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CSA NEWS

COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

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of School Administrators,
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2025 PRIMARY

Mayoral Candidates Make Their Pitches

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

Several hundred CSA members poured into the Times Square theater Town Hall on May 12 to hear leading candidates explain their education policies and make a case why CSA should support them in their bid to become the next mayor of New York City. The CSA Mayoral Forum, the result of complex logistical planning by CSA officers and central staff, gave candidates the opportunity to speak directly to New York City's school leaders and supervisors and answer questions formulated by the members themselves.

CSA President Henry Rubio greeted each candidate and interviewed them one by one. Mayor Eric Adams, former Comptroller Scott Stringer, City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams, Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani, former Obama official and New York Assembly Member Michael Blake, City Comptroller Brad Lander, former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and New York State Sen. Jessica Ramos all participated.

There was a palpable excitement among the attendees that was confirmed in interviews after the event.



■ Mayor Eric Adams, above, telling CSA President Henry Rubio why CSA members should support him in his reelection bid. Eight candidates spoke to a crowd of members in a Times Square theater on May 12.

"It was an amazing night," said Jodi Contento, Principal of Staten Island's PS 78. "Bringing members together and hearing the candidates address a range of questions we submitted was incredible. We really felt like we had a voice."

Leading the roster was Mayor Eric Adams, who enjoyed an easy banter with Mr. Rubio, one that appeared to go down well with attendees. The mayor cited policies that support schools and CSA members, such as his continuation of the policy

to hold schools harmless, allowing them to avoid funding cuts caused by drops in student enrollment and attendance during and after the Covid pandemic. He said he is focused on safety issues, and noted sadly that a girl had just been shot in the Bronx, and said he would be traveling there after his appearance at the forum. Although there remains a shortage of school safety officers, the mayor pledged to make sure the city will hire more of them. "We need to put more school safety agents in our schools," he said.

Mayor Adams has been an advocate of switching New York City's retiree health care system from traditional Medicare with supplemental coverage to a Medicare Advantage plan, an issue that is now being litigated. "Whichever way this court case turns out, I'm going to reevaluate this," he said. "Retirees are going to be happy when this whole thing is over. I'm not going to harm the retirees' healthcare."

When Mr. Rubio brought up the future of the pilot remote work policy gained in CSA's contract, members applauded, prompting the mayor to say, "I get more applause for the remote work than the great contract that we gave our school leaders."

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President's Message

Candidates Hear Members' Concerns

Anyone who has lived in New York City for an election cycle or two knows that the real race often happens in June. In our local history, more often than not, it's the primaries that decide who will lead in City Hall, across borough halls, in the City Council chambers, and more.

Your leadership is at the heart of this city, and your voice matters a great deal in these upcoming elections. Families and your staff look to you for guidance and clarity, especially in uncertain times. That's why CSA always urges our members, as leaders of your communities and workplaces, to vote in primaries, and vote early if possible. More than that, we hope you will encourage others to do the same.

That's also why we recently held our successful Mayoral Forum in mid-May at the beautiful Town Hall in Times Square. Our last mayoral election was held during the pandemic,

Continued on Page 2

ALPAP Graduates Look Ahead



■ At a graduation ceremony in May, Future principals and their mentors celebrated and looked forward to more collaboration in the future.

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

The 21st cohort of the Advanced Leadership Program for Aspiring Principals, or ALPAP, enjoyed an emotional graduation on May 2. The ceremony featured a visit by chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos, who discussed her challenges as an AP and the vicis-

situdes of being a young principal. Earlier panel of eight superintendents shared with the aspiring principals what they like to see in job candidates competing for the job.

Patrick Byrne, a longtime ALPAP principal mentor who is now serving as CSA's Field Director for Queens, told the graduates that

they have a deep bench of supporters who can help them weather tough times. He also urged them to step up their involvement with CSA, such as by attending district meetings. Both CSA and ALPAP are a great resource for them as they build their careers.

"You are not alone," he said. "This is a family."



Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Seeking Endorsements, Candidates Answer You

More Member-Inspired Events To Come By Henry D. Rubio

Continued from Page 1

and we adapted by going virtual. This year, we returned to an in-person, one-on-one format that gave each candidate 15 minutes in conversation with me, your greatest advocate. We have found throughout our long history of hosting this type of event that familiarity can sometimes create something rare in political settings: candor. Candidates spoke honestly not just about their platforms, but directly to our members about the issues they're most concerned about for their schools and their own families.

You can watch full videos and read transcripts of every session on our website. Before you do, I want to share why we asked what we asked. Our forum wasn't just about hearing candidates. It was about making your concerns and priorities central to the conversation. Our questions came directly from you through our formal surveys, our PAC and President's Club conversations, association and caucus events, district meetings, and daily interactions. Across the board, certain issues consistently rose to the top.

• • •

School safety is the number one issue we've heard from members in every borough. Safety concerns have been increasing in too many schools, and CSA has been raising the alarm in testimony and directly with elected officials who are currently leading our communities and/or want to. To learn more about what we're advocating for, visit our website to read our full testimony that we recently delivered at the city council hearing on the mayor's executive budget.

Secondly, our city's public workers deserve premium-free, high-quality healthcare. That's a core value and a promise that cannot be broken. We asked candidates if they would protect that promise, especially for our retirees, many of whom have fears of being forced into Medicare Advantage. This isn't just a retirement issue. It's a recruitment and retention issue. It's an issue of fairness.

We also asked about mayoral control because of course the structure of leadership in our system directly impacts your ability to lead your school communities effectively. As leaders ourselves, we know that governance models matter. It's always about whether the system works as well as it can for kids, families, and those on the ground doing the work. We asked candidates whether they believe mayoral control should continue in its current form, be modified, or reimaged. We wanted to know if they would see school leaders, parents, and other stakeholders as true partners in decision-making, or simply as executors of top-down mandates. Our history demonstrates that when decisions are made by us and with us, schools thrive.



On that note, we pushed candidates to explain how they'll work with the city's municipal unions and whether they truly recognize how important it is for us to preserve what we've fought hard to secure. That includes recent wins like the remote work pilot, which has improved quality of life and boosted productivity without sacrificing service. We asked every candidate if they would support making our remote pilot permanent. You'll want to hear their responses.

We also spotlighted issues that reflect our diverse membership. Early Childhood Education remains a critical area in need of investment and parity. We asked every candidate how they plan to elevate the ECE system and put its workforce on a real path to equity. Across the board, the candidates recognized that our youngest learners, and their educators, deserve more.

Similarly, we raised the alarm on services for students with disabilities, where the gaps are widening and the burdens on teachers and school leaders are growing. These aren't isolated problems. They're system-wide fractures, and we need elected officials who are prepared to work together to fix the real problems that we have in providing all students with the services they need.

This mayoral forum wasn't just about introducing candidates to you. It was about re-introducing them to the system they may inherit, which you sustain every single day. Since stepping into this role, I've tried to build on the legacy of our past union presidents like by elevating your voices even higher. No one knows more about this system than those who run it. The truth is, many of these candidates, whether they're vying for citywide positions or for council seats, will make decisions for four years, maybe eight if they're lucky. We are the constant; our institutional wisdom must be respected, heard, and centered in every decision.

• • •

That's why we will continue holding meaningful events like these as the election unfolds. And it's why we need you to get involved in the political process, not just by voting, but by helping shape the agenda. Check our endorsements on the website. Read the transcripts or watch the videos of the forum, so you can go by the words candidates said directly to you. If you haven't filled out our member poll on the mayoral election, do it today on the home page of our website. Whether you're an in-service member or retiree, we need to know who you think who would best support our education and labor interests. Remember that the next mayor will likely yield mayoral control and will directly impact the day-to-day learning conditions of our students and the working conditions of our members. The next mayor will also have influence over our health-care, both for in-service members and retirees, and will engage in collective bargaining with our union as we negotiate our next contract.

Want to shape our endorsements? Contribute to our Political Action Committee and join the President's Club. Volunteer for candidate screenings in your district. CSA's PAC dues haven't been raised in years, but their impact has never been clearer. Next year, we'll likely ask for an increase to our collective contributions to PAC. Our requested contributions have not changed in decades. However, the political, educational, and labor landscapes have significantly changed over that time. So, this is one of the areas where we will ask you to invest more so that we can accomplish more for our union family. Please be reminded that CSA does not use any general dues for political activity, so we've seen the tremendous value of these PAC and Presidents Club dollars.

Above all, please vote in the primaries. Remember that CSA doesn't endorse by party line. We endorse by principle. Who's better for schools? Who's better for labor? Who's better for the safety and well-being of our complicated city?

The Mayoral Forum was just a valuable opportunity to continue to build our power. The primary is the perfect opportunity to use it. Let's follow through by organizing, by showing up for the candidates who support our schools and our union, and, as always, by voting.

Henry D. Rubio is president of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators.

Latino Superintendents

Scholars Rewarded



■ The New York State Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators held their 4th Annual Scholarship Gala on May 9 and their 5th Annual Leadership Conference on May 10 in Yonkers. Congratulations to all the students who received this year's scholarships.

Culture of Inclusion: No Place for Hate Movement

BY CSA NEWS STAFF

For 25 years, the Anti-Defamation League's No Place for Hate initiative has helped schools across the country create more inclusive, respectful environments by putting students in the driver's seat. On a national basis, more than 1.4 million students and over 100,000 educators in over 1,800 schools participated year alone.

In the New York/New Jersey region, nearly 340 schools were designated No Place for Hate in the 2023–2024 school year, reaching more than 200,000 students. In New York City, the program impacted 39 schools and nearly 25,000 students—a number that continues to grow as more leaders recognize the value of building a school culture where every student feels seen, heard, and safe.

"No Place for Hate is a school-driven climate and culture program that positions students as leaders in addressing bias and bullying," said Stephanie Singer, ADL New York/New Jersey education specialist. "It's not a one-size-fits-all curriculum; rather, it puts students in the position of leading that charge. They lead the committees, they identify the challenges," Ms. Singer said. "How can our school be more inclusive? The program is designed to meet the unique needs of each school and gives students a real voice in shaping their learning environment."

Schools who join the initiative nominate a coordinator and assemble a school-wide



■ A School-Driven program by the ADL promises to build more inclusive school communities.

committee, with students in the majority. Together, they plan three discussion-based, active-learning activities across the school year that examine identity, challenge bias, and promote inclusion. Students and staff alike reflect on their experiences, engage in tough conversations, and learn actionable strategies to confront bullying and discrimination in all its forms.

Once the three required activities are completed and approved, schools earn the official No Place for Hate designation and receive a customized banner to display their achievement. They are also invited to take part in the annual Recognition Ceremony, a celebratory gathering that honors students and educators who have shown exceptional commitment to building inclusive school communities. This year's ceremony was held on May 20, at NYU

Skirball Center, and school leaders joined peers from across the region to celebrate what's possible when young people are empowered to lead change. This year, the Cynthia Marks Student Legacy Award was presented to Brooklyn's Academy of Talented Scholars PS 682, led by Principal Josephine Sportella-Giusto.

Participation in No Place for Hate is completely free of charge, but registration is limited. Schools must sign up and complete a brief onboarding process, including staff training and committee formation.

"As school leaders, you have the opportunity to shape your school's culture from the inside out," said Singer. "No Place for Hate gives you the tools—and your students the voice—to do just that."

To learn more or pre-register your school, visit [ADL.org/NoPlaceForHate](https://adl.org/NoPlaceForHate).

CITY HALL

CSA President Delivers Budget Testimony

On May 20, CSA President Henry Rubio offered testimony on the Mayor's Executive Budget for Fiscal Year 2026 at a City Council hearing. During his three minutes of oral testimony, he took the opportunity to urge our elected officials to partner with our union in a more robust conversation around the safety concerns of school leaders.

Our schools cannot thrive without safety, and we must be honest about where we stand today.

The shortage of safety agents is deeply concerning to our school leaders, particularly in the absence of a comprehensive plan for recruiting and retaining them. Some of our school campuses lack adequate safety coverage and have yet to receive the scanners that they have formally requested. Meanwhile, the majority of our early childhood education centers are vulnerable even though violence does not discriminate by age or by governance model, whether you're in the DOE or a community-based organization. So today we urge you as partners in the city council to work with us in advocating for first a city-wide plan to increase and equitably deploy safety agents based on the actual need.

Two, invest in critical safety infrastructure, additional cameras, scanners, and security system so that every school staff

and student feel safe. Restore of practices like "Safe Corridors."

And of course, let me be clear, we recognize that true safety extends beyond policy and technology. We know it is rooted in culture, connection, and care.

In our own testimony, you have a 10-point safety plan that speaks exactly to that. For example, students need access to guidance counselors with a reasonable caseload. They need a systemic conflict resolution program, peer mediation, and restorative justice practices that are fully embedded into the fabric of schools. You heard today that only over 700 schools aren't being touched by those programs. Every educator in our school and our leaders need to receive training around this area.

We also need to have an assistant principal in every school. One school leader alone cannot be expected to do it all. When a principal is forced to choose between instructional leadership and crisis response, it is the students that suffer. The model is not sustainable.

Lastly, we need to support school leaders with high quality professional development, and we're asking the council to base-line additional funding for our Executive Leadership Institute.

CSA's full written testimony can be found at <https://csa-nyc.org/political-action/testimony/>

Scholarship Winners

BY CSA NEWS STAFF

We are pleased to announce the 2025 CSA 5 Boroughs Scholarship

Recipients. There were so many deserving candidates, and we thank everyone who applied. This year's winners are from the following high schools:

- Bronx: Morris Academy for Collaborative Studies (Principal Rachel Field Dennis)
- Brooklyn: Progress HS for Professional Careers (Principal Jasmine Pena)
- Manhattan: Baruch College Campus HS (Principal Alicia Katz)
- Queens: Thomas Edison HS (Principal Moses Ojeda)
- Staten Island: Tottenville HS (Principal Gina Battista)

This year, we are also thrilled to introduce a sixth scholarship, the Donald Singer Scholarship,

in honor of Mr. Singer's significant contributions and his tenure as former CSA President. This additional scholarship is awarded to a student with the standout essay among the Five Borough Scholarship recipients. This year's winner is a student at Multicultural High School (Principal Peter Ng Fook).

We are also thrilled to introduce the CSA Veteran's Child Scholarship, a new initiative sponsored by the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS) and CSA.

This year's recipient of CSA's "Child of a Member \$10K Scholarship," the recipient of the "Veteran's Child" scholarship, and the recipients of our summer camp scholarships for members' children have already been notified.

Congratulations to all these deserving students!

Onesie Nation



Future Great Leaders

■ Lee Dinner, an AP at The Bronxwood Preparatory (11X514) in the Bronx has had a great school year: First, he and his wife, Joy, welcomed their first baby, a daughter named Charlie, in December. "We were so touched to receive a very thoughtful care package from the CSA welfare fund shortly after she was born, including an adorable "Future Great Leaders" onesie," he reports. Meanwhile, he was also one of the aspiring principals who graduated from the ALPAP cohort this year, led by Shirley Matthews. CSA wishes Mr. Dinner and his family all the best!

NATION *Labor*

WASHINGTON

USPS Privatization

With Trump advocating for privatization of Federal organizations, such as the United States Postal Service (USPS), Amazon may be positioning itself as a frontrunner were that to occur. According to a letter to shareholders in April, Amazon's CEO indicated that it is expanding its same-day and overnight delivery to smaller cities. Historically, Amazon has relied on USPS for about half of its rural deliveries. Although Amazon has expanded, it's still not up to par with UPS and FedEx in terms of their postal coverage. (truthout.org)

KENTUCKY

Union Contract

In a blow to Trump's efforts to end the collective bargaining rights of federal workers, a federal judge rejected the U.S. Treasury Department's efforts to cancel the contract of thousands of IRS staff. To date, eight federal agencies have filed lawsuits against the American Federation of Government Employees, the largest union representing federal workers. The suits seek to invalidate the union contracts of thousands of workers. (reuters.com)

NEW JERSEY

Rail Strike

NJ Transit, the third largest transit system in the country which provides service for roughly 700,000 trips a day, ended its statewide rail strike recently with an agreement that will ultimately raise hourly pay. The union activated its strike contingency plan for the first day after the agreement was reached to allow for inspection and preparation of tracks before resuming its regular schedule. (reuters.com)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Bargaining Halt

A Federal appeals court removed a block that prevented the Trump administration from taking away the right of Federal employees to unionize and collectively bargain. Trump's order impacts about 75% of the one million Federal workers who are represented by unions. Individual lawsuits to invalidate the union contracts have been filed by the Trump administration. (reuters.com)

— COMPILED BY
CHRISTINE ALTMAN

AP FELLOWSHIP

Redefining Leadership: Pilot AP Fellowship Program Takes Flight



■ First cohort of AP Fellows celebrate a year of growth and learning.

BY CSA NEWS STAFF

The AP Fellowship, a pilot program designed specifically for APs, is concluding its first year and accepting applications for a second group of participants. The initiative has had an exciting debut: A dynamic cohort of APs from across the five boroughs of New York City spent an enriching several months of learning, which centers on wellness, sustainability, and work-life balance as essential components of effective leadership.

Principals Jodi Contento, Shweta Ratra, and Dr. Kayon Pryce, all of whom completed the Gray Fellowship (2023-2024) and are currently participating in the Cahn

Distinguished Principal Fellowship, recognized the urgent need for a program to support APs, and presented their idea for this fellowship to CSA President Henry Rubio. Today, they serve on the steering committee with the Executive Leadership Institute, guiding the implementation of the AP Fellowship.

Earlier this year, the Fellowship's inaugural retreat launched a journey grounded in personal and professional growth, self-care, and the core values of union solidarity. At a time when school leadership demands are higher than ever, the fellowship has offered a mix of in-person and virtual gatherings, mentorship, and ongoing professional development to strengthen key leader-

ship competencies—ranging from strategic delegation and visionary planning to emotional intelligence and wellness practices.

Why It Matters For Union Members

Assistant Principals play a vital role in schools, serving as supervisors, mentors, and operational managers. They are charged with implementing the vision of their principals while simultaneously advocating for their staff members and navigating complex school dynamics. By investing in the well-being of APs, the fellowship strengthens school leadership city-wide and affirms our union's commitment to cultivating

empowered, purpose-driven educators.

A Call For Future Fellows

With the first cohort off to a strong start, excitement around the AP Fellowship continues to grow. We encourage APs to apply and become a member of the next cohort, and for principals to consider nominating APs they feel will benefit.

The application deadline for the 2025-26 cohort is July 15, 2025. The program is offered at a cost of \$7,000 per participating school. To apply or to recommend a colleague, go to the Executive Leadership Institute's website: www.elipd.org.

Welfare Fund Update

Susan Barone

Two New Health Partnerships Launching



Joint Health And Top Notch Cancer Care

Starting July 1: Streamlined, Specialized Support

The CSA Welfare Fund is proud to introduce two exciting partnerships that will enhance your access to expert care—Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) Perform and Memorial Sloan Kettering (MSK) Direct. These benefits will be available to all CSA Welfare Fund members starting July 1.

As many of you know, both HSS and MSK are already trusted providers under the Emblem Health/GHI CBP plan, which serves our in-service members and retirees. These new partnerships take it a step further, offering streamlined, specialized support tailored specifically for CSA members through dedicated access points.

HSS Perform - Support for Joint & Muscle Health

Through our partnership with Hospital for Special Surgery, the nation's top-ranked orthopedic hospital, you and your family can now access HSS Perform, a program designed specifically for union members. A dedicated HSS Care Concierge team will guide you to top specialists for joint

pain, arthritis, back and neck conditions, injuries, and more. Care is available at locations across NYC, Westchester, Long Island, New Jersey, Connecticut—and for Medicare-eligible retirees, select Florida locations as well.

MSK Direct - Expert Cancer Care When You Need It Most

If you or a loved one is facing a cancer diagnosis, MSK Direct connects you to world-renowned specialists at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for treatment, second opinions, and care planning. Compassionate, coordinated support is available without the need for enrollment, and all services are covered under your CSA-sponsored health plan.

More information will be coming soon. Watch your email and mailbox for more details, including direct links to dedicated CSA webpages at HSS and MSK, educational materials, and appointment support lines. We're committed to bringing you trusted, high-quality care—when and where you need it most.

Susan Barone is Director of the CSA Welfare Fund.

Rules Of The Road | Chris Ogno

Not All OORS Reports Are Created Equal



Reporting Rules Vary, All Depends On The Type Of Event

This is a reminder that all incidents must be reported in the Online Occurrence Reporting System (OORS). However, not all OORS reports are the same.

When reporting student-to-student incidents involving discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying under Chancellor's Regulation A-832, it is crucial to follow the correct procedures for reporting, filing, investigating, and resolving complaints. This includes adhering to all requirements related to timely reporting, parent or guardian notifications, investigation timelines, and case closure. Cyberbullying is specifically covered under this regulation and must be reported in the same manner. For gender-based allegations the Title IX coordinator may receive reports of allegations of misconduct. The principals or their designee may confer with the Title IX coordinator or SFC in cases involving gender-based allegations.

School principals are required to designate at least one full-time staff member—such as a licensed administrator, supervisor, teacher, guidance counselor, school psychologist, or social worker—as the Respect for All (RFA) liaison. This liaison serves as a central resource for students and staff, and is the primary point of contact for any reports of student-to-student discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying. The designated liaison must complete the required training developed by the Office of Safety and Youth Development (OSYD). If the liaison leaves the position, a new liaison must be appointed and trained within 30 days, and an interim liaison should be designated immediately to maintain continuity. Additionally, the principal must ensure that hard copies of the RFA Complaint Reporting Form are readily available in the school.

Any staff member who witnesses, has knowledge of, receives notice of, or becomes aware of student-to-student discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying is required to take immediate action. Specifically, the staff member must make a verbal report of the alleged incident to the RFA liaison or the principal/designee within

one (1) school day. Following this verbal report, the staff member must complete and submit the Complaint Reporting Form to the RFA liaison or principal/designee no later than two (2) school days after the initial verbal report. The principal/designee is responsible for ensuring that hard copies of the Complaint Reporting Forms are readily accessible in the school building. If the principal or designee has reason to believe that the alleged behavior may constitute criminal activity, they must also notify the NYPD. Reports may also be initiated by anyone (students, parents, etc.) and reports can be filed online without

Principals are responsible for ensuring that all proper steps and procedures are followed

a direct notification to the school. In cases where reports are filed online, the principal will receive a notification email and must file an OORS report.

The principal or designee is also responsible for informing the parents or guardians of both the alleged victim and the alleged subject as soon as a report is received. They should explain that the incident will be investigated and that appropriate supports and interventions are available. Investigations must begin within five school days of receiving the report and must be completed within ten school days, unless extenuating circumstances arise. Upon conclusion of the investigation, the principal or designee must enter into OORS the investigation's findings, whether the allegations were substantiated, and whether the conduct constituted a violation of Chancellor's Regulation A-832. This entry must occur within ten school days of the initial report. Parents or guardians must then be informed in writing of the outcome of the investigation, including whether any allegations were substantiated and whether a violation of the regulation occurred. If the allega-

tions are substantiated, the letter should also invite parents to discuss the incident further and inform them of any available supports or interventions for their child.

Each school is required to display the "Respect For All" poster in prominent locations that are visible to students, staff, and families as early in the school year as possible. This poster must include the names of the RFA liaison(s). Schools must also distribute or make available the OSYD-developed Respect for All materials to students, families, and staff annually and ensure that this information is also provided to families of students who enroll during the school year. The contact information for the RFA liaison must be posted on the school's website and shared with families at least once each school year. Additionally, by October 31 of each year, students must receive training on the policies and procedures outlined in Regulation A-832. All school staff, including non-instructional personnel, must also receive annual training by this date. This training must address how to identify, prevent, and respond to discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on protected characteristics. At least one RFA liaison must complete specialized OSYD training focused on human relations and the key content areas covered in staff training. A copy of Chancellor's Regulation A-832 must be made available to students, parents, and staff upon request. Compliance with these expectations is essential to maintaining a safe and inclusive school environment for all members of the school community.

Please be aware that ultimately the school principal is responsible for ensuring that all the proper steps and procedures outlined above are followed. Principals should remember for A-832 there is a 2-5-10 rule (within 2 days the report is submitted, within 5 days the investigation has begun and within 10 days the investigation is completed). If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to me.

Chris Ogno is Director of Member Services.

In Memoriam

GARY LEE KING, 74, died Feb. 12, after a long illness. He lived in Clinton Hill Brooklyn. Mr. King was born in Brooklyn and attended Central Commercial High School (also known as Norman Thomas High School of Business & Commercial Education). While there, he began working at Macy's on 34th Street in Manhattan, a place where he was employed for 25 years, and for a time served as a union representative. Family members write that he developed his refined sense of fashion there. Mr. King earned an associate's degree in applied art from the Borough of Manhattan Community College, and a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College. He also held a master of arts degree from Adelphi College. Mr. King was an avid supporter of early childhood education, and while working at Macy's, he began his career as an early childhood teacher, taking classes at night. He believed it was important for young children to see men in diverse professional roles during their formative years. Mr. King went on to serve as director of Putnam Day Care Center for over 30 years. The center was one of the first programs to receive a School Charter from the New York State Education Department, which allowed it to serve children with special needs and draw on other state education dollars. Toward the end of his career, he served as a professor at Touro College and Queens College. Mr. King was a member or officer of several organizations, including the Professional Association of Daycare Directors, where he became president in 2006. He retired in 2010. He was in the right place at the right time, helping to implement the UPK program. He served on the

executive board of CSA, and was a member of the National Black Child Development Institute, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, Daycare Employees Union Local 205, and District Council 1707. In addition, he led workshops and training for fellow daycare directors, and collaborated with other Early Childhood organizations for workshops on curriculum development. He was extremely active in CSA, urging directors to take advantage of what CSA had to offer. Even in retirement, he attended CSA workshops as an active member of the Retiree Chapter. "Gary King was an advocate for quality early care and education. He focused on creating awareness, building support, working for change, developing professionalism, promoting child and family issues, and helping to form public policy," said Larry Provette, vice-president of the Professional Association of Early Childhood Education of NYC. His family said that as a young man in the 1960s, Mr. King loved attending concerts at the Fox Theatre featuring Murray the K, as well as the Motown Review at the Apollo Theater. They said he loved living in the Clinton Hill community. Mr. King is survived by his siblings Donald R. King (wife, Vivien Morris King), Glen A. King, and Felicia King Davis; nieces, Jessica Buroran, Jade Davis, and Faith Harris; nephews, James and Christopher Morris-King; grand-nieces Jordan and Shannon Knight; great grand-nieces, Hailey and Hannah Rodriguez, Kamryn Wells, and Zariah Coakley; great grandnephew, Ryzen Coakley, along with extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his parents, and his sister, Jean Harris.

Send obituary notices to the CSA News Editor Chuck Wilbanks at chuck@csa-nyc.

Honor For NYAPE



■ From left: Retiree Eva Sanabria Delgado, Regent Judith Chin, Principal Indiana Soto, Board of Regents Chancellor Lester Young, Jr., and CSA President Henry Rubio.

On May 7, the New York Academy of Public Education honored their 2025 Medalist recipient, Dr. Lester Young Jr., the Chancellor of the New York State Board of Regents at their annual Spring Dinner. In addition, Principal Indiana Soto, Assistant Principal Dr. Cindi Van Petten, and Mitchell Pinsky, an ELI facilitator, were all new inductees into NYAPE. Congratulations to all!

—CSA NEWS STAFF

MAYORAL FORUM

From Education To Healthcare, Candidates



■ As CSA members showed up en masse, a sense of gravitas permeated the air.

Continued from Page 1

He pledged his continuing support of the remote program. "We must make sure that we take care of ourselves so that we can take care of others," he said. "Remote work has been a real win. It's here to stay-- absolutely."

Given the mayor's solid record in his negotiations with CSA leadership and the delivery of a stellar contract, and despite his legal troubles, several members who spoke after the presentations said they were warmly disposed toward him.

"I would rather have another term of

Adams," said one principal. "He gave us a great contract."

• • •

Former Gov. **Andrew Cuomo**, unlike the other candidates, did not appear in person, but rather by a Zoom call which was beamed onto a screen above the stage. Far ahead of other candidates in public opinion polls, he began by saying that the city is in crisis on three fronts: Crime, mental health, and education, and said he is the candidate who can promise solutions because he has the deepest background

as a government manager.

When asked about his commitment to labor, Mr. Cuomo said the city's government needs a good working relationship with the workforce, but also warned that compromise will be demanded.

"Yes, we have to negotiate a contract, and we would do that in good faith," he continued. "But more than just collective bargaining, it is a partnership. We have a lot to do in this city and we have to do it quickly, and we're going to have to work together to do it in a way we haven't worked together before. We're going to have to get out of our boxes.

We're going to have to get outside of our comfort range and really work together. And I would want to be an expeditor of that."

Audience members, while maintaining an air of civility and polish, nevertheless visibly bristled when Mr. Cuomo offered equivocal support for the pilot remote work policy--painstakingly worked out by the City and CSA negotiators in their last contract. Remote work provisions have been extremely popular with school-based and non-school based members across the city, yet Mr. Cuomo, although he himself was speaking remotely, expressed a tentative stance toward it, on the one hand saying, "I agree with the Pilot," and "Remote work is here to stay," but on the other

Maintaining an air of civility and polish, but some strong reactions

hand adding, "Let's not prejudge it," and, "Let's see what the pilot says at the end of the day, and what we both think of it."

Mr. Cuomo concluded his presentation by promising he would wield an active hand in education affairs.

"You are the managers of this system," he said. "You need a manager who can work with you to manage. And that is what I am uniquely qualified to do because I have done it."

Several members interviewed after the event said they were put off by Mr. Cuomo's tone and particularly his choice to appear via Zoom rather than show up in person like the rest of the candidates.

"Cuomo could have been there—he should have been there," said one principal who asked to remain anonymous. "I agreed with some of what he said but he should have been there."

During her political career, City Council Speaker **Adrienne Adams** has been a strong ally of CSA and public



■ Above: Former Gov. Andrew Cuomo addressing CSA members remotely. Above right: City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams speaks with Mr. Rubio.

tes Address Member Questions

schools in general. In her discussion with Mr. Rubio, she emphasized her background in early childhood education, and promised to continue her advocacy for ECE and public school educators. She wasted no time in taking a shot at Mayor Adams as well.

"As mayor, the work I will do is going to expand on the work that I've done as the speaker of the City Council. We have always advocated for education and for the issues of CSA. We have always put those as our priorities, while our mayor has at times chosen to cut certain things. It's been the council that's truly been the fiscally responsible party of City Hall to make sure that our children are taken care of."

Regarding school safety, Speaker Adams said she had acted as a voice against calls to remove safety agents at schools. "The mere thought of ever reducing instead of growing the number [of SSAs] was preposterous to me," she said.

She said that she has always prioritized educators: "The first annual event that I held almost 10 years ago... is a coordination with all of the principals within my District 28 and southeast Queens. And it is to gain best practices, so the principals can show off. And the principals can look at me like Santa Claus and give me their wishlist for the year so that we can know what the children want, what the teachers want, what everyone in those schools needs, from technology to new bathrooms to new auditorium equipment."

Speaker Adams said that as mayor she would make permanent remote work provision for CSA members. "We've seen the benefit of remote work," she said. "We've seen the fact that remote work improves retention, which is something that we need right now in the education space because we are losing educators."

She also said a chancellor with direct experience in New York City public schools is necessary. "I don't think there's any greater chancellor than one that has direct experience in leadership in being a principal," she said. "Under my leadership, I would absolutely ensure that our chancellor would be someone that knows the schools, knows the system, knows the

DOE, knows the children, knows how to sympathize and empathize with our parents, with our parent coordinators, and others. So that individual would have to be someone that has had prior leadership, primarily a principal of a school."

Zohran Mamdani, a member of the New York State Assembly, received a warm reception from members for a variety of his positions, particularly his clearly expressed opposition to charter schools. He pledged to end "the kind of leadership we've seen from Eric Adams and Andrew Cuomo when it comes to charter schools. Specifically, where they are continually looking for loopholes and space whereby they can expand the number of those schools and co-locate more of our public schools in those same buildings. I want to be very clear: I believe fervently in public education, and I believe that charter schools are an attack on that education. I'm very unabashed about that because I want charter schools to know that when I am in office, as the mayor of this city, I will be consistent with the same language I'm saying now, which is ensuring that we stop this kind of exceptionalism we've seen across the country with regards to our city.

Mr. Mamdani, who in opinion polls has posted a surprisingly strong showing and is running second behind Mr. Cuomo, offered a strong rejection of mayoral control of schools. "I've been a longtime critic of mayoral control as a State Assembly member, and I've been a critic because I believe that it has denied so many of the New Yorkers who educate, who attend our schools, the chance to actually have their voices be heard as part of that. ... I know that if elected, initially, I will have control of the schools. And one thing that I will immediately go about doing is setting up a team to investigate what the approach looks like that actually brings more of that influence back to those who know best. I don't think there's a clear system that already exists that we go back to. I think it has to be one that we create, and I think it's

one where you have administrators, you have educators, you have parents, you have students who do more than just listen to the mayor's idea of what needs to be done. For far too long, so many of the governance bodies we have when it comes to education are so controlled by the mayor... there isn't room for any dissent in those forums."

When asked about how he would improve pay equity for early childhood educators, he proposed raising \$10 billion annually in new revenue sources, from corporate taxes and people earning \$1 million or more.

As for a new chancellor, Mr. Mamdani said he would "weigh heavily someone's experience in leading a school in New York City. I also will still consider leaders of larger school systems across the country because I think we need to ensure that we are bringing those who not only have an understanding, but also have a vision, also have a fluency, and ideally it'll be someone from New York City. But there is the possibility of elsewhere as well."

Scott Stringer, the city's former comptroller and Manhattan borough president, discussed his loyalty to the New York City public schools, where his two sons are currently students. He stated his support for continuing remote work provisions, and cited his financial acumen when he discussed school funding issues.

"The problem in the system right now is that as hard as principals, assistant principals, and teachers work, the resources are not equally distributed," he said. "So the kids who need that extra help, the kids who need the tutoring, the professional help with post-covid mental health issues, they never see the light of day because the Department of Education is not funding every school equally."

He proposed a "top-to-bottom audit," that would allow the city "to move resources exactly where they have to go in the classrooms and into the CBOs."

Continued on Page 8

NATION Education

TENNESSEE

PowerSchool Suit

A Tennessee district is the latest among over 100 districts to file a lawsuit against PowerSchool for a data breach in 2024. Thieves extorted money from multiple districts because of the breach. Tennessee's Memphis-Shelby County School District, with 110,000 students, paid PowerSchool \$21 million for its service for the past 12 years. It is seeking monetary damage for expenses incurred to recover costs from the impact of the data breach. (K-12 Dive)

WEST VIRGINIA

School Discipline

Some states are following Trump's executive order for "common sense" school discipline and expanding teachers' and administrators' authority over disruptive students. West Virginia has a new law that provides a process for responding to violent, threatening behavior in K-6 students. The law allows immediate removal from the classroom and evaluation by counselors and behavior specialists which may result in an individualized behavior plan and movement to an intervention or alternative learning environment if that fails. (stateline.org)

WASHINGTON

Special Education

Special Education instruction eligibility is now extended to the age of 22 under legislation that was signed recently. When it takes effect, education-related services for students with disabilities will be provided until the end of the school year in which the student turns 22. It's estimated that 300-1,200 students may benefit from the law, with a cost of \$6.8 million to \$27 million. (washingtonstate-standard.com)

TEXAS

Podcasting

Podcasts are being used as a way for students to engage with literacy. Students learn by listening to podcasts but also by creating their own, thinking critically and debating various issues. Listening to podcasts offers students exposure to different perspectives. Those students who struggle with texts may benefit from learning audiotext. (Edutopia)

— COMPILED BY
CHRISTINE ALTMAN



■ A large crowd of CSA members hearing out the candidates for mayor of New York City

MAYORAL FORUM

Candidate Promises on Education, Labor

Continued from Page 1

He noted that “pay equity is critical because some of the people who are teaching our babies at the earliest age, they then go home and they have to go work a second job or they can’t help their own children.”

“The next mayor has to have the financial experience and ability to get this done,” he said.

He said he would never pursue a Medicare Advantage plan for the city’s retirees.

“We’re going to keep the best health insurance, make it better, not weaker, and say goodbye to the lawsuits, say goodbye to the game-playing. We made a deal with folks, and the deal was, ‘you’re going to accept less on the front end, but we’re going to make sure you have retirement security and healthcare on the back end.’ It was a total deal, and that deal has stayed with us for generations, until now.”

Mr. Stringer also voiced his feelings preference for public over charter schools. “Thanks to the help of this union, I was the assembly member who defeated Eva Moskowitz for borough president, and that race was no harder than this one today, but we did it. To me, these are our public school buildings. The charter schools are there, but they’re guests of ours, and we have to make sure that our public schools get the resources that they need. I have walked into too many schools, as borough present and in the assembly, that were co-located, where one side had flowers in the bathroom and the playground on the one side. And our public school kids were living in a different universe, and it affected their education. And I used to walk into those schools and say, ‘Where is my borough president funding? I didn’t fund that side of the room, I funded this side of the room.’ We have to start equalizing it. It’s the only way to do it.”

Jessica Ramos introduced herself as “a public-school mom, and a proud public-school graduate from District 30 in Queens,” the district she has represented in the New York State Senate since 2019. She pledged to be a partner of CSA, stated her opposition to funneling retirees into a Medicare Advantage plan, and promised to work on behalf of ECE members, saying that “the feminization of poverty in New York City is an ugly tradition.”

Sen. Ramos was notable in that she leveled a bar-

rage of criticism at former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who appeared on Zoom just before she took the stage.

“We have so many crises to address, many of which were created by the previous speaker,” she said. “And now he’s claiming that he’s going to come and save us all. We are in an affordable housing crisis. We are in the biggest homelessness crisis of our lifetimes. And the man [served] as HUD secretary, as attorney general, as governor, but never as a legislator. So he doesn’t know how to write and pass laws. We would be better served, I believe, by a new generation of leadership and someone who actually knows the city and is invested in our city, not someone who just moved back from Westchester. He was the architect of Tier Six. And no, we didn’t have to save money that way. We didn’t have to save money by closing down the mental health asylums. We didn’t have to save money by allowing him to spend \$60 million in legal fees to protect himself from the accusers of sexual harassment. He was governor during Superstorm Sandy. There was never a plan to protect us from climate change. There are so many things that the man did throughout his career. I know his name serves him well. It’s well known. A lot of people have deep respect for his father and his father’s service, but Andrew Cuomo is not Mario Cuomo.”

Brad Lander served a long stint as a City Council member, and is serving as New York City comptroller, a position to which he was elected in 2021. A product of New York City’s public education system, he noted that his mother was an elementary school guidance counselor who deeply respected her AP and principal. He pledged to make changes to Fair Student Funding and said he would address the fact that there are 200 schools without guidance counselors or social workers. He emphasized that all schools should have an AP.

When asked about school safety, Mr. Lander offered a plan to pay school safety agents \$25 an hour, which he said would guarantee that there would be no shortage of them. “If we put it at \$25 an hour, you’ll be able to hire, and we’ll make sure that’s not coming out of the individual school budgets. That’s coming out of the city or the NYPD budget so that you have the

safety agents that you need in every one of your schools.

Mr. Lander said he would appoint a chancellor who had been a principal in NYC. “I want someone who was in the classroom,” he said. “I want someone who was a principal developing and supporting teachers, and I want someone who had some leadership experience figuring out how we get principals what they need.”

As for remote work provisions, Mr. Lander offered this response: “Obviously in the school building, there’s lots of positions that have got to be there five days a week with the kids. But I do support making the pilot permanent and working with you to figure out what roles we can have hybrid.”

Among his various accomplishments, **Michael Blake** has been a Democratic National

Committee official and a New York State Assemblyman representing the Bronx. He told a receptive audience that he supports adequate funding to support the class size mandates, and not pushing retirees into a Medicare Advantage plan. “I’d be damned if someone were to tell my family, ‘You worked all these years and all of a sudden I’m going to change what’s happening for your benefits afterwards.’”

The next chancellor, he said, should be someone with deep experience in the NYC public school system. “I wouldn’t want someone to be my doctor who never went to medical school,” he said. “I wouldn’t want someone to fix my car who’s not been a mechanic. It just makes sense.”

Mr. Blake pledged full support for making remote work provisions permanent, and reversing Tier Six retirement policy instituted by former Gov. Cuomo. “We have to,”

he said. “There is too often a dynamic that’s happening in the country and in New York where we only want to say that Donald Trump is attacking unions. You have some Democrats that are doing it, and you have Democrats in Albany and in city Hall, who were wrong. They don’t want to admit it but who now want to say, let’s fix it. It doesn’t really make much sense.”

“I’m the only person in this race who can tell you that I have White House, state House, and local experience. I’m the only person in this race who’s actually defeated Donald Trump when I was vice chair of the DNC. You want someone who actually can win these battles. You don’t need someone who’s just giving you great lines and hoping they can be successful.”

To read the full transcript of each interview, go to <https://csa-nyc.org/2025-mayoral-forum>.

School Leader Realities

PENCIL: ‘Principal For A Day’ Annual Summit

On May 14, Pencil held their annual “Principal For a Day” Summit at the law firm Paul Hastings in the MetLife Building in midtown Manhattan. For 30 years, Pencil has provided a way for business and civic leaders to experience what it’s like to be a public school principal and walk a day in a school leaders’ shoes. Since 1995 more than

1,000 New York City public schools have opened their doors to visiting “principals.” Pencil shared that 140 schools participated this year from all 5 boroughs, highlighting a record number of schools from Staten Island. Principals Monique Jackson Dickens and Moses Ojeda served as speakers on their Principal Panel.

—CSA NEWS STAFF



■ From Left: Principal Moses Ojeda, Former Principal and CSA Executive Director Saida Rodriguez Tabone, CSA President Henry Rubio, Principal Monique Jackson Dickens, Principal Rashid Ferrod Davis, XXXX, Principal Kayode Ayetiwa, AP Anna Raghubir, and Pencil CEO Gregg Bethel.

Member Artistry

Retiree Singin' And Swingin' At 54 Below

BY CSA NEWS STAFF

Former Principal and current Retiree Chapter Manhattan Unit Leader George Young will be performing his show Singin' and Swingin' at the luxury supper club 54 BELOW, on June 19 at 7 pm. Mr. Young, an accomplished entertainer, brings his musicianship and vocal dexterity to the famed club, in a program that pays tribute to Juneteenth, and celebrates Harlem's Apollo Theatre and the Royal Theatre in his hometown of Baltimore, the lasting power

of Broadway, and the great Nat King Cole. Through a repertoire of thoughtfully selected songs, Mr. Young will weave his personal history with the greater story of Black contribution to the American Songbook.

Mr. Young has enlisted the support of four exceptional musicians, including musical director Tedd Firth, a pianist and arranger who has worked with legends ranging from Bernadette Peters to Michael Feinstein to Leslie Uggams; Bassist Tom Hubbard, whose career includes gigs with Kenny Barron, Joe Williams, and Liza Minnelli; and saxophone



■ Vocal artist George Young

virtuoso Eugene Ghee, who has played with greats such as Art Blakey and Stevie Wonder. Toronto born, New York based Mark McLean, one of the most versatile musicians on the scene, will play drums. He has played with the likes of Andrea Bocelli, George Michael and many others.

Supper club 54 Below is at 254 West 54th Street. Tickets and information are available at www.54Below.org. Tickets on the day of performance after 4 pm are only available by calling (646) 476-355.

Travel Desk

GARY GOLDSTEIN

Exploration And Vacationing On Land Or By Sea

Canadian Rockies

July 20 - 27, 2025

Fly to Vancouver. Explore the Canadian Rockies partially by Rocky Mountaineer rail. Visit Vancouver, Kamloops, Coast Mountains, Lake Louise, Banff, Icefields Parkway. Return from Calgary. Rates include air JFK, rail travel, hotels, sightseeing and 13 meals. \$7,999 pp dbl (rate valid until Nov. 30, 2024). Add insurance, rail upgrade and pre/post hotels.

Grand Hawaiian Trip

Aug. 7 - 19, 2025

Visit Honolulu, Kona (Big Island), Maui and Kauai. Escorted tour includes rt air, sightseeing, 12 breakfasts and 6 dinners. This is out 14 months prior as demand for Hawaii is huge! Deposit is refundable until Jan. 17. Air from NY and inter-islands included. \$7,799 pp dbl - includes 6 dinners and 12 breakfasts. Call (732) 786-0314 or email Gary Goldstein at blgtravel26@aol.com for brochure.

Caribbean Cruise

Aug. 19 - 29, 2025

Sail from New York or Brooklyn on the Island Princess to Grand Turk, Amber Cove (Dominican Republic), San Juan, and Bermuda (2 days). From \$1,711pp-dbl including all taxes, beverages, tips and wifi. Air and optional insurance not included.

Canada/New England

Sept. 13 - 20, 2025

Sail on the beautiful Enchanted Princess from the port of either New York or Brooklyn. Sail to Newport, Boston, Portland, St. John (Bay of Fundy), Halifax, return to NYC. Rates begin at \$1,016 pp, dbl including port/gov't. Fees (subject to availability). Add insurance if desired.

Tropical Costa Rica

Dec. 8 - 16, 2025

Join this land tour to include San Jose, Arenal Volcano, Cano Negro wildlife tour, Monteverde Cloud Forest, Guanacaste Beach. 3 nite pre jungle tour



■ Members enjoy a visit to Ho Chi Minh City during a trip to Vietnam.

available at additional cost. Including air from JFK, (other gateways available); 14 meals \$2,999 pp dbl; \$3,499 single. 16 seats available.

Panama Canal Cruise

Jan. 5 - 21, 2026

Ft. Lauderdale to Los Angeles. Sail on the beautiful Coral Princess. Visit Cartagena, Panama City, Puntarenas (Costa Rica), Mexican ports of Puerto Chiapas, Huatulco, and Puerto Vallarta and disembarking in Los Angeles. Rates begin at \$2,249pp dbl: Additional for air and insurance.

President's Week

Feb. 15 - 22, 2026

Sail the Grand Princess, round trip Puerto Rico. Visit St. Croix, Dominica, St. Lucia, Grenada and Barbados. Rates begin at \$794 pp double. Add air (available March 2025) and optional insurance. Deep discount, rates won't last.

Bali To Bangkok

March 10 - 22, 2026

Sail the elegant Viking Venus from Bali to Java (including Surabaya, Semarang and Jakarta). Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, and Bangkok. Rates begin at \$5,374.00 pp dbl and include wine, beer, soda at lunch and dinner, comp excursion in each port, wifi, and speciality restaurant visit. Add air, insurance and pre/post hotels.

Shades Of Ireland

April 2 - 11, 2026

Escorted tour including Kilkenny, Waterford, Blarney Castle, Killarney, Ring of Kerry, Limerick, Galway and more. Program includes 13 meals and rt air from JFK. Valid passport required with 6 months validity upon return to U.S. Rates are: \$4299 pp double; \$4999 single. Optional insurance and air upgrades are additional.

Basel to Amsterdam

July 26 - Aug. 2, 2026

Explore one of Europe's best known rivers and discover historic cities, medieval towns and stunning scenery noted as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Sail the Viking HLIN. Two-night Basel pre and two night Amsterdam post available for purchase.. Add promo air and insurance. Non-refundable \$25pp with final payment due in July 2025. Rates begin at \$2474pp dbl.

Contact 732-786-0314 or ggoldstein@csa-nyc.org for details. REAL ID (Really!) Beginning May 7, anyone planning to travel domestically will need a REAL ID or a valid passport. No longer is a regular driver's license able to be used for domestic air travel. The best way to request a REAL ID license is to contact your local Motor Vehicle Bureau to secure an appointment. You are urged to do this as soon as possible as appointments may be difficult to secure.

RETIREE Chapter

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Gayle Lockett

Power In A Union



CSA's Political Action Committee held a Mayoral Forum on May 12. CSA President Henry Rubio interviewed eight candidates running for mayor, asking questions suggested by CSA members. Our in-service and retiree members came out in large numbers to see the event and judge the candidates. Members were later asked to take part in a survey asking their opinions as to whether CSA should or shouldn't support any of the candidates. This forum was hugely important: Our members proved to the candidates how serious CSA is by their tremendous turnout. Bravo to Henry Rubio, his officers, the Political Action Committee and CSA members who helped make this forum possible.

Remember, we retirees are vital especially when it comes to supporting CSA through the political process. In New York City early voting for primary elections is June 14-22, and primary day is June 24. Even if you are not living in NYC, please encourage family and friends living in NYC to vote during the primary elections.

...

The second major event that occurred in May was the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Retiree Chapter on May 18. This incredible event was held at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center. After a cocktail reception, guests moved into the auditorium for opening remarks by the CSA Retiree Chapter Director Mark Brodsky, Chair of Special Event and 2nd RC Vice Chair John Oricchio, myself, and Mr. Rubio. Mr. Oricchio reminded guests that one of the purposes for the celebration was to "educate, entertain, and energize."

We were given the history of the Met and the making of a show and were treated to a performance by Opera singer Daniel Rich, accompanied by the pianist Deborah Robertson. After the spectacular performance, we went behind the stage to hear and see how the stages (four of them!) and props are arranged. We were then served a lovely lunch on the Grand Tier. It was a memorable event, greeting each other, connecting with friends and colleagues and learning about The Metropolitan Opera.

In addition to Mr. Oricchio and Mr. Brodsky, thank you to Special Events Committee members Lucie Elio, Janice Imundi, Joseph Rosenberg, Candice Scott, and George Young, who organized and planned this amazing event. Special thanks to Susan Rippe-Hofmann and Rosemarie Sinclair for invaluable assistance.

Among those unable to attend were former CSA President Jill Levy; first Retiree Chapter President Irwin Shanes; and first Retiree Chapter Vice President Dee Dee Goidel. We missed them all. But Gary Goldstein, first Retiree Chapter director, was there, and acknowledged and thanked them for their brilliance and foresight in creating the foundation of the CSA Retiree Chapter. We definitely stand on your shoulders!

In closing, although Memorial Day has passed, I would be remiss if I did not publicly acknowledge the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. A heartfelt thank you to you and your families for your service!

In Unity,

Gayle Lockett

Planning Made Perfect



■ CSA officers and Retiree Chapter officials gather on the steps at the Metropolitan Opera House in Lincoln Center. A beautiful, eventful day celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Chapter.

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

CSA Retiree Chapter Director Mark Brodsky likes to plan ahead. Far, far ahead.

So in 2020, realizing that the 20th anniversary of the creation of the RC was fast approaching – in 2025 – he began planning and laying the groundwork for a gala.

"We started to put the pieces together," he said. A committee was formed. Fellow early birds

joined forces. Ideas were exchanged. And limitations were quickly reached. "This is not our wheelhouse," Mr. Brodsky said. "We are not party planners. We are retired educators. So we hired an event planner."

Plans progressed steadily. The team began looking for a suitably grand venue. The last celebration, commemorating the RC's 10th anniversary, was held at the United Nations. They considered the UN again and checked out the New York Historical

Continued on Page 11

2025 RC Fall Program Preview

Trips

- 9/7 New York Harbor and Whale Watching Cruise, \$60, 2 pm – 5 pm
- 9/9 RiseNY, \$23, 11:30 pm – 1 pm
- 9/14 Tugboat Ride, TBD
- 9/25 AKC Museum of the Dog \$25 11 pm – 12 pm
- 9/30 Miniature Golf at Puttery NY \$52, 3 pm – 5 pm
- 10/24 Philipse Manor Hall, \$3, noon - 1:30 pm
- 10/9 Jackie Robinson Museum \$24, 11 am - 12:45 pm
- 10/14 An Afternoon Tea Bus in NYC 12 pm – 1:30 pm, \$115 or \$79
- 10/16 Anne Frank Exhibition \$21, 11:15 am – 1:30 pm
- 10/24 Wine Seminar at CSA \$60, 5 pm – 7 pm
- 10/28 Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum \$26, 11:30 am – 1 pm
- 10/29 Jazz Museum in Harlem 10:30 - 11:30 am
- 11/5 Tenement Museum: A Puerto Rican Family \$26, 10 am – noon
- 11/13 Spanish Style: Fashion Illuminated 1550-700 \$10, 11:45 am – 1 pm
- 11/5 Tour of the Backstage of Lincoln Center \$17, 11:15 am – 1 pm
- 11/20 Paley Center 11:30 am - \$23

- 12/16 Radio City's Christmas Spectacular TBD 5 pm - 6:30 pm

- 12/19 Big Band Holiday Jazz at Lincoln Center, TBD
- Fee for guests: Add an additional \$5 for each

Trip to Lancaster, PA – Amish Country with the Retiree Chapter Sept. 16 & 17, 2025, For info & reservation: Contact Rosemarie Sinclair at Rsinclair@csa-nyc.org, 212-823 2080

Classes

Mah Jongg at CSA - Cantonese Mah Jongg and/or American Mah Jongg
Acrylic/Watercolor Painting
Virtual Golf at North Shore Towers Golf Club

Clubs

Book & Bagels Club – Virtual
Dining Club – at a restaurant
Film Club – Virtual
Theater Club – Mamma Mia!, Death Becomes Her, and Stranger Things: The First Shadow

Virtual Presentations

The Films of Alfred Hitchcock and The Golden Age of TV Holiday Specials

Register online with Cvent at the CSA website. Pay by check or credit card. Cancellation Policy: Refunds only issued if we can fill your slot from a waiting list, no exceptions. If you have questions, call the Retiree Chapter Office at (212) 823-2075

Great Food, Music And A Rich History



■ Above left: Guests enjoyed an early happy hour on a balcony at the Met. Above center: Selina Brenda Lutchman, wife of RC Political Liaison Mitra Lutchman, RC Special Events Committee Chairperson John Oricchio, Committee Member Janice Imundi. Mr. Oricchio was instrumental in planning the event. Above Right: Members enjoyed a back stage tour of the opera house.

Continued from Page 10

Society and the Whale Room at the American Museum of Natural History. When it became available, they decided to host the event at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center.

"When we took a tour, we said, 'This is the place,'" Mr. Brodsky said.

Then it became a question of working out the logistics – working with officials from the Met and the event planner. When the day finally arrived, the attendees numbered around 230 people, just under the capacity crowd. A good time was had by all.

Amid the stunning architecture and the exciting aura of one of the world's premier cultural institutions, attendees enjoyed a cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres in an upstairs deck overlooking the entrance to Lincoln Center. There was a tour of the Met, including a fascinating tour of the stages. A

sumptuous lunch followed, during which guests were treated to music by a jazz band, a performance by singers and musicians.

Speakers included Mr. Brodsky, RC Chairperson Gayle Lockett, Special Events Chairperson John Oricchio, who helped make sure the event was a success, and CSA President Henry Rubio. Saluting all of CSA's retirees, Mr. Rubio said, "We all stand upon your shoulders."

To punctuate the day, as the guests were leaving, a crowd of paparazzi and celebrity watchers were crowded near the exit as the New York opening of the latest Mission Impossible let out. Leading man Tom Cruise was outside giving interviews. As the retirees filed out they waved at him, and he waved at them.

"It was an absolutely great day," said Mr. Brodsky.

RC Regional Units

SUNCOAST

Warm Sarasota greetings to everyone. Mark the dates for our 2026 luncheons, Fridays, Jan. 16 and March 13. If you decide to retire here in Paradise, anywhere on the west coast from Naples up to Tarpon Springs, do not hesitate to reach out and join our Unit. You can reach me at cindysal6687@gmail.com, or (646) 387-2652. Until then, stay safe and keep having fun in your retirement!

— CINDY SALOMONE

SOUTHWEST

On May 13, our members met at the Oakwood Country Club in Sun Lakes, Arizona. Guest speaker Nancy Juarez, the Community Relations Coordinator, from the Arizona Attorney General's Office, presented information about consumer scams and senior fraud. The attendees concluded that it was most valuable to learn how to avoid being scammed. A lively Q&A followed. Feel free to contact me with questions and concerns at sthier8@gmail.com.

— STEF THIER

BRONX

Several engaging activities are slated for this summer. We anticipate your enthusiastic participation. Details, including dates for the Meet and Greet, AMC movie outings, and lunches, will follow shortly. Please add these events to your calendars. Contact us at csarc-bxmembers@gmail.com with any questions. Our year-end celebration will be June 25, 2025, at the Lobster House in City Island. A flyer has been emailed.

—SHARON D. THOMPSON

GEORGIA

Our annual Spring Meeting was May 6 at The Historic Green Manor Restaurant. We elected officers for the next three years. It was unanimous that Georgia Harrison will continue as Chairperson and Melba Paul as Treasurer. Our guest from CSARC was Gayle Lockett, and member, Denise Gunther, displayed artwork. She has exhibits in various studios in the Greater Atlanta Area.

—GEORGIA HARRISON

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

I hope you all enjoyed Mother's Day. By now many snowbirds are home. I'll send out our newsletter in the second week of June so that it goes to your alternate address. If you do not receive it, please let me know. It will list all the scheduled upcoming events for 2025-2026 fiscal year. We are planning to have an event this summer. You will be notified when it is finalized. Have a great summer.

— LOIS TURETZKY

MANHATTAN

On May 7, members of the Manhattan Unit took a tour of the Apollo Theater in Harlem with Billy "Mr. Apollo" Mitchell. Mr. Mitchell shared with us his backstage memories and stories about the many Apollo legends who performed there. Through his wonderful storytelling he connected the past, present and future of the theater. Some of our talented retirees volunteered to perform onstage for the rest of us. That was the highlight of our trip. We ended with a wonderful lunch at PB Brasserie and Steak House.

—GEORGE YOUNG

LONG ISLAND

A docent led tour of the Holocaust Museum and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove showcased the history of the Holocaust and its lessons. The visit focused on the dangers of antisemitism, intolerance, racism and bullying with a question-and-answer session. A visit to Del Vino Winery in Northport brought out the wine lovers in all who attended. Participants were treated to a variety of food including pizza, salad and various sandwiches and had the opportunity to pair them with a choice of a red or white flight of wine or go for the gusto with a frozen wine drink! It was a spectacular day ending with a group picture in front of the vineyards. We have many exciting upcoming events so please check our website, csaliretires.com, for details.

—KARLA LANDESMAN MARRERO



■ At a sumptuous lunch, gala attendees were serenaded by a Met singer accompanied by a pianist. Below, luncheon goers enjoyed dining under the huge glass façade of the Met.



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MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Satisfaction After Grueling Race

You've all heard of CSA Runs As 1, the official CSA running club. Now, make way for CSA Irons As 1, an offshoot group of masochists who compete in Ironman triathlons. On May 17, members of the organization fielded two relay teams in the Cap Cana Ironman 70.3, held in Cap Cana, Dominican Republic (the 70.3 refers to the distances covered -- a swim of 1.2 miles, a cycling course of 56 miles, and a run of 13.5 miles.) Each participant must finish their leg of the race or disqualification of their team results.



■ at the finish line, are the two CSA teams. From left: Principal Emel Topbas Mejia, Saida Rodriguez-Tabone, EA Jovayra Cabrera, Principals Donny Lopez, Laura Peynado Castro, and EA Anapaula Macedo.

Both CSA teams finished and posted respectable results, with a dose of athletic heroism sprinkled in: CSA Executive Director and former Principal Saida Rodriguez-Tabone, handling the cycling leg for her team, suffered a mechanical malfunction that caused her to tumble from her bike. Rather than forfeit the race, an ambulance crew gave her a clean-enough bill of health to resume her ride and finish, despite minor injuries.

"I got back on and finished," she observed stoically. "My knee is messed up and my elbow is sore, but it was worth it."

—CHUCK WILBANKS

A Career Is Feted

As part of Women's History Month, Queens Democratic Assemblywoman Nily Rozic celebrated the career of retired principal Molly Wang, a distinguished educator and longtime leader of PS 173 The Fresh Meadows School. Under Ms. Wang's leadership, the school earned a Blue Ribbon Award from the US DOE



■ Wang, left, and Rozic

Aviation HS Blvd.



■ Left, Aviation High School Principal Steven Jackson and Queens Borough President Donovan Richards at street renaming ceremony.

Aviation High School in Queens was flying high on March 30, when members of the school community, aviation industry partners, elected officials and other leaders gathered for the official co-naming of "Aviation High School Boulevard," located on 36th Street between Queens Boulevard and 47th Avenue. In the early afternoon, hundreds of people gathered to celebrate the event. "We filled the street with our school community members, showed off our love of Aviation High

School, and celebrated this wonderful milestone," said Aviation AP Giovannie Sosa. Aviation Principal Steven Jackson was joined by local politicians, including Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, and District 26 City Council Member Julie Won, who honored the school. That naming ceremony was followed by a gathering at Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach, where more than 300 people came together to celebrate the event.

—CSA NEWS STAFF

New Ground For A New Playground

On May 1, Assembly Member Charles Fall joined PS 44 Principal Nancy Storms, Assistant Principals Robert Palumbo and Cynthia Leonard, students, and other community members at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the school's new turf playground. Assemblymember Fall, who represents parts of Staten Island, Manhattan and Brooklyn, attended the school as a boy, and was instrumental in gaining

the \$1.5 million to renovation of the playground. Assemblyman Fall said schools shouldn't have to make do with "aging, inadequate infrastructure," and was proud to play a role in providing the school with a state-of-the-art facility. Also attending the ceremony were Kevin Moran, the DOE's chief school operations officer, and District 31 Deputy Superintendent Christine Chavez.

—JOHN GRASSADONIO



■ Assemblyman Charles Fall secured playground funding.

and launched a dual language program, fostering a more inclusive and dynamic learning environment. "Molly Wang exemplifies the spirit of Women's History Month," said Assemblywoman Rozic. "Her dedication to education and her profound impact on generations of students and families is a powerful reminder of how one individual can uplift an entire community. I am proud to honor her contributions." Ms. Wang said "it was the honor of my life to serve as principal for PS 173 and bear witness to the journey that our students took during that crucial time of their lives. The achievements for which I am being recognized by Assemblywoman Rozic were not accomplished on my own, and so I recognize with deep gratitude the team of dedicated teachers, administrators, and parents who gave so much of themselves for the benefit of our children."

—CSA NEWS STAFF