

THAM

TOWNSEND HARRIS
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2005

TOWNSEND HARRIS CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

By Dr. Malcolm G. Largmann, Principal Emeritus



(from *Centennial Celebration*)

This evening's recognition is overwhelming and humbling, especially considering that I have been the most fortunate and happiest of high school principals in New York City. To be acknowledged among men such as Henry Shereff adds luster to a very proud honor. I assure you that mine was a labor of love.

May I take this moment, too, to thank alumni mentors who have helped me along the way during the past 20 years, all the devoted colleagues who placed THHS on the map once again and thanks to the young alumni and their parents whose commitment to excellence continues to forge links in the Townsend Harris tradition.

By this point in the evening, I know we are all beginning to fidget and we'd much prefer to chat with old friends across the table rather than listen to another speech. If I were the teacher, I'd invite us all to stand and stretch! The good news, though, is that Ted Peck told me to choose my own topic. So, rather than share my thoughts on a serious educational issue I cannot solve, I have chosen instead to relate several memories about the Townsend Harris I have known during the past 20 years. Perhaps my recollections will uncover some qualities of successful schooling which cannot be measured statistically, but which have made Townsend Harris High School so

special in recent decades.

My theme shall be *hiatus* – a lapse in continuity. I am motivated by the story of the Italian composer Puccini, who died in 1924 while composing the final act of *Turandot*. The opera was completed by the composer Alfano, a student of Puccini's. In 1926, *Turandot* premiered, conducted by Arturo Toscanini. When Toscanini reached that moment in the opera where Puccini ceased to write, he signaled the orchestra for silence and placed down his baton. Turning to the audience, he said, "This is where the master stopped," and he left the stage. On the following evenings, of course, *Turandot* was sung to its present conclusion.

This anecdote reminds us of the power of the hiatus – when one great phenomenon ceases before an effort is possible to emulate the master. Before a great institution such as Townsend Harris can be rekindled – 40 years must pass. Then, what emerges is not the same as the original, but a distillation of the academic ideals that were and the student-centered, humanistic values embraced by our society in the past half-century – gender equality, ethnic diversity, recognition of the needs of special students, real policy-making responsibilities for students and parents.

Perhaps a few stories will suggest what these 20 years have taught us and how we have spanned the hiatus. I invite you to draw your own conclusions, aside from scores and statistics,

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**Townsend Harris celebrated its birthday
at a Centennial Celebration
on November 5, 2004
at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, New York NY**

Craig Slutzkin, '91; Ted Peck, '42; Tanya Odom '88
Photo: Continental Studios



TOWNSEND HARRIS ALUMNI MAGAZINE

Executive Editor:

David Herszenhorn, '90
Julie Chan, '88

Contributor:

Ted Peck, '42

The Townsend Harris Alumni Association publishes THAM semi-annually. The editor welcomes submissions of essays, photos, articles, letters, and memorabilia related to Townsend Harris High School and its alumni. We also welcome poems, short, fiction, creative photography and art work by alumni.

Letters to the editor, submissions, and other correspondence can be sent to THAM@thaa.org.

More information about the THAA and its members can be found at www.thaa.org or by writing to

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718-793-0441 (voice mailbox)*

YOUR DUES ARE CRUCIAL THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S SUCCESS:

Nearly all voluntary contributions to the Association are restricted for scholarships or to support specific programs and activities at the high school. Dues are specifically used for operating expenses including administering scholarship programs

Annual dues are just \$10 for the first four years after graduation and \$25 after that. Tax-deductible contributions are welcomed.

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Please make checks payable to:

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc. and mail to

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 1274 - Gracie Station
New York, N.Y. 10028

2005 CALENDAR

APRIL 8	Career Day at Townsend Harris
APRIL 17	Alumni-Student Luncheon at Townsend Harris
MAY 14	Alumni Annual Luncheon at Townsend Harris
JUNE 11	Reunions for Class of 2000, 1995, and 1990
JUNE 14	THHS Baccalaureate Golden Center, 7:00 PM
JUNE 27	THHS Commencement Golden Center, 9:00 AM
JULY/AUG	Alumni Summer Social

For additional information and updates, visit www.thaa.org

SIDEBAR

Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc. is the official alumni association of Townsend Harris High School at Queens College. The Alumni Association is governed by a Board of Directors, which is elected at each annual meeting, and a slate of officers which are elected by the Board. The Board meets on a monthly basis, and all alumni are invited to attend. Meeting schedules are posted on the alumni website, www.thaa.org. Several sub-committees of the Board have been established and administer specific operations of the Alumni Association, such as the finance committee, which oversees the investments of the Alumni Association, and the events committee, which oversees events planning.

The Board of Directors always welcomes participation in these committees by alumni. For more information or to find out ways that you can participate, please feel free to contact us at thaa@thaa.org.

Years Worth Remembering

(Continued from page 1)

about the realities of Townsend Harris High School – the daily challenges, the moments of sadness, but most often the times of joy.

We learned quickly about the needs of our students. There is my early recollection of the Afro-American parent who despaired for her son in a New York City public school. She could not accept as honest my announcement at a P.T.A. meeting that all students were to be instructed in a higher level of mathematics than was mandated by the Board of Education. At three different points during the meeting she challenged me with the question, “Will my son also be in that math class?”

And there is engraved in my memory the image of the minority child who could not accept her own academic success. Instead, she did all she could to prove to herself she was a failure. During the Spanish Regents examination, she refused to complete the test and attempted to leave the classroom. Passing might demean her to her dysfunctional family. But her teacher refused to accept her incomplete examination and actually stood by her after all other students had left the room until this girl submitted a completed paper.

Balanced with these realities, I recall receiving the news of our first winner of a Westinghouse scholarship on our first attempt. The student’s teacher and I went to her classroom, called her into the hall to tell her the news, and suddenly we were all embracing, cheering, and actually dancing in a circle. Our noise brought all the classes in the corridor to their doors. Everyone applauded and shared the pride of the moment. We were a family.

And I shall never forget the young woman – today, the co-president of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association– who with no notice visited me in the Principal’s office to insist that we send– on that very day– a delegation of

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From the Principal’s Office

By Thomas Cunningham



We have had much to celebrate this year. At the Gala in November we noted with great pride the 200th anniversary of Townsend Harris’s birth, the centennial celebration of the opening of Townsend Harris High School, and the 20th anniversary of our re-established high school. Townsend Harris continues to be at the forefront of academic institutions in New York City and throughout the country.

This past June, Townsend Harris was selected as a 21st Century School of Distinction by the Intel Corporation, the Blue Ribbon School Foundation for national schools of excellence and Scholastic Magazine. This award was based on our academic excellence and our community involvement. We are one of 20 schools so honored in the entire country. I know you join me in congratulating our outstanding staff and student body on this achievement. In addition, this past year once again, Townsend Harris achieved the highest passing percentage of Regents exams, had the highest rate of attendance, and had the highest graduation rate of any high school in New York City.

There are several ongoing programs that continue to define Townsend Harris. On Founders’ Day, a celebration which took place on the morning of Friday, October 29th, students and staff donated food to the needy. It is a day that we demonstrated those values so evident in our community service program and enshrined in the Ephebic Oath. It is also on this day that freshmen recited the Ephebic Oath and accepted the torch of tradition. Also in October, we engaged in the Election Simulation, which was of special importance in a presidential election year. Both of these programs are strongly indicative of our commitment to community involvement and

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ALUMNI NEWS

From the Principal's Office

(Continued from page 3)

awareness.

This year our Web site is a place where parents and other community members can find a variety of information that will assist them in planning. It includes the calendar of events, directions to our school and some of our successes. Visit us at www.thhs.qc.edu.

There is news about our school's use of technology. One new initiative we are planning for this year is to develop a virtual tour of our building. A sub-committee of the School Leadership Team has been established to that end. We have been able to upgrade our Internet connection with Queens College and have had fewer access problems as a result. I will share more information about our progress and I look forward to seeing the tour on our website.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the outstanding and successful efforts of the P.T.A. and Alumni Association to restore funding that had been significantly reduced in our school's budget. The combined efforts demonstrated that teamwork and organization are most effective. I congratulate you and note that students, staff, parents, our school programs and enrichment activities benefited from these efforts. I look forward to the completion of another rewarding and exciting school year.

THAM



Vivian Peck; Murray Nathan, '31; and Ted Peck '42



Anna C. Rockowitz, Ted Peck '42, Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab

SPECIAL EVENTS

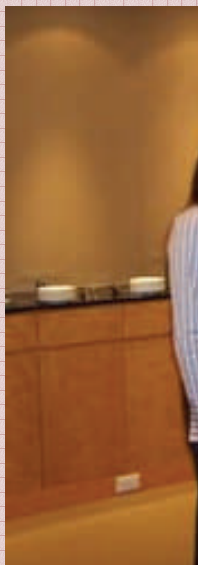
First Alumni Association Lawyers' Networking Social

Hosted by Joseph Flom, '40, the first alumni association Lawyers' Networking Social was in the 37th floor conference room of the offices of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP, 4 Times Square, New York, New York on October 20, 2004. "The legal field is one of the most popular professions among graduates," said Donna Manion, '90 and event organizer. Suggestions for future events can be submitted to specialevents@thaa.org.

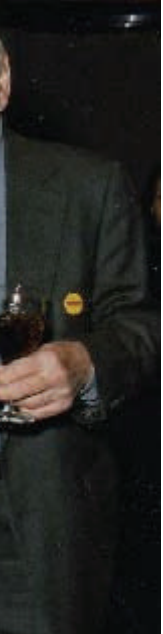
Photos: Julie Chan, '88



Jonathan Strongin, '93 and Odelia Levy, '96



Raquel Look, '99;



MURRAY NATHAN AND THE LATE DR. MURRAY ROCKOWITZ HONORED

By Ted Peck, '42

For decades now Murray Nathan, '31, and his late wife Belle have been contributing hundreds of thousands a dollars a year to New York's leading cultural and musical establishments— including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, the Big Apple Circus and the Museum of Modern Art, among others. When Murray turned 90, some of those who benefited most from his generosity decided it was pay back time and organized an elaborate party in his honor.

Dr. William F. Baker, President of Channel 13/WNET hosted the gathering on January 18th, 2005 at Channel 13's broadcast studios on West 33rd Street.

In addition to drinks and refreshments, there was a continuing slide show of photos of Murray and Belle through the years as well as a ballet performance by two young performers from dance companies which have received support from Murray and Belle. More than 150 people showed up on this cold and wintry January day to demonstrate their affection and appreciation. Townsend Harris was represented by Ted

Peck and his wife Vivian.

On February 8, 2005, Anna C. Rockowitz cut the ribbon to open the *Dr. Murray and Anna C. Rockowitz Writing Center* at Hunter College.

Jennifer J. Raab, the president of Hunter College acted as hostess, and the speakers included representatives of Mayor's office, the CUNY Board of Trustees, the Hunter College faculty, the Hunter College Foundation and, of course, Mrs. Rockowitz herself. The fact that Murray Rockowitz attended Townsend Harris and graduated when he was 14, was referred to many times. Ted Peck was introduced to the gathering as the Townsend Harris representative.

Dr. Murray Rockowitz, '34, was inducted into the Townsend Harris Hall of Fame posthumously in 2002. Dr. Rockowitz began his career in education as a junior high school teacher and rose to become Chairman of the New York City Board of Examiners. He published more than 40 books, including textbooks for junior and senior high schools, Regents examination preparation books, vocabulary-building books for children, and anthologies of short stories and poetry. In addition, he was a violinist with the Westchester Senior Orchestra.

THAM



Anthony Vittorino, '00; Michael Berger, '99; Erin Kormann, '99



Tammy Benjamin, '89 and Donna Manion, '90

Message From the Co-Presidents

Dear Fellow Alumni,

This past year has been a banner one for the Townsend Harris Alumni Association. Since our last edition of THAM, we have celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Townsend Harris High School with a gala dinner dance, had the first Professional Networking event of the Alumni Association, and had several social and reunion gatherings.

Meanwhile, the high school once again proved itself to be one of the finest in the country, as it was named a “21st Century School of Distinction” and has won several prestigious awards such as the Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award and the 2005 Lighthouse School Award.

The Centennial dinner dance, coordinated by Ted Peck '42, was a huge success. Over 400 people, including alumni, current and former faculty, parents, current students and several honored guests gathered to honor Townsend Harris' rich history. Speeches were made by prominent alumni, and Ted Peck showed a slideshow presentation highlighting noted Harrisites, which moved all those in attendance. Henry Shereff, who led the Alumni Association for many years, as well as the efforts to re-open the high school, and Malcolm Largmann, founding principal of the reopened high school, were awarded “Men of the Century” awards. This edition of THAM includes many of the speeches from the celebration, as well as pictures of guest enjoying themselves.

Townsend Harris Forever!, our fundraising campaign, continued to make excellent progress. Since the beginning of 2004, we have raised over \$1 million for the campaign, including money dedicated to faculty development, school athletics, drama, theater and music programs, school publications and maintenance of the Hebrew program. Recently, through the efforts of several prominent alumni, the Alumni Association was able to purchase a new van for the high school which will be used for the transportation of the school's athletic teams. We should all be proud of everything that we accomplished. In this era of Department of Education cutbacks, there has never been a more important time for the Townsend Harris family to pull together. Our goal of

supplementing programs not covered by public funds is of paramount importance.

Younger alumni have stepped up to the plate to take on more responsibility on the Board, and continue the great work that was started many years ago. The Board continues to be a mix of pre and post 1988.

Over the next year, the Board of Directors is planning several events which we think will interest the entire alumni body. We are having several more Professional Networking events – including another for our attorney/legal profession group as well as events geared towards educators and finance/insurance professionals. Reunion planning is already underway for the 15th year reunion of the class of 1991, 10th year reunion of the class of 1996 and the 5th year reunion of the class of 2001 (Save the date – the reunions are planned for Saturday evening, June 3, 2006!). And the events committee is already planning additional events in the cultural arts arena.

You should recently have received your 2005 dues notices. After eight years of flat dues, the Board of Directors voted to adjust the dues payments to \$25 from \$15 (\$10 from \$5 for college students). Your dues go to the operating costs of the Alumni Association, such as printing and postage costs, administrative costs, maintenance of the website and fees for professional services such as the annual audit. Unfortunately, with rising costs, the Board felt this adjustment was needed to provide for the quality of services we hope to provide to alumni members. The Board will continue to look for ways to keep operating costs down, and currently there is no intention for another increase.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to e-mail us at thaa@thaa.org or call us at (718) 793-0441.

Kind regards,

Tanya M. Odom '88
Craig L. Slutzkin '91
Co-Presidents

THAM

SPECIAL EVENTS

PTA AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOST ANNUAL STUDENT-ALUMNI LUNCHEON



Current Student; Joy Joseph, '91; and Melissa Gibilaro, '98

On April 17, 2005, the PTA and the Alumni Association sponsored the annual student-alumni luncheon at the high-school building. "The purpose of the lunch is to foster a relationship between current students and alumni so that students understand that alumni are resources that they can tap into for information about colleges and professional careers," said Craig Slutzkin, '91 and co-President of the Alumni Association. "It was gratifying to see students, alumni, teachers, and parents interact and focused on the common goal of successful students."

THAM



Above: Lani Muller, '89; Wanda Nix, Dean; and Gary Mellow, '90
Left: Elizabeth Schnee, PTA Co-President and Craig Slutzkin, '91

TOWNSEND HARRIS CELEBRATES MILESTONE

By Eugene Lang, '34

(Welcome speech from Centennial Celebration)

Fellow Harrisites, distinguished Guests, and Friends. It is a great privilege to welcome you to this truly sentimental occasion—the centennial celebration of Townsend Harris.

It is the school that the senior citizens among us can appropriately and proudly recognize as our original alma mater—and that the juniors among us can appreciate as a foundation for rewarding and socially significant careers.

All of us are well aware that Townsend Harris, a World War II casualty in 1942, was reincarnated in 1984 - 42 years later. If anyone questions the legitimacy of using those 42 years in limbo to establish centurion status, our presence here tonight is the answer.

The uniquely challenging educational environment that Townsend Harris gave us young over-achievers, has since persisted as an element of our pride and self-respect. That pride and self-respect is well evidenced as we specially recognize the remarkable achievement of a small determined group of alumni.

Against incalculable political, economic and know-nothing odds, this alumni group overcame the viscosity of our city's bureaucracies and succeeded in bringing our school back to new glory. Among all of our City's public high schools, Townsend Harris now rates as Number 1 in all basic liberal arts skills and community service—as well as graduation and attendance rates, Regents scores and the number attending four-year colleges.

Let us memorialize that intrepid alumni group — Lester Friesner, Joe Flom, Irv Gerber, Julius Graber, Jerry Halpern, Gene Heil, Maury Paprin, Henry Shereff, Charles Sigety, Harold Spielman, and, of course, the unquenchable irrepressible Ted Peck. Any of you here

tonight, please stand up and be recognized.

And speaking of Ted Peck, let us acknowledge his dedication and leadership initiatives over the years. Look what he's done for us lately! He not only originated the idea of this dinner but effectively orchestrated the cooperation of an informal support committee without, so far as I know, ever losing his sense of humor. Ted, I know it's become hard to bend in the middle, but please stand up and take an extra bow.

One further thing, I am privileged to announce the commitment of a \$50,000 gift to endow a Centennial Scholarship. Further details will be announced but, for now, I can say that the Centennial Scholarship will be awarded at commencement each year to a graduate with an outstanding record of academic and community service achievement. And one more thing - the anonymous donor has specified that the award will for all time be known as the Ted Peck Centennial Scholarship.

This heart-warming occasion takes me back to June 23, 1988 when I was privileged to be guest speaker at the first commencement of the new, the reborn Townsend Harris. Facing the audience of



Eugene Lang, '34
Photo: Continental Studios

graduates, I remember noting that no longer would I be able to attend reunions, confident that nobody there would look younger than me. No longer could I assume that every woman in an alumni gathering must be either the wife or daughter of an alumnus. No longer could I expect that discourse with an alumni group could presume familiarity, as contemporaries, with Babe Ruth, Jack Dempsey, F.D.R, the great depression and our one-time overlord, Dr. Robert Hamilton Chastney.

However, I was able to share the memory of a distinctively Harris history class with Dr. Jacob Landman, when three groups of students, representing Martin Luther, Pope Innocent III and King Solomon were assigned to negotiate their theological differences. Dr. Landman, as Confucius, moderated a negotiation that denied his right to prescribe objective truth. He subsequently wrote a book titled "Eugenics Debunked" that was roundly panned by— most of you will remember Jimmy Wechsler, editor of the Stadium— our school paper. Perhaps above all— I share with many of you a profound continuing appreciation that, with the depression level of family income, only our status as Townsend Harris students guaranteed us a college education.

Like many of you for whom Townsend Harris was a three year regimen, I graduated when I was 14. I felt proud when people would say to me, "Gene, for a kid your age, you're doing great". *Mutati mutandis*, today at 85, people tell me the same thing. Considering the alternative, I suppose that's progress.

Anyway, speaking of alternatives, most of you surely remember the grim godfather of the Townsend Harris administration, Mr. Conti. I never knew if he had a first name, but Mr. Conti patrolled the 9th and 10th floor corridors of our 23rd street building, looking for vagrants and unduly energetic students. Attracted by tonight's exuberant gathering, one might expect the ghost of Mr. Conti to appear at any moment to tell me to knock it off and sit down. But, as *ipse dixit, quae cum ita sint*, if the ghost doesn't appear to lower the boom, Ted Peck will. So, fellow alumni and friends, welcome, it's great to be together and thanks for listening. Thank you.

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Years Worth Remembering

(Continued from page 3)

students to the funeral of the novelist James Baldwin, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. She argued that her class had just studied his writings. I praised her enthusiasm, but explained it was not possible— too short notice, too crowded in the church, lack of transportation, lack of parental consent forms. All to no avail. So I wisely sent her to Mrs. Horowitz, our assistant principal. Within the hour, Bernice Horowitz organized the venture and escorted 10 students to the funeral service— even managing to get them seats inside the cathedral.

All of us remember the bells that marked the end of class. At Townsend Harris, we introduced musical interludes— classical excerpts were to be played for the several minutes students moved from class to class. The idea was to introduce a bit of cultural enrichment. At least that's what I thought!

Soon enough, students suggested that they select the music. This led to meetings, compromises, and another example of the wisdom in hearing what students have to say. From our discussions, inherent cultural clashes emerged regarding the selections. The principal was forever

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1933

Ben Gilbert has had four careers: journalism, local government service, civic activities, and work on behalf of the hard of hearing. It is fair to say that roots of those careers sprouted at THHS.

Here is his story: He entered THHS in 1930 at the age of 12. (Yes, he's now 86.) The school was still in its quarters at 23d Street and Lexington Avenue, occupying a Spartan campus on the 9th to 12th floors of the building which now houses CUNY's Baruch College. My family then lived at 100th Street and West End Avenue. I "subwayed" to school from 96th Street and Broadway to 42nd Street, shuttling to the Lexington Ave. line and on to 23d Street.

A depression year later when the Manhattan apartment became unaffordable, the family moved to Far Rockaway. The trip to THHS became a commute on the Long Island Railroad to Penn Station, and on nice days, a walk to 23d Street.

At Harris, I was one of the editors of the *Crimson and Gold* year book and got a taste for journalism that has stuck with me. Graduating in 1933, my education moved uptown to City College on St. Nicholas Heights. There, in my senior year (1937) I helped edit the *Microcosm* year book. You will find me in those year books as Ben W. Goldberg, before I changed my name to Ben W. Gilbert.

My journalism interest was further nourished by two years at the University of Missouri where I received a Master of Arts degree in journalism and worked as a graduate assistant in journalism. That opened the way to my first (paid) newspaper job, as a cub reporter on the *St. Louis Star-Times* in 1940. I covered the *St. Louis City Hall* and its bare-knuckled politics.

Mid-1941, the *Star-Times* sent me to Washington, DC, doubling the size of its one-person Washington bureau. Before long, I drifted over to the *Washington Post*, beginning a 29 year career there which included stints as a national reporter, an extended period as the newspaper's city editor, eventually moving up to deputy managing editor, and briefly,

managing editor.

In 1968, after directing the paper's coverage of the riots that shook the Nation's Capital and many other cities in the wake of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I authored a book on the riots with the collaboration of key staff members. Entitled "Ten Blocks from the White House," it won a Silver Gavel from the American Bar Association for its account of the city's judicial system under stress. I treasure that gavel.

To cover the riots, we fielded nine inter-racial teams of reporters and photographers who brought back graphic word and picture accounts of the happenings. Having those teams was a result of a concentrated effort to integrate the newspaper's previously all white staff. Doing so expanded the newspaper's news coverage to include the burgeoning black community that had been previously ignored. I was particularly proud of the lead role I played in integrating the staff and broadening its scope, then a ground breaking event among American newspapers.

From 1970-1972, I conducted a nightly news show on public television, winning two Emmy awards. Then, for six years I held the post of planning director of the District of Columbia, a dramatic change, but one for which my background in city affairs prepared me. I was the city government's liaison with Congress in securing Congressional enactment of home rule for the city.

In 1984, my wife and I moved to "the other Washington," to the city of Tacoma. I quickly became involved in civic affairs as a volunteer, hanging up a record of 18 years' service on the Tacoma Landmarks Preservation Commission and other civic bodies. I had a role in the cultural unfolding of the city which has now become a major tourist attraction with a museum complex that includes the state history museum, a new Tacoma Art Museum, and the International Museum of Glass. I regard that as my third "career."

With a progressive hearing loss and approaching deafness, I had a cochlear implant installed above one ear in 2001, restoring much of my lost hearing. I became actively involved in SHHH (Self Help for Hard of Hearing

People), a fourth "career." SHHH is a dynamic organization that strives to help people cope with their hearing loss. Currently, I'm a member of both the national and Washington state boards of SHHH. I keep my journalistic hand in, editing two pages about cochlear implants in the state SHHH quarterly newsletter, "Sound Waves," and preparing a monthly newsletter, "Speaking Up," for the Tacoma-SHHH chapter which I previously served as its president.

As noted, I see all four "careers" rooted in the mind-opening courses I took at THHS.

Bentley Kassal who was a member as a winger of the undefeated 1940 Harvard Rugby Football team, has established a permanent trophy to be awarded annually to the most improved Harvard Rugby player. The 1940 undefeated championship team was honored in Spring 2004 by the current Harvard team as the equivalent of being the 1940 national championship team.

1934

Milton Lisansky is now 86 years old, in fairly decent health and still going strong. He is living with his wife Sybil (Sybil Nurco, Barnard 1943) in North Bethesda, Maryland. Milton writes, "We are both former New Yorkers but have spent our post-war years in Hamden, and Milford, Conn. where I practiced dentistry and Sybil was an educational psychologist. We moved to the Washington area about 10 years ago and have been enjoying the cultural opportunities of the area which are almost as good as New York. Recently, we heard a splendid Israeli string quartet at the Israeli embassy. We also have the Kennedy Center and the new Strathmore Auditorium built across the street from our Grosvenor condominium. The Washington Metro fills most of our transportation needs and the station is at our doorstep. We plan to spend the winter on St. Thomas at Sapphire Bay and should any ancient Harrisites stop there on a cruise ship they will find us in the local phone book."

1936

Maimon Leavitt concluded 60 years of practice of psychiatry and psychoanalysis, and retired in July 2004 from patient care although he is still teaching at UCLA-NPI and at the Los Angeles Psychoanalytic Institute. Maimon writes, "The days are still filled with volunteer work, the rich cultural life here, an expedition-type sail and snorkel from Tahiti to Fiji and some visits with children. And now the ski season is with us. Also, of course, there will be lots to do to survive the next four years."

1937

Jerome Kropf served in the Army Air Corps 1942-1946. Served overseas CBI; separation as Captain. From 1947-1981 employment consisted of starting as assistant buyer to various administrative positions culminating as manager of children's handbag department for an importing company. He moved to Orlando, Fla. in 1981 and worked as a technical recruiter. He retired in 1988 and moved to Boynton Beach. Jerome writes, "I have enjoyed the life here playing golf, bowling, some cards and whatever else of interest presents itself. I have enjoyed the reunions and renewed several acquaintances from THHS days."

Bernard Rosenberg attended City College Downtown, became a C.P.A., formed his own firm, practiced for 50 years, then retired in 1990.

1938

Christian D. Berger president and founder of CDB Enterprises, Inc., has been designated by the Association of Old Crows as recipient of its Joseph W. Kearney Pioneer Award for 2004 – a prestigious distinction in recognition of lifetime service to the electronic defense industry and to the Association of Old Crows. The award was presented at a ceremony at the General Grant Hotel in San Diego, Oct. 18,

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2004 during the kickoff of the 2004 AOC National Convention.

Chris Berger's career dates to pre-World War II service in the design of artillery locating devices, with the U.S. Navy Radio, Radar, and Sonar Inspection Service and at the Combined Research Group of the Naval Research Laboratory during his tour of active duty. An innovator in the science of anechoic chambers and antenna instrumentation, Mr. Berger was involved in early development of anechoic chambers for model aircraft radiation pattern measurements and in related antenna instrumentation. He served with Polytechnic Research and Development Company in the development of a new generation of microwave test equipment and later served with Dorne and Margolin, antenna development specialists. Mr. Berger was later a founder of Maxson Instruments prior to founding CDB Enterprises in 1957. CDB represents a cadre of manufacturers in the forefront of microwave and r-f development for military and telecommunication products.

Irving Leskowitz is still volunteering (after 17 years of retirement) for literacy.

Eli Schonberger reports that the White Plains Beautification Foundation and Schonberger Family Foundation have created and installed a world class Sculpture Garden on the Plaza at the White Plains Library. The Garden is dedicated to his wife Lois who passed away four years ago. George Rickey, Chaim Gross, Clement Meadmore and Bruno Lucchesi are among the 16 nationally known artists that are represented. The exhibit was created in cooperation with the Sculptors Guild and support from corporations and friends.

1939

Stanley M. Pollack attended CCNY then served in the Army in World War II, in the European theater, earning five battle stars. He was an instructor at Potsdam State Teachers College, and also worked at Allcolor Company

in New York City, at the University of Texas and at Towson University where he retired as emeritus professor in 1986. He is a volunteer book repairer for the Baltimore County library.

1940

Henry Hecht retired as a financial writer/editor but still does some freelancing. He is also the coordinator of Writers' Group which meets monthly in Cresskill, New Jersey.

Harvey Sabinson has been inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre in ceremonies held at the Kennedy Center. During his 50 year career as a publicist he has represented some of the legendary figures (David Merrick, Cheryl Crawford, Roger Stevens, Alexander Cohen) and productions (Finian's Rainbow, Guys and Dolls, Hello Dolly, The Fantasticks, Marat/Sade, Luther, Carnival, and 10 of Neil Simon's plays starting with Barefoot in the Park and ending with The Sunshine Boys) of the American theater. As a principal in the public relations firm Salters, Sabinson, and Roskin he represented such artists as Carol Channing, Barbra Streisand, Hume Cronyn, Jessica Tandy, Jason Robards, the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, and Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus. He joined the League of American Theatres and Producers in 1976 and became its executive director in 1982. In 1995, he was honored with a special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement.

1941

Seymour Feshbach is currently emeritus professor of psychology at UCLA, and president-elect of the faculty emeriti. He has been married for some 57 years to Norma (nee Deitch), also emeritus professor at UCLA and has had three children with her.

Ezra Krendel attended Brooklyn College '41 bachelor of science in physics and math; M.I.T. '45 Sc.M. physics; Harvard '49 M.A. social relations. His first employer was the Franklin Institute Research Labs., Philadelphia. PA from 1949 to 1966, where his title began as research

engineer and ended as technical director. In 1966, he was appointed professor of statistics and operations research at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and subsequently was appointed a professor in the systems engineering department in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. He became an emeritus professor in 1990. He continues to consult and divert himself with writing, traveling, hobbies and his family – a son, two daughters and seven grandchildren.

1942

Marvin Kristein Vera From Townsend Harris to CCNY (interruption for Army) graduated 1947; fellow tutor, CCNY 1947-55; Columbia M.A., New School PhD 1955; Fulbright scholar Netherlands (Rotterdam)1955-56 (worked with Hans Tinbergen) Harper College, Binghamton 1956-59; SUNY, Stony Brook 1959-87; CCNY visiting professor 1987-90. NIH, NHLBI 1980-81. Pioneer in calculation of cost of smoking to business and society while consultant to American Health Foundation. First half of career specializing in finance (textbook in corporation finance, 1969, 1975; second half of career health economics, especially cost-benefit analysis of specific protocols.

Gerard R. Wolfe recently retired as director of Arts and Liberal studies at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. He has had two new books published “New York: 15 Walking Tours of Architecture and History” and “Chicago: In and Around the Loop” both by McGraw-Hill, 2003 and 2004. The Chicago book is illustrated with photos by the author. It received the non-fiction Book of the Year Award from the Council for Wisconsin Writers. Dr. Wolfe is now living in Flagstaff, Ariz. where in addition to other civic involvements, he serves as a docent at the Museum of Northern Arizona, with specialization in Hopi and Navajo cultures.

1988

Christine Criscione Petty has been married since 1997 and has two sons, a 4-year-old and

5-month-old. She has a bachelor’s from Queens College, a master’s from Adelphi and a professional diploma in school administration from Queens College. Christine writes, “I just finished my doctorate in instructional leadership at St. John’s University. I’ve worked for the Board of Education for the last 12 years as a teacher and administrator and recently started working at Nassau BOCES as their professional development coordinator.”

Jennifer Hoermann Oryson is proud to announce the newest addition, Nicole Danielle, to her family. As well as being a mom to two wonderful girls, she is the executive director of a law firm in Manhattan.

Michelle Michitsch has been working for the Children’s Aid Society as a pediatric nurse practitioner in a school-based health center since March 2003. She and her husband had a little girl, Amelia, on March 26, 2004. Michelle writes, “She is truly a miracle for us both!” They are living in Levittown, Long Island.

Tanya Odom is happy to report that she is working with **Craig Slutzkin ’91** as the new co-presidents of the Alumni Association. She is also the co-author of the recent publication “Evaluation in the Field of Education for Democracy, Human Rights and Tolerance,” which has been released in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Cheryl (Schustack) Smith married her college sweetheart and left the city for Westchester. Cheryl writes, “We bought and renovated a home, I finished my doctorate, and we are now proud parents of a wonderful baby girl named Rayna. I work in Westchester in human resources.”

1989

Rodea Ioannou is still living in Greece and is still in touch with **Danielle Regan** and **Kelly Apostolides**. She is working as in house counsel and claims department manager for a Marine Insurance Brokerage Firm, has been married for 10 years has a 5-year-old daughter

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

named Chrysanthi. Rodea writes, "I would love to make contact with other '89 grads - my email is rodea_ioannou@yahoo.com"



Renata Kobetts Miller and **Jethro Miller** joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, **Sophie Henrietta Miller**, on January 27, 2005.

Vanessa Kwok Brennan is practicing internal medicine in Scottsdale, AZ and loving every minute of her relocation there almost two years ago. Her husband of four years, Dave, has just started his own investment/financing business. She would love to hear from fellow Harrisites.

Stephanie (Epstein) Ralton and her husband have a beautiful 3-month-old daughter named Melissa and Stephanie is taking a year off from her job as a guidance counselor to spend time with her.

Steven Torres earned his masters of divinity from Andrews University Theological Seminary in Dec. 2003 and has been pastoring two congregations in upstate New York. Steven writes, "Things are going extremely well for me and my family. By the time you read this my wife, Deborah, will have had our first child. I'd love to hear from some of my old classmates and teachers. I can be reached at torres_sda@yahoo.com."

1990 15-YEAR REUNION COMING UP

Nisha Chauhan is an executive recruiter at a premier New York executive search firm specializing in placing CPA's/MBA's in the accounting/finance arena. Notable clients include Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Viacom and Pfizer.

Liza Elkind left her staff senior producer job at the arts network TRIO this past summer and is now freelancing as a senior writer/producer at Outdoor Life Network. She is engaged to be married in summer 2005.

Jessica Wohl Ellis wrote in not only because

we asked, but because her husband always asks why she doesn't write. She is still living in Israel, in the suburbs of Jerusalem with her husband and their "delicious" baby boy who was born in June 2004.

Abby Miller works at New York Presbyterian Hospital as an occupational therapist and specializes in working with patients who have neurological disorders. "I spend a lot of time traveling, slowly but surely seeing the world."

David Nelson has worked at a litigation firm in Battery Park for the last four years, since leaving the Queens District Attorney's office. He has been married for six years, to his wife, Lisa, and has a daughter, Jessica, who will be 2 years old in February. They live in New City, Rockland County.

Wladyslaw Roczniak just got his Ph.D and is teaching at Queens College in History .

Kirsten (Rodenbeck) Kennedy just moved out to Monterey, California with her family. "We just welcomed our third boy, Luke into the family this October," Kristen writes. "Our other two boys, Matthew, 5, and Andrew, 4, are terrific big brothers. Lucky for us, we get lots of visits from fellow grad **Gina Greer '90**.

J. David Rozsa earned his bachelor's in philosophy from the University of Southern California, went to law school at the University of Iowa, managed a U.S. Congressional campaign in Iowa, got married on Sept. 1, 2001, ran a political consulting firm in Washington, D.C., and was appointed executive director of the Virginia Youth Court, a juvenile delinquency and peer-justice program.

Elisha (Sorensen) Rivera graduated with a master's degree in criminal justice from John Jay College and has been working as a United States Probation/Parole Officer in the Southern District of New York for the last seven years. She has a 9 year old daughter, Kayla Marie, a straight-A student, whose father is **Richard Rivera '89** and whose aunt is **Jessica (Sorensen) Marfisi '95**.

1991

Natashi Anthony Pino is married with four

children and working as an office assistant at her daughter's elementary school.

Jodie Lasoff married Sean Licata on Dec. 4, 2004. They are living on the Upper East Side. "If anyone from '91 is a neighbor, shoot me an email!"

Addie Male is currently teaching seventh grade humanities at a middle school in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn – the same neighborhood where she lives with her new husband, **Don Louie '90**. They were married July 31, 2004 at the New York Botanical Garden, with the following Harrisites in attendance: **Louis Ramos '90**, **Eddie Ocampo '90**, **Ursula Garry Ocampo '90** and **David Stone '90**, **Marissa Gluck '91** and **Justine Eisenstein '91**.

Helena (Rincon) Kohl and her husband Bryan lived in Tucson for six years, and moved to NYC in the Fall of 2001. Since then, Helena has been working as a research coordinator in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center. Bryan works as an aspiring film editor with Post Factory, LLC, where he met and befriended at least one member of the THHS family- Nick Mougis, son of Mrs. Mougis.

Sherri (Anderson) Sellers is a speech-language pathologist at Mercy Suburban Hospital in Norristown, PA, where she work with all age groups but specialize in geriatrics. She loves what she does and thinks older folks are a lot of fun. She would love to hear from her THAA buddies at hseller@msn.com.

Natalie (Thomas) Alex is teaching in the Uniondale School District. She graduated from Yale in 1995 and from Georgetown Law in 1998 and earned a master's in education at Brooklyn College in 2004. She worked for two years as a teaching fellow in the New York City public schools and is engaged to be married in August 2005. Natalie also continues to recruit students from Townsend Harris for Yale.

1992

Shameka Brown-Barbosa celebrated her

second wedding anniversary with her husband, Michael, on Nov. 2, 2004. She is also now a vice president, senior copywriter at Foote Cone & Belding, a global advertising agency headquartered in Manhattan. Shameka and Michael also just purchased a condo in Harlem in June 2004.

Cynthia Jon has had quite a remarkable time since leaving TH. She is currently working as a financial analyst for an investment bank and has been married for more than seven years. She has three boys: Alex, 6; Brandon, 5; and Dylan, 2 1/2, and this July she gave birth to a daughter, Cathyrine Elizabeth. Cynthia writes: "I'm closing the factory! Life's been hectic and fun...can't wait for my next adventure. I'm hoping my little ones will become future Harrisites!"

Andrew Kazin is a Senior Associate at Simmons Jannace and Stagg LLP practicing commercial litigation, with specialization in employment and banking law. He got married last year and is living in Queens. "I have been traveling in Colombia and Mexico," Andrew writes. "Still cooking!"

Laurie Poulos Corsentino's most recent personal accomplishment was the birth of her beautiful son, Nicolas, on May 14, 2003. As for her professional life, she graduated from Brooklyn Law School, magna cum laude, in 2001, did a one-year clerkship with Judge William G. Bassler in the Federal District Court of New Jersey and has been an associate at Holland & Knight LLP in New York City since September 2002.

Stacy Rosenberg married Steven Slomovicz on June 27, 2004 and they live in Bay Terrace, Queens. Stacy continues to work as a pediatric physical therapist.

Bari Schultz got married in March 2005.

1993

Danielle Tropea Friedland married husband, Josh, in June 2002. They live in Forest Hills. Turns out that Josh has a family friend – **Ian Madover** – who is Class of '89. Danielle works in the sales support department of Avon Products, where she has been for the past three and a half years. She writes: "If you need an Avon representative, drop me a line at dbt@innocent.com and I'll put you in touch with someone. But don't tell **Diana (Stamatelatos) Theocharis** who is rising in the ranks of Mary Kay! Check out my Web site, the Celebrity Baby Blog www.celebrity-babies.com" At the 10th year reunion, Danielle reunited with **Lora (Yee) Wang-Conway** and attended her wedding banquet and baby shower.

Sharon Golan Politis is working in human resources at BBC Worldwide Americas. She and her husband have a daughter, Daniella, who was born in February 2004. They also recently purchased a co-op in Briarwood. Sharon writes, "I guess I'm not a kid anymore!"

Melissa Rothchild is currently pursuing an MBA at Columbia University.

Stephanie (Strajcher) Schaefer is working in project management for high-end residential construction. She has a very energetic and adorable 2-year-old son, Jacob. Stephanie writes, "It definitely keeps me on my toes!" She has stayed great friends with Jennifer Mattucci, who is Jacob's godmother and she was a bridesmaid at Stacy (Rosenberg) Slomovicz's wedding in June 2004.

Donna Weiss got married in June 2004 and recently relocated to the Washington D.C. area where she is a consultant.

Ayana (Wright) Lambert is corporate counsel for a real estate development company in Maryland. She married Miguel Lambert on Sept. 4, 2004. They met at Georgetown University.

1994

Aleema Bacchus-Hosein and her husband, Saleem, proudly announce the birth of their son, Hamza. He was born on Oct. 15, 2004. They have now been married six and a half years and also have two girls. Aleema would love to hear from her classmates.

Rebecca Braun Eines got married on June 27, 2004 and lives in Basking Ridge, N.J.

Wade Gallagher is based in Atlanta, working for Radiant Systems as a technical consultant.

Nada Lewers Elkhashab recently switched careers from television research to early childhood special education. She teaches preschool now and got married last August to Scott. They live in Westchester.

Jesse Lieberman started his own law firm in June 2004. He lives in Fort Lauderdale.

Stephanie Nelson Bernstein is in fifth year teaching English at Herricks High School, and loves every second of it. She and husband, Christopher, are happily settling into their new house in Huntington and trying to get used to the idea of being homeowners.

Jennifer (Nitka) Perri had her first baby on Oct. 16, 2004. His name is Jack Lennon Perri. She and husband, Jay, are thrilled. Jack's godmother is **Shari (Stromberg) Nocera '92** and Jennifer is the godmother of Shari's daughter, Sydney. (Shari's husband is **Jason Nocera '92**) Jennifer is taking time off from her job as a special education teacher to spend time with her son and work on her doctorate.

1995 10-YEAR REUNION COMING UP

Cynthia Chung attended Wheaton College, near Chicago, then stayed there until May 2004 and is now living in Little Neck, Queens trying to figure out what it is she's supposed to be doing with her life. Cynthia writes, "If Kali, Tina, Toyya, Debbie, or Leonora are out there, I'd love to get in contact with you."

Daniela Coleman completed a masters degree in European studies at the College d'Europe in Bruges, Belgium and worked for one year at a Brussels-based public affairs consultancy. She has recently been hired as a policy officer at the American Chamber of Commerce in Belgium and will be working on security and defense, enlargement and digital economy issues.

Jasmine Flores graduated from Connecticut College with a bachelor's in Asian Studies and Chinese in 1999, then lived in Kaifeng, China teaching English from 2000 to 2001. From 2001 to 2003, she taught sixth grade at her alma mater, Intermediate School 318 in Brooklyn. She is now education coordinator at CCHC Herald Youth Center www.heraldyouth.org, a non-profit Chinese immigrant outreach ministry in Chinatown in Manhattan. Jasmine writes: "I work in the Youth Center running all the education programs (After School Program, ESL Classes, Study Buddies, and Summer Adventure Club.) If anyone wants to volunteer, email me!" She is also a graduate student at Mercy College working toward a master's in childhood education for Fall 2006.

Jessica (Sorensen) Marfisi graduated with a master's in education and has been working as a kindergarten teacher. She was married in July 2004.

Brenda Morrissey is working as an Emergency Medical Technician for the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System Center for Emergency Medical Services. She works in the field, providing patient care in the New York City 911 system and the department's inter-facility division and was also recently made part of the special operations division, which provides emergency management support, hazardous materials decontamination and mitigation, and communications support. Brenda writes, "Since I graduated, I have found my niche in public safety, always learning and finding ways to improve myself."

Jinho Mountainbear was published in the Wall Street Journal about mentorship. <http://www.collegejournal.com/columnists/diversityreport/20041102-sappal.html>

1996

Colleen Chan graduated from Cornell in 2000 and from Teachers College at Columbia in 2002. She is currently teaching fourth grade in Bayside, Queens working part time with Columbia University at the Reading and Writing Project with Lucy Calkins and staff. Colleen writes, "I am engaged to be married to a wonderful Emory graduate and patent law attorney and will be a happy bridesmaid to **Jennifer Heggers** at her May 2005 wedding and a bridesmaid to **Michelle Stagnitta** at her August 2005 wedding.

Karen Chang graduated from Wellesley College in 2000, worked as a project consultant for Lucent Technologies from 2001 to 2002 and graduated from Brooklyn Law School in June 2004. Karen passed the bar exams in New York and New Jersey (admission pending); and is now working at Perlman & Perlman LLP, a New York law firm specializing in representation of not-for-profit organizations and related entities.

Teresa Grecsek is living in Arlington, Mass with her girlfriend Erice. She is employed by a nonprofit social work agency working with teenagers in DSS custody and also works part time at a sports store in the outdoor and water sports section.

Sarah Gutierrez Franco finished undergraduate and graduate school at St. John's and worked as a second grade teacher in Brooklyn. This past summer she got married and relocated to New Jersey where she is teaching second grade in Chatham. Sarah writes, "I am enjoying my marriage and Jeremy and I are currently looking for a house."

Jennifer Heggers writes, "Woohoo, I'm engaged everyone! I will be marrying a beautiful Japanese man, May 7, 2005, in Redondo Beach, Calif. THHS bridesmaids include **Colleen Chan**, **Michele Kadnar** and **Kim Mulvaney**. I love them all dearly! As always, I'm looking to reconnect with THHS

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family. Drop me an email or stop by if you're in the Los Angeles/Orange County area. jkatayama@google.com"

Leslie Offenbach is living in Hartford, Conn. and working as a therapist for children, adolescents, and their families while working on her dissertation and applying for internship in order to complete a doctorate degree in psychology.

Samir Patel graduated from Johns Hopkins in 2000 and graduated from SUNY Stony Brook School of Medicine in December 2004. Samir is currently applying for residency positions and will begin residency training in July 2005.

Eva Politis worked at a Big 4 accounting firm both in the United States and in Israel, then immigrated to Israel and made a career change to work in the nonprofit field. She currently counsels North American Jews who are interested in immigrating to Israel. She also recently gotten engaged to another new immigrant to Israel (from Albany) and they are planning a wedding for Summer 2005.

1998

Nahil Dhanji graduated from RPI, cum laude, in May 2002 and is now a senior associate for Morgan Stanley in the global money laundering prevention program. Nahil writes, "I spend my free time during the week in the gym and I teach history and ethics to seventh graders on the weekends."

Melissa Gibilaro graduated magna cum laude from St. John's in 2002 with a bachelor's in psychology and was a substitute teacher for a year, counseled homeless youth at Covenant House and then became Volunteer Liaison at Covenant House. Now, she's itching to go back to school. In her spare time, she is a youth minister in her parish, chapter advisor for Delta Phi Epsilon sorority - Beta Omega chapter, Northeast youth representative for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - United States Council, and a member of the Townsend Harris Alumni

Association Board of Directors, among other things. She's looking forward to more members of the class of '98 getting involved with Alumni activities. Come to the next mixer!

Rachel Sperling spent 2002-2003 teaching English in Japan, then returned to the United States last August and moved to Minnesota. She worked there until May, then packed up her car and drove out to Seattle. That's where she is now, and plans to stay for a while - hoping to resume a career in publishing.

Linda Sulsona graduated magna cum laude with degree in marketing, is working at Valassis in metro Detroit and is half-way through obtaining an M.B.A. at Wayne State University.

Amanda Teitler is working as a designer at Ralph Lauren for the Home Collection, designing leather and textiles for furniture. Her job has taken her to Milan, Florence, Paris, and Buenos Aires in the last two years. She is living in the West Village.

1999

Sandra Chang has been working in the corporate planning department at Itochu International for about a year and a half. She graduated from SUNY Binghamton in 2003; majored in marketing and international business for a bachelor's in Management. Itochu International is the North American subsidiary of Itochu Corporation (Tokyo/Osaka), a leading Japanese general trading company (sogo shosha).

Laura Herszenhorn graduated from Tufts in May 2004 and is now an educator at the American Museum of Natural History.

Millie Liu recently spent a year teaching English and exploring Japan after graduating from Boston University. Now, she's back in New York City and working as an assistant media planner at an interactive ad agency. Millie writes, "I love my job and one of my

supervisors is actually a Townsend alum too!”

Nancy Luo graduated from Boston University a year and a half ago and has been working at Filene’s/Kaufmann’s, currently as an assistant buyer of moderate sweaters and knits. She is enjoying life in Boston but may move back to New York City sometime soon.

Robert Prinz graduated from SUNY Binghamton in 2003 and moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in television. He is now working for NBC and says, “It is awesome!”

Maggie Yuan is a first-year doctoral student in human development and psychology at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, doing research on stereotype threat and its effects on students’ behavior, affect, and cognitive performance. Maggie writes, “I would love to hear from others who are in the Cambridge/Boston area! Sorry I couldn’t make it to the THHS alumni dinner, but I’m glad to hear everybody had a blast. ”

2000 5-YEAR REUNION COMING UP

Jessica Bynoe recently graduated from New York University, magna cum laude, with a major in psychology and a minor in urban studies. She completed a thesis in community psychology examining the relationship between youth leadership and educational aspirations. Also, for the past year and a half, she has been working full-time at the National Service-Learning Partnership, a national non-profit education reform organization, managing a youth civic engagement initiative in eight cities around the country. She remains active in NYC volunteer work. She is also in the final year of a graduate program at the Wagner School of Public Service at NYU. She will receive a Masters of Public Administration for Nonprofit Management next May.

Krystal D’ Costa Roopchand Since graduation, she has really just been in school. She took a year off when she got married, so she is graduating from college this June. She just completed her applications for graduate

school where she intends to pursue her Ph.D. in Anthropology. Presently she is conducting fieldwork in Richmond Hill, NY where she is working with immigrant Trinidadians and their conceptions of self.

Gregg Erspamer - After 4 years of living it up at Penn State, a semester in Australia and 5 weeks in Europe he is now living the life of an overworked Wall Street analyst.

Andrew Falzon is wrapping up his dual major bachelor’s degree (Broadcast Journalism and Political Science). He is currently in his second year as Station Manager at WRHU, 88.7



FM, Radio Hofstra University, where he spent part of the summer covering the Democratic National Convention in Boston. Andrew is also now a certified scuba diver. From his coverage of the Democratic National Convention, he was photographed with Elliot Spitzer, who is the son of THHS alum Bernard Spitzer)

Lauren Gutstein is pursuing a master’s in speech pathology at Hofstra University.

Angela N. Kontopanos graduated magna cum laude from Manhattan College and is pursuing a master’s degree in structural/civil engineering at Lehigh University. She is busy reviewing for the PE part one.

Isabelle Lee graduated cum laude from Fordham University with sociology honors in 2004 and is currently in the process of applying to graduate school to get a doctorate in sociology. In the meantime, you can find her at Barnes & Noble - the main store on 18th street, where she works part time.

Makel Lynch graduated from Fordham

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University, summa cum laude, in May 2004 and has enrolled in the Graduate School of Education at Brooklyn College for school psychology. Makel is pursuing a masters and professional degree and is also an assistant teacher at the Joan Fenichel Therapeutic Nursery, which is a part of the League School. Makel writes, "Other than that, I am just trying to enjoy life as much as I can!"

Stephanie Mandell is living in Park Slope, Brooklyn and working at INFORM, an environmental organization. **Steve Pavlov '00** works two blocks away and they eat lunch regularly. Stephanie writes, "I play Frisbee in Prospect Park on weekends, and life post-college has been really fun so far."

Jacqueline Mitritzikos Thompson graduated from Queens College and married her prom date in Feb. 2004. She is finishing up her first year as a sixth grade teacher at Public School 160.

Venessa Tan is finishing up her fourth of seven years at Sophie Davis/CUNY Medical School. The final two years will be completed at SUNY Stony Brook Medical Center.

Despina Teodorescu has been working at Ellopia Media Group Ltd., a Greek-American television production company, for the last five years, and is now a producer there. She is working simultaneously on a master of fine arts degree in television production at Brooklyn College, having graduated in June with a bachelor's in media studies from Queens College. She interned for one semester at ABC for "Live! with Regis and Kelly," and returned from Athens, this summer after producing a documentary on the Olympic Games for Ellopia Media Group.

2003

Susan Cheng is majoring in environmental science at Columbia College. She spent the summer interning at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory analyzing Radiolaria population trends during the Holocene and Pleistocene. She also learned how to ride a bike the past summer and is learning how to swim. Susan writes, "I suppose I'm finally getting outside."

Talya Lieberman just finished her first year at Duke University and is now interning for Lilith magazine for the summer, among other things.

THAM

LET FRIENDS AND CLASSMATES KNOW WHERE YOU ARE AND WHAT'S NEW.

Submit a class note by visiting www.thaa.org or by submitting this form to:

THAM
c/o Townsend Harris Alumni Association
149-11 Melbourne Avenue · Room 344
Flushing, NY 11267

Name: _____

Former Name (if applicable): _____

Class: _____

Profession: _____

What's New: _____

LESTER FRIESNER DIES AT 84

One of original members of the Board of Directors of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association

By Ted Peck '42

When Lester Friesner '36 died, it occurred to me that he was the embodiment of certain clichés and advertising slogans:

“To know him is to love him” and “Everybody doesn’t like something, but nobody doesn’t like Lester. He was *sui generis*, but maybe that second word should be spelled “generous”

when speaking of Lester, for no one I’ve ever met was more generous, considerate and decent than Lester Friesner.”

He wasn’t perfect. If we were driving together and I suggested we take Park Avenue, he headed straight for Third Avenue without a second thought. He was Captain of his long, maroon station wagon and he didn’t take orders – or even suggestions – from anyone. But that’s a pretty mild shortcoming for someone who would go out of his way to help friends, relatives and even strangers in every way possible.

He dressed, spoke and acted like a man of the people – not exactly a Philistine – but a serious critic of the pretentious and the cultural elite. Yet, his car radio was always tuned to WQXR and he was a world-class competitive bridge player.

Relatively small of stature, he had been a varsity fencer and wrestler in his Townsend Harris days. And almost to the end, for as long as he was able, he went to the gym regularly to work out and keep himself fit.

Lester was one of the original members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. As such he participated in all the meetings, planning sessions and private discussions,

which led to the eventual reopening of Townsend Harris.

Believing strongly in the importance of books and reading, he made it a personal responsibility to contact members of the alumni to gather as many books as possible to establish a collection to start the Townsend Harris library.

Serving on the Townsend Harris Alumni Association Board of Directors for 24 years, Lester and his close friend Jerry Halpern were responsible for nominating those whom the membership would vote on to serve as officers of the organization. Eventually, Lester himself served as president of the association.

It is customary in an article like this to dwell on the deceased’s business career and civic accomplishments. But the thing that was most important to Lester Friesner was his family. His business was a means of supporting his family. His hobbies were a means of gaining the interest of his family. And his Townsend Harris activities were a means of making his family proud.

When I was already in my late 70’s, Lester still called me “Kiddo.” Who can forget a guy like that? *Sui generis* indeed.

THAM

1938

Alvin Dobsevage, a long-time member of the THAA Board of Directors, died on February 26, 2005. He was a WWII 10th Mountain Division veteran, a linguist, Latin scholar and educator. He is mourned by Ruth, Michael and Sarah Dobsevage; Gertrude, Irving and Robert Diskin; Beth Dobsevage; Dr. Tina Dobsevage, Dr. Jonathan House, and Antonia and Gregory House.

1988

Felicia Shpall died April 3, 2005 after a long battle with cancer. Felicia graduated from the first graduating class of the new Townsend Harris and looked back at the experience fondly. She spent many years in Jewish education, both as a teacher and a director of a religious school in MA. She was the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Torah in CT as well as the dynamic lead singer of a popular Klezmer music band called Klezamir.

Years Worth Remembering

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climbing the learning curve.

And there were always the surprises. A small but wonderful surprise, was motivated by a talented English teacher who had introduced her class to “magical realism” in literature. One morning, I found vines and flowers sprouting around my office and through the ceiling to the floor above. Of course, all created by students, but the illusion was so real. I still do not know when this was all constructed. It was magic!

And I chuckle at the hi-jinx perpetrated by students and teachers while classroom studies hummed right along. On one occasion, the Fashion Police, a squad of several self-appointed seniors noted that I had not complied with the Spirit Day dress code of pajamas for all. They abducted me; held me behind bars; and demanded teacher ransom for my release—candy bars for all. Teachers, too, joined the fun—abetting students in their pranks—dressing in outrageous costumes for Halloween, instigating snow fights on student trips and providing healthy outlets for the academic stresses of every student at Townsend Harris.

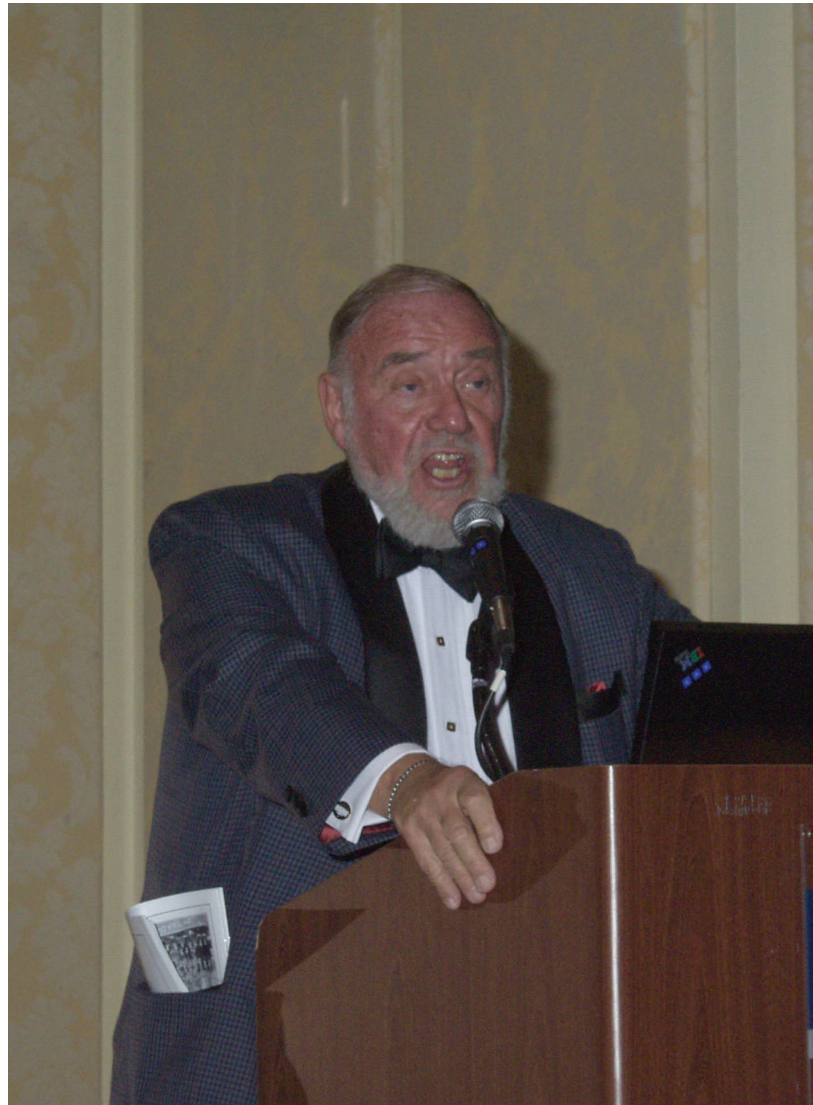
A classic episode and one which we recall with great affection for the perpetrator concerning the Barnard College essay contest for girls *only*. Having been notified that we once again had won four of five top prizes, I asked my

secretary to arrange for the girls to come to my office so that I might congratulate them. She reported that no such students attended the school— that is the family names were on register but not the given names.

I then asked to see the teacher who had submitted these essays. Given who the teacher was, I knew there was a prank somewhere.

Tom Sweetin admitted that he agreed with the boys in his class who wanted to compete in the contest, had them change their names to feminine

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Charles Sigety, '38
Photo: Continental Studios

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forms, and sent on their entries. And, they all won! Now, Mr. Sweetin had to devise an explanation for Barnard so that we would not be ever more excluded from the competition.

And some final recollections of parents who were shoulder to shoulder with us. There was the parent, one of whose children was not accepted to the school. She hoped to convince us of our mistake in judgment by bringing to the school an 8' x 10' glossy photograph of her daughter and pleading, "How can you reject a face like this?"

And, there are the parents who sat with us to design policies for Arista membership, for grading standards, and for extra-curricular offerings.

And, finally, we have the parents who were so instrumental in insuring us our present school building. I shall always remember that long, hot summer night – the last meeting of the old Board of Estimate – when Peter Joseph rallied us all to the City Council for the final vote on funding for our building. What most of us did not know was that Peter was scheduled for life-threatening surgery the following day.

The point, ladies and gentlemen, of all this reminiscence is that from the outset Townsend Harris High School has been far more than top rankings and admissions to the most prestigious colleges. It has been a school which values the spiritual and emotional well-being of young people as they pursue that intellectual excellence.

It has been an institution that understands that school is not the real world – but a laboratory in which to prepare for the real world. And, it has been an academic and social playground – a protective environment – which allowed children to be children and encouraged teachers to join the fun. And, thus, the hiatus between the original and the current schools has been bridged.

These have been years worth remembering.

THAM

Bentley Kassal, '33
Photo: Continental Studios



TOWNSEND HARRIS FOREVER!

(Continued from page 2)

The Alumni Association, through generous alumni, has been funding classes and activities on an ad hoc basis.

A great school should publish a great newspaper, a great yearbook, and a creative, lively literary magazine. It should have a fine orchestra and a drama society that puts on a play each year. Athletic teams are needed. But, the City Department of Education has little money for extra-curricular activities.

A gift, which is tax deductible, to Townsend Harris helps fund the school, the city, and society. After all, the Nobel laureates and philanthropists, who were our classmates before 1942, and our friends, ever since, were molded in the same kind of nurturing environment that today's Townsend Harris provides.

Gifts may be specified, but not limited to existing funds. Examples of such funds are the Publications Fund that supports the school

newspaper, yearbook, or literary magazine; and Textbook Fund that makes up the shortfall of several thousand dollars between what the school actually needs and what the Department of Education provides, etc.

Many companies provide corporate matching funds to non-profit organizations. This is an easy way to double your donation or more! Please contact your Human Resources department to find out if your gift is eligible for a corporate match.

The Townsend Harris Alumni Association is an educational 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization and meets federal eligibility for these matching programs and for the deductibility of all contributions.

For more information or details, please contact Ted Peck, '42, Fund Director at 212-988-2370, or Craig Slutzkin, '91, at 646-329-6363.

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