

Spring 2023

*Memories are all we really own.*  
– Elias Lieberman, Class of 1900



# THE NEWSLETTER

**DEWITT CLINTON ALUMNI ASSN, INC.**

[www.dewittclintonalumni.com](http://www.dewittclintonalumni.com)

DWCAumni@aol.com

Sydney Valerio '99  
PRESIDENT

Pierre Orbe  
PRINCIPAL

Gerard Pelisson Hon. '03  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR

## *The DeWitt Clinton High School Annual Alumni Dinner*

6:30-10:30 P.M.,  
Thursday,  
May 18, 2023

Sponsored by the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association

Marina Del Rey  
One Marina Drive,  
Bronx, NY

### **Celebrate the Ongoing Accomplishments of DeWitt Clinton High School**

With Tributes to Our Anniversary Years

65th – 1958 ♦ 60th – 1963 ♦ 50th – 1973 ♦ 40th – 1983  
♦ 25th – 1998 ♦ 20th – 2003 ♦ 10th – 2013

### *Distinguished Alumni to Be Honored*



Amy Yensi '02 is an award-winning journalist. She joined the PIX11 News team in July 2022. Most recently, she worked at Spectrum News NY1 for more than four years. Amy, who is of Dominican descent, also reported in Spanish at NY1 Noticias. Before NY1, she was a general assignment reporter at WJZ in Baltimore for three years. There, she earned an Emmy nomination for her coverage of the Freddie Gray riots. Before WJZ, she was a “one-woman band” reporter for News 12 The Bronx and Brooklyn, when she shot, wrote and edited her own stories. Yensi earned her master’s degree from the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism and her bachelor’s degree in English from Hunter College.



Taiboo Song '79 immigrated from Korea to the Bronx and flourished at DeWitt Clinton High School. He graduated from MIT with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and went on to accomplish much more. Song designed the upper stage brain of Titan-Centaur, a rocket that was launched to the Moon and used by NASA for deep space missions. He designed the brake systems and in-flight entertainment systems for Boeing’s long-distance airplane, the 777. He invented the over-wing exit door for Boeing’s domestic route airplanes, the 737NG and 737Max. In 2019, he received the Boeing Inventor Award - the company’s highest award for technical achievement. Song believes he has been blessed by God. He has been heavily involved in his community by serving as the church elder board chair and board chair for a local church in Seattle.



Curtis Urbina '75 was instrumental in several successful music labels, which he owned or co-owned, such as Emergency Records and Quark Records. These labels created the first opportunities for many of today’s leading DJ producers and remixers. He has also been an adjunct professor at New York University, teaching courses on the business of music publishing, careers in the music business, and developing a record label. In 2006, Urbina joined Minnesota DJ/Remixer Thomas Spiegel (aka DJ Man-X) to form Deep Haven Music. A great wrestler at Clinton and now a great wrestling coach in Newtown, Connecticut, in August 2017 Urbina was named Newtown’s Sportsperson of the Year.

Details on pages 8-9



**DWC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**PRESIDENT**

Sydney Valerio '99

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

Robert Esnard '56

Gilbert Walton '77

**SECRETARY**

Orlando Rao '73

**TREASURER**

Amy Melendez '90

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Reginald Grier '46

John Barbarette '64

(President Emeritus)

Marc Siegel '64

Hon. Rolando T. Acosta '75

Cedric Fergus '78

Jose Santos '78

Jannie Rosado '90

Natasha Van-Reil '92

Ivette Terry '95

Karina Jorge '99

KaDarra Lowe '02

**PRINCIPAL**

Pierre Orbe

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Gerard Pelisson HON '03

**President's Letter**



Sydney Valerio '99

Dear Fellow Governors,

This time of the year sets us up for celebrating our dear alma mater. As you will read in the Principal's letter, our alma mater is currently doing very well. We are so excited about coming together for our alma mater at this year's alumni dinner which is just a few months away. The alumni dinner is a great opportunity for us to reunite with old classmates and to meet other alumni who share a commitment to our school's current students and its legacy. Our 125th anniversary alumni dinner last year was a great success. It included dancing and conversations that took all of us down memory lane. Please visit our website for updates and to purchase your tickets for the dinner.

If you are not able to attend the dinner then we invite you to

support the alma mater by purchasing a ticket for a graduating senior to attend, advertise your business in our dinner journal, and send extra love by sharing the event with your networks. We are grateful for your contributions and support. The alumni association continues to serve as a constant source of funding for student activities and programs and it is all possible due to your donations and membership dues. Thank you for your continuous generosity.

We invite you to purchase your dinner ticket and join us at this year's annual Alumni dinner on Thursday, May 18, 2023 at Marina Del Rey. You can also save the date for our annual golf outing: August 1, 2023. Visit our website [www.dewittclintonalumni.com](http://www.dewittclintonalumni.com) for updates, apparel, and ticket information for our events.

With Love from The Bronx,

**Sydney Valerio**

DeWitt Clinton Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2023

Table of Contents

- Page 1 - Annual Alumni Dinner announcement
- Page 2 - President Sydney Valerio's letter, golf outing
- Pages 3-4 - Principal's letter to the DWC alumni
- Page 5 - Good News about DWC
- Pages 6-7 - Basketball and track, boom!
- Pages 8-9 - Alumni dinner reservation form, buy journal ads
- Page 10 - Alumni profiles
- Page 11 - Clinton author/alumni notes
- Page 12 - Alumni notes
- Page 13 - In memoriam
- Page 14 - Donor club members
- Page 15 - Membership dues form
- Page 16 - Annual Faculty Hall of Honor announcement

**DWC**

Introducing hyperlinks:

If you are reading this newsletter while you are on the Internet, click on any underlined Internet address and the site will automatically open.



**Tuesday, August 1, 2023**

**Pelham Bay Park Golf Course  
Bronx, New York**

**DeWitt Clinton  
Alumni Association  
Golf Outing**

**For more information,  
call the Alumni Office  
914-961-3003**

# Principal's Letter

Dear Proud DWC Alumni,

As we reach the halfway point of this spring term, we have remained focused on increasing literacy across subjects. "Don't we do this always?", you might ask. Of course, but it's not every year where students enter the school so far behind in their basic reading literacy. With initial fall and winter reading tests revealing that 25% of students read below 3rd grade levels and 67% of students read at grade levels 4-8, there is reason to make a harder push.

Is this typical for students in the Bronx? To a large degree yes. But unfortunately the time lost during the pandemic has resulted in further declines than normally experienced.

So our plan has been to fortify daily lessons with scripted reading protocols that require students to engage in reading across subjects. These scripts support teachers to achieve higher levels of engagement and fundamental building blocks of comprehension.

The results of this work appears to benefit our students as we have challenged them to return to reality and face regents exams with a no retreat, no surrender attitude.

- ◆ English regents results: 61% passing after 3 semesters of English. Our goal is 80% by June 2023. We are confident we will meet this mark.
- ◆ Global: 42% passing before they even finished the curriculum. We expect to hit our goal of 80% by June 2023.

Living environment and algebra is expected to hit between 55%-65% by June 2023 for their 9th grade cohort.

But these results, while premature, are a positive sign of students benefiting from being in school and gaining valuable reading time. Our graduation rates need to reflect our literacy rates, otherwise we are far from the goal.

This a glimpse of our literary infrastructure, but this year also marks the completion of some important physical infrastructure improvements finally being completed:

- ◆ Digital Bulletin Boards - these boards will allow each classroom teacher to reflect student work and valuable announcements to keep everyone informed. And do not require the amount of time for teachers to put together an old fashioned bulletin board.
- ◆ New Classroom Door Wraps - our Visual Art Department, under the guidance of their teacher, Mr. Polanco, has designed door covers that will display images from Stan Lee's Marvel Characters and Bob Kane/ Bill Finger's Batman characters.
- ◆ New cafeteria furniture (see below) - freshly installed before the president's week break, our students now can enjoy booth seating that might be more typical of a diner.



Pierre Orbe



(Continued Page 4)

# Principal's Letter

Continued from Page 3)

The next important frontiers we need to improve are the physical training facilities for our Gym Building and our performance space in the Auditorium.

We have one reinforced floor that supports our one fitness room, but the area is not large enough for our many sports teams to practice and use this one space at a time. We have an entire floor filled with empty locker rooms that desperately need to become something more useful for our sports athletes and coaches.

We seek to raise funds for the removal of these lockers and the leveling/ reinforcement of the floor so that we can create sports specific training spaces that include a(an):

- ◆ Indoor batting cage
- ◆ Expanded weight room (dependent on reinforcement of floor)
- ◆ Turf floor for power sledding
- ◆ Physical therapy space

This project will be very expensive just for the removal of lockers and reinforced floors, but we are prepared to spend the money needed to buy the equipment. So our goal will be to obtain the funding to complete the infrastructure for both the gym building and the auditorium.

The DOE has an initiative to fix the swimming pool next, so we expect that will be back in the next few years.

The future remains bright for DWC. We have many great things happening. Our enrollment is also increasing once again. The only limitation will remain the space we have to grow into. We will soon outgrow our own floor space and need to expand.

We have new programs starting next year:

- ◆ Licensed Practicing Nurse (LPN) Program
- ◆ Business Program

These will bring in more students who will know that by attending DWC, that they will receive college credits, certifications for jobs, and internships with industry partners. Something we call CCI here at DWC.

Our computer science program had over 1,000 applications for simply 75 seats available. This shows the value of programs designed to ensure students receive CCI.

This program has been hailed by many within the DOE as an exemplary program, that is referred to many others for how to build one from scratch.

While still in the early years of these programs, the goal and promise to our students will be the ability to pass their industry certification exams. If we can have 50% - 75% of our students graduating with degrees in html/CSS and Python coding languages or LPN, we have improved their social standings and fulfilled the original promise of education. The promise is to access a job that will contribute to society. And maybe, we can save our students, who are unsure of what they want to do in college, from entering the bottomless pit that has become low college graduation rates and high student debt.

This will take years to complete this work, but we never forget our school logo: Sine Labore Nihil... nothing is accomplished without hard work!

Sincerely,



Pierre Orbe  
Principal

P.S. Check out the good news on page 5.

## Career Discovery Week Begins with DeWitt Clinton High School

Launched in 2020 as a joint initiative between the Partnership for New York City and New York City Public Schools, Career Discovery Week began its second year on March 6th. The event took place in the Hearst Building on 57th Street in Manhattan.

A leader in internship programs for high school students, DeWitt Clinton was the first school to participate in the March 6th event. Students worked with Food Network Magazine staff to create special cupcakes.

Earlier in the day, the students learned about coding from Hearst staffers. They could see how what they are learning in their classrooms applies in the real world.

"This is a group of computer science students who are coding html and CSS, and they're hearing from the professionals here that, that's the same language that is used to build their websites," explained DeWitt Clinton Principal Pierre Orbe.

Schools Chancellor David Banks participated in the event and told the students that this was an opportunity to access a place they might not otherwise have been exposed to during their education in the Bronx.

Resources and photos: <https://www.ny1.com/nyc/all-boroughs/education/2023/03/07/career-discovery-week-kicks-off-for-public-school-students>  
<https://pfny.org/career-discovery-week/>



### More Good News Arrived March 9th

Dear DWC Staff,

As luck would have it and as we begin to shift the culture of our school closer to our students' true potential, we have received wonderful news. This news validates the reasons why we focused on other metrics prior to this culture shift, and also solidifies why we must push harder now to unlock our student's actual capabilities.

When I arrived here in the middle of 2016-17, as the 3rd principal in that school year, the school was designated as possible for "State Closure". We went to work, ensuring students were given more opportunities to pass their courses and absolutely raised the regents scores and graduation rates. We would have been seen as a school in "Good Standing" back in 2020, if not for the pandemic and closings of schools. Instead, we were moved to a TSI designation. Seven school years later, we have finally be moved to a school in "Good Standing" and announced today to an even higher designation:

"Congratulations! Based on 2021-22 data, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has identified DeWitt Clinton High School as a school designated for Local Support and Improvement (LSI) for the 2022-23 school year. The designation "Good Standing" has been changed to "Local Support and Improvement (LSI)," to recognize that all schools, even higher performing schools, are in a continuous improvement mode and can benefit from local support from their districts to meet students' differentiated needs. LSI is the best accountability status currently available."

Thank you to all staff, present and past, for your never wavering efforts. This is often a thankless job, but every once in a while, we do receive recognition for what we do. Now we shift our focus to ensuring our students' efforts will translate to meaningful levels of literacy and success. For when they leave these walls without true literacy, we know they will not make it far and the outside world is very cruel.

But for today, stop and take inventory of the hard work that has taken place within these walls that has led to such widespread recognition. We have been recognized by the Chancellor's Career Exploration initiative and now by NY State.

I stand proudly with each of you as we move this community forward.

In victory,  
Pierre Orbe  
Principal

## Coach Chris Ballerini and His Varsity Basketball Governors Thrilled Us with Another Exciting Season



### Official 2022-2023 Roster

- JHOAN ADAMES (13)
- CARTER ARCHIBALD (12)
- CHRISTOPHER BAUTISTA (3)
- JASON COACHMAN (4)
- JUSTIN COACHMAN (10)
- LEMAR EBANKS (14)
- ANGEL FELIX (11)
- NOWAH HARGROW (5)
- JEAVON HYMAN (20)
- INVESTI NDOUTINGAI (22)
- BILAL OURO (21)
- JOMAURI PENA (1)
- AMARE STERLING (15)

Photo thank yous: *The Riverdale Press*,  
Henry O Ordosgoitia '77, Mary Taveras.

This is the 2nd consecutive season that Clinton finished with an unblemished 20-0 regular season. And how well we were doing in the playoffs, only to lose in the semi-finals on March 13 to Transit Tech CTE, 59-49.

Nevertheless, what a season, what a reason to be a proud varsity basketball Governor and for all of us to be members of the DeWitt Clinton Community!

Date	Home Team	Score	Away Team	Score
2/05/2022	Roosevelt	44	Dewitt Clinton	85
12/07/2022	Grace Dodge	32	Dewitt Clinton	81
12/14/2022	Dewitt Clinton	83	Columbus	57
12/16/2022	Dewitt Clinton	73	Evander Childs	49
12/21/2022	Dewitt Clinton	82	Walton	31
01/03/2023	Bx Science	39	Dewitt Clinton	71
01/09/2023	Dewitt Clinton	92	Roosevelt	46
01/11/2023	Dewitt Clinton	78	Grace Dodge	21
01/18/2023	Columbus	72	Dewitt Clinton	89
01/20/2023	Evander Childs	48	Dewitt Clinton	72
01/28/2023 NL	Dewitt Clinton	73	Bryant	35
02/01/2023	Walton	47	Dewitt Clinton	82
02/06/2023	Dewitt Clinton	81	Bx Science	54
02/14/2023 P	Dewitt Clinton	75	Stevenson	81
03/02/2023 P	Dewitt Clinton	66	Far Rockaway	40
03/07/2023 P	Dewitt Clinton	73	Brooklyn Tech	41
03/09/2023 P	Dewitt Clinton	63	M. Van Buren	60
03/13/2023 P	Trans Tech CTE	59	Dewitt Clinton	49



## Coach Cornel Johnson '79's Big Shoutout to DWC's Girls Track Team State Championships March 3-4, 2023



Super proud of our freshmen squad who started the season a little green but are now medaling at all events through hard work! Our sophomore team finished a strong third, leading competitions most of the way!



**BIG** Congratulations to Shania Young! She won the long jump (18ft 2) and triple jump (37ft 2)! She even broke her own personal record! Additional shout-out: Shania became 5th in the state in the triple jump after jumping 37.2 feet!!

Congratulations to Anayah Henry (Sophomore), Tamera Rodrigues (Junior), Beverly Okyere (Senior), and Kayla More (Junior), and Shania Young (Sophomore) for competing in this year's State Championships at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex in Staten Island! Anayah, Tamera, Beverly, and Kayla did an amazing job running a 1:44.7 in the 4x200 Meter Relay.



Coach Johnson

## Running in the Halls! It's Permitted If You Are on the Football and Track Teams



(Photos: Henry "O" Ordosgoitia '77)

## Football and Track Teams 1923 100 Years Ago



# Celebrate the Ongoing Accomplishments of DeWitt Clinton High School

At the Annual Dinner Sponsored by the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association

6:30-10:30 P.M.,  
Thursday, May 18, 2023

*Good Food and Cheer*  
*Choice of Main Course*



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

*Music and Dancing*  
*Open Bar*

## Dinner Reservation

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or charge my credit card \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Per Person \$150 Annual dues members  
includes \$175 Non members and  
valet parking after April 28

I would like to sponsor  
\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Student(s).

Visa       Master Card       American Express       Discover

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

(3 or 4 digits, not part of the CC#)

I cannot attend but enclose a contribution for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
or charge my credit card to support the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn., Inc.

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 April 28, 2023 to:  
DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc.,  
P.O. Box 566, Elmsford, New York 10523-0566  
Phone (914) 961-3003 Fax (914) 961-0291

Purchase on-line: [www.dewittclintonalumni.com](http://www.dewittclintonalumni.com)

Or  
Scan  
QR code



***Homecoming Day at School***  
Friday, May 19, 2023, Time TBA

ALERT: As the May 19, 2023 Homecoming Day approaches, visit  
<https://www.dewittclintonalumni.com/> for the latest information and requirements.



## Your Ad for the May 18, 2023 Alumni Dinner Journal

Please check one box:

Description	Price	Ad displayed on DWC Alumni website
<input type="checkbox"/> Red & Black Page (8"x 10.5" Vertical) Full page in color <i>- Ad framed in Red &amp; Black frame, prominently placed in journal</i>	\$1,000	Included
<input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Page (8"x 10.5" Vertical) Full page in color <i>- Ad framed in platinum frame, prominently placed in journal</i>	\$750	Included
<input type="checkbox"/> Gold Page (8"x 10.5" Vertical) Full page in color	\$500	Included
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page (8"x 10.5" Vertical) Black & White	\$200	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Half Page (4"x 5.25" Vertical) Black & White	\$125	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Quarter Page (4"x 5.25" Vertical) Black & White	\$75	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Card (3.5"x 2" Vertical) Black & White	\$50	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Booster (Name and graduation year only) Black & White	\$25	N/A

AD copy:

- 1) Written here
- 2) Attached
- 3) Submitted electronically to our email:  
dewittclintonalumni@gmail.com



Name and year graduated (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Visa       Master Card       American Express       Discover

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the "DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc."

(3 or 4 digits, not part of the CC#)

Contributions are tax-deductible.

Please return by April 16, 2023 to:  
DWC Reunion Dinner-Journal Ads  
P.O. Box 566, Elmsford, New York 10523-0566  
Phone (914) 961-3003 Fax (914) 961-0291

Purchase on-line:  
[www.dewittclintonalumni.com](http://www.dewittclintonalumni.com)  
Or Scan QR code



## Alumni Profiles

---



**Reginald Grier '46** will be 95 years old on April 8th. He deserves our heartiest Happy Birthday wishes for his dedication to country, DeWitt Clinton High School, and many charitable causes. Reggie served in the U. S. Army for 26 years in Italy and throughout Asia. In 1970, he was awarded (see photo right) South Korea's highest award for foreigners for his community work. Retiring in 1977 as a colonel, Grier began a second career as associate professor in accounting and law at William Paterson College in New Jersey. He retired from William Paterson in 2005. He is a former president of the DWC Alumni Association and continues to serve as an active member of the Alumni Board.



**Judd Hirsch '52** was nominated this year for an Academy Award in a supporting role for his work in Steven Spielberg's film *The Fablemans*, but the Oscar once again passed him by. In 1980, he had been nominated in the same category for *Ordinary People*. His films include *Without a Trace* (1983), *Teachers* (1984), *Running on Empty* (1988), *Independence Day* (1996), *A Beautiful Mind* (2001), and *Rally Caps* (2023). On the stage is a different story. Hirsch won Tony Awards as leading actor in the plays *I'm Not Rappaport* (1985) and *Conversations with My Father* (1992). He was seen in the TV sit-com *Taxi* (1978-1983), earning an Emmy Award for Lead Actor in a Comedy Series, and in the series *Numbers* (2005-2010). Since 2015, he has had a reoccurring role on the TV comedy series *The Goldbergs*.



**Byron Minns '80** has acted in many feature film and TV movies and series, but these days he is focusing on the writing skills he learned as sports editor of the *Clinton News*. Let us begin with the animated series *Black Dynamite* (2011-2015). Besides being a creator and star of the series, he wrote 20 of its episodes. He went on to co-write the screenplay for the 2021 film *The Outlaw Johnny Black*. It should be added that he co-produced and co-acted in the film. His most recent example of writing can be seen in the 2022 TV movie *The Amazing Vitas*. The film tells the story of the first Black acrobatic group as they travel the U.S. with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus in the 1980s. For all of Byron's roles in the movies, it is hard to forget *Forrest Gump* (1994), when as a wounded soldier, he introduced Tom Hanks to the game of ping pong. Remember?



**Jannie Rosado '90** was inducted into the Armory's Thomas E. Byrne Officials Hall of Fame on January 20-21, 2023. The official program stated: *Jannie Rosado is a devoted mother, teacher, and Master Level Official who has officiated for over 33 years. She was a star sprinter at DeWitt Clinton High School before graduating from St. John's University. Working primarily with the PSAL and USATF, Jannie received the Jacob Korn officiating award in 2015, and she became The Armory's Officials Coordinator in 2017. Jannie has officiated the Millrose Games, Penn Relays, New York City Marathon, and numerous Diamond League meets, among many others throughout her career. Jannie's devotion to DWC continues as a member of the Alumni Board of the DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association.*



**Amanda Simon '13** is a second-year PhD student in the Department of Neuroscience at Weill Cornell Graduate School. Her research focuses on characterizing Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Disorders of Consciousness (DOCs) using a rodent model of severe brain injury. Her research utilizes behavioral tests to determine the impact of a secondary blast injury on cognition and motor skills, as well as computational imaging techniques to discern the degree of damage in brain regions and pathways affected by the injury. Prior to graduate school, Amanda earned her Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience from Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.



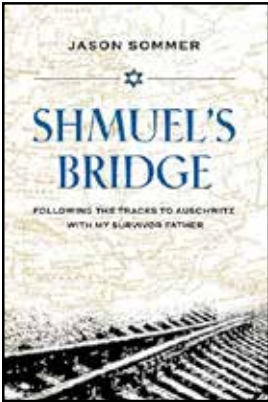
### Jason Sommer DWC 1967 Reflects on the Life and Death of His Father

Ninety-nine when he died on January 16th, my father, Jay Sommer, concluded a life that had been full of incident, of sadness and loss, of obstacles overcome and remarkable achievement. Born into abject poverty in Kustanovice, Czechoslovakia, as a teenager he survived Nazi slave labor, the perils of an escape, and the dangers of a reluctant service in the Red Army. The Russians, rescuing him, also insisted that he join them for his language skills. From his liberators he also had to liberate himself, and made his way to a displaced persons camp in Italy, where he acquired another language to add to the several he already spoke. (Eventually he would be fluent in ten.)

Good fortune, and persistence, brought him to America, where, during 21 consecutive years of night school, he earned two master's degrees. He taught for over 25 years at New Rochelle High School and by all accounts was a teacher and mentor who changed his students' lives. In 1981 in a White House ceremony, he was recognized as National Teacher of the Year, which led to his appointment to President Reagan's Commission on Excellence in Education. He was the sole teacher on the panel that produced "A Nation at Risk," which remains a seminal document in discussions of American education.

My father was married for 65 years to my mother, Shirley, a high school English teacher, who died in 2013. I am their only child.

Among his many gifts to me was the journey through Eastern Europe we took together that I wrote about in my memoir: *Shmuel's Bridge* (2022). He was, on that trip as throughout his life, willing to bear the personal pain of his own recollections so that the larger history would not be lost. He brought me to the places where his life had begun and places where it had nearly ended, and we sought out the bridge where his beloved younger brother had attempted an escape from an Auschwitz-bound transport..



ISBN-10: 1623545129  
ISBN-13: 978-1623545123

## Alumni Notes

**Joseph H. Bernstein '47**—Enjoying contacts with my children, grandchildren & great-grandchildren, from Washington state to Maine. Have given up world travel and big-game hunting, but still enjoy being upright on two feet.

**David Levy '47**—At age 94 still continuing to be active and enjoying retirement. Thanks DWCHS for helping to make this possible.

**Martin Wasserman '49**—Coach football and wrestling. First Lt. U.S. Army. Faculty Hall of Honor. Teacher of the Year 2x. Anyone from 1947, 48 football team. I am at Plainview Residence "Old Folks Home."

**Milton Persily '52**—Manager of computer services at Equitable Life (early retirement) then director of computer services at LaGuardia Community College - CUNY (early retirement).

**Edward Schiffer '50**—Graduated CCNY. Worked for Parke Davis 35 years. Moved to L.A. I worked as executive director at 99C Only stores 10 years.

**Vincent N. DiStefano '54**—Living in my Florida condo for the winter. My wife Adele passed away from Covid-pneumonia December 2020. I spend summers at my

daughter's farm in Harrison Maine, where I have an apartment, and volunteer at the Deertrees Theater during July and August.

**Richard Garber '54**—On varsity basketball 1952-1954, co-captain 1953-1954. Wearing out as many golf courses as possible.

**Arnold B. Gordon '56**—Reelected as chairman, Durham County Internal Audit Oversight Committee.

**Thomas Mauro '56**—Retired AVP chemical Bank. Married to Linda 61 years this April 2023. Three retired sons, Louis, Thomas Jr, Michael, and seven grandchildren.

**Ira Greenberg '57**—Graduated from NYU, served two years active duty in the Navy, was controller for several companies, then president of a subsidiary of a South African company for 14 years.

**Allen H. Jacobson '57**—Library squad, swimming team, chess club. Partner at Washington Analysis Corp LLC

**Ira Gross '58**—Retired from IBM in 1996 after 30 years. Started a property management firm in 1996 and just retired after another 26 years. Time has come to enjoy sun and sand in Boca Raton, Florida.

**Richard Kantor '58**—At Clinton, football team, gym squad, intermural softball.

**Carmine Magazino '59**—I was on the *Clinton News* and football team. Participating with a wonderful organization Justgather.org in its efforts to educate youth about the poison that kills - fentanyl. Please join the effort. - "Sine labore nihil"

**Stephen A. Ugelow MD '60**—Played varsity football. Won 2 Regents scholarship.

**Bernard Kobroff '61**—At Clinton, administrative assistant squad, chess club squad E. Career = attorney.

**Allen Leibowitz '62**—Library Squad, French Club Career/Job Field after DeWitt Clinton = 1963-1967, U. S. Air Force. Spent the rest of career in IT support with IBM and then ADP. I retired in 2007.

**Robert H. Benna '63**—Still enjoying retirement. Golf game is bad, but life is good.

**Robert A. Corrigan '63**—Hard to believe 60 years since my graduation from DWC!

**Edward A Musal '63**—Occupational Safety & Health (Retired)

## Alumni Notes

**John Barbarette '64**—Football, chorus; president emeritus DWC Alumni Association; career = business

**Philip Cohen '64**—Joined the Navy after graduation, went to Lehman College in 1972, graduated BA economics December 1975. Worked in the air compressor industry after graduation, became senior engineer, district area manager for southern New York State, retired in 2017.

**David R. Gornstein '64**—Co-captain, alumni squad with Russell Boxley. CEO/COO consulting to/schools and libraries for FCC grant program.

**Michael Lewis '66**—At DWC, marching band, track and field team, cross country team. Ohio State track and field (1966-68), USAF (1968-72, Vietnam 1969-70). Howard University (1972-74) B.B.A. 1974, Cornell University (1974-76 MBA 1976).

**Lance Zavin '66**—At Clinton, on the library squad. President, Pelham Parkway Jewish Center. Board member of Pelham Pkwy Neighborhood Assn.

**Christopher Conty '67**—Forever grateful that attending Clinton's centennial (1997) grounded me, breaking 3 1/2 month depression. Sad 125th, more low-key. Attend DWC annual dinner every 5 years since graduation wherever I live (Mass. past 30 years) Still teens at home: son's Asperger's diagnosis led to embracing my own autism and led to reviving JHS comic-book character for forthcoming graphic novel. See [aspiemouse.com](http://aspiemouse.com) blog.

**Jack L. Hirsch '67**—After retiring as tax director for Gilman Paper Company and the Howard Gilman Foundation, became an AARP tax aide volunteer helping people to file their tax returns.

**Don Levy '67**—Arista, library squad; after DWC, a career in social work.

**Robert Tausek '68**—I worked on the *Clinton News*. Retired and living in South Carolina. Recently took up Tai Chi, a martial art.

**Carmine Tobacco '68**—At Clinton, I worked on the library squad and the *Clinton News* staff.

**Barry L. Nelson '69**—At DWC, in chess club, computer club, Arista, track team, wrestling team. Elected to Board of Trustees of the Guilderland Library, elected to Board of Directors of the Westmere Fire Department, elected to Board of Directors of the Albany County Fire Police.

**Robert David Sunshine MD '69**—Biology and AV squads at Clinton. Urologic surgeon, medical-legal consultant.

**Warren Leibowitz '70**—Tax professional (enrolled agent) licensed by the IRS since 1987. I've been in the field since 1980 preparing and advising clients.

**Michael Weiser '70**—Had a great time at my 50th reunion two years late.

**Karl Larkin '72**—Football team 4 back 1971 & 1972. NYPD 1982-1983, FDNY 1983-2003

**Nicholas A. Nagorny '72**—Active in criminal justice.

**Feliz Rodriguez '73**—Varsity Football 71-72; after DeWitt Clinton = Deputy Director, Illinois Division of Mental Health.

**Thomas Molnar '75**—At Clinton, I was on the swim team. My career has been that of an engineer

**David Refkin '75**—Currently working with the city of Detroit to improve recycling, build a circular economy and address environmental justice issues. Chair of Green Ridgewood (NJ). Dad Martin, class of 1943, doing well. See all 1975 classmates at our 50th reunion.

**Cedruc Fergus '78**—Arista. Phys Ed teacher and Basketball Coach. Member of the DWC Alumni Board.

**Greywolf Richards '78**—Bally Total Fitness 1994-2013 Urban Rezervation HDFC-- Managing Agent 2001-present.

**Jose E. Guzman '79**—1979 wrestling team co-captain. The Leadership Senate and the Clinton News. Volunteer wrestling coach at Clinton for many years. Career: Data communications engineer.

**Cornel Johnson '79**—Retired PE teacher at Clinton, still coaching girls' track.

**Antonio Espinosa '80**—At DeWitt Clinton, I was a member of the football team.

**Lenny Ortiz '80**—At Clinton, football and baseball teams, student gov't, G.O. Club. Career: court services coordinator for the NYC Criminal Justice Agency, site plan coordinator Herbert Construction, American Express field plan coordinator.

**Anthony Santiago '82**—At DWC, member of the football, baseball, wrestling teams. After DWC = USMC /AT&T Telecommunications South Florida.

**Mildred Martinez Benson '87**—G.O. president, consultative council, handball team, math team, Academic Olympics, Arista, key club, *Clinton News*, peer tutoring, leadership, health careers, animal care squad. After DWC = Worked in Cryogenics in U.S. Marine Corps (1987-1992). Honorably discharged as a corporal. Worked as a public programs manager for the Central Park Conservancy. Started IRS career in 2005 as a revenue agent. I now work as a technical service frontline manager, recently accepted into the Senior Manager Readiness Program.

**Carlos J. Benitez '89**—Cardio respiratory therapist, science teacher, HS principal.

**Natasha Van-Reil '92**—Track, Cross Country, G. O. Council, Leadership Club, MACY Program. Career/Job Field after DeWitt Clinton = M&T Bank - Technology US AF - Air National Guard

**Kaity Colon '99**—Pediatric urology physician assistant coordinator of academics and research urology adjunct professor.

**Sydney Valerio '99**—Senior class president, student government, varsity softball, ASPIRA, ARISTA, environmental club, health committee. Career = Educator

# In Memoriam

Walter Mirisch '38 (February 24, 2023)  
 Alfred Leslie '45 (January 27, 2023)  
 Arthur Tauber '46 (January 10, 2023)  
 Frederic Grand '48 (December 10, 2022)  
 Arthur Sigmund '49 (December 18, 2022)  
 Richard Jones '54 (December 31, 2022)  
 Patrick Tully '55 (January 20, 2023)  
 Phillip Alexander Sr. '56 (February 3, 2023)

Matthew Berliner '57 (September 25, 2022)  
 Charles Klotzkin '57 (February 1, 2023)  
 Dennis Dennehy '58 (December 3, 2022)  
 Thaddeus Paszkiewicz '58 (Dec. 8, 2022)  
 James A. Brady '59 (November 20, 2022)  
 Richard P. Dunne Jr. '63 (November 5, 2022)  
 Thomas P. Amanna '66 (January 5, 2023)  
 Thomas Ingram '67 (January 21, 2023)

Donovan A. Harvey '78 (January 13, 2023)  
 Darrell Rich '78 (October 31, 2022)  
 Ronald Bramesco RF (February 1, 2023)  
 James Gilmore RF (February 4, 2023)  
 Caesar Previdi RF (December 21, 2022)  
 Christopher Corcoran CS (November 2022)  
 RF Retired Faculty CS Custodial Staff



**Walter Mirisch '38** and his two brothers created the Mirisch Company in 1957 to produce films. Their successes included three best picture Oscars: *The Apartment* (1960), *West Side Story* (1961), and *In the Heat of the Night* (1967). All together their films earned 28 Oscars. Starting in 1973, Mirisch served four terms as president of the Motion Picture Academy. A man of principle, he valued being called "one of the good guys!" Mirisch passed away on February 24, 2023 in Los Angeles at 101 years of age.



**Ronald Bramesco RF** taught at DWC from 1959 until 1990, mostly chemistry, but occasionally general science. In addition, he worked with the coop program identifying work opportunities for students. He helped students present their best selves during the interview as well as in their job performance. In 2018, he was inducted into the DWC Faculty Hall of Honor.  
 Ron Bramesco passed away in Florida on February 1, 2023.



**Alfred Leslie '45**, born Alfred Lippitz, served two years in the Coast Guard before studying art at NYU. He first succeeded as an Abstract Expressionist painter, but in the early 1960s moved to figurative paintings. He was also a renowned charcoal drawer and filmmaker. Leslie died on January 23, 2023 in Brooklyn, New York.



**James Gilmore RF**, came to DWC in 1967 after spending 1964 to 1966 in the Peace Corps in Chile. Until retirement from DWC in 1995, he taught English and served as a dean of discipline. In 1985, Jim became the faculty advisor of the Asian Club, which, at its height, had 50 members. In 2018, he was inducted into the DWC Faculty Hall of Honor.  
 Jim Gilmore passed away in Florida on February 4, 2023.

**Arthur Tauber '46** served in the U. S. Navy at the submarine base in New London, CT. He began working as a civil service researcher at the U. S. Army Electronics Command at Fort Monmouth, NJ in 1954. He would work for the command for over 40 years, earning a master's degree and Ph.D. in chemistry along the way. He took pleasure in mentoring up-and-coming science students. Tauber passed away in New Jersey on January 10, 2023.



**Caesar Previdi RF** was a well respected teacher and student advisor at DWC in the late 1960s into the 1970s. Thereafter, he worked to improve various city high schools, including as principal of Theodore Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr. He was also an education professor at Fordham University.  
 Caesar Previdi passed away in the Bronx on December 21, 2022.



**Phillip Alexander Sr. '56** led a life of service, first in the U. S. Air Force and then for several decades as a corrections officer at Rikers Island.. He found great joy in his family and in gardening and cooking.  
 Phillip Alexander Sr. passed away on February 3, 2023, at the age of 84, in Valhalla, New York.



**Christopher Corcoran CS** was on the custodial staff of DeWitt Clinton High School for almost 30 years, where he was a remarkably hard worker, beloved by faculty, staff, and students alike. He was always willing to be of service, and to give of himself to help anyone in need.  
 Chris Corcoran lived his entire life in New Rochelle, New York, where he graduated from New Rochelle High School. He passed away in November 2022.



**Fredric Grand '55 RF** went from DWC alumnus to DWC physical science teacher in 1969 and remained at Clinton until retirement in 1991. His time included serving as G. O. advisor, alumni coordinator and president of the DWC Alumni Association. In 2018, he was inducted into the DWC Faculty Hall of Honor.

Fred Grand passed away in Florida on December 10, 2022.

## Lest We Forget Their Service to Country ★

Richard P. Dunne Jr. '63 served in the U. S. Navy in Vietnam. After active duty, he remained in the Naval Reserves retiring as a Chief Petty Officer after 27 years of service.

# Donors by Club

Life Club - Major Gift

Guernsey Club - \$1,000 & above

President's Club - \$500-\$999

Governor's Club - \$300-\$499

Red & Black Club - \$200-\$299

Century Club - \$100-\$199

RF = RETIRED FACULTY  
DF = DECEASED FACULTY

## **LIFE CLUB**

ROBERT BENNA '63

MICHAEL BRIER '55

ADA CHIRLES, RF

ELLIS E. COUSENS '70

LESLIE DUNN '57

SCOTT EDLITZ

in memory of

LAWRENCE EDLITZ '49

JOSE "PEPE" FIGUEROA '68

STEPHEN FLAKS '57

DESIREE FRANCIS '89

RANDY FRIESER '73

JAMES GARVEY III HON. '02

MICHAEL GERSON

IRA GROSS '58

J. IRA HARRIS '55

WILLIAM J. HEVERT '61

LONA JUPITER

in memory of

HARRY WOLFE JUPITER '49

HOWARD MAGER '65

GARRY K. MARSHALL '52

MONROE MILSTEIN '44

PHILIP L. MILSTEIN

in memory of

SEYMOUR MILSTEIN '37

GERARD PELISSON HON. '03

SUSAN RICHTER

BERNARD ROBERTS '48

DENISE SCHEINBERG

in memory of

I. HERBERT SCHEINBERG '36

STANLEY SHOPKORN '60

JOHN N. TOGNINO '56

ARTHUR WAILL '50

STEPHEN WINTERS '70

## **GUERNSEY CLUB**

JOSE "PEPE" FIGUEROA '68

RANDY FRIESER '73

HOWARD GLICKSTEIN '47

ANDREW KIMERLING '63

RODNEY LAKE '78

GREG OHANESIAN '64

ORLANDO RAO '73

NEAL ROSENBERG '63

TODD ROSENBERG '65

ROBERT SCHWIEGER '60

## **PRESIDENT'S CLUB**

MICHAEL BRIER '55

IRWIN ENGELMAN '51

ROBERT ESNARD '56

BERNARD KATZ '56

HOWARD MAGER '65

RICHARD NOVICK '64

DANIEL SCHWIEGER '65

LARRY SLATKY '68

STEPHEN A. UGELOW '60

## **GOVERNOR'S CLUB**

ROBERT BENNA '63

MARVIN DESSLER '48

HULBERT C. DOUGHTY '58

NORMAN LEVINE '56

MICHAEL LEWIS '66

MARTIN WASSERMAN '49

## **RED & BLACK**

EDWIN CHIN '58

CHRISTOPHER R. CONTY '67

VINCENT DI STEFANO '50

HOWARD DOMFORT '73

DAVID W. FUCHS HON. '78

JACK L. HIRSCH '67

HERMAN INGWERSEN '52

ROY KULICK '65

BRUCE E. PODIVAL '55

CARL E. RIEG '62

RUSSELL F. RYER '64

ANTHONY SOUKAS '65

MILES WORTMAN '61

CHARLES YAKER '58

## **CENTURY CLUB**

LISETTE BANEGAS '93

JOHN BARBARETTE '64

DAVID C. BERLINER '55

HOWARD BIRNBAUM '63

LAWRENCE BEST '64

MICHAEL BREGMAN '62

YUSEF BURGESS '90

DAVID CHILL '73

KU CHIN '64

JONATHAN COHEN '64

PHILIP COHEN '64

AVERY CORMAN '52

ROBERT CORRIGAN '63

GEORGE DARSA '51

FRANK DE LEONARDIS '60

ELI DOLINSKY '69

STEPHEN FEIGENBAUM '58

CEDRIC FERGUS '78

RICHARD GARBER '54

ARNOLD M. GLICK '55

FRED GOLDNER '62

ALLAN GOLDSTEIN '61

ROBERT GOODMAN '63

ROY GORDET '68

DAVID GORNSTEIN '64

PHILIP GOTTFRIED '57

IRA GREENBERG '57

COL. REGINALD GRIER '46

IRA GROSS '58

EDWARD HARA '61

WILLIAM J. HEVERT '61

JULIUS INSLER '57

ALLEN H. JACOBSON '57

CORNEL JOHNSON '79

THEODORE P. KLINGOS '67

RONALD KORN '57

LEWIS BEN LAU '68

NEIL LEDERER '62

DAVID LEVY '47

CARMINE MAGAZINO '59

STEPHEN MARGARITOV '57

ELLIOT S. MARKOWITZ '59

THOMAS MAURO '56

ROSE KELLY McTAGUE FAC

HERMAN H. MENSING '53

BERTON MILLER '57

ALAN M. NATHANSON '64

STEPHEN P. POLLINGER '64

RICHARD POMBOY '56

NORMAN PULFER '57

DAVID J. REFKIN '75

MERILL RESNICK '63

CLIVE RICHARD S' '73

EDWARD RIMER '62

JEFFREY RODRIGUEZ '85

JANNIE ROSADO '90

STEPHEN SCHIENVAR '62

MICHAEL SCHWARTZ '64

HARVEY SHRAGE '71

MARC J. SIEGEL '64

CARL SILVER '52

LOUIS SIMON RF

ANTHONY SOUKAS '65

STEVEN STRAUSS '56

ROBERT D. SUNSHINE '69

CARMINE J. TABACCO '68

LARRY TASHLIK '60

NATASHA VAN-REIL '92

JOSEPH VECCHIO '64

NORMAN WECHSLER HON. '99

ARTHUR WEINSTEIN '57

MICHAEL WEISER '70

SOLOMON WEISS '46

LANCE ZAVIN '66

## **SCHOLARSHIP DONORS**

MICHAEL BRIER '55

ELLIS COUSENS '70

LESLIE DUNN '57

HON. MARTIN EVANS '35

JOSE "PEPE" FIGUEROA '68

PAULINE V. AND WILLIAM F.

GARVEY FOUNDATION

REUBEN GUTOFF '44

J. IRA HARRIS '55

WILLIAM J. HEVERT '61

LONA JUPITER

BERNARD ROBERTS '48

DENISE SCHEINBERG

ARTHUR WAILL '50

STEPHEN WINTERS '70

GREGG S. WOLPERT '73

# Membership Dues 2023



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

Please Print

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR GRADUATED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DWC SCHOOL AFFILIATIONS (CLUBS, SPORTS)

\_\_\_\_\_

NOTES \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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, 2023	\$35.00
Voluntary Assessment (in support of student activities)	\$15.00
Total Sustaining Donation	\$50.00



Actual size: 1" diameter

The Barrese Society pins are awarded to all those alumni who have paid dues for ten years in a row.

*The DeWitt Clinton Alumni Association thanks you, our loyal supporters.*

- 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)

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

- Visa
- Master Card
- American Express
- Discover

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Place the 3 digit CVV code from the reverse side of your credit card.

Make checks payable to DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc. Mail to: P.O. Box 566, Elmsford, NY 10523-0566 (Do not use the abbreviation DWC)

(A donation for scholarships require a separate check made payable to the DeWitt Clinton Scholarship and Student Aid Fund, Inc., and mailed to P.O. Box 566, Elmsford, NY 10523-0566.)

**DeWitt Clinton Alumni Assn, Inc.**

P.O. Box 566  
Elmsford, New York 10523-0566

Phone (914) 961-3003 ♦ Fax (914) 961-0291

[www.dewittclintonalumni.com](http://www.dewittclintonalumni.com)

Presort Standard  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit 5432  
White Plain, NY

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

***The DeWitt Clinton High School Faculty Hall of Honor  
Fifth Induction Ceremony — Scheduled for October 2023***

***For 2023, inductees will come from two categories:***

***Living qualified faculty members.***

***Deceased qualified faculty members.***

***By “Faculty” is meant principals, administrators, supervisors, teachers, counselors and librarians. Inductees must have held one or more of the above positions at DeWitt Clinton High School for a total of 20 years of full-time employment and be retired from the NYC Public School System.***

***Medical leaves, maternity leaves and sabbaticals are considered time served.***

***Only service rendered to DeWitt Clinton High School qualifies for induction in 2023.***

***Please contact Gerard J. Pelisson at GJPelisson@aol.com or the Alumni Office at 914-961-3003 by June 1, 2023 to nominate living and/or deceased qualifying faculty members.***

***The Alumni Board and Principal Pierre Orbe will approve the list of inductees, which will appear in the September 2023 Alumni Newsletter.***

***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.***