



THE PHOTOS ON THESE PAGES WERE TAKEN DURING THE WSMS BOARD RETREAT AT THE OFFICES OF GIBSON, DUNN & CRUTCHER (WHERE ALEX SOUTHWELL IS A PARTNER) IN JUNE OF 2012.

# ABOVE & BEYOND:

## The WSMS Board of Trustees

West Side Montessori School has always depended on the talent, generosity, and hard work of the many volunteers in our community. These individuals define the spirit of WSMS; we wouldn't be able to build and grow without them. This is especially true of our trustees—every one of them a volunteer. We would like to take this opportunity to salute all past and present members of our board, who, in partnership with the wonderful heads of school we've been fortunate to have at the helm, have contributed so much to making WSMS what it is today.



Responsible for supporting and overseeing the head of school, setting the School's policies, providing strategic guidance, and ensuring fiduciary and ethical integrity, the board plays a critical role in maintaining the long-term health and well-being of the School. Consisting of current and former WSMS parents, one to two faculty representatives, and distinguished individuals from other educational institutions (the head of school and the current PA co-presidents serve as ex officio trustees), our board reflects a broad range of backgrounds and areas of expertise, making it possible for the trustees to effectively carry out a wide variety of projects. Most of the board's work is done by committee:

- **The Executive Committee consists of the officers of the board (president, vice presidents, treasurer, and secretary) and the head of school. It provides guidance and makes decisions on matters requiring immediate action.**

- **The Finance Committee is responsible for budgets, financial reports, and management of the School's finances.**

- **The Development Committee develops and implements fundraising goals and campaigns.**

- **The Communications Committee strengthens communication outreach to parents and the broader community.**

- **The Nominating Committee canvasses the WSMS community to find potential candidates for board vacancies and conducts the annual election of trustees.**

- **The Trustee Committee facilitates governance issues, recruits potential trustees, and is responsible for the evaluations of the board and head of school.**

In addition, ad hoc committees (e.g., Strategic Planning, Building) are formed as needed. Apart from the Executive and Finance Committees, committee membership is not limited to members of the board. Parents and teachers provide valuable help by contributing to the work of the board.

The involvement of the WSMS board has been instrumental in so many important accomplishments over the years. Among the highlights are the purchase of our current building in 1974; the hiring of Marlene Barron as head of school in 1979; the renovation of our rooftop play space and Garden level in 1983; the construction of a two-story addition at the rear of our building in 1996; the hiring of current head of school Mimi Basso in 2007; the "greening" of our classrooms and kitchen in 2009; and the creation of our Parents Room/Library in 2011.

We are deeply grateful to our current and former board members, all of whom have given of themselves so willingly and generously in helping to secure the future of our school.



# MEET THIS YEAR'S BOARD

## MYLES B. AMEND

is Associate Head of School for Advancement at Trinity School, where he has worked since 2000. Prior to that he served as Director of Development and Finance at Rice High School in Harlem; as Principal of Tampa Catholic High School in Tampa, Florida; and as Associate Director for Institutional Advancement and Governance at the Museum of the City of New York. He is a graduate of Iona College and holds master's degrees in History from New York University and in Independent School Leadership from Columbia University Teachers College. He is also a past president of the New York City Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Myles and his husband, Marc Thomas, are parents of Ashley Amend-Thomas, who completed her two-year career at WSMS in 2011.



## KRISTEN CHAE ARABADJIEV

is the mother of three children: Ariana, who graduated from WSMS in 2010; Bella, who moved on to kindergarten in 2011; and Cece (4E), who entered her second year at WSMS this fall. Kristen has been an active WSMS parent since 2007. Among other things, she co-chaired the 2010 Auction and is currently serving her second year as PA Co-President. Kristen is a business owner of GlobeArc LLC and Little Apples Photography. She earned her BSBA from the School of Management at Boston University and has held positions at Barra, Inc., and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith. She is married to Boris Arabadjiev.

## NISSA BOOKER

is a graduate of Spelman College, where she majored in English. After working in various capacities for ABC News in Washington, D.C., she discovered a particular interest in training and development. She eventually left ABC News and joined a start-up owned by AOL, where she is responsible for managing editorial recruiters. Nissa is the mom of WSMS alum Dalyn and current WSMS student Aiden. She is currently working on her Montessori teaching certification through the WSMS-TEP program.

## HARRIET BURNETT

is a proud WSMS alumni parent whose daughters happily began their educational journey at West Side. Harriet's husband, Tom, was on the WSMS Board in the early 1980s, so she is continuing the family tradition. Since 1990, Harriet has been Director of Admissions at Friends Seminary. Prior to Friends, she worked for five years in the Advancement Office at Collegiate School.

Trained as an urban planner, Harriet has a BA and an MA from George Washington University, and graduated from Friends' Central School in Philadelphia. She worked for the New York City Housing and Development Administration before having children. Her husband, Tom, is Vice Chairman of Wall Street Access, a financial services firm. Daughter Liza is Executive Vice President of Radius-TWC, a subsidiary of the Weinstein Company; daughter Nora is Curator at the Denver Museum of Contemporary Art; and grandchildren Ruby and Xander are perfection.

## CHAD GIFFORD

is a dean in the Division of Student Affairs at Columbia University, working with many offices and initiatives on campus, including student advising, family and parent programs, curriculum development, and alumni affairs in both Columbia College and the School of Engineering. Chad joined Student Affairs after graduating from Columbia University with a PhD in Anthropology. His ongoing archaeological research takes him to South America every summer, where he leads a fieldwork project studying the Inca Empire.

Chad's daughter, Lake Gifford, was a student at WSMS for three years. During that time Chad was an active member of the WSMS Parents Association, helping in a variety of events and programs and eventually serving as Co-President.

Chad lives with his wife, Betsy Morgan, and Lake, who is now 8 and a second grader at Trinity School.

## AMY GROOME

has resided in New York for 17 years. She lives with her husband, Peter, and their two sons: Henry, a third grader at Collegiate School and a WSMS graduate; and Freddy, who is in his second year at WSMS.

Amy holds a certificate in Integrative Nutrition and has worked as a health counselor, helping individuals with food choices and overall well-being. She has a background in marketing communications specializing in global brand development for luxury and lifestyle businesses. She has held positions at Avon Products, Nautica, and StarMedia Network, a Latin-American Internet company.

A native Californian and a graduate of Georgetown University, Amy speaks fluent Spanish and enjoys travel.

## CHARLES HARKLESS

is a co-founder and managing director of Satori Consulting, a management consultancy formed in 2002 that provides strategy execution and organization effectiveness services. He has worked as a management consultant for more than 20 years, with significant experience in the financial services, telecommunications, and high tech sectors. Prior to founding Satori, Charles was a partner at Accenture, where he worked for many years structuring and managing business transformation and organizational change initiatives.

Charles and his wife, Aileen Hefferren, who is Chief Executive of Prep for Prep, have two boys, Owen (11) and Perry (8), who are currently students at Trinity School. Charles holds a BSE in Civil Engineering and Operations Research from Princeton University.

## ALEXANDRA (ALEX) JARISLOWSKY

is the mother of James and Henry Snow, twins who graduated from the Garden class in 2011 and now attend The School at Columbia University. She is married to Kevin Snow.

Alex was born in Montreal, Canada. She graduated from Brown University in 1991 and received her MBA from Harvard Business School in 1996. She has held positions at Capital Research Group, a mutual fund company in California, and at Porter Orlin LLC, a long/short hedge fund in New York. She recently joined her father's company, Jarislowsky Fraser Limited, a Canadian-based investment firm. At WSMS Alex was involved in the Auction and Spring Fair.

## JAE K. LEE

is an attorney at Jazz at Lincoln Center. She graduated from Colgate University with a BA in Political Science, and received her JD from Fordham University School of Law. Jae and her husband, Scott Millstein, have two children who attended WSMS: Todd, age 8, and Carter, age 6. As a WSMS parent, Jae was actively involved with the Auction and Spring Fair, as well as other Parents Association committees and Admissions. In the 2009–2010 school year she served as Parents Association Co-President.



## ANNE LYONS

is the mother of PJ, who graduated from WSMS last spring, and Abby, who graduated in 2010. She is a former television producer whose experience spans widely across genres. Over the course of her 17-year career she produced news, documentaries, reality shows, and entertainment specials for a variety of networks and was most recently a senior producer at ESPN. She left television behind in 2010 to be a full-time mom to her school-aged children and has recently launched SimplyfyNYC, a professional organizing service. At WSMS, she has worked on the admissions committee and the Spring Fair.



Anne graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1992 with a degree in History. She is married to TV producer Francis Lyons.

## BRYAN MAZLISH

is a partner at Overlook Capital, a market-neutral equity investment firm that he founded in 2005. Prior to starting Overlook he spent 11 years at Citigroup, where he last was a managing director heading global equity derivatives and domestic portfolio trading. His primary focus was high-level capital commitment and risk management. Bryan joined Salomon Brothers (which was later bought by Citigroup) after graduating from Harvard University with an honors degree in Computer Science.

Outside of work, Bryan has served five years as Board Treasurer for the co-op where he lives with his wife, Sarah Kimball, and their three children: Emma, 9; Sam, 6; and Sophie, 1. Emma graduated from WSMS in 2009, and Sam graduated in 2011.

## MONIQUE NEAL

is the mother of two children: Max, who graduated from WSMS in 2012, and Madeleine, who is in her second year at WSMS. Monique has been an active member of the WSMS community, serving in various capacities, including co-chairing the Spring Fair for the past two years.

Prior to becoming a parent, Monique held positions in investment analysis at Bear Stearns, Merrill Lynch, and Wilkinson O'Grady Asset Management. She graduated from Columbia University with a degree in French Translation and from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania with an MBA in Finance. She also completed one year of a master's program in Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine. Monique was born in Europe and emigrated to the U.S. as a child. She speaks fluent French and is a passionate home baker and cook. She is married to Frank Kotsen.



## RAUL PINEDA

is a Managing Director in the Private Wealth Management Division at Morgan Stanley, where he has worked since 1998. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley, Raul worked at the JPMorgan Private Bank. He has also worked in Sales and Trading at Interacciones Casa de Bolsa in Mexico. Raul graduated from the Harvard Business School in 1997 with an MBA. He holds a BA from Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico).

In addition to serving as Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee of the WSMS board, Raul is a member of the board of Ballet Hispanico, a trustee of the Browning School, and a committee member of the New York Society Library. Raul lives with his wife, Mayalen, and their three children: Raul (2008), Maitane (2010), and Ander (2011).

## ROBERT SHEPARDSON

is the father of current WSMS student Maeve, and also of Aidan, Alexis, and William, all of whom graduated from WSMS. Robert and his wife, Deirdre Flynn, started their affiliation with WSMS in 2004, and with Maeve will extend their run through 2014. Robert has worked at Morgan Stanley for over 20 years, most recently in Global Capital Markets, where he advises corporations in the media, communications, consumer and retail sectors. Robert graduated from Princeton University with a BA in Economics, and received his MBA from the Amos Tuck School at Dartmouth College.

## ALEXANDER H. SOUTHWELL

is a partner at the law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, where he is a member of the White Collar Defense and Investigations and the Information Technology and Data Privacy practice groups. Alex previously served as an assistant United States attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and is also an adjunct professor of law at Fordham University School of Law, where he teaches a seminar on cyber crimes. Alex graduated from Princeton University and New York University School of Law. He is also a proud alum of WSMS, having been born and raised on the Upper West Side, where he still lives with his wife, Sandy, and their three children: Madeline (10), Lucas (7), and Gemma (3). Madeline and Lucas graduated from WSMS in 2007 and 2011, respectively, and now attend Trinity School. Gemma began her first year at WSMS this fall.

## AMY TARR

is the mother of twins, Theodore and Penelope, both of whom graduated from WSMS last spring. Her daughter, Gigi, started her second year this fall. Amy is married to Jeff Tarr, Jr.

A food industry expert, Amy was most recently an editor at StarChefs.com, a website for chefs and other food professionals. She has also been a member of the James Beard Foundation's House Programming Committee, serving as emcee for dinner events at the James Beard House in NYC. Amy graduated from Harvard College in 1996 with a concentration in Classics (Latin). She holds a master's degree in Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education (1998).

## GREG THORNE

is currently a Director in the Technology Investment Banking group at JMP Securities, where he has worked for the past six years. He graduated from the University of Michigan (where he met his wife, Morgan) in 1996, and earned his MBA from Columbia Business School in 2005. Greg and Morgan have two children: a daughter, Kendall, who attended WSMS from 2008–2010; and a son, Quincy, who started his second year at WSMS in the fall of 2012. Greg has supported WSMS by co-chairing vendor solicitation for the Auction, filling various roles for the Spring Fair, and helping Morgan with the events and activities she has chaired, including the Pumpkin Picnic and the 2010 and 2012 Auctions.

## VALDA WITT

is the mother of four children: Katherine (2005), now a student at Marymount School; William (2007) and Andrew (2009), now attending Browning School; and Ben, who is in his third year at WSMS. Valda is an active supporter of WSMS and has been a trustee since 2005.

Valda currently serves as President of the Board at WSMS and has been a Browning School trustee since 2011. She has also been the Annual Fund chair at Browning and a PA class representative at Marymount. She is currently Executive Vice President of Infrastructure Capital. Valda received her BA in History from the College of William and Mary and her MBA from the Wharton School.

