



Bulletin

Issue 8

May 2001

AUDIOBOOKS FOR DR. STEVEN SHAPIRO'S AMERICAN SHORT STORY CLASSES

Every once in a while an educational opportunity is created by a teacher which uses the talents of the children in a way that anyone who hears about the work of this teacher says: "This is what education and teaching should be all about." I am referring to the exciting partnership between Dr. Steven Shapiro, Assistant Principal For Supervision for the English Department, and Paul Ruben, parent of a Stuyvesant Junior, and President of Paul Ruben Productions.

Dr. Shapiro started teaching short stories in the late 1980's, and he felt that the class should have a culminating project. He thought that an anthology of the students' work would be a good project, so he began putting the photocopied stories of his students into a bound anthology. This effort was very well received, so he began going to printers, and adding color photographs, and this became expensive. His goal was always to have every student leave the class with a tangible sense of accomplishment.

Paul Ruben has been a producer and director of audiobooks for 15 years. He worked in the mid-'80's as a theater director, and produced children's cassettes. He noticed that adult books were being put on tape, and saw how valuable audiobooks would be to people who spent a lot of time in cars and yet loved to read. Also, he emphasizes that storytelling is an oral tradition which goes back thousands of years, and a good storyteller can "invade your head with a good story." The essence of audiobooks is storytelling, and Paul felt that students at Stuyvesant should experience and value the art and essence of this tradition.

Last spring Mr. Ruben went to Dr. Shapiro and asked him if he would be interested in having some students do audiobooks. Dr. Shapiro saw this idea as a wonderful way to build relationships, build a sense of teamwork with parents, and tap into underused talents of the students. Mr. Ruben invited 15 students in Annie Thoms' class, American Short Stories, to a recording session at his recording studio, and invited his editor to help him. The result was a CD, "A Quick Kiss In the Dark: A Compendium Of Selected Short Stories." This semester Judy Hawk is teaching this class, and a recording session is being planned for the very near future.

I applaud both Dr. Shapiro and Mr. Ruben for starting an exciting new educational experience which validates the creativity and work of our students!

— Betsy Combier

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

Congratulations to all those who survived both the college application and admissions processes. I know by now each senior has made his/her selection of a college and I personally understand what stress this has caused. I also know that our seniors have been well prepared for the next level of educational endeavor.

Our other three grades now face the most difficult time of the school year. In mid-May the advanced placement exams will be given in all subjects. In early June, many students will take the SAT and SAT II exams. In the latter part of June the Regents will be administered to all. Give your children support and encouragement during this stressful time.

Finally, it is not too late to sign up for some excellent Summer Research Programs. Many of these programs provide intellectual challenges as well as individual advancement for their participants. Interested students should consult with Ms. Manwell in Room 802.

Sincerely,
S. Teitel

Tuesday, May 15, 2001 PA GENERAL MEETING

6:30 – 7:00pm: Hospitality, Refreshments will be served
7:00pm: Business Meeting – Election of Officers
7:30pm: Program : Dr. Rolf Schwagermann, Assistant Principal of the Foreign Language Department, and Dr. Steven Shapiro, Assistant Principal of the English Department

Dr. Shapiro and Dr. Schwagermann will highlight curriculum choices within their departments and discuss research, competitions, scholarships and other non-classroom opportunities available to students in these subject areas. Everyone will enjoy this informative meeting.

Thank you to Mr. Gene Blaufarb and Mr. Steve Keith (our in school social worker from the Youth Counseling League Division of the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services), Ms. Eleanor Archie and Mr. John Mui of the Guidance Office who spoke at the April 24th Parents' Association General meeting. We appreciate the efforts being made to provide additional academic and advisement services to our students.

Thanks also go to the parent representatives of the SLT who comprised the SLT Town Hall Panel. The group provided information about the initiatives that are in progress and answered questions posed from the audience on a wide range of topics.

— Marjorie Blackman

We hope to see many parents at the May 15 PA General Meeting. Your participation in the elections is important to the success of our association.

— Marilena Christodoulou

Stuyvesant High School Parents' Association General Membership Meeting April 24, 2001

At 7:00 **PA President Marilena Christodoulou** opened the meeting.

Announcements: We have had two very successful events: The NYC Math Team won Gold and Silver in the NY State Championships (the team was made up primarily of Stuy students.) The Federal Challenge Team was a Finalist in the 2nd District Federal Reserve Competition.

May 2 the report cards go out. College Night is May 3rd and 150 colleges will be here. It begins at 7:00 and next week the final list of colleges will go out. The **Phonathon** will take place May 7, 8 & 9 and volunteer sign-up sheets are circulating. **AP Exams** take place from May 7th to May 18th.

The minutes of the March 20th PA meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: Robert Blau reported that almost \$120,000 has already come in from this year's Phonathon. A motion was made, seconded, and approved for an additional \$5,000 to be allocated for text books.

Nominating Committee Report: Robert Blau presented the candidates for next year's PA officers and elected SLT positions. Additional nominations were taken from the floor. Carla Nordstrom was nominated for Senior SLT Delegate. No other nominations were offered. The nominations were then closed.

Parent Representation for the **C-30 Committee for the AP for Biology:** Notice was sent home 20 days prior to the meeting and eight parents submitted their names in writing. Marilena requested additional volunteers and nominations from the floor. Two parents were nominated bringing the total to ten. A motion was made, seconded and approved that these parents be the **C-30 Committee members**. They are: Aris Christodoulou, Dale Kruchten, Judith Moore, Nina Padukone, Shaheed Rasul, Sheldon Stachel, Sol Stern, John Wagner, Lydia Tugendrajch, and Tarik Malik.

At 7:10, Marilena began our Program by introducing **Gene Blaufarb, AP for Guidance**.

He began by commenting that this is a fast paced society we live in. We want to be ready to deal with a crisis before it occurs. He has developed a crisis intervention team. He wants to sensitize our children to violence. Gene introduced **Stephen Keith**, a social worker with the Youth Counseling League and Jewish Board of Family Services. They are working for a state license to offer **on-site therapy**, a free service, with a professional, not a Board of Ed therapist. Any fees paid would come from insurance co-pays and parents can take advantage of this. It is a multi-disciplinary team with a psychiatrist, psychologist, and ten clinicians. They offer many different therapies and they house a family violence hotline. They are looking for volunteers to work on the hotline. YCL offers school based services in High Schools in Manhattan. The advantage of an on-site location is of course that the kids being seen do not have to travel and they can overcome the students' reluctance to access services. They see students for stress, anxiety, depression, and the challenges of being a teenager and making relationships.

Mr. Blaufarb recently started **teen dating abuse classes**. He hopes to offer it across the curriculum. Their goal is to promote healthy relationships. This year there have been many family deaths and 50% of those students are attending the **loss and bereavement support groups**. Guidance offers support for incoming Freshman and outgoing Seniors. Young people who participate in violence have been disenfranchised from the social structure and estranged from their contemporaries. Mr. Blaufarb doesn't want to wait for the next crisis to happen. Stuy offers three days a week of services.

Ms. Eleanor Archie, the Guidance counselor in charge of Academic Intervention Services (AIS) was introduced. She had distributed a tutoring schedule for our children. She urged parents to encourage their children to attend the tutoring program. It will help them with SATII prep and AP test prep.

Mr. Blaufarb explained that **May 10th** will be a special day for all students due to a productive relationship with the Princeton Review. Freshman and Sophomores will be given a PSAT. (Have your child keep the test booklet to interpret the results later.) All Juniors get a program on SATII exams and many Seniors get AP Calculus. SATII tutorials in different subject areas are being worked out.

Mr. Jay Biegelson is in charge of **Special Education programs** and can help with special services.

John Mui was introduced. He's the liaison to families and community agencies, and the school's social worker. He works on a more long-term basis. When a student needs to be referred out, he does that. He pushes for resources and makes necessary connections. He also coordinates SAT Exams given at Stuy. Stuy is a desired site for testing and all tests are done by ETS (Educational Testing Service) on a first come, first serve basis city-

wide. You must register early to get a seat at Stuy. If you don't, he tries to accommodate you, however the testing service will charge you.

Mr. Blaufarb is forming a committee of staff, parents and students to work out how to notify all parents in the event of a safety incident. He wants to set up a team that can manage a crisis ahead of time, and make our children more aware of what is happening in their environment.

The earlier incident of a violent message written on a desk was discussed. Mr. Teitel explained that the phonemaster system takes five days to notify all households. Mr. Teitel is required to notify the police and the Board of Ed. Without the police telling the principal that there is a clear and present danger, he doesn't have the authority to close the school. He's working on developing a way to let the parents know about incidences such as this. Bullying can be a problem. The guidance department gets referrals about aggressive students, and gives advice on anger management, aggressiveness or hostility. The **Big Sib program** was noted as being very good. There are, at Stuyvesant, many ways a student in need may seek help and counseling.

At 8:05, the **School Leadership Team (SLT)** members filed on stage and the **TownHall** part of the program began. John Wagner and Kathy Kline outlined many of the initiatives, activities and work of the SLT. Some of these are: independent research, staff development, liaisons with colleges, discussion of the number of periods of Science per week, research subcommittee work of better mentors for students, attempts to collaborate with Cornell, efforts to help students get what they need, and to ease time stresses on students, website development, and to provide a forum for students, parents and faculty to share with each other.

Questions and Answers were fielded. Many topics that parents would like addressed were raised including:

- > a thank-you to the parents for their work
- > increasing the possible college applications for students to more than 7
- > a PA College Committee to respond to the changing college application process
- > more writing and editing across the curriculum
- > ethics and school climate
- > cheating among students
- > better coordination of extra-curricular activities to avoid conflict with academics
- > the scheduling of Sing during Spring Break, preventing Juniors from making college trips
- > the scheduling of Sing on the last day of the marking period when many tests are given
- > concerns about the gender imbalance
- > a suggestion of an annual survey of parents of the five most pressing issues
- > whatever happened to block scheduling?
- > a request for students to learn in advance from other students what's involved in taking an AP course
- > Eliminating drafting as a required course

The SLT has subcommittees on most of these areas and many concerns are being addressed. Those not covered will be considered by the SLT members and the PA. Parents are welcome to attend the SLT meetings as observers. The next one will be May 2nd at 3:15.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

*Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Schnee, Recording Secretary*

SUPPORT THE PHONATHON LAST CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The one major fundraising event sponsored by the PTA is now only a few days away: **THE PHONATHON**. The United Federation of Teachers has provided once again the use of telephones and offices on Monday May 7, Tuesday May 8, and Wednesday May 9.

Volunteers are still needed to make phone calls, enter information into the database, handle paperwork, or assist with food and other details. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer! If you have not volunteered yet, but could donate a few hours of your time, please call to find out how **YOU CAN HELP**. Call Harvey Blumm, at 212-866-8213 (before 9:30PM, please).

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
May 7, 8, and 9, 6 - 9:30 pm**

— Harvey Blumm

OFFICIAL NOTICE ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2001-2002 Parents' Association of Stuyvesant H.S.

At the General Meeting of the Parents' Association on May 15, 2001, elections will be held for the officers for the 2001-2002 school year. Listed below are the names of people who have accepted a nomination for either School Leadership Team or PA Executive Board, or both. For positions that are uncontested, election will be by voice vote. The position being contested this year is Parent Delegate to the School Leadership Team from the Sophomore Class. Election for this position will be by written ballot following an opportunity for each nominee to speak for up to two minutes in support of his or her candidacy.

OFFICERS:

President	<i>Marilena Christodoulou</i>
First Vice-President	<i>Sheldon Stachel</i>
2nd Vice-President	<i>May Umeki</i>
Recording Secretary	<i>Elizabeth Schnee</i>
Corresponding Secretary	<i>Lillian Brash</i>
Treasurer	<i>Donovan Moore</i>
Assistant Treasurer	<i>Julie Romano</i>

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP DELEGATES: All were identified by the nominating Committee Except Where Noted Otherwise

Senior: (Two to be elected) *Kathy Kline, Elizabeth Schnee,*
Nominated from the floor: *Carla Nordstrom*
Junior: (Three) *Marion Chow, Judith Moore, Sheldon Stachel*
Sophomore: (Two to be elected) *Stephen Kessler, Ellen Krug, Robert Carr*

— *Robert Blau, for the Nominating Committee*

APRIL COLLEGE COLUMN

This year has proven to be a very competitive and difficult one for acceptance at many colleges both for NYC public as well as private school students. Colleges which in the past were considered "safeties", are no longer; others have accepted lower numbers of NYC students. Out of state schools such as the University of Michigan are reducing the number of out of state students they are accepting.

"College Night" on May 3rd is open to all students. We encourage sophomores to come also. Freshmen may want to attend, although it is early in the process for them.

>>SENIORS

By May 1, students must give a deposit for ONE and only ONE college. There is no limit on the number of wait lists a student may be on. It is a good idea for students to write a letter to a college which has put them on their wait list, in addition to sending back their card.

Students should write to those colleges whose offer of acceptance they are declining in order to let them know that they will not be attending.

>>JUNIORS

May 3 at 7:00 pm representatives of colleges will be at Stuyvesant to meet with our families.

Come to the College Office to discuss college possibilities. Visit colleges. Review college materials in the College Office and in the library.

READ THE COLLEGE HANDBOOK.

In September, statistics on this year's seniors' college experience will be available.

— *Kathy Kline and Carol Katz*

STUYVESANT CALENDAR - SPRING 2001

Wednesday, May 2	Distribution of Report Cards
Thursday, May 3	College Night
Saturday, May 5	SAT Exams
May 7 – May 9	PA PHONATHON
May 7 – May 18	AP Exams
Tuesday, May 15	PA General Meeting 7:00–9:00 p.m. (PA Hospitality 6:30 p.m.)
Saturday, May 19	Spring Concert
Monday, May 28	Memorial Day – School Closed
Wednesday, May 30	ARISTA Induction Ceremony
Friday, June 1	Culture Fest
Saturday, June 2	SAT Exams/Speech & Debate Dinner
Wednesday, June 6	Awards Night
Thursday, June 7	Spring Comedy
Friday, June 8	Spring Comedy
Saturday, June 9	Senior Prom at Waldorf Astoria
Tuesday, June 12	PA General Meeting 7:00–9:00 p.m. (PA Hospitality 6:30 p.m.)
June 12 & 13	Final Exams
June 14 & 15	Regents Exams
Saturday, June 16	Incoming Family Orientation
Monday, June 18	Graduation Rehearsal/Sports Luncheon
June 19 – 21	Regents Exams
Monday, June 25	Graduation at Avery Fisher Hall
Wednesday, June 27	Last Day of School

스타디움선트 고등학교 행사 일정표-2001 봄학기	
5월 2 일(수)	제이차-실적표 배포
5월 3 일(목)	대학의 밤
5월 5 일(토)	SAT 시험
5월 7- 9 일	학부모회 전체모임 연례 행사(예정)
5월 7-18 일	AP 시험
5월 15 일(화)	학부모회 정기모임 오후 7시-9시 (연고, 오후 5:30)
5월 18 일(금)	봄 공연 연주회
5월 28 일(일)	추교, 학생일
5월 30 일(수)	ARISTA 입성식
6월 1 일(목)	카나리 문화 소개의 날
6월 2 일(금)	SAT 시험(동반과 모험팀 예찬)
6월 6 일(수)	졸업생 수상식 밤
6월 7-8 일(목,금)	봄 학과 발표회
6월 9 일(토)	졸업생 축하 파티(Waldorf Astoria에서)
6월 12 일(화)	학부모회 정기모임 오후 7시-9시 (연고, 오후 5:30)
6월 12-13 일	학기말 시험
6월 14-15 일	Regents 시험
6월 16 일(토)	신입생과 가족을 위한 환영과 학교 소개
6월 18 일(일)	졸업식 연수
6월 19-21 일	Regents 시험
6월 25 일(목)	졸업식
6월 27 일(수)	학교 종강

史丹文庫高中 2001年校历	
05/02, 周三	家长联谊会简报
05/03, 周四	大学晚会(College Night)
05/05, 周六	考 SAT
05/07 - 05/09	家长联谊会活动(暂定)
05/07 - 05/18	AP 考试
05/15, 周二	家长联谊会, 晚 7:00 - 9:00
05/19, 周六	春季音乐会
05/28, 周一	国际舞 + 学校放假
05/30, 周三	ARISTA 仪式
06/01, 周五	文化节
06/02, 周六	考 SAT, 演讲与辩论比赛
06/06, 周三	毕业典礼
06/07 - 06/08	春季运动会
06/12, 周二	家长联谊会, 晚 7:00-9:00
06/13, 周三	期末考试
06/14 - 06/15	REGENTS 考试
06/16, 周六	新学生及家长活动
06/18, 周一	企业参观(暂定)
06/19 - 06/21	REGENTS 考试
06/25, 周四	毕业典礼
06/27, 周六	学期最后一天

Proverb: *If you must do it by the book, be the author*

OFFICIAL SCHOOL TEST DAYS

The PA thought it would be helpful for parents to be aware of the official school test days. The days that tests may be given are as follows:

- > **Monday** – Non Regents Biology & Non Regents Physics
This includes all AP courses & electives in Biology & Physics
This does not include Regents Biology or Regents Physics
- > **Tuesday** – English, Computer Science, and Technology
- > **Wednesday** – Foreign Language and Health
- > **Thursday** – Math, Art, and Music
- > **Friday** – History and Non Regents Chemistry (AP Chemistry and electives)

Exams in Regents Biology, Regents Chemistry and Regents Physics may be given at the teacher's discretion **any day of the week.**

Teachers may work their exams around holidays, snow days and other days off from school at their own discretion.

If a student has several tests scheduled in one day which seem to be deviating from the "test day" schedule, Mr. Teitel suggests that the student make the Assistant Principal in that subject area aware of it. The Assistant Principal will look into the matter and either explain that there is a legitimate reason for the change in test day scheduling or will discuss a possible change in the test day with the specific teacher.

— Fran Meyerson

OPEN SCHOOL WEEK

On March 26, 27, and 28, Stuyvesant HS opened its classrooms to visiting parents. If your child dissuaded you from attending even one class, you missed out on the chance to see and experience what it's like for our children to be at Stuyvesant. Don't miss this great event next year!! Thank you to all parents who volunteered to help at the event, and to all the teachers and staff who graciously allowed parents to observe in their classrooms.

— Angela Fremont-Appel, Chair, Open School Week Committee

>>> PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

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The Parents' Association of Stuyvesant High School PA BULLETIN

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Layout Li Wah Lai

The **PA BULLETIN** is published by the Parents' Association, and is mailed to Parents one week prior to most PA General meetings. Please contact the Editor, Betsy Combier, at 212-794-8902, or solarmedia@aol.com if you have a suggestion for an article or would like to contribute to this newsletter.

Many thanks to this month's contributors: Stan Teitel, Marilena Christodoulou, Elizabeth Schnee, Harvey Blumm, Kathy Kline, Carol Katz, Marjorie Blackman, Angela Fremont-Appel, Robert Blau, and Fran Meyerson.

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PA CONTACT INFORMATION

- > **PA HOTLINE:** 212-312-4838
- > **PA WEBSITE:** www.stuyapa.org
- > **SHS:** 212-312-4800
- > **SHS WEBSITE:** www.stuy.edu