“For four years the Class of 1942 has worked and struggled –along with the rest of the College—to prove that City College is an institution which the tax payers have every reason to be proud not ashamed, of; that is attended by loyal young men who are prepared to accept responsibilities of citizenship; that whatever else it may be, it is not “a little Red schoolhouse.” But for nearly four years all these counterclaims fell on ears that would not hear and eyes that would not see, the eyes and ears of the Hearsts, Rapps, Couderts, Manning and McGeehans of New York.”

Led by the Class of ’42 the College became one of the major centers of New York City’s war effort. On December 8, 1941 one of the largest student gatherings took place in Great Hall to listen to President Franklin D. Roosevelt request a declaration of war against Japan from Congress. This marked the beginning of an intense activity as the College immediately went on a war footing.

The CCNY Student Defense Council, one of the first in the country, selling more than $250,000 worth of stamps and bonds; this led the Red Cross to dedicate two City College days. In the Great Hall, the foreign minister of the Czechoslovak Republic, Dr. Masaryk, spoke at a United Nations rally on April 9, and, in the fall, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt gave a “Win the War” lecture at the College.

Spurred by the emergency, and then by the actual entrance of the United States into the war, the City College unit of Reserve Officers’ Training Corps increased enrollment from a total of 1200 two years ago to over 2300, making it the largest ROTC unit in the country.

In the midst of the war effort, life at the College continued on. House plan, the social hub of the College, proved to be an ever-expanding circle in more ways than one. House plan grew older and bigger, not only in number of members and social events, but in physical proportions. The original building, 292 Convent Ave was joined with 294 in a simple fashion: by tearing down the wall. The newly built cafeteria opened on campus. The construction of a new lunchroom meant the end of the alcoves. The honorary society Sigma Alpha produced Ticker Tape, a publication compiled of stories from CCNY students stationed on military bases all over the world. Ticker Tape is mailed to 1,300 young men in the service.

CCNY’s fencing team had a successful season beating its long-standing rival NYU. Coach Nat Holman led CCNY’s basketball team to four consecutive victories over NYU in the ardently-fought series knotted 14-all. Baseball witnessed a new era with the appointment of Sam Winograns as coach. CCNY’s swim team won seventeen of twenty-six meets over the four years. Track runner, Dave Polansky set a new record for the 1/2 mile run. The cross country team had the most successful season in College history winning 2 out of 5 meets.
All in all, the Class of ’42 experienced a rollercoaster four-years: “They have been in the college for four years, in that period of time, world events—as distinguished from laboratory events—have rocked by with the blurring speed; as a result, the world into which they are entering on resembles in a few ways the one that existed in January and September 1938. This means that their place in the world is a changed one, a more responsible one. Four years ago words like unemployment and recession hung around their necks like millstones. Today, every single one of them is certain of a job. But a different kind of job that the sort that they had earlier been concerned with.”

Many of these class notes are excerpted from the 1942 Microcosm, Editor-in-Chief Saul David Zarwanizer.
Dr. Lawrence Lionel Barrell  
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Lawrence Lionel Barrell attended the City College Preparatory School, Townsend Harris Hall at the age of thirteen. It was in the City College building at 23rd street and Lexington Avenue. Three hundred of the brightest New York students studied there. He graduated in the Class of 1938 and went directly into CCNY. Lawrence remembers that City College at that time was a college equal to Harvard University in its students as well as status. At City, he majored in social science and worked with the physical education professors to help the intra-mural sports program. In addition to enjoying working with the physical education professors, Professor Hastings and the course “Unattached Five” always made his day.

From 1942 through 1945, Lawrence served as a Navigator in the 388 Bomb Group of the 8th USAAF during World War II. He served 35 missions and received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal and four Oak Leaf Clusters, the European Service Medal with two Battle Stars, Air War and Normandy, and the American Theater Campaign Ribbon Air Transport Command.

In June 1946, Lawrence graduated from Columbia University with a MA degree in arts history. In 1953, he completed a one year certificate program in Russian language and area studies offered by Syracuse University and the United States Air Force Institute of Technology in one year Russian language program. Lawrence continued his education, earning a PhD in government and political science and a certificate in Central and Eastern European area studies in 1953 from New York University. His Ph.D. thesis is considered a seminal historical work.

Lawrence pursued a professional career as a university and college administrator and professor. Before retiring in 1992 he held several professional positions and received several honors. From 1952 through 1956, he served as Captain USAF 7050th Air Intelligence Service Wing in Frankfurt, Germany and was honored with the National Defense Service Medal, Army of Occupation Medal (Germany), and Armed Forces Reserved Medal. He was also awarded a Conspicuous Service Cross and Gold Cross Device as well as the New York Conspicuous Star by the New York State. After serving on a United Nations mission to Israel from 1965 through 1966, he was awarded a Medal of Appreciation from the Israel government and the Institute of Productivity. In 1958, he received the NYU Founders Award for “those who have distinguished themselves through outstanding scholarship.” Lawrence was also honored with a L.H.D. Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Dominican College of Blauvelt, New York in 1974.

In his own words, here are some more details on Lawrence’s life: “Turning point in my life came in 1957-1960: the President of Long island University gave me the task of Director of Mitchel College of Long island University, it was a special college for Air
force officers who had not completed their college degrees. An officer could be transferred to Mitchel College on Mitchel Air Force base to complete their BA.

1960-1961 I became the Dean of Administration and Faculty at the New York Institute of Technology in Manhattan. It was a family run institution to maintain control for the family. Two years later, I found that I needed to escape.

1962-1963 I met the Dean of Mansfield State College who convinced my wife and I that the Upper Central Pennsylvania area would be an ideal place. I was director of research and also a professor and was to digitize the punch card system. Remember this was before the age of computers. I became as well as an expert in Programmed Instruction. One of the interesting jobs at Mansfield was to coordinate the Seven Northern Counties to develop curriculum projects under the Federal Grants under the Title III ESEA Act. I went often to Harrisburg to the Department of Public Instruction.

1963-1967 I was asked to move to the State capital to run the state-wide title III ESEA Grant program as the Associate Coordinator. So my son, wife and I rented a farm (non-working) with a barn and we naturally had horses.

1965-1966 I went to the United Nations Development program and I was granted leave by the Office of the Governor to carry out the mission of a united Nation International Labor Office expert. I was offered by the United Nations—ILO a mission to the government of Israel to introduce the technique of Programmed Instruction to the Industry, Technical and Vocational Training, including the Army and trainers of the Teaching Institutes and Industrial Programs. My family and I left with government approval. We spent a better part of two years in Israel. I returned to complete my work and received the Medal of Appreciation from the Government of Israel and institute of Productivity.

1967- 1974 Assistant to the President of Rockland Community College. When I returned from Israel I was offered the above job. I moved to Rockland County. My major responsibility was the Major Building Program. This was a prime way to get to know the Federal officials and various politicians in the State University System of New York. This was a very fulfilling job. I worked closely with two groups of architects (the local ones and the one with national reputation. A political arrangement.)

The Crowning Building for which I received a low interest Federal Grant, was designed by a young architect, William Quam, was never built. Therefore, I left to become the President of Hartford State Technical College. When I decided to join the Connecticut Technical System it was with the understanding that I was to have a new campus allowing a growth program. Hartford State Technical College was a way for highly motivated, very intelligent children of the “Blue Collar” workers of Connecticut who would graduate HSTC and work in the Space Program of United Technologies and the nuclear engineers at the Electric Boat Company building nuclear submarines. They would become the high-tech engineers of the future. Therefore, I enjoyed this job very much. I taught the seniors one course, The History of Science and Technology!
Unfortunately, the Technical College lost the political war and became merged with the Community Colleges. These institutions had different objectives; I therefore decided to become a professor – enjoying semi-retirement for my last academic work. Unfortunately, my wife who had been ill with breast cancer, become ill with lung cancer. She was a kind, loving women and most wonderful mother. My children Steven, Andrea Zoe and Alexander grew up bright, intelligent and kind adults.

I married a colleague from Pace College in 1951. In my wife, Adele Rosemary Paone I found a loving soulmate, a lover, a confident, and an adventurer, like myself. Add the stability of motherhood and a family center, she charmed the Israelis with her urbanity and intellect. She loved acting. When I returned by myself to Israel for four months, she enjoyed acting in Harrisburg Little Theatre Group. She enjoyed Harrisburg horse-riding and curried our own mare and colt while my son, Steven and I cleaned the barn. She had been in remission for five years from breast cancer. She underwent a mastectomy, then she became sick with lung cancer. We jointly felt the various aspects of the disease till the inevitable consequences occurred. Her last words to me were “who will take care of him?” After I retired, I returned to my state to live with one of my children.

I was born in the Bushwick Hospital in Brooklyn. I lived in a five story tenement building at 201 Varet Street. I attended Isaac Remsen Junior High School before Townsend Harris, before I attended CCNY. As I stated, I graduated on September 1st, 1942. I don’t even remember the reason for being a few credits off. I don’t even have a yearbook for the class of 1942. I enlisted on July 20th, 1942 in the United States Army Air Force. When I graduated, I joined the overseas training unit in Ardmore, Oklahoma, and Drew Field Tampa, Florida. My crew and I went overseas to England by way of the West Indies to Brazil and from Brazil across to the Atlantic Ocean, Dakar, and then to Morocco, and then to England. We arrived on January 1944.

After surviving combat, I went to Pilot School thinking that I might stay in the military. I did not succeed in this endeavor. Therefore, I went to St. Joseph, Missouri to become an advance Navigator in the Air Transport Command, where I served in the American Theater in the Caribbean and finished my World War II career. Last duty station 1106 AAF Base Unity Caribbean Command Division Air Transport Command, Puerto Rico.

My father, Soloman Barrell, was born in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. He was a subject of the Hapsburg emperors. He came to the United States at the age of seventeen. My mother, Serena Klein, was fourteen years old when she arrived. My father spoke Yiddish as well as German, Polish, and Ukrainian. He became a very able speaker of
American English. My mother spoke Yiddish, Hungarian, and German and she became a great English speaker. They had five children. The children were very gifted as their parents. The three oldest children which were two girls and one boy. The oldest was fourteen years older than my sister and I. The next sister was twelve years older, and my brother was nine years older than us. We lived during the Great Depression. We were born at seven months, we survived because of the hard work of the family. When we were 5-8 years old we performed in Yiddish radio children programs. One older sister became a teacher, the other sister became a watercolor artists and my brother became an oil painter. Later he became a gallery owner in New York City on Madison Avenue and also in Palm Beach, Florida.”

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“Shortly after the infamous day of Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, a skinny 20-year old kid nervously strode into the Navy Recruiting Office and enlisted in the U.S. navy. I returned to my college life at City College of New York and awaited my orders and assignment, which arrived in mid-April. Due to my skills in shorthand and typing, thoughtfully urged by my mother who was a registrar at Drakes Business School, and hopefully for other reasons, I was assigned to the U.S. Navy Intelligence in New York City. My task was to greet and/or examine and/or interrogate refugees and others who were fortunate enough to exit Europe and emigrate to America.

Interestingly enough, I was included in a panel with two other officers in our interviews: one from FBI, one from Army Intelligence, and myself. It was not surprising that in the year or so of this duty that we never caught a single spy. After all, how inept could a spy be if he were to be caught by a 15-minute interview from three civilian recently turned spy chasers.

Well, the WAVES replaced us about a year later, and I was shipped off to boot camp in Bainbridge, MD. While there, I applied for a commission as an officer and, after a few months, I was transferred to Columbia Midshipmen College in New York City to become what was termed a “90 day wonder,” for that was how long the class lasted and after that time we were supposed to be on par with regular U.S. Navy officers who studies for four years. But only we believed this…not the regular Navy.

Up to now I have not mentioned on of the most important events in my life. Enid. We had met each other when I was 17 and Enid 15 (although I very often reverse those ages)
and, after we each dated other people (which was common in those days), we fell
hopelessly in love. We became engaged and married on Feb. 24, 1944…the very day I
was commissioned as Ensign. I remember being awakened at Columbia at 5:30 am,
graduation at 11:30 am, nap at 2:00 pm and being married at 6:00 pm…a rather eventful
day.

Then it was off to Panama City, FL, with Enid, where I was assigned to the Amphibious
Forces, consisting of LSTs, LCIs, LCDs and a host of other boats and ships whose duty
was to invade the beaches of our enemies, establish beachheads, and take over their
island. I was on the training staff that this duty was just temporary and that after a few
months I would be transferred to duty, probably in the Pacific Ocean area, for at that time
we were mounting strong forces to overtake a series of Japanese held islands before
eventually invading Japan.

By some chance and because of my aforementioned typing skills, I classified as
Communication Officer, and was transferred to the Admiral’s staff in Ocean City, VA
near Norfolk. What wonderful duty. Served eight hours on the 24 off so plenty of time
with my new wife and lots of new navy friends. Best of all on the Admiral’s staff we had
the best gourmet food and really deluxe service…nearly every week we had diplomats
and VIPs for very exciting lunches and ceremonies.

The duty lasted for about nine months and then I was transferred for active duty on LST-
651 for action in the Pacific. I will never forget my first trip from Gulfport, MS to
Panama City, FL where I was seasick for six days. Ugh, it was awful. But believe it or
not, after the one terrible trip I was never seasick again throughout my Navy career. Then from Panama to San Diego and onward to Pearl Harbor for my first view of the
USS Arizona and the other devastation caused by the Japanese bombers. At that time, I
was transferred to an LCI and served as a Communication Officer on the staff of LST
Command Flotilla 23 whose captain was responsible for 25 LSTs assigned to his
command.

Then it was off to Ulithi, a tiny island in the Pacific where we staged for the invasion of
Okinawa. Notable at Ulithi were the native who worked and played topless. The Navy,
ever-mindful of the sexuality of its members, provided the native women with tee shirts.
They eagerly adopted these shirts, but immediately cut holes in the shirts so that their
breasts remained exposed. Hooray for them!!!

When I entered Ulithi harbor I could not see the end of the assembled fleet. For miles
and miles there were hundreds and hundreds of ships of all sizes from the tiny LCVP to
the mighty carriers and battleships. It must have been the biggest assembly of warships
in modern times. And all were scheduled for the invasion of Okinawa.

On April 1st, 1945 the fleet entered the seas off Okinawa and proceeded with
bombardments from battleships, air force carriers and all sorts of attack ships. You can’t
imagine the firepower. The shore was pounded, flak filled the skies to fire at Japanese
kamikaze. There were so many bursts of explosives that the Japanese just could not
penetrate the ships at the harbor…but they did do much damage to the destroyers who acted as screens for the larger and smaller ships. The destroyers were stationed miles away surrounding the outer borders of the conflict and whose task was to stop infiltration by Japanese ships and airplanes. We remained in the harbor for about 30 days, with constant raids at night, and then set sail for Saipan.

The second most exciting day of the war was in early August when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima (and Nagasaki followed a few days later). The truly most exciting day was when Japan surrendered. I was in the radio room when the news arrived and whooped and cheered my way to the deck and shouted the good news to the crew. Well I wasn’t the only one; for virtually 10 seconds you could hear a virtual roar of happiness from the entire fleet. Guns sounded, whistles blew, flags flew…but nothing surpasses the roar of thousands of U.S. sailors.

Within a few days we received orders to convoy occupation troops to Nagasaki, Japan. When we arrived, I personally saw the devastation caused by the bomb…an area about a mile square, with collateral damage all the way up the mountainside. It was awesome and terrifying, but we all knew that without the bomb we would have had to invade Japan (we already had our orders) and the planners estimated over 100,000 deaths of U.S. armed personnel.

We were the first Americans to enter Nagasaki and were very anxious over the reception we might receive. We ventured ashore cautiously with our pistols in sight and at the ready. But the Japanese were friendly and courteous and greeted us with smiles, which at first made us uneasy, but after a while we sensed their acceptance of us and the peace that was now in progress. Nearly everyone we spoke to had lost a dear one in the war.

Our assignment completed, we set our course back to Saipan. En route, I had the scariest moment of my war career. We were trapped in a hurricane of huge proportion and in our small fragile LCI we were tossed and turned up and down side to side for six days. In order to try to evade it, we had to change our plans and made our way back to the Philippines (thousands of miles from Saipan) arriving with only the rust water in our tanks and having no shower for two weeks.

I received my orders for discharge about November 1 and arrived in San Francisco just before Thanksgiving. The trip on a troop carrier took 21 days and there were so many Army and Navy aboard that in order to feed all the personnel it was necessary to serve meal 24 hours a day on a rotation basis.

Oh, Happy Day, arriving in San Francisco greeted by fireworks. Ship spouting hoses and filling the air with water, cheers from the crowds as our ships arrived, and being stopped on the street by so many citizens extending their appreciation for the soldiers and sailors.

It took me a long time to arrange for air transportation back to New York as there were priorities for air travel. And after a 7-stop flight, I arrived to LaGuardia airport at 4:30 am. At that hour, only five non-flight personnel were there. Imagine my delight in
greeting my wife, Enid, her parents Martin and Ellen Cowen, and my parents, Berdie and Leo Bernstein.

The saga is over but the story continues for as I write these memories now 62 years after the fateful day of Dec. 7, 1941. The memories may fade, but the impressions will always remain. And even though Enid is now 80 and I am 81, we are still looking forward to our personal future and with full confidence that our United States will continue to be the bastion of freedom, tolerance, and peace.”

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Dr. Arnold Bernstein majored in psychology at City College. He earned his Master’s degree in clinical psychology in 1946 from Teachers College and his Ph.D. degree in 1952 from Columbia University. Arnold is a registered psychologist and psychoanalyst in New York. He is currently Professor Emeritus in Psychology at Queens College of the City University of New York.

Arnold’s academic experience includes: Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies, Dean of Professional Programs (1971-2001) and Professor Emeritus (2002); Mid-Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis and Group Therapy, Faculty (1988-2000); Union Graduate School, Adjunct Professor (1970-2000); Queens College of the City University of New York, Instructor to Professor emeritus (1953- Present); Faculty in Psychology, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, Professor (1964-1976); American Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis, Faculty (1969-1986); Graduate School, New York University, Adjunct Professor of Educational Psychology (1979-1980); Training Institute, National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis, Faculty (1972-1978); Syracuse University, Visiting Assistant Professor (Summer, 1951); Teachers College at Columbia University, Assistant in Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education (1946-1947), Assistant in Guidance (1947-1949), and Instructor in Social and Philosophical Foundations of Education (1947-1948); City College of the City of New York, Research Assistant (1941-1942), Fellow in Psychology (1946-1947), and Lecturer in Psychology (1947-1952).

Supervisor, Graduate Psychology Program in Social and Personality, City University of New York (1965-1975).

Arnold’s clinical experience: Private practice, Individual and group psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis (1947-present); Training analyst and supervisor, Center for Modern Psychoanalytic Studies (1971-present); Training analyst, Training Institute of NPAP (1962-present); Training analyst and supervisor, Mid-Manhattan Institute for Psychoanalysis and Group Therapy (1988-2000); Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Department of Psychiatry, Metropolitan Hospital Center, New York Medical College (1964-1973); Attending Psychologist and Chief of Psychological Clinic, Stuyvesant Polyclinic (1958-1965); Psychology intern, Neuropsychiatric clinic, New York Polyclinic Hospital and Medical School (1955-1958); Acting Head, Mental Hygiene Service, Syracuse University (Summer, 1951).

Present and former memberships in professional associations: Fellow, American Psychological Association; Senior Member, National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis; Fellow, International Council of Psychologists; Distinguished Member, National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis; Fellow, American Institute for Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis; Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Fellow, Council of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists; Member, New York State Psychological Association; Member, Society of Modern Psychoanalysts; Member, New York Society of Clinical Psychologists; Member, Society of Sigma Xi; Member, Psi Chi; Member, Kappa Delta Pi.

Arnold has published three books, 5 monographs, 32 papers, and has delivered 19 papers at various symposia and scientific meetings.

Other professional and scholarly activities: Invited Discussant, Graduate Colloquium, Adelphi College (1960); Invited Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Utah (1960; 1967); Invited Member, “Conference on Research on the Training of Psychotherapists”, Postgraduate Center for Psychotherapy (1961); Chairman of Post-Doctoral Symposium, “Clinical Approaches to Schizophrenia,” Stuyvesant Polyclinic (Spring 1961); Chairman of Post-Doctoral Symposium, “Contemporary Perspectives in the Treatment of Schizophrenia,” Stuyvesant Polyclinic (Fall 1961); Editor, “Reports in Medical and Clinical Psychology,” Published by Department of Psychology, Stuyvesant Polyclinic (1961-1965); Chairman, Workshop Conference on the Treatment of Schizophrenia, Halloway Sanitorium, England (August 1962); Program Chairman, First Annual Scientific Conference on Psychoanalysis, Council of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists, New York City (Feb. 1963); Radio Course: The Psychology of Personal Adjustment, WNYC for School of General Studies, Queens College (1965); Organizing Committee, Second International Forum of Psychoanalysis, Zurich (1965); Consultant Editor, Portrait of a Community Health Service. Mimeo research report, 1968, 207 pp.
Arnold’s military service: Served two years in the US Army during World War II.

Arnold’s service to the profession and the community: Board of Directors, The National Advisory Council on Narcotics (1955-58); Board of Directors, Council of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists (1958-62); President, Council of Psychoanalytic Psychotherapists (1962-64); Education Committee, The National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis (1963-64); Board of Directors, The National Psychological Association for Psychoanalysis (1964-64; 1976-77); Board of Directors, New York Society of Clinical Psychologists (1965-68); Executive Committee, Clinical Division, New York State Psychological Association (1966-69); NYC Deputy Mayor's Advisory Council on the Social and Behavioral Sciences (1966); Trustee and Clinical Associate, The Psychological Services Center of the New York Society of Clinical Psychologists (1968-80); Committee on Civil Liberties and Mental Health, Clinical Division, New York State Psychological Association (1975-80); Chairman, Committee on Standards for Innovation in Clinical Practice, Clinical Division, New York State Psychological Association (1975-81); Editorial Board, Modern Psychoanalysis (1976-present).

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“I grew up in Washington Heights (not the rich part), 178 St and Audubon Ave. During my last semester of junior high school, I was surprised to learn that I was eligible to attend Townsend Harris High School, a part of the City College of New York. I remember another boy who was eligible but he (or his parents) decided he would "rather be a big fish in a small pond than a small fish in a big pond." My parents decided otherwise, so every school day for the next two and a half years I schlepped on the subway down to 23rd St and Lexington Ave, the City College Business School, in which THHS occupied four floors. Given my family's poor economic status in the 30's, "choosing" City College when I graduated from THHS was a no-brainer. My older brother had had to get a job in order to help support the family when he graduated from George Washington High School. I am grateful for the sacrifices my family made to help me get an education.

At City, I first intended to do pre-med, but after my first chemistry course I was hooked and majored in chemistry. The most difficult courses for me were Physical Chemistry and Calculus, which is amusing since these are the areas that later formed the basis of my career. My eyes were opened in these subjects by the inspirational teaching of Professors Edward Adler and Martin Paul.

I graduated in the wartime spring of 1942, expecting to be drafted shortly. Instead, I found myself working, along with my best friend from City, Elliot Charney (sadly, now
deceased) at the S.A.M. Laboratories at Columbia University, part of the Manhattan Project, developing the atomic bomb during WW-2. My boss in that job was my former Physical Chemistry instructor at City, Ed Adler. We on the Project had few reservations at that time about being part of the development of the bomb, knowing that the Nazis were working on it and what would happen if they succeeded before us. We did not learn till later how far behind us they were in the development. My brother was in the Army Air Corps. It wasn't till years later that we learned that while I was working on the Manhattan Project, he was a photographer on one of the planes that accompanied the one that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

When the war ended in 1945 many of the scientists moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee to join the K-25 (Gaseous Diffusion Uranium Separation) Plant or the incipient Oak Ridge National Laboratory. I opted to accept a research fellowship at Wesleyan University in Connecticut, to earn a graduate degree. I was elected a Fellow in Sigma Xi, the Science Research Society, and received a master's degree in Chemistry in 1947. I also became a member of the American Chemical Society. On graduation, I accepted a research fellowship at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, where I received my Ph.D. degree in Physical Chemistry in 1951. While there I became a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. My doctoral research and dissertation were in the field of quantum chemistry; I was the first chemistry graduate student at Northwestern to have a completely theoretical dissertation subject, with no experimental work. Northwestern has since become a leader in the field of theoretical chemistry.

After completing my graduate work, I accepted a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle. But I knew that I wanted an academic career, and in 1954 accepted the offer of an assistant professorship at the University of Maine in Orono, where I remained for twelve years, working up to a full professorship. I spent a sabbatical year of research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, my first exposure to Tennessee. I also had a summer research appointment at the Northampton College of Advanced Technology in London. At the University of Maine I helped to initiate and develop a Chemistry Ph.D. program in the Graduate School. While there, I was an officer in our Sigma Xi chapter, and slummed as a DJ for a radio opera program on the student radio station. My research at Maine reverted to experimental studies of the thermodynamics of solutions, an area that had been the subject of my master's thesis research. I had the privilege of working with about a dozen master's and doctoral research students at Maine.

In 1966 I accepted a research position at (surprise!) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), where I encountered many of my former colleagues from the S.A. M. days at Columbia. For a number of years we had an active chapter of the CCNY Alumni Association in Oak Ridge and Knoxville under the aegis of the late Milton Klein, a history professor at the University of Tennessee and a 1935 (I believe) City College graduate. Milton, it turned out, was a collaborator of a former colleague and friend of mine at the University of Maine. Milton claimed to be the inventor of the Beaver as the City College symbol. As the number of surviving members of the group sadly dwindled, the chapter finally disbanded.
At ORNL I led a research group on the thermodynamics and electrochemistry of molten salts. Our work led to two patents, both rather esoteric, and about a hundred published papers in peer-reviewed journals. I was co-editor of a series of books, "Advances in Molten Salt Chemistry," and was chosen to chair a Gordon Research Conference on Molten Salts.

I became involved with a number of civic organizations in Oak Ridge and Knoxville, and was elected to three Boards: my daughter's Montessori school, our synagogue, and most recently and ongoing, the Knoxville Opera Guild. I am also a Hadassah Associate. During this period, I did quite a bit of traveling, presenting scientific papers at conferences in the U.S., England, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Russia. I was also an invited lecturer at universities in England, India, South Africa, the former Yugoslavia, and Romania. I also lectured occasionally at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. After retirement in 1989, I served as a consultant at ORNL for several years until that gradually wound down.

Since retirement, I have been devoting most of my time to Opera, an interest that developed around the time I graduated from City. Since then I have seen operas at about thirty opera companies in seven countries, and have amassed (my wife would say hoarded) an extensive collection of opera recordings.

I have been a supernumerary (non-singing actor, e.g. “spear carrier”) in over a dozen of our Knoxville Opera productions, as a soldier, headwaiter, priest, Roman nobleman, or a corpse. I have served on the Board of our Guild, raising funds for the Opera Company for the last ten years. I have served as co-director of the Middle and East Tennessee District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. I teach a class on opera in the Continued Learning program at our local community college.

It was through both my scientific career and my opera interest that I met my second wife forty years ago. We were both attending a scientific conference in Italy, she from France, I from ORNL. The conference chairman had arranged for the conferees to attend an opera at La Scala in Milan during our very limited spare time. Catherine and I chatted in the corridor during intermission and I convinced her to apply for a 2-year research appointment in my group. Forty years and a daughter later, she is still here, retired, like me, from ORNL. Our daughter is about to get her Ph.D. from the University of California in Berkeley, in educational policy. I also have three sons from my first marriage: one, vice president of a software company near Boston; one a physics professor at Central Washington State University; and one a software developer in Silicon Valley.

Each of my jobs or academic changes was an important turning point in my life. If I had to pick the most important, I think it would be the one to which at the time I cluelessly paid the least attention: my admission to Townsend Harris High School, a part of CCNY, which prepared me to survive City College and beyond. Certainly, my joining the S.A.M. Laboratories was a life altering event as it kept me out of the wartime draft.
I have many fond memories of City, some sad because close friends at the time like Elliot Charney and Max Metlay are no longer with us. I was active in the Baskerville Chemical Society, and president during one semester. There was much camaraderie in our activities with the Baskerville Chemical Society, and a number of relaxing parties where the faculty joined us and we would take turns imitating the foibles of our favorite instructors.

What impressed me most perhaps, about my education at City was that many graduate schools, when I applied for admission, would not require an entrance exam or grade transcripts since they felt that graduation from City was sufficient qualification. Although I mentioned only Professors Adler and Paul as my most influential teachers, I can think of none of the faculty in the sciences or liberal arts who were less than conscientious, demanding and inspiring.”

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“I was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. but grew up in Cedarhurst, L.I. where my father had a grocery and delicatessen store. I graduated from Lawrence High School in 1937. After moving to the city, I chose City College because my parents could not afford to send me to a paid college. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to go to City College.

I graduated in January, 1942. During World War II, I was sworn in to the Army Air Force, placed in the Reserves and sent back to my job as a research engineer at the NACA (National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics) Engine Lab in Cleveland, Ohio, where I did research on jet engine design. Several years after the war, I left Cleveland and for the next ten years worked for Engineering Companies in the design of jet engine test facilities, a wind tunnel, and steam and water power plants.

In 1959, I opened my own consulting engineering firm doing designs for HVAC, electrical and plumbing work for buildings. I was licensed in 14 states and a member of ASME, ASHRAE, NSPE and ASSE. In 1991, I was an adjunct professor in the School of Architecture at Cooper Union lecturing on mechanical and electrical work in building design.

I retired in 1992 to homes in Florida and Vermont. After my wife’s death in 2001, I moved to San Antonio, Texas to be with my son and daughter.
Published papers and articles:


“Ceramic Materials for High Temperature Parts,” Materials and Methods, January 1948.


Clients Served by Joseph Bressman, PE Consulting Engineers: NY Housing Authority, Department of Parks, Board of Education, US post Office, Howard Johnson’s, NYS Thruway Authority, Loews’ Hotel, and architects.
Mr. Sidney Carter
5000 Battery Ln Apt 403
Madison Park
Bethesda, MD 20814-2645

Sidney Carter graduated from CCNY with a BS in Chemical Engineering.

Mr. David Chotin
24 Essex Drive
Mendham, NJ 07945-2002

David Chotin was a pre-med major and president of Gibbs’42 House Plan at City College. After City College, David served in World War II as Senior Grade Lieutenant in the US Naval Reserve. He later continued his education, taking courses at American College in Bryn Mawr, PA to earn his CLU (Chartered Life Underwriter) and his ChFC (Chartered Financial Consultant) certificate. David pursued a career as a financial advisor, retiring in 1987. He served as president of Northern NJ CLU Chapter, and is a life member of Million Dollar Round Table as well the American Society Financial Service Professionals. He is also a former member of Estate Planning Council, Bergen County, NJ (1965-1987).

Fondest CCNY Memories: “Having short story published in Pulse magazine May/June 1942.”

Ms. Anne Cohen (now Mrs. Anne Newell)
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Mrs. Anne Cohen Newell majored in education at City College.
Mr. Sidney Feldman
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(212) 222-9059

Sidney Feldman attended Morris High School and then CCNY’s Baruch School of Business and Civic Administration for a Bachelor’s degree in business administration. At CCNY, he was a feature writer for The Ticker, the school newspaper; head of Student Loan Fund, with Mr. Arthur T. Desgray, coordinator; president of Circle Downer French Club, with Prof. Luis E. Tabory; and a staff member for the Lexicon Yearbook 1942. He attended Columbia University for an M.S. degree in Journalism and pursued a career as an editor and writer. Currently, he is a contributing writer and book reviewer at Exchange Magazine for the New York Stock Exchange and a consulting editor (previously a columnist) at Financial Weekly. From 1966-1970, he worked as an editor, writer, and production chief at Samson Fund Inc., Quantum Science Corporation, a Samson Affiliate. Sidney served as editor and publisher at Electronics Marketing and Management from 1956-1966. Before that, from 1946-1956, he worked associate editor at Forbes magazine, Office magazine and Safety magazine. From 1944-1946, he was a newspaper reporter at Standard-Times, New Bedford, Mass., as well as an exclusive freelance writers for The New York Times. Sidney also contributed to the following: Barron’s, New York Times Sunday Business-Finance Sections, Bankers Magazine, Encyclopedia Americana, Think magazine. He served as adjunct professor of English at CCNY, LIU, St. John’s; University, etc.

Mr. David J. Greenberg CPA
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Mr. David J. Greenberg majored in accounting at City College. As a CCNY student, he was a member of Finley ’42 House Plan and managing editor of Lexicon. He is a certified CPA and served as senior partner in a local accounting firm in Derby/ Shelton CT before retiring in 1987. He is a member of NYSSCPA, AICPA CSCPA (1947-present). He is also former chapter president of Rotary International. David served in the US Army from 1945-1946 received an Honorable Discharge. He served as a Japanese Interpreter in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) at Yale University.

His Fondest CCNY Memories: “The transformation of a 16 year old who never went north of 14th street to a polished 20 year old. Thanks CCNY.”
“As 1946 drew to a close, I had to make a critical career decision. Here is where things stood: only twenty-three years old, I had accumulated diplomas from Townsend Harris High School, the City College School of Business and, most recently, a CPA certificate from New York State. In addition, I could look back to two and a half years of service in the Army Air Force as a navigator and radar officer. I was employed by a CPA firm and had just been told that I was next in line among staff members to be made a partner. I should have been delighted with myself, but I was not; I did not enjoy my work and was frightened at the prospect of doing that kind of work—audits and taxes—for my whole business career. Increasingly, I found it unpleasant to face the clients’ books and records and go through the routine that resulted in financial reports and tax returns. I was looking back on history, not helping shape it. I chose to leave public accounting.

The partners were surprised by my decision but cooperated by helping me find a position with a client. That led to further changes, taking me to Playtex, Wright Aeronautical and, finally, a thirty year career at Seagram, the leading US distiller. There my work evolved from financial management to marketing and sales management, very much concerned with shaping history and leaving it to others to record it. My final years as executive vice president of sales for North America were capped by the role of in-house consultant, available to any manager who wished to use my services—and enough did to keep me stimulated and busy. Retirement from Seagram made me free to accept consulting assignments from all spirit and wine companies (provided not directly competitive with Seagram brands). Retirement from twenty years of that activity was quietly celebrated with my eighty-fifth birthday.

My partners in this career were my dear wife of sixty-four years, Alice, and our children, Ann and Steven—sources of counsel and encouragement.

An honor of which I am particularly proud is the Townsend Harris Medal I was awarded by the CCNY Alumni Association in 1974 for “distinguished contributions in his chosen field of work and the welfare of his fellow men.”
Mr. Alex Grumet

“I graduated from James Monroe High School, located in the Bronx, in 1983. I applied to City College, but I was not matriculated at first because I was short a language course. However, I passed the competitive entrance exam, and received my Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Degree in 1942. I worked my way through CCNY on two dollars a week. Five cents covered the transportation to and from home. Five cents covered the cost of a container of milk for lunch. Lunch was a sandwich I brought from home.

I then worked for the Army signal corps in Fort Monmouth, NJ as a junior electrical engineer. Although the Army granted me a deferment from military service, I enlisted in the Marine Corps reserve as a PFC. After a tour in boot camp on Paris Island, I attended courses on the new technology of radar at Quantico, Virginia, and MIT and Harvard (where I had the highest grades on the quizzes given to the G.I.’s attending the class). I received a commission as a second lieutenant and was attached to a dive bombing squadron as the radio radar officer during the war. The squadron was shipped out to Midway Island for a short tour, after the battle of Midway.

In 1958, I received my Masters in Electrical Engineering Degree from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, which I attended at night. I switched from being an engineer—working from a spec, to a researcher—working from an idea. I worked as a research scientist for Grumman Aerospace for a good number of years, during which time I was awarded many patents. Also at this time, I moved from working with electronics to optics: Maxwell’s equations described both electrical circuits as well as optical phenomena and the transition to optics went very smoothly. I made this change especially moved by the need to evaluate reconnaissance photographs taken during the Vietnam War. This work moved me to involvement with holography, especially optical matched filters.

Grumman kept me as a consultant after I left them. In addition to consulting for Grumman, I taught undergraduate courses on electrical engineering at Hofstra University. Hofstra accepted my patents and published papers in lieu of a doctoral degree, and granted me an appointment as a full professor of Electrical Engineering.

In 1985, I suffered a heart attack that brought all my professional activities to an end, and I retired.”
Dr. Horst Hoyer
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“I was five years old and with a broken arm when, in early January of 1926, the German ocean liner “Deutschland” pulled into New York harbor with my mother, my two brothers and me aboard, my mother fearful that the doctors on Ellis Island would send me back to Germany because of my broken arm. The doctors, however, just waved me through the inspection line. My father had arrived two years earlier to prepare the way for his family. I grew up in Brooklyn and Queens, selling hot pretzels at 8 years of age in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn and delivering newspapers in Queens beginning at the age of 13.

My parents bought a house in Middle Village, Queens, where I attended P.S. 87 and then Newtown High School in Elmhurst from which I graduated in 1938. A corner in the basement became my laboratory. In the 1930’s one could still buy chemicals from druggists and chemical supply houses and I made frequent trips to Eimer and Amend on Third Avenue in Manhattan for the chemicals I needed. I was determined to be a chemist and City College with its free tuition was affordable provided I worked weekends. I became president of the Baskerville Chemistry Club and wrote for its magazine, “The Indicator”. I have fond memories of the underground tunnels that connected all the buildings and permitted a warm transit from one to another during cold winter days. Unfortunately they no longer exist, at least not for student access. I have pleasant memories of Dr. Perlman who taught organic analysis with quiet humor, Dr. Steinman who made organic chemistry interesting and Dr. Paul who made the physical chemistry lab a joy. And in the Physics Department, Dr. Semat instilled a lifelong interest in atomic physics. I still remember the class discussion of Lise Meitner’s discovery of nuclear fission, but neither the instructor nor any student seemed to realize the impact this would soon have.

After graduation in 1942 with B.S. in Chemistry I worked for the Naugatuck Chemical Company, a division of the U.S. Rubber Company in Naugatuck, Connecticut, involved in helping to create a synthetic rubber industry and married the Hunter College girl, Margarete Kergel, who would be my wife, best friend, partner and mother of our four children for 64 years until her death in 2007. Eventually I was drafted into the Navy.

After the war I earned a M.S. in Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Southern California. My research then and later involved the study of the structure and charge of the micelles in soap solutions. My first academic position was at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND, but my wife and I found the climate too extreme and after two years I took a position as Instructor in Chemistry at Hunter College in New York. This was a fortunate choice because several years later the four senior New York public colleges, City College, Hunter College, Brooklyn College and Queens College were reorganized into CUNY, the City University of New York. I was privileged to work on the committees planning the
Ph.D. programs in Chemistry and Biochemistry and served as Executive Officer for the Doctoral Program in Chemistry for CUNY, as well as chairman of the Hunter College Chemistry Department. During the 1967-68 academic year I taught and did research at the Technical University of Denmark as a Fulbright Scholar.

I retired in 1983 and decided to leave chemistry behind, teaching myself how to make drawings that observers would interpret as three-dimensional. I wrote several articles on how this can be done and have had exhibitions of my work locally.”

Mr. Berton Jacobson
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(415) 925-1325

Mr. Berton Jacobson majored in geology at City College. He was vice president of the Dramatic Society (Dram Soc) and a member of House Plan Bowker ’42 and the Geology Society on campus. After CCNY, he took courses at Columbia University and Yorkshire University and went on to pursue a career designing employee benefit plans. After more than forty years of service, Berton retired in 1989 as Executive VP at Martin E. Segal Co. (9/14/48 to 12/31/89). He is a Board Member of Mechanics Institute Library and a member of Commonwealth Club (1950 to present). He served as president of Belvedere Tennis Club for two terms and on the Belvedere High School Board and Belvedere Planning Commission (five years each). In 1965, Berton published an article in a magazine about his 1964 travels in Denmark, Norway and Sweden (he took a Northern European tour from August to November 1964).

Fondest CCNY Memories: “Supervised distribution of “Life Saver” candy to students (Freshman) with help from attractive assistants. This was a successful publicity attempt for the play Excursion, a then current Dram Soc production.”
Mr. Sidney Kamil  
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“I wasn’t a joiner, but I sang at Stage Door Canteen & the Merchant Seaman’s club during WWII. (I was 4F-disabled).

My fondest memory was eating lunch at Lewison Stadium and listening to the NY Philharmonic rehearsals – for free.

After CCNY – 2 years for an MA in Ed. I worked my way through.

After sweating for a B average at CCNY, I got straight As at Teachers College, Columbia U., breezing through with minimum effort. T.C’s courses were ridiculously easy compared to CCNY’s.

Profession – Teaching – As a substitute in history at Samuel Gompers H.S. in the Bronx. Then I passed the Jr. High exam and taught as a regular for 32 years. When the H.S. exam was announced several years later, I didn’t take it, because there was no salary differential. I retired at the age of 56 in 1965. I taught social studies, English, Spanish, French and Hebrew (I was a minor linguist).

Other positions – I was a trained Cantor, an operatic baritone, and I was engaged with a few Congregations on Long Island (Puerto Ricans were flooding into NYC, and thousands of Jews relocated to Long Island and established new Congregations). My last position was with the Oyster Bay Jewish Center where I worked for 15 years, and retired when my voice wore out, at age 62. This career dovetailed perfectly with JHS teaching, because Hebrew School began at 3:30 PM and I arrived at the Temple at the same time as kids. Religious services were held on Friday nights and Saturday mornings.

I joined the Teachers Guild when I first started to teach. It later changed its name to the United Federation of Teachers. I’m still a dues paying member.

Current community organizations – Albany Senior Center, North Berkley Senior Center. Many classes, activities and celebrations, plus bus trips to places of interest, museums, colleges, attractions and celebrations (Cinco de Mayo, Chinese New Year, musical performances, etc.). More than enough to keep busy.

Awards and honors – none.

Other Comments – I have a wonderful wife, Dorothy, and a son Barry, senior psychologists at a nearby Kaiser Hospital. Over a year ago, we lost our dear daughter, Laura Hall, to leukemia, after a 20-year battle against the disease.
My medical history – In 1924, at age 5-6 (before the discovery of penicillin), I survived 3 life threatening diseases—osteomyelitis, sepsis, and peritonitis. At age 16, I was hazed by a senior at NYU, and the osteomyelitis recurred. I was hospitalized for over 11 months, often in critical condition. At one point, I was dying and saved myself with the power of my mind. I refused to die because I was a virgin, and I felt that it would be too damned unfair to die without having experienced the joys of sex! Penicillin would easily have cured me, but it had just been discovered, and the limited supplies had been commandeered by the Army to treat wounded soldiers.

When I was 69, I was diagnosed with renal cancer, and had a nephrectomy. My remaining kidney is still working normally to this day. I’m going on 93, with my recent blood tests indicating that everything is in range. My MD said that he hopes to be in my condition when he gets to be my age.

I had 2 friends at CCNY – one, a genial Italian, got my dander up by saying that he didn’t care who won for the war. If the axis won, his uncle, Mussolini’s right hand man, Count Ciano, would get him appointed Commander of NY area. He must have said that to the wrong person, because he abruptly disappeared from classes. The FBI must have been informed, and arrested him. My other friend was Bert Michaelson. We were good friends back then, but we lost track of each other.”

Ms. Ruthe Kling (now Mrs. Ruthe K. Blecher)
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Mrs. Ruthe K. Blecher majored in accounting and was a member of Churchill House Plan at City College. She went on to pursue a career in accounting working with her husband, Saul Blecher, CPA. Ruthe also worked in accountant for US Plywood (1944-1948). She retired from accounting in 2010. Ruthe served as president (1956-1958) and treasurer (1958-1988) of Oceanside Hadassah, treasurer of Temple Beth Torah in Wellington, and treasurer (1988-present) of Wellington Hadassah. She has received many award and honors from institution she gave her time to.

Fondest CCNY Memories: “I met lifelong friends, some of whom became business associates, heard Benny Goodman, all the antics at the Student Union. Best of all, I met my life long mate, Saul Blecher!”
Mr. David Laub
dalaub@optonline.net

“I grew up in Brighten Beach and Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn.

I attended Townsend Harris High (THH) on 23rd St. and Lexington Ave, NYC (1935-38)

I was captain of the THH basketball team. Teammates who also went on to CCNY, were Arnie Rosen, who became an editor of the Campus, and then a TV writer for “Get Smart,” Jackie Gleason, etc., and Dave Cooper, who became a professor in the English Dept. at Hunter College.

The summer after graduation, I played basketball at a Catskill hotel against the CCNY Varsity team from another hotel. They told me that the CCNY team could use a “big man” (I was then 6ft-4in). I declined due to my anticipation of my engineering courses.

However, when I got to CCNY, Sam Winograd, the JV coach called me in and convinced me to play. Later, I played on the Varsity under Nat Holman. In my senior year, 1942, I played with Red Holzman, Sony Hertzberg, Red Philips and Sam Deitchman. Enjoyed playing and had a great time!

I kept up with my civil engineering courses. I will always remember Prof. John Allen coming into class on design of “High Earth Dams” carrying only an eraser and chalk. He would start with the basic formula E=MC squared, and then fill the blackboard with calculations to arrive at the design requirements for earth dams. That was impressive.

Prof. Theobald also made a lasting impression by competing with us students doing broad jumping in the Materials Testing Lab. Then, during the competition, he stated seriously that he found CCNY engineering students to be superior to those at MIT. That made us all proud of being at CCNY!

After graduation, I worked as a Topographic Surveyor on strategic defense mapping near Canada for the Army, due to WWII that was progress.

I enrolled in the Corps of Engineers, and served from 1943-1946. I was stationed in the South Pacific for almost two years and then returned to the U.S. for officer training. After receiving my commission, I was assigned as a Bridge Construction Instructor at the Ft. Belvoir Engineering School. I was captain of the Ft. Belvoir basketball team, and also played professionally on weekends in Washington for Red Auerbach, who later became coach of the Boston Celtics in the NBA.

After discharge in 1946, I played professional basketball for one year with the Troy Celtics of the American Basketball League. This was one year before the start of the NBA League.
My turning point was a double date with Arnie Rosen at which I met Arlene Millicent. I learned later that Arnie had difficulty convincing Arlene to meet me, because I was “an engineer and a basketball player.” However, once we met, she must have been impressed by my CCNY pedigree and good manners.

We had a wonderful and fulfilling life together for over 60 years. Each of my two daughters and son are unique individuals, as well as very good friends.

I have six grandchildren who are brilliant, as grandchildren are everywhere.

After WWII, I did structural engineering design for several years.

I decided to get away from desk work, and went into the waterproofing construction field. I was the Project Engineer for over 10 years in a firm specializing in waterproofing and façade repairs on hi-rise buildings and schools in the NY Metro area.

I then opened my own general contracting firm doing work in NY, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts for approximately 20 years, until I closed it down, for less demanding work.

I then worked as a Construction Manager for large REIT’s, Real Estate Developers, and engineering firms until 2008, when the downturn in construction occurred.

I established DL Construction Consultants in 2008 to provide Construction Project Management services to Real Estate firms and owners on new construction, additions, alterations, renovations, and capital projects. I am licensed as a professional engineer in NY and NJ. I am now managing capital projects on several hi-rise buildings in NYC.

Horseback riding was, and still is a family activity. We had our horses in our barn at home in Old Westbury, LI. Arlene and I rode together for over 20 years there, and in Bedminster, New Jersey. Both of our daughters competed in horse shows and fox-hunted. Both are still very active riders, as are two of my granddaughters.

My present outdoor activity is to take Gavin, my large golden retriever, to the woods and river in Bedminster, almost every day. My daughter Diane lives only a few miles away, and usually brings her two dogs. We let them all off the leash for a two-mile walk and their swim in the river. We often walk in rain, snow, or in the cold.

My other daughter, Pattie comes up from Virginia frequently to do the walk in the woods with my dog, and to incidentally visit with me.

My son Glenn didn’t ride due to allergic reactions near horses. He is Chairman of Cardiothoracic Surgery and Professor at Drexel Medical School in Philadelphia, and also Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at their hospital. He lives in Princeton.

I’ve been very fortunate!”
Mr. Seymour Malamed  
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Seymour Malamed majored in accounting at City College and went on to pursue a career as an executive in the film industry. He retired in 1980 from his position as Executive VP at Columbia Pictures (1952-1980). Seymour is a member of the Academy of Motion pictures (1950-present) and the Motion Pictures Pioneers Foundation.

Ms. Miriam Moskowitz  
mirmosk@aol.com

“I join with pride in the observance of the 70th Anniversary. CCNY Class of 1942. I was a member of that class and it was a transforming experience. Whatever I have accomplished in the seventy years since has been a reflection of the unique enrichment bestowed upon me by City College of New York

My memories are still vivid of trudging up Convent Avenue from the 145th St. subway stop, past the Alexander Hamilton historical site to get to a six o’clock class at Shepard Hall (Evening Session), after a day’s work, I looked forward to the infusion of what I had never known before – new ideas, stimulating arguments, assignments that stretched my mind – I will never forget Otto Klineberg’s “Race Differences” – the first of many – which made me a different person and a better one.

I graduated from Bayonne (N.J.) High School in February 1934 during the most severe economic depression America had known. It was out of the question that my parents would be able to send me to college – girls were not expected to go to college, anyhow – and there were no jobs in town. I came to New York City and registered at employment agencies looking for work. After several months miraculously I found a job. It was as a clerk with a real estate agency which bought up tax liens on foreclosed properties and then sold the liens. I did not know what a tax lien was, had little understanding of the significance of foreclosure but I had a job – 9 to 5:30 weekdays and 9 to 1 on Saturdays. I made friends with a young women at work and with her help I found a room with kitchen privileges in Manhattan and moved in.

As a young, unworldly person being rapidly transformed into a citified adult it was a magical time. My new friend and I discovered the recently founded Museum of Modern Art (on 53rd Street, near our office) and she introduced me to the 42nd Street library which I joined. I was then able to use its fabulous lending privileges. I was also intrigued by the outdoor speakers at 59 Street and Columbus Circle who warned of war, scolded FDR and other public figures, and voiced tirades against greedy capitalists.
More significantly, they blasted Adolf Hitler and the frightening spread of Nazism in Europe.

Being a New Yorker now also meant being able to amble with my new friend down Fifth Avenue on Saturday afternoons where we were transfixed by the stunning window displays of women’s clothing at Best & Co. at 51 Street, and at the B. Atman’s emporium on 34 Street. However, I did my shopping, such as it was, at Ohrbach’s on 34 Street. (All three stores have long since disappeared).

Probably the most indelible experience I had that summer was to discover Lewisohn Stadium at 136 Street and Amsterdam Avenue. On Saturday evenings my friend and I, for a quarter, gained privileged entrance to a colonnaded amphitheater even the ancient Athenians would have had to admire. There, as the sun hung low and then dropped behind us we heard concerts by world-famous artists such as Jascha Heifitz, Yehudi Menuhin, Josef Szigetti and the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. It was magic.

I also found the area around the Stadium intriguing. Just two blocks north, in the middle of a busy city and accessible by subway was the campus of City College. Its Gothic architecture emitted an aura that serious learning took place here and I began to feel I wanted to be part of it.

I thought about it incessantly for two years and finally, in the fall of 1936 I enrolled as a matriculated student in the Evening Session. I was an Ed major because female students were limited to that (or to Technology). However, the electives I chose roamed the Social Studies, and somewhat the Arts, spectrums.

It was a time of unprecedented social upheaval and the threat of war, and those realities inevitably impacted classes. I remember, fondly, Professor Otis (English) whose teaching topics roamed far beyond the proper use of the subjunctive, Mr. Barber (mathematics) – more patient than Job; the insightful Dr. Schein (sociology) and Mr. Hy Remson (conductor of the Evening Session Orchestra where I played the violin). Overall, I most benefited from an awareness that the CCNY experience gave me that I needed to continue the arc of learning, at least to be useful to society if not for my own intellectual satisfaction. After a career in public relations, in 1966 – at age 50 I became a teacher in the Hackensack, N.J. school system and I obtained an MA in teaching that year from Jersey City State College. In the summers of 1969 and 1970, with government grants, I took courses at Bucknell U. (Principles of Astronomy and Selected Topics in Mathematics); Montclair State U. (Statistical Theory, Elements of Logic, Problems in Analytic Secondary Mathematics, Elements of Finite Mathematics) and at Colgate U. Relations and Functions (Trig.), and Relations & Functions (Algebra).

I retired from teaching in 1986 and devoted myself, finally, to what I had loved most – music. I played the viola in amateur chamber music sessions. I joined the musicians union and occasionally took professional gigs. And I volunteered for the rabbi at the Bergen Regional Hospital in Paramus, N.J. helping to wheel patients down to his services on Thursday afternoons. I am still a volunteer there.
No children, never married, and I have never received any awards or honors. But in 2010, at age 94, I published a book, Phantom Spies, Phantom Justice which was a reflection of my experiences in 1950 during the McCarthy period – and a most frightening, difficult time for me. I meant the book to be a historical contribution to the literature of that period. If it has succeeded it is in no small part because I was the beneficiary of a priceless education at the City College of New York.

(Google “Miriam Moskowitz” or see website: Miriam Moskowitz.com which will be up in February or March 2012).”

Mr. Norman Schlessberg
1975 Bridgewood Drive
Boca Raton, FL 33434

Mr. Norman Schlessberg grew up in New York City and attended Stuyvesant High School. He majored in accounting at City College and went on to pursue a career in law, earning a law degree from Columbia University Law School. The highlight of his career was being sworn in to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court. Norman is married and has four great-grandkids.

Fondest CCNY Memories: “Being there—it was my only way to leave the ghetto!”
“I entered CCNY in the fall of 1938. These were very tumultuous times. The winds of war were gathering over Europe. At CCNY, political demonstrations were commonplace on campus. Fortunately or otherwise, I had very little time to participate since I had chosen to enroll in the School of Engineering. To say that the program was taxing was a gross understatement. After gliding through high school and ending near the top of the class I suddenly faced a much more difficult environment. The freshman year was the most challenging. The following years were much more manageable. It is of interest to note that the emphasis of the curriculum was on power and machinery engineering while electronics was dealt with very lightly and computers not at all. How things have changed over the years.

I graduated in June 1942 with a BEE degree, having been admitted to Eta Kappa Nu (Engineering Honor Society). I was also on the varsity track team. My first job as a young engineer was with ITT who had laboratories in downtown Manhattan. Our work dealt with improvement of ground based aircraft navigation equipment and the design of specialized antenna systems. Our laboratory Director was Andrew Alford, a renowned pioneer in the design of advanced antennas.

In May 1944, I entered the US navy and was shortly commissioned as an Ensign. Although my principal assignment was the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC, I was frequently sent to the Pacific to eliminate interference between radar and communication equipment on aircraft carriers. Another assignment was to the MIT Radiation laboratory where I designed elements of an Airborne Radar Relay System.

After my stint in the Navy, I was employed by Raytheon where I continued to work on the design of various radar systems. In 1948, I took a position at Fairchild Guided Missiles where I was put in charge of the design of the Midcourse Guidance System of the Lark Missile. We had a number of successful flight tests but this missile was succeeded by more advanced designs.

In 1950, I took a position at the W.L. Maxson Corp. This company was originally engaged in mechanical engineering programs but was interested in getting into the
electronics field. Our small group of electronic engineers succeeded in winning a number of major Electronic Countermeasure System programs from the Air Force. I was appointed Vice President of R&D. I had also obtained an MEE degree from Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn in 1952.

I, together with my brother, Leo, also an electrical engineer, founded Sedco Systems Inc. in 1962. The company became involved in the design of Phased Array Radar and ECM systems. Sedco grew and became a leader in the field, winning major Air Force ECM programs. In 1979, Sedco was acquired by Raytheon as a subsidiary and I continued to serve as President until 1984, when I retired.

Subsequently, I formed a consulting firm, M. Simpson Associates, where I consulted for several firms, including Raytheon and Radyne, a satellite communication company, at which I also served as Chairman of the Board.

I became a Fellow of IEEE for contributions to Phased Array Systems. I also received the Silver Medal from the Association Old Crows (National ECM Society) for major contributions in the field of Electronic Countermeasures. Currently, I reside in Florida.”

Mr. Irving Schnitzer (formerly Isidor Schnitzer)
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Mr. Irving Schnitzer grew up in the East Bronx near famous (President Carter) Charlotte Street. He attended Townsend Harris High School and then City College, the only school he could afford. He graduated from CCNY in 1942 with a B.S.S. in economics. From 1942-1946, he was in the air force. He attained the rank of First Lieutenant with MOS of Bombardier with 15th Air Force base in Italy.

Irving pursued a career in corporate finance, retiring in 1991. The last professional position he held was comptroller at LSG International. Before that, from 1968 to 1977, he worked as comptroller and treasurer at Hampton Sales. Irving also served as treasurer of Our Lord House of Worship from 1972 through 1976.

Irving married CCNY grad, Mrs. Jeanette Schnitzer sixty years ago. They have one child. He enjoyed playing tennis till age 85, and travel during and after retiring.

Fondest CCNY Memories: “Professor Hastings who locked the door against late comers and taught economics and geography of the continents with no maps or notes. Political speeches given in the cafeteria with no prep, but lots of humor. Wonderful ping pong games by championship player. History professor Muelle, a German French teacher.”
“I enrolled in City College via Townsend Harris High School. I had also unsuccessfully applied to Yale, not that my family could have afforded it, but just to see what would happen. Yale was notable for its policy on the acceptance, or rather, nonacceptance of Jews. It is amusing, however, that 3 decades later, when I was a professor at the Yale Medical School and a member of the Admissions Committee, the policy had been softened: the bias was limited only to Jews from New York City! I was in a position to try to reverse that situation and I was successful.

Seventy years after graduation, a number of things now stand out in my mind about my tenure at City College. One was how highly raised the intellectual bar was, and along with this, the high competitiveness of the students, myself included. I was a chemistry major and became aware of the high scientific stature of some of the faculty of this department. Two of the biochemistry professors, Drs. Mazur and Borek, would often allude to some research they were doing. I was curious; where and when were they doing it? When did they sleep? Well, after they were done with their daily teaching duties, they would head out for their labs at the Cornell Medical School. I learned later that one of my physics teachers, Professor Zamansky, became an internationally known physicist. Very few colleges could boast of having such scientific faculty members. The immensely stimulating lectures by Professors Benjamin Harrow and Abraham Mazur along with my great laboratory experience in a course taught by Professor Earnest Borek served to tunnel my career into biochemistry.

On a different level, two other things are very memorable. One is the range of activities that were going on in the huge dining room, a vast rectangular space that was bordered by alcoves on the two long sides. Each alcove contained a rectangular table set between two benches, and meant for eating. Nevertheless, a cluster of four of these tables had been permanently commandeered for other purposes. As I recall, Tables 1, 2, and 3 were devoted to three different shades of leftist political activities; Table 4 was a Zionist table. The next three tables were usurped on a temporary basis for ping-pong, table 5 being reserved for experts. At lunch hour, I would gobble down my meal first and spend part of my time listening to political speeches and collect lots of literature and the remainder becoming a good ping-pong player but not good enough to tackle Table 5 players.

The second memorable item is the Great Hall and its pipe organ. I recall that the organist, Dr. Charles Heinroth, was a very distinguished musician. He gave free recitals every Sunday. While, as a child, I loved to sit on the floor in front of our Victrola listening to operatic arias, my taste for classical music had since substantially waned.
One Sunday, however, during my freshman year, I attended one of his recitals. I got carried away. The recital reawakened my interest in classical music and I have been a devotee ever since. I will never forget that day.

After graduation, I found a job at the Philadelphia Navy Yard where I worked as a physicist in antimagnetic mine warfare. I later joined the Navy doing torpedo research at the Naval Ordinance Laboratory; I have 3 patents to prove it. I also did some research there on the chemistry of high sensitivity explosives and lived to tell the tale. I was released from the Navy in November, 1945, and applied and was accepted by the Biochemistry Dept. at the U.C. Berkeley, a good choice because one of the faculty members was opening up a new field, the biosynthesis of proteins in the “test tube”, and I could get in at the very beginning of a hot area.

After completing my thesis in 1939, I took a research job at Tufts Medical School. Here, I worked alone and made a significant but very counter-intuitive finding: the biological breakdown of proteins in the cell requires energy. Some people doubted these results, but years later another group confirmed and continued my studies and eventually received the Nobel Prize for elucidating the biochemical mechanism. I left Tufts in 1951 when I received an N.I.H. fellowship to work with Dr. Carl Cori, a Nobel Laureate. Studying the simultaneous formation in the body of two enzymes, we could conclude that the mechanism of protein synthesis (e.g. formation) involves the serial connection of amino acids linearly, thus resulting in a long protein chain.

I was then offered (1952) a tenure track position in the Biochemistry Dept. at the Yale Medical School where I continued work (aided by my graduate and post-doctoral students) on protein biosynthesis. Probably my most important work there was demonstrating the ability of mitochondria to manufacture their own proteins, as well as their RNA, and DNA. These small membrane bags (organelles within a cell) were heretofore known solely for their role as the energy generating center of the cell.

In 1962, I received a prestigious lifetime award: the American Cancer Society Research Professorship. Not only would my salary be paid by the Society for the remainder of my working research career but I would receive a yearly fixed research grant. (“An offer I couldn’t refuse!”) I then (1962) moved to the Dartmouth Medical School which was in the process of developing a powerful molecular biology program and was recruiting new people. What I didn’t know was that there was a great deal of resentment of this new program by the older faculty there. Thus began internecine warfare. The war was capped off by an invitation to the Program from the National Science Foundation to apply for a multimillion dollar grant – which the College president turned down. This led to the resignation of 21 faculty members, myself included.

Prior to leaving (1966), I had a choice of several job offers and, liking the idea of a new university where a single person could make a difference, I chose Stony Brook University where I temporarily joined the Biology Dept. I soon founded the Biochemistry Dept., started a Molecular Biology Graduate Program which awarded Ph.D. degrees, and was chair of both for ten years when I stepped down. My lab continued studies on both the
molecular biology of mitochondria and of ribosome’s (the protein factories). I retired in 1995 and am now officially an American Cancer Society Research Professor Emeritus; no more teaching, no more labs, no more research (which I miss most), but I still retain an office in the Department.

PUBLICATIONS: Considerably more than one hundred, virtually all in major journals.

CLUBS AT CITY COLLEGE: Baskerville Chemical Society; House Plan, Remsen ’42.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: I have for twenty years been chair of the Long Range Planning Committee of the University’s fine arts center (Staller Center). In addition, my wife and I have an in depth interest in Archaeology and classical music, and I am also fascinated by Cosmology. I am a member of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and a past member of the American Chemical Society and the American Society for Cell Biology. My hobby is woodworking.

ONE LAST WORD: Research in a basic science like biochemistry generally percolate up to medicine, nutrition, and other practical fields, often however, taking years to do so. This sometimes can be frustrating to the researcher. Here are two findings from my lab at Stony Brook which had “instant” practical use. The first showed why many of the AIDS drugs (e.g., AZT/zidovudine) were so toxic; yes, they clobbered the virus but they also damaged mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA). At the very next AIDS drug meeting, pharmacologists were citing our results and were reporting their testing new drugs for damaging effects on mtDNA. The other finding was our discovery that mtDNA mutates much faster than nuclear DNA. Because mtDNA is solely maternally inherited, this immediately put a powerful tool in the hands of scientists in other fields as well as biochemistry, namely paleontology, population biology, evolution, medicine, and even criminology. The most amusing problem solved was to rule out the possibility that the famous Anastasia was a member of the Russian royal family. Indeed, the investigators were able to locate her birthplace, Poland, and even a particular part of Poland, solely from mtDNA comparisons!”
“I entered CCNY in the fall of 1938. These were very tumultuous times. The winds of war were gathering over Europe. At CCNY, political demonstrations were commonplace on campus. Fortunately or otherwise, I had very little time to participate since I had chosen to enroll in the School of Engineering. To say that the program was taxing was a gross understatement. After gliding through high school and ending near the top of the class I suddenly faced a much more difficult environment. The freshman year was the most challenging. The following years were much more manageable. It is of interest to note that the emphasis of the curriculum was on power and machinery engineering while electronics was dealt with very lightly and computers not at all. How things have changed over the years.

I graduated in June 1942 with a BEE degree, having been admitted to Eta Kappa Nu (Engineering Honor Society). I was also on the varsity track team. My first job as a young engineer was with ITT who had laboratories in downtown Manhattan. Our work dealt with improvement of ground based aircraft navigation equipment and the design of specialized antenna systems. Our laboratory Director was Andrew Alford, a renowned pioneer in the design of advanced antennas.

In May 1944, I entered the US navy and was shortly commissioned as an Ensign. Although my principal assignment was the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC, I was frequently sent to the Pacific to eliminate interference between radar and communication equipment on aircraft carriers. Another assignment was to the MIT Radiation laboratory where I designed elements of an Airborne Radar Relay System.

After my stint in the Navy, I was employed by Raytheon where I continued to work on the design of various radar systems. In 1948, I took a position at Fairchild Guided Missiles where I was put in charge of the design of the Midcourse Guidance System of the Lark Missile. We had a number of successful flight tests but this missile was succeeded by more advanced designs.

In 1950, I took a position at the W.L. Maxson Corp. This company was originally engaged in mechanical engineering programs but was interested in getting into the electronics field. Our small group of electronic engineers succeeded in winning a number of major Electronic Countermeasure System programs from the Air Force. I was appointed Vice President of R&D. I had also obtained an MEE degree from Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn in 1952.

I, together with my brother, Leo, also an electrical engineer, founded Sedco Systems Inc. in 1962. The company became involved in the design of Phased Array Radar and ECM systems. Sedco grew and became a leader in the field, winning major Air Force ECM
programs. In 1979, Sedco was acquired by Raytheon as a subsidiary and I continued to serve as President until 1984, when I retired.

Subsequently, I formed a consulting firm, M. Simpson Associates, where I consulted for several firms, including Raytheon and Radyne, a satellite communication company, at which I also served as Chairman of the Board.

I became a Fellow of IEEE for contributions to Phased Array Systems. I also received the Silver Medal from the Association Old Crows (National ECM Society) for major contributions in the field of Electronic Countermeasures. Currently, I reside in Florida.

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“I was born and raised in the Bronx and attended James Monroe High School. CCNY was my college of choice, indeed my only choice, as it was free of tuition. When I entered I did not have the vaguest notion of a career choice, but elected to pursue a B.S. degree. This eventually led me to switch to engineering and I chose civil engineering as my major.

During my college years, I was a member of the Civil Engineering Club, becoming vice president in my senior year. I was also editor of bi-weekly newspaper called Tech News. In 1940, a chapter of Tau Beta Pi, the honorary society of engineers, was established at City and I was elected as a charter member. My fondest memory of City was working at Tech News in a tiny office in a corridor of the Engineering Building. Another fond memory is that of summers spent as surveying camp in Van Cortland Park. Memorable teachers were J. Charles Rathbun of Civil Engineering Dept. and Prof. Corcoran of the Physics Dept. The former was a crusty Liberty League Republican and an inspiring teacher. I still remember his rage on the day after elections, when FDR was elected to a third term. The latter gave a lecture course to freshman called Science Survey, where he exposed me to the worlds of atomic physics and the universe. Fascination stuff for a freshman!

I was able to work for a year and a half before entering the army in ’43. I served in the Engineering Corps and was a member of a Port Construction and Repair Group. This Group supervised three major projects in the European Theater. The first was the reconstruction of the port facilities in Cherbourg, France. The second was the reopening of the Albert Canal in Belgium. This involved clearing and demolishing bridges, constructing new ones and repairing damaged lock basins. The third was the construction of the first fixed railroad bridge over the Rhine River. It was about 2,200 feet long and was constructed in the amazing time of 10 days! The Army, in its infinite wisdom,
ignored my engineering background, and selected me to be the photographer for the Group, to record its accomplishments. In recent years, I have given copies of my photos to the Army Historian at the headquarters of the Engineering Corps in Ft. Leonard Wood and the Authority that operates the Albert Canal in Belgium.

After leaving the army, I returned to engineering and worked as a structural designer for a consulting engineer firm. I married in 1948 and two years later purchased a modest home in Westchester. This proved to be the major turning point in my life. Having bought a home in Westchester, I began to think that I would like to work there. This led me to eventually take a job with a very small firm that was selling supplies and equipment for swimming pools. After five years with this firm, I decided to strike out on my own and formed a similar company. Thus, the decision to buy a house metamorphosed me from engineer to entrepreneur. The firm was originally involved in manufacturing equipment and also selling supplies and equipment for institutional, municipal and commercial pools. As a sideline specialty, it also custom fabricated stainless steel railings for buildings. I was a co-founder of this firm and was vice president until 1983. I assumed presidency in 1983, after my partner retired. In 1990, I also retired. The business still exists to this day.

On the personal level, my wife and I recently celebrated our 64 wedding anniversary. We have three children and five grandchildren. We have lived in Westchester until the past year. Since my retirement, my wife and I have spent our winters in Florida. This past year, we decided to reside permanently in Florida and now live in a senior community. My interests have been photography, tennis, swimming, skiing, numismatics, reading and writing. The physical pursuits have diminished or disappeared in recent years, but the others remain. I have started writing my memoirs about ten years ago, beginning with my army experience. I followed that with a booklet of my wife’s oft told tales. Next came biographical family stories and sketches. Now my writing is devoted to general essays on special events or happenings. I have collected all of these writings and bound them as a legacy for my children and grandchildren.”