

TOM HAINES MEMORIAL RECEPTION Part 2

May 5, 2024, 2-5 PM

SPEAKERS IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Norman Siegel • Kim Lewis • Bruce Diner • Richard Burger • Charles Adler • Fred Philipp • Karen Whitman • David Jeruzalmi • Peipei Wu Wishnow • Trudy L Mason • Richard Milner • Danny Greenberger • Tom Haines

Polly: Speak as loudly as you can so this little owl doodly thing here hears you. Okay. Now, I know some people have to leave and that includes-- well, for now, who has to leave? Oh, Norman has to leave. Norman, can you just stand stand up, say your piece quickly?

Norman Siegel: [inaudible 00:00:52]

Polly: I know it's difficult.

Norman: Oh no. That's okay. I'm using that to talk about peace. Anyway--

Speaker 1: You know what, have him come up here.

Polly: What?

Speaker 1: Have him come up here.

Norman: Tom and I were--

Speaker 1: You need to go over there you'll be--

Polly: Come over here.

Norman: It's okay. Where is the owl? Okay. You want me to stand right here?

Speaker 1: Right there.

Norman: Right there. All right. Tom and I were neighbors of Upper West Side, as Vincent has said and Polly has said. Shortly after 9/11, I got a call from Tom. We had a few walks through Central Park. He lived on 68th with Polly at that time, I lived on 72, so Central Park was a good place to meet and talk. Tom was very concerned, knowing the history of what happened in Pearl Harbor, 9/11, knowing how the government did the things that it did which they thought was the right thing at that point. Years later, people came to realize that we didn't need concentration camps, we didn't have to treat the Japanese the way we did.

Tom was concerned, "What is our government going to do? What about freedom? What about security?" Are they mutually exclusive? Hell, no. You can have security

and you can have freedom. What about open government? No? What did our government do? What role are they going to play? Will it have an impact on people in America, in New York, especially the Muslim community? What about checks and balances? Do we have any of that?

What about the freedoms, the First Amendment, the right to speak? Even if it's repugnant, even if it's offensive, even if it's wrong-minded, First Amendment allows us to say those things. We don't have to agree with it. We can disagree. Can we do it civilly, respectfully? All of these things, Tom-- it was just, as so many of the speakers have said, it kept coming out bubbling, like Mount Vesuvius exploding. I'm listening to it and I'm figuring, "Who is this guy? What are we going to do? Do I have the energy that he has?" We then talked to a few other people and we created the Freedom, Legal-

Polly: Freedom Legal Defense and Education--

Norman: -and Education Fund, better known as the Freedom Project. It was a project that basically we went out every Saturday to Brooklyn where the federal prison was, and spoke to the people in the prison who were being rounded up because we had-- I don't need. I don't need. Thank you. What are the freedoms? First Amendment, I talked about. What about the freedom of the press? Can they say things that are critical of our government without retaliation?

Most important in this context, the Fourth Amendment, about unconstitutional searches and seizures, because law enforcement was going after people just because of their religion and where they came from. Finally, the Fourteenth Amendment, equal protection. Would Muslims be treated like Caucasians? Will they be treated differently? If so, what's the rationale? Every Saturday, we went up there to let everybody know that we had to be eternally vigilant, those were all the key words, to make sure that our government, our government was not going to do things in our name that we, at that moment or later on, would say, we don't want any part of that.

We went to college campuses, especially to CUNY. You heard from Vince about what we did at City College. We went to other ones. I'm a proud graduate of the CUNY system when it was free.

[laughter]

Norman: I still fight for that. I have petitions if you want to sign it. One thing about Tom that I'll always remember, he had the knowledge, the strength and the courage to know that we had to speak up even if we were at risk, even if there was a potential for retaliation, because you had to do it, because if you didn't do it, then later on in your life, you'll always feel you didn't do the right thing.

Eventually, Tom and Polly became 72nd Street neighbors and also, they became friends. I'll say that I enjoyed so much being able to talk with Tom because he was smart, he was compassionate, and he was hopeful. I will miss him as I'm sure all of

File name: Tom Mem MP4s Part 2 Tombdy ttl.mp4

you will miss him too. He's made an impact on all of us and I appreciate what Vince said about how he had made such an impact at City College and I think it reverberates throughout this room and throughout the City of New York. Thank you all very much.

[applause]

Polly: Kim Lewis is next. Kim? Where's Kim though? Kim.

[background conversation]

Polly: Okay, Kim, you're on.

Kim Lewis: Let me see. Hi, me. Tanya's looking at me, so I'm on. It's weird that I can see myself. Well, Tom was an old friend of my mother, Fainna Solasko. We returned to the US 37 years ago after a sojourn in the USSR. Tom actually helped us get extracted from there, for which I am eternally grateful to him. Tom and Polly set us up at their place until we got jobs. Tom became my dear friend, to me, to my daughter Sasha, who's here, and to my wife, Tanya.

It was terrific to discover biochemistry with Tom. Such a pleasure. We would often call and talk about biochemistry revisit. Tom had this rare ability to notice things that others have overlooked. Mundane molecule like cardiolipin that is mentioned today. Tom saw in it what myself missed. There is, as we all know, apart from science, a feature of Tom, that his curiosity went very well beyond biochemistry, of course. He was very well educated, self-educated, as I later appreciated. He was clearly interested in the world around him. He was a true New York intellectual.

There is some quality that sets Tom apart. It's something that I appreciated when I got older. What, I think, one may hope to achieve in life is to be a decent human being. That is, in my mind, what Tom was a reference for. He is that, in my mind, something to be really a measure by which we measure ourselves in that regard. A most exalted title, the way I see it in another.

One more thing I must mention, for us, provincials from Boston, there are certain immutable things. There is New York, there is Central Park and Tom Haines lives in New York as he always will, and we miss him dearly. Thank you.

[applause]

Polly: Bruce Diner next. You must contend with the owl. Just don't knock it over.

Bruce Diner: Thank you, Polly, for including me with these wonderful remembrances. I think most of you who look back on your lives can-

Speaker 1: You can stand here.

Bruce: -point out someone who's had a major impact on the directions that your life and your career has taken. To me, that person was Tom Haines. He was someone whom I'm very fond. Of course, we'll never forget him. I met Tom in 1963 when I was an undergraduate at City College in the chemistry department. I was looking for a lab in which to do undergraduate research, and I went to see Frank Brecher, who was in charge of the undergraduate research program. He immediately suggested that I go look up Tom, who was a brand-new professor at the department. I went to see Tom, and he very warmly welcomed me to his laboratory, which at that time was in a tiny hall in Baskerville hall, a space that doubled as his office.

I worked in Tom's lab for three years. During that time, I got to know well Tom and his first wife Adrian. They came to very generously include me in their social circle of friends, later to be joined by my wife, Judy. Tom was probably the most kind and imperturbable person that I've ever met. When things started to get really difficult, he would come out with his favorite expression, "Oh, fuddeedoo."

[laughter]

Bruce: [inaudible 00:12:12] These were the strongest swear words that he ever told me. My senior year, I was trying to decide what to do after graduation from City. I was getting a lot of pressure from home to go to medical school. Tom convinced me that I should pursue a career in research. At that time, he was already enamored of the Rockefeller University. He urged me, very strongly, to apply to the graduate program there, to the point where he supported my candidacy by arranging for the president of the City College, who we called "Cool" Buell Gallagher because we admired him, to write a letter of recommendation.

That really floored me. For a young faculty member to go to the president of City College and ask him to write a recommendation for a student, that was an incredibly daring thing to do. I applied to Rockefeller. One day in an early morning of a biochemistry class, a messenger came from the dean's office, Dean Burger, said the dean wanted to see me right away. I was convinced that there had been some catastrophe at home, and that's why he wanted to see me. I got to his office and he said, "Oh, you have an appointment at Rockefeller University for an interview. However, you have to be there in an hour." I had to go from uptown City College to the east side of it.

"You have to have a jacket and tie because you have to eat in the dining hall." That's a very formal part of the interview process. This was a " fuddeedoo" moment for me. What can I do? I ran back to the lab for Tom's help. "Tom, what can I do? I need to get a jacket and tie. I don't have a jacket and tie. I don't go to school with a jacket and tie." He pulled out this wide red tie that had weathered many faculty lunches, and he gave that to me. He didn't have a jacket. On the way downtown, I was able to make a slight detour, and I borrowed my dad's oversized sport jacket. I arrived at Rockefeller right on time.

Anyway, despite this very unconventional interview process, I was accepted into Rockefeller and had completed my graduate studies there. Rockefeller was then, and still is, a wonderful place to be a graduate student, as I'm sure people can attest to here. It was, for me, a formal or a first step toward a very satisfying and exciting research career. I never would've gone there had it not been for Tom. I'd like to close with a couple lines from a poem by Robert Frost called *A Road Not Taken*. It goes,

"Two roads diverged in a wood. And I-
I took the one less travelled by,
and that made all the difference."

Thank you, Tom, for urging me to take the road less traveled and for the difference that you made in my life and in the lives of many others. Thank you.

Polly: This is now working?

Audience: Yes.

Polly: Well, Hallelujah. Okay. Our next speaker is Richard Burger, who is where?

Richard Burger: Astoria.

Polly: Astoria?

Richard: Astoria, a New Yorker, all my life.

Polly: Now that you have a mic, you don't have to come upfront.

Richard: Well-

Speaker 1: They do-

Richard: -why not?

Speaker 1: -for the video.

Polly: Okay

Richard: It's wonderful to see you all of you, friends of Tom Haines. He did such wonderful things for so many people, but I'll tell you a little bit about what he did for me. I can tell you that mostly he was my friend, and that was what we always felt. When Debbie became my fiance and wife, he joined me in our relationship. We always went to his salons on 68th Street. They were quite wonderful and exciting and every Sunday afternoon, and it was fun. I first met him, well, I guess in the '60s when he was my sister's mentor, but later on I got to know him when I was a postdoc at Berkeley. He took a sabbatical there. We spent a lot of time together around Berkeley and the surroundings.

Things were going on there. Enough said, and then, oh, yes, he did give me some advice. After Berkeley, I was going to take a one-year job in Turkey, and I said I was a little worried that some agents might approach me, and didn't really know how to defend myself. He said, "Just bring a friend because they'll always send two people to interview you, so it's their word against yours. With a friend, you are protected."

[laughter]

Richard: I went to Turkey, terrific year there, came back, stayed in New York for the rest of my career, hung out with Tom and Adrian, and later with Polly. I'd say that my approach to science has always been rather childlike, and then playing around with things and seeing what made them work. That can be good enough, but you do have to act a little like a grownup sometimes. Tom was really perfect in telling me what I had to do to look like a grownup, that it was important to belong to the appropriate scientific societies. He would recommend me.

Then I went to the ASBC and later the ACS, whatever. What was the other thing? I know I wanted to say something else, but it slipped my mind. I just want to tell you that he probably made a lot of you people act like adults and take some power over what you did, as he did for me. Mostly he was just a friend, and I couldn't do much for him except hang out and enjoy his company, which I did and still do in retrospect. It's wonderful to see all of you here who have, to some extent or another, done the same.

Polly: Is this thing working now?

Audience: Yes.

Polly: Charles, you are on. You can either stay in place or come up front.

Charles Adler: I don't need this. Thank you, Polly. Thank you for bringing us all together. It's helped it all?

Audience: Yes.

Charles: Thank you for bringing us all together. It's a moving and wonderful experience, I think, for everybody. It feels like-- First of all, Tom had 150 lives. What I've been listening to are all the different facets of a gem that still sparkles in all of us. That's just a wonderful thing to have a chance to be here and share that experience. I met Tom, I was part of the drug policy phase of Tom. I shouldn't say phase. Facet. Because the other phases were going on at the same time, but he was fully involved in whatever he was doing. He was fully involved in whomever he was speaking with, and it happened immediately. Tom was a human. Tom saw the center of whatever there was. I was a criminal defense lawyer.

Tom was introduced to come to a meeting. He was invited to come to a meeting. That was sort of a clandestine meeting, had some other criminal defense lawyers and a couple of prosecutors who thought that the drug war and the effects of the

File name: Tom Mem MP4s Part 2 Tombdy ttl.mp4

drug war, particularly on the criminal justice system, which was toxic, needed to change. Tom came, we started speaking, we became friends because Tom immediately becomes friends with whomever he's around. Tom was immensely powerful, but it was a soft power. Let me give an example.

Early on in the process, this drug policy business, we formed a group with Polly. By the way, Polly, you were the central part of whatever Tom was doing. You have no idea how many times, when we were speaking, or I was around when he was speaking with someone else, he said, "I have to talk to Polly about it."

[laughter]

Charles: We started this group, PRDI. Umm--

Polly: The Partnership for Responsible Drug Information.

Charles: Partnership for Responsible Drug Information. The name was to echo, in an ironic way, Partnership for a Drug-Free America, which was an opposition group, I would say. Anyway, Tom said, "We should have a board of advisors. Who should we get?" "I don't know. How about Rich--

Polly: Elliot Richardson.

Charles: Elliot Richardson?" This was a very famous name at the time. He said, "All right, you have his number?" I said, "No." He said, "I'll find it." About an hour later, he called me back. He said, "I just spoke with him. Very nice man. He's on board. He'll join the board. Who else?" I'm dumbfounded. I said, "I know another attorney general. How about how about Nicholas Katzenbach?" He said, "All right." The next, I don't know, day, he called me, he said, "We're having lunch next week, and we have our second board member." Just to name a few more: Sam Dash, Nick-

Polly: Higginbotham.

Charles: -Higginbotham. Tom would call anybody. Call, and because he was Tom, they joined. Tom had a way, sort of a vision that saw the center of any problem. Now, Tom was not a lawyer. Tom had no particular experience in these things, and he understood the issues immediately. When I say the issues, I mean the central issues. He understood the whole picture. He would sit down with somebody else who completely disagreed, and by the end of the meeting, the other person thought that Tom's idea was his.

[laughter]

Charles: He could just speak very gently and ask a few questions. It was astonishing. He did this, apparently, with everybody in all different fields. He came to visit me in Florence. I retired, I moved to Florence, I was living there. Tom had a conference he was going to, a biochemistry conference, and he stayed with me. As he was leaving, he said, "I have this friend. If I leave, she has nobody to take care of

her here. Would you just look out for her?" I said, 'Okay.' I invited her for dinner. I made a chicken. We sat. We spoke. She told me about what she was doing. I didn't understand the word of it, but it was very nice. She told me about her grandchildren, and it's all nice. Then shortly thereafter, she won the Nobel Prize in chemistry.

[laughter]

Charles: This is another aspect of Tom. Tom didn't speak to anybody because he understood the universal humanity of people, and that's what he saw, and that's what he resonated with, and it made the person with whom he was speaking also resonate. They danced to the same music because the music was universal, and it was humans and he was just a wonderful man.

Polly: Next person on is Fred Philipp. Wherever he is, Fred Philipp.

Fred Philipp: Here I am.

Polly: Okay, let's see if this thing is working. We'll see if it works.

Fred Philipp: I met Tom very late in my life. It was like 2005, just before he started to retire, but I had heard of him long before, because some of my doctoral students in the CUNY system had gone through City College and told me about Tom, about what his work was and what a stunning personality he was. He was always smiling. He was always there. Later on, I tried to get Tom to be part of the graduate council that did his work. Then I went to his retirement party. That was really the first time I really met him. Why am I talking about Tom? Well, it's not biochemistry.

I am a biochemist. I work on a very different field than Tom did, and we had almost no interaction in a biochemical sense. What really impressed me about Tom, was his political activity as a biochemist. Trudy Mason, she's here around someplace, raise your hand, there she is. Trudy Mason and Polly were at these important political events in this room. I will never forget them, how Tom, Polly, and Trudy were able to galvanize support for important politicians across the country, Illinois [sound cut] in particular. That inspired me. I will never forget how biochemists like me, with no political candidacy, can do really important political work. That's what I'm here to say. Thank you, Polly.

I'll keep this short. I have a speech that I'm supposed to give, but I'll drop that on the floor so you can read it.

Polly: Now the artist side of Tom will speak. Karen Whitman. There are some prints of Karen's around here, some stuff in the back, and that big print there was done by Karen.

Karen Whitman: Yes, that's fine.

Polly: If anybody needed to go to the bathroom yonder, a lot of the wall prints in there are by Karen.

File name: Tom Mem MP4s Part 2 Tombdy ttl.mp4

[laughter]

Karen: I even have a COVID-19 print on the way to the bathroom there. If you take a glance there, you'll see. Anyway, I know Tom in a very different way from most of the people here. My uncle, Dave Waldman, who I believe is on Zoom today, was a friend of Tom's at City College in the '50s and of course, my dad, too. They were both brass players and I remember a lot of Sundays with my dad in the City, the brass contacts would play over the 16th Street Apartment. I probably hung out a little bit with Avril too. In fact, your mom started painting a portrait of my sister and me.

I know it's all painted over now, but that was nice sitting for a day. Anyway, Tom was in and out of my life as a child. Then eventually I grew up and I moved to Woodstock. I married an artist up in Woodstock. My husband, Rick Pantel, here. Anyway, then he got a job teaching, printmaking at the Art Students League which is where Tom had taken his classes. He tried to stay connected with the art world after Adrian died. Anyway, I moved up there.

Then he got his job and we started staying in a friend's place on 72nd Street. That deal fell through eventually. At some point when we were on 72nd Street, I said, "You know what, there was this guy, Tom Haines, that we knew when we were a kid, and he was such a wonderful guy, and it'd be nice to reacquaint now." We went over and hung out at the 68th Street Apartment one day, and had a nice time. Shortly thereafter, I was walking in Central Park, and I saw Tom and Polly there. We had a really nice walk.

Around that time, we realized we weren't going to be able to stay at the 72nd Street place anymore. Then one day I got a call from Tom, and he says, "We're renovating this place on 68th Street, and there's going to be an empty apartment for a few months. Maybe if you'd like to stay there until you no longer stay there." What ended up being three months was like a year and a half. We were staying there, and in and out of Tom and Polly's apartment.

Then a couple from New Orleans, some young kids that had been displaced from Tulane University needed to study up here, and they needed the apartment. By that time we were really good friends with Tom and Polly, and they said, "Well, why don't you just stay with us?" Oh, I might have made it clear that we had to stay once a week because Rick was teaching at the Art Students League. We basically lived with Tom and Polly for two days a week for about, I don't know, four years or something until they gave up the apartment. It was just really wonderful getting to know them.

Tom and Polly were just always very supportive about our artwork and would come to our art openings and stuff. As Polly mentioned, collected a lot of our work and stuff like that. Something that I never mentioned to Polly, but maybe Tom mentioned to you, that he had said to me at one point, he said, "Thank you so much for all the pleasure your work gives Polly **[unintelligible 00:32:17]** such a sweet thing."

Anyway, we would have late nights with Tom and Polly just sitting up, eating cheese and drinking wine and chewing the fat and talking about art and science and life and

File name: Tom Mem MP4s Part 2 Tombdy ttl.mp4

just always really enjoyed his company and always felt so valued by the two of them. Let me see if there's anything else that I didn't say. Also, just kept on seeing people coming and going out of the apartment. There was one guest that they had that would shoot the stuff all over the place.

I thought, "But people really feel at home here." That was what I wanted to say. When Rick and I first started staying with them, we would just keep quiet and felt like maybe we were intruding or something like that. One day Tom said, "Stop tiptoeing around." He just really wanted us to feel at home and welcome, not feeling like **[unintelligible 00:33:24]**. We were tiptoeing around so much. Then we could let our hair down after.

We've been staying with Polly ever since when we need to stay in the city because we can stay when we need to stay in the city. It's always such a pleasure to know Tom for all the reasons that everybody's talked about here. He's just such a part of my life. I'm also just so gratified that I got to introduce Mindy to Tom. Mindy's been my old friend, and they paid to some of the same openings and they eventually met.

I feel like, "Wow, I'm instrumental in this thing happening." I'm just so glad that they got to meet, and now Polly and Mindy are such good friends. That's something that Tom always loved to do. He loved to bring people together and get them to be friends with each other too. He's all the things and more that everybody's been talking about here. Anyway, that's all I have to say.

[applause]

Polly: Thank you so much, Karen. Much appreciated. DJ, you're on next. Are you David or DJ? Tom always called you DJ.

David Jeruzalmi: I've been called worse.

[laughter]

David: I'll respond to both of them. Polly, Avril, thank you for allowing me to be part of this. I've only been at City College for 12 years, and so I don't have a long history with them. I don't share any scientific interests with them. I never fought with him. I met him on my first days here at City College and it was an inauspicious meeting. I just started here. I was invited to a going away party for then dean, Ruth Stark, who's around the corner.

The party was off campus. I managed to find my way over there. When I got to the restaurant, an older but distinguished person came up to me and informed me that this was a private party and I was probably in the wrong place and invited me to leave. A very awkward moment was prevented when Ranajeet Ghose, who is no longer here, came over and introduced us, and a minute later, Tom and I were best friends.

We started talking about the scientific folks that we knew together. We ended up discussing the seminar series that he had run for many years and he invited me to help them out with the following year's series. Then we ended up co-teaching a seminar course for a year or two. Today, Kevin Gardner, Ranajeet Ghose, Ruth Stark, and I are continuing in the legacy that he started by having a broad series that has rigor and integrity and brings in a diversity of people to our students.

We didn't have much in common. He was a great mentor to me. One of the things we did very often was we went out to dinner a lot. There was one time he invited me to dinner and he also said, "I have these tickets to Carnegie Hall to a concert. Would you be interested?" I wasn't practicing, so there was no practice involved. I could go and be excited to do this. I later learned that I was not his first choice.

[laughter]

David: I went anyway, we had a nice dinner, and we went to Carnegie Hall, and it became clear during the concert that something wasn't right. Tom and I didn't quite fit in. Then later on I think **[inaudible 00:37:20]**

[laughter]

David: On another occasion, I had arrived at City College and shortly thereafter I was elected the chair of the Faculty Senate. We had dinner, and Tom shared with me that he was also a senator. He told me a story that I really hadn't heard of about this student takeover in 1969, and how he was involved in negotiations with students. I won't go into all the details. Some of the details are in the book. It was a fascinating story that I had never heard of, and it was wonderful to get Tom's first-hand perspective.

Another dinner was after a particularly difficult presidential search committee. I had dinner with Tom and wanted to seek his advice about who the college should seek as its leader.

He had a great admiration for you, Vince, and he suggested to me, paraphrasing, "What about the guy they just appointed as interim." We're very happy that that ended up working out well. Tom was a great mentor, a great friend, colleague, and I miss his warm personality every day, and may his memory be a blessing.

Polly: Next speaker, Peipei. Peipei is both a scientist and an entrepreneur with a wonderful story.

Peipei Wu Wishnow: Thank you. Tom was my professor when I was a PhD student at the CUNY. Tom was one of the major pillars in my early days in the United States, and not only in science, but in my life. I learned so much from Tom, but the most important lesson I learned from Tom can be boiled down to just two words, "Just ask." I came to the United States about 40 years ago, and with a big dream and determination, but no money and no resources.

One day when I met and I had a meeting with Tom, Tom asked me, "What do you want to do with your life?" I said, without any hesitation, "I want to become an entrepreneur. I thought Tom would be very upset with me, but to my surprise, he didn't. Instead, he encouraged me to be creative and fearless. He said, "Just ask. The worst thing that happened is that people say no to you." I, at that time, I was very timid and shy introvert. Tom's "just ask" was a game changer for me.

26 years ago, I started my own business. I did not just ask, because I started with a credit card. [crosstalk] Cash is very tight. One day, I got a \$50,000 of pro bono work from a research company. When I talked to the owner of that company, he listened very carefully about what I tried to accomplish and what I wanted him to do. He said, "How much you can afford to pay?" I said, "\$500." He said, "The project that you want us to do, at least it will cost \$50,000, but I would do that for you just for 500." "Why?" "Because you asked. Which means you care, and you care much more than bigger companies with much larger budget." Tom, I did it, I asked.

When I met my future husband, Jerry, I needed somebody to interview him for character check. I called Tom. Tom did come to Boston and interviewed Jerry. Tom said it could not be better. 31 years ago, when we got married, we had two weddings; one was in Marblehead in Boston, and one was in China about 10 days later. I asked Tom, "Tom, could you please give me away on my wedding day in America?" He said, "Of course." You see, Tom, I asked.

Tom not only just like be nice to me, and I witnessed something that's incredibly touching to me. Tom and Polly through the years and become very good friend, they come to Marblehead for our July 4th party every year. One year, one guest brought a young boy up this time. Tom noticed that he was not happy. Tom struck up a conversation with him. Very soon, he found out this boy lost his parents in a car accident just one year ago. He said, "I'm an orphan too. Are we the luckiest people in the world?" We can choose our own parents. We find the people we like and admire and just ask them to help us." That is Tom. Tom, I will remember your teaching forever and keep asking as long as I live.

[laughter]

Polly: Trudy, are you ready to say something?

Trudy L Mason: You told me I have three minutes, but I don't think anybody is going three, but I will try and be brief.

Polly: Well, we still got a couple of more three minutes [crosstalk]--

Trudy: First of all, you all see the wonderful program that Polly made. If you will look on the back of the program, and most of you don't know what it's about or why it's there. A couple of people do, but there-- I had known Tom and Polly through mutual friends. As I used to say, you're one of our few Eastsiders and they accepted me anyway. We really got to know each other through a group called Billionaires for Bush. That's what this picture is from.

File name: Tom Mem MP4s Part 2 Tombdy ttl.mp4

Now, if you want to know about one of-- By the way, I taught Tom a new language because I would, from time to time, and I'm trying to do it right now, drop various Jewish expressions and he'd say, "What does that mean?" He started-- I don't know if any of you noticed, but towards the end, Tom sprinkled his-- He would talk to you, suddenly a Jewish expression would find its way in. I'm responsible for that, proudly.

[laughter]

I just want to tell you about a shared moment-- You'll notice that there's no prepared speech. I never know what I'm going to say until I get up to say it. Those of you who have been at events here when I spoke, know that, and they say, "Thank you for giving us the information." I have been home a lot because of various ailments and illnesses and whatever, but it's taken me-- I am a collector, I collect political memorabilia. I am a saver order, some people would call it.

In going through a drawer earlier in the week after Polly said, "Trudy, what are you going to talk about?" I said, "I'll talk about politics, and Tom's interest in politics." He was one of the best politicians I have ever known. In his own way, he did more political stuff than anything else. I came across this, and I'll pass it around to some of you-- Don't anybody take it.

[laughter]

No, because I know sometimes things have passed around and I say, "Oh, I wish I could have that in my collection."

[laughter]

At any rate, looking through a drawer, I found this, this was my Billionaires for Bush card. I called Bali and I said, "My God, this--" I used another Jewish word, I said, this was [foreign language]. For those of you who don't know the word [foreign language], there are a lot of Yiddish words that you just can't translate exactly, but it's between Faith, Kismet, and the closest it was meant to be.

Two days before coming here and Polly said, "You won't believe this, but the picture that I chose for the back of the program is Tom and I." I said, "Polly, you've got to find out everybody who was in Billionaires for Bush had to have a Billionaires for Bush name." You will see on here, it says "Medea--" not media, but "Medea Mogul." That's because I was press secretary to a whole bunch of candidates. You're not allowed to say that anymore, now it's communications directors. The words keep on changing. Anyway, I'm going to pass this around to you. Polly is still looking for their name tag because she has it somewhere, but she said, "Trudy, that's the picture I'm using. How did you know that?" I said, "I didn't, it was [foreign language]."

Anyway, one of the joys of my life has been getting politically involved with-- I listened to all of you academics and the academics and the wonderful, and I think it always amazed me. When Tom and I would get together, which was quite often, we would sit at-- The other people have talked about the table and how they spoke

File name: Tom Mem MP4s Part 2 Tombdy ttl.mp4

about so many of these-- I don't even know these-- I majored in history, and I think I took one science course in college.

I did my graduate work at a city university, but I went to college in Massachusetts and at Wheaton, I was required to take a science course, and I almost blew up the chem lab, one of the science course that I ever took, and which Tom thought was quite amusing when I would tell him my adventures in the chem lab. I will tell you that Tom and Polly, with a mix of political people who came over-- And you all heard Norm speak before, we were involved in various things. There are other people here and I'm not-- If I leave somebody out, everybody is going to but

there's one elected who you should know, and that's Dick Gottfried who is a state senator and the longest-serving state senator. Am I right, **[unintelligible 00:50:09]**, longest-serving state senator?

Speaker 4: In New York.

Trudy: In New York, yeah

[laughter]

Who is a very good friend and came to a lot of these events. There's one more person that I want to recognize; Larry, Hui. Larry lives two floors up. He's one of these silent people in political life who come, give nice donations, get to know the people, but people really don't know who he is, and they should know who he is.

It is thanks, again, to Tom and Polly that I got to know Larry, who, as I said, just lives two floors upstairs, came to every event that we ever did here and has contributed so much. I could go on and on, and those of you who know me know that I can go on and on, but I won't accept to say that knowing Tom, having the -- It is not so silent partner because Polly did a lot of political stuff, too. She loved it, even in between-- I learned from her, and I'm sure that most of you know all of her brilliant work in the field of economics. She is one of the best.

Polly took the time to explain some things to me that I would've never understood. Tom couldn't explain things to me, but Polly could. All I can tell you is having him in my political world, he was always-- He'd say, "Do you know this one who just made this speech?" I'd say, "Yes, I met them along the time." He'd say, "You know Joe Biden, right?" I'd say, "Well, I'm-- Yes sort of," and he would go on and on about how much he admired Joe Biden.

He was just somebody who I enjoyed, this sounds selfish, but to have a conversation with Tom on so many subjects, on so much that is going on with the world. He was brilliant. Besides all of the scientific and brilliance, he was also brilliant in being-- I'll use another Jewish word to end with because Tom was truly a [foreign language].

[laughter]

Polly: Can we have a couple of old friends who would like to say something, even though they weren't on the program? There's Richard Milner and Danny Greenberger. Richard.

Richard Milner: Thank you. Give me a second.

Polly: Then Danny, who is Tom's oldest friend at City College.

Richard: Thank you, Polly. Thanks for squeezing me in. Listen, you're a very lucky group, and I'm part of you. The reason we're lucky is that we have Polly and Tom in our office. Now I got to try myself to keep my voice steady because I am emotional about this.

First of all, so many things come to mind. How did I meet them? At their wonderful New Year's parties? Brought by a friend of mine, Melvin Van Peebles, who was my friend for 55 years, and he died recently.

By the way, I am brought here courtesy of the walker that was given to me by Polly. It was Tom's Walker, and it still got his name on the side. I can't bring myself to removing the name. By the way, that's been a boom. Any of you having trouble walking? I'll just tell you briefly, I thought it was giving up, I said, "Polly, I don't want it. I have a cane. That's giving up." She said, "Just try it, I'm begging you." You know what? A walker is not giving up. When you can hold on the four wheels, as Tom did, and know you're not going to fall, you can move your legs quite fast and get a lot of exercise. I totally recommend it. Thank you, Polly.

[laughter]

Thank you, Tom. I'm leaving your name. [crosstalk] A couple of things I wanted to say. Tom likes this story. I live in a very cramped apartment on the next block. I've been in there for 55 years and through a wife and a couple of girlfriends.

[laughter]

[unintelligible 00:54:53] but it's been a great 55 years. My place, I'm a hoarder, too, I'm a pack rat, and I'm an anthropologist, and I'm a writer, and I have nothing but books and paper, wall to wall, ceiling to floor. Anybody comes in there-- I'm embarrassed to have people in there. It's not a place to have guests. It's a place to write and have all my materials. The reason why I was hanging with Tom, and he said, "You'd like to see my apartment." We were right on the block. I said, "Sure, come on." I was a little bit like "**[unintelligible 00:55:36]**."

[laughter]

He sat down, chatted with me, and all the time he was talking, he was looking over the place, taking on everything with his eyes, every little artwork I had on the wall. My collection of books from the 19th century, he immediately saw it. Other people saw a mess and a clutter. Tom saw a working studio. He said to me, "This is a great

File name: Tom Mem MP4s Part 2 Tombdy ttl.mp4

place you have." I said, "This little dump, are you kidding me?" I said, "What's so great about it?" He said, "You are utilizing every square in the house."

[laughter]

[crosstalk]

That's what I'm seeing here. It's true enough. Now, I don't want to go on long. That was probably three minutes or more. I'm working on two major books for a long time, very difficult. I've assembled a team, and they're all over the place. My designer is in Chicago, my copy editor is in Singapore, and on and on like that. That somehow we managed to communicate crangely and get this thing done.

Now, these are two huge projects, I never should have taken on because I don't have the resources. As Polly and I became better friends, she asked me if I would help her with this research that she's been doing that's fascinated her, which is, how did early hominins, pre-humans, carry their babies? They're often depicted in pictures, carrying a two-year-old infant up in a tree. No, you can't do that. She knew that because she said it couldn't hold her daughter. She was slipping away from her in the bed. How did they carry it? Must have had some slings that haven't survived, some kind of bags or ropes or something.

She started to research it, and she wrote a paper. I think one of our original titles was *Baby on Board*. She kept at it, and she's still at it. She keeps getting rejected because her lousy PhD is not in anthropology, it's in economics, so to hell with you. Anthropologists, like many academics, are very, very snobby about who's in the club and who gets to publish in the journals.

I've been helping her with that. One day she said to me, "Why don't you bring your editorial help?" I said, "I don't charge my friends for editorial help. That's what I do." She said, "How can I help you?" I said, "What do you mean?" She said, "Tom and I have a little bit of money set aside as a foundation to help projects that we like. We don't like the idea of giving our money to some organization that's going to pick their artists or writers or whatever it is that we don't know."

She said, "We will pick our own artists and writers. Thank you." She said, "I will help you." She said, "What do you need?" I said, "Polly, are you serious about this?" She said, "I'm serious. What do you need?" I said, "I desperately need a new iMac with all the bells and whistles and apps and service, IT and everything." She said, "Done." That's what I've been working on for the last three years. I'm not quitting. Whenever I run into trouble and there's an extra expense, or I want to buy a picture, Polly said, "Go ahead and do it."

I've got two books coming out. I don't want to dwell on that, except to say that it would not have been possible without Tom and Polly and Tom was a co-conspirator in this, even though my main contact was with Polly. He liked what I did and he approved and the money being spent that way. I'm just so terribly grateful for their

friendship and for their help, very substantial help without which I could not have achieved my life's dream, which I've got one in press now with the Abbeville Press.

By the way, when I couldn't find a publisher, Polly said, "Well, my brother is a known author at Abbeville Press, why don't you go there?" At the end of my rope, I was **[unintelligible 00:59:52]** published about that. I'll be honest, maybe we should talk about self-publish, which I hate.

She kept urging me, "Contact the Abbeville Press. Tell them my brother sent you." She hooked me up with her brother, and I went over to Abbeville. They loved the book. They signed it. It's coming out in July.

Polly: Wow.

Richard: The other one that I had to write that one from Princeton University Press, now I'm on track to get that done within a month or two. These are 8-year-long projects which never looked like they were going to happen. I had tremendous patience and perseverance in my projects. That's my life, but could not have done it without Polly and Tom. That's all I have to say.

[inaudible 01:00:44] it's I have a list in my book at the end, people that have helped. I have a whole list of names. Tom, Polly is on the top. I looked at it the other day and I said, "I'm schmuck. This is not enough. You should give them a whole page of **[unintelligible 01:01:02]**."

[laughter]

I want to say that publicly right here and now, Polly doesn't know, that's one of the reasons I want to speak today, is to publicly thank her and Tom for making my dreams come true.

Speaker 6: **[inaudible 01:01:21]**

Polly: Okay, then. Last but not least, because we're almost out of time, it's Danny Greenberger, physicist, much honored, and he was Tom's first friend at City College because they came to City College together.

Danny Greenberger: Not quite together. I'll tell you that story.

[laughter]

Danny: First of all, Tom has the following lucky, well, maybe not lucky feature, that he had two wonderful wives, and that's a very pretty rare thing, that you can luck out twice.

[laughter]

Although, I guess it wasn't luck. They were both really quite extraordinary people. A lot of you know Polly, but I probably not many of you know Adrian. I'll just say something about his first marriage. I met Tom actually shortly after college. I met him through a friend, his wife-- through his wife I met him. His wife, Adrian, was one of the very first people at Brandeis, when Brandeis got started in the '50s.

One of her good friends, and she was a group of very good, intelligent young women friends. One of her friends was dating-- her name was Risa, she was dating a physicist at MIT. Through him, I got to know her. Through her, I got to know Tom and Adrian, who had just started going out together. We became very good friends.

I'll say one thing about their marriage is in my 90 years, there are only two couples that I have known who had a real soirée in the sense that any of their friends, any of them, could just drop in any time of the day or night, 11:00 PM, after work, you could just drop in at Tom and Adrian. I used to go there regularly, and there were always five or six people already there. It was an incredible experience.

I happened then to be at Berkeley at the time. Tom had a friend who he said-- Well, if he was visiting the West Coast with his wife, and Tom said, "Well, look at my friend Danny." He called his name Dave Waldman. He looked me up. I used to give people the grand tour of San Francisco when they came out. I gave him and his wife this grand tour, and I asked him, "By the way, what do you do?" He said, "I'm a grad student at City College." I said, "What? City College doesn't have a grad program." He said, "Well, they just started one."

Now, some of you will remember--too bad Vince has left. Then there's Harry Lustig who's taking charge of the program. Harry was a force of nature, just like Adrian was a force of nature. I happened to know Harry because he had been finishing up as a grad student when I had started at the University of Illinois. I knew him pretty well.

The next day, I called Harry, and I said, "Is it true that there's a graduate program at City College?" He says, "Yes. Why don't you come?" I said, "Oh, that's fantastic, get a job New York? Yes." I decided to come for a year or two at City College. Of course, that was 1963 that I got there. I was there 57 years.

[laughter]

The only reason I retired is because my wife, who's 20 years younger than me, and she decided to retire .

[laughter]

She loves to travel, and so I said, "All right, it's selfish of me to keep working and we should go travel." What happened was I retired so we could travel. The instant I retired, COVID hit. There I was retired but not able to travel For three or four years, we were stuck in New York. Stuck in New York is not a punishment.

Tom and Adrian, they wanted a kid and so on, but it didn't happen for a long time. Then they got Avril. Avril was amazing. Then as now, everyone loved her, and she used to charm anyone. One of the people I remember was that I and my first wife had a place up in the Catskills, a little-- The village next door, Rensselaerville was its name, had a little institute.

For some reason, independently of me, I didn't even know Tom and Adrian had signed up for a course there for a week. When I found out, I used to go drop in on the course, even though I wasn't registered.

[laughter]

The featured speaker was Isaac Asimov.

Polly: Wow.

Danny: He immediately fell in love with the little baby Avril. Tom and Isaac Asimov became best friends. She could hypnotize anybody. Later on, she decided to become a physicist, which was not her major talent. Being President of the US is her major talent, but she doesn't have the nasties to be a professional politician, unfortunately. Love is her thing. At any rate--

Trudy: Excuse me.

Danny: What?

Trudy: You don't have to be nasty to be a politician.

Danny: You're right, but you need some aggressive [crosstalk]--

Speaker 8: [inaudible 01:09:26]

[laughter]

On the other hand, she's one of the top jobs in the US. She's in the US cabinet, believe it or not. I'm very proud of being her godfather. Her mother, one of the very few people who you meet in life, you just have a

deep-- not erotic or anything, but just a really deep rapport that you somehow have a rapport with somebody that you can anticipate what they're going to say, and you're on the same wavelength at a very deep level.

Adrian was one of those people for me, and it's passed on to Avril-- Luckily, I'm really sorry that she's far away and out of contact, and that you probably have to go through the CIA to say hello to her. Other than that, someday it'll be over, and if I'm still alive, we'll get together.

Anyway, this was supposed to be about Tom's early life, but a little bit of it. Look, Tom has been a major force also at the city college. I think in spite of the wonderful
File name: Tom Mem MP4s Part 2 Tombdy ttl.mp4

things that people have said at his memorial, I think he wasn't really appreciated by the medical school, I don't think.

Tom, just by force of will got the medical school started. Tom with the help of Marshak and then they hired a professional doctor administrator to run the place, and I don't-- Although Tom had an important job there, I just don't think he was fully appreciated for what he had done to get the place going. That's one of his minor things in life. His influence touched many, many things.

He and I used to have long nights talking. He would want to know some deep physics in order to understand some of his chemistry, and we would have long, long talks together. I really missed those early days and the family there. The trouble is, I got married and moved to Queens, and so I don't really get to see Polly that much, unfortunately. Anyway, so that's just a little, one person's personal take on what goes on. Okay, thank you.

?Trudy: [unintelligible 01:13:03].

Danny: Here's a story, it's a parody on physicists, but it's really about any scientist who is really dedicated. It goes like this, during the French Revolution, and they line up-- It's the big arena of cheering peasants, and they line up all these intellectuals and royalty and whatnot, in order to guillotine them. They're lined up, and the captain of the guard grabs the first one, he says, "Take the first one and execute him."

The drums roll, and they put his head down on the block, and the captain waves his sword, and down comes the guillotine ssss click, and it stops dead an inch over the man's head, and everyone gasps. The captain says, "He was a priest, and God has saved him. Let him go." He nods and says, "Get the next one."

They grab the next one, and he's a lawyer, and they put his head down, and the drums roll, and the captain waves his sword, and down comes the guillotine, shhhhh bang! and it stops an inch over the man's head, and everyone gasps. The captain says, "Well, he was a lawyer, the Devil has saved him. Let him go." Then they grab the next one, he's a physicist. They put his head down on the block, he says, "Wait, wait, I think I see what the problem is."

[laughter]

Polly: Tom has got to get in a word himself. If JD, David can play it back, and then no tremendous rush to get out of here. There's still a lot of food, grab some food, take some food. Then we'll say, "Thank you all so much for coming--" Is it-- Yes, okay, just get it started at the beginning, and I hope we've got these things now.

Speaker 4: What year is this, Polly?

Polly: This was Tom's 88th birthday party. This was at the end of his 88th birthday party, two years ago.

Speaker 9: Everybody who came [unintelligible 01:16:14].

Polly: You're going to have to turn the sound up.

[video presentation playing]

Tom Haines: I'd like to thank everybody who came, and lots that didn't, because I know I've got lots of notes. I really feel I'm overaged, 88 is too old for me.

[laughter]

How do I know? The answer is, I keep falling down on my face, and I can't even control it. It's just part of getting too old, too fast. It's the way I concluded. I may be wrong, but that's what I feel like. I want to tell you that this whole idea of having candles, and having a special event is really *nice*.

[laughter]

[applause]

Let me thank everybody that came. Let me thank everybody that participated in this operation. May all of you have a wonderful, wonderful life as I have been lucky to have.

[01:18:12] [END OF AUDIO]