll be in a future column!

## 1999

**Lauren Gershell**  
lauren@gershell.com

I was thrilled to hear the following updates from classmates; please keep them coming!

**Rebecca Sheir** wrote: “After 12 years as an NPR reporter and host, I had a baby, quit my full-time job and formed an audio-production company with my composer/sound-designer husband, Eric Shimelous. Since 2017, we’ve been producing Circle Round: the acclaimed children’s storytelling podcast distributed by WBUR (Boston’s NPR station). We have a new line of Circle Round picture books coming out this summer. Last October, in collaboration with TinkerCast, Amazon and Wonderly, we debuted another podcast for kids: Who When Wow!, a weekly show that takes listeners on an auditory journey into the lives of unsung heroes, heroines, and other amazing humans who make us say ‘WOW!’”

**Stacy Rotner** shared that her connection with **Kay Rokhsar, Elana Weinberg Poulter, Rikki Solowey Javitch, Kimberly Singh SEAS’99**, Jennifer Kritz ’98 and Brett King Grossman BC’98 got even stronger during the Covid-19 lockdown and restrictions. While the women had to cancel their

annual trip, they continued daily texting on their group thread, held regular Zooms, did a Secret Santa gift exchange and attended a remote cooking class to celebrate a birthday. They are hoping to resume traveling together this year, and Stacy notes that while many relationships suffered because of distance and the inability to get together during Covid, their friendships flourished.

How wonderful!

**Adrienne Lehman Buckley** lives with her husband, their three children and their 1-year old German Shepherd/Husky puppy. She has been homeschooling since September 2020 and loves it. Previously she was a NICU RN, primarily at Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital (formerly Children’s Hospital of New York), for about 10 years before her eldest child was born.

**Ben Freeman** shared the following: “My wife, Sinéad, and I live in London with our four children, who are all under 7, so it’s a full house! I trade commodities for a merchant business, focusing on critical supply chain materials such as oil, liquid natural gas and base metals. Looking forward to the 25th year reunion!”

## 2000

**Columbia College Today**  
cct@columbia.edu

[Editor’s note: CCT thanks **Prisca Bae** for her 22 years as class correspondent. If you are interested in taking on this role, please send a note to cct@columbia.edu.]

East to West coast changes for **Kim Fisher Warren BUS’17**. Kim took a job at Apple in Cupertino, Calif., and relocated there with and her husband and son. They love the weather! She recently met up with **Jaime Sanders Tarasov** and **Nida Qadir Westfield** and says she was looking forward to seeing **Kim Worly Salzman** in May, too! She adds, “Hope everyone is healthy and made it through two years of Covid-19!”

**Annie Ulevitch** shares: “After 15 post-Columbia years in NYC, I moved back to California in 2015 and have called San Francisco home since then. After practicing law (criminal defense) and working in K–12 education (not as a lawyer), I am lucky to have found myself at

Hirsch Philanthropy Partners, a Bay Area-based advising firm where I get to work with an amazing team to partner with foundations and families seeking to make a meaningful impact on their community and the world around them.

“After far too long without a visit to NYC, **Susie Kaufman** (née Freeman) and I met for a whirlwind weekend visit to the city in October. Aside from eating all of our favorite foods and visiting some of our favorite spots, we enjoyed a fantastic evening of theater and dinner with **Juliet Ross**. Amazing to think we met in John Jay during Orientation and have been friends for more than two decades!”

**Lainy Destin** writes from Quebec: “Last summer, I was honored to join the Board of Columbia College Women (CCW) as its first international member. I’m a member of the Mentorship Committee. I plan to contribute my experience and insights to bring international alumnae into CCW’s tent of empowerment and support. As well, I’d like to increase CCW’s presence in the lives and development of women at the College, in collaboration with student and alumni organizations across the University.”

**Madeline Tomasino-Reed**, managing attorney at the Children’s Law Project of Hawai’i, writes that she “was recently honored with the Rhoda Lewis Award for dedicating my career to public service.”

The annual award, named after the first female member of the Hawai’i Supreme Court, is given by The Hawaii Women’s Legal Foundation and is “to a woman attorney who has devoted her career to public service,” and is in recognition of the recipient’s extraordinary contribution and commitment to the field.

**Rich Ciancimino**, an 11-Time Emmy Award-winning sports television producer during his time at ESPN and MLB Network, shares that he was recently recognized by the prestigious Cynopsis Sports Media Awards for Best Webisode Series for his latest project, “The Mayor’s Office With Sean Casey.” Moving from behind the camera to on-air producer, Rich teamed up with former MLB All-Star Sean Casey for a show that is part podcast, part broadcast. It can be found on all streaming platforms, including YouTube and iTunes Podcasts.

Thanks to those who shared their exciting news and updates! If you would like to send in a note, please write to [cct@columbia.edu](mailto:cct@columbia.edu) or use the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). We also welcome photos that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, and one CC alum — a member of the couple — for “Just Married!” photos: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 2001

**Jonathan Gordin**  
[jrg53@columbia.edu](mailto:jrg53@columbia.edu)

Hi everyone!

I was happy to hear from **Jeff Senter**, who announced “a bit belatedly, since she is 1, the birth of our wonderful daughter, Lillian.”

**Ben Ryan** reports, “After sustaining a brief bout of cancer, including surgery during Christmas, I swiftly got a clean bill of health and went back to writing about other people’s health problems, reporting about Covid-19 as well as climate change matters for outlets such as NBC News, *The Guardian*, Thomson Reuters Foundation and *The New York Times* ([benryan.net](http://benryan.net) and @benryanwriter on Twitter).”

**Courtney Reum** wrote with joyful news that **Tamar Makary** and his wife, Anahi, celebrated the baptism of their fifth child, daughter Maxima. Courtney is the godfather. Congratulations!

**Anna Rozentul** (née Smirnov) reports, “Got my medical degree in

2002 and am an urgent care physician. The past two years have not been fun with Covid-19 but we got through them! I live in Fort Lee, N.J., and am married with two teen sons. Time sure flies! My eldest is already looking at colleges; he will apply next year. I hope he will be a Columbian. Fingers crossed.”

**Ben Wheeler** writes, “My wife, **Kate Cortesi**, and I have weathered the pandemic so far, with several members of our family getting sick, but everyone is OK. I am getting a master’s in education at Harvard (it turns out everyone’s just making it up as they go along; who knew?) and working at Scratch, a free kids’ computer programming website that I encourage other parents to try! Kate has had several of her plays produced in New York and in regional theaters in the last year, and is developing several more projects. Our daughters, Carmen (12) and Nina (10), fried their brains watching *Squid Game* and have to be threatened and cajoled to do even minor chores.

“I try to keep up with **Ashran Jen**’s family, Molly Lederer ’06’s family, **Sofia Berger** SEAS’02’s family, Melissa Wells ’03’s family, **Ben Ben Tre**’s entrepreneurship and Alice Boone BC’02’s brilliant education and curation work at the UVM Museum. From afar I try to follow the organizing and healing work of adrienne maree brown ’00 and Dani McClain ’00, JRN’06, and Ben Casselman ’03’s labor reporting in *The New York Times*. Still loving watching Brandon Victor Dixon ’03 onstage, and dreaming of someone making the great Paul Robeson LAW 1923 opera/Broadway/NFL/activism biopic.

“As we write, hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing danger in Ukraine and in other countries, and many Columbia folks are organizing aid. We want to send our support to them and to denounce imperialist violence in all its forms.”

Recently my wife, Jamie, and I went to an event and ran into **Colleen Goldberg** (née O’Malley); it was lovely to catch up. Colleen and her husband, Andrew ’00, reside in Los Angeles with their two kids. Andrew is a TV writer.

Jamie and I also recently caught up with **Marla Zink**, **Kim Bosse** and **Marc Dunkelman** over Zoom. Sure, in-person would have been better, but

it still worked. Kim says she is excited to open her newest Birch Road Cellular location in Denver and Marc is busy with writing projects. Marla is busy with her law practice. We spent a lot of time talking about summer camps. It was great to catch up (even though they teased me that I’d likely include the Zoom in this column, and they were right).

Have a great summer, and keep classmates informed about your fall plans!

## 2002

**Sonia Hirdaramani**  
[soniahird@gmail.com](mailto:soniahird@gmail.com)

**Rupal Patel**’s new non-fiction book, *From CIA to CEO: Unconventional Life Lessons for Thinking Bigger, Leading Better, and Being Bolder*, was to release in May. It is a business and lifestyle book that distills all of the life and leadership techniques she developed and honed at the CIA and as the founder of two businesses. The book is primarily aimed at female leaders, founders and changemakers, but the lessons are applicable to — and valuable for! — all.

**Ben Letzler** recently moved with family to an inner suburb of Vienna to pursue a Ph.D. in international law. He would be delighted to hear from everyone, especially, but not only, if they will be in Vienna.

**Elizabeth V. Alicea** lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two Shih Tzus. She is an attorney and a real estate broker with Compass, and is working on a memoir about her childhood in Chicago.

Please share news with me by email or by using the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). If you’d like to share photos, please submit them directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 2003

**Michael J. Novielli**  
[mjn29@columbia.edu](mailto:mjn29@columbia.edu)

It’s great to see that so many countries are opening up and allowing international travel once again. I’m personally grateful for having been able to return to New York City to

see family and friends after two and a half years. Our alumni continue to do great things throughout the world, even during such trying times, and I’m happy to share news about a few of them:

During the pandemic, **Adam B. Kushner** and his wife, attorney Maria Simon, had a third child; their boys now span a 10-year age gap. This winter, after eight years spent running *The Washington Post*’s Outlook section — its home for ideas, essays, arguments and nonfiction book criticism, which won a Pulitzer Prize during his editorship — Adam became the newspaper’s education editor. In the periods between variant surges, he says he has enjoyed working in an office again.

**La Marr Jurelle Bruce** published *How to Go Mad without Losing Your Mind: Madness and Black Radical Creativity*, a study of “madness” in Black art-making, self-making and world-making since the 20th century. La Marr is an associate professor of American studies at the University of Maryland, College Park.

**Matthew Continetti** is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, where he wrote his latest book, *The Right: The Hundred-Year War for American Conservatism*, published in April.

**Jennifer Lauture** writes, “I manage a line of research for Charles Schwab that looks at people of color, highlighting demographics and trends in investing to provide a more tailored experience.”

**Dawn Jackson** writes, “I’ve expanded my work in mental health by joining the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and was honored to represent the department at Dodger Stadium in early March. I encourage anyone in the Los Angeles area who is interested in learning more about who to contact to access presentations, outreach or services to please contact me: [djackson@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:djackson@dmh.lacounty.gov).

“I’ve also have taken up the position as Los Angeles Platoon Leader for the Mission Continues, a national nonprofit that empowers veterans to continue to serve in their local communities. For more information, please contact me: [djackson@missioncontinues.org](mailto:djackson@missioncontinues.org).

“Courtney Wilkins ’07 has been instrumental in keeping SoCal alumni connected through programming and for the fourth year in

## Stay in Touch



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](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).



a row I've been on the Alumni Representative Committee, where I had the pleasure of interviewing five impressive Los Angeles-area student candidates in February.

"It was a surreal experience as an African-American former athlete to experience the Rams win Super Bowl LVI on their home turf and produce a legendary halftime show on their own terms. I invite everyone to take a moment to reflect on the everyday perseverance of Black student-athletes, including the history-making skill that Johnathan Reese '02 brought to the 1998–2002 Lions football team along with a loving memory: Kirk Mullings '04, whom *Spectator* named Columbia's own 'Superfan,' also participated in

who attend the Abraham Joshua Heschel School on the UWS."

**Jessica Schenk** and her husband, Keith Rudofsky, welcomed daughter Michelle Sapir on September 17 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Keith and Jessica also have daughter Talyah Simone (6).

**Andrea E. Channing Kung Starrett** is attending the Eisenhower School of National Security and Resource Strategy (formerly known as ICAF), part of National Defense University (NDU), for a master's in national security and resource strategy. She writes: "It's been interesting, enlightening and eye-opening in many respects, especially these last few tumultuous months, with great classmates. It makes me reminisce

She also sold her second novel for publication in 2023. It is a literary mystery tentatively titled *The Lost Boy of Santa Chionia* and is the story of an accidental immigrant detective (a Barnard grad!) in a mafia-infested mountain village in 1960s Italy.

**Elizabeth Dwoskin JRN'09** is a Silicon Valley correspondent for *The Washington Post*.

Great news for **Lindsay Joelle** on her new play: "Excited to share that *TRAYF* was produced at the Geffen Playhouse in Los Angeles March 1–April 10 ([geffenplayhouse.org/shows/trayf](http://geffenplayhouse.org/shows/trayf)). The synopsis is that Zalmy lives a double life. By day, he drives a Chabad 'Mitzvah Tank' through 1990s New York City, performing good deeds with his best friend, Shmuel. By night, he sneaks out of his orthodox community to rollerskate and listen to rock 'n' roll. But when a curious outsider offers him unfettered access to the secular world, is it worth jeopardizing everything he's ever known? This road-trip bromance is a funny and heartwarming ode to the turbulence of youth, the universal suspicion that we don't quite fit in, and the faith and friends that see us through."

**Amparo Garcia** writes, "I am now on my fourth tour as a State Department Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh. Seven years as a diplomat have gone by fast, a lot faster than my almost three years of service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Senegal and Mali. Let me know if you ever find yourself in SE Asia or have mentees interested in a career in the State Department."

**Dr. Graham Donald** lives in Boise and writes: "I have worked here as a vascular surgeon since 2018. My wife, Lauren, and I welcomed our daughter, Isla, on Halloween 2020."

**Phil Sandick GSAS'09** shares, "I got married and had two kids, and we moved to Washington, D.C., a few months ago after living in an RV for about five months. I switched law firms when we got to D.C."

On a sad note, we mourn the passing of **Luis Saucedo** on January 22, 2022. See "Obituaries."

As for me, it was neat to attend pianist Lang Lang's tour in the spring. What a performance!

I sent a Facebook friend request to each of you. If you would accept it, I would really appreciate it. Please

reach out if you didn't get a request or would like to reconnect and keep in touch: [sallie@salliemathtutor.com](mailto:sallie@salliemathtutor.com) or [salwa.sallie.touma@gmail.com](mailto:salwa.sallie.touma@gmail.com).

## 2006

**Andrew Stinger**  
[andrew.stinger@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.stinger@gmail.com)

Greetings from San Francisco, where my senior rescue mutt, Trousers, and I are sitting down on a misty Saturday to curate the latest updates from the Class of 2006.

I'll be making my first trip to New York City since the onset of the pandemic in a few weeks to film a streaming SoulCycle class for the Cycle for Survival fundraising series with Memorial Sloan Kettering and Equinox, and can't wait to make a quick stop to look up at the 116th Street Gates with the same awe I did when touring campus for the first time nearly 20 years ago.

In the meantime, here's the latest and greatest from our illustrious classmates:

**Brian Wagner** earned an M.B.A in February from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. He is leading external and business sector communications at Peraton.

**Kathy Gilsinan's** first book, *The Helpers: Profiles from the Front Lines of the Pandemic*, was published on March 1.

As Kathy shares: "As the world started to fall apart in 2020, I profiled some extraordinary Americans working at personal risk and at times under impossible conditions to try to help their communities get through. A young nurse in the Bronx; the leader of Moderna's vaccine program; a ventilator manufacturer racing to ramp up production as the nation feared a catastrophic shortage; a middle-aged paramedic who drove an ambulance across the country at the height of New York's first surge to ease the pressure on overwhelmed emergency services and more. These people come from all over the country and all over the socioeconomic spectrum; they all faced down death, fear and the certainty that they couldn't save everyone. But they showed up for others anyway. At a dark time in America, they remind us it's possible to be the light."

If you would like to send in a note, please reach out by email

### *Amparo Garcia '05 is on her fourth tour as a State Department Foreign Service officer at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh.*

games as a walk-on and whom the world sadly lost on March 2, 2009."

Thanks to those who shared their news and updates! If you would like to share yours, please reach out by email or use the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). And *CCT* welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni (one if for the "Just Married!" section): [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 2004

**Jaydip Mahida**  
[jmahida@gmail.com](mailto:jmahida@gmail.com)

**David Johns TC'22** graduated from Columbia (again) this past May with a Ph.D. in sociology and education policy. His dissertation was titled *By Any Means Necessary: Supporting Black Queer Public School Students in the United States*.

**Andrew Lebwohl LAW'07** writes, "In November I started a job with the New York State Housing Finance Agency, arranging financing for affordable housing development. This spring, I celebrated the 70th birthday of my father, Mark Lebwohl '74. My children, Roman (7) and Dakota (5), are healthy, happy kids

of times at Columbia and the intellectual discussions. If you ever get an opportunity to attend NDU, I strongly recommend it!"

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 reach out to share about trips you might 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 email or via the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). And *CCT* welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni (one if for the "Just Married!" section): [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 2005

**Sallie Touma**  
[sallie@salliemathtutor.com](mailto:sallie@salliemathtutor.com)

Thank you to those who replied to my email asking for news!

**Juliet Grames** was presented the Ellery Queen Award from the Mystery Writers of America, a career recognition award, for her editorial work at Soho Press.

# 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](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Congratulations!



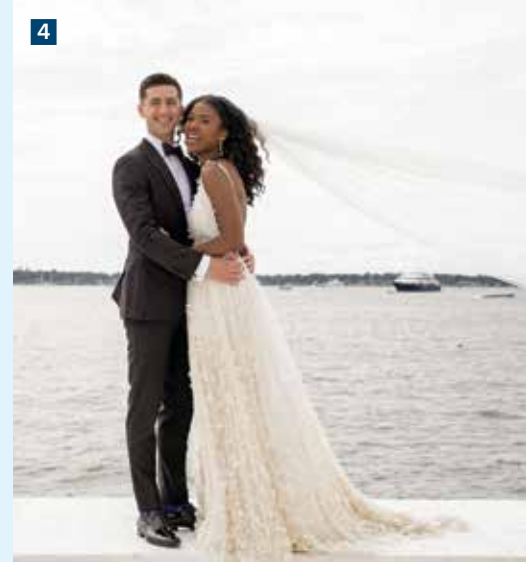
1 RIMA BRINDAMOUR



2 ALLEN TSAI



3 TATIANA VALERIE, ARTVESTA STUDIO



4 KEVIN WHITE

FRANK SEGALLA



5 ALEXIS HUNGERFORD



6 CHLOE KRITHARAS DEVIENNE



7



8

CASSIE PEECH PHOTOGRAPHY



9

JAMES MINNS



10

DAVID LAI



11

**1.** Matthew Seife '16 and Brandon Ocheltree were married at the Brooklyn Winery in Williamsburg on December 4. Celebrating were (top row) Emi Lirman '16, Jack Barbaro '16, Jason Kempner '16, Bernardo Hinojosa '14, Danielle Goldman '16 and Christina Kyrillos BC'16; and (bottom row) Maya Anand '17, Seife and Lily Liu-Krason '16.

**2.** Anthony Maddox '12 married Dmeca Maddox BC'13 (center, front) on October 10. Joining the newlyweds at the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas were (left to right) Ashley Lherisson '12, Nzingha Prescod '15, Beverly Leon '14, Lowey Diedro '13, Carl Constant '11, Essane Diedro '13, Joshua Martin '13, Jeremy Mingo '14, Iman Blow '19, Owen Fraser '12, Kalasi Huggins '12, Brittany Huggins SEAS'12, Frank Garcia '14, Ryan Haslett '12, Brandon Cole '11 and James Burrell '13.

**3.** Will Schildknecht and Sarah Chai Schildknecht '12 were married on October 23 in New York City.

**4.** Micah Smith '14 and Alexandra Gaspard-Smith '14 were married at Belle Mer, Newport, R.I., on August 1. CC'14 classmates Danielle Benson, Doreen Agboh, Malida Tadesse, Jonathan Hofman, Gaby Dressler and Nicolas Esguerra were in the wedding party.

**5.** Brianna Diaz-Pacheco (née Alico) '20 and Ruben Diaz-Pacheco '18 were married in Maryland on November 20.

**6.** Maggie Alden '14 and Alex Bancu '11 were married in Psili Ammos, Serifos Chora, Greece, on October 2.

**7.** Joining Anna Ginzburg '11 at her August 22 wedding to Andrei Khots, held at Nicotra's Ballroom on Staten Island, were (left to right) Tania Harsono '11, Anna Kurtzberg TC'12, Amanda Bousquin '11, Denise Yu '12, Toni Ma '12, Lisa Vance BC'13 and Susan Phan '12.

**8.** Natalie Gossett '10 wed Kyle Bogdan in Ormond Beach, Fla., on October 23.

**9.** Sean Udell '11 (cream jacket) and Jonathan Jenkins were married on December 31 at The Bonnet House in Fort Lauderdale, joined by Ali Krimmer '11 (second from left), Lia Bersin SEAS'11 (to Jenkins's right) and Lauren Pully SEAS'11 (third from right).

**10.** Kelly O'Reilly '12 and Joseph Chervenak celebrated their August 28 wedding at the Los Altos (Calif.) History Museum with, left to right, Justin Smallwood '16, Farrah Ricketts '14, Erica Weaver Kesler '12, Jeremy Fassler JRN'21, Danica Damplo '12, Alex Klapheke '12, Emma Manson '12 and Sean Spielberg '11.

**11.** Celebrating the March 11 wedding in Yonkers of Dan Hess '96 to Deena Bahu (center) were, left to right: Uchenna Acholonu '96, Matt Wirz '96, Adam Sinclair SEAS'96, Bich-Nga Nguyen '96, Thomas Humphries '96, Dan Lin '96, Ravi Iyer '96, Arnold Kim '96 and Brendan Killackey '96.

**12.** Robert Baldwin '15 wed Fabiola Urdaneta '16 on June 12 at The Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo.

**13.** Deandrea Ellis-Carson '14 and Malcolm Carson '13 were married in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, on December 11.



12

RICARDO VASQUEZ



13

TATIANA VILLAMIL

or use the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). CCT also welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the “Just Married!” section: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 2007

**David D. Chait**  
[david.donner.chait@gmail.com](mailto:david.donner.chait@gmail.com)

Thanks so much to everyone who shared updates. I'm very excited for our 15-year reunion. I looked forward to seeing many of you there.

**Becca Hartog** shares, “2021 was a big year for our family! I finished pediatric cardiology training in July and moved back to my hometown of St. Louis to take a position at St. Louis Children's Hospital. I will start another (and my last) fellowship in July in adult congenital heart disease. We bought our first house and we love being close to family!”

**Allison Désir** GSAS'11 writes, “I'm excited to announce that my book, *Running While Black: Finding Freedom in a Sport that Wasn't Built for Us*, is now available for pre-order; it launches on October 18!”

**Riddhi Sohan Dasgupta** delivered a formal address in March on national security and international trade to the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala. He was a guest of the president of Guatemala, who hosted a dinner in the National Palace to mark this visit. The Indian

ambassador hosted a dinner in his residence, also honoring this visit. Sohan had delivered a formal address before the Hungarian Parliament last year. He served as the deputy general counsel of the Department of Homeland Security.

**Kasia Nikhamina** and her husband, Ilya, run Redbeard Bikes, a bike fit studio and shop in DUMBO, Brooklyn. She says, “The business is now in its 10th year — no small feat for brick-and-mortar retail in NYC!” Kasia is writing her first book, and adds, “While you wait for it, subscribe to my TinyLetter, *Extraordinary Time*, at [kasianikhamina.com](http://kasianikhamina.com).”

**Eric Bondarsky** shares, “I recently invited Daniel Reidler SEAS'12 to join the world's largest and oldest active book club and he accepted!”

If you would like to share your updates, please reach out to me by email or use the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). CCT also welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the “Just Married!” section: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 2008

**Bradley Blackburn**  
[blb2104@columbia.edu](mailto:blb2104@columbia.edu)

Hello, CC'08! Very glad to sign on as our new class correspondent. It was great to hear from many of you, and I look forward to sharing your news in issues to come.

**Rob Wu** writes with exciting news about becoming a dad: “My wife, Min-Joh, and I welcomed our first child, Allah June Wu, into the world on February 25. She is a sassy little lady who is very curious about the world around her. We are thrilled to have her in our lives and excited for her to meet all of our Columbia friends!”

**Peter Law** and Heather Rabkin welcomed their baby boy, Noah Antranig Law, in August 2021. Peter says Noah enjoys rolling over, getting up on all fours and putting anything he can get his hands on into his mouth. His parents could not be happier or more proud.

**Rachel Cooper Schilowitz** found time to share an update, even

with a newborn. Rachel and her husband, Daniel, welcomed Max Morris Schilowitz on March 9.

**Carmen Jo “CJ” Rejda-Ponce** writes with professional news. She has been promoted to partner at the Texas firm Germer. She is excited to embark on this new chapter and to continue offering excellent service to her clients in the field of employment litigation and civil rights defense.

**Christine Han** is now a senior trial attorney at the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Solicitor, in Washington, D.C.

**Mike Lock** writes from Brooklyn about a fun new passion. In addition to his day job working for a hedge fund, Mike has decided to make a foray into writing and illustrating children's books! He is self-publishing his first book, *Thirsty for Juice!*, about a boy who has to learn to like fruits and vegetables. He and his friend John Atlas '09, SEAS'09 came up with the idea after trying (and failing) to get John's niece and nephews to eat their veggies. Mike's book will be available this fall at Community Bookstore in Park Slope. He says he's already planning his next book, about a little boy who refuses to cut his hair.

And finally, an update from your correspondent:

**Bradley Blackburn** and **Gilma Avalos** married in 2017 with many of our fellow Lions traveling to Texas for the celebration. Gilma and I returned to New York City in late 2019 after several years in Miami and Dallas/Fort Worth. We both continue the journalism careers we launched on campus at CTV. Gilma anchors and reports for WNBC and I am a correspondent with CBS News. We welcomed our first child in March 2020. Our daughter, Birdie Alondra Blackburn, is now a busy toddler who fills every day with new joys!

Hope everyone has a wonderful summer, and please be in touch with your life updates and Morning-side memories!

## 2009

**Shira Burton**  
[shira.burton@gmail.com](mailto:shira.burton@gmail.com)

Quite a few of you emailed with updates this time around. It's so nice to hear from everyone. Since my last dispatch from Minneapolis,

I've been busy at work. I've had four felony jury trials, including two wins — a success rate I'm happy with, all things considered! I encourage you to reach out even if you don't have any big news to share. I guarantee people would love to hear what you're up to.

**Munif Hussain** writes: “I started working at a sports medicine practice in the city with Summit Health, a partner of CityMD Urgent Care, where I was previously. I am starting a new journey, chiming in to spread the word. I am taking care of exercise-induced injuries and practice non-operative orthopedics: [bit.ly/38obREV](http://bit.ly/38obREV) and [bit.ly/3vfYnDd](http://bit.ly/3vfYnDd).”

**Amanda Karl** recently joined the partnership at Gibbs Law Group, where she has represented employees, consumers, sexual assault survivors and voters in complex litigation for more than five years. She lives and works in Oakland, Calif., with her husband, Mike McBrearty SEAS'04, and their son.

**Ron Mazor** LAW'13 and his wife, Jessica (Penn '09), serendipitously moved to South Florida in December 2019 after five years of living in Jersey City. They welcomed daughter Eliza in January.

**Giuseppe “Joey” Castellano** took a gap year that turned into four years. He applied to graduate school in 2013, entering the University of Texas at Austin as a doctoral student in classical archaeology in 2014. He earned a master's in 2016 and a Ph.D. in 2019 with the dissertation *A Dialogue in Metal: Silver, Bronze, and Cross-Cultural Currencies in Italy and Sicily*, under the supervision of Professor Adam Rabinowitz, which explores the indigenous Italic contribution to the monetization of Italy and Sicily during the period of Greek colonization (c. 8th–3rd centuries BC). Joey was a postdoctoral fellow at UT-Austin 2019–21, when he released an ancient currency conversion website, [trapezites.com](http://trapezites.com), funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Engaged Scholar Initiative. He has a particular interest in cultural contact in the ancient world and to work at the conjunction of qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Joey is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Toronto, where he is working with Professor Seth Bernard on a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded project, “An Eco-

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conomic History of the Roman Conquest of Italy, 500–200 BC.” He also teaches a course on the indigenous Italic influence on the development of urbanism in ancient Italy. He has published both popular and academic articles in publications such as the American Numismatic Society’s *ANS* magazine, the *American Journal of Numismatics*, the *Swedish Numismatic Journal* and the *Archaeological Monographs of the British School at Rome*. His latest publication, from the American Journal of Numismatics (2021), is “XRF [X-Ray Fluorescence] Analysis of the Volterra Hoard and a Sample of the Earliest Etruscan Coinage.”

Joy says he was lucky enough to marry the woman of his dreams, Chantel Lynae, in 2015, and in October 2021 they welcomed Margot Vesta Castellano into the world.

**Ashleigh Aviles** was scheduled to earn a doctorate in human development and family sciences from The

during WWII and is a tribute to these young women’s courage and spirit. The libretto will be written by Susan Kander, and the jazz-opera is expected to premiere in 2025. Stay tuned for the album version of the song cycle, coming out later this year: [stephaniechoumusic.com](http://stephaniechoumusic.com).

**John Klopfer** checks in: “I’m in Hong Kong teaching at The University of Hong Kong, and would love to hear from classmates living here or in the region. Can’t travel now, but it’s starting to look like that might change. Interesting times.”

In August, **Annie Ma-Weaver** and **Jacob Ma-Weaver** GSAS’09 welcomed their second child, Irving Weipeng Ma-Weaver, who is named after his great-grandfathers.

**Anastasia Hinojosa** married Andrew Harold Thomas on February 22 in a civil ceremony conducted by Hon. Thelma Rodriguez in Corpus Christi, Texas. Anastasia is an accountant at a children’s hospital,

a map of Manhattan from people’s hopes and dreams. This labor of love can be viewed on Instagram at [@dreamsofacity](https://www.instagram.com/dreamsofacity). Also, a coyote came to her door.

Send me your updates via email or use the Class Notes webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note). If you’d like to share photos, please submit them directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo).

## 2010

**Billy Organek**  
[william.a.organek@gmail.com](mailto:william.a.organek@gmail.com)

Hi Class of 2010! I’m excited to share some updates from classmates:

**Nishant Batsha** GSAS’17’s debut novel, *Mother Ocean Father Nation*, was published on June 7. The novel is set between California and a fictional South Pacific island nation and, as Nishant says, “has been described as ‘a moving saga’ by Amitav Ghosh.”

**Nicole Ellis** JRN’16 shared that she joined *PBS NewsHour* as a broadcast correspondent, as well as the first lead digital anchor for a nightly news show. Her first book, *We Go High*, also was to be published on June 7. She characterizes the book as “a self-help-by-proxy book that chronicles how 30 women of color navigate life’s peaks and valleys, providing helpful tools and tactics for overcoming the many challenges women face in their quest for respect, equality, visibility and greatness.”

Congratulations to Nishant and Nicole (and any other authors in the Class of 2010)!

Please continue to share any updates (personal or professional, big or small) with the class.

## 2011

**Nuriel Moghavem and Sean Udell**  
[nurielm@gmail.com](mailto:nurielm@gmail.com)  
[sean.udell@gmail.com](mailto:sean.udell@gmail.com)

Hey 2011! Sean and I continue to be well, and Sean in particular has some great updates and a busy start to 2022! He wed Jonathan Jenkins at the historic Bonnet House in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., on New Year’s Eve.

Among those in attendance were **Ali Krimmer**, **Shiri Melumad**, **Felix Vo**, **Lia Bersin SEAS’11**, **Chris Elizondo SEAS’11** and **Lauren Pully SEAS’11**. (See “Just Married!”) In March, Sean was appointed chief resident of Penn Psychiatry for the 2022–23 academic year!

We hope he spends less time getting sucked into Excel oblivion organizing resident schedules and spends more time doing what he loves: peer mentorship and teaching.

On October 6, **Zila Acosta-Grimes** and **Brian Grimes** welcomed Tomas Bradley Grimes, who is named after Brian’s grandfather (the late Thomas Bradley) and Zila’s father (Rolando Tomas Acosta ’79, LAW’82). Tomas joins brother Brian Grimes III (3).

**Tanisha Dee Daniel** is graduating from Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey this year, and matched into ob/gyn residency! She is excited for the next phase of this journey, and we’re just as excited for her!

After working for the ol’ alma mater for the last 10 years, **Maggie Johnson** packed up her life into 20 boxes and moved back to her home state of California, where she took a job managing a team of fundraisers at UC Berkeley for the Cal Athletics department. But don’t worry, it will always be “Go, Lions!” from her.

Nuriel and Sean wish Maggie the best, and note that if you’d like to donate to Cal in order to have your child admitted there, please email [support@fbi.gov](mailto:support@fbi.gov).

**Meredith Lester** and her husband, Kevin Lester ’12, are excited to announce they are opening a Crumbl Cookies franchise in Old Town Chicago, at 1435 North Wells St. The store was to open in April. Their twins, Tank and Thorn, are particularly thrilled about the grand opening!

**Nicola Rose** is a film director and producer and recently completed her first feature film, the comedy *Goodbye, Petrusbka*, which deals with a young American woman’s coming-of-age misadventures in Paris. The film is set to have its world premiere in Los Angeles this summer.

More premieres! **Olivia Shih** recently launched her first fine jewelry collection online: [oliviashih.com/liquid-gold-fine-collection](http://oliviashih.com/liquid-gold-fine-collection). The jewelry was created in Olivia’s home studio during the first year of the pandemic. Too depressed and

*Nicole Ellis ’10 joined PBS NewsHour as a broadcast correspondent, as well as the first lead digital anchor for a nightly news show.*

University of Texas at Austin this spring. She says she is thrilled to be returning to New York this summer as a postdoctoral research associate in Dr. Pamela Morris’s lab at NYU.

On January 12, **Michael Emerson** and Adina Bitton BC’08 welcomed son Nadav Aharon Bitton Emerson. His sisters, Maayan, Lital and Keren, have been wonderful and are enthusiastically integrating him into the family. Also, this summer, the family will move out of Jerusalem to the nearby suburb of Tzur Hadassah.

**Stephanie Chou** has continued working on various music projects in NYC. Her song cycle *Comfort Girl*, which premiered in 2019, is in development for a chamber opera in partnership with The American Opera Project through a grant from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. The piece explores the lives of Chinese “comfort women,” who were abducted into sexual slavery by the Japanese army

and Andrew is a data analyst at a community healthcare center. No honeymoon as of yet, but they look forward to traveling!

After two years’ postponement due to the pandemic, **Jenny Lam** was able to have the in-person iteration of *SLAYSLAN*, the acclaimed art exhibition she curated featuring and celebrating Chicago and the Midwest’s Asian-American artists. Photos of the show — as well as the original online version, press coverage and more — are at [artistsonthelam.com](http://artistsonthelam.com). As for her own artwork this past year, Jenny was interviewed by PetaPixel and Fstoppers in feature articles about her photography, all shot on her iPhone 5s; she was interviewed as the featured artist in the literary magazine *Lover’s Eye Press*; and she was interviewed live on WGN Morning News and WBEZ. Jenny was also the subject of a feature article in the *Chicago Reader* about *Dreams of a City*, the long-running, city-wide interactive public art project she began while at Columbia, where she gradually pieced together

anxious to cook full meals, Olivia tells us that she ate simple things. A hard-boiled egg. A potato. A bowl of soup. This collection is an ode to the soft, round forms that gave her comfort. She hopes that her jewelry will bring comfort to others, too.

As a soft, round form himself, Nuriel is a big fan already.

**Amy Huang** is finishing her dermatology residency at SUNY Downstate in her hometown of Brooklyn. She hiked the biggest trails in 15 U.S. National Parks last year, was planning to hike 18 miles of Grand Canyon's South Rim in March, was planning to hike all of Iceland in May and was planning to trek all 73 miles of Hadrian's Wall solo in August. Once done, she will put on her big-girl pants for her first real job out of residency at a private practice in North Bergen, N.J. (farewell, NYC!).

Lastly, **Anna Ginzburg Khots** married Andrei Khots in New York in August. Andrei proposed in March 2020, just a few days before New York went into the lockdown. The couple waited until spring 2021 and planned their wedding in four months! They got married on August 22, 2021, the same date that Hurricane Henri paid a visit to New York. They say that if it rains on your wedding day, then that will bring good luck, and if a hurricane appears, then the couple will be truly lucky! Fortunately for them, the hurricane changed paths in the morning and

did not prevent them from celebrating their special day with family and friends, including many Columbia alums. (See "Just Married!")

They plan to remain in New York for the foreseeable future. Anna is an innovator within portfolio construction at Bank of America, while Andrei leads the Agile transformation for a technology division within Wells Fargo.

## 2012

**Sarah Chai Schildknecht**  
sarahchai@gmail.com

Hi everyone. By the time this issue publishes, our 10-year reunion will have occurred. Hoping many of us were able to use the opportunity to reconnect, and looking forward to hearing updates/seeing photos for the next Class Notes. (Please send photos that feature two or more CC alumni to *CCT* directly: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.)

In the meantime, many exciting updates:

**Brian Barwick** and his wife, Meaghan, welcomed their first child, daughter Harper, in January. She's looking forward to meeting all her dad's friends from college as soon as she can make it out East!

**Sarah Engle** and William Ballenthin '10 welcomed their first child, Adeline Burton Ballenthin, into the world on February 7. All



SOPHIA HOROWITZ

Lily Liu-Krason '16 (left) and Daniela Lapidous '16 met up at a mutual friend's wedding at Terranea Resorts, Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., on March 17.

are doing well, and her parents are excited for this new adventure!

**Alissa Rae Funderburk** writes: "Since my move from New York City to Jackson, Miss., I have spent nearly three years as the Andrew W. Mellon-funded Oral Historian for the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University. I've also since been elected to Council Member of the Oral History Association and started a network for Black oral historians that meets monthly and provides space for memory workers of the African diaspora to discuss current events, new projects and other topics related to the field."

**Sarah Ngu** sent an update from New Haven: "I'm back in school, starting a master's at Yale Divinity to study missionary interactions with indigenous religious leaders in Southeast Asia, with a focus on gender and sexuality. School's easier when you're not 21!"

**Chuck Roberts** began a job as an associate in the Government Regulation Practice of Jones Day.

*CCT* gave a shoutout to **Emily Tamkin** in its March 7 online "Alumni in the News" section, highlighting her guest essay in *The New York Times* on February 27, "How the American Right Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Russia."

When we asked whether Class Notes could share the piece, Emily wrote, "I'm touched that *CCT* is reading my writing (and if any current students are reading this: Consider signing up for *Spectator*). And at the risk of being overly self-promotional, my second book, *Bad Jews: A History of American Jewish Politics and Identities*, will be out this fall."

Hope to hear from others soon, and sending all best in the meantime.

## 2013

**Tala Akhavan**  
talaakhavan@gmail.com

We heard from three classmates this time.

**Arielle Kogut** recently joined the venture capital industry as a partner at Tribe Capital, where she is focused on fundraising and deal sourcing. She moved to Florida last year and splits her time between New York and Miami.

**Juan Estrada** shares, "I founded a company based out of the United States and Colombia that offers digital services to global companies with the goal of bringing more tech job opportunities to the Latin American region. We recently celebrated our first year in business."

**Yanyi** writes, "My second collection of poetry, *Dream of the Divided Field*, was released on March 1."

These classmates used the Class Notes webform — and you can too! Please go to college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note (or you can email me). And you can go to college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo to submit a Class Notes or "Just Married!" photo right to *CCT*. Please share your news and updates!

## 2014

**Rebecca Fattell**  
rsf2121@columbia.edu

**Deandrea Ellis-Carson** and Malcolm Carson '13 were married on December 11 in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. The two met at Emory School of Medicine. Present at the wedding



Catching up over dinner on March 21 at The Britely in Los Angeles were (left to right) Sonya Li '16, Morgan Hewett '15 and Lily Liu-Krason '16.

were **Elizabeth Shay, Alexandra Ellenthal** (née Castillejos), **Starlyte Harris, Roshawn Johnson** and **Aron Taamrat SEAS'15**. Deandra is a pediatrician and Malcolm is in residency studying physical medicine and rehabilitation. (See “Just Married!” for a photo.)

**Bo Muzikowski** married Ashley Edwards on New Year’s Eve. They met through mutual friends and live in Chicago, where they both grew up and which they have continued to greatly enjoy during their first few months of marriage. They work in finance in Chicago, and Bo coaches high school track and kids’ baseball on the side.

As always please feel free to reach out to me with your news! Send me an email or use the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. CCT also welcomes photos that feature at least two CC alumni for Class Notes, or one CC alum — if a member of the couple — for the “Just Married!” section: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2015

**Kareem Carryl**  
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello Class of 2015! Hope you’re finding the time to take advantage of the good weather over the next few months! Here are some updates:

*Andrew Demas '15 leads IBM's telecommunications customer transformation consulting organization; he is the youngest partner in IBM's history.*

**Lillian Chen** has a new role with *The New York Times's* audience team as international deputy. She will lead the team’s international audience strategy work.

**Andrew Demas** was promoted to partner at IBM and now leads its telecommunications customer transformation consulting organization. He is the youngest partner in the company’s history.

As always, classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates by emailing me or by using the Class Notes webform: college.

columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. If you’d like to share photos, please submit them directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2016

**Lily Liu-Krason**  
llykrason@gmail.com

Hey 2016! I hope 2022 has been treating you well. It was a fun start for me, filled with a lot of CC’16 reunions in Los Angeles with **Jason Kempner, Peter Bailinson, Keanu Ross-Cabrera, Ankeet Ball, Samantha Duncan** and **Christina Kyrillos BC’16**. I also saw **Morgan Hewett ’15** and **Sonya Li** (see the nearby photo)! If you’re ever in Los Angeles, feel free to reach out to them or let me know, as I’m in Los Angeles often for work.

Speaking of reunions and letting me know, I am writing this ahead of Columbia Reunion 2022 but this is published afterward, so if you have photos from reunion that feature two or more CC alumni, please send them CCT using the photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo. And as always, if you have updates or want to nominate someone to write one please send those my way.

I recently saw **Daniela Lapidous** in Palos Verdes (see the nearby

photo!) and got this update: “Hi Class of 2016! Hope you are all safe and well. It was a joy this year to see Columbia take a major step toward full divestment from fossil fuels, in response to ongoing student pressure since 2012, including by **Barnard Columbia Divest for Climate Justice** at the time I was on campus. Also on the climate front, for the last year I have been the deputy field director at the **Green New Deal Network** and supporting the fight for the passage of strong policies for climate, jobs and justice

on the federal, state and local level. I recently moved to Flatbush, so say hi if you are in South Brooklyn!”

Another update I managed to score from an in-person inquiry comes from **Samantha Duncan**: “Hey everyone! I moved to Los Angeles last year and have been working in the film industry, primarily in the art department. I recently wrapped a gig as the set decorator on an indie feature and started a role at **Eyeline Studios**, a virtual production company that was acquired by Netflix last year. It’s been fun to learn the ins and outs of volumetric capture, motion capture and LED stages at Eyeline!”

**Matthew Seife** writes: “Brandon Ocheltree (Tulane Business ’17) and I were married on December 4 at the Brooklyn Winery in New York. It was so great to have all our friends and family together to celebrate after long pandemic separations, including several Columbia and Barnard alumni. See a photo in ‘Just Married!’”

## 2017

**Carl Yin**  
carl.yin@columbia.edu

**Bianca Guerrero** recently joined the New York City’s Comptroller’s Office as director of organizing. Her team, which focuses on workers’ rights, housing, education, public safety and environmental justice, will leverage the comptroller’s tools to support progressive legislative and budget campaigns by community organizations and local legislators. Bianca says she has expanded her hobbies beyond photography to include sewing (namely quilting) and bird watching.

**Elle Wisnicki** has launched a career coaching startup, **Pivotal**, while obtaining an M.B.A. at the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. Pivotal is a mock interview marketplace where professionals and students can practice with someone in the industry, function or educational field they are interested in. Pivotal focuses on when someone is nervous about an interview, especially one that has a technical component, like a product or consulting case. It serves product management, consulting, finance, people operations, health, media, data science, design and more. It also offers résumé and essay review, and networking.

Elle says she created this startup with her passion for product design and worker wellness. She is excited for you to check it out and share with friends, family and colleagues: pivotalprep.me.

As always, it’s great to hear from you all. Please feel free to send a Class Note at any time either through email or the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. You can also submit photos here: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo (photos must have at least two CC alumni, or one CC alum if getting married).

## 2018

**Alexander Birkel**  
and **Maleeha Chida**  
ab4065@columbia.edu  
mnc2122@columbia.edu

**Julia Zeh** and **Briley Lewis** finally got to see each other in person again while Julia was on her way to Hawaii for field work for her Ph.D. thesis (see the nearby photo!). Briley also took the next step in her Ph.D. program last fall, and can finally call herself a Ph.D.

candidate. She’s been doing a lot of freelance science writing lately, too, and recently published an article in *Scientific American*. She was also recently a finalist in UCLA’s Grad Slam competition, where she gave a



Julia Zeh ’18 (left) and Briley Lewis ’18 recently spent time together in California.

BRILEY LEWIS '18

three-minute TED-style talk on her thesis work.

Five friends — Bruce Gao '17, **Yhan Colon Iban**, **Rachel Jimenez**, **Hannah Friedman '19** and **Raphael Lee '20** — who all live in the city, have designated “Friends Fridays” to catch up weekly.

**Will Essilfie** visited Mexico City in December with **Josh Burton** and their friends. During the trip, they toured Teotihuacán (see the nearby photo) and explored the city’s phenomenal culinary world. They highly recommended it!

**Jesse Thorson** is co-publishing a book with Jeffrey Sachs, coming out in August, on ethics and sustainable development! Jesse is the special project coordinator at the Center for Sustainable Development at Columbia University’s Earth Institute.

Submit updates to Class Notes by emailing either of us or by using the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. If you’d like to share photos, please submit them directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2019

**Tj Aspen Givens and Emily Gruber**  
tag2149@columbia.edu  
emilyannegruber@gmail.com

Friends of the Class of 2019, we enjoyed reviewing your submissions. We cannot wait to learn more about all you are doing during your time as alumni Lions, from weddings to grad school to accolades to big moves across the pond. Feel free to contact us at any time; we really appreciate staying connected to the Columbia community, and we hope you do, too. As summer comes to be, we are full of optimism as the seasons so beautifully change!

**Sarah Fornshell** GSAS'20 is at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and will spend this summer as a 1L Summer Associate at Squire Patton Boggs.

**Salvatore Volpe** GSAS'21 earned an M.A. in biomedical informatics GSAS and co-authored a chapter in an upcoming textbook, “Health Informatics: Multidisci-



MARIO A. GARCIA JR. '21

**Salvatore G. Volpe '19** celebrated with his parents, **Rachel Volpe** and **Dr. Salvatore Volpe '82**, at his SUNY Downstate College of Medicine Annual White Coat Ceremony on September 17.

plinary Approaches for Current and Future Professionals.” He’s pursuing an M.D. at SUNY Downstate (see a photo above!). Outside of academia, he premiered an original show, *Staten Island! The Musical*, for more than 500 attendees last July and released an original album on all streaming platforms, *In My Life*, featuring **Steve Ali '18**, **MoniQue Rangel-Onwuegbuzia '22**, **Edwine Coulanges**, **Fabiola Plaza**, **Phoenix Collins**, **Natachi Mez** and **Shanga Goman Labossiere** SOA'21 (linktr.ee/laseplov).

In summer 2021, **Emily Utset** was admitted to the Global Field Program at Miami University. As part of her first Earth Expeditions course, Emily traveled to Baja, Mexico, and studied desert and marine landscapes through ecological and social field methods.

## 2020

**Stephen Cone and Kyra Ann Dawkins**  
jsc2247@columbia.edu  
kad2196@columbia.edu

**Brianna Diaz-Pacheco** (née Alico) and **Ruben Diaz-Pacheco '18** celebrated their wedding in November 2021, surrounded by friends and family. See “Just Married!” for a photo.

**Christian Gonzalez** is completing a Ph.D. in political theory at Georgetown.

**Zeina Laban** feels that the past two years just flew by and is happy to see everyone thriving.

**Robert Willard** is leading the World Aral Region Charity on an engineering education project in western Uzbekistan alongside **Nathan Santos** and **Paola Ripoll**. They say they are passionate about connecting the youth of Central Asia with their ecological heritage

through theater, art and dance.

Thank you to all who submitted notes, and we look forward to hearing from more of you soon enough (especially with stories from the CC'20/CC'21 Class Day!).

Please send your notes to us by email, or submit them through the Class Notes webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note. If you’d like to share photos, please submit them directly to CCT using the Class Notes photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

## 2021

**Mario A. Garcia Jr.**  
mag2329@columbia.edu

Hey Class of 2021! I hope the first half of the year treated you well! If you were able to make it to reunion in June and catch up with old friends and make new ones, I’d love to hear about it! Send any updates to be written up for our next issue.

**Leopold Aschenbrenner** recently helped launch the FTX Foundation’s Future Fund, a philanthropic fund that plans to distribute \$100 million–\$1 billion this year to ambitious projects to improve the long-run future of humanity. He, along with his three co-founders, launched this project to support many areas of interest, notably, artificial intelligence, economic growth, effective altruism and more, he says.

**Michael Van Duinen** has been attending the University of Chicago as a chemistry Ph.D. student. He’s begun work in the Sibener Labs and intends to study Helium atom scattering off of Niobium surfaces with superconductive properties well-suited for radio frequency cavities in beam accelerators.



**Josh Burton '18** (far left), **Will Essilfie '18** (far right) and three friends enjoyed time in Mexico City in December.



# obituaries

## 1943

**Frank Herman**, research physicist, Menlo Park, Calif., on August 11, 2021. Born in NYC, Herman showed an early aptitude for mechanics, math and science that would shape his professional career. He graduated from Bronx Science and served in the Navy, entering the College with the Class of 1943, before earning a B.S. in 1945 in engineering and an M.S. in electrical engineering in 1949 from Columbia Engineering and a Ph.D. in physics in 1953 from GSAS. Herman was a research engineer at RCA Laboratories in New Jersey before moving to California in 1962 to work for Lockheed. He joined IBM as a research physicist in San Jose in 1969 and worked there until his 1993 retirement. Herman's work in physics included two patents, more than 120 contributions to scientific publications and more than 250 lectures at conferences throughout the United States, Europe, Brazil, Mexico and Japan. He loved travel, movies, opera and scientific reading. Herman is survived by his wife of 68 years, Sondra BC'53; daughters, Laura, Valerie and Suki; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Second Harvest of Silicon Valley ([shfb.org](http://shfb.org)).

**Albert A. Sharke**, engineer, Arden, N.C., on July 16, 2021. Born and raised in NYC, Sharke was the first in his family to attend college. After graduation, he served as an officer in the 457th Squadron, 506th Fighter Group, U.S. Army Air Corps, on Iwo Jima during WWII, and then earned a B.S. from Columbia Engineering in mining, metallurgy and

mineral engineering in 1947. Sharke worked briefly at Air Reduction Laboratories but spent the bulk of his career in chemical and refinery operations at Standard Oil of New Jersey. After raising a family in Watchung, N.J., he retired to Hendersonville, N.C., and, more recently, Arden. Sharke enjoyed opera and classical music; loved to travel, sail, play bridge and cook outside; was an avid hiker, swimmer and dancer (ballroom, square and round); and was a devout member of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; daughter, Janet; and son, Paul. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Presbyterian Church ([trinitypresnc.org](http://trinitypresnc.org)).

## 1946

**James A. Manning**, pediatric cardiologist, Rochester, N.Y., on July 5, 2021. Born in Calcutta, India, Manning spent his early years there and in Guangzhou, China, where his father was a banker, before moving to the United States, where he grew up in Watertown and Amityville, N.Y. He graduated from P&S in 1948 and was part of the Navy's WWII-era V-12 training program, leaving the Navy as a lieutenant. Manning founded the pediatric cardiology department at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Strong Memorial Hospital in 1955 and was a pioneer in the field, having trained under its founder, Dr. Helen Taussig, at Johns Hopkins. He remained at Rochester and Strong until he retired in 2005; the children's cardiology service at Strong bears his name. Manning also conducted monthly heart clinics for children in Watertown, Cooperstown and elsewhere across Upstate New York for 30 years. Manning is survived by his wife of 74 years, Dr. Mary-Parke Edwards Manning PS'48; daughter, Elizabeth Stevens (Bill); sons, Deane (Michelle), Thomas '76, BUS'82 (Randi) and Foster (Leslie); eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Bernard Sunshine**, businessman, New York City, on January 2, 2022. Sunshine grew up in the East

New York section of Brooklyn and earned a master's in history from GSAS in 1947. He worked in the textiles business, manufacturing and importing textiles for home furnishings. Sunshine said that attending Columbia changed his life, and he paid it forward by being one of the College's most dedicated alumni for more than 50 years. He was president of the Columbia College Alumni Association 1974-76, a member of the University Senate 1994-99 and president of the Columbia University Alumni Federation 1999-2001. In 1971, Sunshine was awarded the Columbia University Alumni Federation Medal. He sat on the boards of the Harlem School of the Arts



Bernard Sunshine '46

and of SCAN-Harbor, two organizations dedicated to helping youth in underserved NYC neighborhoods. Sunshine is survived by his wife of 70 years, Marjorie LS'69; sons, Harry TC'83 (Susan Schwimmer) and Andrew '79, GSAS'91 (Mara Heiman SW'85); daughters, Rachel and Louise; five grandchildren (including Jacob '14); and one great-grandchild.

## 1948

**Michael J. Etra**, businessman, Jupiter, Fla., on March 21, 2022. Etra was a varsity swimmer and a member of the water polo team that went undefeated for two years. His time at Columbia was interrupted by two years of service in the Navy during WWII. Etra worked at Star Corrugated Box Co. for 38 years and then at Unicorr; he was a well-known figure in the industry.



Michael J. Etra '48

He was a guitar player, opera lover, sailor, oenophile and philanthropist. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Julie; son, Barry '73, BUS'75 (Janice Wolf); daughters, Susan Yoeli (Michael), Anne and Elizabeth Jick (Dan); eight grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Thomas H. Weyr**, writer, Bronxville, N.Y., on March 11, 2022. Born on September 9, 1927, in Vienna, Austria, Weyr and his mother fled to England following the annexa-



Thomas H. Weyr '48

tion of Austria by the Nazis in 1938. Three years later, his family moved to the United States to escape the German Blitz of London, settling in Philadelphia. A journalist and author who earned a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna, Weyr contributed to many news outlets including ABC, *Newsweek*, United Press International, the Research Institute of America and DMNews. He also published several books, including *Reaching for Paradise: The Playboy Vision of America*, a

## FEATURED OBITUARIES

Read about the lives of Dr. Jeremiah Stamler '40; Jason L. Epstein '49, GSAS'50; Gerald Sherwin '55; Franklin A. Thomas '56, LAW'63; and Bernard W. Nussbaum '58 at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

detailed history of Hugh Hefner's Playboy empire, and *The Setting of the Pearl: Vienna Under Hitler*, a history of Vienna 1938–2005. He also translated many books into English from French and German and ghost-wrote others, including *Answer to History*, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's autobiography, and former CIA director William Casey's book, *The Secret War Against Hitler*. Weyr is survived by his daughters, Teddie, Garret, Sascha and Tara Nicole; stepson, John; stepdaughters, Allison and Frances; and six grandchildren.

## 1949

**Frank T. Thomas**, ophthalmologist, Madison, Conn., on October 5, 2021. Born on December 29, 1924, in Southbridge, Mass., Thomas enlisted in the Navy after graduation from high school and served as a medic from December 1942 to February 1946. He graduated from P&S in 1953 and practiced ophthalmology in Bronxville, N.Y., for 30 years, founding the Bronxville Eye Associates. An avid golfer and tennis player, Thomas and his wife, Maureen, were members of Bonnie Briar Country Club and the Bronxville Field Club. After retirement, they moved to Madison, where they were members of the Madison and Clinton Country Clubs and Old Saybrook Racquet Club. Thomas was predeceased by his wife and is survived by his daughters, Laura, and Kathy Uhrlass (Raymond); son, Steven (Arleen); and five grandchildren.

## 1950

**Noel R.D. Corngold**, physics professor, Pasadena, Calif., on January 23, 2022. Born in Brooklyn, Corngold was bedridden for a year prior to college with rheumatic fever and used that sabbatical to study physics, calculus and chess. He was on the staff of *Spectator*, where he wrote an often reprinted, affectionately satirical article, "A Guide to Female Companionship." After graduating magna cum laude, he attended Harvard, where his research was supervised by Nobel Laureate Norman Ramsey, and completed a Ph.D. at Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he was an associate physicist for 12 years. In

1966, Corngold joined the faculty at Caltech, where he conducted extensive research in reactor theory and the features of pure electron plasmas while teaching students and lecturing worldwide. He was elected to the American Nuclear Society in 1966 and honored by the society's Reactor Physics Division for his "physical insight into neutronic problems." He was presented the society's Wigner Reactor Physics Award in 2002 and its A.H. Compton Award in Education in 2006. Corngold is survived by his wife, son, daughter and brother.

**F. Brian Quinlan**, banker, Garden City, N.Y., on January 1, 2021. A graduate of Forest Hills H.S., Quinlan was a member of Beta Theta Pi and served three years in the Navy. He had a long career in banking, including at JPMorgan Chase and Bank of Ireland. Quinlan is survived by his wife, Ann Leonard; sons, Paul (Gail) and Bruce (Karen); daughters, Diane and Pamela (Stephen); nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## 1951

**Stanley L. Beck**, translator, Brussels, on March 13, 2022. Beck graduated from Baltimore City College prep school in 1946 and started college at Franklin & Marshall before transferring to Columbia, where he earned both a B.A. and a J.D., from the Law School, in 1951. He spent a summer at the Yale Institute of Far Eastern Languages learning Chinese, an experience that sparked a lifelong love of languages; he went on to master French, Italian and German, plus some Russian, Romanian and a half-dozen others. Beck spent 11 years with the Navy, mostly as a judge advocate general, before serving for several decades as a translator for NATO and the Defense Department. Beck was predeceased by his wife, Hedy. He is survived by his son, Tony (Tanya); daughter, Marissa; two grandsons; and a sister, Sylvia Beck Piven.

**Richard J. Howard**, poet, translator and educator, New York City, on March 31, 2022. A Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, Howard was Professor Emeritus of Professional Practice of Writing and Special Lecturer in

Writing in the Faculty of the Arts. He translated more than 100 volumes, introducing modern French fiction to the American public. His Pulitzer was awarded in 1970 for *Untitled Subjects*, which presented 15 dramatic monologues by Victorians and Edwardians. Howard was awarded the PEN Translation Prize in 1976 for his translation of E.M. Cioran's *A Short History of Decay*, and the National Book Award in 1984 for his translation of Baudelaire's *Les Fleurs du Mal*. Through the years, more awards and honors were heaped on him, including the American Book Award, the Harriet Monroe Memorial Prize, the PEN Translation Medal, the Levinson Prize and the Ordre National du Mérite from the government of France. He was the poet laureate of New York State 1993–95, and at various times the poetry editor of *The Paris Review* and *Western Humanities Review*. After teaching English at the University of Houston for 10 years, he became a professor of writing at Columbia in 1997. He is survived by his partner, David Alexander.

**Kenneth L. Schick**, physics professor, Saratoga Springs, N.Y., on September 16, 2021. Born on February 20, 1930, in Brooklyn, Schick was a graduate of Stuyvesant H.S. and earned a Ph.D. in physics from Rutgers before serving in the Army during the Korean War. During his 43-year tenure as professor of physics at Union College, he was a Bailey Chair, physics department chair and member of the Board of Trustees. A staunch believer in academic excellence, Schick recruited outstanding professors including the author of the inaugural work on the Big Bang theory and the inventor of artificial diamonds. In addition to his work at Union, he was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Leiden in the Netherlands, a visiting professor at The Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and sat on many Middle States Accreditation Committees. In retirement, Schick was active on the boards of the Saratoga Independent School and the Legal Equality Advocacy Firm; founded the Saratoga chapter of the Torch Club; and continued to review physics textbooks for Knopf Doubleday Publishing. Schick was predeceased by his daughter Ruth, and is sur-

## Submit an Obituary

Please go to [college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us](https://college.columbia.edu/cct/contact-us).

vived by his wife of 64 years, Elaine; brother, Frank; daughter Karen Bellhouse (Thomas); son, Louis (Bridgit Burke); and six grandchildren and grandchildren-in-law.

## 1952

**Trowbridge H. Ford**, political science professor, New Haven, Conn., on July 26, 2021. Born in El Paso on November 9, 1929, Ford spent his childhood moving from one Army base to another before attending Phillips Exeter Academy. A direct descendant of William Harris, president of Columbia College 1811–29, he served in the Army Counter Intelligence Corps in Paris 1952–55. After time spent as a reporter and sports editor of the *Raleigh (N.C.) Times*, Ford earned a doctorate in public law and government from GSAS in 1967. He taught at



Trowbridge H. Ford '52

Columbia, Maine and Heidelberg (Ohio) before becoming a professor of political science at Holy Cross 1967–86, teaching courses on U.K. and Irish politics and Soviet foreign policy. Prompted by questions surrounding the Vietnam War and the Warren Report on the Kennedy assassination, he became an outspoken debunker of official accounts of assassinations, wars and foreign affairs. On his retirement from teaching, Ford was sports editor of the *Ridgefield (Conn.) Press*, editor of *Eye Spy* magazine and a contributor to the Veterans Today

website. After living in Portugal and Sweden, he returned to New Haven in 2012. Ford was divorced from his wife, Isabel Clahr, BC'58, who predeceased him. He is survived by his brother, John; and 10 nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made to Oxfam America (oxfamamerica.org).

**Neil J. Henry**, sales executive, Mendham, N.J., on August 5, 2021. Born on May 7, 1929, and raised in Worcester, Mass., Henry enlisted in the Army following graduation and served in Korea. He had a long career as a sales executive in the plastics industry, selling injection molding machines. Ultimately, he had his own distributorship and sales organization, responsible for sales on the East Coast. Active in his community, Henry served on the town Recreation Committee, was president of the School Board and was a founding member of the local youth athletics group. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Marcia; seven sons and their wives; 15 grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

**Nicholas W. Wedge**, copywriter, Ossining, N.Y., on December 1, 2021. Born in New York City on May 31, 1930, Wedge graduated from Bronx Science. He was a copywriter in advertising's "Mad Men" era, and created memorable campaigns for *The New York Times*, the *Financial Times* and others. In a six-decade career at BBDO in New York and London, D'Arcy McManus, Geer DuBois, Royd's Advertising Group in London, and his own agency, Janic Productions, Wedge created print, radio and television ads for airlines, beverage makers, cars, computers, corporate clients, financial institutions, publishers and myriad consumer goods and services. His work for the *Times* included an iconic collaboration with artist Tomi Ungerer, in which his slogan, "An adult finds out in *The New York Times*," was paired with several startling Ungerer images. In one, a hand reaches out to pull off a clown's green mask, only to reveal a green-faced man behind it. In another, a man pries the red-white-and-blue top hat off Uncle Sam's head to peer inside his skull. Other slogans in the series included "You can tell the adults by the paper they

read" and "If you're not behind *The Times*, you're behind the times." Wedge is survived by his wife of 69 years, Janet; son, Will; daughters, Cathy and Liz; three granddaughters; and a great-grandson.

## 1953

**Allan E. Jackman**, physician, Mill Valley, Calif., on October 20, 2021. Born on October 31, 1932, in Brooklyn, Jackman graduated from Erasmus Hall H.S. and was 16 when he entered the College, where he was sports editor of *Spectator* and director of the Student Elections Commission. He graduated from P&S in 1957, interned at Mount Sinai Hospital and joined the Air Force Medical Corps, serving as a captain and chief of staff of the American Hospital in Ankara, Turkey. Jackman did his residency at UCSF before going into medical practice in San Francisco, where he became interested in arthritis. He was an attending physician at UCSF's Medical and Arthritis Clinics for 40 years, and was an associate clinical professor of medicine. Jackman was president of the Northern California Rheumatism Association and was on the San Francisco Medical Society's Malpractice Advisory Committee. Nicknamed "Dr. Ajax," he retired in 2003. Jackman was predeceased by his wife, Vivian Straus, in 1997; he is survived by his sons, Owen and Russell; two grandchildren; Evelyn Topper, his partner and companion since 1999; and his adopted family, Vanessa Topper, François Gounard and Mikayla Gounard. His brother, Jay M. Jackman '60, died three months after he did (see entry in this issue). Memorial contributions may be made to the P&S Class of 1957 Scholarship Fund.

**Richard A. Lempert**, attorney, Dallas, on January 12, 2022. Born in Brooklyn on May 15, 1932, Lempert graduated from the Law School in 1955 and served in the Coast Guard, including a posting in Sitka, Alaska (1955–58). His legal career began in New York City, in admiralty practice, and arced through aviation, international, corporate and commercial litigation, oil and gas, banking, law firm management and arbitration. Lempert was an attorney, assistant

## OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

*Columbia College Today* also has learned of the following death(s). Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information.

- 1948 **Daniel N. Hoffman**, retired attorney, San Jose, Calif., on January 15, 2022.
- 1949 **George W. Intemann**, automotive executive, La Quinta, Calif., on January 17, 2022.
- 1952 **Richard C. Wald**, journalist and professor, Larchmont, N.Y., on May 13, 2022.
- 1953 **Joseph E. Velasco**, physician, Miami Beach, on February 20, 2019.
- 1975 **Edward T. Shaskin**, bank examiner, Paramus, N.J., on March 25, 2022.
- 1992 **Dara E. Goldman**, professor, Urbana, Ill., on May 13, 2022.

general counsel, senior VP international and general counsel of American Airlines (1963–89), moving with his family from Douglaston, N.Y., to Dallas in 1979 when American relocated its headquarters. Retiring from American in 1989, he worked for Johnson & Gibbs (1989–91) and became a principal/managing director and one of the five founders of McKool Smith in 1991. He retired in 2006 and then was an arbitrator with the American Arbitration Association. Lempert is survived by his wife of 66 years, Mary Lou BC'54, TC'55, whom he met at WKCR; son, Peter (Donna); daughter, Jeanne; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to The Lake George Association, 239 State Route 9, PO Box 408, Lake George, NY 12845.

**Kenneth N. Skoug Jr.**, foreign service officer, Harleysville, Pa., on December 5, 2021. Born in Fargo, N.D., Skoug earned a master's and a Ph.D. from The George Washington University and also attended the Georgetown Institute of Language and Linguistics (1955–56) and The National War College (1973–74). After serving in the Army, Skoug began a Foreign Service career (1957–90) that included assignments in Germany, Mexico, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Venezuela (twice) as well as four tours in the Department of State in Washington, D.C. Highlights included serving in Czechoslovakia during the Soviet invasion, traveling the world as a

Foreign Service inspector, working as an economic-commercial counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, negotiating with Fidel Castro for the release of political prisoners while office director of Cuban affairs, establishing personal relations between Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and President George H.W. Bush and serving as deputy chief of mission in Caracas. He authored two books, *The United States and Cuba Under Reagan and Shultz*, *A Foreign Service Officer Reports and Czechoslovakia's Lost Fight for Freedom, 1967–69, An American Embassy Perspective*. Skoug was predeceased by his wife, Martha; and is survived by his children, Reed (Michael) and Kenneth (Becky); and five grandchildren.

## 1954

**Albert J. Thompson**, dentist, Riverdale, N.Y., on October 6, 2021. A lifelong New Yorker, Thompson was senior class president at George Washington H.S. and won three NYC titles in track and field. At Columbia, he set a school record in the shot put and won titles in the 35-lb. weight throw and the shot put at the 1953 indoor and outdoor Heptagonal Championships. While serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserves, Thompson won the shot put in the 1955 Millrose Games and qualified for the 1956 U.S. Olympic Trials. He was a proud member of the New York Pioneer

Club, the nation's first integrated track club. After graduation from the Dental School in 1960, Thompson went into private practice in midtown, where he served a diverse community for nearly 60 years. An active member of the Dental School community, he was an assistant clinical professor, president of the alumni association and a member of the admissions and minority affairs committees. In 1988 Thompson was honored with a Columbia University Alumni Medal and in 2010 was inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame. Thompson was predeceased by his first wife, Marion, and is survived by his wife of more than 40 years, Angela; children, Leslie, Paul and Seif; sister, Dolores; and four grandchildren.

## 1955

**Theodore Ditchek**, physician, Phoenix, on August 26, 2021. Born on September 6, 1934, Ditchek earned an M.D. at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. After completing his internship and residency at Michigan, he moved to Arizona and cared for the people of the Navajo and Hopi Nations. He was known for his acumen in spotting complex and hard-to-diagnose cases of tuberculosis and cocci. Ditchek became the medical director for radiology at Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, now known as Banner University Medical Center, where he worked for nearly 30 years before opening the Laura Dryer Breast Center. Ditchek was predeceased by his first wife, Ester; and sister, Elaine Finestone. He is survived by his second wife, Tina; daughters, Stacie Nardizzi (John), Elyce Goldberg (Bruce), Dimitra Steeley (Mark) and Tiffany Hilstrom (Mike); eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

**William H. Epstein**, patent attorney, New York City and Sag Harbor, N.Y., on November 13, 2021. Born in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, Epstein graduated from James Madison H.S. and majored in history. He earned a B.S. in chemical engineering from Columbia Engineering in 1956 and a J.D. from The George Washington University Law School. Epstein had a long and distinguished career as a patent attorney, working for

more than 35 years at Hoffmann-La Roche. He later joined Gibbons P.C. in its intellectual property group, and retired at 80. Epstein had a lifelong love of classical music; his father, Morris, liked to mention that his son spent his bar mitzvah money on opera tickets to the old Met. Epstein also enjoyed traveling, eating fine food and spending time with family and friends in Sag Harbor. A dedicated alumnus, Epstein often quoted from CC and Lit Hum texts, served on Reunion Committees and regularly attended Homecoming and Class of '55 events. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Elaine; son, Eric '83 (Michele BC'85, JRN'92); daughter, Ellen (Ray); and three granddaughters. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ponheary Ly Foundation (theplf.org).

**Daren A. Rathkopf**, attorney, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., on January 11, 2022. A 1958 graduate of the Law School, Rathkopf practiced until three weeks before his death, most recently as a partner at Chase, Rathkopf & Chase in Glen Cove, N.Y. He was the co-author of a major land-use treatise, *Rathkopf's The Law of Zoning and Planning*. His father, Arden H. Rathkopf CC 1926, also graduated from the Law School, in 1928. Rathkopf is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mira; daughters, Ann Rathkopf (Giona Maiarelli) and Erika Saffran (Michael); and four grandchildren.

**Herbert S. Rubinowitz**, neurologist, Phoenix, on August 22, 2021. Born on March 1, 1935, to parents who emigrated from Poland and Russia during WWII, Rubinowitz grew up in Washington Heights, N.Y., and graduated at 15 as valedictorian and class president at George Washington H.S. After earning an M.D. from NYU, he completed an internship in internal medicine at Beth Israel Medical Center and a residency in neurology at Mount Sinai Hospital. Rubinowitz was a captain and a medic in the Air Force; he was honorably discharged in 1972. In addition to his NYC private practice in neurology, Rubinowitz was on staff at Mount Sinai, Beth Israel and NYU. He instilled his work ethic and the importance of education in his children, all seven of whom graduated from college and five of

whom attended graduate school. Rubinowitz is survived by his wife of 54 years, Arlene; daughters Ami Israel (Gary), Susi Sur (Scott), Emily Gross (Stewart), Wendi Rubinowitz (Nicki) and Randi Stensberg; 12 grandchildren; and sister, Sonie Spector. He was predeceased by a daughter, Jodi Peikes (Ronald), and son, David (Stacey). Memorial contributions may be made to Kivel Campus of Care in Phoenix (kivelcare.org) or to the Alzheimer's Association (act.alz.org/donate).

**Robert J. Thonus**, civil engineer, Murrieta, Calif., on September 18, 2021. Born on December 7, 1933, in Haledon, N.J., Thonus earned a B.S. in civil engineering from Columbia Engineering in 1956 and an M.B.A. from the University of Houston in 1980. He worked for Esso Research & Engineering for 30 years, focusing on the engineering, procurement and construction management of large capital investment petrochemical projects domestically and overseas. He left what is now ExxonMobil in 1991 and was a consultant for several years before moving from Baton Rouge to Southern California, first to San Diego and then to Murrieta. A licensed pilot, Thonus and his wife, Angeline, traveled extensively following his retirement, including taking many cruises and motorcycle trips in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Spain. He was a longtime president/secretary of the ExxonMobil Retiree Club of the San Diego Area. In addition to his wife, Thonus is survived by his sons, Tim and Ted; daughters, Terese, Jean and Nancy; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## 1956

**Frederick C. Baldwin**, photographer, Houston, on December 15, 2021. Born on January 25, 1929, in Lausanne, Switzerland, Baldwin was the son of a career foreign service officer who died while serving as consul general in Havana. Baldwin attended several boarding schools and spent one year at the University of Virginia before dropping out and working at an ice factory owned by his mother's family. A talented photographer, he carried a camera while serving as a Marine rifleman during

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in the Korean War, was presented two Purple Hearts and met David Douglas Duncan of *Life* magazine, who influenced Baldwin in his career



Frederick C. Baldwin '56

path. Calling his camera "a passport to the world," Baldwin documented wildlife, the civil rights movement and American poverty, and helped promote fellow photographers from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Much of his work was done in partnership with Wendy Watriss, whom he met in 1970 and who became his collaborator and second wife. Together they co-founded FotoFest in Houston, which held its first biennial exhibition in 1986 and was one of the few festivals that featured the work of photographers from Latin America, Africa and Asia. Baldwin's first marriage, to Monica Lagerstedt in 1961, ended in divorce after eight years. In addition to Watriss, he is survived by his sons, Frederick and Charles; and one granddaughter.

**Stanley A. Kling**, micropaleontologist, Encinitas, Calif., on September 4, 2021. Kling studied geology and paleontology, earning a master's from GSAS in 1959. He earned a Ph.D. at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) and joined the Deep Sea Drilling Project, serving aboard the scientific research ship *Glomar Challenger*. Kling completed post-graduate studies in Tubingen, Germany, and then relocated to Tulsa, where he worked for the Cities Service oil company. In 1974, he secured research grants at SIO and

returned to California, where he worked for Biostratigraphics in San Diego before co-founding MicroPaleo Consultants. Kling's primary research interest was in the systematics, biogeography and biostratigraphy of radiolarians, and his microscope photography of radiolarians, foraminiferans and diatoms were well published. He was a lifelong jazz enthusiast,



Stanley A. Kling '56

playing trombone and tuba in various Dixieland and traditional jazz bands. Kling was predeceased by his wife, Britta Schuelke, in 2011; he is survived by his sons, Neal, Hannes (Carol Hofmockel) and Wendell (Allison Wiese); and four grandchildren.

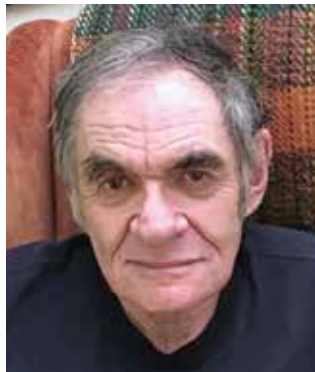
**Elias Schwartz**, pediatric hematologist, Philadelphia, on July 17, 2021. Schwartz grew up in Brooklyn, graduated from Erasmus Hall H.S. and earned an M.D. from P&S in 1960. He interned at Montefiore Hospital in the Bronx and completed a pediatric residency at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Philadelphia. Schwartz served in the Air Force 1963-65 at Offutt AFB in Omaha, caring for



Elias Schwartz '56

children of military personnel, and then completed an internship in hematology at Boston Children's Hospital. Schwartz joined Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and the University of Pennsylvania Medical School as chief of the Division of Hematology and a professor of pediatrics in 1972 and set the division on a lasting course of integrating patient care and research. He became the chair of the Department of Pediatrics in 1990, was CHOP's physician-in-chief 1991-97 and was a professor of pediatrics and a pediatric hematologist at Thomas Jefferson University's duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del., 1997-2000. He published more than 150 research papers and was editor of the 1980 textbook *Hemoglobinopathies in Children*. Schwartz is survived by his wife of 61 years, Esta; sons, Samuel and Robert; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to CHOP ([chop.edu](http://chop.edu)).

**Jerome Schwartz**, French professor and artist, Philadelphia, on January 10, 2022. Born on February 10, 1935,



Jerome Schwartz '56

in Queens, Schwartz earned an M.A. in 1960 and a Ph.D. in 1965, both from GSAS, and a Fulbright Travel Grant to teach "American" English at the Lycée Henri IV in Paris. He joined the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh in 1965, received tenure in 1968, became a full professor in 1989 and was named Professor Emeritus in 1997, specializing in 16th-century French language and literature. Schwartz was an accomplished pianist and organist as well as a serious artist, and upon retirement he resettled in Philadelphia and embarked on a second career as an oil painter. He painted for 10 years,

joined several galleries, exhibited, won prizes and had a solo show at Twenty-Two Gallery. Schwartz is survived by his wife of 62 years, Sandra BC'55; and daughters, Lena Bennet and Monika. Donations may be made to the Louis August Jonas Foundation ([lajf.org](http://lajf.org)), Plastic Club ([plasticclub.org](http://plasticclub.org)) or Curtis Institute of Music ([curtis.edu](http://curtis.edu)).

## 1957

**Alan M. Frommer**, businessman, Wellesley, Mass., on May 15, 2021. Frommer, who grew up in Laurelton, Queens, and graduated from Far Rockaway H.S., rowed lightweight crew along with his twin brother, Paul '57, and earned a B.S. in industrial engineering from Columbia Engineering in 1958 and an M.B.A. from Rutgers. He also was a graduate of the Ritz-Escoffier École de Gastronomie Française (1996), loved French food and wine and worked in Paris for three years. Frommer worked in corporate finance for many years until he built his own business, Art Supplies Wholesale, on the North Shore of Boston. He was president of the Columbia University Alumni Association of New England for many years and was honored with a Columbia Alumni Medal in 1986. Frommer was predeceased by his brother Herbert '54, DM'57. In addition to his twin brother, Paul '57 (Liz), he is survived by his wife of 61 years, Judy (née Goldman); daughter, Michèle '86; son, Benjamin '91 (Martina); three grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Ellie. Memorial contributions may be made to the Core Curriculum ([college.givenow.columbia.edu](http://college.givenow.columbia.edu)).

**Richard Kleefeld**, orthodontist, Norwalk, Conn., on March 13, 2022. After serving as an officer in the Navy, Kleefeld graduated from the Dental School in 1968 before co-founding his own orthodontic practice. He was passionate about flying and Lions football. He is survived by his wife, Mickey; son, James; daughter, Janie; brother, Jonathan '66; and five grandchildren.

## 1958

**Howard J. Orlin**, accountant, New York City, on October 18, 2021.

Orlin graduated from the Business School in 1959 and was an accountant with expertise in international tax law. He fought the effects of multiple sclerosis for 40 years, and thanks to Anita BC'61, his wife and caregiver, lived a meaningful and productive life even when confined to a wheelchair. Orlin was a respected international tax partner at Deloitte Touche and a mentor to those entering the field. He was a proud member of the Columbia community, always with a smile on his face at reunions. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Jonathan '85 (Mary); daughters, Elizabeth (John Ifcher) and Janet; and two grandchildren.

## 1959

**Eric G. Jakobsson**, science professor, Urbana, Ill., on October 28, 2021. Jakobsson earned a B.S. in chemical engineering from Columbia Engineering in 1960 and a Ph.D. from Dartmouth. In 1971, he began a 50-year association with the University of Illinois, where he was a professor of biochemistry, molecular and integrative physiology, biophysics and computational biology, bioengineering and neuroscience. He continued to work through the spring 2021 semester, when he taught a remote course on the history of the universe to honors students. His primary area of research was studying microscopic nerve cells, especially those that are fundamental to understanding how the nervous system and brain work. Late in his career Jakobsson shifted his research to lithium, about which he wrote several papers. He was elected as an alderman in 2009, a year before he was appointed to the Urbana City Council; later he was elected to Ward 2 and served until he resigned in June 2020 to devote more time to teaching. He was also a representative to the Public Arts and Culture Commission, the Urbana Free Library board and the Traffic Commission. Jakobsson was predeceased by a son, Garret, in 2013, and is survived by his wife, Naomi; sons Eric Jr. and Jonathan; and daughters, Beverly, Brenda, Linda, Sarah and Susan.

**Robert E. Selz**, prosthodontist, Asheville, N.C., on October 28, 2021.

Born on August 28, 1937, in New York City, Selz was in the Army during the Vietnam War before beginning a 50-year career as a board-certified prosthodontist. He had an appetite for adventure, loved fast cars and traveled extensively. He is survived by his wife, Judith; son, Steven; daughter, Karen; and three grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association ([act.alz.org/donate](http://act.alz.org/donate)), Compassion & Choices ([compassionsandchoices.org](http://compassionsandchoices.org)) or Care Partners Hospice of Asheville ([missionhealth.org](http://missionhealth.org)).

**Myles N. Weintraub**, attorney, Toledo, Ohio, on February 20, 2022. Born on March 23, 1938, Weintraub grew up in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn with his twin brother, Jerry, and their sister, Annette, near their parents' corner grocery store, and graduated from Erasmus Hall H.S. After earning a J.D. from NYU Law in 1963, he worked mostly in private practice on Long Island. Following his legal career, Weintraub joined his brother in Berkeley, Calif., where he worked as a handyman, which he was passionate about. He moved to Toledo in 2021 to live near his children. Weintraub is survived by his sons, Mike (Melanie Coulter) and Patrick (Katherine); daughter, Stacy Brown (Kevin); twin brother, Jerry; sister, Annette Blaugrund (Stanley); and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Diabetes Foundation ([diabetesfoundationinc.org](http://diabetesfoundationinc.org)).

## 1960

**Laurence M. Chelmow**, engineer, Canton, Mass., on September 29, 2021. Chelmow earned a B.S. in industrial engineering/operations research from Columbia Engineering in 1961. He was a principal engineer for Polaroid, working on its new products. Upon retirement, Chelmow channeled his love of horology into an antique clock restoration business. He sat on the boards of the Willard House & Clock Museum and the Bristol Art Museum and was a member of the American Watch and Clockmakers Institute. He also sat on Canton's Finance and Capital Outlay and Planning Committees and was a Cub Master of Pack 77. Chelmow is survived by his wife of 60 years,

Betty; sons, David and Ted; daughter, Susan Nourse; and six grandchildren.

**Jay M. Jackman**, psychiatrist, Stanford, Calif., on January 17, 2022. Born in Brooklyn on June 4, 1939, Jackman graduated from Erasmus Hall H.S. and earned an M.D. from Harvard in 1964. He completed a psychiatric residency at Stanford in 1969 and worked in San Francisco in community mental health and alcohol and drug abuse treatment. In 1975, Jackman moved to Honolulu, where he was in private practice for 15 years. He moved to Palo Alto in 1990 and was an expert psychiatric witness in about 400 murder cases, including 25 habeas appeals cases in state courts and in Federal District Courts. Jackman was an elected trustee of the Foothill DeAnza Community College District 1993–98 and earned a J.D. from Hastings Law School in San Francisco in 1999. He married Judith Maisels in 1963; they were divorced in 1985. Jackman was predeceased by his brother, Dr. Allan E. Jackman '53 (see entry in this issue); and is survived by his second wife, Myra Strober, whom he married in 1990; five children and stepchildren; and six grandchildren.

**Anton I. Klotz**, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., on March 4, 2020. Klotz, who earned a master's from Wisconsin, was devoted to his family and friends and loved books, films, music and a lively debate. He was predeceased by his first wife, Rose Mosen, in 1968; second wife, Annette Sydney, in 1999; and brother, Peter. He is survived by his sons, Bruce (Jodi Levine) and Adam '89; daughters, Donna Cohen (Claude Armstrong) and Barbara Silverstone (Stanley); brother, Gerald (Joan); sister-in-law Elaine Geracht (Maurice); and nine grandchildren.

## 1961

**Samuel Strober**, professor of immunology and rheumatology, Portola Valley, Calif., on February 11, 2022. Born in Brooklyn, Strober graduated from Harvard Medical School magna cum laude in 1966. After an internship at Massachusetts General Hospital, he was a research associate at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda,

Md., for three years. Strober started his residency at Stanford in 1970, joined the medical school's faculty as an instructor in immunology in 1971 and was promoted to professor in 1982. He was a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator 1976–81 and led the division of immunology and rheumatology 1978–97. Strober's 40-year career was committed to eliminating the need for immunosuppressive drugs in patients with organ transplants. Strober published 400 scientific papers and book chapters and was an associate editor of several journals. He co-founded two companies, Dendreon and Medeor Therapeutics; was board chairman at the La Jolla Institute for Immunology 2005–10; president of the Clinical Immunology Society in 1996; and a member of half-dozen other professional associations. In addition to his brother, Ross, Strober is survived by his sons, Jason, Will and Jesse; daughter, Liz; and four grandchildren.

## 1962

**Charles F. "Sandy" Darlington III**, attorney, South Casco, Maine, on October 12, 2021. Darlington served in the Army in Germany before attending the College. After earning a J.D. from Brooklyn Law in 1965, he practiced law in both New York and Maine. Darlington was a dedicated member of St. James the Less Episcopal Church in Scarsdale, N.Y., for more than 55 years, where he sang in the choir and served as senior warden. A talented musician, he



Charles F. "Sandy" Darlington III '62

also sang in The New Choral Society for more than 25 years. Darlington is survived by his wife, Janet; sons, Mark '83, SEAS'84 and Matthew;

daughters, Caroline and Elizabeth; their spouses; and 10 grandchildren.

## 1963

**Richard J. Wells**, attorney and paramedic, Yorktown Heights, N.Y., on December 22, 2021. A longtime resident of Chappaqua and Brant Lake, N.Y., Wells served in the second class of the Peace Corps and was sent to Columbé, Ecuador, a remote mountain village with no running water or electricity, to help build a school. Wells's interest in helping others extended to his years at Harvard Law School, where he volunteered with Legal Aid prior to graduation in 1968. He practiced law in NYC, but his political interests led him to join the successful campaign of Harrison Jay Goldin for NYC comptroller. Wells was Goldin's lead executive advisor throughout the 1970s. He later studied at Harvard Public Health and had a second career as an EMT and paramedic. Wells is survived by his wife, Janet; son, Ben (Marcia); daughter, Laura; two grandchildren; and sisters, Katherine Wells and Elizabeth Elkin (Allen).

## 1964

**Lawrence H. "Larry" Davis**, philosophy professor, Cleveland, on February 10, 2021. Davis, who studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary, earned a Ph.D. from Michigan, where he completed his dissertation, *The Concepts of Action and Agency*. He



Lawrence H. "Larry" Davis '64

was a professor in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Missouri, St. Louis for more than 30 years and the author of *Theory of*

*Action* (1979). While his later years were difficult due to a neurological condition similar to Parkinson's, Davis continued to enjoy intellectual pursuits such as the study of Judaic subjects with friends. He is survived by his wife, Sonya "Sunny"; daughters, Rena Landes, Miriam Berger and Sarah Rudolph; 12 grandchildren; and sister, Rhea Cabin.

## 1965

**David K. Berke**, cardiologist, Castro Valley, Calif., on December 27, 2021. Berke graduated in 1969 from P&S, where he was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha. Following residencies at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Columbia University Irving Medical Center and UC San Francisco and a cardiology fellowship at Stanford University Medical Center, Berke opened his private practice in Fremont,



David K. Berke '65

Calif., in 1974 and developed the cardiac program (catheterization lab, cardiac rehab and heart surgery) at Washington Hospital. He completed his medical career in Castro Valley. Berke loved patient care and felt it was a privilege to go to work every day. His business card quoted Hippocrates: "Cure sometimes, treat often, comfort always." He hiked all seven continents and was passionate about tennis. Berke is survived by his wife, Terry Liebowitz; former wife, Iris Berke; daughters, Elizabeth Vickery '94 (Jason) and Anne; and two granddaughters.

**David M. Sarlin**, photographer, Saugerties, N.Y., on November 3, 2021. Sarlin, who was a regular attendee at NYC-area class luncheons, was known for capturing spontaneous and incongruous images. He studied at the International Center of Photography

and exhibited his work at the Woodstock Artists Association and Museum, the New School and other venues. His work is in several private collections.

## 1966

**Michael H. Friedman**, professor, Winston-Salem, N.C., on May 27, 2021. Friedman earned an M.A. in 1968 and a Ph.D. in 1977, in English literature, both from GSAS, where he met his wife, Mary (née Lusky) GSAS'77, who earned a doctorate. His book, *The Making of a Tory Humanist: William Wordsworth and the Idea of Community*, was published in 1979.

**Richard G. Gallin**, editor, New York City, on May 26, 2021. Gallin earned a master's in 1967 and a Ph.D. in history in 1979, both from GSAS. An editor and publisher, he loved reading, painting, being outdoors, history, film, music and clouds, and most of all spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife and the love of his life for 55 years, Nancy GSAS'67; sons, Josh (Nara) and Will (Pam); daughters, Lisa (Tim), Becky (Kurt), Susie (Dave), Annie (David), Maggie SW'11 (Kevin) and Cathy (Iván); and 16 grandchildren.

**David S. Weissbrodt**, human rights law professor, Minneapolis, on November 11, 2021. Born in Washington, D.C., Weissbrodt attended the London School of Economics before earning a J.D. from UC Berkeley. In 1975 he joined the Minnesota Law School faculty, where he became a highly regarded and widely published scholar of international human rights law who was extraordinarily active in promoting human rights worldwide. He established the Human Rights Center in 1988 and began the Minnesota Human Rights Library online to make human rights documents easily available. In 2005, he was appointed a Regents Professor, the university's highest honor awarded to a faculty member, and he retired in 2018 as Regents Professor Emeritus. He was active in helping the Law School establish the Weissbrodt Human Rights Fund to support the continuing work of the Human Rights Center. He served as a member of the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion

and Protection of Human Rights 1996–2003 and was a leader with several other influential NGOs, including The Advocates for Human Rights, Amnesty International and Center for Victims of Torture. Weissbrodt is survived by his wife, Mary Patricia Schaffer; son, James; daughter, Bronwen Davenport (Robert), sister, Amy Monahan (Gregory); and three grandchildren.

## 1967

**Mark W. Steinhoff**, history professor, Lynchburg, Va., on September 19, 2021. Born on August 20, 1945, in Brooklyn, Steinhoff majored in history and earned an M.A. at Johns Hopkins and a Ph.D. at NYU, and served in the Army during the Vietnam War. He joined the history faculty at Liberty Baptist College, where students praised the way he



Mark W. Steinhoff '67

made history come alive, often by teaching dressed as St. Benedict, Confucius or Machiavelli. He was the faculty advisor to Liberty's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta for more than 20 years. Following retirement, Steinhoff remained a committed scholar, working on a memoir and seeking out and supporting students who were pursuing the study of history by encouraging them "not to neglect the gift that is within you."

## 1969

**David G. Powell**, thoroughbred horse breeder/trainer and journalist, Le Martinville, Lessard-et-le-Chêne, France, on January 16, 2022. Powell left Columbia before graduation to pursue his love of thoroughbred horses, and in the 1970s settled in

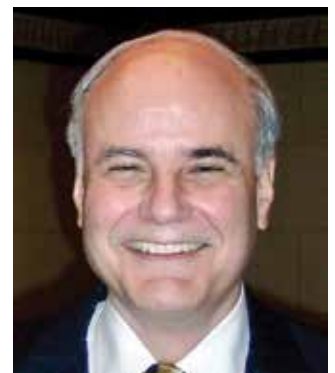


David G. Powell '69

his stepfather's native France. After working at Le Haras National du Pin, France's oldest national stud, he remained in Normandy, working for thoroughbred owners while building up his own stud, Le Lieu des Champs, which he operated with his wife, Elizabeth. Powell specialized in steeplechase jumpers and had a keen eye for selecting horses for clients or to train on his own. He displayed his knowledge of thoroughbreds in a parallel career as an international racing journalist. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his sons, Richard, Leonard and Freddy; and stepson, Arnaud Delacour.

## 1970

**Carl W. Chorba**, automobile executive, North Venice, Fla., on August 27, 2021. Born in Pittsburgh, Chorba majored in history with a minor in English, was a member of Phi Gamma Delta and earned varsity letters in football and lightweight crew.



Carl W. Chorba '70

He also played for the Columbia College Rugby Club and Old Boys Rugby into his 70s. Chorba held a variety of executive positions in the

automotive industry, first with Ford Heavy Truck Operations and later with Vision Corp., throughout North America and globally. He retired to Florida, where he was active in Republican Party politics and his local Columbia Alumni Club, and was elected one of five supervisors of the Venetian Community Development District. Chorba and his wife of 48 years, Carole, were active supporters of the Special Olympics for more than 20 years. In addition to his wife, Chorba is survived by his brother, Thomas '66; sons, Matthew and Carl Thomas; daughter, Amanda; and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to Special Olympics Florida (give. specialolympicsflorida.org/donate).

## 1972

**Mariano J. Rey Jr.**, cardiologist, Martha's Vineyard, Mass., on February 19, 2022. Born on the eve of the Cuban Revolution on July 22, 1949, in Havana, Rey came to New York at 12 and lived with an uncle and aunt. Despite arriving knowing little English, he became valedictorian at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and excelled academically at the College, where he led the Community Service Council and worked with local residents on tenant and squatter rights protests. Rey pursued cardiology at New York Medicine, which would become his professional home. He was director of the Bellevue Adult Cardiology Clinic for Working Men and Women and founded the Non-Invasive Cardiology Center at Bellevue Hospital, the Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Center at the NYU Rusk Institute and the Center for the Study of Asian American Health. Rey was appointed associate dean for student affairs (dean of medical students) in 2000, a position he held for seven years. He was a member of the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors 2000–02. Rey is survived by his wife, Mona; son, Michael (Brielle); daughters, Kathleen Caridad (Rob) and Christine; brother, Rob (Jane); and five grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Martha's Vineyard Island Housing Trust (ihmvmv.org) or Martha's Vineyard Community Services (mvcommunityservices.org).

## 1974

**Daniel L. Dolgin**, attorney, investor and nonprofit leader, New York, on February 28, 2022. A philosophy major, Dolgin graduated from the Law School in 1977 and served on the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors 1988–94. He was a member of the Board of Directors and the Investment Committee of Wind River Trust and was chairman of its Audit Committee. Since leaving the full-time practice of law in 1989, he invested in and advised businesses engaged in logistics, decision support and optimization (primarily for the trucking industry), commercial printing services, radio broadcasting, web-based distribution of industrial chemicals and real estate. Before leaving law practice to pursue investment opportunities, Dolgin was co-founder of Towne, Dolgin, Sawyer & Horton, a commercial law firm, and was a capital partner and head of the New York office of McDermott, Will & Emery. He was co-founder of the national nonprofit PowerMyLearning (formerly Computers for Youth), which began using home computers in the 1990s to facilitate children's learning. Dolgin had a summer home on Moose Pond in Bridgton, Maine, and was always concerned for the health of that region's lakes. He is survived by his wife, Loraine Gardner; sons, Benjamin and Samuel; and their wives and children. Memorial contributions may be made to Lakes Environmental Association (mainlakes.org).

**Brian R. Phillips**, attorney, Bangkok, on September 13, 2021. Phillips grew up in Seattle, where he graduated from Lakeside School. He served in the Peace Corps in Tunisia, where he taught English before graduating from the University of Washington Law School, where he did research that identified constitutional issues of a proposed measure that sought to stop a Seattle school desegregation plan. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed with his findings and ruled the measure unconstitutional in 1982. Phillips had a diverse law practice, mostly criminal cases in Snohomish County, and in 1989 he argued a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. His interest in justice and in

seeing more of the world led him to Belgrade to reform and strengthen the Yugoslav justice system on behalf of an NGO associated with the American Bar Association. After several visits to Thailand, Phillips purchased a condo on the banks of the Chao Phraya River and began teaching law at Bangkok University. He enjoyed acting with expat groups and had a role in a commercial for Dos Equis beer and a brief part in the movie *The Hangover Part II*. Phillips learned Thai and married Khun Siripan, who survives him.

**Raymond C. Reed**, attorney, Los Angeles, on February 15, 2022. A graduate of Technical H.S. in Omaha, Reed earned a J.D. from Whittier Law School in 1983 and an M.B.A. from UCLA in 1985. He is survived by his mother, Mildred; brothers, William and Deforest (Linda); and sisters, Marlene Chisolm, Ella Reed Clark, Sharon Reed, Donna Reed and Pamela Reed-Jackson.

## 1975

**Edward C. Dolan**, attorney, Darnestown, Md., on January 12, 2022. Born in New York City on September 25, 1953, Dolan graduated from Chaminade H.S. and then Georgetown Law, in 1978. He spent the majority of his professional career at Hogan Lovells (formerly Hogan & Hartson), advocating for clients in bankruptcy and restructuring matters; he retired as a partner in 2019. Dolan had a fascination with aviation and was a licensed private pilot who loved to share his passion for airplanes with his grandchildren. Dolan and his wife of 41 years, Margaret "Pat" Vaughan, were faithful parishioners of St. Jane deChantal Church in Bethesda, and later Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Darnestown. In addition to his wife, Dolan is survived by his son, William (Stephanie); daughter, Caroline Buddensick (Thomas); and five grandchildren.

**Gary L. Greenwell**, environmentalist, Moscow, Idaho, on February 25, 2022. A member of Sigma Nu, Greenwell earned master's degrees from Idaho and Washington State. A true environmentalist who believed that everyone should take care of and enjoy the outdoors, he held many jobs but was passionate

about working on projects that supported sustainable land management and sustainable forestry. Greenwell spent his younger years hitchhiking across the United States and, later, taking his family to national and state parks. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Nancy Hale; children, Damien (Lidija) and Danie; brother, Greg; and one grandchild.

**Randolph C. Nichols**, admissions officer, Baltimore, on May 4, 2021. The salutatorian of his class at St. Michaels H.S. in St. Michaels, Md., Nichols majored in religion and earned a master's from Teachers College in 1979. He was recently retired from college admissions positions around the country. A man of kindness, warmth and generosity, Nichols had a style and flair that led him to pick his nickname, "Randazzle." An extremely loyal Columbian, he was CCT's CC'75 class correspondent 1996–2021, chaired his 40th class reunion, was a member of the 45th Reunion Committee, was a reunion fundraiser and Class Agent, and a member of the Columbia Pride board, the Society of Columbia Graduates, the Columbia Alumni Singers and CAA Arts Access. Nichols enjoyed sailing and supported *The Pride of Baltimore II*, Maryland's replica of a Baltimore Clipper, and had become one of the Family Historians helping to curate the collection of Harley D. Nichols Artwork. He loved traveling and visited Europe, Asia and Egypt, among others, and had a special fondness for NYC. He is survived by his brothers, Allan (Karen) and Mike (Nancy).

## 1977

**David J. Landes**, investor, Teaneck, N.J., on September 13, 2019. Born on February 4, 1956, Landes was raised on Chicago's South Side but lived most of his life in the New York area. A private investor and a lifelong learner, Landes left high school early to study in Israel at the Har Etzion yeshiva, of which he remained an active alumnus and cherished his close relationships with Rabbis Aharon Lichtenstein and Yehuda Amital. He majored in English literature, studied with Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik at Yeshiva University and earned a J.D. from Chicago, a Ph.D. in anthropol-



ogy from Princeton and an M.B.A. from NYU Stern. Landes's penetrating studies of contemporary Orthodox Judaism, deeply informed by anthropology, broke ground in the study of Jewish life and were published in several periodicals. Landes is survived by his mother, Naomi; wife of almost 40 years, Faye; children, Hana Mundhe (Rusik), Yitz (Daphna Ezrachi), Matt '18 (Mollie) and Adir; two grandchildren; and brothers, Jack Mundhe and Shai. Memorial contributions may be made to the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research (thebrooklyninstitute.com), The Etzion Foundation (etzionfoundation.org) or to the Furman CLL Research Center (give.weill.cornell.edu).

## 1979

**Michael P. Kelly**, attorney, Wilmington, Del., on January 10, 2022. Born on November 6, 1956, eight minutes after his identical twin, John '79, Kelly was class president at the Tower Hill School, a star wrestler, champion shot putter and outstanding amateur boxer. Along with his brother, Kelly lettered in football and track, co-captained the Lions track team his senior year and was awarded the Gustave A. Jaeger Memorial Prize for athletics. He graduated from Dickinson Law School, where he met his wife, Deanna, and returned to Wilmington, practicing law for 37 years, including as chair of McCarter and English 2009–19. Passionate about trying cases, his clients included Joe Frazier, Jay-Z, Diane von Fürstenberg, the New York Giants and several monarchs. A lifetime member of the NAACP, a Knight of Malta and Knight of Columbus, Kelly joked that he was a member of many prestigious clubs including Costco and BJ's, and was on the waiting list for Sam's Club. He was predeceased by his twin brothers, Albert and Joseph, and is survived by his wife; son, Michael; daughter, Joanna '14; identical twin, John '79 (Marie); and sister, Mary Ann MacDonald (Michael). Memorial contributions may be made to the Little Sisters of the Poor (littlesistersofthepoor.org), The Ministry of Caring (ministryofcaring.org), Limen House-Triad (limende.org) or the NAACP (naacp.org).

**Robert S. Richman**, poet and editor, Greenwich, Conn., on May 2, 2021. Born in Paterson, N.J., Richman launched a literary journal in college, *Some Other Magazine*. His poems appeared in several literary magazines including *The Paris Review*, and he was the longtime poetry editor for *The New Criterion*. Richman published several volumes of his own poetry, including *Voice on the Wind* (1997), and edited the anthology *The Direction of Poetry* (1988). He is survived by a brother; daughters, Batina, Emma and Francesca; and one grandson.

## 1980

**Edward T. Shamy**, journalist, Georgia, Vt., on November 27, 2021. Shamy, who was president of the Student Government Association at Parkway Central H.S. in St. Louis, majored in political science, played soccer and tended bar at Hanratty's to offset the cost of college. His early adventures included a Jack Kerouac '44-style hitchhiking journey across the United States and a Peace Corps stint in Paraguay before he launched into a career in journalism, where he embraced the motto "Comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable." He was a reporter, editor and columnist in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Vermont and Virginia, where in 1990 he was a Pulitzer Prize finalist with a team from the *Roanoke Times & World News* for its coverage of a coal miners' strike. At *The Burlington Free Press*, where he was the metro editor and later a columnist (1999–2008), and *The County Courier*, the subscription-based weekly he owned 2008–14, his hyper-local focus and penchant for the offbeat inspired many evocative stories about the life and times of the "real" Vermont. Shamy is survived by his wife, Kim Asch; son, Ezra; three children from his first marriage, Corinne Lawson (Alex), Lillian and Alex; two grandchildren; and several siblings. Memorial contributions may be made to YMCA Camp Abnaki (campabnaki.org).

## 1981

**Louis S. Antonelli**, journalist and writer, Clarksville, Texas, on

October 6, 2021. Born in Medford, Mass., Antonelli's love of journalism and public service began in high school when he was a reporter for several local newspapers and served on the Rockland planning committee, and continued when he wrote for *Spectator* and was a University Senator. After graduation, he launched and published *The West Side Spirit* and ran for Congress on the Upper West Side as a Republican. In 1985 he moved to Texas, wrote for the community newspaper in Mesquite and owned the *Cedar Hill Sentinel* for several years. In Cedar Hill he was elected to the local school board and married Patricia Randolph. After working for the *Malakoff News*, he became editor of the *Mount Pleasant Tribune*. In 2015 he became editor of the *Clarksville Times*, and when the 145-year-old newspaper fell on hard times, he saved it by becoming its owner and publisher in 2018. Meanwhile, he launched another career as a science fiction author, writing 112 short stories and a novel, *Another Girl, Another Planet*. In addition to his wife, Antonelli is survived by his mother, Anna Savini; brother, Frank; and sister, Angela (Michael David). Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association (heart.org/aha/memorial), Alzheimer's Association (act.alz.org/donate) or a local food pantry.

## 1985

**Christopher M. Patterson**, English professor, Plantation, Fla., on July 5, 2019. Patterson earned two master's degrees, from Notre Dame and Fordham, and became an English professor at several schools, including NYIT, Fordham and Nassau Community College. Popular among his students, he could be counted upon to add depth and humor to his classes. Patterson is survived by his brother, David; and sister, Lisa.

## 1991

**Mary E. "Mellie" Anderson**, gardener and philosopher, Sullivan, Maine, on January 21, 2022. Anderson was diagnosed with metastatic colorectal cancer and faced her diagnosis with determination, creativity and an exceptional love of life,

spending her final year traveling and visiting with friends and family. She is survived by her fiancé, Bruce Bosinger.

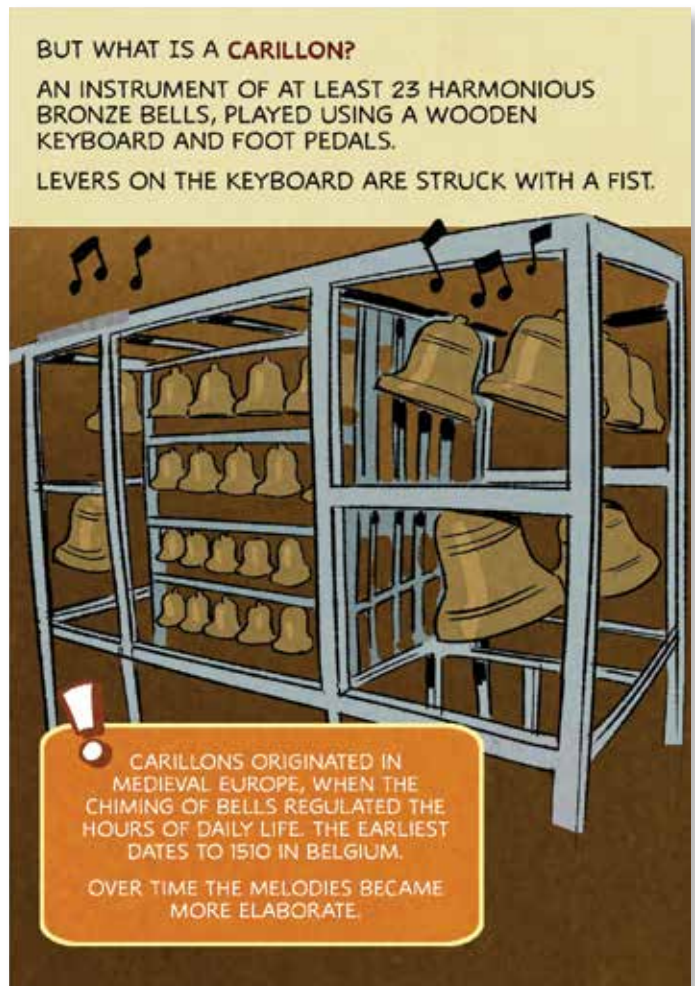
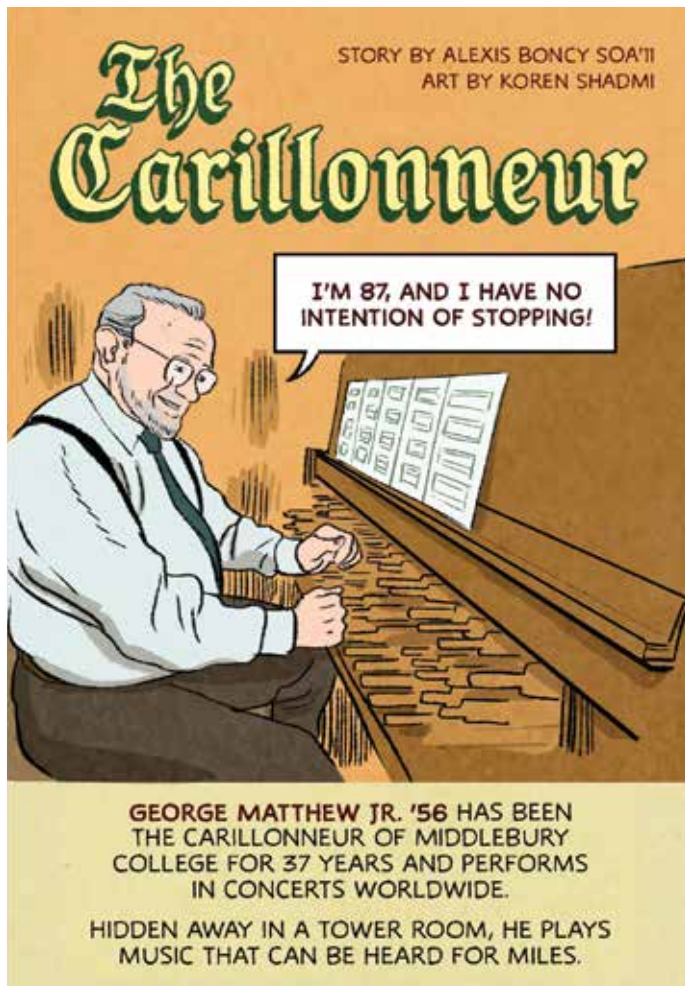
## 1992

**Chauncey D. "Chad" Steele IV**, attorney and teacher, Chelsea, Mass., on September 1, 2021. Born in Boston, Steele graduated from Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, Mass. He was a member of Beta Theta Pi at the College, where he majored in classics and developed a lifelong interest in the ancient world that led him to make numerous visits to Italy and Greece to observe the history, architecture and relics. Steele graduated from Suffolk Law in 2000 and was a litigator for the Boston firms of Cetrulo & Capone and then Craig and Macauley Professional Corp. In his 30s he gave up his law career to teach in the Boston public schools, opening the eyes of his students to the history of the ancient world. He was a star hockey and football athlete in high school, started for three years at defensive back for Lions football and played tennis and golf after graduation. Steele is survived by his father, Chauncey "Chum" Steele; mother, Claudia Woods-Estin; stepmother, Deborah Thaxter; stepfather, Frances Woods; brother, Samuel "Bart"; and half-brothers, Daniel, Adam Woods and Gavin Woods. Memorial contributions may be made to the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy Fund (bu.edu/alumni/giving).

## 2005

**Luis A. Saucedo**, policy advisor, Washington, D.C., on January 22, 2022. A native of South El Monte, Calif., Saucedo was an economics major who was a compliance officer for the City of Los Angeles for four years before earning a master's from the Yale School of Management in 2012. He was a Presidential Management Fellow at Ginnie Mae and a senior policy analyst at the Federal Housing Finance Agency, then became a policy advisor for the Department of the Treasury in October 2021. Saucedo is survived by his father, Jesús; mother, Letitia; and brother, Jesús.

— Alex Sachare '71



## THE CARILLONNEUR

When we read the Class Note about **George Matthew Jr. '56** in the Winter 2021–22 issue, we were immediately struck by his second-act career shift from chemist to carillonneur, as well as by the majesty of the instrument itself. What must it be like behind those bells? We had to learn more. And, inspired by profiles illustrated by Koren Shadmi — whose comics have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker* and other publications — we decided that Matthew's story was made for artistic treatment. The first two panels appear here; we hope you join us online to take in the rest.



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JAMIE DANIES SEAS '20; MICHAEL EDMONSON CC'20

“I enjoyed connecting with a student and hearing about their struggles and experiences from a place I was in only a few years ago. It helped me realize how I might mentor students and help them with the challenges they face finding a path through the competitive but transformative experience that is Columbia College.”  
— Myles Zhang CC'19, mentor

“I really enjoyed hearing about the life experience and perspectives of someone older. This helps me to have a more zoomed-out perspective when viewing my own life and challenges.”  
— Linda Pang CC'25, mentee



Join the Odyssey Mentoring Program and grow your Columbia College network! Through OMP, alumni and students have the opportunity to connect through in-person mentoring events or online. Alumni are able to join a community of 4,300 fellow mentors and share their knowledge and experience with students and young alumni. To sign up or learn more, please visit [odyssey.college.columbia.edu](https://odyssey.college.columbia.edu).



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COLUMBIA COLLEGE



“As Core to Commencement nears its close, we extend our deepest appreciation to the alumni, parents and friends who have so generously supported the first comprehensive campaign devoted exclusively to Columbia College students and their faculty.

This momentous campaign has always been about creating the best possible future for our students. Thank you for helping to spark so many possibilities for their Morningside years and beyond.”

Jonathan S. Lavine CC'88, P'CC'16, CC'18  
Lisa L. Carnoy CC'89, P'CC'26  
Victor H. Mendelson CC'89, P'CC'18, CC'20, CC'23  
Co-chairs, Core to Commencement Campaign

