

JMHS ALUMNI NEWS

OUR MISSION

The mission of the James Madison Alumni Association is to foster social and fraternal relationships among the graduates of JMHS, and, in keeping with the school's high ideals of scholarship and citizenship, to support and enhance the educational opportunities of current and future students.

Spring 2015 / Vol. 21, No. 1

Dr. Wendy (Trozzi) Libby '68

Committed to Academic Excellence and Significance

By Larry Spear '54



With a broad background in higher education and finance, Wendy Libby has focused her career on rescuing and transforming colleges and universities across all aspects of their operations, while emphasizing the students' experience. As she puts it, the mission of a university is "educating students to lead great lives... lives of significance...not merely successful ones." In

July 2009, Wendy became president of Stetson University, a 130-year-old, private, liberal arts university with highly ranked programs in business, arts and sciences, music, and law. Stetson has four campuses across Central Florida, over 4,000 students, and an operating budget of \$140 million.

Wendy was born in Brooklyn and lived with her parents and older brother **Mark Allen Trozzi '61** on Kings Highway and E. 29th St. She attended PS 222 and Marine Park JHS. A good education was always her parents' primary concern, and she quips that while her dad worked six days a week for a food service company and her mom ran the house, her job was to bring home "A's."

At Madison she was editor in chief of her Log, a member of the Math Team, *Highway* staff, and Arista, and she worked in the Records Office. She credits English teacher Deborah Tannenbaum with honing her writing and critical thinking skills, and says she most enjoyed her time working on the Log with her dear friend **Barbara Hoffman Patterson '68** under the guidance of Mr. Chet Fulmer. Like so many of us, she has fond memories of walking on Kings Highway with friends in old Brooklyn (i.e., before malls) and taking the subway into the city to see a show or visit a museum.

After graduation, Wendy attended Cornell and earned a BS in biology. Her first summer job was transcribing autopsy reports at Kings County Hospital, followed by other unglamorous jobs in NYC government. Wendy returned to Cornell where she received an MBA in finance in 1977. This led to positions in private industry until 1980 when she began working in higher education.

Wendy has held administrative positions at Westbrook College in Maine, U. of Hartford, U. of Connecticut Health Center, Ohio State, and Cornell. In 1994, she earned a doctorate in educational administration from the U. of Connecticut. She then served for eight years as vice president for business affairs and CFO at Furman U. in South Carolina, where she kept the school on a fiscally sound footing and implemented its first master plan in over 40 years. Concurrently, she taught finance, human resources, and organizational behavior for Furman and Clemson universities.

Following Furman, she served six years as president of Stephens College in Missouri, the nation's second oldest women's institution. Through a strategic-planning initiative, she reduced the school's multimillion-dollar deficit while improving facilities, revamping academic programs, and increasing undergraduate enrollment by 70 percent.

The recipient of numerous awards and honoraria as a business executive, higher education professional, and supporter of women in leadership roles, Wendy led a delegation of six college presidents to Ewha Womans University in Seoul, South Korea, to participate in the president's forum on strategic planning with a global focus. She also sits on the boards of academic, business, and civic organizations.

An avid reader, traveler, and theatergoer, Wendy and her husband, Richard, a retired college president, have two sons, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two Labrador Retrievers.

By her own admission, Wendy's career has "the mark of someone who keeps moving and changing," and she readily admits to moving on when the job loses its challenge. When asked, "What makes Wendy run?" she replied, "When working for a mission-based organization you have a responsibility to put everything you've got into it."

Larry Spear is a retired electrical engineer.

From Marty Weinstein Alpert, President



Our fundraising efforts this past year have exceeded our expectations – and we knew it! The “Adopt A Chair” program is a great success and, literally, the gift that keeps on giving. It’s certainly not a new idea since it’s been implemented in schools across the country for years, but it needed a fresh approach. We started out calling it *Auditorium Seats*, but being a PR person, I’m always reaching for something catchy. Last summer, crawling on the West Side Highway (in a car, I promise) on my way down to the city, there, right in front of me, was a sign saying, “Adopt A Highway.” Bingo!

Checks keep coming in and as to the question “Are there still chairs available?” – there are about 1,450 chairs in the auditorium including the balcony, and we expect this to go on for a long time, so it’s never too late to send in your check. Adopt one in your own name or adopt one In Honor or In Memory of another Madisonian. And what a great way to pay a personal tribute to Madison! Contact me at martymwa@aol.com for more information.

As for our Elite Donor program, this is also quite a success. One of our Lifetime members and continuing donors, **Howard Feldsher ‘63**, has made a contribution substantial enough to fund the new Literacy Center, which will be named for him. Look for our Fall 2015 newsletter where we hope to have the details and a photograph. Naming opportunities like this are available all over the school. Please contact me if you are interested.

We are often told of someone who “should” be on our Wall of Distinction. Go to our Web site, www.jamesmadisonalumni.org, and take a look at our honorees. Yes, an impressive list to be sure, but this is Madison so the bar is set high. If you think that someone you know of belongs in that distinguished company, print out the form and follow the instructions for submission. The deadline for 2016 Wall nominations is March 1, 2015.

In an effort to put new life into our ongoing Membership Drive, the Class Reps will be e-mailing a recent issue of the Alumni News to their classes. We are asking all members for their help. Please forward this newsletter to every Madison friend on your own e-mail list. We would like alumni who are not members to take a look at what we are doing as an association to enhance our school, and to see how advantageous it is to be a member, as well as to enjoy our much praised newsletter.

Stay warm and remember: **WE NEED TO BE THERE FOR MADISON BECAUSE MADISON WAS THERE FOR US.**

Alumni Association Board of Directors

President: Martha Weinstein Alpert ‘57

Vice President: Frieda Gottfried Weitz ‘54

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Treasurer: Charles L. Morris ‘63, CPA

Susan Epstein Deutsch ‘58 • Deborah Feller ‘70

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Board Member Emerita: Jodie Green Cohen ‘89, Principal

Board Member Emeritus: Robert Sharon ‘53

*Past President

JMHSAA NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

The name of our new Facebook page is: *The Official Facebook Page of the James Madison H.S. Alumni Association*. Friend us – we have a great page full of memories, pictures, and the latest news.

DO YOU HAVE A JMHSAA BASEBALL CAP AND/OR T-SHIRT? SEE OUR WEBSITE TO ORDER!

**JMHSAA T-Shirts Now Available
(Gold on Black)**



**New! JMHSAA Baseball Caps!
(Black with Gold Trim)**



Gay in The '50s at JMHS - Fuggedaboutit!

By Richard Levine '54

Richard Levine was vice president of the Madison SGO, a Booster, and a writer and performer for SING. After attending Brown U., he worked as a talent agent, casting director, novelist, playwright, and theater director. Settling down in Los Angeles in 1977, he learned post-production skills for films and became a partner in a small, independent company until retirement in 2002. He is very proud to have directed a cabaret and a fully mounted musical revue benefiting two AIDS organizations in the late '80s.

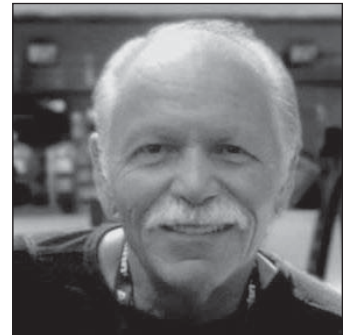
My years at Madison were not plagued by gay angst. It was a different time then and I don't recall even hearing the word "homosexual" or "fag." The subject never came up. Hey, I didn't even know the word "gay" until I went to a gay bar in Greenwich Village on a college break. Back in high school there were "sissies," but they were probably straight and just shy. Rumors of male-to-male sexual activities (a subject referred to in books as "adolescent experimentation") always concerned small groups of guys, all of whom were probably hetero. Homosexuality lived only in my mind and I'm sure that went for the few gay friends I had, friends who came out to each other after high school. We speak now of "gaydar" or the ability to spot and gravitate to each other. We obviously had it!

My experience at Madison was exciting and rewarding in so many ways. In fact, all my closeted gay friends were actively popular. My gayness never entered my daily school life. Yes, we soon-to-be-out gays had unspoken and unshared crushes and frustrations but, as in my case, just harmless fantasies not much different from those of many straight guys with crushes and dreams about this cheerleader or that baton twirler. When you look at it, we were ostensibly "normal." We dated girls, necked in the Avalon balcony, and danced slow and close at Sweet Sixteen parties. Sex was only a dream. Learning, friendship, and fun were my realities.

Coming out was a process for me and other gay Madison graduates, first to each other, then to other trusted friends, and only much later to workmates and family. When I went to a reunion of classes from the 1950s in Las Vegas in 2004, I squared my shoulders and revealed myself to old friends. The reception was heartwarming and I have reconnected with so many people I had abandoned – abandoned so as to keep my "secret" from people I loved back then and still do. How lucky not to be from a small town in any of the hotbeds of homophobia we read about today! FuggedaboutDAT, too!!!

Looking back at the age of 77, I often wonder whether it was safer years ago when public scrutiny, homophobia, teen suicides, and gay bashing were not as visible. On the other hand, how gratifying it is now to see the positive side of being a more visible part of society, socially and politically. For better or for worse, it was and still is a paradox, but it is better to take off the mask.

I speak not just for myself when I say thank you to fellow students for accepting us at face value. The struggle came afterwards... but we are winning.



Visit to The Museum of Jewish Heritage

By Barbara Befler '60



Alumni at MJH

On Sunday, September 21, 37 members of the JMHSAA met for lunch and a tour of the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Lower Manhattan. Most of the alumni who attended graduated in the '50s and '60s, and as always, meeting former Madisonians quickly became a warm and nostalgic experience.

The superbly engaging and learned docent, Arthur Green, who led my small group had been a high school history teacher and assistant principal at Madison in the early '90s. He came to work on his day off just to proudly lead our group through the museum! Needless to say, reliving the history leading up to the Holocaust and the horrific years during World War II left us all with heavy hearts. But we were glad to have experienced the exhibit as a group of individuals, united by our roots, many of whose families were so affected by the events this museum chronicles.

I hope you will consider joining us for future Alumni Association events.

Barbara Befler is a retired medical writer and a volunteer at Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Ebinger's Blackout Cake Recipe by Janine

Filling:

1 1/3 cups white sugar
4 T cornstarch
1/2 tsp salt
6 oz Baker's unsweetened
chocolate, chopped
2 tsp vanilla extract
2 T sweet butter
3 cups whole milk

Directions:

1. Put sugar, cornstarch,
salt in saucepan and mix
well.
2. Add milk, blend, bring
to a boil. When thickened,
lower to simmer.
3. Add chocolate, vanilla,
and butter and blend well.
4. Put mixture into a bowl,
cover and chill in fridge.

Cake:

1/2 cup Hershey's cocoa
3 T water
2 oz (2 squares) Baker's unsweetened chocolate
3/4 cup buttermilk
2 cups white sugar
2 sticks sweet butter, softened
4 extra large eggs
2 tsp vanilla
2 cups cake flour
1 1/2 tsp baking powder
1 1/2 tsp baking soda
1 tsp salt

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Grease & flour 2 round 9" pans.
3. Heat water to boiling, add chocolate to melt.
4. Add buttermilk, cocoa & let mixture cool.
5. Beat butter in mixer and add sugar, eggs, cooled
chocolate and vanilla extract and blend well.
6. Mix flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt.
7. Add this dry mix to chocolate mixture and blend.
8. Fill the 2 pans with batter and bake 30 minutes exactly.
9. Cool on rack and remove cake from pan.
10. Cut cakes in half horizontally to make 4 pieces.
Crumble 1 piece.
11. Assemble cake using 3 cake layers and 2 layers each of
1/2 cup filling.
12. Cover outside/top of cake with rest of filling, cover with
cake crumble.
13. Chill in fridge at least 1/2 hour before serving.

Enjoy!

**Janine (Zumoff) Katomski '71 served the cake at the 2014
Wall of Distinction Ceremony. For more about Janine,
see Year By Year page.*

Membership News

We Welcome New Lifetime Members

1940 Marcia Mutchnick Gerstein	1958 Iris Lipnick Convissar
1943 Lucille Weckstein Plotz	1959 Fredi Paster Pomerance
1956 Joel Rosen	1966 Roger Korman
1957 Muriel Kester	1967 Larry Libow
1958 Paula Mae Levine Schwartz	1981 Richard Planet

IMPORTANT: Please check the mailing label on this
newsletter, note your membership expiration date,
and renew on time. And remember, only members in
good standing continue to receive this publication.

**PLEASE – WHEN YOU SEND A CHECK, PUT A
NOTE IN AS TO THE DISPOSITION – DUES,
DONATION, ETC.**

Changing your postal or e-mail address, or
personal information? Let us know. All written
correspondence and checks for membership or
donations should be sent to:

Marty Alpert

100 East Hartsdale Ave.

Apt. TDW

Hartsdale, NY 10530

Or, use PayPal on our Web site

www.jamesmadisonalumni.org

Please send all mail to above address. Sending to
Madison H.S. delays process.

BE AN ALUMNI NEWS CONTRIBUTOR!

Contact editors:

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FRIEDA GOTTFRIED WEITZ '54

friedagw@verizon.net

News items and articles may be edited and shortened
due to space limitations.

Credits

Photographers: **Steve Mekler '71** and **Larry Melamed**

The Lights Are Bright On Broadway

By Judith Naomi Ophir Fish '64

A bit of poetic license is to be expected when transferring reality to the stage. But songwriter **Barry Mann (Imberman) '56** couldn't be happier with the portrayal of himself and his wife, lyricist and author Cynthia Weil, in the Broadway production of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*.



Barry in his high school
Milo club jacket.

"Eighty-five percent is Cynthia and I," he told the *Alumni News*. "Doug McGrath, who wrote the book, interviewed all four of us [Barry, Cynthia, **Carole King (Klein) '58**, and her late former husband, Gerry Goffin]. He spent two days with each of us to get a sense of who we were. We OK'd those who played our characters and we offered suggestions. I thought he wrote us great!"

The original concept of the play, which gave equal emphasis to all four songwriters, evolved into focusing on Carole and her personal and professional

relationship with Goffin. But as Barry pointed out, he and Cynthia "are an integral part of the show," serving as "almost comic relief." And the musical rings with such Mann and Weil hits from the '60s as "Uptown," "On Broadway," "We Gotta Get Out of This Place," and "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling," which is number one on Broadcast Music, Inc.'s list of most-played 20th century songs on American radio and TV.

Barry traces his own musical experience back to his junior and senior years as chorus leader of Madison SING, "with rehearsals every day." Even further back, he remembers singing in a talent show at PS 153, "and next thing I know, I hear someone playing the piano. It's **Will Levins**. I saw that and I said, I want some of that." Barry began taking lessons from Will's teacher. When he would visit Will, he'd find him playing the piano and singing songs he had written. "Will is a terrific improviser," Barry noted. "I was influenced by him." He also grew close to Will's family. Will's father, Joe Levins, taught French at Madison and his mother was a guidance counselor at Cunningham JHS. When Barry left architecture studies at Pratt and turned to writing songs, Will's mother's stamp of approval convinced Barry's mother that songwriting could be a viable career.

And it has been for over 50 years. A Grammy winner and recipient of countless awards for pop, country, and R&B music, Barry still holds "very warm feelings towards Madison" – where it may have all gotten started.

Judith Naomi Ophir Fish is an author, a journalist, and a founding editor of The Westchester Review, a literary journal.

How it Began

By Will Levins '56

Barry lived on Homecrest Ave. in Brooklyn. I lived a few blocks away on East 12th and Avenue S. We got to know each other in the 5th or 6th grade in PS 153 and remained friends through JHS 234 and Madison HS. I'd go to Barry's house, walk down the steps to the basement, and there was Barry hunched over an easel, apparently studying "stuff" from Pratt Institute. But he was actually looking at music sheets and he ultimately left Pratt to pursue his music. He and I recorded some songs together at the Brill Building in Manhattan, then a center for music writers/performers.



Will (left) and Barry at the 2006 Wall of Distinction Ceremony.

I'm happy to say Barry and I remain good friends. When I asked him how he felt about seeing himself portrayed on stage in the *Carole King* musical, he said: "The last time I saw *Beautiful*, reality hit me. As I watched the dancers moving to 'On Broadway,' I suddenly realized that they were singing my song 'On Broadway' on Broadway! I never thought that the songs I wrote fifty years ago would turn into standards and be sung on a Broadway stage – but beyond that, that Cynthia and I would be characters in a musical that told the story of our early lives together. It's quite amazing, especially coming at this point in our lives. It doesn't get much better than that!"

Will Levins is a civil litigation attorney with the NY law firm Ballon, Stoll, Bader, & Nadler, P.C.

Why Donate Through The JMHS Alumni Association?

By Michael Grossman '54

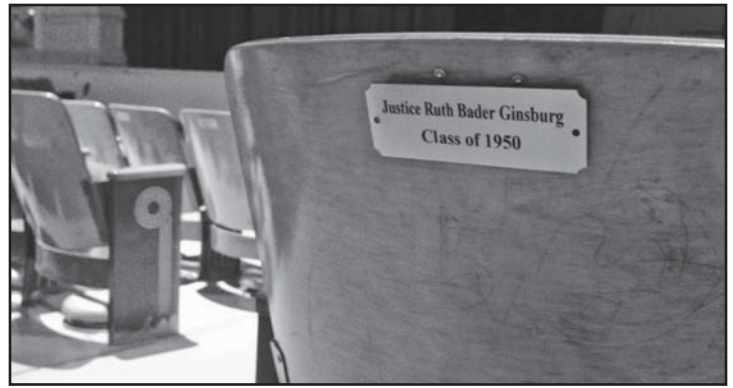
We all pay taxes at every level of government. A substantial portion of our tax "contribution" funds public education. So why should a taxpayer even consider donating an additional penny to a public school?

Let's revisit part of the Mission Statement of the JMHS Alumni Association: "... to support and enhance the educational opportunities of current and future students." How is an Alumni Association enhancement different from the support provided through tax revenue? Tax revenues and other allotments filter through a morass of mandates, labor contracts, competing bureaucracies, political pressures, and legal restrictions before a school principal is assigned a budget and an opportunity to create what will hopefully be a meaningful educational experience. Unfortunately, most schools are barely able to maintain the status quo, and all too often principals must decide which worthwhile activities to cut.

In contrast, the JMHSAA is a non-profit, tax-exempt, non-governmental, unencumbered organization that has the ability and the motivation to provide facilities, equipment, and services directly to the school and the students. Great care is taken to work closely with the principal to prioritize the needs that we intend to alleviate. Our efforts are not designed to absolve the governmental educational structures from their responsibility to pare down bloated administrative loads in order to allow more discretionary funds to be applied at the school level. We also do not find it prudent to apply funds to reduce the Board of Education's responsibility to provide for the ongoing operation and staffing of the school.

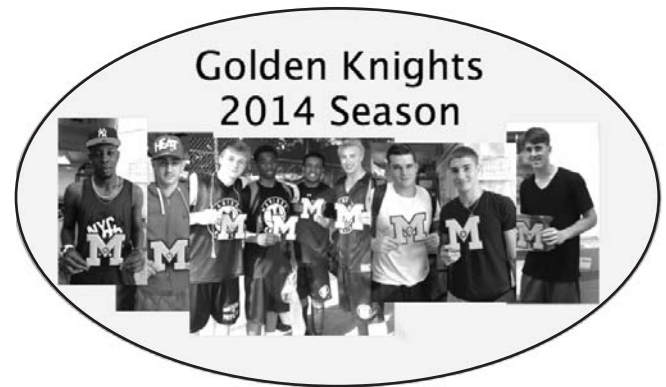


JMHSAA-sponsored student trip to St. John's University.



Nameplate of our U.S. Supreme Court Justice

We do recognize, however, that there are enhancements that will never be provided through "channels," and others that will be obsolete before they reach future generations of Madison students. It is in this regard that in recent years the Alumni Association has provided buses for college visits, whiteboards, SMART Boards, science equipment, scholarships, uniforms, scoreboards, etc.



Varsity letters donated to boys' and girls' basketball teams by generous alumni.

The Alumni Association raises funds through dues, donations, group events, the sale of hats and t-shirts, and the sale of dedications on auditorium chairs. Arrangements are now in place to recognize major donors on a plaque to be installed in the school lobby. The semi-annual newsletter, e-mail flyers from class representatives, and the Web site keep all interested parties in touch with current programs and news of friends and past acquaintances.

The Alumni Association operates primarily through the efforts of members who serve voluntarily on various committees and assist with special events. A variety of ways to get involved and give back are found in this newsletter and on our Web site, www.jamesmadisonalumni.org.

We invite all James Madison alumni to enjoy memories of our common and extraordinary educational experience. We also hope that current and future students will profit from the generosity of their loyal "ancestors."

Michael Grossman is a retired administrator of the NYC BOE.

Is Your Name Here?

The response to our "Adopt A Chair" fundraising program, which began in mid-September, has been heartwarming. As of December 31, 2014, more than 200 chairs in Madison's Sonia Lerner Auditorium will have engraved nameplates placed on the back. Over 1200 chairs are still in need of names. If you have not yet done so, please consider adding your name or those of relatives or friends to this list by making a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 per plate to the JMHSAA.

Faculty

Dr. Sandra Abrams*
Lawrence Costello*
Murr Davis*
Dr. Joann Yuan Lin
Michelle Murray**
Rose Stein*
Jacob Milgram*
Nat Krinsky*
Coach Alfred J. Caruso*
Milton Jacobs*
Jack Slavin*
Elizabeth Whitlock*

Alums

1927
Benjamin Parmet*
1928
Harry Kronstein*
1929
Robert Sidorsky*
1940
Marcia Mutchnick Gerstein
1941
Sherwood H. Brieloff*
Paul Edelman
Rae Salit Marcus*
Melvin Wortman*
1942
Howard Koslow
1944
Bob Appelbaum
Annette Essig*
1945
Leon Shapiro*
1946
Beatrice (Betty) Leventer

1948

Renee Essig*
Leontine Slavin Temsky
1949
Paul Appelbaum
Bruce Birkenhead
Edward Fox
1950
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Howard Glener
Joan Greenman**
Lewis Merritt Kanner
Harvey Hochlerin
Dr. Thelma Kaplan Stevens

Anthony T. Spano
Frank Torre*

1951

Karl Bernstein*
Ira Drogin
Shepherd Drogin*
Lorraine Altman Fox
Steve Goldstone*
Ellen Reiss Hoyt

1952

Michael Appelbaum
Bruce Carner*
Joel Dropkin*
Stephen Goldfinger
Stuart Hirschman
Bob Goodman*
Felice Schwartz Kanner*
Burton Kovler
Jerry Reinert
Lenny Seidman*
Art Sidorsky
Eugene Sommer

1953

Paul Creditor
Chuck Debrovner
Dosh Wallach Friedman
Lila Gottfried Gordon
Richard Kossoff
Marcia Landau Levy
Martin Liss
Harvey Potkin
Anita Magid Saltzman 1953
Louis Sheinbaum
Myron J. Schuster
Barbara Pecker Title
Harold Wohl
Ed Wolpert
Sari Feldman Zukerman

1954

Murray Berman
Patricia Bruder Debrovner
Stanley Goldsmith
Michael Grossman
Morty Hahn
Jane Cooperstein Haas
Harold Heyman
Valerie Broido Kaufman
Sue Hirsch Klein
Paul Konigsberg
Rowena Sustrin Kovler
Florence Rubel Koplow
Richard M. Leder
Richard Levine
Marlena Kleinman Malas
Joan Backer Meer
Madeline Drogin Reinert*
Martin Pine
Lois Schenfield Potkin*

1955

Robert Sackman*
Larry Spear
Arthur Stone
Lynn Herman Syms
Frieda Gottfried Weitz
1955
Charles Castorina
Linda Feldman Goldstein*
Arthur Lebowitz*
Jordan C. Levine
Paula Cohen Sheinbaum
Bernie Spear
Steve Trachtenberg

1956

James Dyer
Jane Castorina Gordon
Joan Spirm Grey
Merle Rubin Hecker
Julie Siegel Kotler
Dave Maron
Diana Milgram
Steve Tuller

1957

Martha Weinstein Alpert
Benjamin Altman*
Naomi Cohen Altschul
Ron Carner
Sheila Zamkoff Charney
Richard Cowan
Richard Creditor
Vincent Cucci
Paula Berliner Diamond
Barry Essig
Sid Ganis
Anita Dropkin Gittelson
Miriam Schulman Goldsmith*
Robert Greenman
Harriet Tarnoff Holtz
Leonard Holtz
Robert Juceam
Michael Kay*
Muriel Kester
Robert Konigsberg
Marsha Hymowitz Meyers
Jesse Miller*
Shelby Botkin Mitchell
Annette Lisker Mont*
Joel A. Sharon*
Steve Slavin
Linda Sperling
Bart Warshofsky
Marcia Peters Warshofsky*
Pasha Zyman
1958
Ronald Abbott*
Iris Lipnick Convissar
Susan Epstein Deutsch
Leonore Dobren Friedman
Edward Gershuny
Sandy Moses Hammer
Carole Klein King**
Richard Klayman
Roy Levine*
Elyse Gottfried Lieberman

Leonard Pullman*
 Leslie Korn Rogowsky
 Camille Cacciatore Savitz
 Paula Mae Levine Schwartz
 Ann Leder Sharon
 Michael Wortzman
 Joel Zwick
1959
 Judi Greenspan Maron
 Cindy Goldman Prugar
1960
 Susan Plaut Adleman
 Stuart Brown*
 Roberta Ellen Epstein
 Paul Howort
 Arthur Indursky
 Gail Jeby
 Lydia Fife Kugel
 Joel Magid
 Beverly Milgram
 Barbara Epstein Rosen
 Richard Smith
 Michael Vinocur
1961
 Alan Goldberg
 Robert S. Hoffman, MD
 Adele Ganis Kleid
 Ted Lackowitz
 Charles Leidner
1962
 Alice Rosenkranz Leidner
1963
 Denise Brodsky
 Barbara Chasin
 Howard Feldsher
 Beverly Jacobs Hersko
1964
 Marilyn Levin Cuff
 Richard Dimentstein
 Steve Epstein
 Judith Naomi Ophir
 Joanne Glaser
 Ina Maxine Kronstein
1965
 Paul David Epstein
 Norman J. Goldfinger
1966
 George Joseph DeMeo
 Henni Linda Donnenfeld
 Jeffrey Jacobs
 Elliot Kronstein
 Robin Lowey

1967
 Margaret Donohue Gallo
1968
 Bradley Backus
 Barry A. Cozier
 Ellen Grove
 Carol Milgram
 Barbara Hoffman Patterson
1970
 Denise Britvan
 Zori Cohen
 Bonnie Egles Eiler
 Debbie Feller
 Paul Gessman
 Howard Guterman
 Gary Grover
1971
 Ginger Britvan*
 Michael L. Davis
 Norman Finkelstein**
 Maryjane Frederick
 Richard Horn*
 Steven Huz
 Merrill Leventer Silver
 Steve Mekler
 Susan Ochshorn
 Joe Perdichizzi
 Henry E. Rose
 Zina Rutkin**
 Hyme Schachter
 Maxine Schreiber Tsvaigrach
 Larry Withowski
 Janine Zumoff
1973
 Jack Britvan
1975
 Elyse Hoyt
1976
 Beth Amey Herman
 Scott Herman
1978
 Larry Hoyt*
1986
 Jane G. Carbonaro
2009
 David Jie Lin
Non Alums:
 Robert Gittelsohn*
 Avner Mendelsohn*

***In Memory Of**
****In Honor Of**

And our deep appreciation to our alumni for their generous donations during 2014 to the JMHSAA.

1935
 Robert Siffert
1938
 Blanche Greenberg Tisman
1941
 Seymour Reich
1943
 Ruth Baltuch Nass
1945
 Mildred Jeanmaire Berendsen
1948
 Judith Blumenthal
1949
 Herbert Kanarick
 Arlene Goodstein Rosenstein
1950
 Johanna Van Bakergem Cederholm
 Stan/Sylvia Epstein
 Ruth Bader Ginsburg
 Sandy Goldberg Roche
 Anthony Spano
1951
 Brenda Heller Eisner
 Lorraine Altman Fox
 Ellen Hoyt
 Ann Kittner
 Matthew Loonin
1952
 Michael Appelbaum
 Stanley Komaroff
1953
 Dick Kossoff
 Robert Sharon
 Louis Sheinbaum
 Carol/Larry Zicklin
1954
 Michael Grossman
 Jane Cooperstein Haas
 Sue Hirsch Klein
 Florence Rubel Koplou
 Steven Pokress
 Stephen Schloss

1955
 Martin Sherwin
 Roberta Rome Soroka
1956
 James Dyer
 Jack/Tina Fischer
 Jane Castorina Gordon
 Dr. Barbara Haskel
 Gerard Rosenthal
1957
 Anonymous
 Ron Carner
 Howard Misthal
1958
 Sherwood Baxt
 Irwin/June Kahn
1959
 Richard/Jane Strongin Simon
1960
 Barry Ende
 Steve Kunkin
 James Licari
1963
 David Eckstein
 Howard Feldsher
 Mark Iris
1964
 Robert Gureasko
1965
 Judith Krumholtz Seglin
1966
 Elliot Kronstein
 Alan Walfield
 Jay Yentis
1967
 Charles Gall
1969
 Sheri Dubner Meyers
1970
 Cheryl Hutt
1975
 Elyse Hoyt
1981
 Richard Planet
Non Alums
 Mel/Miriam Paul
 Jane Plitt and Jim Bruen

All In The Family

By Ellen Rivin Green '64

It's great to have your children in your family business. My family's business happens to be education. My husband, Norman, is a retired high school principal (Erasmus Hall) and I'm a retired assistant principal (IS 303 and The Bay Academy). My children grew up listening to discussions about best practices in education and new methods of teaching. Is it any wonder two of them chose to follow our lead?

Among my fondest memories of my student days at Madison was my participation in SING and in Fidelitas, the honor service society. I remember some of my



Jodie turns Sweet 16. 1 to r: Jackie, Steven, Jodie, Ellen, & Norman Green.

teachers fondly, a few of whom taught my children when they attended the school. My children all went to Madison (**Jackie Green Freedman '84**, **Steven Green '87**, now a teacher, athletic director, and dean at Benjamin Banneker Academy in Brooklyn, and **Jodie Green Cohen '89**) and all became involved in extracurricular activities there. Jodie was part of the Law Program

and was involved in more activities than I knew could exist! She loved the school so much that after graduating from SUNY Albany, she returned to Madison to become an English teacher there.

During my time at Madison I was a monitor for Miss Elizabeth Horne. Those of you who attended the school during the 1950s through 1971, when Miss Horne was assistant principal, will remember her standing in the main lobby, stopping girls whose skirts were too short or who wore more makeup than she felt was proper. Imagine my pride when, in 2001, my daughter Jodie became Assistant Principal Organization at JMHS, taking up residence in that very same office and standing in the same lobby. Jodie's manner is greatly different from her predecessor's. She was there to greet students, teachers, and parents alike making certain that everyone was prepared to have an enjoyable learning experience at school.

When my daughter was appointed principal of James Madison High School, I felt it was a natural continuation of her career. Who would have more knowledge of the school than a graduate who practically never left? Who would understand the needs of the entire school community more than someone who has had a long-term relationship with the school? And who could be a more effective administrator than the daughter of a Madison graduate!

Madison Student Accomplishments 2014

By Lawrence Melamed
JMHS Public Relations Officer

Where to begin? For starters, the Law Institute continues to make Madison proud. Our "We the People" team was the best in the city last year and placed second in the state. Our Moot Court and Mock Trial Teams are among the most competitive citywide. In January 2014, our school was invited to send student and staff representatives to the international moot court at The Hague in the Netherlands. It was a wonderful first of many international experiences to come. To that end, Madison is planning a trip to London, Paris, and Rome for the Spring 2015 break.

This past year, Madison competed alongside Murrow and Midwood in the first-ever "Brooklyn Sings" Inter-SING Competition, where we were distinguished as the greatest fundraisers (over \$20,000) for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Students also participated in the spring performance of *Legally Blonde: The Musical* and in our first student talent show. Our Marching Band was spotlighted on WNYC Radio for its performance at Brooklyn's annual Memorial Day parade.

In academics, the Robotics Club and Bio-Med House placed at the NYC Science and Engineering Fair and the Brooklyn College Science Expo. Our Information Technology House and Academy of Finance garnered accolades at the South Brooklyn Invitational Mathematics Competition and prestigious summer internships for its students at Verizon. In sports, the boys' and girls' track teams are officially the fastest in the state. We added so many PSAL teams this past year to our athletic offerings that as of September we have the second most PSAL teams of any school in New York City! In the arts, our students placed at PS Art and in the highly coveted Fashion Design major at FIT, while many of our musicians and singers participated in the Honors Music Festival for NYC High School Students. Finally, we have entered into a partnership with the Roundabout Theatre Company and will benefit from the artists in residence and the support the company will provide us throughout the year.

Our excellence can be measured by the success of our graduates. Last year, we had seven Macaulay Honors recipients, the largest number from a single school in the entire city. The class of 2014 also earned nearly \$2 million in college scholarships. We are so proud of our accomplishments, and we're certain that 2015 will be an even greater year!

Year By Year

Florence Cohen Weinger '33 celebrated her 99th birthday in November. Flossie and her family left East Flatbush around 1948 for Bridgeport, CT. During her working years she was a buyer of ladies' clothing for a Connecticut department store. She has a daughter, two grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and is the aunt of '56 class rep Jack Fischer. Flossie currently resides in the Jewish Home in Fairfield, CT.

Sybil Schwartz Shainwald '45 hosted the biennial Sidney Shainwald Public Interest Lecture on September 16th in the Events Center of New York Law School. Introductory remarks were made by NY Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney and the guest speaker was House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi. The successful lecture series is named in memory of Sybil's husband, who passed away in 2003.

Harriet Newman Cohen '49 once again ranked as one of the Top 100 lawyers and Top 50 women lawyers of 2014 in NY Metro Super Lawyers nomination, research, and blue-ribbon review process. Harriet graduated from law school at the age of 41 while raising four children, and is a respected and sought-after matrimonial and family law attorney.

Merritt Kanner '50, merrittkanner@aol.com, is trying to learn when and why an award was terminated that had been given out at graduations in memory of his schoolmate Lenny Seidman. It was established to honor Lenny, who died in a traffic accident in 1948 or 1949 saving the life of another Madisonian. Marty Alpert advised that there was a Leonard Seidman award for football at her graduation in 1957. If any alumni from later years still have their graduation programs, please check and let us or Merritt know whether or not the award appears there.

Stan Goldsmith '54 e-mailed that his recent 700-page textbook, *Nuclear Oncology*, was to be released by Lippincott in October, 2014. He co-edited it with nuclear medicine colleague Cumali Aktolun from Turkey, and wrote two chapters with other nuclear medicine colleagues, one from Slovenia and one from Serbia. "Talk about a small world," he wrote. "I have sometimes jokingly referred to the United Nations of Nuclear Medicine because of the degree of cooperation amongst the worldwide community."

Jack Fischer '56 commented on the Fall newsletter: "Great edition. I enjoy reading about all the grads who made it BIG TIME, aside from the ones I knew about over the years. JMHS has a prolific heritage. Ebinger's Blackout Cake (90 cents) was my favorite. When I was stationed in Ft. Jackson, SC, in 1962, Tina used to send me one every few weeks. My military buddies didn't know about Brooklyn and Ebinger's."

Jane Brody '58, *NY Times* health columnist, was profiled last spring in the UFT newsletter. She cited biology teacher Harold Nagler and chemistry teacher **George Kapp '32** as caring and encouraging mentors who inspired her in high school and became her lifelong friends. She also credits English teacher Philip Roddman with exposing her to the writings of Thomas Mann and Friedrich Nietzsche and to Wagnerian opera.

Arnie Brody '59, class rep for the male students of 1959, has a new e-mail address, arniemadison1959@aol.com. He had a major computer crash and lost all his classmates' information. Guys, please send him your current e-mail addresses to ensure that he has them for distribution of our flyers.

Bernie Sanders '59, the Vermont independent senator, said he will announce in March if he will launch a presidential campaign for 2016. If he does, he will have to decide whether to run as an independent or a Democrat.

Joel Magid '60 gave an engrossing and well-researched series of lectures on the work of novelist Philip Roth at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale this past fall. Joel will be following up with classes on April 19 and 26 that will concentrate on the books *Scenes from a Village* and *Between Friends* by noted Israeli author Amos Oz. The lectures are free and open to the public.

Bob Sternberg '65 reminds his class that the April 25th day for their 50th reunion is approaching. Arrangements for the event and instructions for registration will be distributed as soon as they are finalized. Send jpegs of photos from Madison days as well as current photos to Susan Freeman at sff27@earthlink.net. They will be included in a video presentation. Bob would like two or three former band members who still play their instruments to contact him at robertsnh@myfairpoint.net.

Charles Schumer '67 met with Principal Jodie Cohen and teacher and public relations officer Larry Melamed on October 22 at the U.S. Senator's Manhattan office to discuss his JMHS connection. The senator acknowledged the excellent teachers and education he had at Madison. He said that as a student at Harvard he benefited from the "street smarts" he acquired growing up in the Madison neighborhood. Jodie and Larry were delighted when he offered to visit the school and speak to the students. We'll keep you posted when that happens.

Janine (Zumoff) Katomski '71, JCamm1@aol.com, started cooking for family and friends in elementary school, where she was in charge of refreshments at class parties. In her senior year at Madison, she took a cooking class and worked for the teacher, Bernita Babb. Janine received the cooking medal at graduation and followed this with an A.A.S degree in Culinary Arts and Hospitality from NYC College of Technology. She has worked for over 30 years as a cook and caterer at the Hospital for Joint Diseases and has her own business called "Janine's Kitchen."

Roger S.H. Schulman '76, British Academy Award winner and Oscar and Emmy nominee, currently writes for the ABC sitcom *Melissa & Joey* and is co-creating a comedy series for HBO with Tom Hanks. Roger teaches screenwriting at the U. of Southern California. He is also a tenor with the Angel City Chorale, whose album *Elements* is currently up for a Grammy award. Listen at www.buckbenny.com or on iTunes to his introductions (as "Rogerchester") of episodes of Golden Age radio on the Jack Benny Show - OTR Podcast! His most cherished prizes, he says, are his talented wife, Elizabeth Vienneau, and his compassionate and beautiful daughter, Macy.

Menachem Tabanpour '04 is president and co-founder of Nutrient Recovery and Upcycling LLC, a company that specializes in extracting phosphorous and other minerals from sewage and converting them into agricultural products. "We bring phosphorous back as a fertilizer," he said. As a research specialist at the U. of Wisconsin, Menachem is the principal researcher on a \$450,000 grant from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to study the extraction of phosphorus from wastewater. Menachem states, "Being part of Mr. Kaye's research class at JMHS pushed me in an incredible way and opened up a lot of opportunities for me."

In Memoriam

Dr. Martin Perl '42, September 2014. Martin won the physics medal at his Madison graduation, a harbinger of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Physics he was awarded for discovering the tau lepton, a subatomic particle that is a heavier "brother" of the electron. He received his bachelor's degree from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute in 1948 after serving in the military during World War II, and earned his Ph.D. in physics from Columbia U. As a researcher, Martin worked at the U. of Michigan and then joined the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center at Stanford U. He was a professor in experimental physics there when the JMHSAA honored him on the Wall of Distinction in 2004.

Herbert Schapiro '46, October 2014. Herb, a teacher and a playwright, created a play from the collected essays of poor NYC kids that became the hit Broadway musical *The Me Nobody Knows*. The play won an Off Broadway Obie award in 1970 and was nominated for five Tonys when it moved to Broadway. Herb's other plays included *Kill the One-Eyed Man*, an adaptation of a Gogol short story, and *The Love Song of Saul Alinsky*, the radical Chicago-based community organizer. His theater projects were often motivated by social causes. Herb also collaborated with producer Jeff Britton in 1994 on the Off Broadway show *Bring In the Morning*, a musical based on the writings of teenage hospital patients, students, addicts in rehab, and unwed mothers who participated in the NYC program Poets in Public Service.

Stanley Farber '49, October 2014. Stan entered his family's furrier business after college but left and became a partner in a stock brokerage firm. He leaves his wife and best friend, Beverly Schwartz '50, their son, daughter, spouses, and grandchildren who hold this gentle, kind, and loving man in a special place in their hearts.

Dr. James Finkelstein '50, August 2014. Once captain of Madison's tennis team, Jamie graduated from Harvard U. and obtained his M.D. and post-degree training at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia U. Jamie had a long career at the V.A. Hospital and George Washington School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. He is highly recognized for his significant contributions to medicine, including seminal work on the amino acid homocysteine. He leaves his beloved wife of 54 years, Barbara, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

Rob Sinacore '50, May 2014. Rob, a lifetime member of the JMHSAA, received a BA from Cornell and two masters degrees, one in education from Brooklyn College and one in special ed from LIU. He taught special needs children in the Staten Island public schools for nearly 30 years. An avid traveler, he visited Australia, New Zealand, the Galapagos Islands, Spain, Italy, Machu Picchu, and dozens of other places. Rob strongly believed in the work of Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, the Mint Theater, SAGE, the NYC Gay Men's Chorus, and Lambda Legal. A quiet man with a huge heart, he will be greatly missed.

Frank Torre '50, September 2014. Frank, a 2002 Wall of Distinction honoree, was a star in basketball and baseball at Madison. He signed with the Boston Braves minor league system in 1951, then played in the major leagues for five

years with the Milwaukee Braves and for two years with the Philadelphia Phillies. He played in the 1957 and 1958 World Series and his two home runs in '57 helped the Braves win the world championship against the NY Yankees. Frank, nine years older than his brother Joe, is considered responsible for guiding Joe's baseball career.

Martin Sklar '53, April 2014. Marty left Madison before graduation to attend the U. of Wisconsin on a Ford Foundation scholarship for students 16 years old or younger. A seminal historian and theoretician of left-wing politics, Marty was an ardent socialist from his student days. He taught at several universities and published books on political and economic theory and the future of America.

A Tribute To Dr. Sandra Abrams

By Lawrence R. Melamed

In July of 2014, a real lady and leader of our school community passed away. Dr. Sandra ("Sandy") Abrams, former Madison principal, leaves behind an immense legacy.



Dr. Sandra Abrams at work.

At her memorial, her long-time friends, colleagues, and family members shared their impressions of her, using words like "statuesque," "poised," "articulate," "thoughtful," and "sophisticated" to describe her. She was also remembered for her scholarship and love of culture – local and exotic. Despite her erudition, she was deeply grounded, a daughter of Holocaust survivors, proud of her heritage, and a friend to her community.

Nowhere was this more evident than in her role as principal of JMHS between the years of 1996 and 2002. Principal Jodie Cohen spoke at the memorial recounting the ways in which Sandy demonstrated on each day what it was to lead with poise and grace and still get the job done. Her love of art and music and her promotion of the music program at Madison are a living testament to her enduring impact on our school community.

James Madison High School and its students – past, present, and future – will continue to benefit from her important and incalculable contributions.

Lawrence Melamed is an English teacher, public relations officer, and grant writer at JMHS.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Broadway Theater Event – *An American In Paris*

Saturday, May 2, 2015, 2 p.m. matinee

Checks must be received by March 1, 2015

Contact: Marcia Levy '53 mlevy163@aol.com or
Barbara Title bttitle@aol.com

Annual Board of Directors Meeting at JMHS

Monday, May 11, 2015, 11:30 a.m.

Open to members at 1:30 p.m.

Event information is posted on our Web site
www.jamesmadisonalumni.org and on [www.facebook.com/ The Official
Facebook Page of the James Madison H.S. Alumni Association](http://www.facebook.com/TheOfficialFacebookPageoftheJamesMadisonH.S.AlumniAssociation).

Details are also e-mailed by class reps.

For a calendar of Madison High School events,
check www.madisonhs.org

For Madison sports events, check www.psal.org

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