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Earth Day (1970)
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All-Class Reunion Celebrates 45 Years of Dewey!
June 13, 2015 1:00 – 8:00 PM
at John Dewey High School
50 Avenue X, Brooklyn, New York 11223


Alumni, past and present faculty, and current students are invited to join the festivities.


See your Teachers Again! Five years ago, more than 100 teachers attended the 40th anniversary reunion. Come and visit with past and present faculty members: Joe Antonucci; Frank Benpensata; Bob DeSena; Thomas Heinegg; Robert Kanyuk; Mike Lustig; Brian McCarthy; Lane Rosen; Lou Siegel; Eric Shapiro; Len (Weiner) Warner; and more.

Explore the School Again! Meet-and-greet in the cafeteria. Then walk the halls, visit your old locker bay or homeroom class, take a picture on the statue, and wander the campus.

Walk through Dewey History! Check out our Archives in the library. Our Archivist has put together memorabilia from four decades of Dewey: photographs, video; print materials, attire, and other objects. Did you have a Dewey jacket, a gym lock stamped with JDHS on the back, or an Energy Factory button? We’ll have them all on display. Remember 22-mod program cards and M.E. certificates (that’s Mastery with Excellence if you attended in the years after the grading system was changed)? See programs from graduations, senior recognition nights, and prior reunions. Scroll through electronic copies of yearbooks. Come and reminisce.

Music, Laughs, Learning and Dance! We are planning a full program of events for the day. Alumni and faculty performers will provide entertainment and presentations. Listen to live performances by R&B singer Mr. Jesse Reed (Class of 2004) and folk singer Bobby Flynn (Class of 1975), and comedian Damon Rozier (Class of 1986). Motivational speaker and entrepreneur Marsha R. Bonner (Class of 1977) will speak about the H.U.G.S. movement she founded (www.facebook.com/hugsmovement). Multiple teachers will present mini-classes: founding marine bio teacher Lou Siegel will team up with current program coordinator Lane Rosen to discuss the past, present and future of Dewey’s pioneering marine sciences program. Anthropology & Archeology expert Len (Weiner) Warner will bring to life the search for the Historical Jesus. Joe Antonucci will not be giving an English mini-lesson, but he will be spinning music for your pleasure, and all guests are invited to attend an evening dance from 5:00 – 8:00.

Tickets for the 45th Anniversary All-Class Reunion on June 13, 2015 are available at: www.tinyurl.com/JDHS45

Continued on page 14
Message from the Board

As we begin a new year, the Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing members – Adrienne Grande, Harold Kramer, Shirley Juste and Elsie Chan – for their assistance during the 2013-2014 term of office. We welcome aboard new directors Shelly Carrera, Alfred Bevilacqua, and current Dewey faculty member Rob Kanyuk.

If you check out our photo montage on page 5, you’ll see that 2014 was a pretty active year for the JDAA, with an increased presence at Dewey events and extensive planning for the all-class reunion to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the school. The unforeseen circumstances that required us to postpone the celebration from October 18, 2014 until June 13, 2015 have provided us with the opportunity to coordinate additional activities with the current students and faculty. We are looking forward to a great event. Stay tuned for more details.

Those interested in helping plan reunion-day activities or coordinating outreach to the members of your graduating class should send their contact information (email or telephone) to alumni_relations@johndeweyalumni.org.

Our events committee is also planning other events for the coming year (check out our Calendar of Events on page 13) and the Board is in the process of setting new goals for 2015. Your suggestions are welcome. We are your Alumni Association. Your feedback will help us identify how we can best serve our members and our mission.

Recap of Annual Membership Meeting

For those who were unable to attend our general membership meeting in November, here is a recap of some significant outcomes:

The membership approved some recommended changes to the by-laws, including a modification of the composition and term of office for the board. Directors will now begin serving on the first day of the month following the election, which has been moved from the spring to the fall. Additionally, the minimum number of directors has been reduced from seven to three (the minimum required by law); the maximum size of the board remains at fifteen members. The current complement of directors stands at six.

President Bunji Fromartz reported on his meeting with Principal Kathleen Elvin and Assistant Principal Jon Messinger with regard to furthering plans for the 45th Anniversary Reunion.

Treasurer Thomas Heinegg presented a report on the state of the JDAA’s finances. As of the end of the 2013 calendar year, our cash assets totaled $8,812.76. The treasurer’s report was submitted to the Audit Committee for its review and approval.

We are still awaiting the Internal Revenue Service’s decision on our pending application for 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

Janice Deutsch agreed to continue as the editor of Deweygram in 2015 while seeking a successor. If no successor is found, the number of annual issues or the content of each issue may be reduced.

The events committee proposed a 2014 holiday party (which has since been held) and other social events for the members in the early months of 2015.

Council for Unity extended an invitation to all JDAA members to attend a commemoration at Dewey in April for the Garden of Nations which was planted in 1982. (See our calendar of events on page 13.)

Alumni Update

Roman (Imran) Ansari (Class of 1995) says, “When your life flashes before your eyes, make sure you’ve got plenty to watch.” He certainly lives by this philosophy. His background "consists mainly of Investment Banking, Wealth Management, Real Estate and Financial Planning," he says, as he reveals more than 50 licenses to practice in these areas and well over a dozen national and international financial, banking, and regulatory agencies where he has served on the boards. He has co-owned his own company and, since selling it seven years ago and moving to Europe, has been an active wealth management strategist/analyst/advisor for multiple European banking concerns including Credit Suisse, Royal Bank of Scotland, and Deutsche Bank. He has returned to the U.S. and is currently Senior Vice President at Greenbox Loans in Los Angeles, California. While traveling around the world, Roman indulges what he calls his “hobby” – photography – which has led him to be a contributing photographer (and writer) for the National Geographic Society, Discovery Channel, Elite Traveler, Esquire, Men’s Fitness and several other magazines.
MEET THE 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alfred J. Bevilacqua (JDHS 1969-1972) started a radio program while at Dewey for which he (and JDAA Prez D. Bunji Fromartz) interviewed disc jockeys and singers. He continued his student-radio career at College of Staten Island but eventually left the airwaves behind to enter the field of banking. He spent years on Wall Street. He lives in Brooklyn, loves Italian food, and remembers Dewey as a great place to go to high school.

Shelly (Michelle) Carrera (Class of 1984) earned a Master's Degree in Social Work from Hunter and now serves as a social worker for the Juvenile Justice Initiative program under the auspices of the Department of Youth and Family Justice. She works out of the Queens Family Court to seek alternatives to incarceration for youthful offenders. She is working with the JDAA Reunion Committee to plan the upcoming 45th Anniversary celebration of the school and is coordinating volunteers for the event. Shelly has accepted the role of JDAA Secretary for 2015.

Janice Deutsch (Class of 1978) has been a member of the JDAA Board of Directors since 2013 and previously served from 1989 to 1992. She served as Secretary in 2014 and will be Vice President for the 2015 term. She is also the creator and editor of the association's newsletter, Deweygram. After graduating from Dewey, Janice worked at the school as a paraprofessional before leaving to teach special-needs students at another Brooklyn high school. She helped plan the Class of 1978’s ten-year reunion. Janice currently works as a professional writer and paralegal, and she still resides in Brooklyn.

David Bunji Fromartz (Class of 1974) joined the JDAA in 2009. He helped plan the 40th Anniversary reunion in 2010 and is on the planning committee for next June’s 45th anniversary celebration. He has served as president of the organization since 2013 and continues in that role for the current term. Bunji is a practicing attorney with an office in Downtown Brooklyn. His firm handles elder law (wills, estates & trusts), real estate, family, matrimonial, commercial, and personal injury cases. He oversees the JDAA Legal Committee.

Thomas Heinegg (Retired Faculty) Following two years of teaching service in the Peace Corps in Malaysia, Tom was employed at John Dewey High School in the capacities of science teacher, Coordinator of Student Activities, and Director of the SPARK program from 1969-1979. The following 6 years he worked as the Director of Admissions at Parsons School of Design and was subsequently responsible for facilitating the creation of a two-year College of Art and Design in the Dominican Republic. Entering the business world, he was appointed Vice President of the New York Chamber of Commerce and held that position for 3 years. From 1989-2009 he served as an Assistant Principal and Principal in the Shoreham-Wading River, Great Neck, and Northport School districts. He has been a member of the JDAA Board of Directors since 2013 and holds the position of Treasurer.

Rob Kanyuk (Current Faculty) earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Rhetoric from SUNY Binghamton and Master’s degree in Secondary Education from Hofstra University. He has been a member the John Dewey H.S. English Department since 1993. He has served on Dewey’s School Leadership Team (SLT) and its United Federation of Teachers (UFT) Consultation Committee, in addition to serving as Dewey’s UFT Chapter Leader. In 2009, Robert co-founded the “Friends of Dewey” coalition for the preservation and improvement of John Dewey High School.
JDAA 2014: The Year in Review

February 2014

John Dewey H.S. held its semi-annual blood drive on February 6, 2014. JDAA Vice President Adrienne Grande and Secretary Janice Deutsch were on hand to meet the students who gave blood or just provided moral support to their classmates. (right)

March 2014 saw the inauguration of the JDAA newsletter, Deweygram (left) and the first annual Dewey Disco Ball (below).

The JDAA sponsored the beverage service for the John Dewey H.S. Parents Association’s first Dewey Disco Ball fundraiser (above). So much fun was had by all, including JDAA Treasurer Thomas Heinegg (left) and President D. Bunji Fromartz, that the PA is doing it again next spring. See our calendar of events for additional details and registration information.
2014: The Year in Review (continued)

June 2014

John Dewey High School welcomed the Class of 2018 at its Freshman Orientation Barbecue (left) in June. In addition to an abundance of food, parents and incoming students were treated to music and a live dance performance, guided tours of the school building and grounds, and extensive displays by the various academic Houses, specialty programs, and clubs.

JDAA President D. Bunji Fromartz, V.P. Adrienne Grande, Secretary Janice Deutsch, and Director Harold Kramer were on hand to assist with set-up and registration. We also had a table where we displayed and distributed JDAA materials.

“John Dewey H.S. – Still innovating after all these years”

The JDAA presented the 5th annual Dewey Spirit Awards to Christine Escobar and Fernando Williams (right) at the graduation ceremony. Each received a $500 check and an award certificate.

And a CFU Sponsorship

The JDAA made a financial contribution to Council for Unity in December to sponsor three participants in the program for 2015. Those interested in sponsoring a child or CFU chapter can contact Adele Gainey at Dewey (718-373-6400) or visit www.councilforunity.org/donate.php. All contributions are tax-deductible.

November 2014

Following our annual membership meeting, the JDAA joined the Parents Association for an International Thanksgiving Dinner (left). The event was coordinated by Dewey’s new PA president, Rob Accurso (left, in center). The catered buffet was supplemented by pot luck contributions from several attendees and baked goods and fruit provided by the JDAA. Music for the event was provided by Dewey teacher and D.J. Joseph Occhiogrosso.
December 2014

This year’s New York City regional qualifying event for the FTC Robotics Challenge was held at Dewey in December. JDAA President Bunji Fromartz and Vice President Janice Deutsch were in attendance to support Dewey’s Team 9384, the *Hydraulic Hydras* (right), and to assist the Parents Association in setting up their extensive lunch buffet for the competitors, coaches, referees and spectators. [See our Dewey These Days column on page 11 for more extensive coverage.]

Closing Out 2014

As the year drew to a close, the Board of Directors, along with some former directors, alumni and guests, attended a *holiday party* (right) at Boulevard Tavern in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The tavern is owned and operated by alumnus Harold Kramer (Class of 1975), who provided a buffet of hot and cold food selections, including made-to-order panini. Dessert was provided by alumna Janet Newman Ficarra (Class of 1981) who runs her own cupcake business, Cups of Delight. Great music, large-screen movie showings, an art exhibit preview, a pool table, and an open bar rounded out the entertainment.

In Memoriam 2014

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the loss of the following members of the Dewey community during 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Department/Office</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benjamin Balin</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Social Studies/Program Office</td>
<td>June 2014</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Keenan Barnes</td>
<td>Alumnus</td>
<td>Class of 1977</td>
<td>April 2014</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence Choros</td>
<td>Alumnus</td>
<td>Class of 1974</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Ferrero</td>
<td>Alumnus</td>
<td></td>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foula Karas</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanley Lord</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>January 2014</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prudy Rubino</td>
<td>School Aide</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arnold Simon</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>August 2014</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Diamond Stone</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
<td>Business Education</td>
<td>January 2014</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Members are invited to forward information about confirmed deaths among Dewey students and staff. Please send details to info@johndeweyalumni.org. A John Dewey H.S. Memorial website is maintained by Dewey alumna Marci Ann Kaplan-Lips at http://johndeweyhighschoolmemorial.wordpress.com/. Newly reported deaths can be sent to her by email at johndeweymemorial@gmail.com.
Deweyites on the Street:
Three NYC Blocks Renamed in Recognition of Dewey Alumni

Grace Gold  (Class of 1978)

Thirty-five years ago this coming May, Grace Gold was tragically killed by a piece of falling masonry as she walked along Broadway at West 115th Street. The circumstances of her death prompted legislative action to protect pedestrians from structural debris and to initiate building inspection requirements for the outer façade of all New York City buildings more than six stories high. The City Council passed Local Law 10 in February 1980. Local Law 11 followed in 1998, expanding the scope of the mandatory inspections, requiring more effective inspection procedures, and increasing the penalties for non-compliance by property owners.

At the time of her death, Grace was a 17-year-old freshman at Barnard College, a private women’s college affiliated with Columbia University. Her sister Lori, also a Dewey alumna (Class of 1974), established the Grace Gold Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor Grace’s life and her memory, and to help support students pursuing careers in architecture and related building professions or writing and journalism. Last year, Lori successfully petitioned the City Council to rename the stretch of Broadway where Grace died Grace Gold Way. [Portrait, above left, by Rob Rush]

William Tropea  (Class of 1974)

In a ceremony on September 27, 2014, West 11th Street and Highlawn Avenue in the Gravesend Section of Brooklyn was renamed Firefighter William (Billy) Tropea Way.

After graduating from Dewey and attending Brooklyn College, Billy began a career as a firefighter with the New York Fire Department in 1982. He served the FDNY and the City of New York for 22 years. On September 11, 2001, Billy was on vacation with his family in Italy. Upon hearing of the World Trade Center attacks, he immediately returned to New York to assist with recovery efforts. According to his family, it was his exposure to toxins at Ground Zero that caused the illness that led to his death in 2010.

The street renaming ceremony was attended by family, friends, fellow firefighters, and public officials, all of whom spoke of Billy’s dedication to serving others. His family and friends described him as “an accomplished pianist, competitive athlete, handyman, gardener, and dedicated family man.”

Do the Right Thing  (A Film by Spike Lee, Class of 1975)

Dewey alumnus Shelton (“Spike”) Lee wrote, directed, produced, and acted in the 1989 film Do the Right Thing, a comedy-drama exploring the eruption of hate and bigotry into violence on a street in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn during the hottest day of the year. On the 25th Anniversary of the movie’s release, its filming location – Stuyvesant Avenue between Lexington and Quincy Streets – was renamed Do The Right Thing Way. The film was nominated for 25 awards, including two Oscars and four Golden Globes. It won 15 film critic and film festival honors.
**DEWEY DAYS: TELL A TALE OF DEWEY**

This column offers faculty and student alumni the chance to share memories of their time at John Dewey H.S.

**Funeral Procession: Earth Day 1970**

By Bob Sarnoff, Founding Art Teacher

On the very first Earth Day, I paraded a large group of students out Dewey’s front door, down the steps, and past the statue. They carried a coffin, draped in a sheet painted with an Earth Day flag, green and white with an epsilon.

Inside the coffin was Everyman (Everyperson) wearing a gas mask, an effigy of humans who succumbed to the environment. We proceeded to the rear of the school and began digging a grave where we buried the symbolic sculpture.

We filmed and photographed the whole procession.

People scoffed at Earth Day 35 years ago, but now that climate control is no longer a laughing matter, we need to recall what we knew back then:

"Attention Must Be Paid."

**The Earth Day Flag, Explained**

This version of the Earth Day flag was designed in 1969 by artist Ron Cobb. It was patterned after the U.S. Stars and Stripes. In 1970, the original fuchsia color was changed to green, representing fertile land; the white represents pure air. The symbol in the corner combined E (for environment) and O (for organism).

Other flags had a Greek epsilon (ε), or one forward-facing epsilon against a backward-facing one. The epsilon symbolized the environment; the joining of the front-and-back images was representative of turning our back on the environment and formed the letter theta (Θ), which stood for thanatos, the Greek word for death!

Source: [http://www.planetpals.com/earthday_flag.html](http://www.planetpals.com/earthday_flag.html)

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**How Did Our Garden Grow?**

By Bob DeSena, Former English Teacher and Founder of Council for Unity

I started Council for Unity (CFU) in 1975 to combat gang violence, reduce racial tension, and promote community at Dewey. By 1982, having united all the diverse cultures in the school, CFU members wanted to create a lasting testament to the harmony and unity we had achieved. The Garden of Nations became our living legacy.

The design of the garden was conceived to represent the sadness of a world divided by hatred and bias, and the cultivation of unity through labor, time, and growth. We ordered four Weeping Cherry Trees from Nassau Landscaping in Westbury, Long Island. These were dubbed the Asian Tree, the Caucasian Tree, the African-American Tree and the Latino Tree for each of the four groups that would be involved in the planting. At first, the members wanted to plant the trees close together, with their branches intersecting, to show the unity that had been achieved, but in the end, we decided that this approach would leave no responsibility for “cultivating” that unity in the future. We decided to plant them about 15 feet apart so that succeeding generations would, through their own labor in tending the Garden, foster the growth that would enable the branches to intersect.

*continued on page 10*
Garden of Nations (continued)

We received permission from the administration to utilize the raised plot of earth along the front of the building. It was in complete disrepair, choked with weeds. Our entire membership turned out to clean every inch of that bed, and the first planting was completed.

A second planting was planned to include flowering evergreen shrubs, rhododendrons and azaleas, as an under planting to the trees. To us, the evergreens represented humanities' eternal longing for peace and harmony.

Because the garden was a symbol of our organization, its achievements, and its ongoing activities, all CFU members would return to the garden every spring to weed and to cultivate the plants. This activity was always planned for K-band (last period of the day) so that students and faculty leaving the building would observe our kids maintaining the garden and all it represented.

The history of the garden included some painful and tragic elements. Two Dewey students once ripped out two of the trees and threw them onto the Belt Parkway. (They were forced to make restitution and then expelled from the school.) New trees were planted, and the garden resumed its place as a symbol of perseverance against resistance.

Then, in 1989, came the racially-motivated slaying of a black teenager by a mob of Italian youth in Gravesend. Shortly after the death of Yusuf Hawkins, the trees planted by our Black and Italian members died. We took that as a symbol of what had happened so close to our school’s backyard. We purchased two more trees and planted them as a sign of our continued unity against hate and racism.

Today all 4 trees are thriving and inter-connected. We did our job and will commemorate the Garden this spring, most likely Arbor Day, and invite both CFU and John Dewey HS alums to attend along with current Dewey students and staff."

The Best of Friends Are Made at Dewey

Part One: Bruce Weisburd, Class of 1979

On my 50th birthday, I was in Ireland with one of my oldest friends. To celebrate the day, she invited the members of our tour group to participate in a trip down memory lane. She handed out 50 folded and numbered slips of paper, each bearing a word or phrase that recalled a significant moment, a humorous anecdote, or a private joke from our 35 years of friendship. She asked our fellow travelers to randomly approach me during the day, hand me their note, and either walk away or ask me the story behind the memory they’d been entrusted with.

She wrote these notes — and I received them — in no particular order, except the first one. It said:

Room 213B
B Band
Dramatic Literature
Mrs. Gorayeb

The story of our first meeting. It was my first (her second) year at Dewey, day one. The note contained the where and the why, but not the how.

“He took my seat,” she says
(with mock irritation) when people ask us.

“I took her seat,” I say
(usually simultaneously) with a smile.

[She sat in that seat during cycle 5 the prior year.]

I offered her the seat that day (second from the front by the window) but she declined, taking the next one in the row.

The friendship that began in Room 213B of John Dewey H.S. in September 1975 is now in its 40th year.

Part Two: Adrienne Grande (Class of 1980)

I met my best friend, Stephanie Homatas, in Brian McCarthy's homeroom in September 1976!
Marine Bio Coordinator Lane Rosen Becomes President of the NYS Marine Educators Assn.

Nearly every picture of Lane Rosen will show him on or near water. That’s especially appropriate now, since he has just become the president of the New York State Marine Educators Association.

Rosen, a 17-year veteran of the NYC Department of Education, has taught marine science at Dewey for 13 years and currently serves as the program coordinator. Under his leadership and guidance, the school’s marine biology students maintain an on-site marine lab with a wide variety of living organisms, raise trout, participate in oyster bed maintenance, help clean up coastal areas, and participate in environmental awareness programs. They have visited aquariums in New York and New Jersey, toured the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery on Long Island, attended marine education conferences at Kingsborough Community College, and explored the history of marine life and the future of marine research at the American Museum of Natural History.

In 2005, Lane received an award from President Bush for his work on Project CREEK, an environmental partnership between the New York Aquarium and John Dewey High School on coastal habitat restoration. In 2011, he received a Service Learning Award for Community Awareness from Mayor Bloomberg.

In addition to Marine Science activities, Lane has taught a variety of camp programs, including entomology, botany, nature and rocketry. He has also done research in parasitology, studying endoparasites and ectoparasites in field mice.

Dewey Hosts F.I.R.S.T. Tech Challenge (FTC) Robotics Competition Qualifying Tournament


FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) operates an annual robotics competition for 14- to 18-year-olds in grades nine through twelve to earn scholarship money (and bragging rights) by designing, building & programming robots to compete in an alliance format against other teams. Applying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills, teams create multi-functional devices that they hope will outperform their competitors in games of maneuverability, strategy, and dexterity. It’s called Sport for the Mind™ and has been described as “the hardest fun you’ll ever have.” In this event, the challenge was to maneuver balls of various sizes into scoring positions (including lifting them and depositing them into standing cylindrical tubes) while preventing their opponents from doing the same.

The all-day qualifying event for the NYC/LI teams was coordinated by Filippo Dispensa (below right), the faculty adviser for Dewey’s multiple robotics teams. The day’s events were held in Dewey’s gymnasium, beginning with inspections of the “bots and proceeding through qualification, elimination, and final rounds of competition to the awards ceremony. Atomic Theory, the team from The Dalton School in Manhattan (below left), won the day. Dewey’s Hydraulic Hydras (see photo on page 7) did not advance.

JDAA President Bunji Fromartz and Vice President Janice Deutsch attended the festivities, and the JDHS Parents Association was on hand in the cafeteria, offering breakfast, lunch, snacks and beverages for sale to the hungry competitors and spectators.
Dewey Hosts S.T.E.M. Educational Conference

Practical, hands-on programs like marine sciences and robotics (above) are only two elements of Dewey’s extensive Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics [STEM] program. With its Computer Science Institute offering a four-year Regents-level curriculum in computer and information science, its Health Sciences Exploration Program coupling laboratory experience and hospital internships with academic health-occupations instruction, its advanced placement classes in calculus, biology, chemistry and physics, partnerships with STEM-related organizations such as NASA and the Advanced Physics Laboratory at Johns Hopkins University (among others), John Dewey H.S. provides some of the most wide-ranging opportunities for STEM education in New York City.

Dewey’s STEM learning community recently hosted a conference for similarly-focused educators around the city. The meeting was attended by Linda Curtis-Bay, Deputy CEO of the NYC Department of Education’s Integrated Curriculum and Instruction Learning Support Organization and a member of PCAST (the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology), a group of scientists and educators whose mission is to inform policy and submit recommendations affecting STEM-related academics). Ms. Curtis-Bay summed up the current drive to ensure college- and career-readiness in these essential disciplines and to promote interest and engagement in the greater STEM community with these remarks: “For me, STEM is about how we take what we know in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and apply it. It’s about problem solving and figuring out different ways to solve the problem. Through the process, I think we get students to understand math, technology and science, but also engage in their communities and environments and what’s around them.”

U.S. Navy Chief Freddie McAbee and Lt. Cmdr. Michael Fourte discussed some of those practical problem-solving and community engagement activities by describing how STEM helped them create a remotely-operated sea vehicle and taught students and teachers alike about ship and submarine design.

The common theme was about STEM’s intertwining of classroom subject matter and experience with the real world.

Lane Rosen, Dewey’s Marine Sciences coordinator, explained why it is important for schools and various outside agencies to collaborate with each other and create a STEM pathway from kindergarten to college. Dewey’s principal, Kathleen Elvin, emphasized the collaborative learning opportunities represented by the gathering of educators and officials and by their respective STEM programs, both in and out of the classrooms. “We have lots of opportunities in this room for our kids to learn together, to learn from each other, and to have those experiences that I think everybody remembers. The trips they had in elementary, middle and high school, the projects they completed, that’s where we build a science community. It becomes a culture.”

Reference: http://educationupdate.com/homeroom/2015/02/step-collaborative-starts-at-john-dewey-high-school.html#.VNkFD_nF-6P.

Deweyites Volunteer at Day of Service Two Years After Sandy

October 29 is a date with a sorry history. From the stock market crash that ushered in the Great Depression (1929) to massacres in Pinsk (USSR, 1942) and Safsaf (Palestine, 1948), October 29 is often remembered as a sad day. In 2012, that history was revisited with the shocking impact of Superstorm Sandy, the confluence of a Category 3 hurricane, a nor’easter, and a tidal pattern. The result was $65 billion dollars in damages across 24 states, and effects that are still being felt 2 ½ years later.

On October 29, 2014, the second anniversary of the devastating storm, two dozen Dewey students went out to Kaiser Park to contribute to recovery efforts in conjunction with NYC’s Partnership for Parks Catalyst Program, which builds and maintains parks in underserved communities. The Deweyites’ weeding, mulching, and planting activities (500 daffodils) were the latest in a seven-year volunteer relationship with the park and its community. Reference: www.brooklyndaily.com/stories/2014/45/bn-sandy-day-of-service-2014-11-7-bk_2014_45.html
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 19, 2015  ‘GRACE GOLD WAY’ RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY  2:00 PM  FREE

If you read the “Deweyites on the Street” column on page 8, you know that the section of Broadway between West 115th and 116th Streets is being co-named in honor of Dewey alumna Grace Gold. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for Grace Gold Way will take place on the afternoon of March 19, 2015. This event and the reception that follows are open to the public. The start time is approximate and subject to change. For further information and registration options: visit www.Barnard.edu/GGMSFEvent, email specialevents@barnard.edu, call 646.745.8331 or Friend www.facebook.com/lorigold/posts/10206394048310459?comment_id=10206394151153030&notif_t=share_comment

GRACE GOLD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST  $225 (and up)

Before the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Barnard College will be hosting a fundraising breakfast for sponsors of the Grace Gold Memorial Scholarship Fund (GGMSF). Individual tickets are $225.00, and additional levels of sponsorship are available with attendant benefits to the donors. See http://barnard.edu/events/grace-gold-memorial-scholarship-fund-breakfast for further details.

Donations of any amount can be made to the fund at any time. Send checks, payable to Barnard College but noted for the GGMSF, to: Grace Gold Memorial Scholarship Fund % Barnard College, Development Office, 3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027. An online giving option is available at http://barnard.edu/development. Again, gifts are payable to Barnard but noted for the GGMSF.

APRIL 24, 2015  GARDEN OF NATIONS COMMEMORATION CEREMONY  FREE

If you read the Tell a Tale of Dewey story by Bob DeSena on page 9, you know that it’s been 33 years since the planting of the Garden of Unity in front of John Dewey High School by members of the Council for Unity (CFU). In honor of the 40th anniversary of the founding of CFU, members are gathering at the garden for a commemorative event. Everyone is welcome. The time and event activities are still being determined. For updated details, please call the Council for Unity office at Dewey (718-333-7270) or visit the CFU website.

MAY 2, 2015  SECOND ANNUAL DEWEY DISCO BALL  7:00 PM  $15.00

The Parents Association is sponsoring a dance to raise money for school-based programs and specific financial needs of the students, including subsidizing college application and test registration fees. Your support will earn you an evening of music, dancing, and a buffet dinner. Buy tickets: www.tinyurl.com/2ndannualdeweydiscoball. For more info: https://www.facebook.com/events/1532729043627469/?source=1. (See the flyer on our bulletin board below.)

MAY 7, 2015  5TH ANNUAL FORMER STAFFERS LUNCHEON  12:00 PM  $ TBD

If you ever worked at John Dewey H.S. and retired, transferred, moved or otherwise fled, come back to Coney Island for a chance to reunite with your former colleagues over a three-course meal. You are invited to the annual luncheon for alumni staffers at Gargiulo’s Italian Restaurant at 2911 West 15th Street, Brooklyn. Keep watch at the JDHS Staff Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/groups/18909424458678/) for details and registration information.

JUNE 13, 2015  ALL-CLASS REUNION AT JOHN DEWEY H.S.  1:00 PM  $35.00*-$50.00

*ADVANCED PURCHASE DISCOUNT

Join us for a day of reminiscing and reconnecting, a buffet luncheon, music and dancing, presentations and performances by faculty, alumni and current students, and a walk through the history of the school and your own Dewey Days. Order tickets online (www.tinyurl.com/JDHS45) by May 1, 2015 for $35. After May 1, the advance purchase price is $45. Tickets at the door will cost $50. [See event details on pages 2 and 14.]
Activities are still being planned and confirmed, but here’s a glimpse of how we expect the day to go:

1:00 PM Registration opens at the front gate
Meet and greet in the cafeteria
Archives display in the library (all day)
Explore the first floor of the school

2:00 PM Campus opens for outdoor activities
Food service begins (continues until 5:00)
Music from D.J. Joe Antonucci (all day)
Dewey merchandise available for sale
Explore the entire school

3:00 PM Live alumni & faculty performances begin
Current students/clubs display their talents
Mini-classes by current and former teachers

4:00 PM Lunch, live & recorded music, archives, clubs, classes, socializing and exploring all continue.

5:00 PM All guests are invited to come together for a nostalgic dance. Celebrate 45 years of music along with 45 years of Dewey.

8:00 PM Winding down and saying goodbye … until next time.

Times and locations are subject to change. An event program will be distributed at registration. In the event of rain, all campus activities will be moved indoors.

Volunteers Needed for Reunion Planning

The 45th Anniversary Reunion Committee is seeking volunteers to ensure that the all-class reunion event runs smoothly.

We need help for the following subcommittees:

- Outreach to alumni and faculty
- Entertainment planning
- Food
- Publicity
- Coordination of school club participants
- Event day set-up
- Event day registration
- Event day merchandise sales
- Event day runners & floaters
- Event clean-up

To volunteer, send your name, class/department, contact information (telephone and email), activity preferences and availability information to: secretary@johndeweyalumni.org.

Please specify Reunion Volunteer in the subject line.

So ... You've been saving your Dewey stuff for 10, 20, 30 or 40 years?


If you don't want it anymore, donate it to the JDHS Archive.

Or maybe you still want to keep your treasures but would like them to become part of our archive, to be displayed online and at the upcoming reunion.

Scan your items to our Archivist, Sue Epstein (Class of 1973), at jdhsarchives@gmail.com.

Or Sue can do the scanning for you. Just lend her your Dewey memorabilia for a little while and you can be part of the historical exhibit at the reunion on June 13th.

Contact Sue at the archives email address above for details on how to contribute.
Help preserve *Deweygram*

If you like reading the *Deweygram* and wish to see more issues in the future, please volunteer for the JDAA Newsletter Committee. We are looking for a new editor or assistant editor as well as writers, word processors, desktop publishers and other contributors.

In the absence of additional assistance in producing the newsletter, the committee may be forced to reduce the number of annual issues, decrease content, or discontinue the publication.

If you can help, either permanently or on an issue-by-issue basis, please contact our editor, Janice Deutsch, at secretary@johndeweyalumni.org. Please indicate Newsletter Committee in the subject line, and specify the type of service you’d like to provide.

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**Your Card Here?**

**Advertise your business or services to your fellow alumni.**

We will publish member business cards (or similarly sized ads) in each *Deweygram* for $10.00. Your ad can be seen by thousands of former students and faculty around the country. The newsletter is delivered directly into member mailboxes and is available for viewing at the JDAA website. Links are posted at all Dewey-related Facebook pages. Each issue of our newsletter circulates for three to six months.

Email your business card (in .jpg or .doc format, if possible) to info@johndeweyalumni.org. Payment may be made to the John Dewey Alumni Association by PayPal or check. (See our mailing address on page one.)

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**Be Part of Our Next Issue:**

- Send an Alumni or Faculty Update
- Contribute a Dewey story
- Share photos from your Dewey days
- Write an editorial
- Spotlight a Dewey program, then or now
- Propose a new column or feature

Send all contributions or column ideas to the editor at secretary@johndeweyalumni.org

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**Watch for a New Deweygram Column:**

**DO YOU REMEMBER?**