

# **Fiftieth Anniversary of the Scarsdale Student Transfer Education Plan Celebration and Fundraiser**

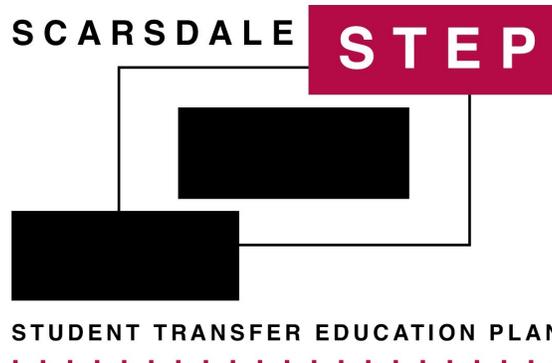


**Honoring Rashid Silvera**

**Saturday, November 12, 2016**

**Scarsdale Woman's Club  
Scarsdale Transfer Education Plan  
Post Office Box 278, Scarsdale, New York 10583  
[scarsdalestep.org](http://scarsdalestep.org) [info@scarsdalestep.org](mailto:info@scarsdalestep.org)**





**Welcome to the Fiftieth Anniversary  
of the Scarsdale Student Transfer Education Plan  
Celebration and Fundraiser**

Dear Friends of STEP,

A lot has changed in the world since 1966, the year the first STEP student came to Scarsdale High School by way of the vision and drive of an energetic and popular social studies teacher, Eric Rothschild, who is here tonight.

STEP, which stands for *Student Transfer Education Plan*, provides opportunities for promising students of color, from underserved communities mostly in the South, to attend Scarsdale High School for their junior and senior years while living with a host family in the community. Beyond the innovative curriculum of Scarsdale's public schools, students receive intensive college counseling, participate in a multitude of extracurricular and volunteer activities, and make new friends while exploring the vast cultural opportunities of the greater New York area. ***STEP is supported and funded solely by community donations and volunteer time.***

Scarsdale is a community both rich in resources and in heart. STEP is living proof that many in this community feel it is not enough just to enjoy what they have. There is a desire to share it with others-with these brave young men and women who leave behind their friends, families and communities to take a leap into the unknown. And while we share the gifts that we have, they bring us their unique spirits and personalities, and enrich our community and the lives they touch in ways that are unmeasurable.

So tonight is to say thank you - to the STEP Board and Advisory Board, to the Scarsdale High School STEP Club, to Scarsdale High School and the Scarsdale School District Administration, to everyone here tonight, and to everyone who has ever volunteered their time, offered a ride, a meal, or a smile. You all have welcomed our students into your homes and your families, given of your time, money and expertise, and made this program what it is today and hopefully will continue to be. Thank you all for your continuing support. We hope you enjoy the evening.

With thanks,

Nan Berke and Julie Stonberg  
STEP Co-Chairs

## **Rashid Keith Dilworth Silvera Our Guest of Honor**

In 1981, two social studies teachers were introduced and the rest is history. Rashid Silvera and Eric Rothschild, the founder of STEP and our past honoree, were introduced as teachers with similar values and goals. Rothschild convinced Rashid to join the Scarsdale High School faculty, the beginning of a 35-year teaching career which is still going strong. We honor Rashid tonight as a champion of STEP and a mentor to its participants.

Rashid Keith Dilworth Silvera was born on December 8, 1947 in Boston, to Don Hector and Phyllis Matilda Silvera. His family heritage is West Indian (Jamaican) and Sephardic Judaism meets New England. Silvera was raised in Roxbury, graduating from Williston Academy in Easthampton in 1967. He first attended Colgate University, transferring to Bennington College as one of the first male students at a formerly all-women's college, where he was graduated in 1972 with a B.A. in political science and anthropology. Silvera continued on to Harvard Divinity School, receiving a Master of Theological Studies as well as a Master of Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Silvera's first teaching position was with the history department of the Buckingham Browne & Nichols School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. From there, he taught at Gill St. Bernard's School in Gladstone, New Jersey and then at San Francisco University High School. Silvera relocated to New York in 1979, to teach social studies at Rye Country Day School.

In 1981, Rashid began teaching at Scarsdale High School. At about the same time, Rashid was "discovered" and had a dual career as a teacher and a fashion model. Highlights of his modeling career include Rashid's cover page in the April 1983 issue of GQ. Silvera was the fourth and last black male model to appear on the magazine's cover. He also appeared on the covers of Essence magazine and CODE magazine, and was the first African American male to model for a Polo Ralph Lauren advertising campaign.

Rashid who is known to his students by his mononym (think Prince, Madonna, Adele, Cher and Bono) teaches a variety of social studies courses at SHS including psychology, public policy and race and ethnicity. To quote Rashid, "After 35 years teaching here, I'm still learning." We are grateful for that and so thrilled to honor Rashid for his dedication to the STEP students as well as the hundreds of students who were lucky enough to learn from and with him.



*The Early Years Teaching in Scarsdale*

### **STEP Graduates**

Atiereya Adley	2005
Michael Roy Barrett	1971
Jermecia A. Beachem	1993
Sondra Annette Lee Bell	1979
Charles Blair, MD	1974 (deceased)
Malissa Boles MacKay*	1998
Patricia A. Booker	1997
Queen E. Booker	1982
Rachel H. Booker	1989
David Q. Bougard*	2010
Brandy L. Cooks	2000
Mitchell Graves*	2003
Sherry D. Henderson	1993
DonTavius Holmes *	2016
Treva E. Horhn Hollis	1990
(Robert) Anthony Jackson, Jr.	1984
Eric Emmett Jones, MD	1970
Evelia L. Jones*	1970
Chauncey B. Keene	1969
Janice R. Kemp Shields	1972
Jerylle M. Kemp	1968
Robert T. Lee, Jr. *	2015
Charles Albert Long	1971
Kenneth H. Marks*	1970
Charles N. Martin	1995
Keith Martinez*	2012
Angela Montague Kanish	1985
Geraldine Williams Moore	1975
Darrian J. Mumphrey	2008
Dare Olaifa*	2014
Rena Fay Patrick	1972
Rev. Josephine Reed Funchess	1971
Benjamin F. Skillom	1976
Alisa Studway	2013
Grady Lee Thomas	1980
The Honorable Ojetta Rogeriee Thom	1969
Doris Ann Roberts Wilkerson	1974
Mary Wilkerson Henz	1973
Jeffrey J. Woodard	1972
James Edward Young	1971

\* In attendance this evening.

## Biographies of Select STEP Graduates

**Jerylle Kemp (SHS 1968):** STEP's first graduate is Director of Alumni Relations at John Jay College of Criminal Justice of CUNY. She received a JD from Harvard Law School and an MBA from Wharton and a BA from Yale. Her interest in building alumni communities encompasses not only her professional experience, but also her personal sense of volunteerism. Her pro bono activities include serving as Chairperson of the Yale College Committee and Member at Large of the University Council and fundraiser and chairperson for an international association of the Wharton Graduate Division of the University of Pennsylvania. Jerylle's Scarsdale home was with Theodore and Martha Frye--STEP's first host parents. She originally hailed from Atlanta, Georgia.



**The Honorable Ojetta Rogeriee Thompson (SHS 1969):** Ojetta Rogeriee Thompson (SHS 1969): Our second STEP student is now a federal appeals court judge with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, a position to which she was nominated by President Obama in 2009. Her investiture in 2010 was attended by a delegation from STEP, including her very proud STEP parents, Professor and Mrs. Donald Johnston. Her appointment made her the first African-American and the second woman on the Court. Previously, she served as an Associate Justice for the Rhode Island Superior Court (1997-2010) and an Associate Judge with the Rhode Island District Court (1988-1997). Prior to this, she was a senior partner with Thompson & Thompson, an associate at the law firm of McKinnon and Fortunato, an assistant city solicitor for Providence, and a senior staff attorney for Rhode Island Legal Services. She graduated from Brown University, earned her J.D. degree from Boston University School of Law, and holds honorary degrees from the University of Rhode Island, Bryant University, Roger Williams University School of Law, and Johnson and Wales University. Judge Thompson serves on several boards and committees including the Brown University Board of Fellows, Brown University Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, Brown University Fund for the Education of the Children of Providence, and College Unbound Board of Trustees. She is also a member of the First Circuit Judicial Council and the Judicial Conference of the United States Committee on Information Technology and Budget Subcommittee. She is the recipient of numerous awards and honors and in 2005, was recognized at Scarsdale High School as a Distinguished Alumni. Judge Thompson is married to Rhode Island District Court Judge William C. Clifton, and they have three adult children.



**Ken Marks (SHS 1970):** As a SHS student, Ken lived with Judy and Hal Feit who relocated to California (Hal recently passed away). Ken recently remarked "Scarsdale High School and the Feit family provided an excellent foundation for my advancement and I am sincerely thankful." Upon graduating from SHS, Ken went to Columbia for both undergraduate (1974) and law school (1977). Since 2001, Ken has been the General Counsel for Exostar LLC, a technology company located in Herndon, VA. Before Exostar, Ken held leadership positions within private mid-size Wall Street law firms.



Ken is newly wed to Edith Arias, who joins him along with her two children. Ken is also the proud father to Kenisha Marks, a public defender in Philadelphia. Ken's first wife, Fe Morales Marks, mother to Kenisha, passed away in 2007. Those of us lucky enough to communicate with Ken prior to the 50th Anniversary Celebration recommend that you look at his website; he is a photographer in his "spare" time and his work is most impressive: [www.KenMarksPhotography.com](http://www.KenMarksPhotography.com)

**Reverend Josephine Reed Funchess (SHS 1972):** Josie, evangelist and educator, resides in Colorado Springs with her husband Jerry, Retired Chief Master Sergeant of the U.S. Air Force, and their son, Myron. Josephine was one of fourteen children born to Mississippi sharecroppers. After graduating from SHS, Josie attended Anderson University, a Christian liberal arts college in Indiana, receiving a B.A. in sociology and religion. Josie has also pursued further education in Management and Health Services and she is an ordained minister. She has worked in Guatemala to help build and organize churches.



Josie, in collaboration with her STEP sister, Jean Hofheimer Bennett (Jean is in attendance this evening), wrote a memoir in 2015, *The Favor: My Journey*, which includes her years in Scarsdale as a STEP student. Jean Hofheimer Bennett wrote the book's foreword. From the book, "Moved by faith and the work and words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Josephine creates a life of courage, pride and achievement. Her journey provides a lesson in the power of individual lives serving as agents of social change, one at a time. In daring to dream, Josephine rises up to fulfill her destiny with grace and mercy lighting her way. The book is a Civil Rights memoir of the 1960s, but it is also a timeless story of grit, faith and what can happen when we choose to believe...." It is available on Amazon and is for sale at the reception desk this evening.

**Charles Blair (SHS 1974) -Deceased:** Charles was the first member of his extended family to go to college. His STEP host parents were Hugh and Billie Jones. Although he was attended to Amherst College, Charles chose to transfer to Alabama A&M with the goal of pursuing a medical degree. With an Army Scholarship, he attended Meharry Medical School and served in the army as a doctor for approximately ten years, including three years at an American military hospital in Germany. As a civilian, Dr. Blair practiced family medicine in a predominantly economically poor, African-American community in North Carolina. When he was a student in Scarsdale, Charles spoke about his dream of opening a free medical clinic for poor African-Americans, a dream he realized. Charles and his wife Jeanie had three children.



**Queen Booker (SHS 1982)-** Queen is a SHS Distinguished Alumni. After she earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and computer science at Harvard, Booker went on to earn an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and a doctorate from the University of Mississippi. Throughout her illustrious career, Dr. Booker has retained a "real soft spot" for rural communities and she has worked to solve some of the problems they face. Her resume includes positions with the Ford Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Kellogg Foundation, where she has helped upgrade infrastructure in small towns and led an effort to provide telecommunications access and online education in developing countries. She is now teaching in Minnesota State's Department of Management. Queen had two sisters who also were STEP graduates, Rachel 1989 and Patricia Ann, 1997.



**Angela Montague Kanish (1985):** A native of Jackson, Tennessee, Angela received a Bachelor of



Music degree in voice from Ithaca College in 1989 and an MBA in Arts Administration from Binghamton University in 1992. She has since maintained a career in arts management, for five years in NYC and New Jersey and since 1997 in San Diego, California, where for 17 years she coordinated education programs for San Diego Opera. Angela presently manages the 180-member San Diego Gay Men's Chorus and also coordinates the 2,000 plus volunteers at The Old Globe Theatre. Angela is a distance walker who has completed nearly 100 half marathons and five full marathons, and coaches other walkers with In Motion Fit, a training program for runners and walkers. She and her husband Bob are active musicians at their church

where Angela is a frequent soloist and Bob is a percussionist. Angela is continually grateful to the her STEP host family the Meehans, Eric Rothschild, and the STEP program for providing the opportunity for her to have such a full and busy life in her chosen field.

**Malissa Boles MacKay (SHS 1998):** Malissa currently resides in Savannah, GA with Eric, her awesome husband of 9 years. Wanting the classroom experience to last as long as possible, Malissa attended Emory, Savannah College of Art and Design, Georgia Southern, and finally Georgia State, graduating magna cum laude. She's interned at CNN, refurbished Iraq War army tanks, co-owned a restaurant, and was a set PA for Paula Deen (she really does love butter, y'all). Right now, she obsesses over *Hamilton* and work in logistics, in that order.

**Mitchell Graves (SHS 2003):** Mitchell graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University as an Aerospace Engineer with a concentration on astronautics in May 2008. He was also a math and business minor. He currently resides in Philadelphia and is working in for CDI Aerospace as a Quality Representative. Graves also works in the field of health, wellness and fitness at Orange Theory Fitness.



**David Bougard (SHS 2010)** – David, also from Memphis, attended Lehigh University, majoring in Journalism and Theatre. Last month, he landed a job at Yelp as an Account Executive after having worked as a production assistant and camera operator for ESPN, BET, NBC Sports and Eagle & Bull and others. David has captained of the SHS Varsity basketball team and his host family was Terese and Tom Hunerson.



**Keith Martinez (SHS 2012):** Keith grew up on and off the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota



and is an enrolled member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux tribe. While Keith lived in Scarsdale, his STEP family host family were the Steiners: Mara, Brandon, Nicole and Crosby. Keith is now a graduate of Villanova University, where he was a Presidential and a Gates Millennium Scholar. At Villanova he obtained his Bachelor's degree in Communication and Public Relations. For several years Keith served as the Chair of the Youth Advisory Board for Lakota Children's Enrichment, a nonprofit that empowers youth in his home community on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Keith has received numerous awards for his service to his community: he was named a Truman Scholar (2015); South Dakota's Youth Service Ambassador by Youth Service of America (2013-14); a Champion for Change by the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute (2014-15); and he is the recipient of a scholarship to the PPIA Summer Institute at Princeton University (2015). Keith frequently speaks about the power of education, seeking help and perseverance, and made his international speaking debut in the summer of 2014 at the Nexus Global Youth Summit at the United Nations. Keith is now beginning his career working in Washington DC at the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC).

**Alisa (Lisa) Studway (SHS 2013):** Lisa is studying at Vanderbilt University where she is majoring in Child Development. She has been active in Zeta Phi Beta sorority while in college. She works part-time at the campus child care at the Peabody School of Education and Development. Lisa lived with the Keltz family while in Scarsdale, and her hometown is Memphis, TN.



**Dare Olaiifa (SHS 2014):** Dare originally immigrated from Africa, but came to STEP by way of Memphis. His host family was Ivan and Nina Ross. Dare is a student at Villanova University where he is majoring in Psychology. He reports that he enjoyed the program and gained many valuable lessons from STEP that he now applies to his life.



**Robert Lee (SHS 2015):** Robert hails from Memphis and is now in his sophomore year at Vanderbilt University's Peabody School of Education and Human Development where he is planning on majoring in Health Policy. Robert is an Ingram Scholar at Vanderbilt and was a Gates Scholarship Finalist. While in Scarsdale he was extremely active in many volunteer and charitable clubs and activities. His STEP host family was Lee and Nan Berke.



**DonTavius Holmes (SHS 2016):** A Memphis native, DonTavius lived with Michael and Bettina Klein while in Scarsdale. DonTavius played football at SHS. He is now enjoying his freshman year at Oxford College at Emory University in Atlanta.



**Zaria Cash (SHS 2018):** Zaria is our newest STEP student. She hails from Memphis Tennessee and her host family is Diane and Marc Greenwald and their sons Jay and Eli. Zaria is on the junior varsity cheerleading team at SHS, and has made a great transition to Scarsdale since arriving in late August.



## **Businesses STEP Up!**

It takes a village--Scarsdale Village--and our metropolitan community at large to host our STEP scholars. STEP relies on teachers, tutors, coaches, doctors, dentists and others to provide valued services and opportunities for our students. We gratefully acknowledge:

Advantage Testing

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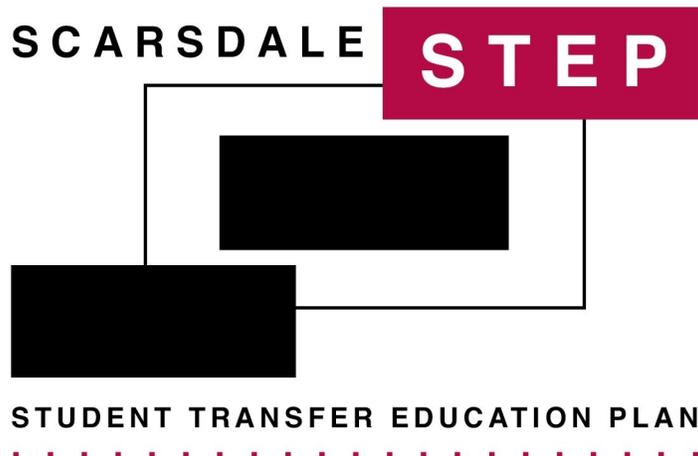
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Martine's Fine Bake Shoppe

La Renaissance Pâtisserie Francaise of Scarsdale

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We welcome your tax deductible donation.**

**Checks payable to Scarsdale STEP should be sent to:  
PO Box 278, Scarsdale, NY 10583 or donate on line at:  
<http://www.scarsdalestep.org/donate>.**

*Those donating from September 15<sup>th</sup> through this evening will be eligible to win  
a wine basket hand selected by Zachy's store manager.  
Please enter your donation before leaving tonight to be eligible. Thank you.*