

# Julie Menin Appointed NYC Council Speaker, and Other Alumni News

Spring/Summer 2026



John McCarten / NYC Council Media Unit

Politician **Julie Menin** '89CC (above) was appointed speaker of the New York City Council in January. Menin, who since 2022 has represented Manhattan's Fifth District, covering the Upper East Side and Roosevelt Island, previously held posts as commissioner for the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment and for the Department of Consumer Affairs.

*Paradiso 17*, a novel by **Hannah Assadi** '08CC, '13SOA, made the longlist for the [Women's Prize in Fiction](#), an annual award for English-language books by female authors.

**Matthew Bogdanos** '84GSAS, '84LAW, a Manhattan assistant district attorney and retired Marine colonel, won the [2026 Marica Vilcek Prize in Art History](#) for his work on antiquities repatriation.

Warner Bros. development executive **Diamond McNeil** '11SOA worked on the 2025 blockbuster film *Sinners*, which won multiple awards this year, including Oscars for best original screenplay and best actor.

**Parul Kapur** '89SOA received the \$25,000 [Pattis Family Foundation Creative Arts Book Award](#) at Interlochen for her debut novel, *Inside the Mirror*.

Screenwriter and producer **Jeremy Robbins** '13SOA made his feature-film debut, as the writer of *Apex*, a survival action thriller starring Charlize Theron and Taron Egerton. The film premiered on Netflix in April.



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