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By Gabrielle Alfiero

A group of Hunter College students are bringing little-seen artworks, and new research, to the public.

"Boundless Reality: Traveler Artists' Landscapes of Latin America from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection," a selection of more than 150 works, was curated by Harper Montgomery and her graduate students at Hunter College. The exhibition runs through January 23 at the Bertha and Karl Leubsdorf Gallery at Hunter College on 68th Street and Lexington Avenue, and at the Americas Society Art Gallery a block away on Park Avenue. All pieces in the exhibition are from the Patricia Phelps de Cisneros Collection, one of the world's most extensive holdings of Latin American art, Montgomery said. The exhibition marks the first public showing of many of the works.

"Most of them haven't really been studied before so not only are they being shown for the first time but it's the first time there's an academic interest in these works," said Anna Ficek, a master's candidate at Hunter College and one of the student curators. "I think that it's a very fertile field for further study."

As part of an ongoing partnership between Hunter College and the Cisneros collection, which provides students access to the private collection for research and coursework, master's candidates in Montgomery's fall 2014 seminar on 19th-century Latin American landscapes completed in-depth research on specific works, worked on the exhibition across its two venues and wrote catalogue entries for the accompanying publication, which appear alongside essays by premier scholars in the field, including the book's editor, Katherine Manthorne.
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“It’s extremely compelling to do writing that the public will read, to think about your research and writing not just as a paper you will hand in at the end of the semester,” said Montgomery, the Cisneros assistant professor of modern and contemporary Latin American art at Hunter College.

Montgomery also noted that, while many of the works are on view to the public for the first time, the show is itself unprecedented because it’s the first exhibition of traveler artist’s paintings of Latin America in the United States.

The curatorial work becomes part of the students’ professional portfolios, said Jennifer Raab, president of Hunter College, an asset for those entering the job market.

“They researched the objects from perspectives that had never been taken before,” said Raab. “Their research was groundbreaking, was new, and it was exactly what you ask your faculty to do, and in this case that was our students. To approach art and science from a new perspective and come to new conclusions.”

Pulling from the collection’s holdings of work by traveler artists, the exhibition focuses mostly on pieces
from the mid-19th century, after the independence of Latin American territories eased access for travelers to the region. The presentation of mostly landscape paintings at the Hunter gallery, such as Franz Post’s cloudy “View of Frederica City in Paraiba” from 1638, one of the earliest works in the show, examines the “conventions of landscape” and the European influences on the works, like adding details to create depth of field, said Ficek.

Also on view in the small gallery is American painter Frederic Edwin Church’s “Cotopaxi” from 1853, a work from the same journey through Ecuador that resulted in the artist’s famed “The Heart of the Andes,” Ficek explained, which is on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Expedition is the focus at the Americas Society less than a block away, including an extensive showing of the work of artist Auguste Morisot from his expedition with French explorer Jean Chaffanjon. The travelers followed the Orinoco River, said Silvia Benedetti, one of Montgomery’s students who acted as a curatorial assistant for the exhibition. Morisot’s many monotypes, watercolors and graphite sketches of the local flora and fauna, people and surroundings he encountered along the river are central at the venue. This portion of the exhibit also includes early photographs.

As part of their coursework, students in Montgomery’s seminar wrote exhibition proposals and presented their ideas to the galleries at Hunter and the Americas Society, and to the Cisneros collection, a process that started about a year ago.

“That was the first step to organize the exhibition,” she said.

Design studio Project Projects designed the two-venue show and similar elements pop up at both galleries. Walls of pale pink and deep green are found at both locations, as well as wooden display cases for illustrated books and the small objects from Morisot’s travels.

Through the classroom curatorial process students helped determine which pieces would appear in the show and how they’d be presented, a process that, paired with a semester’s worth of research on the objects and their contexts, yielded a lot of discussion about what to include, Montgomery said. About half the traveler artist works in the Cisneros collection appear in the show, narrowed down in part by the students in Montgomery’s seminar.

Students were also involved in developing related programming, including landscape tours of Central Park and an upcoming talk with Argentine artist Eduardo Navarro, a guest artist with the college’s visiting artists and critics program, another aspect of the partnership.

“I think conventional wisdom is nothing by committee is done well, it’s better to have a single voice,” Montgomery said. “I would definitely argue that this exhibition proves that theory wrong.”
Lori Berenson returns to New York City after spending almost 20 years in a Peruvian jail on charges she aided Marxist rebels

BY LAURA BULT, GINGER ADAMS OTIS / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Thursday, December 3, 2015, 3:19 PM

Lori Berenson Lands in U.S. After More Than 15 Years In Captivity in Peru
NY Daily News

After nearly 20 years in a Peruvian jail on terrorism-related charges, Lori Berenson returned to New York a free woman Thursday.

The 46-year-old was all smiles as she walked through JFK airport with her uncle — even after a four-hour interrogation at customs.

"I just want to say I'm very grateful for the interest and I'm not going to be giving any further declarations," Berenson said.

"I'm very grateful to all the people who've helped over the years and I'm glad to be with my family," she added.

Her 6-year-old son Salvador — who was born behind bars in Peru — traveled with her on the overnight flight.

He left the airport ahead of Berenson with her parents, college professors Rhoda and Mark Berenson.
Berenson spent the last five years living quietly in Lima with her son after Peruvian authorities paroled her in 2010.

Lori Berenson exits John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on Thursday. Berenson, a New Yorker once jailed in Peru for helping Marxist insurgents, is returning to the United States after finishing a 20-year sentence.

She was able to make a brief visit home a year later but then was barred from leaving Peru again until her full 20-year sentence elapsed.

Her uncle, Ken Berenson, 70, came from Mt. Vernon to greet his niece and keep her company as she waited for customs to give her clearance to re-enter the U.S.

"I'm feeling great about seeing my niece, it's a 20-year wait for her freedom, so I'm very upbeat about that," he said.

He said his niece was "enthusiastic" about beginning a fresh life with her son in New York City.

She planned to stay with her parents in their Kips Bay apartment until she got settled.

Last year Berenson completed an online sociology degree from the City University of New York.
Berenson carries her son Salvador, 6, while being escorted by police as she leaves Peru.

"My objective is to continue to work in social justice issues, in a different capacity obviously," she told the Associated Press.

Her uncle said a big family reunion was in the works.

"She's coming to my house over the weekend for a party," he said.

He said he was relieved to have his niece home — and through U.S. customs.

"I'd imagine they have a lot of questions for her," he said, about the lengthy wait for his niece to be processed.

Berenson was a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., when she dropped out in the early 1990s to travel to Latin America.

Berenson was convicted of "collaborating with terrorism" when she was involved with leftist rebel group Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, whose members kidnapped Peruvian lawmakers in 1995.

While there she worked to support leftist rebels and in 1994 went to Peru, where she got involved with the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement.

Berenson has always denied knowing about the group's plot in 1995 to storm the Peruvian congress and kidnap lawmakers.
But when the plot failed, she was rounded up along with the rebel leader’s wife and convicted of “collaborating with terrorism.”

She had rented and was living in the safe house used by the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement as it prepared to raid Congress.

Berenson was sent to a barebones Peruvian prison high in the Andes, at 12,700 feet.

The altitude affected her health and eventually — after pressure from U.S. officials — she was moved and later allowed to live in Lima.

As she and her son Salvador left Peru Wednesday night — ringed by police — some people shouted “Get out of here, terrorist!”

In a text message to the Associated Press, Berenson said the experience was “incredibly surreal although entirely typical.”
In Hamilton Heights, a Renaissance

In the wake of historic-home restorations, cafes and restaurants proliferate

Row houses on Convent Avenue in Hamilton Heights. PHOTO: ANDREW LAMBERSON FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By LANA BORTOLOT
Dec. 4, 2015 6:00 a.m. ET

Alexander Hamilton may be the current toast of Broadway, but he’s having a moment, too, in the uptown enclave that bears his name. Bookended by City College to the south and the Hispanic Society of America to the north, Hamilton Heights, so named for the founding father who made his home here, is enjoying a renaissance with a wave of historic home restorations, followed by new restaurants and cafes.

“The neighborhood has exploded in the last few years,” said James Endress, founder of Absolute Properties, a brokerage firm on Amsterdam Avenue. “You can still find needles in the haystack...if you’re up for a project, it’s good to look here.”

Mr. Endress, who has lived in the neighborhood since 2007, said prices and inventory are attracting people “who want townhouses but have been priced out of the Upper
West Side.”

Sara Henderson, a retired investment banker, was one such buyer. She moved from a condominium on 94th Street and Central Park West to a four-story townhouse on West 141st Street.

“I always wanted to live in Harlem and always wanted a townhouse,” she said. “I had something specific in mind—I wanted detail and I was willing to restore.”

In her old neighborhood, she couldn’t find a property within her price range and taste. After six months of looking, Ms. Henderson closed on her townhouse in April 2014, paying $2.3 million. She restored parts of her home, and after finding it too large to manage on her own, recently relisted it. Within a month she had multiple bids and accepted a cash offer of $2.9 million.

One of Harlem’s most architecturally eclectic neighborhoods, with landmarked blocks of townhouses and churches of various styles, prewar apartment buildings and national monuments, the neighborhood seems lost in time.

“Architecturally, it’s one of the most beautiful areas of the city, [attracting] people who have an appreciation for prewar elegance and beauty,” said Sidney Whelan, an agent for CORE, a boutique residential brokerage, and himself a 12-year Hamilton Heights resident. He said the townhouse inventory that dominates the area around Convent Avenue doesn’t trade often, and new development around the historic interior is limited. The Langston, a 180-unit development built in 2005 at 68 Bradhurst Ave., is one block outside the Hamilton Heights neighborhood. Aside from a spurt of activity in 2006
that brought three boutique developments to market, other projects have been small in scale.

But buyers looking farther west will find more apartment conversions.

“Toward Riverside Drive there’s a diversity of floor plans, some with huge apartments and some with tiny layouts,” Mr. Whelan said. “It’s a kind of chaotic inventory on those kind of conversions...there’s neither rhyme nor reason to it.” But, he added, “You can find some gems there.”

Adding to the mix will be the conversion of the long-vacant P.S. 186 on West 145th Street, a private/public project that will create 79 units of housing at various income levels, eight of them at market rates. It will also be the home of the Boys and Girls Club of Harlem.

Slated for completion in fall 2016, the project will “help transform 145th Street and bring in more upscale retail,” Mr. Endress said. Places like the craft-beer tavern Harlem Public, which opened in 2012 at 3612 Broadway, have jump-started the makeover, paving the way for other like-minded businesses to follow.

Grange Bar & Eatery owners Ron and Rita Henley, who live on 145th street, said they were inspired to open their restaurant by both the Harlem Public’s success and a desire to provide a new offering to the neighborhood.

“We were sick of the commute downtown and decided we missed this in the neighborhood,” Mr. Henley said. “At the time, Harlem Public was the only thing open—
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no one [else] was doing anything craft or pushing the envelope here...I knew the neighborhood was ready.”

The Henleys, in turn, may have helped spawn a micro-dining destination, which in the past year included the nearby Tsion Café, Hogshead Tavern and the newly revamped Sweet Chef bakery. At 1616 Amsterdam Ave., Filtered Coffee opened this spring in a storefront that will include OSO, a restaurant in which Matthew Trebek, son of the Jeopardy! game show host, is a partner.

Tsion Café owners and local residents Padmore John and Beejhy Barhany said they were encouraged to open a restaurant after seeing a revitalization of abandoned houses and storefronts. When they opened a year ago, Mr. John said, “A lot of people told us we’ve been waiting for something like this for ages.”

Other retail has yet to catch up to the emerging dining scene. The main retail corridors along 145th Street and Broadway are a jumble of bodegas, salons, small electronic and phone stores. The neighborhood lacks a diversity of grocery stores, forcing residents like Alisa Roost, an associate professor at Hostos Community College, to travel for items beyond staples.

“We have more coffee shops than we need...I personally would love a reasonably priced grocery store,” she said. “We don’t have good grocery stores but we have a good brunch place. Sometimes it doesn’t work the way you’d think it works.”
Dining and drinking: On the eastern side of the neighborhood, the Grange Bar & Eatery specializes in farm-to-table dishes and craft cocktails. Tsion Café fuses Ethiopian, Caribbean and North African cuisines. Hogshead Tavern features craft beers and whiskeys, and small plates. A bar, coffee shop and noodle shop line the Broadway block between 139th and 148th streets.

Culture: The landmarked Audubon Terrace is home to a number of small museums including The Hispanic Society of America, whose collection includes works by El Greco and Velázquez. Hamilton historians can visit his home at the Hamilton Grange National Memorial at 414 W. 141st St. The Dance Theatre of Harlem (466 W. 152nd St.) offers classes and performances at its Everett Center for the Performing Arts. Sugar Hill Children’s Museum of Art & Storytelling opened in October at 898 St. Nicholas Ave.

Transportation: The neighborhood is served by the A/B/C/D and No. 1 subway lines to 145th Street.

Schools: In District 6, schools that serve pre-K to fifth grades include P.S. 153 Adam Clayton Powell, P.S. 28 Wright Brothers School, P.S. 192 Jacob H. Schiff and P.S. 325. P.S. 368 Hamilton Heights School serves K to fifth grade. P.S./I.S. 210 21st Century Academy for Community Leadership includes pre-K through eight; Middle schools include Hamilton Grange Middle School. The New Heights Academy Charter School serves grades five through 12. High schools include A. Philip Randolph Campus High School and the High School For Mathematics, Science And Engineering At City College.
The Chocolate Girl creates kosher holiday treats

by Edmon J. Rodman
Posted on Dec. 3, 2015 at 11:23 am

Driving past The Chocolate Girl, a small storefront shop in the multicultural Mid-City area of Pico Boulevard, one might assume it has an ethnic flavor of some sort, and it does. Located in a spot that previously housed a massage parlor only leads a passer-by to wonder what exotic wares the pink window-shaded location now holds.

The mystery was solved by a visit one morning, first by smell — the aroma of rich dark chocolate filling the air, then by sight, as a woman carefully poured the molten brown liquid into a mold shaped like a Chanukah menorah. The Chocolate Girl is a temperature-controlled chocolate factory and showroom, complete with a short, moving production line that during a recent visit was coating pretzels with chocolate, which a worker then hand-decorated with blue sprinkles as they moved along.

"I told them, this week everything has to be blue," said Tziporah Avigayil Vojdany, the owner of The Chocolate Girl, who estimates that she produces 2,000 chocolate- and sprinkle-covered pretzels each day. On that morning, Vojdany also was supervising another candy-maker
in the production of marbled chocolate menorahs (white and dark chocolate) that, like all of her creations, are certified kosher and pareve pas yisroel.

Located nearly three miles from the apex of Pico-Robertson's other kosher businesses, Vojdany, formerly of Brooklyn, had first rented a space in the Hancock Park area, and then moved her growing wholesale business to its new location in February of this year.

In addition to the menorah, which takes two hands to hold and comes with removable chocolate dreidels instead of actual candies, Vojdany's repertoire also includes chocolate novelties for other Jewish holidays, including masks on a stick, clowns and chocolate-dipped hamantaschen for Purim, and a chocolate shofar for Rosh Hashanah. She makes lollipops decorated with "Happy Chanukah," too.

"I also make chocolate tefillin" (an edible but not wearable treat, unless you get it on your clothes) that is hand-molded, with the Hebrew letter shin "piped on," said the chocolatier, who describes herself as Orthodox.

Vojdany is a graduate of Brooklyn College with a bachelor's degree in art, and she has been known to dip marshmallows in white chocolate and then hang strings from the packaging to make the confection look like tizitz.

Made with high-end Belgian chocolate and without any dairy products, Vojdany's chocolates can be purchased at various kosher locations throughout L.A., including Western Kosher, La Brea Kosher Market and Ariel Glatt Kosher Market, as well as at Munchies. Vojdany also sells retail online, and she has found a market niche in custom orders for britot milah and baby-namings, weddings and b'nai mitzvahs.

Looking to satisfy tastes for chocolate beyond the Jewish market, as well as within, she recently took orders for chocolate turkeys for Thanksgiving, and she also produces some items for Christmas and Halloween, as well as for Valentine's Day, always maintaining kosher hechsher from both Star-K and Rabbi Avner Katz.

The factory's neighbors on Pico Boulevard have been "very welcoming," Vojdany said, and she "doesn't want to disappoint them," so she occasionally sells from the showroom. One neighbor has dropped in repeatedly to buy her chocolate frogs, and others have rung her bell for Valentine's Day hearts and roses.

"Valentine's Day this year fell on a Shabbat. We can't be open on a Saturday, so we worked up until about an hour before Shabbos, locked up and ran home," she said.

Vojdany previously ran a retail chocolate shop in the hip and gentrified neighborhood of Park Slope in Brooklyn, and she trained with Michael Rogak, a third-generation chocolatier at JoMart Chocolates in Brooklyn, which has been in business since 1946. "He is my chocolate mentor," said Vojdany, who still calls him for advice.
Vojdany was divorced and a single mother of two girls when she opened The Chocolate Girl in Brooklyn, in 2007, but she had to close her shop not long after because of the recession. She took a year off, then reopened in a new location in New York that was wholesale only, and along the way, reconnected with a previous wholesale customer, Yehuda Vojdany, owner of Munchies, the popular candy emporium and ice cream parlor in the Pico-Robertson area of L.A. The rest is a “sweet story” as she says, as the two have since married.

Vojdany said her “kids have grown up in chocolate.” Recently, her 14-year-old daughter entered a contest at her school “to make a menorah out of interesting materials, and she chose to do candy and chocolate, the best of both worlds,” Vojdany said. Her kids also come to the factory from time to time to make their own chocolate-covered pretzels, she added.

For her son’s upsherin, the ceremony for a Jewish boy’s first haircut, at 3 years old, Vojdany made an entire alphabet of chocolate and mounted the letters on a mirror with his name on it. “After his haircut, all the kids got to pull off a letter, making Torah sweet,” she said.

Is there a difference between L.A. and Brooklyn when it comes to taste in chocolate?

“People like different things here in California,” Vojdany said. “Chocolate-covered orange peels are more popular here than in New York.” Vojdany also found peanut butter s’mores a hard sell here, but she thinks she has California “hooked” on a fluffernutter s’more variation filled with peanut butter and marshmallow fluff. She also sells kosher pareve chocolate chips, which, since Trader Joe’s stopped selling them in 2012, had been hard to find.

“Kosher is really just a perk to the chocolate that I’m making. It really doesn’t define my chocolate,” Vojdany said.

“When people think kosher [chocolate], they think low quality; they think ‘cheap.’ And that’s really just a stereotype,” Vojdany said, noting that some kosher chocolate “tastes really waxy.”

“When people say, ‘Oh, it’s kosher. Oh, it’s pareve. Oh, it must be horrible,’ I say, ‘Taste it!’ When they do, they are surprised,” she said. “I like to think that we are breaking that mold.”

For information on ordering Vojdany’s products, visit The Chocolate Girl.
Judge rules Deng murder case should proceed

Pocono Mountain Regional Police Chief Chris Wagner (r.) speaks at a news conference at the police station in Pocono Summit, Pa. last September.

By Madina Toure

After a preliminary hearing Monday in the trial of five Baruch College Pi Delta Psi fraternity brothers charged in the hazing death of Oakland Gardens resident Michael Deng, 19, a Pennsylvania judge ruled Tuesday that there is enough evidence to proceed with a trial.

Deng died in December 2013 after he was blindfolded, forced to carry a heavy backpack across the frozen ground and tackled in the Asian fraternity’s “glass ceiling” hazing ritual in Pennsylvania, according to the Pocono Mountain Regional Police.

The five fraternity members—Charles Lai, Kenny Kwan, Raymond Lam, Daniel Li and Sheldon Wong—had appeared before Magisterial District Judge Richard S. Claypool in Pocono Pines, Pa. Oct. 22, according to the Magisterial District Court.

They were charged with murder, aggravated assault, hindering prosecution, involuntary manslaughter, simple assault, hazing and conspiracy, the court said.

The purpose of the hearing before Claypool in Stroudsburg, Pa., was to establish probable cause to proceed with the case, according to Todd Greenberg, the lawyer representing Lam. Greenberg said the judge determined that the case should proceed.

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The prosecution’s witness, Daniel Li, the former president of Baruch’s chapter, testified at the hearing in Stroudsburg, Greenberg said. Pocono Mountain Regional Police Detective Robert Miller, among the officers who brought the charges, and Wieslaw Niemoczyński, the lawyer representing the fraternity, also testified.

Niemoczyński, Miller and James Swetz, the lawyer representing Lai, could not be reached for comment.

"In a very basic sense, he (Li) testified that there was this ritual of the glass ceiling, which is meant to show the pledges of the fraternity how tough life is and the discrimination they will experience and how to meet that head-on and get past that," Greenberg said.

Deng was knocked unconscious and authorities said there was a 90-minute delay before fraternity members sought medical assistance.

Lai and Kwan were also charged with possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia, the court said.

The court said 36 fraternity members and the fraternity itself face charges including assault, criminal conspiracy and homicide, but not all of them were charged with murder and aggravated assault.

Robert Saurman, the lawyer representing Kwan, said that when Li testified, he made it appear as though he was not involved, which Saurnman said he does not believe.

But Saurman said there were not "hours and hours" between the incident and Deng being taken to the hospital, contending that there was at most a one-hour interval.

"Mr. Li said that Mr. Deng... was snoring so he thought he was fine and went to bed," Saurnman said. "So the idea that these young men—all in their teens and 20s—should have known that this was an emergency medical situation at the outset was shown to be ludicrous by that testimony."

Kwan and Lam each posted $500,000 bails, according to their lawyers. The court said Wong posted $500,000 bail and that Li posted $150,000 bail. It is unclear whether Lai posted $500,000 bail.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at mtsoure@nylocal.com or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

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By the age of 16, Brooklyn-born Carol Joan Klein — soon to adopt the professional name of Carole King — was already an accomplished classical pianist, had dated a guy named Neil Sedaka, was enrolled as a student at New York's Queens College and was just precocious and confident enough to hawk her pop songs to producers at the Brill Building, the fabled "music factory" not far from Times Square.

By the age of 17, King had met fellow college student Gerry Goffin — handsome, gifted and a couple of years older — and fallen head over heels in love with him. He would quickly become her songwriting partner and, almost as quickly, after she discovered she was pregnant, become her husband. The couple struggled financially at the start,
but throughout the early 1960s they turned out a series of chart-topping songs for the hot artists of the time (the Drifters, the Shirelles, Little Eva and others) that became instant classics.

‘BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROLE KING MUSICAL’
Highly recommended
When: Through Feb. 21
Where: Oriental Theatre,
24 W. Randolph
Tickets: $30 - $140
Info: (800) 775-2000;
www.BroadwayInChicago.com
Run time: 2 hours and
25 minutes with one intermission

Along the way, what began to fall apart — much to King’s chagrin — was her marriage, as Goffin felt increasingly trapped, had a number of devastating affairs, felt his creativity waning as the music business began to change, and was hospitalized for depression.

All this is part of the story told in “Beautiful — The Carole King Musical,” the Broadway hit now in its first national touring edition at the Oriental Theatre. With an economical book by Douglas McGrath, the musical features about two dozen of the greatest songs penned primarily by both King and Goffin, and by their friends and competitors, Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann.

But it does not end there. For what this musical is really about — and what clinches it most crucially for the audience, thanks to a performance by Abby Mueller that is truly beautiful in its complete honesty, as well as in the lustrous quality of her voice — is King’s emergence from a passionate but ultimately devastating marriage, and her discovery of herself as an independent woman.

In a very real sense, this is the story of how King rediscovered the buoyant artistic confidence she possessed as a teenage prodigy, and realized she could triumph on her own. And those moments are winningly theatricalized in the show’s climactic scenes as King, who had long preferred to write songs performed by others, is cajoled into singing “It’s Too Late” at the intimate Bitter End in Greenwich Village, and finally, after winning a Grammy Award for “Tapestry,” her transformational 1971 album,
Abby Mueller (left, as Carole King), with Becky Gulsvig as Cynthia Weill, Ben Fankhauser as Barry Mann, and Liam Tobin as Gerry Goffin in “Beautiful – The Musical.” (Photo: Joan Marcus)

triumphing at Carnegie Hall as a late-blossoming flower child soon to turn 30.

“Beautiful,” directed by Marc Bruni, is primarily an intimate tale of a high-profile relationship. And the chemistry between Mueller (the Evanston-bred actress who, as is widely known, is the sister of Jessie Mueller, who won a Tony Award when she originated the role of King on Broadway) and lanky, handsome Liam Tobin (who plays Goffin, and easily captures the seductive appeal and latent insecurity of the man) is just right.

The story, which echoes the enormous social changes of the 1960s, also supplies a perfect study in contrasts in the deftly (and often comically) juxtaposed relationship forged between the chic, fiercely independent lyricist Weil (a snappy turn by Becky Gulsvig) and her songwriting partner, Mann (Ben Fankhauser, very funny as the nerdy, hypochondriacal, marriage-hungry composer).

Adding particular zest to the proceedings are the Drifters (played by Josh A. Dawson, Paris Nix, Noah J. Ricketts and Dashaun Young), who deliver that group’s golden harmonies in sleek sharkskin suits (cheers for all Alejo Vietti’s period costumes), with
The fabled pop group the Drifters as portrayed in “Beautiful — The Carole King Musical,” in its national touring edition at the Oriental Theatre. (Photo: Joan Marcus)

smile-inducing moves choreographed by Josh Prince. Ashley Blanchet, Britney Coleman, Rebecca E. Covington and Salisha Thomas conjure the Shirelles, with Blanchet later displaying her star quality as King’s talented babysitter, Little Eva.

Although the voices in this production are excellent, the overall sound quality is in need of some serious tweaking, with the balance between speaking and singing voices uneven, and the sound from the pit orchestra somewhat tinny.

The songs, of course, are sublime. And if there is any moral to this story it is that while people are not always dependable, a great song (and the list here includes “So Far Away,” “Up on the Roof,” “On Broadway,” “We Gotta Get Out of This Place,” “(You Make Me Feel) Like a Natural Woman,” “You’ve Got a Friend”) will endure. You will, to be sure, still love it “tomorrow.”
Why Are College Presidents Going Corporate?

Tim Wolfe, the former president of Mizzou, is one of a growing number of leaders in higher education with a business background rather than an academic one.

Only two hours away from Ferguson, Missouri, a series of events quickly enflamed the University of Missouri in Columbia this fall. In a few short weeks, reports of racial slurs and a poop-smeared swastika led to a protest during a homecoming parade, one hunger striker, tents in Carnahan Quad,
and a trending Twitter hashtag, #ConcernedStudents1950. When the football team threatened to boycott its November 8 game with Brigham Young University unless Mizzou’s president stepped down, the crisis required a fast resolution.

Timothy M. Wolfe, the president of the University of Missouri, had done little to deescalate tensions with students as the situation deteriorated in September and early October, according to Arthur G. Jago, a management professor at the school. In *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Jago argues that Wolfe acted “autocratically,” failed to consult with faculty and students about several major decisions, and was dismissive of students’ concerns. These actions, according to Jago, resulted in the protests, the football boycott, and Wolfe’s ultimate resignation on November 9.

Many within the higher-education community are wondering whether Wolfe would have handled the crisis more tactfully and had the support of faculty members if he were a career academic. Wolfe isn’t a former college professor who taught for many years in his field and later worked his way up the administrative hierarchy. He’s a former executive at IBM and Novell Americas who was hired by Mizzou’s Board of Curators because he could, as Board Chair Warren Erdman has said, “sell” the importance of the school to others and run the school efficiently. Once he was at the helm of the university, some faculty members started to express concern about his lack of academic experience.

Wolfe is part of a trend in higher ed of putting non-academics in leadership positions at colleges. Twenty percent of U.S. college presidents in 2012 came from fields outside academia, up from from 13 percent six years earlier, according to the American Council on Education.

Many of the non-academic college presidents come from the law and business worlds. Jonathan Lash, who now oversees Hampshire College, was
previously a lawyer who worked at the World Resources Institute, a 
Washington-based environmental think tank. Before Bruce Benson was 
selected to lead the University of Colorado in 2008, he had a successful 
career in the oil industry. He has also been involved in banking, real estate, 
cable television, and restaurants. Neither Lash nor Benson have Ph.Ds.

**Twenty percent of U.S. college presidents in 2012 came from fields outside academia.**

Other nontraditional college presidents have government backgrounds. 
Margaret Spellings, the new president of North Carolina, is the former 
Secretary of Education under George W. Bush. Janet Napolitano, the former 
Secretary of Homeland Security, is the president of the University of 
California. Bill McRaven, the chancellor of the University of Texas system, is 
a former admiral in the navy and commander of the U.S. Special Operations 
Command. Purdue’s president, Mitch Daniels, is the former governor of 
Indiana. Florida State’s president, John Thrasher, was the Speaker of the 
Florida House of Representatives.

Proponents of nontraditional candidates say that leaders from the worlds of 
business or government or law are needed to innovate, control costs, and 
manage a complex organization like a college institution. They have proven 
skills in fundraising and important connections in their professional 
networks. Academics may know a great deal about anthropology or 
molecular biology, but they haven’t been trained to run an operation that 
serves tens of thousands of students and tens of thousands of employees. 
With growing resistance to high tuition costs, increased administrative costs, 
and tightening government resources, business leaders would seem to be a 
good fit for the job.
statewide Board of Regents over the appointment of Harreld. One survey found that just 3 percent of surveyed faculty found him qualified to be Iowa’s next president. Faculty have not warmed up to him since he began his job in early November, resulting in an apology to Harreld from a local business organization. The executive director of the business group said, “The way [Harreld has] been treated by some on this campus is not fair. It’s not who we are as Iowans.”

On the academic website “HASTAC,” Cathy Davidson, a professor at CUNY Graduate Center, wrote in a blog post that she didn’t think that Harreld was qualified to run a college campus in part due to his lack of academic experience. She then questioned the trend of applying the business model to higher education. What place is there for collegiate traditions of discourse and shared governance in a profit-minded university? What happens to non-profitable areas of a school—the hospital, students services, sports—if colleges are treated like a business? She argues that this shift could even open up moral and legal questions over universities’ nonprofit tax status.

Protests have happened at numerous other colleges this fall, many of which are led by traditional administrators. Those administrators include Ithaca College President Thomas Rochon, whom students have also called on resign (he hasn’t), and Claremont McKenna College Dean of Students Mary Spellman (she has). And it’s hard to know for sure how president with a background in academia would have reacted to events at Mizzou. After all, things spiraled out of control very quickly; students there were well trained in their activism from a year of protests in Ferguson. Few anticipated how important the students’ ultimate trump card—the football team—would prove. Ultimately, the theory that Wolfe’s non-academic roots meant that he wasn’t interested in fostering a dialogue with students is probably one of many explanations for the outcome.
However, it’s worth noting that college administrators at many other schools, like Princeton, have been careful to react differently than Wolfe. Princeton’s president, Christopher Eisgruber, quickly met with student protesters, agreeing to consider or otherwise implement their demands, including that Woodrow Wilson’s name from school buildings and that the school create a mandatory class on “the history of marginalized peoples.” He asked the Board of Regents to form a sub-committee that would would collect information about Wilson’s legacy and issued a long memo to the entire college that recognized their concerns and laid out plans for the future. While Eisgruber is the first president of Princeton to not have a Ph.D. in 200 years, he has a long history in academia as a law professor.

There are many lessons that have come out of Mizzou. One of those lessons might be that a college campus has a unique culture that cannot be managed like a hierarchical corporation or a governmental bureaucracy. A student protest about racism isn’t a pesky union grievance that can be managed behind closed doors or an inappropriate email that is outsourced to the Human Resources department. There is real value that comes from having a deep understanding of the dynamics of a college campus and from having the loyalty of faculty. Other CEO College Presidents should take note.
Selfies under scrutiny at London show

LONDON | BY FARAH NAYERI

People in London smile the least in their selfies while Moscow's selfie takers are predominantly women dressed to the nines, says a researcher involved in setting up a London show about selfies.

For its new exhibition "Big Bang Data", Somerset House has commissioned "Selfiecity London," a spotlight on 640 selfies selected out of a total of 152,462 public Instagram images taken in a single week in September in a 5-sq-km (2-sq-mile) radius around the museum. The show opens to the public on Thursday.

The Selfiecity project is led globally by Lev Manovich, a professor of computer science at City University of New York's Graduate Center. Selfiecity's eight-person lab compiles and analyses selfies from around the world, the five other cities so far being Bangkok, Berlin, Moscow, New York and Sao Paulo.

Manovich said the project was designed "to see if we can learn new things about cultural differences and cultural behavior" from selfies, and to make such analysis more democratic for people who lack deep knowledge of computing.

In that respect, he said the most important part of the "Selfiecity London" display was its interactivity function. On a touch screen, visitors can introduce filters and criteria -- 'people from London over 35', or 'very small children' -- and observe patterns and trends within that chosen subgroup.

Globally, the findings showed that "every city is unique" in its own peculiar way, Manovich said.

People taking selfies in London smiled the least and closed their eyes the most, he said. By contrast, the highest percentages of "strong smiles" were to be found in Bangkok and Sao Paulo, whereas the ratios in Moscow and New York were "significantly" lower.
London selfie takers included more older men than elsewhere: the average male was 28 years old, versus 26.3 for other cities. The youngest selfie takers of all were to be found in Bangkok, where the average age for females was 20.3 and males 22.7.

Moscow had by far the highest proportion of female selfie takers -- 82 percent of them were women -- and they treated selfies "like a fashion magazine: they're always totally made up, and looking straight at the camera", Manovich said.

The CUNY academic said his team had wanted to include Japan in the study, but couldn't because "when people pose for selfies, they're more elusive: they often don't show their full face, so the software couldn't deal with it".

(Editing by Michael Roddy/Mark Heinrich)
Western Feminists Have Become ‘Stalinized’ and ‘Palestinianized,’ Says Prominent US Women’s Movement Pioneer (INTERVIEW)

"The feminism I helped found was based on women’s rights," leading American feminist Phyllis Chester told The Algemeiner on Wednesday, a week after the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) voted to join the anti-Israel BDS movement. "The only activism members of the NWSA engage in aims for the destruction of the Jewish state."

Chester, professor emerita of psychology and women’s studies at the College of Staten Island (CUNY) and the author of 14 books — most recently An American Bride in Kabul: A Memoir (2015), about her 1961 marriage to an Afghan and her time spent in his harem — said that "Western feminists have become totally Stalinized and Palestinianized."

Chester was expanding on her recent article, "The Death Knell for Women’s Studies," lambasting the NWSA for adopting a resolution to align with the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement against Israel — a move, she asserted,

is a betrayal of all the girls and women who are being honor killed on the West Bank; in Gaza, and in Arab Israel — not by Israelis, but by their own families; a betrayal of all those girls and women who are being forcibly face-vailed, forcibly married as children to their first cousins, forcibly genitally mutilated — not by Israelis, but by their own families.

More important, passing this resolution is a betrayal of all those girls and women — as well as public intellectuals — who are being tortured and murdered by Muslim regimes and by the imposition of Sharia law in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Indonesia, Nigeria, and in the Gaza Strip under Hamas, and in the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority and Fatah.

The resolution in question was sponsored by Feminists for Justice in/For Palestine, an ad hoc group established at the NWSA annual conference in Puerto Rico in 2014.

Indeed, Chester said, "These so-called ‘feminist’ academics today are more concerned with the occupation of a country that never existed — ‘Palestine’ — than with the occupation of women’s bodies all over the world. They do not understand that they have joined a totalitarian movement that subjects women and girls to honor killings and the rest of it."

On the one hand, she explained, "They love championing victims. On the other, they are incapable of doing that when the victimizers are men of color, like Arab Muslims."
Meanwhile, as watchdog group Palestinian Media Watch revealed this week, the Palestinian Authority Minister of Women's Affairs (a woman) recently praised the “uniqueness” of women in her society for rejoicing over news of the death of their sons killed while committing stabbing and other acts of terrorism against Israeli Jews.

Minister Haifa Al-Agha also praised women and girls in Palestinian society for taking a more active role in the current terror wave, which some have called the “lone-wolf intifada,” by not merely relying on the boys to do the dirty work.

About this particular form of “gender equality” Chesler said that the triumph of Palestinian men is that they have successfully propagated women to go against nature— to have no normal feelings towards the loss of a child.

“...This is only possible in a society that utterly devalues women,” she said. “But this, of course, is not something the post-colonial academy in the West factors in. There’s no room for it, just as there is no room to factor in Palestinians as terrorists. In this Orwellian universe, it matters only if an Israeli kills a Muslim— never mind that it’s in self-defense; it does not matter if a Sunni kills a Shiite or a Hamas member kills someone from Fatah.”

Why, though, does the NWSA, founded in 1977 to “promote and support the production and dissemination of knowledge about women and gender through teaching, learning, research and service in academic and other settings,” concern itself mainly with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and ignore the plight of women in the Middle East?

“I don’t consider these women’s studies people feminists,” Chesler said. “Instead of resolutions condemning Islamist policies that harm girls and women, they condemn Israel.”

This, she argued, “is because they are anti-American and anti-Israel reflexively, they don’t know how to talk about the indigenous nature of barbarism. They can’t allow themselves even to comprehend it, because it defies their paradigm. It’s a case of mass brain-washing. We have to think of it as a cult in academia.”

This is true of what Chesler called the “true believers.” Where other, perhaps less ideologically “pure,” women academics are concerned, Chesler explained their refusal to see and “tell the truth, as I have been doing,” as a form of self-protection against losing tenure, funding and friends.

“They don’t dare risk offending the group-think that holds their lives and reputations hostage,” she said.

Chesler, who published The Death of Feminism in 2005, called this phenomenon “beyond hypocrisy. It is a brazen betrayal of our vision of universal human rights. It is multicultural moral relativism that allows Muslim men to get away with murder.”
Donald Trump is a polarizing figure, but his aggressive personality has made him a favorite with Republicans. (Nathanfield/CC BY 2.0)

Donald Trump has elicited more than his fair share of controversy. He is loud, politically incorrect, and unapologetic — several qualities his opponents say make him unfit for leadership. It is these polarizing traits, though, that his supporters seem to admire, and part of what has kept him ahead of the pack in the race to become the Republican presidential candidate.

Why is Trump so appealing? What is it about him that has garnered so much support? Several psychiatry and political psychology experts weighed in with The New York Times, and they offered a few theories on Trump's success.
One of the most common explanations centered on security. David Berg, a clinical professor of psychiatry told The Times that Americans are facing threats from both inside and outside of the country with issues like income inequality, immigration, and ISIS. There is nowhere to hide from these threats, he said, so we are forced to confront them.

“At some level, deep within our primitive consciousness, those regions of the brain that process fear before the cerebral cortex construct a story to explain it," Berg said. “We are in search of someone to help us fight what we perceive as both internal and external threats to our ‘group’ as if such a fight will make us safe.”

Psychotherapist Joseph Burgo supported this idea, saying that Trump’s personality could be perceived as one that would be useful if the country were threatened.

“For many people, Trump’s braggadocio, contempt, and grandiosity come across as self-confident strength," he said. “When frightened by dangers from abroad or here at home, many people gravitate to the ‘strong man’ who promises to vanquish their fears and confusion.”

Trump’s brutal honesty was also cited several times by the experts, who said it was refreshing for voters sick of the political correctness of the present day.

“Many in this country are tired of having their speech and behavior constrained by the changing ‘sensibilities’ of the modern world,” Berg said. “Many would like to ‘stand up’ to Putin and the Chinese (to say nothing of ISIS) in the belief that confrontation and belligerence will make the world safer.”

Stanley Robinson, a political scientist at CUNY and a psychoanalyst, explained that Trump is confronting the ideas that no one wants to talk about, and representing the electorate that feels it isn’t being listened to.

“Trump gives voice to the feeling of dismissal and mines the anger,” Robinson said. “And what is that anger, it’s the anger of ordinary Americans who feel they have been lied to, that the policies they have been promised don’t work, and, by and large, they feel they have not been taken into account. Trump says to them, ‘You are right. Watch me, I am making them take me into account. I’ll do the same for you.”

Trump’s personality, even despite its representations of security and honesty, is a draw in and of itself, according to John Gartner, a professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Medical School and a practicing psychologist. He explained that Trump represents a particularly American ideal: a risk-taking, domineering, charismatic entrepreneur.

“He is flooded with ideas. He is driven, restless, and unable to keep still. He channels his energy into the achievement of wildly grand ambitions,” Gartner said. “He can be euphoric. He becomes easily irritated by minor obstacles. He is a risk taker. He overspends in both his business and personal life. He acts out sexually. He sometimes acts impulsively, with poor judgment, in ways that can have painful consequences.”

These traits are largely responsible for compelling loyalty, but Gartner warns that the qualities that “get you elected are not the same as the capacity for governing.”
Heather Yakin: DiFiore solid choice for NY chief judge

Heather Yakin
Times Herald-Record

Posted Dec. 1, 2015 at 6:01 PM

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has picked Westchester District Attorney Janet DiFiore to be the state's next chief judge.

If confirmed by the state Legislature, DiFiore would replace Judge Jonathan Lippman as Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals and major domo of the state court system.

Lippman reached the New York State judge's mandatory retirement age of 70 this year.

DiFiore has a substantial resume: a decade as an assistant district attorney in her lifelong home, Westchester County; four years as Westchester County Court judge; two years as a Supreme Court justice, after which she ran for and won the office of Westchester County District Attorney, the office she has held since 2006.

DiFiore would be the second woman to serve as New York's chief judge. Judge Judith Kaye, a Monticello native, was the first.

As a County Court judge (and as acting judge for Supreme, Family and Surrogate's courts), DiFiore helped develop juvenile delinquency, domestic violence and drug treatment problem-solving courts. She was appointed in 1999 by then-Chief Justice Kaye to the Commission on Drugs and the Courts.

On the Supreme bench, DiFiore supervised criminal courts for the Ninth Judicial District, which includes Orange County; she reworked case assignments to eliminate case backlogs and served on the Commission on the Future of Indigent Defense Services.

As district attorney, she took leadership roles in youth justice issues, public ethics and the state Justice Task Force and Westchester's prisoner re-entry task force. She helped build a countywide law enforcement intelligence center, as well as multidisciplinary teams to investigate elder abuse and child fatalities.

Cuomo's choice drew a quick, praise-filled response from Jeremy Travis, president of the John Jay College of Criminal Justice In New York.

"She has been at the forefront of key criminal justice issues, including wrongful convictions, juvenile justice and safety, and public ethics," Travis said in a statement posted on the John Jay website.

Judge Lippman and state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman also gave the thumbs-up, praising DiFiore's knowledge, experience and intellect.
I Asked A Psychoanalyst To Explain Donald Trump

"He actually, believe it or not, he has a need to be liked."

posted on Dec. 3, 2015, at 1:47 p.m.

Ben Smith
BuzzFeed Editor-In-Chief

Stanley Renshon is a sweater-wearing Freudian psychoanalyst who has made a sideline through the years of painstaking psychobiographies of American presidents.
The books are a clockwork feature of American public life: fascinating and the product of serious intellectual labor, but — like much psychoanalysis — a bit hard for the layman to know what to do with. Bill Clinton compensated for his mother's neglect. George W. Bush grappled with his father's shadow. Obama is driven to fulfill his mother's legacy. OK.

But Renshon seemed the right man to turn to with a question I've been asking myself lately: What is Donald Trump's deal? Where does a person, and a personality, like that come from? There's an enormous amount of speculation on Twitter about the combination of charm and bombast, blunt truths and flat lies, thin skin and combativeness. I needed a bit of expertise.

Fortunately, Renshon, a practicing psychoanalyst who also has a Ph.D. in political science and teaches at the City University of New York Graduate Center, has thought a lot about Trump. His desktop "Trump" folder has accumulated more than a thousand files. He has read all the interviews. And he thinks he's isolated Trump's key characteristics in a couple of telling turns of phrase.

One is Trump's tic of telling you how much others like him.

"I think he actually, believe it or not, he has a need to be liked," says Renshon.

"He'll use the phrase 'he likes me' or 'they like me.' When somebody uses that phrase often, you have to give credit to the idea that that's something important to them, their need to be liked."

The word "nice" and the phrase "treats me nicely" appear often in the Trump corpus, Renshon notes.

"He wants to be treated nicely, softly, with kid gloves — he wants to be recognized for all the positives he brings to the table, but he's not so interested in the negatives," says Renshon.

"He wants to be liked, and it comes with a threat."

(If you doubt that Trump really, really wants you to like him, watch this.)

This poses an obvious question, Renshon acknowledges: "If he needs to be liked, why does he go after people in such an angry, hostile way?"

His answer: The other "pillar" of Trump's makeup is a need for validation.

"He wants to be known as the person he is, not the person you think he is. He's not a dumb person; he's not a clown. My guess is he truly resents those kinds of characterizations; and he wants to be known for his accomplishments in the business world, but also for his political success," says Renshon.

"My take on him is that he has been pretty surprised, personally, by his political success... I think he's surprised where he is and he's found a newfound source of self-respect for being where he is."
That is to say: The last few months have changed Trump, and he now needs validation not just as a brash brand, but as a political figure. That is to say: Watch out.

The Twitter diagnosis of Trump — and really, any politician or celebrity you don’t like — is narcissism. Renshon, who has been known to write letters to the New York Times asking them to stop diagnosing the people they cover, thinks that’s a "hollow and reductionist" label.

"He appears to be a real American nationalist with an observable, if bombastic, love of his country," Renshon says. "Obviously a love of country is inconsistent with real narcissism, where there is no room for love of anybody or anything but yourself."

Renshon had one other glimpse of psychoanalytic insight into Trump, a side note in a much-mocked story about the hardship of having had to repay a million-dollar loan from his father.

"You don’t want to go to Manhattan. That’s not our territory," Trump recalled his father, a developer in less glamorous parts of New York, telling him.

"He was warning his son against going into the big city to try to make a name for himself in the Big Apple — and Donald didn’t do that," says Renshon. "He’s got a lot of adventure in him and a lot of ambition in him, and he would like to be recognized for what he has accomplished."

He doesn’t, Renshon added, have the burning personal ambition he saw driving Bill Clinton, or the sense of mission that motivates Obama.

"He doesn’t have a clue of what he would do were he to get in," speculates Renshon, who characterizes himself as middle-of-the-road politically, though he shares with Trump a skepticism about immigration.

Finally, he says he thinks Trump is for real: "I think he genuinely feels like the country is going to hell, and I think he genuinely feels he can do something about it."

And there ends Trump’s session on the couch. There is more, no doubt, to excavate from the strange and combative life of a rich real estate developer’s son with a chip on his shoulder, but Renshon won’t be doing the digging.

"I haven’t gone into his childhood very much," he says. "I won’t spend much time with it because I don’t think he’s going to become president."