



# THE NEWSLETTER

## DEWITT CLINTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.dewittclintonalumni.com

DWCAlumni@aol.com

John Barbarette '64  
PRESIDENT

Pierre Orbe  
PRINCIPAL

Gerard Pelissou Hon. '03  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

### Principal's Letter: A Call to Action

March 20, 2019

Dear DeWitt Clinton Alumni,

The Department of Education (DOE-NYC) is proposing the placement of yet another program in DeWitt Clinton High School. The program would be for D75 students who can be autistic, severely handicapped, or emotionally disturbed. They are seeking 8 full-sized classrooms and 8 half-sized spaces (better known as half of the first floor), leaving DWC with only the 2nd floor, half of the 1st, and what's left of the basement.

As a casualty of the unfair reforms during Mayor Bloomberg's time in office, DeWitt Clinton High School has been struggling for the past 2 decades and was on the State Receivership list for closing schools. It was labeled a Renewal School by the City, adding more bad publicity and causing many families not to view DWC as a viable option for their children. In the 2016-17 school year, the school had 3 different principals. Despite these challenges, my team and I accepted the task to help turn this noble educational institution around. In 2017-18, at the same time we faced the ordeal of re-staffing the faculty, our students improved their graduation rate to 69% (the highest since 2000) increased Regents pass rate for ELA (59%) and Math (65%), College Readiness Course (56%), College Readiness Index (41%). This year's current senior class will graduate a minimum of 78%, with the possibility of 82%. Next Year's is trending 80-85%.

We are becoming a viable option for families in District 10, who do not have access to specialized programs, such as Bronx Science or American Studies that require specialized high school exam for entry. Our success has removed DeWitt Clinton from the State Receivership list and City's Renewal. But DOE still publicizes our results from 2016-17 in the High School directory. Families applying for high school this year saw the 50% graduation and opted for other programs. Incoming families received letters indicating we are a State Receivership school and prompting them to seek other options.

But the reality is that we are on track to turn a struggling school around and we should be allowed to grow, as our success does, not have space allocated to other programs that will prevent us from being able to develop back to size. We have received support from our previous Chancellor Carmen Farina to develop strong academic and vocational programs that will help all students.

The loss of space to any program is the real issue, not the type of student. We currently have 18 D75 students dually enrolled in our programs who are finding success. I understand the need for D75 seats in district 10, but there is also a need for viable programs for all students in district 10 that are not specialized. At this current rate, students in district 10 will only be able to attend D75 or specialized programs. Their HS options will be limited to small high schools that share resources and cannot offer significant college readiness programs or vocational options to suit the needs of all.

We are expecting 375-450 students for our incoming class, which should increase our enrollment to above 1,250-1,300. This is all without the DOE publishing anything positive about our recent success. It will take two more years for families to become informed about the great work by our students that is occurring right now. This is insane considering the era of social media.

(Continued on page 2)





## President’s Letter

Ninety years ago, on May 1, 1929, the doors of the castle-on-the-parkway opened for the first time. Much has happened to our school since then. But I am happy to report that DWCHS is still here. And if you don’t mind my saying so, I think the Alumni Association has played a key role in keeping our school alive. But here’s the issue for us today. How do we keep the Alumni Association alive?

You know the answer. But are you part of the answer? For those of you who say yes with your financial support to Clinton, I shout the biggest thank you from a person of my age and size. You understand that we need your support the way a human body needs food. For those of you who do not contribute, I am sorry for whatever are the circumstances in your life that keep you from “giving back.” I ask you to search your hearts to see if you could support your alma mater in some fashion. I ask you to be part of the answer.

I also draw your attention to page 8 of this Newsletter. You will find a photograph of former alumni president Doug Palczewski ’67 and his award as Bayside High School (Virginia) 2019 Volunteer of the Year.. It is proof that former AA officials do not just fade away.



*John Barbarette ’64*

## DWC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

### PRESIDENT

John Barbarette ’64

### VICE PRESIDENTS

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Sydney Valerio ’99 Kishan Singh ’09

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Orlando Rao ’73

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Amy Melendez ’90

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### PRINCIPAL

Pierre Orbe

### PHOTOGRAPHER

Henry “O” Ordosgoitia ’77

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Gerard Pelisson HON ’03

## Principal’s Letter (Continued from page 1)

In response to the DOE proposal, I’ve offered to put up walls to separate 4 full-sized classrooms and turn them into half- sized rooms to accommodate 8 rooms for D75 students. These half-sized rooms accommodate up to 15 students, not counting adults. I have been told that it will be up to the D75 principal to decide if I will be allowed to pay for building these walls. (That principal will already be in charge of 10 other D75 programs and will never be in this building.) My offer would provide these students with the 12 instructional spaces they require and preserves 4 full classrooms for DeWitt Clinton students.

I’ve also offered to incorporate D75 students into DWC and provide all services, but maybe a lowered amount so that we can develop the vocational programs that would benefit all students. This has not been put into the proposal.

It’s unfair in a time when everyone is speaking about equity that we constantly carve out space in schools that are open to all students while exclusive specialized programs never have to compromise any of their resources. They already have a way to filter the strongest students away from the general population and offer every advantage possible. But we are forced to endure struggle after struggle and lose resources as we try to improve student outcomes for all other students that are not filtered by a specialized exam. If further broken down, we will have another administration in the building to haggle with regarding shared space and the needs of our growing populations. Our recent successes should be met with support, not limitations and further burdens of negotiating how we will provide for our students.

If DeWitt Clinton is allowed to maintain its current trajectory, two years down the road we will have grown to a larger size and offer programs that will service all. We ask for any support that will bring the current powers to see that we should be allowed to grow as far as our successes bring us. Write to the Chancellor and Mayor, for they are the final decision makers in this process.

*Pierre Orbe*

The Alumni Association encourages you to write to the chancellor and mayor immediately.

Chancellor Richard A. Carranza  
NYC Department of Education  
Tweed Courthouse  
52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

Mayor Bill de Blasio  
Office of the Mayor  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007



# DeWitt Clinton High School 122nd Reception

Sponsored by the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association

Thursday, May 16, 2019 6:30-10:30 P.M.

The Marina Del Rey One Marina Drive, Bronx, NY

Dinner  
Reservation &  
Journal Ad Forms  
Pages 4 and 5.

## 2019 Distinguished Alumni Honorees



Amy Melendez '90 owes much to DeWitt Clinton High School, but DWC also owes her much. Born in Hong Kong, at Clinton she received a good education, which set her on the way to her present work—a senior network engineer at Citibank. She developed key leadership skills as G.O. vice president and the first female editor of the Clintonian. But it is also at Clinton—in a sophomore math class—where she met her future husband Daniel. As for what Clinton owes her, it's a long list. She joined the DWC Alumni Board in 2005, and since then she has been in every position available on the board. Once again, she was a first, being the first female president of the Alumni Association. She is the most loyal of Clintonites..



Gary Axelbank '71 has been the host and senior producer of the TV talk show BronxTalk since its debut in 1994. Using his trademark direct, honest, and informed approach, he has moderated dozens of political debates, interviewed numerous elected officials, and presented programs on a wide variety of contemporary subjects. Axelbank began his hosting career in radio as a disc jockey before becoming a producer of news features for WNBC and later a producer on FOX Sports. In 2016, the media company City and State New York named Axelbank one of the fifty most influential people in the Bronx. In June 2017, Axelbank created the Web site <http://www.thisisthebronx.info/>, which is dedicated to all things Bronx, including arts/culture, business/real estate, tourism and restaurants.

## A Memorial Tribute



Lawrence E. Dickson '38 graduated from flight training on March 25, 1943, at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama. In December, he deployed to Italy with the 100th Fighter Squadron and flew many missions during 1944. On Dec. 23, 1944, Dickson was part of a reconnaissance mission to Praha, Czechoslovakia, when his P-51 Mustang developed engine trouble and crashed into the mountains of northern Italy. The plane and Dickson's body were not found. His name was included on the Tablets of the Missing at the Florence American Cemetery and Memorial in Italy. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, an Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and a Purple Heart for his military service. In 2017, Dickson's plane was discovered in Austria. Remains were found in the plane and in July 2018 were verified as Dickson's. On March 22, 2019, Lawrence E. Dickson's remains were interred in Arlington National Cemetery (see page 13).

## Keep the Fun Going with Homecoming Day

DeWitt Clinton High School Friday, May 17, 2019 10 A.M.–1:30 P.M.

Come take a tour of the school and enjoy brunch. RSVP to [DWCALUMNI@CLINTONHS.NET](mailto:DWCALUMNI@CLINTONHS.NET)





Celebrating the following anniversary classes:

50th - 1969 ♦ 40th - 1979 ♦ 30th - 1989

25th - 1994 ♦ 20th - 1999 ♦ 10th - 2009



**DeWitt Clinton High School 122nd Reception**

Sponsored by the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association

6:30-10:30 P.M.,  
Thursday, May 16, 2019

*Good Food and Cheer*

*Music and Dancing*

*Choice of Main Course*

**Marina Del Rey**  
One Marina Drive, Bronx, NY

*Open Bar*

**Dinner Reservation**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Per Person \$100 Annual dues members  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ \$125 Non members and  
 after May 07

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ includes  
 E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ valet parking I would like to sponsor  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Senior Student(s).

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or charge my credit card.

Visa     Master Card     American Express     Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend but enclose a contribution for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or charge my credit card.

Make checks payable to the "DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc."  
Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

**Sit With OR Guests**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return by May 07, 2019 to:  
DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 566, Elmsford, New York 10523-0566  
Phone (914) 961-3003 Fax (914) 961-0291*

**Homecoming Day      Friday, May 17, 2019, 10 A.M.–1:30 P.M.**



## Your Ad for the 122nd Dinner Journal

Ad Size: Not to exceed 6" x 9" for a page ad. Book size 7" Wide x 10" High

Please check one:

Write in your ad here or attach copy

- Red & Black Page \$1,000.00
- Platinum Page 750.00
- Gold Page 500.00
- Full Page 200.00
- Half Page 100.00
- Quarter Page 50.00
- Business Card 35.00
- Booster 25.00

Name and year graduated (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Company (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Work Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or charge my credit card: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa       Master Card       American Express       Discover

Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the "DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc."  
Contributions are tax-deductible.

**Please return by April 26, 2019 to: DWC Reunion Dinner- Journal Ads  
PO Box 566, Elmsford, NY 10523-0566  
Telephone (914) 961-3003 Fax (914) 961-0291**





Basketball Boys Varsity Team, Coach Chris Bellarini (far right)



## CLINTON TEAMWORK

“The most valuable lesson I learned during my stay in Clinton,” James L. Watson ’41 told the Clinton News in 1954, “was how to live with all kinds of people.”

Watson had been a member of DWC’s basketball team.

He would become a decorated World War II hero, a New York State senator and a judge of the United States Court of International Trade. Watson passed away in 2001, but in 2002, the federal judiciary building in Manhattan was named in his honor.

The teamwork goes on....



Gymnastics Girls Varsity Team, Coach Nichelle Nunez (center)



Volleyball Varsity Team, Coach Emmanuel Palatulan (far left)



Basketball Girls Varsity Team, Coach Elonza Simon (far right)



Wrestling Varsity Team, Coach Jochi Fabian (far left)

Track Team Girls, Coach Cornel Johnson (far left)



Photos: Henry “O” Ordosgoitia ’77



## Remembering Stan Lee (December 28, 1922 - November 12, 2018)



April 2, 2007 The Clinton News Page 3

### Interview with a Hero Among Us: Stan Lee, Class of 1939

By Lahiz Tavarez (Check out on page 9 where she is now.)

**X**

Stan Lee, whom everyone knows as the creator of the Amazing Spiderman, is a Clinton graduate, just as we all hope to be one day. When asked if he would be interviewed for the Clinton News, he gave an immediate “sure, I’d be glad” to answer your questions.

Lee has created many of the major superheroes that we admire today: “X-Men,” “Fantastic Four,” “The Incredible Hulk,” and “Daredevil,” among others. For having written these unbelievable characters and being the editor of Marvel Comics Magazine in the 1960s, Lee received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Burbank International Children’s Film Festival in 2000 and a Life Career Award from Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films in 2002.

The reason for creating Spiderman, Lee says, was “greed.” He needed money for he was young and starting out in the business. However, he did not want his character to be a sidekick. “I hate teenage sidekicks, so I thought it would be fun to have a teenager who’s a real hero.”

Spiderman was the first comics to incorporate the issues of drugs and it was, in fact, a reason for why the Comic Code Authority rejected the story and refused give it its seal. “[Then] I received a letter from the Office of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington DC, which said something like: ‘Realizing the influence that your stories have on young people, we’d appreciate your doing a story with an anti-drug theme.’”

Lee defied the Comic Code Authority and published the story with the issue of drugs. It was a hit and the Comic Code Authority eventually changed their rules. “Well, I couldn’t say ‘No’ to Washington!” says Lee.

Lee has no favorites. “They’re like my children.” He gave them his best qualities and loves each one for who he is. Each character is unique because there is a different reason for what they do and each one has different powers. Lee’s characters are special because most of them were not born superheroes but affected by something, whether a chemical or perhaps an insect, that made them that way with special powers. None of the superheroes gave up but made the best of their gift.

Stan Lee, born Stanley Martin Lieber, on December 28, 1922, grew up in Washington Heights and later moved to the Bronx, and lived on University Avenue as he attended DeWitt Clinton High School. He finds his interest in comic book writing to have been an accident. While at DWC, Lee “was interested in dramatics, journalism, art, sports,” and never knew exactly what he wanted to be for so many things fascinated him and still do. “I’m still not

sure what I want to be when I grow up.”

Superheroes are something that never die and it doesn’t matter how old you are, they can save you. Everyone has a favorite superhero and dreams of a certain power. People, however, only view a superhero as someone with a supernatural power, but they don’t realize that there is a hero inside all of us, who can do great things if we only let our powers come to the surface.

Lee’s only regret is that he “didn’t create more” superheroes. Clintonites have no regrets about the many wonderful characters Stan Lee created. They have only praise for a man who has not forgotten his “superpower” high school.

#### To Clinton youngsters today (2007):

Since you’ll probably spend most of your life working, try your best to work at something you enjoy. Don’t let yourself get trapped in a job you hate—or, if that does happen to you, keep planning on a way to get out of it and into something you really want to do. When you do work that you enjoy, it doesn’t feel like work, it feels like you’re playing and having fun. That’s the way I feel when I do the work I do—otherwise I couldn’t have done it all these years!

- Stan Lee

Few alumni have garnered the admiration given to Stan Lee by decades of Clintonites. In tribute to him, students and staff recently painted this mural of Stan Lee and many of his creations. The mural is located on the second floor landing between the entrances to the balcony of the auditorium.





## Featured Alumni



### A Revealing Memoir of Mischief

John Henry Schwieger '30 was added to the DWC Notable Alumni booklet in January 2019. In the memoir selection to the right, written in 1987, though now edited by the Newsletter for space, Schwieger described two examples of mischief: one his own and the second owned by his history teacher.

I opted for Clinton because it held a nice reputation without being considered too difficult to achieve acceptable grades. The main building, fairly old and looking soot covered, stood at 59th St. and 10th Ave. adjacent to a huge gas tank. Upon my registration I learned that the main building was overcrowded and I was deferred to an annex at 116th St. and 7th Ave. The building housed the Institutional Synagogue which rented its classrooms to the City. Probably the most unusual feature of the street was the row of three-story houses across from the Synagogue. When we arrived at school the shades in the windows were all drawn to sill level. Things began to happen toward noon each day. Shades began to rise and the "all night" women awakened in semi-dress array. Mr. [Teacher] taught us history with his back to the class and his eyes centered on the apartments across the way. He lectured, asked questions, provoked discussion all without facing the students. I had found a shop on the street that sold a package of tiny "BB" shot for five cents. With brief training I learned to propel a tiny metal ball through my teeth at a fairly rapid speed covering a good distance. For several days as Mr. [Teacher] gave forth with eyes glued to the windows his orations were interrupted by a ping on the glass or a dull plop on his derriere. At first, he was unsure of the development, but the reaction of the class in titters and outright laughs brought on the inevitable. He threatened to haul the entire class to the principal's office and to down us with an exam of impossible proportions. He did not learn the source of the pellets and next day the blinds in the history room were discretely down. We even got to see Mr. [Teacher] face forward.

### Eighth annual area alumni meeting, February 25, 2019, at Chompie's in Chandler, Arizona



Seated L to R: Phil Cowen '59, Marty Goodman '57, Norman Resnick '57, Harry Reese '58, Joel Stoltz '71, Dave Berliner '55, Dave Goode '73. 1st Standing L to R: Herb Cohn '64, Al Levine '63, Al Leibowitz '62, Stew Grabel '62, Joe Goldblatt '62, Marty Hass '59, Lew Aaronson '57. 2nd Standing L to R: Peter Newman '74, Mario Masliah '73, Gary Neumann '69, John Blabe '69, Robert Levine '64, Barry Schulman '68, Dr. Richard Carmona '67. Present but not in the photo: Arnold Alpert '54. Worth Noting: Herb Cohn '64 is 3rd generation DWC alum. Grandfather, Arthur, was Class of 1905. Father, Jerry, was Class of 1932. Brother, Howard, was Class of 1960.

### Proof that former alumni officials do not just fade away



Former alumni president Doug Palczewski '67 is Bayside High School (Va) 2019 Volunteer of the Year.

#### What they said in Virginia:

*Congratulations Coach Palczewski, our 2019 Volunteer of the Year. Coach P affectionately known as Gramps to everyone in Marlinville assists with not only wrestling but steps up any time the school asks for assistance. Students, staff, and volunteers love him for his enthusiasm and big heart. Way to go Coach, keep making Bayside Proud.*





## Diplomatic Security: Look Close, You May See a Clintonite.

By Barry Heyman '62

As the nation's capital bade farewell to former president George H. W. Bush on December 5, 2018, scores of foreign dignitaries attending the state funeral in Washington were protected by members of the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service (DSS), the law enforcement and security arm of the department.

DSS's main duties are to secure the integrity of U.S. travel documents and to protect U.S. diplomatic facilities, personnel, and information. DSS special agents are the chief law enforcement and

security advisors to our ambassadors at U.S. embassies abroad, and DSS is the most widely deployed law enforcement agency in the world, with personnel working in 30 U.S. field offices and 275 U.S. diplomatic missions in more than 170 countries.

At least five DeWitt Clinton graduates have worked in DSS during my time for a combined total of 136 years. They are (by year of graduation):



Barry Heyman, class of '62, spent most of his career with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and had assignments in Washington, D.C.; Lima, Peru; and Port-au-Prince Haiti. After retiring from USAID, he joined DSS's International Programs Directorate where he has reviewed emergency plans for U.S. embassies and consulates and has taught classes in emergency planning for 19 years.



Victor DeWindt, class of '63, was a DSS special agent for 21 years and had assignments in Miami; Washington, D.C.; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Lima, Peru; Mexico City, Mexico and Sanaa, Yemen. He is currently retired and living in Pennsylvania.



Alan Nathanson, class of '64, served as a DSS special agent and retiree for 45 years and had assignments in New York City; Washington, D.C.; Bangkok, Thailand; Panama City, Panama; and Pretoria,



Darwin Cadogan, class of '66, was a DSS special agent for 31 years and had assignments in New York City; San Francisco; Washington, D.C.; Brussels, Belgium; Nassau, The



Colin Bucknor, class of '80, is a DSS special agent. In his 20 years with DSS, he has had assignments in Washington, D.C.; Dhaka, Bangladesh; Cairo, Egypt; Kathmandu,

South Africa. He retired as an agent and is currently a part-time employee in the International Programs Directorate of DSS.

Bahamas; and Tokyo, Japan. He currently works in the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Inspector General.

Nepal; Chennai, India; and Zagreb, Croatia. He is currently assigned to the DSS International Programs Directorate.

These five distinguished Clinton alumni have been honored with numerous awards throughout their careers.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Government.



Yscaira Jimenez '99 is the CEO of LaborX, the LinkedIn for the LinkedIn, linking people who are currently linked out of the knowledge economy to good jobs. As a talent marketplace, LaborX connects hiring managers to vocational, boot camp, apprenticeship and community college graduates using predictive skill analytics and 3D resumes. She is a serial entrepreneur and is currently building LaborX. She attended DWC (99), Columbia University (03) and MIT (14) and speaks 4 languages. She's an avid fiction reader, hiker, Capoeirista, and traveler, visiting over 40 countries across 5 continents.



Lahiz Tavarez '07 is an information analyst at the CSG Justice Center Finance in New York.

(But did you know that she was the editor-in-chief of the Clinton News and wrote the 2007 interview with Stan Lee reprinted here on page 7?)

At CSG, she develops networks of community services for people returning to the community after incarceration. She provides technical assistance to recipients of Second Chance Act grants, and supports projects centered on improving risk communication in corrections and reentry of people convicted of sex offenses and expanding the Reentry Services Directory. Lahiz received a BA in criminal justice from SUNY University at Albany. she interned with Albany County's Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center (CVSVC), acting as a victim advocate at Albany Criminal Court on behalf of CVSVC, providing assistance and resources to victims of crime. In addition, she interned at the New York State Assembly as a legislative assistant.



## Alumni Notes

**Herman Grackir '43**—I have relocated from Long Island to Atria Woodlands in Ardsley, NY.

**Reuben Gutoff '44**—Retired after 25 years in executive positions in GE and comparable time as consultant in strategic planning in own firm Strategy Associates (clients: Fortune 500 to not-for-profit).

**David Levy '47**—Thank you DWC for an excellent educational experience. Happily retired since 1990 after a gratifying 40 years as an administrator and teacher with the NYC public school system.

**George Pressman '47**—I am still hanging in there despite some changes.

**Robert Poydasheff '48**—Inducted into Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame; Army War College Outstanding Alum; Army Ranger Hall of Fame (Hon).

**Ernest Reit '49**—DWC, the solid underpinning of my future academic life.

**Martin Wasserman '49**—I am celebrating my 70th anniversary class of 1949.

**Norman Levine '51**—Successful career in So. Florida as a CPA. Sold practice to a national firm in 2015. Work out, play poker casino and watch sporting events, not bad for a poor Jewish guy from the Bronx.

**Eliot Tiegel '53**—Retired journalist since 2010. Wrote books about music and television for 20 years.

**Vincent N. DiStefano '54**—Sold our summer condo in Rhode Island, and moved to our daughter's farm in Harrison, Maine, for the summer. We spend the remainder of the year in Naples, Florida.

**Richard Garber '54**—Golfing and working part time.

**Alan M. Edelson '55**—Still substitute teaching, enjoying life.

**Bernard Katz '56**—Retired from teaching psychology at Nassau Community College. Remain in private practice. Oldest grandchild graduating from Tufts University May 2019.

**Thomas Mauro '56**—Married 57 years this April to Linda. Three sons, retired two from NYPD, one heating and air conditioning, Bellevue Hospital. Five granddaughters and two grandsons.

**Ira Greenberg '57**—Had a great time at 60th! Looking forward to 65th in 2022. Was wonderful seeing the old guys again.

**Berton Miller '57**—Enjoying retirement from the ad agency I founded in 1983 and a professor of communications (adjunct) at Iona College, New Rochelle, NY. My wife and I now live full time in beautiful Sag Harbor, NY, where I dabble in photography as a member of the East End Photographers Group. My three children are married, each has a family of their own (six grandchildren).

**Richard Kantor '58**—Enjoying retirement in Georgia.

**Alfred I. Scherzer '60**—I attended the 2018 Dinner and was the only one from my class. Let's see a bigger turnout, 1960. Still working as a CPA in Suffern, NY. Had lunch with Phil Sperling (class of 1961). Like to hear from 1960 classmates.

**Larry Tashlik '60**—Retired U.S.A., retired civil service (special OPS-U.S. A.F.).

**Rubin H. Landau '61**—Distinguished professor of physics, emeritus, Oregon State University; author of six books and 100 papers (physics).

**Miles Wortman '61**—Just published *Leaves: Tales of Development* (de Stael, 2019), part memoir and part-fiction stories of the work of the hundreds of thousands of professionals who devote and devoted their lives to help those in need.

**Michael J. Bregman '62**—Retired from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms after serving 32 years, was the special agent in charge (SAIC) of the Washington D.C. area Field Division for eight years. Recipient of the Secretary of the Treasury Honor Award.

**Bob Benna '63**—Hard to believe I've been retired from law practice almost 14 years. Time is flying. Life is good.

**Fred Finkelberg '64**—Retired senior bank examiner, Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

**Greg Ohanesian '64**—The Faculty Hall of Honor is a great way to honor great faculty. Special mention of Ms. Virginia Sardi, my algebra II and homeroom teacher and Mr. Thomas Donohoe, my English teacher for two semesters and who once complimented my "file cabinet of a mind"—I'll never forget! Still practicing law in South Carolina.

**Stephen P. Pollinger Ph.D. '64**—Steve was a long-time high school principal in South Florida. He remains a huge Yankees and football Giants fan. Remember fondly his radio broadcasting days in Jersey City.

**Michael Schwartz '64**—Coached Monmouth University men's tennis team to third straight conference championship, third straight NCAA appearance in Round of 64. For the second time, named University of Alabama "Former Athlete," NY/NJ Athlete of the Year. Only person who won award more than twice was Joe Namath.

**Michael R. Lewis '66**—U.S. Air Force (1968-1972) Vietnam 1969-1970; Ohio State University 1966-1968 track and field team; Howard University 1972-1974 BBA; Cornell University (1974-1976) MBA.

**Lance Zavin '66**—President Pelham Parkway Jewish Center; board member, Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association; consultant Local 237 Teamsters.

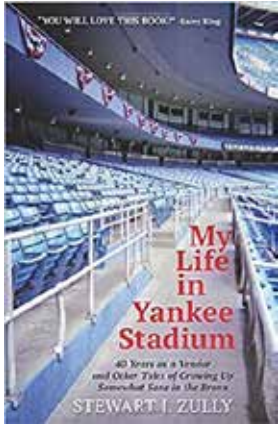
**Roy S. Gordet '63**—I see it now--this world is swiftly passing--the warrior Karna, in the Mahabharata, an ancient Hindu poem.

**Robert Tausek '68**—I am retired from the federal government and living in the Charleston, South Carolina, area. Most of my time is spent babysitting our twin grandsons, Maverick and Nash.

**Barry L. Nelson '69**—Re-elected president of the Westmere (NY) Fire Department for the eighth year. Appointed to the Albany County Fire Police. Prior years Fire Department Fire Fighter of the Year. Also, NYS Governor's Special Citation for work at Ground Zero in NYC.



## Books by or about Clintonites

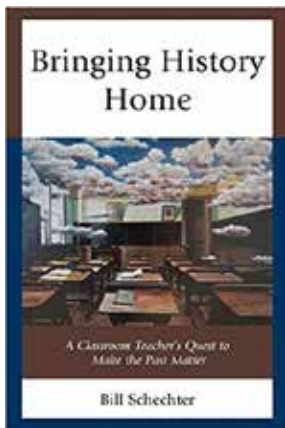


### ***My Life in Yankee Stadium***

– by Stewart J. Zully '72

*My Life in Yankee Stadium* is a collection of stories and anecdotes from a vendor who started working at Yankee Stadium in 1970. Beginning at the age of fifteen tossing peanuts at a New York Giants football game, Stewart J. Zully vended at more than 2500 events, including playoff and World Series games, no-hitters, a Muhammad Ali heavyweight fight, a papal visit, and the legendary Red Sox-Yankee rivalry. Here is a personal look at a vendor's life straight from the basement of the stadium to his other life in show business as an actor, director and producer. Read of Zully's encounters with James Gandolfini, Jack Nicholson, Mel Brooks, and many others, whether on a movie set or in the stands at the ballpark. Filled with exclusive photos, *My Life in Yankee Stadium* is a look at New York from the sixties to the present day, taking readers behind the scenes at the most famous stadium in all of sports.

Paper: 251 pages Publisher: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (December 18, 2018)  
ISBN-10: 1983423238 ISBN-13: 978-1983423239



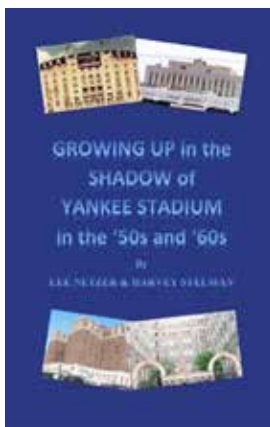
### ***Bringing History Home: A Classroom Teacher's Quest to Make the Past Matter***

– by Bill Schechter '64

*Bringing History Home* focuses on how to make the teaching of high school history both an intellectual challenge and an experiential adventure. The book focuses on mobilizing pedagogy and curriculum through a variety of activities and resources—music, poetry, field trips, simulations, crafts, current news and civics—to deepen students' involvement with the subject matter. History classes should be memorable. *Bringing History Home* provides support and inspiration to education majors, newly minted teachers, and seasoned professionals.

*In Schechter's classroom...students are awakened to the urgency of historical debate. So engaged, they may remember a single lesson for their entire lives. Is this for real? Very much so. I know because I was his student.* (Robin Espinola, Emmy-nominated producer of historical films for PBS)

Hard/Paper: 191 pp Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield (November 23, 2018) ISBN-13: 978-1475846645

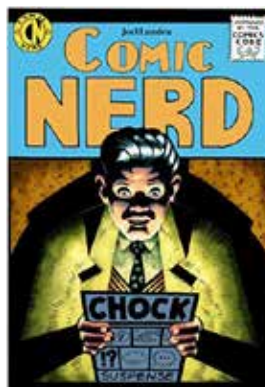


### ***Growing Up in the Shadow of Yankee Stadium in the '50s and '60s***

– by Lee Netzer '66, Harvey Stelman '67

The Fall 2018 Newsletter gave inaccurate publication information for this delightful book by two best friends recounting growing up in a very stable, predominantly Jewish neighborhood in the Bronx. Here is the corrected information:

Paper: 145/Kindle 10.1MB  
Publisher: Amazon.com (Kindle Direct Publishing) March 17, 2018  
ASIN: 1986215709 (paperback),  
B07BJ3KCCW (Kindle)



### ***Comic Nerd*** – by Joel Lunden

*Comic Nerd* dives into the psyche of the comic book collector, facing a need just as strong whether you are 13 or in your middle ages. We follow two teenagers in the 1980s, where comics are everything. We learn how they managed to get in contact with comic book legends, in particular, DWC's own Will Eisner '34. They also visit Fantask, a Copenhagen mecca for comics, which takes their breath away.

Kindle Edition Pub: March 22, 2018 ASIN: B07BNPV2TB

Note: All comments above come from publishers or authors, unless otherwise indicated.

## Alumni Notes

**Saul Weber '69**—Retired supervising systems analyst, NYC Health & Corp., 1977-2010. Author: *A Lesson My Cat Taught Me*, 2011 Smart Writ Awards, Third Place--Children's Books.

**Michael Weiser '69**—My dad, Herbert Weiser, was a 1938 graduate.

**Stephen Winters '70**—Director Cardiac Rhythm Program, Morristown MC (NJ). Married to Rachele, 3 grown children. Let's have a large turn out at 2020 Alumni Dinner from my 1970 graduate colleagues.

**David Chill '73**—*Flea Flicker*, my 10th novel, is in my Burnside Mystery Series.

**Anthony Verley '79**—Retired as chief of the Teaneck (NJ) Fire Department.

**James Gilmore, Retired Faculty**—Making \$1,100.00 donation, thanking John Barbarette for hosting Faculty Hall of Honor Day October 25 and Gerry Pelisson. Due to you both--a Great Day!



# In Memoriam

Lester Wunderman '36    Steven Marcus '43    Marvin Cantor '47  
 Stan Lee '39    Lee Leonard '46    Robert L. Friedman '48

Sanford Herman '49    Andrew Landers '82  
 Michael Skodnik '50    Constance Bernardi, Retired faculty  
 Richard Donohue '60    Carolyn Cuomo Biscaro, Retired faculty  
 Richard Marks '60    Lorenzo Brown Jr., Retired faculty  
 Sergio Quijano '80    Harvey Danis, Retired faculty



**Lester Wunderman '36** was an advertising executive widely credited with creating modern-day direct marketing and, in 1967, coining the term “direct marketing.” His innovations included the toll-free 1-800 number, the magazine subscription card, the buy-one-get-one-free offers, and loyalty rewards programs. In 1998, he was inducted into the Advertising Hall of Fame.

An army veteran, Lester Wunderman passed away in New York City on January 9, 2019.



**Robert L. Friedman '48** began in the mail room of Columbia Pictures. After army service during the Korean War, he returned to “show business,” and rose through the ranks in movie distribution. In 1979, he became president of Columbia Pictures Distribution. He later served as president of AMC Theaters Entertainment International and as a member of the Executive Division of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences.

Robert Friedman died in Los Angeles on January 16, 2019.



**Stan Lee '39** was proud to be a Clintonite and when asked to video tape the school fight song, he agreed immediately and had no problem remembering all the words.

Growing up on University Avenue in the Bronx, Stanley Lieber wanted to become a great novelist, so when he began writing comics, he used Stan Lee. His comic creations included Spider-Man, the X-Men, Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk, the Fantastic Four, Black Panther, Daredevil, Doctor Strange, Scarlet Witch and Ant-Man. But he was also an editor, publisher and producer, and was the force behind turning Marvel Comics into the dominant comics corporation.

Stan Lee served in the Army Signal Corps during World War II. On November 12, 2018, he passed away in Los Angeles, California, at the age of 95. Excelsior!



**Michael Skodnik '50** graduated Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Beta Kappa and cum laude from CCNY in 1956. He dedicated 33 years to teaching social studies: Creston JHS 79X (1955-1960), William H. Taft HS (1960-1968), and chairman at Robert F. Wagner JHS 167M (1968-1988). He dedicated his life to loving his wife Sandra Skodnik (née Levin), who taught English and speech at DWC from 1957 to 1963 and from 1976 to 1991.

Michael Skodnik passed away on March 15, 2019.



**Steven Marcus '43** graduated from Clinton at age 15, entering Columbia University on a tuition-free scholarship and where he would earn his doctorate in 1961. In between, he was drafted into the Army.

A noted author and literary critic, Marcus began teaching at Columbia in 1956 and by 1991 was dean of the College and university vice president for arts and science, retiring in 1995 to teach full time.

Steven Marcus died in New York City on April 25, 2018.



**Richard Donohue '60** joined the New York Giants in 1980 as a scout and, for 22 years, held several positions in the organization, including chief scout and director of player personnel before becoming the assistant GM in January of 1998. His game experience included coaching the freshman football team at Michigan State.

Richard “Rick” Donohue died unexpectedly at his home in Bluffton, South Carolina, on February 6, 2019.



**Lee Leonard '46** grew up Maxwell Lefkowitz. His interest in broadcasting began in the Army and eventually led him, as Lee Leonard, to being a familiar face hosting many programs of many TV channels. But it was his voice that will make him immortal. On September 7, 1979, he was the first person to appear on ESPN...and to speak. “If you’re a fan — if you’re a fan — what you’ll see in the next minutes, hours and days to follow may convince you you’ve gone to sports heaven.”

Lee Leonard died in New Jersey on December 16, 2018.



**Richard Marks '60** was one of the great film editors in cinema history. His films include *The Godfather Part II* (1974), *Apocalypse Now* (1979), *Terms of Endearment* (1983), *St. Elmo's Fire* (1985), *Pretty in Pink* (1986), *Broadcast News* (1987), *Dick Tracy* (1990), *As Good as It Gets* (1997), *You've Got Mail* (1998), *Made of Honor* (2008) and *Julie & Julia* (2009). His producing credits include *Jumpin' Jack Flash* (1986), *As Good As It Gets* (1997), *Spanglish* (2004) and *How Do You Know* (2010).

Richard Marks passed away in New York on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2018.





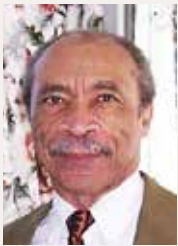
**Constance "Connie" Bernardi, Retired faculty,** held supervisory positions at DWC starting in 1970s and going into the 1980s. Her titles included the words assistant principal, chairperson and chairwoman and her departments included the words speech, reading, ESL, communication and theatre. Colleague Donald Brookman remembers her as "an extremely supportive chairperson." For colleague Sandra Skodnik, she was bright, efficient, thorough and innovative.

Constance Bernardi passed away on October 28, 2018.



**Carolyn Cuomo Biscaro, Retired faculty,** graduated from Mt. St. Ursula (1964), Mercy College (1968) and received a Master's in English from Fordham University (1975). She was an English teacher at DeWitt Clinton from 1968 to 1978, where she mixed scholarship with caring and humor.

Carolyn Biscaro died on December 16, 2018 in Irvine, CA, where she had resided for 35 years. A Memorial will be held on May 11th, 2019 at 11:30am in Stamford, CT. If you would like to attend please email [lota.nina@gmail.com](mailto:lota.nina@gmail.com) for details.



**Lorenzo Brown Jr., Retired faculty,** was born in LaFollette, Tennessee, and was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1957, serving until 1963. Then for 28 years, Brown taught and mentored biology at DWC. In the late 1980s, he received a teaching excellence award from Mayor David Dinkins. He was also involved in youth programs in Westchester County.

Lorenzo Brown Jr. passed away on March 8, 2019. When colleagues heard of his passing, their first words were almost always, "He was a real gentleman."



**Harvey Danis, Retired faculty,** was honored in 1976 when the *Clintonian* yearbook was dedicated to him for his devotion to student life at DWC. Those years went from the mid-1960s to 1980 as a health education teacher, football coach and advisor to the G.O. Following the economic crisis of 1975, he founded the Save Our Sports Committee of high school coaches, which worked to save sports programs.

A resident of Delray Beach, Florida, Harvey Danis passed away on Wednesday, March 13, 2019.

## Tuskegee Airman Lawrence E. Dickson '38 Laid to Rest in Arlington Cemetery, March 22, 2019



(Michael Robinson Chavez/*The Washington Post*)

Missing in action after his P-51 Mustang went down over the Italian Alps on December 23, 1944, Captain Lawrence E. Dickson's plane bearing human remains was discovered in Austria in 2017. In July 2018, the remains were verified to be Dickson's. His daughter, Marla L. Andrews, is seated to the right at the interment. She was two years old when her father died. Welcome home, soldier!

# Donors by Club

Life Club - Major Gift

Guernsey Club - \$1,000 & above  
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 Red & Black Club - \$200-\$299  
 Century Club - \$100-\$199

RF = RETIRED FACULTY  
 DF = DECEASED FACULTY



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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, 2019	\$35.00
Voluntary Assessment (in support of student activities)	\$15.00
Total Sustaining Donation	\$50.00

The Alumni Association will shortly mail (we mean it this time) 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)
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