



# THE NEWSLETTER

## DEWITT CLINTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.dewittclintonalumni.com

DWCAlumni@aol.com

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### On Keeping the DWC Alumni Association Ferocious



John Barbarette '64

During times of hardship, we get to show what kind of people we really are. Do we go off and sit in the corner, feel sorry for ourselves and do nothing? Or do we come out into the center of life, refuse to give up and join with others of like mind to save our world? Well, because you went to Clinton, you know what our choice has to be when *alma mater* is in need. DWC is not your ordinary high school, and you know that it has survived and prospered during the most challenging of times because of the efforts of extraordinary leaders, staff, pupils, parents and alumni.

Remember James Monroe HS, Morris HS, Theodore Roosevelt HS, Evander Childs HS, Walton HS, JFK HS, Christopher Columbus HS, Adlai E. Stevenson HS, Samuel Gompers HS and William H. Taft HS. None of these Bronx high schools still exist. Their buildings might have their namesakes over the front door, but there is no specific high school in the building with that name. *We must never let that happen to DeWitt Clinton High School.*

But as you know, the struggles seem never to end. For the past nine months, our nation has faced the horrors of the Covid-19 epidemic. Businesses have closed their doors for good. Schools of all sorts will not survive. *We must never let that happen to DeWitt Clinton High School.* That is why the Association has provided DWC with funds to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE). We are ready to do more.

The Alumni Association humbly submits that it has had a role in keeping DWCHS among the living. But our ability to fight the good fight is greatly based on the public perception of just how strong our Association is. Without the physical and financial support of its members, the Association would be perceived as a puppy chasing its own tail. It is your involvement in the Association that keeps it ferocious and ready to fight off those who would destroy public education.

Speaking of the Association, two years ago it proposed the DWC Faculty Hall of Honor. In 2018 and 2019, we inducted 53 living retired faculty members with at least 20 years of full-time service, along with 16 faculty members who were present the day the school opened on September 13, 1897. While we cannot set the date for the 2020 ceremony, we would like to finalize the list of inductees. Please go to page 9 in this Newsletter to see how you might help us complete the list.

Many celebrations throughout our country have been cancelled through the summer of 2021. **Our May 20, 2021 Annual Alumni Dinner is still scheduled to take place. In February 2021, we will make the decision to cancel or go on with the dinner.** We will not make dinner or journal forms available until the decision has been made.

In the meanwhile, enjoy this Newsletter and check out page 15. It will be to your credit and ours.

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- ◆ Stay current with the DeWitt Clinton Community.
- ◆ Download this *Newsletter* in color.
- ◆ Download the 64-page booklet *DWCHS Notable Alumni*, 2021 edition coming in January.

## The Importance of the Man and His School

In casting a view over the civilized world, we find a universal accordance in opinion on the benefits of education, but the practical exposition of this opinion exhibits a deplorable contrast. While magnificent colleges and universities are erected and endowed and dedicated to literature, we behold few liberal appropriations for diffusing the blessings of knowledge among all descriptions of people. The fundamental error of Europe has been to confine the light of knowledge to the wealthy and the great, while the humble and the depressed have been as sedulously excluded from its participation, as the wretched criminal, immured in a dungeon, is from the light of heaven.

DeWitt Clinton, Mayor of New York City, 1809



*DeWitt Clinton*  
*W. H. Powell (1854, oil)*  
*DeWitt Clinton High School Museum*  
*Bronx, New York*

The story of DeWitt Clinton High School begins with DeWitt Clinton, the man. Though born of privilege in Little Britain, New York, in 1769, Clinton did not view education as the exclusive right of the privileged. For him, free education for all children was a necessity if the American experiment in democracy were to succeed. His motivation was a strongly held belief that ignorance fostered bad government, disrespect for the rule of law, and crime, and that the way to turn children into law abiding, productive citizens was to remove their ignorance.

The educational reputation of a nation should depend not on the success of its specialized, financially endowed schools, but on its commitment to every school. Any society can establish a privileged school. In 1809, Gov. DeWitt Clinton warned against educating only the elite. He advocated a school system where all children would be educated to the best of their ability.

From the “barn” on 13th Street in Manhattan to the castle-on-the-parkway in the Bronx, DeWitt Clinton High School has benefited from and contributed to the greatness that is America. Along its journey of more than a century, the school has taken a few bruises and given a few, but in its classrooms and club rooms and on its athletic fields has been the most truly representative sampling of all of America’s children.

The key to DeWitt Clinton High School’s achievements has been its willingness to educate all and still produce the best. For that, Governor DeWitt Clinton would be most proud.

Excerpts: Gerard J. Pelisson and James A. Garvey III, *The Castle on the Parkway* (New York: Hutch Press, 2012.)

# Principal's Update

November 10, 2020

Dear DWC Alumni,

Thank you for your constant support, as we all show great levels of perseverance and flexibility during hybrid learning at DWC. This school year has opened up with very few answers for how to adapt, but like every other school we had to find a way. We were challenged with an open policy that allowed staff to attain medical accommodations at any time, which creates a hole to be filled in person for students who elect to come to school. There were restrictions places on how teachers could engage students online and unrealistic methods of having remote teachers teach remote students only. But despite all this, we came together and forged a schedule and instructional models that provide students who are remote or in-person with solid 45 minute instructional periods that happen from periods 1-7.

Our building remains sterile, as each day there are only 20-40 students who come for in-person instruction, while the remainder of the school remains at home remote and synchronous.



*Pierre Orbe*  
Principal

*Steven Deep*  
APC

*Felicia Bray*  
AP Guidance

*Carrie Neset*  
AP Macy/History

*Preya Singh*  
AP ELA/ENL

*Corey Beder*  
AP Special Education

*Brandon Weinberg*  
AP Science

*Jennifer Lovejoy*  
AP Math



Wearing masks, maintaining proper distancing, keeping windows open for proper ventilation --parts of our efforts to keep everyone safe.

Please see Marking Period 1 passing rates by Department:

ELA	Social Studies	Math	Science	Foreign Language	Visual Arts	Dance	Music	Physical Education
85.86%	81.77%	88.89%	74.33%	71.94%	69.71%	69.57%	80.54%	94.01%

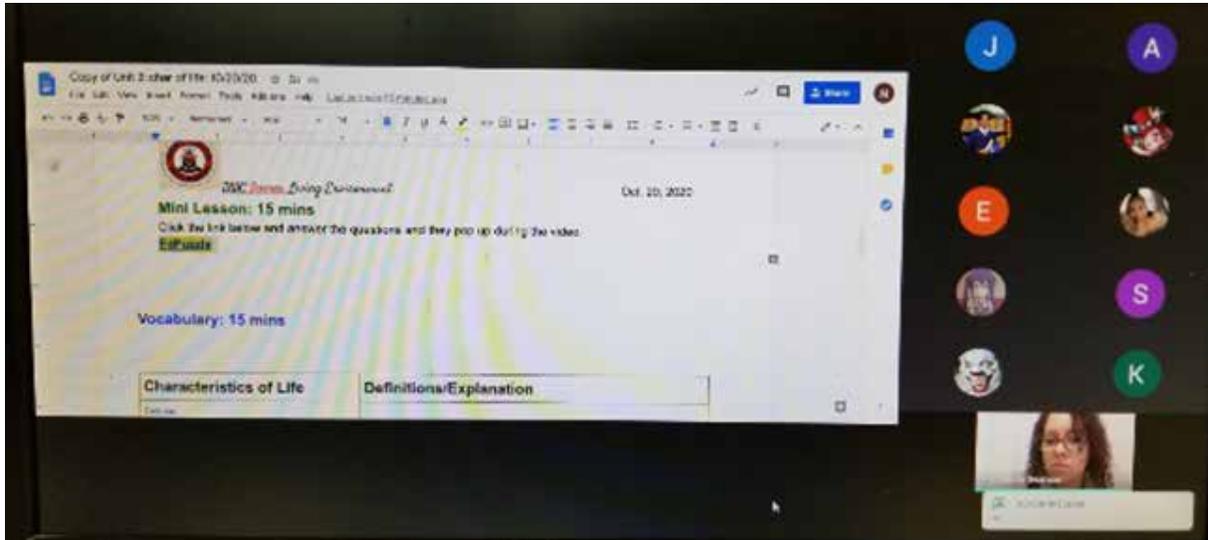
After reviewing all of the data, we have concluded that this current system is “working” for many students but not for all. Remote learning is by no means perfect, nor ideal for engaging students instructionally and socially. There is no replacing what true in-person school does for students developmentally. Despite our high attendance in synchronous classes, it’s hard to determine how “present” students really are. We are constantly refining remote learning to make classes more socially interactive. But we cannot ignore those who are struggling to adjust and would benefit from in- person attention. To that end, we are going to adjust our current structure into a new one called “**Plan B.**”

In **Plan B**, we are focused on working with students who have struggled remotely by providing in-person teacher support. The total number of students who require this support is nearly 175 individuals, and they will come twice a week. During this time,

(Continued on pages 4 & 5)

# Principal's Update

they will learn how to organize themselves and target high leverage tasks that will ensure they can get back on track. But there are limitations because not all students will come since we cannot mandate that they attend if they are remote students. Other students who are passing their classes and still elect to come in will still be allowed to do so.



This is what a computer screen looks like in a google meeting space where classes happen virtually. You can see the icons for the students and the teacher with her camera on.

Our second marking period will have other supports in place in addition:

- **After School Virtual Targeted Tutoring**
- **After School Virtual PSAT/SAT Prep Program** – This new program is by invite to students who have been DWC VIPs. These students have demonstrated College Ready Averages, High Attendance, and On-Track Regents Exam Passing. Hence we have rewarded them with Free SAT Prep that will prepare them for the PSAT on January 26, which can qualify them for National Merit Finalist Scholarships. In addition, this will help ensure they achieve the highest SAT scores possible so they can apply to Top Universities.
- **After School Virtual Clubs**

We are also providing a facelift to the school's official website: [dewittclintonhs.com](http://dewittclintonhs.com). (See right for the new website's home page.) There has already been improvements made, so please stop by as we prepare for our recruitment season. You can access our Governor's Radio Podcast from this website also. In addition, we have developed a virtual video tour and promotional videos that will be coming soon to the website. And finally, we are making great strides this year in our Career and Technical Education Program applications for Dance, Music Production, Printmaking, and Agriculture. Our teachers are applying now and we're confident they will receive their CTE teaching certifications that will help get these programs certified. Having these programs, CTE certified means:



# Principal's Update

“CTE refers to courses and programs designed to prepare students for careers in current or emerging professions. At the high school level, CTE provides students with opportunities to explore a career theme of interest while learning a set of technical and employability skills that integrate into or complement their academic studies. High school CTE is meant to connect with and lead to postsecondary programs of study or additional training after high school, which may include more specialized technical instruction. These pathways can culminate in postsecondary degrees or certificates, apprenticeships, or employment.”

We are developing industry partnerships with groups for each program. We are proud to work with the Teens for Food Justice on this CTE program that will transform health into Health and Agriculture. In this program our students will gain agricultural skills to gain employment in either field. In addition, students will continue to take college credit bearing courses in biomedical sciences. There will be more coming soon, so stay tuned.

I hope everyone is taking care of yourselves and those around you. We continue to do everything to move our community forward and thank all of our alumni for their endless support.

Kind Regards,



Mr. Pierre Orbe  
Principal

*Sine Labore Nihil – Nothing is accomplished without Hard Work*

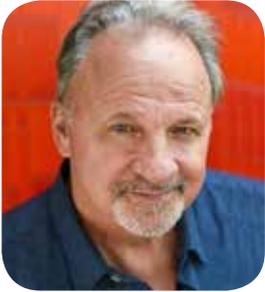
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## DeWitt Clinton High School Administration Teamwork





**Barry Rothfeld '67** retired in June 2015 after 11 years as president and publisher of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* and 42 years with the Gannett Co., Inc. He was honored as Gannett's "Publisher of the Year" in 2009. But as they say in his profession, "That's old news." It is what he has done since retirement that draws our present attention. He more than exemplifies the virtue of giving back. In retirement, he has remained involved in the community, taking on such responsibilities as chair position of the United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region, second vice chair of the Vassar Brothers Medical Center, member of the board of the Half Moon Theatre as well as the Council of Advisors for Pattern for Progress and the Bardavon Theater. Rothfeld has also found himself in front of a classroom as a teacher at Marist College for Lifetime Studies.



**Steward J. Zully '72** has been interpreting the words of screenwriters and other authors for decades. His credits going back to 1986 include roles in *Under Secretary*; *Law & Order*; *The Sopranos*; *Columbo*; *Malcolm X* (feature film); *Murder, She Wrote*; and *Hill Street Blues*. But ultimately, Zully wanted to do more than interpret other people's words. He wanted to be the author. On December 28, 2018, he published *My Life in Yankee Stadium: 40 Years As a Vendor and Other Tales of Growing Up Somewhat Sane*. The title says it all. At age fifteen, he began tossing peanuts at New York Giants football games and ended up vending for more than 2500 events, including playoff and World Series games, no-hitters, a Muhammad Ali heavyweight fight, a visit from the Pope, and, of course, the legendary Red Sox-Yankee rivalry.



**Byron Knox '77** was named on September 9, 2020, as head coach of the Southern Connecticut State University women's gymnastics program. Previously, Knox had coached gymnastics for 16 seasons at the University of Bridgeport. During that time, Bridgeport won six national championships and Knox was a four-time USA Gymnastics National Coach of the Year (2009, 2010, 2012, 2013). From 1977 to 1982, Knox had excelled in gymnastics as a student at Southern Connecticut. So his return this past September 9 was a fulfilling trip down memory lane. As for becoming involved with gymnastics, he will tell you that he had the good fortune to meet up with Coach Traetta at Clinton, who incited in him a passion in gymnastics. It did not hurt that his Clinton teammates included Mario McCutcheon and Wallace Miller (see page 11).



**Anthony Espinosa '80** is the 2020 recipient of the Corrections Person of the Year award by the Minnesota Corrections Association. Espinosa has served as a corrections officer for over 18 years at MCF-Stillwater. He is certified in crisis intervention training and is a transition from prison to community specialist. He has proudly served as a member of the MCF-Stillwater Honor Guard for the past 8 years and coordinates the annual Toys for Tots fundraiser at the facility. He helped to launch a men's support group called Stand Up that is co-facilitated by officers and incarcerated men. He also coordinated a series of multi-cultural events for the incarcerated men that brought community leaders, political figures, and artists into the facility to bring a positive message and hope to the men. His latest effort, Art from the Inside, seeks to empower incarcerated artists to experience personal transformation and restoration.



**Qendresa Beqiri '05** (in her own words)

I came to this country when I was 10 years old, as a Kosovar Albanian in the year 1999. I went to school at MS80, then to DeWitt Clinton High School. I met other Kosovar Albanians as well as other friends from all over the world. DeWitt Clinton always felt like home. Every professor I had was beyond amazing and supported me 100% in my dreams and aspirations. I am still in touch with my friends from DeWitt Clinton. They are what I consider my friends and family for life. Nothing could have prepared me like DeWitt Clinton did to face the challenges of the world. My parents were my main inspiration as they sacrificed and worked very hard for me and my brothers to prioritize education above all else. DeWitt Clinton also provided me opportunities for a full scholarship to Middlebury College where I earned a bachelor's degree in science. Afterwards I went to Quinnipiac University where I received my doctorate as a nurse practitioner. I now work in gastrointestinal health at Yale Hospital. The love and acceptance I felt at DeWitt Clinton are the reasons I am where I am today and the person I am today.

## Books By or About Clintonites

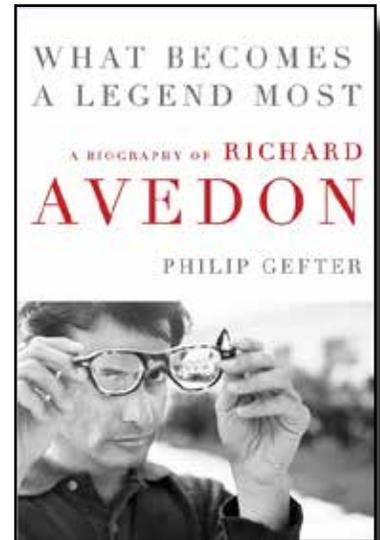
### *What Becomes a Legend Most: A Biography of Richard Avedon* – by Philip Gefter

Richard Avedon, DWC class of 1941, went from a shy youngster who stuttered to one of the most consequential photographers of his time.

*What Becomes a Legend Most* is the first definitive biography of this luminary—an intensely driven man who endured personal and professional prejudice, struggled with deep insecurities, and mounted an existential lifelong battle to be recognized as an artist. Philip Gefter builds on archival research and exclusive interviews with those closest to Avedon to chronicle his story, beginning with Avedon’s coming-of-age in New York between the world wars, when cultural prejudices forced him to make decisions that shaped the course of his life.

"DeWitt Clinton High School plays an important role in creating the bond between Avedon and future author James Baldwin that will last until Baldwin's death in 1987. They both worked on the school's art and literary *Magpie* magazine, spending countless hours in its office in the tower of the school. We know from Avedon's own words that the tower was his favorite place in the world."  
 – Gerard Pelisson, Newsletter editor

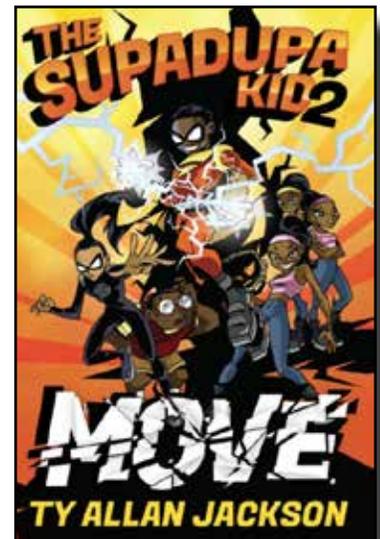
Hardcover: 672 pages    Printer: Harper (October 13, 2020)    ISBN-13: 978-0062442710



### *The Supadupa Kid 2 - MOVE* - by Ty Allan Jackson, DWC class of 1985

First came *The Supadupa Kid* in 2012. Now comes *The Supadupa Kid 2 - MOVE*, where our teen superhero SDK faces the villainous Dark Matter, who possesses the power to control gravity and invisibility. SDK, along with best friend/genius Ronald and new sidekick Muévete, take up the challenge.

Author Ty Allan Jackson broadens The Supadupa Kid universe by introducing a new Latina superhero sidekick, Maya Gonzalez. Maya, a.k.a. Muévete (Spanish for MOVE,) has the power of telekinesis after she was gifted an ancient artifact from the Maya Civilization. This sequel to *The Supadupa Kid* is a fun adventure packed with humor, drama, and plenty of action.



Paperback : 163 pages  
 ISBN-13 : 978-0578706863  
 Publisher : Big Head Books;  
 First edition (July 21, 2020)

Learn more about Ty Allen Jackson's goal to inspire youngsters to "READ OR ELSE" at <https://tyallan.jackson.com/>

### *Billie Holiday and Cafe Society's People*

– by Shoko Ikuno

Any meaningful biography about singer Billie Holiday will include a portrait of Abel Meeropol, DWC class of 1922. It was while Meeropol was a teacher at Clinton that he wrote a song protesting Black lynchings and gave it to Holiday to record and perform. TIME magazine called "Strange Fruit" the greatest song of the 20th century. Billie Holiday was its greatest interpreter, and while *Billie Holiday and Cafe Society's People* tells the complete story of this chanteuse, Clintonites have to be thrilled to see the castle on the parkway given its photographic due in the Japanese language. Let us hope for an English translation.

Softcover: 302 pages    ISBN: 978-4-7917-7314-5  
 Printed in Japanese (October 8, 2020)



Note: All the comments in "Books By or About Clintonites" come from publishers or authors, unless otherwise indicated.

## *Magic Moments from DWC's Sports History -- Inspiration for the Future*

*Baseball Basketball Bowling Cheerleading Cricket Cross Country Flag Football Football Gymnastics  
Handball Indoor Track Outdoor Track Rifle Soccer Softball Swimming Tennis Volleyball Wrestling*

In April 30, 1898, DeWitt Clinton (then called Boys' High of Manhattan) held its first indoor track meet at a Manhattan riding academy. Events included a one-third mile run, "potato" relay, tug of war, wand twisting contest and a ten yard run.

On November 11, 1903, DWC footballers played Boys' High of Brooklyn to a 5-5 tie. Touchdowns were still worth five points.

In 1905, DWC's track team won its first city championship under PSAL rules. The school also began awarding the letter "C" to its star athletes.

**In 1905, DWC's first rifle team won the prestigious PSAL Whitney Trophy with 377 out of a possible 400 points. President Theodore Roosevelt, impressed with DWC's performance, pledged to support the growing schoolboy athletic movement.**

In 1911, DWC's athletic teams won PSAL championships in swimming, track and rifle while the basketball team won the greater New York championship.



DWC's ice hockey team won the PSAL championship (1913).

In both his junior and senior years (1914-1916), **Jackson Power** was captain of the football, baseball and hockey teams.

**In 1922, Charlie Major became the national scholastic high school high jump record holder.**

**On March 20, 1926, the Governors, as DWC's athletic teams were now nicknamed, won the PSAL basketball championship. George Gregory (seated far left) and George "Red" Wolfe (seated third from left) led the cagers to a 28-25 victory over Thomas Jefferson High School. Wolfe would become the father of DWC teacher Nessa Wolfe Baum Kaplan.**



On November 25, 1926, DWC played Commerce High School at the Thanksgiving Day football game at Yankee Stadium. The play-by-play was aired on WGBS, giving DWC and Commerce the distinction of playing the first high school football game to be broadcast. DWC won, 7-0, before a crowd of 25,000. This was the first season that touchdowns were worth six points.

In April 1927, swimmer **George Kojac** set the world record in the 150 yard backstroke in 1:39.2 minutes, defeating future Tarzan star Johnny Weissmuller by almost three seconds. Kojac credited his victory to his mother's beef and cabbage soup.

On June 1, 1931, **Frank "Dutch" Falatico** pitched and won both baseball games of a doubleheader against Theodore Roosevelt High School, 2-1 and 4-2. Future Negro Leaguer **Cleffie Fennar** appeared in the box score playing third base for Clinton.

In 1932, **Richard Condon** ignored doctor's orders to rest and swam against Stuyvesant High School. He won his backstroke race by one stroke. This was the second season in a row in which he did not lose a race in a dual meet. He will author *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Prizzi's Honor*.



**On January 5, 1935, trackster Ted Ellison set a new world's record for the 80 meter dash in 8.8 seconds at the 106th Regiment Armory in Brooklyn. Two months later he set the indoor world record in the 220 yard dash in 22.2 seconds at the 13th Regiment Armory in Brooklyn.**

In 1937, **Ralph Kaplowitz** and **Leo Gottlieb** led DWC to the PSAL basketball championship before 4,500 fans at the 102nd Engineers Armory. The Clinton five defeated Seward Park High School, 35-32.

On March 24, 1945 DeWitt Clinton's basketball team won the PSAL championship by defeating Seward Park, 35-24, before 12,000 fans at Madison Square Garden. Missing from the team was 16-year-old **Dolph Schayes** who had graduated from Clinton in January and joined the NYU basketball team a week later.

In 1952, DWC's fencing team won the PSAL title.

In 1953, pitcher **Joey Laspagnoletta** led the DWC baseball team, coached by **William Trulio**, to its first PSAL championship.

**Between 1954 and 1990, Joe Prezioso coached 201 football games for the Governors. His career totals were 134 wins, 62 losses, 5 ties. His only city championship came in 1957 as handball coach.**

On October 5, 1954, DWC lost to Cardinal Hayes, 32-7, before 8,000 fans in the first ever night high school football game played at Randall's Island.

In 1955, DWC won the PSAL bowling championship defeating Brooklyn Tech at Manhattan's Roxy Lanes.

On March 22, 1958, DWC's basketball team, coached by **Henry "Hank" Jacobsohn '26**, won the PSAL championship, defeating Boys' High, 52-41, before 8,000 fans at Madison Square Garden. **Jerry Harkness** was the game's leading scorer with 14 points.

On January 17, 1960, **Gary Gubner** was featured in the *New York Times* as a schoolboy champion shot putter who had difficulty finding a gym with a ceiling high enough to contain his tosses. Often the 12-pound shot destroyed lighting fixtures and dented walls. In 1960, he set the shot put mark of 65'7", which remains the all-time PSAL record.

On May 9, 1965, **Bill McClellon** set a national record in high jump at 6'11 3/4" at the Mount St. Michael Games at Randall's Island. On June 27 at the AAU national championships in San Diego, he became the first schoolboy ever to jump 7 feet.

In 1973, **Victor Rosario**, though missing most of his right arm, was selected by Coach **Leonard Starin '35** to play outfield on the DWC baseball team. Fans of the opponent teams would applaud his great catches. Rosario went on to create the One Arm Bandits, a softball team of worldwide repute for young people missing an arm or part of an arm.

In 1975, DWC baseball, led by pitcher **Rolando Acosta** and third baseman **Steve Muccio**, defeated Lafayette, 2-0, at Shea Stadium to win the PSAL title. Acosta's win was his 14th of the season.

**In 1976, Mario McCutcheon (left) and Wallace Miller led DWC's gymnastics team to its 88th consecutive meet win and 10th consecutive PSAL championship. During John Traetta's ten years of coaching gymnastics, all his teams were undefeated.**

In 1976, **Oscar Mena** led the DWC soccer team, coached by **Dennis Brennan**, to the PSAL championship, defeating Lafayette High, 1-0, at Columbia.

In 1977, DWC's basketball team, coached by **Arthur Epstein** and led by **Mike Napolitano's** 26 points, defeated McKee High School, 73-67, to win the PSAL championship.

In 1978, **Nestor Santiago** was the PSAL singles handball champion, having been the PSAL doubles handball champion in 1975. He thus became the first player to win both titles.

In 1989, the Clinton boys' volleyball team, coached by **John Wyles**, won the PSAL championship (1989). Between 1990 and 1994, Wyles's teams amassed five more titles in consecutive seasons, the girls winning three in fall competition, the boys winning two in the spring.

In 1991, **Sam Garnes** set the DWC record for receptions to date as the Governors won the Bronx championship football title.



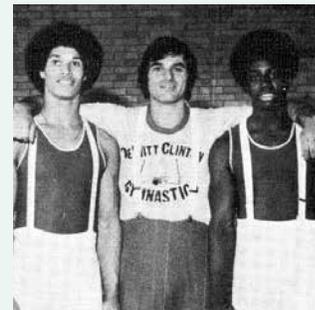
**In 1999, Simona Burgess, twice named all-city basketball player, became the all-time leading female scorer in DWC history with 1,631 points.**

In 2008, DeWitt Clinton's cricket team, coached by **Ray Ramirez**, ended its first season with 8 wins and 4 losses, losing in the second round of the playoffs to John Adams High School by a score of 63-62.

In 2008, Clinton's boys' bowling team, coached by **Mark Morey**, finished the regular season undefeated with a record of 12-0, becoming the Bronx champions.

In 2014-2015, cheerleading became an official PSAL sport, with **Lisa Benton** as its first advisor/coach. (See page 16.)

In December 2019, **Cornel Johnson '77** was inducted into the New York Armory Track Hall of Fame. Johnson has coached both track and football at his alma mater DeWitt Clinton since 1983. When the school began admitting girls in the second year of his football tenure, Johnson was instrumental in starting the girls' track program. Coaching track quickly evolved into Johnson's passion, and his teams have won 51 Bronx championships, along with eight New York City championships. In addition, he has coached 39 individual city champions, 21 state medalists, and 20 All-Americans.



**Victor Fuchs '41**—I am working on a study “What Determines Changes in U. S. Health Care Expenditures?” I meet by zoom every week with my children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Bernard Handel '42**—World War II veteran, Pacific Theater, CPA attorney, writer, president and CEO Handel Groups.....CEO, Handel Foundation.

**Kenneth Herrnson '45**—I am 92 years young, HA.

**Reginald Grier '46**—Former president of the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association.

**Joseph H. Bernstein '47**—Ninety years old and still hanging on. Social distancing, but still getting around.

**Sherman Firsty '47**—Enjoying life and playing golf in Boca Raton, Florida.

**Robert Poydasheff '48**—Still practicing law.

**Martin Wasserman '49**—First lieutenant, U. S. Army; Norwich University Sports Hall of Fame. Hi, John Barbarette.

**William H. Golod '50**—After 35 years full-time and 26 years part-time work, I finally retired from the Medical University of South Carolina on July 1, 2019.

**Ned Gurevich '52**—Part of “Doc Guernsey’s Gang.” Career: Completion bonds and insurance for films.

**Herman Mensing '53**—Reflect warmly on my two German teachers: Mr. Nash and Mr. Biermann. Have been blessed with good health; just recently stopped playing weekly, full-court basketball year-round. Much to be thankful for.

**Richard Garber '54**—Varsity basketball 1952-1953, 1953-1954 (co-captain).

**Aaron Silverman '54**—Chief justice of the DWC Student Court. Completed 3 years of retirement after 55 years at my insurance agency in lower Broadway, Gloron Agency.

**Michael Brier '55**—Varsity basketball 1953-1955 (co-captain 1955), Varsity baseball 1954-1955. Play tennis now and watch my grandchildren spend my money. (It’s all good!!)

**Alan M. Edelson '55**—DWC was and still is the best high school in America.

**Arnold B. Gordon '56**—Greetings to my old Squad X alumni. I remember Lou Katz and Principal Walter Degnan most fondly. Happy to see “The Bronx...” a great documentary. “Flash” Gordon.

**Bernard Katz '56**—My oldest grandson, Daniel, graduated Tufts University May 2020. Three more in college.

**Michael Rosenberg '56**—Retired after 60 years as accountant. Spending time with my wife Iris of 53 years. Enjoying grandkids Jenna and Juliette.

**Louis D. Friedman '57**—Aerospace engineer, planetary scientist, co-founder and executive director of The Planetary Society.

**Marty Goodman '57**—I hope to be able to join my classmates for our 65th reunion. Go K. C. Chiefs!

**Allen Jacobson '57**—Senior partner, Washington Analysis LLC.

**Norman Pulfer '57**—Retired, awaiting 2021 reunion.

**Philip Cowen '60**—CPA, corporate executive, private investor.

**Michelle Steiner '60**—U. S. Army, retired as chief warrant officer. Software quality assurance test engineer for Apple.

**Michael Bregman '62**—Lettered in varsity track and field.

**Fred Goldner '62**—On to college down the street at Hunter, then to the University of Wisconsin for M. D. Careers as a gastroenterologist both in the Army (23 years) and private practice. Retired 2012.

**Andrew Kimerling '63**—Just celebrated 40th year in business, Westchester Road Runner; 20th year as president of Van Cortlandt Cooperative Federal Credit Union; former treasurer and board member, New York Road Runner Club.

**Greg Ohanesian '64**—We honor our celebrities. How about our combat fallen? They are a part of the reason we are here.

**Stephen P. Pollinger '64**—1. High School principal, South Florida. 2. Instructor, social studies educ. 3. Florida Atlantic University. Came to Florida in 1991 and remain a dedicated DWC, NY Yankees and New York Giants fan.

**Michael Schwartz '64**—Tenth year as assistant men’s tennis coach at Monmouth University in New Jersey, four years as conference champions.

**Stanley Sprung '65**—Taught mathematics at DeWitt Clinton for 34 years.

**Terry R. Kirschner '66**—Football team 1963-1964-1965, 1965 Daily News Bronx-Manhattan First Team All Stars, Honorable Mention for Prep All-America Football 1965.

**Roger Siegel '66**—Imperial prince of the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Khorassan (covering the United States and Canada).

**Lance Zavin '66**—Retired from NYCHA, president of the Pelham Pkwy Jewish Center; consultant for Local 237 Teamsters, board member Pelham Pkwy Neighborhood Association.



**The DeWitt Clinton High School Faculty Hall of Honor  
Third Induction Ceremony — Date to Be Determined**

**The lack of access to yearbooks and faculty records has limited research for 2020 inductees.**

**The top list identifies validated living faculty that have worked full-time at DWCHS for at least 20 years, beginning no later than 1986.**

**Email GJPelisson@aol.com if you know a (living) retired DWC faculty member that should be added to the list of honorees and/or if you know the correct years of service for anyone given in the bottom list. We welcome corrections for any erroneous material in this notice.**

**Marsha Beck**  
*Foreign Language Teacher*  
1985-2011

**Samuel Blank**  
*English Teacher*  
1969-1996

**Carolyn Echevarria**  
*Mathematics Teacher*  
1984-2006

**Terrence Geil**  
*Mathematics Teacher*  
1984-2006

**Maryanne Mola**  
*AP-Guidance*  
1985-2013

**Laura Pacher North**  
*English Teacher*  
1983-2004

**George Pereny**  
*English Teacher*  
1984-2013

**Merrily Rossner**  
*English Teacher*  
1986-2011

**Terry Sebastian**  
*Health Education Teacher*  
1985-94, 1997-2013

**Paula Simon**  
*Social Studies Teacher*  
1986-2008

**Robert Bisordi**  
*Social Studies Teacher*  
1986-2008

**Juan Contreras**  
*Foreign Language*  
-

**Margaret Cronin**  
*Social Studies Teacher*  
-

**Lillian Ginzler**  
*Business Education Teacher*  
-

**Phil Harris,**  
*Health Education Teacher*  
-

**Gloria Huddle**  
*Biology Teacher*  
-

**David Lakowitz**  
*Mathematics Teacher*  
-

**Carlos Mota**  
*Foreign Language Teacher*  
-

**Robert Palmer**  
*Health Education Teacher*  
-

**Frank Prisco**  
*Social Studies Teacher*  
-

**Raymond Ramirez**  
*Health Education Teacher*  
-

**Rafael Rivera**  
*Mathematics Teacher*  
-

**Jose Segura**  
*Foreign Language Teacher*  
-

**Rita Sukenick**  
*Special Education Teacher*  
-

**William Vanelli**  
*Mathematics Teacher*  
-

The Faculty Hall of Honor was proposed by the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association, which funded its creation and governs its rules and regulations in accordance with the principal's authority as chief administrator of DeWitt Clinton High School.

## **Alumni Notes**

**David Refkin '75**—Following a career in accounting and purchasing, I have been focused on environmental and related economic sustainability issues especially forestry, recycling and climate change. Active politically. I love to ski, ride my bike, root for the Mets and spend time with my family, including dad Marty Refkin, class of 1943. Clinton helped shaped me, especially Al Curran, Joe Prezioso and many dedicated teachers.

**Andru Anderson '15**—Wheaton College Posse 16 Scholar Class of 1919. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager.

**Marquell C. Cole '16**—DWC class president in 2016. B. S. in chemistry. Getting my masters in Public Health. Going to medical school afterwards..

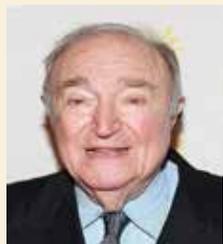
**James Gilmore Ret. Fac.**—Taught in the English department and was dean of students.

## In Memoriam

Wynn Handman '38 (April 11, 2020)  
 Harry H. Kutner '40 (May 4, 2016)  
 Richard Schifter '40 (October 4, 2020)  
 Robert Annett '42 (August 8, 2017)  
 George Sakheim '42 (December 5, 2019)  
 Edward S. Feldman '44 (October 2, 2020)

William Ganz '46 (January 20, 2020)  
 Arnold Schaub '46 (May 1, 2020)  
 Stanley Moser '49 (April 14, 2020)  
 Howard Levitz '53 (April 5, 2020)

Lee Gelber '55 (January 19, 2020)  
 Ronald Greenhouse FAC (Sept. 23, 2020)  
 Martin Stricks FAC (October 2, 2020)



**Wynn Handman '38** was an acting teacher and co-founder and director of the American Place Theater.

An acting teacher well into his 90s, Handman was an influence on thousands of performers—among them, former students Richard Gere, James Caan, Joel Grey, Denzel Washington, Michael Douglas, Mia Farrow, Allison Janney, and Chris Cooper.

The American Place, opened in 1963, was one of the pillars of the Off-Broadway scene, both a dedicated education space and a producer of new plays by living American writers including Sam Shepard and Joyce Carol Oates.

Wynn Handman died in New York City due to complications brought on by COVID-19 on April 11, 2020.



**Harry H. Kutner '40** was a 2-pound, 3 ounce-premature baby who later excelled in life. He passed up a West Point appointment to enlist in the Army Air Corps and, at 23, was a pilot-commander of a B-29 Pathfinder with a 13-man crew. He commanded 34 missions over Japan. Besides the Distinguished Flying Cross, Kutner

also received the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters. After the war Kutner became a New York City police officer, Nassau Family Court judge and New York State Supreme Court justice.

Harry H. Kutner died May 4, 2016 at the Hospice Inn in Melville of complications from a fall months after his 91st birthday.



**Richard Schifter '40** was born in Vienna, Austria, in 1923. At age 15, he was the only member of his family permitted to emigrate to the United States. After serving in the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II, he searched for his parents, but they had not survived the horrors of the Holocaust.

Back in the United States, Schifter graduated from the Yale School of Law and developed into an expert practitioner of federal Indian law, which resulted in his appointment to the President's Task Force on American Indians from 1966 to 1967. He also focused on the application of international human rights standards, serving in senior foreign policy positions in the U.S. government from 1981 to 2001, such as deputy U.S. representative in the UN Security Council, with the rank of ambassador.

Richard Schifter passed away in Bethesda, Maryland, on October 4, 2020.



**George Sakheim '42** was born in Hamburg, Germany, and immigrated to New York at age 15. Drafted into the U. S. Army in March 1943, he fought in Normandy and the Rhineland. In October 1945, Sakheim volunteered to work as a German-speaking interpreter at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials. For seven

months, he had the opportunity to see and hear Nazi leaders, incl. Hermann Goering and Rudolph Hoess.

After the war, Sakheim earned his bachelor's and master's degrees, both in psychology, at Columbia University. Following an internship at Bellevue Hospital in New York, he earned a Ph.D in clinical psychology at Florida State University in 1954.

In February 2009, Dr. Sakheim was awarded the French Legion of Honor for his part in liberating France during WW II.

Dr. George Sakheim passed away in Gwynedd, Pennsylvania, on December 5, 2019.



**Edward S. Feldman '44** started out as a publicist for movies (*The World of Suzie Wong*, 1959) and plays (*Funny Girl*, 1964). But he first gained fame as the executive producer of the 1973 film *Save the Tiger*. Since then, he has produced or executive produced some of Hollywood's most successful films. They include *Witness*

(1985); *Honey, I Blew Up the Kid* (1992); *The Jungle Book* (1994); *101 Dalmatians* (1996); *The Truman Show* (1998); *102 Dalmatians* (2000); *K-19: The Widowmaker* (2002). In 2001, Feldman was honored by the Hollywood Film Festival for his outstanding achievement in producing.

Edward S. Feldman, who served two years in the U. S. Air Force, passed away in Los Angeles on October 2, 2020.



**Stanley Moser '49** had a knack for selling Funk & Wagnalls encyclopedias. As one of the company's accountants, he suggested pricing the first volume of a set at 9 cents. Shoppers snapped them up, and then were hooked on buying the rest.

In 1984, Moser joined with a group of executives to buy Funk & Wagnalls.

Soon after, he reached a deal with the Children's Television Workshop to publish a 15-volume Sesame Street series of stories and activities.

A U. S. Army veteran stationed in Japan in the mid-1950s, Stanley Moser died in Fort Lee, New Jersey from complications with Covid-19 on April 14, 2020. Nine days earlier, his wife of 67 years, Marilyn, had died of the same complications.

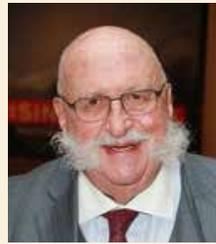


**Howard Levitz '53** followed his schooling in the Bronx by going off to Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, where he played varsity lacrosse and was a member of the Pi Lambda Phi fraternity, graduating in 1957. He received his JD from NYU Law School, specializing in real estate law in Manhattan for almost

50 years. Along the way, he found time to serve on the local School Board, and was sworn in as a Magistrate in Ardsley, NY.

Levitz served in the U. S. Army, graduating from the Infantry Officer's School at Ft, Benning, Ga., and ultimately finished with the 77th Inf. Division in NY.

Howard Levitz passed away on April 5, 2020 from complications of the Corona virus.



**Lee Gelber '55** majored in history at Queens College, and spent his life as an expert in all things New York City. After years being a Big Apple Greeter, in 1994 he became a New York City tour guide for Gray Line. His knowledge of the city and finesse as a guide led him to become a trainer of guides for Gray

Line and other concerns. By the time he was co-president of the Guides Association of New York City (GANYC), he had been nicknamed "the dean of New York City tour guides."

In 1993, Gelber was a contestant on the seniors edition of the game show *Jeopardy!* and finished second.

"Dean" Lee Gelber passed away in Schenectady, New York, on January 19, 2020.



**Ronald Greenhouse** (left) and **Martin Stricks** as they looked as teachers at DWC in the 1960s and 1970s. Both highly respected by staff and students, Greenhouse taught English and poetry, Stricks taught industrial arts.

Ronald Greenhouse passed away on September 23, 2020 at the age of 86.

Martin Stricks passed away on October 2, 2020. He would never miss the monthly first Friday gathering of retired faculty at the Endless Summer brunch in Westchester.

They were good men with many stories, some told by them, some told about them.



**PLACE THE *LIVING YOU* IN DWC'S PERMANENT ARCHIVES.**



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**SUBMITTAL STEP ONE: MAIL THIS COMPLETED PAGE TO THE DEWITT CLINTON ALUMNI ASSN, INC., P.O. BOX 566, ELMSFORD, NY 10523-0566**

**YOUR SIGNATURE BELOW ACKNOWLEDGES ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERMS STATED ON THIS PAGE.**

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**Senior Joel Fuentes attending the May 2019 DWC Alumni Dinner. He is a student at the City University of New York.**



**Generous donor Reuben Gutoff '44 August 5, 1927-April 6, 2020 of Covid 19**

Dear DWC Scholarship and Student Aid Fund, Inc.,

I am very honored and thankful for the Reuben Gutoff '44 Scholarship Award granted to me to use towards my college education.

I have big dreams and plans for my future and being able to receive this scholarship is a great help for me. I am planning to use it towards supplies and any other material needed for classes and also towards tuition.

My dream is to work hard as I major in computer engineering and minor in business. I will keep in touch with you, informing you of my achievements and next steps.

One of the important things I learned during my years in DeWitt Clinton High School is "nothing is accomplished without hard work." I will always remember that throughout my career and future goals.

I was informed that Reuben Gutoff, the person who donated the funds, passed away. I am very sorry to hear this and offer my deepest condolences to the association, family and friends. May his soul rest in peace.

Once again, thank you for this award. It means a lot to me and my college career.

Please continue keeping safe and healthy.

Best Regards,

*Joel Fuentes '19*

It might not fall to most of us to be as generous as Reuben Gutoff was to his alma mater. But in a quiet moment, your thoughts, if you let them, will remind you that DeWitt Clinton High School has played a role in your life, and you should welcome the chance to play a role in its return to greatness. You will never want to say, "I went to Clinton, but it doesn't exist any more." A big thank-you to those who fill out page 15 every year and send it in.

For everyone else, find that quiet moment and listen to your better self . . . and do Clinton proud.

# Membership Dues 2021



I would like to receive a paper edition of the Alumni Newsletter.

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Please use the above space to provide news about yourself for our publication.

Barrese Society: I have paid dues for \_\_\_\_ consecutive years. This year's donation includes \_\_\_\_ missed year(s).

Dues January 1, 2021	\$35.00
Voluntary Assessment (in support of student activities)	\$15.00
Total Sustaining Donation	\$50.00

The Alumni Association will shortly mail the Barrese Society pins to all those alumni who have contributed to the Association for at least ten years in a row. Thank you, loyal sons and daughters of DWC.



Actual size: 1" diameter

- Century Club \$100 (includes dues)
- Red and Black Club \$200 (includes dues)
- Governor's Club \$300 (includes dues)
- President's Club \$500 (includes dues)
- Guernsey Club \$1,000 (includes dues)
- Alumni Leadership Weekend Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Dues can be paid securely on line at [www.dewittclintonalumni.com](http://www.dewittclintonalumni.com)



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**A Photo for the Ages: This Great "Sports" Moment First Appeared in the Spring 2015 Newsletter.**

Cheerleading had recently become an official PSAL sport. The girls on the DWC team and their faculty advisor Lisa Benton were all smiles to meet NBA Hall of Famer Nate Archibald '66 on "Painting Clinton Day" on February 14. For his part, Nate looked right at home--which, of course, he was.