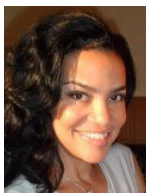


2023–2024 WSMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The primary responsibility of the Board of Trustees is to see that the School operates in the best interests of its students, teachers, and parents. The Board sets the purpose and policies of the School, ensures its financial stability, plans for its future, and hires the Head of School, who is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the School.



**Iva Mills,
President**

Iva Mills is the mother of twin WSMS alumni (2016). Iva served as co-president of the Parents Association

for two years and assisted with the Annual Fund, Auction, Spring Fair and Admissions Committee. Iva grew up in San Diego, CA, and received her BA in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her JD from American University Washington College of Law. Iva practiced law for ten years, first at a law firm, primarily in the area of advertising and marketing litigation, and later in-house litigating intellectual property disputes. Iva is also a Trustee of Trinity School, Edible Schoolyard NYC, and Roundabout Theatre Company, and serves on the Acquisition Committee of the Studio Museum in Harlem.



**Nikki Chase-Levin,
Vice President**

Nikki Chase-Levin is a board member and former parent who served as the WSMS Events Director for five years. A graduate of Michigan State University with a BA in Journalism, Nikki's 30-year marketing career started at an entertainment publicity firm in Los Angeles in 1995, and continues here in New York City. Nikki has worked for some of the most recognizable consumer brands in the marketplace, including Captain Morgan Original Spiced Rum, Sony, Morgan Stanley, Discover Card and Miller Brewing Company. Her responsibilities included strategic planning for new and existing products, television advertising development, marketing communications, public relations programming and event planning. As the co-founder and president of Straight Line Marketing, Inc. – her independent consulting firm – she has counseled clients such as Pepsi, Smirnoff, Discovery Networks, and the lifestyle marketing agency, MKTG. Nikki and her husband Dave are the proud parents of Max (WSMS '14), Zach (WSMS '16), and three dogs ... Bubbles, Rocket and Pepper!



**Jennifer S. Conway,
Vice President**

Jennifer S. Conway is a partner at the law firm, Davis, Polk & Wardwell, where she is the head of the Executive Compensation Group. She regularly advises public and private companies on executive compensation and employee benefits matters, principally in connection with mergers and

acquisitions, initial public offerings and other business transactions. Jennifer is a graduate of Georgetown University and Columbia Law School. Jennifer and her husband, Victor Manuel, have two daughters, both WSMS graduates. Jennifer and Victor also served as co-chairs of the first annual Fall Festival.

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**Scott Li,
Treasurer**

Scott Li is a partner with CRG, a healthcare-focused investment firm. Scott has been dedicated to the healthcare industry as an investor, advisor, and executive for over 20 years. Prior to joining CRG in 2015, he worked as an investment banker for the healthcare industry, and also previously served as the chief financial officer of a venture-backed health IT company. He and his wife, Vernaliz, have been committed WSMS volunteers; they co-chaired the WSMS Bulb Planting, and Vern co-chaired the Fall Festival. A New Jersey native and long-time resident of New York, Scott lives on the Upper West Side with his family, which includes two children who attended WSMS. He received an AB in economics from Princeton University and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

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**Tenille Skelton,
Secretary**

Tenille Skelton and her husband, Travis Skelton, are the proud parents of two WSMS alumni. During her time at WSMS, she was an active parent volunteer, serving on many committees, including two years as Parents Association co-president. Tenille received her BS in finance and accounting at Tulane University. She has ten years of experience in real estate finance and capital raising, having spent her career at The Carlyle Group, Goldman Sachs and TPG. Tenille is a member of the board of Grand Street Settlement, a non-profit organization that provides programs and services to over 10,000 under-served New York children, families and seniors, and serves on its Executive Committee and Ad Hoc Real Estate Committee. Tenille is also a member of the board of Rise Outside, a guiding organization that provides adventure programming for groups who have traditionally encountered barriers to the great outdoors.

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Lauren Basmadjian

Lauren Basmadjian is a Partner, Managing Director, Co-Head of Liquid Credit and Head of US Loans & Structured Credit within Carlyle's

Global Credit platform, where she oversees over \$50bn of assets. She is based in New York and sits on the Investment Committees for Carlyle's Liquid and Private Credit businesses. Lauren joined the Carlyle Group in 2020 after 19 years at Octagon Credit Investors. She graduated cum laude from the Stern School of Business at New York University with a B.S. in Finance and Economics. Lauren and her husband, Armen, have 4 children, including Michael who currently attends West Side Montessori School.



Dana Bliss

Dana Bliss is Executive Editor at Oxford University Press, where he oversees a book publishing program in social work, counseling and I/O psychology. Prior to joining OUP in 2012, Dana worked at Taylor & Francis, another scholarly publishing company in New York. Dana was born and raised in downtown Manhattan, and began his educational journey at a Montessori preschool in Tribeca, before attending Friends Seminary and then Colgate University, where he earned his BA in philosophy and classics. He is a Fellow of the Library of America, a non-profit organization dedicated to the publication and preservation of the nation's cultural heritage through America's greatest writing. At WSMS Dana has served as co-chair of the Fall Festival, Class Rep Coordinator, and class rep, and has pitched in at the Auction and Hooked on Books events. Dana and his wife, Saya, live on the Upper West Side and are the proud parents of two WSMS alumni, Nami (WSMS '17) and Emi (WSMS '21).



Michael Capilouto

Michael Capilouto and his wife Christine are parents of Cassis and Tristan, both alums of West Side Montessori School. Michael was

an active volunteer while his kids attended WSMS, serving as a class representative and volunteer at many school events. Michael spent 30 years as a partner at the professional services firm EY, where he helped develop two service lines and served clients executing complex transactions including capital raising, acquisitions and sales. Michael also spent several years abroad

working with non-US-based SEC registrants. Michael continues to stay involved with EY in a partner mentorship role. Michael and family are avid travelers and explorers.



Julia Emanuel, MD

Julia Emanuel, MD, is a general pediatrician at Manhattan Valley Pediatrics, an independent outpatient pediatrics practice on the Upper West Side. She received her bachelor's degree from Yale University and her medical degree from The George Washington University School of Medicine, before completing her pediatric residency at Columbia NewYork-Presbyterian, Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital. Prior to medical school, Julia earned a master's degree in Global Public Health from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, and worked for the international humanitarian organization, Doctors Without Borders, advocating for expanded access to medicines in developing countries and other health policy initiatives. Julia focuses her pediatric practice on helping children and their parents thrive in all aspects of their lives and communities. She is married to Eric Feinstein, and they are the parents of a recent WSMS alum Noa ('23), and a current WSMS student.

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Joseph Gilbert

Joseph Gilbert is married to Damaris Hernandez and is the father of Mariana and Ollie, both proud WSMS alumni. He joined NYU Langone Health in 2015, after working in the Preventive Medicine department at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (ISMMS). He serves as a co-investigator for the NYU Children's Health and Environment Study (NYU CHES), a longitudinal study examining the environmental influences on growth and development of babies in utero, and the NYU Factors Influencing Reproductive Success and Time to Pregnancy Study (NYU FIRST), a prospective cohort study aimed at identifying environmental influences that lead to difficulties in attaining and sustaining a pregnancy to term. Joe graduated from Bridgewater State University with a BS in biology, and from ISMMS with an MPH.

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Steven Han

Steven Han has 20 years of investment experience across public and private equities and credit. He is currently a Portfolio Manager at

Sypher Capital, which is focused on public and private growth investments. Prior to this role, he was a Portfolio Manager at Quent Capital, a global, small cap hedge fund, and held investment roles at Hudson Bay Capital, Freshford Capital, and H.I.G. Capital. Steven began his career in management consulting for the technology sector. Steven holds a BA from Stanford University and an MBA from Northwestern University. Steven and his wife, Gee Young, currently live on the Upper West Side with their daughter, Lina, a WSMS alum.



Avner Husen

Avner Husen and his wife, Tashmin Ali, are active members of the WSMS community and proud parents of Sophia (Garden Class) and a

son in third grade. Avner is a Managing Director at Blackstone, where he is involved in strategy and management of the firm's Real Estate Income Trust (BREIT). Prior to joining Blackstone, Avner worked at Fortress Investment Group, where he was a Partner and Investment Committee Member in the Credit and Real Estate business for 14 years. Before Fortress, Avner worked at the Carlyle Group in their U.S. Real Estate Funds. Avner received an AB in Economics from the University of Chicago, with honors. He continues to serve on the University's Alumni Association. He is also a sponsor of the Global Fund for Children, which provides educational opportunities for children and youth, and an advisor for the Francisco Park Conservancy, which recently transformed an abandoned reservoir in San Francisco into a community park. Avner and his family relocated to New York from San Francisco in 2022.



Geoffrey Karapetyan

Geoffrey Karapetyan and his husband, Jay Serpe, are the parents of two current WSMS students. In addition to being a dad, Geo is the Senior Vice

President of Partnerships at NBCUniversal, where he focuses on Peacock and manages digital partnerships for the Olympic Games. He earned an MBA from New York University, and a BA in Comparative Literature from Columbia University. He served as a class rep in his first year in the WSMS community, and is grateful to continue to serve the community. Geo and his family live on the Upper West Side.



Ankur Keswani

Ankur Keswani and her husband, Rohit, are proud parents of current WSMS student, Saavan, alumni student Isha, and future student Rishi. While at WSMS, Ankur has truly enjoyed working with our amazing parent community. She had the honor of serving as the Co-Chair of WSMS Gives in 2020 and the Co-Chair of the Annual Fund in 2021, co-heading the Gratitude Campaign in 2020, and being a class rep. Currently, Ankur serves as an independent director on the board of Kennedy Lewis Capital, a BDC, and a variety of nonprofit boards. Prior to focusing full-time on raising her family, Ms. Keswani spent over 20 years in portfolio management, credit investing, trading, research and risk management. From 2012-2020, she was the Head of Corporate Credit at Serengeti Asset Management, where she helped manage over \$1 billion in assets and led several successful turnarounds and post-bankruptcy workouts. Prior to joining Serengeti, Ankur spent more than nine years at Goldman Sachs, mainly as a High Yield and Distressed trader. Prior to moving to trading, Ankur was a II-ranked High Yield Healthcare research analyst at Goldman. In 2017, Ankur was added to the Hedge Fund Journal's Top 50 Women in Hedge Funds. She received her BA with Honors from Oxford University in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Ankur grew up in India, Hong Kong and Singapore, but New York is where her heart belongs.



Annie Kim

Annie Kim has been at Citi for almost 18 years working in a variety of functions. She is currently a Senior Vice President and Credit Officer for the Commercial Banking business, providing risk oversight for the Commercial Bank's derivatives and investment products portfolio. Because this role is part of a global office, Annie has had the opportunity to work with colleagues in the US, EMEA, Latin America and Mexico, and Asia Pacific regions. In this role, Annie is also a Risk approver for the small business banking portfolio for North America. Annie actively supports mentorship initiatives at Citi, including running the Global Risk Mentor Program for the Commercial Bank, serving as a mentor for the Risk Analyst Mentor program, and participating as a steering committee member of the Citi Women's Network New York chapter focusing on professional development. Annie received a BS in Finance and Economics at the Leonard N. Stern School of Business at New York University. Annie

and her spouse, Jeff Lin, are current WSMS parents of Max, and have two WSMS alumni children, Samuel ('19) and Clara ('22).



Lilian Kim

Lilian Kim and her husband, Scott Kim, are proud parents of WSMS alumni, Taylor, and their son, Grayson. Lilian is a native of Los Angeles, and also lived in San Francisco for over a decade. Lilian has been an active parent volunteer, serving as co-chair of the Auction Committee, a volunteer on the Annual Fund Committee, and a member of the Admissions Committee, and she was active in various projects on the decor of WSMS. Lilian received her BFA of Merchandising and Design at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Prior to taking time off to raise her family, she worked in various roles at Gap, Inc., focused on merchandising and production.



Liz Martorella

Liz Martorella has been a part of the WSMS community since 2013. She was an active parent volunteer in the years that her daughters attended WSMS, including two years as co-president of the Parents Association, and as a co-chair of the Auction and Fall Festival. Liz has over ten years of experience in pharmaceutical marketing and advertising, including her time at well-known specialty agencies Sudler & Hennessey and LM&P. As an account manager, Liz was a key player in the strategic planning and conceptual development of promotional and educational programs directed at medical professionals and patients. Her marketing experience spans many therapeutic categories, including Parkinson's disease, osteoporosis, prostate cancer, antibiotics, antivirals and osteoarthritis. Liz received her BA in psychology from SUNY Geneseo, and her MA in psychology with a focus on cognition, perception and neuroscience, from NYU. She was part of a research team investigating the intersection of memory and emotion in the brain, and published findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, a peer-reviewed scientific journal. Liz and her husband, Ben Swinburne, are the proud parents of Josephine ('16), Vivian ('19) and Isabel ('22).



Kurt Miller

Kurt Miller and his wife Melissa are parents of two WSMS alumni. Over the years, Kurt has had the pleasure of serving as Auction co-chair, as well as volunteering at multiple other events, including the Fall Festival and the Auction. Originally from northern Virginia, he moved west for undergrad at Stanford. After graduation, he taught English in Japan for a year before pursuing a PhD in Computer Science at UC Berkeley. He and Melissa moved to NYC in 2011 for Kurt's job at PDT Partners, a quantitative asset management firm. From 2014-2018, Kurt was also an adjunct at the NYU Center for Data Science.



Yasmin Nozari

Yasmin Nozari and her husband, Mike Lefferts, are the parents of current WSMS student, Kaveh, and WSMS alum, Cyrus '23. Yasmin has been an active volunteer at WSMS since her family joined the school in Fall '20. She co-chaired the WSMS Gives Committee and Auction in the '20-'21 school year, and the Auction in '22 and '23. She is a member of the WSMS Admissions Committee, served as a Class Rep, and has hosted a "Welcome Wagon" Hippo Playground meetup for incoming families for the past three springs. She loves being involved in our school community. Yasmin has worked in tech for over ten years. Prior to working in software, Yasmin was a middle school math teacher in New York with Teach for America. She holds a BA from Connecticut College, and a MS in Education from Hunter College.



Kelly Morrison Opdyke

Kelly Morrison Opdyke and her husband, Jonathan, are the proud parents of three WSMS alumni. She has served as a WSMS trustee since 2017, and was Chair of the Development Committee from 2020-2022. In 2023, she joined the board at Washington Montessori School in New Preston, CT, where her three children have continued their Montessori education. Kelly spent ten years as a senior technical advisor for Cicatelli Associates Inc., a public health non-profit headquartered in New York City, where she led projects providing technical assistance to community-based organizations on the collection and use of data for nationally recognized initiatives, including the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program and the Avon Foundation

Breast Health Outreach Program. She previously interned as a research assistant with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and provided administrative support to continuing medical education programs at the School of Sleep Medicine in Palo Alto, CA. She spent her early career in digital marketing, co-leading an email marketing practice at online ad pioneer Beyond Interactive. At WSMS she served as a class rep, member of the Admissions Committee, two-time co-chair for the Fall Festival, and co-chair of the Annual Fund. She also served on the PTA Executive Board for the Anderson School (PS 334) from 2014–2020, including two terms as co-president. She received her Master of Public Health from Columbia University (2005), and BA in psychology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1998). Kelly and Jonathan have both served on the Dean’s Advisory Council at the University of Michigan’s School of Education since 2020, and are actively involved in philanthropy and community investment in the city of Detroit.

John Frederick “JF” Thye



John Frederick “JF” Thye is cofounder, chief operating officer and head of product for Deskpass. Deskpass provides affordable flexible access to hundreds of wonderful and diverse work spaces and conference rooms to work, learn and meet. JF also cofounded Bau, an autonomous smart building software that enables workspace and building operators to seamlessly serve pay-as-you-go customers in real time. Before Bau, JF worked in finance, and as a structural engineer in the development of clean technologies. He also sailed around the world with NIAM Expeditions, broadcasting live web content from remote locations in an effort to raise awareness of biodiversity and promote wildlife conservancy. JF is a syndicating partner and current board member of Cumberland Forest, the largest commercial forest deal in US history. JF received a BS in engineering from Cornell University, an MBA from Yale School of Management, and an MEM from Yale School of the Environment. JF Thye and his wife, Jessica are active participants within the WSMS community. He has volunteered at Fall Festival, and served as an informal “class rep” for his classroom. He is the father of a recent WSMS alum, as well as a current student, Loren, and a baby who is an eager future WSMS applicant.



Christina Wang, MD

Christina Wang, MD, is the Clinical Quality Director of Cancer Prevention at The Institute for Family Health, one of the largest community health centers in New York State, with a mission-driven focus of providing high quality, affordable health care, and addressing racial and ethnic health disparities in medically underserved populations. In addition, she manages medical partnerships with local organizations, including Care for the Homeless and the American Cancer Society. Prior to moving to New York from San Francisco in 2018, she worked at Kaiser Permanente, where she was a Physician Partner serving as Medical Director of Acupuncture for the East Bay region. She received her BA in biology from Rice University, and her MD from Baylor College of Medicine. Christina and her husband Henry are proud parents of Preston, Thompson (WSMS ‘20) and Estella (WSMS ‘22). She has been an active parent volunteer, serving on many committees, including the Admissions Committee. She co-chaired the Auction, Fall Festival and Hooked on Books, and was the PA co-president in 2021–2022.



Ellie Burrows Gluck, Parent Representative

Ellie Burrows Gluck is an entrepreneur, advisor, certified personal development coach, Vedic Meditation teacher, and the cofounder and former CEO of MND-FL. After graduating magna cum laude from Northwestern University, Ellie served as an executive in the film business. Over time her activities and interest evolved into a formal coaching practice centered on effective communication and interpersonal relationships. In 2014, she co-founded MND-FL, New York City’s premier meditation company. During her tenure, Ellie also completed an extensive 2000-hour Vedic Meditation teacher training program. Now Ellie is focusing on new endeavors, including angel investing, providing advisory services for female founders and, most importantly, raising her daughter (and current WSMS student), Luna, with her husband, Simon Gluck. Ellie co-chaired the 2023 Groovy Gala, and is currently co-president of the Parents Association. She serves on the boards of Mindful Schools, an organization that cultivates awareness, resilience, and compassionate action in educational communities, and At The Well, which enhances women’s well-being through ancient Jewish practices.



Charlene Su, Parent Representative

Charlene Su is currently serving as co-president of the Parents Association and has been an active parent volunteer at WSMS since her family moved from California to New York in the fall of 2021. She served as co-chair for the Auction, and volunteered for the Annual Fund. Charlene was born and raised in Los Angeles, and received her degree in Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley and her MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to raising a family of her own, Charlene worked in management consulting at L.E.K. Consulting, brand management at the Clorox Company, and marketing at Stella & Dot. Charlene and her husband, David Su, are proud parents of Natalie (9), Olivia (5) and Claire (2).



Maria Rosado, Faculty Representative

Maria Rosado is in her ninth year as a Head Teacher at WSMS, and her 18th year as an educator. She has a BA in Education/English Language Arts and a Masters in Literacy from Hunter College School of Education. She obtained Permanent New York State Certification in Literacy (Birth-Grade Sixth) and Elementary Education (1-6). Maria fell in love with WSMS the moment she stepped in the door, finding the mission and the Montessori method of following the child to be inspiring. She earned a Montessori credential in Infant Toddler and Early Childhood from WSMS-TEP, and is the process of obtaining her Administrator credential. In addition, she is the Academic Coordinator for the TEP Infant Toddler Program, a Field Consultant, and an EC Instructor in our TEP New York location and China locations. This year she will be presenting at the annual American Montessori Society Conference in Orlando, Florida. A native Spanish-speaker, Maria emigrated here from Atencingo, Pueblo, Mexico, at the age of 7, and lives in Bushwick with her wonderful husband of 17 years.