

# STUYVESANT

The Alumni Spectator - Fall 2017

## Class of '72 Celebrates their 45th Year Reunion and Honors the First Class of Stuyvesant Women



(l to r): '72 classmates Rich Legum, Danny Marcus, Bobby Chin, Howie Feinberg, Robert Shpuntoff, Phil Lehman, Andy Hordes, Charlie Frankston, Mike Watkins, Eliot Ostrow, Matt Futterman, Rich Braun, Eve Berman, Rich Stark, Andrew Nosal, Kathy Parks, Eric Platt, Sarantos Soumakis, Henk Rogers, Evelyn Horn, Ed Meehan, Eric Hirschfeld, Abby Scheck, Judy Levy, Peter Peart, Laren Herman Lynn, Arnold Anthony Schmidt, Anne Berman '73

**Michael Hartig's** ('72 Class Marshal) Recount of his Reunion Weekend:

Over the beautiful, un-seasonally warm weekend of October 20-22nd, more than 100 Stuyvesant Class of '72 alumni and their spouses celebrated their 45-year reunion with a weekend that was filled with a wide selection of

events and good times memorialized by photos and videos. It kicked off on Friday with a tour of New Stuyvesant, including a visit to the nostalgic Stefanacci room, and hosted by current Principal Eric Contreras P'16, who shared his vision of Stuyvesant and dazzled us with countless examples attesting to the continuing greatness of this institution 45 years after we left its hallowed halls.

For those longing to return to the Old Stuyvesant neighborhood on Saturday afternoon, **Ben Wagenberg** led many of us on his renowned walking tour of the neighborhood's landmarks, parks, restaurants, haunts and quaint stores. The heart of the reunion weekend was the Saturday evening gala at Manhattan Proper in the Financial District, which featured nostalgic music from our school days, trivia games, and the joy of reconnecting

with our classmates as we enjoyed the delicious dinner and drinks. Later on, many of us headed to Terra Blues in Greenwich Village for some amazing jazz at the recommendation of **Henk Rogers**.

On Sunday morning, we headed to the Old Stuyvesant building for tours, brunch, class photos and Skype videochat sessions with our remote classmates **Michael Cooper** in England, **Danny Chertoff** in Israel and **Brian Tokar** in Vermont. We capped off the weekend by heading up to Lincoln Center for the wonderful and well-attended event that was conceived and organized by **Hal Diamond '78**, honoring Stuyvesant's first class of women. The reunion committee (Michael Hartig, **Eve Berman**, **Abby Scheck**,

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# MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Principal Eric Contreras P'16

The Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association is a **501(c)(3)** not-for-profit organization. Our EIN is 13-3509279.

## The Alumni Spectator

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*The Alumni Spectator  
is funded entirely  
through  
membership dues and  
alumni giving.  
Thank you for your  
continued support!*

Dear Stuyvesant Alumni,

Every October, 3.5 million juniors around the country take the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (also known as PSAT). Of those, **less than 0.5% of test takers go on to become National Merit Semifinalists.** The number of students who qualify for Semifinalists is a source of pride and friendly competition for many top high schools in the nation. Stuyvesant has always performed very well. However, last year when the Department of Education stopped paying for student registration cost,

**maintained its leadership in this key category.** And without your support and generosity, many of our students would not even have the opportunity to qualify as a National Merit Semifinalist.

This is just one of the few instances where alumni have supported our kids. Each year, dozens of our students qualify and place for state and national competitions in History, Robotics, Music, Speech & Debate, and numerous other categories. But behind the glory of achievement are usually a lot of worries

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**“Together, let us make sure that all of our brilliant and hardworking kids have the opportunities to pursue their talents and passions. Your generosity makes a big difference in the lives of our students.”**

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many of Stuyvesant's best and brightest would not have been able to take the test due to lack of economic resources. But two generous alumni stepped in and paid for registration fees for the entire junior class. Stuyvesant ended up doing very well and had 103 Semifinalists, second in the nation behind Thomas Jefferson who had 119. In comparison, our local competitors, Hunter and Bronx Science, only had 46 and 21 Semifinalists, respectively.

This October, that same alum paid for the registration fees of the entire junior class again. **This year, we came in first in the nation with 165 Semifinalists** for the Class of 2018, a 60% increase over last year's numbers! Our closest competitor, Thomas Jefferson came in at 145 while Hunter and Bronx Science had 53 and 32, respectively. So thank you Alumni Association – **without you, Stuyvesant might not have**

about how to pay for the travel and lodging costs to these competitions. **Almost half of our students are on free and reduced lunch and can't afford the high monetary cost of achievement.** Together, let us make sure that all of our brilliant and hardworking kids who make our school what it is have the opportunities to pursue their talents and passions. Your generosity makes a big difference in the lives of our students.

**Thank you for all your support, Alumni Association.**

**Sincerely,**

*Eric*

## The Alumni Association hires two New Chiefs of Operations, Internal and External



*Sarita Prakash*

The SHSAA Board of Directors is pleased to introduce a new addition to the Alumni Association staff, Sarita Prakash. Sarita joins us with five and a half years of experience in education non-profits at Success Academy Charter

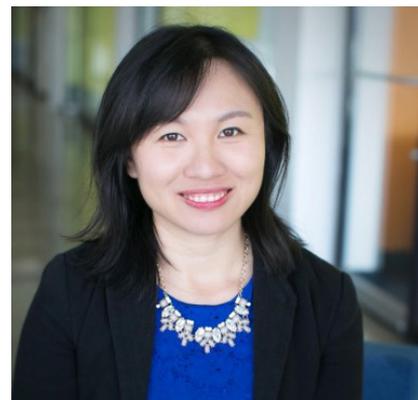
School where she was Director of Operations and managing the day-to-day running of school facilities at 15 locations. Sarita will work hand-in-hand with YanJie Hou, our Chief of Operations – External. She will focus on revamping our internal systems to achieve better efficiency and increased performance. Below is a short letter of introduction from Sarita. To find out more information about various Alumni Association programs or to get more involved with our alumni community, please take a look around our website for various events and volunteer opportunities.

### Letter from Sarita Prakash, COO - Internal

Dear Stuyvesant Community,

As a first-generation American, I've always known that a good education and strong community can be the difference between success and failure. I'm very excited to join an organization with alumni from a prestigious school that cultivates students to achieve. The stories I have heard about experiences at Stuyvesant High School shaping the lives of many as adults have only increased my desire to support continuing to make this possible for our students. Before joining the educational movement in New York, I came from a math and science-driven background, which makes me feel even more connected to the mission of Stuyvesant and its population. With the numerous changes that have been made in the Alumni Association, I'm excited to be a member of a team seeking more progress, greater results, and a better-connected community.

The SHSAA Board of Directors is pleased to welcome **YanJie Hou '06** to our staff as Chief of Operations – External. YanJie first became involved with the Alumni Association as a volunteer in 2013. She created the Alumni Mentoring Program in 2014 and was later elected to the Board of Directors in 2015. YanJie was serving as a SHSAA Board Member when the Chief of Operations position was posted. She subsequently applied for the position and was appointed following an intensive selection process. In her professional life before the Alumni Association, YanJie started as an investment banking analyst after graduating from NYU Stern in 2010 and later transitioned into a corporate finance role at HBO. She completed her MBA at the Wharton School in 2017. Below is her letter of introduction.



*YanJie Hou '06*

### Letter from YanJie Hou, COO - External

Dear Stuyvesant Community,

Stuyvesant has been a huge part of my life for the last 15 years. One of my proudest accomplishments is creating the Alumni Mentoring Program which connects students to alumni mentors to foster a more supportive and connected sense of community.

This year, I am excited to devote even more of my time and passion to this community by joining the Alumni Association as its COO – External. The Association has already undergone so much transformation since when I first got involved in 2013. I am proud of all the progress we have made but I want to take this organization to even greater heights. Sarita and I have many ambitious ideas and plans for how the Association can better serve our students, the school, and the alumni community. Fulfilling these strategic visions will be a process that might take years. But I know we can and will accomplish that much more when we all work together for the betterment of our beloved community.

## 1972 Reunion Celebration



Panel of the First Class of Stuyvesant Girls (from l to r): Suzanne Rose Shapiro '73, Kathy Parks '72, Paula Marcus, MD '72, Laren Herman Lynn '72, Evelyn Horn, MD '72, Celia Kuperszmid Lehrman '75 (Moderator), Alice de Rivera Haines, MD '13 (honorary Stuyvesant diploma), Risa Saperstein Beckley, Eve Berman '72, Betsy Cantwell, Ruth Haber '72

**“Thank you, Alumni Association, for your great support throughout the planning and execution of all of our events this weekend”**



Above: On tour walking around the Old Stuyvesant are (l to r): '72 classmates Rich Legum, Andy Nosal, Rich Stark, Alice de Rivera Haines '13 (honorary), Gene Peterson, Eve Berman, Josh (Old Stuy custodian), Nancy Spickofsky Peterson, Michael Hartig



Above: Peter Peart '72 and Henk Rogers '72 toasting Stuyvesant

**“The reunion committee (Michael Hartig, Eve Berman, Abby Scheck, Bobby Chin, Paul Geoghan and Hal Diamond '78) is deeply grateful to all of our amazing classmates, many who traveled from all over the world, in order to make this 45-year reunion”**



Left: In front of the Old Stuy are (l to r): '72 classmates Jeff Tauscher, Bobby Chin, Eliot Ostrow, Rich Stark, Michael Hartig, Larry Hammer, Rich Legum, Eric Platt, Henk Rogers, Howard Greenberg, Brian King, Andy Nosal, Howie Feinberg, Jon Jacobs, Gene Peterson, Bert Black, David Mitchell, Jim Vasquez, Arnold Anthony Schmidt

# Class of '72 Celebrates their 45th Year Reunion and Honors the First Class of Stuyvesant Women

*continued from page 1*

**Bobby Chin, Paul Geoghan** and Hal Diamond '78) is deeply grateful to all of our amazing classmates, many

who traveled from all over the world, in order to make this 45-year reunion one that we will all remember fondly for a long time. We would also like to thank the SHSAA for their great

support throughout the planning and execution of all of our events, and to thank our photographer Eric Paez for shooting our photos and recording these memories.

## Help Rebuild our Science Program!

### Regeneron at Stuyvesant

The nationwide Science Talent Search (Formerly known as Westinghouse and Intel, now known as Regeneron) has been an important institution at Stuyvesant since its inception in the 1940s. Over the last few years, the number of National Science Competition Semi-Finalists and Finalists from Stuyvesant High School has dwindled. In 2016 and 2017,

Stuyvesant only had two semi-finalists each year and no finalists. In the 1990s, Stuyvesant averaged 19 semi-finalists and 2 finalists a year. One of the major drivers behind this decrease is the difficulty Stuyvesant students have in finding labs and institutions to do their research. Below is a letter from **Vanessa Liu '92**, an Alumni Association Board Member and finalist of the 1992

Westinghouse Science Talent Search Competition, on ways you can help.

*Help Support Stuyvesant's Research Programs today by giving to the General Fund or participate on our Speaker Panel about why Scientific Research is important to you and more!*

### Letter from Vanessa Liu '92

Stuyvesant High School Alumni Association Board Member  
1992 Westinghouse (Intel / Regeneron) Science Talent Search Finalist

Dear Alumni Association,

The school year has begun and we are already in full swing with the Regeneron Research program! The returning seniors had a wonderfully productive experience doing their research this summer and are now hard at work with writing their scientific papers.

We are now looking to help our juniors who would like to embark on research find opportunities to do so, across a variety of disciplines - biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, economics, math, and social sciences. What we have found is that the more time our juniors have to do their research, the more robust, rewarding and successful their experience is. However, over the last few years, we have been having a tough time getting our students matched with laboratories and

professors. For the lucky ones that do get a match, their research time is compressed because matches are happening too late, often only in late spring of their junior year.

We are hoping fellow Stuyvesant alumni can help. If you are a scientist or researcher in the tri-state area in biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, economics, math, or social sciences, and have the ability to take on a high potential Stuyvesant junior as an intern researcher starting this fall, please contact me at [vanessa\\_liu@post.harvard.edu](mailto:vanessa_liu@post.harvard.edu). If funding is an issue, we may be able to help on that front as well.

Together, we can give all Stuyvesant students the opportunity to experience research. Thank you in advance for your consideration.



*Vanessa Liu '92*

Sincerely,

*Vanessa*

## Message to Students and Alumni in Tribeca about WTC Health Program

Those of you who attended Stuyvesant during 2001 – 2002 endured the heartbreak and terror of the attacks on the World Trade Center in a very personal way. Some of you, unfortunately may also have become seriously ill because of your exposure to the toxic dust that remained in the air for months afterwards.

In 2015, Congress reauthorized the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. The law mandates assistance to students, teachers, office workers, residents and first responders who lived, worked or attended school south of Canal Street. Therefore, if you've been diagnosed with any of the 68 cancers or serious respiratory illnesses linked to that toxic dust, you may be eligible for free health care as well as compensation. These diseases include cancers affecting the skin, prostate, thyroid, lung and breasts as well as rhinosinusitis, gastroesophageal reflux disease, asthma, and sleep apnea, the most common non-cancerous illnesses.

I urge you to register with the WTC Health Program, which

provides free medical monitoring as well as health care for certified illnesses, if you have no other insurance coverage. If your illness is certified by the WTC Health Program, you may then be eligible for money from the Victim Compensation Fund. VCF claimants must provide proof of exposure in a sworn affidavit. You may choose to contact one of the many law firms handling this work, including Barasch McGarry Salzman & Penson, which has handled claims for teachers as well as other New Yorkers. Congress has capped legal fees at 10 percent.

Please spread the word to your former classmates about the rights and benefits available to Stuyvesant alumni as well as anyone you know who might be eligible for these programs. We shared a terrible time together. Let's share the help that's available as well.

Sincerely,  
Ellie Engler  
Department of Education

## Student Ziqi Guo '18 Places 16th in Nationals for Track & Field



Ziqi Guo at the 2017 Outdoor Nationals

**Ziqi Guo '18**, current senior, represented Stuyvesant's Track team at the 2017 Nationals in June and placed 16th in the race-walking event. Ziqi also qualified for the Nationals in 2016. Before Ziqi, Stuyvesant has never sent a representative to Nationals from the Girls' Track team. The Alumni Association sponsored Ziqi's registration and travel expenses.

Dozens of our students qualify for State and National competitions for sports, chess, music, and Speech & Debate every year but many cannot afford to go.

**Donate to our General Fund so that we can continue to sponsor our talented students!**

## Stuyvesant Faculty Changes include Assistant Principal of Organization

This summer, Randi Damesek, the Assistant Principal of Organization, who has worked at Stuyvesant for over ten years, accepted a new position at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Queens.

Ms. Damesek was known for her dedication to Stuyvesant and her work ethic. Principal Contreras has hired Assistant Principal Jeremy Rynders to replace her. Mr. Rynders, hailing from Texas,

was born in Dallas but grew up in Houston and participated in Speech & Debate while in school. He studied Biology and Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin, and began his career as a biology teacher in the NYC Department of Education. He comes to us from Bronx Leadership Academy II High School, previously serving as their Assistant Principal for Organization.



Stuy's new AP of Organization, Jeremy Rynders

## Hundreds Attend the Fall Diversity Open House

More than 500 people attended the eighth annual Fall Diversity Open House on September 20th. The event was organized by the Stuyvesant High School Black Alumni Diversity Initiative (SHSBADI) and the SHSAA Diversity Committee. Students of all ethnicities in grades 4–8 were taken on a tour of the building led by members of ASPIRA, Black Students League, Muslim Students Association, and the Red Cross Club. The co-presidents of the Black Students League did a presentation and the families were given SHSAT exam taking tips.

Questions raised during the Q&A session indicated that many in the audience were unaware of the specialized high school application process and had no idea the opportunities that Stuyvesant offers that makes it one of the top schools in the nation.

## Stuy Math Team Represents at PUMaC

The NYC Math Team will compete at the annual Princeton University Mathematics Competition (PUMaC) on Nov 18. PUMaC is one of the premier high school mathematics competitions in the country. The NYC Math Team is coached by Mr. Stan Kats from Stuyvesant and **half of the 24 members of the NYC team will be from our school!**

## A Second Term of StuyPrep Completed!

On Saturday October 14th, the Alumni Association wrapped up its second term of StuyPrep, an initiative started by SHSAA Board Members **Kent Kim '05** and **Christina Alfonso '01** to help students from underrepresented neighborhoods of NYC gain admissions to specialized high schools. This year, we **more than doubled the size of participants** to 75 eighth-graders from Brooklyn and Queens and **provided them each with 75 hours of programming** including practice tests, formal classes taught by Kaplan, and mentoring sessions with current Stuy students ("StuyPrep Coaches").

**Please donate to our General Fund so that we can support even more students with more programming for StuyPrep next year!**

## Stuyvesant Open House for Prospective Students



*Lobby of Stuyvesant at the Oct 12th Open House*

The general Stuyvesant Open House took place on the evenings of October 10th and 11th. School faculty and hundreds of student volunteers worked tirelessly to show off the school to the 5,000+ attendees that visited the school from all five boroughs. Many of the visitors are excited and nervous 8th graders who have taken the SHSAT on Oct 21/Oct 22. We hope we'll be seeing many of them again very soon!

## 2017 Siemens Semi-Finalists

Congratulations to **Jenny Gao '18** and **Alexander Lu '18** who are both semifinalists in the 2017 Siemens' Competition. Jenny's project is on "Quantifying the impact of nitrogen use on photosynthetic rates by living imaging" and Alexander's project is on "Artemisinin and Halofuginone as balanced regulators of oncogenic signaling pathway for potential colorectal cancer treatment."

Please refer to page 5 for more ways that you can help out the school and our students with their science research.

## Stuy Sophomore Named to Staten Islander of the Week

**Julia Hart '20** was named as Staten Islander of the Week by NY1 in September! Julia is part of Stuyvesant's Environmental Club. She volunteers at a community garden helping to create an irrigation system based on her original design involving rain water barrels, hoses and their compost system.

## Stuyvesant SU President featured by NY Times

Senior **Tahseen Chowdhury '18**, President of the Student Union, continues his pursuit of the State Senate seat for the 2018 Elections. He was recently featured in the Sep 28 New York Times article, "Too Young to Vote but Asking for Yours."



*A current student and StuyPrep coach tutoring StuyPrep participants over lunch*

# STUDENT FEATURE

This November, the Alumni Mentoring Program will be starting the first sessions of its fifth semester. The Program, led by **Eleonora Srugo '04**, connects current students with alumni mentors who give them advice about Stuyvesant, college, and beyond and also help students with professional skills such as resume writing and interviews. Below is a brief feature on **Irene Lam '18**, a current Stuyvesant senior who first participated in the Program as a sophomore mentee and has now returned to the Program as a Student Leader who helps organize program logistics and facilitate discussions in her cohort.



*Student Leader for the Mentoring Program, Irene Lam '18*

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**“The professional skills that the Mentoring Program taught me were indispensable in helping me take my first steps towards acquiring a law internship... no other clubs or classes at Stuyvesant helps students develop these skills” to the same extent that Mentoring does**

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## **Can you speak about your experience in Mentoring?**

“I first participated in the Alumni Mentoring Program in the Fall of 2015. Having no precedence and expectations, I was slightly intimidated as I headed into my first session at BlackRock, wearing jeans and carrying a bulky backpack while entering such a refined establishment. However those first introductions soon became laughter and soon it felt like I knew the ins and outs of everyone in my cohort. This sense of community grew on me as I became comfortable conversing with my mentor and Student Leaders on anything, from their interview answers to “what is your greatest flaw?” response to their life’s biggest regrets. I learned about how to structure my resume and prepare for interviews, how to email and talk to

adults in a professional setting, and was exposed to many career fields that I’ve never thought of.”

## **What made you want to return to the Program as a Student Leader?**

“I wanted to provide current participants with the same support and encouragement my Student Leaders once gave me and to contribute to this close-knit community of alumni and alumni-to-be’s. I am also feel very grateful to the Program because of the professional skills it taught me which were indispensable in helping me take my first steps towards acquiring a law internship. Even with my parents’ advice and the online resources, my resume and interview skills would still have been subpar at best. But owing to the assistance I received from my mentors, my Student Leaders, and my entire cohort

group, I was able to secure a judicial internship at the New York Supreme Court and later on, an internship at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, one of the largest international law firms based in NYC. The professional skills the Mentoring Program teaches are crucial and always relevant and despite Stuyvesant’s diverse offerings, there are no other clubs or classes that help students develop these skills to the same extent that the Alumni Mentoring Program does.”

## **Anything else?**

“I would not be where I am without the Alumni Mentoring Program. I look forward to sharing my experiences in the professional world in my cohort this term so that other students can learn from the guidance I received. But more than anything, I am excited to give back to Stuyvesant as part of this united community, knowing that we each have invaluable expertise and also each other’s backs!”

**Help us support this semester’s mentors and mentees by donating to our General Fund!**

## ALUMNI PROFILE



Neal Flomenbaum, MD '65

**Dr. Neal Flomenbaum '65**, Weill Cornell Professor of Clinical Medicine, Emergency Physician-in-Chief (1996-2016) and current Physician-in-Chief of Emergency Medical Services at New York Presbyterian Hospital, really loves Stuyvesant. It is not just because his brother **Mark '67** and son **David '13** also attended, or because he works directly with at least twelve faculty members who are also Stuyvesant alums. He has a great love and respect for the institution and feels that **he owes much of his professional success to Stuyvesant**. He was never one to draw attention to himself, but two institutions felt otherwise earlier this year. On May 25, 2016, he was honored at two medical school graduations on the same day.

At Weill Cornell Medical College's commencement exercises, Dr. Flomenbaum helped present its second annual "Neal Flomenbaum, MD, Prize for Excellence in Emergency Medicine." A few hours later, at the commencement exercises of his alma mater, Dr. Flomenbaum received the "Albert Einstein College of Medicine 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award," for his

"extraordinary career in emergency medicine and many contributions to the health and welfare of underserved communities and all populations in New York City" according to the introduction by Dean Allen M. Spiegel, MD.

Dr. Flomenbaum has dedicated his life to ensuring the highest quality of emergency care for patients, from educating and training residents and attending physicians to helping establish the specialty of emergency medicine. After Stuyvesant, he attended Columbia College and obtained his medical degree from Albert Einstein as an Alpha Omega Alpha member of the class of 1973. Dr. Flomenbaum completed an internal medicine residency at Einstein/Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. His accomplishments include co-authoring and co-editing eight editions of the leading medical toxicology textbook, two editions of a text on diagnostic testing, and more than 150 research papers, book chapters, and editorials. He has served as a senior examiner for the American Board of Emergency Medicine and is the founding chair of the New York Academy of Medicine Section on Emergency Medicine. At Weill Cornell, he helped start the emergency medicine residency and afterwards created the nation's first fellowship and division of Geriatric Emergency Medicine. He also created divisions of Medical Toxicology, Emergency Medicine/Critical Care, Global Emergency Medicine, and

Women's Health Emergencies.

Since 2006, Dr. Flomenbaum has also served as editor-in-chief of *Emergency Medicine*, the oldest and one of the most widely read journals for the specialty.

He gives back to the Stuyvesant community as well, providing several Stuyvesant students with the opportunity to work at Weill Cornell throughout the year. When asked about how Stuyvesant influenced him, he responded, "In addition to providing me with an appreciation of the humanities, the classics, and music and art, **Stuyvesant opened my eyes to the world of scientific knowledge and scientific inquiry**."

He acknowledges Stuyvesant's strong influence on his career as well: "My experiences at Stuy clearly started me on the path towards my future career in emergency medicine, partly by providing me with the opportunity to study and interact with some really bright students who became lifelong friends. Though in the early 1960's, Emergency Medicine was decades away from becoming a recognized medical specialty, two classmates - **Joel Gernsheimer '65** and **Art Sanders '65** - have also become nationally recognized leaders in academic emergency medicine. I have to believe that the education, experiences, and values we learned at Stuy had much to do with preparing us to become 'pioneering' contributors to this vitally important medical specialty".

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**"My experiences at Stuy clearly started me on the path towards my future career in emergency medicine..."**

**"I have to believe that the education, experiences, and values we learned at Stuy had much to do with preparing us to become 'pioneering' contributors to this vitally important medical specialty".**

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# CLASS NOTES

**1940: John Shipley, PhD** will be 94 on his next birthday! John is a retired Professor of English at the University of Illinois-Chicago.



*Louis D'Errico '41 standing by the miniature house he built in Stuyvesant 80 years ago*

**1941: Dr. Louis D'Errico** built this house (pictured above) as a freshman in Stuyvesant circa 1937. He has kept it all these years along with fond memories of his Stuyvesant experience. Amazing how the things students learn and create at Stuyvesant can still stay with them 80 years later!

**1946: Rev. Robert Carlson** writes "My wife and I are living in The Fountains in Millbrook, NY and would love to hear from other members of the Class of 1946."

**1947: Raymond Zapata** currently resides at Freedom PTE Retirement Community in Lady Lake, FL. His son, Rich, comes to visit him and drives him around the villages and to antique car shows. Ray's last classic car was a 1960 Plymouth Fury convertible,

the last year of the Big Fins.

**1949: Maurice A. Mufson, MD, MACP** was appointed founding Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Marshall University School of Medicine (now the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine) in Huntington, West Virginia. The first faculty member in the Department, he recruited faculty members and established the Internal Medicine Residency. He retired in June 2002 and became Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Emeritus Chair of Medicine. He continues to produce research and mentor students and faculty.

His research concerns the epidemiology and clinical features of Streptococcus pneumonia infection, mainly pneumonia, and the molecular biology of some proteins of Streptococcus pneumonia, which resulted in a number of recent publications by my colleagues and me. He attended his 64th reunion in April 2014 with twenty two other classmates and found it "enjoyable and inspiring".

**1951: Dr. Richard Louis Miller** wrote, "My book, *Psychedelic Science*, will be published this fall by InnerTraditions/Bear&Co. My radio program, Mind Body Health & Politics, airs on National Public Radio affiliate, KZYX.

My health Sanctuary, Wilbur Hot Springs, established 1865, celebrated its 150th anniversary though I have only been associated with it for the past 45 years."

**1952: Donald Roth** published *The Girl from Guantanamo* in May 2017. Don was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy on the day he graduated from New York's Columbia College. He has been a Navy officer, corporate attorney and entrepreneurial

businessman. Don is a graduate of the NYU School of Law and holds an MBA from The Wharton School. He waited to begin writing until he had retired from most but not all of his varied business activities.

**1956: Leon J. Hoffman, PhD** continues to enjoy his practice of psychology in Chicago. He specializes in individualized, couple and group psychotherapy and supervises and provides consultation to individuals and organizations. He maintains his lifelong connection to being a chamber-music cellist. Leon is a frequent writer on diverse topics in lay and professional publications. Please feel free to look them up under his name, Leon J. Hoffman, PhD. Leon is eager to hear from Stuyvesant colleagues, students and staff.

**1960: Robert W. Powitz, MPH, PhD, RS, DLAAS** of Old Saybrook, CT received the 2017 Walter S. Mangold Award from the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). The award recognizes individuals for outstanding contributions to the advancement of the environmental health professionals. Two of Dr. Powitz' proudest career accomplishments is that helping to establish a Master's program in hazardous material management as well as building the environmental health and safety department at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

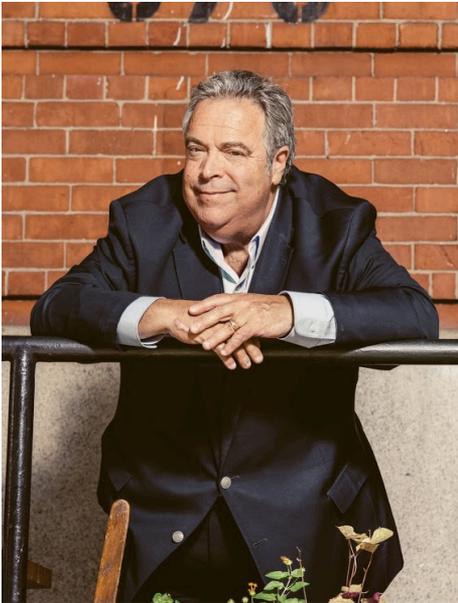
**1969: Eric Holder Jr.**, 82nd Attorney General of the United States, was honored by LGBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders' (GLAD) at its annual Spirit of Justice dinner on October 27 for his instrumental role in advancing LGBTQ justice and his leadership on voting rights, criminal justice reform and examining racial bias in policing.

## 1973:



Paul Reiser '73 in Netflix's new season of *Stranger Things*

**Paul Reiser** plays Dr. Owens in Netflix's new season of *Stranger Things*. Paul is best known for the TV series "Mad About You", a NBC sitcom that he co-created, produced and starred in for seven seasons.



Drew Nieporent '73 standing on the patio of his restaurant, Tribeca Grill

**Drew Nieporent** was featured in an extensive article by the New York Times ("Drew Nieporent May Be the Last Old-School Restaurateur Standing") on September 12. Drew is the owner of Myriad Restaurant Group

which operates Tribeca Grill, Nobu New York, Nobu London, Bâtard and multiple other restaurants across the country and the world.

**Keith Rafal MD, MPH** is the founder of an international patient stories project supported by Our Heart Speaks, Inc., a non-profit. The focus of the initiative is to give voice to those living with a new/acquired disability who have been successful in finding both meaning and purpose in their lives. Keith is the Chief of Rehabilitation and Restorative Care at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, full time clinical faculty/Clinical Assistant Professor at Brown University, and adjunct Assistant Professor at Tufts University in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.



Eric Sirota '76 standing next to the TKT board in Times Square. His new musical, *Frankenstein*, has just been listed on there

**1976: Eric Sirota, PhD** wrote a new musical, *Frankenstein*, that opened at St. Luke's Theatre, Off-Broadway, on October 9. *Frankenstein* is a romantic musical about the human need for love and companionship, based on

Mary Shelley's classic novel. Eric is a composer and playwright, as well as an established and highly published research scientist, with a PhD in Physics from Harvard. His previous musical *Your Name On My Lips* played at Theater for the New City in March 2017.

**1977: Helen Rothberg, PhD** wrote a book titled, *The Perfect Mix: Everything I Know About Leadership I Learned as a Bartender*. Helen is a professor of management at Marist College.

**1988: Django Martel** is a veterinarian working at the 62nd Street Animal Hospital, specializing in dentistry. He was recently taking care of a few animals at the Bronx Zoo.

**1993: Gene Jarrett, PhD** was appointed as Dean of NYU's College of Arts and Science in June 2017. Prior to this position, Gene was the Associate Dean of the Faculty (Humanities Division) at Boston University.

**1998: Isaac Lubow** just returned to the US after spending the last six years in Indonesia. He is currently a web developer for Output, Inc., a music production company.

**2001: Phoebe Maltz Bovy** published a book, *The Perils of "Privilege"* with St. Martin's Press.

**2005: Adeeba Shahid Talukder's** manuscript was selected as the 2017 Kundiman Poetry Prize Winner, and it will be published by Tupelo Press in late 2018 or early 2019. Adeeba is currently a 2017 Emerging Poets Fellow at Poet House and has a chapbook coming out soon.

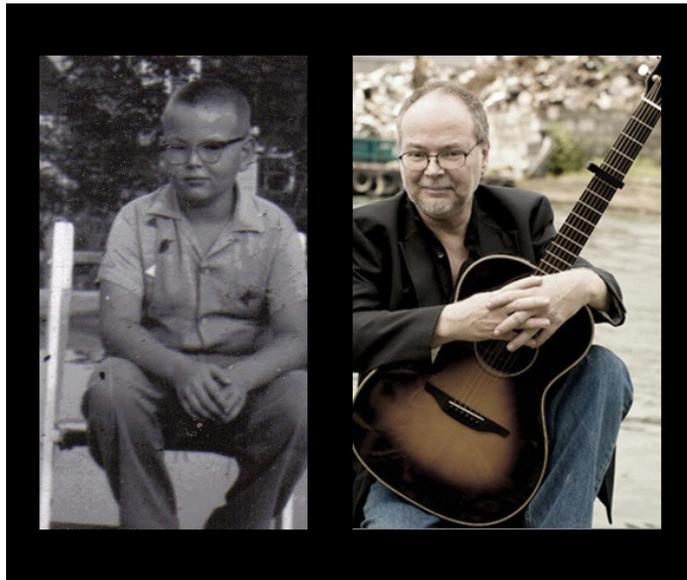
# IN REMEMBRANCE

## Walter Becker 1967

### Guitarist, Songwriter and Co-Founder of Steely Dan

When **Walter Becker '67** graduated from Stuyvesant High School, the world was going through a period of rapid and profound change. Scientific achievements during that time included the first human-to-human heart transplant and the invention of cryogenic freezing. Politically, the world was experiencing the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War.

A self-taught musician, Mr. Becker played the saxophone and was an accomplished guitarist and songwriter. He continued his musical pursuits at Bard College. "I learned music from a book on piano theory. I was only interested in knowing about chords. From that, and from the Harvard Dictionary of Music, I learned everything I wanted to know." It was at college where he met fellow student Donald Fagen who he soon partnered up with to begin their career as a songwriting duo. In 1971, Mr. Becker and Mr. Fagen moved to LA and formed Steely Dan with guitarists Denny Dias and Jeff Baxter, drummer Jim Hodder and vocalist David Palmer. Throughout the years, the band would routinely rotate musicians but Mr. Becker and Mr. Fagen remained the group's core members.



Mr. Becker enjoyed a long career with multiple albums and songs that were catchy and demonstrated the ability to permeate 1970s pop radio. "That's sort of what we wanted to do, conquer from the margins," Mr. Becker told Time Out New York in 2011. "Find our place in the middle based on the fact that we were creatures of the margin and of alienation."

Popular Steely Dan songs included, "Reelin' in the Years", "Kid Charlemagne", "Hey Nineteen", "Rikki Don't Lose that Number" and "Peg". Their discography includes eleven albums and in 2000, they released the album

"Two Against Nature", which won four Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year. The following year, they were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

The band toured well into 2017, but Mr. Becker was unable to join Steely Dan's Classic East and West tour. According to an interview with Billboard, Mr. Fagen reported that Mr. Becker was recovering from a procedure.

Mr. Becker passed away on Sunday, September 3rd in his home in Maui, Hawaii at the age of 67. In Mr. Fagen's

remembrance of Mr. Becker, he writes of "[his] friend, his writing partner, and his bandmate since 1967 that Mr. Becker was "smart as a whip, an excellent guitarist, and a great songwriter. He was cynical about human nature, including his own, and hysterically funny." Mr. Fagen also writes "I intend to keep the music we created together alive as long as I can with the Steely Dan band."

# MEMORIALS

Gail Greenbaum passed away on October 16. She taught English at Stuyvesant for over 20 years and was known for her calm, warm presence and her alternating nostril breathing exercises.

Kurt Rittermann, long-time Stuyvesant math teacher, passed away on Sunday, August 27.

**1942: Harper Puziss**, Northern California, passed away on March 2. He was a Navy veteran and went on to become a public health officer and later a health and science teacher at Lowell High School in San Francisco (a.k.a. 'Stuy West'). He called his admission to Stuyvesant 'the luckiest break of my life!'

**1943: William Frank Hutar** of San Juan Capistrano, CA passed away on July 4 at the age of 91. He was a chemical engineer at Chemical Plant Design.

**1946: Aaron Ganz, MD** of Boca Raton Florida passed away at the age of

*continued on page 13*

## The Alumni Association has received the following notices.

1940 - Alvin Winegard, Sept, 06, 2017  
1941 - Theodore Kaufman  
1943 - Irving Joffe, April 28, 2016.  
1951 - Arthur Maclaure, April 20, 2014  
1955 - Albert Holtzberg, July 30, 2017.

*continued from page 13*

89 of complications from Parkinson's. After graduating from Stuyvesant, Aaron matriculated to NYU as a biology major followed by Cornell University Medical School. Upon graduating from Cornell in June 1953, he underwent two years of residency training before serving as a Captain in the United States Army Medical Corps in Munchweiler, Germany. When Aaron returned to New York, he completed two additional years of training at Long Island Jewish Hospital following which he founded South Shore Internal Medical Associates in Lynbrook, Long Island. His love of nature led to the breeding of a new orchid species in his own designed greenhouse. He also had a passion for painting and sculpture.

**1948: Michael I. Green**, passed away July 18, only weeks after his wife Sue after fifty-eight years of marriage. He attended U. of Alabama before moving to Palo Alto. He earned his PhD in Physics from Wayne State University in Michigan, and worked at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. He flew sailplanes well into his 80's, spending thousands of hours soaring above California and Nevada using signature call sign Mighty Gorilla (MG), as well as competing in cross-country contests nationwide. Mike is survived by children Debbie Wiesenthal (Steve) and Bill Green (Marnie Jubelirer), grandsons Ethan & Jason Green and Zach & Miles Wiesenthal, sister Betty Appleton and many cousins in Chicago and New York."

**1949: Paul Heller**, Dix Hills, NY, passed away on August 13 at the age of 85. Paul received his BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cooper

Union, and a Masters from C.C.N.Y. He served in the military and worked as project engineer at Airborne Instruments Lab (AIL) until his retirement. His daughter Lisa shared, "He treasured his alma maters, Stuyvesant and Cooper Union. He was extremely

passionate about the value of a public education and keenly aware of the transformative impact these free institutions had on his life."

**1950: John Holotko**, Crestwood, NY, passed away on May 30. Originally from the Bronx with a long career at Con Edison at the Van Ness Plant, John was proud to have graduated from Stuyvesant.

**1952: Laurence Friedman, MD** of Marin County, CA passed away in early 2017 at the age of 81. He practiced for over 45 years in Marin County and was at one time the Chief of Medicine at Marin General Hospital.

**1957: Ira Lubell, MD** passed away on June 12 at home in San Francisco.

**1962: Arthur Jerome Heyderman** passed away in Spring 2017. He earned the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and the Bronze Star Medal. He was named to the Honorary Order of St. Barbara, United States Army Field Artillery Association. He was the recipient of the Civilian of the Year Award Fifth Region Association of the United States Army (1988). He is also the recipient of the 2001-2003 National President's Award from the Women in Defense. He served on the national board of directors for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) since 1998 and on the board of directors, Quad Cities chapter, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 1996-2001.

**1964: Peter William Testaverde, Jr.**, Franklin Lakes, NJ, passed away on June 13 surrounded by his loved ones. After graduating from Stuyvesant in

## MEMORIALS

1964, he continued his education at Brooklyn College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Accounting in 1968. He served in the Army Reserves. Peter was an accountant and advisor to Wall Street since the day he was a junior accountant at Oppenheim, Appel, Dixon till his passing as a Partner at EisnerAmper. He was a recognized industry leader, many jokingly calling him "the legend". More than anything else, all who worked with him for over 40 years, would call him mentor and to colleagues, his influence will always be remembered. He enjoyed watching his NY Giants and Jets football teams, entertaining family and friends at his famous BBQ's and spending time with his beloved grandchildren.

**1967: Walter Becker** passed away on September 3. He was one of the co-founders of jazz rock band, Steely Dan.

**1972: Alfred Sims** passed away on August 24. He worked for a time at the United Nations, was a musician and healer, and wrote one unpublished book. He was single, had no children, and is survived by two brothers from his immediate family.

**1973: Michael Ebe**, Northport NY, passed away on April 12 at the age of 61. He received his BA from Queens College and his Master's from NYU, and was recently retired after 37 years of teaching.

**1985: Ahamed Mohaideen, MD**, Palm Beach County, FL passed away on October 16. Dr. Mohaideen was a fellowship-trained pediatric orthopedic surgeon. Dr. Mohaideen received his BS in Biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. After college, Dr. Mohaideen attended medical school at SUNY Downstate Health Science Center at Brooklyn, NY. He completed his general surgery internship and orthopedic surgery residency at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn.

# THANK YOU FOR READING!

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