

PRINCETON CLUB OF CHICAGO 2020 ANNUAL (UN)DINNER OCTOBER 29, 2020

To view the video recording, please click this link: <https://youtu.be/-kjPdPHIBF8>

TEXT FOR THE OPENING REMARKS AND AWARDS PRESENTATION IS BELOW:

OPENING REMARKS

Amy Beth Treciokas '87, *President – Princeton Club of Chicago*

My name is **Amy Beth Treciokas '87** and I currently serve as the President of the Princeton Club of Chicago. Welcome to the Princeton Club of Chicago Annual (Un)Dinner. This year has been exceptional in many ways, including that this is the first time that we are having our Annual Dinner virtually. Thank you all for gathering here tonight, during a time when families and friends have become more important than ever. Special shout out and welcome to the Class of 2024, our newest group of Princetonians! This is the 144th year of our Club and we continue to grow stronger and more diverse with each passing year. We appreciate your dedication to our Club!

The mission of the Princeton Club of Chicago consists of serving the University, strengthening and deepening the relationships we have with each other as Princeton alumni, and contributing to our local community. Our mission is even more important now to help keep our connections going. We would not be able to accomplish our mission if it were not for the tireless effort of our dedicated leadership team, consisting of 61 volunteers. Over the last 6 months, we have been doing our best to be creative - and to find and continue to seek new ways for Princetonians to network, learn, and engage with one another. One of the tiger-striped linings is that our virtual location enables us to bring even more alumni from different parts of our Chicagoland area together. I believe I can speak for all of the Leadership Group when I say it is an honor and a joy to serve! Thank you for your effort and contributions to our Princeton community.

This is the dinner that was originally scheduled for April 2020, so we have already voted and are in our new “Board” year with our Leadership Board members who took office last July 1st. Thank you to **Nick Antoine '12**, who handled the electronic voting. We look forward to returning to our Spring Annual Dinner format as much as possible.

I would like to acknowledge **Dr. Eddie Glaude *97**, who will be speaking this evening on “A New Princeton, A New America.” Since the time that we first talked with Dr. Glaude, this has become an even more important and timely topic. I'd also like to thank our award recipients **Ginny and Tom Neuckranz '70** and **Janice Levy Block Chaddock '84 P22**. We are excited to honor them this evening.

Next, I'd like to highlight some of this past year's accomplishments and acknowledge some of our fellow alumni.

Our Alumni Schools Committee (ASC) effort, had 212 alumni volunteers who interviewed 100% of the 790 high school seniors from the Chicagoland area who applied to Princeton! Thank you to all who volunteered for your dedication, teamwork and selfless service. Special thanks to our ASC leaders, **Christine O'Neill '06 S05**, **John Kermath '80**, **Patricia Li '08**, **Rick Woldenberg '81**, **Emily Liao Master '01**, and **Mike Manning '17**. In a joint venture with our Alumni Schools Committee our Parents' Committee organizes our New Admit Reception for the Class of 2024. Thanks to **Janice Levy Block Chaddock '84 P22**, **Jakee Miller Cohen P16 P22**, **Gigi Johnson P19 P21**, **Christine O'Neill '06**, and **Peter Baugher '70** for hosting a very lively and engaging Zoom call on very short notice. 48 students were admitted this year from Chicago and the surrounding suburbs. As background, the University received 32,836 applications from across the world for admission to the Class of 2024 and offered admission to 1,823 students hailing from 64 different countries.

Due to the pandemic, this year we were not able to hold our Summer Picnic, which is typically the largest event free event of the year. Thank you to **Peter Goldman '94 S93** for your generosity in hosting the picnic for so many years. We look forward to gathering again in person next summer, if possible. In Annual Giving, Chicago was over \$2.6 million of Princeton's raise in general funds this year with 59.4% of our Chicagoland alumni participating. Thank you to AG Chair **Chris Yarbrough '96** and those volunteers that participated in reaching out to others for Princeton.

Thank you to **Maiky Iberkleid '15 and John Comfort '12** for organizing our sold-out trip to Wrigley Field last fall to cheer on the Cubs vs. the Cincinnati Reds. Can't wait to have a hot dog in the park next year!

In addition to our recurring annual events, we are blessed to have our Programs and Young Alumni Committee Chairs consisting of **Charlene Huang Olson '88, Brigitte Anderson '02, Sheila Arora '05, and Irene Burke '16** respectively. This powerful group takes advantage of current programming opportunities to offer unique events for us to enjoy. Examples are: A Young Alumni "Pop of Orange" Artist Talk by **Sheila Arora '05**, Young Alumni Virtual Happy Hour, Tiger "Tails Happy Hour, Young Alumni Beethoven Night at the Symphony featuring **Yo-Yo Ma '05**, Dance performance of "I Guess You Solved the Question" choreographed by Princeton faculty member Olivier Tarpanga, **Peter Yawitz '80** - together with the Wharton/Penn Club - talking about his book "Flip flops and Microwaved Fish", Lunar New Year Dim Sum," Frank Lloyd Wright's World Heritage Sites with **Phyllis Ellin '83**, Eating Club Dinner and Wine Pairing with **Matthew Sussman '09** at Table, Donkey and Stick, Wrestling Team reception at the Midlands, Young Alumni Holiday Party, and Renaissance Reveries in Painting and Print at the Union League Club, hosted by **Sally Metzler-Dunea Ph.D. '97**, Pulitzer Prize Winners **Sheryl WuDunn '88 and Nicholas Kristof '88** on "Tightrope: Americans reaching for Hope," along with several Ivy League Trivia Nights and Virtual Zoom Pub Hours (thanks to **Ben Bornstein '95** and Ivy+ Chair **Ryan Ruskin '90**) where we partnered with other local Ivy alumni for fun and festive evenings. Thank you to Charlene, Brigitte, Sheila, and Irene for keeping our social calendars full of opportunities to share and learn with each other.

We are honored to have **John Balfe '90**, Chair of the Graduate Alumni Committee, who brings us intellectually stimulating precepts such as **Christia Mercer '89** on "How Medieval Women Changed the Course of Philosophy, **Dr. Yuzhen Yan '19** on "Blue Ice" adventures in Antarctica, and **Steven D'Hondt '90** on 100 Million Year old Life Beneath the Ocean Floor. Thank you, John!

Thank you to **Anna Huang '07 and Rob Khoury '90** who head our Career Networking and have organized some great events, including the Summer Intern luncheon, which is coming up in December.

Princeton Women's Network hosted "Adventures in Chocolate," in February, and a "Leading Ladies of Chicago" walking tour in August. Thank you to **Elizabeth Balthrop '01**, our PWN chair.

The Princeton Diversity discussions continue to thrive in a virtual format under the leadership of **Jessica Gonzalez '90 and Jenny Korn '96**. The discussions continue to grow in interest and participation.

Special thanks to **Mike Laidlaw '94**, who as Nominating Chair, is the committee leader bringing in so many great alumni to our Board.

On June 23rd, Chicago's 15th Annual Princeton Prize in Race Relations award ceremony honoring Samira Rivera took place via a Zoom call. The PPRR recognizes local Chicagoland area high school students who

have had a significant positive impact through volunteerism on race relations in their schools or communities. **Edie Canter '80 and Michelle Silverthorn '04** did a great job of finding truly committed candidates and this evening was one of the PCC's major events of the year.

The Club's charitable efforts continue to grow. Through organizations such as Princeton AlumniCorps, Princeton Prize in Race Relations, Princeton in Chicago Schools, Princeton Internships in Civic Service and Princeton Club of Chicago Scholarship Fund, we continue to make a difference in our Chicagoland community in the field of education. We provide advice, acknowledgment, internships, and scholarships to Chicago high school and college students looking to take the next step in their educational and social development. Thank you to **Virginia Midkiff '16, Whitney Spalding Spencer '07, Edie Canter '80, Michelle Silverthorn '04, Charlene Huang Olson '88, Yung Bong Lim '87, Bob Loveman '69, Bruce Rosenberg '69, and Gerald Skoning '64** for championing these efforts and continuing to make a difference in Chicagoland.

We have a club member, **Carol Obertubbesing '73**, who won the Award for Service to Princeton this year. Big kudos and tiger cheers to Carol for this extraordinary award!

Our membership sustains us and provides for the many evenings and service efforts that the PCC offers – and very importantly and necessary this year, the support of the Benefactors and Patrons of the AD. Big Tiger Thanks to all the Benefactors and Patrons of this evening's event. If you are not a member, please consider joining! Membership is FREE for the Class of 2020, and starts at only \$25/year for new members and Parents of current students.

Big Thanks to the Annual Dinner Committee, Chair **Jessica Gonzalez '95, Charlene Huang Olson '88, Brian Johnson '99, Brigitte Anderson '02, and Peter Baugher '70** for your tireless work navigating this new territory of a virtual dinner and bringing everyone an extraordinary experience. Thank you to outgoing co-chair, **Cheryl Stevens '10** for all her help. Big tiger thanks to **Reggie Ponder '84** for being our moderator for this evening.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank **Matt Sussman '09**, the proprietor of Table, Donkey and Stick for providing dinners for this evening's Annual (Un) Dinner for those that wished to order the food option. Please note that we are recording through the group Q+A, but not through the reception following.

Next, I'd like to introduce the illustrious **Peter Baugher '70**, who will be leading the Award portions of our program this evening.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Peter Baugher '70, *Chair – Awards Committee*

Maybe more than ever, it's important now to maintain relationships with old friends, make new ones, and share our knowledge and energy and our determination to persevere.

One of the Club's longstanding traditions is to recognize each year two alumni: one who has made a special contribution to our community – the **John Fish '55** Award – and one for her special contributions to our University – the **Arnold Berlin '46** Award.

JOHN FISH '55 AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Tonight we honor **Ginny and Tom Neuckranz '70**, with the John Fish '55 Award for their service to our community through the founding and ongoing stewardship of [Erika's Lighthouse](#).

Tom and I met as freshman in 1966. We were assigned to Brown Hall, then a tenement generating legendary dormitory solidarity. It was a time of high-decibel cultural change and political unrest, not

unlike today. The school was all male then, very different from the co-ed public high schools Tom and I attended. The University admitted its first two classes of women our senior year. While present times may seem unprecedented, the race riots, assassinations, draft, and Vietnam War that accompanied our college years were no smooth ride.

Nonetheless, we graduated. Tom went on to law school at Northwestern, then to a successful 40 year career as a Chicago trial lawyer. Ginny and Tom met at a Sandberg Village Ski Club gathering. They agree, it was love at first sight. They have been together ever since.

Ginny and Tom had three beautiful daughters and were raising them in Winnetka. They were living a wonderful life, fully engaged in careers, family and community, and enjoying their love of skiing every year in Colorado.

Their world changed forever when their youngest daughter started to struggle with depression as an adolescent. In spite of the most promising therapies, doctors, and medical interventions, even a trip to the Caribbean and a new puppy, Erika died at only 14 years old. It would have been understandable to retreat and turn inward. Instead, when they were able, Ginny and Tom began to think of things they wished had existed, wished were “out there” to help young people and their families navigate the darkness, to give them every possible chance to get through life-threatening depression successfully and whole. Through their tragedy, Erika’s Lighthouse: A Beacon of Hope was born.

Tom will describe the vision and course he and Ginny charted. And the progress they have made and shared in the last decade-and-a-half. This is their story of how—in their daughter’s name and in her spirit—they focused outwards, expanding the circle of hope.

Tom and Ginny, it is an honor to present you with the Club’s John Fish ’55 Award for Distinguished Service to our Community.

Acceptance Remarks by Ginny and Tom Neucranz ’70

Thank you Ginny. Thank you Peter and thank you Princeton Club of Chicago for honoring Ginny and me, and inviting us to speak about Erika’s Lighthouse (ELH) tonight.

I was walking in a small town on the island of Kauai last February when I received a call from Peter. After some small talk, Peter told me that the Princeton Club of Chicago wanted to award the John Fish ’55 Distinguished Service to the Community Award to Ginny and me for our work on behalf of ELH. I started crying. Peter was silent and I wondered what he was thinking. I tried to explain, but I think my emotional reaction prevented an eloquent explanation, until now.

Three of my great loves in my life, Princeton University, ELH, “a Beacon of Hope for Adolescent Depression”, and my family, especially Erika, her sisters and her mother, were melded together by Peter’s offer, unleashing an overwhelming feeling of Love.

With the help of many friends and family, ELH was born out of great need 16 years ago after the loss of our 14 years old daughter, Erika.

From the very beginning we decided we wanted to help as many kids as possible who were suffering from this illness called “depression”. We came to the conclusion that the best way to do so would be to develop depression awareness programs for use by our middle and high schools. Programs that were inclusive, positive, empathetic and educational. We also started powerful conversations about breaking

stigmas surrounding depression and mental health issues. ELH was and will always be determined to “Get Depression Out of the Dark”.

Over the last 16 years we have maintained our goal to help as many kids as possible by educating teens about depression using hopeful, helpful, and positive messaging: Depression is a common physical illness; it is not your fault; you are not alone; and you can get the medical help that you need in order to live as happy a life as possible. We also believe that education about depression awareness and destigmatizing it, Is Suicide Prevention.

ELH is now using the 4th or 5th generation of the ELH developed, evidence formed, data driven, professionally reviewed and prepared, video based curricula for middle and high schools.

ELH has a highly leveraged business model in which we supply the free and flexible lesson plans and videos to the schools; and teach the teachers how to teach the programs.

The “stars” of the videos in our programs are a very diverse group of real teens (not hired actors) who tell their own stories of their struggles with depression in an honest, believable, hopeful and helpful way. From the beginning, with the help of Erika’s many friends, we realized that peer to peer education is a much more powerful and effective communication tool to reach and help kids than only having some guy, like me, lecturing the class.

And now listen to this, which is very important for all of us to appreciate tonight. In 2004 one ELH curriculum program was being used by one middle school in Winnetka, Illinois. In the last school year of 2019/2020 ELH middle school and high school programs were used in over 530 schools in 39 states and 3 foreign countries, reaching over 218,000 students.

How in the world did we do that?

We did it because

- 1) We have the best school depression products , probably in the USA, and maybe the world.
- 2) Unfortunately, the need for our programs in our society is extremely high.
- 3) And because we have had a lot of help from people like you. Please go to our website (<http://www.Erikaslighthouse.org>) to learn more about ELH, and please support us if you can.

Also, please realize that our work has just begun. There are many other schools and many other kids who need the help of ELH to learn that they are not alone and deserve to feel better. It is that challenge that has driven our expansion in the face of adversity and seen opportunity in crisis.

Throughout the pandemic we have seen teens struggling like never before, finding themselves lost in a world turned upside down by a health crisis and often mental health emergencies.

We heeded the call and by mobilizing our wonderful staff and supporters we have –

Been able to offer immediate resources for educators, teens and parents through our “We’re in this together” campaign.

Developed over 100 new resources for educators to navigate our new reality for the coming year.

Created a new remote learning program specific to the needs of youth at home.

Created a new program for 4th and 5th grades with our hopeful messaging and a good health seeking focus.

I want to make one final thank you that encompasses why we are here tonight, and why ELH exists. I am going to give a thank you on behalf of all the kids educated and helped by our programs.

Thank you ELH for helping us understand this physical illness, that they call depression, so that we could get the help we needed to live as happy a life as possible. Thank you also, from some of us, for saving our lives.

AWARDS PRESENTATION

Peter Baugher '70, *Chair – Awards Committee*

Congratulations and thanks again to you both, Ginny and Tom.

Now the Arnold Berlin '46 Award for Service to Princeton to Janice Levy Block Chaddock, Class of 1984. Janice is being introduced by her special friend, Frannie Block '22. Frannie joins us from her study-from-home campus in Florida.

Frannie has known our awardee Janice her entire life. She can testify personally to the years of service Janice has devoted to Princeton, its integrity, countless committees, and as a role model. Frannie, we're delighted you can be with us. Welcome.

ARNIE BERLIN '46 AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO PRINCETON

Introductory Remarks by Frannie Block '22

As many of you might know, my mom, Janice Block-Chaddock, basically bleeds Orange and Black. From her phone case and shoes to her nail polish, jewelry, and reading glasses, my mom is always sporting orange to represent her love for Princeton and its community. She is such a Princeton fan that she is not only a member of one Princeton Club (the club of Chicago) but 2! (shoutout to the Princeton club of southwest Florida).

However, my mom takes her love for Princeton beyond just showcasing her Princeton pride... She incorporates the lessons she learned as a student – the lessons of hard work, service, determination and perseverance -- into almost every aspect of her life today. So no matter what she does – whether its leading the charge to incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion as core values of a multi-million dollar global education company or fundraising for Illinois Legal Aid Online and the Respiratory Health association – my mom's love for Princeton and its core values guide her every step of the way. It is why I think my mom is the perfect embodiment of Princeton's unofficial motto, "in the nations service and in the service of humanity."

Guided by her unmatched work ethic, my mom throws herself into everything she does with the utmost passion and professionalism. She takes no opportunity or responsibility for granted. As vice-president of the great class of 1984, my mom loves engaging with her classmates and planning events to help them stay connected (even during these uncertain times). As the co-chair of the Princeton Club of Chicago

Parent's association, she gets so much joy from talking to admitted students and their families to help guide them through the matriculation process. Probably one of her favorite positions is as a mentor through the Princeton Center for Career Development, where she has met some amazing students and helped them choose a career path and find opportunities. My mom is still in touch with all of her students and is there for them no matter what. My mom has also been conducting alumni interviews through the club of Chicago since she graduated in 1984 – that is 36 years of time dedicated to getting to know prospective students and aiding the university in continuing its drive for excellence in all aspects. To say the least, my mom is the most passionate and highly skilled go-getter I have ever known

And while she does all of those amazing things, she is still the best wife to my stepdad Ron and the best mom my siblings, Sara, Alex and I could ever ask for.

I can think of no person more deserving to receive the Princeton Club of Chicago's "Arnold M. Berlin '46 Distinguished Service to Princeton Award."

I'll know turn it over to my incredible mom, Janice Block-Chaddock.

Acceptance Remarks by Janice Levy Block Chaddock '84 P22

Thank you, to my daughter Frannie. And thank you to Peter, Tom and Ginny for destigmatizing depression and for expanding our circle of hope. The real honor tonight is sharing this event with both of you and with Professor Glaude. Professor Glaude, I am really looking forward to your talk moderated by my classmate Reggie Ponder '84.

If we were all together in-person in Chicago tonight, as we had hoped, I would be introducing you to several other family members, including my daughter Sara (a Chicago lawyer), my son Alex (a data scientist in New York), my parents Judy and Joel, and my husband Ron (a Canadian hockey player whom I was introduced to by a Princeton hockey player).

Instead, we find ourselves gathering via Zoom and unable to see one another or eat dinner together tonight. But I am thrilled to see on the attendee list for this Zoom, that many more people are able to join us tonight because we are virtual

... Including my Princeton roommates in California, and other supportive relatives and friends from across the country, as well as so many from the great Class of 1984. Thank you all for being here, virtually.

Thank you to the Princeton club of Chicago for presenting me with this beautiful bronze tiger award which means a great deal to me. This service award is named after Arnold M. Berlin, of the Class of 1946 . . . Coincidentally, Arnie Berlin '46 is someone I looked up to when I was a Princeton student -- not only for his commitment to the University, but also because during my sophomore year at Princeton, Arnie's daughter, Martha, was one of my roommates in a 12-woman suite, aptly named "the zoo." "The zoo," by the way, was in a residential college whose name has been changed this very month to Hobson College -- after our club's own Mellody Hobson from the Class of 1991. A truly welcome and inspiring development. Serving and giving back to Princeton University has been an easy labor of love, for me. I feel the same way about the Princeton Club of Chicago. 40 years ago, I was a once-incredibly-shy student from Munster, Indiana . . . Just over the Illinois state line from Chicago. Before I even arrived on campus, the Princeton club of Chicago warmly welcomed me as a newly admitted Princeton student. For me to now be able to do the same as the co-chair of the parents' association is beyond rewarding – with a grateful shout-out to my co-chairs and all of the wonderful leaders in this club.

Even greater joy has come from my opportunity to mentor Princeton undergraduates through the Princeton career services department. Several of my mentees are also joining us tonight. It is beyond gratifying to watch as each of them continues to take steps to change the world.

Frannie talked about my love of orange, and she was not in any way exaggerating. I love orange, I love going back to Princeton, and I love this scarf that female Princeton graduates like me were given when we returned to Princeton in April of 2010 for the first-ever “she roars” conference, celebrating women . . . 40 years after women were first admitted to Princeton in 1969.

In addition to working to make Princeton a more inclusive and equitable place for its female alums with two conferences called “she roars,” Princeton also has held two conferences in the last decade called “thrive” empowering and celebrating Princeton’s black alumni.

Last year, when the second “thrive” conference was announced, I saw that it was advertised as being open to the full Princeton alumni community. I immediately had a burning desire to go back to Princeton for this, to deepen my relationships with my black classmates, and to find ways in which I could be a great ally to my fellow black alumni.

Very excited about it, I called a dear Princeton friend to suggest we go back together. Fortunately, this friend had the sensitivity to suggest that we each ask a black classmate how they felt about this first.

So, I reached out to a black classmate for her straightforward advice as to whether our attending might not be welcomed, or might make other attendees less comfortable. She wrote me back a long, thoughtful letter, in which she applauded my good intentions, but said:

- “If you’re not already aware of this, it’s really important that you understand that many of your black Princeton classmates have been significantly traumatized by our experiences on campus, particularly those of us who are women.”
- She wrote of racism
- She continued: “as a result of this history of harm to us, each time ‘thrive’ takes place, your black classmates call our friends who haven’t been back to tell each other it’s safe to return – at least for ‘thrive.’”
- “Two of my four closest black women friends have not come back,” she said, “one says she will never return.”

That I have classmates who feel this way broke my heart. It still breaks my heart. There was no way that I would risk impinging upon my black classmates’ safe space at ‘thrive,’ and of course, I chose not to go . . . Deeply grateful to my classmate for her authenticity and honesty . . . And deeply perplexed as to what I could do to help. I remember great experiences as a Princeton undergraduate, and I look back so fondly on my years there, but I no longer can disremember what others may have felt.

I wanted to believe that nearly 40 years later, black Princeton students faced a different experience than my friend and others had endured.

And then I read this book [Democracy in Black](#) by Eddie S. Glaude, who happens to be our keynote speaker here tonight! And there, on page 131 of this incredible book, Professor Glaude writes:

- “A colleague of mine at Princeton told me of a student who cried in her office.” [This book was published in 2016].

- “He was a senior and he felt like the school’s racial climate was closing in on him and he couldn’t take it anymore.”
- “There were daily microaggressions” . . . And
- “Everywhere he turned, he confronted an environment that wasn’t nurturing and affirming – that didn’t seem to care about him.”

It should not be this way. We need to do more. I need to do more.

For as long as I am able, I will always continue to serve Princeton, but now I want to support Princeton’s current efforts, appropriately announced by president Eisgruber and the University on September 2nd, to find ways to acknowledge, study and combat systemic racism at Princeton and in these United States.

I look forward to being with all of you again, in-person, in a post-COVID world.

Peter Baugher '70, *Chair – Awards Committee*

Congratulations, Janice, it is a pleasure to present you with the Club's Arnold Berlin '46 Award for distinguished service to the University. Thank you and keep up the great work on behalf of Princeton.