



# Sabine Estate Makes Major Gift to Telluride

By Matthew Trail SP81 CB82 TA84  
Alumni Development Officer



George Sabine and his wife Jean, circa 1967.

**E**ighty-eight years after first experiencing Nunnian education, George B. Sabine DS29 CB30 TA31 has honored Telluride Association with a remarkable gift of \$209,976 from his estate. George, who died in 2001, set up his estate as a charitable trust, with income to pass to several living beneficiaries before being settled to Telluride and several other recipients.

The Sabine family has deep, multigenerational connections to Telluride history. The “B” in George Sabine’s middle name stands for Burr, almost certainly named for George Lincoln Burr, an eminent scholar at Cornell and Cornell Branch’s permanent faculty guest from 1915-1938. George’s father, George H. Sabine, was a leading political theorist of his generation, a Cornell Vice-President, and a beloved Branch faculty guest for the last five years of his life from 1956-61. Sabine’s *History of Political Thought* was the leading reference work of its genre through three editions, preparation of the last of which was assisted by Chris Breiseth CB58 TA59, a graduate student at Cornell Branch at the time. Sabine also gave three seminal lectures on Marxism at Cornell as part of the Telluride Lecture series in 1956, which Cornell subsequently printed as a monograph.

The younger Sabine followed what was then a typical, pre-TASP trajectory of Telluride affiliation, starting at Deep Springs College before coming to Cornell Branch and joining the Association, which he was a member of until 1949. Sabine assisted with West Coast Telluride recruitment for many years and maintained close ties to Deep Springs.

Professionally, George had a long career in physics. Collaborating with Robley Williams CB28 TA29 at Cornell, Sabine pioneered a coating technique for telescope lenses that enabled ground-breaking observations of stellar ultraviolet spectra. After a stint in Cornell’s Physics Department, Sabine joined Eastman Kodak’s research labs, before turning to government service in New Mexico and California. In an alumni survey response in his files, George drily notes that he was working in “atomic weapons research.” George’s wife Jean was a leading cancer researcher, and taught at Deep

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# Food for Thought: An Alumni Roundtable

By Michael Becker SP08 TA13

**E**verybody eats. But, despite it being a routine part of our lives, we don’t always think so much about our food, the people who make it, or what our eating habits say about our



Harris-Babou and her mother

culture. I sat down with four Telluride alumni who work with food in very different ways to get their perspectives. Nate Sibinga DS07 CB16 is a graduate student at Cornell in Food Science, where he works on sustainable aquaculture. Ilana Harris-Babou SP08 is the Fountainhead Fellow in Sculpture + Extended Media at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is a video artist who works heavily with the cooking show as a genre. Katrina Becker CB00 is an organic farmer and owner of Cattail Organics in Central Wisconsin. Caden Salvata DS05 TA11 works in human resources for Mei Mei Street Food, an Asian fusion restaurant and food truck in Boston.

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# “I Was Never Intimidated by Being Asked to Do Something”: Interview with Bob Gatje (DS44 CB47 TA46)

By Karl Pops CB12 TA16



Robert F. Gatje (born November 27, 1927) is a retired architect who was the partner of two Gold Medalists of the AIA (American Institute of Architects) - Marcel Breuer and Richard Meier - and later practiced with friends as Gatje, Papachristou, Smith. He is also the author of *Marcel Breuer: A Memoir* (2000) and *Great Public Squares: An Architect's Selection* (2009). Below are some of the highlights of an interview with Bob, which for space reasons exclude longer stories like saving Deep Springs from hay-bale cottages and interviewing some of the first Summer Program faculty.

*To start, can you give me a quick recap of the dates that you were associated with Telluride and Deep Springs?*

Now, I have to say that my memory is very shaky at my age, especially with people's names. I went to Deep Springs from 1944 to '46. Then, the war was over, but I was drafted nevertheless. I was in the army for a year and a half. Got out just in time to go to Cornell the September of 1947 and I was at Telluride House until '51 - I was there for four full years and one summer. And then I had a Fulbright 1951-52, so I was in Europe, and came back and I was elected to the presidency of the Association somewhere in that period [1953-55]. But anyway, the interesting part of that was that there was a sort of sequence of Presidents - everybody knew that so and so was going to be President after so and so. And Jim Olin [DS38 CB41 TA41], quite a bit older than I was, was due to become President and it was the year we decided we had to start raising money. So it was considered more important that the dominant figure, Jim, be the head of

the New Funds Committee than President of the Association. So they reached ahead and grabbed me, and I came in as President for two years while he was setting up New Funds.

*Going from Deep Springs to the Cornell Branch, did you expect to find a similar experience in terms of community?*

I did. And I didn't find it (chuckles).

*What were the main differences?*

Well, to some extent it's just institutionally built into the situation. You were busy at school most of every day, and people that you met at Telluride House, it was at breakfast and dinner in the evening. [...] So it was just that the intensity of life at Deep Springs was so all-encompassing that most of every day - all day - you were involved with the same smaller group of people. And Telluride House was very spaced out at that time. First of all, you have to remember, the war was just over, so a lot of people were older, coming back from the army and other services. And so that the House that I was in, particularly the first year or two, we had what we considered the 'giants.' Barber Conable [CB46 TA47], who eventually became Congressman, head of the World Bank; Fred Balderston [DS40 CB42 TA42], eventually vice-president of the University of California system [...] But, what can I say? It was important to me but not nearly as much as Deep Springs.

*What do you think you gained in your time at Deep Springs and Cornell that has been the most transformative in your life?*

Well. Deep Springs when I was there and Deep Springs today were and are quite different. And Telluride House, Telluride Association, when I was there and what it is - so far as I know - in the years following, are very, very different. So that what I was being formed by was a different institution. When I think of Deep Springs, I hardly think of L.L. Nunn. Subsequent to that time, particularly under President Jack Newell [DS56], L.L. Nunn - his ideas and his goals and so forth - have been brought back to life. Deep Springs - when I was there, Si Whitney [DS19 TA21] was the Director and one of the most important men in my life. He was the most demanding, brilliant guy. And I just responded to him and his method of teaching and inspirational words...

*How did all that shape you personally?*

When I arrived at Deep Springs, I was put on the general work crew. And a few days into it I was digging shit in the horse corral with Barney

Childs [DS43]. And he was talking to me, and he said, "what have you been reading lately?" And I said, "well, I haven't been reading much." He said, "where the hell do you come from?" So Barney took me under his wing and tried to push the idea that you should be reading and so forth. [...] So it was a challenge. Deep Springs was all about taking on responsibilities. And then I was President of the student body and I realized that I could (chuckles) manage to take over each of these organizations sooner or later. So I'm very - I think "ambitious" is the word. I hope I wasn't terribly vicious and mean-minded in doing so, but anyway I recognize looking back that I was a very pushy guy.

At Cornell Branch, as I said, I was learning about architecture as well as how Telluride was running itself. One wasn't necessarily more important than the other, but they were warring at my thoughts and my time. And I suppose that - I mean, I have subsequently run other organizations - so I learned at Telluride House how to run a committee, how to run a group, and I was never intimidated by being asked to do something by saying I don't think I could handle that. I've always been willing to try (chuckles). [...] I guess the one thing I left behind at Telluride was the Summer Program because that was a Convention committee that I set up under Eric Pell's [DS41 CB46 TA43] chairmanship. We were desperately short of money and trying to figure out other ways that we could use our assets. And someone pointed out that the House essentially sat empty all summer long. It might have two or three alumni living in it, as Eric Pell and I had lived one summer.

*First, on your account of Deep Springs - so this kind of rhetoric about "a life of service" wasn't really part of the culture at the time?*

Well, it was there, but it's really Jack Newell who has done a lot to bring back a sense of - how should I say - the book according to L.L. Now, that's fine except, in my view, Jack has made it. That view of Deep Springs would say that if people become social workers, professors, elected officials, volunteers, then they were accepting the Deep Springs goal. Whereas, when I was at Deep Springs, you were told to be the best you can in whatever you want to be. [...]

*When you were there, did people go around saying Bob Gatje's going to turn out to be a great architect?*

Heavens no, nobody knew or cared what an



architect was. We had two architects in the House at the time - Gerry Pook [DS43 CB47 TA47] and myself. [...] Gerry became managing partner of Holabird and Root, one of the biggest, oldest architectural firms in Chicago, a very successful career on his part. And I became partner to gold medal winners (chuckles). But always as a partner, I was working for somebody else. My career has been that of a second-rung person. And it's interesting, I was just thinking, Richard Meier was at Cornell shortly after I was there. I got the highest marks that anyone had ever gotten at Cornell Architecture, and Dick was almost thrown out. What does that say about a success in a career?

*Lastly, do you have any words of advice for either Deep Springs students or Telluride associates or members, or anything else you would like to share with the Newsletter?*

(chuckles) Well Deep Springs is going to - they just announced that the court has ruled probably in favor of coeducation. Deep Springs is going to be completely different. So I was very happy to have known it in its present state. I wish it well, but I know that it's going to be very different and I don't think I have any insight or advice to give. They've got a brand-new situation to solve, and I hope they can do it. [...] And as to Telluride Association, I see that they seem to be spreading out still, trying out experimental... I think, I just wonder whether they wouldn't be better advised to stick with their handful of operations and do it better. When I say better, I don't know that they're not doing it well. It just seems to me that they're a very spread out organization compared to what I knew.

## News About Deep Springs

Deep Springs is holding its Centennial celebration and reunion June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Several Telluride members and staff will be representing the Association at the event. Look to the next issue of the *Newsletter* for coverage. For more information on the Centennial, please visit the Deep Springs website at [www.deepsprings.edu](http://www.deepsprings.edu).

Meanwhile, as we went to press, a California Court of Appeals unanimously ruled April 13<sup>th</sup> in favor of coeducation at the college. It is not yet known whether the objectors will appeal this decision to the California Supreme Court.

# President Leslie Previews Convention

By Averill Leslie SPO0 TA06



The mid-June annual Convention of the Association's board is fast approaching, and it stands to be busier than ever. (We say that every year, though!) As we speak, the Association's twenty-plus committees are beginning to take serious stock of the prior year and of the needs for the future. Convention's agenda will emerge over the next eight weeks as they develop their proposals, but several big-ticket items already are heading toward the docket:

- We will be conducting a critical assessment of the Association's organizational structure.
- The Overseas Exchange Committee will be sponsoring a discussion about the future of the exchange program. Some trustees are fiercely attached to it; others are turned off by its high opportunity cost.
- We'll consider a proposal to restructure the Association's budgeting by expanding it to a year-long process overseen by a new standing committee. Currently, budgeting priorities are determined in a four day rush every year at Convention.
- The TASS and TASP committees will be seeking ratification of new policies on student conduct and discipline.
- A possible expansion of the TASS and TASP programs is afoot. The Association's members actually are considering the expansion proposal at a special midyear meeting in April ("Midvention"). Whichever way that deliberation goes, Convention will have considerable follow-up to do.
- The Factotum Training committee will be advocating for the resources to expand the training for factota and program assistants.
- The Grammar and Grouching committee (GAGcom) will be throwing in the towel on the lack of a standard when it comes to "factota" vs. "factotums." The Working Group on Phony Committees will be introducing a resolution to censure GAGcom.
- On the branch side of things, a number of members are interested in discussing whether the Association should develop a more explicit theory of branch pedagogy: what are branchmembers supposed to learn from the experience, and what are the mechanisms by which they will learn it?
- We'll be canvassing board members for their feelings on the future of the L.L. Nunn LLC, the Association's property-holding partnership with Deep Springs College. Based on the terms of the initial agreement, the Association will have to decide in 2019 whether to continue the partnership or to unwind it. By raising this topic in plenty of time, the Association will be able to ensure that it and Deep Springs are on the same page on an otherwise potentially delicate matter.
- Finally, we'll be experimenting with the format itself of Convention, trying out a number of new deliberation methods, from sharing chairing responsibilities more widely, to building in time for mid-discussion caucusing, to encouraging participants who talk disproportionately frequently to step back a little bit.

As I said, the four days of Convention will be packed! We'll look forward to sharing the news of the outcomes.



# Graduates Branch Out

By Sofia Hu CB15

May is just around the corner, and the soon-to-be graduates of Cornell Branch and Michigan Branch are eagerly and anxiously awaiting freedom from their various academic programs. For some, this academic respite will be short-lived as they plan to pursue graduate and professional degrees in the fall. Others are excited to pursue careers in areas ranging from consulting to data journalism. Here is where many of them are headed after they leave Ithaca and Ann Arbor.

**Annie Bashaw MB14** intends to move to Washington, D.C. in May, where she will be working in computer engineering. Meanwhile, she's also continuing to work on a novel she hopes to publish soon.



Annie Bashaw

After a whirlwind time at Cornell — he has completed two majors and one minor in three years — **Daniel Cheong CB16** is headed across the Atlantic. He will be starting a Ph.D. in economics at Oxford University and is interested in studying sustainable development.

**Enting Lee CB14** is returning to Singapore after graduating, where she will work for the Ministry of Education. At Cornell, she has completed three majors in English, Philosophy, and Government, in addition to an honors thesis on gender and speech acts.

With a Master's in global health epidemiology under his belt, **Lawrence Lee DS05 MB15 TA10** will be working with Doctors Without Borders in South Sudan as an Epidemiology Activity Manager.



Lawrence Lee

After obtaining an MBA from Michigan's Ross School of Business, **Jennifer Paxton MB15** will head to the sunny coast of Los Angeles, California to join Johnson & Johnson as an Associate Brand

Manager responsible for Neutrogena. Given her passion for beauty and healthcare industries, she says her job is "an ideal match" for her.



Jennifer Paxton

**Lisset Pino CB16** will be enjoying her summer in Miami with her family before heading to Yale Law School in the fall. Currently a government major at Cornell, Lisset hopes to continue pursuing her passion for the Supreme Court and constitutional law.

Fresh off the completion of her honor thesis on the forcible repatriation of Bosnian refugees from Germany after the Bosnian War, **Helena Ratté MB13** is moving to Freiburg, Germany in May. She will work on a public history project for an NGO and plans to spend the next few months traveling between Freiburg and Sarajevo to conduct research.



Helena Ratté

After graduating from Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations, **Zakiya Williams Wells SS11 SP12 CB13 TA15** plans to work as a corporate paralegal for Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, an international law firm in New York City.

Awarded a Google News Lab Fellowship, **Lylla Younes CB14** plans to spend the summer in New York City working with ProPublica. Afterwards, she will head to the Senseable City Lab at MIT to

pursue research on how cities grow and change.

After a summer back home in China, **Peiyu Yu MB16** plans to attend Harvard Law School in the fall. She hopes to explore how legal frameworks can adapt to technological advancement nowadays in order to protect individuals' rights and privacy.



Peiyu Yu

Currently a senior studying industrial and operations engineering, **Connie Zuo MB16** will be joining the Boston Consulting Group in their Chicago offices.



Connie Zuo

**Carlos Gemora CB15** will be spending the summer in Ithaca working on his thesis/exit project, with subsequent plans to be determined



Pino, Gemora, Fridman, Williams Wells

Other graduates planning their futures include Joseph Fridman CB13 TA14, Sofia Hu CB15, and Rosanne Jocson MB15.

# Miller and Katz Trade More Words on Graduate Student Unions

Dear Editor:

As the foil for Thomas Miller DS04 TA07's critique of graduate student unionization (Fall 2016 *Newsletter*), I feel compelled to concede one of Mr. Miller's central claims: in the 31 words quoted by the *Times*, I do not, it is true, offer a program to reverse the deep-seated and fast-accelerating corporatization of U.S. academia. It is telling, though, that in his own 600-plus words, Mr. Miller also declines to do so. Proponents of graduate unionization do not pretend to single-handedly resolve a problem that offers no easy solutions, nor do we regard the enormity of the challenge as cause for inaction. Instead, we believe that by creating concentrations of power closer to the bottom of an increasingly steep academic pyramid, unions for graduate assistants – and for adjuncts, whose own organizing efforts are bolstered by higher union density on campus – can help improve the lives of many for whom isolation from economic and political pressures is neither feasible nor desirable. The result may not be Telluridean democracy, but incremental improvements to the equity and accessibility of U.S. academe are surely worthwhile nonetheless.

Sincerely,

Paul Katz SP04 TA10

Dear Editor:

Thanks to Mr. Katz for his thoughtful response. Many things have happened since my piece was written; in light of the results of the presidential election, as well as those of unionization votes on a number of Ivy League campuses, a fresh discussion of the entire issue would be warranted. In lieu of that, let me respond briefly to Mr. Katz's main criticism. I agree, of course, that the corporatization of American universities is an enormously complex problem with no simple solution. My primary aim was to raise doubts about whether the language of "labor unions" or of "democracy" provides a good way to start thinking about how we would like to see the university change. Mr. Katz is correct that constraints of space meant that I could not develop a positive alternative in detail, but I do allude to one, namely for "faculty to reclaim a responsible primacy in the academic polity." In my opinion, a retreat on the part of many tenured faculty from active involvement in university governance has been a central contributor to many of the developments in higher education that Mr. Katz and I both deplore. I hope that graduate student unions, if officially formed at Ivy League universities, will work to reverse that trend.

Sincerely,

Tom Miller DS04 TA07



Photo courtesy of Amy Bao MB05 TA09

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## Sabine

Springs College in 1943 when her husband was serving at the US Embassy in London (see her obituary in the January 1981 issue of the *Newsletter*). Together they maintained close friendships with many Telluriders.

Telluride is most grateful for this Sabine family legacy, and George's generosity, which is one of the largest single gifts Telluride has ever received. The 2017 Convention will consider an appropriate use for these funds as a fitting tribute to the Sabines' remarkable legacy.

For information on how you can include Telluride in your estate planning, please contact Matthew Trail at [matthew.trail@tellurideassociation.org](mailto:matthew.trail@tellurideassociation.org).



George H. Sabine, flanked by Frances Perkins CBG60 and Bea MacLeod, 1961

# Food for Thought...



Nate Sibinga. Photo credit: CUNY Photos.

## 1. Could you talk about your path to the work you do now?

**Nate Sibinga:** I consider myself an ecologist at heart. I majored in marine biology and ecology and got interested in aquaculture towards the end of my undergraduate studies. Overfishing seemed like a universal problem for marine habitats – one with complex and indirect effects that we were only beginning to unravel.

I got really interested in what kind of solutions we could come up with for overfishing. From there, I got invested in this question of how to relieve pressure on wild fish populations for food. I read up on aquaculture even though ecologists and environmentalists tend to have a pretty negative view of it. To me, it seemed that farming was the thing that allowed people to stop hunting (some) animals on land before they all went extinct. On land, it also didn't seem to be so universally derided. I had this idea that the philosophies of sustainable farming could and should be applied to aquaculture and that we should encourage responsible fish farming as a way to protect wild fish populations.

**Ilana Harris-Babou:** I started making art in high school. Back then, I worked primarily in oil paint. I liked the peculiarities of the medium. Oil paint feels gloopy and it takes a long time to dry; in its physicality it has something in common with the body. I ended up going to college at Yale. It has an amazing art school, but a lot of the dialogue centers around modernism. Conversations often invoked the trope of macho man alone in a pure white studio, slinging around paint, disconnected from the “real” world. With someone like Willem de Kooning, for example, oil paint becomes a vehicle to depict the female form exposed; as flesh flayed across a canvas. I started to feel more alienated from painting and its deep dark legacy of universalism. In my studio, finished paintings became like frozen artifacts. I realized that there was only one moment in the life of painting I was truly excited about: the moment before it dried. I cared about the painting when it was still in a state of becoming. I thought: “why don't I just share this moment directly with my audience?” Video was the way to do that.

I wanted to document intimate moments in the studio, those luminous moments of life becoming art. I started wondering why certain spaces for making were privileged over others; why some creative labor was revered, and some labor made mundane. What's the difference between an artist's studio and a kitchen? That's how I began to use cooking shows as the template for my video work. They emphasize the process of making over the end result. I wanted to use the seductive light of the cooking show to interrogate what it really means to consume and to be consumed.

**Katrina Becker:** I'm initially from NYC and had no background in agriculture. When I came to Cornell, I studied food and hunger policy at the agriculture school, and participated in a few summer farm internships. I ended up going to grad school for Sociology at UW-Madison at a moment where the local

food movement was hot locally, and that also played a role. My husband and I ended up starting a CSA (community-supported agriculture) farm in central Wisconsin, while I continued to teach part time in the University of Wisconsin system. I eventually left teaching after 7 years, as it started to feel like two full time jobs, especially once I had children. I like farming – it's hard, physical work, but also intellectually challenging planning and writing, and involves a lot of direct education to consumers.

**Caden Salvata:** I studied cognitive neuroscience and did research for a couple of years after undergrad. But I found myself missing the kind of immediacy of labor I experienced at Deep Springs - I wasn't pouring myself into the work to the point of mental and physical exhaustion, and I wanted to be. Also I was spending much of my lab time developing small business plans and taking questionably long lunch breaks to wander grocery stores, thinking about dinner. So I took that as a sign.

What attracted me to my current work was the opportunity to witness the birth of a values-aligned foodservice company. Value alignment is just business speak for when people and organizations share a mission. In this case, the mission was rejecting industry standards and doing a better job with respect to the local economy, the environment, and the labor force. I imagined it as a one-year MBA substitute. I'm about to start my sixth year here. There's a lot to learn.

## 2. Tell us about your current work.

**KB:** I'm currently in the process of divorcing my husband and launching my own farm. At first, the goal for our farm was just to build an economically viable business. In order to do this, we had to work long hours and try to fill a number of different niches. I found that I was doing a disproportionate amount of work - the physical farm labor, but also lots of housework and emotional labor. However, once we were on an economically firm footing, my husband was not one to slow down growth, despite our farm already being very profitable. Now that I'm launching my own farm, I'm trying to take some lessons from that. For example, we grow about 65 crops annually for our customers. On my farm, I'm hoping to shrink that number slightly, to focus more on crops with a higher profit margin, like baby greens. I'm hoping to have way fewer animals – they require a lot of side work even during the busiest part of the season. Further, I'm hoping to better distribute work throughout the year.

**IH-B:** I've been trying to stretch the limits of what might constitute a recipe. What's the difference between a recipe and a performance score? I've looked for texts that describe food preparation, but don't call themselves cookbooks. When I was doing research for my latest video, *Cooking with the Erotic*, I came across Audre Lorde's speech “The Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power.” In the speech, Lorde captured everything I was trying to say and more. She described how we might begin to engage with our own nourishment through eroticism. The erotic can exist apart from the pornographic, beyond pathologized set of relations between individuals.

I've been examining eroticism as a path to psychic ownership of labor we don't choose to do. I was talking with my mom about a particular



Katrina Becker on the farm.

moment in Lorde's speech where she describes a memory from World War II. She says that during this time of rationing, Americans bought sealed plastic packets of white margarine with a pellet of yellow coloring in the middle. Lorde describes kneading the coloring into the margarine, imagining the kernel of color as the erotic within herself. This passage excited my mom. It reminded her of her own childhood memories. As a girl, my mom lived in a mansion with my grandma, who worked there as a maid. Kneading margarine was my mom's daily chore. She loved it. For her, it was a chance to play - to make a mess. I think of eroticism as play, and vice versa. To have to do housework in someone else's home could be seen solely as lack: the absence of time or space to be a child. For my mom, the act of kneading was about her own satisfaction. It was independent of what the people she worked for wanted from her.

**NS:** I study sustainable fish farming (aquaculture). Many people are aware that overfishing creates serious problems for marine habitats. What's less obvious is the impact that overfishing has on food security. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, up to 90% of seafood consumed in the US is now imported (at a ~\$10 billion trade deficit). This means that American consumers have been largely insulated from the collapse of some of our key domestic fisheries in the last thirty years. By importing seafood, Americans have essentially outsourced the consequences of decades of unsustainable fishing. These consequences in turn are passed on to people around the world who can no longer afford to eat the fish they have historically relied on.

Historically, farmed fish have been fed a diet consisting primarily of fishmeal and fish oil derived from wild-caught fish. This means that aquaculture as currently practiced in much of the world does not actually reduce pressure on wild fish stocks. My research is about developing low-fishmeal diets for farmed fish. I'm currently working on a project to use insects raised on dairy waste as an alternative to fishmeal and fish oil. From the industry perspective, this is seen as a way to reduce costs, but to my mind it aligns perfectly with environmental/ecological priorities. The challenge at this point is mainly nutritional: creating healthy and balanced diets from new ingredients.



*Mei Mei food truck.*

**CS:** Mei Mei started as a food truck in 2012 and expanded to a brick-and-mortar restaurant the following year. Since then, we've opened a location inside a repurposed shipping container, launched a line of retail sauces, started a wedding-catering business, and most recently landed a cookbook deal. The owner-operator, Irene Li, is a 2014 Cornell grad and James-Beard nominated local food zealot whose sourcing requirements dictate that all locations serve meat from exclusively pasture-raised animals. Our workhorse ingredients - flours, oils, dairy - are regional, produce is local, and the business focuses on relationships between farmers, aggregators and restaurants to provide year-round cash flow for the local food economy. It's less boutique-farm-to-table and more about infrastructure development. We

have unusually low staff turnover and a large management team committed to upending the status quo. The foodservice industry has generally low standards and the challenge is proving we can do better - with sourcing, compensation, benefits, work culture - while staying in business.

*3. What does your work look like on a daily basis?*

**CS:** I'm the business manager, but I started as a prep cook. That means I yo-yo hourly between the micro and macro - showing someone how to clean a sooty fryolator, debating menu font, changing our corporate tax status, touring properties with a broker, working on an org-chart, troubleshooting a heady keg, generating financials, developing vacation and sick time policies - it's all on the table. Sometimes I'm a short order cook cracking eggs as fast as I can, sometimes I'm a leadership consultant for management and ownership. Days are an exercise in triage - what can be pulled from the back burner and checked off versus what fire, sometimes literal, needs to be put out. It's an unrelenting lesson in time management.

**NS:** I collect manure from a dairy farm a couple times a week and use it to feed my insect colony. At any given time, I have a few hundred thousand housefly larvae eating manure and growing into high-protein, high-fat little morsels perfect for including in a fish feed. I then design and create diets using the insect meal I make from the insects. This diet gets fed to rainbow trout that we raise in the basement of the Vet School at Cornell. I keep track of how well the fish grow, and measure a number of physiological parameters as well. This summer I'll look at how these different diets affect the susceptibility of the fish to disease.

**KB:** It's hard to talk about it as a day-to-day schedule. It's more like season to season. In north central Wisconsin, it can be down to -20 degrees in the winter and that dictates the work in a dramatic way. December to January is paperwork heavy, including planning, ordering, writing our newsletter in advance, and big overhauls of our website. In March, we're tapping trees for maple syrup, beginning to set up our greenhouses, and preparing and cleaning storage veggies. From mid-April to the end of May, we're doing fieldwork, and extremely intensive planting and weeding to the end of June. The summer is really our most intense time, it's 70 to 80 hours of work weekly. Around August, it turns to all harvest, with a limited amount of weeding and maintenance through Thanksgiving.

**IH-B:** One benefit of cooking while making work is that I can integrate my process into all aspects of my day to day life. I don't have to reify the studio as a place separate from the domestic or the quotidian. But this can also become a problem. When I'm shooting, all of my energy for conscious cooking ends up being funneled into the videos. When I was working on my thesis, I ended up eating TV dinners at home and leaving the good food in the studio.

*4. If you could make one major unilateral change in how food is produced and distributed, what would it be? Why?*

**IH-B:** I would like the image of healthy eating to stop being tied to folks like Gwyneth Paltrow. I would like it to stop being about juice cleanses and turmeric trends. Farm-to-table lifestyle media frames the experience of cooking as one of leisure. It does not unpack the conditions of people who don't have time to cook for themselves and their families. It celebrates a return to the kitchen. It moralizes this return. I don't even have the time, a car, or the money that would allow me to shop at the farmer's market in Richmond, Virginia where I live. I'm speaking here about the distribution of images, but images are important and have real consequences in policy.

**CS:** Right now, I'm less interested in how food itself is produced and more concerned with the careers and well-being of those who work in foodservice. It's a rough job and the stats are bleak. Federal median pay is less than \$9 an hour and the vast majority of workers lack access to paid sick days, let alone health insurance or paid time off. Occupational segregation within

*continued on page 8*

# Food for Thought...



Caden Salvata visits Four Star Farms, a local supplier.

the industry feels universal, there's still an alternative minimum wage for servers in 43 states, and tipping is an archaic, racist practice that reinforces other injustices like sexual harassment and wage theft. I want diners to get clued in to all of this, and for the good food movement to champion labor practices alongside the other buzzwords like local and sustainable.

One strategy to tackle these challenges is increased financial transparency. We need to be honest about the realities of foodservice, where we all fall short, and how food simply needs to cost more. Starting this year Mei Mei is opening its books to all employees as a part of a collective management and profit-sharing program. A state grant is helping us pay for nine months of training for dishwashers, cooks, servers, and food truckers to learn about the company's finances and general management. At the end of the year, profits will be distributed to employees based on hours worked. My hope is that it's another step towards providing fair compensation and rewarding careers, and that the model can be replicated in more conventional settings.

**NS:** Labeling of GMOs with directions to documentation of what the modifications are and an explanation of what they do. I don't personally think GMOs are any worse than pesticides (literal poison sprayed on your food, anyone?), and I think there are lots of examples of genetic modifications that are positive for the environment, the producer, and the consumer. That said, since these are intentional introductions to the genome made with an explicit purpose in mind, that should be legible to the consumer.



**KB:** I'd like to remove the ability for corporations to have a stake in the food system. Breaking even or even earning money is ok, but the profit motive as the driving force is very problematic for a system so central to human life. If I had the ability to make additional changes, I'd like to beef up anti-monopoly enforcement and lessen the further consolidation of industrial agriculture.

We asked our alumni to suggest a few books, podcasts, films, or websites for readers to engage to learn more about our food systems. Like so many Telluriders, they had numerous and wide-ranging recommendations, selections which cover everything from the cultural politics of food traditions to our relationship with the oceans.

- Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. "An excellent overview of the basics of food production and its relationship to our political system." - Katrina
- Julie Guthman, *Agrarian Dreams: The Paradox of Organic Farming in California*. "Focuses on the consolidation of agriculture and water rights in California. Depressing reading for an organic farmer, but have to admit, she's right." - Katrina
- Chris Blanchard's [DS90] *Farmer to Farmer Podcast*. "NPR for farmers. Yes, there's stuff about when to plant beans, but also big questions about who does the work." - Katrina
- Vertamae Smart-Grosvenor, *Vibration Cooking: Or, the Travel Notes of a Geechee Girl*. "A Gullah-Geechee woman, thinking about the soul food tradition, married a white sculptor dude and moved to Europe with him, documenting herself and her difference with the surrounding bohemian culture. Really interesting, fraught super hybrid text." - Ilana
- The work of M. F. K. Fisher, generally. "A food writer from 20th century, describes food in the context of adventures of going out to eat. "You know all this time, I've actually been writing about love." - Ilana
- Audre Lorde, "The Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power." "Self-explanatory." - Ilana
- Website of the Restaurant Opportunities Center. "An organization that does a lot of advocacy work for restaurant workers - includes stats of tipped employees reporting sexual harassment, guidelines for restaurants, etc. If you're paying attention to labor and equity when eating out, I would start there." - Caden.
- Paul Greenberg, *Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food*. Examines the four fish that dominate our menus, how they get to our dinner table, and our relationship with the ocean. "This book was huge for me when it came out." - Nate
- Callum Roberts, *The Unnatural History of the Sea*. "A really excellent dive into centuries of human impact on the oceans." - Nate



A still from Harris-Babou's recent video piece, *Cooking with the Erotic*.

# I See a Pterodactyl\*

By Arnold Clayton Henderson SP55 CB56 BB64 TA58

The water dims into the light-less sky.  
Netted by winds a-face the dark, the ripples  
sink into the silver-swallowing shore.  
I silhouetted stand and watch  
Rhynchops, come like Rhamphorhynchus, beak-sunk  
flying split the dark with white of wake  
and backtrack wheel to scoop the foaming silver  
fish that bubble up to eat the sound.

The scene is spidered up in mists, and time  
catches, resonates, then lurches back  
to tracts before man's ego spun a world,  
when no one yet could sense that taut awaiting:  
yet where, in the twisting shallows, a clumsy fish,  
with the flop of a fin, crawls its way to me.

\* *Rhamphorhynchus*, the pterodactyl, extinct.  
*Rhynchops*, the black skimmer, threatened.  
Field marks (both): dagger-beaks, sharp wings.

Arnold Clayton Henderson entered Cornell Branch as a physics-math major and was finally rolled out as a poetry-writing English major. Grad school added photography, and retirement is turning them into web books (five so far: [www.blurb.com/bookstore](http://www.blurb.com/bookstore)).



"Christ and the Maja," 1966, Washington and Eighth Street, Oakland, CA, by Arnold Clayton Henderson.

# Around the Gazzali's at MacArthur & 73rd

By Tania Flores SP08

On Super Bowl Sunday the Gazzali's parking lot looked like a landfill. The plastic wrappers and soda cups and broken bottles rested on the asphalt like crops at ease in their native soil. There were no trash collectors or street sweepers or slight winds on the calendar. On weekday mornings at 8:04 am I arrive breathless and sweaty at the Eastmont Transit Center. The sticky flatland sadness of 14-year-old rolling joints as they wait for the bus drifts toward me, hungry and sweet. Just up the hill the street are lush and green, Californian mirage of early summer with a hard stop at MacArthur. The kid at CVS who asked me to buy him a meal the other day went off with a frozen pizza under his arm telling me it was a blessing, a blessing. Cities do not come with careful roadmaps on how to love them. I wonder if the woman chasing her boyfriend down the aisles of Gazzali's forgave him and more importantly did he deserve her forgiveness? I wonder who Mr. Gazzali is and does he worry about the Mexican woman who buys a bag of chips and a carton of milk at his store? Nevertheless every morning the fog rolls down 73rd Avenue to give the coyote brush in the median and the mountain dandelions sprouting up shakily by the side of Foothill Boulevard something to drink, covering the foreheads of the boys waiting for the 57 in wet besos.

Tania Flores lives in Oakland, California. She writes poetry, dances, studies the history and literature of flamenco, and works as a program associate at the Women's Foundation of California. She is a 2014-15 Fulbright Research Scholar and a graduate of Occidental College.

## TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

This publication is produced twice annually as a collaborative project between TA members, associates and staff.

Submit news, letters, or comments to:

Editor, Telluride Association,  
217 West Ave., Ithaca, NY 14850

—or—

[news@tellurideassociation.org](mailto:news@tellurideassociation.org)

**Editor:** Michael Becker

**Managing Editor:** Matthew Trail

**Assistant Editors:** Karl Pops, Sofia Hu

**Administrative Director:** Ellen Baer

**Layout & Production:** Valerie McMullen, Arnold Printing

**Contributors:** Michael Davidson, Tania Flores, Clayton Grandy, Adam Clayton Henderson, Elmer M. Johnson, Paul Katz, Averill Leslie, Thomas Miller, Puneet Singh

# Socially Responsible Investing at the Telluride Association

By Puneet Singh MB16

The juvenile North American cicada emerges from the ground after every 13 or 17 years. It immediately embarks on singing a loud, high pitched mating song that can reach deafening levels. At the end of an adult's life cycle of 4 to 6 weeks, the females lay their eggs and all the cicada disappear. And then there is silence; a quiet that lasts a decade, before the young ones emerge again.

Socially responsible investment (SRI) discussions at the Telluride Association have had an uncanny resemblance to the cicada's life cycle. Every decade, intense debates and passionate conversations have occurred at Conventions, Custodian Meetings and within the Houses, motivated by social issues of the time. And yet, soon there is utter silence, until questions are brought up by a new generation, eager to challenge the status quo of an

investment policy disparate to the organization's commitment to democratic and social good.

The first mention of SRI at Telluride Association can be found in the 1985 Convention proceedings. Cornell branchmembers rallied the Association to divest all stocks of companies doing business with South Africa at the time, and to phase out all current holdings over a three year period. This was part of a broader movement across the world calling for economic sanctions on South Africa due to its apartheid regime. Members were unable to reach a decision because advocates did not present enough information. They were unable to gauge the effects of divestment on the portfolio's performance. A larger philosophical debate was whether investment policy should in any way be linked with moral and political considerations. Members also raised doubts regarding ethical investing as an effective strategy to deal with the organization's social concerns.

After a lull of about 10 years, David Porter SP82 CB83 TA87 put forth a well-thought out report on how Telluride Association could adopt SRI policies in accordance with its mission and values. It was based on four key points. First, an investment policy had moral and social consequences. Second, it was the association's responsibility to be cognizant of those consequences. Third, ethical considerations in investment did not conflict with fiduciary duties. Last, a modest SRI policy allowed for prudent fund management and maximizing financial returns.



*Telluride Custodians meeting, circa 2002*

Porter argued that ownership of stocks makes the Association complicit in a company's wrongs. The exercise of moral integrity and awareness is a democratic value cultivated at Telluride Association. By extension, it is also a part of corporate citizenship, where each dollar is a vote. The report proposed a practical and non-restrictive approach that promoted social responsibility in the evaluation of stocks. Research findings indicate that ethical screenings do not significantly help or hinder performance of portfolios. In fact, companies compromising on labor or environmental standards for short term profits lose out in the long run due to litigation and loss of brand image.

The 1995 Finance Committee indicated a lack of time and preparedness to adopt the specific policy and appointed a committee. In 1996, the committee reported a lack of enthusiasm from Custodians and housemembers to further deliberate on the issue. The cicadas retreated underground again.

Fast forward fifteen years and Convention reports indicate concerns about investments in Sudanese oil companies. The Custodians concluded that divestment was inadvisable due to difficulty in finding fund managers, high fees, and the risk of alternative investments. The best course of action recommended to "salve our consciences" and "minimize inconvenience" was to continue annual letter writing to fund managers asking them to divest from a list of companies.

Discussions on ethical investment were again dormant until a couple of years ago. They have been brought to the forefront primarily due to efforts from housemembers. Custodians have had presentations on ethical concerns regarding companies involved in questionable labor, diversity, food, environment, incarceration and war practices. In the summer of 2016, the students of Deep Springs prepared an exhaustive report on divestment from fossil fuel companies responsible for the worsening global warming crisis. The report included alternate fossil fuel-free funds and a financial analysis that accounted for positive and negative impacts.

Looking at the Telluride Association's history, it seems likely that ethical investing will continue to be promoted by its advocates, while philosophical and practical aspects will prevent any strict implementation. The lack of principled action against apartheid was disappointing to many because of its conflict with the Association's principles of social good. But the debates over ethical investing are essential in accordance to the values of promoting education and democratic values.

Every decade or so, the cicadas rise and fill the woods with their songs. Will the Telluride Association be able to break from tradition and compose a new tune, a more financially and ethically sound investment policy?



# Our Baptism of Fire

By Clayton Grandy TA11 and Elmer M. Johnson CB16 TA15

*Editorial note: This editorial statement was originally published in the May 1917 edition of the Telluride Newsletter, just one month after the United States entered World War I. The Telluride Association associates it reached were primarily power plant engineers employed by founder L. L. Nunn, scattered at branches across the mountain west, from Utah to Colorado and Montana, a newly established branch in Virginia, and the only early branch still in operation, the one in Ithaca, New York at Cornell. Deep Springs College had just been formed. It would be another 37 years before the first TASP and 76 years before the first TASS. So yes, it was a different world. Yet, as strange and archaic as the wording may now sound, as dated the centrality of Americanness and manhood may seem to a more international and inclusive association, the questions of how to build a sense of shared purpose and community among our associates remains pivotal to our Telluridean mission. We would love to hear from associates and members, from across the years and programs, about their suggestions on how to build and maintain Telluridean community and hope to publish some thoughts as letters to the editor in future issues.*



Cornell Branch 1917



Deep Springs Ranch

These are parlous times. The mind and heart of every patriotic American are being stirred as they have not been for a generation. We are undergoing an awakening, a rebirth, of our national consciousness, and perhaps, in no long time, our rejuvenation will be consecrated in a baptism of fire, from which we shall emerge a nation of peoples refined and ennobled in the crucible of war.

In the present scheme of things, no responsibilities superior to our allegiance are admitted. We are either Americans subject to the demands of the state, or we are aliens: there are no half-way positions. We are to be either active or passive in our support of the principles the nation aims to defend, and in such a situation, we members of Telluride Association may undergo a baptism of fire that will test the strength of our organization

to the utmost, for it may mean the temporary disintegration of our forces. And so we face a problem.

As an organization, we cannot but realize that other things besides our adherence to the principles in our constitution have bound us together. Association has meant a great deal to us. The fraternal nature and sympathetic character of the ties which have been formed during our relationships with one another must be reckoned big among the things that have guaranteed and prolonged our existence. Without them, we would have been but a mechanical contrivance in the interests of democracy; with them, we have developed a "group consciousness" devoted to the progress of right living and right thinking, a consciousness of ourselves and our interests that may be aptly, for our purposes, designated the "Telluride way" of "Telluride men." One phrase of which we are proud, almost to the point of egotism sometimes, is "I am a member of Telluride Association." It is something to be proud of.

But the great thing which will give us a lasting reason for pride in our organization has yet to be accomplished. I refer to the stability of our purposes when we have become one "of," not "in" the group proper. It is as inevitable that our members will become separated from the central body as that ripe fruit will fall the ground. Our national emergency has merely aggravated what is naturally so, in the flux and flow of the elements of life. So that, recognizing this fact, and having gloried in the strength that, the old close union has engendered, we must prepare

to maintain our strength even in disunion. If we have builded our structure well, the scaffolding may be removed without danger of its falling, and our house will brave the elements and weather whatever disrupting influences emerge from the womb of time and chance. But, with our house standing, what of the "men outside"? It is this question which suggests my remarks.

As I write, here in New York City, there are ten Telluride men. All are interested deeply in what is going on "inside." Our conversations are all "Telluride." The old associations have been woven into the fabric of everyone and the threads cannot be cut with the first slash of the knife of separation. But conversational communication is woefully inadequate to sustain all the old interests. We must realize more fully, individually, what a hit-or-miss agent rumor is. Reliability is a characteristic which it has not.

But the News Letter is a hub toward which all mails converge. Help it to perform its function, contribute to its pages, and by every token, you will be forging links that will bind every member, inside and outside, more closely to each other and to the ideals which we are pledged to support.

If you will take just one thought from this editorial page, let it be this: At least one hundred and fifty persons would like to hear how you are vindicating YOUR existence in this world.

## 1940s

**LEE TALBOT, DS48**, reports that 2016 was a good year. In September, he received the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Harold Jefferson Coolidge Medal in recognition of his lifelong contribution in the field of international conservation and environmental affairs and his outstanding initiatives in the field of exploration. In the same month, he also received the Legacy Award of the Defenders of Wildlife. Recognizing one of Lee's other careers, automobile racing, in June 2016, the Automobile Racing Association of Canada gave Lee their first annual Spirit of Vintage Racing award as their highest tribute for career racing achievements. Lee is professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University.

## 1960s

**CARL BENDER, CB60**, has been named the 2017 winner of the Dannie Heineman Prize for Mathematical Physics, which is awarded every year jointly by the American Physical Society and the American Institute of Physics. He is currently the Konneker Distinguished Professor of Physics at Washington University in St. Louis. His wife Jessica (Waldbaum) Bender (Cornell '64) and he are having a great time traveling, visiting their three grandchildren, and enjoying life.

**ROBERT GAY, DS60 BB63 TA64**, writes "Two youngest boys out of high school to the University of Arizona—opportunity to move from low desert to higher, cooler, wetter (relatively); new and probably last life partner—activist, artist, shamanic practitioner. Am happily practicing architecture as sustainably as possible, thinking about climate change, spiritual sickness of corporatocracy members, magic of nature and astonishing gift of incarnation in a body bag that makes yearly trip around the sun. Oh, and 'big mining' also."

**GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK, CB63 CBG86**, is featured in an extensive interview



in the July 19, 2016 *LA Review of Books* in connection with the publication of a newly revised 40th anniversary edition of Jacques Derrida's *Of Grammatology*, with a new translation by Spivak, who was the original English translator.

**HOWARD RODMAN, SP66**, President of the Writers Guild of America, West, is described as a "behind-the-scenes firebrand" in an April 6th *New York Times* article about a looming writers' strike in Hollywood.

**WALTER ISAACSON, SP69**, has been selected to speak at the College of William and Mary's 2017 commencement. He is the President and CEO of the Aspen Institute, the nonpartisan educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, D.C. He has been the chairman and CEO of CNN and the Managing Editor of *Time*. He has written biographies of Steve Jobs, Benjamin Franklin, Albert Einstein, and Henry Kissinger. The audience will include **SUZIE HAGEDORN CB91 TA92**, Associate Professor of English and Chair of the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program at the College.

## 1970s

In January, **MARILYN MIGIEL, SP71 CB72 TA74**, was presented with the Howard R. Marraro Prize by the Modern Language Association for her book *The Ethical Dimension of the Decameron*. The prize is for an outstanding book in the field of Italian literature or comparative literature involving Italian.

## 1980s

**DAVID HITZ, DS80** and current chair of the Deep Springs Board of Trustees, is profiled in an article online in the January 30th edition of *Your Story* entitled "The Man Who Castrated a Bull and Went On to Build a Billion-Dollar Silicon Valley Giant." Hitz is the co-founder of NetApp, one of the biggest data management companies in the world.

*"One of the key lessons of Deep Springs to its students is that you just have to figure stuff out on your own. You have help there and of course you can get them fixed, but most of the times you have to struggle and figure it out yourself."*

**KINCH HOEKSTRA, DS82**, is slated to give the Carlyle Lectures in the History of Political Thought at the University of Oxford in 2017 (on "The Thucydidean Renaissance"), and the Benedict Lectures on the History of Political Philosophy at Boston University in 2018 (on Thomas Hobbes). Kinch is the Chancellor's Professor of Political Science and Law at UC Berkeley, where he is an affiliated professor in the Departments of Philosophy and Classics. He is a Trustee of the L. L. Nunn Trust.

**PHILLIP KENNICOTT, SP83 DS83**, writes in the January 13th *Washington Post* about a controversy surrounding the painting displayed at President Trump's inaugural luncheon. In it he cites an interpretation by **ADAM ARENSON, SP95 TA01**, an expert on Missouri history. Kennicott is the Art and Architecture critic of the *Post*, and Arenson is Associate Professor of History at Manhattan College.

**CHARLES PAZDERNIK, SP85 CB86 TA87**, collaborated with ten Anglo-American scholars in publishing, in three volumes, *The Codex of Justinian: A New Annotated Translation, with Parallel Latin and Greek Text*, by Cambridge University Press (2016).

## 1990s

**SARAH DEMING, SP90**, has an essay in the forthcoming *The Bittersweet Science: Fifteen Writers in the Gym, in the Corner, and at Ringside* (University of Chicago Press). Deming is a writer, boxing coach, and former Golden Gloves champion.

**ZEESHAN ZAIDI SP91** and his band The Commuters played London for the first time in October 2016, reports **MARTYN ATKINS, CB90 TA91**.

**MARK GREIF'S SP92**

latest collection of essays, *Against Everything*, is getting rave reviews, and is a National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist, among numerous other accolades.



**TERI PEEPLES, SS95**,

practices in the products liability and mass torts group in the New York City law firm of Sidley Austin LLP. Her practice focuses on the pharmaceutical and life sciences industry and representing clients in federal and state courts, including in multi-district litigation.

**EBONEY SMITH HEARN, SS95**, was named in August 2016 Executive Director of MIT's Office of Engineering Outreach Programs. Hearn previously served as Assistant Dean for graduate education and diversity initiatives. She also taught mathematics at public schools in Boston for five years and before that was a manufacturing engineer at IBM. She has an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from MIT and a Masters degree in Education from Harvard.

**PETE WILDES, SP95 CB96 TA05**, and Paul Couey were married on January 25, 2017 (their tenth anniversary together) at San Francisco City Hall. The couple subsequently survived the madness of the SF real estate market and moved into a new condo in the Dogpatch neighborhood in April.



Wildes and Couey

**GRAEME WOOD, SP96 DS97**, is the author of *The Way of the Strangers: Encounters with the Islamic State* (Random House). He was interviewed on a December 2016 episode of NBC's *Meet the Press*.

**EZRA DAN FELDMAN'S, SP97**, book of poems *Habitat of Stones* was released in January by the publisher Tebot Bach.

**LYDIA POLGREEN**, who served as a factotum at the 1997 St. John's TASP, was named Editor-in-Chief of the *Huffington Post* in December 2016. Polgreen had spent the last 15 years at the *New York Times*, where she was associate masthead editor and editorial director of NYT Global.

**SANA KRASIKOV'S, SP96 CB97**, first novel *The Patriots* has received rave reviews from the *New York Times Book Review*, *Commentary*, *Booklist*, and many others.



Krasikov and fellow alumni Mark Hauber CB97, Jessica Bauman SP98 CB99 TA03, and John Briggs SP98 CB99 TA01 at the book release.

Congratulations to **AFUA BRUCE, SS98 SP99 TA06**, on being named a finalist for the Washington, DC Women in Technology Annual Leadership Award. Afua is Executive Director of the National Science and Technology Council at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

## 2000s

**MAX EISENBURGER, SP00 CB02 TA09**, just advanced to doctoral candidacy in his Ph.D. program in Regional and Urban Planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Eisenburger, with Adey Fettene SP00 CB01 (left) and Adrienne St. Aubin CB04 (right)

**TIFFANY YIZAR, SS01 SP02**, and her husband Troy Lochner are featured in the just-published book *Pantsuit Nation*.

Double congratulations are in order for **SARAH WEIGER, MB02 TA03**. In January, Sarah received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Portland, where she teaches nineteenth century British literature, as well as literature and its relationship to the natural environment. She delights in her students and colleagues, while bemoaning the endless clouds and rain (Ithaca's snowy winters are far preferable!). Also in January, she and her husband, Anthony Stark, welcomed their first baby, William Walter Stark, in January. He joins the household's pug and golden retriever in competing for attention.



**NOAH ROSENBLUM, DS03 TA05**, published a Comment in the November 2016 issue of the *Yale Law Journal* titled "In Wakefield's Wake: Rescuing New York's Enterprise Corruption Jurisprudence." Rosenblum is a J.D. candidate at Yale Law School and a Ph.D. candidate in History at Columbia University.



Rosenblum taking a stand, Convention 2015

**DESIREE BARRON-CALLACI, SP05 CB06 TA09**, has been awarded a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship dissertation writing grant from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Desiree is a Ph.D. candidate in Anthropology at New York University.

**FLOJAUNE COFER, MB05**, has joined Public Health Advocates, a nonprofit, nonpartisan California health advocacy organization, as research and state policy manager. Cofer holds a doctorate in epidemiological science/women's health and a Master of Public Health from the University of Michigan.



Flojaune Cofer and several Michigan Branch alumni got together recently in Oakland, CA. From L to R: Adam Becker MB09, Madeline Huberth MB10, You Rui Yeo MB11, Nils S. MB09, Chris Detjen MB06, Tamir Haddad MB09 TA11, Emily Wang SP05 MB06 TA09, Flojaune Cofer. Photo courtesy of Cofer

**JOHN MORIARTY, DS05 TA13**, has created a new website called *Folkskills* as a platform for connecting Alaska-based learners and teachers of traditional folk skills. [www.folkskills.com](http://www.folkskills.com).



John Moriarty

**ILANA HARRIS-BABOU, SP08**, premiered a cable variety show called *HB Speaks* in December on Brooklyn Free Speech. She was a BRIC visual artist resident last summer, and her work was also featured in the BRIC Biennial. Ilana has a MFA in Visual Arts, New Genres from the Columbia University School of the Arts. More info is available on her website: <http://ilanahb.com/>.

**MEGAN WINKELMAN, SP08**, is co-editor of the anthology *Uprooted: An Anthology on Gender and Illness*. After attending TASP at the University of Michigan in 2008, she graduated from Stanford in 2013, and is currently a first year medical student at UC San Francisco.

**ADAM BECKER, MB09**, recently received a major award from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for the completion of his upcoming book on the history of quantum physics, and was also appointed visiting scholar at the Office of Science and Technology at UC Berkeley.

## 2010s

**JESSICA DOZIER, SS10**, is serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA in Haverhill, MA with Emmaus Inc., a local nonprofit that provides emergency shelter and resources for people experiencing homelessness.

Among the list of 2017 Watson Fellows are two Telluriders: **ASIA ALMAN SS11** and **JIN JIN XU, SP12**. The fellowship provides a year of unparalleled international exploration for select graduating college seniors in any field. Alman's project will explore the ways in which Black immigrant women tap into their voices in order to preserve their narratives of survival and healing. Xu's work will take her to five countries around the world to explore how women experience and enact motherhood in unusual situations of dislocation.

**SUMEET PATWARDHAN, SP12**, has received a Rackham Merit Fellowship to pursue a Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. He also received highest honors on his thesis in poetry writing, entitled "Sonder."

Congratulations are also due to **JULIAN MENZEL, SP12 TA15**, who has been named a Gates Cambridge Scholar. At Cambridge, Menzel will focus in particular on the intimate relationship between American and European physics in the mid-20th century. He writes in his biography for the fellowship: "My academic interests are connected to my concern for educational equity. I serve as a trustee for the Telluride Association, which offers free educational programs to high school and college students, and [I] help run a student group that pushes for pedagogical reform in Yale's math department. I believe that

understanding the history of physics — especially physics education — can help us make the discipline more inclusive of historically marginalized groups."



Menzel relaxing at the 2015 Convention

**CELINA SCOTT-BUECHLER, SP13 CB14 TA16**, has been named a Truman Scholar, in addition to receiving the national Udall Scholarship for leadership, public service, and commitment to the environment. A junior at Cornell, Celina is a College Scholar independent major, which she is crafting around topics of marine science and coastal environmental justice studies.



Celina Scott-Buechler

## IN MEMORIAM

### A REMEMBRANCE: GORDON DAVIDSON CB1 TA53 (1933 – 2016)

by Michael Davidson SP56 CB57 TA58

L.L. Nunn would have approved my brother Gordon's decision in 1951 to study engineering at Cornell and live at Telluride. Although Gordon came from Brooklyn Technical High School, not one of L.L.'s western power plants, he was a budding electrical engineer.

Early clues, however, portended storytelling through theater, not engineering. In his Cornell Branch application, Gordon wrote that putting radio shows "on the air" for the Board of Education's WNYE All-City Radio Workshop, broadcasting from Brooklyn Tech where he chaired the Sound Department, had received his greatest attention among high school activities. Performance was part of our home: our Dad taught theater at Brooklyn College; our Mom played the piano. At age 10, Gordon played Bodo in a Brooklyn College production of *Watch on the Rhine*.

Telluride was important in Gordon's evolution to theater. While his first years of engineering were prescribed, the breadth of branchmember and faculty guest interests revealed the possibility of other choices. During a work semester at General Electric's Naval Ordnance Plant in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Gordon decided that his joy ushering evenings at Tanglewood called for a switch. In 1956, his Cornell graduation year, he received the Dramatic Club's award for directing, and Telluride's Dunham Award for contributions to the House. A further Telluride cash award helped him earn an M.A. in Dramatic Arts from Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

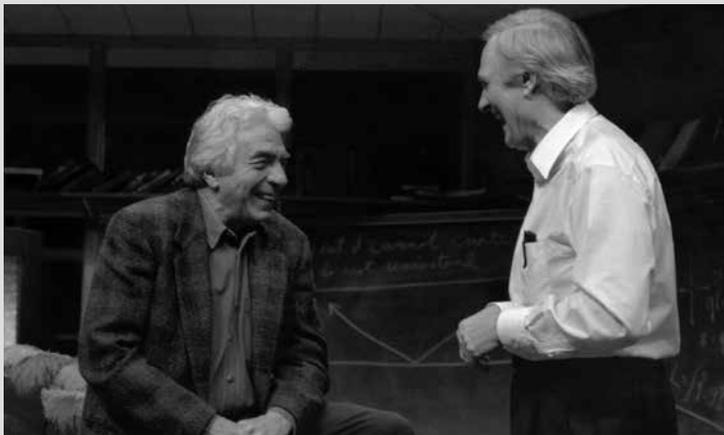
Following his death last October at 83, highlights of Gordon's remarkable career as a director, producer, builder of a theatrical institution, and leader of the regional theater movement have poured forth as obituaries and appreciations in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, and elsewhere, and in theater celebrations of his life. His early path led from production work at the American Shakespeare Festival under director John Houseman's tutelage, to The Theatre Group at UCLA succeeding Houseman as director, and in 1967 to be founding artistic director of the Center Theatre Group at the Mark Taper Forum in L.A.'s new Music Center. In 38 years before retiring in 2005, Gordon produced more than 300 plays at the Taper and other stages in Los Angeles and directed about 40 in L.A. and New York.

# I N MEMORIAM

Gordon directed Heinar Kipphardt's *In the Matter of J. Robert Oppenheimer*, Michael Christofer's *The Shadow Box*, Daniel Berrigan's *The Trial of the Catonsville Nine*, Luis Valdez's *Zoot Suit*; and Mark Medoff's *Children of a Lesser God*. He nurtured and produced Tony Kushner's *Angels in America* and Robert Schenkkan's *The Kentucky Cycle*, each of which won a Pulitzer Prize, as had *The Shadow Box*. With Alvin Ailey choreographing and Maurice Peress conducting, he directed Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* for the opening of the Kennedy Center. On a Telluride note, Gordon directed Peter Parnell's *Q.E.D.*, with Alan Alda playing Richard Feynman, a Cornell Branch faculty guest in the 1940s and again in the 1950s. Among many accolades, Gordon received a Tony for directing *The Shadow Box*; *Children of a Lesser God* and *The Shadow Box* as well as *Angels in America* Tonys for best plays; and the Mark Taper Forum a Tony for best regional theater.

My favorite appreciation of Gordon's contributions to American theater is one in the *L.A. Times*, a few days after his death, that was headlined "Zoot Suit's' Luis Valdez on How Gordon Davidson Brought Civil Rights to the American Theater." The founder of El Teatro Campesino began his article, "To his everlasting credit, Gordon Davidson brought the civil rights movement into the American theater by inviting artists of color to work with his company, thus professionally integrating one of the nation's major regional stages." Right on, brother.

Telluride was throughout a home for family and friends. Gordon's first date with Judi was to a Telluride party in New York. Branch members continued as lifelong friends.



Top: Gordon directing Alan Alda as Richard Feynman in *Q.E.D.* Bottom: Gordon with Luis Valdez and the cast of *Zoot Suit*.

**WILLIAM ROMELL, DS49 CB51**, died December 13, 2016. He was 85. A lawyer by education, William was a lifelong employee of the Eaton Corporation until his retirement. His obituary in the *Sandusky Register* notes, among other things, his fond memories of conducting Gilbert and Sullivan productions at Cornell as an undergraduate.

**KAREL HUSA, CBG60**, internationally acclaimed composer and conductor, passed away December 14, 2016 at the age of 95. The Kappa Alpha Professor of Music Emeritus at Cornell, Husa taught at Cornell from 1954 until his retirement in 1992. Carl Bender CB60, who played clarinet in the Cornell orchestra at the time, writes, "Husa was an extraordinary person... incredibly gentle and warm and sympathetic, one of the nicest adults that I met at Cornell. He was simply wonderful...everyone in the orchestra just loved him." Martin Pearlman, SP62 CB63 TA67, remembers he and Husa playing Husa's 4-hand piano pieces together in a performance for the TASPers in 1962 and notes that "Karel Husa and Telluride were the two reasons I went to Cornell."

**ETAN SAVIR, SP78**, passed away July 21, 2013. After graduating as a Classics major from Princeton, Etan taught Latin and then mathematics for many years, before becoming principal at Yeshiva of Greater Washington in 2008.



Etan Savir arrives at the 1978 Cornell TASP.

**YURI BELOV, CBG87**, died April 10, 2015. Belov was a retired University of North Carolina School of the Arts drama teacher. A Russian émigré,

Belov had served as Director of Clowning for the Moscow State Circus. Among his many teaching and performing credits in the United States was coaching Robin Williams for the movie *Moscow on the Hudson*.



Yuri Belov and wife Tanya. Photo courtesy of UNCSEA

**IDA BLOM, CBG89**, died November 26, 2016. Blom was Professor Emeritus at the University of Bergen in Norway, where she was a leading figure in Norwegian and international women's and gender history.

**MOUNIA ABOUSAID, SP10**, died last December 2016. Mounia was a comparative literature and society major at Columbia College in New York from Rabat, Morocco. She was previously awarded a King's Crown Leadership Award for Ethics & Morality in 2013.



Mounia Abousaid at TASP

**ANDREA JENKINS MB01** died on April 12, 2017 at her home after an illness. She was 33. Andrea served as a TASS tutor at Michigan in 2004, and was a generous supporter of Telluride's programs. She received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Chicago in May of 2016, with a dissertation entitled "Economics of Urban American Indian Belonging: Cultivating Academic and Cultural Strength Through Title VII Programs."



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