

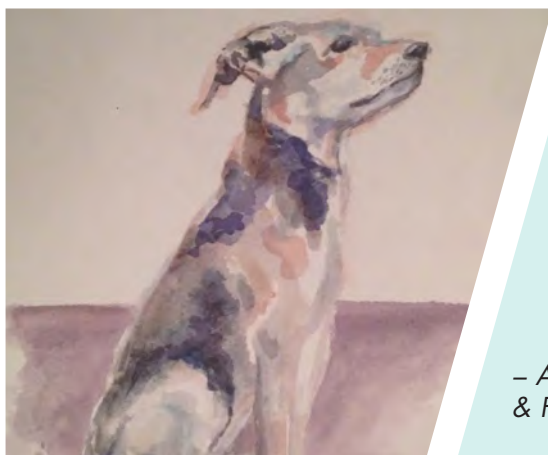


ALUMNI NOTES

spring 2018

ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF

FIORELLO H. LAGUARDIA HS OF
MUSIC & ART AND PERFORMING ARTS



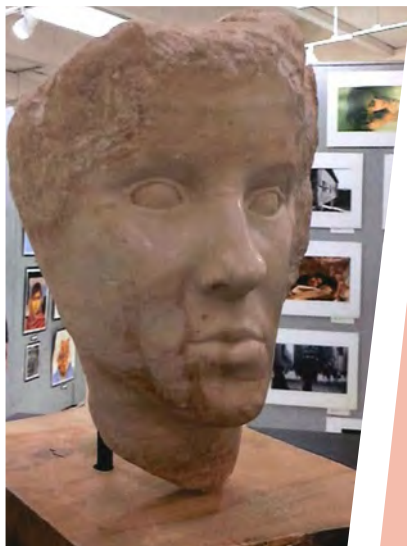
"I love LaGuardia
and all the values it
stands for: excellence,
acceptance, and
unwavering support."

– Arto Kazakov (LaG '17), recipient of the Alumni
& Friends Graduation Award for Technical Theater



"At age 68 I can
now say that my
years at Music & Art
were the grandest,
most **transformative**
and meaningful of
my life."

– Lea Fridman (M&A '66)



"I wouldn't be who I am as an
artist if I hadn't had the opportunity
to attend LaGuardia. ... LaGuardia has
given students like me the chance to work
in a ceramics studio, create sculptures,
and make prints. I could have never
imagined working with any of those various
mediums, but thanks to LaGuardia and the
Alumni & Friends of LaGuardia, that dream is
made possible for every student in this school,
and for **generations to come.**"

– Keren Marshall (LaG '17),
recipient of the M&A Class of 1945 Award



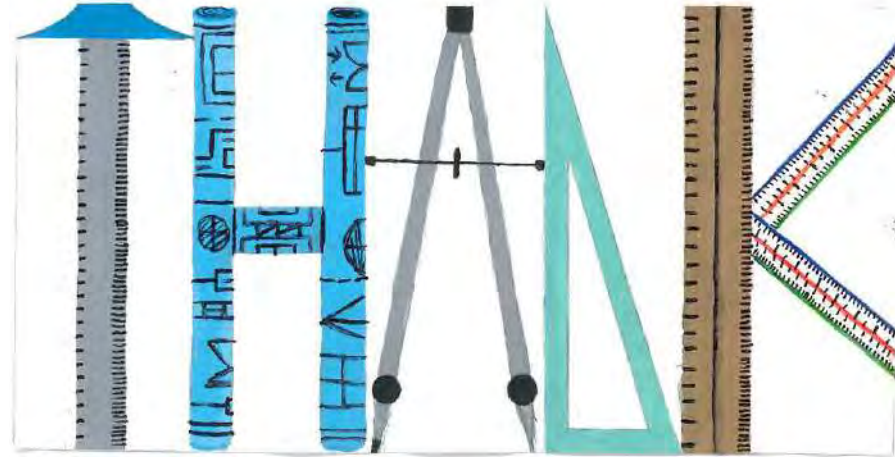


"Thank you for recognizing my work and bringing me closer to my goals. Your award has given me a push forward in a time of self doubt and has inspired me to work my hardest and **never give up on myself**. I hope to one day make you as proud of me as I am of myself, and I strive to one day prove to you how much this means to me using more than just words."

– Monica Caicedo (LaG '19), recipient of the Sheila Stember Art Award

"As life has moved on since graduation, I find that having had the M&A experience has contributed GREATLY to my life. Meeting people throughout my daily adventures, I always seem to meet graduates of M&A. Those daily, long subway rides apparently were well worth it! Thank you for the wonderful 'universal' education you provided me in 1956. It has made for a wonderful life."

– Alan Hirschhorn (M&A '56)



"Alumni & Friends provides students like me the opportunity to find and follow their dreams. Without your generous support, not only of the students, but also your support for many of our studio programs, our chances to have life changing experiences may not exist."

– Henry Thrasher (LaG '18), recipient of the Solon E. Summerfield Foundation Grant for Summer Study



"To have my work earn the attention of the esteemed alumni is a satisfying reward that validates my progress and development."

– Steven Truong (LaG '17), recipient of the M&A Class of 1959 Award



"I am extremely grateful for your generous gift, and knowing that it comes from a group of people with such deep appreciation for the arts makes it all the more meaningful. I feel so lucky to have been part of this renowned institution and to feel the tie to its history through this award, all the way back to 1952."

– Rosamond Perron-Kaniecki (LaG '17), recipient of the M&A Class of 1952 Award

THANK YOU FROM ALUMNI & FRIENDS

My Dear Fellow Alumni and all the Friends Who Believe in the Arts,

Thank you for being part of our unique and creative family, and for truly making a difference in the lives of LaGuardia students. We are grateful to have supporters who understand the invaluable gift of an arts education, especially as we face so many budget cuts to NYC public school arts funding.

I was thrilled to officially join Alumni & Friends in 2016 after years of volunteering and assisting with class reunions since 1999. I come from a long line of proud alumnae – my five older sisters and I passed through the hallowed halls of M&A and LaGuardia between 1977 and 1989. My sisters' stories of "The Castle on the Hill" are part of the fabric of my youth; the movie "Fame" shaped my adolescence and the future of public arts schools worldwide. I spent an amazing four years at LaGuardia, and 30 years later, my high school friendships remain my strongest and most inspiring. The vibrant energy of M&A, PA, and LaGuardia pulses through my veins. I'm filled with joy each day as I see the students mastering their craft, knowing that Alumni & Friends is giving so much to encourage these young talents.

Throughout this newsletter you'll see examples of the programs you sustain directly through your contributions to Alumni & Friends ... need based scholarships for lessons and summer programs, master classes, supplies for the art department, instrument repair, merit awards, accompanists for the dance, drama, and music departments, and so much more.

You'll also see what your fellow alumni have been up to - though you don't have to wait for a newsletter; anytime you want a dose of "I can't believe the talent coming out of my high school," take a moment to peruse the frequently updated **Alumni News** page on our website (alumniandfriends.org/news) or our **Facebook** page (facebook.com/AlumniandFriends). And of course, the dozens of performances and art exhibits each year at LaGuardia that will definitely "WOW" you.

Please continue to remember your magical high school years, and give what you can to ensure that the legacy of these unparalleled institutions lives on.

Without **ART** earth is just "eh."

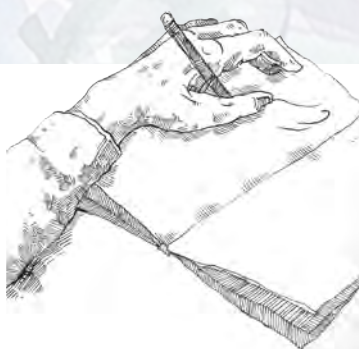
Thankfully,



Zoë Schneider (LaGuardia '89, vocal major)
Alumni Director



Zoë (far left) and her sisters



DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

You may be missing out on notifications of upcoming events, important alumni news, and raffles for free tickets to shows at LaGuardia and other cultural institutions. Please connect with us! Send an email to info@alumniandfriends.org or visit: alumniandfriends.org/connect

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

With help from generous donors like you, Alumni & Friends (A&F) is able to provide vital support through need-based scholarships, merit awards, private lessons and master classes, as well as funding for each studio department. **Each year your membership dues and contributions provide:**



\$80,000 for annual awards to over 200 students – many in honor of specific classes, esteemed alumni, & former faculty



\$67,600 for accompanists for the dance, drama, and music departments and master classes taught by industry professionals

an additional \$120,000 is needed each year to pay the necessary accompanists for all music classes, dance classes, and theater training



\$64,000 for scholarships for students with financial need to attend summer programs & receive private lessons

an additional \$100,000 is needed each year to meet the needs of our students



\$22,500 for supplies & equipment for LaGuardia's six studio departments - art, dance, drama, instrumental music, technical theater, and vocal music

an additional \$60,000 is needed each year to meet the needs of the studio departments



\$7,000 for LaGuardia's on-site instrument repair shop & tuning over 40 pianos in the school

an additional \$8,000 is needed each year to pay for piano tuning, maintenance, and instrument repair

\$10,000 for extra curricular student and faculty led projects

\$10,000 in emergency funds for students with financial need to cover senior dues, assist with travel to college and conservatory visits for interviews and auditions, and buy art supplies for students who otherwise could not afford them



\$2,300 for books & periodicals for the library, and funding for student created publications

Your support also helps provide necessary tools for LaGuardia students. This past year, A&F procured funding to replace the 33 year old drafting tables in the architecture classroom, upgrade a floor in a dance studio, purchase a printer and ink for the photography classroom and display panels for the many LaGuardia art exhibits.

THANK YOU

to all who contributed to Alumni & Friends! Every dollar makes a difference. Because of YOUR generosity, Alumni & Friends is able to enhance arts education for ALL LaGuardia students.

GRANTS

Shirley Ellman Vann Architecture Grant In addition to her annual scholarship to send a female LaGuardia student to a summer architecture program, Ms. Vann (M&A '58) contributed \$33,500 to Alumni & Friends for the purchase of 34 new drafting tables and stools for the architecture and interior design classes. The reinvigorated students are now working with ACE Mentors (Architecture Construction Engineering) and A&F has brought in architecture and interior design professionals to enhance the curriculum.

Solon E. Summerfield Foundation provided a much needed \$25,000 grant in 2017 for summer study, which enabled A&F to fund private lessons and summer arts programs for 20 LaGuardia students. From taking a course at Fashion Institute of Technology to studying classical music at Tanglewood to dance at Ballet Hispanico, students benefited tremendously from being able to pursue their talents over the summer.

Recipients of these grants express their gratitude:

"The award helped me continue to study my art over the summer by funding my voice lessons. Because of that, I was able to audition and get many parts, including the LaGuardia Opera, Rising Stars and the Semi-Annual. Your help over the summer got me these opportunities, and I am so, so grateful."

– Ruby Pine (LaG '19)

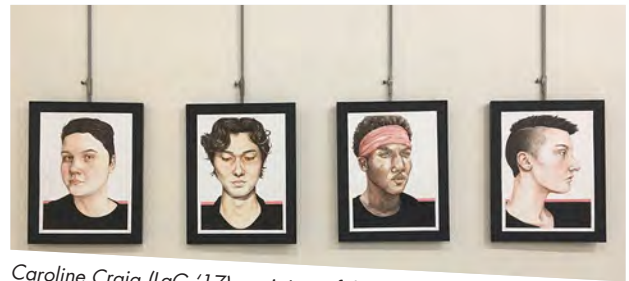


"I received a scholarship to attend the Skidmore Jazz Institute Summer Academy for two weeks and it changed my life. All in all, it was your generosity, kindness, and undoubtedly, your love of the arts that made this possible. This will allow me to take my craft to the next level, after high school and beyond."

– Declan Sheehy-Moss (LaG '18)

"I study dance because it is a way for me to expose and express myself in a way in which words could never do. It also gives me an opportunity to create beauty in this world, which is a real gift."

– Elizabeth Fields (LaG '18)



Caroline Craig (LaG '17), recipient of the Florence Mandell Art Award



Hailey Oh (LaG '18), recipient of the Ellen Kagan Summer Study Scholarship



Esme Bleeker Adams (LaG '17), recipient of the Evelyn Sheftman Reiser Award

INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE ARTS

Please consider a contribution towards Alumni & Friends' Summer Study Scholarship Program by:



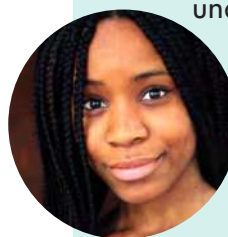
using the enclosed easy-to-use envelope



visiting the donate page at alumniandfriends.org



giving us a call at 212-595-1301



"We unfortunately live in a time in which the importance of the arts is being grossly underestimated and overlooked, but it is wonderful to have people like you, who understand the importance of all art forms. Thank you for supporting the dramatic arts, which has literally changed my life."

– Deborah Aboaba (LaG '17) recipient of the Carmela Carrano Drama Award

"It's people like you who inspire LaGuardia students to live up to our potential. Giving us an opportunity shows your dedication to the LaGuardia and Music & Art community. Words cannot describe my gratitude."

– Miangaly Razafindrakoto (LaG '18),
recipient of the M&A
Class of 1947 Music Award

"I've made some amazing friends here, learned how to see the world beyond just black and white, and hear it in all its colorful glory."

– SungJin Yun (LaG '01)

"You are the reason why LaGuardia is the magical place that it is, and I cannot thank you enough for supporting the school and me."

– Joanna Meurkens (LaG '17), recipient
of the Father Fame Vocal Music Award

MAIRA KALMAN – EXCLUSIVE TOUR



Maira, second from right

In August 2017 Maira Kalman (M&A '67) gave a gallery talk and private tour of her Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibit "Sara Berman's Closet" to members of Alumni & Friends. The inspiring event was attended by alumni from 1952-2004.

GRANTS CONTINUED



Frederick Loewe Foundation Grant for the drama department's annual Spring Drama Festival musical. In 2017 the Frederick Loewe Foundation sponsored *Gypsy* (above) and in 2018 *A Little Night Music*.

Mady Chalk Jazz Fund, created by Mady Chalk (M&A '57), to support LaGuardia's jazz education program through summer study scholarships for jazz students, master classes by professional jazz musicians (including many alumni), new instruments, and sheet music.



Alex Yoo playing the new Yamaha drum set, purchased through the Mady Chalk Jazz Fund. Alex was also the recipient of the 2017 Dr. Brian Lipton Summer Study Scholarship for Music.

Starr Foundation's Corinne P. Greenberg Scholarship Fund, established by Maurice Greenberg and Corinne Greenberg (M&A '45). The fund will provide scholarship assistance for students pursuing classical music training, as well as master classes.

Edith Hall Friedheim Grant for summer study scholarships, instrument repair, and studio grants. Edith Hall Friedheim is the mother of two M&A alumni, and grandmother to three LaGuardia alumni.

Lotos Foundation Grant for musical accompanists for the dance department.

Spohler Foundation Grant for the drama department.

Gregg Fisher Grant to assist with printing of the Spring 2018 Alumni & Friends newsletter and related marketing materials.

Affiliated with a foundation that would like to support arts education at LaGuardia? Contact **Alumni & Friends** at 212-595-1301 or zoe@alumniandfriends.org.

ENDOWED FUNDS

Several endowed funds were recently established to provide annual awards and scholarships to LaGuardia students:

Nancy C. Seligsohn Artist Fund for an art student who shows superior and evolving talent in illustration and/or painting. Nancy illustrated many of the *Pippi Longstocking* books. The fund was established by Nancy C. Seligsohn's (M&A '47) brother Leo Seligsohn in her honor.

Helene Meredith Spizz Memorial Music Fund, established in honor of Helene Spizz, to provide financial support for a music student for summer study programs or private lessons.

Kyle Jean Baptiste Memorial Fund, established in honor of Kyle Jean-Baptiste (LaG '11), who died in a tragic accident on August 29, 2015. He was the youngest as well as the first African-American actor to play the lead role of Jean Valjean in the Broadway musical *Les Miserables*. This new scholarship fund is for a musical theater student who shows a zest for life.

Edith Del Valle Memorial Fund for Gospel Music, established in honor of Edith Del Valle, who was chair of the vocal department at Music & Art and LaGuardia. The fund provides an annual award for a student who excels in gospel and classical music.

Irene Rosner David Arts and Wellness Fund is for students doing exceptional work to heal and nurture through the arts. It was established by Irene Rosner David (M&A '67), an art therapist who understands the healing powers of the arts.

The Fanny Metz Greenfield Memorial Fund, established by Bernice Silverman (M&A '47) to honor her late mother, is intended for female art students who need financial assistance to pursue their talent.

Joan Schlesinger Lichtman Memorial Piano Fund, established by Milton Lichtman to honor his late wife Joan Schlesinger Lichtman (M&A '49), is intended for a piano student with exceptional musical talent and dedication.

Phoebe Cohen Memorial Music Fund, established by Dr. Bernard Cohen in memory of his wife Phoebe Freeman Cohen (M&A '48), for summer study scholarships and private lessons for students with financial need, and instrument repair.

June LeBell Memorial Vocal Music Fund, established in honor of the late June LeBell (M&A '61) by her husband Edward Alley and numerous friends and family, is for a student who excels in vocal music.

Establish an endowed fund or give a grant to support LaGuardia and its students by visiting alumniandfriends.org/fund.



ALUMNI MERCHANDISE

Is your high school sweatshirt threadbare? Letters fading? We have an array of M&A, PA, and LaGuardia merchandise for sale including t-shirts, sweatshirts, totes, and umbrellas at alumniandfriends.org/shop.

WE'RE SOCIAL!

Please **LIKE** and **FOLLOW** us at facebook.com/AlumniandFriends. We frequently update the page with alumni updates, reunion information, and event details. We also give away **FREE** tickets to many LaGuardia performances, so keep an eye out!

YEARBOOKS

Lost your yearbook? Want one from a different year? Select yearbooks are available to purchase starting at \$40. Please call the Alumni & Friends office for more details: 212-595-1301. All yearbooks are available on our website in digital format for dues paying members.

DID YOU KNOW?

LaGuardia alumnus Adrien Brody (LaG '91) was the youngest Oscar winner for Best Actor, winning in 2003 at age 29 for *The Pianist*. He has held on to this title since 2003!



ALUMNI REUNIONS

Reunion 2016 was a terrific weekend of reconnecting. The LaGuardia Class of '86 organized a Cabaret called "The Best of Both Worlds" to honor their "merge" (class of '86 alumni are the only alumni who spent two years at Performing Arts or Music & Art, followed by two years at the "new" LaGuardia); M&A Class of '56 held a Salon, and M&A Class of '71 had a Prom!

Alumni & Friends was thrilled to present the first ever Gospel Chorus Reunion Concert on Friday, June 10, 2016. One thousand people attended the epic performance at "The Castle on the Hill" and got a chance to tour the school. The reunion concert was part of the Class of 1986 30-year reunion festivities and was coordinated by 1986 classmates Blondel Pinnock, Yolanda Wyns, Antoine Green, Larry Hendricks, and Ilka Melendez, as well as fellow alumni Chris Buchenholz (LaG '85), Shona Pinnock (LaG '91), and Damon Thornton (LaG '85).

Victor Trent Cook (M&A '85), who directed, and Anthony G. Evans (M&A '79) were honored for their dedication to

the Gospel Chorus. Musical directors for the concert also included Robert Demetrius Griffin (LaG '89) and Rodrick Dixon (M&A '84).

Thank you to all the alumni and guests who attended **Reunion 2017 weekend!** Over 300 alumni came out to "The Castle" for the Friday evening reception, which included live music by current LaGuardia jazz students and great food. More than 500 alumni from Music & Art, Performing Arts, and LaGuardia attended the Saturday event at LaGuardia, where they were treated to dance and drama performances, an art exhibition by current students, and loads of fun. It was a great weekend of catching up with old friends and making new ones!



M&A Class of '57



M&A Class of '67



LaG Class of '86

WE NEED CLASS LEADERS

We need Class Leaders to help organize future reunions.

Classes with active leaders who help organize and rally their classmates in advance have much more successful reunions. While Alumni & Friends tries to keep our database of **45,000 alumni** up to date, there are many alumni for whom we no longer have current information. We rely on Class Leaders and volunteers to help us find your classmates who may be "lost" to us. Please help out - give us a call at 212-595-1301 or email reunions@alumniandfriends.com

REUNION 2019

REUNION 2019 will be **June 2019** for all classes ending in "4" and "9" and all classes from 1940-1953.



LaG Class of '07

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

M&A '40 Gloria Stoll Karn is being celebrated with an exhibition of her works from her brief but productive career as an illustrator of pulp crime and romance magazines at the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts through June 10, 2018.



M&A '41 Julian B. Marsh, MD is 90 and in an assisted living residence. He retired from Wellesley Symphony where he was a violinist.

M&A '43 Dr. Melissa Freeman met ringmaster **Johnathan Lee Iverson, LaG '93**, backstage at "The Greatest Show on Earth" during the last season of The Ringling Brothers Barnum & Bailey Circus. Dr. Freeman is working as hard as ever on the front lines of the opioid addiction crisis, running a methadone clinic and private practice. They are five decades apart but share a love for "The Greatest School on Earth!" (pictured below)



♦ **Betty Lesser Greenstein** plays the keyboard daily for her husband and audience, **Eddie**, whom she met during her senior year at M&A. The two have been together for over 70 years. She would love to connect with other M&A alumni who live near her in Rhode Island ♦ **Marvin Kalish** would love to hear from other members of his class. ♦ **Zanwil Sperber** wrote us that **Mildred Landecker** and his sister, **Beulah Sperber Hamlit**, M&A '41, had worked closely in the Vocal Music Department. His sister, who was an unathletic girl, provided piano accompaniment for the girls' gym class dance routines, and was awarded a minor letter for athletics at her graduation - grist for much teasing by her younger brother.

M&A '45 Gerald Fried, an Emmy Award winning composer, wrote and conducted the music for movie *Unbelievable!!!!* - a sci-fi parody adventure starring 40 actors who appeared in the *Star Trek* TV series. Gerald Fried was a composer for the original *Star Trek* and won his Emmy for his work on the 1970's TV series *Roots*. ♦ **Elayne Jones** is in the process of getting her memoir published, describing her journey to become a timpanist and the first black person to perform with the NY



Philharmonic Symphony. ♦ **Wolf Kahn** received the U.S. State Department's International Medal of Arts in 2016 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. The painter was recognized by the Art in Embassies program for loaning his artwork to American diplomatic outposts around the world.

M&A '47 Renee Miller Alberts manages the publicity for the McLean Art Society, and they have an ongoing exhibit at RiverFarm in Alexandria, VA. She had two paintings juried and one won an award. ♦ **Eileen Goldstein** and **Milton Putterman** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in April of 2018. Eileen's brother **Jerome Goldstein** graduated in the first class of M&A. They say that "the High School of Music & Art was truly a gift of a lifetime!"

M&A '48 Cecile Censor Brunswick has been painting colorful abstract pieces which have been exhibited and sold to corporations, museums and collectors worldwide. She was a vocal student and still sings in a chorus that performs at Carnegie Hall. ♦ **Suzanne Berger** says that while she still loves art, she has had a wonderful 30 years in the private practice of psychotherapy.

M&A '49 Iris Graffman is still giving concerts and recitals both in Sarasota, FL and Lenox, MA. ♦ **Alford Lessner** is thrilled that his granddaughter, **Phoebe Rosenblum**, is a music major at LaGuardia, class of 2019. He still has fond memories of his days at the "Castle on the Hill." ♦ **George Lois**, groundbreaking art director is considered the original "Mad Man" of advertising. In 2016 he donated a portion of his archive to City College. The collection contains original layout sketches for 27 of the most iconic *Esquire* covers, which had never been exhibited.



♦ **Sidney Myers** wrote us that a play has been produced called *Daisy* that is based on the controversial commercial he made in 1964 for President Johnson's political campaign, known as the "Daisy Girl" ad. ♦ **Bert Pepper** is still practicing psychiatry part-time, and plays the violin every day and chamber music twice weekly with his friends in Sleepy Hollow, NY.

M&A '50 Suzanne Raphael Berkson is the award winning illustrator of Isaac Bashevis Singer's Hanukkah tale *Parakeet-Named-Dreidel*. She is a retired art teacher and artist living in Evanston, IL. ♦ **Betty LaDuke** wrote to us that her sketchbook habit born at M&A continues to pay off. Betty took her sketchbook into the agricultural fields of Oregon where she captured each worker in a vibrant wood panel. These paintings became part of her recently published book *Bountiful Harvest*, by White Cloud Press. The book brings together Betty's artistic autobiography and the stories she captured in her paintings documenting the local food movement in Oregon. She also had a retrospective exhibition of her work at the Hanson Howard Gallery in

Oregon. ♦ **Marilyn Jaboolian McLean** is the founder and director of "Bach with a Beat," a group of 50 musicians from The Villages in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

M&A '52 Flavia Alaya is involved in non-profit activism and you can learn more at: www.flaviaalaya.com. ♦ **Ruth L. Weiss Hohberg** recently published *Going Places*, about some of the overseas tours she's taken. Her other books are *Getting Here: An Odyssey through WWII*, *A Girl from Bielsko*, *Vignettes from Life* - short essays on the human condition, and *Witness and Survivor: a Memoir by Jacob "Izzy" Rabinowitz*, which she translated from German. These can be purchased through Amazon, Barnes Noble, and are available on Kindle. ♦ **Albert Horowitz** wrote that he is working on architectural and waste-water filtration projects in Nepal, and is living in San Francisco. ♦ **Joan Zimmerman** wrote from her home in France that she has completed the screenplay for her novel *Red Burgundy* and is hoping to find a food loving, wine loving, France loving person to produce it!

PA '52 Arthur Mitchell is still working with the dance company he founded, Dance Theatre of Harlem - America's oldest and largest predominantly African-American ballet company. In January 2018, the Wallach Art Gallery at Columbia University held an exhibition honoring his work. *Arthur Mitchell: Harlem's Ballet Trailblazer* celebrated his life and many accomplishments. (pictured below)



M&A '53 Barbara Brand-James retired in 2001 after serving as a music teacher in junior high schools in Yonkers, NY and 30 years as the pastor of churches in the NY Conference of The United Methodist Church. ♦ **Karl "Fritz" Kraber** wrote that his granddaughter **Xara Stewart** is currently attending LaGuardia, class of 2020. ♦ **Fredrica Levinson** is performing, composing, and recording as jazz pianist Bunny Beck. ♦ **Barbara Stein Mallow** is a cellist teaching and performing at Mannes School of Music at the New School. She has been married to fellow alum and art major **Donald Mallow** for 59 years, and they have two children and two grandchildren. ♦ **Marlene Marmer Siff**'s work *Staccato* is on display in the Lobby of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals corporate headquarters in Tarrytown, NY through August 2018. ♦ **Beth Ames Swartz** is the subject of a new documentary film *Beth Ames Swartz, Reminders of Invisible Light*, produced by the Phoenix Institute of Contemporary Art. ♦ **Larry Walker** will have a major retrospective exhibition of his work at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia. *Larry Walker Retrospective: The Early Years*, covering 50 years of his work, will be on view from June 2 through July 31, 2018. ♦ **Iris Graffman Wenglin-Bergas** wrote from her home in Sarasota, FL that at 85, she is still going strong. She performed a piano concert in July 2017 and is teaching a lecture-recital entitled "Aspects of Music."

M&A '54 **Joselyn Kinstler Ney** held a special mini-reunion with other M&A alumnae, **Charlene Harris**, M&A '62, **Esther Skorr Bleier**, M&A '65, **Eva Gomez Loeb**, M&A '63, and **Bernice (Bunny) Seiden Grunes**, M&A '52. These women have been friends with Joselyn, but this was the first time they had all gathered together. Two of these women are physicians, one is a special educator, another is an artist, and Joselyn, who had a commercial interior design company for 30 years, is now painting and had her own show last year. (pictured below)



From left to right: Esther Skorr Bleier, seated is Joselyn Kinstler Ney, Eva Gomez Loeb, Charlene Harris, and Bernice (Bunny) Seiden Grunes.

M&A '55 **Virginia Arpiarian** still remembers those "wonderful days on the D train and walking through St. Nicholas Park." She retired from IBM and has an antique shop in Tarrytown, NY. ♦ **Sandra Gordon Jackman** wrote that two of her art books were exhibited at the University of Johannesburg in South Africa in March 2017. The Perez Museum in Miami will be exhibiting her work from the Sackler Archives, and her books are exhibited every year by Priscilla Juvelis at the Antiquarian Book Fair in New York. ♦ **Ann Y. Tyler** recently published a book *Grandma Julia*, an insightful narrative of daily plantation life based on the salvaged journals of her grandmother, Julia.

PA '55 **Nina Frankel Treitler Levitt** (aka Nina Clair) has been living in Montana since 1997 and works in speech development with preschool children. She continues to perform with the Flathead College Community Theatre and perform and direct for the Whitefish Theatre Company, where she is a board member.

M&A '56 **Leah Schleifer Cohen** wrote to us from her home in England that she has resumed contact with her closest M&A buddy Irene, who is living in Israel. Leah also had the opportunity to perform her poetry at the Chelsea Arts Club and attends a playwriting group. ♦ **Arthur Levy** had his second book published, *Coda*, about the Kremlin vs. Tchaikovsky: codathenovel.com. ♦ **Robert Marshall** published a book with his wife entitled *Exploring the World of J.S. Bach: A Traveler's Guide*. It describes the towns and cities where J.S. Bach lived and worked, and his connection to them. ♦ **Patrick Walsh** had an exhibit of his photomosaics *Painting with the Camera: Visions of the Southwest* in Palm Desert, CA.

M&A '57 **Lee Apt** was the recipient of a fellowship in the Model to Monument program, which is a partnership between the Art Students League and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. She had a monumental sculpture in Riverside Park from June 2015 through May

2016, which was then permanently installed in the sculpture garden at Rockland County Community College. ♦ **Carolyn Bauling Raphael** published her third book of poetry, *Dancing with Bare Feet* by White Violet Press, which includes several poems on Music & Art. ♦ **Jane-Ellen Grening Schneider** has gone back to custom designing evening and bridal wear, which she had to give up after developing Chronic Regional Pain Syndrome. She is also painting and sculpting again. ♦ **Jerome Witkin** is retiring after 45 years as Professor of Studio Arts at Syracuse University. He is staying busy with a number of exhibitions, including a recent retrospective of his work at the Staten Island Museum that ended in March 2018.

M&A '58 **James Burrows** was honored for his distinguished career as a comedy director with a special that aired on NBC in February 2016. *Must See TV: An All-Star Tribute to James Burrows* includes tributes from the cast members of *Friends*, *Cheers*, and *Will and Grace*. ♦ **Robert Hanna** wrote: "On March 20, 2016, M&A Class of '58 had a mini 58th reunion for classmates and friends in the New York area at the home of classmate **Paul Persoff** and his wife **Karen Flaherty** (our honorary classmate)." (pictured below)



♦ **Daniel J. Schneck** published his 24th book titled *Basic Anatomy and Physiology for the Music Therapist*. Dr. Schneck is based in Virginia and is an international consultant on physiological function and the role of music in human adaptation.

PA '58 **Jessica Walter** writes that she is still working and owes so much to the foundation she received at PA!

M&A '59 **Joan Ditzion** was awarded the Knee/Wittman Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of Social Workers Foundation. She is the of *Our Bodies Ourselves*, and co-author of all nine editions of *Our Bodies Ourselves*, which has been adapted into 26 languages and named by the Library of Congress one of the "88 books that shaped America."

M&A '60 **Stephen Danziger** played harpsichord for the scholarship benefit fund of the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, of which he is the treasurer. He also performed recently on the renovated organ at St. Joseph's RC Co-Cathedral in Brooklyn. ♦ **Arlette (Debby) Jassel** created an adult coloring book entitled *Daily Dance*, which, she writes, would make a great gift for artists and dancers.

M&A '61 **Margie Zalkin Leitner** writes that she is retired with six grandchildren, doing zumba three times a week, and volunteers at the library in Newton, MA.

M&A '62 **Susan Keane Avery** is the chair of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic String

Competition - a 46 year old international competition for advanced conservatory students. "An art major doing music? I've truly become M&A!" ♦ **Steven Diner** recently published *Universities and Their Cities: Urban Higher Education in America*. He received a PhD in history and has served on the faculty of the University of the District of Columbia, George Mason University, and for the last 19 years at Rutgers University-Newark, where he was chancellor for 10 years. ♦ **Irene Dornfest Light** is the Executive Board Member of TAFFY Presents, part of a non-profit organization that provides performing and visual arts programs for children who need to feel like children again...hospitalized, abused, homeless, disadvantaged, and specially "challenged" children.

PA '63 **Rifka Riqui (Freed) Kreiter** wrote a memoir entitled *Home Free: Adventures of a Child of the Sixties*, which contains an entire chapter on Performing Arts from 1960-63.

M&A '64 **Reynard Burns** composition, "American Tapestry," premiered with the Long Island Concert Orchestra on July 15, 2017. ♦ **Laura Reiter Perlman** wrote "I have been designing swimsuits for over 40 years. I'm still at it and enjoy every aspect of designing. When I eventually retire, I look forward to picking up a paintbrush and dabbling again in oil painting. Although I never considered myself particularly talented compared to my peers at M&A, I enjoyed it with all my heart. I've always been grateful to my teacher, Mrs. Winston, who pointed out to me that unless I wanted to starve in a garret, I should think about going into the commercial arts. She was right and I'm glad I listened to her. Personally I believe that talent can take you just so far ... determination and drive takes you the rest of the way."

M&A '65 **David Levy** is in his 42nd year as Professor of Music at Wake Forest University and is the chair of the 7th Annual Meeting of the New Beethoven Research group. ♦ **Neal Newman** wrote that he is a psychologist in Columbus, Ohio and is married with 2 grown children. While retired from the Ohio State University Counseling & Consultation Service, and still teaches Music Performance Enhancement Seminars at the Ohio State University School of Music. As a tennis player, Neal has won numerous USTA age group and father son national titles, ITF world doubles titles, and has represented the US in international competition. He was inducted into the United States Tennis Association Midwest Hall of Fame. ♦ **Nardo Poy** (viola) wrote that he performed the P.D.Q. Bach concerts last December with four other alumni: **Marcus Rojas**, M&A '81, on tuba; **Stewart Rose**, M&A '73, on French horn; **Maxine Neuman**, M&A '64, on cello; **Olivia Koppell**, M&A '62, on viola. (pictured below)



From left to right: Marcus Rojas, Stewart Rose, Maxine Neuman, Olivia Koppell, Nardo Poy

M&A '66 **Fran Korenfeld** had a solo exhibition Night Garden at Holland Tunnel Gallery in Brooklyn in May 2017. ♦ **Brenda McGee** wrote a piano book for beginners called *Sacred Music Piano Study Series, Vol. 1*, which includes hymns and African American spirituals.

M&A '67 **Madeleine Dubrovsky** wrote *The Wisdom Story of a Born-Again Jewish Princess...Uh, Queen*, available on Amazon.com. ♦ **Eric Stephen Jacobs'** photography from 1975 was featured in the David Bowie 2016 box set *Who Can I Be Now?* A photograph he took in 1987 of jazz singer Sylvia Syms was used as set background during a Lincoln Center tribute to her in October of 2016. ♦ **Fletcher James** is playing baroque flute in Leesburg, VA. ♦ **Judith Richland** co-produced a film, *Murder on Cape Cod*, which premiered at the Boston International Film Festival. ♦ **Teryle Thomas Watson** "retired" after 32 years of directing music in the Rochester City School District. She said that thanks in great part to her Music & Art experience, she has "enjoyed a lifetime of performance and teaching as a cellist, singer and pianist."

M&A '68 **James Conlon** won a 2017 Grammy for Best Opera Recording and Best Engineered Classical Album for *Corigliano: The Ghosts Of Versailles*. ♦ **Sonia Manzano** who played Maria on *Sesame Street* from 1971 to 2015, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2016 Daytime Emmy Awards.

M&A '69 **Daniel Kravetz** was recently appointed Music Director of the Gilbert & Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island.

PA '69 **Anita Shevett**, photographer for the TONY awards, was profiled with her husband in the June 2016 *Playbill* magazine.

M&A '71 **Jackee Harry** is starring in Tyler Perry's sitcom *The Paynes* on OWN. ♦ **Peri Mauer** received a commission from LaGuardia's music department to compose a piece for the Junior Band, "Red Sky," which was later performed by the Symphonic Band. Peri can be seen playing her cello in the Amazon series *Mozart in the Jungle*. ♦ **Susan Rollins** is still dancing up a storm in showcases at Dancesport NYC and volunteering with "Dancing Classrooms," a weekend academy program for New York public school children. She recently became a grandmother!

M&A '72 **Valerie Auguste-Partin** has written two books dealing with the loss of her mother to two long term terminal illnesses. *Mom Me...Soaring Through The Pain* and *Mom Me: E-mail 2 Heaven* are both available on Amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and xlibris.com. ♦ **Dr. Sharon Patterson Tippins** is an associate professor of literacy at the oldest historically black college/university, Wilberforce University in Wilberforce, Ohio. A recent widow, she has three children, Adria Tippins-Owens, Esq., educator Andrew David, and supervisor Andre DeShaun.

M&A '73 **Barry Ganberg** is the Head of Music for the Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary Dance in England. He is the Choreographic Producer for the Marc Almond "Embers" music video that was released in December 2017. ♦ **Vienna Tomesheski Aubert** sings alto with the Warwick Valley Choral, the oldest and most distinguished choir in Orange County, NY.

M&A '74 **Dawn Frederick** was featured in two episodes of Amazon.com's *Mozart in the Jungle*. She continues to play violin with the Doctors Orchestral Society. ♦ **Kris Kalfayan** will be honored by The Knights and Daughters of Vartan for his musical contributions to the Armenian community on May 18, 2018. He has served as the Musical Director of the Diocesan Gomidas Choir since 1981. ♦ **Peggy Tartt** recently wrote a poetry collection, *Firestarters*, published by Mouthfeel Press (2014).

M&A '77 **Gladys DeJesus Mitchell** can be seen performing in *Alive! 55+ and Kickin'* at the Dempsey Theater in Harlem. The show has been featured on CBS' *60 Minutes*. ♦ **Kellie Jones**, art historian and Columbia professor, won a 2016 MacArthur Genius



Grant. Some of her many achievements include curating the influential exhibition *Now Dig This! Art and Black Los Angeles 1960-1980*, curating more than 100 of Jean-Michel Basquiat's work for an exhibition at the Brooklyn Museum; and

the exhibition *Energy/Experimentation: Black Artists and Abstraction, 1964-1980*. ♦ **Linda Iris Lifsey Hughes** is the Consultant and Director of Diversity & Inclusion at Walnut Hill School for the Arts.

M&A '78 **Victor Joyce** published a book of poetry called *The Birth of Life Through Poetry* (AuthorHouse.com). ♦ **Dawnn Lewis** recently discussed the importance of arts education and public access to the arts for people who do not learn in traditional ways. Lewis, best known for her role of Jaleesa in *A Different World*, was the keynote speaker at the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Racine School of the Arts at South Bend University. ♦ **Tom Reingold** has been performing with Cerddorion Vocal Ensemble.

M&A '79 **Brigitte A. Bryant** was named the first Vice Chancellor for University Advancement from the City University of New York. ♦ **Julia Kay** published *Portrait Revolution*, featuring 450 portraits by members of her "Portrait Party."

M&A '80 **John Attanas** is the Assistant Principal at the Greek American Institute in the Bronx. ♦ **Barbara Arbeit Leicht** has been singing in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

M&A '82 **Michelle Lindholm** wrote that she is vegan baking, single parenting, collage making, and living the good life, looking to reconnect with some old friends from M&A. ♦ Honorable **Edwina Richardson-Mendelson** was appointed Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York State Justice Initiatives in July 2017. ♦ **Natalie Toro**, who starred in Broadway's *Les Miserables* and *Evita*, is



starring in the musical *Snow Child* in DC.

PA '82 **Danny Burstein** was nominated for a TONY in 2016 for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role in a Musical for his portrayal of Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. He performed the role of Bottom in The Public Theater's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the summer of 2017.

M&A '83 **Abdul Malik Abbott** recently finished a short film project featured at www.balanceofpowermovie.com and is continuing with his music project at www.bossmusicny.com.

PA '83 **Erich Jarvis, PhD**, is professor of Neurobiology at Duke University Medical Center and at The Rockefeller University. Dr. Jarvis leads a team of researchers who study the neurobiology of vocal learning.

M&A '84 **Nina Lasky** reports that after leaving her position as Assistant Principal of the Art Studio at LaGuardia, she is a Borough Arts Director where she works to ensure that all NYC public school students have access to a high-quality arts education in all four art forms and the opportunity to continue their arts instruction from Kindergarten through 12th grade.

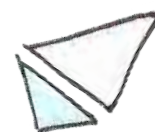
LaG '85 **Josh Neufeld** is a cartoonist who was an artist for Harvey Pekar's *American Splendor*, and writer/artist of *A.D.: New Orleans After the Deluge*, and the travelogue *A Few Perfect Hours*. He also illustrated the *New York Times* bestseller *The Influencing Machine: Brooke Gladstone On the Media*.

LaG '86 **Kimberly Davis** became the new vocalist for CHIC, and her recent single "My Fire," featuring Nile Rodgers, rose to the No.1 spot on the Billboard Dance Club Songs Chart. ♦ **Desmond Richardson** is the co-founder of award-winning Complexions Contemporary Ballet, which recently celebrated its 24th season at NYC's Joyce Theater.

LaG '87 **Lisa Bass** released a track as the Lisa Cole Group called "Lost Love," which debuted on the Billboard Dance Chart at number 43. ♦ **Andrea Fairweather** is the founder and CEO of Fairweather Faces Traveling Beauty Services, and was the first African American makeup artist to join the staff of *Good Morning America*, where she has worked since 1998. ♦ **Frank Leutz** is an automotive expert; visit his site at wrenchnation.tv.

LaG '88 **Akinkunmi Cook** recently received a Masters of Music from Manhattan School of Music. ♦ **Kesha Monk** was the announcer of the 2017 Soul Train Awards on BET.

LaG '89 **Cara Buono** is appearing in *Stranger Things*, a Netflix original series. ♦ **Paulette Kouffman Sherman** penned two books - *Dating from the Inside-Out: How to Use the Law of Attraction in Matters of the Heart*, published by Atria Books, and *The Book of Sacred Baths: 52 Bathing Rituals to Revitalize Your Spirit* published by Llewellyn. They are both available on Amazon.com. **Karen Leo** is a public school art teacher and had her first solo exhibition "This is It!" at A.I.R. Gallery in Brooklyn. ♦ **Shawn Martinbrough** published a book *How to Draw Noir Comics: The Art and Technique of Visual Storytelling*, and will be having an exhibit at the Society of Illustrators from May 1-July 21, 2018. He also appeared recently in a TED talk about his work as a comic artist for DC Comics, Marvel and Dark Horse Comics. His past projects include "Batman: Detective Comics," "Luke Cage Noir," "Captain America," "The Black Panther," and "Hellboy: Secret Nature."



LaG '90 Selenis Leyva plays Gloria Mendoza in the Netflix series *Orange is the New Black*. ♦ **Peter Shankman** released his new book *Faster Than Normal: Turbocharge Your Focus, Productivity, and Success with the Secrets of the ADHD Brain*. His "Faster than Normal" podcast (fasterthannormal.com) embraces the concept that



having ADD or ADHD is a gift, not a curse.

♦ **Marlon Wayans** was behind the new show *Marlon*, which premiered on NBC. Fellow alum Mitchell Marchand, LaG '91, was the writer.

LaG '91 Mazz Swift known at school as Melanie Swift, has performed all over the world, engaging audiences with her unique style of weaving song, melody and improvisation into what she calls MazzMuse - a combination of classical, folk, rock, jazz, free improvisation, and electronica. She plays electric and acoustic violin as well as sings. Her performances are listed on mazzmusic.com. ♦ **Bokeem Woodbine** won a 2016 Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actor in *Fargo* and can be seen in the USA series *Unsolved: The Murders of Tupac and the Notorious B.I.G.* - a scripted true crime series based on the murder investigations of Tupac Shakur and Biggie Smalls.

LaG '92 Anthony Alexander is a recording artist and producer of the original web series 1275 Clayton, which was accepted in the Las Vegas Black Film Festival 2018 and nominated for Best Web Series at the Urban Mediamakers Film Festival in 2017. ♦ **Daniel Freedman** is currently performing percussion on a world tour with David Byrne. The band recently performed "Everybody's Coming to My House" on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, and will have shows in the New York area in September 2018. ♦ **Nkenge Simpson Pacurar** is on the boards of AMAS Musical Theatre, Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts (CAAPA) and The Players Club. She performed last year at The Players Club event honoring Danny Aiello. ♦ **Jayson (Valdes) Simba** is the Founder and Executive Director of the Kew Gardens Festival of Cinema, which will take place in August 2018 at the historic Kew Gardens Cinema in Queens.

LaG '93 Matthew Neenan enjoyed the world premiere of one of his choreographed pieces in Juilliard's "New Dances: Edition 2016." ♦ **Sarah Paulson** won a 2016 Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in *The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story* and won the 2017 Golden Globe and SAG Award for her portrayal of Marcia Clark in that series.

LaG '94 Shameen Anthanio-Williams recently had her second children's book published, *Tulsa Girl*, about the 1921 Tulsa Massacre. She is a career officer in the United States Coast Guard and lives with her family in Maryland. ♦ **Sascha Paladino**, LaG '94, is the creator of the Disney Junior show *Miles from Tomorrowland*, now in its third season. ♦ **Vesper Stamper** wrote and illustrated a new young adult novel *What the Night Sings* - a story that portrays the hope and perseverance of a young girl during a tragic time in history.

LaG '95 Jessica Pimentel plays Maria Ruiz on the Netflix series *Orange is the New Black*, and can also be seen on stage as the front woman for the death metal band Alekhine's Gun.

LaG '97 Camille Brown was named a Ford Foundation Art of Change fellow in 2017. She won an AUDELCO ("Viv") Award for her choreography in the musical *Bella: An American Tall Tale*. On December 1, her Camille A. Brown & Dancers made its debut at the Kennedy Center, and two days later she was back in New York City to see her



choreography in the opening of Broadway's *Once on This Island*. Weeks later, it was announced that she was choreographing NBC's live television musical *Jesus Christ Superstar Live in Concert*, which aired April 1, 2018. ♦ **Joya Powell** won the 2016 NY Dance and Performance Award for Outstanding Emerging Choreographer - also known as the Bessie Awards. Joya is the founder of the Movement of the People Dance Company and adjunct professor at NYU's Dance Education Department.

LaG '98 Jonathan Brathwaite is the Chief Operating Officer of Singani 63, a Steven Soderbergh company that imports the national spirit beverage of Bolivia.

LaG '99 Jesse Nager played the role of the legendary Motown artist Smokey Robinson and toured the country with *Motown the Musical*. Nager is the founder and artistic director of The Broadway Boys, a group of New York tenors who incorporate funk, gospel, pop, and rock into traditional show tunes.

LaG '00 Natasha Diaz has been a principal dancer with Asase Yaa African American Dance Theater for over 16 years. It is the first traditional African Dance company to be nominated for a Bessie Award. ♦ **Francesca DiMattio** had her fifth solo exhibition at Salon 94 gallery. Her exhibition of new paintings and monumental ceramic sculpture refers to the rag rugs traditionally made from torn and reused clothing by Berber women in North Africa. ♦ **Ivy Kirzhner** (aka Veronica Cajucom), has made a mark on the fashion world with her unique brand of footwear and accessories. She's created shoes for Jennifer Lopez, Shakira, Christina Ricci, Carly Rae Jepsen, Idina Menzel and many more. Visit her Ivy Kirzhner flagship store at 750 Greenwich St. in NYC. ♦ **Nicki Minaj**, née Onika Tanya Maraj, was awarded the Key to Queens by Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, in honor of her musical achievements in June 2017. ♦ **Jed Peterson** recorded the album *Irving Berlin: In Person*. He has starred Off-Broadway in such shows as *Hard Times* and *Nevsky Prospect*, and has been featured on television's *Madame Secretary*. ♦ **Simonette Quamina** is a visual fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, where she recently had an exhibition, *Song of the Kiskadee*. She received her MFA in printmaking from the Rhode Island School of Design and her BA from City College of New York and has taught at Brown University.

LaG '01 Michael Che who appears weekly on SNL's "Weekend Update," was nominated for an Emmy, along with the other SNL writers, for Outstanding Writing for a Variety Series. He graciously hosted the LaGuardia Arts Parents

Association Gala in the spring of 2016. ♦ **Julia Jordan Kamanda** writes a blog called *TheMusicMommy.com*, and has also written two musical children's books which introduce music concepts to young children through globally inspired stories and songs.

LaG '02 Ray Santiago appeared in *Meet the Fockers*, *Girlfight*, and currently stars as Pablo Simon Bolivar in the TV horror comedy *Ash vs Evil Dead* on the Starz network.

LaG '03 Mutiyat Ade-Salu was named Miss Black New York Coed by the Miss Black America Coed organization, and is the first Nigerian-American woman to hold the state title. She is using her platform to partner with the Bring Back Our Girls coalition and raise awareness about the increased trafficking of Black girls in the U.S. and West Africa. ♦ **Samara Cohen** teaches a regular Waacking class at Broadway Dance Center, and goes by the stage name Princess Lockerooo. Waacking is a form of dance created in the LGBT clubs of Los Angeles in the 1970s as part of the disco scene. ♦ **Ron Kagan** performed at the 14th Street Y in The Mar Vista with fellow LaGuardia graduate Amanda Schussel, LaG '12. Ron lives with his wife and four rabbits in Harlem, and serves performers through his startup AUDITION HERO (auditionheroqh.com).

LaG '04 Chanel DaSilva and Nigel Campbell were profiled in Juilliard's Alumni Spotlight for their long standing friendship that led to their creation of MOVE(NYC), a three-week intensive dance program for young dancers from all five New York City boroughs. Nigel is also Co-Director of Gibeany Dance Company and Chanel is a teacher in LaGuardia's Dance Department. ♦ **Steve Lucin** founded Support Creativity (wesupportcreativity.org), an organization dedicated to providing scholarships to passionate creatives entering college or graduate school in the tri-state area. ♦ **Jalina Monclus** is a graphic designer for Showtime in NYC. She also has a production company with **Maria Estevez**, LaG '04, called Monteviz Production. Maria is a photographer and mother of two children. Jalina and Maria hosted a pop-up art show called *Sanchocho* at the Bronx Art Space in December 2016 which featured artwork by fellow classmates Steve Lucin, David Rodriguez, and Ipathia Duran.

LaG '05 Xavier Moses is a school music director and the musical director for the Limelight Players in Travelers Rest, SC. ♦ **Vasudevan (Vasu) Panicker** is the Director of Face the Music at Kaufman Music Center, the country's only youth orchestra program dedicated entirely to contemporary music and the works of living composers. He also teaches at Special Music High School, right across the street from LaGuardia.

LaG '06 Sophia Dawson was featured in *Newsweek* for her solo exhibition *Correspondence* at the Williamsburg gallery Okay Space. The exhibit featured portraits of political prisoners who were jailed for their participation in the Black Liberation movement.

LaG '07 Raphael Buyo, on the sousaphone, **Daro Behroozi**, LaG '08, on the tenor saxophone, and **Josh Holcomb**, LaG '09, on the trombone are members of Lucky Chops Brass Band, which has been performing throughout the U.S. and Europe. Keep your eyes peeled for them in the NYC subway - they can often be found performing underground!

♦ **Emily Meade** appeared in three movies: *Money Monster*, the Lifetime remake *Mother*, *May I Sleep with Danger?*, and *Nerve*. She can also be seen in *The Deuce*, an HBO series from *The Wire* creator **David Simon**, PA '70. ♦ **Gabrielle Salvato** recently promoted to Demi Soloist with Ballet West, which she joined in 2014.

LaG '08 Lilli Cooper can be seen on Broadway in *SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical!* Lilli has also appeared in *Wicked* and *Spring Awakening*. ♦ **Julie Gautier-Downes** won First Place in the Still Life Category of the International Photography Competition from the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts. Julie had several solo shows including "Dioramas of Disaster," a beautiful mix of dollhouse dioramas and photography. Her work can be seen at www.juliegautierdownes.com. ♦ **Emily Skeggs** recently starred in the ABC miniseries *When We Rise* that chronicled the real-life personal and political struggles and triumphs of a diverse family of LGBT men and women who helped pioneer one of the last legs of the U.S. Civil Rights movement.

LaG '09 Pico Alexander starred opposite Reese Witherspoon in the 2017 film *Home Again*. ♦



Amira Baigina released her debut album *Defined*. ♦ **Zazie Beetz** is currently appearing in the FX television series *Atlanta* and will be on the big screen in the May 2018 release of *Deadpool 2*. ♦ **Matt FX Feldman** was profiled in the *New York Times* in March 2016. He is the music supervisor for TV shows *Broad City*, *Difficult People*, *Skins* and *Detroit* and for the film *Urge*. He also released an EP called *Scotter Island*. ♦ **Janett Martinez** is the CEO of fashion-tech startup Loomia, a materials company focused on smart fabric and electronic textiles. She was recently featured in a *Forbes* magazine article about her journey from a theater tech major, to audio engineer, to fashion technologist. ♦ **Cherisse** and **Cherissia Williams** are identical twins and starred in Verizon's Quadruplets Holiday National Commercial.

LaG '10 Deiran Manning was recently in Maine performing on the piano as part of a duo with his mother Deirdre McArdle, a flutist. Deiran is the managing director for the annual Winter Harbor Music Festival which takes place each August, and is currently in graduate school at Indiana University. ♦ **Theo Hoffman** made his first public appearance on the Metropolitan Opera stage as a Grand Finalist in the 2016 Met Opera National Council Auditions after winning in the Eastern Region. He is now a graduate student at the Juilliard School, and was one of nine finalists out of nearly 1,500 singers.

LaG '11 Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen was one of six winners of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Grand Finals concert. *The New York Times* says, "At just 23, Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, a baby-faced countertenor from Brooklyn, already possesses a remarkable gift for intimate communication in a vast



hall, combined with a voice of velvety gentleness — surprisingly penetrating given the tenderness of its texture — and a taste for adventure."

LaG '12 Owen Campbell was seen in two films during the 2017 Tribeca Film Festival: *Blame* and *Super Dark Times*. He also appeared in a season of *The Americans*. ♦ **Ansel Elgort** received a Golden Globe nomination for his role in the film *Baby Driver* and was a presenter and hot dog cannon shooter at the 2018 Academy Awards. ♦ **Jesse Obremski** won the 2016 Jadin Wong Dance Award Fellow. Jesse graduated from Juilliard in 2016, is currently a company member of DaretoCreate Dance Theater, Lar Lubovitch Dance Company, Buglisi Dance Theater, and the Limon Dance Company. ♦ **Lovely Philema** is part of an eight-voice jazz ensemble known as "The Fredonia Voices," which sang with the New York Voices at SUNY Fredonia's Commencement Pop's Concert and the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. ♦ **Jamie Sanders** made



Jamie Sanders

his professional stage debut in the Kansas City Repertory Theatre's production of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Jamie has Tourette Syndrome and portrayed a character with autism. ♦ **Amanda Schussel** performed at the 14th Street Y in *The Mar Vista* with fellow LaGuardia graduate **Ron Kagan**, LaG '03.

LaG '13 Candace Lee Camacho (known at school as Duendita) is one of five emerging stars featured in a video announcing the public launch of Spotify's "Spotify for Artists" platform. ♦ **Timothee Chalamet** won Outstanding Lead Actor in a Play



Timothee Chalamet, LaG '13, and Ansel Elgort, LaG '12, having a mini-reunion at the 2018 Academy Awards.

for his role in the Manhattan Theater Company's production of "Prodigal Son." He also received a Best Actor Oscar nomination for his performance in *Call Me By Your Name*. On the red carpet, the gracious and appreciative Oscar nominee praised

LaGuardia and his drama teacher **Harry Shifman**, saying, "I literally would not be an actor without that man, without that school, without public arts funding. I would not be at the Oscars, I would not be nominated without him."

LaG '14 Cole Davis won the 2016 Ron Carter Jazz Bass Competition. ♦ **Carmel Bendit-Shtull** is currently attending Cornell University for Hotel Administration. Carmel spent a gap year interning in Costa Rica at two sustainable hotels and was awarded a scholarship from Costa Rican Vacations. ♦ **Grace Van Patten** played Adam Sandler's daughter in *The Meyerowitz Stories*, the comedy-drama film directed and written by Noah Baumbach.

LaG '15 Jharrel Jerome appeared in the



Golden Globe and Academy Award winning film *Moonlight*. Jharrel is currently an undergraduate at Ithaca College.

♦ **Damaras Obi** starred in *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom*, the stage adaptation of the book by the same name about the Selma voting rights march. The production was originally developed at LaGuardia High School under the direction of **Ally Sheedy**, who also teaches at LaGuardia. The play has been performed at The Bridge Theater in the Catskills and at the Sanctuary Theater in New York City.

LaG '16 Dharon Jones appeared in the 2017 film *Saturday Church*. ♦ **Nicolaia Rips** wrote the book *Trying to Float: Coming of Age in the Chelsea Hotel*, which was published by Simon and Schuster.

LaG '17 Micaela Diamond will be starring as Cher in the *Cher Show* coming to Broadway in December 2018. Micaela was recently a featured member of the ensemble in NBC's *Jesus Christ Superstar Live*. ♦ **Chloe Pitkoff** illustrated a children's book about diversity during her senior year at LaGuardia. The *Baby in the Manger* was recently published by Paraclete Press. ♦ **Hannah Zimmerman** became New York City's youngest elected official last summer at age 17. She is a member of the New York County Committee, where she helps choose replacements for elected officials who leave before the end of their term. She is also a student at Stanford.

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IN MEMORIAM

Alumni & Friends was recently informed about the passing of the following individuals who were part of the Music & Art, Performing Arts, and LaGuardia family.



Mildred Landecker

passed away in October 2016 at the age of 103. She attended Juilliard and then completed both her BS and

MA degrees from NYU by the age of 19. For 35 years she was at Music & Art, where she served as a judge on the Admissions Board and taught conducting, music theory and harmony, voice, orchestration, choral ensemble, music history, and piano. She also wrote three music textbooks. The A&F Mildred Landecker Choral Music Fund helps the music department purchase choral sheet music.



Paul Lustig Dunkel

(M&A '60), world renowned flutist and conductor, passed away in January 2018. Paul was most recently the Principal

Flutist with the New York City Ballet and a member of Music From Copland House, an ensemble he co-founded with the pianist Michael Boriskin, dedicated to the performance of American Chamber Music. He won the Pulitzer Prize for music in 1999 for *Concerto for Flute, Strings, and Percussion*.



Steven Bochco (M&A '61), an influential television producer who pushed boundaries with series like *Hill Street Blues*, *L.A. Law* and *NYPD Blue*, passed away in April 2018 after a battle with leukemia. He was 74 and a 10-time Primetime Emmy Award winner, who also was behind the Neil Patrick Harris comedy-drama *Doogie Howser, M.D.* While at M&A, he studied vocal music. His sister Joanna Frank is a member of the M&A class of '58.



Byron Dobell (M&A '44), passed away in January 2017. He was an editor at *Time-Life*, *Esquire*, and *New York Magazine*. He also had an accomplished

career as an artist, having 11 solo shows in New York, and his work is in the collection at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. He established the A&F Byron Dobell Art Fund for a LaGuardia student who demonstrates excellence in representational art, painting, or sculpting.



Dr. Les Pincu

(M&A '56), passed away in September 2017. He was a long time supporter of Alumni & Friends, and established the

Les Pincu Emergency Fund to help LaGuardia students with great financial need. He was a professor of criminology and served as a legislative appointee to the California Council on Criminal Justice.



Alumni & Friends champion **June LeBell** (M&A '61), passed away in April 2017. She was the first female announcer on a major commercial classical music radio station and was on the air at WQXR for almost 30 years. She was a brilliant leader, advocate, and former board member of Alumni & Friends. Her husband, Edward Alley, and her many friends and fellow '61 classmates established The June LeBell Vocal Music Award in her honor to reward outstanding vocal music students at LaGuardia.



Dave Valentin (M&A '70), passed away in March 2017. He was a Grammy Award-winning Latin jazz flutist who recorded dozens of albums and performed on six continents.



Maestro Jonathan Strasser (M&A '63), who taught for almost 30 years at M&A, PA, and LaGuardia, passed away in March 2017. He was a faculty member of the PreCollege Division at Manhattan School of Music (MSM) since 1977, and conducted the MSM PreCollege Philharmonic for over 20 years. His family established the A&F Strasser Family Music Fund.

To see a list of all the alumni and faculty we've lost, visit: alumniandfriends.org/inmemoriam. If you know someone has passed away and they are not listed on our website, email us at: info@alumniandfriends.org.

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Our high school years hold a special place in our **heARTS**. As graduates of Music & Art, Performing Arts, or LaGuardia, we were privileged to be taught by wonderful instructors in a unique setting. The Alumni & Friends Legacy Society provides a way for our community of graduates and friends to support students and the future of the arts through estate planning. Please consider including Alumni & Friends in your estate and tax planning through a bequest or other form of planned gift. To learn more, visit: alumniandfriends.org/legacy-society or contact us by phone: 212-595-1301 or email: zoe@alumniandfriends.org.

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Please consider a donation in honor or memory of a classmate, family member, or beloved teacher. Your gift will keep their memory alive and will help today's LaGuardia students thrive.

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LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

This year we have frequently spoken about the excellent quality of teaching and learning at LaGuardia Arts. Specifically, one third of our students are on the honor roll, we have three finalists in the Presidential Scholar in the Arts Competition, Gold Key winners in the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition, and National Merit Scholarship Finalists.

Over the past three years our seniors were able to take an extra class in their art form. Even though we are only funded for an eight period day, we choose to offer ten periods as part of our commitment to Arts Education. To accomplish this, we have the longest school day in New York State. This spring semester we purchased all supplies for all students in the Art Studio, and added additional per session for Arts events and productions to our budget.

The LaGuardia of tomorrow will be a school with a state-of-the-art Technical Theater Shop. We have raised close to \$6 million over the last three years to build it. Our Science Labs will be renovated within the next two years. Our Music Studio, in addition to the recently renovated SoundLab Recording Studio, will experience renovations in the Vocal classrooms. We purchased new student furniture including choral chairs, music stands, and instruments.

We are moving forward but not without struggles. We struggle with the false dichotomy of Arts versus Academics. The mere thought that an actor should not be expected to know how to read and write well, defies understanding ...that a dancer should not understand biology defies understanding. The Arts is humanity both realized and expressed, and if this is true, then academics without art is a world where humankind is misguided. Being an artist and a scholar should not be mutually exclusive. Artists are intelligent, and we reject the notion that our students will graduate into a world the same as our own. We prepare students for the future – for their future – and give them the tools to be the best version of themselves. We do important work. Our work matters.

My hope for a better world lies in each member of the LaGuardia community because I do believe that if it cannot happen here, it cannot happen anywhere. I believe this with every fiber of my being. This is why I work as hard as I do. Through the educational process, I believe, we have the capability to change the world, to make it brighter, and we do this every day through the lives we touch, through the art of teaching. Know that what we do matters – it matters to every child, every day. Because of who we are and what we do; LaGuardia matters.

I am proud of our students' ability to express themselves; awed by how inclusivity is becoming their new normal; inspired by how our dual mission of Arts and Academics, helps each individual grow into their potential; and hopeful because I know that they are up to the challenges that society and the world will present. Of our students, I could not be more proud.



Cordially,
Dr. Mars, Principal
LaGuardia Arts

"I owe a lot to high school. LaGuardia High School was such a diverse place culturally and socioeconomically."

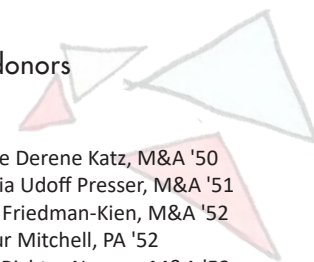
–Matt FX Feldman (LaG '09)

"Music & Art was a fantastic school. It afforded me the opportunity to get a wonderful academic education as well as providing an exceptional music program. As a public school, it had outstanding teachers dedicated to assuring that all students received a **superior education.**"

– Marsha Weiss Remland (M&A '62)

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other students with funding and support which allow us to explore artistic opportunities that might not otherwise be available to us. I'm thrilled for what my future will bring and to follow in the footsteps of the incredible alumni who have paved the way for me."

– India Dobbie (LaG '17), recipient of the Alumni & Friends Little Flower Award

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 Rachel Eisner, LaG '89

"It is a great honor to be awarded the Alumni & Friends Frishauf Family Graphic Arts Award. This generous scholarship will help me advance my work to become a user experience and user interface designer in the future. Thank you for making this possible."

– Kaiying Guo (LaG '18), recipient of the Frishauf Family Graphic Arts Award



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WHO'S WHO IN THE OFFICE?

If you've ever called the Alumni & Friends office to renew membership, purchase a reunion ticket, or update your contact information, you may have spoken to one of us! We are in the office Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm and look forward to hearing from you!

ZOE SCHNEIDER (LaG '89, vocal major)
Alumni Director

LEIGH WOODS (LaG '89, art major) Manager of
Awards, Scholarships, and Special Events

ROBINDRA DEB Manager of Membership, Database,
and Technology

DID YOU KNOW?

SIX LaGuardia alumni were part of NBC's recent production of *Jesus Christ Superstar Live!* Camille Brown - Choreographer (LaG '97), Eric Christian - Lighting Programmer (LaG '06), and four members of the ensemble: Micaela Diamond (LaG '17), Mayte Natalio (LaG '01), Christina Sajous (LaG '03), Maleek Washington (LaG '05).

"This is a special award because it is for something that I love. I will keep this award in my heart to encourage myself and always remind myself to work hard and **use my art to better the world.**"

— Zhao Shujuan
(LaG '17), recipient of
the Fred and Kazuko
Harris Art Award



WANT TO HELP?

Dear Friends,

Enhancing the arts education of LaGuardia students is the basic mission of Alumni & Friends (A&F), which already is the premier public high school of the arts in the country. We try to overcome budget and supply restraints, so that our kids can have art supplies, master classes, summer study programs, costumes, instrument repairs, performance opportunities – anything that makes their LaGuardia experience even better.

Since you're reading this, we already know you care. Aside from donating, there are many other ways you can help. Here are some suggestions:

Mobilize your friends and classmates: We need leaders for class reunions, hosts for regional alumni gatherings, and sponsors for social and fund-raising events. We need people to share the importance of our work so we can raise the funds necessary to support our mission.

Legacy gifts: There are many of us who feel our high school years were critical in our formation as adults, as well as being the foundation for life-long friendships. In addition to cash gifts now, one way to express our recognition of that seminal experience is to include Alumni & Friends in our estate planning – a large amount, a small gift, some appreciated stock, everything helps.

Help us govern: Join the Alumni & Friends board of directors, comprised of graduates of LaGuardia and its legacy schools, parents of former students, retired teachers, and members of the arts community – all of us are unpaid volunteers, dedicated to making sure A&F continues to raise the money it needs, and distributes the gifts for today's students responsibly. We are committed to making an annual personal donation and assuring the growth of A&F. We always benefit from new people with new skills.

These are just a few ideas and suggestions. As with any small arts organization, our needs vastly exceed our resources. But the benefits for getting involved in the good work we do are extraordinary. We want to make sure that the LaGuardia of today gets better and better, and we have seen the proof with the high rankings and success rate of graduates. Plus, all you really need to do is come to a performance or art show and see it for yourself. It'll blow you away!

If you want to get involved in any manner, please contact us at info@alumniandfriends.org.

Fondly,



Peter Bakstansky

Peter Bakstansky
Alumni & Friends President

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LAGUARDIA SPOTLIGHT

Alumni & Friends was a sponsor of LaGuardia's musical *42nd Street*, and many of the leading cast, crew, and musicians were recipients of Alumni & Friends' summer study scholarships and merit awards.

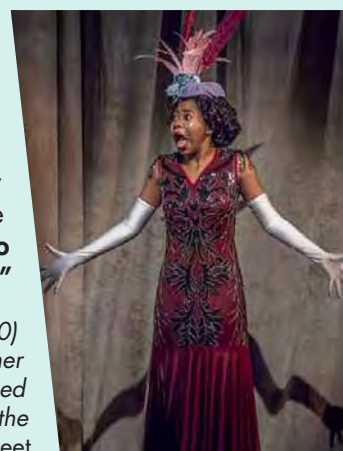
42nd Street Numbers:

8000 audience members
470 hours of pre-production
14 production dance numbers
433 cues
4 months of rehearsal
124 students, cast, crew & musicians



"This summer I was able to achieve much more than I thought possible at my dance intensive. When I got back to school in September, many of my peers congratulated me on my dramatic improvements over the summer, which are **thanks to your generous grant.**"

– Kate Louissaint (LaG '20)
received an Alumni & Friends summer study scholarship and returned in the fall as the lead in the school musical *42nd Street*



Timothée Chalamet (LaG '13) received Golden Globe and Oscar nominations for his performance in *Call Me By Your Name*. On the red carpet, the appreciative Oscar nominee praised LaGuardia and his drama teacher Harry Shifman, saying: "I literally would not be an actor without that man, **without that school, without public arts funding. I would not be at the Oscars.** I would not be nominated without him."



Chalamet and Ansel Elgort (LaG '12)
at the 2018 Academy Awards



Golden Globe nominees Elgort (*Baby Driver*) and Chalamet
returned to LaGuardia to speak to the current drama students

