

# socialwork

Celebrating excellence, embracing the future

## NYU Silver Celebrates Fiftieth Anniversary with Gala

The NYU Silver School of Social Work honored its 50-year history on November 10 with a Fiftieth Anniversary Benefit Celebration. The evening began with a panel discussion on social identity, attended by over 500 people from the NYU community. Afterwards, dinner guests honored Eleanore Z. Korman, former administrator, faculty member, and acting dean; longtime School fundraiser Judy Tobias Davis; and friend Martin Silver.

NYU President John Sexton; Henry Louis Gates Jr., host of the PBS series "Faces of America;" and Carol Gilligan, author of *In a Different Voice*, participated in the panel discussion moderated by Dean Lynn Videka. The conversation touched on issues of identity formation in American society, including race, gender, and religion.

"The problem with identity as we've constructed it is that we all have multiple identities," said Gates. "Only certain ones are visible to the outside world and may not be most important to the individual."

All participants agreed that celebrating each person's various identities and cutting across barriers are most important. Said Sexton, "Understanding that even though we have these multiple identities, the joy is really seeing the kaleidoscope of the interaction of those identities with others."

Gates stressed the role academics play in identity development. "They must teach their students—particularly those who define themselves with ethnic and religious identities—that the most important identity is as a human being."

When Videka posed a question about working with marginalized students, Gilligan asked, "What is our investment in labeling people? What happens if you start listening and stop labeling people?" She explained that babies are born with a capacity for mutual understanding and empathy—key to the survival of hominids. One factor that erodes this capacity is labeling.

"We can not act as though these identities out there aren't being imposed on us," countered Gates. He said the world is more frightening and brutal. It is crucial that parents build self-esteem and teach their children how to deal with stereotypes.

"There are these barriers and labels and you have to be prepared to know how to right yourself when your head hits up on one of those awful, awful barriers," explained Gates.

Following the conversation, over 250 guests attended a dinner celebrating the School's history. Harry Smith of CBS News served as emcee. The evening raised over \$300,000 for the School's 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund, and was the culmination of a year of special events and lectures in honor of the School's milestone.



Henry Louis Gates, Jr., John Sexton, Carol Gilligan, and Lynn Videka at the 50th Anniversary Panel Discussion

**For more photos and videos about the gala, and more about the School's 50th Anniversary, visit [www.nyu.edu/socialwork/50th](http://www.nyu.edu/socialwork/50th).**

**To contribute to the School's 50th Anniversary Scholarship Fund, visit [www.nyu.edu/socialwork/50th.scholarship](http://www.nyu.edu/socialwork/50th.scholarship).**

**Contact Sara Phillips, Associate Director of Development 212-998-6924 or [sara.phillips@nyu.edu](mailto:sara.phillips@nyu.edu)**



# seen at the benefit gala



## Who's Who

Silver School faculty, alumni, and supporters gathered after the conversation for dinner and a tribute to Eleanore Z. Korman, former administrator, faculty member, and acting dean; longtime School fundraiser Judy Tobias Davis; and friend Martin Silver.

1. Assistant Professor Darcey Merritt with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
2. Left to right: Judith Rappaport, PhD '84; Evening Co-Chair Jane Eisner Bram, MSW '79, PhD '00; and Debra LaMorte
3. The evening's emcee, Harry Smith of CBS News, welcomes attendees to the dinner.
4. Professor and Former Dean Suzanne England (left) and Associate Professor Gladys Gonzalez-Ramos, MSW '77, PhD '85
5. NYU President John Sexton poses with Constance Silver, BS '78, MSW '79, and one of the evening's co-chairs, and honoree Martin Silver.
6. Friends and family of honoree Judy Tobias Davis
7. Constance Silver (left) and Dolores Banks-Morris, MSW '80
8. Smith speaks with Former Dean Alvin Schorr and wife, Ann.
9. Former Dean Tom Meenaghan offers comments about Korman before presenting her with one of the Outstanding Contribution Awards.
10. Andrew (left) and Stephen Tobias (second from right), sons of Tobias Davis, pose with Videka and Vera Michaels, MSW '71, PhD '03.
11. Korman accepts her award.

Photos: Elena Olivo





## In case you missed the 2010 alumni weekend...

### Alumni Day

Saturday, October 23

Featured the Dean's Luncheon and Alumni Awards Ceremony

#### 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award:

**Vincent Schiraldi, MSW '83**

commissioner of the NYC Department of Probation

**Genie J. Williams Jr., MSW '68 (1939-1983)**

first elected president of the National Association of Black Social Workers

#### Distinguished Alumni Award Honorable Mention:

**Arnold Korotkin, MSW '72**

founder of the "9/11 list-serv"

**George Polsky, MSW '99**

founder and executive director of StreetSquash

#### 2010 Outstanding Recent Alumni Award:

**Katherine Barrow, MSW '08**

founder of the RISE Conference

**Marissa Sappho, MSW '06**

co-founder and president of the NY State Coalition of Social Workers, Inc.

### Lucretia J. Phillips Fellowship Reception

Friday, October 22

Alumni and friends gathered to raise \$5,000 for the Lucretia J. Phillips Fellowship. Established in 1999, the Fellowship honors Phillips' profound contribution to NYU during her 25-year career as an educator, administrator, mentor, and role model.



*Paula Y. Fendall, MSW '81, and Pia Jeannette Raymond, MSW '02, pose in front of Phillips' portrait, now displayed in the School's Parlor.*

### In Memoriam

**Gladys Gonzalez-Ramos**, associate professor, died on December 22, after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

**Judy Tobias Davis**, 50th anniversary honoree, died on January 3 after a long illness.

New York University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution.

## NYU Silver 50th Anniversary Awardees

### **Eleanore Z. Korman**

*Outstanding Contribution Award Honoree*



Korman performed nearly every function at the Silver School of Social Work during her 32-year tenure. Joining the faculty in 1967, she was an advisor, classroom teacher, administrator (associate

director of field work, assistant dean, and associate dean) and served as acting dean for almost two years following the unexpected death of Dean Shirley Ehrenkranz in 1994.

Korman played a vital role in developing and administering the School's part-time and joint-degree programs, as well as its post-master's continuing education and certificate programs. She was responsible also for the School's international social work conferences in Italy and Spain.

### **Judy Tobias Davis**

*Outstanding Contribution Award Honoree*



Tobias Davis has been a leading light of the Silver School of Social Work. In the 1970s, Dean Jack Goldberg turned to Tobias Davis for help in solving the School's financial troubles. After his

death, his successor, Shirley Ehrenkranz, recognized the value of Tobias Davis' expertise and persuaded her to remain at the School as her chief fundraiser, which Tobias Davis did until 1994.

Tobias Davis' endeavors among many different communities around New York City resulted in the fulfillment of Ehrenkranz' dream—an enlarged and renovated School facility. Tobias Davis' own gift to the School named a large fourth floor room in memory of her late husband, Seth Tobias.

### **Martin Silver**

*Special Recognition Honoree*



Silver is the chairman of DCI Biologicals, a plasma collection company. In 2007, Silver and his wife, Constance, a fellow NYU graduate, gave the largest private donation to a school

of social work in the United States with a pledge of \$50 million.

Silver grew up in the Bronx and enlisted in the Army during the Korean War. In 1973, he founded Life Resources (which later became DCI Biologicals). He served as chief executive officer from the company's inception until 2002. The company grew to become one of the leading firms of its kind in the world and was sold in December 2002 to the United Kingdom's Department of Health.