


# CCT

Spring 2018

Columbia  
College  
Today 

## FEELIN' GROOVY

ART GARFUNKEL '65 LOOKS BACK  
ON HIS LIFE IN MUSIC

## JENNIFER ASHTON '91

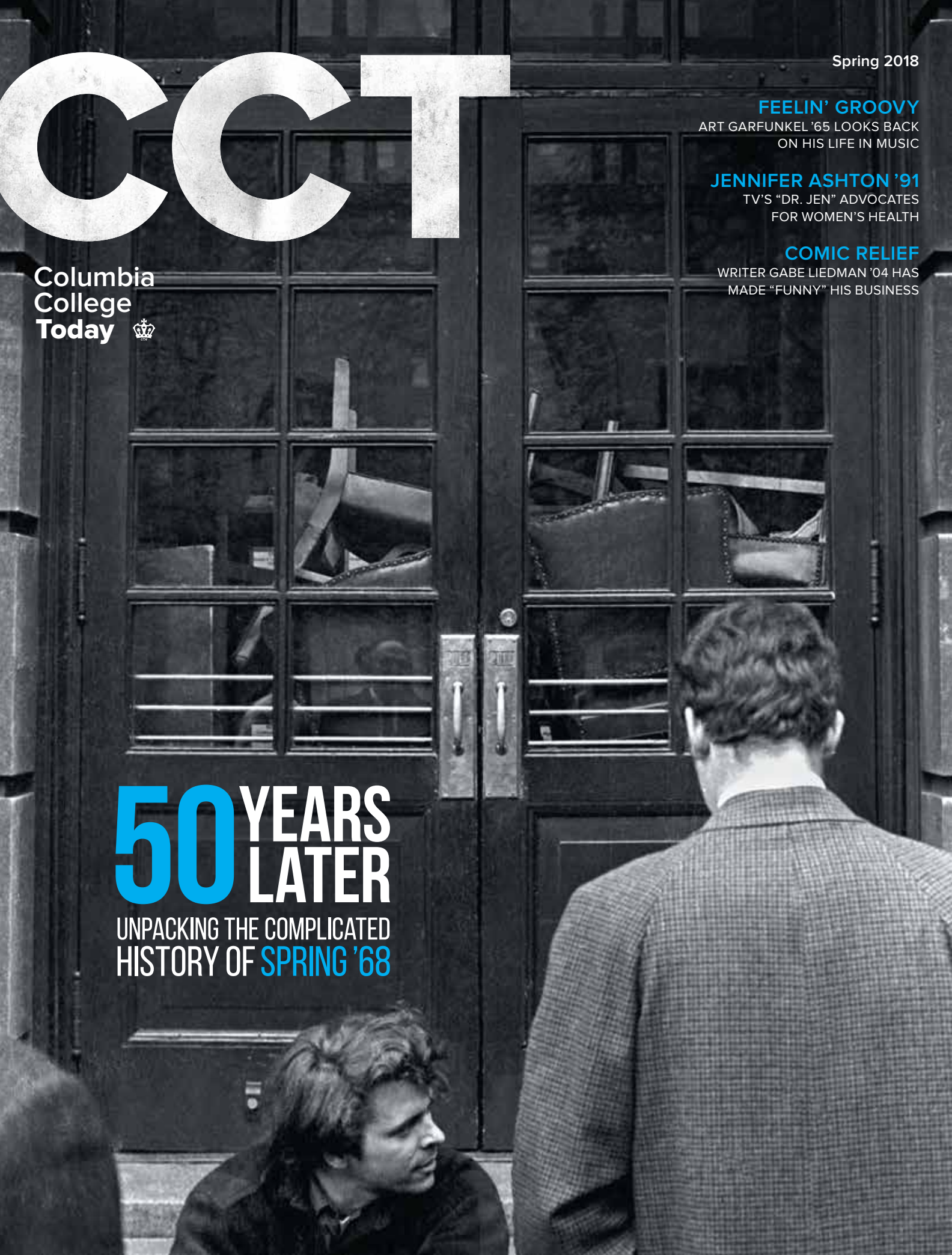
TV'S "DR. JEN" ADVOCATES  
FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

## COMIC RELIEF

WRITER GABE LIEDMAN '04 HAS  
MADE "FUNNY" HIS BUSINESS

# 50 YEARS LATER

UNPACKING THE COMPLICATED  
HISTORY OF **SPRING '68**





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LEON WU CC'20

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– *Dean James J. Valentini*

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Now on **CCT Online**



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### THE LATEST

TAKE FIVE | FEB. 2

"I wanted to go to Columbia so badly that from the time I submitted my early decision application to when I found out that I had been accepted I wore the same Columbia sweatshirt to bed every night and refused to wash it."

— Contemporary art specialist **Meredith Kirk '12**

LIKE MINDS | MAR. 20

"When I went to Mississippi in 1965 with two black lawyer friends [to fight for voting rights], we made an agreement: We were not going to get beaten up, we were not going to be imprisoned and we were going to do the best we could, recognizing that maybe we couldn't do anything at all."

— Social justice advocate **Robert Gnaizda '57**

## Let's Hear the Women Roar

As parents of a first-year, we have enjoyed reading your comprehensive magazine covering athletics, guest speakers and special events on campus, and alumni news and publications. In the Winter 2017–18 issue, we particularly enjoyed the exceptional articles “Under Pressure,” “The Work of Art” and “Oceanographer Juliette Finzi Hart ’96 Shows the (Virtual) Reality of Climate Change.” We were also amused by the “A Snowball’s Chance” story. It is truly a broad and outstanding publication.

The two-page photo spread of the football team at the front of the magazine was colorful, full of spirit and captured the sensationalism of the team’s victory that day. The subsequent article about the team [in “Roar, Lion, Roar,” “Football’s Remarkable Reversal”], which ran a full page plus a quarter-page, certainly celebrated the much-deserved accomplishments of their season.

Why, though, would the women’s cross country team photo be the smallest of all the ones to accompany your sports articles? Their accomplishment was the first time that team won



The women’s cross country team celebrating its first Ivy Heps title in more than a decade.

the Ivy League Heptagonal Championships since 2005! The first title in 12 years! That is very big sports news indeed, and yet the photo is so small you can barely see the girls’ faces. It was the only photo of female athletes and even smaller than that of the men’s basketball team 50 years ago. Even the individual photos of male athletes were larger than the one of this highly accomplished women’s team.

Kindly give the female student athletes the same coverage that you do for the men. They are all Lions and we applaud them all.

*Names withheld*

### Remembering All the Champions

Alex Sachare ’71’s “That Championship Season” [Winter 2017–18, “Roar, Lion, Roar”] refers to the successful 1967–68 basketball team. That team had a 25–5 record, won games in the NCAA tournament before losing to Davidson in the second round and won the Ivy League championship in a playoff with Princeton.

Sachare says it was the first Columbia team to win the Ivy League championship. I assume he comes to this conclusion because the name “Ivy League” was used by the league after Brown joined the then-seven team Eastern Intercollegiate Basketball League, which was referred to in the press as the “Ivy League.” The EIBL consisted of Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Penn, Princeton and Yale, seven teams that played home and away for a total of 12 league games. In the 1950–51 season — which I was part of — we played 12 league games and Brown one game (which

was not considered a league game). After Brown joined the league, each team played 14 league games.

The 1967–68 Columbia basketball team was a great team with great players. But the title of the article makes the reader believe, if they are not otherwise informed, that 1967–68 was as far as championship basketball has gone for Columbia. At the end of the 1950–51 season the team had won 22 games without a loss. At the end of the 1949–50 season the team had won nine consecutive games for a 31-game winning streak. The article does not anywhere mention that team even though it, too, is in the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame.

The ranks of the 1950–51 team have dwindled. Of the seven who played the most, John Azary ’51; Jack Molinas ’53; Bob Reiss ’51, PS’59; Bob Sullivan SEAS’51, SEAS’52; and Alan Stein ’52 have left us. Tom Powers ’51 is still with us.

*Frank Lewis ’51, LAW’53  
Goodyear, Ariz.*

### Class Notes

I always enjoy reading the Class Notes and seeing what my classmates are up to. One of them is Barack Obama ’83 (so we are generally well informed on him), but it is really good to catch up on the others!

*Bill Schultz ’83  
Atlanta*

### Contact Us

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

# *the* **BigPicture**

## **AND THE JOHN JAY AWARDS GO TO ...**

Congratulations to the 2018 John Jay recipients: Los Angeles Mayor **Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93**; *PBS NewsHour* Executive Producer and WETA SVP **Sara Just '88**; NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment Commissioner **Julie Jacobs Menin '89**; CEO of Morgan Stanley International Plc., Head of Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and Head of Technology **Robert P. Rooney '89**; and four-time Tony Award-winning Producer and Actor **Ron Simons '82, BUS'89** (at podium).

BRUCE GILBERT





## Message from the Dean

# A Life of Citizenship and Engagement

Every year, I share the U.N.'s Universal Declaration of Human Rights on my Facebook page. Created in 1948 and agreed upon by more than 50 nations at that time, the 30-article resolution states, among other things, "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world." The declaration was never designed to be all-encompassing, and was not unanimously embraced, but I've always felt compelled by the concepts it seeks to convey.

Here at Columbia College, the relationship of the individual to society, rights, responsibilities and justice lies at the heart of the Core Curriculum. Whether through Contemporary Civilization or another Core course, our students explore the concept of civic and individual responsibility by engaging with faculty and one another to prepare for a life of citizenship. And that learning goes beyond the classroom: We want our community to "live the Core," using these understandings to prepare for a life of emotional and intellectual integrity, of self-examination and of critical engagement with society at large.

For nearly 100 years, the Core has served as more than just the cornerstone of our undergraduate curriculum — it has given our students a foundation in how to become active citizens of the world. That will never change. In fact, one of our goals with Core to Commencement, the campaign we created to build the greatest undergraduate experience, is to secure this vital program, ensuring its longevity for many years to come.

We are evolving in other ways, too. The Holder Initiative for Civil and Political Rights, launched last fall, builds on knowledge from the Core and extends those themes into a contemporary context. This semester, Executive Director Bernard E. Harcourt, the Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law and professor of political science, is teaching a new capstone course, "Power, Rights, and Social Change: Advancing Justice," as well as hosting a five-part series on the state of voting in the United States today.

The series, "The American Voter Project," will bring together scholars, politicians, journalists, activists, artists, students and community members to discuss the pressing challenge of American voting, concluding with the panel "State of One Person One Vote." The series includes discussions on the impact and future of the Electoral College, the problem of voter suppres-



MICHAEL EDMONSON '20

sion, the 2020 Census and redistricting, and hacking digital elections. Discouraging retreat into what former U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. '73, LAW'76 calls "the quiet prejudice of inaction," these programs create a deeper understanding about the power of ethics, morals, responsibility and honor.

Columbia College students are on a lifelong journey to embody these values, and while at the College they will gain knowledge, skills, abilities, perspectives and awareness to propel them forward. By the time they reach Commencement, and join you as alumni, they will be prepared for a life of citizenship — one that we hope builds a brighter future for everyone.

**James J. Valentini**  
Dean

Valentini greets new Lions at Transfer Student Orientation.





PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DIVITO

## Donors and Recipients Meet and Greet at Dean's Scholarship Reception

**A**lmost 350 scholarship donors and student recipients gathered in Alfred Lerner Hall's Roone Arledge Auditorium on February 8 for the Dean's Scholarship Reception, an annual event where the two groups meet and discuss their College experiences. Donors learn about student

life at the College today, while recipients have the opportunity to thank those who helped make their education possible.

Speakers, along with Dean James J. Valentini, were Sherri P. Wolf '90 and Douglas R. Wolf '88, who established the Wolf Family Scholarship Fund in 2011. The evening's student speaker was Daphne J. Chow, the Wolfs' recipient since 2015.

Enjoying the event were, at left, Kevin Matthews '80, representing the Black Alumni Council Scholarship Fund, and Camille Sanches '18, one of its three recipients. Above, several donors mingled with recipients: standing, left to right, Andrew Ford '21, recipient of the Grace and James Dignan Family Scholarship Fund; Brian C. Krisberg '81, LAW'84, representing The Krisberg Family Scholarship (with recipient Isabel Sepulveda '21 seated, third from left); Roger Lehecka '67, GSAS'74, representing the Wallace Taylor Memorial Scholarship Fund; and guest Elliot Cafritz '82. Seated, far left, is Anmolpreet Kandola '19, a recipient of the Morris A. and Alma B.C. Schapiro Scholarship Fund; second from left, Lehecka's wife, Ria Coyne BC'84; and far right, Maria Avila-Franklin '21, recipient of The Bethill Family Scholarship Fund.



*Learn more about the speakers and view the list of donors and recipients: [college.columbia.edu/namedscholarships](http://college.columbia.edu/namedscholarships).*

## Gardner, Auster To Headline Upcoming Events

**Dede Gardner '90 and Paul Auster '69, GSAS'70** will be the keynote speakers for Class Day 2018 and Reunion 2018, respectively. Gardner is the co-president of Plan B Entertainment, a production company owned by Brad Pitt. She is the first female producer to win two Best Picture Academy Awards, for *Moonlight* in 2017 and *12 Years a Slave* in 2014. Gardner, who graduated cum laude with a degree in English, was presented a John Jay Award in 2012.

In an October 2016 interview with *Indiewire*, she described how Plan B discovers the bold films it produces: "Our instincts feel the same as they always have — what stories do we want to tell and with whom do we want to tell them?" she says. "We love filmmakers, we love directors, we love writers. And we certainly love movies that ask questions and make people think and ask questions to themselves."

Auster's most recent novel, *4321*, was nominated for a Man Booker Prize; his latest non-fiction book, *A Life in Words*, was published last fall. *4321* includes passages about Columbia, and he wrote an op-ed about being at the College in Spring 1968, "The Accidental Rebel," for *The New York Times* in 2008. In that piece, he remembers himself this way: "I see myself as a quiet, bookish young man, struggling to teach myself how to become a writer, immersed



EILEEN BARROSO

Dede Gardner '90



JÖRG MEYER

Paul Auster '69, GSAS'70

in my courses in literature and philosophy at Columbia ... I wanted to read my books, write my poems and drink with my friends at the West End bar."

Class Day is Tuesday, May 15, and Reunion 2018 is Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2.



DAVID DINI SIPA'14

### DidYouKnow?

## Who's on the Butler Frieze?

*Despite including Core Curriculum* constants like Plato, Dante, Homer and Shakespeare, the names inscribed on Butler Library's exterior weren't chosen because of the writers' and thinkers' presence in the College's required reading. University President Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882), for whom the library was renamed in 1946, oversaw the building's design and chose the 18 names out of personal interest. In fact, Butler Library, which was constructed between 1931 and 1934, predates Literature Humanities, which began in 1937.

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# Avinoam Shalem

**Avinoam Shalem**, the Riggio Professor of the History of the Arts of Islam, speaks several languages and has an academic career that spans three continents, so it's no surprise to learn he is particularly interested in expression and connectivity. Shalem, who joined the faculty in fall 2013, teaches art history with an emphasis on "interaction zones" — spaces where people of different cultures mingle, exchange ideas and create something new. His undergraduate class, "Arts of Islam: The First Formative Centuries," is part of the Global Core curriculum. Shalem, the author and editor of 10 books, spoke to *CCT* about growing up in Israel, the pleasures of one-on-one conversation and the fluidity of art.



JORG MEYER

**FOR SHALEM**, a defining feature of art history is considering not only where a work is made, but also in what specific moment. The first question might refer to heritage and traditions, but the second deals with response and reaction. He feels the same about his own history: Shalem was born in Haifa, "at a time when the nation was trying to amalgamate people from all over the world to give them one specific identity," he says. "That was definitely something I grew up with — the schools I went to were trying to format us as Israelis. As a child I would go to the beach and wonder what was beyond the horizon, but everyone was telling me that all the roads end here."

**ART WAS ALWAYS** part of Shalem's life; his father started his career as a painter before becoming an architect, and Shalem used to study the Great Masters for homework. "I knew the masterpieces of art history almost by heart at a young age," he says.

**SHALEM STUDIED** art history at the University of Tel Aviv. "I wanted to study modern art, but the professor for medieval art was fabulous, and so I found myself attracted to that," he says. He took his first trip to Cairo in the early 1980s, and the city cast a spell on him. "I fell in love with that part of the world, and I decided if I was going to study medieval art it would be Islam."

**IN 1988, HE DECIDED** to leave Israel and study for his M.A. in Germany. "The political situation after the Lebanon war

was miserable, and I had to get out of that space," Shalem says. After completing his studies at the University of Munich, he moved to Scotland and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh in 1995.

**AFTER TEACHING** in Edinburgh and working in London with the Khalili Collections (which include the most comprehensive private collection of Islamic art in Europe), Shalem returned to Germany and became an assistant professor at his Munich alma mater. In 2002, he received a full professorship and taught there until he came to the College. Shalem was an Andrew Mellon Senior Fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2006, Guest Scholar at the Getty Research Center in Los Angeles in 2009, and a guest professor at JN University in New Delhi in 2011 and at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Mass., in 2016.

**AS A PROFESSOR**, Shalem aims to challenge his students' curiosity. "I like to bring students together in discussion about a work of art so that they will start to see different views of the same object," he says. "Then we try to explain why we see it so differently from different positions." "Art is changing in any moment," he continues. "It can be put on a pedestal and praised, then another day be taken down. It's not stable. You can't fix or freeze a work of art. It's a living thing."

**SHALEM SAYS** he most enjoys the one-on-one conversations: "That moment when you try to get into the thread of your

student's thinking and see how it moves. It's a kind of cognitive pleasure — when it goes well, you are really traveling in minds." He also travels with his students in the literal sense: As part of the travel seminar in art history, Shalem has taken undergraduates on study trips to Jerusalem and Amman. Students apply for the program, in which they take part in a seminar on campus, then travel for a week to the area they are studying. "It's an amazing experience," he says. "When [the students] come back, you see how their project plans may have changed after they've actually confronted the space."

**HE IS WORKING ON** a book that looks at rural landscapes of Palestine after 1947 and how political trauma left traces on the way these areas developed. "How did new cities speak to the ruined spaces?" he asks. Though studying landscapes seems like a different discipline than art history, Shalem says you can consider a site as you would an object. "You can trace the history of an object *on* the object — for example, how the handle of a jug is worn in certain places — and it's the same with a landscape ... landscape was and is regarded and 'curated' as an object of the human gaze."

**SHALEM LIVES** near campus with his wife, who is an acquisitions editor for art books. They like to vacation to explore new museums, but Shalem is hard pressed to say which institution is his favorite. "There are too many great museums in the world!"

— Jill C. Shomer

C O L U M B I A C O L L E G E

# REUNION 2018

THURSDAY, MAY 31–SATURDAY, JUNE 2

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Take a tour, or see a Broadway show or ballet.

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Enjoy Mini-Core Classes on Dostoevsky, Berlioz and more.

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**COLUMBIA  
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# ROAR, LION, ROAR

## Lions Win First Ivy Men's Squash Title

Columbia continued its rapid rise through the ranks of men's squash, winning its first Ivy League championship with an undefeated league record and finishing the season number 3 in the nation, its highest final ranking ever.

It's a remarkable success story, considering that Columbia did not field varsity teams in squash until the 2010–11 season. The Lions, coached by Jacques Swanepoel, achieved their initial goal of "5 in 5" by earning a place in the top five of the men's rankings in 2014–15, their fifth varsity season. This year they took another giant leap forward by defeating defending league champion Harvard — for the first time — 5–4 on January 14 and then sweeping the Ivies.

"It's a culmination of a lot of hard work and a long phase of building the right culture," said Swanepoel, who has led the program since its inception in September 2009.

The Lions clinched a share of the Ivy League crown by beating Princeton 8–1 in their final home meet on February 10 and then earned the championship outright

by traveling to Philadelphia and defeating Penn 5–4 on February 12. With the teams tied at 4–4, defending national champion Osama Khalifa '18 delivered the win over Penn by defeating Andrew Douglas in straight sets as Columbia finished the season 14–1 overall and 7–0 in the Ivy League.

"It feels surreal to finally win this title," Khalifa said. "It is the best moment by far of my four years. We have all worked so hard to achieve this, and I couldn't be any prouder of my teammates today."

The Lions finished third in the College Squash Association Team National Championships on February 23–25, beating Rochester 6–3 in the first round, losing to Harvard 6–3 in the semifinals and then bouncing back to defeat St. Lawrence 7–2 to secure the No. 3 national ranking.

Columbia's only loss of the regular season came at the hands of national champion Trinity College by a margin of 6–3 on January 10.

The Ivy championship team was a mix of proven veterans and talented younger players. Co-captains Khalifa, Seif Attia '18 and Arhum Saleem '18 provided experienced leadership, Khalifa going 10–2 while play-

ing primarily at number 1 against the opponent's top player, Attia compiling a 10–3 record at numbers 2–4 and Saleem posting a 10–2 mark in the middle of the nine-man lineup. But non-seniors also made vital contributions in the dual-meet season, with Krish Kapur '21 going 12–1, Robin Mann '20 11–1, Velavan Senthilkumar '21 10–1 and Carter Robitaille '19 9–4.

The Lions' most noteworthy victory came against Harvard on Columbia's home court, the SL Green Streetsquash Center in Harlem, on January 14. The Crimson were ranked second in the nation at the time and



For the latest news on Columbia athletics, visit [gocolumbiaions.com](http://gocolumbiaions.com).

had won the Ivy championship four of the last five seasons; the Lions finished second in each of the last three years.

Adham Madi '19, Senthilkumar, Mann and Kapur won the first four matches for Columbia. It was up to Khalifa to clinch the match, and he did it in a thrilling five-setter against Harvard's Saadeldin Abouaish. The two went back and forth through the first four sets, Abouaish taking the fourth 14–12 to extend the match to the limit. But Khalifa prevailed 11–9 to give Columbia one of the biggest wins in program history.

"It was one of the most exciting matches ever," said Khalifa. As for beating Harvard, he said, "It's something we've all been working toward, so it was amazing when it all came together." Added Saleem, "We've come so close these past three years. To be able to clinch it in our senior year is an unbelievable experience."

Columbia's women's team, meanwhile, finished its season ranked sixth nationally after beating Penn for the first time by a 5–4 count on February 12. The Lions ended the campaign with a 9–5 record overall and 4–3 in the Ivy League.



MIKE McLAUGHLIN / COLUMBIA ATHLETICS

Osama Khalifa '18 was named Ivy League men's squash Player of the Year for the third year in a row.

## Women's Fencing Wins Ivies Outright, Men Share Crown

**Columbia fencing** added a chapter to its storied history as the women's team posted a perfect 6-0 record at the Ivy League Championships in Princeton, N.J., February 10-11 to win the league title outright, and the men went 4-1 to share the crown with Harvard and Penn. In addition, Sylvie Binder '21 — the top-ranked foil fencer in the country under the age of 20 — won an individual championship with a 13-1 record in the two-day event.

The Lions have won 50 Ivy League team titles in program history. The men have won or shared the championship in each of the past five seasons and 39 times overall, the first in 1956. The women have finished atop the Ivies in three of the last four campaigns — they were second to Princeton a year ago — and have won 11 titles, the first in 1989.

Twelve Columbia fencers earned All-Ivy honors off their performance at the championships. Among the women, Binder was joined by Iman Blow '19 (foil) and Violet Michel '20 (sabre) on the All-Ivy first team, while Katie Angen BC'18 (épée), Lena Johnson BC'18 (sabre), Ester Schreiber BC'20 (foil) and Giana Vierheller SEAS'20 (épée) made second team. On the men's side, Sidarth Kumbla '21 (foil) and Nolen Scruggs '19 (foil) were named to the first team and Calvin Liang '19 (sabre), Gabe Canaux '18 (épée) and Porter Hesslegrave '18 (épée) made second team.

Columbia's women opened the round-robin Ivy League Championships by trouncing Cornell 24-3 and never looked back, posting a composite match score of 126-36 in sweeping their six rivals. The Lions opened the second day of the event against previously undefeated Harvard and registered a 19-8 victory, with the foil team of Binder, Blow, Schreiber and Quinn Crum '19 posting a perfect 9-0 mark. Columbia then wrapped up the title by easily beating Yale 21-6 and Penn 20-7.

In the men's competition, Columbia beat Princeton and Brown on opening day but dropped a 16-11 decision to Harvard to begin the second day of matches. But the Lions bounced back to beat Yale 20-7 and then defeated previously unbeaten Penn 15-12 to gain a share of the championship.

Columbia also participated in the NCAA Northeast Regionals in Waltham, Mass., on March 11, followed by the NCAA Championships in University Park, Pa., March 22-25.



Columbia fencing has won 50 Ivy League team championships, more than any other school.



Camille Zimmerman '18 led the Ivy League in scoring and rebounding for the second straight season.

## Camille Zimmerman '18 Becomes Basketball's Leading Scorer

**Hundreds of varsity basketball players** have worn the Lions' blue and white uniforms over 118 seasons, the vast majority of them men, since women did not begin competing for Columbia until 1983. But in all that time, no one has scored more points than Camille Zimmerman '18.

On January 20, Zimmerman scored 22 points in a 57-47 loss to Cornell at Levien Gym and surpassed, by one point, the record of 1,767 points scored by Buck Jenkins '93 (1989-93) that had stood for nearly a quarter-century. "In the moment, it was just another small milestone in what I wanted to accomplish for this program," Zimmerman said of her record-breaking game. "But I felt very grateful for all my teammates and coaches who made it possible. And looking back, it's pretty special knowing I've scored more than any basketball player in Columbia history — and that I've set a high bar for future Lions to reach and I hope one day break."

The 6-foot-1-inch Zimmerman finished her career with 1,973 points. Her last game was on March 3.

"Camille is a rare talent," said her coach, Megan Griffith '07, a former star point guard for the Lions. "Not only is she one of the most prolific scorers and rebounders in Ivy League basketball history, but she also is one of the hardest workers I have coached or played alongside. She has an innate love for the game."

Zimmerman is the third Ivy League women's basketball player to lead her school in career scoring across both genders, joining Penn's Diana Caramanico and Harvard's Allison Feaster-Strong, and the 20th in the NCAA's Division I.

Of Columbia's top 10 career scorers, four are women: Zimmerman, Ula Lysniak BC'87, Tori Oliver '17 and Kathy Gilbert White '91.

END  
TRUSTEE  
RULE  
SUPPORT  
THE  
STRIKE





# 50 YEARS LATER

HALF A CENTURY HAS PASSED SINCE THE **SPRING '68 STUDENT UPRISING**. *CCT* LOOKS AT WHAT HAPPENED THEN, AND HOW THOSE PROTESTS CAN HELP US UNDERSTAND OUR WORLD RIGHT NOW.

**LAST FALL, *CCT*'S EDITORS** sat down to consider how best to commemorate the half-centennial of Spring '68. Its anniversary has been noted at key milestones through the decades, but this year in particular felt different. Or rather, felt *similar*. We are a divided nation at this moment, in many ways. Young people are regularly protesting again, on topics such as free speech, immigration, LGBTQ rights, women's issues and gun control. We decided to take the opportunity to examine what has changed since 1968 — and what hasn't.

We requested perspective from writer and former *CCT* editor-in-chief Jamie Katz '72, BUS'80, and Paul Starr '70, a reporter for *Spectator* in 1968 and later its editor-in-chief, who today is a professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton. Katz's piece, "A Tinderbox, Poised To Ignite" revisits the animating passions of that time, and Starr's "How the '68 Uprising Looks Today" offers a big-picture comparison between 1968 and 2018.

When *CCT* marked the 40th anniversary in 2008, then-editor-in-chief Alex Sachare '71 warned readers not to take any one account of Spring '68 as gospel, and the same holds true now. People will always look at historic events through their own prism. There could be 100 different accounts of Spring '68 and they could all be true — or mostly true. Katz opted to emphasize the role of the black students who occupied Hamilton Hall, which he believes has been underplayed. Starr's analysis is based on his expertise as a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer and professor, not as a soothsayer. Readers interested in more information can consider a number of accounts published in earlier issues of *CCT* as well as books such as *Up Against the Ivy Wall: A History of the Columbia Crisis*, by Jerry L. Avorn '69 and members of the *Spectator* news staff (Starr among them); *The Strawberry Statement: Notes of a College Revolutionary*, by James Simon Kunen '70; *Crisis at Columbia*, by Harvard law professor Archibald Cox; and Paul Cronin JRN'14's new anthology, *A Time to Stir: Columbia '68*.

—Jill C. Shomer



DAVID FINCK '70

LESS THAN THREE WEEKS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., BLACK STUDENTS PROTESTING THE MORNINGSIDE PARK GYM PROJECT PLAYED A DECISIVE ROLE IN THE EPOCHAL **1968 CAMPUS UPRISING**

# A TINDERBOX, POISED TO IGNITE

BY JAMIE KATZ '72, BUS'80

**R**aymond M. Brown '69 grew up in a segregated housing project in Jersey City, N.J., where his father, Raymond A. Brown, was a well-known civil rights leader and defense attorney. “My father was very militant, what we used to call in the old days a ‘race man,’” Brown says. He remembers his dad saying, amidst the war in Vietnam and campus movements of the late 1960s, “I oppose this war, but you will rue the day you ran Lyndon Johnson out of office.” Brown adds, “He proved to be prophetic about that.”

Brown was a leader in the Students' Afro-American Society (SAS), a key activist group — along with Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) — in the April 1968 student uprising at Columbia. He was arrested when police cleared the campus after the weeklong protests, and was arrested again and beaten on May 22 during a second clash with police on campus. Those experiences piqued his interest in a legal career; eventually Brown followed in his father's footsteps as a criminal defense attorney.

Most accounts of the '68 revolt stress the role of Columbia's SDS chapter and its leader, Mark Rudd '69. This emphasis has long bothered Brown, not because he seeks the limelight, but because he believes it fails to acknowledge the black students' occupation of Hamilton Hall as the pivotal event of the protest, not an “ancillary coda to a New Left uprising,” he says.

Brown says people often ask him, “Do you know Mark Rudd?” “For years I found this inquiry irksome, until the past decade, when I bantered with Rudd about it,” Brown writes in *A Time to Stir: Columbia '68*, a new anthology of essays edited by Paul Cronin JRN'14. “He has had the grace and insight to supply a proposed answer: ‘Ask Mark Rudd if he knew about the Black Students of Hamilton Hall.’”

There's much to be said for Brown's contention. Yes, opposition to the Vietnam War was formidable at Columbia and nationwide by 1968, gaining momentum after the Tet Offensive earlier that year and the entry of antiwar senators Eugene McCarthy and Robert F. Kennedy into the presidential race. The role of SDS in pushing for more confrontational tactics is undeniable. But the blowup at Columbia was different: It took place on the edge of an angry Harlem community less than three weeks after the shocking murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The authorities knew they had to tread carefully. “There was a deep concern that if there were a violent exchange between police and black students at Columbia, there would be a riot

in Harlem, and that the city would explode,” says Robert Siegel '68, the recently retired senior host of NPR's *All Things Considered*, who anchored WKCR's award-winning coverage of the campus uprising. “The white students had no such leverage.”

Finally, the chief impetus for the black students' involvement was not the war — though SAS joined SDS in opposing Columbia's ties to war research through the Pentagon-affiliated Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) — but rather the proposed University gym in Morningside Park, that sliver of contested turf one block east of the campus.

**V**iewed from the low-lying streets of West Harlem, the cliffs of Morningside Park loom like the walls of a fortress. The rocky bluff actually did play that role once: During the War of 1812, College students and alumni trekked uptown to construct defensive blockhouses along the ridge in case British redcoats invaded the area again, as they had during the Battle of Harlem Heights in 1776. A few generations later, landscape architects Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux transformed this terrain into a picturesque city park that opened in 1895, just a year before Columbia crowned the Heights with its new uptown campus. By the 1960s, however, the park had become a crime-ridden, garbage-strewn buffer zone between a proud but struggling black community and the more privileged precincts above. Freshmen entering the all-male, nearly all-white College in those days were cautioned to switch to the uptown local train at Broadway and 96th Street, lest they wind up at the “wrong” 116th Street station east of the park.

The West Harlem community had a different perspective on Morningside Park's ballfields, playgrounds and walkways, especially after Columbia conceived a plan to replace its aging, dysfunctional gymnasium with a much larger structure nestled in the park, reserving a small portion for the public. The project drew little attention in the early '60s, while plans were still on the drawing board, but by 1966–67, opposition was taking hold, and NYC Parks Commissioner Thomas Hoving sharply criticized the surrender of city parkland and the paltry provision for community residents.

Whatever its merits, the gym project presented a perfect emblem — or caricature — of The Man: a powerful white institution imposing its will on the black community while offering limited access to a separate-but-unequal facility. Worst of all, in symbolic terms, the

50 YEARS  
LATER



"GYM CROW" MUST GO:  
SAS' RAYMOND M. BROWN '69  
AT THE SUNDIAL.



DEMONSTRATORS MARCHING TO LOW LIBRARY TO CONFRONT COUNTER-DEMONSTRATORS WHO HAD BLOCKED FOOD AND SUPPLIES FROM BEING SENT IN.

building's main entrance would command the top of the building, with the community entrance 11 stories below on the Harlem end. A back door, basically. As in, Service Entrance. On one level, this was merely an accident of the park's topography. On another, it was an intolerable insult.

At the same time, the University was under fire for buying up local real estate and evicting poor tenants to make way for its own

### THE GYM PROJECT PRESENTED A PERFECT EMBLEM — OR CARICATURE — OF “THE MAN”: A POWERFUL WHITE INSTITUTION IMPOSING ITS WILL ON THE BLACK COMMUNITY WHILE OFFERING LIMITED ACCESS TO A SEPARATE-BUT-UNEQUAL FACILITY.

expansion. Community relations were at a nadir. “Columbia was not beloved as a landlord and it wasn't beloved as a neighbor,” Brown says.

He and many other black students felt an imperative to align with local activists on these issues, and they formed strong bonds. There were problems on campus, too. Black students were routinely challenged to produce ID at the main gates. When the May 1967 issue of *Jester* lampooned black frat brothers at Omega Phi Psi as “tar babies” and “a bunch of big ants in purple beanies,” the brothers were not amused. A group marched over to the humor magazine's office to confiscate several boxes of the offending issue and torched a small stack in front of Ferris Booth Hall. That summer,

urban riots rocked America; to quell the most violent rebellion, in Detroit, President Johnson dispatched the Army's 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions, which had spearheaded the D-Day invasion 23 years earlier. America was again at war — in Southeast Asia, and increasingly, in its own cities.

In the months leading up to the Spring '68 crisis, State Senator Basil A. Paterson, Assemblyman Charles Rangel and other local leaders warned Columbia to halt the gym plans. Others took a less civil tone. “If they build the first story, blow it up,” black power advocate H. Rap Brown exhorted community members at a December 1967 meeting of the West Harlem Morningside Park Committee. “If they sneak back at night and build three stories, burn it down. And if they get nine stories built, it's yours. Take it over, and maybe we'll let them in on the weekends.”

After King's assassination on April 4, 1968, mayhem broke out in well over 100 cities. Some 20,000 people were arrested. Fires raged just two blocks from the White House. From Morningside Drive, Columbia could hear the not-too-distant wail of fire engines and police sirens in Harlem.

The basic narrative of the campus blow-up has been well-chronicled: An April 23 Sundial rally morphed into a march on the gym site and an eventual sit-in at Hamilton Hall; acting College Dean Henry S. “Harry” Coleman '46 was barricaded in his office there for 26 hours, receiving food and encouragement through his barred window on College Walk. Students refused to leave unless their demands were met; the principal ones called for the University to sever ties with IDA, abandon the Morningside gym project and

grant amnesty for the occupiers. Officials were prepared to meet with protesters, but not to yield under such coercion.

On that first night, the black students in Hamilton asked the SDS group to take over another building; SDS reluctantly complied and at sunrise forced their way into Low Library. The stage was set for a much broader confrontation. And by concentrating in one building, the black students had multiplied their influence. Rumors that they were armed added to the authorities' concerns.

During the next three days, while the administration hesitated and the faculty mediated, protesters occupied Fayerweather, Avery and Mathematics. It was a startling wave of defiance — “mysteriously dynamic,” Paul Berman '71 writes in the foreword to the Cronin anthology. “The professors who watched in astonishment failed to see it sometimes, and so, too, did the journalists. But we students saw it. We felt it in the flesh. We trembled.”

Many students adamantly opposed the takeovers and threatened to take matters into their own hands. Coleman helped cool tempers at key moments, as did basketball coach Jack Rohan '53, fresh off his team's thrilling Ivy championship. Many more — whether sympathetic to the protesters' aims but not their means, or merely curious or confused, or just wishing to continue their academic work — remained on the sidelines.

Beyond the gym and Vietnam protests in a year of worldwide upheaval, there were more parochial reasons why Columbia students rebelled that spring. *Crisis at Columbia*, the report of a fact-finding commission chaired by future Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox, cited problems of university governance, poor faculty morale, “appallingly restricted” student residential facilities and a general lack of community on campus: “The hurricane of social unrest,” they wrote, “struck Columbia at a time when the University was deficient in the cement that binds an institution into a coherent unit.” To that point, Robert Siegel '68 counters: “Before blaming too much on the pathology of the Columbia experience, I would say that Columbia students were in fact acting on, and reacting to, the

BONNIE FREER '65'68



HENRY S. “HARRY” COLEMAN '46, ACTING DEAN OF THE COLLEGE, PEERS FROM HIS WINDOW IN HAMILTON. “MOST OF THE STUDENTS HAD A GREAT AFFECTION FOR HIM,” RAYMOND M. BROWN '69 SAYS. “SO WE WOULD MAKE SURE HE HAD FOOD AND EVERYTHING HE NEEDED.”



HUGH ROGERS

“WE WOMEN DO CONTINUE TO MARCH,” SAYS JOSIE DUKE BROWN BC'69 (FAR LEFT), LEADING A COMMUNITY ACTION ON AMSTERDAM AVENUE.

world around them — not being insulated from it by the comfort of their undergraduate experience. They were saying things are wrong in this university because it's part of this country and this society.”

Spirits were certainly high within the “liberated” buildings — one couple was married in Fayerweather by the campus chaplain — despite the gathering presence of hundreds of helmeted police officers beyond the Gates. And there were more subtle tensions, including a degree of gender inequality that would be more forcefully opposed in years to come. “Life inside Columbia's occupied buildings was intense, intoxicating, and profoundly pre-feminist,” Nancy Biberman BC'69 recalls in *A Time to Stir*. Adds Carolyn Rusti Eisenberg GSAS'71: “To say that the atmosphere was macho is akin to saying it's warm on the Equator. A group of 20-year-old white men, many of them close friends, paralyzing an entire university in New York — the media capital of the world — was an electrifying experience.” SDS' firebrand press secretary, Josie Duke Brown BC'69, does not remember women being relegated to housekeeping chores, as some were, but she does agree that SDS did not look to them for leadership. “I certainly don't feel that they were trying to cultivate the role of women,” she says.

**A**fter several tense days of waiting and enduring obscene taunts from students, members of the NYPD's Tactical Patrol Force had had enough by the time they were summoned to action in the wee hours of April 30. “When the order ‘hats and bats’ (helmets and nightsticks) finally came, there was no doubt in any cop's mind about what was about to happen,” former officer Mike Reynolds says in *A Time to Stir*.



DAVID FINCK '70

MARK RUDD '69 (RIGHT) IN MORNINGSIDE PARK. AFTER A BRIEF CLASH WITH THE NYPD, STUDENTS RETURNED TO CAMPUS AND OCCUPIED HAMILTON HALL.

What followed has been described as a police riot, with plenty of heads cracked by those “bats”: 712 were arrested — including some 200 women — and there were 148 injuries. For a bastion of high-minded learning and civility, it was calamitous on every level.

In his 2009 memoir, *Underground: My Life with SDS and the Weathermen*, Rudd remembers calling home from President Grayson Kirk’s desk in Low Library soon after SDS broke in on April 24. He reached his father in suburban Maplewood, N.J., still drowsy from sleep.

“We took a building,” Rudd told him.

“Well, give it back,” his father said.

While students in Low were helping themselves to Kirk’s sherry and holding endless strategy sessions, the 90 or so black students in Hamilton Hall held regular drills for assembling peacefully, getting arrested, handling tear gas. “We kept the place clean enough so you could eat from the floor,” Raymond Brown says. “That’s part of the ethos with which we were raised both individually and in the context of the movement — we’ve got to be *better*.”

On the night of the bust, NYC Human Rights Commissioner William Booth helped the black students negotiate an orderly exit through an underground tunnel, away from cameras and onlookers, to be arrested by a black-led police team, with lawyers present. “They marched out with dignity as a well-disciplined army would,” historian Walter Metzger GSAS’46 later observed. “They were proving something very important to themselves.”

Important in part, Brown underlines, because the black students felt a dual responsibility: political solidarity, yes, but also an aware-

ness that they represented a vanguard of hope and accomplishment. “The students were under tremendous pressure from parents and others who had sacrificed tremendously to get them there — who weren’t necessarily unsympathetic to the cause, but were not terribly sympathetic to their kids possibly getting expelled from school, either,” Brown says. “Getting your degree was in and of itself a political statement.”

The Bust triggered a massive student strike that effectively ended regular business at the University for the rest of the semester. Professors were given the option of grading all students on a pass-fail basis. Some held classes in their apartments, some on campus lawns or at neighborhood restaurants. The College canceled its traditional Class Day ceremony, and the University moved its June 4 Commencement exercises to the nearby Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine for security reasons. “Here at Columbia,” historian Richard Hofstadter GSAS’42 told graduates that day, “we have suffered a disaster whose precise dimensions are impossible to state, because the story is not yet finished, and the measure of our loss still depends on what we do. For every crisis, for every disaster, there has to be some constructive response.”

That night Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated in Los Angeles after winning the California primary. The year 1968 was far from over.

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Former CCT editor-in-chief **Jamie Katz ’72, BUS’80** has held senior editorial positions at *People and Vibe* and contributes to *Smithsonian Magazine* and other publications. His most recent CCT piece was an obituary for Wm. Theodore de Bary ’41, GSAS’53 in the Fall 2017 issue.

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE  
STUDENT REVOLT OF 50 YEARS AGO

# HOW THE '68 UPRISING LOOKS TODAY

BY PAUL STARR '70

If you know about it only vaguely or picture it in a gentle light, the student revolt at Columbia in April 1968 might seem like a romantic episode in that era's youthful rebellion. But it was a deadly serious confrontation — electrifying to people who supported the revolt; horrifying to others who saw it as evidence of a widening gyre of instability and violence in America. Inner-city riots were all too familiar by that time. Earlier that month, the black ghettos had exploded after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Yet the Columbia uprising was something new: students at a privileged, Ivy League university taking the college dean hostage and occupying the president's office and four other campus buildings for a week, until the administration called in the police to arrest more than 700 of them in a nighttime “bust” that left more than 100 injured.

Extraordinary as the revolt was, it would probably now be of interest only to aging alumni if there were no connection to larger developments

that have left a deep imprint on American society. The 1968 revolt was both an emblem of its time and a preview of things to come. In the half-century since, demands by minorities and social changes that first appeared among the young have provoked a furious backlash and split America across racial, cultural and ideological lines. Often the backlash has been stronger than the forces for change; indeed, the radical political impulse of the late 1960s was largely spent within a few years.

Today, the nation's campuses are again embroiled in political conflict over such issues as race and free speech. Recent demonstrations have not matched those of the Sixties in scale and national impact; the free-speech clashes that erupted in Berkeley last year were not nearly as significant as the mid-1960s Berkeley free-speech movement. Trends in student attitudes, however, do show a move back toward the pattern of that time. According to a national survey of college freshmen conducted annually by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, the proportion of students describing themselves as “liberal” or “far left” fell from just over 40 percent in 1971 to half that level in 1980. But the liberal/far left share has climbed since then, in 2016 reaching 35 percent, the closest it has come to its old peak. With middle-of-the-roaders declining and the proportion identifying as “conservative” or “far right” holding steady, campuses are more polarized now than they have ever been in the 51 years of the UCLA survey.

To be sure, both college students and American society have changed a great deal since the Sixties. Students today are far more ethnically diverse — at Columbia, non-Latino whites make up only 39 percent of the U.S. citizens and permanent residents in the Class of 2021\* — and the College and the other Ivies no longer exclude women, as nearly all of them did in 1968. The salience of such issues as immigration, racism, gender equality and sexual assault should be no surprise. Women now predominate on the left. When UCLA began surveying freshmen, women were more conservative than men. Now they're more liberal.

But while the demographics, issues and alignments are different, there are parallels between the contentious campuses of the Sixties and those of today. Once again there is a resurgent left in a bitterly divided country. That's not to say college deans should get extra security or university presidents need new locks on their doors. This is a moment, however, when revisiting the events at Columbia 50 years ago might be instructive in thinking about what is happening now.



STUDENT PROTESTERS ENTERING MORNINGSIDE PARK IN APRIL 1968.

HUGH ROGERS

The issues that grabbed the headlines and drove protests nationally in the Sixties — racial injustice, the Vietnam War, traditional norms and systems of authority that a new generation saw as archaic and unresponsive — were also the concerns that lay at the heart of the 1968 revolt. Columbia just happened to be a place where the black movement (by then a movement for black power), a radicalized antiwar movement and cultural rebellion converged.

Organizationally, the 1968 uprising was two protests in one, the result of an uneasy coalition between the Students' Afro-American Society (SAS) and the radicals organized through the Columbia chapter of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Although the two groups agreed on joint demands, their underlying agendas were different.

For the black students, the key demand was that the University end construction of a gymnasium in Morningside Park, a proj-

ect opposed by many of Harlem's leaders. Designed with a back entrance facing Harlem and offering the community access to a separate portion of the facilities, the gym became a perfect symbol of inequality and racism. "Gym Crow," the protestors called it.

On the first day of the protests, after marching on Low Library and the gym site, both black and white demonstrators occupied Hamilton Hall, imprisoning Dean Henry S. "Harry" Coleman '46 in his office. That night, however, the SAS leaders kicked out the white students, told them to go seize their own building and blockaded Hamilton. The black students' role in the revolt panicked the administration, which hesitated for days to call in the police for fear that a raid on Hamilton would touch off an uprising from Harlem. But the black students were determined to be both respectful and militant. They soon released the dean, kept Hamilton Hall clean and in order, and eventually agreed to be arrested without resistance in a way that preserved their dignity.

The white radicals were not as restrained. After being kicked out of Hamilton, they broke into Low Library, where they occupied President Grayson Kirk's office, putting their feet up on his desk, smoking his cigars and going through his personal effects and files. During the next several days, additional groups took over Avery, Fayerweather and Mathematics, setting up "liberated zones" where they could enjoy true freedom by debating radical ideas for hours, while the "girls" from Barnard took primary responsibility for food and housekeeping. The radical leadership, just like the College, was all-male.

Aside from opposing the gym, the white radicals focused on the University's complicity with the war, demanding that Columbia sever its ties with the Institute for Defense Analysis, an inter-university consortium for defense research. Although the University insisted it had to stay neutral in political matters, radicals insisted its role in military research proved that it did not. Other demands included

## ON SOCIALLY DIVERSE CAMPUSES, RACE AND DIVERSITY ARE NOT JUST ABSTRACT QUESTIONS, BUT ALSO PRACTICAL REALITIES OF DAILY LIVING.

a general amnesty for all demonstrators, as well as adherence in all future discipline to "standards of due process" at open hearings before faculty and students. The demand for due process implied a rejection of the University's authority to act *in loco parentis* (authority Barnard was exercising at the time in disciplinary proceedings against a student who had been found living with a Columbia man off-campus).

Achieving the concrete demands of the strike, however, was not what the SDS leaders were after. They saw themselves as a revolutionary vanguard in support of insurgents around the world, including the Viet Cong, and their goal was to reveal the University as an agent of oppression so as to radicalize students and inspire them to join in the revolutionary struggle.

The radicals were hardly a majority of Columbia students. Arrayed against them were counter-demonstrators, many of them athletes, continually urged by coaches and deans to "cool it" lest the campus devolve into random violence. Many others, varying in their sympathies, stayed on the sidelines. Members of the faculty interposed themselves between demonstrators and counter-demonstrators and sought unsuccessfully to mediate between the radicals and administration.

A more adroit University leadership might have had more support from students and faculty. In a *Spectator* interview about stu-



GERALD S. ADLER PH'80

THE POLICE BUST SET OFF A UNIVERSITY-WIDE STRIKE: ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING STUDENTS AT AVERY HALL.





BARNEY EDMONDS GS'67, SOA'69

STUDENTS OPPOSED TO THE TAKEOVERS ORGANIZED COUNTER-PROTESTS.

dents' role in University policymaking a year before the revolt, one administrator had declared, "Whether students vote 'yes' or 'no' on a given issue means as much to me as if they were to tell me they like strawberries." Students who might have wanted to work through channels had no channels to work through. The administration also succeeded in alienating the faculty who tried to negotiate a settlement during the crisis. At key junctures, top administrators and the trustees issued statements undermining the mediators' credibility with the strike leadership. In defense of his decision to call in the police, Kirk said he had acted on behalf of all universities: Conceding amnesty to the students "would have dealt a near-fatal blow" to American higher education.

The SDS leadership, it's true, had no interest in compromise, as bringing on the police would help radicalize students. As a sociology professor, the late Allan Silver, remarked at the time, SDS and the administration were linked in a relationship of "antagonistic cooperation." They both saw themselves as instruments of a higher cause that made concessions impossible.

In the end, of course, the SDS leaders' hopes for a revolution were disappointed, though the uprising did have concrete effects. The gym was built at another location instead of Morningside Park, and the University adopted changes in governance — such as the creation of the University Senate — that demonstrated receptivity to greater participation. Perhaps the most significant outcome was a new understanding of the University's relationship to its students, best explained by anthropologist Margaret Mead BC 1923, GSAS'28, a longtime affiliate of Columbia's Department of Anthropology.

In an essay published that fall, Mead wrote that the events at Columbia marked the end of an epoch when students were treated as children and entitled to "special privileges and immunities from the civil authorities." By calling in the police, the University had revoked its "traditional claim to protect and discipline its own students." Although many people were outraged, Mead argued that it was time to abrogate the old compact: "It is no longer appropriate to treat students as a privileged and protected group who, in return for this special station, abstain from political activity of any sort, submit to the regulation of their private lives, and risk expulsion for every sort of minor infraction of a set of outmoded rules." Once students were treated as adults, Mead concluded, they would have to make "socially responsible demands" and would then acquire "the education in real life which they complain the university denies them." That was a revolution of sorts, though it was not the one the radicals had in mind.

So is it 1968 all over again? Not quite.

But 2018 is also a time when Americans are at odds with one another, the young are alienated from the government and the right spark could ignite riots and bloody confrontations. Just as the universities were swept into the conflicts of the Sixties, so they are being drawn into today's controversies. Fifty years ago, students demanded that universities drop any pretense of neutrality and oppose the Vietnam War; today they demand that universities take a stance on immigration, serve as sanctuaries for the undocumented and protect their Dreamers. In the Sixties, national politics had personal implications for people of college age because of the risk of being drafted to fight in Vietnam. Today, the Trump administration's policies have personal implications for many students, who, even if they are white, straight and native-born, know others who live in fear of deportation or harassment because of their minority or immigrant status.

On socially diverse campuses, race and diversity are not just abstract questions, but also practical realities of daily living. Likewise, the political issues related to gender and sexuality — women's equality, gay rights, gender nonconformity, sexual harassment — have direct and personal meaning. Contrary to some observers, these are not merely questions of "identity politics," to be disparaged by comparison with the great public issues of the 1960s. They are part of the same struggle for equality. The Black Lives Matter, #MeToo and #TimesUp movements today are just the latest phase in widening claims for equal respect. From the perspective of gender politics, the 1968 revolt took place in an ancient retrograde era, but many radicals at the time believed that "the personal is political" and later came to discover it had deeper possibilities than they at first understood.

In some respects, the roles of left and right have reversed. In the 1960s, liberalism in the universities was under attack from the left; now it's more often under attack from the right. In the Sixties, radicals on the left used provocative actions and language to unmask universities as repressive institutions. Now alt-right speakers come to campuses in the hope that their provocations will also unmask liberal hypocrisy about free speech. The game only works through antagonistic cooperation — for example, if progressive students demand the speakers be banned in the interest of keeping the campus a "safe space," protected from ideas and words that offend them. That suggests they want back the old order that Mead pronounced dead a half-century ago.

It is one of the glories of the university that it is not a safe space in that specially protective sense. While the seminar room requires civility and a guiding hand, the public forum of the campus does not. This is the good part of political confrontation on campus. It can be as educational as a seminar, and in fact, a deeper immersion in political argument than classrooms can usually provide. And while we shouldn't picture the 1968 revolt in too gentle a light, this was its upside. If you were paying attention, you could learn a great deal. Today's students can do the same.

**Paul Starr '70** is a professor of sociology and public affairs at Princeton and winner of the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction. He was a reporter for *Spectator* in 1968 and later its editor-in-chief.

## DEAD GIVEAWAY

CHECK OUT VIDEO FOOTAGE OF THE GRATEFUL DEAD'S MAY 3, 1968, CONCERT ON CAMPUS: [COLLEGE.COLUMBIA.EDU/CCT/LATEST/FEATURE-EXTRAS](http://COLLEGE.COLUMBIA.EDU/CCT/LATEST/FEATURE-EXTRAS).

**M**any Americans know Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91, PS'00, HN'16 as *Good Morning America's* "Dr. Jen" — the charismatic TV doctor who shares daily health headlines, decodes new cancer studies and somehow manages to explain why sugar is so bad for you in a way that's non-judgmental.

Ashton isn't simply a talking head, though. She was recently named ABC News' chief medical correspondent — a journalism gig that's sent her into the field to cover hurricanes and mass shootings, and also pushed her to weigh in on the intersection of health and politics during the (never-ending) debate about whether to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. Ashton doesn't just play a doctor on TV, either. A board-certified ob/gyn and a nutritionist, she has her own medical practice where, along with treating her regular patients, she offers pro bono care to female military veterans.

Ashton has also published three health books — one each for teens, expecting mothers and women over 30 — and writes a column for *Cosmopolitan*. These all contribute to her personal mission: demystifying complex or taboo subjects surrounding health, fitness and sex for women of all ages.

"I believe there's a massive crisis in women's health today in this country that crosses all socioeconomic demographic lines and geographic regions," Ashton says from her car while reverse-commuting from Manhattan to her New Jersey office, where she sees patients three days a week. "Women's understanding of the body and how it works is in many cases stuck in the Dark Ages. It's filled with myth, rumors and old wives' tales. I think it's really hurting women."

*Good Morning America's*  
**Dr. Jennifer Ashton '91**  
is on a mission  
to demystify  
women's health

Ashton grew up in Tenafly, N.J., and as a senior at Horace Mann debated whether to attend Duke or Columbia. Columbia was the obvious choice: Her father, cardiologist Dr. Oscar Garfein, holds degrees from the College (1961), P&S (1965) and the Business School (1997), while her mother, Dorothy, graduated from Teachers College (1968). Her brother, Dr. Evan Garfein, also has a degree from P&S (1999), while his wife, Tanya Simon, has one from the College (1992). "Believe it or not, I got no pressure from my dad when I was deciding," Ashton says. "It took me more than a month to choose, and I never regretted it. I was always more of an NYC person than an N.C. person."

Ashton knew she wanted to apply to medical school eventually, but as an undergraduate she majored in art history, reasoning — on her father's advice — that it was a good time to focus on something she probably wouldn't have time to study later in life. After graduation, she enrolled in General Studies' post-bac program to complete her science requirements; she matriculated at P&S in 1996.

There, Ashton dialed into the drive that has become one of her defining characteristics. She was elected class president four years in a row; she also gave birth to both of her children while completing her coursework. "I kind of knew that it would only get harder, so I figured it made sense [to do] while I was still paying to be there, versus doing it while I was getting paid to do work," she says. Her daughter, Chloe, is a junior at Lawrenceville, a prep school in New Jersey, and her son, Alex, is a sophomore at the College.

# Just What the Doctor Ordered

By Atossa Araxia Abrahamian '08, JRN'11



The opportunity to be on TV didn't come Ashton's way until 2006. She had been doing ob/gyn work for several years — a specialization she chose because it contained a bit of everything: women's health, which she was passionate about from the start, but also surgery, endocrinology, psychiatry, cancer and obstetrics. "I had zero desire to do media," she says. "Some friends in the TV news business told me they thought I'd be great on camera, and I thought they were kidding. But they kept pursuing it, and I was asked to come on Fox News for a weekend segment.

"It was about kids and nutrition and healthful snacks," Ashton recalls. "I wasn't trying out — it wasn't something I really wanted to do! The only things I remember are it was a Saturday, I'd never been on set before and it was on live national cable TV." Before long, Fox offered her a contract; she stayed with the network for three years and was the channel's first on-air female medical contributor.

In 2009 Ashton switched to reporting at CBS. She appeared on the *CBS Evening News* with Katie Couric and *The Early Show*, and, with a team of reporters, earned a 2010 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for excellence in journalism. (The winning news segment was about how the recession was hurting children's health, from an uptick in abuse cases to increased depression and anxiety.) Since 2012, Ashton has appeared almost daily on ABC, where she's now a fixture on *Good Morning America*, and, from 2013 to 2016, she co-hosted the health and wellness talk show *The Doctors*.

Alberto Orso, a senior producer who has worked with Ashton since she joined ABC, says her friendly, down-to-earth style immediately appealed to *GMA*'s viewers, but that her work on women's health was what

set her apart. "One of her passions is heart health," Orso says. "She has a good relationship with the American Heart Association and she's brought us stories about women and heart health that explain how the issues are slightly different for women. She's been really good at flagging new studies, and also participating in campaigns to make people more aware.

"The fact that she continues to practice keeps her fresh, too," Orso adds. "She brings patient perspectives to the table and can discuss the kinds of things our audience is wondering about. That kind of intimacy and immediacy is really special."

Ashton extends her caring manner to ABC's staff, many of whom have come to regard her as a kind of in-house physician. "If one of us needs help with something, a suggestion for a referral or a question about our own health, she's not afraid to weigh in with 'Go see this person' or 'Do this,'" says Orso. "We're lucky to have her one phone call away."

Now with more than a decade of on-air experience under her scrubs, Ashton says she loves the broadcast side of her career. It can be emotionally trying, she adds, reflecting on back-to-back assignments last year that sent her to cover Hurricane Harvey in Houston, Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the Las Vegas shooting at the Route 91 Harvest music festival. "They hit me hard," she says. "I came back and cried multiple times about those events.

"It's very easy for journalists or doctors [to appear] robotic or detached, but it's hard to see that level of suffering and not have it affect you," she says, adding that as a reporter, she's not always coming to the scene in her emergency room "armor." "I've seen really horrendous things in the hospital; as a medical resident I was in the operating room with a woman [dying of] stage 4 ovarian cancer. But when things happen in the field it can be even harder, because you're in a different mindset."

She also points to the challenges that come with social media. "For anyone in the public eye, while we're used to it, it can still be unbelievably hurtful," she says of anonymous commenters and trolls spewing hate on Twitter. "I welcome debate and differences of opinion. But many, many times it's done in such an unprofessional and disrespectful and rude manner, so it obviates any real potential for an intellectual discussion."

What makes it all meaningful, though, Ashton says, is the enormous platform she has to weigh in on news, publicize sensitive issues such as sexually transmitted diseases, dispel myths about the side effects of birth control (which "dramatically lowers uterine and ovarian cancer risk," she says) and talk about things no one wants to talk about, like menopause.

Her work with female veterans was largely enabled by her platform as a public figure. "Last year, I saw an article about how only one-third of VA hospitals have a gynecologist on staff," she recalls. "I thought, that is unacceptable! It goes into my belief about there being a crisis in women's health on every level. I can't change

Ashton reporting last October from Las Vegas, where she covered the aftermath of the music festival shootings.





On the air as chief medical correspondent, with GMA anchor Robin Roberts.

this in Washington, D.C., or in the VA hospital, but I can change it in my office, because I don't have to ask for permission. So I did a press release saying I'd be honored to provide free care to any female veteran or active service member, and I've had women take me up on that."

Given the current political climate, and how much public discussion there is about sexual harassment, rape

**"There is a crisis in women's health on every level. I can't change this in Washington, D.C., or in the VA hospital, but I can change it in my office."**

and reproductive rights, Ashton now sees her role as an expert on women's health — and a woman who's experienced sexism in the workplace — as doubly vital.

"I hope this conversation will change the paradigm for women and men," she says, referring to the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements. "I think people need to know that this isn't just about actresses. It happens in every profession. Unfortunately, I've had many patients who were raped — some in college, some by strangers, some as children — and personally, I was sexually harassed when I was a resident."

Whether she intends to project a superwoman image or not, Ashton is an impressive human. Her day starts with a meditation session at 5 a.m., plus she's taking a class to improve her Spanish and trying to learn more about wine. She's also a lifelong, self-professed fitness fanatic who loves running, lifting weights, competing in triathlons and SoulCycle. "Certain things are non-negotiable: seven hours of sleep, working out six days a week and keeping my brain busy," she says.

Family friend Kathy Leventhal says being this driven is in Ashton's nature: "Jennifer has always been dynamic, and everything she sets her mind to do she does with gusto. When she was in med school and pregnant with her son, she never missed a beat. Her hours were crazy, she was commuting and doing a residency, and yet seemed to handle everything with great ease. I've never met anyone who's so good at balance."

Leventhal also points to Ashton's lack of awkwardness — likely forged by years of talking about vaginas to complete strangers, as well as a deep understanding of what she's talking about — as crucial in bridging the gap between her identities of being a journalist and a doctor. Leventhal would know: She's also her patient.

"When she walks into the exam room she's Dr. Ashton, but it's not weird, it's not awkward — she goes from being Jennifer my friend to Jennifer my doctor. She has an uncanny ability to make all people, not just patients, comfortable."

Ashton regards her accessibility as imperative to her cause. "I read so many articles about gender discrimination in medicine. We're not including women in scientific studies. We're not even doing aggressive research on women's health issues. We don't like to talk about ovaries or cervixes or the uterus, and it's a massive problem.

"I have a big voice for women and so I want to use it to help as many women as possible," Ashton says. "And I like to project that I understand what people are going through and that I have a lot of those feelings, too.

"The era of paternalistic medicine is over."

*Atossa Araxia Abrahamian '08, JRN'11 is a journalist and the author of The Cosmopolites: The Coming of the Global Citizen.*

# FUNNY BUSINESS

BY PHIL WALLACE '04



COMEDIAN  
GABE LIEDMAN '04  
LAYS IT ALL ON  
THE (WRITERS') TABLE

ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
MICHELLE POIRIER



For the last five years, Gabe Liedman '04 has been writing for some of television's buzziest series — *Inside Amy Schumer*, *Broad City*, *Brooklyn Nine-Nine* — as well as the offbeat sketch-based *Kroll Show*. “Writers' rooms are a mix of creative individuals, so the chemistry is always different,” he says of the delicate collaboration. “You're often thrown together with total strangers and told to pull off a work of art together. As you can imagine, it's not always smooth. But I've been lucky with a lot of great rooms.” Today, Liedman is a writer and producer for the award-winning Amazon series *Transparent*.

“Comedy always seemed like the best use of a brain to me,” says Liedman, who grew up soaking in sitcoms like *Seinfeld*, *The Carol Burnett Show*, *Murphy Brown* and *The Golden Girls*. The versatile writer and performer recently sat down with *Columbia College Today* to talk about his influences, his “instant” friendship with classmate and former comedy partner Jenny Slate '04 and his journey from selling belts at Barneys New York to cracking jokes for Amazon Studios.

#### **CCT: Did you always know that you wanted to be in comedy?**

**Gabe Liedman '04:** I always knew that I wanted to be in entertainment. I grew up in Philly, watching *a lot* of TV, exclusively comedy. It's just what I was drawn to. Quoting *The Simpsons* with my friends Monday morning at school was a sport. It was obsessive!

Throughout my childhood I tried my best to participate in plays and stuff like that at school, but I didn't really find my voice until my high school started an improv comedy club. It was a branch of the national improv theater ComedySportz — short-form improv sort of like *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* I can't remember where I got the guts to participate, but for some reason I went for it. And that unlocked something in me. I excelled, despite being pretty shy and decidedly unpopular.

My taste was heavily informed by my funny, if slightly insane, family. We listened to comedy records in the car instead of music — usually Richard Pryor, which is definitely not suitable for kids. We were always joking, always going for a laugh in times of stress.

#### **And you followed that interest at Columbia?**

Yes! I joined the Varsity Show — that's where I met Jenny, trying out, and we ended up being in that together and [also] the Two Left Feet improv group on campus. I was like, “This is the funniest person I've ever met in my life.” Instant friends. When we graduated, we said, “Well, I'm not done doing com-

edy just because school's over.” There were other people still involved [in comedy], too. So, we kept doing sketch and improv together, and over the years other people found their grown-up careers and we were the last two standing. We still hang out all the time.

#### **What was your Varsity Show experience like?**

You have to black out to do the audition. You turn on a totally different part of your brain and say: “No fear. I'm just going to say the first thing that pops into my head.” My grades improved markedly from when I started. I don't know the neuroscience of it, but it was the most crazy crash course in confidence and believing in the thoughts that you have, and basically, not telling yourself to shut up.

Also, there is a very strict production schedule, so it is a little bit more than just a club. You have to put on a whole show on a certain day, and it had better be good because everyone is watching. So that was my first experience really having to meet those kinds of creative deadlines. It was much more like my real life now than schoolwork was.

#### **Anything else about the College that's now relevant in your “real life”?**

The Creative Writing Program was huge for me. It's where I learned how to write scripts and sit around a table and critique other people's works and collaborate in that way. It was part of General Studies, so the classes had a very different makeup. They were at night; there were school employees

there, there were people who were continuing ed who were just doing it out of interest. There were also the undergrads like me who were like, “I want to be a writer when I grow up.”

All the teachers were working artists; I had a filmmaker who had films in festivals, and an author who had a book out. That was inspiring; it was like, “There is a life.” It’s not just an idea that people write for a living.

#### What did you do after graduation?

During the day I was a salesperson at Barneys on 60th and Madison. Jenny had a lot of odd jobs — she worked at a bakery, she was a nanny. It was, “Find whatever day work you can that gives you your nights free; pay your bills that way.” Then at night we worked in comedy clubs for free for years.

I was lucky to fall pretty quickly into the alternative comedy scene at a club called Rififi in the East

Village. It was a really magical time and place — a comedy show every night of the week, with hosts and performers who are so famous and successful now, though no one would’ve guessed it at the time. The place was a serious dump. Its doors stayed open thanks to a weekly dance party for underage NYU students on Friday

nights. But the alternative comedy scene was at dive bars like that, rather than at traditional comedy clubs like Carolines in Times Square. Looking back, I can’t believe it even existed, and it definitely never could in today’s East Village. It was magic!

#### I remember, in the mid-2000s, you were on the VH1 show *Best Week Ever*, which had comedians joking about the week in pop culture. What was that like?

I was totally on that! That was such a funny production model — they would have comedians come in for an hour and you would just sit in a chair and make jokes, and then they would pay you \$500 and you would leave. It was such a huge deal at the time, so exciting. A lot of people got their start there. That’s where Paul F. Tompkins and John Mulaney and all these huge guys came from. It was just like, “This is a place in Manhattan that will pay you to be funny.”

#### How did you get connected to Amy Schumer? Not many people knew her in 2013, when you started working on her show.

A lot of my first shows were with comics who I came up with, or a little bit behind, who were like, “Want to work on my show?” It was sort of friends

helping each other out. Amy was in my same downtown Lower East Side scene. She had done [the reality show] *Last Comic Standing* and she sort of had her profile from that. She liked my work and when she sold her show to Comedy Central, she asked if I would be interested. And I was like, “God yes! Definitely.” That was super fun. She’s awesome. That was a great writers’ room and my first union job. That sort of gave me the feeling like I could do this forever.

#### You also worked on *Broad City*, and now *Transparent* — a lot of shows created and run by women. What’s it like being a man in that kind of environment?

I’ve always felt the best working with women. It was no surprise that Jenny and I clung to each other. I think being a gay guy who’s out feels different to women than it does to straight guys.

Comedy Central used to play a ton of stand-up specials during the day, which I watched growing up, and there was always Rita Rudner and Wendy Liebman and Ellen DeGeneres. When people say women aren’t funny, it’s crazy; I actually find women more funny and more interesting. And I guess that’s the vibe I give off, because women have championed me in a lot of the same ways that I’ve championed them.

But I’ve also written for *Brooklyn Nine-Nine*, which is a giant Fox show. It’s the typical writers’ room that you hear about that’s run by all Harvard people and it’s super male, but I fit in. I stayed there for 70 episodes and loved it. It’s not like I’ll only work for women, but the more choices I get to make about my own fate, the more I gravitate toward women.

Right now, I’m the only man in the writers’ room at *Transparent*, which is really cool. It’s a great lesson in life for a white man to experience not being the power voice. I’m there to serve someone else’s story. More people should go through it. More people should experience it.

#### Let’s talk about that. *Transparent* tackles a lot of charged topics — gender, trauma, the Holocaust. What’s it like to collaborate in that environment?

Tackling issues is always scary. It’s scary to think you might get it wrong, might offend someone or a large group of people. So the stakes feel high. We certainly haven’t been perfect at my time at *Transparent*, far from it. And there were a lot of close calls no one got to see, thank God. But it’s been a cool challenge. I like coming from the comedy world and working on a drama. Or, something that’s more dramatic at least — it’s often classified as a comedy, just because it’s 30-minute episodes. I guess it’s the over-achiever in me or something, knowing that I can do something outside of my comfort zone, or deliver

“IT’S A GREAT LESSON IN LIFE FOR A WHITE MAN TO EXPERIENCE NOT BEING THE POWER VOICE. I’M THERE TO SERVE SOMEONE ELSE’S STORY. MORE PEOPLE SHOULD GO THROUGH IT.”





something that people don't necessarily expect from me based on the other things on my résumé.

Also, working with so many other queer people is just invaluable. It's not the norm by any means, and I relish it.

**Do you think of yourself as a writer, comedian or both?**

Both. If you were to look at my finances, the money is coming from writing jobs and that's what I do 10 months out of the year. But I got there because I'm a comedian and I'm not going to stop doing that.

When I'm in production on a show, which for the last five years has been the majority of my time — writing in writers' rooms — I try to do stand-up once or twice a month to keep the muscle active. Then when we're on break, which is maybe two or three months out of the year, I try to do it a couple of times a week. That's usually when I get my new jokes.

**You mentioned "alternative comedy" earlier. Is that how you would describe your style?**

I think I would be considered observational, not topical. I talk a lot about myself — what the world's like through my eyes. I feel like that's what I have to offer. I don't get that political. It's kind of impossible now to avoid discussing Donald Trump, but up to that point I wasn't super political.

**There's an old saying that comedy is tragedy plus time. I saw one of your stand-up acts where you're talking about your online dating experiences. It was like mini-tragedies that you expanded upon.**

Mini-tragedies, embarrassment, it's all sort of the darker side of life. You're trying to get people to relate to you. So it's something we all have in common — that it sucks to date, that we're not the weight we want to be.

**What are some new projects that you're working on?**

I'm writing season five of *Transparent* for Amazon Studios. I'm also about to enter the development world, taking three original pilots to studios and networks to see if anyone is interested in making them with me. I can't get too detailed on that front, mostly out of superstition and a little bit for legal reasons. But, it's exciting! By the time this is printed there might be a new show out there that says "Created by Gabe Liedman." Maybe even three! Maybe still zero. But this is a new thing for me and I am psyched!

**What would you tell the person who's two or three years out of the College, working at Barneys but trying to get into comedy?**

My dad used to say, "I didn't help you go to Columbia so you could sell belts." I would tell that person, "Imagine yourself as a character in a movie. This is just the shitty part in the beginning. You've seen this before. Just get through the end of your 20s; it'll pay off. Just have fun." I look back at it as the best part; it was the best those years of my life could have possibly gone.

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**Phil Wallace '04** is VP of business development for *Reigning Champs*, the parent company of *NCSA Next College Student Athlete*. He is also the founder of *ScreenPicks.com*, an entertainment website.

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**CCT Print Extras**

To get the lowdown on Riffi's alt-comedy scene from Liedman and other comedians who lived it, go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

## Here's to You, Mr. Garfunkel

The singer who shaped a generation looks back on his life before and after Paul Simon

What Is It All but Luminous: Notes from an Underground Man, the poetic title of Art Garfunkel's new autobiography, might seem at first like a baffling phrase. But as the bestselling musician explains in a recent Forbes interview, it's also a revealing concept — illuminating, if you will. Garfunkel describes taking exhausting, emotional hikes in the last few decades that made his vision go blurry — “a sign that you're feeling spiritual as well as literal,” he says in the interview. “The smudged world that you see then is glowing, less precise but with its vitality enhanced. It all shines, 360 degrees around you.”

It's this sort of ethereal, almost angelic mindset — combined with his halo of blond curls, and the soaring glory of his countertenor voice — that led Rolling Stone to dub Garfunkel “the choirboy of pop music.” But then Garfunkel has always been a bit of an anomaly. “I think of myself as a little bit of a misfit in today's times,” he told Forbes. “Modern America looks goofy to me. Maybe I'm different. Maybe I'm the goofy one.” This appealingly thoughtful outsider's stance infuses Luminous, a highly personal look back at a life lived through music.

With Paul Simon, his childhood friend from Queens, Garfunkel achieved early musical stardom, hitting the national charts in 1957 as Tom and Jerry, with the song “Hey Schoolgirl.” After changing their name to Simon & Garfunkel, the duo went on to create generation-defining songs, including “The Sound of Silence,” “Homeward Bound” and “Mrs. Robinson,” before splitting in 1970.

As Garfunkel sees it, his existence (so far) falls into two acts: Before and after the final Simon & Garfunkel album, Bridge Over Troubled Water. Garfunkel's years at Columbia — he enrolled at the Architecture School before switching to the College to

major in art history — formed a vital and sustaining part of that first act. After that first '50s hit, the friends' music failed to sell, and each went back to school (Simon graduated from Queens College). Garfunkel's middle-class upbringing had shaped him to seek a conventional life: “I was the kid who was going to go to college and find some way to make a decent living,” he says.

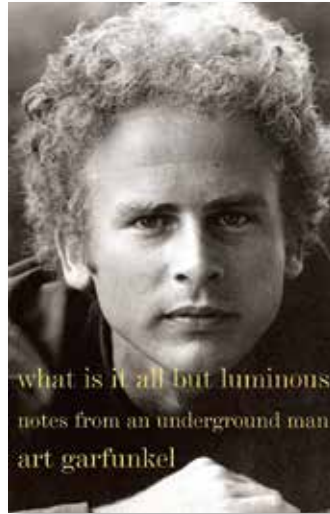
“Sweet memories” sums up the time he spent on Morningside Heights, including singing a cappella with the Kingsmen and reading textbooks to his roommate Sandy Greenberg '62, BUS'67, who was stricken with glaucoma. Perhaps most extraordinary for Garfunkel was the ubiquity of books at Columbia, and the seriousness with which they were treated. “People would sit around at dinner and talk about books, and I thought that was just fabulous,” he says.

Garfunkel and Simon revived their act in 1964; Garfunkel remembers Simon bursting into his room with the lyrics of “The Sound of Silence.” Columbia has a bit part in their later musical history, as well — the big sound of their hit “The Boxer” was partly recorded in an illicit late-night session within the high stone walls of St. Paul's Chapel. After smuggling in equipment, the pair “stayed there all night, singing all 16 ‘li-la-lis,’” Garfunkel recalls.

Since those early days, Garfunkel has recorded his own songs (“All I Know”) and successful solo albums (Angel Clare, Breakaway), and has acted in such films as Catch-22 and Carnal Knowledge. The following excerpt from Chapter One of Luminous describes his childhood infatuation with music and the early years of his tight-knit friendship with Simon.

— Rose Kernochan BC'82





Singing is a tickle in the back of the throat, a flutter of the abdomen, the vocal cords, called vibrato. It's sent from God through the heart, and it is un-analyzable. Some people can just do it. They listen to the radio and begin to emulate. At five or six, I was doing the inspirational songs that I heard, like "You'll Never Walk Alone." I heard my parents singing "Bye Bye Blackbird" in the living room—in two-part harmony. That I could do it too was a delight that took me to places where echo put tails on my notes—lovely extensions of sound. I fell in love with the magnifying effect of tiled rooms, hallways, and stairwells. When no one was listening, I sought to make beautiful vowel sounds for my own ears' sake. It was my private joy. Walking in rhythm over sidewalk cracks, I sang my tune. Then did it again in the next higher key. I was on my way to first grade.

Write the poem out loud  
 Authorize the heart  
 Burn the Bridge and  
 Be the work of art

My singing was a serious gift that I respected all through my childhood, my life. I was skinny, a lefty, a Scorpio. My father called me "Whitey Skeeziks" but I identified with the "A" of Arthur. It was steeple-shaped, upward aspiring, hands in prayer. I loved my white satin collar when I sang in the temple. I was the angel singer and I felt "touched."

I went for the songs that had the goose bumps. "If I Loved You," from *Carousel*, did it for me, Nat Cole's wonderfully different "Nature Boy." And I went to sing-

ers I just knew could sing: How easy was Bing Crosby's "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas." How brunette smooth was Jo Stafford's "Fly the ocean in a silver plane." How open-throated Sam Cooke's "You Send Me." How extraordinary "It's Not for Me to Say" (Johnny Mathis). I saw Little Richard at the Brooklyn Paramount in '55 stand on the piano in a purple cape. He ripped through "Long Tall Sally" and took the night. I fell for the great groove records. "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On" had it (Jerry Lee Lewis). So did "Don't Ya Just Know It" (Huey "Piano" Smith). Frankie Ford's "Won't you let me take you on a Sea Cruise" was as good as it got for me.

On Saturday mornings, in 1953, in Keds sneakers, white on white, I took my basketball to P.S. 165. We played half-court ball, three on three. Or else I listened to Martin Block's *Make Believe Ballroom* on the radio. I loved to chart the top thirty songs. It was the numbers that got me. I kept meticulous lists—when a new singer like Tony Bennett came onto the charts with "Rags to Riches," I watched the record jump from, say, #23 to #14 in a week. The mathematics of the jumps went to my sense of fun. I was commercially aware through the Hit Parade, as well as involved in the music. Johnnie Ray's "Cry," the Crewcuts' "Sh-Boom," Roy Hamilton ballads, "Unchained Melody" reached me. Soon the Everly Brothers would take me for The Big Ride.

As I entered Parsons Junior High where the tough kids were, Paul Simon became my one and only friend. We saw each other's uniqueness. We smoked our first cigarettes. We had retreated from all other kids. And

we laughed. I opened my school desk one day in 1954 and saw a note from Ira Green to a friend: "Listen to the radio tonight, I have a dedication to you." I became aware that Alan Freed had taken this subversive music from Cleveland to New York City. He read dedications from teenage lovers before playing "Earth Angel," "Sincerely." When he played Little Richard's "Long Tall Sally," he left the studio mic open enough to hear him pounding a stack of telephone books to the backbeat. This was no Martin Block.

Maybe I was in the land of payola, of "back alley enterprise" and pill-head disc jockeying, but what I felt was that Alan Freed loved us kids to dance, romance, and fall in love, and the music would send us. It sent me for life. It was rhythm and blues. It was black. It was from New Orleans, Chicago, Philadelphia. It was dirty music (read "sexual"). One night Alan Freed called it "rock 'n' roll." Hip was born for me. Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis. Bobby Freeman asked, "Do you wanna dance, squeeze and hug me all through the night?" and you knew she did.

I was captured. So was Paul. We followed WINS radio. Paul bought a guitar. We used my father's wire recorder,

then Paul's Webcor tape machine. Holding rehearsals in our basements, we were little perfectionists. We put sound on sound (stacking two layers of our singing). With the courage to listen and cringe about how not right it was yet, we began to record.

We were guitar-based little rockers. Paul had the guitar. I wrote streamlined harmonies whose intervals were thirds, as I learned it from the Andrews Sisters to Don and Phil and floated it over Paul's chugging hammering-on guitar technique. It was bluesy, it was rockabilly, it was rock 'n' roll. We took "woo - bop - a - loo - chi - ba" from Gene Vincent's "Be-Bop-A-Lula." We stole Buddy Holly's country flavor ("Oh Boy"), the Everlys' harmony ("Wake Up Little Susie"). Paul took Elvis's everything ("Mystery Train"). As he drove the rhythm, I brought us into a vocal blend. We were the closest of chums, making out with our girls across the basement floor. We showed each other our versions of masturbation (mine used a hand). "The Girl for Me" was the first song we wrote—innocent, a pathetic "Earth Angel." In junior high we added Stu Kutcher and Angel and Ida Pellagrini.

All the while, I did a lot of homework, the shy kid's retreat. My geometry page was a model of perfection. Anything worth doing is worth doing extraordinarily well—why not best in the world?

My mother could prettify anything. If Darth Vader appeared in my bedroom, live at 3 a.m., and I was nine—my mother would say to him, "Dorothy, put down the mask, you're no Lancelot, then come down for mah-jongg and crumb cake." And the girls called him "Dot."

At twelve I was in my seventh year of being a singer when Paul and I got together. We became rehearsal freaks of fine exactitude. We did our version of doo-wop, copying Dion and the Belmonts. We wrote "A Guy Named Joe." We fused rock 'n' roll with country (rockabilly), the way Buddy Holly did. But it all took flight when Don and Phil Everly started having hits in 1956. We fell out over their sound. Every syllable of every word of every line had a shine, a great Kentucky inflection, charisma in the diction. From moment to moment they worked the mic with star quality. The Everlys were our models. Paul and I wrote our songs together and practiced getting a tooled, very detailed accuracy in our harmony. We came together, with mouths, a foot apart, under a dome of very fine listening, and fashioned a sonic entity of its own.

Excerpted from: *WHAT IS IT ALL BUT LUMINOUS: Notes from an Underground Man* by Art Garfunkel. Copyright © 2017 by Art Garfunkel. Published by Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of The Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House LLC.





## THINKING OF WARMER DAYS AHEAD

As mist enshrouds *The Thinker* on a chilly night, thoughts turn to coming spring days when campus bursts into bloom and students flock outside to enjoy the warm weather. University President Nicholas Murray Butler (Class of 1882) commissioned the sculpture from the Musée Rodin (after sculptor Auguste Rodin's death in 1917, his studio continued producing casts of the work) and the pensive bronze was installed on campus in 1931.

PHOTO BY SCOTT RUDD

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## The Rites of Spring

By Michael Behringer '89

After a long winter, spring is especially welcome this year. For the Columbia College Alumni Association, the season unofficially began with one of our signature events, the John Jay Awards Dinner, on March 7. The award recognizes College alumni for distinguished professional achievement and is one of the highest honors granted to College alumni.

This year, the College recognized five outstanding recipients: **Eric Garcetti '92, SIPA'93**, mayor of Los Angeles; **Sara Just '88**, *PBS NewsHour* executive producer and WETA SVP; **Julie Jacobs Menin '89**, commissioner, NYC Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment; **Robert P. Rooney '89**, CEO, Morgan Stanley International Plc., head of Europe, the Middle East and Africa, and head of technology; and **Ron Simons '82, BUS'89**, four-time Tony Award-winning producer and actor. More than \$1.1 million was raised for the John Jay National Scholars Program, which supports some of the College's most exceptional students.

Spring also puts undergraduates in a celebratory mood, as they emerge from winter hibernation. For me, a favorite spring tradition was spending sunny afternoons on the Low Steps with friends. And if an "occasional" class was overlooked in favor of sunshine and laughs, I don't think we were any worse off for it.

The Steps were featured prominently in a 1988 *New York Times Magazine* cover story remembered fondly by many of my classmates. Titled "Columbia Recovered" and written by **Morris Dickstein '61** on the 20th anniversary of the 1968 campus protests, it examined how 1968 impacted Columbia, for better and for worse. Returning to campus a generation later, Dickstein described how much the campus had improved since those infamous times.

It is that magazine's cover photo, however, that has stayed with so many of us. Taken on one of those spectacular New York City spring afternoons, it seemed as if everyone we knew was on the Steps. (That's me sitting atop *Alma Mater*.) At first glance, it's a photo of students doing nothing more than enjoying a beautiful day. Looking more closely, the scene reveals a frenzy of activity and conversation. That candid snapshot succeeded in capturing the warmth, positive energy and friendships that defined my campus experience.

Known commonly as "The Photo," it soon attained a special place in Columbia lore for my generation. My mother had it framed for me as a graduation gift. It's held a prominent place in every office I've had. I glance at it almost every day, and it always brings a smile.

As the University recognizes the 50th anniversary of Spring 1968, I'd say Columbia has moved from "recovered" to "remarkable." We Col-



JORG MEYER

lege alumni are fortunate to be part of a vibrant community that comprises a forward-thinking administration, world-class faculty, outstanding students and dedicated former students.

Behringer's keepsake, a daily reminder of his Columbia experience.

The feeling of community on Morningside Heights is especially strong in May, with its even more special Columbia traditions, including Senior Week, Class Day and Commencement. The Alumni Parade of Classes, which began in 2004, is particularly energizing. It takes place on Class Day, and all alumni are invited to carry their class year banners in a procession that includes graduating students, faculty and administrators. This parade underscores the transition the graduates are making from students to alumni and emphasizes that our Columbia connection is a lifelong one. It's an experience I highly recommend. Learn more: [college.columbia.edu/alumni/class-day-parade](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/class-day-parade).

Reunion 2018 follows just weeks later, Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2, with special events on campus and throughout New York City. This year's is for classes ending in 3 and 8, and the Class of 2017. All-Class Reunion 2018, to be held that Saturday, is open to all alumni. I love attending — it's a great way to see friends from different years, revisit campus and reconnect to Columbia's intellectual experience by attending Mini-Core Classes with faculty and lectures with alumni. And of course, to relive memories of sunny days on the Steps. To register for Reunion 2018 or All-Class Reunion 2018, go to [college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2018](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/reunion2018).

I hope to see many of you on campus this spring, and I also hope you'll consider supporting Columbia by increasing your engagement with the College, donating to an opportunity that excites you or participating in any other way that keeps you connected. There's no better time to renew friendships or your relationship with Columbia.

**ROAR!**

# bookshelf

## Wisdom of the Aged

By Jill C. Shomer

**H**appiness Is a Choice You Make: Lessons from a Year Among the Oldest Old (Sarah Crichton Books, \$26), by **John Leland '81**, opens with a quotation from David Bowie: "Aging is an extraordinary process whereby you become the person you always should have been." For Leland, a reporter at *The New York Times*, sharing stories about aging turned out to be an extraordinary process as well.

Leland spent a year visiting with six elderly New Yorkers while reporting the 2015 *Times* series "85 and Up," which formed the basis for *Happiness*. "I was very interested in writing about older people. I loved the emotional connection you get writing about them," he says. "It gets right to the heart of people's lives." Leland points out that more people are living past 85 than at any time in human history — close to six million in the United States at

the last Census. But despite the record numbers, this is a group that doesn't often see itself in popular culture, and Leland's subjects — including a 90-year-old woman who found love in her Bronx nursing home and a still-busy 92-year-old filmmaker and writer — welcomed the opportunity to share their wisdom and challenges.

Each of the six elders — Fred, Ping, John, Helen, Ruth and Jonas — has a different lesson to teach, and each gets their own chapter. The power of gratitude, living with purpose, nourishing relationships with the people who matter

and making the choice to be happy — all are part of a prescription for living, at any age. If people are now in fact living longer, Leland suggests we have an obligation to live better.

Despite differences in backgrounds and circumstances, the elders were all more or less content — all minimized any hardships of their earlier lives, even if they were struggling with the last chapter, Leland writes. Their zen perspective affected the author profoundly: "I expected the year to bring great changes in them," he says. "I didn't expect it to change me. One of the great things about this was giving up the idea that I was an expert," Leland explains. "I don't know what it's like to be 91 years old — it wasn't about what I know. I could leave all my preconceptions behind, and it was just so rewarding."

Leland, who was born in Stuyvesant Town but grew up in Mountain Lakes, N.J., is not a stranger to reconsidering notions. He first visited Columbia when his older brother was looking at colleges, and was pleasantly surprised. "I hadn't seen that side of the city before," he says. "I had been to Times Square and to museums on school field trips, but I hadn't seen anything like the Columbia campus. I hadn't ever thought of going to school in an urban environment."

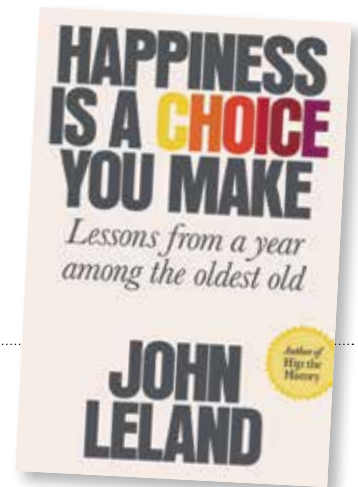
Formerly an editor-in-chief of *Details* and an editor at *Spin* and *Newsweek*, Leland actually started his undergraduate experience at Columbia Engineering. "I fell in love with my English classes and transferred to the College after three semesters," he says.

Leland's path to journalism began unfolding while he was still on campus. "I wrote about music for *Spectator*; then one of the editors, Mark Fleischmann '79, became the editor of *Trouser Press Collectors Magazine*, and I wrote for him there," he says. "There were a lot of little rock magazines at that time, then they would fold and two or three people you knew at one magazine would go to two or three other publications. So now instead of having only one place where you could get \$35 for an article, there were three — then their friends told friends, and gradually you could make a living at it."

The Core still resonates for the author, whose previous books are *Hip: The History* and *Why Kerouac Matters: The Lessons of On The Road (They're Not What You Think)*. "My sense of syntax and grammar came from studying Greek and Latin at the College," Leland says. "I met the smartest people I know at Columbia, and a lot of them are still my friends."

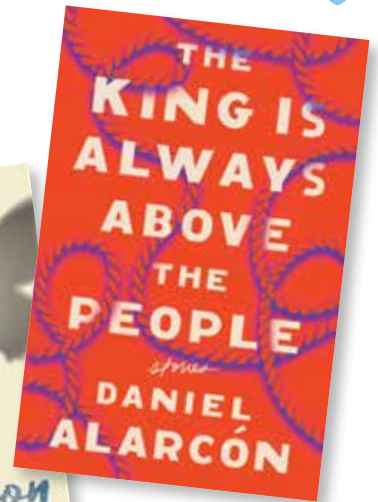
Two of Leland's elderly subjects have passed away since the book was published, but he is still in contact with the other four. Making and maintaining those connections are part of what made *Happiness* so special to him, and he credits the elders for helping him reconcile the difficulties of his own mother's aging process. "The work I've done in the past was more intellect books; this is more of a heart book," he says. "This was a life-changing experience for me. I learned to be more matter-of-fact about death, and to understand that accepting death is to live more richly.

"This year that's been more valuable to me than ever," Leland adds. "The news has been so upsetting night after night. My time with the elders has helped me put it in perspective. We're going to endure, my friendships will endure, love will endure, beauty, companionship — these are the things I live for day to day."



ERICA BERGER





**We Do Our Part: Toward a Fairer and More Equal America** by *Charles Peters '49*. Peters, a Washington, D.C., journalist for 60-plus years and the founder of *Washington Monthly*, suggests that if Americans want to revive the can-do spirit of the New Deal era, we need to demand it of ourselves and of our elected officials (Random House, \$27).

**The Girl from Guantanamo** by *Donald Roth '56*. In this work of historical fiction set in 1958 Cuba, 18-year-old Pilar Ruiz goes from early life on a sugar farm to becoming a revolutionary heroine. Roth's interest in the time period stems from his time as a Navy officer present at the turning point of the Cuban revolution (SelectBooks, \$22.95).

**Hospitable Planet: Faith, Action, and Climate Change** by *Stephen Jurovics '58*. In an effort to inspire readers who are motivated by faith as well as science, this book addresses the physical evidence of climate change while demonstrat-

ing through biblical teachings the religious imperative for preserving the natural world (Morehouse Publishing, \$18.95).

**The Piketty Problem or The Robots Are Coming, The Robots Are Coming** by *Garth Hallberg '64*. In this satire about economics and present-day American politics, a McDonald's franchise owner replaces human workers in his 26 restaurants with "McRobots" (The Reason For Everything, \$13.50).

**The Trial of Patrolman Thomas Shea** by *Thomas Hauser '67*. In 1973, 10-year-old Clifford Glover was shot and killed; NYPD officer Thomas Shea was charged with his murder. Originally released in 1980, the book includes a new afterword from the author demonstrating that institutionalized racism remains (Seven Stories Press, \$17.95).

**Freud's Trip to Orvieto: The Great Doctor's Unresolved Confrontation with Antisemitism, Death, and Homoeroticism; His Passion for Paintings; and the Writer in His Footsteps** by *Nicolas Fox Weber '69*. The author considers an incident in which Sigmund Freud, a year after visiting an Italian cathedral, could not recall the name of the artist who created the paintings of male nudes he'd seen there. Freud's analysis of his own inability to remember — the "Signorelli parapraxis" — is now a principle in

the study of repressed memory (Bellevue Literary Press, \$26.99).

**The Dicer's Cup** by *Bill Christophersen '71*. Christophersen's second book of poetry is a mix of free and formal verse, describing subjects such as traveling through Scotland, battling a stormy surf and coping with a grandmother's suicide (Kelsay Books, \$17).

**Eye Chart (Object Lessons)** by *William Germano '72*. *Eye Chart* is a series of short, artfully designed books about the hidden lives of ordinary things; Germano kicks off his exploration of the eye chart with a deceptively simple question: "What can you see?" (Bloomsbury Academic, \$14.95).

**Tales from Webster's: The Verminous Resuscitator and The Monsignor in the Zoot Suit** by *John Shea '74*. The author's "tales" are a clever literary form he invented: Take a dictionary, choose a word, then faithfully follow each sequential word to construct a narrative. Each story uses at least five key words, and no more than 50 words of connective text (Livingston Press, \$14.95).

**Dirty War: Rhodesia and Chemical Biological Warfare 1975–1980** by *Glenn Cross '85*. The author, who works for the U.S. government on issues of weapons of mass destruction, provides a comprehensive look at Rhodesia's top-secret use of

chemical and biological weapons during its long counterinsurgency against native African nationalists (Helion and Co., \$39.95).

**Signs and Wonders: 100 Hag-gada Masterpieces** by *Adam Cohen '86*. This is the first work to survey the history of the illustrated Passover haggada — an important text in the Jewish tradition — from the Middle Ages to contemporary times (The Toby Press, \$39.95).

**The Book of Separation** by *Tova Mirvis '95*. This memoir describes the first year that follows Mirvis' decision to leave her marriage and her tight-knit Orthodox Jewish community to forge a new life for herself and her children (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$26).

**The King Is Always Above the People: Stories** by *Daniel Alarcón '99*. Alarcón is a professor at the Journalism School; his new book is a collection of stories about immigration, broken dreams, Los Angeles gang members, Latin-American families and high-stakes journeys (Riverhead Books, \$27).

**This Love Story Will Self-Destruct** by *Leslie Cohen '06*. Eve, an arty dreamer, and Ben, an orderly engineer, navigate the winding journey of their 20s from first jobs, first dates and first breakups to first reunions, first betrayals and first love (Gallery Books, \$16).

— *Jill C. Shomer*

## SUBMIT YOUR BOOK TO CCT

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

[college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_bookshelf](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_bookshelf)



JORG MEYER

## From the Big Top to a Big Apple Podcast

By Jill C. Shomer

Before he was a podcaster, author and travel blogger, **Tom Meyers '97** was a ringmaster. He was putting on shows from an early age; in eighth grade, he started a neighborhood circus in his hometown of Bellevue, Ohio: The Bellevue Hippodrome and All-American Super Circus. “By high school, we had a trapeze and a tightrope in the backyard,” Meyers says. “We even had a llama — my dad was the district attorney in our county and the judge was a gentleman farmer who collected exotic animals.”

The Super Circus only played in Bellevue one day a year, but hundreds of people came. And when it was time for Meyers to apply to college, there was no question what the topic of his essay would be. “I’m convinced that’s why I got into Columbia,” he says with a laugh. “After I was admitted to the College, I went to a Days on Campus event. I was at a reception chatting with someone in Admissions; I mentioned the circus and she said, ‘Oh my God, you’re Circus Boy!’”

As a student, Meyers enjoyed film classes with Andrew Sarris '51, GSAS'98 and Annette Insdorf, was on the *Spectator* staff and played Tobias in a production of *Sweeney Todd*. He knew he wanted to study in Paris, and he spent a year and a half at Reid Hall. “I was allowed to stay longer if I declared a French major, so I did,” he says. “It was a non-traditional path but it was also kind of like, ‘I gotta do what I gotta do.’ I guess I’ve had that approach to many things — I wanted my future to be something that I crafted.”

Craft it he has. Meyers is the co-founder of the popular NYC history podcast “The Bowery Boys.” The weekly audio show, which has covered topics from the construction of the Empire State Building to a culinary history of the Lower East Side, gets 400,000

### CCT Print Extras

Tune in on April 27 to hear The Bowery Boys’ podcast about Spring '68. Go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

iTunes downloads a month. In 2016, he and co-founder Greg Young released a Bowery Boys book, *Adventures in Old New York*.

Meyers developed an interest in urban history while studying in Paris. He had an idea to start a tourism company there that would have exchange students give walking tours to American tourists, but he was rejected by the Chamber of Commerce. He returned to New York City to walk with his class.

After graduation, Meyers worked at an internet startup and began developing a travel website, EuroCheapo, where he recommended the best super-cheap places to stay in Europe's most expensive cities. He got the seed money when another company bought the domain of his company's original name, Antsy Pants ("In the late '90s, it didn't matter that that name had nothing to do with travel, as long as it was cute!"). He was paid \$20,000 for a domain he'd registered for around \$50. Meyers quit his job and moved to Berlin, where he launched EuroCheapo in 2001.

"We provided the kind of information that at that time people were mostly getting from guidebooks like *Let's Go* or *Lonely Planet*," he says. EuroCheapo still exists, but since people research trips and book hotels so differently now, the site has adjusted its focus. As the editor-in-chief, Meyers employs bloggers all over Europe who give general tips on how to save money.

Meyers moved back to the New York City area in 2002. Five years later, he and Young, a longtime family friend, started to consider making a radio show. It was an idea they had always played around with, and since Young was working as a drama columnist

at the time, they thought they'd do something about NYC theater. "In 2007, podcasts were just starting to get some traction," Meyers says. "Greg had a new Mac that had an application called Garage Band; we wanted to see what it did so we decided to record something that night. We looked out the window and there was Canal Street, so we said, 'Let's just talk about Canal Street,'" he says. "We called it 'NYC Cast' then. It was off the top of our heads — no research, just shenanigans. Quality control did not exist." They submitted the podcast to iTunes, then recorded another show the following week. "We just wanted to experiment to see if it could gain any momentum," he says.

Meyers and Young chose relatively easy topics, scraping together research where they could. "But as we started gaining an audience, we realized we had a responsibility to improve the quality," Meyers says. "We tried to record every week; sometimes it was biweekly, for a few years it was monthly, but we never stopped doing it. This summer it will be 11 years," he says. "We've developed a relationship with our listeners, and they expect us to be there no matter what's happening in the world."

Meyers, who lives in Maplewood, N.J., with his husband, Guillaume Normand, their infant son, Julien, two cats and a beagle, is excited about The Bowery Boys' future. "The podcast officially went weekly last fall, and it's been a little hectic — you've got a product going out the door and you're already looking at the next one," he says. "Fortunately, New York just keeps giving us fascinating stories to tell. It's the subject that never sleeps!"

## Diversifying the Business of Cannabis

By Anne-Ryan Heatwole JRN'09

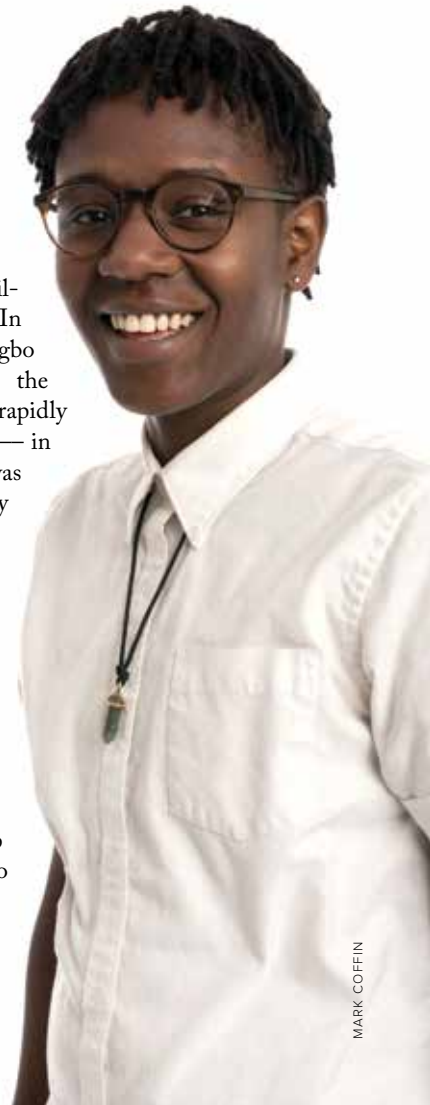
One day in late January, **Ebele Ifedigbo '10** was prepping for a panel appearance at the Yale Business School on the legal cannabis industry, doing a phone interview with *Fast Company* and writing grants — all while handling the day-to-day business of keeping a nonprofit humming along. Ifedigbo is the co-founder of The Hood Incubator, an organization that is fighting to bring the economic benefits of the legal marijuana industry to underserved communities. Named to *Forbes*' "30 Under 30" list in November in the Social Entrepreneurs category, Ifedigbo is working to ensure that, as marijuana laws change across the country, low-income black and brown communities receive equal business opportunities and consideration.

Ifedigbo grew up in Buffalo, N.Y., where their (Ifedigbo uses the gender-neutral pronouns "they/them") father took them on regular drives in the city, noting the predatory behavior of rent-to-own businesses, payday lenders and check-cashing places. "My dad would point out all these different businesses that, instead of nurturing the community, were just taking the resources that people already didn't have — places that just charge poor people exorbitant rates for basic services and basic goods," says Ifedigbo. "That's when I started to think of business as something that could either help or harm a community."

Those early experiences spurred them to study economics at the College and also sparked an interest in finding ways to create

wealth and economic sustainability in struggling communities. In the years after graduation, Ifedigbo watched as attitudes toward the legal marijuana industry began rapidly changing in the United States — in 2013, recreational marijuana was illegal nationwide; by February 2018, nine states and Washington, D.C., had legalized it. They realized there was huge opportunity in the fast-growing industry.

"Who's been most negatively affected by the war on drugs?" asks Ifedigbo, a 2016 graduate of Yale Business School. "The same people from my community who I grew up with — they're the ones who were being arrested, going to jail, having families torn apart because of marijuana prohibi-



MARK COFFIN

tion. So it made sense to me that now that marijuana is being legalized, the people who have taken on most of the risks and most of the consequences from it being illegal should be first in line to get the benefits.”

Founded in Oakland, Calif., in 2016, The Hood Incubator quickly moved to address barriers (such as lack of capital, real estate, professional networks and formalized business startup

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*“I started to think of business as something that could either help or harm a community.”*

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experience) to black and brown ownership of legal marijuana businesses. The organization — which has four employees — takes a three-pronged approach, focusing on community organizing (hosting legal, wellness and financial clinics), policy advocacy and economic development.

The organization is working to ensure that as marijuana laws change nationwide, “they actually meet the interests of communi-

ties of color, not as an add-on or an afterthought, but at the core of whatever legislation is happening,” says Ifedigbo. The Hood Incubator played a role in Oakland’s spring 2017 passing of the cannabis Equity Permit Program, which prioritizes black and brown inclusion in the legal cannabis business. Says Ifedigbo, “[It was] the first of its kind in the nation — really focusing on racial equity as part and parcel of the marijuana industry in the city of Oakland.”

The Hood Incubator is perhaps best known for its economic development work: a business accelerator program and an apprenticeship program. The first cohort of the accelerator program graduated last June. The 10 fellows received mentorship, technical assistance, business education and access to cannabis industry resources; Ifedigbo themselves guided participants through creating business plans and running business models. Of the 10 graduates, nine are still actively engaged in the industry — six working on their businesses and three employed within the industry. The next cohort will begin in mid-2018.

Ifedigbo says of the whirlwind year, “When I was in business school I had a commitment in my heart that this is what I wanted to do. But when I came to Oakland I was sleeping on a couch — I didn’t know whether I would be here for just six weeks or what would happen ... throughout the year we just had that traction and people really took to our mission and our work. It’s a validation and an encouragement.”

## Policymaker Emily Broad Leib ’03 Gives Thought to Food

By Alexis Boncy SOA’11

To hear lawyer and national food policy leader **Emily Broad Leib ’03** tell it, we’d do better to sniff our milk than study the sell-by date to determine whether it’s still OK to drink. And milk is hardly the only product to have confusing date labels.

“Every state has this mayhem of different laws that make no sense,” says Broad Leib. The language varies — there’s also *Use by*, *Best by* and *Better if used by*, to name a few — and the standards are inconsistent, tied more often to food freshness than safety, and not grounded in science. Consumers frequently misinterpret what the labels mean, to boot.

“Sending food to landfills is bad for the environment. And if you’re throwing away food that’s still perfectly safe, it’s also a big waste of money for households,” she says. Plus, many states restrict or ban the sale or donation of foods that have passed their expiration dates — all of which contributes to one of Broad Leib’s oft-cited statistics: 40 percent of the food produced in the United States goes to waste each year.

Broad Leib has built a career — and helped build an entire field of law — out of untangling and advocating for improvements to the laws and policies that govern America’s food system. *Fortune* and *Food & Wine* named her one of 2016’s Most Innovative Women in Food and Drink. An assistant clinical professor of

law at Harvard, she is the founder and director of the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic, the first organization in the nation dedicated to these issues. Since 2015, she has organized an annual conference that’s helped raise the field’s profile with law students nationwide.

The Harvard Law graduate traces her interest in food policy to a fellowship in rural Mississippi, where she connected with a small group of farmers on the Delta. Despite being an agricultural region, food largely wasn’t being produced for human consumption; its residents — “a very vulnerable, low-income community” — struggled with limited options when it came to supermarkets and other sources of food. “There was this fledgling movement of farmers markets and they had a lot of questions,” she says.

“There weren’t any lawyers who knew about this space, but there were a whole lot of food producers and community members out there trying to set up structures to sell and buy healthier food, local food,” Broad Leib adds. “They needed someone to advise them and say: ‘Here are the things you need to know, here’s what you are allowed to sell, here’s where the laws in your state are tailored to you.’”

Out of her Mississippi work, which she continued through the Harvard clinic, came a how-to guide for growers looking to start and participate in farmers markets. She also helped the Mississippi



COURTESY SEN. RICHARD BLUMENTHAL'S OFFICE

Emily Broad Leib '03 at a May 2016 press conference announcing a federal bill, sponsored by Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn., next to Leib), to standardize date labels on food.

Food Policy Council pass seven pieces of state law (one, for example, exempted food sold at farmers markets from being taxed). “My work has been a mix of helping people understand the laws, so they don’t have to hire an expensive law firm to figure them out, but also saying: ‘This law doesn’t make sense; I’ll bet if you get together and

talk to some of the decision makers at your state house about why they’re putting a damper on this economic and health opportunity, then you can get this changed,” Broad Leib says.

While many of her early projects were locally or state based, Broad Leib has shifted her focus during the past few years to also take on federal issues. In the past year she organized a group of faculty from law schools across the country to give input on the Farm Bill — omnibus legislation governing an array of agricultural and food programs — which is up for reauthorization this year.

Policy change at any level of government is “hard and uncertain” work, Broad Leib says. She points to her students as one of her greatest motivators. “A big part of my theory of change is about seeding a generation of energetic young lawyers who’ll go on to do this important work.

“Food law and policy is really a nascent field,” she adds, “which means there are ample opportunities for new solutions and brainstorming creative approaches.”

Which brings her back to those food labels. Broad Leib’s goal is a federal law mandating a simplified two-label approach, with all foods getting one or the other. And while she continues to press for change at that level, she notched a success last year partnering with other advocates to pass two pieces of related legislation in California — one to standardize expiration date labels, the other to expand and clarify liability protections for food donations.

“Shifting our focus to states and localities provides a different avenue to effect change,” she says. “And that still moves us closer to our ultimate goal of a sustainable food system that provides for all.”

### CCT Print Extras

To watch a film about Broad Leib’s trip to Montana to do a case study on the state’s restrictive date-labeling law, go to [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

## newsmakers

On February 12, The National Portrait Gallery unveiled its official painting of President **Barack Obama '83**.

**Rujeko Hockley '05** was chosen to co-curate the Whitney Biennial, opening spring 2019.

Activist **Ai-Jen Poo '96** attended the Golden Globes as Meryl Streep’s guest.

Photographer **Damon Winter '97** was featured in *The New York Times*’ “The Year in Pictures,” a roundup of the best photos of 2017.

**Michael Wolff '75** released his *New York Times* bestseller, *Fire and Fury: Inside the Trump White House*, on January 5.

**Robert K. Kraft '63**, owner of the New England Patriots, appeared at Super Bowl LII, held on February 4 in Minneapolis; his team lost 41–33 to the Philadelphia Eagles.

**Andrea F. Young '06, GSAS'12** received the 2018 New Horizons Prize in Fundamental Physics, known as the “Oscars of science.”

Rep. **Jerry Nadler '69** (D-N.Y.) was chosen on December 20 as the next leader of the House Judiciary Committee.

**Jeff Witten '10, LAW'15, BUS'15** appeared on the TV show *Shark Tank* on February 18 to promote his digital wallet business, CoinOut.

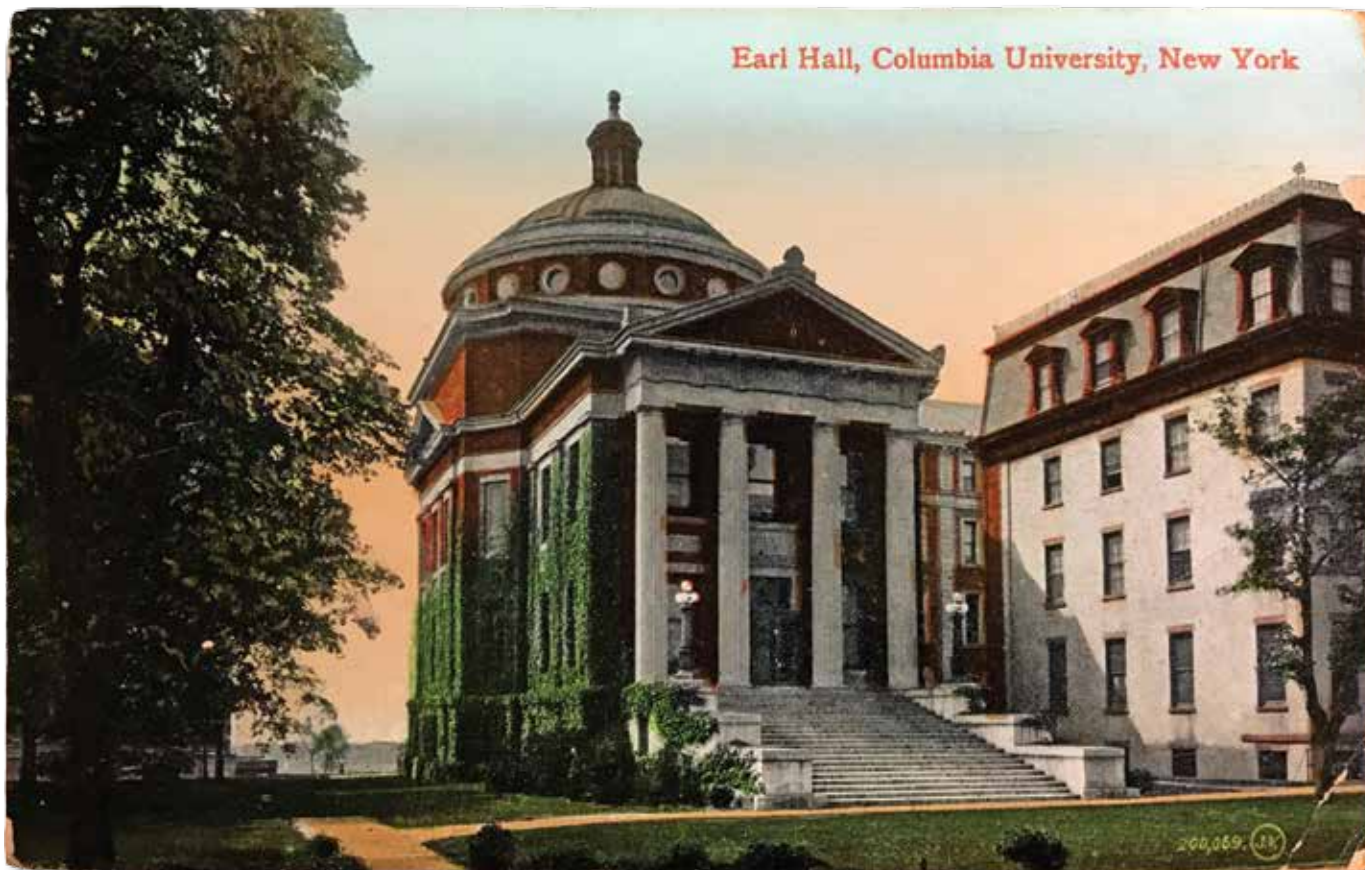
**Brandon Victor Dixon '07** starred as Judas in the NBC live television performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* on Easter, April 1. **Jin Ha '13** also appeared in the production, as Annas.

**Dan Futterman '89** is the executive producer of the new Hulu original series *The Looming Tower*.

On February 22, chef **Anita Lo '88** co-hosted a vegetarian dinner at the South Beach Wine and Food Festival as part of *The New York Times* Cooking Dinner Series.

**Eli Bush '09** took home a Golden Globe for his work as a producer of *Lady Bird* when the film won in the Best Motion Picture – Musical or Comedy category.

# classnotes



WILL CSAPLAR '57, BUS'58 POSTCARD COLLECTION, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

## THE EARLY DAYS OF EARL HALL:

Shown here in an undated postcard, Earl Hall, designed by McKim, Mead & White, was constructed between 1900 and 1902.

## 1940

**Columbia College Today**  
**Columbia Alumni Center**  
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**Milton Kamen** (Twitter: @miltkamen) writes, "When asked about my longevity, I explain: Reading obitu-

aries, I realize so many have accomplished so much and I so little that dying would be very embarrassing for me, so I keep putting it off as long as possible."

Please consider sharing your story, news or even a favorite Columbia College memory by sending it to either the email address or postal address at the top of the column. Classmates would be pleased to hear about you, too!

## 1941

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No news this quarter! Please consider sharing your story, an update or even a favorite Columbia College memory. You can send it to either

the email address or postal address at the top of the column.

## 1942

**Melvin Hershkowitz**  
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With sadness, but with gratitude for his long and productive life, I am sorry to report the death of my lifelong and dear friend, Ray Robinson '41, on November 1, 2017, after a massive stroke, which occurred at home in his sleep, thus sparing Ray from any end-of-life suffering. I met Ray in 1939 at the *Jester* offices on fourth floor of John Jay. He was a talented cartoonist before he became a famous author and biographer, and was submitting his cartoons to *Jester* while I was trying to write stories under my *nom de plume* of Chadwick Spencer.

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Later, Ray and I sat in adjacent seats in Hamilton Hall in Professor Boris Stanfield's class on Soviet Agricultural Economics, a dull course with a good textbook (Loucks & Hoot: *Comparative Economic Systems: Capitalism, Socialism, Communism, Fascism, Co-operation*). While Professor Stanfield lectured, Ray drew some funny cartoons, which helped pass the time in this unfortunately dull class.

As the years after WWII unfolded, Ray and I remained close friends, often going with **Gerald Green** and Dr. **Herbert Mark** and our wives to football games at the old Baker Field, Yale, Brown and Harvard, and to pre-game tailgate lunches. In my visits to Ray and his wife Phyllis' apartment on East 90th Street, I watched their three children grow to early adulthood, with special memories of Tad, their youngest, dribbling a basketball between his legs and doing acrobatic tumbles for me. After his Army military service in WWII, Ray spent several years as an editor of major magazines, including *Seventeen* and *Good Housekeeping*. He then embarked on his long, productive career as an author of biographies and sports history, producing more than 30 books and many famous magazine essays. His 1990 biography of Lou Gehrig (Class of 1923), *Iron Horse: Lou Gehrig in His Time*, remains among his most acclaimed works. Learning about ALS while writing the Gehrig biography, Ray became an ALS Association Board of Directors member and prolific fundraiser for the ALS Association Greater New York Chapter. His 2003 book, *Famous Last Words: Fond Farewells, Deathbed Diatribes, Exclamations Upon Expiration*, a compendium of final comments by famous people before their deaths, has

had multiple printings. Ray gave me an autographed copy of this book with the inscription, "To Mel, a dear friend who never gave me bad advice."

Phyllis, a brilliant Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Vassar, died in March 2017 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. She wrote an acclaimed biography of Willa Cather and was a senior editor for the Book-of-the-Month Club. In my Perpetual Calendar, there is a note that on November 20, 1982, at the last football game at the old Baker Field, I sat with Ray and **Gerald Green** as we watched Columbia lose to Brown 35-21.

Ray is survived by his son Steve, a retired sports writer and ESPN executive; his daughter, Nancy Miringoff SW'76, a social worker and therapist; his son Tad, an international rhythm and blues singer; and four grandchildren. [Editor's note: See Obituaries, Winter 2017-18.]

Dr. **Gerald Klingon** (97), calls me every evening to discuss Columbia affairs (mostly sports), national politics, books we are reading (he got me started on Ron Chernow's *Alexander Hamilton*) and family news. Along with **Stewart McIlvannan** LAW'48 (96), Gerry is the oldest surviving member of our Great Class of 1942.

Stew is confined to a wheelchair in an assisted-care facility near his home in Colorado. His devoted wife, Marie BC'47, visits him daily, and in December 2017 she sent us her end-of-year annual report on the McIlvannan family. At Columbia, Stew was a star, with the affectionate nickname "Snuffy," and a varsity basketball player. In WWII, Stew was a Naval officer on a destroyer in the Pacific campaigns. His ship was alongside the Battleship *U.S.S. Missouri*, on which Gen. Douglas MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender to end WWII. After WWII, Stew attended the Law School, worked at the FBI and then began a long successful career as VP of a large national commercial trucking firm. He told me that one of his notable accomplishments was his successful negotiations with the notorious, and eventually murdered, Jimmy Hoffa, head of the Teamsters.

Best wishes to Stew, Marie and their family in Colorado.

I remain in touch with the widows of three of our most distinguished classmates: Marlene

## 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

Green in Boca Raton, Fla., and New Canaan, Conn. (widow of **Gerald Green**, died 2006); Avra Mark in Tuckahoe, N.Y. (widow of Dr. **Herbert Mark**, died 2006) and Susan Kaufman in Scarsdale, N.Y. (widow of **Robert Kaufman**, died 2016). Despite their advanced ages and various ailments, Marlene, Avra and Susan are functioning well and remain interested in Columbia events. Gerald was editor of *Jester*. He wrote 21 novels, including *The Last Angry Man*, made into a film with star Paul Muni, and the acclaimed *Holocaust*, an award-winning TV presentation of that book of the same name. He was an NBC executive producer and originator of the *Today* morning news show, with Dave Garroway. Herbert was chief of the department of medicine at James J. Peters VA Medical Center (Bronx, N.Y.), professor of medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and a VP of the American Heart Association. Robert was VP and legal counsel for the ABC TV network, where (with Roone Arledge '52) he created the televising of the Olympic Games and *Monday Night Football*. Gerry, Herb and Bob were my wonderful lifelong friends, exemplars of Columbia's excellence and enduring impact on society.

Long May Columbia Stand!

## 1943

### REUNION 2018 MAY 31-JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact  
ccaa-events@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**G.J. D'Angio**  
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My wife and I were in Covington, Ky., in early November to attend the 175th anniversary celebration of Trinity Episcopal Church. My son is the rector there. A most pleasant weekend.

Unpleasant news: I had my pocket picked in November. Such a nuisance, changing credit cards and so on. That was just a few days before leaving for Maine for a family reunion on Thanksgiving Day. That went well nonetheless. Most of the members of the D'Angio clan were present, the occasion enlivened by my two great-grandchildren, Maggie (4) and Charlie (2).

My anemia remains well-corrected, and the physio-prescribed exercises have made a difference. I walk straighter and have better use of my right arm plagued by rotator cuff disabilities.



Enjoying the Homecoming game versus Dartmouth at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium on October 20, 2012, were, left to right, Ray Robinson '41, Dr. Melvin Hershkowitz '42 and Dr. Gerald Klingon '42.

Christmas went by as we had hoped: quietly at home without fuss.

**Bernie Weisberger** and I have pledged to attend our 75th reunion. Hope to see some of you there, Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2. It should be a grand, unique affair for us '43ers.

A Columbia nugget: The beatniks were well represented during our Columbia years. Jack Kerouac '44 played football his freshman year and broke a leg. He returned the next year but was benched by Lou Little because he was too argumentative. He never finished school. Allen Ginsberg '48 came a little later but the two knew each other on campus. Any '43-er remember either of them? Write me a note.

From **Bernie Weisberger**: “Dear Dan: When I finished my last letter, I had just been reminded of what an ancient I am becoming by the occurrence of my son’s 65th birthday. Surveying my infrequently kept diary, I see nothing much marking the remainder of the months of October and November except a lot of medical appointments, mainly just to keep the machine running — ophthalmologist, dentist, podiatrist, primary care physician — all, luckily for me, for routine maintenance. I’m reminded that when Jacques Barzun '27, GSAS'32 was interviewed on either his 100th birthday or an even later one, he complained chiefly about how much time he spent in doctors’ offices. I am not complaining, however, considering the alternative.

“What I do find hard these days is to deal with the sullen weight on my spirits of realizing each day that

Donald Trump really is the President of these United States and will remain so for the foreseeable future, during which the harm he does to democratic government at home and to our standing and reputation in the world becomes more and more dismaying and hard to undo. I never intended to talk politics in Class Notes, which doesn’t seem an appropriate forum for the subject, but it’s impossible to avoid its impact on everyone’s mental health (I should, of course, not say ‘everyone’). The issue for me and most of the people I know is how to stay engaged in resistance within the physical and other limits of old age but leave breathing space, time to let go of it and flee to recreations — books, movies, time with friends, hobbies, arts — with an occasional nip of ardent spirits, if you’re inclined that way. What works best for me is plugging away at a memoir of my life in the 20-odd years after the war, mainly for friends and family and my own escapist pleasure of writing without a deadline or a space limit.

“I’m pushing space limits at this point, so will only report that my wife, Rita, left in mid-December to spend the winter in a vacation rental apartment in Miami, a prudent decision in view of what’s going on with the weather. I’ve chosen to stay here close to my work, but visited her for the holiday season, and recently returned from balmy daily temperatures to single digits and snowy sidewalks that are booby traps for we who walk with canes, unless we’re very prudent (a definition that I’m sure describes us remaining Class of '43 folks). Come to the reunion to join Dan and me if you can.”

[Editor’s note: Go to “The Last Word” for a conversation between Dr. G.J. “Dan” D’Angio and Bernie Weisberger.]

## 1944

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## 1945

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## 1946

**Bernard Sunshine  
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bsuns1@gmail.com**

A fine email from **Burton Sapin** GSAS'47: “I am still living in the south Florida retirement community I moved to almost eight years ago. I lost my wife, Judy, more than two years ago but have found sweet companionship since then.

“My main contribution to the community is running a biweekly current events discussion group, usually getting 15–20 participants. Everyone seems to like it. I enrich my own mind with a superb American foreign policy course that one of the local professors offers as a lifelong learning class.

“I had the fun experience recently of finding a short unpublished book I wrote in the late 1990s on U.S.-Japan relations. Several friends have read and liked it. Even I was a bit surprised by some of the stuff in it.

“As with most of us, children and grandchildren provide lots of pleasure. Daughter Julia Sapin teaches art history at Western Washington University. A full professor and department chair, she specializes in Japanese art beginning with the Meiji restoration. She gave a lecture at Columbia a couple of years ago (a longtime colleague teaches Japanese art history), but I was unable to draw attention to another Sapin on campus.

“My son, David, is a senior partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers and therefore spends a lot of time in

New York City while still living in a Washington, D.C., suburb.

“David has four very nice children and Julie has one. David’s oldest is now on the sports department staff of the University of Miami.”

From time to time I get communications saying how much the writer looks forward to reading news about classmates. Don’t be bashful. Send me your news (interesting travel, recommended reading, family happenings and so on), short or long. Your classmates want to hear from you.

## 1947

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**Allen S. Brower** SEAS'48 writes: “I was an accidental member of the Class of '47. I arrived at Columbia with a four-year scholarship to study electrical engineering. At that time admission to the Engineering School followed two years in the College (or equivalent elsewhere). I subsequently learned of the Professional Option (now the 3-2 Program), and having completed two years’ study in 14 months due to the wartime accelerated schedule plus the 1945 summer transition term, decided to spend the extra year in the College before entering the Engineering School. I have never regretted that choice. I graduated with the Class of '47, received a B.S. in engineering in 1948 and continued study for a master’s (1950) facilitated by appointment first as a graduate assistant and then four years as an instructor in electrical engineering. After nine years on campus, in 1953 I left to join General Electric in Schenectady, N.Y.

“I married a Barnard graduate, Carol Ann BC'49 (née Collyer), in St. Paul’s Chapel the morning after she graduated. We spent the next 36 years, all of them in Schenectady and nearby Burnt Hills, raising three children and enjoying time with seven grandchildren; all three families live within 10 miles of our home. I retired from GE in 1989 and have spent the years since serving on and leading community, library and church boards. My liberal arts education has served me



## 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).



well, both in my engineering work and in retirement. It's been a satisfying life, all 91 years."

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

## 1948

**REUNION 2018**  
MAY 31–JUNE 2

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Dr. Sidney Fink PS'52, who lives in Hampton, Va., checked in: "I recently passed 90 years of age and am still able to swim, run (a short distance) and paddle. I remember our class being in a hurry to make up for Army time and being delighted by the way our football

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## 1949

**John Weaver**  
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OK, here we are in spring 2018 and, having passed the "milestone" back in January, I am fairly certain we are all nonagenarians! While my family provided a genuinely surprising party to mark the occasion, I suspect most of us all feel the same — it's just another day with knees reminding us of how long they have been serving us, and thankful to be able to enjoy another sunrise.

Two letters arrived in the week just immediately preceding the deadline for this column — just in time to prevent me from sending another cry for help! The remarkable fact that we beat Army 21–20 (thank you, **Gene Rossides**, **Bill Swiacki** and **Lou Kusserow**), is featured in the following recollections coming from far and near:

*Burton Sapin '46 says, "I had the fun experience recently of finding a short unpublished book I wrote in the late 1990s on U.S.-Japan relations."*

team won. Two Army veterans gave us a sparkling football team, which probably has not scored as many touchdowns since. My special gift from P&S was a love for the writings of Marcus Aurelius, which helped me greatly when I lost my two dear wives to illness and used his advice to recover. P&S gave me a career as a gastroenterologist, which was very gratifying. My current activities include dancing, hiking, bridge/Mahjongg when the weather is bad and reading. Not to mention keeping up with my children, grandchildren and great-grandbabies."

CCT, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you, too. Please

Arizona and Manhattan. **Richard Sachs** does provide an interesting insight regarding the Army's ability to recruit talent unavailable to most everyone else. **Larry Carino** shares a sketch of his CV and, I have written of this often, his profound awareness of the extraordinary gift of our common Columbia College preparation for life in a challenging world. I quote the letters completely because it provides a deep sense of connection, which I felt upon receiving them and I hope you will as well.

From **Richard Sachs**: "The following is a copy of a letter I sent to *The New York Times* a week or so after the CC winning streak

ended. It wasn't published, but I did receive a comment from one of their sports writers. The *Times* piece I reacted to was painfully inane. Few remember that Army's winning streak was generated during the war, when most college-age men over 17 were in uniform and Army had a monopoly of talent. [The letter reads:] "I was saddened by your piece in today's *NYT* about the joys of losing. I am a '49 alumnus who was present in the decaying Baker Field when we beat 32-game unbeaten Army 21–20. It was on a par with Bobby Thomson's pennant-winning homer in 1951 and other heard-round-the-world underdog victories. Everyone at the game, on campus, and beyond went beyond wild. We celebrated my classmate **Gene Rossides**, his receiver **Bill Swiacki**, and point-after kicker **Lou Kusserow** for decades. I still cite that game to my grandchildren as one of the great moments in sports."

From **Larry Carino**: "It was interesting to read your comments about the lack of news about our dear Class of 1949 because, while I am as guilty as the rest, I had often thought the same as you as I leafed through the various quarterlies. So I'll ask the inevitable question: Does anyone have any idea how many of us there are still around and living it up? I've so often thought of my days at Columbia and the very valuable start in adult life it thrust upon us. Unfortunately, I was always downtown working after College days ended, but still think about those days in class and out. Because of my situation I particularly remember the many enjoyable nights at the Sigma Chi house.

"Since those also glorious days (remember when our football team knocked off Army with that soaking wet pass from Rossides to Swiacki?) and through my working days I spent my life in television broadcasting in management. Briefly, I toiled for three different owners from the Seattle/Tacoma market to New Orleans (and the Jesuit fathers) to my eventual retirement from Storer Broadcasting in Detroit. Let me say that my working days were more entertaining and a good time than hard work. They were truly glorious times, when one could create while participating in the community and, like **George Intemann**, politics. In my case politics was a very important part of my life, and that too was fun

and certainly enjoyable. During those years I found time to raise eight children, all of whom are doing well and making me proud. I know — not what you were expecting to hear from those of us elder citizens, but, in a nutshell, there I am: proud and thankful for the start of a great life from good old alma mater, Columbia University. Oh, there are things we all would probably change but there she is, still strong and proud of her many accomplishments. I too would like to hear from some of the good ol' boys."

Thank you both for your correspondence. Please, all you other guys who have benched yourselves on the sidelines, give us a shout. We are fortunate to be moving about and are a force of support and reason with historic perspective. The younger generations do respect us in their understanding that we have a shared experience as we emerged from childhood as freshmen to adulthood as graduating seniors, and seniors in fact.

Just the reassurance that we are here is meaningful.

## 1950

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From **Joseph "Bud" Kassel**: "My Class Note is not on a very upbeat tone. My wife, Ruth, and I have entered the Wake Robin retirement community a year sooner than planned because Ruth had a stroke last summer. She is in the skilled nursing section and I am in a cottage some five minutes away. I hope we will be cohabitating if the healing/recovery process improves, but the process is slow and the prognosis questionable.

"We do have evening meals together in the main dining room and are meeting any number of very interesting, enjoyable residents; among them is **Arthur Westing** and his wife, Carol.

"My own ego was destroyed earlier this year when Vail purchased the Stowe ski area, and the Stowe Ski Host program was severely curtailed: I was downsized and out, a real blow after some 23 years, when I was hoping to be the first 90-year-old Ski Host. But so it goes and I'm finding caretaking duties to be very reward-

ing, plus not requiring me to be out in sub-freezing weather at times.”

*CCT* thanks Bud for reaching out, and wishes all members of the Class of 1950 a pleasant spring.

## 1951

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News from former CC'51 class correspondent **George Koplinka**: “I sold my home in White Plains, N.Y., and have moved, along with my wife, Peg, a graduate of NYU and TC, to a retirement community in Middlebury, Vt.

“Vermont is a wonderful state for retirement. We continue to own our summer home at Long Point in Ferrisburgh, Vt. It is a wonderful place to share boating activities on Lake Champlain with our five children, 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.”

We also heard from **Ernest H. von Nardroff** GSAS'66: “It's late in the day [as I write this], but here are three reasonably still vivid CC memories: Mark Van Doren GSAS 1921, staring out the window, weeping gently as he mused on the end of *Don Quixote*. An impromptu car trip to Hanover, where a ragtag group of some five or six of us band members marched at halftime during the Dartmouth game, to the deafening, ironic cheers of the home crowd Professor/composer Douglas Moore, after playing something of Bach on the piano, saying simply, ‘Isn't that gorgeous?!’ There are others, of that course, but not as nice and neat.”

**David Kettler** GSAS'60 sent a few notes, too, which we have combined forthwith: “Not much has changed since my report of a year ago. I remain on the faculty at Bard College as research professor in political studies, charged with giving an occasional course and supervising a number of the yearlong senior thesis projects required of all students: This semester's announced course is on the puzzle of building in a measure of assurance that states will not act in defiance of knowledgeable consensus on matters of the highest importance — not an abstract subject in 2018, even if the language

is a little complicated. My thesis supervisions cover Chinese foreign policy from Panmunjon to Bandung, ‘Dependency and Independence in Puerto Rico’ and American rejection of the International Criminal Court.

“My own Columbia-associated project, finally completed, is a long book on Franz L. Neumann, whose course on ‘Democracy and Dictatorship’ in summer 1951 provided the final credits I needed for my B.A. and whose teaching has been a goad and challenge through all these years. There was also a book collecting 10 current articles dealing with Karl Mannheim, of whom I first learned in Columbia classes taught by Professors Walter Metzger and Aaron Frankel.

“Leaving aside time spent watching television and movies, reading novels and napping, as well as visits to daughters and families, mostly on the West Coast, I favor riverboat excursions with Viking — notwithstanding its advertisements — having traveled with them on the Elbe, the Rhine, the Seine and a water route between Moscow and St. Petersburg. This year, my wife, Janet, and I are scheduled for the Dnieper River, on which my grandfather traded and on the banks of which my father was born.

“Letters like this are hardly the medium for political talk. Maybe next year, after the November elections, I'll find something to say in language suited to this genteel setting.

“P.S. As I look over this letter, having slept on it, I fear that it sounds boastful. Still, classmates may well be glad that I do not list the familiar hours spent in the waiting rooms and offices of doctors, the fistfuls of dubious daily ‘meds,’ the stumbling gait, the blanks of current memory and rambling recollections — which go without saying, or drown out the rest, in life as in reporting.

“P.P.S. Then speaking of the genteel Columbia forum, I overlook the language of the instructor in the required Music Humanities course I took in my first year. Standing next to the dignified older professor (and composer) in a room full of first-year students, he gestured past a place in the group and said (in 1948!) ‘OK, you motherfuckers, come with me.’ He'd been discharged from the Army only recently. He was also an avant garde composer and music critic. If a student responded to a selection of music, when asked,



In this 1977 photo of the debut of the Lou Little Scholarship Fund, Coach Lou Little is surrounded by Howard Hansen '52, Athletics Director Al Paul GSAS'55 (at left), Gene Rossides '49, Sid Luckman '39 (obscured in photo), Al Barabas '36, Cliff Montgomery '34, Al Ward '53 and President William McGill (at right).

with something about the scenes it evoked, Alvin Baumann (b. 1920) would say, in a soothingly pitched voice, ‘Yeah, like a flying fuck at the moon.’ We loved him.

“This is what I mean by ‘rambling recollections,’ I guess.

“I've just looked him up. He was a rather well-known pianist, but disappears after he appears as leader of a group that moved to Chico, Calif., in 1961 in order to escape the nuclear destruction they expected in Long Island. I do not know how he addressed them.

“It's hard to stop, once one starts ... The ‘gentility’ reference has less to do with recollections in this quarterly than with my memory of the ‘speech test’ required of each incoming student in my time and the requirement to take a remedial course if the test showed signs of lower-class expression. I was faulted for the ‘glottal stops’ in some of my pronunciations, typical of lower-class Jewish speech in the wider New York area, and consequently obliged to take the class. They caught this fault and not the echoes of the German accent I must have retained from my immigration eight years before, doubtless because they were looking for tell-tale marks of class and ethnicity that might bring Columbia into disrepute rather than exotic echoes. In any case, our work consisted mostly of speaking into a dictaphone, listening for the sounds to be remedied and doing it again, a heroic precursor of electronic media as educational device. You should hear me say ‘Long Island!’ (But then, ‘You should hear me say’ is a sort of New York-ese expression, especially if said melodiously. Incurable!)”

*CCT*, and your classmates, would enjoy hearing from you, as well! Please consider sharing news

about yourself, your family, your career and/or your travels — even a favorite Columbia College memory. Please contact us by using either the email address or postal address at the top of the column.

## 1952

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Happy spring, Class of 1952! Thank you to all who shared notes for this issue; if you would like to be in a future issue please write to one of the addresses at the top of the column.

**John Laszlo** writes: “Hello friends from long ago; I had a nice experience recently with regard to the Columbia tennis team. During my three years on the team we never came close to winning an Ivy League championship. The current team is very different. Under the leadership of Coach Bid Goswami, they have won the past four Ivy League championships. They had a preseason match in Atlanta with several regional teams and I attended one with the University of Georgia — currently ranked number 4 nationally. To my delight (and amazement) they beat that team, thanks to some remarkable players. Coach introduced me to the team and they were amazed to meet a fossil who played the same sport for Columbia 70 (!) years ago and still plays regularly (with poor movement to be sure). But to watch them, it simply isn't the same game that we played because they are just so much better than any college players of our time.”

From **Donald Surr**: “Hi guys, anybody remember me? I remember you and often think back to our undergrad days together. My wife, Claire TC’55, and I are still active and enjoying our later years at a continuing care retirement community, White Horse Village, in Newtown Square, Pa., near Philadelphia. It would be a pleasure to hear from any of you about what you are doing these days. How about sending a brief update to this publication? I would suggest an email, but so many do not identify themselves by name in their email address, which makes us hesitant to open emails that we do not recognize for fear of downloading malware. Shame about that!”

**Dudley Ferris** reports: “I’m hale and hearty and looking forward to various travels this year.”

From **Howard Hansen**: “The kickoff of the Lou Little Scholarship Fund was held at Baker Field during halftime of the Columbia-Penn game in 1977. The following is the lead-up to that very special and significant event.

“Upon Coach Little’s retirement (at that time forced at age 65) he retired to Delray Beach, Fla., and I lived in the next town, Boca Raton. It was teammate Al Ward ’53 who originated the idea of the Lou Little Scholarship Fund. Al gave me the task to get Coach to come to Columbia for the specific Friday to Sunday weekend and *task* it became as Coach didn’t travel anymore due to his health!

“I told the Coach that the weekend plan was in motion — we would fly to LaGuardia airport from Fort Lauderdale on the Friday before the event, then Al would pick us up and we would stay at his residence in New Jersey on Friday and Saturday evenings. On Saturday we would have a special restricted lunch at the Chrystie Field House before the Columbia-Penn game with former players and old New York press friends. The rest is history!

“At halftime, Coach was honored at midfield and presented with a special award by Al Ward. In the nearby photo, he is surrounded by me (**Howard Hansen**), Athletics Director Al Paul GSAS’55 (at left), Columbia Hall of Famers Gene Rossides ’49, LAW’52; Sid Luckman ’39 (obscured in photo); Al Barabas ’36; Cliff Montgomery ’34; Al Ward ’53; and President William McGill (on right). Interestingly, in

this group there are six Columbia University Athletics Hall of Famers. (Not seen in the photo are brothers and teammates Bob Wallace ’53 and **Bill Wallace**, who played important Lou Little Scholarship roles.) Columbia beat Penn and Lou Little Day at Columbia was successful.

“Saturday evening Sheila and Al Ward ’53 hosted a grand dinner at their residence in honor of Coach. There were a good 20 former players in attendance. John Bateman ’38, former line coach, who had just returned from visiting Paul Governali ’43 (Maxwell Award winner and Heisman Trophy runner up), told us that Paul was not doing well in a San Diego hospital and was not expected to survive.

“On Sunday (returning to Florida via jet), Coach told me, “The scholarship fund in my name was the greatest honor I have ever received!” Keep in mind Coach was a two-time All-American tackle at Penn, was captain in the Army infantry and honorably served in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive in France in WWI. He subsequently was elected president of the American Football Coaches Association in 1939 and was chairman of the Rules Committee for many years. In 1953, Coach received the Amos Alonzo Stagg Award for his outstanding contributions to American football and in 1960 was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. Coach’s overall football coaching record was 151 wins, 128 losses and 13 ties.

“Prior to Coach’s death on May 28, 1979, 200 gifts were made to his scholarship fund; after his death an additional 30 were received. The total gift amount was \$488,623. To simplify the impressive growth of this initial gift amount, in the last four years the following scholarship amounts, in total, were shared by four football players each year: \$164,000, \$172,000, \$185,000 and \$193,000. As of June 2017, Coach’s fund totaled \$3,486,563 after the above distribution. It is evaluated every June.

“Coach would be smiling in his grave in Boynton Beach, Fla., if he knew his fund had grown to \$3,486,563 after funding significant scholarships to 73 football players over many years.

“Gene and I were at Coach Little’s burial in Florida and we spoke during his special memorial on campus at St. Paul’s Chapel several months later.”

## 1953

### REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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**Jay Kane** sent the following email: “Recently, **Jim Steiner** visited to see the house I designed and built in Darien, Conn., to display much of the sculpture my mother produced over 60–70 years. I bought the land from my son, who is my next door neighbor and is the managing partner of an investment banking firm that he founded in NYC; his other offices are in London, Tokyo and Seoul.”

“Jim saw the land — essentially a half acre of rock on the Five Mile River — before I got started on the project five or six years ago. My original plan did not include the sculpture that my son and I were going to display in a separate building. The structure began to appear too far over the horizon to be practical for me to contemplate at this stage in life.”

“While my mother’s work has been viewed on exhibit in nearly every major museum in the United States by hundreds of thousands of people, she is only known to those few familiar with 20th-century sculptors. This is mainly because she moved her studio to Cos Cob in 1947 when she found that exhibitons were too distracting for her and that her role in life was to craft sculpture and to leave the showing part to others.”

I’ve known Jay since our wonderful highly eventful years at Columbia and never knew that his mother was a world-renowned artist whose sculptures have been exhibited nationwide. Furthermore, Jay reports that President Trump purchased a bronze cast of her sculpture *Torso* that he saw on exhibition in NYC. The bronze cast was a copy of the Cuban Mahogany original, which she carved in 1932. Wow!

**Joseph J. Aaron** sent the following email: “Time has gone so quickly and I have had a wonderful career. Married for 59 years, my wife, Jane, and I keep ourselves busy

and are enjoying retirement with our three children and four grandchildren. I have great memories of my years at Columbia and I hope all is well with classmates.”

**Bernie Epstein** SEAS’58 was inspired to write in after seeing a photo of Columbia alumni at NAB Little Creek in the Winter 2017–18 issue. He writes: “CCT’s Class of 1952 column contains an item of interest for me. I was in the Class of 1953 Navy program, commissioned as an ensign in the United States Navy and, at the request of the captain of a ship at NAB Little Creek, reported to his ship as it was sailing imminently. I arrived in time, but missed my class graduation ceremony. At Columbia, Phil Bucklewell SIPA’48 was a lieutenant commander and one of my instructors. I had sea duty throughout my career. I sailed in the North Atlantic, Caribbean, Mediterranean (6th Fleet) and the eastern Pacific (7th Fleet) in and out of a port in Sasebo, Japan. Of particular interest for me is that we had embarked with a small detachment of an underwater demolition team headed by a lieutenant (junior grade). I never knew his name. Unfortunately, one dark night in the sea off Korea, we dropped them off in their small rubber raft and never saw them again. They may have been based or spent some time at NAB Little Creek. When my Navy obligation was completed I transferred to the Reserve and then to the inactive. I went back to Columbia for my Engineering degree. ... I am now happily retired with my wife of 59 years and two sons living close enough for a three-hour car ride.”

The Class of 1953 reunion is almost here — Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2. If you are planning to attend the dinner on Saturday, please send me a note so we can add your name to our list of attendees. We look forward to seeing you there.

## 1954

**Bernd Brecher**  
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Hello once more ’54 (a future column will be all in rhyme), for our Class Notes of Spring 2018. But first — let me explain again, given

some concerns shared with me, that *CCT* is a quarterly publication, which means that we have copy deadlines that are anywhere from a month to three months before the magazine gets into our hands. Ergo, an item about an event of September 2017 that I hear about in October 2017 and then edit and submit might not get into the hopper until November 2017, which means that the Winter 2017–18 issue (mailed in January 2018) might not include the news you thought you submitted “way back.” Meanwhile, we asked you to send in items for the Spring 2018 issue (the one you are holding), which includes several items now appearing “late,” which you expected would have been published in the previous *CCT*. (No need to thank me for that explanation.)

**Bob Weber** SEAS’55, SEAS’56 writes, “*If winter comes, can spring be far behind?*” Shelley’s poetic line keeps up the hope that soon the shivering will stop. I think of **Al Grayzel** SEAS’55 on the slopes in Utah and go back to the fireplace. I think of **Arnold Tolkin** and **Sheldon Cherry** PS’58 basking in the sun in Florida and go back to the fireplace. Sadly, Gloria, my wife of 54 incredible years, died in February 2017; my children and grandchildren here and in France try hard to fill the gap. I’m involved in numerous volunteer activities in Kingston, Mass., ranging from environmental, historical and library Board of Directors, to Meals on Wheels. Still trying to comprehend quantum theory. Cheers, all.”

Thank you, Bob, for sharing both your pain and joy, and our condolences for your loss. You are perhaps at the head of the game, trying Doc Brecher’s Rx for curing many ills — a daily pill that includes friends, family, community, and charity. Good luck and be well.

**Allan Wikman** writes, “I continue to be so impressed with the sheer volume of space you occupy tri-monthly!” (Which I will accept as a compliment.) He reminisces about our freshman year, when “I lived six feet across from **Howard Falberg** BUS’56, **Len Moche** and **George Lowry** ’53 in a Livingston Hall side corridor suite and helped care for a master’s candidate who was wheelchair-bound. Compensation was a delight: free room.”

Allan stays in touch with classmates and has recently learned of

the passing in December 2016 of **Ted Baledes**.

**Bob Braverman**, in some self-musings asks, “What did we learn from four years at Columbia?” and responds, “At the time I believed that I was regularly absorbing dozens of new and important ideas, connections to bright and amusing friends, witty and helpful faculty advisers and so on. Now, it is more than 60 years later and I have joined the ranks of exhausted and despondent old guys who are appalled at the ugliness of politics not only in the United States but around the world, with few if any prospects that we will come to our senses and pay attention to the mounting troubles of our lives. I would like to be able to provide a list of accomplishments attributable to my education but not much comes to mind. I hope my colleagues have a better set of promises than I do.”

Now there’s a challenge from Bob to the rest of us! Let me hear from you: Let the debate begin!

We continue to receive news of the passing of classmates, sadly at a greater pace than ever before:

**Peter Skomorowsky**, an old and valued friend, passed away in February. I met him in the old *Spec* City Room in 1954, when he volunteered for the photography staff. Photography was his passion and devotion, after Phyllis, and the candid photos of New Yorkers and their neighborhoods taken by him as a “walker in the city” — and select nature shots from their retreat in Ancram — were always a treat for the mind and the eye. Peter and Phyllis were married soon after college; he then went into the Army, then to work at accounting firm Grant Thornton, where he became managing partner. Meanwhile Peter earned an M.B.A., and later a degree from New York Law School. He became an associate at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan.

My wife, Helen, and I were blessed to have Peter and Phyllis as very close and supportive friends for nearly 60 years. In addition to his wife, Peter is survived by daughter Anne (husband Douglas), son Andrew (wife Jen) and granddaughters Charlotte and Rebecca.

Peter died in New York City on February 1, 2018, the same day as **Herb Frommer** DM’57, an accomplished practitioner for more than four decades and a teacher at the NYU College of Dentistry, where he



Toni Coffee BC’56 (widow of Donn Coffee ’55), David Filosa ’82, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations/Ambassador Cho Tae-yul, Bernd Brecher ’54 and Jocelyn Bohn ’15 at the Columbia University Club Foundation’s Ambassador Series in January.

received wide recognition, including NYU’s Distinguished Teaching Award at Founders’ Day in 1996. At the College, Herb rowed for the varsity crew. He leaves Eleanor, his wife of nearly 60 years, sons Ross and Daniel, daughters-in-law Connie and Jacqueline, and three grandchildren.

Another class loss is **Herb Hagerty**, Phi Gamma Delta president, student laundry manager, Navy lieutenant commander, U.S. Foreign Service officer, teacher of professional writing at the Foreign Service Institute, member of the CIA (and the list goes on) — a man who in college and career devoted his life to community and public service. After Columbia, Herb was awarded a master’s in South Asia regional studies by Penn and in 1976 was named a “Distinguished Graduate” of the National War College.

His ventures in the second half of the 20th century are the makings of a Tom Clancy novel. **Edward Cowan**, Herb’s close and good friend through the decades in Washington, D.C., shares this report: “While posted as the political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, Herb and some 90 Americans and Pakistanis almost lost their lives in a November 21, 1979, attack on the embassy by Pakistani demonstrators. At about 1 p.m., the rioters invaded the embassy compound and soon set the building on fire. Herb and others on staff retreated to a ‘secure’ vault on the top floor. ... Tear gas and smoke seeped into the vault, choking the people inside ... by 5:30 p.m., the vault was hot, the edge of a carpet began to burn, and the people in the vault ... began to wonder if they would be cooked alive. ... By early evening, the demonstrators had withdrawn. Herb and the others left the vault, walked across the hot roof and descended to the ground by ladders ... *Time* magazine reported that the ‘seven-hour rampage’ took the

lives of a Marine guard, an Army warrant officer, two Pakistani clerks and two demonstrators.”

*The New York Times* obituary section devoted half a page last November to **Eric Salzman**, heralding him as “a composer and critic who helped found the American Music Theater Festival” and a “champion of avant-garde.” He died in New York City on November 12, 2017. Eric, who pledged Beta Sigma Rho, graduated from Forest Hills H.S. along with **Peter Skomorowsky**. Eric was music critic for several publications, including the *Times*. But likewise, for five decades, he composed exploratory works that mixed music, text, dance and other elements. He was the author of several books, including *Twentieth-Century Music: An Introduction*, written in the 1970s and most recently updated in 2001.

**Donald Crabill** GSAS’55, who served seven Presidents at the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, died last September in Arlington, Va. Previously he had served our country for four years as a Naval officer in the Mediterranean fleet. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary, four children and their spouses, many grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

As for me, **Bernd Brecher** JRN’55, I continue to serve as VP on the board of the Columbia University Club Foundation, an independent 501(c)3 that was incorporated in 1949 following a decade of planning and strategizing by the old Columbia University Club to form a tax-exempt entity that could support scholarships and other educational programs at the University. Other trustees are Arthur Delmhorst ’60, BUS’64; Toni Coffee BC’56 (widow of Donn Coffee ’55); Paul Neshamkin ’63; Paul de Bary ’68, BUS’71, LAW’71; David Filosa ’82; Thomas Auth ’90; and Jocelyn Bohn ’15.

On January 17, the foundation sponsored Ambassador Cho Tae-yul, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations, in the latest of our Ambassador Series, in which we partner with the United Nations Association of New York in presenting this educational offering to members and friends of the Columbia University Club, UNANY and others including Columbia students. The series began 15 years ago and we have in that time hosted more than two score ambassadors from five continents, including representatives from Israel, Italy, Ireland, Kenya, France, Cuba, Germany, Vietnam, Turkey, Brazil, Egypt, India, Mexico, Indonesia, Botswana and Chile, as well as the American ambassador/permanent representative to the United Nations and our ambassadors Thomas Pickering and Christopher Hill, who served between them as our ambassadors to 10 different nations.

The event — a lecture, question and answer session, and reception — was held at the Korean mission a block from the U.N., and could not have been more fortuitously timed with the myriad political and Olympics issues that in January centered on Korea. I introduced Ambassador Cho and told the 120 attendees that he would be glad to respond to questions on any relevant subject of the day. And he did, with the understanding that this was an “off the record” session that no press would be attending.

CUCF has, over the years, donated more than \$60,000 annually to the Columbia College Scholarship Fund to aid 10 first-year students, and substantial funds to such other Columbia services and

programs as the Core Curriculum. The foundation is dedicated to scholarship support and to helping support various programs on campus that might require additional funding, or projects for which we might be the sole funder. We may be eclectic, but we are also choosy.

That’s it, gentlemen, for our lead-in to 2018. I start working on our next quarterly Class Notes as we all receive this, the Spring 2018 issue. Remember, next year is our 65th reunion, which we all look forward to celebrating together. Send me your ideas. For now, and always, be well, recognize your accomplishments, share your joys, write, never forget, do good things, and stay in touch. Excelsior!

## 1955

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It seems that Columbia is the “hot” school in terms of educational and even athletic activity. **Jack Stupp** and two cohorts had a showing at the Art Museum of Sonoma County in Santa Rosa, Calif. We are looking forward to an event with **Barry Pariser** in Newburgh, N.Y. The Alexander Hamilton Award Dinner in early November was attended by **Alfred Gollomp**, **Don Laufer** and **Elliot Gross**. Other events attended by classmates were the Dean’s Scholarship Reception in early February and the John Jay Awards Dinner in early March. **Roland Plottel**, our resident patent expert, is looking forward to class dinners in 2018.



Members of the Class of 1956 gathered for a luncheon in November at Faculty House on campus. Seated, left to right: Ed Gordon '56, Mark Novick '56, Ron Kapon '56 and Jesse Blumenthal '56. Standing, left to right: Bob Siroty '56; Alan Broadwin '56; Buzz Paaswell '56; Ralph Kaslick '56; Gordon Silverman '55, SEAS'56; and Al Franco SEAS'56.

We’ve heard from Long Islanders **Richard Reichler**, **Ted Ditchek**, **Stanley Friedman** and **Alan Hoffman**. And with the basketball season under way we expect to hear and see from **Bob Bernot** and **Dick Kuhn**. The football season ended on a high note and I’m sure two of our stalwarts, **Dick Carr** and **Bob Mercier**, would be proud. **Bill Epstein** remains in rehab with a household injury. His good friend **Bernie Kirtman** sends his kind wishes. **Bill Langston** and his family bought a townhouse in upper Harlem. The Langston family will move sometime in 2018. **Peter Pressman** lives on the Upper East Side and was espied in the neighborhood making his rounds.

We must report **Charlie Sergis’** former radio station WINS has been doing very well in ratings with so much news to broadcast. From Cleveland are reports on positive happenings for **Norman Robbins**. We’ve heard from **Gordon Silverman** in Manhattan and **Roger Stern** passing through from Washington, D.C., trying to get together and renew old ties. Others reporting in are **Anthony Viscusi**, **Ron Spitz** and **Al Martz**. Your trusted correspondent will try to forward information to **Ted Baker** and **Mike Goldstein** (Ford Scholars).

Wondrous classmates, the 65th is almost upon us. Be prepared for what is coming; a little exercise couldn’t hurt you.

Love to all, everywhere ... the good guys are winning.

## 1956

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A good time was had at the November luncheon at Faculty House on campus. Attending were **Ed Gordon**; **Mark Novick**; **Ron Kapon**; **Jesse Blumenthal**; **Bob Siroty**; **Alan Broadwin**; **Buzz Paaswell**; **Ralph Kaslick**; **Gordon Silverman '55**, SEAS'56; and **Al Franco SEAS'56**.

I heard from Dr. **Lionel Deutsch** that he is retired, lives in Ohio and has graduated to the rank of “Grandpa.” **Henry Sobell** reports that he and his wife, **Lourdes**, continue to live in “our Adirondacks

home.” **Jim Mooney** writes that he will be in Naples, Fla., all winter. **Jay Martin** sends his best wishes. **Gunther Schmitt’s** new email is e13856@verizon.net. **Philip Shapiro** writes from Southern California, asking about possible luncheons there. Reach out to the Alumni Office at ccalumni@columbia.edu; maybe they can help set them up. **Kenneth Silverman** died in July 2017; his son Ethan reports that Kenneth was always a proud Columbia alum.

Keep the notes coming. Be well.

## 1957

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**Saul Cohen** died at home on January 15, 2018. Rabbi **Alvin Kass** conducted his funeral service at The Riverside Memorial Chapel on West 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue on January 18.

After attending the fall meetings of the American Bar Association Section of Public Contract Law Fall Meeting in Louisville, Ky., November 2–4, yours truly visited the Muhammad Ali Center, which honors native son Ali (né Cassius Clay). The center’s website describes the center as follows: “The Muhammad Ali Center is a cultural attraction and international education center that is inspired by the ideals of its visionary founder Muhammad Ali. Featuring two-and-a-half levels of award-winning interactive exhibits and captivating multimedia presentations, the Ali Center carries on Muhammad’s legacy and inspires the exploration of the greatness within ourselves, includes an amazing five-screen orientation theater film, historical Civil Rights-era media footage, displays of Ali’s charitable work, an interactive timeline of Ali’s life, video of Ali’s fights, hands-on boxing fun, art galleries, children’s Hope and Dream wall, temporary exhibits, Ali Center retail store and more.”

One of the highlights of the collection, albeit obscure, is a video of Ali’s daughter giving a boxing lesson.

Classmates, please send along news of your activities for *CCT*. Please think for a moment or two; there is surely something worthy of sharing with us.

## 1958

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**Columbia College Today**  
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[Editor's note: CCT is sad to report that longtime CC'58 class correspondent **Barry Dickman** passed away on January 29, 2018. He submitted this column shortly before his passing.]

Sadly, three of our classmates died during 2017. **Esmail Koushanpour** died on February 12, 2017. He was survived by his wife, Jenny; daughter, Kathryn Limon; and sons, David, Philip and Stephen. A resident of Mundelein, Ill., at his death he was associate professor emeritus of physiology at Northwestern. Esmail was born in Iran and at 16 emigrated alone to England, where he studied at Oxford. Two years later he became a member of the Class of '58. At Michigan State, where he earned a Ph.D., he designed a blood-pressure cuff for NASA that attached to the tails of space-traveling primates; according to his wife, that concept was later used for the pulse oximeter, "the device that's clamped onto your finger to measure blood pressure," she says, adding "I think he sold that invention for \$500."

Esmail spent 36 years on the faculty of the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern as a researcher and physician. He was also president of the Medical School Faculty Senate. He was a Fulbright Scholar, spending the term of his grant at the University of Heidelberg. Esmail was the co-author of a text on kidney science called *Renal Physiology: Principles, Structure and Function* and the author of dozens of papers on renal disease and high blood pressure. A devout Muslim, he also was adviser to the Graduate Theological Foundation on Islamic Affairs; a distinguished service professor of American Muslim relations; and an executive director of the Islamic Cultural Center of Greater Chicago, which awarded him a Doctorate of Humane Letters.

Esmail was also a leader in the interfaith movement that began in the Chicago suburbs in the 1990s, helping the Islamic community join ongoing statewide efforts of faith groups and labor unions to assist the working poor. This drive led to the formation of the Illinois FamilyCare program, which brought health care to 180,000 people. Additionally, he helped create interfaith programs for his mosque and several churches and synagogues. He once said, "People of the Jewish faith and people of the Muslim faith are cousins. We really need to believe in that, and we need to explain that to people." In his spare time, Esmail served on a number of boards of Chicago-area organizations. [Editor's note: See Obituaries, Winter 2017–18.]

**Don DeDitiis** died on August 15, 2017. He had four children: John, Maureen Tickner, Susan Broderick and Jennifer Dunson. His wife, Joan, predeceased him. Don transferred to CC'58 from the University of Illinois. At the College he was a brother of Sigma Nu and a member of both the band and the orchestra. After graduation Don became an account executive for the large New York City agency Doyle Dane Bernbach during the "Mad Men" era, eventually becoming a VP of TracyLocke in Dallas. In 1980, he started his own agency, Pierce, DeDitiis & Galyean, which became one of the top United States medical agencies. When PD&G was acquired by a larger agency in 1998, Don retired. He had continued playing trombone with various jazz quartets and symphony orchestras

since college, but in 2003 his retirement took a new turn: He fulfilled a lifelong dream and enrolled at Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, becoming a lawyer at 71.

**Ira Carlin** writes: "**Jack McGroarty** passed away on December 22, 2017. Here is a copy of the *Los Angeles Times* obituary. I knew Jack both from NROTC and the track team. I also saw him from time to time when we lived in L.A. He even came to our house in northern San Diego County with some other classmates several years ago, and we saw him thereafter in Laguna Beach. He was a good guy. I am told that his last years were very difficult because of his severe health problems.

"I hope that all is well with you and to see you in late May, along with all the other old people, at our 60th reunion. In the meantime, avoid natural causes."

Jack's obit reads as follows: "Dr. John Joseph McGroarty has died at 81. With affable stubbornness and a certain dramatic flair, Dr. McGroarty had for the past several years put up a noble fight against Parkinson's disease with Lewy body dementia. A board-certified ophthalmologist, Dr. McGroarty was on staff at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank. His practice on Riverside Drive was where he was happiest."

Jack was survived by his children, Sean, James, Daniel, Michael and Meghan.

The annual New York metro area Homecoming party, which returned to the Manhattan apartment of **Ruthie and Ernie Brod**, was especially joyous, as it took place after the Lions' thrilling overtime victory over Penn. Even better, the win was followed by an 8–2 season for Big Blue and a second-place Ivy League finish. Those celebrating were **Nancy and Michael Berlin '59**; **Carol and Barry Dickman**; **Eileen and Joe Dorinson**; **Audrey and Harvey Feuerstein**; **Bernie Nussbaum** and his wife, Nancy Kuhn; **Anita and Howard Orlin**; **Judy and Shelly Raab**; **Arthur Radin** and his wife, Miriam Katowitz BUS'74; **Linda and Sid Rosdeitcher**; **Ruth and Bob Waldbaum**; and **Joan and Mark Weiss**. The evening also included a tribute to Steve Fybish '57, our colorful *Spectator* colleague, whose death was noted in this column in the Winter 2017–18 issue.

The Class Lunch is held on the second Tuesday of every month in the Grill of the Princeton Club, 15 W. 43rd St. (\$31 per person). Email **Art Radin** if you plan to attend, even up to the day before: arthur.radin@janoverllc.com.

## 1959

**Norman Gelfand**  
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**William Bailey** sent us the sad news of the 2015 death of **Hugh McSurely** SEAS'60 and of the 2017 death of **Richard Merrill** SIPA'63, LAW'64. I found information on their lives after Columbia in their obituaries.

**Hugh McSurely** was born on October 21, 1937, and passed away on October 20, 2015. Hugh was a resident of Canton, Mich., at the time of passing. In addition to earning a B.A. and a B.S. from Columbia, he earned a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. He was a member of NROTC while a student at Columbia and proudly served as an officer in the Navy between the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Hugh was married to Kathy.

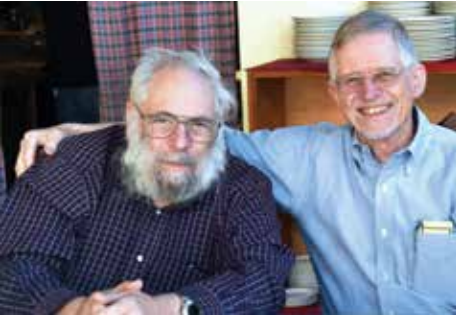
**Richard Merrill** was born on May 20, 1937, and passed away on October 26, 2017. Richard was a resident of Charlottesville, Va., at the time of his passing. He graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Columbia and attended Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. He had been dean of UVA Law School.

As you might have noticed, Columbia's football team had a very successful season. **Mike Tannenbaum** enjoyed the season and sent us the following: "This year I went to three football games at Baker Field, now Robert K. Kraft Field at Lawrence A. Wien Stadium, and Columbia won all three. I sat next to **Ted Graske** and his wife in the enclosed seats under the pressbox (he gave me the tickets) at two of the three games and **Charlie Feuer** '58 at the last game.

"The first was the Georgetown game on September 23, which was preceded by a pregame reception in Coach Lou Little's honor, to which

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[college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/connect).



Norman Gelfand '59 (left) and Luigi Lucaccini '59 met for lunch in Oakland, Calif.

I was invited, having been on the football team as a manager when Little was coaching. I told one of my favorite stories: I was in the locker room at Baker Field getting dressed, having come on the late bus, when the equipment manager, Dominic, came to me and told me to run onto the field and tell Mr. Little that Mr. Rockefeller was on the telephone. I ran and I arrived at the northernmost practice field out of breath and I could barely say, 'Mr. Little, Mr. Rockefeller is on the telephone.' He looked down at me and in his famous gravelly voice said, 'Which Mr. Rockefeller?' I ran back to the locker room. Fortunately, Dominic took a message.

"The second game was Homecoming; I attended the picnic with my daughter Nina Tannenbaum '99 and her 1-year-old daughter, Tiye Tannenbaum Castelli. I stayed for the Columbia-Penn game, which was fantastic — a real nail-biter.

"The third game was Senior Day, the last football home game for seniors. It was against Brown on November 18; Coach Al Bagnoli and the Football Players Club organized a pregame ceremony and invited football alumni (100-plus showed up). Right before the game the football alumni lined up on the two hash marks from the 50-yard line to the north goal line and one by one the senior football players and their close friends and relatives marched from the goal line to the 50-yard line to be greeted, hugged and praised to the public by Bagnoli.

"It was a great pleasure to see how a superior coach can turn out a happy, devoted and winning team."

Ralph Risley reports, "The past year has been interesting in many aspects. Most things we can do nothing about except remain true

to the values and aspirations we learned while at Columbia. Additionally, we can leverage those skills during our remaining time.

"Last year my wife, Sara, and I moved into our third Tucson house since moving here in 2004 from California. For us it is all about the challenges of change and renewal, which is what redoing a house is all about. We are still traveling four months a year in our Airstream trailer, logging about 14,000 miles. I joined the board of an independent theater company, helping with business and financial issues. Sara is a docent and adviser to the local miniature museum."

From Allen Rosenshine we learn, "My family spent the Christmas/New Year's week on a chartered boat in the British Virgin Islands, having contracted for it before the hurricanes. Because the boat I chartered was not damaged, having been away from the islands during the storms, I had no recourse to cancel, only to meet the boat elsewhere. When I asked my children what they wanted to do, I was very proud that they opted that we should go to the BVI as planned and do some volunteer work as part of our cruising. We did as much beach clean-up as we could on our own, since participating in any organized work was not practical, nor was there much evidence of such work in progress. The damage is devastating. Most beach resorts were literally destroyed. Most larger hotels were closed. Most marinas had boats sunk in their slips, boats wrecked on shore and piers destroyed. Most of the homes (large and small alike) that we could see from the water were empty. I spent one morning in Spanish Town on Virgin Gorda and there was practically no evidence of people living there or any repair work being done. For an economy that depends on tourism, it's hard to see how the area can recover in the foreseeable future. But happily, no one need be discouraged. The President of the United States has told the world that climate change is a hoax, so we can be sure what we saw was not a precursor of things to come."

Stephen Buchman writes: "I thought the class might be interested in the state of the Class of 1959 Scholarship Fund, which was started as a memorial to mark the passing of Eric Holtzman GSAS'64 (1939-94). Bob Stone and I get a report on this every year. As of June

30, the fund had \$153,673. It earned about \$17,900, of which \$8,516 was distributed to undergraduate recipients in the form of scholarship aid. Apparently, there were no additional contributions to the fund in 2017. Classmates are encouraged to make a contribution if they are seeking a direct way to help undergraduates. Each year, we receive a short bio of the student who is the recipient. There was another such recipient named in February."

Steve Trachtenberg informs us, "In March the Johns Hopkins University Press will release my book on the university presidency."

Norman Gelfand and his wife, Yona, joined their son Joseph Gelfand '01; his wife, Ingyin Zaw; and their daughter, Nila; for a wonderful week in Ireland touring castles and gardens. Shortly thereafter Norman and Yona traveled to Oakland, Calif., to visit their son who works for the Golden State Warriors. There they had a very pleasant lunch with Luigi Lucaccini.

Gil Wright and his wife, Diane, are fully ensconced in their home in North Potomac, Md. They miss the warmth of their winter home in Fort Myers, Fla., but are happy to be in Maryland. They both have medical issues and are investigating the possibility of eventually moving to a continuing care retirement community in the area. In the meantime, they are "downsizing." Gil has reduced the size of his nutcracker collection and they are donating cartons of books to local libraries. They are engaged in activities with family, friends and their church and are taking advantage of the resources of our nation's capital.

I have also received submissions from Steve Kallis Jr. and Ralph W. Wyndrum Jr. SEAS'59. Unfortunately, the space that CCT allows for the Class Notes prevents me from including them in this issue. I will include them in the next issue.

Harris Brodsky has been appointed executive in residence at The Hofstra Business School. Congratulations!

A final word: Next year marks the 60th anniversary of our graduation. Our previous reunions have been marked by class-led panels, discussions and presentations by class members. These have been informative and civil. I hope that we can follow the same format for our

reunion next year and not have our class combined with other classes.

## 1960

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"Oh, Say Can You 'C'?" was an item in the Fall 2017 issue's "Roar, Lion, Roar" section and recounted the history of the magnificent "C" at Spuyten Duyvil that serves as an exclamation point to our fight song, *Who Owns New York?* But the article failed to mention some of those who played a most important role in that saga; omissions that drew notes from Mike Gelfand and Paul Knatz.

Mike, coxswain of the freshman lightweight crew, sent this note: "During 1956-57 I was a 16-year-old, 115-lb. freshman coxswain. As a part of my crew 'initiation,' sitting on a narrow board, I was lowered to and painted (simply using a bucket and brush), a long segment of the 'C' equal to my arm span. One row was quite enough! My children, grandchildren and friends have been suitably impressed on seeing the site. Ah, memories . . ."

And from Paul, coxswain of the freshman heavyweight crew: "The article on painting the 'C' on the Harlem River was welcome, but I have a couple of details to add:

"1. I painted a good part of the light blue in the upper right in 1956-57. Coach Al Lawn and some oarsmen put a safety bowline around my middle, lowered me from the top of the New York Central Rock with a bosun's chair, and sent down beer and sandwiches occasionally; everything by lanyards. I was the only one painting that day. The 'C' was only partly filled in at that time. My part took it a long way toward looking like something.

"2. Back at the Lions Den I announced my outing to friends Myron Schwartzman, Pete Heim and others. A year or two later, Pete was riding the Circle Line. The guide identified the 'C'. Pete raced to the bridge, 'Why, don't you realize that 'C' was painted by the great contemporary American artist, Paul Knatz?' Excitedly the guide passed on the announcement. Years later people were still telling me they



Paul Nagano '60 (left) and John Learned '61 met up at a Honolulu musical soirée on January 18.

heard my name as part of the tour! Finally somebody must have said, 'Who?' and Circle Line dropped the misleading qualifiers 'great' and 'artist.' 'Contemporary American,' I was. Now I also see that Harlem has been relandscaped; Baker Field redone. Unrecognizable."

There's a lesson in this story that long might have escaped mention, but the new facts just added to the record warrant attention. We would be sorely remiss if we neglected to explain why the record now requires an "Ode to the Coxswain." It seems that only coxswains had the right stuff to complete that "C" on the Spuyten Duyvil bluff. Those of us skilled in pulling a sweep-oar apparently lacked the talent to handle that fine chore. Sinew and ligament, quadriceps and brawn did not much impress our Al Lawn, who — when called upon to deliver a freshman Michelangelo — wisely dismissed those of us who were fit only to row. For he knew that taut backs and biceps rendered us too stiff to descend and adorn that imposing high cliff. And hands coarse and callused deprived us of the touch to wield with alacrity the artist's brush. So he selected two men who could steer a straight course through wake, waves and headwinds into which lesser lads wildly would toss. Now when you admire the "C"'s majesty and precision, reflect on Lawn's perceptive decision: Picture **Paul Knatz** dangling on a rope in mid-air, a rope as dreadful as Medusa's hair; **Mike Gelfand** swaying ever so precariously and hanging on to dear life in a bosun's chair; and Spuyten Duyvil's swirling currents spitting up the devil's own brew as those two courageously dipped brush after brush into buckets of paint, white and blue. That brilliant bold emblem of alma mater,

to her everlasting embarrassment might have remained incomplete and of faded hue, had not it been for the heroic endeavor of that intrepid two. Praise them both, Paul and Mike, for their exquisite aesthetic sensibility and their meticulous unerring hand; for conquering all trepidation and fear, fortified by nothing more than sandwiches and beer; for carrying on with stiff upper lip and good grace, while braving the elements on their adventure in space; for completing the "C" and leaving it ever that much brighter; and now, I can but contemplate in horror, my fellow oarsmen and I might have been in their place if we had been just 30 lbs. lighter.

Mike advises that in retirement, when not playing tennis and golf, he consults at the Office of Professional Medical Conduct, which serves to protect the public through the investigation of professional discipline issues involving physicians and physician assistants. He also — with his wife, Diana — visits their five grandsons in Atlanta and Denver. I think it would be fair to say that he has no intention to volunteer to refresh the paint job on the "C" at any time in the near future. Finally, expressing a sentiment that I share entirely, Mike writes, "Participating in crew was a, if not *the*, highlight of my college experience."

Congratulations to **Larry Mendelson** BUS'61, who received two formidable distinctions. For the second consecutive year Larry, chairman and CEO of HEICO Corp., was named the best mid-cap aerospace and defense CEO by *Institutional Investor* in its annual All American Executive Team 2018. And, on July 14, French President Emmanuel Macron named Larry a Chevalier in the French Legion of Honour "in recognition of [Larry's] outstanding contribution to French-American friendship and cooperation." Upon receiving the news Larry commented, "I was surprised and deeply humbled by this great honor bestowed on me by the president of the République Française. Having maintained extensive personal and business connections with France for more than five decades, I have deep faith in the strong and shared values of America and France. On this July 14th Bastille Day holiday, I thank President Macron, Consul General [Clément] Leclerc and my many dear friends in France for this

kind recognition of my confidence in Franco-American relations."

The Legion of Honor is the highest French decoration, and is world-famous. It has for two centuries been presented on behalf of the head of state to recognize those most distinguished in all fields of activity.

Larry adds his name to other members of the Class of '60 who received distinctive recognition abroad. **David Farmer** was named a Chevalier of the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres for his contribution to the arts; the award was bestowed by the French Ministry of Culture.

Norway's minister of foreign affairs, **Johan Jørgen Holst**, now deceased, brokered the negotiations between the Israeli government and the P.L.O. in 1993 that led to the Oslo Accords. His engagement was so determined and intense that he suffered a stroke, which ultimately claimed his life in January 1994. Although peace was, and has remained, elusive, he was revered and praised by both sides. Shimon Peres said, "The moment he entered the

live on campus during freshman Orientation week. I was one of the luckiest because Carlos and **David Kirk** were my roommates. Carlos was one of the liveliest guys on earth and the world is a little poorer now that Parkinson's ended his life."

A happy and healthy spring to all.

## 1961

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**Barry McCallion** and his wife, Joanne, took their grandnephew (an avid fisherman) with them to Costa Rica for their annual fishing trip. Last spring they visited London, then Devon and Cornwall. Joanne has joined the small house craze, so they found the smallest accommodations possible.

Barry continues to make artists' books. Anyone interested can find examples on his dealers' websites — either Priscilla Juvelis Rare Books

*Albert Kirsch '61's KCC Productions put on the second annual South Beach Jazz Festival in Miami in January; it ran for three days.*

peace process, it was in the center of his life until his last breath. The entire nation of Israel bows its head to the memory of this man." Yasser Arafat called Jørgen "a great peacemaker who engraved the name of Norway in the book of world peace." Jørgen was posthumously honored in 1994 with a John Jay Award for distinguished professional achievement. It was the first time the award had been presented posthumously.

We, as a class can find it gratifying that members such as Larry, David and Jørgen have had such a positive impact beyond our borders.

**Tom Hamilton**, a prolific author, has completed his 12th book, *Weird Thoughts*, which he describes as a fiction/fantasy/satire anthology.

**Vince Russo** submits this remembrance of **Carlos Otálvaro**, whose passing was reported in the Winter 2017–18 Class Notes and Obituaries: "Even though I was a commuter, we were required to

or Alicia Bailey's Abecedarian Gallery. The books are part of a work in progress called "The Oarsman." For 45 years Barry has developed the character and his narrative in paintings, books and objects. When they were in London, Barry was invited to talk about "The Oarsman" with students at the Courtauld Gallery.

**Jack Kirik** visited **Gerry Brodeur** for the New Year's weekend. The nearby photo was taken from Gerry's patio at the Painted Desert Golf Club in Las Vegas.

**Burt Cross** retired as director of records at Rhode Island College many years ago. He lives in Saint Augustine, Fla., with six children and 14 grandchildren all over the country. Burt wishes he could pole vault, but those skills have passed him by through the years.

**Bob Salman** LAW'64, after working on the winning New Jersey gubernatorial campaign of Phil Murphy, was appointed to the



Transition Advisory Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. In June, Bob and his wife, Reva, will celebrate their 55th anniversary. In May, their granddaughter Sydney Spiewak will graduate from the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics at Syracuse.

**Stuart Newman** LAW'64 was instrumental in setting up the Small Business Support Fund, created by the Business Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, which will provide grants to non-profits giving legal advice to military veterans, minorities and others seeking to establish small businesses in New York State. The fund is off to a good start, with grants approved for 2018 to two organizations providing legal assistance in New York City.

**Albert Kirsch's** KCC Productions put on the second annual South Beach Jazz Festival in Miami in January, anchored by Branford Marsalis and Ignacio Berroa. The festival ran for three days. All ticketed events were sold out and hundreds attended the series of free concerts on Lincoln Road. The festival is a world-class event showcasing the artistry of people with disabilities and organized by Power Access Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit. The organization looks forward to continuing to promote the festival's primary goal: to define others by ability rather than disability.

**Arnold Klipstein** is a gastroenterologist, currently in Bangor, Maine. He writes that the area is pretty, but cold in the winter. In early January the temperature was

a chilly -13°F. Arnold works two weeks a month and went to Florida for a week in March to warm up.

Famous artist Paul Nagano '60 and noted particle physicist **John Learned** shared Columbia stories at a Honolulu musical soiree on January 18. They recognized alma mater over food and drink prior to a marvelous chamber concert. Paul was editor of *Jester* and John was into lightweight crew and singing at St. Paul's Chapel. Amazingly it turns out that Paul's friend, chef Michael Bosley (who participated in the conversation), was born in the same small hospital in Plattsburgh, N.Y., as John. Small world! Says John, "We are a long way from Manhattan, but our days and classical education at CC continue to have a huge influence on our lives."

In October, I had the pleasure of attending the San Antonio Manufacturer's Association dinner, where **Mickey Greenblatt's** son Drew was guest speaker. Drew spoke about resurgence of manufacturing in the the United States and the potential impact of the tax law changes that were anticipated at that time.

## 1962

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In November **Barry Spinello** wrote to express his appreciation of **Roman Kernitsky's** remarks (in the Fall 2017 issue) about Hillary Clinton, President Barack Obama '83 and international refugees: "Thank you for printing Roman Kernitsky's extraordinary letter. I was astounded and completely agree. My wife, Irene (an M.D. and intensivist, and also a refugee from the former Soviet Union), often reminds me of the difference between a wall, keeping people out, and a wall, keeping people in. It's called freedom. Her father spent two years in the gulag for the capitalist crime of appraising jewelry. On a different topic: We need a great university to sponsor a debate on the vital issue of climate change. Each side might choose a Nobel Laureate, a professor emeritus and an economist. Is Columbia brave enough?"

Also in November, **Michael Stone** BUS'63 wrote the following letter to *The New York Times*. Mike said: "The

*Times* edited in down, taking some of the fizz out. Here's my original:

"Let me say upfront that sexual abuse and harassment of any kind is vile and should not be tolerated in our society, nor should abuses due to racial, gender, sexuality, or religious preferences.

"Having said that, there is a need to discuss punishments versus violations. If you make a scale, Harvey Weinstein will be on one end and Jeffrey Tambor on the other. Everyone else's deeds will lie at various points in between. However, the punishments being dealt, especially because of knee-jerk reactions by organizations like HBO and Netflix, are the same: career-ending terminations.

"Our society is not supposed to mete out punishment before trial and conviction. But that is not happening and many other people are also being unfairly punished. Innocent people (especially the lower-level employees) are being thrown out of work when the shows are immediately cancelled.

"Let's look at one example: journalist Mark Halperin. When he was exposed for sexual misconduct (on the milder end of the scale) 10 years earlier, the reaction was swift and final. NBC fired him, the publisher of his successful books on the presidential campaigns immediately cancelled the upcoming book, and HBO (once again backing into the darkness) cancelled a series to be based on the book. So his career was ended in 24 hours.

"But what about his partner, John Heilemann, who did absolutely nothing wrong? He suffered the same punishment. Why? Collateral damage is a simplistic and unacceptable answer. We need to bring some common sense into this."

**David Adams**, who came to Columbia from Neosho, Mo., retired from UNESCO, where since 1998 he had directed the International Year for the Culture of Peace. He has written an early history of the Culture of Peace and continues to edit the *Culture of Peace News Network*.

Since 1995 **Mark Feldman** LAW'65 has lived near Charleston, S.C. After 40 years managing government relations for TIAA-CREF, VALIC and other life insurers, he's mostly retired. He writes: "I spent most of my time enabling and protecting non-governmental retirement systems for institutions

of public higher education. I still do some consulting on public pensions.

"My best friend and wife, Sandy, and I have been married for 25 years. She is a virtuoso travel adviser with clients nationwide. We travel often for business and pleasure. Between us we have three sons and five grandchildren. If you live near New York City, you might have heard my son, Jim, giving traffic and weather information on WCBS radio. I'm reasonably healthy and active and very much enjoy life. I am treasurer of the S.C. District for the National Exchange Club, a community service organization, and a member of the Board of Governors of the Harbour Club, a downtown social/business club."

From NYC, **Alex Firestone** reports that he is "enjoying retirement and life in general in this ever-changing but still-the-same city."

The birth of his 10th granddaughter greeted **Jeff Milstein** on January 8! His only grandson was born in May 2017. "That's a 10 to 1 ratio," he says, and wonders: "How does it compare to the ratios of classmates?"

**John Joyce** writes: "I followed with great pride the success of last season's football team. Fifty-six years ago, **Ron Meyer, Larry Gaston, Bill Davidson**, some future wives and I attended all the home and away games that championship season, and occasionally yelled our famous (to ourselves) 'Moon job' cheer.

"This past holiday rekindled another memory. For Christmas I gave my son-in-law, a lifelong Mets fan, the *Times* collection of significant articles about the Mets. The first article, May 9, 1961, announced the creation of the team. At the top of the page was a report about Columbia's big baseball win over Army and the stellar performances of **Tom Vaselli, Bob Koehler** and **Mike Esposito '61!** At 77, I'm happy to still have some memory after 44 years of law practice, 54 years of marriage and 13 years of retirement."

**Jane** and **Leo Swergold** have lent their outstanding Buddhist Gilt Bronze Collection to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston for an exhibit that runs through June. The winter issue of *Arts of Asia* magazine ran a large spread on the exhibition. Leo offers to arrange tours of the exhibit for interested classmates.

**Gerry Sorin** GSAS'69 is working on his ninth book, tentatively



Jack Kirik '61 (right) visited Gerry Brodeur '61 for the New Year's weekend; this photo was taken from Brodeur's patio on the Painted Desert Golf Course in Las Vegas.

titled *Saul Bellow: I'm Jewish and I've Written Some Books*. Send information or anecdotes about Bellow to [soring@newpaltz.edu](mailto:soring@newpaltz.edu).

**Anthony Valerio** claims his mother never told him that if you live long enough, your editor, collaborators and close friends retire or pass on. "I certainly feel such a void," he writes, "and am thankful for every new day. Last week, our local newspaper, *The Middletown Press*, ran a front-page story that accurately quoted me: 'That took the air out of my room' in response to Trump's travel ban on citizens of six Muslim-majority nations. 'Here I am, the child of immigrants. If it had not been for immigrants, I would not have had life. I would not have created. I would not have loved ... I would not have shared with my fellows the astounding natural and created images of this world.' I was pleased it made the front page. Per-

established the "[Lt.] Peter F. Russell Scholarship" at the College.

"Senior year **John Eder** and I shared a forgettable apartment near campus. That summer we lived in the Beta House. In August a young lady gave me a ride there to drop off some clothes, and I found a note from John advising me that we were no longer roommates since he had joined the Army OCS. John has retired from the corporate brokerage world and lives happily in Florida. He still trades stocks and reminds me of his successful picks that I rejected.

"Frank Lorenzo '61, my big brother at Sigma Chi, was a true friend, and got me through some difficult times. I always looked forward to our jobs at Macy's during Christmas break. His successes have been well documented. As far as I know, he's still running marathons.

"**Ken Jowitt** was a scrawny, 17-year-old scholarship prodigy. He



The Class of '63's January lunch had a great turnout! Left to right: Bruce Kaplan '63, Harvey Schneier '63, Steve Barcan '63, Paul Neshamkin '63, Henry Black '63, Ed Coller '63 (hidden), Bob Heller '63, Jerry Dwyer '63, Don Margolis '63, Doron Gopstein '63, Lee Lowenfish '63, Alan Wilensky '63 and Daniel Perl '63.

### *Cellist Joel Krosnick '63 is retired from the Juilliard String Quartet but teaches cellists and chamber groups at Juilliard and chairs its cello department.*

haps it will nudge/jostle the paper a little to the left.

"Last year, perhaps in anticipation of two hip replacements, I put together two volumes of *Immigrants According to Anthony Valerio*, which includes more than 30 pieces about individuals, including rescued dogs and cats, who touched me ([anthonyvalerio.com](http://anthonyvalerio.com))."

**Phil Lille** recalls some marvelous stories from our days on Morningside Heights: "On becoming an octogenarian, I reflected on a few of the classmates I've kept in touch with. **Lucky Bowers LAW'65** who lived in that tiny 'cell' under the stairs at the Beta House, turned down some big offers in NYC after graduating from the Law School. Instead he returned to Beaver County and built one of the most successful law firms in western Pennsylvania. I met Lucky in Blue Key along with **Pete Russell**, whom I'm sure we all remember. He became a Navy pilot and was killed in Vietnam while providing close air support to a riverine, military patrol. Lucky and **Gerry Debonis**

sat in the first row in CC class next to me, a 21-year-old Marine veteran who hadn't read a book in three years. Ken would argue with the instructor, an avowed socialist and Ph.D. candidate, while the three of us bummed Pall Malls from each other. Ken went on to beat me as consul of Sigma Chi, which should have been his everlasting claim to fame. Instead he became one of the greatest, most respected professors of political science in the history of UC Berkeley and the youngest to achieve tenure. His lectures drew up to 500 students and always received standing ovations. After retiring from Berkeley, Ken joined the Hoover Institute, where he continued to write and lecture, as he now does from residences in California and Ireland.

"And me? That girl who gave me a ride into the city on August 6, 1962 — we eloped that day and were married the next in Arlington, Va. It'll be 56 years this August. After 12 years in Japan, the first two doing research on an unfinished dissertation for that elusive Ph.D., and the rest working for U.S.-Japanese

joint venture companies, we moved to Arizona. I taught for a while and then started a chemical company that still keeps me busy, along with my lifelong study of Japanese. Two kids and six grandkids. Had to give up riding and raising horses, tennis, pick-up basketball, triathlons and so on. Now split my time between Scottsdale and the beautiful Kahala section of Honolulu. Living the dream! God bless and Semper Fi."

From Jerusalem, **Joe Romanelli** writes: "As my best friend, **Harvey Chertoff**, said, 'We are not in our golden years, but in our years of rust.' It is depressing how many friends have passed away or suffer from debilitating problems. An Israeli friend told me he plans to move to North Carolina, because he doesn't know anyone there.

"Every generation seems to view its early years as 'the good old days' and the present as a time of deterioration. The divides in the United States in terms of race, class, gender and so forth distress me. In Israel we face similar problems, though of a lesser magnitude, perhaps because security issues force a modicum of togetherness.

"But let me look back with a nostalgic eye. How lucky was our generation! I grew up in a lower middle-class section of Brooklyn. We didn't have much, but I can't remember wanting for anything. We didn't need parents to take us anywhere; the subway and buses did the job. Public schools from elementary through

high school were excellent. In elementary school we walked home for lunch. Our high school was so crowded that as freshmen we began classes at 11 and often finished after dark. It was the best of times.

"At Columbia, I recall no political movements. The big questions may have been fraternity or not, or which major to choose. ROTC was an honored activity. We graduated before SDS. I remember neither pampering by the administration nor special demands by students. Once we completed our studies, life became more complicated and more fascinating. Judging by talks with friends and reading (especially Class Notes) it seems most of us have fared well. We have so much for which to be grateful!"

## 1963

**REUNION 2018**  
MAY 31–JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact  
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Development Contact  
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Reunion is only two months away!  
By now you should have received mailings from the College with

details and, I hope, are making plans to attend. We want to make sure this one is as much fun as our 50th, and will give you all plenty of time to greet classmates and enjoy an exciting visit to New York City and good old Columbia. I look forward to seeing you all in May.

I recently attended the Robert Burns Dinner celebration at the Columbia-Penn Club. **Jerry Dwyer** joined me and my daughter as we sampled the whisky and watched **Bill Burley** pipe in the haggis. Bill had traveled in with his wife, Suzanne, to do the honors for the 17th straight year, and the evening was a fitting tribute to fine food and the Scottish bard. It occurred to me that with Bill and our other piper classmate, **Bob Schlaer**, we probably have the strongest piping class in Columbia's history. Another reason to be proud of the Class of '63.

**David Pittinsky** writes, "In August, I celebrated my 75th birthday in St. Tropez, France, where I have vacationed for the last 15 years at the wonderful La Residence de la Pinède boutique hotel. My wife, Alecia, family and friends — a party of 14 — joined me and celebrated this wonderful occasion. Although we spent a week celebrating at the St. Tropez famous — or, as some people who dine there might say, infamous — lunch clubs on Pampelonne Beach, the highlight of the week was the dinner at the three-star Michelin restaurant at the Pinède.

"In mid-September, I was inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers at its annual meeting in Montreal. In late September,

my wife and I returned to Paris for the 11th time in the last 12 years and immensely enjoyed the David Hockney exhibition at the Centre Georges Pompidou and the Irving Penn exhibition at the Grand Palais. As usual, we enjoyed every minute of our one-week stay and had superb meals at our favorite restaurants: La Fontaine de Mars, Allard, Café Constant, L'Avenue and Les Climats, none of which (with the exception of Les Climats) were expensive. Our Parisian stay was also enhanced by our visits to the Rue Cler marketplace and our walks all over the Parisian streets and the Seine."

**Richard Goldwater** writes, "I'd like to write a paragraph or three summing up my life; it feels like time to say goodbye."

Gosh, Richard, not yet! Say it isn't so!

**Doug Anderson** writes, "One night in fall 1959, a group of upperclassmen took a group of us to P.J. Clarke's to help convince us that we should join ZBT. I had a rare cheeseburger and a cup of chili. One of the guys told me that the sliced raw onion was under the bun. Talk about being 'snowed.' The room was filled with models and I had just learned the secret of P.J. Clarke's. From 1959 to 2015 I had been going to P.J. Clarke's and having a rare cheeseburger and a cup of chili (thanks Jerry [Speyer '62] for preserving P.J.'s when you built your building). That said, the new owners decided to take chili off the menu, and it made me cranky. I wrote a review on TripAdvisor, Yelp and Google discussing how people buy-

ing an institution shouldn't change core products. I sent an email to the office of the new owners — nothing. Dale and I had taken our kids to P.J. Clarke's. We'd taken our grandkids to P.J. Clarke's. Everyone always ate the same thing — a tradition. I kept going. I kept kvetching. I kept writing reviews. Eventually, P.J. Clarke's hired a person to read and respond to comments on sites like TripAdvisor and Google. I saw her name and called her. She put me through to the CEO, a man named Phil Scotti. We connected. We spoke about the New York restaurant scene for a half hour. We laughed about the care he had taken restoring the bathroom and how he hadn't been as mindful about the menu. Last week my new friend Phil called to tell me he was putting chili back on the menu, and that he was naming it after me because I'd earned the credit."

**Charles Bremer** sent a short note: "Nothing exciting to report. My life is dull, the way I like it. Last week I took our friend Donald, from Arlington, Va. (our former residence), to the Columbia campus. We visited Pupin Hall. I assume your readers know what was invented in the basement thereof."

Cellist **Joel Krosnick** writes, "[I am a] member of the Class of 1963, who received his Columbia degree in 1970. I accepted a professorship in music at the University of Iowa 1963–66, and at the University of Massachusetts 1966–70. During the summers between 1963 and 1970, I took the necessary courses at Columbia to complete my degree. During that time, I also played concerts in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, Australia, Taiwan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Poland, the Soviet Union and the former Yugoslavia as a member of the Iowa String Quartet, the New York Chamber Soloists and as a solo cellist. Then, 1974–2016, I was the cellist of the Juilliard String Quartet and the cello at the Juilliard School. During that time, I participated with the Juilliard Quartet in recordings of much of the classical, romantic and contemporary string quartet repertory, and toured the world in concerts with the Quartet. In 2011, as a member of the Juilliard String Quartet, I was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Academy of Recording Arts and

Sciences (now The Recording Academy). For more than 40 years, I have also had a sonata partnership with pianist Gilbert Kalish '56. Together, we have recorded much of the classical and contemporary repertory for cello and piano, and played numerous recitals together in New York and across the United States.

"Though I have retired from the Juilliard String Quartet, I am proud to continue to teach gifted cellists and chamber groups at Juilliard and to chair the Juilliard cello department. I am also on the faculty of the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music School & Festival, where I perform and teach chamber music and am 'artistical adviser.' I am married (for more than 30 years) to Dinah Straight, a New York City public school teacher for many years. We have two children: daughter Gwen, a professional cellist, and son Josh, a rap producer and composer of hip-hop music."

**David Orme-Johnson** writes, "My main project these days has been writing my memoirs, which are about being in the middle of Mahārishi Mahesh Yogi's TM movement. As director of research at Maharishi European Research University in Switzerland and Maharishi University of Management in Iowa, I was in a position to witness the evolution of the scientific research on enlightenment and its effects on creating coherence in collective consciousness. My memoirs are about the many brilliant and lion-hearted souls I had the privilege to work with and our collective contributions to bringing this ancient knowledge into the modern scientific world. Here is a link to part three of my memoirs published in *Enjoy TM News*, which covers research in the 1970s on the physiological correlates of transcendental consciousness: [bit.ly/2C2JFkY](http://bit.ly/2C2JFkY). Transcendental consciousness is the silent mind, variously referred to as unbounded awareness, pure consciousness, Samadhi, and, in pre-Socratic philosophy, Being, to give just a few of its names."

**Charles E. Miller** and a group of other appellate lawyers recently co-founded an enterprise, The Association of Amicus Counsel, which he describes as, "The Association of Amicus Counsel (AAC) is an independent nonprofit of lawyers of diverse backgrounds, affiliations and law practices who are committed to



Jerry Dwyer '63, Bill Burley '63 and Suzanne Burley at the Burns Dinner in New York City in January.

serving the public interest, and who, by training, scholarship, experience and discernment in their respective areas of the operative law or relevant subject matter, are possessed of the requisite proficiency in preparing and submitting amicus briefs that are helpful to courts and other tribunals. Briefs are submitted by AAC in support of one party or the other or in support of neither party, as may be appropriate. They are written on behalf of individuals and corporate entities, both domestic and foreign, who want their voices heard in precedent-setting litigations whose outcomes will affect the interests of the public, including their own and of others similarly

have been overlooked and overshadowed by their charismatic leader.

“It is also a story about their roots — the world into which they were born and grew to adulthood — and about their descendants. It is not only an African-American story; it is very much an American story, it is our nation’s story, a story from the past that resonates in the present.

“The book is dedicated to James P. Shenton ’49, who inspired me with his lively lectures and seminar on the Civil War and slavery. He also set me on my career path, advising me in my senior year, ‘You are more interested in history as it affects the present; you should be a journalist.’”

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### *Peter Thall ’64, author of What They’ll Never Tell You About the Music Business, was interviewed on NPR’s “Marketplace” about a songwriter’s stream of income.*

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situated. AAC focuses on advancing the science of jurisprudence through the submission of briefs that advocate the correct judicial development of the law in the time-honored tradition of “friends of the court.”

Remember, our regular class lunches at the Columbia University Club of New York (for now, we are still gathering at the Princeton Club) are always a great place to reconnect. If you’re in NYC, try to make one of the lunches this spring. The next are on April 12, May 10 and June 14. Check [cc63ers.com](http://cc63ers.com) for details.

In the meantime, let us know what you are up to, how you’re doing and what’s next. See you at reunion, Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2!

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## 1964

**Norman Olch**  
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**Gene Meyer** writes: “I’m pleased to announce the publication on June 1 of my book *Free for Freedom: The African American Soldiers in John Brown’s Army*. It is the story of how and when these five forgotten men came together at a fateful time and place, Harpers Ferry (now West Virginia), in October 1859. For 159 years, they

A link to the book: [bit.ly/2Hck39t](http://bit.ly/2Hck39t).

“In other news,” Gene continues, “I continue to edit the quarterly *B’nai B’rith Magazine* (now in my ninth year), contribute articles to *The New York Times* and other publications, and serve on the board of the nonprofit online *Washington Independent Review of Books* ([wirobooks.com](http://wirobooks.com)), where I am the chief organizer of panels and recruiter of speakers for our annual conference. My perk is getting to introduce the keynoters, including Bob Woodward, David Maraniss, Judith Viorst, Marie Arana and John Feinstein. This year’s keynoter (May 5) is scheduled to be Bob Schieffer.

“Last October, at 75, I had my first *New York Times* op-ed. The subject was giving away my stamp collection, because nobody wants to buy old stamps but there exists an organization that sends them to Vietnam and Korean War veterans in VA hospitals and residences across the country.”

**Jeff Newman** writes, “After I retired from the National Child Labor Committee in January 2017, at my wife’s urging I took a so-called part-time job at Trader Joe’s in Hartsdale, N.Y. I love it, have lost 25 lbs. and am in better shape than I’ve been in 30 years (so says my doctor, and so I feel).

“We visit our grandchildren, of course, in New Orleans (2 and 4)

every three months, and that adds to our travels because we visit our Los Angeles grandchildren (14 and 9) an equal amount. My daughter, Andrea, is doing very well indeed, and is a full executive producer of *Chicago Fire*, as well as doing potential pilots for NBC. She is a kind of behind-the-scenes star out there, and that’s very special.”

**Beril Lapson**, back from one of his many business trips to China, reports that with the shift from coal to natural gas the pollution in Beijing is gone, and the air quality is better than Manhattan’s Upper West Side, where he lives.

**Peter Thall** was interviewed on NPR’s “Marketplace” about the acquisition and auctioning of a songwriter’s stream of income. Peter is the author of *What They’ll Never Tell You About the Music Business*.

**Steve Rodner**, who played trombone with the Marching Band, has made his debut on YouTube. You can catch him on “Art Smart in a Minute: Trombone with Stephen Rodner”: [bit.ly/2Brq4G](http://bit.ly/2Brq4G).

Remember, the class has an informal lunch the second Thursday of every month (except July and August) at the Princeton Club, 15 W. 43rd St. If you live in or around New York City, or are visiting the city, join us.

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## 1965

**Leonard B. Pack**  
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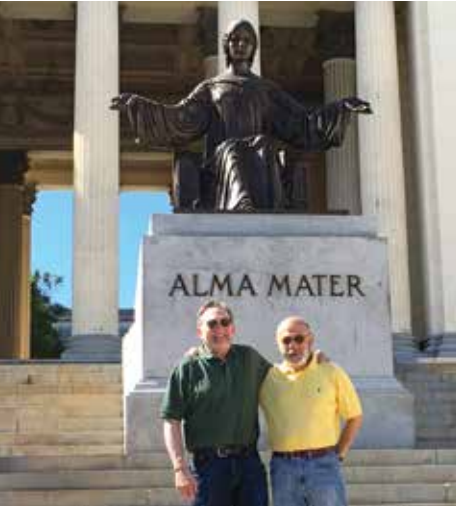
Dear classmates, after years of inaction I have upgraded my email address to [leonard@packlaw.us](mailto:leonard@packlaw.us). Please flood my new inbox with news of your doings, especially any interactions with classmates. I heard from a good number of people since preparing the Winter 2017–18 column.

Maybe I didn’t get the memo, but until **Robert Kronley** wrote to me from Havana, I did not know that the University of Havana is modeled after Columbia. Robert; his wife, Ann Rosewater; and Roberta and **Mike Cook** went there and sent the nearby photo as proof. Robert writes, “Ann and I joined Mike and Roberta and their undergraduate sons, Jon and Alex, on a trip to Cuba in late December. Havana is complex and intriguing, with fascinating history, significant architecture, a

vibrant arts scene and pulsating street life. One highlight was the University of Havana, modeled throughout and in detail after what our university-based guide proudly referred to as ‘Columbia University in New York.’ Our reflections on Cuba, which offers much to consider, were stimulated and deepened by Jon and Alex, whose perspectives are fresh and unbound from older ideological concerns.”

**Steve Steinig** wrote to review a book: “I can’t remember seeing a sort-of book review in Class Notes, but this book was so good, and an automatic link for all Columbians, that I thought I’d submit it: *An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic* by Daniel Mendelsohn. If you’ve ever read Homer’s *Odyssey* (or were supposed to), have had a father or been a son, or have a son of your own, this is a book in which you will feel enriched by virtually every one of its 300 pages. Mendelsohn [is the Charles Ranlett Flint Professor of Humanities] at Bard College. Some years ago, his father sat in on Mendelsohn’s freshman seminar on the *Odyssey*, after which the two of them took a cruise through the Greek Isles, tracing Odysseus’ route home from Troy. The book is about these two events and much more — it is Mendelsohn’s memoir of his family relationships while growing up, especially with his father; about the art of guiding young people to gain confidence in their own view of the world’s great literature; and a marvelous review of the action and the words of *The Odyssey*, all put down on paper by a master of writing. Much as **David Denby** JRN’66 did 20 years ago in his spectacular *Great Books: My Adventures with Homer, Rousseau, Woolf, and Other Indestructible Writers of the Western World* (his report on returning to Morningside Heights and to the Core for a year), this book too reports many moments that will make you feel young again, but be warned that you will probably also find passages, to your chagrin, that make you identify with the author’s aged father.”

**Gregory Tarsy** sent this update. “Since retiring in 2015 I’ve been taking classes in ceramics at my local community college and plodding toward having a home studio ... almost there. When I wash the clay off my hands I listen to music from my overly stocked collection



Robert Kronley '65 (left) and Mike Cook '65 traveled to Cuba and took this photo in front of the University of Havana's *Alma Mater* statue.

of recorded music, attend Pilates classes, read *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*, walk my dog and do the spiritual practice of Subud."

I asked Gregory to tell me about Subud.

He wrote back, "Not many ask! The spiritual practice (Subud is the organization) is called the 'latihan kejiwaan,' which is an Indonesian phrase that just means 'spiritual exercise.' Members have received a way to contact an inner resource that is a connection with the universal energy that drives everything (maybe like the Buddhist 'ground consciousness'). It tends to change one's life — I've been doing this for more than 40 years. More information is available at [subud.org](http://subud.org)."

I asked Gregory how he got started with the practice. He says, "I was living in Carmel, Calif., and following the practice of Zen that I had begun in New York. My circle of friends 'happened' to contain a growing number of people who 'happened' to be in Subud. One night, when having dinner with some of those friends, I had a sudden, very strong feeling that I needed to be in Subud. I had also had a serious yoga practice, so I had some experience with spiritual paths. I have never regretted following that strong feeling. If you want to know more, there is an active Subud group in New York, or hop on a plane to Santa Cruz."

Daniel Waitzman writes: "I've been recovering from my second knee

replacement— with two artificial knees, I guess I've joined the ranks of mechanical men. I'm cane-free, but stairs are still painful. My wife, Mona, has had to assist me in my recovery while pursuing her career as an artist.

"In other areas, it looks as if my 1978 book, *The Art of Playing the Recorder*, will be reprinted at long last. The same publisher is going to publish some of my musical compositions as well, and I've been preparing them in PDF format for that purpose. I have also continued to post some on YouTube, in electronic musical instrument digital interface (MIDI) format, along with some of my live performances.

"I often have cause to think of some of the wonderful teachers with whom I studied at Columbia as an undergraduate, as a candidate for my master's in musicology, and at Teachers College. They were consummate musicians all, and I can never thank them enough. I remember Otto Luenning, Samuel Baron, Howard Shanet, Genevieve Chinn, Hubert Doris, Paul Henry Lang, Charles M. Walton, Harold Bennett, Rudolf Thomas, Stoddard Lincoln, Laurence Taylor, Peer Westergaard and the rest of that fine faculty. In non-musical areas, I have particularly fond memories of Edward S. Hodgson and Fritz Stern '46, GSAS'53, but there were so many others whom I should like to thank as well. I was certainly not the world's best student, but I can never repay what these people bestowed upon me. I have tried to do so, in some modest ways, through my concerts, musical compositions and writings on music; and as a flute and recorder teacher. My teachers made it seem so easy!

"I don't know whether to laugh or cry when I read of 'trigger warnings' and 'safety zones' at modern universities. Some of my teachers were downright rude when I did less than my best. And while rudeness per se is hardly something to be encouraged, still it is desirable that student and teacher alike be able to take and give criticism and counsel when needed, and to gain some understanding of history and ideas, despite the episodes of unpleasantness that they will inevitably encounter by so doing. In the pursuit and understanding of truth and beauty, one must of necessity acquaint one's self with falsehood and ugliness — and I am saddened by the thought that this platitudinous observation must seem strange

to some of our youngsters. Nor should we expect the ancients whose works and ideas we study to behave and speak like model 21st-century citizens. How to explain these things to today's youngsters, while at the same time encouraging them to treat others with respect and consideration — *that is the age-old problem!*"

Laurence Wallach GSAS'73 continues the musical theme: "I've been teaching music — history, theory and composition — at Bard College at Simon's Rock since before the merger with Bard (starting in 1972) and I now have a 'chair' (not a physical one, which I could use, but a virtual one that is good for signing letters of recommendation). I have maintained a concert schedule performing chamber music on piano and harpsichord with some great musicians through the years; for example, this spring Met basso John Cheek and I will perform Schubert's *Winterreise* for the second time. I have also been composing as much as possible given the other activities; last spring was the premiere of a 20-minute orchestral work, *Berkshire Rhapsody*, centered around a spiritual found at the end of W.E.B. Du Bois' *The Souls of Black Folk*. (Du Bois was a Great Barrington native and therefore a centerpiece for Berkshire culture and identity.)

"This year I am reducing to half-time teaching to make more time for playing and composing.

"I have two children, four stepchildren and seven grandchildren. My oldest, Risa, is a cantor in Walnut Creek, Calif., while my youngest, Sara, is a waitress and up-and-coming photographer. My wife, Anne Legène, whom I met 30 years ago, is a cellist and viola da gambist who belongs to Arcadia Viols, among other groups. They performed at the Folger Shakespeare Library in a holiday program of earlier German music (11 performances!), which gave me an excuse to join them for a few days and binge on Washington, D.C., museums. Washington may now be the belly of the beast, but its museums, libraries and so on remain beacons to remind us of what American civilization still has the potential to be. Highly recommended.

"Leonard, I remember running into you at a Carnegie Hall concert of the Budapest Orchestra under Iván Fischer, with András Schiff

playing two Bartók piano concerts. That was about 18 years ago — but I'm sure you remember the concert as well; it was spectacular. (Also on the program: Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite* and *Symphony in Three Movements*.) I had brought my music history class with me to get a taste of the culture that New York has to offer, from which I benefited so powerfully when I was at Columbia. I'll be back (without students) in March to see *Elektra* at the Met. Who knows? Maybe you'll be there as well."

As a matter of fact, I will be there, and I plan to see Larry.

## 1966

Rich Forzani  
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Sad news. We have lost three classmates. Paul J. Nyden GSAS'74 was a reporter, highly regarded, for more than 30 years in Charleston, W.Va. We also lost Arne Jensen '67, who spent many years in real estate development on Nantucket. And Jonathan Kleefeld writes, "It is with extreme grief that I report to you the sudden passing of one of my oldest and closest friends, Fred Hyman. Fred died suddenly in his home in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., last October, with his loving wife, Rosalie, at his side. I cannot find sufficient words to express how fortunate I felt to be Fred's friend for more than 50 years. He was one of the most brilliant, unselfish people I have ever met."

Neal Hurwitz: "I have an essay in *A Time to Stir: Columbia '68*, edited by Paul Cronin, out now! Sam Roberts had a review of this in *The New York Times* — said I was more than 'lesser known.'")

And I believe the esteemed Michael Garrett (not Mike) also appears as a contributor. He has stepped up his game, as heretofore he was known amongst his friends only as an anonymous yet hands-on critic of various Larry Flynt publications. He shares: "After a busy season in the course of which I accepted both a Pulitzer Prize and a Kennedy Center Honor, was nominated for both a Tony and an Academy Award, and placed in the Monte Carlo Triathlon, I spent many long days with my investment

and tax advisers determining how best to invest my embarrassingly large lottery winnings.

“Never mind all that: How about those football Lions? In the latter connection, after they won four games, I was by chance interviewed by a *Spec* reporter, and I told him that if they win another one, the name of the team should be changed from the Lions to the Black Swans — he looked at me cluelessly and walked away.”

**Geoff Dutton:** “I learned that Columbia is commemorating the student uprising of 1968. Few of us have forgotten that and some of us were around. I read in an interview with historian John Campbell McMillan at counterpunch.org: ‘This spring, Columbia University hosts a series of events to commemorate, memorialize and perhaps even abuse 1968. Fittingly, Professor McMillan kicked off the series with a talk in Butler Library in January titled ‘The Sixties Underground Press and the Rise of Alternative Media in America.’ The festivities at Columbia culminate April 27–28, with the return to campus of former student rebels including Mark Rudd [’69].’

“Ah, me. I was just starting to rebel then. I never intended to make it a lifestyle, but my hand has been continually forced by so many continuing outrages. So, what comes to mind when you recall the events of ’68 at CU? Compose a memoir and send to [geoff@maxentropyproductions.net](mailto:geoff@maxentropyproductions.net) and I will compile it with others on my site, [progressivepilgrim.review](http://progressivepilgrim.review). Anyone who wants can then reblog it.”

**Kenneth Fox:** “My son, Zachary, started grad school in sociology, of all things. He looked at political science but none of the courses interested him. Go with what inspires you, I suppose.”

**Tom Chorba** is researching any and all aspects of the following terms: “hate speech” and “hate crimes.” Anyone with written information on the origins of these terms or anyone with information/opinions and so on who benefits from the use of these terms is welcome to contact him at [tachorba@aol.com](mailto:tachorba@aol.com). “My opinion is that there is speech and there is crime and that adding the adjective ‘hate’ weaponizes speech and the open discussion of the underlying terms,” he says.

**Daniel Gover:** “I finally have some news. I am a producer of

*Children of Drum*, a documentary history of South African journalism from *Drum* magazine in the 1950s to the present. We interviewed about 20 journalists, mostly in Johannesburg, ranging from some in their 80s to others in their 20s. The story began with my colleague at Kean University, Josephine Nxumalo Norward, the daughter of Henry Nxumalo, the journalist known as Mr. Drum who was killed while investigating the evils of apartheid in 1957. Our director, Larry Tung, had the documentary premiere at the African Diaspora International Film Festival at Teachers College in December. We’re hoping for a showing in South Africa this year and then a general release on a video link. Anyone interested should email me: [dgover@kean.edu](mailto:dgover@kean.edu).”

Bittersweet news from **John Doody**. First, the sweet: “My news is that after 16 years of bachelorhood, I married Anna Granerud on December 3. **Ken Pearson** was among the few to witness the non-religious ceremony, and he ably assisted as the ring bearer. Among the other ’66ers in my innermost circle, only **Tom Harrold** has met Anna. That was a year ago over dinner on St. Barth and we were sorry we couldn’t make a repeat visit in January 2018. A year ago I had an inkling that marriage might be a possibility. I am very happy to have Anna join me for the second half of my life. I’m sure with her help it will be even better than the first half!”

Now the bitter: We will no longer be regaled by John’s stories of lovely ladies riding on his big boat. And when I asked if he would give it to me, I got no response.

**Dan Gardner** reports that with advancing age, he and his wife, Esther, sold their BMW a year ago, and they find themselves quite content to live life without generating tailpipe emissions. If that sounds overly valedictory, he also reports that the BMW made room for a clean, beautiful, all-electric Tesla Model S. Note to the future! (Dan fails to note that the unscrupulous Tesla salesman also sold him a five-mile extension cord, which was later determined to be unnecessary.)

**Alexander Auerbach:** “A few years ago I decided to do for my own account what I’ve done for clients of my public relations practice: Publish an online business magazine about a specific topic or sector.

“Originally I launched *The Profit Chain* in conjunction with a supply chain management software startup in which I held an interest. With today’s technology, and help from freelance writers and technologists, I can do from my home office what once would have required a team of researchers, writers, graphic artists and so on.

“The only downsides are that a) when I go on vacation I feel I have to bring along a laptop to stay abreast of the news and b) from time to time I bore my wife with a comment about containerization of cargo or the use of blockchain in smart contracts.”

News from my second-favorite cantor, next to Eddie: **David Tilman** announces, “Most important news: We are first-time grandparents, to Micah Toby Tilman, son of Rabbi Howard Jonah and Naomi Leah Tilman, born July 28. Howard is rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel, Scotch Plains, N.J. Ellen and I are enjoying this experience so, so much!”

“Our daughter, Alana Miriam, is assistant director of Ramah Galim, the newest camp in the Camp Ramah network. Ramah Galim is located on the Pacific coast, south of San Francisco. Ramah Galim, or Camp Ramah of ‘Waves,’ serves children from Northern California. Ramah Galim combines intensive Jewish life with water sports and a serious performing arts track.

“Son Avrum Michael SEAS’04 is senior software engineer for Bloomberg. He and his team solve computer software problems for divisions within Bloomberg.”

**Steve Weinberg** GSAPP’68: “Still working at my affordable housing consulting practice in New Jersey and at supporting the Habonim Dror youth movement. Oh, yes! Meddling bi-coastally in the lives of our four married children and eight delightful grandchildren, whom we adore. Did I mention agitating for a Democratic takeover of Congress in 2018? Raging against the AI tsunami headed toward my grandkids.

“This year marks the closure of the openings between Columbia’s main campus and the outside world. My, my! What might have been the impetus for doing that? Not sure how many CC’66ers were still on campus with me that marvelously fateful, once-in-a-lifetime Spring ’68 that the Columbia establishment is still loathe to remember.

“I seem to be losing energy — to age, I guess. Napping. Contradictions. Cracks. Where the light gets in?”

**Bob Meyerson:** “We are watching Ron Howard’s *The Beatles* on PBS. I told my wife that **Richard Milstein** and I did ‘The Slop’ at Ferris Booth Hall dancing to the Beatles. She had no idea what The Slop was (let alone Ferris Booth Hall, where I made Slop history). So I explained that The Slop was the pre-Frug. And she didn’t know what ‘The Frug’ was! So I showed her. And I impressed her once again. I can tell you for sure we didn’t need no Columbia fraternity to do The Frug. Still don’t. But for the rest of you ’66 Fruggers, be it known that we will be having a Frug party in Atwater, Minn., to celebrate my 75th on August 6, 2019.”

**Tod Hawks:** “My book, *I Write When the River’s Down: Poems, Aphorisms, Essays*, is available for purchase. If you would like to buy a copy, please send a check for \$30 made out to me, Tod Howard Hawks, and mail it to 1055 Adams Cir., #1225, Boulder, CO 80303. Be sure to include your mailing address.

“I have been a poet and human-rights activist for all my adult life. Even though it has now been more than half a century since I graduated with all of you, I still often reflect fondly on my years with you at Columbia College.”

## 1967

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**Peter Schneider** SOA’72 wrote: “This is the first time I have written in in 51 years. Why? Not to brag about having led a conventionally successful life, which I suppose I have, but rather to engage in a bit of shameless self-promotion. My debut book of poetry, *The Map is not the Territory*, is coming out April 15. Short of trying to hawk my book along with candy bars on College Walk, I’m telling all of you to go to [anaphoraliterary.com/catalogue/poetry/peter-schneider](http://anaphoraliterary.com/catalogue/poetry/peter-schneider) and place your advance orders there or order from Amazon or Barnes Ignoble after April 15. And while I’m here, I want to give a shout-out

to my classmates, particularly fellow SDSers and other misfits. May we all survive the age of Trump and not end up as radioactive ashes.”

We mourn the loss of **Larry Besserman**, professor of English and distinguished Chaucer scholar. His good friend Joseph Romanelli '62 wrote the following tribute: “Larry passed away in July 2017 after a short bout with cancer, leaving his community of friends stunned. He had recently retired as chairman of the English Department at Hebrew University and was a summer lecturer at Columbia. Larry had an incredible mind. The depth and breadth of his knowledge in most areas awed us all; a true Renaissance man. His academic accomplishments are too numerous to cite. His involvement in his community and synagogue was constant. He was a founder of our men’s club, and in the course of 10 years of weekly meetings and discussions, he never failed to perk our minds and add to the value of whatever subject was raised. He was a prayer leader, a fundraiser and event organizer. He served three years of a two-year term as synagogue president when no one else would take the job. If anyone thinks POTUS is a difficult job, it is small potatoes compared to the demands of being a synagogue president. He managed to bring order out of chaos. Along with his serious work, his sense of humor was an integral part of his personality. I recall he once gave a serious philosophical talk using mostly *New Yorker* cartoons. I moved to Israel in 1972; Larry a few years later. We were both members of the Ramot Zion Conservative Synagogue, as well

as neighbors and friends. Upon his retirement from Hebrew U., he and his wife, Judy, became leaders in our congregation. He was loved and is missed by all.”

## 1968

**REUNION 2018**  
MAY 31–JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact  
ccaa-events@columbia.edu  
Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Arthur Spector**  
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The Class of 1968 is preparing for its 50th reunion and it looks like it will be a stunningly great event. I volunteered to contact the class by email or phone (with as much class help as possible), and — as of the end of January — we are likely to have 240 attendees (along with Columbia Engineering classmates). And I expect more to come. The turnout might even be the largest of any class that weekend and larger than any other from the past. It will have an array of classmates from across the world.

I have so much enjoyed getting to chat with classmates from a long time ago — what a wonderful opportunity for me (though the actual process has been challenging). Folks are coming from Alaska and Hawaii and Hong Kong and Tokyo and Seattle and L.A. and San Fran and Portland and Toronto and Montreal and Dallas and San Antonio and Chicago and New Orleans and Detroit and Miami and Cleveland and Lansing and Madison and Cambridge and Boston and Georgia and Florida and South Carolina and North Carolina and Maryland and Virginia and D.C. and Maine and Vermont and Arizona and New Mexico and Indiana and Idaho and maybe Lisbon and definitely Paris and I hope London and Amsterdam and Upstate New York and western Mass. and, of course, the city. I suspect the group could grow to 300. Maybe I am dreaming, but I thought 200 would be unlikely.

Some news (it is impossible to note all the anecdotes from the calling!): I spoke to **Ed Weathers**, who sounded upbeat — he is a big fan of

**Bruce Margon**, the astronomer in our class. I talked to **George Bernstein** in New Orleans; he sounded chipper. I chatted with **Al Beyer** at the University of South Carolina — he’s retiring soon but painting and looking forward to more time to paint. His works are 7 ft. x 8 ft. — we need one for sure.

I could go on and on: **Buzz Zucker** is on his way to Mount Kilimanjaro with his grandkids on a climbing mission. **Robert Brandt** has been a constant new and old friend. **Art Brown** has had many great ideas for reunion. **Hollis Petersen** is back in Key West — his home survived, miraculously.

I am wiped out from the few hours a day of emailing and calling and being a constant appealer. It is understandable that folks want to come if there is going to be a crowd. **Steve Gottlieb** has been kind to chip in for a gift to the class — a book of his photographs. He is definitely hitting tennis balls in world competition. As for **Nigel Paneth** and **John Roy**, both are working hard and taking suggestions for reunion programming. Nigel (in addition to his professorial responsibilities) and John (with his teaching responsibilities) are working hard to ensure a good program (All-Class Reunion, fka Dean’s Day, is the Saturday of that same weekend). Those two seem to know large numbers of classmates and I thank them for their efforts.

**James Robinson** is coming and seems to have a fascinating role at the George Washington University and across the nation. **Ira McCown** and I will be the Miami Beach contingent and the Naples, Fla., contingent will be **Tom Reed**, **John Roy**, **Neil Anderson** (I hope), **Roger Berkley** and **Greg Winn**.

I also had a wonderful chat with my almost-neighbor **Tom Ehrenberg** from Vermont. I can’t go down the entire list of anecdotes — it would take 10 pages!

Reunion attendees will have lots of time to talk with one another. Suffice it to say, talking to classmates reminds me of the warmth and charm and intelligence of the group. And it has been a pleasure.

I did hear from **Eric Lerner**, and here is most of it (he is coming to reunion): “Our fusion energy project at LPPFusion is making progress, although never as fast as I would like. We’re trying to produce a new

source of energy that will be clean, safe, unlimited and far cheaper than any available right now. In the past year, we published world-record results for confined ion mean energy (equivalent of almost three billion degrees, 300 times hotter than the center of the sun) and we are featured in a new documentary on fusion research, *Let There Be Light*. Now we’re raising crowd-funding investments on wefundor.com. Hope people visit us on the web or stop by in person at our Middlesex, N.J., lab, just an hour from NYC.”

I look forward to seeing you all at reunion or hearing from you — it should be a great event, befitting this class. **Ken Tomecki** and I have done your column now for 50 years, so we might need a Diet Coke toast for the privilege of hearing what you are all are up to. I hope everyone is well and that you are able to marvel at Columbia’s campus and hear from the dean and enjoy the fun. See you there, Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2.

## 1969

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In a December 13 email, I invited classmates to send brief comments “on any enduring impact of the events of 1968 on your post-College years.” When I sent it, I did not know that Columbia University Press was about to publish *A Time to Stir: Columbia '68*, a collection of some 50 essays by participants in the events including ones by **Vaud Massarsky**, **Hilton Obenzinger**, **Fred Pack**, **Henry Reichman**, **Mark Rudd** and **Joel Ziff**. But here are the comments I received presented, as in *A Time to Stir*, in alphabetical order:

From **Harvey Bernstein**: “I still show and look at my picture in *Life* magazine in front of Avery Hall with pride.”

Harvey was part of the group that was attempting to block police action.

**Bruce Dickson** shared a letter he had written to his family on April 30, 1968; here is an excerpt: “I was in on the bust this morning at the campus at 3:00 a.m., and it wasn’t much fun. I’ve never seen anything more disgusting in my whole life.



## Send in Your News

Share what’s happening in your life with classmates. Click “Contact Us” at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct), or send news to the address at the top of your column.

I've always been sort of skeptical about charges of police brutality, but now I don't think I'll ever look at a cop again without getting sort of scared. In order to clear out the buildings, the police had to go through a bunch of teachers and students who stood in front of the doors. After asking the people to move, they waded into them, swinging little blackjacks that appeared from their sleeves just before attacking. Over 200 people had head injuries. After breaking in the doors, they dragged people out. Inside the building, they dragged them by their hair until they were ready to go out by the photographers, then they pulled four cops on one kid. Bystanders were treated almost as bad. They had a lot of plainclothes cops, dressed like students, with billy clubs and pistols concealed. These guys and others would push the crowd around so as not to let anyone see what was going on.

"They eventually herded everyone down to one central area on campus, where we all watched those arrested

there was a huge wave of bodies being pushed back and running like mad. Further up the sidewalk, they were riding into crowds with horses. Well, since it looked as if the fun was over, I went home, after watching what looked like the end of Columbia."

**Steve Ditlea:** "The events of 1968 at Columbia drastically changed my life's direction. As an amateur Nikon F-snapper on campus in my junior year I would see one of my photos of Grayson Kirk's occupied office displayed on the front page of *The New York Times*' early edition — soon followed by a blackjack to my skull in the NYPD raid on Furnald during the second student occupation in May. Ironically, years later the plainclothes cop who hit me would become an employer and a friend. Still, the experience convinced me to get out of harm's way for good, morphing into a writer-journalist, no more the photojournalist. After a fulfilling, decades-long freelance career writing about tech (I used to call Apple when Steve Jobs would pick up the phone at 5 p.m., after the secretary left),

the movement, but Cal Berkeley, where she did her undergraduate studies. In the mid-1970s, after things had calmed down a bit, Jane and I met at the Business School. In later years all three of our children studied at Columbia. Throughout all those years and beyond (in riots or in peace), Columbia College deserves accolades for perpetuating the Core Curriculum, albeit with some modifications, in a setting that has always encouraged provocative debate. The Spring of 1968 was indeed a milestone event, but over time it seems to me a mere blip in a continuously vibrant and enduring university community."

**David Rosedahl:** "Transformative to say the least. I often wonder where all those radical guys concerned about 'working-class folks' ended up. They used to tell me about their extremely thrifty travel to Europe during summer months. I was digging ditches in my hometown."

**Peter Rugg:** "It was a particularly trying time for me — because of a closeness in names, people thought I might be **Mark Rudd**. There was a lot of anger then particularly directed at the 'establishment' viewed through the University role in the 'Military Industrial Complex.' The violence and failure to observe the rule of law were as regrettable then as they are now. We did learn to listen to the other side and make our own judgments about significant issues and opportunities. Perhaps these lessons are more valid than ever in 2018."

**Bill Sleeper:** "1968 was certainly a major year from both a Columbia and a personal experience. Having met Margarita Rosa BC'69 during Freshman Week, we became engaged in spring 1967 and married in June 1968. **Rick Prouser** was our best man and **John Herbert** was the master of ceremonies. We have four children and seven grandchildren. Our oldest is Bill Jr. SEAS'91."

**Frank Spadaro:** "1968 was a milestone in the destruction of western civilization. I find it hard to understand how young men with promising minds could end up many years later defending and misrepresenting the self-absorbed nihilism that was exhibited on campus in Spring 1968. Many of the violent and vulgar campus protesters have become mendacious, dishonest and arrogant old fools. The only real

value to me in the long run is that I was a witness to one of the most destructive episodes in the history of higher education in the west, but that experience possibly provided me with a certain clarity as to the nature of the destructiveness of the '60s and the rabid and mindless fascination with Marxism so many embraced and continue to use, albeit cryptically and corruptly as a moral basis for their views. That clarity of thought was the beginning of my long drift toward traditionalist and conservative thinking. Perhaps that early and extreme exposure to the mindless nihilism of our age has helped to defend myself from it.

"I am an architect. My work is my autobiography. My latest architecture is an expression of traditional and classical architecture derived from a modern sensibility. Columbia's teachers helped me to get where I am. They helped me to make some important first moves. In particular, I remember Howard Hibbard, Meyer Schapiro (Class of 1924), GSAS'35 and Fred Dupee. In freshman year I was fortunate to study with Donald Dewey, who introduced me to Edmund Burke, and in Humanities I studied with Arcadi Nebolsine GSAS'71, whose broad culture and traditionalist Orthodox and Roman Catholic leanings (he comes from a Russian noble family that fled communism) probably helped me to form the serious misgivings I have about what happened on campus in 1968. Columbia was a great institution. We helped destroy it. That is our legacy."

**Alan Sullivan:** "The events of Spring 1968 were the most memorable of my undergraduate experience. I was taking a seminar in Victorian prose from Lionel Trilling (Class of 1925), GSAS'38, and as the result of the shutdown, the class met in the Trillings' apartment on Claremont Avenue for a few weeks. Since we were meeting in her living room, Diana Trilling joined the class. She served tea and coffee and, of course, had her own views of the books and essays we were reading at that point in the syllabus, one of which (appropriately enough) was Matthew Arnold's *Culture and Anarchy*. The class was a great lesson in the relevance of English literature, all the more so because we were part of the Trillings' life for a while. I also vividly remember seeing Professor Fred Dupee, face bloodied, limping home at dawn after that

### *Kurt J. Meyers '70 and John D'Emilio '70*

*"enjoyed a most excellent, practically-50-year-reunion last fall at 7,000 ft. in Flagstaff, Ariz."*

being put in paddy wagons. They arrested 600. Then everyone was yelling at the cops, but the crowd was hardly a mob. But for some reason the cops suddenly lined up in a single file opposite the crowd, which was being held to one side of a sidewalk. I was about three or four people deep in this crowd, when suddenly (with absolutely no warning or request for the crowd to move) this line of cops ran at us as fast as they could, pushing and swinging and hitting. The crowd ran (I fell) down a bunch of steps and then some stopped. After a few minutes, they did the same thing again, and again, eventually forcing everyone to a corner of the campus. All gates were closed, so people started to panic. I managed to climb over a gate. Then after I was on the Broadway sidewalk, there were maybe 35–40 people who had massed together near this gate. I noticed a bunch of cops starting to form a line just north of us and before we knew what was happening,

business and health, I'm so thankful I went through those epochal times on Morningside Heights."

**Robert Friedman** pointed out that **Paul Auster's** novel, *4321*, published last year and short-listed for a Man Booker Prize, has a part about the Columbia strike, including a character named Robert Friedman, "who just happens to be the editor of the *Columbia Daily Spectator*. Strange finding a fictional version of yourself in a novel." Robert added: "I got hooked on journalism in 1968, and I still have the passion all these years later. So I guess that's an enduring impact."

**Henry Jackson** "remembers that the police presence gave me insight into what it must be like to be occupied. I quickly learned it was a decidedly unpleasant experience."

**David Parshall** BUS'76: "Whenever I mention Spring 1968 to my wife, Jane, she proudly asserts that it was not Columbia that initiated



night when the police entered Hamilton Hall by force. Faculty members whom I admired very much became, for me, people whose lives were, like mine, dislocated by the remarkable events of that period.”

I close with a few of my own personal recollections. In Spring 1968, I was editor-in-chief of the *Columbia Course Guide*, which for the first time was a printed booklet and was distributed to all students and faculty for free. Our staff had just completed delivering copies to faculty mailboxes on the morning of April 23, with some concerns about the fall-out to follow. As I was walking back to Carman, I saw that my freshman-year Carman suitemate, **Mark Rudd**, was speaking on the Sundial and I heard him say, “We can go to Racist Gym or ...”; I am not sure he stated an alternative before the crowd moved to the Morningside Park. In the next year, I was a College Representative on the University Presidential Search Committee. I do find it notable that, on this 50th anniversary, the chair of the University Board of Trustees is a member of the Class of 1969 (**Jonathan Schiller**).

## 1970

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Before getting into the notes, I would recommend to all of you in the New York area to look into the colloquia offered by the Friends of the Heyman Center for the Humanities. I went to a discussion on Pamela Hansford Johnson given by Professor Deirdre David GSAS’78 and was enthralled by the presentation.

**Kurt J. Meyers** writes, “**John D’Emilio** GSAS’72, a Chicagoan now, and I and my wife, Sara, from Tucson, enjoyed a most excellent, practically-50-year-reunion last fall at 7,000 ft. in Flagstaff, Ariz. Amazingly, our daughter and her family, as well as John’s brother and his wife, live there. John and I conversed seamlessly for some eight hours, also reminiscing about our Columbia days, which included sophomore year in John Jay and senior year on Riverside Drive. I think we can

both attest that the bonds formed at Columbia made near five decades seem but five months.”

**David Lehman**, the series editor of *The Best American Poetry*, performed a poetry reading on December 13 at the Cornelia Street Café. David read his translations of Mayakovsky; Andrey Gritsman read the poems in Russian and the two read other poems and translations, as well. The café is at 29 Cornelia St. in NYC — a block on which Auden once lived.

**Michael Aeschliman** GSAS’91, a professor emeritus at Boston University, and a prolific author, sent me a link for his latest publication: [bit.ly/2siljUK](http://bit.ly/2siljUK). Michael’s thought-provoking essay points to the “rampant intellectual reductionism” that is characteristic of “progressive’ libertine, and reductionist departures from and denials or violations” of traditional Western and world ethics. This is a very interesting essay.

## 1971

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Happy spring, Class of 1971! **Bill Christophersen** writes, “Here are a few memories from the start of freshman year, half a century ago: Discovering the Postcrypt, where Bluegrass Parmesan was playing, a band that featured superpickers-to-be Ken Kosek, Andy May, David Nichtern ’68 and Pete Wernick ’66, GSAS ’73. Getting back my first English paper, which I’d typed on onion skin, and reading Professor Howard Schless’ comment, ‘Please: No more toilet paper.’ Walking in late to a CC class on the empirical philosophers as someone was saying, ‘I think the key to Locke is ...’. Being introduced by singer-guitarist **John Tucker** ’72, GSAS’89 to the songs of Maine folksinger **Gordon Bok** during a candlelit song swap at Warmth, a second-story hangout on Amsterdam Avenue. Taking a departmental test administered during Freshman Week that offered the chance to place out of freshman comp by writing an essay on a **Robert Graves** poem, ‘Warning to Children,’ that cautioned the reader not to untie the string on the package of life. Attending a rally on the Low

Steps at which Columbia’s then-VP assured students that the University was not engaged in war research for the Institute for Defense Analysis — whereupon SDS’ research committee, hitting the stacks in Butler, found, photocopied and distributed evidence it was.

“My second collection of poems, *The Dicer’s Cup*, was released last summer. The collection, whose mix of free and formal verse poet **Valerie Wallace** has praised, treats such subjects as bumming through Scotland, battling a stormy surf and coping with a grandmother’s suicide.

“Several of the poems draw on musical themes and contexts (I’m a bluegrass fiddler). Setting off the narrative poems is ‘Apostrophes,’ a sequence of lyrical poems in a more experimental and urgent vein. A third collection, *Tableau with Crash Helmet*, will be published shortly.

“I began writing in college. **Kenneth Koch**’s modern poetry class shook up my sense of what poems can be and do, and poets **Bill Zavatsky** and **Gregory Orr**, whom I heard read, offered further examples.”

Do Bill’s memories bring back yours? What are they?

From **Arvin Levine**: “I’ve been telling people, especially since the inauguration last January, that I take personal responsibility for the sad state of politics in the United States today. Of course, what I mean is that the result of actively trying (and succeeding, it would seem) to change the political system (in fact I probably played a very minor, if not insignificant, role and should not take credit at all, but what can you do? someone has to step forward), achieved the unanticipated consequence of making the government less functional and responsive, rather than more responsive. I probably should have known better, but there you have it.

“I am not advocating a return to status quo ante, but am starting to look for a better way forward. Personally, I hold our class, as severally and jointly responsible with me — especially since we put Columbia in the forefront of that movement.

“Can we hijack this column (perhaps in part) to solicit suggestions for an approach that we can espouse? This is not a political action plea per se. Rather, with some degree of hubris, I believe it’s time for us to finally get serious and fix what we broke (not generally my

specialty). We’re CC’71, plenty smart and creative. Any takers?”

Do Arvin’s comments about the state of politics and the way forward make you think? Share your comments with classmates.

Remember back 51 (*fifty-one!*) Septembers ago, and the feelings we had, including of adventure, as we entered Columbia College. *We are still connected.*

## 1972

**Paul S. Appelbaum**  
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**Jerry Lynch** LAW’75 has been doing something interesting lately: “To set the stage: After graduating I went directly to law school, with some vague aspiration to do more good in the world than might come from pursuing a Ph.D. in classics. I found the experience more intellectually interesting than I expected, and after a couple of years clerking for judges, I returned to the Law School as a junior faculty member. I’ve been on the faculty pretty much continuously for the last 40 years, though with breaks to pursue full-time public service as a federal prosecutor and part-time gigs as a special prosecutor (biggest accomplishment in that vein: losing the Oliver North case in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals) and white-collar defense lawyer (biggest accomplishment: winning reversal of the mail fraud conviction of the president of the country’s largest aviation insurer). In 2000, I was one of the last Clinton appointees to the United States District Court. After nearly a decade as a trial judge in the Southern District of New York (one of the best jobs in the world), I was ‘elevated’ (I kid you not, that’s a technical term used by Congress for what created the opening for my successor) to the Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit as one of President **Barack Obama** ’83’s first nominees in 2009. Through the last 17 years on the bench I have continued to teach at the Law School, mostly first-year criminal law to about 100 students per year, but also such subjects as sentencing, advanced civil procedure and appellate advocacy. So that’s the nutshell of how I’ve spent the last 45 years professionally.

“But as I approached my 65th birthday, I began to tire of the grind of grading 100 criminal law exams every spring (only those of our classmates who have attended law school will have some idea of what an unpleasant task that is), and began to wonder if I might try something else. So I successfully persuaded the dean of the Law School and the chair of Literature Humanities at the College to let me take on a small section of the first semester of Lit Hum. After all, I argued, I had at least as much background in the classics, having read most of the texts on the syllabus multiple times in multiple translations, and having read more than half in the original languages (albeit many years ago). I suppose the dean paid me so little as a part-time faculty member, and the chair had little enough to lose exposing 22 freshmen to an amateur classicist for a semester, that both agreed to the project. And so for the last two falls I have engaged with College first-years in reading *The Iliad*, *The Odyssey*, Sappho, the *Book of Genesis*, the *Oresteia*, *The Bacchae*, *Antigone*, excerpts from Herodotus and Thucydides, Plato’s *Symposium*, *The Aeneid* and some of Ovid’s *Heroides* ...

“The students are great. Yes, they have absorbed some combination of politeness and relativism that makes them a bit more reluctant to confront one another or the professor than our brash and arrogant generation was. (I’d long noticed this in law students as well; students inclined to take a diametrically opposed position to what a classmate had just said tended to buffer their comments with a respect-

ful nod to the other student’s different experience and right to their point of view.) But they remain open to different points of view and are intellectually curious. They are indeed a bit more carefully tended than we were in the anarchic days of 1968, a trend about which I was ambivalent. ... But the students are a pleasure to teach, and when I did encounter an excellent student who stopped coming to class for unexplained reasons, I found that my concern for the student’s well being made it quite comfortable for me to consult the relevant adviser and try to figure out how best to engage the student about possible problems.

“So I guess I’m here to testify that the Core remains strong at Columbia College, that the books we were taught remain important, and that ‘the kids are alright.’”

Jerry has been married for 45 years to Karen Marisak BC’72, a practicing clinical psychologist. Their son, Chris Lynch ’02, practices law in Washington, D.C., “making us very happy, as he moved there from Los Angeles, bringing my amazingly sweet and smart 3-year-old granddaughter, Olivia, closer to home.”

Another of our classmates on the Columbia faculty, **Steven Bellovin**, has also been teaching in a new setting. “A lot of my work in recent years has focused on the legal and policy aspects of technology. Because of that, I’m now an affiliate faculty member at the Law School. That is, of course, in addition to my normal faculty work at Columbia’s computer science department.”

**Larry Boorstein** SEAS’78, BUS’88 is also on the move: “I joined Green Powered Technology in Washington, D.C., in June as project manager/engineer, responsible for support to the U.S. Trade and Development Agency in the area of transportation engineering services. In March 2016, I received the designation of Certified Project Manager from AECOM and in July 2014 the 40 years of service award.

Some of you undoubtedly saw **Sean Wilentz**’s op-ed about our current President in *The New York Times*. The title, “They Were Bad. He May Be Worse,” says it all. Sean’s new book, to appear soon, is *No Property in Man*, on slavery, antislavery and the Constitution, based on his 2015 Huggins lectures at Harvard.

Talking about new books, **David Stern**’s latest is *The Jewish Bible: A*

*Material History*. David explores the Jewish Bible as a material object — the bibles that Jews have actually held in their hands — from its beginnings in the Ancient Near East through to the Middle Ages to the present moment. After a full career at Penn, David is now the Harry Starr Professor of Classical and Modern Jewish and Hebrew Literature at Harvard.

**Armen Donelian**, pianist extraordinaire, stepped into a different role this February as the curator of the first Hudson Jazz Festival, upriver in Hudson, N.Y. “I see this festival as a rare opportunity both to raise regional jazz awareness as well as to reward loyal jazz fans with a first-rate presentation.” Armen performed “Songs of My Ancestors,” an Armenian-themed set of selections from his double CD of the same name.

Finally, congratulations to my old debate partner, **Jim Sabella**, and his wife, Julia BC’71, GSAS’76, who became grandparents last fall thanks to son Jonathan and daughter-in-law Kristen. Jim and his daughter, Jennifer, who recently moved to Baltimore, had a vacation together in Havana.

DEA. He says, “I never would have believed I’d have a career teaching medieval history at the USNA, or that I’d be married to a DEA lawyer!”

They have a son and a daughter and several grandkids.

**Josh Aronson**, a documentary film producer/director, is producing a film about vets with PTSD and their service dogs who “bring them back to life.” The film is called *To Be of Service* and, Josh says, “Seeing these broken warriors close up reveals the deeper theme: the cost of war.”

The film will be out next year; learn more at [aronsonfilms.com](http://aronsonfilms.com).

**Doug Andrews** GSAS’76 settled in London in 2002 after stints in Italy, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and Belgium. He exited his second healthcare startup last year and co-founded another healthcare platform company, Double-Wing Pharma, which markets and distributes China-produced medical devices in Europe and European-manufactured devices in China.

Gotta love someone who keeps the balance!

That’s all you wrote. Until we meet again. (In June? In NYC? It’s our 45th reunion, Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2!)

## 1973

**REUNION 2018**  
MAY 31–JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact  
[ccaa-events@columbia.edu](mailto:ccaa-events@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
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Wow — 45 years. Who woulda thunk?

**Richard Abels** GSAS’82 caught us up on many years; he retired last June from the Naval Academy, where he taught for 35 years and was the history department chair for six of them. Retirement suits him, he says — he’s been playing tennis and fulfilling book contracts he’d put on hold. His biography of Æthelred the Unready (who lost to the Vikings, as his name befit him) is due out in October; the second edition of his *Alfred the Great: War, Kingship and Culture in Anglo-Saxon England* will follow, probably in 2019. Richard has been married for 42 years to Ellen Harrison BC’74, an attorney for the

## 1974

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This will be a shorter-than-normal column, as I am recovering from shoulder surgery. If you sent in a note that is not shown here, look for it in the Summer column.

In one of the few Christmas letters I still receive, word came from **Bryan Berry** in Joliet, Ill., of his many trips and family events. You might be interested to learn that he is finishing a book on religious and political controversies and changing perspectives on the past.

**Asher Miller** LAW’77 wrote that he is a practicing trusts and estates lawyer with the firm he co-founded in 2000, Cooperman, Lester, Miller, Carus. They have offices in both Manhasset and Manhattan. His older daughter, Lauren, recently moved to Israel, and Asher and his wife, Karyl, make frequent trips to see her and the grandchildren. Younger daughter



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CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click “Contact Us” at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

Rebecca is an occupational therapist for the New York City Department of Education and “lives within a stone’s throw of Columbia.”

Asher adds, “Last summer I had the pleasure of having breakfast in Santa Monica, Calif., with my old friend **Steve Silberman**. We see each other every few years when one of us is on the other’s coast.” Asher tells us that Steve continues to trade options and has moved from Beverly Hills to Westwood to live closer to his son Jimmy and grandchildren.

Word came from **Peter Zegarelli DM’78**, a dentist in Sleepy Hollow, N.Y.: His son James has given him his first grandchild, Jack Charles Zegarelli. James is quite busy, working for a startup by day and doing an executive M.B.A. at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business at night. He was formerly a captain in the Marines. Daughter Clare moved from Paris to Philadelphia to do strategic planning for the French building materials company CertainTeed.

There you have it. Short and sweet. Classmates choosing to keep working in their professions, but taking time to see family and their old Columbia buddies. I promise the next column will be longer — especially if you take a moment to tell your classmates what you and your family are up to!

## 1975

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**Peter Garza-Zavaleta** traveled back to the United States and spent much of the winter holidays in Texas with his “beautiful sister” (his words!) Josefina, who attended our 35th reunion with him.

William H. McCarthy Jr. ’74 — “Mac” to us — contacted me just after the last issue of *CCT* hit the streets. While Mac is officially CC’74 due to graduating in less than four years, we claim him as ours, as he started with us in 1971. Mac and **Jim Dolan** became good friends when they were both living in the Washington, D.C., area, and Mac also got to know Fr. **CJ McCloskey**. Mac recounted stories of some of his trips to Europe, including a weekend Fourth of July getaway with **Ed Dolan** and his

family. You might recall that Mac, **Charles Lindsay**, **Jose Martinez** and I were freshmen roomies in Carman Hall.

As usual, I traveled to Wisconsin for the winter holidays to see family and friends. On my way back to the airport in Milwaukee, I visited a place I recall from my younger years — the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, aka The Domes (milwaukeehomes.org). The facility includes three large geodesic domes; one desert, one tropical and one used for thematic displays (so it was a holiday village in December). I remember them from visits with family and friends almost 50 years ago. It was a fun trip down memory lane!

And, of course, it’s almost impossible to go a day without hearing or reading about *Fire and Fury*, **Michael Wolff’s** recent book about the Trump White House. I’ve tried to contact Michael several times over the years, with no response.

Michael, if you read this, please check in. I would love to be able to share something — anything — direct from you with classmates!

## 1976

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Greetings ’76ers! I am now entering my fourth year as the fearless reporter for the Bicentennial Class. The column is now taking on the characteristics of a television series (most times a comedy). We have regular cast members and a revolving list of notable guest stars. I hope the entire CC’76 alumni roster becomes regulars, and that I have to become an editor rather than a writer.

Our regular cast member, **Dennis Goodrich**, made a day trip into the city and he, **Mike Yeager** and I got together for lunch at P.J. Clarke’s downtown location near the World Financial Center. The day was bright and sunny and the view of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island was spectacular. The day became sunnier when my daughter, Katherine Howitt ’13, joined us. She filled us in on her current work situation and then sat patiently through the details of major back surgery (Mike) and hip replacement surgery (Dennis). Both surger-



KEN HOWITT '76

Mike Yeager ’76, Katherine Howitt ’13 (daughter of Ken Howitt ’76) and Dennis Goodrich ’76 at lunch at P.J. Clarke’s downtown location.

ies went well, and only Mike was still using a cane that day; in a subsequent phone call, Mike informs me that the cane is now history.

To include Katherine in a subject that was closer to her generation, Mike and Dennis started trading freshman football stories from 1972. (Now, today’s nomenclature for students in their first year at Columbia is “first-years,” but since Columbia was single-sex in our day, your class correspondent is reverting to the term from our era.) After listening to these stories and hearing the surgery reports, I am glad that my trips to the old Baker Field had me playing trumpet in the Marching Band (freshmen year) or sitting in the press box for WKCR broadcasts. For me to have that kind of surgery, I guess I would have to had done some sort of physical activity in the last 63 years!

The epilogue for the lunch story is that Dennis later called me and told me to ask Mike to send him another business card. The business card that he got at our lunch was found half eaten on the floor of Dennis’ house. The culprit was our class’ situation comedy pet, the Goodriches’ dog Mica. Mica is quickly becoming the most mentioned feature of our column.

**Kevin McCoy** wrote in with a great story. Kevin is a reporter (in his 18th year at *USA Today*). During his career, he has covered everything from the 1993 World Trade Center bombing to the 9-11 attacks to Hurricane Katrina, plus investigations of prosecutorial misconduct and prescription drug safety. Here

is his story: “March 1991, a call from Columbia University comes into the city desk of the now-late and lamented *New York Newsday*. ‘They’re calling in an obit,’ says the clerk who took the call. ‘OK, switch it to me,’ I replied.

“CU: We’d like you to publish an obituary for one of our former professors.

“KM: Fine. What’s the professor’s name?

“CU: Donald Frame [GSAS’41].

“KM: Oh, yes, he’s the guy who did the definitive translation of Michel de Montaigne’s essays. (Dead silence for a moment.)

“CU: How do you know that?

“KM: He was my Literary Humanities I teacher at Columbia. Great teacher. Taught me a lot. Go ahead with the rest of the bio information.

“True story — not fake news,”

Kevin’s email concluded!

**Gordon Kit** let me know earlier last year (too late for the Winter 2017–18 edition) about a film festival that was on campus in March in honor of his parents. I went to a few films and the opening. It was a big success. The festival was funded by a donation to the School of the Arts and will continue for 10 years. Here is a brief description: The Dr. Saul and Dorothy Kit Film Noir Festival — the first in a 10-year series exclusively devoted to the legacy of *film noir* — returned us to that pivotal moment in film history some seven decades ago. For its inaugural year, the Kit Film Noir Festival presented eight of the films that screened in France that season and inspired the

label 'film noir.' All films were shown in 35mm. Screenings were accompanied by talks featuring film scholars James Naremore; Thomas Elsaesser, visiting professor of film in the Faculty of the Arts; and Annette Insdorf, professor of film in the Faculty of the Arts. Here's a list of the films that were shown: *The Maltese Falcon*; *Double Indemnity*; *The Lodger*; *Laura*; *Murder, My Sweet*; *The Suspect*; *Phantom Lady*; and *Scarlet Street*.

Gordon is a retired lawyer who lives in Washington, D.C., studied biochemistry as an undergraduate and still laments that during that time, the University did not yet have a robust program devoted to film — but noir had already taken hold of him. "I appreciated the cinematography and experimentalism with using the camera, but I also liked the dialogue. The repartee between men and women in a lot of these movies is fascinating," he says.

He joked that attempts to reenact the snappy, fast-talking banter did not go over well when he attended Columbia. "The problem is, you see these movies in high school and then go to college and think this is the way you talk to women, and it didn't quite translate," he says, laughing.

The festival is named after Gordon's parents. His mother, Dorothy, was an interior decorator who also wrote poetry and plays and was strongly interested in the arts. His father, Saul, was a scientist with an extraordinary 35-year career that included important discoveries in cancer, virology and vaccine research. His career was centered in Houston, where Gordon was born. In 1987, Saul, along with his son Malon (Gordon's older brother), were honored with the Distinguished Inventor of the Year Award for developing the world's first genetically engineered vaccine to be licensed by the United States government. Saul and Malon were granted numerous U.S. and international patents for their pioneering vaccine inventions, aided by their patent attorney son/brother, Gordon.

So that concludes another episode in this continuing series. Thanks to our guest stars this time — **Kevin McCoy**, **Gordon Kit** and **Mike Yeager** — and to our soon-to-be co-star regular, **Dennis Goodrich**. Most of all thanks, as always, to Mica (please note that due to *CCT* style, only classmates are listed in boldface).

This column is a good mix of stories, reports, encounters and news. I don't like being entertaining — I would much rather report — so please send some items (and pictures) in soon.

Remember, if you are coming to NYC, you can take a boat to Hoboken for lunch, or I will take a boat to NYC for lunch.

## 1977

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Dateline Texas: **Tim Kayworth** became associate dean for graduate business programs at Baylor University. He anticipates a lot of travel in this position, nationally and internationally.

As I reported earlier, I saw **Bill Dorsey** at reunion last June. Bill is a social worker resident in Santa Rosa. Well, he was until October 9. He writes, "Our house was one of thousands destroyed in the Northern California wildfires. We had lived in our home in the Coffey Park neighborhood for 23 years, and were able to escape with the clothes on our backs, the computer and a few minor items. This has been a devastating time for us. As you might imagine, we go from being grateful that we are alive, to depressed that we have lost so much, to frustrated dealing with insurance (try to inventory everything in your home, from the furniture — manufacturer and description of the fabric — down to how many screwdrivers you had and how long you owned them). We have also been the beneficiaries of many blessings, from generosity of friends, to help from the United Way and Red Cross. Sort of a turn-about for me, a social worker, being on the receiving end of donations!"

Bill reports that his wife, Lynn, and sons, Brendan (25) and Brian (22), are safe and adjusting to a "new normal" in a local rental. Bill plans to rebuild, undaunted at the thought it will take two or three years. Not the smallest among Bill's losses were his beloved drum sets, but he hopes to "get back to playing soon."

That is the kind of guy he is, and I'm sure everyone joins me in wishing him luck.

## 1978

**REUNION 2018**  
MAY 31–JUNE 2

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Development Contact  
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**Matthew Nemerson**  
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As we get ready for our 40th reunion, in just a few months, I remind you that I mentioned in my recent letter soliciting these notes (a record response by the way, thank you) that I had a minor heart thing while at the gym one morning in October. Well, I just came back from the doctor and all sorts of tests and I was told that there is no damage and I can continue my reckless lifestyle of late nights at the office and a glass of Pinot Noir alternate Saturdays. It did bring up all sorts of thoughts of what the heck has happened during the last 40 years, and many of you wrote about your own observations about life and its alternatives. Save the best for campus in late May.

We open with our classmate most likely to be played by Matt Damon in a movie, **Chris Dell**: "Forty years on I'm looking at several kinds of transitions. After living abroad for the last 21 years, I'll be moving back to the United States just in time for our reunion. My wife is going on a one-year unaccompanied tour in Pakistan, so I had to find a place to be. Although I'd have preferred either Sofia or Lisbon over TrumpTown, D.C. it is.

"Foremost of which is my entry into a 'third' career as an investment banker. After three years with Bechtel, I've become a senior adviser to Fieldstone Africa, an independent investment bank focusing on power and infrastructure projects. I'm going to continue working with them part-time as their Washington anchor. This should leave me enough time to continue my other projects, including a hoped-for book on the Portuguese Discoveries. Otherwise, to key off Matt's notes, while I feel the hot breath of age at my back, thankfully the old vessel hasn't yet sprung any major leaks. All being well, I'm looking forward to seeing classmates at reunion!"

**Ian Silverman** notes, "Also had some health concerns, which spurred me to buy a vacation retirement home for future plans. Received an honorary doctor of divinity from JTS for my rabbinic work of 25-plus years. I'm now in my 15th year with East Northport Jewish Center. Cannot understand how 40 years flew by quite so fast, but have overall enjoyed a marvelous journey. I'm looking forward to having more control over my time and more time to relax read and write."

**Jeffrey Canfield** SIPA'82 is healthy and working for the Defense Department in Kabul doing great things for all of us and jokingly writes, "I'm actively reducing my life expectancy by regrettably breathing the air in Kabul, but I'm looking forward to the opportunity to read all the books I should have read during the last 40 years and continuing to support and enjoy the arts."

The globe trotter hints that when he graduated 40 years ago he felt New York was nowhere . . .

**Larry Friedman** SIPA'81, LAW'82 writes, "I am about to mark 32 years (yikes!) with Thompson Coburn, where I am a business litigation partner. I'm married to Randi Mozenter, a clinical psychologist; it's a second marriage for both of us and we recently bought a house — as it turns out, from a Columbia grad, **Andrey Shaw** '79 (bonus Class Note: he and his wife were moving to California). My wife is the president of a St. Louis synagogue (Kol Rinah), whose members include **Mitch Halpern** and **Amy Friedman** BC'77. I'm always happy to get together when any Columbia/Barnard alums find their way to St. Louis."

My WKCR-AM fellow evening "shock jock" **Jeff Klein** has moved back to his hometown to work for the University of Buffalo, but he's keeping his apartment near our campus. He's most looking forward to something changing in Washington, D.C., soon.

Big-time public intellectual, *The Nation's* man in London **Don Guttenplan** is looking forward to "watching my kids as adults; having more time with friends; growing apples."

Don remembers NYC in the 1970s: "I think it was **Joel Charap** who had a whole riff about commuting to work via 'photon torpedo.' I loved my 20 years in New York, but increasingly the city seems dysfunc-

tional when I visit — a playground for the rich and torture chamber for the poor. Living in the United Kingdom I've really learned to appreciate the more banal forms of socialism (a national health service, publicly funded higher education)."

**Steve Bargonetti**, always somewhere on stage, is now headed to the theater in Chicago: "I will be playing guitar parts for the new musical *The Cher Show*. It's scheduled to be on Broadway this fall. I'm also recording albums for new artists, as well as an album for screen veteran Brian Stokes Mitchell."

Living the life in the midst of Silicon Valley, retired **Victor Leong** got started late: "Most of my friends are empty-nesters and some are grandparents. I still have one child in high school and another in middle school. What was I thinking?! Kidding aside, I'm in good health and enjoying life. Why California? I thought NYC would have become more like *Bladerunner* by now."

**Mark Stanford**, with whom I spent a lot of time hanging around in Livingston, has left the life of dentistry in Jersey and is "enjoying retired life in beautiful Sarasota. Teaching part-time."

Similarly, **Larry Quinn** is "Happily retired! Living the great life!" in Garden City, N.Y., his "slice of paradise!"

"New York periodontist, no longer in practice, but I'm looking forward to senior discounts," reports **Carl Caravana DM'87**.

One of the first women to graduate from the College, **Ann Candy Stein SEAS'78**, will retire, "but not until fall, so there will be more time for friends and family and no more nights and weekends on-call, but I have enjoyed my 29 years practicing as a hand and orthopedic surgeon in Rutland, Vt.," she says.

Always pithy **Ed Ferguson** sums it up for many of us: "Though I've had more than a year of practice, I still can't get the hang of having my age start with a 6!"

Definitely not retired is **Joe Schifilliti** in Atlanta: "I recently completed my M.J. (master's of jurisprudence) in healthcare law at Loyola Law School Chicago. Although I was not the beneficiary of e-learning at Columbia, it was a pleasant flash of 21st-century technology that made it possible. Gathering a transcript from CC took a bit of effort. Apparently, our records

are kept in a bin in the basement of Hartley. Anyway, it is nice entering a later chapter of life with new creds and renewed interest in medicine."

A nice note from **Kevin Vit-ting**: "I enjoyed the photo of you at the Yale Bowl [Winter 2017–18 issue]. Looking back on our years at Columbia, it's amazing how much our world has changed since Ford was President. I try to imagine college life with smartphones and iPads and internet and social media. It all went by so quickly. We spent four years as undergraduates, followed by four decades as alumni. So much of what I know of Lion lore has come from reading *CCT* all these years. And most of what I know of our classmates' triumphs and milestones has come from the pen of our Humble Scribe."

**Tom Reuter** shared a story many of us can relate to: "January marked 40 years since I started dating my wife, Grace DeSimone Reuter BC'78. We used to have dinner at Tom's Restaurant every Wednesday night before she taught a freshman biology lab session."

How many of us, looking back, can say, "If only I had invested in that gizmo or that brownstone in the '70s?" Tom notes: "In April 1978 I heard about a new technology at school. One of the Engineering students was going to Chicago to test a new radio phone for limousine occupants to make telephone calls. The radio would talk to these towers and then place the phone call via landlines. I wish I had not thought about it as just a toy for the wealthy!"

On the other hand, **Peter Samis** from the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and author of *Creating the Visitor-Centered Museum*, just got the wedding bug: "On June 25, I married Mary Curtis Ratcliff, my life partner and an artist in her own right, on our 30th anniversary (call me a casualty of the '60s–'70s divorce boom: marriage didn't hold much appeal to me for most of my adult life). Since we weren't exactly a brand-new couple, we told our friends and family we would come to them and make it a progressive party: Ceremony in Berkeley for West Coast folks; a party in New York (at pal Elena Seibert BC'77's loft) for East Coast friends and family (including my mom, Shirley Samis BC'43) and finally, a picnic in Paris at the Luxembourg Gardens for our

Europeans, followed by a honeymoon in Portugal and various other art destinations. A wonderful, soulful, memorable summer!"

Another Californian (but going the other way) **Michael Wilhite GSAPP'07** says, "A lot of memories are flashing back from those first days at Columbia and being in New York City as I write this. My high school counselors tried to convince me to stay in California for college. I never wavered in my commitment to coming to NYC. I have made some lifelong friends and created a ton of NYC memories (making my first snowman with Big Joe on Christmas). Even when I graduated and headed back to California, I had the goal of returning. I returned to NYC in 2006 to attend the Architecture School and participate in the boom of real estate opportunities in NYC. I saw a great metropolis, even in 1978 darkness. I have not been disappointed!"

**Bennett Caplan, Calvin Parker, Rob Chametzky, Tony Dellacarri and Joe Vidulich** wrote this remembrance of **Gary Becker**, who

after the sun had set, hitting balls on the tennis court that used to be next to John Jay Hall.

"After college, Gary went to the University of Chicago, where he earned an M.B.A. and met his wife, Barbara. In Michigan, he began in the auto industry, but soon turned to residential real estate, which would become his life's work. From a small financial stake and starting with a few modest houses, Gary impressively built a substantial family business, helping to house more than 100 families along the way. He and Barb had recently moved part-time to North Miami Beach, where he once again began to purchase and renovate undervalued properties, and where, nearly every day, he could be found exploring south Florida's lakes and tributaries in his kayak.

"We join Barbara, their two grown children, Alex and Nick, and Gary's brother **Jeff Becker** in their grief. Our little group is a bit smaller and much, much poorer."

An eventful three months since the last column packed in quite a

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*Not-retired Joe Schifilliti '78 recently completed his master's of jurisprudence in healthcare law at Loyola Law School Chicago.*

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died of a stroke at 61 on January 13, 2018, in Miami: "Many of you will remember the idiosyncratic insight, wondrous wit and intellectually honest irreverence Gary displayed in fashioning his own drums to beat on and march to throughout his life.

"We write together, as Gary was one of our close-knit group that gathered every year, often in western Pennsylvania. He was the one with camera in hand, documenting our reunions. As one of us put it, his different way of looking at the world made him fit perfectly in our little group. He spiced up our time together with his reports on what was going on in Michigan and regaled us with his views on the pro tennis players of the day.

"Gary was not only brilliant, but he also was a first-rate tennis player, starting at Columbia as a junior varsity player and working his way up to the varsity team as a senior. And it was Gary you would hear long

lot of personal reflection. My mom, Vivienne, passed away in mid-January. One of her last conversations was cheering that Steve Bannon had been dumped by Breitbart, so I can definitively say she didn't lose any inch of mental agility during her 86-and-a-half-year journey. She did, however, tire of her two years of chemo and the last month of always feeling weak and sick, and called a stop to it, spending one last good week with her whole family in late December.

Classy and in control to the end, her life followed the arc of many second-generation ethnic women whose own moms escaped pogroms and who themselves escaped the Depression, went to college, put husbands through professional schools, conceived of women's lib after designing and building much of what America became in the 1950s and '60s, but found themselves neither getting the credit nor enough of the fun. She designed on 7th Avenue, started her own busi-

nesses, gave the best parties, was the star of many nonprofit boards, was a master chef before it was in, yet always ate last and never took a minute for herself before giving whatever was needed to three husbands, three children and five grandchildren. As with many of our moms, after her they threw away that mold; and that's taking not a thing from my amazing Barnard wife. (By the way, despite the lovely picture in the last *CCT*, there is no Marian Nemerson, just the real Marian Chertow BC'77 Ph.D.) See you all soon!

## 1979

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**Tom Costigan** is a senior developer for Promontory Interfinancial Network in Arlington, Va. PIN is a leading provider of cash reserve deposit management for financial institutions and their clients. Tom lives in Falls Church, Va., with his wife of 36 years, Lucy Buchness. Lucy is a registered nurse and diabetes educator for Kaiser Permanente, and their son, Nolan, is a contract and procurement management specialist with the United States Geological Survey in Reston, Va. Tom also is a soccer referee.

**Joe Ferullo** writes, "My updates are not about me, but my family: My wife, Sylvia, left her longtime job as a local Los Angeles news anchor two years ago to pursue a master's in public health at Cal State Northridge. She finished her studies in early December, and the next day got a job offer. In mid-January she began work as a public health researcher at UCLA, focusing on health issues among diverse communities in Southern California. A big change from news anchor! My oldest daughter, Daniella, graduated from NYU in 2016 and is an assistant in programming and strategy at FX Networks — she's going to have a front-row seat to the astounding Disney takeover of 20th Century Fox. My youngest, Isabella, is in her freshman year at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C. I've been able to visit her a couple times during business trips back to New York (thank you, Amtrak Acela). I'm still at CBS (11 years now), running programming

for the syndicated TV division. An interesting time in the media world — no telling what 2018 will deliver."

**Mark Fleischmann** shares that his book, *Practical Home Theater: A Guide to Video and Audio Systems*, published last year, has been updated, "as I promised my readers, making it unique in its subject area. The current edition is the 17th. I am also a staff writer for *Sound & Vision* magazine. In the heyday of my freelance career, the '80s and '90s, I wrote for *Rolling Stone*, *Details*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Newsday* and *The Village Voice*, among others. The urban landscape of Morningside Heights always made sense to me and I never strayed far from it. I have lived on the Upper West Side since graduation."

**Robert C. Klapper:** Here's my Columbia thought for this issue. As we all begin our seventh decade (that's 60 years old, for those of you without a calculator), we can reminisce about what we truly did learn during our four years of captivity on Morningside Heights. Like most things in life, men make plans and God laughs.

Of the many courses that I took to satisfy my major, I realized quickly that my GPA needed to be as high as possible to get into medical school. It was then that I learned from the Course Guide and classmates that you needed an occasional "gut" class in this pre-med odyssey. This led me to take the famous *Don Quixote* class with Professor Karl-Ludwig Selig. I was told ahead of time that you just needed to write a paper comparing the journey of Don Quixote to Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn and their passage down the Mississippi River. EVERYONE on the crew team gets an A from him.

But like most things in life, now that I'm 60, what I appreciate most are the surprises and the unexpected lessons, and although it's been 40 years, not a day goes by that I don't think of some aspect of that book written by Cervantes 500 years ago. It was Professor Selig who pointed out to us the brilliance of Cervantes in having the fool, Sancho Panza, being the character who actually made the most sense.

The reason I bring this up is because in a recent meeting of the minds at my hospital, I could not stop thinking of the words of wisdom uttered to me by the valet parking guy in my office building who said, "Remember, Dr. Klapper, in every deal

there's always a sucker. If you look around the room and you don't see who the sucker in the deal is, then, Dr. Klapper, the sucker is YOU!"

It's as though I have my own personal Sancho Panza to guide me. I never would have taken this course but for the mistaken assumption that it was just for a grade and learning something was irrelevant.

Who knew all these years later that it would turn out to be the most powerful course that I would take at Columbia? God bless you, Professor Selig. R.I.P.

Let me know what your game-changer course was. Roar, Lion, Roar!

## 1980

**Michael C. Brown**  
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For many of us, this year will mark our 60th birthdays. So with that said, in the year of the birth of legends and amazing people, I wish you all a happy 60th birthday!

I received a nice note from **Chris Mesnoor SIPA'86:** Chris has lived uninterruptedly in Paris since 1989. He has developed a sophisticated legal practice of advising American companies investing in France and in the EU more generally. While admitted to the bars of Paris and New York, he nonetheless practices primarily French law, which he says his law school experience at Yale did not prepare him for in any shape or form. Chris is a partner with the British firm Fieldfisher. In his spare time, he is an active commentator for the French media (TV, print and internet) about subjects involving the United States and its legal and political systems. He spent Election Night 2016 going from TV station to TV station, analyzing the results as they unfolded across the country; more recently, Chris has been asked to compare the ways in which issues of sexual harassment are dealt with in the American and French workplaces.

**Jonathan A. Dachs**, a partner in the Mineola, N.Y., law firm Shayne, Dachs, Sauer & Dachs, was presented on January 24 with the John E. Leach Memorial Award, "in recognition of outstanding service and distinguished contributions to the legal profession," by the New York State Bar Association's

Torts, Insurance and Compensation Section at the NYSBA annual meeting in New York City.

Jonathan, a regular featured columnist for the *New York Law Journal* ("Insurance Law") since 1987, recently published a treatise, "New York Uninsured and Underinsured Motorist Law & Practice."

Enjoy your summer and keep those notes coming.

## 1981

**Kevin Fay**  
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On June 16, Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-N.Y.) nominated Hon. **Paul Feinman** to serve on the New York State Court of Appeals, the state's highest court. On June 21, the New York State Senate unanimously confirmed Paul's appointment, and he took the oath of office that day (the ceremonial investiture was held on October 18) at the Court of Appeals Hall in Albany. Among those in attendance were friends and former colleagues from the appellate court: Hon. Rolando T. Acosta '79, LAW'82; Hon. Rosalyn H. Richter BC'76; and Hon. Barbara R. Kapnick BC'75. Paul and Rolando have known each other since the 6th floor of John Jay — and both have come a long, long way since then!

In other political news, **Randal Quarles** was sworn in as vice chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on October 13.

My inbox was rather quiet this past quarter, so here's a challenge to the Class of 1981. I'd like to hear from classmates who are retired, semi-retired or thinking seriously about retirement, and what their plans are (or will be) in retirement. Shoot me an email at kfay0516@gmail.com!

## 1982

**Andrew Weisman**  
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Gentlemen, I can't tell you how pleased I am by the overwhelming response this quarter! Took me about

three hours to put together the mailing list for our class; my Excel skill-set is far too anachronistic to get the Excel mail-merge function to operate properly. Turns out it was well worth the effort, and I now consider myself a “stable genius”!

First to hit reply on the email blast was the highly accomplished good doctor **Thomas Schwann** PS’86. He writes, “I have adopted Ohio as my home since 1994 and officially have become a Buckeye fan and a Buckeye dad.

“I am a busy cardiac surgeon and am the chief of cardiac surgery at the University of Toledo and the vice chair of the Department of Surgery. I hold an endowed professorship in cardiovascular surgery and am the associate dean for graduate medical education as well as the designated institutional official.

“My beautiful wife of 31 years is still putting up with my peculiarities and we have three wonderful children: Lexie (24), Olivia (21) and James (17). Only one is following us into medicine.

“My favorite saying is attributed to Winston Churchill: ‘Life can either be accepted or changed. If it is not accepted, it must be changed. If it cannot be changed, then it must be accepted.’”

Thanks for checking in, Tom! Profound thought by Sir Winston; however, my evil, George Carlin-esque twin rejoins that you’re screwed if you can’t accept change . . .

Second to hit reply was my good friend **Wally Wentink**. Wally writes: “I’m enjoying being down here (in Florida), noting that if I spend more than six weeks here in the winter, I’d be getting so lax at basic things I take for granted, like working. I would no longer consider myself a productive member of the general populace. (Which has always been up for debate.)”

Wally, it’s not up for debate; I think we all appreciate the fine work you’ve been doing for the Central Park Conservancy!

Third to hit reply was “double threat” (degrees from both the College and Engineering) **Greg Morea** SEAS’83. Greg has spent the last 35 years at General Dynamics Electric Boat helping keep the nation safe! Greg writes: “Last year was the year of the Great American Eclipse, so all my wife, Barbara, and I needed to do was pick a location to view it, as

it was ‘viewable’ from Lincoln Beach, Ore., to Charleston, S.C. We made a wonderful driving trip out of it, visiting several Revolutionary War battlefields in both North Carolina and South Carolina, as well as our old home state of New Jersey. We viewed the eclipse from Columbia, S.C.”

“Our son, Joseph has been married to Alicia for three years, and recently there was an addition to their family. No, we’re not grandparents — at least, not exactly. The addition is a very hyperactive, adorable rescue dog named Bunk, who appears to be part yellow Lab, part hound and mostly a ton of energy.

“Rebecca, our daughter, has two snakes: Urdnot Wrex, Battlemaster and Urdnot Grunt. Anyone know Mass Effect? To round out the menagerie, Rebecca still has her wonderful rescue doggie, Bryn (short for Brynhild, a Viking shield maiden/Valkyrie, an appropriate name for the dog of a young woman who wishes she were a Viking.)”

In fourth place is the brilliant **Dr. Lou Cornacchia**. Lou writes: “Recently finished 20 years at Brookdale Hospital, where I developed a spine program and the first Think First Head Injury educational program for elementary and high school students (the education program was provided to more than 30 classes in the Brooklyn area and is the first Think First program in New York City).

“I was granted a patent for the first practical hand switch for bipolar forceps electrocautery and recently signed with a company to commercialize this. I am now busy developing a new device to treat low back pain.

“Also, I recently finished a book, *Lumbar Spine: MTBF (Mean Time Between Failure)*, which addresses causes of lumbar spine degeneration. It is to be published this summer or early next fall.”

Lou, your body of research is really a wonderful contribution! Most of us are especially happy because we have the old kind of hand switch for bipolar forceps electrocautery!

In the fifth slot is the globe-trotting **Christopher Wells**. Christopher has been living in São Paulo, Brazil, since 1986. He married Fátima, a Brazilian journalist, and unexpectedly developed a career in the environmental field (unexpectedly, because he did poli sci at the College, an M.B.A. at NYU, has

never taken a class in chemistry and “don’t know much biology,” as the ‘50s song goes). For 16 years, he’s been working at Santander, a Spanish-owned bank, as the environmental and social risk manager for the bank’s loan operations in Brazil. This means he and his team do checks to ensure that the bank isn’t lending to clients who are tearing down the Amazon illegally, employing slave labor, running their factory without an environmental permit or building apartments on contaminated land, among other things. Santander wants to make sure it does things right.

This is a field that is growing among banks in developing countries, where environmental authorities aren’t as strong as the EPA is (or used to be). Christopher turned down the opportunity to shake hands with President Barack Obama ’83 a few months ago at an event that took place next to the Santander building in São Paulo (as much as he admires Obama, he says he wasn’t up to spending hundreds of dollars to get into the jam-packed auditorium). Fátima and Chris have one son, Anthony, who is the news anchor at the NBC channel in Yuma, KYMA.

What a great way to combine economic interests and social responsibility!

In sixth position is accomplished Wall Street executive **Mark Berti**. Mark writes, “After 35 blessed years on Wall Street, executing for clients across global markets, and most recently, handling United States corporate buybacks, I decided to simplify my life and retire.”

Congratulations, Mark!

In the seventh spot is the good lawyer **Larry Braverman** LAW’86. Larry is senior director, legal services, mergers and acquisitions integration at Cisco Systems. He writes: “I recently had the privilege of entertaining **Jim Shehan** during his recent business trip to San Francisco at Smugglers’ Cove — a popular, kitschy bar boasting pirate-themed decor, exotic cocktails and more than 200 types of rum. He took to it like a fish to water. Rumors are that **Scott Miller** will also be haunting Northern California frequently in connection with his new job as head of a trade association in the energy/electricity industry, and I look forward to re-connecting. I enjoy life in the Bay Area and my work on mergers and acquisitions at Cisco

Systems. Facebook (yes, I know it’s for old people) enables me to keep in touch with **Gil Bauer** BUS’87 and **Jim Uebbing** SOA’96.”

Larry, thanks for checking in!

In the eighth spot is notable legal expert **Nobu Ishizuka**: “After 18 years as a partner at Skadden (Tokyo, Hong Kong and New York), I’ve left the day-to-day practice of law and have been appointed as executive director of the Center for Japanese Legal Studies at the Law School. Looking forward to getting back to Morningside Heights and new challenges ahead.”

Congratulations, Nobu!

In the ninth position is **Scott Simpson** SOA’85. Scott’s been up to some fascinating stuff; he spent three weeks cruising around in the high Arctic aboard the *Svalbard*, thanks to the prestigious Arctic Circle program, as its resident screenwriter!

Thanks for checking in, Scott!

Tenth overall is the esteemed **Rick Steinberg**. Rick is of counsel to the law firm Price Meese, Shulman & D’Arminio in Woodcliff Lake, N.J., where he practices bankruptcy law, transportation and maritime law, and commercial litigation. Rick is the chairman of the Committee on Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights at the Transportation Lawyers Association and is a proctor in admiralty of the Maritime Law Association of the United States. He is admitted to the New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania bars.

Thanks for checking in!

In the 11th spot is financial oracle **Ben Pace**, writing in for first time in 35 years! Ben shares: “After 10 years as CIO for Deutsche Bank Private Wealth Management, I joined a number of my former colleagues in the same role at HPM Partners. Moving away from the large global bank to a registered investment adviser has been a sometimes-scary, yet exhilarating, experience. Being a partner with equity interest in an entity where we have a true bottom line impact has elicited a change in perspective and has reenergized me in the second half of my career.

“I also broke down this past summer and joined the Columbia Club, which is housed at the Penn Club. It’s a shame that alumni indifference caused our clubhouse to close years ago, but I have been soaking in the experience at the Penn Club. Clients

and prospects have enjoyed the food and ambience. It has also been a great venue for family, especially before a show. I plan to make greater use of the lectures both clubs arrange.”

Great idea to join the Columbia Club! It's incredibly useful for out-of-towners like me to have a nice office/home away from home.

Ben, you're not off the hook for another 35 years!

Number 12 was Dr. **Deepak Awasthi**. Deepak writes: “My world travels continue. In 2017 I achieved another one of my travel goals: ‘Visit All of Europe.’ In May 2017, Belarus completed my list and it was an adventure when I was stopped by customs after they felt that my anti-diarrhea medication was a controlled substance (even though it was in a bottle with my name and a prescriber's name), so I had to call my doctor colleague in the United States (where it was 3 a.m.) to have him send an image of a prescription with my name. Thankfully he was awake!”

Well, in Customs' defense, that medicine is designed to provide some measure of control.

Congratulations on knocking that continent off the list!

Also checking in just to say hello this period were legal beagle **Mark Morris** from Salt Lake City, an attorney with the firm of Snell & Wilmer, and loyal Columbian Dr. **Sal Volpe**.

Thanks, guys!

Last, but (as you'll discover) certainly not least, the recently-awarded-a-John-Jay-Award **Ron Simons** BUS'89! What fantastic news! Ron shared the following: “I'm still acting and producing (I won my fourth Tony award last season for producing *Fitney!*). I'm still helming SimonSays Entertainment. I have two kids in college and two in high school, and the big news is that I was honored with a John Jay Award in March! If you have Netflix you can see my first recurring role in *The Defenders*.”

I was planning to attend the John Jay Awards Dinner again this year. Have to! Take that, Class of '83: You have the President, but we've got four Tony Awards!

I must say I'm overwhelmed by the generosity of all our contributors. We have a great class; let's keep it going! Please note we have a new email address: columbiacollege82@gmail.com. Send your news there!

## 1983

### REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact  
ccaa-events@columbia.edu

Development Contact  
ccfund@columbia.edu

**Roy Pomerantz**  
**Babyking/Petking**  
**182-20 Liberty Ave.**  
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The Columbia College Alumni Association's January Board of Directors meeting was held at the impressive Lenfest Center for the Arts on West 129th Street. It is the second building to open on the University's Manhattanville campus. According to Columbia's website, “The Lenfest Center for the Arts will serve as a major focal point for engagement in the rich cultural life of Columbia, Harlem and New York City at large.”

My sons, David and Ricky, and I attended Columbia basketball's home win against Cornell, 88–62, and the win against Sarah Lawrence. I was delighted to see Brian Krisberg '81 and meet his son, who will attend Columbia in the fall. I also spent time with Jim Weinstein '84, Michael Schmidtberger '82, Ken Howitt '76 and basketball great and Ivy League Digital Network commentator Isaac Cohen '16.

**David Hershey-Webb:** “CC'83 friends of **Mark Robin**, who died in December of ALS, would like to have a ‘poetry slam’ in honor of Mark. We are also looking into funding a scholarship.”

The following excerpt is from Mark's obituary in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*: “Mark Robin arrived in Big Sky, Mont., in 1993 with his wife Jackie, their dog Niner, a cat and baby Andrew. He was a native New Yorker who had never done a mountain sport in his life, who rocked nipple rings and loved his black leather pants. He was a poet and a Mets fan; a man who would spend the next three decades raising his family, building a business which became an anchor of community in the growing ski town, and pursuing his many and varied passions. Mark didn't know how to be fake or false. He had only one way of being — and that was real. He wore his emotions on his

sleeve: He teared up at the sight of an old friend, a touching story, and every graduation and wedding. [...]

“Mark handled his illness with the same grace, kindness, generosity and sense of humor with which he had lived his life. He brought people together. He attended football games, graduations, weddings and community events even when he had lost the ability to walk, move and talk, the community he had created followed him, always delighted by his beautiful and warm smile, which said everything. He was compelled to write, and re-started his blog, markmooseinbigsky.blogspot.com as a way of telling the very honest story of his struggle with ALS. In the spring the family hosted a community wide event, Soul Shine, which raised over \$20,000 for causes supporting living a full life with ALS as well as those working on a cure. [...]

“He graduated from Columbia University in 1983 with a degree in economics and a minor in creative writing. William Carlos Williams was his favorite poet because, like Mark, he was the kind of poet who was about observing, Williams lived the life of a doctor but was a poet. Mark's poems also chronicled everyday life; Mark didn't like flowery or overly poetic language. He met his life partner, Jackie Roberts, in New York City in 1986, the year the Mets won the World Series. Their first date lasted three days; they married in 1990 at his family's home in upstate New York. Mark was fortunate to be attended in his illness by his incredibly devoted, organized and tireless wife Jackie, who made sure his life was full even as his disease took everything but his brilliant mind. His sons Andrew, Micah and Howie were by his side throughout his illness, coming home from college and jobs to care for him. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to be made in Mark's name to any non-profit organization of Big Sky, Team Gleason and Temple Beth Shalom of Bozeman.”

At the reunion dinner on Saturday, June 2, we plan to have a memorial service to honor deceased classmates. We also plan to read some of Mark's poems. Classmates being honored are **Daniel Barr**, **Charles P. Barratt-Brown**, **Timothy G. Collier**, **Henry Davison Jr.**, **Jonathan Asher Goldman**, **Stephen Thomas Heyman**, **Jordan R. Kassof**, **Christian Kirby**,

**Andrew Edward E. Krapf**, **Robert Eric Kreuter**, **James Lupo**, **Jose Luis Meraz**, **Paul Charles Metz**, **Kevin Jay Moenter**, **Thomas Peter Norton**, **Michael Francis O'Grady**, **John David Potter**, **James William Privett**, **Lawrence A. Richette II**, **Mark Reid Robin**, **Garry Saget**, **Richard Dong-Woo Shin**, **Peter Dunsmore Stevens**, **Mark E. Wasik**, **Joseph Thomas Widowfield** and **James Francis Willey**.

**Steven Greenfield:** “Another year of testing my partner Melissa's patience on New Year's Eve, as I struggle to wrap things up, a year behind schedule. But this year, for the first time in three years, I managed to review all the pop/rock records I had accumulated for 2016, so that is something of an accomplishment, even if I am still forgoing all the jazz, classical and others. My thanks once again to **Steve Holtje** and to **Luis Rueda** for their suggestions about what was worth paying attention to in 2016, and to Melissa for her unflinching support throughout the time it took to get this survey finished. Bat for Lashes won top honors this year by an eyelash over Radiohead for *The Bride*, a brave and richly cathartic concept album from Britain's Natasha Khan. My list of the top 10 (of the pops) for the year follows: 1. Bat for Lashes, *The Bride*; 2. Radiohead, *A Moon Shaped Pool*; 3. Matmos, *Ultimate Care II*; 4. Buck Curran, *Immortal Light*; 5. Tim Hecker, *Love Streams*; 6. Animal Collective, *Painting With*; 7. Sleigh Bells, *Jessica Rabbit*; 8. SPC ECO, *Anomalies*; 9. The Dandy Warhols, *Distortland*; 10. Opeth, *Sorceress*.”

**Wayne Allyn Root** shared this press release: “USA Radio Network announces today the dramatic growth of Wayne Allyn Root's national radio show. Hosted by Wayne Allyn Root, the fiery, dynamic, high-energy, conservative warrior, capitalist evangelist and nonstop champion and defender of Donald Trump. Root is a national media personality, best-selling conservative author and newspaper columnist, TV host and producer, and former 2008 Libertarian VP nominee. Root's daily radio show, *WAR Now: The Wayne Allyn Root Show*, airs from 6–9 P.M. EST/3–6 P.M. PST around the country. *WAR Now* has added, or is the process of adding stations in Dallas, Minneapolis and Chicago. Root is also now



heard on WJFF FM in Connecticut and Long Island, N.Y., and multiple stations around San Antonio, Texas. The 8 P.M. EST hour of *WAR Now* is broadcast as a national television show by Newsmax TV. With the addition of 15 million homes on Dish TV, *WAR Now* now reaches about 50 million U.S. households on Newsmax TV — including distribution by DirecTV, Dish TV and many cable carriers, such as Verizon's Fios and AT&T U-verse.

"Root's dramatic radio rise began in early 2016 with the debut of his one-hour local radio show on KBET in Las Vegas. Root quickly moved to 3–6 P.M. afternoon drive time."

**Don Steinberg:** "I thought you or some of our classmates might get a kick out of a *New Yorker* story I did about one of our freshman Humanities teachers and Carrie Fisher."

An excerpt: "In 1977, Mark Notturmo, a second-year graduate student in philosophy at Columbia, got a call from his department head. A young actress living on the Upper West Side had contacted the school, seeking a private philosophy coach. It was Carrie Fisher, and just weeks before *Star Wars* premiered. Through that year, as Fisher became a superstar, Notturmo became her personal philosopher. He made house calls, for 25 dollars a session, via a side door of the El Dorado building on Central Park West, where Fisher had an apartment. [...]"

"Notturmo flaunted his star pupil just a little. 'My friend Ted Talbot in the philosophy department was a huge *Star Wars* fan,' he recalled. 'Carrie and I went to his apartment on 89th Street, and when he came to the door, Carrie said, 'Help me, Obi-Wan Kenobi, you're my only hope.' The philosophy sessions didn't last beyond 1977. Notturmo went on to write his Ph.D. dissertation: 'Objectivity, Rationality and the Third Realm: Justification and the Grounds of Psychologism.' Fisher became involved with the songwriter Paul Simon. Some might consider Simon, by virtue of his thoughtful lyrics, to be a sort of modern philosopher. I do think,' Notturmo mused, 'maybe that was more the sort of thing Carrie had in mind.'"

**Kevin Chapman:** "For the next year I will chair the Employment & Labor Law Committee of the Association of Corporate Counsel. The committee has about 7,000 members

around the globe, all of whom are in-house counsel. My induction took place at the ACC's Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. I rocked the Columbia suspenders, necktie and cufflinks delivering my address to the committee's business meeting."

**Jon Ross:** "Thanks to your support, MicroAid was able to start the new year with another home repair in Bhaktapur, Nepal. During the 2015 earthquake, the Nakarmi family's roof caved in and some walls collapsed, making the entire house unsafe — 650,000 homes were destroyed or severely damaged in the earthquake. And, even three years later, not very many have been rebuilt or repaired, and most of the aid has been centered in the mountain villages. MicroAid is focusing on families in the ancient city of Bhaktapur in the urban Kathmandu Valley. With our in-country project manager, Nabina Duwal, this will be the fourth family that MicroAid has helped by building safe, comfortable and permanent housing — our strategy to help them return to self-sufficiency. MicroAid is also prepping projects for flood survivors in Paraguay and hurricane survivors in the Caribbean. We really are making a life-changing difference for families wiped out by disasters — directly, efficiently and completely."

I look forward to seeing you at reunion, Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2.

## 1984

**Dennis Klainberg**  
**Berkley Cargo Worldwide**  
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**dennis@berkley.com**

An announcement from **Evan Nisonson:** "My daughter, Emma Nisonson '22, will be a freshman at the College this fall. She has an early focus on political science/international affairs."

Hey now... (not Hank but) **Evan Kingsley:** "My daughter Lizzy is having a junior year at Yale that makes me remember mine at Columbia wistfully: A year when you hit your academic groove; you're voraciously interested in anything and everything that comes your way; and have so many potent ideas in your head that you make wondrous connections across disciplines and

across eras that begin to suggest you've really gotten something out of your amazing liberal arts education. May she remember it as fondly as I do. Meanwhile, older daughter Ava BC'17 landed her dream job at Audi in United States corporate strategy. She's a car girl and she got that from me. Wife Dara BC'83 still loves running an honors program at Hunter College and teaching eager freshmen how to love the arts in NYC. My wife, Plan A Advisors, does management consulting for nonprofits (strategic planning, mergers, governance, campaigns) including some marquee NYC clients, and that keeps me making connections across disciplines of a different sort. Loving it still."

With a heavy heart, I report the death of **Anthony Kaye** GSAS'99. In the words of his beloved wife, Melissa, "Tony died May 14, 2017,

gave birth to my first grandchild, a beautiful girl named Libi Dror. Merav accomplished this feat in the middle of her first year in medical school at Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Beer Sheva. I am not prejudiced in the least, but I believe Libi is the most wonderful grandchild that ever was. Also I am thrilled that my son, Nadiv, married the love of his life, Vicky, in a ceremony seven days prior to the Pessach festival. My wife, Laurie, and I celebrated 30 years of marriage last year and we have much to be thankful for!"

Xie, xie, **David Branner:** "It is three years since my last letter. I'm in tech, my second career — currently at a quant hedge fund. Since 2008, when I abandoned tenure at the University of Maryland, I've followed the Charles Ives Model for creative work: Earn a decent living in Corporatonia so

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*Dr. Deepak Awasthi '82 achieved one of his travel goals — "Visit All of Europe" — with his May 2017 trip to Belarus.*

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after a yearlong battle with cancer. We (with our two daughters, now age 7 and 16) came down to Chapel Hill from State College, Pa. — where Tony was a history professor at Penn State — for a fellowship at the National Humanities Center in 2015/16 to work on his book about Nat Turner. Following the fellowship he got a job as the VP of scholarly programs at the center. He was diagnosed in 2016 shortly after he took that job and passed away a year later."

Anthony earned a Ph.D. from Columbia in 1999 and was a member of the history department at Penn State 2002–16. An expert in the fields of African-American and Civil War history, he published widely on Atlantic slavery, the African diaspora and emancipation, and was associate editor of *The Journal of the Civil War Era*. When it appeared in 2007, his book *Joining Places: Slave Neighborhoods in the Old South* was celebrated as a pioneering and influential study of the social geography of slavery that challenged conventional ideas about community and social relationships among enslaved people.

**Jonathan Duitch** kvells: "Since last reporting, my daughter, Merav,

you don't have to compromise your craft. It's harder than I'd hoped, but I've now found viable parameters. (The massive psychological collapse Ives himself suffered in mid-life must have been a result of the model's stresses, but never mind.) In 2015 I presented on Classical Chinese grammar at the Strange Loop computer programming conference, and in 2017 I read two other papers at academic conferences. Computer science, which I took up after leaving the academy, has much influenced my approach to Chinese grammar — I wouldn't have learned all this if I'd stayed in academia. I'm also actively translating Classical Chinese texts — good feed for grammar studies. And I am nearing the end of a collaborative project to document the vast vocabulary connected with 'face' (as in 'to save face') in Mandarin.

"For the paycheck I do mostly technical writing — documenting code for use by company quants, editing technical papers for publication and cleaning up prose in open-source projects. It's a good choice for the corporate half of the Ives model; less draining than coding, it leaves me the energy for creative pursuits.

“My wife has taken up Chinese brush-calligraphy, four decades after evading it as a teenager in Taiwan, so that for the first time in our life together we share a substantial intellectual interest — I have academic expertise on the Chinese script, and she is facing the same topics through the art form. This marriage remains the happiest part of my life, and my scholarly work is a close second to it. My mother is in decline but lives independently in the apartment next to ours. She reads most of *The New York Times* every day.”

**Howie Snyder**, the Coca-Cola Kid, returns! “We will relocate to the United States after 25 years abroad. I have two boys, Noah (2 and a half), and Alisha (4). I have been working for Coca-Cola in China for 10 years, but will head back to the States and look at opportunities in bilingual education.”

Ladies and gents, my Carman suitemate **Ronald Thompson**: “I can’t believe I’ll be an empty-nester this year. I couldn’t get my son, Josh, to go for Columbia — if only I could have arranged for him to talk with Coach Brett Borette! He’s decided to take his fastball to Seattle University next year, where he will pitch and study digital design. At least he will get a Carman-like experience in his first year, except the freshman dorms there have shared bathrooms for the floor. I’m excited, though. I still remember showing up that first day, meeting room-mates, having one of them kicked out (from Dennis: leading to me getting that spot after four months commuting!), then having the odd couple next door (from Dennis: that was me, and a football player named John Ricisak, from Florida, who decided to transfer after that year)! Whatever happened to John?”

**David Godfried** and his wife, Diana, moved back into NYC three years ago. David attended a Café Columbia event in SoHo on January 25, “How Trump, Le Pen and Brexit Happened.” Reminiscent of his undergraduate years he showed up a bit late, with only 10 minutes left in the lecture. The only remaining seat was right next to Roger Lehecka ’67, GSAS’74 (our illustrious dean of students). This brought back memories of freshman year when, because of crew practice, David had missed one too many lab sections in his science requirement, and was sum-

moned to Dean Lehecka’s office to discuss his subpar attendance.

David and Diana’s son, Robert ’18, is a sociology major, looking forward to graduating this May. He is currently taking Dean Lehecka’s seminar class, “Equity in Higher Education.” David and Diana’s daughter, Katharine, is a high school senior and has decided to follow in her mother’s undergraduate footsteps and will attend Princeton in the fall. The Godfrieds have spent many a vacation visiting National Parks, and spent a week during the New Year’s break in Yellowstone. David and Diana celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary last summer hiking in Shenandoah National Park.

David is a pediatric orthopedist at NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital, and also is an associate professor and director of the Center for Children. He started in the NYU Stern School of Business executive M.B.A. program in January, and he is determined to improve on his undergraduate attendance record.

From a press release about **William D. Lubell**, who “has been actively advancing the fields of medicinal chemistry and peptide science through the development of seminal methods to create and employ peptide and peptidomimetic prototypes that target and modulate biologically relevant receptors for drug discovery. Recipient of a B.A. from Columbia College in 1984 and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1989, where he studied under the supervision of Henry Rapoport, Lubell was a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Fellow from 1990–1991 in the laboratory of Ryoji Noyori at Nagoya University, Japan, before joining the Department of Chemistry at the Université de Montréal in 1991. Co-author of more than 250 scientific publications, associate editor of *Organic Letters* since 2005, editorial board member of journals in peptide science and drug design, and innovator of intellectual property to launch the Canadian startup companies Mperia Therapeutics and Rytvel Biotech, his honors include the Boehringer Ingelheim Young Investigator Award, the DuPont Canada Educational Aid Grant, the Danish National Bank Award, the Merck Therapeutic Research Award and in 2013 the Bernard Belleau Award for achievements in

medicinal chemistry. Originator of Molecules of Life, Lubell explores experiential education techniques to teach elementary school students about molecules.”

Kudos and good luck on the nuptials of **Neel Lane** and his bride, Jennifer. In attendance were **El Gray** and **Mike Goldman**.

## 1985

**Jon White**  
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Well, you all came through like I knew you would — thank you for heeding my requests and sending your updates. Please continue to keep all of us informed.

**Barry Ableman** recently heard from **David Ordan**, who appeared on local Milwaukee news speaking about “Ike Bites,” a doggy treat made by people with disabilities. Go online to read more: [bit.ly/2EOfEsa](http://bit.ly/2EOfEsa). Dave is the development director of the Eisenhower Center, a nonprofit that provides services to approximately 100 people with disabilities. They have been hired by G.O.A.T. Pet Products to be the exclusive producer of pet treats. G.O.A.T. Pet Products landed a deal on Shark Tank in January 2018. Dave lives in Milwaukee with his wife and six children.

Dr. **Samuel Denmeade** PS’89, a professor of oncology and director of the genitourinary oncology program at Johns Hopkins, received a \$5 million Transformative Impact Grant from the Department of Defense Prostate Cancer Research Program to evaluate the use of high-dose testosterone as therapy for advanced prostate cancer.

**Amr Aly** SEAS’85, a partner at Mayer Brown, last year represented Rocco B. Commisso SEAS’71, BUS’75 in acquiring a majority ownership interest in the iconic New York Cosmos professional soccer club. The club was facing near-certain extinction when Commisso stepped in and saved it. The representation was especially gratifying for Amr because he played for the Cosmos in 1985, right after he graduated from Columbia. On a related note, Amr was recently inducted into the Columbia University Athletics Hall of Fame for the second time, this time

as an individual. He was previously inducted with the ’83 men’s soccer team, which won the Ivy League title that year and was undefeated going into the NCAA Division 1 Final, where the team lost in triple overtime to soccer powerhouse Indiana.

After graduation **Jim Davidson** headed to Houston for an M.B.A. and lived there for 20 years. He writes, “In 2005, my elderly parents needed help, and I returned to my hometown to live near them and be of service. My dad passed in 2010 and my mom in 2014. Last year I moved to Dayton, Ohio, where I live near my sister, niece and nephew. I recently was asked to take the role of CTO for a new company, Travellers Cash, which is providing transaction processing services to the travel and resort industry. Since 1998 I have gained considerable expertise with digital currencies. I am now adviser to several cryptocurrency projects and editor of a number of white papers on the topic. In my spare time I enjoy reading, walking and helping the poor.”

**Philip Ivory** lives in Tucson and teaches creative writing at Writers Studio. His fiction has appeared in *Rosette Maleficarum*, *Edify Fiction*, *The Aironaut*, *Literally Stories*, *Devolution Z*, *Bewildering Stories* and elsewhere. In 2017, he was nominated for the Pushcart Prize. He blogs about writing at [writeyourselfsane.com](http://writeyourselfsane.com).

Here’s an update from **Greg Jarrin**: “Hello to the Class of 1985. Thirty-three years. I cannot believe it. We have been in Winslow, Ariz., for 12 years now. It is a railroad town that grew because it is on the Little Colorado River. The water from the river was used for the steam engines in the late 1890s. Winslow is best known for its mention in the Eagles song ‘Take It Easy.’ We are 15 miles south of the Navajo Reservation and 52 miles east of Flagstaff.

“My wife, Vanessa, and I both work at the Winslow Indian Health Care Center. She is a commissioned corps officer and a nurse practitioner. I recently completed my 23rd year of being a general surgeon, 19 of which have been spent caring for the Navajo and Hopi people. We have three children in college and the youngest, Chloe, is a sophomore at Winslow H.S. The oldest, Julian, is at Arizona State, studying theater. Luke, the next oldest, is at Humboldt State in Arcata, Calif., becoming a wildlife

conservationist. Felicia is a freshman at Santa Clara, enjoying being away from home and exploring political science and journalism as possible career choices.

“Last fall, after the multiple summer hurricanes, Vanessa was deployed to work in Georgia. She was assigned the job of triaging patients being flown in from the Virgin Islands to an Air Force base in Atlanta. Many ill people needed a higher level of care than what could be provided in the Caribbean after the storms. She worked tirelessly for two weeks straight.

“I was in Haiti at this time working at the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) in Deschapelles, Haiti. Vanessa and I were supposed to go to Haiti together, but her services were needed elsewhere. I worked with three Haitian general surgeons. I have been there prior as short-term relief for the HAS full-time surgeons. This time, no one took any time off, but it was great to work with the two younger surgeons whom I had not met previously. I performed 28 surgeries and gave a lecture/demonstration on the use of ultrasound for trauma. I enjoyed my time in Deschapelles and hope to return in October.

“We feel grateful to have four healthy children pursuing their dreams while helping to provide quality medical care for our Native American patients. I cannot believe that we are already turning the page and thinking about where we will be retiring. Time does fly. Just like pigs.”

**Michael Cho** writes, “Greetings from the Resistance Base Camp (aka Berkeley, Calif.). I hope everyone’s 55th b-day celebrations are going well. By way of an update, I am back on instant noodles and Hot Pockets as I try to build another startup while I still have some good brain cells left. Apparently, all the cool kids are working on artificial intelligence so I have jumped into the mosh pit and am building an AI insurance agent for the Medicare industry. While I don’t know how this will turn out, I am feeling feisty transferring my accumulated health care knowledge into IBM’s Watson and Alexa. I am hoping that the ChoBot will have a better sense of humor than I.

“Changing topics, I urge all ’85ers to help interview Columbia College and Columbia Engineering applicants. We have another record

number of applicants, and I think you will really enjoy meeting these amazing people and realize how lucky we were to get into Columbia when we did!” [Editor’s note: Learn more: [college.columbia.edu/alumni/volunteer/alumni-interviewing](http://college.columbia.edu/alumni/volunteer/alumni-interviewing).]

Finally, **John Phelan** and I caught up for dinner up in Harlem. For those who have not been back to the neighborhood since graduation, you would not believe the level of gentrification that has occurred. John is enrolled in the Mailman School of Public Health.

By the time you read this, it will be only 27 months until reunion ...

## 1986

**Everett Weinberger**  
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After a colder-than-normal January in NYC, I fantasized about leaving this concrete jungle and moving to the slow pace, aqua-colored waters and lush flora of a Caribbean island — just like **John Kirkland** did three years ago when he moved to St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. He and his family made it through two Category 5+ hurricanes unscathed and they enjoy winter daytime temps in the mid-80s. John manages a mutual fund from the island, where he lives with his wife, Ann; son, Hunter (8); and daughter, Sienna (6).

Says John, “We moved here in December 2014 to take advantage of the Economic Development Commission Tax Incentive Program for the U.S. Virgin Islands, which provides a 90 percent reduction in corporate and personal income tax. In California we paid a total tax rate of 52.9 percent. Here we pay 3.96 percent. We have AT&T cell service, Dish TV and high-speed fiber optic broadband internet service. My office is pretty much like Class A office space in Manhattan, except the temperature of the water I can see out my window is 80 degrees year-round. It’s basically like living in a small town (there are 50,000 people on St. Thomas), but you can’t get in the car and drive an hour to get to the city. You need to get on a plane and fly two and a half hours to Miami or five hours to New York. But you don’t really need to

see *Aladdin* or the *Gazillion Bubble Show* more than a couple of times a year, so it works out fine.”

**Steven Klotz** is back from exploring the underwater worlds of Indonesia and Bali. He’s headed in April to dive with manta rays and whales in Revillagigedo and Socorro with his daughter Alyxandra. He’s excited about his son’s upcoming high school graduation and early acceptance to the University of Richmond, where his son is hoping to make their NCAA D1 lacrosse squad as a long pole defenseman. Steven celebrated 25 years of marriage to Shari and lives in Pennsylvania, where he’s a psychiatrist and writes about dive medicine and pharmacological challenges under pressure while diving.

**James Carr**: “Daughter Nina is very happy in her second semester at the University of Vermont. She is running cross country and track, having made the team as a walk-on following a summer of training runs and backpacking across Europe. Hard work paid off! My wife, Kim Drain BC’88, has a new book out, *Sock* (by Kim Adrian, her pen name); it’s part of the Object Lessons series. I’ve been appointed to the Brookline Planning Board, which has meant many evening meetings. Lots of interesting issues from legal marijuana to affordable housing to climate change, as well as the usual neighborhood battles over driveways and trees. I coach our 11-year-old son’s soccer and futsal teams (and play, too). Lastly, I’m having a fun time working on a residential project on Martha’s Vineyard with Doug Jones ’89, whose design firm in New York (Kureck|Jones) does beautiful work.”

**Mark Golder**: “I’m in my 24th year as VP at BNY Mellon’s Corporate Trust Department here in Los Angeles. My 12-year old, Noah, keeps me busy with sports and scouting. And he recently learned how to play ‘Stairway to Heaven’ on guitar — pretty cool. Maybe Columbia fight song is next? A big shout out to football team — awesome year! Let’s hear from some mid-’80s *Spectator* alums, back when ‘all the news that fits we print.’”

**Adam Cohen** is proud to join the ranks of alumni parents: His son, Josiah ’21, began CC last fall. Adam is also proud to announce the publication of *Signs & Wonders: 100 Haggada Masterpieces*. He writes, “With more

than 200 full-color pictures and an accessible text that offers an overview to the rich history of the illustrated haggada from the Middle Ages to the present, the book is a great addition to the Passover Seder or a fine stocking stuffer for any occasion!”

## 1987

**Sarah A. Kass**  
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Glad to be back with you all following the passing of my mother, Miryom Kass GS/JTS’63, this past fall. Of course, there are no words — much sorrow but beautiful opportunities to remember all that she gave to me; my father, Alvin Kass ’57; and my brothers, Lewis and Danny ’95. I additionally want to note the passing of Saul Cohen ’57, who was responsible for recruiting me to the Columbia College Alumni Association Board of Directors in 1992, and 26 years later, you are all helping me to stay involved through this wonderful role of class correspondent. I am forever grateful for the privilege of both of these lives.

I am also grateful for the privilege of hearing from **Derrick Acker**, who sent in the following update, motivated by our 30th reunion stories: “After graduating from my beloved Columbia, I received a law degree from St. John’s University School of Law in 1990 and practiced law in NYC 1990–95. I enjoyed litigating but felt unfulfilled and decided to make a big life change. I really wanted to give something back to our country, so I became an FBI special agent. I’ve been an FBI special agent in New York for 22 years. I worked Organized Crime and, for the past 15 years, in Violent Gangs. It’s been truly incredible.

“I married **Mike Telesca**’s sister Catherine and we have two beautiful boys, ages 12 and 14. I stay in touch with Mike, John Stamatis ’88, Glenn Meyers ’84, Mario Tariche ’89, Robert Chasanoff ’85 and some other Columbia alums.

“Anyway, along the way, life has been kind and conversely dealt me some huge body blows. Indeed, the following is something that is on my mind each and every day. I write it to remember all those souls ...

“On 9-11, I found myself partially buried after the South Tower of the World Trade Center so violently imploded. I lay there not knowing what had just happened. Laying in black soot and burning embers on Church Street, struggling to breathe and unable to see anything, I really wondered what life was all about. See, as an FBI agent, I responded to Ground Zero confident, almost cocky, that I could make a difference and help save every soul in those ill-fated buildings. I laid on that hot, soot-filled street and recalled, only a few moments before, standing at the base of the North Tower, watching in horror as men and women leaped to their deaths from above the jet line. I thought, “What sort of hell were they facing inside that building to make such a leap of faith out of those windows so high above?” I laid there and lost most, if not all, the faith I had in humanity. I laid there devastated, trying to come to grips with the ugly fact that I was unable to save more people. I think about all those poor souls, who slipped between my fingers, each and every day. It’s a movie that plays in my head and I can’t ever turn it off.

“I was a bit broken and lost after 9-11. However, two things changed my life to restore that lost faith in humanity: My beautiful, wonderful wife and endurance racing. I started slowly by running marathons and I found a bit of solace on those long runs, but I craved more. I grew up playing football, baseball and basketball. Indeed, I played four years of baseball at Columbia. However, I finally found my true passion when I toed the start line at my first triathlon. I loved it. The longer and the harder the race, the more I healed. I did many sprints, many Olympic distance races, many half Ironmans, five Ironmans and the Survival of the Shawangunks, American Zofingen Long Course. The more unique and grassroots the race, the more I loved it. True healing came on those long training runs, long training rides and those long, glorious open-water swims. I rediscovered hope and love and faith and trust in humanity on those dusty roads, and in that murky fresh and salty water. Even more of a factor was my wife. She was patient and listened as I struggled. She was extraordinary, and still is.

“Man, I miss those heady days at Columbia, the best years of my life.”

**Rob Wolf**, my esteemed predecessor at this column, wrote to say that a film he directed, *What Does Reintegration Mean to You?* (youtu.be/uWhcnz68heM), was selected as an official selection of the 42nd Annual American Indian Film Festival last fall in San Francisco.

Hearty congrats from all of us, Rob!

**Lee Ilan**, who did such amazing work for our class for the Columbia College Fund, sent this update: “I had the pleasure of visiting with my first-year roommate **Laura Ting** and her husband, **Kevin McGrattan SEAS’87**, on our road trip to Lake Murray, S.C., to watch the total eclipse in August. We went with them to the local agricultural fair where we learned that a) Texas longhorn cattle are also raised in Maine, b) duck races are pretty funny and c) there are some extraordinarily fancy-looking chickens out there. The eclipse itself was amazing — emotional, beautiful, fleeting, extraordinary. And totally worth the 19-hour, all-night drive home. Now that we know what to look for, we’re ready for the next one in April 2024!

“In October, I was thrilled to celebrate my daughter Mavis’ sixth birthday (pin the necklace on Moana!); my 10th wedding anniversary with my inamorato, Peter Engel (concerts by The Bobs and Uncle Bonsai!); and my 52nd birthday (yes, **Kyra Barry**, I have checked colonoscopy off my bucket list!). I’ve also signed up to co-chair Mavis’ school’s international/diversity committee, so I think a lot about the beautiful and the ugly things we are facing in the world today and am grateful for the communities I’m a part of. One of these is the generous, thoughtful, funny, genuine members of the Class of ’87. Keep it up, friends!”

Before flying off to Greenland and Iceland, my beloved Carman 5-mate, **Divya Singh**, wrote, “I have had dinner a couple of times with Cindy Lash Ramos ’86 (started with CC’87) and her husband, David Ramos ’85, while I have done *locum tenens* work in Dover, Del. On my last trip, John Seufert ’85 also came up from Baltimore to visit. We hung out by the pool, ate pizza and debated the merits of the various Columbia circa 1985 drinking establishments.”

**Annemarie Coffman Lellouch** writes, “My eldest passed the French

baccalaureate exams in July and then we went on a big family holiday to Taiwan and Japan. It was a memorable trip for all. This fall, my son started medical school here in Marseille, we have undertaken a major renovation of our apartment (it got started ahead of schedule, giving us only 10 days to pack, move out or toss 17 years of clutter!) and I have completed the last administrative steps required to finally become a French citizen (passport due next spring). Never a dull moment ... not sure how all this happened at the same time.”

A final note, from **Rima Jolivet** (née Rachel Repetto): “I have lost touch and would love to catch up with Gus and Dawn. If they read this, please email me at rima.jolivet@usa.net.”

Hope you all get to reconnect!

## 1988

**REUNION 2018**  
MAY 31–JUNE 2

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**Eric Fusfield**  
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Don’t forget that our 30th reunion will be here soon, Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2!

My children (ages 4 and 6) look forward to receiving books in the mail each month from PJ Library, a service that distributes Jewish-themed books for young readers. I was pleased to see that our most recent installment was *The Candlewick*, by **Jennifer Rosner**. Jennifer, who also has written a memoir about raising two daughters with hearing impairments, has woven into her new children’s book themes such as friendship, kindness, tradition and dealing with deafness. According to her author’s note, “This story is based on the innovation of my daughter, Sophia. Unable to hear the doorbell when upstairs in her room, Sophia trails a string from her bedroom window to the front door. When someone tugs on the string, Sophia’s window blinds move up and down. She knows visitors have arrived and she heads downstairs to let them in.”

Congratulations to *PBS NewsHour* Executive Producer **Sara Just**, the eighth member of our class to receive one of the College’s coveted John Jay Awards. The honor recognizes alumni for distinguished professional achievement. Kudos to **Leslie Gittess Brodsky**, **Alexandra Wallace Creed** and **Doug Wolf** for serving on the Selection Committee.

It was good to hear from **Hal Shapiro LAW’91**, who, like me, works in Washington, D.C. Hal, a former White House international economic affairs adviser, is a partner at Akin Gump, where he chairs the firm’s regulatory practice steering committee. He is also an adjunct professor at American University’s Washington College of Law.

Like most of us, I was sorry to hear of the passing of longtime College employee Peter V. Johnson. Dean Johnson came to my high school in Northern Virginia for a Columbia orientation session, making him the first representative of the College I met. After that, I remember chasing after him each semester to put his “PVJ” on my course selection form. His affable, distinguished demeanor inspired both kinship and respect. He is a fixture in our memories of college and will be missed by many in our class. [Editor’s note: See “Around the Quads,” Winter 2017–18.]

## 1989

**Emily Miles Terry**  
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Though Facebook can be a mixed bag, it offers an easy way to reconnect with a friend. I reached out to **Mary Donnelly**, who shared this about her inspiring professional life in film and publishing: “It’s hard to summarize everything I’ve been up to these past years, so please forgive the long-windedness. I’ve lived in Brooklyn since graduation. My long-time partner, Peter Rostovsky (an artist and art professor), and I recently celebrated 17 years together (geeze, how time flies).”

Mary has worked for almost 30 years in either film/video production or in some sort of publishing/market-ing editorial capacity. She currently is a project manager/video producer for

a small communications firm, Generation, in Brooklyn, which works mostly in the education sector.

She adds, “In 2003 I got an M.F.A. in poetry from Bennington and have been teaching creative writing (and also grammar) through Gotham Writers Workshop in NYC since 2004. I continue to write and publish work (I have poems in the most recent issues of *The Yale Review* and *Prairie Schooner*) and have also started teaching in the low-residency M.F.A. program in interdisciplinary arts (so oddly enough art school) at Sierra Nevada College near Lake Tahoe.”

Mary’s poetry has appeared in *Boog City*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *DMQ Review*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Indiana Review* and *The Iowa Review*, among others. She is also the former co-director of the “Reading Between A and B” poetry series in New York City and is an editor emeriti of the literary journal *failbetter*.

If you’re interested in looking into Mary’s classes (how I wish she

her interest in teaching undergraduate mathematics, she enjoys research on complex dynamical systems and ergodic theory. Her current research focuses on the parametrized dynamics of meromorphic functions.

I can’t understand much of that, but was excited to read that, as one of Lorelei’s academic bios says, she “loves taffy.”

## 1990

**Rachel Cowan Jacobs**  
youngache@hotmail.com

It’s always good to hear from classmates who live abroad. This came from **Peter Neisuler** in January: “I and my wife, Mariana, have settled into life at the United States Embassy in Amman, Jordan, with our boys (12 and 13) after arriving in summer 2016. We are working really hard — Amman is a post where something important is always going on — which is exciting but exhaust-

in Washington, D.C., I’m enjoying my 15-year-old son’s thespian efforts — a chip off the old block — and missing my 19-year-old college sophomore who refused (much to my dismay) to apply to Columbia and went to Brown instead.

“I see a few Lions regularly here in D.C., including **Liz Lubow Poston** and **Amy Zalman**, and I recently had dinner with **Erik Haxthausen**, **Sczerina Perot** and a visiting **Steve Descoteaux**. I also make it to Los Angeles a couple of times a year for business and always try to work in a visit with L.A. peeps like **Chris Alexander**, **Lucia Bozzola**, **Claudine Wolas** and **Tania Saison** while I’m there — it’s nice to see old friends when you’re away from home! I’m also working to spearhead an effort to launch the D.C. chapter of Columbia College Women, so keep an eye out for the inaugural event this spring, and let me know if you’re in the D.C. metro area and would like to get involved!”

From the New Jersey frontier, **John Vincenti** reports having crossed state lines to celebrate the 50th birthday of **Chris Roth**. Present at the big bash were **Paul Greenberg** and **Julie Schwartz Weber** — and, of course, the birthday boy. Turns out that being (on the heels of) 50 doesn’t mean you can’t close down a party!

Well done, kids.

Paul’s exciting professional news is that in January, he left A+E Networks and started his own full-service, digital video consulting firm, Butter Works. Also exciting is that in December, his family got a dog. (I have known Paul since second grade. I’m pretty sure this is his first dog.)

Julie lives right outside of D.C. with her three teenage kids, her husband and their two cats. After greatly enjoying working as an employment lawyer, policy specialist and employee relations/compliance manager, she has landed her dream job, as an ombuds (mediator/coach/alternative dispute resolution specialist) for employees at a local community college. Julie says she still thinks about how much Columbia enriched and shaped her life and remains in touch with dear friends there.

I close this column with the heart-wrenching news of the January 17, 2018, death of **Wendy Hayward**. In the words of her good friend **Elyn Grossman Levine**,

“It is with a heavy heart that I am letting you know our dear friend, Wendy Hayward, lost her battle to cancer this morning. I know for most this news will come as a shock since Wendy was very deliberate in her desire not to unnecessarily share ‘bad news,’ choosing to spend her precious time and energy fighting her illness while continuing to be an active and loving mom to her two beautiful children, Cody and Katie.

“Since her diagnosis (less than two years ago), Wendy’s love of life, bravery, positivity and non-quitting spirit, even during her most challenging moments, was infectious and inspiring to everyone around her. Despite a difficult recovery from surgery in October, Wendy kept her plans to visit New York with her daughter, enduring exhausting cross-country travel and freezing temperatures, determined not to miss a single event planned, smiling from ear to ear every step of the way. Over these months Wendy continually reminded me she never lost her sense of humor, even once texting a picture as she was being rolled on a stretcher to an ambulance! Thankfully, despite a lot of ups and downs, Wendy, Rich and their children were continually supported, day in and day out, by an unbelievable network of friends who were there to help and support in countless ways.

“On January 3, I went to San Francisco to visit Wendy. We reminisced about so many memories from college and the years that followed, including when I lived with her in Pacific Heights and our many vacations together, at home and abroad. She loved looking at old photos, laughed, and, in typical Wendy fashion, did not miss an opportunity to give me a hard time about a thing or two! And, in between, we talked a lot about our children, the loss of my mom and the days, weeks and years ahead. To be sure, I am forever grateful to Rich and their children for opening up their home and giving me the opportunity to enjoy such a special and meaningful four days with Wendy and her family.

“The day after I left, Wendy texted me two quotations. The first was given to her by her maternal uncle, who explained that her great-uncle, Marriner Eccles (former chair of the Federal Reserve), often quoted Shakespeare. The second is

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*Lorelei Koss '89 is a professor in the departments of mathematics and computer science at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa.*

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would teach in Boston!), find information here: [writingclasses.com](http://writingclasses.com).

**Matt Engels** has joined Medcor as VP and general manager of Provider Network Services. In his newly formed role, Matt will oversee the development and delivery of services through Medcor’s partners and contracted vendors. Medcor focuses on improving care quality for employees injured on the job through on-site clinics and a 24/7 triage unit. Matt lives in his hometown of Glenview, Ill., with his wife, Beth, and two children and enjoys coaching grade school football and playing golf.

I hope to catch up with Matt and a few of our classmates to cheer on **Robert Rooney** and **Julie Jacobs Menin** when they each receive a John Jay Award in early March.

**Lorelei Koss** is a professor in the departments of mathematics and computer science at Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa. Lorelei earned a Ph.D. in mathematics in 1998 from UNC Chapel Hill. In addition to

ing, Mariana is the embassy’s deputy economic counselor and I’m the embassy’s cultural affairs officer leading our public outreach to Jordanian youth. We’ll rotate to our next post in 2019, which means we have to figure out this summer where our next adventure will be.”

In December, **Rachelle Selmon** started a job as VP of HR at Trident Dental Laboratories in Los Angeles. This came on the heels of a multi-week trip to Vietnam, which involved unforgettable scenery, people, food and floods, she says.

**Melissa Steinman**’s passport has also been put to work: “I’ve been traveling the world lately representing my law firm, Venable, as a member of the Global Advertising Lawyers’ Alliance, and speaking in fun and exciting places like Panama and Hamburg, Germany, on topics like advertising, sweepstakes and contest promotions and the use of user-generated content on social media. So that’s been fun! Back here

Columbia's Latin motto. I thought they would be something Wendy would be happy to share with others — copied and pasted directly from her text:

*Marriner/Shakespeare: "By indirection I found direction out."*

*In looking for direction in one direction and I found a better direction out*

*Columbia University's Latin motto: "In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen"*

*Can be literally translated as "We will (or shall) see the light in Your light." It is in God's light that we shall see light.'*

"On Wendy's 50th birthday (January 9), I sent her a text: *A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature* — *Ralph Waldo Emerson.*'

"Despite the years, miles, time zones and life events that might separate us, ultimately, the beautiful gift of friendship endures. If you are interested, I would be happy to forward additional information as soon as it is provided by her family. In love and friendship, Elyn."

## 1991

**Margie Kim**  
margiekimkim@hotmail.com

CC'91, what's happening? Send your news to share in this column! Also, if you've hung out with a College alum recently, *CCT* loves running photos — the only requirements are that the photos be high resolution and feature at least two College alumni. You can send photos directly to *CCT* via the webform [college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\\_class\\_note\\_photo](http://college.columbia.edu/cct/submit_class_note_photo). Hope you are having a wonderful spring!

## 1992

**Olivier Knox**  
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Hello, Class of '92! I met **Louise Dubin** at reunion last year — that's right, 25 years after we graduated, I'm still meeting classmates. She wrote that she was "commissioned to choose the works and write the introduction for Dover Publications' *Selected Works for Cello and Piano by Auguste Francomme.*"

It was published last year, and includes several pieces from her album *The Francomme Project*.

Throughout 2017, Louise regularly performed in France: at the American Cathedral in Paris, at the CRR de Paris (Conservatoire à rayonnement régional) and at Salle Gaveau in Paris as part of the biannual VioloncellesSeine and at the Festival de Violoncelle de Beauvais (*violoncelle* means cello in French). While in Paris, Louise reconnected with Ulf Gennser SEAS'91, SEAS'92. Last spring, she completed her stint as solo cellist of Cirque du Soleil's *Paramour*, which she describes as "a Broadway show full of acrobats doing things that you shouldn't try at home." She also celebrated 10 years of being married to Hugh Cushing '87.

While Facebook has clearly diluted the power of Class Notes columns, it can sometimes inspire, too. I was thrilled to see fellow Carman 7 inhabitant **Wendy Greene** (who spent a chunk of Orientation dispelling claims that she was actually Jennifer Grey, if I recall correctly) post some big family news. She has graciously contributed a Class Notes entry — model behavior that I expect others to emulate. You know who you are.

Wendy writes, "In June I adopted a baby girl, Lina, who I assume will be CC 2035. I was able to be in the room for her birth, and it's been an amazing adventure ever since. She is truly lovely and I feel lucky to be her mother. We are happy at home in Brooklyn; I took six months off and only recently returned to work."

Wendy is a television producer, making a non-fiction series. No pics of Lina, Wendy writes, but "I've bought her a Columbia onesie, which she rocks, and which I hope doesn't place undue pressure on her."

## 1993

**REUNION 2018**  
MAY 31–JUNE 2

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**Betsy Gomperz**  
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As sometimes happens in this space, **Neil Turitz** is taking over reporting responsibilities for this issue. Neil is the co-chair of our 25th reunion (Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2),

and in the wake of the sad news that his co-chair, **Rachel Mintz** TC'00, passed away on January 10, 2018, after a long battle with cancer, he asked to write this column. So, without further ado ...

Greetings, all. **Neil Turitz** here, but you already knew that thanks to Betsy's lovely intro. Before I start talking about my friend Rachel and reunion, there is some class news. First up, my old friend **Sean Doherty** wrote in after reading the column and thought, "Why not update you on me?" So that's what he did, and I'll use his words to bring you up to speed.

"So, I'm a plastic surgeon," Sean says. "I work in Boston on Newbury Street and in Brookline, performing cosmetic and reconstructive surgeries. I am also the medical director for Cynosure, the aesthetic division of Hologic. I do clinical research there on cosmetic lasers and I am a principal investigator for the FDA clinical trials. Also, I was just named a Top Doctor in Plastic Surgery by *Boston Magazine* for 2017."

Mazel tov, Sean! That's an outstanding honor and you do us all proud. I'm friends with Sean on Facebook and often see updates, but this is terrific.

Sean keeps in touch with **Jessie Auth, Rhanda Moussa, Dan Gillies** SEAS'93 and **Rebecca Boston**.

There was also word from **David Lerner**, who writes, "In 2004 I moved to the Boston area to become the rabbi of Temple Emunah in Lexington. I am fortunate to be part of such a strong community and am involved in interfaith activities including building bridges between Jews and Muslims in my role as president of the Massachusetts Board of Rabbis. My wife, Sharon Levin BC'93, SW'95 is a psychotherapist in private practice, and my children — Talya, Ari and Matan — attend pluralistic Jewish day schools nearby. Thankfully, I am still in touch with friends from Columbia and AEPI, including **Andy Schmeltz, Andrew Ceresney** and **Adam Towvim** '92. I hope to be at reunion this spring and look forward to reconnecting!"

Which, actually, is a good segue into the sad news I wanted to share. Many of you are part of the CC Class of '93 Facebook group, so you might have seen or heard the news about Rachel's passing. For those who didn't,

this will probably come as a shock, as you most likely didn't even know she was sick. That was not an accident, as she didn't want to tell anyone about her battle with cancer, and only in the last month or two of her life did she let me tell a select few people.

Rachel and I worked together for almost a decade, first planning the 20th reunion, and then the 25th. Rachel was very much looking forward to this coming reunion, and I'll talk a bit about that shortly, but first, I'd like to write a few words about my dear friend.

We knew this was coming. We hoped it wouldn't happen until after the reunion, but it was inevitable. She had been dealing with this illness for a while now. She beat it a couple of years ago, but then it came back with a vengeance, and got progressively worse over the past year. She underwent a major procedure not long ago and we thought it might have bought her enough time to get to June, but in January that dream ended.

Many of you didn't know Rachel, and for that, I'm sorry. You missed out. Our friend **Alan Freeman** said, "She was relentlessly optimistic, and I will always remember her voice." That's true, and so will I. That, and her contagious cackle of a laugh. She was also one of the warmest, kindest, best people I've ever had the pleasure of knowing, with a razor-sharp wit that always had you on guard, in a good way. Jousting with her was one of my great pleasures, and added so much pleasure to the work we did together. And we did have a blast. Putting together the weekend so many of us will enjoy this spring was a lot more fun than you would think a normal planning session might be. Talking things through, battling with the Alumni Office, pushing through events we wanted our classmates to enjoy — all that can be a drag. When you do it with someone with the zest for life that Rachel had, it was a breeze.

There will be lots of talk over the next few months about a special scholarship tied to our class. It is the Class of 1993 25th Reunion Scholarship, which will benefit at least one student (and, it now appears, at least two or three of them) from the Class of 2018, which means that any recipients will be on our reunion schedule forever. This has never happened before. No reunion class has ever set up this kind of fund for graduat-

ing seniors, which is exactly what Columbia informed Rachel when she brought it up, and told her that it basically couldn't be done. She refused to accept that, and bullied, badgered and battered them until they figured it out. ... Rachel got it done, and she did it in just a few months. If you want to give to the fund, go to [columbia.edu](http://columbia.edu), then "Alumni," then "Give Back," then "Support Columbia," then "Ways to Give," then "Make a Gift" then "Find a Fund." Enter "25th Reunion Scholarship," then select it.

Our reunion is going to be fantastic, with great events, most of which were Rachel's idea. I was mostly along for the ride this time, and it breaks my heart that she won't be there to see it. She will be there in spirit, though. Of that, I have no doubt.

Thanks to all, and I hope to see as many of you as possible for our 25th reunion, Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2.

## 1994

**Leyla Kokmen**  
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I got a lovely note from **Chris Hutmaker**, who wrote from Manhattan. Chris was thrilled to announce his wedding to Rebeka Bardou, celebrated in Old Montreal's Notre Dame Basilica in August. **Tony Ambroza** (a groomsman), **Chris Schmidt** and **Kate Gutman** attended.

Since graduating from The Wharton School in 1999, Chris has been working in equity capital markets, specializing in derivative and equity-linked structuring. He writes that he "recently celebrated his 15-year anniversary at Bank of America Merrill Lynch and received a lovely glass fruit bowl for my milestone."

In other career news, after five years at the Ounce of Prevention

Class Notes are submitted by alumni and edited by volunteer class correspondents and the staff of CCT prior to publication. Opinions expressed are those of individual alumni and do not reflect the opinions of CCT, its class correspondents, the College or the University. By submitting to Class Notes, you acknowledge that the text is eligible to appear in print as well as on CCT Online and in archives.

Fund, **Elliot Regenstein** recently began a new adventure as a partner at Foresight Law + Policy Advisors, a firm formed in 2015 by two of Elliot's former colleagues from EducationCounsel. "I'm planning to return to the kind of education policy consulting I did before joining the Ounce, with a focus on early learning," Elliot writes. "And I'll continue to be based in Chicago."

That's it for this time. Congratulations to both Chris and Elliot, and please keep the news coming!

## 1995

**Janet Lorin**  
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I caught up with **Tova Mirvis** SOA'98 last fall before her book event at Barnes & Noble on the Upper West Side. It was wonderful to see her for the first time in more than two decades and listen to her discuss the writing of *The Book of Separation*. The nonfiction book is about her divorce and move away from Orthodox Judaism. Readers got a preview last summer with Tova's *New York Times* "Modern Love" column about the book.

Several classmates also attended the event, including **Lea Rappaport Geller** and **Adina Shoulson**.

Lea moved back to New York four and a half years ago after spending some time on the West Coast — seven years in California and seven years in Seattle. After graduating from Stanford Law in 2000, she was an attorney (including appellate work), then started writing a few years ago.

Congrats to Lea on her book, expected to be out in spring 2019. It tells the fictional story of a Santa Monica trophy wife who moves to New York and teaches middle-school English; her husband disappears with all her money. "Completely fictional!" Lea emphasizes. Lea and her family live in Riverdale. Her youngest child is in first grade and her oldest is a sophomore in high school.

Adina lives in White Plains with her husband, Todd Stern, and their three children. "It's hard to believe we are celebrating bar and bat mitzvahs and getting ready to send our oldest to high school next year," Adina writes. She is the chair of the



Adina Shoulson '95, Lea Rappaport Geller '95, Yael Balsam '94, Tova Mirvis '95, Noa Heyman '96, Sarah Kaufman BC'95 and David Wolf '95 met in New York City during the book tour for Mirvis' *The Book of Separation: A Memoir*.

history department at SAR H.S., a Jewish school in the Bronx, where she teaches world and European history. "It's an exhausting but fulfilling job that keeps me intellectually challenged and connecting with amazing colleagues and students every day," she writes.

Lea and Adina see each other frequently, and in the small world of New York, their daughters are in the same class.

**Arlo Devlin-Brown** lived on Carman 10 with me our freshman year. Arlo graduated from Harvard Law and spent a decade at the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where he held various roles, including chief of the Public Corruption Unit. He joined the law firm Covington & Burling as a partner in the white collar defense and investigations practice, based in New York, in August 2016. Arlo represented former Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-N.Y.) in his federal prosecution for sending obscene communications to a minor.

A huge congratulations to the *San Francisco Chronicle's* 2017 Winemaker of the Year, **Dan Petroski!** My husband and I caught up with him in Napa Valley a few years ago at Larkmead Vineyards, where his day job is winemaker for the 123-year-old label. Dan also makes his own wine, Massican. Order some! Read all about his accomplishments here: [bit.ly/2E8UDrk](http://bit.ly/2E8UDrk).

Thanks to Lea, Adina, Arlo and Dan for answering my pleas for an

update! Write me at the address at the top of this column to share your news in a future issue.

## 1996

**Ana S. Salper**  
[ana.salper@nyumc.org](mailto:ana.salper@nyumc.org)

Greetings, fellow CC'96ers! **Ian Lendler** had two children's picture books come out recently. *Little Sid: The Tiny Prince Who Became Buddha* is the semi-true story of the Buddha as a young prince, and *One Day a Dot* is the story of the universe from the Big Bang all the way up to now (in under 36 pages, for those who got bored in Physics 101).

**Alexandra Speck** recently published *Honor Girl: A Novel*, about a woman's drastic decision to move from New York as an actress to a small village in Cape Cod to reinvent herself, examining the question: Would you go back if you could? Alex studied journalism at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. She is a former actress and comedienne at Upright Citizens Brigade in New York and also wrote the popular blog Crybaby Soup. On Cape Cod, Alex was for four years a reporter for WCAI, the Cape and Islands NPR station, where she won an Edward R. Murrow Award for Writing.

**Malik Rashid** recently left the Asian Development Bank in Manila, Philippines, and is back

in Brooklyn with his family. His wife started a position at MJHS Health System and his daughter is in second grade. Malik writes that the last five years in Manila were great, and that he remained involved in Columbia alumni activities as chair of the Philippines Columbia Alumni Association and volunteering with the Alumni Representative Committee. He looks forward to reconnecting with many of you.

That's all I have for you this time — as always, please send in more notes! I leave you with this powerful reminder of one of 2018's finest moments thus far:

*"Imagine feeling like you have no power and no voice. Well, you know what, Larry? I have both power and voice, and I am only just beginning to use them. All these brave women have power, and we will use our voices to make sure you get what you deserve: a life of suffering spent replaying the words delivered by this powerful army of survivors." — Olympic Gold Medalist Aly Raisman (to Dr. Larry Nassar at his trial)*

## 1997

**Kerensa Harrell**  
kvh1@columbia.edu

Greetings from sunny Florida, dear classmates! I am honored to become our new class correspondent, beginning with the Summer 2018 issue. I will soon start reaching out to you for updates. Let us thank **Sarah Katz**, our previous correspondent, for her 20 years of service. Moving forward, I encourage everyone to consider sharing updates not just on the usual career and marriage details, but also on your exotic travels, your exciting adventures, your fascinating hobbies, your philanthropic endeavors, your charming children, your daring projects, your poetic musings and your flowery reminiscences, or simply tell us about some delightful events that you attended. Or, if all else fails, you can always write merely to say hello! It would be splendid to hear from as many classmates as possible. You are welcome to start sending updates to me at kvh1@columbia.edu for the Summer 2018 issue and beyond. I look forward to hearing from everybody! *In lumine Tuo videbimus lumen.*

I and my husband, Dr. Manu Sehgal (Penn-GM'01), fortunately

did not incur any damage to our Florida homes from Hurricane Irma. Our hearts go out to those who were not as fortunate as we were this hurricane season, especially the people of Puerto Rico, who have sadly been without electricity for quite a long time. I and my friends have been donating provisions to Puerto Rico and attending fundraisers to help out our southerly neighbors.

On a happier note, we joyfully celebrated the first birthday of our daughter, Amara. We hosted a nice catered luncheon in Orlando for friends and family, with several dozen guests in attendance. I decided to do a hot air balloon party theme, because she loves balloons. Amara is walking and talking now, and getting into everything, as she should. I am utterly exhausted chasing my toddler around all day, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. I love being her mother and she is the light of my life.

CCT heard from **Richard Lee**, who is the church mobilization director for International Justice Mission, a human rights organization that is the largest anti-slavery organization in the world. He recently delivered a TEDx Talk, "Slavery still exists. Here's how to end it." You can see the video at [bit.ly/2o0iVga](http://bit.ly/2o0iVga).

## 1998

**REUNION 2018**  
MAY 31–JUNE 2

Events and Programs Contact  
[cmaa-events@columbia.edu](mailto:cmaa-events@columbia.edu)

Development Contact  
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**Sandie Angulo Chen**  
[sandie.chen@gmail.com](mailto:sandie.chen@gmail.com)

Hello Class of '98! We hope you've put our 20th reunion on your calendars so that we can see as many of you as possible, Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2. Even if you cannot attend, please consider donating to the 20th reunion gift for the College.

Best wishes and congratulations to **Adria Armbrister**, who got married last summer. Adria and her groom, Franck Makouangou, met in Lima, Peru, in summer 2016 through ex-pat social media site InterNations. Adria was the social development specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank and, according to the *Times*

article about their wedding, Franck was a French teacher at an international school, as well as a model/actor, at the time. The couple married at the Atlantis Resort in Paradise Island, Bahamas, on July 28. Two Columbia alums were in attendance: Natasha Johnson '99 and Karen Florez PH'12. Adria now lives in New York City, where she's a lecturer at the Mailman School of Public Health and is building a consulting firm, Nzoku Consultores, focused on supporting research and interventions that promote gender equality and training local NGOs to manage international development funds in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Congratulations to Adria and Franck!

**Lizzie Simon** is primarily based in the East Village. Professionally she's transitioning from journalism to screenwriting, and in January she and her husband opened a motel, The Astro, in Santa Rosa, Calif., where he's from.

Lastly, as we enter into our 20th year as alumni and some of us who married and had kids in our early-to mid-20s start to have college-bound children, please contact me if you have a child headed to Columbia. I'd love to report on the next generation of Columbia undergrads from our class.

## 1999

**Adrienne Carter and Jenna Johnson**  
[adeliz@gmail.com](mailto:adeliz@gmail.com)  
[jennajohnson@gmail.com](mailto:jennajohnson@gmail.com)

It was supposed to be a barn-warming.

This fall, **Jenna Johnson** and **Martin Mraz** invited friends and family to celebrate their new abode, a six-years-in-the-making barn they named The Hollow Sweet. Among those in attendance on an unseasonably warm evening for the Berkshires: **Kandi Parsons** (née Birdsell), **Dylan Hightower SEAS'99**, **Matt King'01**, **Matt Nociti '01**, **Matthew Ahn '98**, **Michael Schiraldi SEAS'00** and **Hilary Schiraldi (née Gerson) '00**.

Then, surprise! It turned out to be a wedding. (Some of us had our suspicions for months.) Molly Raymond (née Eger) BC'98, newly vested by the power of the State of Massachusetts, presided over the ceremony.

**Adrienne Carter**, **Joshua Meyers '97** and **David Raymond SEAS'98** joined in offering blessings and poems for the not-so-new couple.

For those who don't know the backstory: Jenna and Martin claim not to have known each other in college, despite both spending way too much time at the ADP house on West 114th Street. Rather, they *say* that they met years later at a mutual friend's birthday party. They were married 10 years after they moved in together.

Now send your news to either of the email addresses above! Or we'll tell you more about ourselves.

## 2000

**Prisca Bae**  
[pb134@columbia.edu](mailto:pb134@columbia.edu)

**Simeon Mills'** graphic novel, *Butcher Paper*, was published last year. It has a shark-man, giant spiders and dogs with human heads, but the book's scariest character is a dad sitting around in his underwear. Simeon is a middle-school English teacher in Spokane, Wash., where he lives with his wife and two kids.

**Christophe Gillet** is back in New York after a 10-year stint in San Francisco, living the suburban dad life in Westchester with his wife, two children and rescue pup. Along with his son Cole (2 and a half), he and his wife recently welcomed daughter Evangeline to the family. Christophe has held various product leadership roles at companies large and small, and was recently promoted to SVP and general manager of Vimeo's

**Columbia College Alumni on Facebook**



[facebook.com/alumnicc](https://facebook.com/alumnicc)

Like the page to get alumni news, learn about alumni events and College happenings, view photos and more.



flagship creator platform, where he is empowering video creators to tell exceptional stories and connect with their audiences and communities.

Since Columbia, **Jane Crimmins** (née Diczok) completed the two-year New York City Teaching Fellowship and worked and took classes at Teachers College (2003–06). She fondly remembers that it was at Columbia where she was introduced to the concept of social justice and at Teachers College, where she worked with stellar staff and faculty (notably Felicia Smart Williams, Siobhan Marshall-Torres, Ida Essanason (now deceased) and Min Hong), that she gained a deeper understanding of social justice from multiple diverse female perspectives. She writes, “It was with this background, a deep desire to change the injustices of our institutions, the skills to do it from the inside and inspiration from the Women’s March that I ran for local office last November and won. I am now a member of the Lewisboro Town Board in Northern Westchester. Thank you to Columbia for the opportunities it provided to expand my mind and broaden my worldview.”

**Yahonnes Cleary** was named as a partner in the litigation department at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison in New York. He handles a broad range of complex commercial lawsuits, investigations and regulatory matters, as well as significant pro bono matters. Prior to joining Paul, Weiss, Yahonnes clerked for the Hon. Barrington D. Parker of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and earned a J.D. from Yale Law.

**Ben Dubin-Thaler** GSAS’08 created the BioBus in 2008 after completing a B.A. in physics and mathematics and a Ph.D. in biology, from Columbia. “Dr. Ben,” as he is known to students aboard the BioBus, started the BioBus as an experiment to test his hypothesis that, given the opportunity to use research-microscopes to perform live experiments, anyone would be excited about science and want to do more. Ben and his team create a new kind of laboratory space that is empowering, accessible, un-intimidating and that facilitates scientific engagement amongst populations historically underrepresented in science professions. He hopes to create a future in which people from all

cultures and backgrounds have equal opportunities to practice and understand science.

**Tara Mitchell** (née Gangadhar) and Mark Mitchell were married in Nashville on August 26 at the Omni Nashville Hotel. Tara is an oncologist and assistant professor of medicine at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. Mark is a managing director at Safeguard, where he focuses on technology investments.

**Sam Hirzel**, who is practicing corporate litigation in Wilmington, Del., at the eponymously named Heyman, Enerio, Gattuso & Hirzel writes, “I am an unpaid Brazilian Jiu Jitsu instructor on the side. Our first child, Maxwell Taylor Hirzel, was born on November 8, 2016 (Election Day! #\$\$#@%). Max gets together regularly with the sons of **Matthew Rice SEAS’00**, BUS’04 and **Joe Zilcosky ’96** in Wilmington.

## 2001

**Jonathan Gordin**  
jrg53@columbia.edu

Congratulations to **Courtney Reum** and his brother Carter Reum ’03 on the release of their book, *Shortcut Your Startup: Speed Up Success with Unconventional Advice from the Trenches*.

Best of luck with the book and future business ventures!

My family and I hosted some very special visitors at our home in Los Angeles this December. Our dear friend **Dina Epstein** came to visit us from Washington, D.C., with her husband, Eitan Levisohn, and children: Ezra, Talya and Ilan. I must admit, it was hard work keeping up with the indefatigable Dina, who had us running all over town to see as much as possible, doing her best to keep us outdoors and enjoying the sunshine. We hiked all over the city with **Annie Marquit** (née Lainer) and her son, Sammy. It was wonderful getting future generations of Columbians together. **Susan Wilsey** (née Pereira) joined the fun when she and her son, Beau, met Dina and her family on Venice Beach.

Come see us again, soon, Dina!

**Jason Valenstein** lives with his wife and 6-year-old daughter in Falls Church, Va. He and his daughters are co-authoring children’s picture books that teach stoic themes in



Matthew Rice SEAS’00 (with son George), Sam Hirzel ’00 (with son Max), Joe Zilcosky ’96 (with son Sydney) and David Blum SEAS’01 (with son Milo) had a get-together before Blum moved to the West Coast.

age-appropriate ways. Jason says it is a great bonding experience and a great use of Contemporary Civilization. He recently connected with **Van DeBergh** over brunch. Van is environmental counsel to the Army Corps of Engineers and is a proud uncle of two boys.

**Kate Grossman** wrote in with exciting news: “Last July I was promoted to the rank of lieutenant commander in the United States Coast Guard Reserve. And in January, I became a partner at my small law firm in Bangor, Maine. I live way out in the country (10 minutes from the house I grew up in) with my husband and our kids, ages 4 and 6.

“Incidentally, I was driving recently and heard a radio ad for a concert of the Portland Symphony Orchestra being led by none other than Ken David Masur ’02. Seems he is a finalist in that orchestra’s search for a new conductor.”

Thanks for reaching out, Kate!

As you know, I love to include photos of you in the column. Please share if you have photos of yourselves with other College alums! CCT’s only photo guidelines are that photos have at least two College alumni in them and the photos are high-resolution. Feel free to send them to me, with caption and photographer information and I will get it incorporated, or directly to CCT via the photo webform: college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo.

Let me know what you are up to this summer! Your classmates would love to hear from you.

## 2002

**Sonia Dandona Hirdaramani**  
soniah57@gmail.com

Happy spring, CC’02! Thanks for sending in your news! **Elizabeth Horstmann** and her husband had their first child, a son, born on Halloween. They are all doing well and live in South Pasadena, Calif.

**Matthew Himelstein** and his wife, Laura, welcomed their son, Meyer Charles, to the family in July. Matthew manages software engineers in Silicon Valley and his wife teaches fourth grade in Oakland, Calif. Meyer wore his Columbia onesie the day the Lions beat Brown to finish 8–2 for the 2017 season. Roar, Lion, Roar!

**Natalie Robin** moved to Philadelphia in August to become the program head of theater design and technology at The University of the Arts. She regularly sees **Sandy London** and Sarah Bishop-Stone ’04.

After 15 years of working in nonprofits, philanthropy and government, in November **Alison “Ali” Gold** embarked on a seven-month “life sabbatical,” during which she traveled to 11 countries and 10 states and explored how she next wanted to contribute positively to the world. Her travels also gave her the chance to reconnect with fellow Columbians virtually and in-person. While roadtripping from Phoenix to Washington, D.C., she met up with Megan Jackler (née Romigh) BC’03 on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi



EZRA LEVISOHN

Dina Epstein '01, Jonathan Gordin '01 and Annie Marquit (née Lainer) '01 met in December at Los Angeles' Union Station.

for a delicious Abita root beer. She thanks **Ishwara Glassman Chrein** for introducing them! And while in Frankfurt, she caught up with **Ben Letzler** over dinner. After wrapping up her travels last June, Ali returned to her on-and-off hometown of D.C. and launched her own consultancy, *Optimistic Anthropology*, which she says "helps organizations in all sectors and collaborations create a more positive world by helping them better understand complex social problems and the skills and cultures needed to address them."

## 2003

### REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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**Michael Novielli**  
mjn29@columbia.edu

Hope that you're as excited about our 15th reunion as we are! It will be here before we know it: Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2.

**Carter Reum** and Courtney Reum '01's book, *Shortcut Your Startup: Speed Up Success with Unconventional Advice from the Trenches*, has achieved incredible success, including being rated as the number 1 New Release in New Business Enterprises on Amazon. Several classmates came out to the book launch in New York City, including **Kim Grant**, **Brandon Victor Dixon**, Archana Pinnapureddy BC'03 and Kanchana Pinnapureddy BC'03.

**Sharif Nesheiwat** writes that his second son, Laith, was born in November 2016, and that he himself was appointed as a United States administrative law judge in April 2017, seated in lower Manhattan and adjudicating federal executive agency matters.

**Christina Pfenning Craig** writes, "I am an associate editor for two magazines — *Country Woman* and *Farm & Ranch Living* — and I also have my own college counseling business. My son is 2. Looking forward to showing him Columbia during reunion!"

**Josh Hurvitz** lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife and two children and is VP of public policy at Time Warner. His son Matthew has his eyes set on a spot in the Lions' baseball starting lineup in 2030.

**Ebony Dix** writes, "I am in my final year of psychiatry residency at West Virginia University in Morgantown, W.Va. I will be heading to Yale in July for a geriatric psychiatry fellowship."

**Daniel Shamah** recently made partner at O'Melveny! The press release reads, "Seamlessly blending restructuring and litigation expertise, Daniel advises financial institutions, hedge funds, and public and private companies in a wide array of restructuring, bankruptcy, and insolvency cases, focusing his practice on lender liability, fraudulent conveyances, complex commercial litigation, and other distressed debt investment situations. Daniel also has deep experience advising companies and financial institutions in cross-border insolvency and chapter 15 cases ... Daniel joined O'Melveny in 2006, initially practicing as a litigation associate, before clerking for U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Martin Glenn, a former O'Melveny litigation partner."

**Gil Selinger** was recognized by *Colorado BIZ Magazine* as one of 2018's Top 25 Young Professionals in Colorado.

**Jeff Hsieh** and his wife, Jacqui Wu, are now the proud parents of son Hunter. Jeff is an anesthesiologist at CarePoint Health.

**Leah B. Rorvig** recently published an article, "What a Gatorade Bottle Taught Me About Functional Assessment," in the GeriPal blog: [bit.ly/2EDKVAp](http://bit.ly/2EDKVAp).

In addition to supervising social work students and provide psychotherapy at a community mental

health clinic, **Francis Lora SW'09** is independently pursuing his interest in Autism Spectrum Disorder. In an attempt to consolidate available resources, he founded "So Grand! – Your Source of Guidance and Resources for Autism and Neuro-Diversity." Additionally, he is designing an eight-week supportive group coaching experience for parents of autistic children, "So Your Child is Autistic ... Now What?!" Francis plans to initially deliver it as a Thought Transformation Trainer, but it will eventually be manualized for scalability and reach. He recently attended NESTCon, a two-day conference at NYU, where he learned more about Autism and the NEST Program, which provides inclusive and appropriate education to autistic children in classrooms with neuro-typically developing students at designated public schools, as well as about helpful interventions for working with autistic children and adults.

Francis is doing all of this while trying to continue to have family time with his wife, Jennifer Guerrero BC'03, and two boys, and is hoping to attend our 15-year reunion.

## 2004

**Jaydip Mahida**  
jmahida@gmail.com

**Elizabeth A. Sullivan** has been working in private wealth management for the better part of a decade and, for the past several years, have been a senior financial adviser and partner in The Mann Sullivan Group at Merrill Lynch in New York City. She writes, "In December, I was honored to be asked to speak at the UN Women Headquarters in midtown Manhattan about the specific issues women encounter relating to their wealth throughout their financial lives. My talk was part of the organization's innovation series dedicated to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.

"In addition to my work in wealth management, I have been very involved in engaging the next generation of business leaders in support of the arts in New York City. Since early 2016, I've been co-chair of the Junior Business Council of The Lincoln Center Corporate Fund, helping to raise unrestricted dollars in support of the 10 per-

forming arts institutions across the Lincoln Center campus."

**Jon Schalit** has joined the legal department of Wells Fargo as senior counsel in Los Angeles.

**Katie Zien** is completing her fifth year as assistant professor at McGill. She recently published her first book, *Sovereign Acts: Performing Race, Space, and Belonging in Panama and the Canal Zone*. She and her partner welcomed their first child, Ariel Madeleine Zien Sonderegger, in November.

**Janine Sutton Golub** and her husband moved to Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, in 2015: "We have really enjoyed the neighborhood and being in NYC. We welcomed our first child, Ella, on January 1, 2017. We finally settled into our own home last summer and are almost done with renovations!"

**Lauren Schwartz** recently visited New York from Philadelphia to hang out with **Laura Sherman**, **Shirley Cho SEAS'04** and **Elizabeth Goldman**. "Hard to believe I am the only one of the four who has left New York City. Also amazing: All our kids get along even though they don't get to hang out too often," Lauren writes.

**Richard Hunter Rivera** writes: "My wife, **Jessica Sledge**, and I welcomed Lucia Lilita Hunter into the world on November 2. She was born at home in Shreveport, La., and is thriving. Not sure how many '04+'04 babies are out there but we are thrilled to add one to the mix!"

**Shira Schoenberg JRN'06** and her husband, Greg Bunimovich, welcomed a daughter, Avigail Felice, in May. Shira is a political reporter covering the Massachusetts State House for the *Springfield Republican* ([masslive.com](http://masslive.com)), a daily newspaper in Western Massachusetts.

**Johanna Jenkins** (née Quigley) recently completed a master's in higher education through Drexel's School of Education. She says she looks forward to translating this success into a career in student services or admissions.

Please continue to send in updates, as we want to hear from as many folks as possible. Career and family news is 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 the email at the top of the column or through the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 2005

*Columbia College Today*  
cct@columbia.edu

Happy spring, Class of 2005!  
**Grace Sterritt** married Alex Chenshansky in June in her hometown of Annapolis, Md. Columbia alumni in attendance included **Molly Breiner** (née Friedensohn), **Moira Chance** (née O'Toole), **Whitney Booker SEAS'05**, **Ali Manigat**, **Olivier Manigat**, **Maggie Rowan '04** (née Via), **Garrett Rowan '04**, **Molly Hassenfelt '07**, **Marisa Marcellino '08**, **Ashley Mehl '08** and **Ben Nwachukwu '08**. Grace is an executive director at J.P. Morgan Private Bank in New York, and Alex is a partner at Ninth Wing Partners.

**Travis DiRuzza** married Jessica Garfield-Kabbara on Siesta Key Beach in Florida and were joined by **Mischa Byruck '04**, **Geoff Barrows '04**, **Sean Lincoln '06**, **Lev Brie '04**, **Jake Porway SEAS'04**, **Gideon Shapiro '04**, **Becca Jacobs** and **Reed English**, father of the late Garland English SEAS'04.

**Rujeko Hockley** and **David Fierman** met up at the NADA Art Fair in Miami in December.



In December, Rujeko Hockley '05 (left) and David Fierman '05 met up at the New Art Dealers Alliance Art Fair in Miami.

**Ryan Gaglio** and **Holly Gaglio** celebrated their 10th anniversary in January in Mexico with their two sons.

Thanks to all who wrote in! If you'd like your news in a future issue, send a note to cct@columbia.edu!

## 2006

**Michelle Oh Sing**  
mo2057@columbia.edu

**Armond Adams** recently transitioned into a new career. After 10 great years in the media and ad tech sales space, he finally decided to pursue his passion in real estate. He is now a licensed real estate salesperson with Keller Williams NYC. As the saying goes, "You never know until you try!" He says that he has truly enjoyed this new endeavor and says classmates should feel free to reach out to him via Facebook for all their real estate needs.

From **Adam Zucker**: "In January, I launched the luxury real estate brokerage at Christie's, a first in the auction house's 250-plus-year history. This spring my team and I will embark on a global tour to cross-promote our business together with the upcoming sale of "The Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller." Would love to connect with alumni in Los Angeles, Miami, London, Geneva, Dubai and/or Hong Kong, and invite anyone interested in a private tour to stop by our new offices at 20 Rockefeller Plaza."

I hope everyone is having a wonderful spring! Please send your news to me at mo2057@columbia.edu!

## 2007

**David D. Chait**  
david.donner.chait@gmail.com

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your exciting updates! **Julia Kite** writes, "In October, I became the director of strategic initiatives at the New York City Department of Transportation, focusing on the Vision Zero program to end road deaths and serious injuries."

**John Schneider** writes, "My wife, Stephanie Pahler BC'05, and I are proud to announce the birth of our third child, Thomas John, in October. Everyone is happy and healthy, and his sisters, Elizabeth (4)



**Andy Sama SEAS'07**, **Garrett Leahy '07**, **Alex Verbuch SEAS'07**, **Ali Cerutti '07**, **Michael Fishel '07**, **Jeremy Maletz '07**, **Adam Kaufman '07** and **Ben Yaghoubian SEAS'07** at 1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge for the afterparty of **Michael Margello '07** and **Ally Ghorzi's** February wedding.

and Emily (2), are very excited. Meanwhile, I'm in Houston working for Chevron as an exploration geologist in the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico."

**Becca Hartog** shares, "I got married last June to Peter LaRossa. In July, I will complete my combined internal medicine-pediatrics residency and begin a fellowship in pediatric cardiology at C.S. Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich. Sad to leave Pittsburgh for snowier pastures, but excited for the next chapter of my life."

After raising more than \$150,000 for Planned Parenthood through her Run 4 All Women initiative, **Alison Mariella Désir GSAS'11, TC'16** was inducted into "The Root 100" alongside Beyoncé, Ava DuVernay and Colin Kaepernick, among others. The Root 100 is an annual list of the most influential African-Americans, ages 25-45, that honors the innovators, the leaders, the public figures and the game-changers whose work from the past year is breaking down barriers and paving the way for the next generation.

**Alissa Ochs** and **Pete Chromiak '06** had a baby girl, **Henrietta Diane "Hattie" (CC 2040)**, in late October. Brother **Fitz (CC 2038)** and parents were all bundled up for their first winter in the Minneapolis area.

**Sam Sternberg** writes, "After celebrating my 10-year reunion just last year, I'm thrilled to be returning to Columbia as an assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics. Life in

California has been great, but I'm ready to make NYC my home again!" And some classmates are writing in from abroad ...

**Aditi Sriram** writes, "I teach at a new private university, Ashoka. If you happen to be in Delhi, do let me know. If you're interested, I'll organize a visit for you to check out the place!"

**Sean Colenso-Semple** lives in The Hague, where he is a legal adviser at the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal. He says he would be pleased to hear from classmates who are passing through the Netherlands.

**David Greenhouse**: "After a happy eight years in the United Kingdom, I have moved to Berlin for a new adventure. Drop me a line if you're nearby."

## 2008

**REUNION 2018**  
MAY 31-JUNE 2

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ccaa-events@columbia.edu

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**Neda Navab**  
nn2126@columbia.edu

Happy spring, Class of 2008! As of September, **Natnael Moges** is a managing associate at Dentons US in Chicago. He was previously an associate at Drinker, Biddle & Reath.

**Lauren Abbott**, **Neda Navab** and **Alexandra Cannon SEAS'08**

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



1



2

JUSTIN LEE



3

WILLIAM M. FREDERICKS (HEATHWOOD PHOTOGRAPHY)



4



5

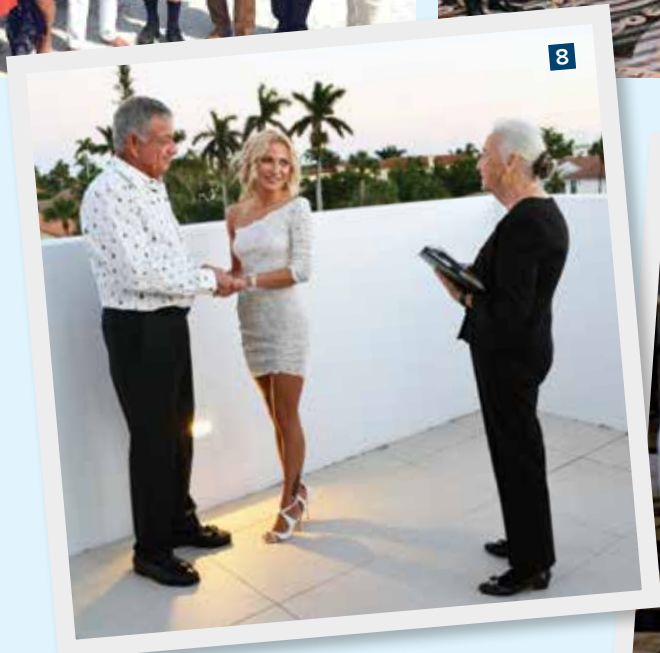


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JPG PHOTOGRAPHY



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KYLE MERRITT



9

ENUEL VIERA PHOTOGRAPHY



LORYLE



**1.** Grace Sterritt '05 married Alex Chehansky in June in her hometown of Annapolis, Md. Alumni pictured include Molly Breiner (née Friedensohn) '05, Moira Chance (née O'Toole) '05, Whitney Booker SEAS'05, Ali Manigat '05, Olivier Manigat '05, Maggie Rowan (née Via) '04, Molly Hassenfelt '07, Marisa Marcellino '08, Ashley Mehl '08 and Ben Nwachukwu '08.

**2.** Valerie Sapozhnikova '10 married Andrew Gallina on September 16 at Brooklyn's Liberty Warehouse. Left to right: Mariah Samost BC'08, Michael Topol '10, Brittany Shiller '11, Alexa Hubbard '10, Polly Silverman '10, the groom, Alexandra Paddock '10, the bride, Tess Finkel '10, Scott Wang '10, Austin Hamilton '10, Maximo Cubilette '10, Ashley Platt '10, Sue Yang '10, Sophia Guy-White '10 and Max Cooper '10.

**3.** Jacquelyn La Torre '10, TC'12 married Arvind Ravichandran '09, LAW'12 on July 22 at Dyker Beach Golf Course in Brooklyn, N.Y. Left to right: Vitaly Bord '09; Lauren La Torre '08, TC'12; Jonathan Waisnor LAW'12; the groom; the bride; Heidi Bonilla '10, PH'13; and Elizabeth Chang '10.

**4.** Lauren Abbott '08, Neda Navab '08 and Alexandra Cannon SEAS'08 celebrated the wedding of Amanda Rosencrans '08 to Mike Van Pelt in Philadelphia on September 3.

**5.** Travis DiRuzza '05 married Jessica Garfield-Kabbara on Siesta Key beach in Florida, where they were joined by Mischa Byruck '04, Geoff Barrows '04, Sean Lincoln '06, Lev Brie '04, Jake Porway SEAS'04, Gideon Shapiro '04, Becca Jacobs '05 and Reed English, father of the late Garland English SEAS'04.

**6.** Tara Mitchell (née Gangadhar) '00 and Mark Mitchell were married August 26 at the Omni Nashville Hotel in Nashville. Left to right: Neel Mehta (mutual friend who introduced them, and brother of Sapna Mehta '00), Christine Martinez '00, Stephen Miller '00, Shalinee Khurana '00, Theresa Sim '00, Abby Gordon '00, Leslie Kandel (née Zivin) '00, the bride,

the groom, Ravi Amaravadi '96, Eric Czepyha '00, Andrew Warshawer '00, Michael Saarinen '00 (with his wife, Karen Rosenberg) and Ravi Shankar SEAS'00 (with Tina Peters).

**7.** Brian Kauffman '07 married Stacey Kallem in Philadelphia on August 1, 2016, at Atrium at Curtis Center. Left to right: Julien Dumoulin-Smith SEAS'07, Elan Gada '07, the groom, Jason Schulman '07 and Terence Zaleski '07.

**8.** John Doody '66 married Anna Granerud on December 3 on the roof terrace of the couple's Fort Lauderdale, Fla., home.

**9.** Carolyn Matos '12 and Peter Holst-Grubbe '12 were married in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on December 2. Top row, left to right: Shea Selsor '10, Will Claunch '12, Sam Cecil '12, Ian Quirk '11, Ben Popeck '12, Bryan Kipp SEAS'11, Tucker Cain '12, Chris Groth '12, Bob Hauschildt '12 and Ben Evans SEAS'12. Bottom row, left to right: Rafael Lopez '12, Camila Schaulsohn '12, Amanda Goodhart '12, Lauren Cecil BC'12, the groom, the bride, Robin Lee '12, Kallila Hoggard '12, Yulia Antontseva '13, Kristin Hehir '13, David Chao '12, Francois Anderson '12 and Russell Kostelak '11.

**10.** David Zhu '12 married Layna Ai on March 17, 2017, at Villa del Balbianello in Lake Como, Italy.

**11.** Chris Hutmaker '94 married Rebeka Bardou in August in Old Montreal's Notre-Dame Basilica. Groomsman Tony Ambroza '94, Chris Schmidt '94 and Kate Gutman '94 attended.

**12.** Alumni gathered at the October 21 wedding of Maddy Joseph '12 and Sam Klug '12 in Washington, D.C. Left to right: Evelyn Jagoda '14, Marilyn Robb '13, Amirah Sequeira '12, Brandon Lewis '13, Todd Nelson '12, Diane Jean-Mary '13, Kevin Gould '12, Usha Sahay '12, Virat Gupta '12, John Oxenreiter '12, Allison Grossman BC'12 and Jonathan Holmes.



Evan Schutzman '07 and Eric Bondarsky '07 reunited in Rego Park, Queens, on January 6.

celebrated the wedding of **Amanda Rosencrans** to Mike Van Pelt in Philadelphia on September 3.

Don't forget that our 10th reunion is Thursday, May 31—Saturday, June 2!

## 2009

**Alidad Damooei**  
damooei@gmail.com

**Emily Rose Jordan** and her husband, David Greenhouse '07, welcomed a son, Wilbur, in March 2017. Their little family recently relocated from London to Berlin, where Emily is head of research for MEDIGO, a digital health startup.

Last year **Daniella Zalcman** launched Women Photograph, an organization working to elevate the voices of female and non-binary visual journalists. It began as a database of 600-plus independent photographers based in 87 countries, and has since then expanded to include a grants program, an annual workshop, a mentorship program and a data research team.

Thanks for writing in, Emily Rose and Daniella! Everyone else, please send your news to damooei@gmail.com!

## 2010

**Julia Feldberg Klein**  
juliafeldberg@gmail.com

After only 13 years of dating, **Valerie Sapozhnikova** married Andrew Gallina on September 16 at Liberty Warehouse in Red Hook, Brooklyn. It was a fun and beautiful evening, and the College reunion was one of the highlights — attendees included

**Andrew Colvin, Max Cooper, Maximo Cubilette, Alexandra Duffy BC'10, Tess Finkel, Sophia Guy-White, Austin Hamilton, Alexa Hubbard, Stephanie Nass '13, Alexandra Paddock, Ashley Platt, Mariah Samost BC'08, Brittany Shiller, Polly Silverman, Michael Topol, Scott Wang and Sue Yang.** It was a blast to see everyone!

Some of our classmates have had some impressive developments — two of them published books that have gained a lot of attention. **Morgan Parker and Adam Valen Levinson** were recently featured in conversation in *The Paris Review*, communicating about the difficulty of communicating. Morgan's recent book, *There Are More Beautiful Things Than Beyoncé*, triggered extreme responses from the Beyhive, feeling slighted by the alleged sacrilege in her title. [Editor's note: See "Columbia Forum," Winter 2017–18.] And in December, Adam's *The Abu Dhabi Bar Mitzvah: Fear and Love in the Middle East* sparked a small flurry of op-eds and counter op-eds, but was ultimately deemed by *The New York Times* to be so self-lacerating as to be "hard to criticize." Thanks to Columbia, Morgan and Adam have found partners in controversy.

**Monica Quaintance** shares, "In 2017 I left my job as a senior data engineer at Rent the Runway and became the first hire at a cryptocurrency startup in Brooklyn, Kadena.io. We're working on some amazing tech and I'm finally using that statistics and probability degree!"

**Tzu-San Hung** writes, "I started a role in the corporate development and investor relations team at Lyft, based in San Francisco. We are in the process of building a team to put structure and process in place to evaluate strategic initiatives. Let me know if you are ever in the area and want a tour of our HQ!"

And finally, our quarterly installment from **Chris Yim**: "Recently, I found myself bored by a lot of the conversation that I was having. I found myself engaged in small talk (about the weather, sports and politics) and realized that there has to be a way to cut through to more meaningful dialogue. I thought about asking people, 'What do you like to talk about?' believing that I could get excited about anything that my conversation partner is into. However, when you find yourself

in conversation, this question is much harder to ask than you'd think. While at a social gathering in San Francisco, I started talking to a guy from Belgium who didn't know anyone else at the event. Feeling as though the conversation was heading in a direction that I did not like, I asked him the question that I had wanted to ask so many people. Finally! He responded by saying that he likes listening and hearing stories, which is why he likes hanging out with friends. With friends, he can hear stories about characters that he has investment in and learn events and details about their lives.

"I soon realized why I don't find myself telling many stories. I am really bad at it. I have this habit of including too many irrelevant details. They're usually relevant to me because in my head, the details are what color the story and provide it with meaning to me. However, to the outside observer and listener, the details hardly matter. During the holidays, my wife, Grace, and I were at her parents' home having a sleepover with her 6-year-old niece. While she was asleep, we stayed up like young couples do, chatting about various things. We got onto this topic of my bad storytelling, and so I decided to practice my storytelling with Grace. I would start by just telling a story my way (with all the details), then she would re-tell the story back to me in an entertaining fashion, which would be followed by me recounting her version of the story back to her. After multiple attempts at this with stories that should have been funny, I gave up. Oral storytelling is just not my thing.

"That evening, I did remember a funny tale that happened during college with two friends from school, whom I will call Andrew and Brian. We were in Koreatown in Manhattan at a restaurant. While having dinner, Andrew went outside to take a phone call. During that time, a stranger started to provoke an argument with Andrew. This quickly escalated with the two of them getting in each other's faces and having words. At that moment, Brian came out of the restaurant to check on Andrew and saw that Andrew and the other guy were about to hit each other. In reaction, Brian leapt out to hold Andrew back by grabbing hold of both of his arms. In the same instant, the enemy jumped out and

whacked Andrew across the face; he was powerless to do anything because Brian had handcuffed him.

"This tale is to just say that fighting doesn't get us anywhere. Don't do it.

"In April, Grace and I will take off from San Francisco for a nine-month trip. We're very lucky to have this opportunity. If you have travel plans this year and would like to meet up with us, shoot me a note. We figure that this may be one of our few opportunities to travel and spend this kind of dedicated time together before we start trying to grow our family again. I will miss San Francisco, and we will use our time elsewhere to reflect on what we want most. Community is one thing that is of immense importance to me. I want to spend more time around my closest friends. However, with competing priorities and factors that draw us away from one another, this becomes increasingly difficult.

"Ever since seeing *The Disaster Artist*, I have been inspired to become a filmmaker and tell more stories. It's amazing that for how many Asians live in America, we hardly see them portrayed in the media, and we don't really get that much exposure to the Asian-American experience. It's unique. It's great. Non-Asian Americans enjoy our food all the time but hardly take the time to learn about our tales and experiences to get here. The only piece about becoming an artist that I am trying to figure out is that when you want to become an artist, you have to be obsessive about it; almost to the point where you alienate everyone else. I am not sure that I



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CCT welcomes Class Notes photos that feature at least two College alumni. Click "Contact Us" at [college.columbia.edu/cct](http://college.columbia.edu/cct).

am ready to do this quite yet, as I still like my wife, friends and family.

“Speaking of family, I wrote an article for Medium about my Asian-American experience. Sometimes I get down on myself for thinking that the gap between me and my parents is far. I get sadder thinking that we are disadvantaged because we don’t speak the same language. However, with all the crazy stuff that is happening in our country, I am seeing how it all starts with conversation and putting yourself out there. I also realized that my family isn’t as messed up as I thought it was: We’re actually quite put together and fortunate. I don’t think that I ever really got to thank my parents enough for the opportunities they provided for me, but in case they’re reading this right now, I send a shoutout to Hung and Gyung Yim. Y’all are the real MVPs.

“I will close this post with this: When I got to Columbia, I went to school with a lot of rich white kids whose parents and grandparents grew up here and were rich. While I don’t consider myself wealthy, I realize that as the first-generation American in my family, I am establishing that legacy for my children and grandchildren. It’s kind of a crazy thought. I feel sort of like Alexander Hamilton (Class of 1778), without the dueling part.

“My favorite shows of 2017 were *Insecure* with Issa Rae and *The Night Of* with Riz Ahmed. Also, a special shoutout to my Los Angeles friends whom I got to see while I was in town for my 30th: Rebecca Usoro BC’12 is pursuing a dream in screenwriting, **Edwin Elias** is writing and living the Southern California dream and **Cliff Massey** doesn’t get enough credit for his work organizing the alumni network. You guys are awesome!

“This year: Tiger Woods will win a major. You heard it here first. And, I’ll see y’all at Burning Man!”

## 2011

**Nuriel Moghavam and Sean Udell**  
nurielm@gmail.com  
sean.udell@gmail.com

The Class of 2011 has its first congressional candidate! **Sara Jacobs** is running as a Democrat for Califor-

nia’s Fightin’ 49th District, a coastal district just north of San Diego, currently represented by a Republican. If elected, Sara will be the youngest woman ever elected to Congress.

We wish you the best of luck, Sara, and are happy we finally found a way to put the upcoming midterm elections into Class Notes. This summer, make sure that you’re registered to vote and, in November, vote!

We also have an all-2011 wedding! **Carmen Rosenberg-Miller** and **Scott Maxfield** celebrated their marriage on July 21 in Mallorca, Spain. Many of their Columbia friends (and family members) made the trip to Mallorca, where Carmen and her family have spent summer vacations for almost two decades. Carmen and Scott started dating during their junior year at Columbia and, more than eight years later, are now happily married and living in North Brooklyn.

Jazz-pianist-turned-roots-musician **Sam Reider** is casually redefining American music on the accordion. He’s been featured at Lincoln Center and on NPR, and performed alongside pop stars, virtuosos and folk musicians around the world ranging from Jon Batiste and Stay Human, to viral YouTube sensation cdza and T-Pain, to Americana singer Jim Lauderdale to Grammy Award-winning Venezuelan musician Jorge Glem. Sam’s newest record, *Too Hot to Sleep*, presents his unique compositional voice alongside an ensemble of top-drawer musical collaborators and compadres called The Human Hands. Visit samreidermusic.com for music and tour dates.

[Editor’s note: Hear more from Reider on CCT Online: college.columbia.edu/cct/latest. Select “Lion’s Den,” then scroll to the bottom to select Reider’s essay.]

We’re thrilled for Sam’s successes and are happy we finally found a way to put T-Pain into Class Notes.

**Dhruv Vasishtha** returns to our column to share that he was with **Teddy Poll** in Philadelphia’s Rittenhouse Square when he bumped into some of his Wharton School friends. After meeting Teddy, one remarked: “I have never met anyone else like that.”

We completely concur and are happy we finally found a way to put Teddy into Class Notes.

See you next quarter!



GANESH RAMAKRISHNAN

Bob Headland of the Scott Polar Research Institute, Chuck Roberts ’12 and James Rathmell ’12 celebrated the New Year at Brown Bluff, Antarctica, for the New Year’s Antarctic Expedition.

## 2012

**Sarah Chai**  
sarahbchai@gmail.com

On top of some awesome career moves, we have two Columbia love stories to share this time around!

**Carolyn Matos Montes** and **Peter Holst-Grubbe**, who were married in December, shared their story: “We met our sophomore year outside McBain during one of the many fire alarms and have been inseparable ever since. We married in [Carolyn’s] hometown of San Juan, Puerto Rico, eight years after we met. Despite all the hardships brought on by the hurricane we decided to keep our wedding date and venue to support the community and island we love, and the day was perfect! We were joined by 21 CC, SEAS and BC alums who traveled to the island and supported the local economy post-Hurricane Maria — it was the most magical day. Wish we could do it every year!”

A little more than nine years after meeting in Carman in 2008, **Maddy Joseph** and **Sam Klug** got married in October in Washington, D.C. The couple was thrilled to have many of their Columbia friends celebrating along with them! They send a shoutout to bridesmaids **Usha Sahay** and **Allison Grossman BC’12**, and groomsmen **Amirah Sequeira**.

Congratulations to **Kristin Simmons**, whose work (paintings and prints) was showcased at a solo exhibition, *Desperate Pleasures*, at

Galerie Mourlot in New York City October 20–November 25. Kristin is looking forward to a solo show at Denis Bloch Gallery in Los Angeles this April/May.

**Ashley Lhérisson LAW’17** shared exciting news about starting her own business: “After the New York and California bar exams, I started my first business: Ivy Grad Services, a premier consulting service on a mission to change the face of one-on-one tutoring by providing prospective and current graduate students with guidance and advice through the entire grad school process. The main focus of Ivy Grad Services is J.D. and M.B.A. admissions consulting. In starting this venture, I am committed to helping students use their unique story to craft a narrative that showcases their strengths, highlights their promise and convinces admissions officers and employers that their diverse experiences are worth investing in. Ivy Grad Services is full-service and covers everything from the admissions stage (including résumé and cover letter review, and essay drafting) to successful job placement and guidance through the certification phase, whether that be passing the bar exam or building your professional network. Ivy Grad Services provides invaluable advice, tips and strategies to help you excel in graduate school and successfully launch your career. If you’re interested in learning more and spreading the word, check out my website and send me an email: ashley@ivygradservices.com.”

Hope to hear from the rest of you soon!

## 2013

REUNION 2018  
MAY 31–JUNE 2Events and Programs Contact  
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talaakhavan@gmail.com

After graduation, **Alon Sicherman** founded a film production company, L-Vision, specializing in drones and other technical camera platforms. Since its founding, L-Vision has worked with clients such as Apple, *The New York Times*, *Vice*, Supreme, the UN and many more. Alon recently won an Emmy Award for his cinematography on a commercial showcasing the 2016–17 season of the Mets and Yankees. He also won a Telly Award for his drone cinematography with a farming initiative for *New York State Grown and Certified*. In January he attended the Sundance Film Festival, where *Crime + Punishment*, a documentary he shot aeriels for, won a Special Juror Award.

Congratulations, Alon!

After working at Citigroup in New York for four years, **Perry Nickerson** decided to leave the city and work his way east to pursue an interest in Asia — more specifically, China. After leaving his job in spring 2017, he spent the summer getting a private pilot's license in the United States before heading to Indonesia to spend several months teaching English to underprivileged children. He lives in Taipei and is completing a one-year master's in

Chinese at the National Taiwan University. Once he has completed that degree, he'll head to Beijing to get an M.B.A. at Peking University, with the hopes of then finding a full-time job in Shanghai.

Our five-year reunion is rapidly approaching! Come back to campus Thursday, May 31–Saturday, June 2!

## 2014

Rebecca Fattell  
rsf2121@columbia.edu

**Chris Zombik** completed his third year at an education consulting firm in Shanghai, where he works closely with bright and ambitious Chinese high schoolers who are preparing to attend elite American colleges. Outside of work, Chris has been busy studying Mandarin, participating in the Shanghai Writing Workshop, helping his fellow American expats register to vote through Democrats Abroad and taking in all the diverse flavors and excitements of life in China's most dynamic city.

Please share your news in this space! CCT welcomes photos as long as they feature at least two College alums and are high-resolution (college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note\_photo). Hope you have a wonderful spring!

## 2015

Kareem Carryl  
kareem.carryl@columbia.edu

Hello, Class of 2015! It's hard to believe it's already spring — it feels



Saaket Pradhan '16 held a pre-Thanksgiving reunion dinner with his roommate, Andrew Lawson GS'16. Left to right: Ethan Shapiro GS'16, Allie Lavine '16, Sameer Mishra '16, Sarita Patankar '14, Charles Sanky '16, Andrew Liu '16, Anna Broadbent '16, Nathan Kung '16, Alicia Schleifman '18, Kareem Carryl '15, Andrew Lawson GS'16, Sean Liu SEAS'16, Grayson Warrick '16, Angad Singh '16, Justin Walters '16, Saaket Pradhan '16, Jaclyn Willner '14 and Ben Makansi '16.

like 2018 just started! Let's jump right into the news!

**Alex Ngan** is finishing his second year at the UC Berkeley–UCSF Joint Medical Program, and is interested in orthopedic surgery with a specialization in sports medicine. He plans to continue swimming this summer and to train for the Olympic Trials in 2020. He says, "Would like to give thanks to the Columbia swimming and diving team, as well as the opportunities Columbia afforded!"

**Laura Booth** sent the following: "Since May 2017, I've been a park ranger for the National Park Service at Muir Woods National Monument, an old-growth redwood forest. In partnership with the Columbia Alumni Association, I led a guided walk in August for alums that discussed untold stories of Muir Woods. We revisited some of the themes of the Core as they pertain to public lands and civic engagement. One of my favorite programs to give in the forest is based on the back-of-the-envelope calculation technique we learned in *Frontiers of Science*. I use this tool to guide the public in a calculation of how many redwoods are in Muir Woods — and to lead a discussion about how we value redwood forests."

Laura sent along a photo from the alumni walk, in which you will find **Sara Garner SEAS'15**, **Vaibhav Vavilala SEAS'17** (who happened to be her resident in Furnald when she was an RA) and several other members of the Class of 2015!

As always, your classmates want to hear from you! Please be sure to submit updates to Class Notes by writing me at the address at the top of the column or using the CCT Class Notes webform, college.columbia.edu/cct/submit\_class\_note.

## 2016

Lily Liu-Krason  
lliukrason@gmail.com

The Class of 2016 has been super busy. I have some great updates this time around for y'all, but one quick announcement before the fun: I moved to Brooklyn! Please reach out if you want to share an update with the class or catch up!

**Saaket Pradhan** held a pre-Thanksgiving reunion dinner with his roommate, Andrew Lawson GS'16. Attending were Ethan Shapiro GS'16, **Allie Lavine**, **Sameer Mishra**, **Sarita Patankar '14**, **Charles Sanky**, **Andrew Liu**, **Anna Broadbent**, **Nathan Kung**, **Alicia Schleifman '18**, **Kareem Carryl '15**, **Sean Liu SEAS'16**, **Grayson Warrick**, **Angad Singh**, **Justin Walters**, **Jaclyn Willner '14** and **Ben Makansi**.

**Yixin Sun** writes, "I recently did the Chicago Triathlon with **Manny Tamargo SEAS'16**, **Brandon Martinez** and **Ben Xue '14**."

From **Kalman Victor**: "Since graduating, Kalman has become the proud adoptive father of two guinea piglets. When he's not contemplating how fatherhood has changed everything, he's still enjoying New York and all of its charms, aside from the precipitous decline of the MTA. The startup he co-founded during his junior year was just recently 'acquired,' and at a new enterprise, he's on a team building a life science research analytics platform. Big Data, AI, NLP [Neuro-Linguistic Programming], authorial disambiguation and other jargon terms are used freely around him, and he's gotten good at pretending to know what's going on



Muir Woods National Monument Park Ranger Laura Booth '15 led a guided walk of the woods in August for Columbia alumni.



at work. He lives in Brooklyn with his lifetime platonic partner, **Gabriel Merkin**, and still hopes to write some fiction that might someday be worthy of inclusion in an alumni update. He has also taken to only writing about himself in the third person.”

From **Angel Wang**: “Hey, 2016 — I graduated from Columbia a semester early to work at a refugee camp in Lesvos, Greece. Now, as a digital transformation consultant, my trips to Seattle, Toronto and Dubai are testing my limits in a different way. I’ve found a home for my airline points and my passion for advocating refugee rights through my volunteer work with Miles4Migrants, a nimble nonprofit that reunites refugee families using donated frequent flyer miles and rewards points to book flights — and it’s eagerly seeking donations! I also volunteer with Eat Offbeat, an immigrant-founded food startup that trains refugee chefs to create and deliver authentic meals. In my downtime, I’m always eager for new friends to go longboarding or play tennis with!”

From **David Hamburger**: “Three weeks after graduation I was on a plane to Kolkata to begin a 10-month Fulbright English Teaching Fellowship. During my time in

Kolkata, I helped my students master the simple future tense, Michael Jackson dance moves and how to ‘trick or treat.’ I loved my time in India and the opportunity to teach an incredible group of students. I was recently selected as a 2018–19 Fulbright Ambassador, which means it’s my job to spread the word about the Fulbright program. If you or someone you know is interested in teaching or researching abroad, please reach out to me, as I’d love to talk to you about the program. I live in New York and in June I’ll begin a one-year fellowship with the Work First Foundation, an organization devoted to searching for ways to pioneer solutions to poverty alleviation.”

## 2017

### REUNION 2018 MAY 31–JUNE 2

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**Carl Yin**  
carl.yin@columbia.edu

Wishing our class a happy spring! Here are some updates:

**Jacqueline Chulya** played on Columbia’s varsity golf team for four years and last October turned professional and is now playing full-time. In Siem Reap, Cambodia, also last October, Jacqueline won her first pro tournament, the Ladies European Tour Qualifying Stage I. In November, she earned a full membership for the Taiwan LPGA 2018. She will play in the Ladies European Tour Access Series, the Taiwan LPGA Tour and the China LPGA this year.

**Willie Dong** is in his first year at Northwestern, pursuing a Ph.D. in mathematics.

**Marina Chan** recently returned from a trip that brought her, for the first time, to her origins and roots as a Chinese adoptee. In preparation, she spent the summer after graduation in Middlebury’s Chinese language immersion program where, as a beginner, she learned one academic year of Chinese in just two months. Thus prepared to help her family navigate, Marina retraced the steps of her adoption with her parents. Exiting the United States



John Jay 7ers Adam Lieber '17, Meric Atesalp SEAS'17, Ethan Wu '17, Madeleine Steinberg '17 and Carl Yin '17 hanging out post-graduation.

by way of Hawaii, they worked their way from Beijing to Hong Kong, the most emotional stop being Marina’s birth city, Hefei, the capital of Anhui Province. There, they visited Marina’s orphanage and met with the former deputy director, Mr. Zhao. The intense month in China was followed by a relaxing month in the Land Down Under, where Marina occupied herself equally with exploring Australia’s unique flora and fauna (although she has yet to meet a wombat) and learning about aboriginal art and culture and the complex relationship between the indigenous people, those of European descent and Asians. Before heading back to the United States, the family stopped in New Zealand, where Marina found her dream home: Hobbiton of the Shire. Now back in New York, Marina will undertake an internship in the Asia Society’s Performing Arts Department while continuing her playwriting and music and exploring opportunities as a member of the Dramatists Guild. Time allowing, she’d also love to get back to dance and acting, all to help further her vision of combining her various arts.

**Bianca Guerrero** writes, “I can’t believe it’s already been seven months since I graduated! I am still doing my fellowship and learning from my rookie mistakes (for example, remembering to google names and faces of key stakeholders before meetings so I don’t ask the commissioner who they are when I accidentally sit next to them).

“In the past few months, I turned 22 and missed Columbia very much, as a good chunk of my close friends are across the country; caught up with my favorite professor, Roger Lehecka ’67, GSAS’74, and supported our mutual mentee, a College first-year, at the Black Theatre Ensemble’s performance of *Dream-girls*; made the long, arduous and hassling trip up to Yonkers, N.Y., with my sophomore year roommate for Thanksgiving and then again with a fellow Truman Scholar for Christmas; and spent the New Year at home, incubating a virus or the flu, which kept me sneezing and sick for the first week of 2018.

“I’m now trying to figure out what will come next after my fellowship ends in May, how to get more involved in the alumni community and how to continue learning informally out of school!”

**Julian Nebreda-Bello** lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil, for a film production company, Gullane.

**Sydney Segal** writes, “I traveled solo around Scandinavia until my new lease started in Madrid at the beginning of February. I have accepted a position to teach English for the year, while I study for my LSAT, and I hope to matriculate at the Law School. I made my way around Sweden and Norway, embracing the cold weather that NYC has seasoned me to handle.

“Post-graduation definitely is not the same as college, so I thought I would postpone ‘real life’ a little bit longer.”



Yixin Sun '16, Manny Tamargo SEAS'16, Brandon Martinez '16 and Ben Xue '14 completed the Chicago Triathlon.

# obituaries

## 1937

**William W. Ragsdale Jr.**, retired accountant and professor, Williamsburg, Va., on June 24, 2017. Ragsdale was born March 1, 1915, in Rutherford, N.J. He earned an M.S. in 1947 from the Business School. Ragsdale joined the firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers (formerly known as Lybrand Ross Bros. & Montgomery) as a C.P.A. and worked in Birmingham, Ala., and New York City. He became a partner in 1958. Upon retiring from the firm in 1972, he taught accounting at Fairleigh Dickinson, Seton Hall and Monmouth College. In 1987, Ragsdale moved to Williamsburg Landing and sat on various finance committees within the community. He was a member of Williamsburg United Methodist Church and the Crown Colony Club, where he had been president. Ragsdale enjoyed reading, sailing and playing tennis and golf. He was predeceased by a brother, John Perrin Ragsdale, and his wife of 73 years, Helen Oswald Ragsdale, and is survived by his daughters, Peggy Peterman and her husband, Ted, Betsy Wright and her husband, Charlie, and Mary Saalfield and her husband, John; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

## 1945

**Charles M. Greenwald**, retired radiologist, Olmsted Falls, Ohio, on June 21, 2017. Greenwald, a 1948 alumnus of P&S, was a Renaissance man with wide-ranging interests. In addition to professional organizations, he devoted time and energy to activities supporting theater, music, science and education in his community. Born in Queens, N.Y., Greenwald was a lieutenant in the Navy Medical Corps, completing training in radiology at the Cleveland Clinic. In 1961 he was founding director of the Department of Radiology at Parma Community General Hospital for 25 years. Greenwald began and was the director of the School of Radiologic Technology. He was assistant clinical professor for Case Western Reserve University and was a fellow of the American College of Radiology, councilor for

the Ohio chapter and president of the Ohio State Radiological Society. A lifelong passionate learner, his travels touched all seven continents with trips focusing on wildlife and early civilizations. Greenwald's passion for bones continued in retirement with work at the Cleveland Museum of National History in the Physical Anthropology Department. He coauthored several papers and journal articles during his retirement years. A Rotarian, Greenwald was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow for his service and 50 years of perfect attendance. He was married to Margaret (née Paschall) for 60 years.

## 1951

**Robert H. Flynn**, retired teacher and banker, Manhasset, N.Y., on February 20, 2018. Flynn was born in Astoria, Queens. At the College, he studied music under Vladimir Ussachevsky and English under Mark Van Doren GSAS'21. Flynn earned a degree from Teachers College and attended Middlebury's Bread Loaf School of English. He taught English in the Levittown school system and at Great Neck North Senior H.S. Transitioning to finance and banking, he wrote speeches, annual report letters and press releases for politicians and CEOs. Flynn later became an account executive at private banking firm Brown Brothers Harriman, where he spent the bulk of his career. He was a regular attendee of Dean's Days, reunions, football games, receptions and concerts on campus. Such was his enthusiasm that his children heard lectures by Karl-Ludwig Selig, Edward Said and Pellegrino D'Acierno '65, GSAS'73 while in high school. Though a banker and investment counselor by day, Flynn's calling was as an amateur, mostly autodidactic etymologist. If it is accepted that etymology, the Brooklyn Dodgers, the New York Mets, composer Charles Ives, 19th-century Russian composers and daylily cultivation are fields of intellectual inquiry, then Flynn was a polymath. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Margaret; brother, Donald; children, Maura Arcidiacono, Christopher '80, Hill and Geoffrey; and nine grandchildren, including Julia Flynn Chinniah GS'16.

## 1959

**William U. Bridge**, retired USPS clerk, Yonkers, N.Y., on May 29, 2017. Bridge was born on April 16, 1932, in Mt. Vernon, N.Y. A lifelong Yonkers resident, he served in the Army during the Korean War (1952-54) and was honorably discharged at the rank of corporal. He then attended the College. Bridge married Janet Hook on July 14, 1983. She survives him, as do his children, Andronica Meade and her husband, Donald, and Natalia Hook and her husband, Robert Terracuso; and four grandchildren.

## 1966

**Natale M. Ceglio Jr.**, physicist, Pleasanton, Calif., on July 2, 2017. Ceglio earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. in nuclear science and engineering from MIT after a B.S. in applied physics from Columbia Engineering in 1967 and a B.A. in physics from the College. He was a physicist by training and became an authority in the fields of plasma physics, lasers, optics and extreme ultraviolet lithography. Ceglio began his career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in 1976. After 20 years there, he set his sights on Silicon Valley, where he held several top management positions. Ceglio was the recipient of 11 R&D 100 Awards, more than any other individual worldwide. He was also the recipient of the Department of Energy's Award of Excellence and was awarded multiple patents in optics, microscopy, lithography, particle beams, sputter deposition, information storage and wafer inspection. Ceglio was a Vietnam veteran who proudly served as a lieutenant in the Navy. He was a tennis enthusiast, and also enjoyed downhill skiing, movies, music and working. His latest endeavor was authoring a comic book featuring "Jonathan Safer," who was going to make the world a safer place. He also loved animals, including his cat, Alexa. Survivors include his wife of 28 years, Kelly Montgomery; sister, Marietta Kinane; brothers, Michael and his wife, Sara, and Chris and his wife, Amy; in-laws, Kathy and Kerm Montgomery; and nieces and nephews.

## 1969

**William R. "Max" Carey Jr.**, marketing and sales consulting executive, Marietta, Ga., on May 24, 2017. Raised in Allendale, N.J., Carey attended Columbia on an NROTC scholarship. A three-year letter winner in football, he was an "All-Ivy League" defensive halfback in 1968 and set an NCAA record for career kick-off returns in 1969. Carey entered the Navy in July 1969 and rose to the rank of lieutenant over a seven-year career that included flying 100 missions over North Vietnam, completing more than 300 carrier landings and becoming one of the few elite fighter pilots to achieve Top Gun certification. In 1981, Carey founded Corporate Resource Development, a marketing and sales consulting firm. Carey wrote a book, *The Superman Complex: Achieving the Balance That Leads to True Success* (1998). In 2000, he was a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award. Carey is survived by his wife of 45 years, Susan (née Estes); daughters, Elise Kelso '98 and her husband, Bryan, and Caroline Zuniga and her husband, Jacob; son, William R. "Billy" III '03, BUS'11 and his wife, Laura; brothers, Christopher and Michael; and six grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

— Lisa Palladino

### Obituary Submission Guidelines

Columbia College Today welcomes obituaries for College alumni. Deaths are noted in the next available issue in the "Other Deaths Reported" box. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear. Word limit is 200; text may be edited for length, clarity and style at the editors' discretion. Click "Contact Us" at college.columbia.edu/cct, or mail materials to Obituaries Editor, Columbia College Today, Columbia Alumni Center, 622 W. 113th St., MC 4530, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10025.

## OTHER DEATHS REPORTED

*Columbia College Today* also has learned of the following deaths. Complete obituaries will be published in an upcoming issue, pending receipt of information. Due to the volume of obituaries that CCT receives, it may take several issues for the complete obituary to appear.

- 1939 **David W. Mason**, retired teacher and camp owner, Fryeburg, Maine, on September 15, 2017.
- 1941 **Erwin V. Alpert**, retired store manager, New Haven, Conn., on January 28, 2018.
- 1942 **Elbert C. Mead Jr.**, retired bank controller, New Bern, N.C., on October 10, 2017.
- 1945 **Julian B. Hyman**, retired physician, Hackensack, N.J., on October 13, 2017.
- 1946 **James W. Gell**, ob/gyn, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., on February 2, 2018.  
**Robert Greiff**, retired, Princeton, N.J., on January 15, 2018.
- 1948 **Robert K. Haupt**, Cincinnati, on August 16, 2017.  
**Kenneth R. Williams**, retired research scientist, Kennett Square, Pa., on November 4, 2017.
- 1949 **Campbell R. Geeslin**, retired editor, White Plains, N.Y., on August 30, 2017.
- 1951 **Bruno J. Giletti**, retired professor, Oakland, Calif., on January 29, 2018.
- 1952 **Philip Bloom**, retired judge, Miami Beach, Fla., on January 4, 2018.  
**Alan L. Stein**, financial executive, San Francisco, on February 11, 2018.
- 1953 **Richard M. Phillips**, Tiburon, Calif., on September 12, 2017.  
**Ronald Schaffer**, retired professor of history and military historian, Los Angeles, on September 1, 2017.
- 1954 **Herbert H. Frommer**, dentist, New York City and Westhampton, N.Y., on February 1, 2018.  
**Herbert G. Hagerty**, retired Foreign Service officer, Washington, D.C., on December 7, 2017.  
**Keith E. Krebs**, Walla Walla, Wash., on October 11, 2017.  
**Eric Salzman**, composer and former music critic, Brooklyn, N.Y., and East Quogue, N.Y., on November 12, 2017.
- 1956 **Jerry A. Fodor**, philosopher and professor, New York City, on November 29, 2017.  
**Carl W. Norden**, retired physician, Philadelphia, on August 26, 2017.
- 1957 **Saul S. Cohen**, retired, New York City, on January 15, 2018.  
**Richard D. Gooder**, professor, Cambridge, U.K., on October 30, 2017.
- Mauro J. Pittaro Jr.**, engineer, Hoboken, N.J., on August 21, 2017.
- Louis P. Rothman**, attorney, Delray Beach, Fla., on October 17, 2017.
- Elliott S. Schwartz**, professor of music emeritus, composer, Brunswick, Maine, on December 7, 2016.
- 1958 **Richard "Dick" H. Bakalor**, attorney and lecturer, Merrick, N.Y., on July 14, 2017.  
**Barry Dickman**, attorney, Ridgewood, N.J., on January 29, 2018.  
**Michael O. Lesch**, attorney, Larchmont, N.Y., on August 21, 2017.  
**John J. McGroarty**, retired ophthalmologist, Burbank, Calif., on December 22, 2017.
- 1959 **Kenneth R. Gros Louis**, retired university chancellor, Bloomington, Ill., on October 20, 2017.  
**Hugh B. McSurely**, Canton, Mich., on October 20, 2015.  
**Richard A. Merrill**, professor and dean emeritus, Charlottesville, Va., October 26, 2017.  
**Bruce M. Stave**, professor emeritus, Coventry, Conn., on December 2, 2017.
- 1960 **Frank A. Siracusa**, Seaford, N.Y., on February 1, 2017.
- 1961 **Jay T. Carrigan**, Hendersonville, N.C., on August 22, 2015.  
**Peter King III**, Greensboro, N.C., on September 16, 2016.
- 1962 **Robert A. Kohn**, retired diplomat, Washington, D.C., on December 8, 2017.  
**Charles C. Rohrs**, physician, North Petersburg, N.Y., on June 14, 2016.
- 1964 **Michael L. Barnett**, dental research consultant and retired periodontist, Princeton, N.J., on November 22, 2017.
- 1965 **Jeffrey L. Bell**, conservative theorist, politician and consultant, Annandale, Va., on February 10, 2018.  
**William L. Weinstock**, retired attorney, Brooklyn, N.Y., on June 12, 2017.
- 1967 **Richard H. Bullen Jr.**, financial services system designer, Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y., on February 3, 2018.
- 1969 **Jeffrey M. Sydney**, attorney, La Quinta, Calif., on January 18, 2018.
- 1971 **Elliot S. Frank**, retired computer scientist, Las Vegas, on October 14, 2017.
- 1977 **J. Douglas Newman**, financial executive, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., on October 7, 2017.
- 1984 **Anthony E. Kaye**, history professor and writer, Chapel Hill, N.C., on May 14, 2017.
- 1987 **Gary L. Rempe II**, entrepreneur, Albuquerque, N.M., on September 24, 2017.
- 1993 **Rachel M. Mintz**, photographer and artist, New York City, on January 10, 2018.

## '43 Reverie

*In anticipation of their 75th reunion, Dr. G.J. "Dan" D'Angio '43 and Bernie Weisberger '43 spoke with CCT about the College of their youth. D'Angio has spent his medical career battling childhood cancer, developing major innovations in radiation and chemotherapy treatments. He also was president of the International Society of Pediatric Oncology and has received numerous accolades for his life-saving work. Historian and author Weisberger has taught at a number of colleges, including Swarthmore, Vassar and the University of Chicago; he has authored more than a dozen books on topics ranging from the 1906 Cubs-White Sox World Series to the presidential election of 1800 to a biography of the founder of General Motors. The two have developed a friendship through their correspondence in Class Notes and look forward to reuniting on campus this summer at their reunion.*



### **Columbia College Today: What was your experience at the College like?**

**Dr. G.J. "Dan" D'Angio '43:** It was a complete change from high school, but I think I fit in almost immediately because my brother [Carl D'Angio '41] was there; I was following along behind him and he was my guide. What I remember is that we were wearing jackets and neckties in those days.

**Bernie Weisberger '43:** You're right about the formal dress; we wore jackets, ties and beanies and had classes that started at 8 a.m. The first teacher to make a big impression on me was Monsieur Clamens — I was taking elementary French — and he was always dressed to the nines, very dapper and very formal; it was a totally different experience from having a high school teacher. My overpowering memory of those years was that they were dominated by the war. We '43ers entered in September 1939, just when the war was declared. For the first semester there was talk that it was a "phony war" and it made no impression on us — but then in the second semester, spring 1940, the Germans occupied Norway, Sweden and France. After that it was nothing but daily headlines of war. I had a sense that we were going to be in it sooner or later.

There was also a heady feeling of entering a very new world, which partly frightened me and partly elated me. A feeling of being on your own, of being an adult and of being introduced to a dazzling world of learning. For me it was because of two freshman courses — one was Humanities A and the second was the social science course, I can't remember the name of it. Suddenly we were reading books at a level I had never read before — Greek plays, Plato, political classics like *The Republic*. Even now, I'm grateful for that first introductory year.

**D'Angio:** I tried to get involved with sports. I had been a fencer in high school, so I joined the fencing team and the rifle team, and I became coxswain on the lightweight crew team. All of that broadened the learning experience; I tried to do that because it was so easy to lose ourselves in all of the demands of the academic year. Incidentally, I look back on the first two years with tremendous admiration and fondness, but as far as

JORGE JIMENEZ

our teachings were concerned, the world ended in Athens — we learned zero about the Indian subcontinent, the Far East, or Chinese and Japanese literature. My class was completely ignorant of that and to a certain extent I've had to teach myself.

**Weisberger:** Can I jump in on that comment? Now I remember the name of the other basic freshman course — it was Western Civilization. The assumption was that it was the only one. Although, because Columbia had some graduate programs in Asian cultures it meant that when Pearl Harbor occurred they could offer a freshman Japanese course. I was able to enroll in that and start on my military career as a Japanese translator. But it's true, the world revolved around several European capitals.

**CCT: What sort of changes have you seen to the campus?**

**D'Angio:** The playing field was still there in front of Butler Library. Isn't that right, Bernie?

**Weisberger:** I do indeed remember South Field, and I remember hearing the story that they played baseball there and that Lou Gehrig [Class of 1923] once hit a homerun that went all the way up the steps of Low Library.

**D'Angio:** And of course, 116th was still a street, so cars were running [through campus]. There have been some major physical changes since we were there, but fundamentally the quad is the same and all the rest are very much part of the scenery.

**Weisberger:** The other great divide was Broadway, which separated us from the Barnard campus. I only occasionally crossed that for social events. It was like a great wall.

**D'Angio:** I had some of the Barnard ladies in my fine arts class, so there was exchange at that time but not a lot of activity — the College certainly wasn't coed; it was very much a male place.

**CCT: Tell us more about how WWII affected life at the College.**

**Weisberger:** It changed it considerably. Once Pearl Harbor occurred, right before the spring of my junior year, the Columbia

campus became the scene of a V7 program to train deck officers. The campus was filled with students in Navy uniforms marching hither and thither. I did take two regular courses, but most of my studying efforts became focused on learning elementary Japanese. I was only on campus for three years but the faculty kindly gave you academic credit if you were in the armed services, and that enabled me to show up at Commencement in June '43. I was stationed in Washington, D.C., and came to New York on a weekend pass. Dan, you were in the medical program, right?

**D'Angio:** That's right, I was pre-med. Up until December 1941 we were just chugging along. I had exercised what was called the "professional option" so I could leave Columbia at the end of my third year, so I did that and went on to medical school. I spent very little time on the Columbia campus during the actual war years.

**Weisberger:** The war didn't change the academic courses; they were still taught as if nothing was happening. I would go from reading the morning headlines about the fall of France to Professor [Jacques] Barzun ['27, GSAS'32]'s class, where we would talk about 19th-century literature. It was an odd transition between the real world and the world of scholarship. I always say the first two years of courses were my education and the rest were just add-ons.

**D'Angio:** Thinking back on it, we students were all shoulder to shoulder. There were no protests. There were, of course, people who avoided the draft, but there were no student protests against the war because the war had been foisted on us, unlike during the Vietnam years and the Korean War when the country was electively engaging in combat. The solidarity of the public and the students behind the government [during WWII] was palpable. There was also the bulwark that President Roosevelt provided. He and his team were there, and I for one believed they would pull us through.

**CCT: Do you remember your dean?**

**D'Angio:** Dean Hawkes!

**Weisberger:** Yes, Herbert Hawkes! He was a very well dressed and neat-looking

man, and I remember that when we assembled the first Monday after Pearl Harbor he gave us a talk that sounded a little elitist but was actually very accurate. He said, 'Don't rush off and join the infantry; the Army will have need of various specialized talents that you're developing here.' He said, 'Keep your nether garments *in situ!*,' which translates as 'Keep your pants on!' That's my major memory of Dean Hawkes!

**CCT: Is there anything else you want to share?**

**Weisberger:** With all the seriousness we've been talking about, I remember having a lot of fun. There was the tug of war between the freshman and sophomore classes — the losers were dragged through the stream of a hose. Unfortunately, I was on the losing team both years!

**D'Angio:** I would add my memory of getting on the subway and going up to Baker Field with the crew; we would finish a class and go to 215th Street and get in a boat and go out on the water. During the season we actually lived at Baker Field. That was a big boon to not have to pay the dormitory fee! We got up in the morning, got back on the subway to head down for classes and then repeated that throughout the season. It gave another dimension to the college experience for me, and I certainly enjoyed it. Thinking back on it, I was kind of stupid — I never really took advantage of the fact that we were in New York City. I never went to a Broadway show, I never went to the Metropolitan Museum as a student. The campus enveloped us. For me, it was invisible boundaries — I just didn't particularly want to go beyond the campus; I had enough to do there.

**Weisberger:** I lived off-campus, so I remember arriving at campus in the morning and leaving around 3:30. It was a great experience, but it's always great to be young if you're lucky.

**CCT: We're looking forward to seeing you both at reunion!**

**D'Angio:** We're looking forward to reunion — we'll be there if we have two legs that function!

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— Ariana Mason CC'08



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