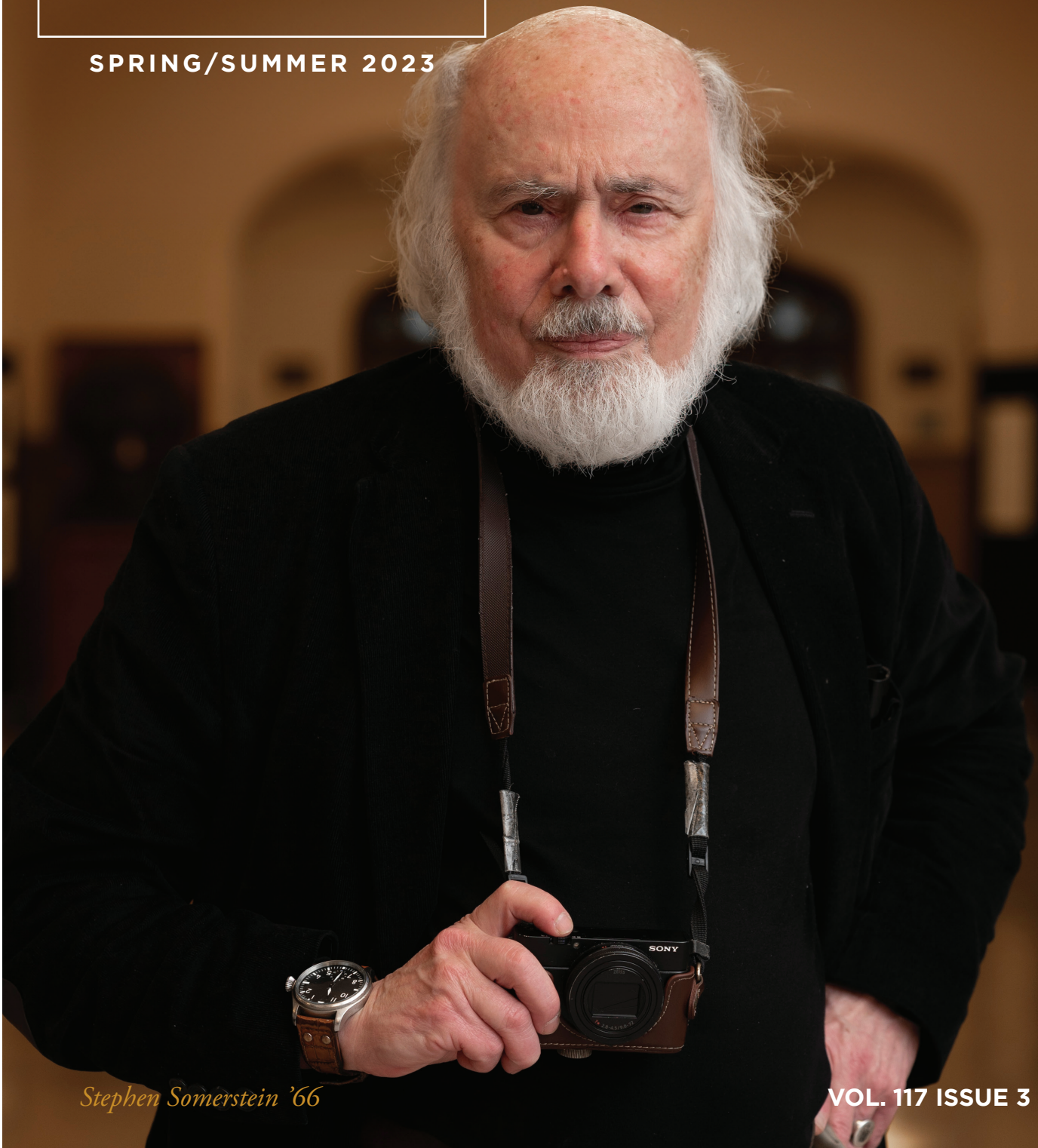


# ALUMNUS

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

SPRING/SUMMER 2023



*Stephen Somerstein '66*

VOL. 117 ISSUE 3

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Dearest Members of Our Alumni Community:

Congratulations to the class of 2023! From Lavender Fever week and Alumni Homecoming (covered on pg. 4) to an exhibit on Stephen Somerstein's Witness to History exhibit (cover story, pg. 2) to City College's 170th Commencement (pg. 6), it has been an extraordinary Spring. Commencement week, in particular, is an impressive time on campus when family and friends are spread throughout campus, positioned at every arch, stairway, and facade to take pictures with their graduates in cap and gown and smiles from ear to ear.

To the class of 2023 – this momentous moment is not to be trivialized! You have joined the ranks of the tens of thousands of successful CCNY alumni that like you have taken the Ephebic oath, swearing to transmit this city “greater, better, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to [them].” You, too, can build upon your CCNY education and achieve a satisfying and successful career and personal contentment. To get there quicker... be sure to use your CCNY network and join your alumni association! Starting this year, graduates qualify for free membership for the first TWO years following graduation. Get involved! Socialize! Network! It is free, but not automatic— if you haven't already, be sure to sign up at [www.ccnyalumni.org/join](http://www.ccnyalumni.org/join) today.

For our annual members – it's time to renew your membership. For more information on membership renewal and options, see the remittance envelope included in this magazine or visit [www.ccnyalumni.org](http://www.ccnyalumni.org). Remember that the Alumni Association is an independent nonprofit (501c3). Funds donated to CCNY and/or the Foundation for City College do not support the operations of the Alumni Association. Help keep this historic and oldest alumni association tied to a public college going for another 170 years! Alumni membership and additional donations to the Alumni Association make a resounding statement of commitment to the entire CCNY community and strengthen the alumni network through unique association programs, events, and scholarships.

In this issue of the “Alumnus” magazine, writer Katie Herchenroeder reports on several annual spring events. In addition to those mentioned above, be sure to learn about the many alumni association affiliate group celebrations held this Spring on pg. 11. There is a fabulous article on the ever-creative and community focused Documentary Forum on pg. 20. And be sure to read about the incredible news of CCNY capturing the 2023 CUNYAC Baseball Championship (pg. 21). We also continue our series of Alumni reflections with a must-read article on “The Paper” (pg. 16) as well as continuing our “A Student's View” series with an article presented by a current student (pg. 14).

We hope you enjoy this issue and remember to renew your membership! Wishing you and your families a very happy, healthy, and safe summer season ahead.

—David Covington

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## STEPHEN SOMERSTEIN'S WINDOW INTO CCNY HISTORY

BY KATIE HERCHENROEDER



As Stephen Somerstein, Class of 1966, walked through the first floor of Shepard Hall, past dozens of photographs he took years ago, displayed at his alma mater for the first time, it was as if he was transported back to the moment immediately before capturing these images. A physicist and documentary photographer, Somerstein, 81, approached each picture with a story.

The exhibit, “Witness to History: Selma 1965 Photography of Stephen Somerstein,” had just opened in the Lincoln Corridor of Shepard Hall and he was back on Campus for the first time in 50 years to discuss his photography, his experience at the college, and what it was like to march among peers and pastors in Selma.

These images featured children on marchers’ shoulders, historical giants, like James Baldwin, John Lewis, and, shown in one of Somerstein’s most iconic photographs, Martin Luther King Jr.

In one shot, a family sits alongside the march, watching as the hundreds pass. It’s one of Somerstein’s favorites in the collection. He describes how he lined up the image, his finger hovering over the button, and then, finally, captured the moment.

“I couldn’t wait too long. It would be a window, a perfect moment within that, and I grabbed the shot,” the documentary photographer and retired physicist said.

For Somerstein, much of his life has been about capturing a moment and running with it. From a young kid exploring the streets of lower Manhattan to building a satellite instrument used on the James Webb Space Telescope, he has seized his passions. His time at City College was no exception.

The 1960s at City College, Somerstein explained, was a rambunctious, deeply political time. Classmates had lively discussions, different campus newspapers shared their takes on national and international affairs, and students wrestled with what was going on in the South.

Prior to the march on Selma, King had come to City College to speak at the 1963 commencement held in Lewisohn Stadium.



“We had been watching civil rights in the South,” Somerstein explained. “Birmingham had happened. Explosions. Attacks. And all of the sudden we had King coming on campus to speak about civil rights. To us it was just part of that continuity that we knew was going on in the South, of voting rights, and the suppression of people’s ability to vote.”

King, in his speech, spoke about Medger Evers, who had died less than 24 hours before his speech, shot in the back after attending a series of National Association for Advancement of Colored People events. He spoke about injustice—of war, economic inequality, and racial discrimination. He spoke, too, of what students could do to change the collective future. “We must see that the time is always ripe to do right,” King said, “and we must forever help time.”

Somerstein was in the crowd that day, taking photographs, and remembered King’s words years later when news broke about violence against activists in the South. CCNY students heard about Bloody Sunday, the day John Lewis was brutally beaten by law enforcement. Lewis—who spoke at City College’s 2019 commencement before his death in 2020—fully intended to continue his march through the South, despite his injuries.

City College students decided they wanted to march along with him. In what Somerstein described as a whirlwind few hours, he and his classmates organized, skipped classes, scooped up their belongings, and met at the Port Authority Bus Terminal, unsure of when they would be back or if they would even get a seat on a bus.

“The fact that we went down there didn’t excuse us from our homework assignments. One of the things I had to do was call up students in my classes and ask, ‘I’m going to be gone for a few days. Can you take notes for me?’” he said. “Fortunately I was able to pass all of my exams, but that was not high on my agenda. I was very, very focused on getting the story.”

Somerstein was going as a student journalist for “Main Events,” determined to capture the event for the then evening newspaper.

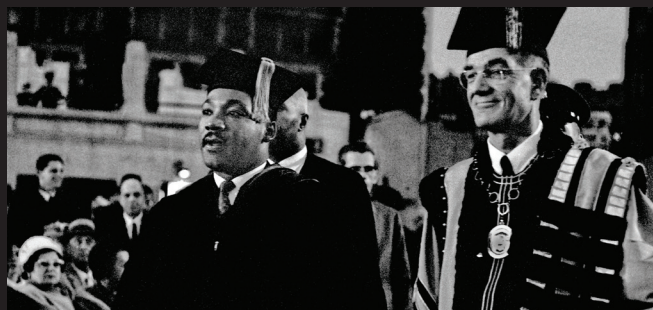
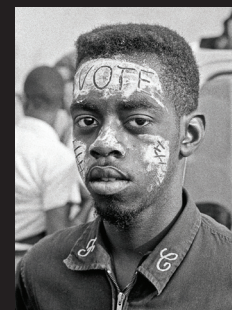
What occurred over the next several days is now a historical pinpoint, an example of people—children, students, families, elders—coming together to protest racial injustice. Decades later, the exhibit shows these rushed, intentional moments throughout his photography collection—images of students sleeping on buses, shaking hands with strangers once they arrived, and gathering together to parse how this national event would impact their campus and their lives.

When asked about how peers responded to his now famous

images, Somerstein explained that the shots they were most enthralled with featured the two student government presidents (one for daytime classes and one for evening-goers) working together at the march. “People tended to see the photographs as it related to them rather than you know this global view of things,” he said. “People look for what they can identify with.”

When MLK spoke at City College, he told the crowd: “Education must enable a man to become more efficient and it must also humanize him.” Somerstein, who still wears a camera around his neck wherever he goes, heeded the advice. He credits his City College education for his ability to participate in these news events, to capture them with nuance and truth.

Put simply, he said, “I learned at City College the tools that enabled me to work my way through the complexity of the human condition.”



For a recent conversation with Stephen Somerstein and Dr. Vanessa K. Valdes at CCNY on March 20, please view the link:  
<https://youtu.be/2pp2Sddb6eg>.

## LAVENDER FEVER AND HOMEcoming DAY ACTIVITIES

Lavender Fever overtook CCNY for two weeks in May with a plethora of activities to celebrate the end of the academic year and enjoy the T-shirt weather. The Fever hit particularly hard at the Presidential Humanitarian Awards Celebration on May 2 and Homecoming Day on May 6. Homecoming Day, held in the Beaver's Quad, celebrated class anniversaries ending in years with 3 and 8.

Alumni were able to participate in a day chockablock with activities. A CCNY Campus Tree Walk was held to appreciate the greenery on campus, and Planting Day in the CCNY Garden to celebrate Earth Day had people rolling up their sleeves and communing with nature. Performances were given by the CCNY Educational Theatre graduate students, a children's interactive musical and sensory experience called "What to Do With an Idea," and the Limón Dance Company. A host of alumni games were held, including a lacrosse game, coed basketball game, fencing match, coed volleyball match, and a softball game which included baseball players. The night skies were viewed at the Planetarium and historical tours were given of the north and south campus. People perused Stephen Somerstein's "Witness to History" exhibit in Shephard Hall. There were refreshments and food vendors, a DJ playing music, and information sessions.

This year's alumni reunion class gift helped raise funds in support of the President's Fund for Excellence which offers paid internships to students.

T-shirts celebrating the 175th anniversary are still available for purchase in gray or purple at: <https://giving.ccny.cuny.edu/ccny-homecoming-day-2023-alumni-reunion>.





Thank you to Coach Connor Wilson who was at Lavender Week Homecoming to witness the Varsity vs. Alumni Lacrosse Game on Saturday, May 6. "Over 30 former CCNY Lacrosse players came back to campus for the 2023 Alumni Game, with alums from 1957 to 2022 in attendance," said Wilson. "The current varsity team and the alumni battled back and forth all game long, with the alums taking an early 3-0 lead, however the varsity team came back to win, prevailing by a 19-18 score. It was a beautiful day of fans, friends, family, and CCNY Lacrosse."





# MEET THE GREAT GRADS 2023!

They are among the most talented and distinguished members of the Class of 2023. Nominated by their CCNY mentors, and representing all schools and divisions of the College, these students excel in the classroom, inspire us with their personal histories, and illustrate the transformative power of the City College experience.

Read more about our Great Grads on CCNY's website:  
[WWW.CCNY.CUNY.EDU/GREATGRADS2023](http://WWW.CCNY.CUNY.EDU/GREATGRADS2023)



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**KAREN (KOON LAM) LI**  
 B.A., THEATER, DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

The Hong Kong-born Li plans to stay in the U.S. through the Optional Practical Training visa auditioning and hopefully being cast in as many roles as possible to become eligible for an O-1 (Artist) visa. "I have met the most wonderful faculty and friends at CCNY. I believe having my own community is the most crucial key before stepping out into the professional world," she said.



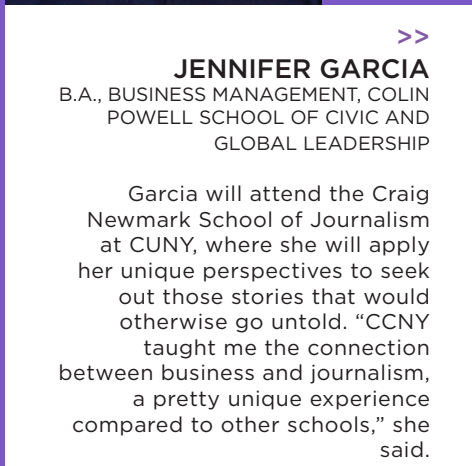
>>  
**HANA KASSEM**  
 B.E., BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING, THE GROVE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Kassem is passionate about pursuing a Ph.D. after graduation. "The pursuit of the 'American Dream' is not what I had initially imagined. Multiple challenges have been thrown my way, yet I have paved my path, and I have no intention of stopping anytime soon," she said.



<<  
**ELIJAH REY-DAVID MATOS**  
 B.A., ENGLISH, DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

Matos begins his M.A. at New York University in the fall, with plans to pursue a Ph.D. His goals extend into "becoming a trade book publishing editor and writing my own books—although maybe not at the same time! CCNY helped foster the breadth of my interests, including creative writing, publishing, and research."



>>  
**JENNIFER GARCIA**  
 B.A., BUSINESS MANAGEMENT, COLIN POWELL SCHOOL OF CIVIC AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Garcia will attend the Craig Newmark School of Journalism at CUNY, where she will apply her unique perspectives to seek out those stories that would otherwise go untold. "CCNY taught me the connection between business and journalism, a pretty unique experience compared to other schools," she said.







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**NIYA DANIELS**

B.A., INTERNATIONAL STUDIES,  
COLIN POWELL SCHOOL FOR CIVIC  
AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Daniels will spend the year before law school putting her legal writing skills to work at the Center for Women & Enterprise, helping budding entrepreneurs with forms and contracts. "I want to use my knowledge of the law to create effective change and uplift entrepreneurs," she said.



<<

**XIAO LIN WANG**

B.ARCH, ARCHITECTURE BERNARD AND  
ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Wang is still undecided about what to do after graduation: work at Shawmut Design and Construction, attend Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, or both. "My time at CCNY shaped me into a better leader, advocate, and an overall more open and compassionate designer and individual," she said.

>>  
**IBRAHIM ABDI HERSI**  
B.A., COMMUNICATIONS,  
DIVISION OF HUMANITIES  
AND THE ARTS

Hersi, who will attend the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY after graduation, is a self-described sports junkie. "City College taught me that I can turn my passion for sports into a profession."



>>  
**PETER GIANNARIS**  
B.S./M.D., SOPHIE DAVIS BIOMEDICAL EDUCATION  
PROGRAM,  
CUNY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Giannaris is currently in his first year at CUNY Med where he will obtain his medical degree in 2026. He plans to work in an underserved community with people who do not have access to medical care or have been mistreated in the medical field. "City College is truly one of the most unique schools in the world with its rich history, diverse student population, and inherent devotion to the community," he said.



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**DYLAN EWING**

B.A., INTERDISCIPLINARY ARTS AND  
SCIENCES  
DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY,  
STUDIES AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER  
EDUCATION

Ewing plans to attend graduate school and pursue research and writing opportunities in the humanities and arts. "CCNY has had a very positive impact on my life. I enrolled here because I had been wanting to change the direction of my work and life for some time but only had a high school diploma," he said.



<<

**JIALE (JERRY) CHEN**

B.S., APPLIED MATHEMATICS,  
MACAULAY HONORS COLLEGE

Chen will pursue an M.S. in business analytics at Columbia University. "Combining my devotion to addressing challenges facing underserved communities with my passion for business analytics, I see myself using data science as an instrument to nurture social entrepreneurship that addresses the challenges faced by underserved communities."

>>  
**SOFIA BLANDON**  
B.S., CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, AND  
B.A., PSYCHOLOGY, SCHOOL OF  
EDUCATION

Now that Blandon has completed her second-grade student teaching at the Manhattan Country School, she intends to continue teaching children in both formal and informal settings in the Fall. Blandon described how when she first began City College, everyone around her was excited and prepared to begin their journey in education studies. "It drew me in," she said.



>>  
**PAOLA CARCHI**  
B.A., PSYCHOLOGY, COLIN POWELL  
SCHOOL FOR CIVIC AND GLOBAL  
LEADERSHIP,  
SEEK PROGRAM

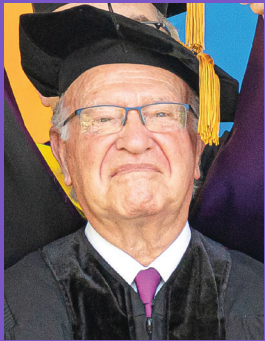
Carchi plans to pursue a career in human resources and will eventually obtain an MBA in human resources management. Speaking about her experience in the SEEK Program, she said, "Having a college support system was something that I highly valued, and I'm truly thankful to have been chosen to be a part of an academic support program."



## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER FIGHTS FOR JUSTICE; HONORED ARCHITECT SERVES CCNY AND ALUMNI



Civil rights attorney Bryan A. Stevenson, Esq., founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, was the keynote speaker at the 170th commencement ceremony on Friday, June 2 at 10 a.m. He received the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. Stevenson was recognized for his outstanding career in law, and his dedication to criminal justice reform and social justice. Growing up in an era of "informal segregation" in rural southern Delaware, he went on to graduate from Eastern University, magna cum laude, the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and Harvard Law School. He founded the Equal Justice Initiative in 1989 to provide legal representation to people who believe they have been illegally convicted, unfairly sentenced, or abused in state jails and prisons. He has garnered numerous awards for his work, including the MacArthur Fellowship and the American Civil Liberties Union's National Medal of Liberty.



Also honored was architect Joseph L. Fleischer, FAIA '65, '66 with the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. Fleischer is being recognized for his outstanding career in architecture as well as his dedication to CCNY. He served as president of the Alumni Association for three years and served on The Foundation for City College Board since 2021. He set up a gift trust—along with his wife, Carolyn Fleischer '68 – to both the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture and the School of Education through the college's 1847 Society. In 1999, the Alumni Association awarded him its prestigious Townsend Harris Medal. He is the recipient of the Architecture Group's Professional Achievement Award, as well as the Alumni Association's Service Award. He is a former President and Lifetime Member of the Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

## TWO EXTRAORDINARY GRADUATING WOMEN LEAD THE CLASS OF 2023

### CATHERINE HERNANDEZ Valedictorian



Catherine Hernandez, an anthropology major in the William E. Macaulay Honors College, is The City College of New York's Class of 2023 Valedictorian. The daughter of a 1993 CCNY alumnus, Hernandez graduated summa cum laude with a 3.98 GPA. She received a B.A. in anthropology with a minor in art history and Jewish studies.

### KIMBERLY PEREYRA MONERÓ Salutatorian



Kimberly Pereyra Moneró from the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership was the Salutatorian. A political science major and community change studies minor, she graduated with a B.A. and 3.90 GPA.

## H. CARL MCCALL AND STEPHEN F. SOMERSTEIN CELEBRATED FOR HUMANITARIAN WORKS AT PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

BY KELLY SULLIVAN



The City College of New York celebrated its 17th Presidential Humanitarian Awards Celebration in the beautiful Great Hall on Tuesday, May 2. This year we gathered to commemorate the impact that City College has made in its 176 year history, and to honor the legacy of the Honorable H. Carl McCall and Stephen F. Somerstein.

To begin the evening, each of the 150 guests were ushered into the magnificent Great Hall along the red carpet, and much like Hollywood's elite at The Met Gala the night before, were greeted by paparazzi and interviewed by eager young reporters. Or in our case, the Office of Institutional

Advancement, Communications & External Relations (OIACER) staffers interviewed guests and asked them to summarize CCNY's importance to them in three words. One couple, Joseph and Carolyn Fleischer chose the words, "We met here!" And 55 years later, they are still together.

The CCNY Jazz Trio performed beautifully throughout the cocktail reception until the dinner service began, when the energy transitioned from classical elegance to an electrifying performance by the Impact Repertory Theater, a Harlem-based youth performance company.

## THE 17<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENTIAL HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

Awards were given to McCall and Somerstein. McCall has had a distinguished career as a public servant. He served three terms as a New York State Senator representing the upper Manhattan district, as an Ambassador to the United Nations, as a Commissioner of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and as the Commissioner of the New York State Division of Human Rights.

Somerstein graduated from City College in 1966. He is a documentary photographer and physicist. As a physicist, Somerstein pioneered the field of nuclear fusion, and in December 2021, he designed optical instruments that are part of the James Webb Space Telescope. His body of photographic work included cultural subjects, social issues, and political movements from the 1960's. As a City College student, Somerstein traveled to the South to document the Selma to Montgomery March of 1965. An exhibit of these images, "Witness to History," was displayed in City College's Shepard Hall in the Lincoln Corridor from March 21 to May 14.

This year, two video messages were shown commemorating the legacy and impact of CCNY; one from notable partners, supporters, and staff of the College, and the other, a greeting made prior to his death, from the late Benjamin B. Ferencz (1920-2023). Ferencz, who died in April,

graduated from CCNY in 1940 (See obituary on p. 25 ). He was a prolific thinker, writer, advocate, and former prosecutor at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials. Both presentations highlighted the importance of a City College education, with one aptly titled "Thank You, City College." Ferencz's message instructed us to think for ourselves, and how an education at City College teaches one to do just that.

The evening concluded with the announcement of the raffle winners from the night's auction, which were each generously donated in support of the event, including "The Bronco Buster," a bronze reproduction sculpture by American artist Frederic Remington, a Dell Mobile Precision 3580 Latitude e7420 laptop, a one-year CCNY pool membership, N.Y. Giants box-seat-tickets, tickets to Madison Square Garden, a two-night stay for 16 guests at Mohican Outdoor Center, sponsored by the Appalachian Mountain Club, and tickets to Taylor Swift's 2023 "The Eras Tour" concert.

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*From top to bottom: Martin Cohen '70, honoree Stephen Somerstein '66 and President Vincent Boudreau. Honoree H. Carl McCall at the podium. Bert Brodsky '64, Diane Rodriguez '78, David Covington, McCall, Lucille McEwen, Charles B. Rangel, Boudreau, Gary Calnek '67 and Larry Greengrass '73. Somerstein and his wife Eva Strauss-Rosen.*



## MEMBERS AT AFFILIATE EVENTS NETWORK AND DISTRIBUTE AWARDS

BY KATIE HERCHENROEDER

Multiple affiliate groups hosted events to help with job searching and putting your best foot forward. The CCNY **Architecture Alumni Group** invited current students to mingle with alums at their **DiverCITY Speed Mentoring** event for resume building, networking, and mentorship. Financial educator and alumna Kimberly Hamilton teamed up with **The Business and Economics Alumni Group** to discuss her book “Building Wealth on a Dime” and how to make the most of your financial future. **The Education Alumni Group** invited the CCNY community to a **Principal's Panel: How to Get a Job**. The **Asian Alumni Group** celebrated the Year of the Rabbit this **Lunar New Year** with a 10-course dinner and raffle. Meeting at the Canton Lounge downtown, the alumni honored the memory of **Dr. Betty Lee Sung**, the founding professor of City College’s Asian Studies program. CCNY’s **Latino Alumni Group** gathered to watch the Pregones/Puerto Rican Traveling Theater troupe perform “**Quarter Rican**,” a new comedy show about parenting that explores having a mixed heritage. The **Communications Alumni Affiliate Group** met at the National Arts Club in Gramercy Park for their **46th Annual Dinner**. The event bestowed current students with scholarships and awards, inducted members into the hall of fame, and honored alumni who are making strides in communications-based careers. The board of directors recognized Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Maggie Haberman with this year’s Media Legend Award.



## DAUGHTER OF CCNY ALUMNI RETURNS TO PAY IT FORWARD

BY JENNIFER GARCIA



Jean Mlotok and Walter Porges.

When Marian Porges walked onto the City College campus, one of the first things she did was take a photo of Shepard Hall. “I’ll be sending it to [my family] later.”



Porges is the daughter of two CCNY Alumni, Walter Porges, a journalism major, and Jean Mlotok, an education major, both from the class of 1953. “Interestingly, both my parents pursued careers in their majors,” Porges noted. On February 25, 2023, Porges’s first

time on campus, she came to City College to lead a workshop for NBCU Academy fellows and students in the journalism department. “This is the first place we’re presenting this because the school meant something to me,” she said.

“They met here, this is where it all began,” Porges recalled, “The rest is history.” She continued, “I’m happy to be in the journalism building, this is where the student paper was run.”

Porges worked within NBC News for over 25 years; her last position was the senior vice president of

News Standards for NBCU News Group. Since September 2021, she’s worked in a consulting role for NBC, and lends her expertise to NBCU Academy, a journalism program that offers a hands-on approach through training and digital content creation. City College is one of NBCU Academy’s 46 academic partners, and one of its two partner schools in New York. The inaugural NBCU cohort in the 2021-2022 academic year at CCNY had 15 fellows, all journalism minors with an array of majors, like business management, political science and psychology, media communications, and more. “It’s a tough business, a heavy responsibility. If students can understand that it’s helpful to them to know what they’re getting into,” said Porges.

During this particular workshop in February, Porges was teaching the inaugural Standards Bootcamp, during which students learned about ethical news standards and what sets NBCUniversal apart from other news organizations.

As a second year NBCU Academy Fellow myself, it was incredibly inspiring to hear Porges’s story and see her dedication to journalism and City College. I was touched by Porges’s thoughts on the idea of paying it forward. Porges has been a journalist for four decades, and she always knew that, once she stepped away from the day-to-day grind of news, she wanted to help out the next generation of students. “Frankly, I feel it’s a responsibility of my generation to pass down our wisdom to the next generation,” said Porges.

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*Photo Credit of Marian Porges by NBC News.*

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**Jennifer Garcia was 2023 valedictorian of the Colin Powell School, where she majored in business and minored in journalism, and was a Great Grads 2023. She was an NBCU Fellow for two years.**

# ART ALUMNI GROUP PRESENTS ANNUAL “CCNY WOMEN MAKE ART EXHIBIT”

BY AISHA HUSSEIN



As spring blooms into summer, Randy Brozen, the president of the CCNY Art Alumni Group and a lecturer at the School of Education, collaborated with the Morris R. Cohen Library Reading Room and Archives to bring to fruition the exhibition “CCNY Women Make Art 2023.” A CCNY tradition, the Cohen Library has presented the annual exhibit for almost two decades, and Brozen has organized it for the past eight years. It gives women in the CCNY community, including students, staff, alumni, and faculty, a platform to showcase their creativity and love for art. This year, the show had over 30 entries and the artwork ranged from sweaters to a hand-made book, traditional paintings, and ceramic objects.



One of the many talented artists was Shiva Abbaszadeh. Her work called “The Story of Undine” is a two-dimensional drawing of a three-dimensional sculpture created by the artist Chauncey Bradley Ives. The inspiration for Abbaszadeh’s work is currently on display at the Yale University Art Gallery. Abbaszadeh’s work captures the figure of a woman from a low angle and seeks to display drama. Through the sharp contrast in tonality, due to both the use of ink and the hatching technique, this piece dramatizes the liquid movement of a woman as it parallels the folds and bends of the fabric. This artwork is a divine example of illusionistic carving as the undine and the wet drapery appear to move as one. Abbaszadeh wanted to challenge herself by drawing this sculpture and achieving a similar level of depth, and she has done an excellent job of capturing the essence of the original artwork.



Another breathtaking piece on show was Brozen’s work, “What Do We See When Our Eyes Are Closed?” This large collage combines some of Brozen’s typical iconography of nature, such as birds, flowers, moss and leaves. The medium includes hand-made paper and sections from her own photographs of spiritual beings such as the Quan Yin, Goddesses of Mercy, Bodhisattvas, and more. The central figure is an image of a Japanese mask from the Rubin Museum. Her work represents her desire to feel protected and supported, which she feels is of vital importance today.

## AN AACCN LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS REWARDS



I joined the Alumni Association in 2015, shortly after I was added to the Board of Directors of Business Alumni at CCNY. I became president of the Business and Economics Alumni Board in April 2017. The members of this board and I are more than colleagues or a team, we are family.

For six years I have led the group as we work to build a professional alumni network for our EcoBiz graduates. We have banking events and financial seminars, but more importantly we have a robust mentoring program that has created career opportunities and professional relationships.

In June 2022, I made the choice to become a lifetime member of the Alumni Association because I want to continue the success we started at Business Alumni, and when the opportunity arises, expand it to the entire Alumni Association. July 2023 will be the beginning of my seventh year as president of the board. Leading this group is an honor greater than I could have ever imagined. I am truly fortunate that this group of incredibly talented people put their trust in me to lead the charge in accomplishing our goals.

I am certain the right people are in place to continue the success we currently share, long after I am gone.

Charles Ranieri  
Class of 2013

President of the Board of Directors of Business and Economics Alumni 2017 - Present

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To learn more about membership and/or donating to the Alumni Association, visit [www.ccnyalumni.org](http://www.ccnyalumni.org) or call 212-234-3000.

**Send your questions, comments and news you'd like to share with the "Alumnus" community to [alumnus@ccnyalumni.org](mailto:alumnus@ccnyalumni.org).**

## CAMPUS COMMUNITY QUESTIONS THE COLLEGE'S COMMUNICATION AFTER SCHOOL SHOOTING THREAT

BY RHIANNON RASHIDI

Students, staff, and faculty at the City College of New York are on high alert since a former student, Din Bajrektarevic, threatened to shoot up the campus in November. Bajrektarevic was expelled from City College and the City University of New York on December 14, but the campus community was not informed till February 7, almost two months later. And students want more transparency from the college when situations like this happen in the future.

"I don't understand why [administrators] would keep that under wraps for as long as they did. I feel like that's something very pertinent to us as the student body, as well as staff, professors, and other administrators," said Monet, a City College student. "It's a comfort thing almost, knowing this threat isn't roaming close."

At a Faculty Senate plenary held on February 16, Executive Director of Public Safety and Security Pat Morena gave a presentation on public safety's emergency response procedures with President Vincent Boudreau. The senate scheduled this presentation in response to a resolution that the body voted on in December.

The resolution "in support of better communications during severe situations and of improved security on campus," was proposed following the shooting threat. It did not get the 32 yes-votes it needed to be adopted, but



the chair, Professor David Jeruzalmi, didn't let it end there.

"Since the resolution did not get the number of votes needed, I did the next best thing which is to rule that the resolution represented the sense of the Faculty Senate," he said. "[President Boudreau] accepted it even though the resolution did not achieve the number of votes required for adoption."

The resolution states that "messaging about urgent and severe situations should be clear and transparent." Jeruzalmi said. "The Faculty Senate supports the application of the appropriate tools to ensure that students are informed."

During the presentation, Boudreau acknowledged that the college could have been better about sharing information about the shooting threat with the campus community.

"Let me just say... going back to the [Din Bajrektarevic] case, I think that that's one that we missed," said Boudreau. "I believe that even though Din was in custody over Thanksgiving weekend, it would have been prudent of us to alert the deans and other people that manage peace that this situation [was] going on."

Din Bajrektarevic was not in custody over the Thanksgiving weekend. He was released to his own recognizance the day of his arrest. That noted, many agree that the college should have communicated better with the campus community.

"I found out because my friend was planning to come to the school, so she was studying the school to see what she liked and what she didn't like, and she ended up sending me the screenshot of the news article saying [the threat] happened. And I was just in class

like, 'what are you talking about,'" recalled Monet.

"It seems to me that the administration is aware that communication is their biggest challenge," said Professor Joseph Davis, a member of the faculty senate.

During the hour-long presentation, Boudreau and Morena announced that City College would soon install a public address system to alert students in the case of an active threat. And they encouraged professors to tell their students to sign up for CUNY Alerts, an alert system run through student email accounts. But neither of them mentioned a plan for when to alert students of a threat, or to what extent they will be updated as a crisis situation develops.

Alina, another City College student, hopes that the college will be more transparent with students about threats to safety in the future. "I feel like the students took [the situation] significantly more seriously than any of the administration, and that's where it's kinda icky. It shouldn't be that way," she said.



Rhiannon Rashidi, Class of 2024, is a journalism major who writes regularly for "Harlem View." She is one of 10 Fellows awarded a 2023 Puffin Student

Writing Fellowship by "The Nation" magazine, along with students from UCLA, University of Chicago, Brown, Harvard, Stanford, Cornell, and Yale Universities.

## “THE PAPER” REFLECTS BACK ON CAMARADERIE DURING TURBULENT TIMES

BY ALBERT V. DE LEON '72



“The Paper,” formerly “Tech News,” was created in 1970 by a group of multi-racial students at CCNY during a period of social upheaval that included the Civil Rights movement, the

Vietnam War, and battles for student rights. “The Paper” reported on college-related issues, but also gave voice to the underserved in and around Harlem, nationally, including a groundbreaking story on the Attica prison uprising, and internationally. The “Reflections Project” is one in which I asked my Paper colleagues from the early 1970’s to write essays reflecting on how “The Paper” specifically, and more broadly CCNY, influenced their lives and careers. We received many essays from these brilliant staff members who went on to become lawyers, judges, doctors, journalists, bankers, spoken-word artists, and educators, among other professions. In addition, we former students have organized the Paper Scholarship for Social Justice, which is awarded annually to deserving CCNY students.

Donations are welcome at:

**[www.ccny.cuny.edu/giving/paper-alumni-scholarship-fund-social-justice](http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/giving/paper-alumni-scholarship-fund-social-justice)**.

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*Albert V. De Leon was the Editor-in-Chief of “The Paper” in 1972, and is a lawyer.*

## MY REFLECTIONS ON CCNY

BY ANNE DORIS, JOURNALISM '75



I was the fifth member of my family to attend The City College of New York. My major was journalism, my minor—Black Studies.

The faculty of both those departments significantly influenced my life and career. Studying under writers and professors like Irving Rosenthal, Francine duPlessix-Gray and Richard Goldstein, I learned the importance of developing professional writing skills, finding and using my authentic voice to connect with and communicate to my audience.

As a student reporter for “The Paper,” I integrated my professors’ journalistic influences with “The Paper’s” focus on connecting to the issues facing our local, national and global communities.

A pivotal part of my time at CCNY was my participation in two separate work-study programs—one in South America, the other in East Africa, sponsored by the Black Studies Department. The two programs—led by Black Studies faculty members Margherita Matias, Alex Miller and Max Manigat—were factors in my winning a global role in the cable television and television industry. Studying and volunteering in different countries made me more aware of cultural differences and the ease of finding common ground through work, shared meals and local hospitality.

There were conversations between the U.S. and African students that remain with me today. For example, one student expressed confusion about our ethnicity self-identifiers (Negro, Afro-American, Black) and feeling uncomfortable when using an old descriptor. Or exchanges about our shared heritage being expressed in music and dance. I learned that I could fit into any society by being open and engaging. This ability allowed me to live and work effectively in various U.S. and global markets.

After a career spanning three decades in the cable television and telecom industries, I now teach Advanced Telecommunications Management & Leadership at Penn State University. Last year I had the opportunity to take my students to Guyana in South America. My students were amazed, and irretrievably changed by the experience, just as I was during the visit I took to the same country as

a CCNY student 40 years ago. My students adapted quickly to Guyana's multi-cultural society. When visiting one of the indigenous villages, we had a discussion with a tribal leader and several young people. The leader, a woman, talked of preparing the young for the responsibility of their people's future. The discussion between our groups about using technology, yet safeguarding their ancestral life caused one of my students to comment on how much we could learn from them.

When I look back to my teenage self, committed to a professional rigor as instilled by my teachers, focused on reporting on her community, having worked and studied in two underdeveloped nations—I know that the person I am today is a result of my experiences at CCNY.

My wish is that the outstanding City College faculty continues to teach future graduates, that "The Paper" remains a voice of its diverse community, and that young people are being prepared for their roles in companies, communities and life. This is why I support CCNY, and The Paper Scholarship for Social Justice.

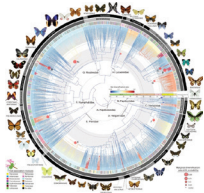


**DIVISION OF HUMANITIES & THE ARTS**



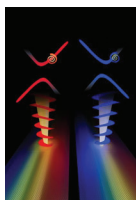
The exhibition “Juan de Pareja, Afro-Hispanic Painter” is on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art through July 16. Spanish and Portuguese Professor Vanessa K. Valdés is the exhibition’s co-curator. “Pareja’s artistic legacy reverberates across the canons of Western art and the African diaspora into our time,” said Valdés. To plan your museum trip, visit: [www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/juan-de-pareja](http://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/juan-de-pareja).

**THE DIVISION OF SCIENCE**



Biology Associate Professor David Lohman was senior author on a study about the evolution of butterflies that

was published in the journal "Nature Ecology and Evolution." The first butterflies took flight about 100 million years ago when a group of moths with legume-eating caterpillars began flying in the daytime rather than at night.



**THE GROVE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**

In their two recent works, published back-to-back in the

top journals “Science Advances” and “Nature Nanotechnology,” researchers from Professor Alexander Khanikaev’s group have created structured light on a silicon chip, and used this added structure to attain new functionalities and control not available before. The demonstrations can be useful for quantum applications, implementing them with quantum states of structured light and realizing quantum logic in their photonic nanostructures.

**THE BERNARD & ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE**

Full-time and in-person, the Summer Career Lab in Architecture provides participants—high school, collegiate, or professional—with career choice information and experience, a portfolio, and skills immediately applicable in future design endeavors. Admission is on a rolling basis, and students are provided with essential tools and materials for drawing and modeling. Classes run from July 10-August 4. Visit: [www.cuny.edu/cps/architecture-summer-career-lab](http://www.cuny.edu/cps/architecture-summer-career-lab).

**SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

Associate Professor Hazel M. Carter, an expert in education reform



pipeline programs, is the 2023 winner of the Pelican Award presented by the American Foundation of The University of the West Indies (AFUWI) and The University of the West Indies Alumni Association

New York chapter. An AFUWI board member, she received the honor which recognizes distinguished alumni who have achieved unprecedented success and serve as exemplary role models on April 20 at a gala in Manhattan. She made the cover of the May 7 issue of the magazine “Women Empowerment,” and the event was featured in the “Jamaica Observer.”

**COLIN POWELL SCHOOL FOR CIVIC AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**



Linda Powell, chair of the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors and daughter of the late General Colin Powell, presented the inaugural Colin

L. Powell Award for Distinguished Leadership to Cesar Conde, chair of the NBCUniversal News Group at a ceremony at CCNY in April. Powell said of Conde, the first Hispanic to lead a major English-language television news organization, that “he has made it his mission to create a more inclusive and representative media landscape.”

**DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION**

The Americas Film Festival of New York begins Thursday, June 15 with a screening of the feature film “The Beasts,” directed by Rodrigo Sorogoyen. Winners of the Americas Award Short Film Competition will be announced. The closing

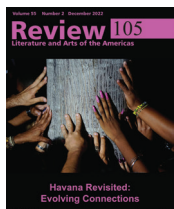


night film on Thursday, June 22 is the feature “Fancy Dance” directed by Erica Tremblay. Screenings are free and open to the public. For tickets, visit: <https://www.taffny.com>.

### CUNY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

The second annual Match Day was held March 17 for graduating medical school candidates to learn about their placement at residencies across the country. For the third graduating class of CUNY Med, President Vince Boudreau said that Match Day “demonstrates how enthusiastically the medical community embraces this school.”

### NEW ISSUES OF JOURNALS AVAILABLE



Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas (Issue 105 December 2022) is available at <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rrev20>. Published twice yearly in June and December, the issue’s theme is “Havana Revisited: Evolving Connections.” The magazine

is peer-reviewed and published by Routledge/Taylor and Francis in association with The City College of New York, via its Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures.

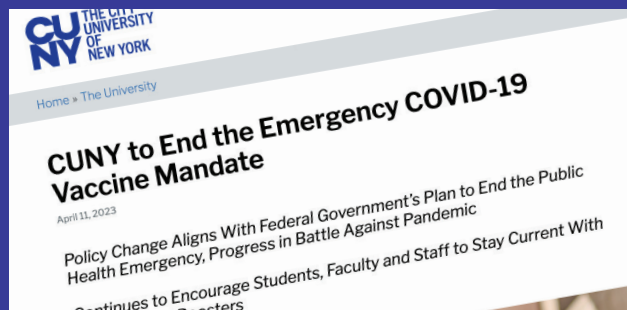


“Promethian” (Spring 2023) is available on [www.promethianmag.com](http://www.promethianmag.com). The literary magazine is put out annually by students and publishes faculty, student and alumni writing.



“Well Played: a Journal on Video Games, Value and Meaning” is available <https://press.etc.cmu.edu/journals/well-played-vol-12-no1>. Professor Stan Altman co-edited this special issue uniquely focused on esports as an emerging type of community, largely within the context of colleges and universities.

## UPDATE ON COVID-19 RULES



In the wake of the federal government’s end to the pandemic and the Public Health Emergency posed by COVID-19, CUNY announced that it is ending the emergency vaccination mandate for students, faculty, and staff. The change is effective on the last day of the Spring semester, May 23, and will allow students to enroll in classes, regardless of their vaccination status, starting with Summer sessions.

## HONK IF YOU LOVE CCNY!



Unlock your college spirit with our exclusive CCNY license plates! You can now stand out in New York traffic and let your dedication shine on the streets. Celebrate CCNY’s 175th anniversary with us by showing off the iconic CCNY purple and its logo capturing the essence of academic excellence. They are available to alumni, staff, students, faculty, and anyone who wants this must-have accessory. Drive with CCNY pride and get your license plate today!

Don’t be shy, visit the DMV website: [dmv.ny.gov/plates/city-college-new-york](https://dmv.ny.gov/plates/city-college-new-york)

## THE DOCUMENTARY FORUM PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR EMERGING FILMMAKERS

BY THEA KLAPWALD

It was just another day at the Documentary Forum when Li-Shin Yu, Emmy-winning editor of Ric Burns' New York series, walked into Shepard Hall. Yu had made the shift to director and spoke about the making of her documentary film "Plague at the Golden Gate" which has streamed on PBS. She talked about the challenges and significance of making a film about a pandemic that was blamed on the Chinese—albeit in the year 1900. In the audience, listening, was a mix of film students from schools throughout the city, members of the surrounding Harlem community, CCNY staff and faculty, alumni and film industry professionals. The evening was co-sponsored with TWN and the Asian American/Asian Research Institute at CUNY.



Andrea Weiss, co-director of the MFA Program in Film founded the Documentary Forum in 2012. The event with Yu was just one of 22 that The Documentary Forum hosted in 2022-23. Weiss might shrug this off as something anyone in her position would do, but the stellar programming produced on a shoestring budget with overburdened staff is a miracle.

When Weiss started The Forum, there was more funding and staff. Lean times meant cuts to a staff position. Adjunct Film Instructor J.T. Takagi stepped up and took over organizing the Forum's events. Some of the meatier programming, like the four-week Filmmakers Boot Camp had to be canceled. The event, for emerging filmmakers at no cost to them, was selective. Only 16 projects were accepted. Films were critiqued and a trailer made. "Some of the filmmakers had been struggling for years on their own. It's a leg up, it gets the films out the door," said Weiss.

In the early days of the Doc Forum, Weiss relied on her personal contacts to convince filmmakers to show their work. That's no longer the case. "The word has long since gotten out about it,"

said Weiss. Especially filmmakers of color know they are welcome here. "There is a much broader cross section of who comes," said Weiss. "It's a great opportunity for the college and the community to have the filmmaker present. It's a really nice community engagement event. And the filmmakers are so happy to be there because it's such a diverse audience. They ask great questions. It's very rewarding."

While having a conversation around documentary filmmaking is critical to the Forum's mission, Weiss sees the support of emerging filmmakers as its secondary mission. "We want to make it possible for them to come out of film school and actually transition to being filmmakers, not just people who went to film school," said Weiss.

Weiss likes to tell the recent tale of a student attending an event, meeting an industry professional, and taking their business card. "That business card led to an internship, which then led to a paid job," said Weiss. That's a lifeline for entry-level job seekers. "This is a bridge to the local community but also a really great way for our students to make contact with the community," explained Weiss.

Funders, like The Ford Foundation, come to speak to students about how to get a grant, and what they're looking for in terms of funding. Isabel Castro, a four-time Emmy-nominated, Mexican-American filmmaker who makes films about immigration, civil rights, and identity, presented a talk on equity financing. For her documentary "Mija," which premiered at Sundance 2022, won the Jury Prize at the Champs-Élysées Film Festival, and streamed on Disney+, Castro financed the film through grants and equity financing.

Premiere doc series POV's Coordinating Producer Robert Chang visited to discuss how to write a compelling proposal. Many other broadcasters, distributors, and emerging filmmakers from the city's different boroughs, come, too.

All events are free, open to the public. “It’s very vibrant and has great energy. There is something going on several times a month,” said Weiss. The Forum closes for the summer months. Many of the events are co-sponsored by Third World Newsreel, a distribution company that specializes in films by and about people of color. For more information, visit [Documentaryforum.org](http://Documentaryforum.org).



### AUDIENCES STAND UP FOR “THE FIVE DEMANDS”

A filmmaker in her own right, Andrea Weiss most recently co-directed and co-produced, with CCNY alum Greta Schiller, the documentary film “The Five Demands” about the 1969 shutdown, takeover, and occupation of City College by a small group of Black and Puerto Rican students. During the furor, classes were canceled, students arrested, and the college president resigned. Through archival footage and modern-day interviews, the film follows the students’ struggle against the institutional racism that, for over a century, had shut out people of color from public universities.

The film had its premiere at the Pan-African Film Festival in Los Angeles. Weiss had her first standing ovation and said it was a “crazy experience.” When she saw them stand, she thought they were leaving. They were not. They were applauding the movie that offers proof that a handful of ordinary citizens can band together to take action and affect meaningful change.

The entire film was a CCNY collaboration. CCNY alumni involved included Cinematographer Octavio Warnock-Graham, Executive Producer Stanley Nelson, Production Manager Felicia Bradford, Sound Recordists Bhima Aryateja and Susan Mei, Graphics Designer Joann Huang, and others. Faculty involved in the film included Development Producer Linda Villarosa and Sound Recordist J.T. Takagi.

The film opens on July 13 at Maysles Documentary Center in Harlem followed by a one-week run at the Firehouse Cinema, beginning July 14. For more information, visit: <https://thefivedemandsfilm.com>.

## CCNY CAPTURES 2023 CUNYAC BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE



Baseball team the Beavers secured the program’s second CUNY Athletic Conference Championship and its first since 1994 after sweeping Lehman College on Friday, May 12 to win the 2023 CUNYAC Baseball Championship at Maimonides Park. The Beavers shut out the Lightning in the first game, 10-0, and rallied back in the ninth inning of game two to win, 20-8. Pitcher James Dean Johnstone, who graduated in June with a major in film and a minor in journalism, was named the Championship’s Most Valuable Player. Over the course of the tournament, Johnstone gave up one run over 12.0 innings of work with 12 strikeouts. The CUNYAC Championship is CCNY’s first under 11th-year Head Coach Steve Macias, who led the Beavers to a 16-18 record this season, tying for the most wins and their best finish since 2007. Macias was named CUNYAC Coach of the Year. The following players were named CUNYAC All-Star: First Baseman Michael Chasanov, Right-handed Pitcher Johnstone and Brandon Paider, Outfielder Ethan Angress, Shortstop John Creegan, and Utility player Jonathan Rivera.

For in-depth coverage, go to [HarlemView.com](http://HarlemView.com) for a story by Fenix Suriel who graduated in June with a psychology major and journalism minor. Both Suriel and pitcher Johnstone were NBCU Fellows.

## ALEXANDER KENT'S WISH TO GIVE BACK TO SPITZER MEADOW



We were happy to be informed that **Alexander Kent, MLA '20**, recently gave a lecture at the Cape Cod Museum of Natural History. The talk, called “Artful Ecological Design for the Home Landscape,” was held in April as part of the museum’s Gardening for Life Speaker Series. Kent shared how local plant communities can inspire beautiful and biodiverse

landscapes. Although a native New Yorker, he moved to Cape Cod for love—his wife was from there. Kent came in from the outdoors to talk to “Alumnus” about his experiences in Cape Cod and how CCNY continues to influence his daily life.

His company Kent Land Design llc, is a small ecologically focused design build company based in Cape Cod, M.A. They work with homeowners and architects to create naturalistic landscape designs that fit with the local ecology and promote biodiversity. “I have always loved planting design and this practice lets me be creative, work on varied tasks, and continue to learn the many aspects of landscape design,” said Kent.

“CCNY is an amazing place to earn an MLA and I am truly grateful for what I learned while in the program. My education in Landscape Architecture at CCNY gave me the technical skills and confidence to commit to landscape design as a career. The MLA program at CCNY is rigorous, but incredibly rewarding in terms of experience and connections with professors, professionals, and members of the program,” said Kent.

His education has made him mindful of giving back to his community, in many ways. “I use the graphic skills I learned at CCNY to volunteer for local conservation minded nonprofit organizations through creating example ecological designs and display materials. I also volunteer or provide reduced rates to land trusts for land management projects in my area,” said Kent.

He hopes to one day teach a planting design course and donate plants to the Spitzer meadow.

## VIOLETA CONTRERAS RAMIREZ, NEW PSYCH RESIDENCE AT N.Y. PRES

BY AISHA HUSSEIN



**Violeta Contreras Ramirez, B.S./M.S., Bio, Great Grads '15** graduated CCNY as valedictorian in 2015 with a degree in biology and psychology. Post-graduation, she

spent two years doing research at the Burke Neurological Research Institute. She continued her journey by going to Yale Medical School and graduating in 2022. She is currently a psychiatry resident at the New York Presbyterian—Weill Cornell. She was awarded the Rising Star Award by Latino Alumni Affiliate Group. Contreras Ramirez wants to use her success to inspire others in following their dreams despite any obstacles that may come their way. She is very grateful to CCNY, especially for the mentors she had and the support she received during her time there. Contreras Ramirez always thinks of her time at CCNY very fondly.



In tribute to **Lewis Mandell, '64**, the recently launched Lewis Mandell Memorial Fund for Students of Economics is to help students in financial need with books,

laptops, food, housing, etc. Mandell, who died in 2019, served as the Dean of Business at Marquette University and SUNY Buffalo. During his lifetime, Mandell credited CCNY, and specifically the Economics Department, with giving him the foundation from which he launched his extraordinary academic career.



## ON CAMPUS



Spitzer School of Architecture alumni **Fern Lan Siew, '15**, and **Jing Fan, '12**, gave a Sciame Lecture “Across the Pacific Rim: Architecture and Landscape in Translation” in March.



“How Creativity WORKS,” a talk featuring creative team **Paul Bernabe, BIC '21**, and **Jermine Hodge, BIC '21**, was held in April. They discussed the ins-and-outs of being creative partners, moving as a team from one agency to another, and getting the E\*Trade baby to talk on TikTok. The candid conversation discussed how to put your creativity to work in a career in the communications business.

## ACCOLADES



**Mohammad Alam '11** received his B.A., magna cum laude from CCNY, and pursued his J.D. at University of Buffalo, School of Law. He was named in the “2023 Albany 40 Under 40,” a list which honors impressive state lawmakers who assist some of the most powerful politicians in the State’s capital. According to Alam, his career in politics started when one of his professors at City College advised him to volunteer for a campaign in which he expressed interest.



**David Banks, SoE Program for Educational Leadership '20**, was honored in the 2023 NYC Power 100, the leaders of NYC. Banks is the NYC Schools chancellor, and his principal goal is to undo the negative impact of COVID-19 on children’s learning. He is working toward bringing their reading and writing scores up again, which dropped significantly due to remote instruction.



**Hamees Gabr, BArch '22**, is a recipient of the 2030 Fund which provides student loan debt relief and support for aspiring BIPOC architects. She is currently pursuing a degree in Urban Design at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.



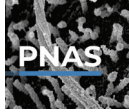
**Howard M. Julien '06**, received his B.S. in biomedical education. He is a cardiology specialist and a professor of clinical medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. He won the Blockley-Osler award, which honors the hospital’s faculty for excellence in teaching modern clinical medicine.

**Rebecca Panko, CCFEL, Bio, Great Grads '14**, who received her Ph.D. in biology at Rutgers University in 2020, was awarded a Science and Technology Policy Fellowship with the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Her host office is at the headquarters of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Research and Development in Washington, D.C. She was a postdoctoral research associate at the Department of Plant Biology at Michigan State University from July 2020 until July 2022.

## ARTICLES IN ACADEMIC JOURNALS



**Ángela Perez, '09**, published an article in the Advanced Access section of the “Journal of Social History” (April 2023) about the reconstruction of judicial practices in Cauca, Colombia.



**Christopher Shen, B.S. Physics '23**, was cited as a contributor in a paper titled, “Liquid to Solid Transition of Elastin Condensates” that was published in “Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) Journal.” His lab work contributed to data in the analysis of liquid phase separation in elastin proteins.



**Fidel Tavarez, '11**, assistant professor for the history department at Queens College, published “Mispricing Tuition” in “Insider Higher Ed.” The article presents why English and history majors should be charged lower tuition because of lower labor costs.

## NEW POSITIONS



**René Cordero, MMUF, HIST, '14**, will start as an assistant professor in the Latin American and Latinx Studies Department at John Jay College in the Fall of 2025. A two-year postdoc under the Charles Gaius Bolin Fellowship at Williams College will precede the position.



**Lorraine (nee Johnson) Dimarco, BSEd '91**, was named the vice president of Maintenance for Mesa Airlines. In her new position, Dimarco will be responsible for the safety and reliability of Mesa Airlines’ aircrafts.



**Paulette Dodson, B.A. Urban Legal Studies '84**, has been appointed to the Board of Directors for Trupanion, Inc. After receiving her B.A. from CCNY, she received her J.D. at Cornell University.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Jerome Segal, B.A. '64**, gave up his bid to run for president, to run as a Democrat for the Maryland Senate seat in the 2024 election. Segal graduated with double honors in economics and philosophy. He was awarded the Brittain prize in Moral Philosophy. Segal founded the Jewish Peace Lobby which promotes peace and seeks for a just solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



**Alaudin Ullah, B.A., Great Grads '19**, co-directed a documentary called “In Search of Bengali Harlem” (2022), which was screened at the Museum of the City of New York in March. A playwright and actor, Ullah is dedicated to creating stories and characters that counter, challenge, and correct the misperception of South Asians and Muslims. His acclaimed one-man show “Dishwasher Dreams,” based on his father’s life in New York City from 1930-60, premiered at the New Works Now festival in 2022, and Ullah’s performance was awarded the prestigious Emerging Writers Group Fellowship and the Connecticut Critics Circle award for Outstanding Solo Performance.



## ALUMNI-WRITTEN BOOKS



**Melissa Coss Aquino, MFA '10**, has recently published a novel called “Carmen and Grace.”

It is an emotionally charged, coming-of-age drama focusing on the lives of two poor Latino girls and their strong bond, where “one seeks power and the other seeks a way out.”

Alumni **Janet Mayes, '64**, nee Singer, **Sue Harris, '60**, nee Blugerman, and **David Singer, '68**, have published “Interpersonal Psychoanalytic Theory for the 21st Century; Evolving Self” (Lexington Books/Rowman & Littlefield). The book’s fourth author is Marilyn Miller. Maximizing one’s potential is the focus of the book. It is geared towards all practitioners and teachers in the area of mental health, not just psychotherapists and clinicians.



## PRIZES ADDING UP FOR AUTHOR SIDIK FOFANA'S FIRST BOOK



Author **Sidik Fofana** received his Masters in Special Education from CCNY in 2011. Since then, he has published his first book, a collection of short stories called “Stories from the Tenants Downstairs.” The book about Harlem residents recently won the prestigious Whiting Prize for \$50,000 and the Gotham Book Prize for \$35,000. His success was covered in “The New York Times.” “Alumnus” caught up with Fofana to speak with him about what’s next,

CCNY’s role in his success, and how he likes to give back to the community. Published by Simon & Schuster, the book is available online as a hardcover, trade paperback, ebook, and audiobook.

**Q: What role did CCNY play in getting you to where you are now?**

**A:** City College is where I got my master’s in teaching special education. I would teach during the day and then attend class at night. We were all educators in the classroom with the city’s kids, the kids of home health workers, construction workers, correction officers, bus drivers, security guards, and receptionists. It gave me a lot of stories. We would all share our experiences in class, so it wasn’t just academic, but also therapeutic.

**Q: How will you use your position to give back to the CCNY community (or your community in general)?**

**A:** Some great foundations have reached out to me whom I have been happy to collaborate with. The Hawthornden Foundation is in the process of creating an academic summer residency for public school students. The Young Readers’ Prize Harvard Library is offering an annual prize to essays on reading written by tenth graders. I’m working with the Brooklyn Public

Library to do free workshops in the summer with a possible stipend and with the Lenox House in Harlem to do readings for the senior citizens.

**Q: Are you working on something new?**

**A:** Indeed. New, but not bigger. Three-to-ten page stories. People mislabel that as flash fiction but it’s not quite flash. They’re basically stories that are designed to be read in a closed 45 minutes. Over the years, I’ve learned that this length tends to be the sweet spot with students. Many classic stories fit in that range. Shout out to “Bullet in the Brain” by Tobias Wolff, “The Lesson” by Toni Cade Bambara, and “The Lady and the Tiger” by Frank Stockton.

**Q: Anything else that you would like to add?**

**A:** I am blessed to have attended CCNY. It is a “people’s education.” Not only do you get a master’s from inside, but you also get a “master’s of the city” through your interactions with a wonderful cross section of communities.

## GRAMMY WIN FOR MUSICIAN KRIS DAVIS



Pianist **Kris Davis** won a Grammy for Best Jazz Instrumental Album “New Standards Vol. 1” at the 65th Grammy Awards on February 5 in Los Angeles. The L.A.-based Davis is pictured here on the night of the Grammys with her fellow musicians, including (left to right) Linda May Han Oh, Kris Davis and Terri Lyne Carrington. “Never in a million years did I think I would win a Grammy! I am grateful to Terri Lyne Carrington for asking me to play on New Standards, Vol. 1, an album that highlights some incredible compositions by women composers!” said Davis, who received her Master of Music, classical composition, from CCNY in 2014. “We’re really proud of her!” said Music Department Chair Shaugn O’Donnell. The award-winning Davis is Berklee College of Music’s associate program director of creative development for the Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice.

## FILMMAKER SARAH KIM RECEIVES DEAR PRODUCER AWARD



The L.A.-based film producer **Sarah Kim, '14**, attended a virtual Q&A after a screening of her movie “Crossings” on April 19. Presented by CCNY’s Documentary Forum and Third World Newsreel and cosponsored by the Asian American/Asian Research

institute at CUNY, the film is about a group of international women peacemakers who set out on a risky journey across the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea, calling for an end to the 70-year war that has divided the Korean peninsula and its people. Also in attendance at the screening to answer questions was the film’s director Deann Borshay Liem and activist Christine Ahn who made the actual journey featured in the film. “Alumnus” sought out Kim to answer a few questions about what brought her to CCNY and where she goes from here.

### **Q: What role did CCNY play in getting you to where you are now?**

**A:** I came to CCNY for my MFA, after attending UCLA School of Theater Film and Television for film production, because one of my filmmaking heroes, Chantal Akerman, was teaching there at the time. CCNY provided some wonderful faculty that I’ve had the pleasure of knowing.

### **Q: How will you use your position to give back to the CCNY community (or your community in general)?**

**A:** I’ve had the privilege of being involved in building up the filmmaking communities I work with and continue to mentor and support. It’s fulfilling to be able to shape and give back to the communities that I serve.

### **Q: Are you working on something new?**

**A:** I’m working on a few projects, including an adaptation for

a feature film with director Christopher Yogi, and a special portmanteau film that showcases eight emerging Native Hawaiian filmmakers that I’m working on with the Hawaii International Film Festival.

### **Q: Anything else that you would like to add?**

**A:** I’m receiving the Dear Producer Award this year! (The Dear Producer Award supports producers who possess a strong creative vision and who uplift the film community through a generous spirit and leadership. Each recipient receives an unrestricted grant of \$50,000, attends a retreat focused on rest and community building, and commits to mentoring a producer for one year.)

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*Photo from left: Sarah Kim, Christine Ahn, and Deann Borshay Liem.*

## DEBORAH BERKE'S CCNY EXPERIENCE GIVES HER STREET CRED WITH STUDENTS



Alumna Deborah Berke, Master of Urban Design (MUP), '84, is the Dean and J.M. Hopping Professor of Architecture at Yale University. An accomplished architect (FAIA, LEED AP), her firm Deborah Berke Partners in New York City received the National Design Award from the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum in 2017. She was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2022. We had a chat with her about her post at Yale, where she's taught since 1988, and her time at City College.

**Q: Is there something that stands out to you about your experience at CCNY compared to the private institution(s) you work(ed) with?**

**A:** I was at CCNY in the 1980s so things were quite different than they are today, both at CCNY and at private institutions. What I valued in my time at CCNY was the complete diversity of the backgrounds of all the students. It was an authentic extension of the city itself.

**Q: Is the conversation about architecture discussed differently from school to school? Is there a divide somehow? Or is the conversation a global one where each school is merely a node on a larger tree?**

**A:** I studied planning and urban design at CCNY, having already received an architecture degree from RISD. That said, while different schools have different approaches to teaching students to become architects, I do not see much of a divide. I believe the conversation is global.

**Q: How has your experience at CCNY influenced you as a Dean when dealing with your students?**

**A:** Having attended a public university gives me credibility with our students who have similar backgrounds. Not every university has Yale's resources, but that doesn't diminish the quality of education.

**Q: Did you have a mentor or a particular teacher that you really connected with when you were at CCNY?**

**A:** I made two of my closest friends while in the Urban Design and Planning program at CCNY - Connie Hildesley and Janet Marie Smith. Both incredibly accomplished women! And, I'd say Jonathan Barnett, the then director of the program, was a real mentor for me.

**Q: What's the most common response when you tell people you went to CCNY?**

**A:** When I tell people I am an alumna of CCNY they are impressed. I am a proud native New Yorker and having attended CCNY is a big part of my story. I think CCNY and CUNY in general are respected as being among the leading urban public institutions in the country.

**Q: Is there something you miss about CCNY?**

**A:** I really like the CCNY campus and am sorry not to have a reason to go there more often. It is actually architecturally very much like Yale's campus and both places feel to me, in the best possible way, like places to learn.

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*Photo Credit: Winnie Au*



**CENTENARIAN BENJAMIN B. FERENCZ, '40**, a distinguished 1940 City College of New York alumnus, and the last surviving prosecutor from the post-WWII Nuremberg trials, died in Boynton Beach, Fla., on April 7. He was 103.

Three years ago, Mr. Ferencz had turned 100 a month earlier when he delivered the keynote speech at The City College's first ever "Virtual Salute" in celebration of its Class of 2020. He received the honorary degree Doctor of Laws from his alma mater, and is believed to be the oldest honorary degree recipient from CCNY. The institution was founded in 1847.

The honorary doctorate was the second major accolade for Mr. Ferencz from his alma mater. He received The City College President's Medal in Sept. 2019.

The Medal is awarded for distinguished achievement and public service. Past recipients include: Nelson Mandela; Nobel Laureates Robert Aumann and Leon M. Lederman; Coretta Scott King, Gen. Colin L. Powell, USA (ret.), astronaut Mario Runco Jr., and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. The 2002 Medal was awarded to the men and women of New York City's uniformed services for their heroic service on and after September 11, 2001.

Mr. Ferencz was a physically active man who did 100 pushups daily past his 100th birthday. He was a life-long advocate for human rights and the rule of law. In his address to CCNY's Class of 2020, he shared with graduates some of his remarkable experiences in the 80 years since his own graduation from in 1940. "Experiences, which I hope will be inspirational and will guide the Class of 2020 during difficult times now and in the future," he said.

Mr. Ferencz, whose family came to the United States from Romania when he was 10-months-old, attended Harvard Law School after graduating from CCNY. He earned his law degree in 1943 and fought in World War II.

At the end of the war, the young lawyer was recruited for the Nuremberg war crimes trials in Nuremberg, Germany. Once the International Military Tribunal's prosecution of German Field Marshal, Herman Goering and his henchmen was concluded, the United States tried a broad cross section of Nazi criminals.

He said of the experience: "Nuremberg taught me that creating a world of tolerance and compassion would be a long and arduous task. And I also learned that if we did not devote ourselves to developing effective world law, the same cruel mentality that made the Holocaust possible might one day destroy the entire human race."



**ELAINE CAMHI MELMED, B.S., ELEMENTARY EDUCATION, '53** died on January 8, 2023 at the age of 90. She was born in Brooklyn and was a proud graduate of the New York City public school system. Melmed received her degree in Elementary Education at CCNY, later obtaining a master's in education and a master's in administration and supervision. Melmed worked as director of the Metropolitan Council for Staff Development. She also founded the Fund for Education and Human Services in 1982, which she helmed as the executive director. Throughout her life, she was dedicated to promoting educational excellence among students, and training educators to be their best in the field. Melmed was also an active member of the League of Women Voters, Council of Administrative Women in Education and D.C.

Citizens for Better Public Education, holding executive or board positions with each organization. Outside of her work in educational spaces, Melmed thought of her home as a sanctuary, where she loved to have her friends over to play poker and muse about what was going on around the world. A grandmother, mother, wife, educational advocate, and founder, Melmed asked that, in her passing, contributions be made to Iona Senior Services or the League of Women Voters of Washington, D.C.

**40s** | **HARRY BELAFONTE** died on April 25, 2023. Belafonte had a sparkling career in music, film, theater, and more. In addition to his hit songs like “Banana Boat Song (Day-O)” and films such as “Carmen Jones” (1954), “Odds Against Tomorrow” (1959) and “Buck and the Preacher” (1972), Belafonte was a noted humanitarianism, having worked as a civil rights activist alongside Martin Luther King Jr., fought in the anti-apartheid movement, and organized the 1985 “We Are the World” famine relief song. He was a dear friend to those in the theater department in Aaron Davis Hall and his impact on the CCNY community lives on.

**REUBEN FRIEDMAN, B.S., CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, '45**, died on January 7, 2023 at his New York City home. Following his time in the Army, Friedman graduated from City College with a chemical engineering degree. He continued on to get a master's in education at Columbia University. Reuben lost a leg in World War II and received a Purple Heart for his heroic efforts in 1944 as a member of General Patton's Third Army. Throughout it all, he continued to live an active life with family and friends.

**ISABELLE S. SEGAL, PH.D., B.S., BIOLOGY, '46**, died on December 28, 2022 following her 96th birthday party the night before. A lifelong fighter for feminist and educational causes, Segal graduated from CCNY at 19 years old with her degree in education. Following college, she taught high school biology to GIs returning from the war. After earning her bachelor's, she received an M.A. from New York University and a Ph.D from the University of Michigan in 1964 (both in education). That year, fewer than 1,000 women graduated with Ph.Ds in the country that year. Segal was one of them.

**LEONARD SCHWARTZ, B.A., PSYCHOLOGY, '48, M.A., PSYCHOLOGY, '49**, died on February 21, 2023. After receiving both his bachelor's and master's from CCNY, Schwartz earned a Ph.D. in psychology from New York University. He worked as a psychotherapist in Long Island both individually and with his late wife. Schwartz was the first school psychologist in all of Suffolk County. And, while he was a CCNY student, he led the first national sit-in to protest student housing segregation affecting black veterans.

**ELLIOT VALENSTEIN, B.A., PSYCHOLOGY, '49**, died on January 12, 2023. A distinguished neuroscientist, Valenstein graduated from City College then completed a Ph.D. in experimental psychology at the University of Kansas. He used brain stimulation in animals and other techniques to enhance understanding of motivation, emotion, and behavior. The author of more than 160 scientific articles and ten books, he worked as a Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Michigan. His final book, “Behind the Iron Curtain: Psychology, neuroscience, and politics in the Soviet Union,” detailed what it was like to work in science laboratories in the Soviet Union in 1961.

**50s** | **WILLIAM PERLMUTTER, B.A., FILM STUDIES, '52**, died on January 3, 2023 at the age of 90. The Bronx-born photographer graduated from CCNY with a degree in film studies. Perlmutter studied under Hans Richter, an avant-garde artist and filmmaker, working on his experimental pieces. Following graduation, he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he continued to take photographs. These experiences led to his award-winning 2013 book “Through a Soldier's Lens.” Following 9/11, he spent hundreds of hours at ground zero, capturing those moments. Those images culminated in a CUNY Graduate Center show entitled “Return to Ground Zero.”

**IRWIN "ALAN" FIELD, B.A., DRAMA AND SPEECH, '54**, died on March 22, 2023. Field was born in Brooklyn and raised in the Bronx. Five days after graduating from CCNY, he signed for a two year contract with the U.S. Army, which he completed in Germany. After returning home to his parents' egg farm in New Jersey, Field worked gigs as a piano player while applying to arts programs around the east coast. While waiting to hear back, he got a job as an announcer and pop music disc jockey at \$30 a week at a Jersey AM station. That started a long career as a radio host. He lived the rest of his life between community theater and radio shows, ending his professional career in 2022 playing show tunes on Saturday mornings for the Harford County radio.

**MORTON MAYNARD STERNHEIM, B.S., PHYSICS, '54**, died on March 30, 2023. Sternheim started his academic career at Bronx School of Science, then attended CCNY for a degree in physics, before earning an M.A. in physics from New York University and a PhD in Physics from Columbia University. Following post-doc positions, he began teaching physics at all collegiate levels. Sternheim's life was filled with textbooks he authored, honors he received, and organizations he started. Sternheim wrote about his and his family's life for the Winter 2022 issue of “The Alumnus.”

**DIMITRI GIDASPOW, B.S., CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, '56**, died on January 9, 2023 following a long battle with cancer. Born in Ukraine, Gidaspow lived with family in Germany during World War II. He came to the U.S. in 1949 on the USS General Muir. Gidaspow had a rich academic life starting at a young age. He graduated top of his class from Seward Park High School, before attending CCNY in the 50s. A master's in chemical engineering from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn came next in 1959, before Gidaspow earned a Ph.D. from the Illinois Institute of Technology in 1962. He continued working in academia as a researcher and professor. Over his career, he received 10 patents, wrote 4 books and over 200 publications, had almost 20,000 citations, and supervised a remarkable 52 Ph.D candidates.

**60s** | **SAMUEL COLMAN, B.E.E., ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, '63**, died in March at the age of 89. Colman graduated from CCNY with a degree in electrical engineering. Throughout his life he worked as an engineer and became a towering political figure in Rockland for decades. From 1974 to 1984, he served on the Rockland County Legislature. Then, for the next 18 years, he was a state Assembly member. He further won elections in 2002 and 2006 to be the Ramapo town justice before retiring in 2009. Colman was active in the creation of the Rockland Holocaust Center, and dedicated much of his life to supporting Jewish causes.

**ANITA IRENE LANDE, B.S., CHEMISTRY, '64**, died on March 25, 2023 following a heart surgery. Born in the Bronx, Lande loved exploring the outdoors through family camping trips, mountain bike riding, hiking, and adventuring. As a teen, she earned a spot at the Bronx High School of Science before studying for her B.S. in Chemistry at CCNY. At City, she met her life long husband through Hillel. Lande held several different careers after raising her two daughters. In 2004, Lande became a docent at Henry Cowell Redwood State Park, a post she held until February 2023. Over the near two decades, she exceeded 10,000 total hours of volunteer time among the trees.

**CAROLE MENDELSON, B.S., BIOLOGY, '64**, died in February of 2023. Mendelson, an esteemed Professor of Biochemistry at University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, earned a B.S. in Biology from the CCNY and a Ph.D. in Zoology from Rutgers University. Throughout her life, she was dedicated to uncovering the favors that shape the most critical moments of reproductive and prenatal health. Mendelson published nearly 200 manuscripts and contributed to over two dozen scientific textbooks. In 2021, Carole received a Distinguished Service Award from City College.

**RONALD LAI, B.E., MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, '66, M.S., MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, '71**, died on December 14, 2022 at the age of 85. A veteran, Lai received the Korea Defense Service Medal before starting his over five decade career at the Burndy Corporation and its successors. Lai was a lifetime member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Society of Automotive Engineers and National Fire Prevention Association. On top of his professional life, Lai enjoyed traveling and had visited all 50 states. He was also a lover of music and a motorcycle enthusiast.

**BEN-AMI SPAISMAN, ENGINEERING, '65**, died on March 3, 2023. Born in Dzizaku U.S.S.R., Spaisman immigrated to Brooklyn in 1955 and became a naturalized citizen on November 29, 1962. Following his graduation from CCNY, he worked as an engineer on the NASA Apollo program at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. In addition to his professional pursuits, he was a diehard Washington Capitals fan and was a season ticket holder for over forty years. He loved reading biographies, watching the news, traveling, and finding a good glass of wine or cup of coffee.

**SAM GROSS, BUSINESS, ACCOUNTING, AND ADVERTISING**, died on March 11, 2023 at the age of 89. Gross published his first cartoon in "The New Yorker" in 1969. More than 400 cartoons were published in the magazine throughout the more than five decades since. He graduated from DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx, then, at CCNY, he studied business, accounting and advertising. It was said that he drew up to 17 ideas for cartoons a week, and was the creator of more than 33,800 rough and completed cartoons throughout his life. "The New Yorker"'s current cartoon editor deemed his work "a tightrope walk of economy — precariously achieving maximum hilarity in the fewest moves."



**OSCAR WHITE MUSCARELLA, B.A., HISTORY, '55**, died on November 27, 2022 at his home in Philadelphia at the age of 91. An archaeologist, Muscarella had argued throughout his life that antiquities collectors and museums were benefiting from and encouraging a rife forgery market and the plundering of archaeological sites. Muscarella was in the archaeology club at Stuyvesant High School. Then, while pursuing his degree at City College, he went on his first archaeological dig at a Pueblo

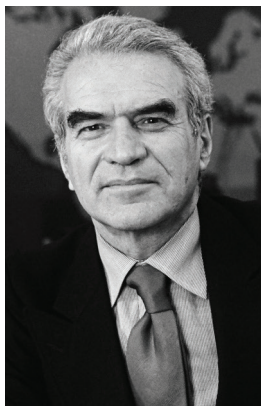
Indian site in Colorado. After CCNY, he received his Ph.D. in classical archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania, while working at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. He worked for decades at the Met in the ancient Near Eastern art department, participated in excavations in Iran and Turkey, and continuously wrote papers, catalogs, and books. In 1978, some 13 years after starting at the Met, Muscarella made the news after publishing a paper that showed 274 objects or groups of objects in different museums as forged or of suspicious provenance. He told "The New York Times" that "If the objects are genuine, we're buying plundered art; if they are false, we're buying forgeries. And the public is paying for these forgeries or for these bribes to looters and public officials." Muscarella and the director of the Met had many legal quarrels, including one 1977 case that ruled in Muscarella's favor, ending the back and forth. For over thirty years he continued to work at the Met as a senior research fellow until his retirement in 2009.



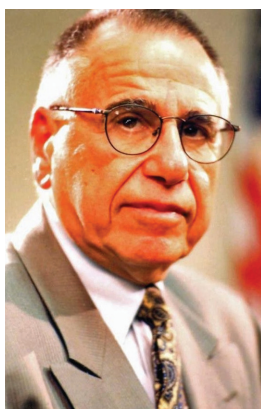
**PROFESSOR COLIN CHASE** died on March 17, 2022 at the age of 67. An artist 'til his final days, he taught Sculpture at City College for over 30 years. His work was featured in solo and group exhibitions at places such as: The Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA, Jamaica Arts Center, Queens, NY, Jane St. Art Center, Saugerties, NY, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, NY;,P.S.1 Art Museum, Long Island City, NY, Socrates

Sculpture Park, Queens, NY, and Studio Museum in Harlem, NYC. Chase produced public commissions, such as The Malcolm X Memorial in the Audubon Ballroom in NYC and the Queens Hospital Center Project in Queens. Chase was a 2017 Joan Mitchell Foundation and a Painters and Sculptors Grants recipient. Reviews of his work appeared in such news organizations as "The New York Times," "Art Matters," "ARTnews," and "Newsday." In April, the CCNY Art Department hosted a gathering to open the tribute exhibition featuring new works by some of Chase's former graduate students, who were asked to make a small work with their professor in mind. Following his passing, CCNY launched the "The Colin Chase Sculpture Fund" to support Sculpture students and the medium more broadly at CCNY.





**BERNARD KALB, B.S., '42**, died in January, 2023 at his home in North Bethesda, Maryland at 100 years old. A seasoned journalist, Kalb had traveled the world for decades, covering the news of the day for CBS, NBC, and “The New York Times,” before becoming CNN’s inaugural anchor of the show “Reliable Sources,” which he helmed from 1992 to 1998. Reliable Sources focused on the business side of the media industry, journalistic ethics, and more. The show ran in different versions for 30 years until the show was canceled this past year. Kalb was known for turning a critical lens on the media and engaging in lively conversations with guests—conversations that turned the camera inward and shared new perspectives with the audience. CNN’s chairman and CEO Chris Licht remembered Kalb as “an important figure in journalism.” In addition to journalism, Kalb worked in the world of government in varying roles. He served as assistant secretary of state for public affairs and as spokesman for the State Department. He was in the room for moments that shifted history, like in 1972 when he, as a television correspondent, traveled with President Richard Nixon on the opening trip to China. His son, Marvin Kalb, told CNN: “We are all grateful for the many years we have been able to spend with a truly remarkable human being.”



**STUART NAMM, B.A., '55**, died on November 30, 2022 at the age of 89. Namm was a distinguished veteran of the Korean War, a Judge keen on advocating for the less fortunate, a dad, and a grandpa. Born in Brownsville, Brooklyn, Namm was an athlete and lover of the arts in his younger years. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in the Special Forces Ranger Program and spent 20 months as a First Lieutenant in Korea. Once he came home from the war, he turned his attention to the law—taking night classes at Brooklyn Law School while maintaining a full-time job for what was then called the Federal Trade Commission as Attorney Examiner in Manhattan. Later, he started his own law practice in Stony Brook before joining the firm Baranello, Block & Namm. Come 1975, he was elected to the New York state bench where he served for 17 years. Namm was known in the courtroom for his firm fight against corruption. Another title he held was author. Namm’s book “The Perverted Pursuit of Justice in the State of New York” told his experiences looking at injustice on the bench, when others told him to look away. His time as a Judge included several recognitions, including The American Bar Association’s Justice Thurgood Marshall Award, which he was the first honoree to receive. Additionally, Namm was an honorary lifetime member of the NAACP and the recipient of The New York State Bar Association’s David S. Michaels Memorial Award for promoting integrity in the criminal court system.



**ROBERT FRIMTZIS, B.E., ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, '56**, died on December 25, 2022 in San Diego, California. Frimtzis was a Holocaust survivor and was able to share his experiences and teach others throughout his entire life. At just 10 years old, his home in Moldova was bombed. He and his mother were able to escape to Tajikistan until the end of the war. There, he lived without plumbing, electricity, and with very little food. Once he turned 12, Frimtzis left school to work as an electrician’s apprentice to support him and his mother. When the war ended, he traversed several countries and ended up in a Displaced Persons Camp in Italy. It was three years later when he received a visa to come to New York. Frimtzis was 19 years old, by himself, knew little English, and still decided to take night classes. Despite not qualifying for a diploma, he was able to pass City College’s entrance exams and benefited from the tuition-free policy at the time. In addition to meeting his wife at CCNY, Frimtzis went on to receive an electrical engineering degree from the college and a masters in the same field at Columbia University. After school, he was selected as a manager on the Apollo Mission Simulator, and continued on to manage satellite projects. Later in life, he published “From Tajikistan to the Moon, a story of Tragedy, Survival and Triumph of the Human Spirit,” a memoir detailing his storied life.

## IN MEMORIAM

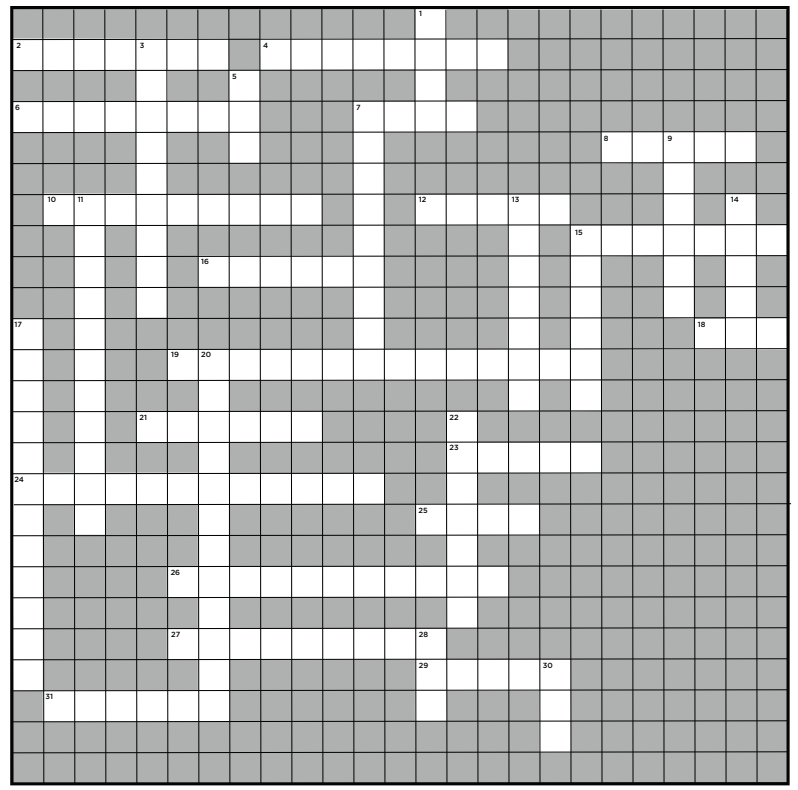
- Joseph Rosner, B.A., '42  
Salvatore I. Tuccillo, B.E., '43  
Michael Pope, B.E.E., Electrical Engineering, '44  
Murray H. Berger, B.A., Economics, '47  
Jerry Kosro, B.C.E., Civil Engineering, '47  
Pearl M. Randall, B.S., Education, '47  
Louis L. Levine, B.A., Sociology, '48  
Martin Soloway, B.A., Accounting, '48  
Harold William Bernhardt, B.E., Electrical Engineering, '49  
Abe Glazer, B.A., Accounting, '49  
Norman Vance, B.A., English, '49  
Harry Finkelstein, B.A., Accounting, '50  
Robert J. Galeaz, B.A., Business, '50  
Jack Feder, B.A., Psychology, '51  
Joseph Anthony Riccardi, B.A., Accounting, '51  
Irwin H. Dickoff, B.A., Accounting, '52  
Frank Propp, B.S., Education, '52  
Roslyn Zimmerman, B.A., Public Administration, '52  
Peter Willig, B.E., Civil Engineering, '53  
Mervyn Katz, B.S., Biology and Chemistry, '54  
Dr. Estelle Metviner, B.A., '54  
Benjamin Thysen, B.S., Biochemistry, '54  
Peter James Hart, B.S., Mechanical Engineering, '55  
Sigmund Tobias, B.A., Psychology, '55  
Harry Ettinger, B.E., Civil Engineering, '56  
Myron Meadow, B.A., History, '56  
Alberto Montare, B.A., Psychology, '56  
Charlene Rooth Zand, M.A., Psychology, '56  
Eric Astor Liner, B.A., History, '57  
Joel F. Spivak, B.S., Chemistry, '57  
Evelyn Ziner Wolfe, M.A., Education, '57  
Richard Derby, Ph.D., B.S., Chemistry, '58  
Walter Doyle, B.E.E., Electrical Engineering, '58  
Joan Cenedella, B.A., Music, '59  
Martin George Hartmann, Jr., B.E., Chemical Engineering, '59  
Esther Prospect, B.A., Liberal Arts, '59  
Paul I. Olsen, BChE, Chemical Engineering, '59; MChE,  
Chemical Engineering, '69
- Mary Cicorelli, B.S., Chemistry, '60  
Chief Robert F. Burke, '61  
Robert Dansky, B.E., Electrical Engineering, '61  
Mel Friedman, B.S.M.E., Mechanical Engineering, '61  
Harry Rosenfeld, B.E.E., Electrical Engineering, '61  
Dr Daniel Henry Winicur, B.M.E., Mechanical Engineering, '61  
Paul David Hecht, B.S., Geology, '63  
Karen Martha Pilc Hensley, B.S., Statistics, '63  
Richard J. Kogan, B.A., Business, '63  
Susan Ruth Korsower, B.A., English, '63  
Donald Pace, B.A., Education, '63  
Owen Wexler, B.F.A., Fine Arts, '63  
Dr. Alan Fein, B.S., Electrical Engineering, '64  
Mary Wortsman Jacobs, B.A., Advertising, '64  
Ira Leonard Richolson, B.A., Sociology, '65  
Paul Holub, B.A., Architecture, '67  
Frank J. Lackner, B.A., German Education, '67  
Dimitri Sinkel, B.E., Civil Engineering, '71  
Joan Margaret Holman, B.A., Linguistics, '72  
Geneva Williams, B.A., Sociology, '75  
William C. Richardson, B.A., Psychology, '79  
Myrna Williams, B.A., Business Administration, '79  
Veronica M. Haubert, M.S.Ed., Education, '83  
Karen Anne Vinick, B.A., Music and Theater Education, '12

## SUMMER FUN AND CCNY

Featuring fun things to do this summer in the city and clues found in this issue.

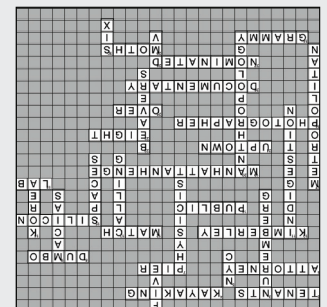
### ACROSS

2. First-time novelist Sidik Fofana has received prizes and much attention for his book “Stories from the \_\_\_\_ Downstairs.”
- 4/8. Free \_\_\_\_ is available at the Brooklyn Bridge Park Boathouse in \_\_\_\_ and the Manhattan Community Boathouse.
6. Commencement Speaker Bryan A. Stevenson is a civil rights \_\_\_\_.
7. The newest public park in Manhattan, Little Park on the remnants of \_\_\_\_ 54 in Hudson River, celebrates its second birthday on May 21.
10. Salutatorian \_\_\_\_ Pereyra Monera graduated from the Colin Powell School.
12. CUNY Med held \_\_\_\_ Day for the graduates to learn of their residency placements throughout the U.S.
15. Nanotechnology took another leap when CCNY scientists created structured light on a \_\_\_\_ chip.
16. Deborah Berke went from being a student at the “\_\_\_\_ Ivy” CCNY to teaching at the Ivy League school Yale University.
18. Become an amateur architect this summer at Spitzer’s Career \_\_\_\_ beginning in July.
19. \_\_\_\_ is the term coined for when the sunset aligns with the Manhattan street grid.
21. The \_\_\_\_ Night Market features fabulous flavors in Harlem on the second Thursday of every month through October.
23. Randy Brozen has been organizing the CCNY Women in Art exhibition for \_\_\_\_ years.
24. Stephen Somerstein is a \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ who took iconic photos in the 1960’s. (#7 DOWN)
25. The COVID-19 emergency has been declared \_\_\_\_ by the federal government.
26. Andrea Weiss founded The \_\_\_\_ Forum in 2012.
27. Great Grads are \_\_\_\_ by their CCNY Mentors.
29. Butterflies were found to have evolved from daytime flying \_\_\_\_ more than 100 million years ago.
31. Master of Music Alumni Kris Davis won her first \_\_\_\_ award for Best Jazz Instrumental Album.



### DOWN

1. The \_\_\_\_ Demands Film was worked on by many CCNY alumni and faculty members.
3. Alumni and \_\_\_\_ prosecutor Ben Ferencz died recently at age 103.
5. Summer restaurant week happens every year and gives entry to some of the hottest \_\_\_\_ restaurants.
9. Baseball Coach Steve \_\_\_\_ was named CUNYAC Coach of the Year.
11. The Nathan’s Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest at Coney Island can expect crowds and \_\_\_\_.
13. Architecture is alumni Joseph L. Fleischer’s \_\_\_\_.
14. “Crossroads” is a movie about women crossing the DMZ between North and South \_\_\_\_.
15. Alexander Kent lives in Cape Cod where he informs the community about creating artful \_\_\_\_.
17. Professor Vanessa K. Valdés is co-curator of an exhibit at the \_\_\_\_ Museum of Art.
20. Valedictorian Catherine Hernandez was an \_\_\_\_ major.
22. CCNY’s Baseball team the \_\_\_\_ won the 2023 CUNYAC Championship.
28. CCNY License Plates are now available from the \_\_\_\_ in New York.
30. \_\_\_\_ Beaver team baseball players were named CUNYAC All-Stars, including Shortstop John Creegan.



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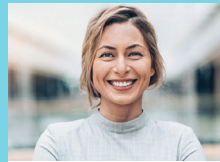
SAVE THE DATE



**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2023**

For additional information please  
contact **Nina Ferrell**, Events Manager,  
at [nferrell@ccnyalumni.org](mailto:nferrell@ccnyalumni.org).

*Details to be announced.*



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