Dear Alumni and Friends,

Recently, I had the pleasure of speaking with some parents of current students about their kids’ experiences at the school. Universally, these parents focused on the value of an arts education and the power of the life-affirming community at LaGuardia. One insightful parent boiled it down to one word: happiness. She said that her kids were so happy at the school and that, bottom line, that’s what we all want for our kids. As an alumna who is privileged to meet many other alumni, I hear similar reactions from most other alumni: “It was the best experience of my life.” With these newsletters, I try to convey all the joie de vivre and all the happiness that exists here. To get a real sense of it, you’ll have to come to one of the performances listed on page 5.

Recently, I watched the school’s production of *Rising Stars*, the Senior Jazz Concert, the Choral Concert at Riverside Church, and the productions of *Laughing Stock* and *Sweeney Todd*. We all left with smiles on our faces!

Now that the harsh winter is over, I’m especially pleased to invite each of you to come for a tour of our school. We’d love to meet you and show you how the school has evolved since you graduated. I know you’d be delighted and proud. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best,

Barbara Engel
Executive Director

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Today’s society needs artists who advocate for a vibrant, culturally rich community. It is also difficult to remove from the artist the intellect, passion, and ability to synthesize information that happens through life experiences and education. I am continually in awe of the synergy that students create as they improve their craft and their minds. This truly is the embodiment of our school's dual mission. LaGuardia Arts, today, is the proven training ground for the upcoming generation of artists and leaders who approach society's problems with a creative perspective. This builds upon the work and legacy of the alums of the High School of Music & Art, the High School of Performing Arts, and Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the remarkable artistic and intellectual adventure of LaGuardia High School. As we embark on the next 30 years, it is now time to revitalize our commitment to the student artists of NYC. Part of this commitment is to ensure that our school is a state-of-the-art institution for arts education. For example, our technical theatre students deserve to learn in a professional-caliber scene shop rather than in a performance space which we currently use to build the sets for our productions. We encourage you to support long-term efforts to obtain a state-of-the-art facility.

Budget cuts over the past several years have compressed some of our offerings and limited our resources. This has curtailed our ability to offer an education similar to the one you experienced.

Our success as a school lies in the success of our students and the legacy you have created as alums. The endowments and scholarships which you have bestowed through Alumni & Friends enable our students and graduates to meet the financial challenge of further developing their craft. On behalf of our students, parents and alumni, I thank you.

Regardless from which school you graduated, you carry the ideals of our mission – preparing students for conservatories and colleges – and you are a part of our vibrant, culturally rich community. As we enter the spring season of performances and exhibits, I warmly invite you to visit us at one of our events and celebrate our anniversary.

It is heartwarming to see the ways in which our staff and students admire your accomplishments. I urge you to forge a connection with LaGuardia High School as we look forward to the next 30 years. Just as you advanced the culture of NYC so too will our students in the upcoming years. LaGuardia Forever!

Dr. Mars, Principal
LaGuardia Arts

A Letter from the Principal

A&F Welcomes Back Natalia Kurylak, LaG ’06!

Natalia worked for A&F from 2006 to 2012 and left to raise her son. She returned at the beginning of March as our new Alumni Relations Manager. We are thrilled Natalia is back and look forward to having you meet her.
Dear Alumni & Friends,

Springtime is finally upon us! At LaGuardia this means the busy months before the school year ends. The more I learn about the students, teachers, administrators, and especially you—alumni and friends—the more I realize that LaGuardia is a truly special and unique home for young artists. But it is much more. It is “a place where students can follow their individual pursuits of happiness.” Here’s what drama senior Hunter Hinden wrote about happiness in the Rising Stars 2015 program booklet:

“What is happiness? How do we achieve happiness? Those are the questions that the production team has tried to answer with this year’s Rising Stars. Tonight we present a snapshot of where we have traveled on this journey and what we have accomplished. As students, we are so fortunate to be able to go to a school where we can express ourselves through the arts, which is an integral part of this pursuit…”

A&F’s mission is to continue to enhance the world-class arts education at LaGuardia by providing funds to ensure that all students, regardless of family income, can successfully pursue their talents. We do this through awards, scholarships, funding for master classes, and grants to the studios for equipment. We ask each and every one of our A&F family to participate in supporting our future leaders in the arts, business, education and beyond to help our students to achieve their dreams.

Financial needs from families have increased at an alarmingly rapid rate. This year, A&F will fund 45% more student awards than in previous years. Our ultimate goal is to help all students in need. We ask for your continued support to help our students grow and flourish, like Chelsea.

On behalf of the board and staff at A&F, we thank you for your ongoing generosity to students to pursue their goals — and happiness.

With gratitude,

Joy Pak
Director of Advancement

Yes, I want to support Alumni & Friends!

☐ $100 Can help cover graduation fees for a senior
☐ $250 Can provide a student with lessons
☐ $500 Can send a student to an arts-related summer program
☐ $1000 Can help buy equipment for a studio
☐ $_____ (other)

FIRST NAME       LAST NAME       SCHOOL / GRAD YEAR

ADDRESS

CITY       STATE       ZIP

PHONE       EMAIL

Please return to A&F, Attn: Joy Pak at 100 Amsterdam Ave., room #853, NY, NY 10023. You may also make payments online at www.alumniandfriends.org. Contributions to A&F are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Our tax identification number is 13-3166108.

For questions, please contact us at 212.595.1301 or send an email to joy@alumniandfriends.org.
From a Student

We received this from a student who was awarded a grant to attend a summer program:

“I start this note off by saying thank you! Thank you! And thank you again. I am thanking you for the 2015 Scholarship. You can’t begin to know how excited I was to receive the notification. My grandmother gave me the biggest hug and I saw tears in her eyes. Becoming the recipient of this award will allow me to attend the Joffrey Summer Intensive Ballet School; something I truly wanted. Your generosity allows me to train with some of the best dancers and teachers in New York City. I intend to work very hard and learn as much as possible. The disciplines of jazz and contemporary will add to my dance development.

Both my grandmother and I appreciate your financial award. Without your help, I would not have been able to experience this wonderful opportunity. My grandmother continues to support me in all my endeavors, but the financial responsibility is the most challenging for her. Since her retirement, she has had to live on a fixed income, but she encourages me to keep trying and move forward both academically and in dance.

The Alumni & Friends Summer Study Grant helps students to participate in further studies over the summer by being able to attend amazing programs. So many deserving students appreciate your kindness and generosity. I am one who sincerely appreciates your support.”

— Chelsea Lovell, Dance Student

Upcoming Shows and Performances

April 17:
Senior Art Show and Senior Choir Concert

April 24:
Concerto Concert

April 23-25:
Spring Drama Festival: Carousel

May 1:
New Music Singers/Symphonic Band Concert

May 16:
Senior Art Show

May 15-16:
Spring Drama Festival: The Laramie Project

May 18:
Lyrics & Legacy — A Gala Honoring Marilyn & Alan Bergman

May 29-30:
Graduation Dance Concert

June 5-6:
Semi-Annual Art Show and Senior Orchestra and Chorus Concert

June 22:
Sweet Beginnings

For tickets, please go to www.laguardiahs.org
Drama students at Performing Arts circa ’50s–’70s will remember Miss Provet. Her jet black hair pulled back tight in a severe bun, her exquisite delicate features always outlined precisely with eyeliner, mascara, and a dramatic red lipstick, trim and clothed in elegant black simplicity, her speech deep and precise with no hint of any accent (after all, she was our voice and diction teacher!). A dynamic and talented teacher, always with a listening ear and caring advice, she inspired us to do our best.

Miss Provet is still with us, living on the East Side. She proudly tells us that she is 90 years old and “fully intact.” Her two sons and grandchildren are in close touch with her. She stayed with the school when it moved to Lincoln Center, where she was wooed by and married Acting Principal Dr. Koehler, who passed away a few years ago after 20 years of marriage. A scholarship in her name at A&F supports drama students with training and other professional needs.

You can donate to this fund: alumniandfriends.org/fund/goodman-ellenbogen-provet-drama-fund/. The fund was established by Lenore Ellenbogen (Leni Goodman, PA ’54), who also wrote this article.

Reunion 2015: JUNE 2015
For Classes That Graduated in Years Ending in 0 or 5
And all our founding classes from 1940-1949

Multiple events have been planned to celebrate classes from Music & Art, Performing Arts, and LaGuardia High School. The most current information can be found at https://alumniandfriends.org/news/2015-reunion. Here you’ll be able to sign up and pay for the M&A reunions, see current lists of who is coming from your class and get contact information on class leaders.

MUSIC & ART ALUMNI from 1940-49 and classes ending in “5” and “0”

On June 6, come join your fellow classmates at “the castle” for a day filled with familiar faces and places. The day will include tours of the school, “mocktails” and hors d’oeuvres on the terrace, a gourmet meal in the cafeteria, and a fabulous performance by the senior orchestra and chorus.

PERFORMING ARTS ALUMNI from all years with special honors to those who graduated in years ending in “5” and “0”

Bring your families and friends, your yearbooks and your memories, and join us for a weekend of reunion celebrations on Friday, 6 June; Saturday, 7 June; and Sunday, 8 June. A Friday night mixer is planned at Lexington’s on 130 East 39th Street. On Saturday, there will be a photo session at the PA site on W. 46th Street followed by a dinner at Buca di Beppo on 1540 Broadway. The weekend concludes with a Sunday brunch at Duke’s Restaurant on 560 Third Avenue. More details can be found at http://alumniandfriends.org/news/2015-reunion. Questions? Contact Marlene Adler at madler77@gmail.com

LaGUARDIA ALUMNI for those who graduated in years ending in ”5” and ”0”

Each LaGuardia class is working separately on its own reunion. Details will be posted on A&F’s website as we receive them.

Honoring Drama Teacher Ruth Provet Koehler

Drama students at Performing Arts circa ’50s–’70s will remember Miss Provet. Her jet black hair pulled back tight in a severe bun, her exquisite delicate features always outlined precisely with eyeliner, mascara, and a dramatic red lipstick, trim and clothed in elegant black simplicity, her speech deep and precise with no hint of any accent (after all, she was our voice and diction teacher!). A dynamic and talented teacher, always with a listening ear and caring advice, she inspired us to do our best.

Miss Provet is still with us, living on the East Side. She proudly tells us that she is 90 years old and “fully intact.” Her two sons and grandchildren are in close touch with her. She stayed with the school when it moved to Lincoln Center, where she was wooed by and married Acting Principal Dr. Koehler, who passed away a few years ago after 20 years of marriage. A scholarship in her name at A&F supports drama students with training and other professional needs.

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LaGuardia Students Perform at Broadway’s Imperial Theater

The first Shubert Foundation High School Theatre Festival for New York City Public Schools took place on Monday, March 9th, at the Imperial Theater. LaGuardia’s *In the Heights* was selected as one of five outstanding high school theater productions. More than 100 talented students from five select New York City high schools made their Broadway debuts.

The event was hosted by Alex Sharp, acclaimed young star of the Broadway hit, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time*. Also attending were Chancellor Carmen Farina, Philip J. Smith and Robert E. Wankel, Chairman and President, respectively, of the Shubert Organization, and Michael I. Sovern, President of the Shubert Foundation.

Dance Students Perform at the Joyce Theater, NYC

On February 14, twenty LaGuardia dance majors performed *Ritual to the Sun from Acts of Light*, choreographed by Martha Graham to the *Helios Overture*, Opus 17, by Carl Nielsen. A&F sponsored this performance and our students did us proud. This showcase of high school and college talent was produced by the Martha Graham Dance Company and included students from Paul Taylor, Graham All-City, Graham 2, University of North Carolina, Adelphi University, and Montclair State University.

LaGuardia Students Support Lincoln Center Education

LaGuardia’s show choir performed at the LCE Gala with Brian Stokes Mitchell on March 11. They opened and closed the show with a repertoire that included: *Brand New You* by Jason Robert Brown from the musical *Thirteen*, *They Can’t Take That Away From Me* by George Gershwin, and *The Impossible Dream* from *Man of La Mancha* by Mitch Leigh.

More LaGuardia Student Celebrations

- The school’s boys varsity gymnastics team brought home the championship trophy, setting a record scoring 139.6 points and securing its fourth league championship. Captain Nicolas Cimino comes from a long line of alumni: his mother, aunt, sister, and cousin!
- A&F supports the school’s Science Olympiad team with annual grants. This year, our students placed highly in the Olympiad on February 7th: two students placed second in the Entomology category and two students placed third in the Compound Machines Category.
“Lyrics & Legacy” — Celebrating Alan and Marilyn (M&A ’45) Bergman

For over 50 years, Marilyn (M&A ’45) and Alan Bergman have written memorable lyrics in a career that has spanned the decades of the Great American Songbook, from “That Face” for Fred Astaire, to “How Do You Keep the Music Playing?” with Michel LeGrand, “Nice ‘n’ Easy” for Frank Sinatra, “The Way We Were” with Marvin Hamlisch, “Yentl” for Barbra Streisand, and more! These two Oscar and Emmy winners will be the third inductees into the LaGuardia Arts Hall of Fame. And, in honor of LaGuardia’s 30th Anniversary, A&F will present its first Alumni Leadership Award to esteemed news correspondent Alexis Christoforous, LaG ’88. To date, Ann Hampton Callaway, Stephen Schwartz, Paul Williams, Jessica Molaskey, John Pizzarelli, and our LaGuardia students are scheduled to perform. Stay tuned by going to www.laguardiahspa.org/2015 gala to learn about additional performers, or sponsor or donate to the event. Tickets are on sale now at www.http://bit.ly/ lagtix15. Buy yours before April 13 and you’ll receive the Friends & Family discount.

TEDx at LaGuardia High School

On February 11, LaGuardia High School presented its first TEDx (the “x” identifies this as an independently organized TED talk) event: Making an Impact – Taking What You Are Passionate About to Transform Your Community. The event was conceived and run by students and sponsored by A&F and the Parents Association. The evening included student performances, videos from other TED Talks, and presentations by Robert Hammond, co-founder of the High Line, political cartoonist Jennifer Camper, and Tauriq Johnson, founder of the Independent Theater Movement of South Africa, who started a prison Shakespeare program to help transform inmates. Congratulations to senior Chloe Wilson and faculty supervisor Sarah Falcove for a highly successful production. The event will be streamed on the TED website shortly; we will publish the link as soon as we receive it.

Young Alumni Fare Well on “The Voice” and “American Idol”

India Carney (LaG ’11), currently attending UCLA and a classically trained vocalist, made her debut on The Voice, singing Billy Joel’s New York State of Mind and earning standing ovations from all four coaches! She is competing on team Christina and continues to amaze the audience and the coaches each week. India was also a Presidential Medal winner at the YoungArts competition.

Qassim Middleton (LaG ’13), currently studying voice at The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, made his debut on American Idol. He has already made it to the top 8 guys! Qassim is just 18 years old.
Where Are We Now?


Risa Hirsch Ehrlich, M&A '51, had a solo show of her ceramic pieces at the Choplet Studios & Gallery in Brooklyn March 1-31. Her work was also accepted into “Women in the Heights” sponsored by the Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance, as well as the New Jersey Small Works Show and the New York-Tokyo Ceramic Artists Show (NYC). You can see Risa’s work at www.risaclayart.com.

Jonathan Tunick, M&A '54, is an orchestrator, musical director, and composer, and one of only twelve people to have won all four major American show business awards: the Tony Awards, Academy Awards, Emmy Awards and Grammy Awards. Special congratulations to Jonathan for his orchestration of *Into the Woods*.

Lee Apt, M&A '57, is a Fellow in the Model to Monument (M2M) Program, which is a partnership with the Art Students League of New York and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. This is an intensive public art seminar under master sculptor Greg Wyatt. The sculpture will go up in the Riverside Drive South Park in June 2015.

Patricia Wynne, M&A '57, received the Joe Hill Award from the Labor Heritage Foundation. Her book, *Singing Out and Fighting Back*, is in the Folk Life Archive at the Library of Congress. The group she is directing, Labor Chorus, recently performed at a retirement residence. In the audience, Patricia discovered her home-room teacher, Mr. Goldblum, who is now 102 years old and going strong! Patricia currently lives in California.

Daniel Morson, M&A '59, has lived in the Phoenix area for the past 10 years. He is a CPA with a practice in Arizona and New York and sings in The Phoenix Symphony Chorus. He is married to Diana, and has two sons and three grandchildren.

Marcia Drut-Davis, MA '60, says, "I’m proud to share my memoir, *Confessions of a Childfree Woman.*" It is doing well on Amazon.com. I have over 2,800 followers on my Facebook page and blog: http://www.childfreereflections.com/blog/. Supporting the choice to remain child-free, without the associated negative stigma, is my passion."

Elyce Wakerman, M&A '65, has published her first novel, *A Tale of Two Citizens* (available on Amazon.com and at local bookstores). This is an interfamily saga that spans the 1930s as an illegal immigrant and a zealous immigration official come into conflict over love, legalities, and what it means to be an American.

Marcia Annenberg, M&A '66, is a political artist, addressing key issues through her incisive eye. Marcia had a solo show, *News/Not News*, at the Fairleigh Dickinson University College Art Gallery from January 27-February 27, 2015. She also participated in a group exhibit, *Women Only*, at the Flomenhaft Gallery in NYC. Visit Marcia’s website at: www.mannenberg.com/.

Susan Laufer Bee, M&A '69, received a Guggenheim Fellowship in Fine Arts in 2014. She has had solo painting shows at A.I.R. Gallery and Accola Griefen Gallery in NYC. Susan teaches at Pratt Institute, the School of Visual Arts, and the University of Pennsylvania.

Daniel Schwartzman, M&A '72, has written a musical, *A Casual Gathering*, that has been accepted into the 2015 Thespis Theater Festival Competition and will be performed in August 2015. For performance schedule and times, go to: http://thespisnytheaterfestival.com/.

Nadine Orenstein, M&A '79, is the Drue Heinz curator in charge of the Department of Drawings and Prints at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. She will oversee the work of the depart-
Where are we NOW?

Please tell us what you’re up to—you can send us a note or email us at: info@alumniandfriends.org. Your fellow alumni would love to hear from you!

ment on upcoming exhibitions and installations on Fragonard, Hercules Seghers, Michelangelo, the legacy of drawings curators William Ivins and A. Hyatt Mayor, renaissance textile designs, and early European etchings.

Lenore (Leni) Goodman Ellenbogen, PA ’54, spent over 20 years as an actress in New York on TV dramas, commercials, and films, before earning a Masters in Psychology and working in that field. Recently she turned to writing; her memoir, Impossible Choices: A Mother’s Struggle to save her Daughters, includes her experience being accepted to and attending PA.

Diane Abrams Butchin, PA ’58, is currently working at the YMCA as an assistant teacher. Earlier, she worked for the NJ Department of Transportation for 14 years and retired in 2001.

Nicole Flender, PA ’75, is a licensed real estate salesperson, working at The Corcoran Group. Her son, Timothee Chalamet, graduated from LaGuardia in 2013.

Lorna M. O’Farrell, PA ’77, is Vice President of Operations at the Sherman Theater in Stroudsburg. She says she is “returning to my love of the arts.” Lorna has a strong relationship with the community and community leaders, working in the Public Speaking Bureau of New York City Emergency Medical Services as a Paramedic for NYC EMS, FDNY (9/11 rescuer) and Allentown EMS, as a Constituent Outreach Specialist for PA State Representatives Mario M. Scavello and Rosemary M. Brown. She was also Mt. Pocono Rotary President and currently is Co-Commander of Monroe County Joint Veterans Honor Guard, Chair of Monroe County Veterans Association, and on the Board of the Red Cross of the Poconos.

Michael H. Perlman, LaG ’00, is a writer, columnist, editor, public relations consultant, and a native Forest Hills resident. He is chairman of the Rego Forest Preservation Council and a recipient of the Historic District Council’s 2014 Grassroots Preservation Award. His pursuits range from singing in Carnegie Hall to photography, graphic design, and tree giveaway events. He recently wrote a book, Legendary Locals of Forest Hills and Rego Park. Readers will discover the unique stories of over 200 Forest Hills and Rego Park notables, including celebrities who have shaped its culture and history. The book is available on Amazon.com

Tito Muñoz, LaG ’01, was recently appointed Music Director of The Phoenix Symphony Orchestra. He previously served as a Music Director of the Opéra National de Lorraine and the Orchestre Symphonique et Lyrique de Nancy in France. To read more about Maestro Muñoz, go to: https://www.phoenixsymphony.org/musicians/tito-munoz-music-director.

Oliver Houser, LaG ’11, is a New York-based actor, composer/lyricist, and a member of the BMI Musical Theatre workshop. His acclaimed musical, Held Momentarily, for which he wrote book, music and lyrics, with additional material by James Zebooker, was included in the 2014 NY International Fringe Festival. This was followed by an extended Off-Broadway run at the SoHo Playhouse in September 2014 as part of the Fringe’s Encores series. The play has now been invited to the NY Music Theater Festival. To read more about Oliver, go to: http://www.oliverhouser.com/

Ansel Elgort, LaG ’12, is starring in the movie sequel to Divergent, called Insurgent.

Alessandra Rao, LaG ’12, a graphic designer, recently started her own design firm, White Cube Media. For more information and work samples, visit: www.whitecubemedia.com.
In Memoriam

A&F was recently informed about the passing of the following classmates. This list included notifications we received from January 31 through March 31, 2015. We deeply regret the loss of our alumni and friends and send our condolences to the families of those who have passed.

Ezra Laderman, M&A ’41S, was an American composer who became widely known for his 1993 opera, Marilyn, which chronicled the waning days of Marilyn Monroe. He died on March 1, 2015 at age 90, at his home in New Haven. He was named Dean at the Yale School of Music in 1989 and served in that position to 1995; he was also winner of the graduation award for music at M&A. His obituary is at: http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/05/arts/music/ezra-laderman-90-weaver-of-eclectic-marilyn-opera.html?ref=obituaries

Robert Goldstein Gardiner, M&A ’47W

Joan Gray, M&A ’51S

Paul Reisch, M&A ’52S, was a beloved and influential English teacher at Performing Arts, Music & Art, and LaGuardia, and later a guidance counselor. He passed away in February 2015. To read Dr. Reisch’s memorial page, please go to: http://www.riversidememorial-chapel.com/guestbook/show/2091?PHPSESSID=4351a5333eb9f9d96af43cf039e4ff

Louis Cicardo, M&A ’53S, passed away January 29, 2015. He was a respected and well-known artist in Cary, North Carolina. Louis is survived by Vincent Montilli, his spouse of 41 years, daughters Luann, Cindy, Laura, and his six grandchildren. To see his artwork, visit: http://fineartamerica.com/profiles/lou-cicardo.html

Emanuel Fineberg, M&A ’54S, a regular attendee at most of the reunions. Manny cherished his classmates and his time at M&A. He went on to become a championship fencer and an inductee to the CCNY Athletic Hall of Fame as both fencer & coach (2009). Manny’s passion led him to become a school Ph.D. psychologist in NYC for 32 years. His legacy lives on through his son & family.

Dorothy Hill Klotzman, M&A ’54S, passed away December 6, 2014. After studying music at M&A, she received a B.S. and M.S. in composition from The Juilliard School. She taught at Brooklyn College for nearly three decades, serving as music chairperson from 1971 to 1989. After her retirement, Dorothy moved to Seattle, Washington, where in 1997 she became a co-founder of the Academy of Music Northwest. The Conservatory of Music at Brooklyn College has established the Dorothy Hill Klotzman Scholarship in her memory.

Bevans Bradford, M&A ’58

John Gampert, M&A ’58, an artist, illustrator, and beloved teacher, passed away after a valiant fight against multiple myeloma. Besides his wife, Joan, and his family, his great loves in life were painting, traveling, jazz music, playing the trombone, and gardening.

Hubert Berberich, M&A ’64

James Daughtry, M&A ’64

Bonnie F. Polansky Lance-Farnsworth, M&A ’64

Rose Lieberman, M&A ’64

Polly Mcgraw, M&A ’64

Lynn Ossa, M&A ’64

Blossom Werblood Ungar, M&A ’64

Robert DeGaetano, PA ’64

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni & Friends of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts

11
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