



It won't be official for another three weeks (yes, March 20th is the first day of spring) but we're calling it! We've got spring fever and lots of news -- including ways for you to spring into action. (Sorry, we couldn't resist!)

### The promise of spring is in the air!



The scaffolding surrounding the building has finally been removed - after almost a decade - and the sun is shining into the classrooms. Warmth is returning, green shoots are reappearing, and there's a sense of renewal and reconnection, which brings us to...

### Our Reunion on June 11th, 2016!



Check out the Reunion section on our new website! Just click on the button above, or go to: <https://alumniandfriends.org/reunions>



The reunion on June 11th is for **all graduation years ending in "1" and "6"** and **all M&A Founding Classes from 1940 - 1949**.

Information will continue to be updated as we get closer to the date. Remember to "like" our Facebook page in order to get reunion updates. Click on the button to the left, or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/AlumniandFriends>

Formal invitations will be sent out in April with more details.

If you have any questions, or if you want to make sure that we have your most up-to-date contact information, please call us at 212-595-1301 or email us at [Reunion2016@alumniandfriends.org](mailto:Reunion2016@alumniandfriends.org)



## Getting to Know You (& Vice Versa)

We're looking forward to meeting many of you over the course of this year; in return, we'd like to bring you up to date and introduce ourselves.

We're saying goodbye to **Barbara Engel**, A&F's Executive Director for over five years, who has resigned. Barbara is a proud alumna of Music & Art, one of LaGuardia's predecessor schools, and led the A&F organization with tremendous energy and dedication. She accomplished a great deal during her time with A&F and we wish her the very best. Barbara looks forward to continuing to see the many friends she had the privilege of making within the LaGuardia community, as well as to attending future school performances.

In the position of Director of Alumni & Donor Relations, we have **Zoe Schneider**, LaGuardia '89 Alum in Vocal Music. Zoe has worked with A&F since 1999 as a volunteer and class leader, and recently returned to join the A&F office team.

As Special Events Coordinator, we have **Leigh Woods**, LaGuardia '89 Alum in Art. Leigh is the most recent addition to A&F.

Finally, as Membership, Database, and Technology Manager, we have **Robindra Deb**, who has been part of A&F for the past six years.

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## In the News

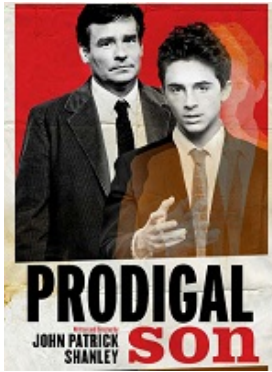
If you pick up a copy of the February 2016 edition of *Vogue*, you'll find an article by our own **Isaac Mizrahi (PA '79)** chronicling his journey to the world of fashion design. *Where did it all begin?* You can probably guess, but here are the first two paragraphs of his story.

**"When I was a junior in the drama department of New York's High School of Performing Arts, I was in the acting program. But as much as I loved the theater and being on stage, I was terrified. Two years previously I had lost 75 pounds and gone from being a fat kid to a skinny teenager with a fragile self-image. While the other students in my class were making plans to go on to Juilliard and SUNY Purchase and become movie stars, I was at a crossroads. I thought if I dared to pursue a career in the theater, I would end up at best a fat (again) character actor without much work. I pictured myself being rejected again and again, and finally languishing.**

**That same year I was recruited by one of the drama teachers to help make the costumes for the senior production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Oberon was so handsome I had to avert my eyes during fittings, and Titania was as pretty as you could imagine - and so smart, the way Titania should be. It was a great experience. A career as a costume designer was a tangible alternative to a life on the stage. It was a way to get a whiff of the greasepaint without being hurt by the roaring of the crowd."**

Wow! And - because you know we're always on the lookout for fabulous events for you - **on Friday, March 18th, the first retrospective of Isaac's career will open**

at the Jewish Museum. It runs through August 7, 2016 and it will be a blockbuster!



**Timothee Chalamet (LaG '13)** is receiving rave reviews in John Patrick Shanley's autobiographical play *Prodigal Son*. This is Timothee's New York stage debut, **and the show is only running through March 27th!** For more information **and to get discounted tickets while they last**, click [HERE](#) or go to: <https://alumniandfriends.org/news>

And if you haven't read it already, click [HERE](#) for an article on **Sarah Paulson (LaG '93)** in Thursday's *New York Times*. Look for a shout-out to LaGuardia!

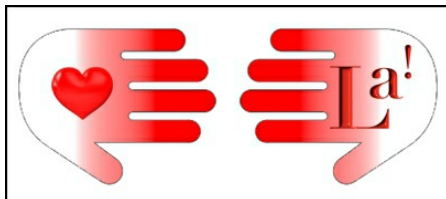


## Giving Back

**Sydell (Syd) Lerner Hertz (M&A '47)** passed away on February 10th, 2016. Following graduation from M&A, Syd attended the Fashion Institute of Technology and Design. After working briefly in the fashion industry she opened a children's boutique, and eventually became a real estate broker. In recent years she had several exhibitions of her oil paintings.



The family has asked that any donations in her honor be made to the **Art Angel Fund** and sent to: **Alumni and Friends of LaGuardia High School, Art Angel Fund - Sydell Hertz, 100 Amsterdam Avenue, Room 853, NY, NY 10023**. The Art Angel Fund was established in 1992 in honor of **Barbara White Fishman, M&A '57**. The Fund provides money for art supplies during the school year to those students who could not otherwise afford them.



## 3 New Grants!

We would like to thank the following for their generosity:

**The Frederick Loewe Foundation** for \$10,000 to directly support the Drama Department's annual departmental musical. Part of the mission of the Frederick Loewe Foundation is to support and nurture the current and future American musical theater, and there is no better place to accomplish that goal than LaGuardia Arts HS!

**The Lotos Foundation** for the Louis Padovano Scholarship in the amount of \$7,500 to the Dance Studio. Each year, the Foundation honors outstanding programs in the arts and sciences as part of their ongoing commitment to enhance the cultural life of New York City. Providing support through Alumni & Friends of LaGuardia is a cherished aspect of that commitment.

**Harlequin Floors** for their donation of marley flooring (valued at \$11,000) to the Dance Studio, allowing A&F to replace the hardwood floor in one of our dance studios.

# Ladies and Gentlemen, please take your seats.



No, seriously -- we're inviting each and every one of you to **Take a Seat!**

You don't want to wait; ***nearly 200 alumni and friends have already purchased plaques in LaGuardia's Concert Hall!*** Each plaque is affixed to a seat; you can get one for yourself, in honor of someone you love, or to remember someone in a meaningful way. **What an amazing way to say thank you to a parent who has been in that seat for every performance, a student who has blossomed at the school, or a teacher who has guided that student!**

**Click on the button below *now* and get the form to fill out!**



Or if you prefer, go to <https://alumniandfriends.org/give> and scroll down to select **Take a Seat**. Do it now, and your plaque could be rubbing shoulders with Arthur Mitchell, Larry Silverstein, Eric LaGuardia, Suzanne Vega or any of the many other alumni and friends who have purchased their own seat plaques!

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## Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

**Senior Art Show #2** - March 4th, 4:00 to 7:00 PM at LaGuardia H.S.

**Senior Jazz Concert** - March 4th, 7:30 PM at LaGuardia H.S.

**Spring Drama Festival #1 *Don't Drink the Water*** - March 17th - 19th at 7:30 PM;  
March 20th at 5:00 PM at LaGuardia H.S.

**Senior Art Show #3** - March 18th, 4:00 to 7:00 PM at LaGuardia H.S.

**Choral Concert** - March 22nd, 7:30 PM at Riverside Church

**Annual Opera *Orpheus Descending*** - March 31st - April 2nd at 7:30 PM; April 3rd at  
2:00 PM at LaGuardia H.S.

[See more events on the A&F calendar](#)