



# '40s



**Elizabeth Tepper Konviser '46** recently published a memoir about love and determination, *My American Dream: from the Ashes of the Great Depression*, that begins with her father's escape from Russia just prior to WWI and culminates with her graduation from college after WWII.

**Robert Brewer '70** wrote two poems, "Ode to Admiral Zumwalt" and "Regret," that were accepted for publication in *Proud To Be: Writing By American Warriors, Volume 10*, which is due to be released on Veterans Day 2021.

**Douglas Rallo '75** is honored to have been named to The Best Lawyers in America 2021. In 2019, he was also recognized by *Chicago Lawyer* magazine as having achieved one of the largest personal injury settlements in Illinois.

# '50s



**William Halloran '57** celebrated his 86th birthday in San Diego, Calif., at the 121st U.S. Open golf tournament. He is a retired Navy captain and still enjoys golfing twice a week.



**Diane Wald '70** retired in 2020 from a career in teaching, college administration and animal welfare. She is an award-winning

poet and novelist and has published more than 250 poems in literary magazines since 1966. She received a two-year fellowship in poetry from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and was awarded the Grolier Poetry Prize, the Denny Award, the Open Voice Award and the Anne Halley Award. She has also published poetry collections including *Lucid Suitcase*, *The Yellow Hotel*, *Wonderbender* and *The Warhol Pillows*. Her novels *Gillyflower* and *My Famous Brain* were published in 2019 and October 2021, respectively.

**Kathi Fiorino Evans '76** became the owner of and an award-winning wedding and event planner at All the Best Weddings & Celebrations and has worked there for over 15 years.

**Leonard "Len" Harac '76** is the publisher of *Exceptional Parent Magazine*, the nation's oldest publication directed at helping families with special needs members. The publication is free thanks to the generosity of its advertisers and is an excellent resource for families.



**Joe Cosentino '77** published *Drama Pan*, the 12th novel in his successful "Nicky and Noah" mystery series, in May.

# '60s



**Richard Post '67** is the lead author of the third edition of *Chemistry – A Self-Teaching Guide*, recently published by the Jossey-Bass division of Wiley Publishers with co-authors professors Chad Snyder of Liberty University and the late Clifford C. Houk. Post is an assistant dean emeritus at Ohio University having retired as assistant dean and director of instructional media and technology services. Post thanks the Montclair State chemistry department faculty in the 1960s (Gawley, Becker, Garik, et al.) for their excellent teaching and mentoring.

**Wendy Gillespie '73** was a producer for *Diana: The Musical*, a Broadway musical about the late Princess of Wales. The production was the first major show to announce a 2021 reopening date, and was set to debut on Netflix in October before the curtains rose.



**Lise Greene '74, '81 MA**, who retired after 25 years at Montclair State, recently published a book, *Mor and Me: Life, Language, and Love in Letters from Denmark*. The

book follows her year and a half in Denmark learning the language in order to translate her mother's diaries and letters into English for her family. "Mor" lived through the Nazi occupation of Denmark, worked at the Nuremberg trials after World War II, married an American and raised her children in New Jersey.

**Frank Telewski '77** was the group leader in the Beal seed viability experiment: a 142-year-old attempt to figure out how long seeds can lie dormant in the soil without losing their ability to sprout. News outlets covering the story included NPR and *The New York Times*.

**Jeffrey C. Thomson '77, '79 MA** ranked No. 10 on *NJBIZ*'s "Accounting Power 50" list.

**Regina M. Egea '79** was appointed to the Women's Public Leadership Network inaugural National Advisory Council in March. She is also the president of the Garden State Initiative, an independent research and educational organization dedicated to promoting new investment, innovation and economic growth in New Jersey.

# CLASSTOTES

# '80s



**Danielle Freda '80** wrote and published a spy thriller novel, *Double Exposure*, in January 2019.

**Michael Price '81** was nominated for two Primetime Emmys: Outstanding Animated Program for "The Dad-Feelings Limited" episode of *The Simpsons*, as well as for Outstanding Short Form Animated Program for *Maggie Simpson In: The Force Awakens From Its Nap*.

**Todd Smith '81** received *NJBIZ* magazine's 2021 Leaders in Finance Award. The Leaders in Finance awards program celebrates New Jersey's financial executives who contribute to the success of their companies as well as their communities.

**James P. Kelly '82** was inducted into the Essex County (N.J.) Football Coaches Hall of Fame in May. He is the head football coach at Caldwell University.



Stephen D'Angelo '83

**Stephen D'Angelo '83** wrote and published, *A Single Day of Peace*, which serves to guide individuals toward a life not only of success, but of fulfillment and balance as well. Over the last few years, he has also done presentations to students on success after graduating, and various other topics.

**Margaret "Marge" Filippelli '83** was included on *NJBIZ*'s "Accounting Power 50" list.

**Robert Pignatello '83** was named Fairleigh Dickinson University's first senior vice president of university operations in April.

**Imelda Muench Puryear (nee Nichter) '83** retired from the Montclair Fire Department in July. She was the first woman to be hired by the fire department in 1996.

**Richard A. Demarest '84** began training as a medical assistant at the College of Western Idaho upon retiring as the dean of St. Michael's Cathedral in Boise, where he served for more than 20 years. After completing the training, he became a certified medical assistant and has worked at Terry Reilly Health Services in Boise.

**Steven Klein '87** was elected to serve as the second vice chair of the New Jersey Bankers Association.



**Peter W. Franklin '89** and the 1989 lacrosse team held a reunion at Tierney's Tavern in Montclair in July. They celebrated their historic undefeated record (15-0) in 1989 and also mourned the loss of teammate, **Joseph "Joe" Drago '90** and coaches Tim Sullivan and Doug Alsofrom. They are working to get their goalie, **Jon Capristo '90**, inducted into the Hall of Fame since he still holds the NCAA records.

# '90s



**Frank Kaleta '91** became the professional licensing manager for the Delaware State Police. He is also an educational training specialist for Delaware Technical and Community College, instructing private security officers and trainers.

**Sandip Kapadia '92** was appointed chief financial officer of Harmony Biosciences Holdings, Inc. in March.

**Mark Loughlin '93** wrote a fictional darkly comedic scripted podcast, "Dark Air with Terry Carnation," which premiered in April. It stars Rainn Wilson (*The Office*) and explores the on- and off-air life of Terry Carnation – a late-night talk-radio show host who deals with bizarre topics and outrageous callers – and gets caught up in a mystery of his own.

**Milton A. Fuentes '94 MA**, a professor and coordinator of undergraduate advising for psychology at Montclair State, was awarded the 2021 New Jersey Psychological Association Academic & Scientific Affairs' Distinguished Faculty Award at the 2021 NJPA Virtual Fall Conference Award Ceremony.

**Reynaldo Acevedo '95 MEd** was appointed vice principal at Passaic (N.J.) High School.

**LaShanda Gilliam '96, '01 MA** was appointed the new principal of Michelle Obama Elementary School in Newark, N.J.

**Alan Kennedy '98**, a Navy veteran, started a national nonprofit organization, Provisions4Patriots, to call attention to the nationwide issue of homeless veterans and families.

**Stacey Z. Lawrence '99 MAT**, a poetry and creative writing teacher at Columbia High School in Maplewood, N.J., published a book of poetry titled *Fall Risk* with Finishing Line Press about her experiences as a young widow, mother and cancer survivor. South Orange Performing Arts Center hosted her reading and book launch in October.



## Connecting with Alumni Engagement has its perks

PerksConnect is a service providing benefits to alumni, including deals and discounts on travel, insurance, event tickets and more. It is free for all Montclair State graduates. To get started with PerksConnect, just sign in to your exclusive alumni account at [MONTCLAIRconnect](https://montclair.edu/alumni). For more information, visit [montclair.edu/alumni](https://montclair.edu/alumni).

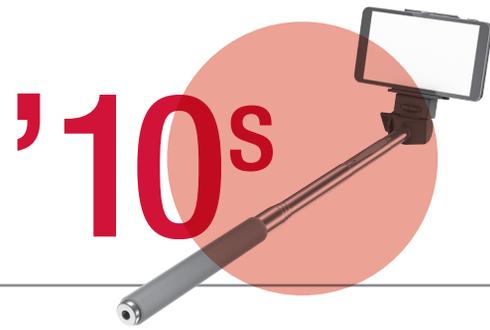
## CONNECT WITH US SOCIALLY

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**Alma Muñiz Morel '00, '02 Cert, '19 PhD** was elected to a three-year term as a Hawthorne (N.J.) Board of Education member in January. She was also hired as the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction for Lyndhurst (N.J.) Public Schools in September.

**Dania Ramirez '00** starred as Aimee in a Netflix original series *Sweet Tooth*. She filmed on location in New Zealand for the show, which was executive produced by Robert Downey Jr.



**Jason J. Velante Sr. '00** hosted the workshop, "Navigating English Language Learners in a New World," at the 2021 NJ

Equity Conference with the NJ Department of Education – with over 800 attendees overall – in August.

**Jennifer Walkup Cerruto '01** released her latest book, *365 Days of Positive Living*, in September. As a positive psychology practitioner and author of fiction and nonfiction, she aims to reach the public with her message of positivity, mindfulness, and the power to change our own lives for the better. In addition, she has previously published books for young adults, and short stories and artwork for readers and viewers of all ages.

**Antonio L. Garcia '01** was appointed principal at Passaic County (N.J.) Technical Institute.

**Maria Apostolova-Mihaylova '02 MBA** was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor of economics at Centre College.

**Juanita Gaskin '02** published a book of poetry: *Renaissance Dreams – Life's Journey through Poetry*.

**Keisha Hutchinson '02** was named senior vice president and chief risk officer at Signature Bank in New York in June.

**Thomas Pietrykoski '02** became deputy communications director for Sen. Cory Booker's (D-NJ) office.

**Takeem L. Dean '03, '11 MA** was named dean of students at Union County (N.J.) College.

**Peter Cronrath '04 MBA** was granted tenure for his position as an instructor of business at Hudson County (N.J.) Community College in April. He also co-authored a grant to install the Bloomberg Finance Lab at HCCC.

**Rick Smiley '04** was appointed the new business administrator of the Borough of Roselle, N.J.

**Douglas Baldwin '05 MA** was named the New Jersey Library Association's Librarian of the Year. He is the associate director of the Piscataway (N.J.) Public Library.



**Mailissa "Bisa" Yamba Butler '05 MAT** was presented the Artistic Impact Award in June from The Newark Museum

of Art, which recently acquired one of her large quilted pieces titled "The Warmth from Other Sons."

**Marc Friedlander '05 MBA** managed an informative talk on senior living choices in April, as part of Aging in Montclair's monthly Saturday Social series. He is a certified senior advisor (CSA).



**Julia Melchiorre Mills '05** landed her first book deal for her picture book, *I Am Stuck*. Publication

is planned for spring 2023 for the two-book deal, which also will have world rights.

**Angela Pecoraro Garaffa '06** opened her first pizza shop with her husband in Lopatcong Township (N.J.) in February. MAC Pizza & Wings is an up-and-coming pizza chain known for its assortment of gourmet pies and wings.

**Carlethia "Carly" Hamilton '06** joined the Human Resources team at Montclair State University as director of labor relations in March.

**Malachy Orozco '06** and his theater company won the 2018 Oxford Samuel Beckett Theatre Trust Award.

**Michelle Blanchet '08** co-authored a book, *The Startup Teacher Playbook*, last January to empower teachers as changemakers and give them the structure needed to address challenges. After 10 years working with young people, she also founded the Educators' Lab, which supports teacher-driven solutions to educational challenges.

**Karen Horne '08** was a panelist in the discussion "The Tanning of Hollywood: Reimagining Equity and Inclusion as a Pinnacle Measure of Cinematic and Theatrical Excellence," as part of Black Writers Week hosted by RogerEbert.com.

**Kristen Zimmer '08**, a member of the International Women's Writing Guild, published a contemporary lesbian romance novel, *When Sparks Fly*, in April.



**Michael J. Perrotta '09** married Rosie Venezia in the chapel at Seton Hall University in June.

**Frances Aboushi '10, '18 MA** was appointed principal of Bradford Elementary School in Montclair in May.

**Matthew Barbieri '10, '16 MA** partnered with Michael Bergendorff to work for Mountain V Productions, a film and television production company specializing in the creation of high-end, quality content delivered through the collaboration of its founders and college students, many of whom come from Montclair State University. **Kaitlin "Abbey" George '20** also starred in a film currently in development with the company.

**Liana Summey '10, '16 MA** was appointed the new principal of Data Science and Information Technology High School in Newark.

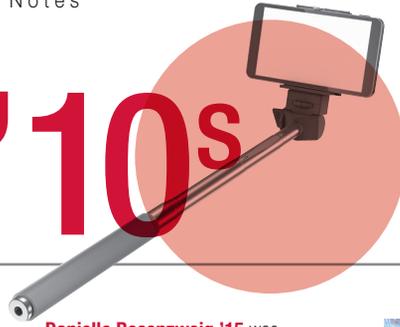
**Mark Comesañes '11 MA** is the first full-time executive director of My Brother's Keeper Newark with Newark Opportunity Youth Network. In his new role, he will lead NOYN's strategic approach to change systems aimed to promote the success of young people in New Jersey.

**Kimya Jackson '11 MED, '12 Cert.** was named the new principal of Redwood Elementary School in West Orange, N.J., in May.

**Michele Fisher '14 MA** was appointed the new principal of Hillsborough (N.J.) High School.

**Daniil "Dan" Krimer '14** became the artistic director of the Kane Repertory Theatre in the Chicago area. He helped produce an online production of Hammaad Chaudry's *Security*, starring Academy Award and three-time Golden Globe nominee Eric Roberts and Harsh J. Gagoomal, in the spring as part of the company's new multiplatform commission.

# '10s



**Bonnie S. Molina '14 MA** earned a Doctor of Education degree in K-12 school administration from Seton Hall University in December 2020. She is currently a district program supervisor for Perth Amboy (N.J.) Public Schools.

**David Osmundsen '14** graduated with an MFA in dramatic writing from Arizona State University in the spring.



**Daniel "Dann" Truitt '14, '19 MA** was appointed chief of staff in the University of Pennsylvania's Division of the Vice Provost for Student Engagement in September. In this position, he will exercise a critical leadership role as a senior adviser to the vice provost.

**Susan L. Magaziner '15 Cert., '16 MA** is a civil rights and education advocate and photographer. Her photos, which speak to the triumph and restoration of justice, were selected by the Women's Caucus of Greater Washington D.C. for the curated and juried project "Looking for America," through the Office for Civil Rights, in March. She works with the National Special Education Advocacy Institute, where she assists parents and students who face racism, marginalization and discrimination to find their voice and seek justice and equality.

**Olivia "Olivia Valli" Polci '15** is the co-founder of the podcast "What's Your Backup Plan?" She also made theater history by being the first actor to play their direct relative on stage as Mary Delgado in *Jersey Boys*.

**Danielle Rosenzweig '15** was appointed the new principal of Livingston (N.J.) High School in April.

**Cassandra Calle '16** co-wrote a book, *Microintervention Strategies: What You Can Do to Disarm and Dismantle Individual and Systemic Racism and Bias*. She also was a speaker for an online webinar sponsored by the Multicultural Psychology Scholars Club at Montclair State University in March.

**Matthew W. Hearon '16** joined the Fair Lawn (N.J.) Police Department in July.

**John T. Maggio '17 MA** gave an interview for *Authority* magazine's series, "Telehealth Best Practices; How To Best Care For Your Patients When They Are Not Physically In Front Of You," in May. He is the operations manager of Choicepoint Health.

**Misha Osherovich '17** played a supporting role in the feature film *Freaky*.

**Kamryn Micken-Bennett '18** competed on Season 3 of *Love Island USA*.

**Ashley Jiles '19 MA** was appointed the new principal of Speedway Avenue School in Newark.

**Damien A. Lopez '19** wrote and published *I Am Prince*, an inclusive LGBTQIA+ children's book. He is working toward becoming a career and technical educator for inner city students and hopes to become a trans ambassador and advocate for trans youth.



**Edward "Ed" Mancuso '19** works at one of the country's most historic homes, The Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, where he finds his history degree to be beneficial since there is so much history there that goes back to New York society and The Gilded Age. He is proud to have achieved his goal of getting his bachelor's degree before turning 75 years old.

**Connor J. McCann '19** was sworn in as a firefighter with the Montclair Fire Department in March.

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

Promotion?  
Marriage?  
A new baby?  
Let us know!

Send us a class note at [classnames@montclair.edu](mailto:classnames@montclair.edu).

You can also update your information by calling the Office of Alumni Engagement at 973-655-4141.

# '20s



**Theodore "Ted" Caporino '20** joined the Stafford Township (N.J.) Police Department.

**Kimberly Pane '20** was sworn in to the River Vale (N.J.) Police Department in April.



**Emily Pirrello '20** published her first work as a contributing author to *Once Upon A Dystopia*, a young-adult anthology of twisted fairytales and fractured folklore. Her short story, "Wings," is a retelling of Perrault's "Bluebeard," which she first discovered in her Critical Approaches to English course at Montclair State.

**Kimberly Thomson '20, MPA** became New Jersey Policy Perspective's 2021 Kathleen Crotty Fellow in June.

**Lauren Putty White '20 MFA** co-founded Putty Dance Project with her musician husband, producing socially conscious, critically acclaimed works across the country.



**Makena Wolcott '20** traveled to Alaska in May.

**Lavone Broxton '21** graduated from Montclair State University alongside his daughter, **Tierra Broxton '21** in June. They both graduated with degrees in Sociology. See story, page 11.

**Arye Janoff '21 PhD** received the 2021 Jaia Syvitski Student Modeler Award given by the Community Surface Dynamics Modeling System for his research that couples geomorphology and economics to understand how communities manage their beaches along developed coasts.

# IN MEMORIAM

Phyllis Ring Cohen '46

Ina Pennycook Minor '47

Joan D. West Schiavone '47

Margaret F. Pettingill Thorpe '49

Joseph T. Ferrie '50, '56 MA

Vincent King '50

Eleanor Bill Calvin '51

Evalyn H. Gurney '51

Michael Rabasca '52 MA

Thomas J. Rillo '52

Florence "Flo" Felano '53

Diana Stuhlbach Pardell '54

Joseph "Joe" W. Sommer III '54, '56 MA

Mario Pascale '55

Janet H. Aston Sorensen '55

Marilyn E. Maxcey Brown '56

Kenneth Sorensen '56, '62 MA

James A. Lomauro '57 MA

Edward G. Molina '57, '70 MA

Helena Mokray Reed '58

Ronald J. Frederick '59 MA

Norine Nelthropp Boyd '60

Lela S. Morris '60 MA

Janet L. Alessi '61

Ronald A. Goldblatt '61 MA

Joseph Morella '62

Fedele J. Galioto '63

Glenn A. Ridler '64

Louis Rallo '65

George A. Wilson '65

Margaret E. Farley '67 MA

John LaMarca '68 MA

Thomas V. Rallo '71 MA

Shirley A. Rosen '71

Alana E. Edelmann '73 MA

Elizabeth Meyer Terp '74 MA

Dominick A. Valenti '74

John H. Corbin '75

Harriet M. Hickson '75

Barbara L. Dean '76

Denis Collins '77

Gary Lewis '77, '81 MA

Michael "Mike" J. McCormick '78

Nancy Boockholdt Plylar '80

Joan Barrows '81

Karen Champlin Chiappini '81 MA

Santina F. Kazanfer '90

Alejandro Sant-Marti '00

Ebony A. Brooks '07 MAT

Michael Hofmann '16

Amoya Bennett Brown '17 MA

\*Thomas A. Cassilly III

\*\*Edward D. Bewayo

\*\*Harriet E. Manelis Klein

\*Former Faculty

\*\*Faculty Emeriti