



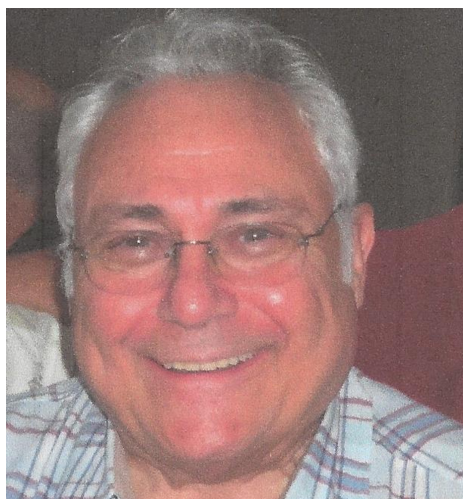
Dr. Joseph Hankin
WCC President
1970-2013

WCC Celebrates 75th Anniversary

New Retiree Exits Amid Exciting Taliban Rescue

Sheldon Malev, professor of psychology, retired this fall after fifty years of teaching at WCC, but not without a last hurrah. In late summer Sheldon played a crucial part in an extraordinary story involving a WCC student, her family member trapped in Afghanistan, and a hair-raising rescue from the Taliban.

As he told a rapt audience at a remote podcast hosted by his fellow Ossining resident, Julie D. Carran, on September 14, 2021, Sheldon found out from a former student, an Afghani-American named Sofia Bator, that her cousin Freshta Nazari was in dire need of help in



Ret. Prof. Sheldon Malev

order to escape from Afghanistan, where the Taliban were about to take over following the scheduled withdrawal of American troops.

Sheldon and Sofia began a frantic series of emails in which the former professor urgently advised his one-time student to notify as many public officials as possible in Congress, the senate, and local government in order to ask for their help.

A Hollywood thriller could not have been more exciting than the narrative of real-life events of Freshta's rescue. Trapped in her small Kabul apartment, Freshta had to endure a feeling of utter helplessness as her landlord banged on her door and told her she had to leave or the Taliban would punish him. ("It brought Anne Frank to my mind," Sheldon would later say.) This was happening at the same time that stories of panic-struck Afghans trying to get to the Sofia airport to find space on departing American

Retirees Link up to New InkLINK



Here are some of the responses to the invitation to join the mailing list for **InkLINK**.

Bill Costanzo: "Good to hear from you...on this worthy project. It's more important than ever to keep up with former (I avoid saying old.) friends and colleagues...I've taken on some other tasks...including the editorship of the *Oxford Handbook of Screen Comedy* and co-host of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Special Interest Group Transnational Cinemas in addition to my teaching!"

Special thanks to Mary Yulo, who sends news of her father, **Don Carmody:** "Don is still living in Valhalla. (He taught for 35 years full time and 5 part time and has been retired for over 20 years.) He celebrated his birthday last October. (Ed. Note: Happy 93rd, Don, during this new year!) Don is a parishioner at Holy Name of Jesus

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InkLINK is published twice per year by the WCC Foundation, Dolores Swirin-Yao, Exec. Director.

EDITOR

Joe Sgammato
jsgammato@yahoo.com

InkLINK Committee Members

Clare Ahern
ahern1fam@aol.com

John Ahern
jahern1@aol.com

Barbara Christesen
barbchris32@hotmail.com

Sheldon Malev
profshell1@aol.com

Michelle Schleibaum, Director,
Alumni Engagement
michelle.schleibaum@sunywcc.edu

Retirees Link Up to New InkLINK

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Church in Valhalla, where he goes to daily mass and often out for coffee afterwards!...These days, he enjoys time with his children and with local friends. He enjoys watching old movies, seeing art exhibits and taking leisurely walks. He takes trips with his children to Philadelphia; Cape May, New Jersey; Delaware; Maryland; and the Outer Banks in North Carolina... He enjoys eating out, especially dining "al fresco"...Don is interested in returning to Collegium and Friday night movies at the college, and to retirement gatherings when they resume. Don remains in touch with [colleagues and old friends]... Sally Jordan was his ophthalmologist before she retired, and John Cappa, one of his former WCC students, is his podiatrist!...As you know, Don started the teacher's union at WCC... and is proud to report that 3 of his 4 children belong to Teachers' Unions (Mount Pleasant and Briarcliff, N.Y., and Montgomery County, Md.)."

Helping out on **InkLINK**, which was "her baby" for so many years, is **Barbara Christesen**: "I wish everyone... the very best of luck. I'm very happy that **InkLINK** has been missed." Send Barbara your messages as you used to for publication in **InkLINK**: barbchris32@hotmail.com. Thanks, Barbara, for your dedication and hard work. Without you, there would be no **InkLINK**.

Inside joke from **Mel Bienenfeld** (former Pres. of WCCFT) "I'm keeping quite busy in retirement!... Say hello to Sheldon -- if he is finally retired, that is big news! Now he can never break Rose Cooper's record for oldest WCC employee. Best regards."

Sally Jordan is happily remembered for chairing annual luncheons: "My name is Sally Jordan. I taught in the Biology Dept. from 1964 to 1979 with a few lapses for maternity leaves & a sabbatical. I then left WCC to pursue an MD at New York Medical College. I kept in touch with many of my WCC colleagues, some of them becoming patients. As they began to retire & to have luncheons, I was invited to join them. When John Ahern stepped down from planning, I volunteered to take over. Our last luncheon was in Oct 2019 but COVID cancelled Oct 2020...Many of us have missed the newsletter since Barbara Christesen left WCC. Best of luck in getting the newsletter back in circulation."

Dale Smith sends support from beautiful Calabash, N.C. (no Jimmy Durante jokes needed!): "Admissions Department, Associate Professor of Counseling, 1979-2019. Our office was on the second floor of the admin building. Of course, I knew a lot of folks [in other buildings]. Thank you for doing this."

Laurie Corey (retired professor of psychology) "Thank you for writing and letting us know about this idea! I would love to receive this newsletter, and I would be glad to reach out to other retirees I know, and also be happy to contribute to it. It was always a welcome publication!" Thanks, Laurie!

Michael Richman is another retiree who has remained professionally busy: "I taught Business Law from 1969 and retired from this full-time position in 1999, as a Professor Emeritus. I continued as an adjunct, teaching older adults estate planning through MAINSTREAM and was honored at a luncheon for my efforts therein."

In Memoriam



Greta Cohan
1929-2021

A great and caring English teacher for decades at WCC and Collegium. Few will be missed more than she.



Early students 1940s

Dr. Philip C. Martin, first president of WCC
1946-1970

In 1946, when butter rations were coming to an end along with U.S. Bond rallies, Victory gardens, and signs that warned civilians “Loose Lips Sink Ships,” Westchester Community College came into being. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of this momentous event in the history of public education in New York, the College is holding a series of commemorative events. Special guest

WCC CELEBRATES 75th ANNIVERSARY

speakers, a Spring gala, a virtual alumni art show, and a time capsule are on the menu. Further reports on the celebration will be found in the Spring issue of *InkLINK*.

Some of the historic events being celebrated can be found in these photos, all of which are supplied through the courtesy of Westchester Community College. *InkLINK* readers are themselves an important part of this 75-year history. You are invited to share your memories and photos with us for publication in the Spring issue of *InkLINK*. Send your contribution to jsgammato@yahoo.com.

Dr. Belinda S. Miles, president since 2014, delivering
State of the College address in 2018Lady Bird Johnson and her daughters Linda Baines
and Lucy Baines visit the campusJoseph Fama, Class of 1975 Sunset (Oil) On view at “Celebrating 75: Art and Design Alumni” Sept 1 – Dec 10
WCC Art Gallery web siteLady Bird Johnson dedicates the garden named for
her by The Native Plant Center on Oct 8, 1999.

The Collegium: A Hidden WCC Gem



Collegium members attending a lecture

A small classroom building near the south end of the campus is home to one of Westchester Community College's best kept secrets: The Collegium for Lifelong Learning. The Collegium is a member organization that is sanctioned by the College to serve senior learners. Since 2004, Collegium has been offering 4-6 week courses in the arts, history, science, religion, and current events to a grateful community of retirees and other lifelong learners. Courses are offered

in the Fall (Oct-Nov), Winter (Jan-Feb), and Spring (April-May). Tuition is modest. The learning environment is cordial and relaxed. Classes will be remote during the upcoming Winter session, but both live and remote in the Spring. Zoom links are sent to registrants for easy entrance to classes, so there is no geographic limitation. Registration will begin soon for the Winter session. Interested persons should call 914-606-6748 or send an email to collegium@sunywcc.edu.

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planes were filling newspapers and news services worldwide.

In an amazing feat, whose details have not yet been made public, Freshta made her way to the Kabul airport gate, managing to survive beatings by the Taliban, who disapprove of women traveling alone. Through Sheldon and Sofia's initiating efforts, a picture of Freshta had ultimately been made available to U.S. Marines guarding the airport. Miraculously, Freshta was identified among the hundreds of people thronging the gate thanks to the picture. Shortly thereafter, at the same spot, 13 Marines would be killed when An Al Qaeda suicide bomber caused a devastating explosion at the same spot, killing and injuring hundreds.

During the podcast, Sofia told the audience that Freshta is now safe in the United States. She thanked her former WCC teacher profusely for his tireless help and guidance in the rescue of her cousin. *InkLINK* joins Sofia in thanking Sheldon for go-

ing the distance to help his student. WCC faculty and staff retirees can be proud of their newest member.

RETIREMENT PARTY FOR SHELDON MALEV

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2021 AT 5:00pm

RINI'S RESTAURANT & WINE BAR \$45/person

12 West Main Street

Elmsford, NY 10523

OR

ZOOM PARTY

SUNDAY, NOV 21ST 2:00pm

INFORMATION/
RESERVATIONS

michael.hackett@sunywcc.edu
heidi.baez@sunywcc.edu