



Amy E. Witting, CHS '97 is an award-winning playwright, filmmaker, actress and director. Working in the New York Theatre and Film community since 2003, she has produced over twenty performances both OFF and OFF-OFF Broadway. She works as a Teaching Artist with Roundabout Theatre Company and is a recipient of Abingdon Theatre Company's inaugural Residency Program.

2017-18 Hamington Literary Showcase

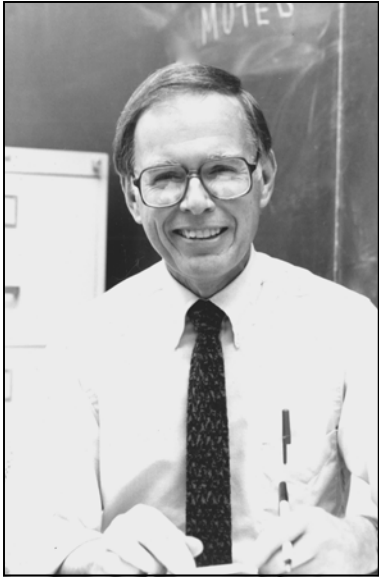
Joanna Lee Williams, CHS '93 is an associate professor in the Curry School of Education's Department of Leadership, Foundations, and Policy at the University of Virginia, and a faculty affiliate with Youth Nex: The UVA Center to Promote Effective Youth Development. She teaches courses on child and adolescent development and on race and diversity. Her research interests focus on race and ethnicity as social contexts for youth development.



Judah M. Cohen, CHS '91, is an associate Professor of Musicology at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, Bloomington. He has written two books and co-edited the book *The Culture of Aids in Africa: Hope and Healing Through Music and the Arts*. Judah's scholarly training and sensitive writing helps the reader to understand the important role that music and the arts play in giving a "voice, a sound and an image" to the human reaction to HIV/Aids.



The 20th Annual Don Hamingson Literary Showcase



The Don Hamingson Literary Showcase honors the memory of Don Hamingson, a teacher of English at Columbia High School for thirty-five years and the late director emeritus of the Adult School. Celebrating Mr. Hamingson's love of the English Language Arts, his dedication to teaching his students, and his years of directing the programs of the Adult School, the Literary Showcase Committee selects a speaker who is a Columbia High School graduate and is involved in the arts as a professional writer, journalist, poet,

screenwriter, or film director to speak with students and community members.

This special event is sponsored
by the South Orange-Maplewood Adult School
in cooperation with the Columbia High School English Department.

Hamingson Literary Showcase Committee

Sylvia Amato, Roy Eismann,
Judy James, Judy Levy, Eva Samo
Marianne Cook, Program Design
Carol Petrallia, Chairperson
Melissa Butler, Supervisor English Language Arts
Special thanks to Keysha Knight

Ann Hoffner, CHS '72, writer and experienced sailor, graduated from Harvard University as a student of physical anthropology. She and her husband, Tom Bailey, have sailed extensively, documenting their adventures in a variety of professional magazines including *Bluewater Sailing Magazine* and *The Cruising World*.



Dr. Michael Jeffries, CHS '98, Professor of American Studies at Wellesley College, earned a Ph.D. in African American Studies from Harvard University. He has published *Thug Life: Race, Gender, and the Meaning of Hip-Hop* and *Paint the White House Black: Barack Obama and the Meaning of Race in America*.

Ivan Amato, CHS '79 has been in the science and technology journalism arena for twenty five years, working in print, radio, photography, TV, and web media. His published works include *Super Vision: A New View of Nature; Science: Pathways of Discovery;* and *Stuff: The Materials The World is Made Of.*



Christian Sahner, CHS '03 is a historian of the Middle East and Associate Professor of Islamic History; Fellow of St. Cross College. He is a Rhodes Scholar and the author of *Among the Ruins: Syria Past and Present;* and *Christian Martyrs under Islam: Religious Violence and the Making of the Muslim World.* He writes about the history, art and culture of the Middle East for *The Wall Street Journal* and other publications.



C.K. Williams, CHS '54 (1936-2015) wrote numerous books of poetry, including *The Singing* (2003), winner of the National Book Award; and *Repair* (1999), winner of the Pulitzer Prize. His many honors include an American Academy of Arts and Letters Award, National Book Critics Circle Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the PEN/Voelcker Award for Poetry and a Pushcart Prize. He taught creative writing at Princeton University.

Peter Eisenman, CHS '50 is an internationally recognized architect and educator. He has taught at Cambridge, Princeton, and Cooper Union, where he was founder and director of the Institute for Architecture and Urban Studies. He was a founding theorist of postmodernism and has designed structures throughout the world.



Pete Chatmon, CHS '95, a screenwriter and film director who expresses a concern for the imagery of African Americans on film, is president and CEO of Double 7 Film. His first feature film, *Premium*, debuted in 2007. He was honored by the Tribeca Film Festival for his screenplay, *\$Free.99*. Among his work is *761st*, a documentary on the first black tank battalion in WWII, narrated by Emmy-winner Andre Braugher.

Diane Wolkstein, CHS '60 (1942-2013) was the author of 23 award-winning books of folklore including the classic collection of Haitian folk tales *The Magic Orange Tree* and the ancient Mesopotamian epic *Inanna*. She played a major role in the renewed interest in mythology and modern storytelling movement and established New York's Central Park's storytelling program.

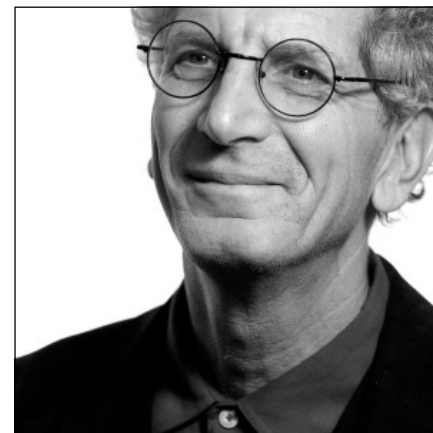


Stuart Kestenbaum

2017-18 Honoree

Writing What You Know

Stuart Kestenbaum, Columbia High School Class of 1969, is the Poet Laureate of the State of Maine. This five-year post created by Maine's Legislature in 1995, was awarded to Stuart in March, 2016. He is the author of four books of poetry, including *Pilgrimage*, *House of Thanksgiving*, *Prayers and Run-on Sentence* and *Only Now*. He has also written a book of essays entitled, *The View from Here*.



Stuart served as director of the Haystack Mountain School of Crafts in Deer Isle, Maine, for 27 years, where he established innovative programs that combined craft, writing, and new technologies. Prior to that he worked at the Maine Arts Commission and the Children's Museum of Maine. He remains active in the field of craft as an honorary fellow of the American Craft Council and a recipient of the Distinguished Educator's Award from the James Renwick Alliance. He has written and spoken widely on craft making and creativity and his poems and writing have appeared in numerous press publications and magazines, including *Tikkun*, *the Sun*, *the Beloit Poetry Journal*, and *Northeast Corridor* and on Garrison Keillor's *Writer's Almanac*.

Former United States Poet Laureate, Ted Kooser said, "Stuart Kestenbaum writes the kind of poems I love to read, heartfelt responses to the privilege of having been given a life. No hidden agendas here, no theories to espouse, nothing but life, pure life, set down with craft and love."

CHS Graduates and Honorees Don Hamingson Literary Showcase

1998-1999 **James Kaplan**
 1999-2000 **James Gerstenzang**
 2000-2001 **David Javerbaum**
 2001-2002 **Dr. David Berman**
 2002-2003 **Jolie Solomon**
 2003-2004 **Marc Levin**
 2004-2005 **Sara Schechner**
 2005-2006 **Matt Cooper**
 2006-2007 **C.K. Williams**
 2007-2008 **Peter Eisenman**

2008-2009 **Pete Chatmon**
 2009-2010 **Diane Wolkstein**
 2010-2011 **Ann Hoffner**
 2011-2012 **Dr. Michael Jeffries**
 2012-2013 **Ivan Amato**
 2013-2014 **Christian Sahner**
 2014-15 **Amy E. Witting**
 2015-16 **Joanna Lee Williams**
 2016-17 **Judah M. Cohen**
 2017-18 **Stuart Kestenbaum**



James Kaplan, CHS '69 is a novelist, journalist, and biographer. He is the author of the novel *Two Guys from Verona: A Novel of Suburbia*, and biographies *Sinatra: The Chairman* and co-authored John McEnroe's autobiography *You Cannot Be Serious* and Jerry Lewis's memoir *Dean & Me: A Love Story*.

James Gerstenzang, CHS '65 is a Washington journalist who has covered every White House from Jimmy Carter to George W. Bush. He is a former reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* and currently writes for *The New York Times*, *CNN*, *Detroit News* and *The Huffington Post*.



David Javerbaum, CHS '89 is the author of *Earth (The Book): A Visitor's Guide to The Human Race* and *America (The Book) A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction*. He is a former writer and executive producer of *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart and has won 13 Emmy Awards, a Grammy Award and two Peabody Awards. He is currently a producer of *The Late Show* with James Corden on CBS.

Dr. Michael R. Berman, CHS '62 is founder and president of Hygeia Foundation for Perinatal Loss and Bereavement and editor of *Parenthood Lost: Healing the Pain After Miscarriage, Stillbirth, and Infant Death*. Berman is a Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Yale University School of Medicine.



Jolie Solomon, CHS '74 has enjoyed a dynamic career as a journalist who has worked as a writer, reporter and editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsweek* and *More* magazines. She is currently working as deputy managing editor at *Fortune Small Business Magazine*.

Marc Levin, CHS '69 is a pioneer in the art of merging fiction and non-fiction, his films bring together narrative and verité techniques. *SLAM* won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and the Camera D'Or at Cannes. He has won three Emmy Awards. His *Brick City* is a groundbreaking docu-series about the city of Newark, NJ and its mayor Corey Booker.



Sara Schechner Genuth, CHS '75 is author of *Comets, Popular Culture, and the Birth of Modern Cosmology* (1997). Her fields of study include the history and philosophy of physics and astronomy and scientific instruments. She was curator at the Adler planetarium in Chicago and she is currently the curator of the Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments at Harvard.

Matthew Cooper, CHS '80 is a journalist and managing editor of White House coverage for *National Journal* magazine. He is a former Washington bureau chief, White House correspondent, and editor of *Time* magazine. From 1996 to '99, Cooper covered Washington for *Newsweek*, after which he became a correspondent for *The Atlantic*.

