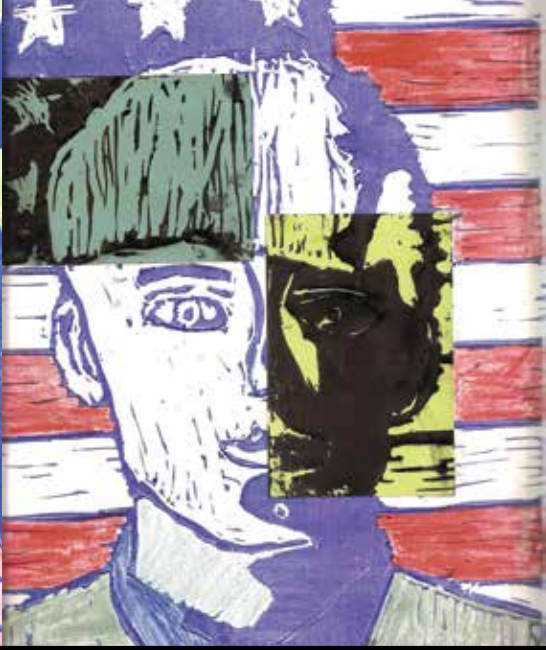
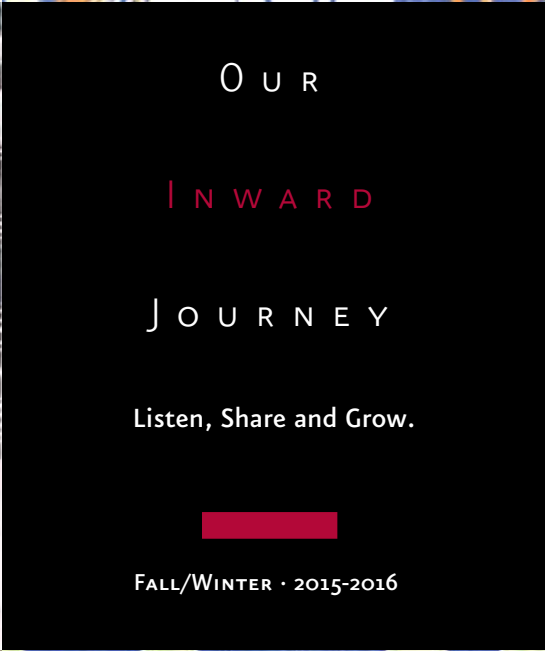


# THE · MEETING · HOUSE







STRONG MINDS.  
KIND HEARTS.

## The Friends Academy Mission

Founded in 1876 by Gideon Frost for “the children of Friends and those similarly sentimented,” Friends Academy is a Quaker, coeducational, independent, college preparatory school serving 775 students from age three through twelfth grade.

The school’s philosophy is based on the Quaker principles of integrity, simplicity, patience, moderation, peaceful resolution of conflict, and a belief that the silence and simple ministry of the “gathered meeting” brings the presence of God into the midst of busy lives. Friends Academy is committed to developing a diverse community whose members value excellence in learning and growth in knowledge and skill, a genuine commitment to service and ethical action, and a realization that every life is to be explored, celebrated, and enjoyed in the spirit of the Religious Society of Friends.

### THE MEETING HOUSE

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## FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

WILLIAM G. MORRIS JR.

Friends,

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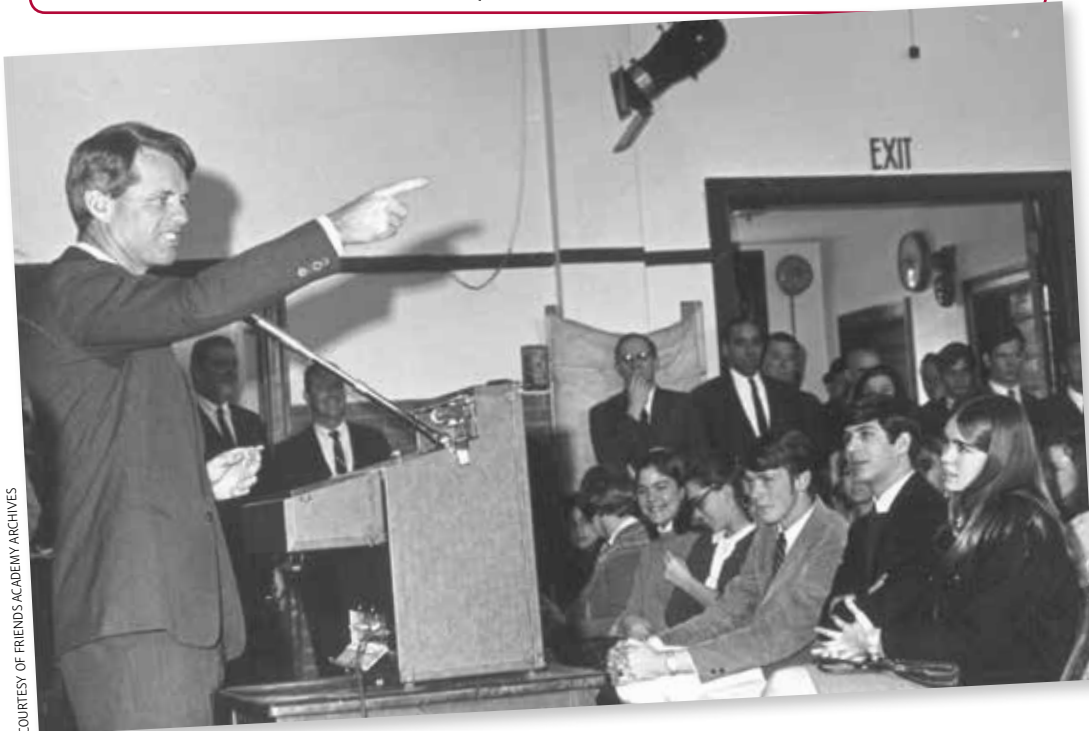
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## FROM THE ARCHIVES: FEB. 17, 1967 – RFK VISITS FRIENDS ACADEMY



COURTESY OF FRIENDS ACADEMY ARCHIVES

In 1967, the Current Affairs and Debating Society (CADS) was led by President Todd Graham and advisor Mr. Thomas. That year, they invited two speakers - Congressional candidate Stephen B. Drounion and Senator Robert Kennedy. In April of 1967, the student-run Community Government chose to award FA's "Peace Prize" to the Peace Corps.



## A VIGIL FOR PEACE

Following the Paris attacks of November 13, 2015, as well as numerous other acts of violence earlier in the year, the FA community gathered around the Quad Monday morning, Nov. 23 to share five minutes of silence in celebration of Peace and Non-Violence in the world and reflect upon the following Query:

**“What can we do to increase peace and diminish violence within ourselves, in our daily interactions, in our communities and in the world?”**







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# on the cover

**OUR INWARD JOURNEY.** This fall sophomores created linoleum block prints as part of a fall study in self-portraiture. Story, Page 24. AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

# MEETING HOUSE LETTERS

Thoughts, memories and reflections  
from our readers ... you!

## *Grandniece to Gideon Frost, alumna nostalgically recalls boarding days at Friends*

By JENNIFER RYAN WOODS '99

**M**any of the students at Friends Academy consider the campus a home-away-from-home. That was particularly true for Elisabeth "Betsy" Newman Ward, who graduated in 1948.

Ward, who attended Friends as a junior and senior, was one of a small group of students who lived on campus during the period that Friends functioned as both a boarding school and a day school.

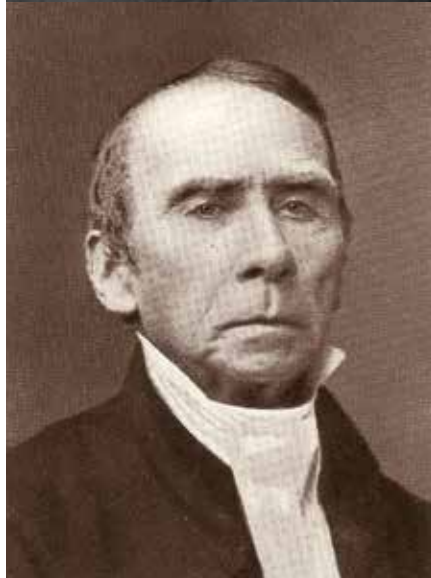
"Boarding was interesting...it was my first experience away from home," Ward says adding, "It was delightful. I felt like it was home. I fit right in and I made friends there that I still have today."

But there was another link that connected Ward even more deeply to the school – her great uncle, Gideon Frost, was the founder.

"Everyone at school knew we were related," Ward says adding, "I got a lot of questions about the fact that one of my ancestors was the Founder."

And although she had never known Frost personally, she enjoyed the unique relationship she had to the school.

"It was fun roaming the halls, thinking about Gideon Frost... (and) looking up at



FRIENDS ACADEMY LAMP AND ARCHIVES

A grandniece to Gideon Frost, Elizabeth Newman Ward was always fascinated by her Quaker background.

the portrait of my ancestor."

Ward had been brought up as an Episco-

palian, though she says, "I always knew about my Quaker background and was fascinated with it."

"The Quaker Meetings were new to a lot of us...[but] it was very interesting to me."

Ward visited the Friends Academy campus a few years ago and, despite the many renovations it has experienced over the years, many things seemed to Ward to be exactly as they had been.

"I was amazed how the building remained pretty much the same...Looking up at the building and thinking of all the classes that had graduated from there; and seeing where my old room was – it was amazing to me."

Ward recalls: the boarding students lived on the third floor with the boys in one wing and the girls in the other. Living in close quarters allowed many of the students to form deep connections to one another.

"Some of the boarding students came from difficult family situations, and sometimes we'd be up all night talking and reassuring each other... my class was not very big and some of us are still in touch."

In addition to building friendships – because kids-will-be-kids no matter what decade it is – there was also some occasional mischief.

"We were all trying to figure out ways to sneak out at night," she says, adding there was a circular staircase that led down to the first floor and out the doors. The kids would plot ways to make it down during the night.

Luckily, Ward never found herself in any hot water. "The head of the girls was a very strict lady and was very careful to

*"It was fun roaming the halls, thinking about Gideon Frost...  
(and) looking up at the portrait of my ancestor."*

– BETSY NEWMAN WARD '48



## 1948 BLAST FROM THE PAST



FRIENDS ACADEMY 1948 LAMP YEARBOOK

see that no one sneaked away.”

After graduating Friends, Ward went on to Bennington College where she studied political science. That’s also where she met and married her husband.

Ward lived in various places over the years as her husband’s job in the Coast Guard

Travel back to 1948 with Betsy Newman Ward and her classmates at Friends.

moved them around quite a bit. They eventually settled in Maryland for many years, where they raised their daughter and two sons.

### MEMORIES OF FA

We received so many great remembrances of Friends that we decided to reprint a few below. Enjoy!

#### The forbidden reach

I well remember my first fall (9th Igrade) as a boarding student being seated at the Wilt’s table for meals and being terrified about passing the butter dish or anything else. It had to go to the left or right but NEVER across the table no matter how close it was to the person who wanted it. The forbidden “boarding house reach.”

– Wendy Murphy ’52

#### A tale of two Friends

Things that strike me are how different and enriched the classes are at FA now compared to when we were there – more science, robotics, more sports teams (more kids in each grade).

– Bruce Birkett ’63

#### Full circle

Once several of us were called to the study hall. I do not know who we teased or worse yet, mocked, but it was someone on the janitorial/cafeteria staff. I think it was Fred Smith who so severely chastised us that we all felt very guilty. I particularly remember when he told us that someday at least one of us would work as a janitor. I don’t think anyone believed this, but he was right. I run a women’s bowling league and have to clean their toilet, sink, etc. It is really annoying trying to vacuum the spectator area with a machine with bad suction. Kudos to the Friends philosophy for always fostering our character.

– Geoff Steinemann ’64

#### Wax on, wax off

We would also like to announce that our math teacher, Bill Garry, won the “Mr. Myagi Award” for being the teacher we had that we will never forget.

– Class of 1995





AMANDA FISK PHOTOS/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Head of School Bill Morris takes a ceremonial spin around the carousel with two Friends Academy students.

Usually, when it rains, it pours – but not at Friends Academy on Saturday, October 3. Drizzle may have forced games off the fields and booths inside, but the warmth of community was everywhere to be found.

New this year – the Friends Academy Theatre Department hosted a costume sale from recent productions and a photo booth to capture Fall Fair Memories.

The Commons was transformed into a huge

eatery, offering fresh clams, lobster rolls, Asian delicacies and more. The ever-popular dunk tank, filled with foam balls, moved inside to the Field House, giving Head of School Bill Morris a soft, dry landing this year.



One last time in the dunk tank, minus the water, for Head of School Bill Morris.



Above, the Alumni tent was set up in a cozy corner of the Athletic Center lobby and offered treats and hot beverages.



Left, face painting is always a popular draw.





Left, the Arts Department offered an assortment of costumes for sale this year. Right, gearing up to face The Scoop.



There's no way that a little rain will keep these Middle schoolers away from the Fall Fair rides!



Just graduated Julian and Jordan Christian return for Fall Fair.



Friends Academy fever struck even the youngest fairgoers.

Left, colorful mums and fall flowers lit up the Main Gym.



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Benji Rush displays his Mini Plower at the 5th grade Invention Convention.

### Watch out Rube Goldberg, here comes FA's fifth grade

Pets and personal hygiene were on the minds of this year's Lower School inventors at the annual fifth grade Invention Convention.

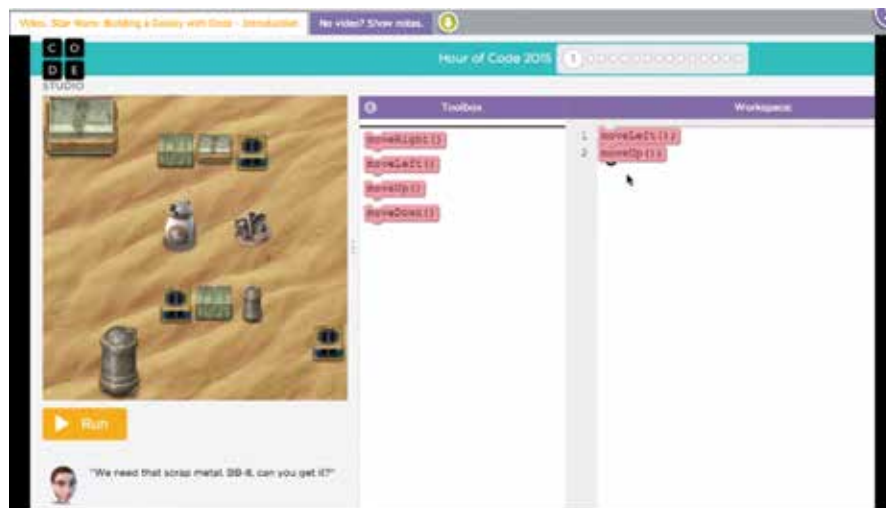
Challenged to use one or more simple machines (lever, inclined plane, pulley, wedge, screw or gear) to solve an everyday obstacle, student inventors offered solutions like "Pet Food Tube," "Dog Treat Feeder" and "No Waste Toothpaste."

For Leila Solhjoui, her "Leila Lift" originated from a personal challenge. "I broke my foot last year and had to figure out how to pick up something to the height of my bed," she explained of her invention, which employed six simple machines.

Students created iPad commercials and catchy jingles, including this one that caught the eyes of passersby in "Ben's Toothbrush, Hat & Comb." *A brush, a comb, all in one. That's a job well done!*

## AN HOUR OF CODE = A DAY OF DISCOVERY

# 'PEEKING UNDER THE HOOD'



XXXXXXX/FRIENDS ACADEMY

A screenshot from Hour of Code.org. Middle School students experimented with basic drag-and-drop block code before moving onto Javascript programming during the global Hour of Code this past December.

For one hour during the week of December 7th, FA students joined tens of millions of people in over 180+ countries for the global Hour of Code for the third consecutive year.

Launched in 2013, Code.org is a non-profit "dedicated to expanding access to computer science and increasing participation by women and under-represented students of color."

On Dec. 9 and 10, Upper School students from AP Comp Sci and Intro to Comp Sci joined 3rd, 4th and 5th graders in a Minecraft-inspired exercise. Students used drag-and-drop blocks to program characters to perform a set of tasks and "peek under the hood" at a very familiar video game.

"The exercise offered students the chance to explore logic through step-and-repeat programming, as well as promote their attention to detail," explained Director of Technology Ken Ambach.

Middle Schoolers spent their hour



Fourth grader Kjaesean works through his Minecraft Hour of Code project with junior Louis Durante.

working on more sophisticated Javascript programming with a Star Wars-inspired coding project.

Next year Ambach hopes to devote more time during the day so that students can be shown more actual code and repeat the exercise in the spring.

"It was inspirational to watch the AP Comp Sci students interacting with 3rd graders, who were so excited about learning code that they didn't want the activity to end – including the older kids," said Ambach.



## LEADING BY LEARNING



SHANELLE ROBINSON/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Eighth grader Kyla Graham records with the Beat Making Lab.

### An intersection of sound and sharing at BRiDGE

The annual BRiDGE Program welcomed students of color from grades 6 to 12 in mid November for a day of listening, sharing and workshoping.

Joined by Friends Academy faculty and staff of color, including Director of Diversity & Multicultural Affairs Shanelle Robinson, students also had the opportunity to work with the co-founders of the Beat Making Lab.

With co-founders – Apple Juice Kid (who has produced for hip-hop artists Wale, Azealia Banks and Mos Def) and Pierce Freelon (a hip-hop and jazz artist, who teaches in the departments of music and African American studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) – students produced a song and contributed to the original beat and writing/recording original lyrics.



FA students share personal experiences.



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Student leaders from the major Upper School clubs – WATCH (We Are The Community Helpers), TASQUE (Teachers and Students for Quaker Understanding and Education), Student Faculty Board, Diversity and Inkwell – gathered for a full day this fall at FA's first student Quaker Leadership Retreat. "These committees do a lot of work on their own and find it difficult to come together with other groups, so our intent as adults was to create a space for them to grow as leaders and think of themselves as a team that helps support the Upper School," explained Director of Quaker Education Angie Martin. Students participated in team-building, explored Quaker process, the role of clerking and how they might run their meetings. "One big issue that came up was how to support students in having difficult conversations when there is disagreement, especially regarding politics," said Martin. "How these student leaders can keep things from becoming too volatile; how to stay in the conversation when it gets hard, but still maintain our relationships."

'MADE IN THE FUTURE'

# Leaning in to tomorrow



*Senior organizes FA's first TEDx symposium; six alumni discuss ideas of innovation*

These days, there are very few who haven't watched or heard about TED, a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, "usually in the form of short, powerful talks."

Founded in 1984 as a convergence of technology, entertainment and design, the first official TED talks debuted in 2006. By 2012, TED Talks had been viewed one billion times and in 2014, the TED conference celebrated its 30th anniversary.

This past fall, senior Scott Kriesberg worked to bring six alumni speakers back to campus to enlighten, entertain and inspire audience members with their "Made in the Future" initiatives.

"I've always really loved TED talks," explained Kriesberg. "My dad showed me my first one and it really is about ideas worth spreading," he added.

Kriesberg was quick to point out his real motivational force behind organizing the conference. "One of my teachers expressed a dislike of TED Talks and the only way to convince him otherwise – was to bring one here."

Unlike the conventional TED Talks, a TEDx is independently organized by volunteers. "The more you enter into it, the more you'll take out," advised Kriesberg. FA alumni ranged from the classes of 1970 to 2008 and represented fields of business, nonprofits, photography and software engineering.

Ajay Rajani '01 and Lucky Gobindram '04 opened the event with their talk entitled, "The Empathy of Easy Distribution: A New Prototype for 'Business People.'" Currently, Gobindram is focused on building the Inevitable Collection, a seed-stage fund to build and invest in companies who push the world forward.



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Organizer and senior Scott Kriesberg introduces FA's first TEDx symposium on November 23, 2015.

Rajani is co-founder of OAB Studios, a NYC-based Digital Innovation Lab that designs and builds web, mobile, TV, wearable and Augmented Reality experiences.

In the wake of declining law school and business school applications, the pair remarked upon the changing signals of success. "There is a completely different prototype at work for the business world," Rajani commented. "There are a lot less people buying cars and houses and instead, who you are, what you are learning or your experience is what counts," he said.

They emphasized that even the Commencement speakers at Harvard have changed over time. "It's now all about letting your humility be your hunger," said Gobindram.

Victoria Bjorklund '70, a charities lawyer who founded the Exempt Organizations Group echoed this in her talk, "Charities vs. Businesses: How to Avoid a Fight to the Death." Bjorklund currently teaches "The Law of Nonprofits" at Harvard Law School. "This generation has been driven by the charity movement," stressed Bjorklund. "The water bottle movement is a classic example of cause marketing," she added.

Ultimately Kriesberg looked to build a bridge with this event. "I wanted to bring alumni to discuss the future in the hopes of showing FA students what is possible."



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Top, Ajay Rajani '01 and Lucky Gobindram '04 with "The Empathy of Easy Distribution: A New Prototype for 'Business People;'" Alex Trautwig '08 with "Decide Your Future;" Alexander Yip '97 with "Bicilavadora, A Laundry Machine for the Developing World;" and Susan Johnson Banta '72 "De-extinction: An Engaged Community."



# COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Senior Natalia Lee makes art in a meditative silence as she responds to the Query, "What is in your heart today?"

## Alternative Meeting for Worship draws out the inner artist in US

This fall the lineup of alternative Meeting for Worship in the Middle and Upper schools expanded to include Meeting for Drawing.

Offered a few times throughout the fall and winter, students were given the choice to work in various media without any judgment. Silent, except for the muted sounds of rubbing, scratching and erasing, students responded to the Query, "What is in your heart today?" posed by Visual Arts department head Joy Lai. At the end of Meeting, time was set aside for sharing.

"I feel that when I draw I am speaking to a part of myself that I can only do through drawing," remarked one student. "That I could be centered and still be doing something fun," appealed to another. "What I actually ended up drawing was a surprise to me. I didn't realize some of the things that have been on my mind until I started to draw."



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Friends Academy Upper School students and faculty leaned into some courageous, and sometimes, uncomfortable conversations this fall and winter. Speakers (from the top) Gabriel Blau, Ahmer Ahmed, Jennifer Ladd and Kevin Powell separately encouraged and challenged FA to actively think through issues facing the LGBT community, anti-Muslim sentiment, questions of class and probe exactly what diversity means. "We should always challenge people respectfully," advised the year's first speaker, Kevin Powell, who fielded questions about hip hop, the use of the "N" word, a comparison of the gay rights movement to the Civil Rights Movement. "Education is nothing if you don't learn to become a critical thinker," he urged.

## ADVENTURES IN INTERIOR DESIGN

## Real-world design

*FA alumna challenges sixth graders to design a basement for under \$20,000.*

Sixth grade is normally a hub of activity, but this winter, it ratcheted up during alumna and interior designer Katharine Posillico McGowan's visit to teacher Allison Barth's math class.

"Three years ago, the sixth grade team was developing curriculum across different areas," explained Barth, who was inspired to create this collaborative project. "I had Taylor as a student and knew Katharine and thought it would be a great project for the kids," added Barth.

The Basement Project, as it's called, ends the Geometry unit in 6th grade Math and weaves together several math concepts.

"The students are challenged to work with surface area, find area by inserting different types of shapes and working with decimals when it comes time to figuring out and staying within their budget," said Barth.

Aimed with fabric and paint swatches, flooring and carpet samples, McGowan gave students an overview of interior design, how to draw scale and how to insert pieces into a blueprint.

"The class worked with Katharine on color, how to put things together, as well as concerns about painting and budgetary constraints," said Barth.

Separated into small groups, students were given a total budget of \$20,000 to redesign their math teacher's basement.

"Katharine showed the kids how to put together a paint and flooring budget and the kids were blown away by how much paint can cost!" remembered Barth with a smile.

In addition to a display board, fitted with swatch-



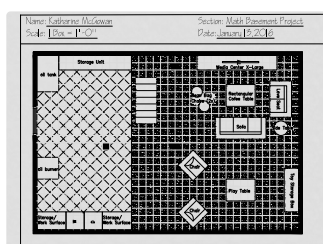
ALLISON BARTH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Sixth graders work with Katharine Posillico-McGowan, center, on the Basement Project as part of their Geometry unit this past January.

es, students were expected to mock up a website for their project, as well as write a persuasive essay.

"We wanted this to be as real-world as possible," said Barth. "The writing added an interdisciplinary piece to the project," she added.

## A PLAN FOR A BASEMENT | FROM THE GROUND UP



## FLOORING BUDGET CALCULATIONS

Quantity	Cost
Overall:	
Length: 36 ft.	
Width: 24 ft.	
Area: 864 sq. ft.	
Bathroom & Laundry Room: Tile	
Area: 190 sq. ft.	
Cost: \$4.00/sq. ft.	
	\$760.00
Bathroom & Laundry Room: Tile	
Area: 674 sq. ft.	
Cost: \$6.00/sq. ft.	
	\$4,044.00
Basement: Engineered Wood	
Area: 674 sq. ft.	
Cost: \$3.00/sq. ft.	
	\$2,022.00
Area Rugs:	
6'x8' = 36 sq. ft. = \$360.00	
16'x8' = 144 = \$1440.00	

## ITEMS PURCHASED CALCULATIONS

Furniture Items	Price	Flooring	Price
Sectional	\$4,500.00	Tile	\$760.00
Square Coffee Table	\$300.00	Engineered Wood	\$4,044.00
Media Center Large	\$1,000.00	6'x8' Area Rug	\$360.00
TV	\$1,000.00	16'x8' Area Rug	\$1,440.00
Pool Table	\$2,000.00	TOTAL:	\$6,604.00
Art	\$1,000.00		
Washer	\$500.00		
Dryer	\$500.00		
Tublet	399.97		
Sink	479.36		
Faucet	349.27		
TOTAL:	\$12,227.42	6 Pieces of 7' Wall	\$1,500.00
		TOTAL:	\$1,500.00

= \$20,646.42

Sixth grade students were tasked with totally redesigning a basement for under \$20K. Using geometry and decimal concepts, the groups calculated area and cost.





AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Lower schoolers work together to engineer construction of their pom-pom launcher.

### Shape of a pom-pom launcher... Form of a blueprint... Design challengers unite!

Out-of-the-box thinking really got out of the box as Lower School students tackled two design challenges this year.

In the fall, groups of mixed Lower School grades pulled out their supplies – pom poms, paper, cups, straws, rubber bands, tape, scissors, staples and 3 5X7 index cards. Their mission? To design a pom-pom launcher in 40 minutes – together.

“I think we should connect these sticks and shoot the pom poms into the air,” wrote one free-thinker on his sketch. “We don’t have to use all the materials,” advised another.

At the end of the session, students tested their contraptions, sending white, fluffy pom poms sailing through the air.

A few months later, students were challenged to design a new library space for LS librarian Kate Madigan. Using a common blueprint designed by fifth grader Charles Englander, groups were instructed to include a gathering space, reading nooks, collaborative spaces and a place to hold books.

What came back? That, plus more – bean bag chairs, chairs on wheels and a bookcase-adorned carpet made the cut.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Friends Academy families, faculty and staff gathered at the Chinese Center on Long Island on Monday, September 28 for this year’s annual Diversity Night. Middle School Chinese classes from sixth through eighth opened the evening with a recitation of Chinese poetry and songs. Dancers from the Center performed traditional dances, including the lion dance. An international potluck buffet rounded out the evening.

# The Magic of Stagecraft

FA'S TECHNICAL DIRECTOR MICHAEL GRANT  
BRINGS IMAGINATION — TO LIFE

Shakespeare's *Pericles* (Nicholas Marchese), flies high  
above an ocean that has claimed its first victim.



The lights dim, the overture begins and within moments, the audience is swept into “other” worlds – one where boats gyrate over storm-ridden Shakespearean seas and a quintet of Evil swings from cold metal rafters, twirling in madness through the foggy streets of Victorian London.

It didn’t take much to lose oneself this season; the cushioned seats of the Theatre slipping away, replaced with a rollercoaster of emotions, plot twists and eerie choreography in the fall production of *Pericles* and the winter musical, *Jekyll and Hyde*.



FA's Technical Director Michael Grant

This year's productions were both marked by intricate sets that enabled student-actors to stretch their craft. In *Pericles*, actors navigated scenes

in a suspended wooden boat that moved vertically and swung horizontally atop an actual pool of water. Emulating waves through FA's Kimo Kepano choreography, actors immersed themselves in the pool from head to toe, grasping, shaking and spinning the boat.

The aluminum trusses of *Jekyll and Hyde* transformed the stage into the gritty underbelly of long-ago London and provided a visual bridge between the upper classes and the manic, seeping inevitable reality down below.

Engineering all of this magical metamorphosis is FA's Technical Director Michael Grant, who also teaches stagecraft as a part of the FA Theatre Department's curriculum.

“We want each production to be visually unique, and original. We never want to repeat anything we’ve done before,” admitted Grant with a smile.

The construction of each set begins with a disciplined process. “There is a consistent way in which we approach



2006

From the top, the range of FA sets of *Les Miserables*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Neverwhere* and *Two Gentlemen of Verona*.



2011



2013



2013

MICHAEL GRANT/FRIENDS ACADEMY

each show,” explained Grant. “In the professional world, a designer is hired for each production. They read the play, and then meet with the director already having a basic idea of what the needs are for the production in terms of entrances, and exits, and number of locations, etc. The director provides the overall concept, time period, and the look of the production and shares that with the designer who then creates a set design for the world that the play takes place in,” added Grant.

While Grant has designed some of the sets, he doesn’t see himself as a designer, and many of the production’s set designs have been collaborations between Andrew Geha, or Tracey Foster, and himself.

“For *Jekyll and Hyde*, the director (Foster) created a sketch of what she wanted the set to look like, and how it would sit on the stage. It was my job to figure out how to actually provide her with a set that matched the look of the sketch, and allow the actors to use it in a very physical production, as she wanted.”

The conversation between Grant and the director has

become not only crucial, but also part of the department’s culture. In 2006, when FA performed *Les Miserables*, “Tracey actually built a model using Tinker Toys to show what she wanted the set to look like. I then sat down in front of that model, and took measurements, transforming them into a full-scale multi-level world. For *Much Ado About Nothing*, Andrew (Geha) knew he wanted to stage it in a barnyard; he had some basic ideas of how the set would

*Continued on Page 18*

## THE MAGIC OF STAGECRAFT



Below, director Tracey Foster's sketch for *Jekyll and Hyde* eventually evolved into a huge aluminum set the width of the stage, which offered visual and vocal dynamism.

Continued from Page 17

sit on our stage. That was all I needed to create a sketch almost immediately, and that is exactly what the set ended up becoming."

The stagecraft behind *Pericles* actually had its origins seven years prior. "For the 2009 production of *The Odyssey*, Griffin Collier '09 built a boat with a beautiful skeletal structure whose patterns mirrored passing waves," recounted director Geha. The boat, hanging in the Theatre rafters since the end of that production would provide the visual foundation for the rest of the *Pericles* set.

"Andrew Geha's original idea was to have two feet of water, but after discussing the enormous weight, and outward

pressure of that much water we decided on a much shallower pool with a black pond liner that would make the water appear depthless," explained Grant.

Grant consulted with a number of outside experts – shops that specialize in flying, theatrical technical suppliers, rigging companies and a local ironworks shop to give flight to the wooden boat.

The choreography of *Pericles* took many of the actors into the water throughout the duration of the show.



Director Tracey Foster's initial sketch of the *Jekyll and Hyde* set.

"We took a hose from the boiler and mixed it with water from the hot water heater, so

that the water was warm to hot at the start of the production and remained tepid, and comfortable until the end," he added.

Before arriving at FA, Grant spent 18 years at The Public Theater in New York, initially as a carpenter, then Master Carpenter, and finally as the Technical



## THE MAGIC OF STAGECRAFT

Director of all five downtown theaters, and the Delacorte Theater in Central Park. “I think I did something close to 200 plays, including every single Shakespeare play... many of them multiple times,” said Grant.

In addition to his duties as Technical Director at Friends, Grant also oversees the Stagecraft classes and Apprenticeship Program. While there is no pre-requisite for helping on sets, the students who are in the cast, or who take any theatre or dance classes have a lab hour requirement.

“I teach an introduction to Stagecraft, which is a single-semester class. Since the classes are 40 minutes long, it’s hard to do any real set building there,” said Grant. “The basic class gives students a sense of tool safety and a taste of lots of different aspects of production.”

The Apprenticeship program is a more intense pass/fail course that requires 80 hours over the year. “The Apprenticeship upped the game. We were able to hone in on the kids who were really interested and give them a better opportunity. Right now there are six students enrolled – four work directly with me and two with Pia Fleischmann and costuming,” Grant stated. “I always encour-



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Sophomore Claire Sweeney (Charlotte) hangs from a lyra, which was suspended from the grid.



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

The Council in *Jekyll and Hyde* use pivoting pedestals to deliver their emphatic answer – “No!”

age the students to get their hours when I’m doing major build days. Depending upon their skill level, they can work alongside me, with an advanced student, or take the lead themselves.”

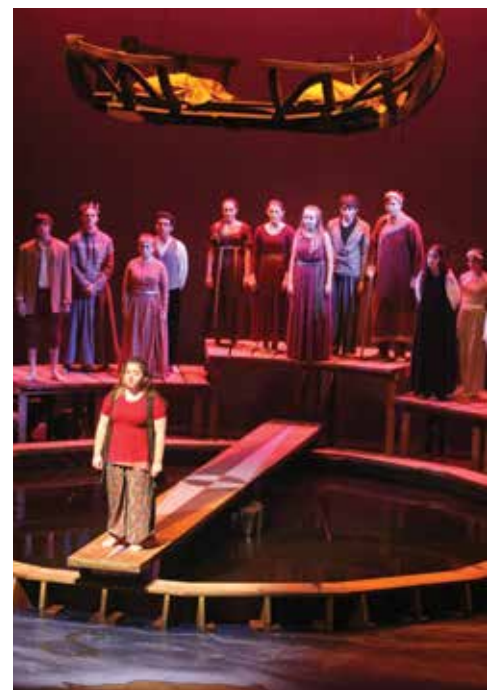
Friends did have one production that was majority student built. “In *MacBeth*, I only built about 20% of the set. I usually build 70 to 80%,” said Grant, who also keeps in touch with a few alumni in the field..

“Griffin Collier, who built the boat used in *The Odyssey*, and *Pericles*, and who was the lead carpenter on *MacBeth* went to Yale for architecture, and then apprenticed in London at a major design firm. He’s now working with post and beam, learning old-world construction. Millicent Felder is in professional lighting, David Cooke works for a production company that manages the technical end of Broadway productions and Hannah Zucker is doing production managerial work.”

When working with students, Grant is always sensitive to what is interesting to them.

“I’m not interested in turning the kids into stagehands. I want to teach them

*Continued on Page 20*



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

The cast of *Pericles* stands atop the platform that encircles a 20-foot diameter pool of water.

### PERICLES – THE UPPER SCHOOL FALL PLAY

One of Shakespeare's more epic works, *Pericles* spans 16 years and follows its hero across the Mediterranean Sea over six different nations as he runs from assassins, survives tempests at sea, loses and then finally finds his family. (Directed by Andrew Geha)



Clockwise from the top, *Pericles* cast members; Pericles (Nick Marchese), fisherman Lysimachus (Maximo Lipman), Marina, Pericles' daughter (Sachi Dulai) and Pericles with his wife, Thaisa (Sara Silverman) and his father, Simonides (Cade Huseby).

AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

### THE MAGIC OF STAGECRAFT

Continued from Page 19

problem-solving and troubleshooting skills; those are the things that will serve them well. Or simply how to use a hammer, or hang a picture for themselves. When I was in high school, I was in a woodshop class and we made pencil holders for our dads; I don't want to teach them how to make things like that, but to make real things. I treat them as equals," emphasized Grant. "All of the work lights on our stage have been wired by students. The choral risers in the Choir Room were built by students.

"I like doing real things that give them a legacy – that's real stuff and there's more value in that."

Often students will ask Grant what his favorite set was. "I have different things about different sets that I really like. *Neverwhere* was an awesome set that pushed me to my limits. It was scary hoisting that gigantic truss into place with students. The barn set in *Much Ado About Nothing* was one of the best – that was a lot of fun, that one," remembered Grant, who's also battled Mother Nature.

"We built the set of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* during Hurricane Sandy. I was wearing a headlight and working on it, even though the building had no power."

For aspiring students, Grant recommends diving in with tech on the Middle School Play to see if stagecraft interests them.

"The thing that separates technicians from most people is a certain sensibility; a different way of looking at the world, and a curiosity about how things work, and what makes things tick. That way of thinking about things can serve people in a lot of different fields."



## JEKYLL AND HYDE – THE UPPER SCHOOL WINTER MUSICAL



The quintet of Hydes, played by Natalia Lee, Marcus Menzin, Liam Bardong, Matt Tidona and Morgan Bo.

AMANDA FISK PHOTOS/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Dr. Henry Jekyll works blindly and feverishly to produce a remedy that will cure his institutionalized, schizophrenic sister Charlotte. After injecting the serum into his own body, Jekyll plunges into a horrible metamorphosis that opens the door for a quintet of Hydes. As Jekyll's mind continues to unravel, he is trapped between moments of tenderness – for his fiancée (Emma) and his growing love for a local barmaid (Lucy) – and terror, as the Hyde(s) grow stronger and more violent. Who will survive? (*Directed by Tracey Foster*)



The cast of *Jekyll and Hyde*



Above, a young Henry (Brandon Shore) and his sister Charlotte (Lillie DiStefano).

Far right, barmaid Lucy (Olivia Constantino) is falling for Jekyll – and the Hydes. Center, Jekyll's fiancée Emma (Freyja Goldstein) is comforted by Jekyll's assistant Gabriel John Utterson (Reed Mullen).



A determined Henry Jekyll (Owen Collier)



One of the Hydes (Natalia Lee) watches on as Henry Jekyll (Owen Collier) emulates his mental madness as he spins around the stage on a Cyr wheel.



## THE WINTER CONCERT SERIES & ART SHOW

This winter, music and art were in the air with the Lower School (Dec. 18), Middle School (Dec. 8) and Upper School concerts (Dec. 10). A special grade 3-12 all-division art show dazzled family friends right before the concerts.



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

1) 1st grade chorus; 2) MS Band; 3) US chorus; 4) MS Band; 5) Self-portraits at the Art Show; 6) MS orchestra; 7) MS girls chorus; 8) US orchestra; 9) 5th grade chorus; 10) Digital Arts at the Art Show; 11) 5th grade band; 12) US Orchestra; 13) Fifth grade; 14) US girls chorus; and 15) Still Life at the Art Show.



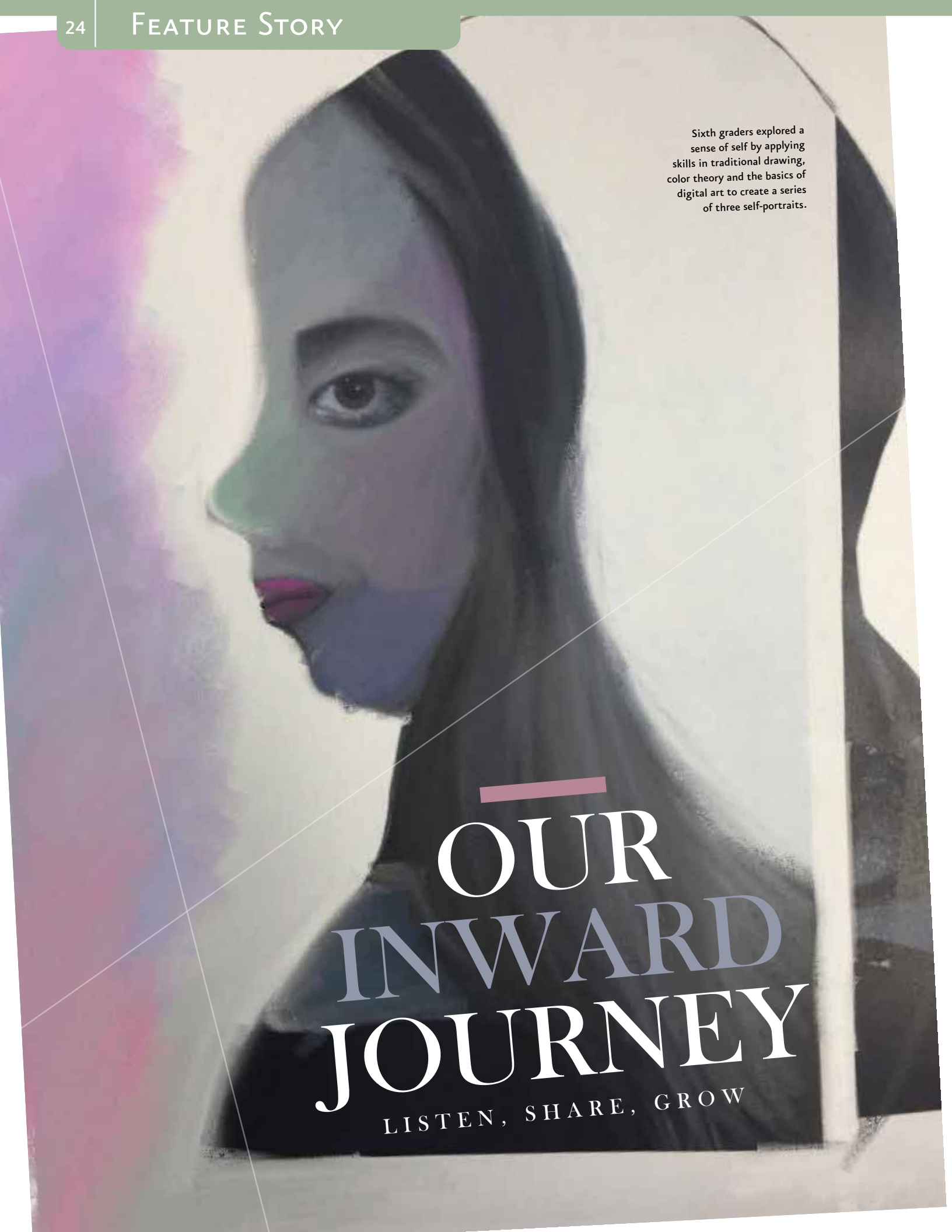
# Hot Jazz / Cool Nights

MIDDLE SCHOOL/UPPER SCHOOL JAZZ BAND | MARCH 3, 2016



From the top, clockwise,  
members of the Upper  
School Jazz Band, eighth  
grader Brian Wang on  
saxophone, sixth grader  
Kennedy Daal stands for  
her flute solo.





Sixth graders explored a sense of self by applying skills in traditional drawing, color theory and the basics of digital art to create a series of three self-portraits.

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# OUR INWARD JOURNEY

LISTEN, SHARE, GROW



*"I love dogs."*

*"I understand algebra."*

*"I am good at piano."*

*"I worry that I'll close opportunities off to myself."*

*"I believe in love."*

*"I need support."*

*"I pretend to be brave."*

*"I hope to make a difference."*

*"This just got heavy."*

(Excerpts from the all-school Community Group "I Am" Poem activity.)

On a January morning, pairs of students sat inches from each other as they pondered a set of questions on a double-sided half-sheet of paper.

"What are one or two special things about you," asked a Lower School student of his Upper School Worship buddy. "I am a musician and creative," he responded.

As younger and older took turns interviewing each other with the short prompts of "I am, I love, I work hard to, I understand, I need," a portrait of self starts to emerge... an "I Am poem."

Worship Buddies since last year, the Community Groups all-school activity offered Madeline Frisella (2nd) and Molly Flood (10th) the opportunity to continue to learn about each other. "The most interesting thing I found out was that she would love to fly," revealed a grinning Madeline.

At the start of each year, the school's theme is announced in Convocation to the FA community. A combination of faculty and students examine possible ideas for the coming year in conjunction with the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peaceful

resolution of conflict, integrity, community, equality and stewardship in their discussions.

This year's theme stemmed from the idea that everyone needs to tell their story.

"We wanted to create a culture where

people could both authentically listen and speak to one another," said Director of Arts and a member of the committee headed by Dean of Students Ron Baskind. "This year was not just about telling and listening, but also accepting each other's journeys and then using those stories to help us grow," added Foster.

Visual Arts picked up the mantle of self-exploration through a series of work in self-portraiture in every division.

Through formal studies and observations of each other, sophomores worked with Art teacher Allison Doherty to create colorful linoleum block prints from black-and-white photographs that Doherty took of each student. "When I took the students' photos, they would ask me, 'Should I smile?'" said Doherty, who would explain the visual challenges of eventually carving

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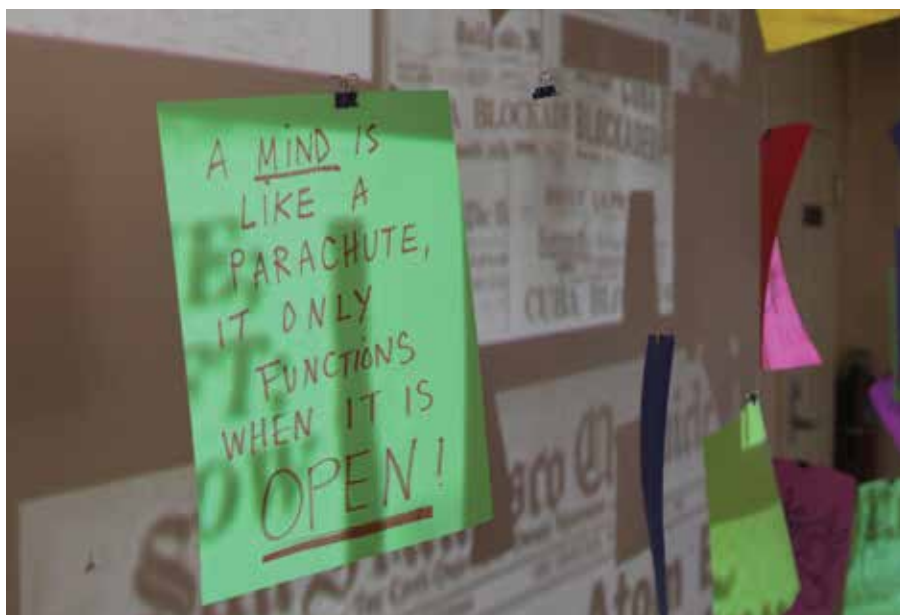


AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Yusra Azaz shares her "I am" poem at a Community Group activity.

“This year was not just about telling and listening, but also accepting each other’s journeys and then using those stories to help us grow.”

An interactive art exhibit challenged visitors to use the power of positive thought to overshadow decades of national headlines of manmade and natural disasters.



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Worship buddies Uma Alagappan (9th) and Kindergartner Ella Woods discover each other’s fears, hopes and passions.

*Continued from Page 25*

teeth into their block prints. “The student’s interpretation ultimately came through in how they finished the piece,” added Doherty.

In the sixth grade Arts Block, students focused on identity and self-examination in projects that spanned the disciplines of theatre, dance, visual & digital arts and music.

Students used a series of 15 written prompts to start their self-exploration – from a pledge to themselves about 7th grade, to things that excite them, things they find

difficult, a person who is important to them and what they want the world to see.

From there, Digital Arts teacher Amanda Fisk helped sixth graders create an evolution of three self-portraits – a serious one in pencil, a second that was colored in a cartoon format and a third that was more expressive. Students used ArtRage, a natural painting software program, to blend black-and-white front-facing and profile photographs.

Following a session on color theory, students created their own personal color key. “The kids chose five personal attributes (friendly, quiet, athletic, etc.) and then assigned a color that made sense to each attribute,” explained Fisk. Finally students incorporated these colors into their third portrait.

Rotations of movement, music and monologues became powerful vehicles of self-study throughout the year.

“In theatre, we asked students to grapple with identity and how they fit into the world with scene work and monologues,” said Foster. Undertaking a modern dance choreographed by Martha Graham challenged sixth graders to think about the self-confrontation of good and evil; and in music, students blossomed as composers.

A collaborative visual arts and writing project united students and faculty. “Every



year, we come together three times to work on a full-grade project,” shared Foster. “Last year, students wrote poetry from three different points of view together. This year, we created the Generic Person Project,” she said.

The final piece comprises three aspects: a cardboard generic shape of a person, illustrated with written thoughts and overlaid on a blended digital arts photo-illustration of each student.

“The world may see you as a cardboard cutout of a sixth grader,” began Foster. “But when you look beyond your label, what are you?”

Ordained Buddhist monk and visiting professor from Hobart and William Smith Colleges, the Venerable Tenzin Yignyen returned to create a Tibetan Sand Mandala for the Friends Academy community and spark conversation and dialogue about the importance of compassion.

Over four days, Lama Tenzin spoke with students, faculty and staff about the history of mandalas, his life as a Buddhist and his philosophy toward life.

“The symbols within this mandala represent Love and Compassion, Humility, Patience, Appreciation and Wisdom,” pointed out Tenzin, as he painstakingly directed the colored sands onto the tabletop. “The creation of this mandala was to help the viewer generate boundless compassion for all beings,” he added.

As Tenzin worked below in the Dolan Center Atrium, an interactive exhibit above in the Gallery underscored the impact of individual optimism.

Sponsored by the Visual Arts department, headlines of natural and manmade disasters lit up a wall in stark black and white. “2300 DEAD in San Francisco Earthquake,” blasted one. “Japan Hit by Atom Bomb,” shouted another.

Visitors were asked to write their own messages of positivity on multi-colored swatches of paper, which were then hung in front to obscure the headlines of destruction, hate and anger.

This year, students found inner peace in a new alternative form of Quaker Meet-

ing that was inspired by a Middle School student.

“I had received a request from a Middle School student asking if I could offer a Meeting for Drawing,” recounted Joy Lai, head of the Upper School Visual Arts department.

“I had never even thought of it. I like to try new things... I like to draw... and I like Meeting for Worship, so I thought this was something I could try,” said Lai.

Using the Query, “What is in my heart today,” Upper School and Middle School students chose from an assortment of mediums, including colored pencils, erasers, pastels and charcoal. “I wanted to create the same type of atmosphere at the Meeting House, but with art tools,” said Lai.

The MFW quickly gained participants. “What I actually ended up drawing was a surprise to me. I didn’t realize some of the things that have been on my mind until I started to draw,” shared one student afterward. “I feel that when I draw I am speaking to a part of myself that I can only do through drawing,” said another.

For Lai, the Meeting proved to be a successful experiment. “I was surprised by how many kids did find it peaceful and how it kept growing as another way of thinking – but through drawing.”

“We asked students to grapple with identity and how they fit into the world...”

Pairs of Worship Buddies created their own personal mandalas, which hung in the Art Gallery during Peace Week.



Below, Lama Tenzin shows first graders the tools he uses to delicately “paint” the Mandala.



## {2015 FALL SPORTS}



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Young teams battle injuries, opponents and in one case, a hurricane. Throughout the **fall season**, these Quakers showed fortitude and ultimately playoff promise.

(Top row) Federico DeGeronimo, Girls Quad and Jalijah Daniels; (Middle row) Jenn Keogh, Fall Cheerleading and Daniella Auerbach; (Bottom Row) Alex Clinton and Will Richter, Grace Riviezzo and Victoria Zhu.



## FA 2015 FALL SPORTS

# Playoff contenders



Senior Harry Nicolas outruns a defender.

ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

## BOYS VARSITY SOCCER: QUAKERS BATTLE THROUGH INJURIES

**T**he Boys Varsity Soccer team finished the season with a league record of 6 wins, 3 losses, and 2 ties. The Quakers finished tied for 3rd place in a tough 12-team conference.

The boys won their last three games to qualify for the Class A playoffs.

"It was an especially good season when you take into consideration the number of key injuries we had throughout the season," said Coach Marshall Lindner. "The coaches are very proud of the way this year's team battled through adversity to have a successful year," he added.

Highlights of the fall season included: a game-tying goal against Cold Spring Harbor in the last 45 seconds of play, a 5-3 win at Malverne after being down 2-0 at the half, and the win over Oyster Bay as part of the first-ever home soccer night doubleheader.

**2015 ROSTER:** Christian Barakat, Ciaran Bardong, Nour Bendary, Nicholas Campbell, Joseph Como, Vincent Como, Federico De Geronimo, Matthew DeMatteis, Merek Glover, Andrew Greene, Andrew Habberstad, Theodore Ingrassia, Arman Kibria,

Ryan Kliger, Christian Mandrakos, Patrick Margey, Andrew Marsh, Marcus Menzin, Reed Mullen, Harry Nicolas, Jared Rosenbaum, Kole Rossi, Adam Spector and Matthew Tidona.

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**ALL COUNTY** – NICK CAMPBELL

**HONORABLE MENTION ALL COUNTY** - MATT TIDONA AND REED MULLIN

**ALL CONFERENCE** - HARRY NICOLAS, CIARAN BARDONG, ADAM SPECTOR AND FED DE GERONIMO

**Below:** Junior Joseph Como



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Eighth grader Trayvon Alexander leaps to make the catch.

## Emotional season

### Varsity Football:

#### QUALIFIED FOR PLAYOFFS

**T**he 2015 Friends Academy Quakers football team achieved remarkable success this season. The team entered camp in the middle of August with 24 Varsity players and a modest goal of finishing with a winning season. In a season that was highlighted by a victory dedicated to the memory of former Quaker football player Ka'Juan Polley the Quakers defended home field with an impressive 3-1 home record.

Senior Corey Goldglit recorded a highlight game against Valley Stream South High School with 300 yards through the air and 4 touchdowns, plus another 65 yards rushing. One run of over 30 yards came on a pivotal fourth down late in the game giving the Quakers the lead. Jalijah Daniels and Max Sutherland led the Quaker defense, which recorded one shutout, two defensive touchdowns, one each by Daniels and Stephen Graham, and held opponents to less than an average of 15 points in 5 wins. Nate Shepard-

*Continued on Page 30*

### GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY: YOUNG TEAM HAD PLAYOFFS IN THEIR SIGHTS

The Friends Academy Varsity Field Hockey team had a successful season.

Finishing with a record of 9-3, the team fell just short of playoffs. They played in many close games, representing the school and themselves with pride and integrity.

The girls expressed the part of the season that they enjoyed most was being a part of a team, or as many referred to it a family, and the coaches were very proud of the way this team came together.

It was this bond that the girls had formed that motivated them to work hard, honor their commitment to each other while helping them become better field hockey players.

"Although we fell just short of making playoffs, the girls have a lot to be proud of being that we had a very young team – only graduating three seniors and welcoming 12 new Varsity players. All the girls should be proud of an amazing season," said Coach Christine Botti.

**2015 ROSTER:** Daniella Auerbach, Sydney Banks, Morgan Bauer, Eleanor Bradley, Ashley Brown, Jocelyn Ceden, Jessica de la Bastide, Lily Drosch, Alison Foley, Jayda Foote, Elizabeth Gherlone, Laura Greene, Kassandra Homayuni, Colette Hughes, Efimia Karageorgiou, Danielle Kelly, Olivia Lizza, Colleen Marshall, Katarina Mongiardo, Lily Neisloss, Jessica Oxer, Grace Sands and Caroline Wilson.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Senior Sydney Banks

### FA 2015 FALL SPORTS

## The start of something special



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Senior Corey Goldglit evades a looming defender.

*Continued from Page 29*

Tyson provided tough blocking on offense as Goldglit's personal protector as well as serving as one of the hardest hitting, and most feared, linebackers in conference IV.

For the first time in 15 years, Friends Academy has qualified for Nassau County Conference IV playoffs and will play at Seaford High School on November 7th in a round one contest on the road to the Long Island High School Football Championship.

**2015 ROSTER:** Trayvon Alexander, Johndee Baptiste, Kevin Baskind, Max Botwinick, Jalijah Daniels, Trevor Dineen, Matthew Feinstein, Benjamin Freund, Corey Goldglit, Stephen Graham, Tau Holder, Matthew Kaplan, Patrick Kavan, Daniel McCooley, Samuel Mufson, Edward Mullen, Christopher Nishimura, Christopher Petrocelli, Peter Psyllos, Nicholas Schneider, William Schneider,

Nathaniel Shepherd-Tyson, Maxwell Sutherland, Quintin Tyree, Cameron Wang and Jason Wang.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Senior Jalijah Daniels leans into the play.



## FA 2015 FALL SPORTS

## VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER: HEART AND DEDICATION

The Girls Varsity Soccer had a strong season. The Lady Quakers finished off with an overall record of 6 and 5, with each opposing team playing well and aggressive.

The team was unable to advance to the post-season, missing this opportunity by only one point. "From August through October, the team played with heart and dedication," said Coach Gail Baker.

As a team, the girls focused on first touches, passing to feet, and communication. These skills helped to enhance their level of play.

"Thank you to all the players for stepping up, especially the upper classmen who did a great job leading the team. We'd also like to thank our coaches for helping us grow on and off the field and for teaching us every day."

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ALL COUNTY - KATA HEFFRON

ALL CLASS - DANITZA LEON

ALL CONFERENCE - BAILEY HUGHES

SCHOLAR ATHLETE - ISABEL ANDOLINA



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Junior Danitza Leon

**2015 ROSTER:** Isabel Andolina, Josephine Coleman, Julianne Cottone, Francesca De Geronimo, Ranait Denihan, Hannah Goldblatt, Katarina Heffron, Bailey Hughes, Sloane Hughes, Jennifer Keogh, Jenna Koufakis, Danitza Leon, Morgan McCartan, Vanessa Quinland, Stephanie Rothberg, Julia-Kate Schamroth, Elizabeth Stein, Sydney Themelis, Emily Jane Waechter, Ryan Weight and Alexandra Zucker. Manager: Caroline Hoyt.

## JV FOOTBALL: A SEASON OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

At the start of the JV pre-season, a bit of uncertainty floated around the field as coaches wondered whether they'd have enough players to play a full season.

"A season requires commitment, dedication, and perseverance," emphasized Coach Garrett Dooley. "Football seasons push you to your limits emotionally and physically, and demands an incredible amount of time and commitment. Dedication comes in many forms, but perhaps the most important form is a commitment to teammates. As our football motto preaches "One Family, One Goal" I believe the boys came to exemplify this motto with commitment to each other beginning with the

battle against Malverne and ending with a hard fought game against Mineola to conclude the season," he added.

"I commend all the boys for battling each and every game and have nothing but the utmost respect for them. This is only the beginning for this group of great players, I hold nothing but excitement for the future that lies ahead, and the incredible team they will become," finished Coach Dooley.

**2015 ROSTER:** Luke Baskind, Conor Dineen, Jamison Ellinger, Andrew Hartog, Joseph Horne, David Kaler, Michael Kaler, Cameron Leary, Jack McCooey, Zion Sandy, Cal Stellato, Matthew Storch, Alexander Sutherland, Lucas Themelis and Jeffrey Wu.

## GIRLS VARSITY TENNIS: SCHOOL'S BEST SEASON; #3 SEED IN PLAYOFFS

The 2015 Girls Varsity Tennis Team finished its best season ever in school history in third place and earned a #3 seed in Nassau County playoffs with an 8-6 record. Previously in three years of being in Conference 1, the program had only won a total of 4 matches.

This season the team had wins over perennial powerhouses Roslyn, Syosset, Port Washington and Jericho, in addition to giving undefeated, two-time county champion Manhasset its closest match of the season, losing 4-3. Out of the six matches the girls lost, four of them were by one match, losing 4-3. Singles players freshman Calista Sha, Junior Morgan Wilkins, and 8th grader Grace Riviezzo had an astonishing record of 31 wins and 11 losses, helping carry the team to many 4-3 victories.

"We look forward to going into next season as one of the top programs with a young team only losing four seniors," remarked Coach Brian Baxter.

**2015 ROSTER:** Gabriella Bloom, Keara Cahill, Juliet D'Aversa, Sabrina Farahani, Ruthie Fritz, Kaitlyn Hardy, Marina Hilbert, Kelsey McEvoy, Kelsey Nathan, Elisabeth Quick, Grace Riviezzo, Calista Sha, Parisa Vahid, Jacqueline Walzer, Morgan Wilkins and Amanda Yaraghi.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Freshman Calista Sha helped propel her team to a finish of 31 wins.

## FA 2015 FALL SPORTS

## Four athletes qualify for States

### VARSITY CROSS COUNTRY: YOUNG TEAM WITH SMALL NUMBERS MADE HUGE GAINS

This was a rebuilding year for the FA Cross Country team. With no returning juniors or seniors and a young group of freshmen and sophomores, it was a challenging season running a full Varsity schedule.

The team started with seven boys and six girls, but had a tough time fielding a full boys' team with a few injuries and schedule conflicts plaguing the team.

"Fortunately, this is a tough, resilient, motivated group and each runner made enormous progress in consistently running faster times over the course of the season," said Coach Louisa Garry. Ultimately, the team had a chance to see the benefits of all

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ALL-COUNTY – ANNA PAPPAS

Below, freshman Madison Daal



LOUISA GARRY/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Members of the Varsity Cross Country team compete at the Great Neck South Invitational.

their hard work.

The team competed at the Great Neck South Invitational and found great success competing against athletes their own age.

The Quakers fielded two winners and one 2nd place finish and ALL of FA's runners won medals for placing in the top 15.

"FA Cross Country had lots to be happy about at the 2015 Nassau County Class III X-Country championships on October 31st," continued Coach Garry.

"It was a beautiful day to run a 5K at Bethpage State Park; several team members

earned personal records or season records," added Garry.

One athlete earned All-County honors, and four athletes qualified for the Nassau County State Qualifier meet on Saturday, Nov. 7th. "Overall it was an amazing effort from this young team. Lots of exciting years in the future with this group," said Garry.

**2015 ROSTER:** Anna Asnis, Elizabeth Chatpar, Alexander Clinton, Madison Daal, Maria Eberly, Jake Katz, Anna Pappas, William Richter, Samuel Rotberg, Victoria Zhu and Edward Zuckerbrot.

### GIRLS JV SOCCER: TEAM STAYS POSITIVE AS THEY DEEPENED SKILL-SET

Over the 2015 season the JV Girls Soccer team worked together to develop the skills and knowledge of the game.

Each girl worked hard and maintained a positive attitude throughout the entire season. "These girls kept an open mind, learned to play new positions and never gave up," said Coach Michele Cella.

This season had its challenges towards

the end of the year when injuries hit the team. However, the girls rose to the challenge and, without any hesitation, stepped up to play positions that they had before.

"While our record did not reflect how well the girls played, they always kept smiles on their face and never stopped playing with all their hearts," said Coach Cella. "They showed other teams that they will not back down and stood strong as a

united front. These girls made coaching this season for Coach Maksym and me an absolute pleasure," she added.

**2015 ROSTER:** Uma Alagappan, Holly Ansel, Grace Burrus, Josephine Coleman, Katherine Cuddeback, Emma Deutsch, Annamaria Fazio, Emma Hickerson, Kayla Koroma, Shayna Koss, Alexis Mack, Samantha Paniccia, Morgan Pascucci and Kayla Scott-Tolbert.



## FA 2015 FALL SPORTS

### BOYS JV SOCCER: TWO SQUADS DELIVER DEPTH AND CONVINCING WINS

The Boys JV Soccer first squad showed great potential, right from the get go. During the opening game of the season the Quakers tied their cross-town rival, Glen Cove HS (3-3) at home.

It was an evenly played game against a very skilled team seated on a higher conference. "However, we followed that performance with a less stellar performance against another cross-town rival, Carle Place H.S.," said Coach Edgar Posada.

"This was a game we led most of the game (3-1), but we lost our lead in the dying minutes of the game, which ended on a tie (3-3). This was a memorable game because I believe we learned valuable lessons here that inspired us to compete at a more competitive level by becoming a much more cohesive team."

In fact, the only loss the boys experienced this fall came against (at that point) undefeated Locust Valley. An intense game, the team played very evenly throughout the 80-minute game. Unfortunately, they fell short on this occasion losing a



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Freshman Blaise DellaFera

gut-wrenching game at home (1-0). "This would be the first and last time we would experience defeat," pointed out Coach Posada.

Following the Locust Valley game the Quakers went on a 7-game winning streak for the remainder of the season, earning an overall record of (9W-1L-3T). The team

surpassed all established records from last year's season, representing FA proudly in a tough and very competitive conference.

The JV second squad hit the field with 16 freshmen and played three scrimmages, finishing 2-0-1.

The B Team completed their season with an exciting League game against the West Hempstead A team, winning 2-1.

Next year, the FA Boys Soccer program is looking forward to long-term depth due to a core group of 20 rising sophomores and almost 30 rising freshmen.

"It looks like 2016 will be another great year for the JV program at Friends Academy," said Coach Posada.

**2015 ROSTER:** Charles Andolina, Mohammed Azaz, Samir Aziz, Morgan Bo, Justin Broxmeyer, Alexander Campbell, Derek Chiang, Ellis Collier, Vincent Como, Christian Cottone, Federico De Geronimo, Blaise DellaFera, Luke Dillmeier, Michael Drosch, Tyler Fox, Casey Glover, Tyler Hu, Owen Ingrassia, Andrew LeoGrande, Faraz Khan, Michael Manu, Andrew Marsh, Jeffrey McDonnell, Chandler Perry, Stephen Popoola, Thomas Pratt, William Robin, Nicholas Santiago, Maxwell Savasta, Ryan Scarpa, Jonathan Sgaglione, Matthew Sgaglione, Ethan Shalam, Arjun Sharma, Jared Toby, Max Wang, Michael Wootten, Jared Zelman and Erik Zetterstrom.

### FALL CHEERLEADING: SQUAD RETURNS AFTER 30-YEAR HIATUS

This year, fall Cheerleading returned after a hiatus of almost 30 years and the season held some unforgettable and amazing moments for the team.

As only four girls committed to the team, the squad started off a bit rocky, but then grew to form a bond that was unbreakable.

"We cheered alongside the Boys Varsity Football at home games, and with excitement when they advanced to the playoffs," exclaimed Coach Bee.

"This season has gone to show us that if you set your mind to make something happen, it will most definitely happen. Thank you to my seniors for making this happen. Switch it up right now!"

**2015 ROSTER:** Halle Blum, Catherine Lori, Caroline Miller and Emily Wachtler.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

The Fall Cheerleading team pauses for a pose with Coach Bee.

## FA 2015 FALL SPORTS

### GIRLS JV TENNIS: NEW FACES RISE TO COMPETITIVE PLAY

The 2015 Girls JV Tennis season began early this school year on Monday August 24th. New faces dotted this year's tryouts as a large group of freshmen players competed for spots on the roster.

The challenge matches that took place the first week were very intense and many of the girls got their first taste of competitive tennis.

After rounding out the roster with some players moving to the Varsity squad, the Lady Quakers began a week of very intense practices that included on- and off-court conditioning, on court ball drills, match play strategies and additional challenge matches to determine player positioning.

"The girls did a great job of adapting to the level of the on-court workouts and their conditioning improved dramatically by the beginning of the match play season," said Coach Gino Uterano.

Due to school scheduling, the girls played one early match with an extended break before match number two.

The team resumed their intense on-court workouts in week three to keep the girls prepared for their next series of matches and competed very hard once the matches began again.

"Our greatest obstacle was having the new players adjust to match play pressure and they did so admirably," added Coach Uterano.

The team wound up the season with a commendable record of four wins against four losses and gained some valuable playing experience that will serve them well going forward into next year.

"This year's team was a pleasure to work with and coach," concluded Coach Uterano.

**2015 ROSTER:** Leila Baadarani, Serena Biondi, Jillian Broderick, Juliet D'Aversa, Lilianna Gund, Kaitlyn Hardy, MeiCheng Lu, Kelsey McEvoy, Riona Park, Kanan Patel, Sarah Rubin, Courtney Taylor, Eleana Tsiamtsiouris, Parisa Vahid, Caroline Viener and Zi Yang.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Boys and girls doubles practice side by side.

### VARSITY CREW: EARLY GOLD AND TEAM BUILDING

Congratulations Friends Academy Crew on finishing a great fall season!

The Quakers started the season off in late August where they focused on building themselves back to peak performance on the erg in order to better themselves on the water.

The team's first regatta was spent in Bridgeport, Pennsylvania at the King's Head Regatta, where their newest rower, Axl Holmes, brought home a gold medal for his age category in the Men's Novice single event.

Gabrielle Nagel and Sarah Richter finished third in their event in the Women's Youth Double category. Unfortunately, the two were unable to attend FA's second regatta. The LI Frostbite was cancelled due to Hurricane Joaquin but the rowers continued to work hard on keeping themselves in shape for their biggest regatta in Philadelphia – Head of The Schuylkill.

While the team did not place top three in their events, they did finish most of their events in the top half among the competition.

"We are looking forward to continuing our hard work on the erg this winter in order to prep for sprint season in the spring!"



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

A girls double lines up their oars for the next catch.

stated Coach Stephanie Olson as she looked ahead in the year.

**2015 ROSTER:** Gabrielle Bauer, Caitlin Cobb, Axl Holmes, Alexandria Hutzal, Gabrielle Nagel, Lauren Nagel, Elizabeth Panacciulli, Sarah Richter, Giles Rutson and John Zerilli.



## {2015-16 WINTER SPORTS}



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Despite their overall youth, the **Winter Sports teams** fought hard and garnered playoff spots, qualified for states and broke school records.

(Top row) Derek Chiang, Jenn Keogh and Lyndsay O'Sullivan; (Middle row) Christian Barakat, Chris Nishimura and Tau Holder; (Bottom row) Ellie Shibley, Thomas Pratt and Sam Mufson.

## FA 2015-16 WINTER SPORTS

# Second place conference finish



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Eighth grader Trayvon Alexander jumps above two defenders.

## Varsity Boys Basketball: First-round Playoff Contender

**T**he Boys Varsity Basketball team concluded their season with a hard fought loss to Glen Cove in the first round of the Nassau County "A" Conference playoffs.

Along the way the Quakers kicked off their season by winning the Tom Robinson Tournament at Oyster Bay High School for the first time. Senior Jack Deutsch was named MVP of the tournament and eighth grader Trayvon Alexander was named to the All-Tournament Team. Trayvon and junior Hutch Tyree were named to the All-Tournament team in the Dads Club Tournament at Bethpage High School later on in the season. The team finished in second place in their conference with a 9-3 record and 13-7 overall.

"More importantly, we came together as a team and sacrificed our personal goals for those of the team," said Coach Steve Hefe. "We demonstrated a mature and responsible work ethic to individual and team improvement, respect for officials and opponents, and a caring family atmosphere throughout the season. We consistently competed in practice and games to reach our potential as a team and represent ourselves and our school with class and dignity," he added."

An experienced team, the Quakers graduated nine seniors at the end of the season: Peter Psyllos, Trevor Dineen, Gavin Tam, Tau Holder, Brian Chaing, Merek Glover, Corey Goldglit and captains JD Baptiste and Jack Deutsch. "Thanks go out to all these guys for their leadership and effort throughout their careers," finished Hefe.

**2015-16 ROSTER:** Trayvon Alexander, Johndee Baptiste, Nicholas Campbell, Brian Chiang, Jack Deutsch, Trevor Dineen, Louis Durante, Merek Glover, Corey Goldglit, Tau Holder, Maclain Pascucci, Stephen

Popoola, Peter Psyllos, Gavin Tam, Ryan Tam, Hutch Tyree and Cole Vissicchio. Managers: Sydney Banks, Rainait Denihan, Ruthie Fritz, Mairead Gahan and Victoria Nastasi.

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**ALL-COUNTY** – COREY GOLDGLIT AND TRAYVON ALEXANDER

**ALL-CONFERENCE** – JACK DEUTSCH AND HUTCH TYREE



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Junior Ryan Weight eyes the basket.

## Team quadruples wins from prior season

### Girls Varsity Basketball: Hard-fought Season

**T**he 2015 -2016 Friends Varsity Girls Basketball team had a plethora of highs and lows – but a lot more highs than lows.

After a tough season-opening loss to Port Washington, Friends Academy was able to put an expressive game together in the St. Anthony's Classic to defeat Hempstead (46-26) for their first win of the season. After playing the next 5 games to a 1 and 5 record, which included a league loss to Seaford, the Lady Quakers won a tough game against Clarke 43-42. This game was highlighted by a 10-point comeback with only two minutes left in the game.

The Lady Quakers won their next game against West Hempstead, but then lost the next two games to Locust Valley and Island Trees.

*Continued on Page 37*



## FA 2015-16 WINTER SPORTS

Continued from Page 36

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**ALL-COUNTY** – LINDSAY O'SULLIVAN

**ALL-CONFERENCE (HONORABLE MENTION)** – RYAN WEIGHT, LAUREN LEOGRANDE AND ELLIE SHIBLEY

On Jan 11th, the team again stepped out of conferences to play Long Beach. "This was a hard-fought win for the Lady Quakers, as they put together a 27 to 16 second-half run to win the game," said Coach Navro Allen.

This proved to be the beginning of a 4-out-of-5 game winning streak for the Lady Quakers, which included a 1-point win against Mineola.

While the winning streak put the Lady Quakers in a great position to reach the playoffs, the ladies fell short of reaching this milestone, losing their last three games.

Although the season didn't end with a playoff appearance, this was an extremely successful season for the Lady Quakers. Seniors Ellie Shibley and two-time All County and Friends Academy's all-time leading scorer Lindsay O'Sullivan led the way to the Lady Quakers final 9-10 record for the season; a record that quadrupled the wins the team achieved during the 2014-2015 season.

"With nine returning players, headlined by Ryan Weight, Syd Themelis, Lauren Leogrande and Liz Gherlone the future looks pretty for the Lady Quakers," added Coach Allen.

**2015-16 ROSTER:** Elizabeth Gherlone, Lauren LeoGrande, Catherine Lori, Noelle Munao, Lindsay O'Sullivan, Sophia Pavlakis, Kristina Sanoulis, Elisabeth Shibley, Sydney Themelis, Ryan Weight and Morgan Wilkins.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Senior Lindsay O'Sullivan looks for an opening.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Eighth grader Leah Loetman rounds the track.

## Young team qualifies for States

### VARSITY WINTER TRACK: ATHLETES GARNER ALL-COUNTY AND ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS

The Friends Academy Varsity Winter Track and Field team had a rebuilding season.

The majority of the roster consisted of freshman and sophomore athletes; however, all the athletes worked very hard throughout the season and with the hard work came some promising results for the young team.

"This season, we had two individual medalists at the Conference Championships, both of whom are currently 8th graders – Leah Loetman came in 3rd overall in the 1000m and Abigail Regis came in 4th overall in the 55 m. Loetman also achieved All-Conference Honors in that event. Our 4 x 200 meter relay, which included athletes Regis, freshmen Fran De Geronimo and Gail Saez-Hall and sophomore Laura Greene, also medaled, receiving 3rd place overall," stated Coach Franklin Thompson.

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**ALL-COUNTY** – JALIJAH DANIELS

**ALL-CONFERENCE** – LEAH LOETMAN

Senior Jalijah Daniels, came in 3rd overall at the County Conference B Championship Meet, giving him All-County honors, while Daniels and Regis qualified for the State Qualifiers meets, which includes the top public school athletes in all of Nassau County.

In addition, senior Stephen Graham made the book when he broke the FA record in the triple jump.

**2015-16 ROSTER:** Mohammed Azaz, Grace Burrus, Julianne Cottone, Jalijah Daniels, Francesca De Geronimo, Emma Deutsch, Devon Forsyth, Stephen Graham, Laura Greene, Bailey Hughes, Sloane Hughes, Patrick Kavan, Jennifer Keogh, Leah Loetman, Kelsey Nathan, Brendan Naughton, Christopher Nishimura, Anna Pappas, Abigail Regis, William Robin, Samuel Rotberg, Gail Saez-Hall, Julia-Kate Schamroth, Nathaniel Shepherd-Tyson, Jared Toby, Eleana Tsiamtsiouris, Emily Jane Waechter, Jason Wang, Christina Yannello and Stephen Zerilli.

## FA 2015-16 WINTER SPORTS

### JV BOYS BASKETBALL: SEASON SWITCH-AROUND

The JV Boys basketball season this year can be summed up in two ways: character and hard work.

This season the boys were faced with a lot of tough games due to their move to Class A. The boys handled it with poise and hard work and a growth in skills. New athletes added their own character to the team. "We started the first half of league play going 1-5," recounted Coach Matt Simeone. "We were in a lot of those games with a chance to win it at the end. The boys were working very hard during that stretch, but couldn't put the whole team concept together."

Halfway through the season something suddenly clicked for the boys and the team finished the second half of league play going 5-1.

"The boys always had a positive attitude and showed great character, no matter the outcome of the game. Every night it was always a different player making a big play and contributing to the team and the victory. I am very proud of all the hard work the boys put into this season. We had a lot of fun and I wish the boys the best in their spring seasons," said Coach Simeone.

**2015-16 ROSTER:** Charles Andolina, Derek Chiang, Vincent Como, Jamison Ellinger, Tyler Fox, Casey Glover, Joseph Horne, Tyler Hu, Elias Kaul, Zachary Kaul, Edward Mangiarotti, Michael Manu, Jack McCooley, Samuel Mufson, Cal Stellato and Matthew Storch.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Eighth grader Ted Mangiarotti



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Junior Christian Barakat protects FA territory.

## Fan-favorite team hits the ice

### VARSITY ICE HOCKEY: TEAM'S TENACITY EARNS DIVISIONAL RESPECT

This season marked a special year for the Friends Academy hockey program.

The senior class, led by Andrew Greene and Cameron Wang, were among the last original players to bring hockey back to Friends Academy after a lengthy hiatus.

The hockey team's season was marked by a degree of adversity after it graduated several talented seniors the prior year. Despite that challenge, the hockey team was able to earn the respect of the rest of the division through some hard-fought games.

This year's highlight was the team's last-second win against Cold Spring Harbor in front of a loud student section and broadcast on MSG Varsity.

"The hockey team would like to thank our friends and family for coming to the games and for their continued support of our program," said Coach Sven Pamuk.

**2015-16 ROSTER:** Christian Barakat, Luke Baskind, Andrew Becker, Christian Cottone, Blaise DellaFera, Luke Dillmeier, William Evans, Connor Febesh, Peter Fornell, Andrew Greene, Andrew Hartog, Theodore Ingrassia, Gavin Murphy, Thomas Pratt, Kole Rossi, Nicholas Schneider, William Schneider, Maxwell Sutherland, Daniel Tauter and Cameron Wang.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Freshman Blaise DellaFera





ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Freshman Uma Alagappan

### JV GIRLS BASKETBALL: SMALL IN NUMBERS ONLY

The 2015-16 Girls JV Basketball team consisted of very dedicated and talented athletes, who evolved into a cohesive and formidable team; especially impressive, given the fact that there were only eight players on the squad.

"While the Lady Quakers finished with a 2-12 record, this was not an accurate reflection of the level of play and commitment of the girls," said Coach Amanda Serif.

The girls grew both individually and collectively throughout the course of the season, and even more during the latter half, becoming more evenly matched when facing their opponents for a second time.

The group bonded with each other on and off the court and their thoughtfulness extended beyond basketball. At the end of the season, the girls provided help to the Glen Cove Men's Shelter, to which they donated gift cards, in addition to their time to organize and inventory the various supplies for the guests.

"These gestures were invaluable, as they improved the efficiency of the daily operations of the Shelter," remarked Serif.

"The entire coaching staff looks forward to the continued contributions of this group to our promising basketball program."

**2015-16 ROSTER:** Uma Alagappan, Katherine Cuddeback, Jessica de la Bastide, Colette Hughes, Efimia Karageorgiou, Alexis Mack, Samantha Paniccia and Morgan Pascucci.

## FA record: Highest national ranking

### VARSITY SQUASH: YOUNG TEAM EXHIBITS GREAT DEPTH

**FA** squash opened the 2015-2016 season with their deepest team since the inception of the program to face the strongest schedule of matches in the team's short history.

Playing top New York metro powerhouses, the team only won a single regular season team match. Still the team qualified for Division 3 at the US High School Nationals, FA's highest placement ever.

Seeded against the top team in Division 3, FA lost its first-round match to the eventual D3 champion, before going on to knock off traditional squash heavyweights, Milton Academy, and Philips Andover in the consolation bracket.

The consolation final against a team of players from New Haven came down to Chas Merrill's match, and a deciding fifth game that the freshman won, sealing the victory for FA.

The end-of-year tournament saw strong performances from senior Grant Elgarten and the inspiring return of senior Rob Parker from injury. Sophomore and #2 player, Thomas Moccoorea went undefeated

at the National tournament, even trying bizarre mind-games like playing, however briefly, in sweatpants.

Junior Alex Merrill continued his gritty and disciplined play, holding down the number one spot, going 3-1 at Nationals.

"Our thanks go out to the Athletic Department, Mr. Quackenbush and Ms. Jones, for their continued support of our players and program, as well as to our team parents who supported us throughout the season," said Coach Geoff Nelson.

The team graduates six seniors – Eva Mullarkey, Rob Parker, Grant Elgarten, Will Shea, Tanner Kellan and Sam Kahane – a few of whom were instrumental in bringing squash to Friends Academy.

"Our program, quite literally, would not exist without the hard work, dedication and good nature of these players. We have big shoes to fill for next year, but the team's strong play and high character resulted in FA's highest national ranking in school history. The team looks to the future, while expressing reverence for the players who built the foundation of our program," added Coach Nelson.

**2015-16 ROSTER:** James Araskog, Grant Elgarten, Samuel Kahane, Tanner Kellan, Alexander Merrill, Charles Merrill, Jennie Miller, Thomas Moccoorea, Eva Mullarkey, Jared Rosenbaum and William Shea.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Friends Academy's Varsity Squash achieved its highest national ranking in the team's history.

## FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Early Childhood Assistant teacher **CHELSEA BERTANI** participated in professional development courses in the Reggio Emilia



Chelsea Bertani

Approach based on a progressive approach to innovations from the municipal infant-toddler centers and preschools of Reggio Emilia, Italy. The courses focused on the history and basic philosophy of the Reggio

Emilia approach to early childhood education, including the organization of the environment, the teacher's role, the relationships between the schools and the community and emergent curriculum.



One of Upper School art teacher Allison Doherty's pieces that was chosen for a juried exhibition.

Earlier this year, Upper and Middle School Art teacher **ALLISON DOHERTY** had work chosen for two juried, online exhibitions. Although both shows are now down, they were archived and can still be viewed. The first show, *Landscapes*, featured the following two pieces, including <http://www.colorsofhumanityartgallery.com/Landscapes-2015/Animals-2015/n-QvF64J/i-PCsMN2M>. The second show, *17th Annual Painting, Drawing, Photography & Print International Online Art Exhibition*, featured four works, which can be found via this link: <http://www.upstreampeoplegallery.com/exhibition/default.asp?XD=1/1/2016>.



Allison Doherty

Doherty also just participated in her first-ever print exchange, sponsored by *9 In Hand Press* in New Hope, PA. Each participant created an edition of 15 identical prints and, in return, received 12 randomly selected prints.

School photographer and web/social media coordinator **AMANDA FISK** and Lower School Art teacher **MARY JO ALLEGRA** attended "Technology and Learning Live: New York 2015" to learn more about integrating social



Amanda Fisk



Mary Jo Allegra

media into the community and learning about new technologies for student assessment and differentiated instruction. The technology conference offered a variety of workshops such as digital responsibility, designing maker spaces and engaging web interfaces for your school or institution.

Theatre teacher **ANDREW GEHA**'s play *Shakesplosion!*, which was our Middle School Play last year, is going to be published by Youth Plays, a theatrical publishing house.



Andrew Geha

In addition to being published in print, the company will make it available to other schools for rental. In addition, Geha has been selected to present a workshop on our 7-12 grade playwriting curriculum that he has developed, at the National Conference for the American Association of Theater Educators this summer.

Three teachers from Friends attended The National NCTM Conference – Upper School Math teachers **JULIA HALTERMANN** and **ALEX BURT** and 5th Grade Math



Julia Haltermann



Alex Burt



Brie Kraska

teacher **BRIE KRASKA**. The event draws over 9000 math educators each year. "It was great to connect with other teachers and find commonalities in many of the experiences we have. I also enjoyed several workshops that focused on how to promote student discourse by creating a safe space, asking the right questions, and emphasizing process over product," commented Haltermann. Haltermann and Burt attended sessions about Logarithms, which used the history of logarithms to inform how to make sense of logarithms in practice today – a topic that Haltermann says students typically find challenging. One fun activity faculty brought back involved using Calculus to calculate how much it would cost to give the Statue of Liberty a pedicure.

Library assistant and archivist **KARL HOENZSCH** attended the NYSAIS event *Creating Makerspaces and a Culture of Innovation and Creativity in Schools* on January 30th. This workshop encouraged educators to identify currents of "Maker Culture" already present in schools and build upon this base. The workshop's presenters walked participants through a brainstorming exercise to develop a mission statement of Maker Culture, which was followed by a detailed presentation on makerspace technology and resources.



Karl Hoenzsch



Meghan Stott

Lower School Science teacher **MEGHAN STOTT** attended STEAM camp at the end of the summer and went to a workshop on teaching innovation at the Blue School this past fall.

On Friday, February 12, six members from all three divisions of the World Languages and Cultures Department – **FINA CASSARA** (LS), **POLLY DUKE** (US), **RACHEL HALL** (US), **AMY MULCAHY** (MS), **EDGAR POSADA** (US), and **SARA POZZI** (US) – attended the Northeast Conference on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (NECTFL) in New York City. With an emphasis on developing intercultural competence through world languages, these FA faculty members attended such sessions as "Designing Activities for Meaningful Interpersonal Communication," "Tech Tools to Assess Interpretive Skills," "Build-A-Project: Complete Guide to Creating/Implementing Contextualized, Communicative Target Language-only Projects," and "Transitioning from Traditional Assessments to Project-Based Learning. Already, several of these new methods have been applied and greatly appreciated by students.



Fina Cassara



Polly Duke



Rachel Hall



Amy Mulcahy



Edgar Posada



Sara Pozzi



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# from the president

PETER STEIN '79

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Despite heavy rains and less than the typical beautiful weather that we have come to enjoy for Fall Fair and Homecoming, October 3 was still a special day. While most of the Fair was moved inside due to Mother Nature, the excitement and enthusiasm that surrounded our reunion classes was palpable.

The class of 1965 celebrated the big 50 with grace and style! There were other great celebrations from the classes of 1990 and 2005. And, of course, a very solid showing for the annual Gideon's Guard Luncheon for all alumni past the 50-year mark. Overall, a tremendously successful day! It's never too soon to mark your calendars for Homecoming 2016 on October 15. All classes that end in 1 or 6 will be celebrating a reunion. Stay tuned for more details regarding your own class' reunion plans.

We are all thrilled to welcome FA's new Director of Alumni Affairs Christine Bowe. A graduate of Boston College with a degree in communications, Christine has worked in the fashion industry for the past 10 years, most recently with Michael Kors in product development and marketing. Welcome Christine!

While springtime is known for breeding an epidemic of senioritis, it is also a time to come together for our annual New York City Alumni Reunion. This year we are moving the reunion to a Thursday night to help get our weekends off to a great start! Please join hundreds of FA Alumni at the Princeton/Columbia Club on June 2 at 6:30 pm. It's a night that never disappoints!



**PETER STEIN '79,  
FRIENDS ACADEMY  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION  
PRESIDENT**

We will be honoring and saying goodbye to Head of School Bill Morris, and his wife Sue, who are retiring after 13 wonderful years of tireless leadership and service. Bill and Sue will be dearly missed and this is the perfect opportunity to wish them Bon Voyage as they begin their Adirondack Retirement.

This issue of *The Meeting House* spotlights some very special FA Alumni and their interests both during and after FA. On page 6, Jennifer Ryan Woods, '99 profiles Betsy Newman Ward, '48. Betsy is the Grand Niece of FA's founding Father Gideon Frost. Betsy fondly recalls her days as a boarding student living at Friends and her ties to great uncle Gideon. FA has had its legendary teachers over the years and one of my personal favorites was Elizabeth Roosevelt, who taught American History with special insight. Ms. Roosevelt was a relative of two great American Presidents and had a keen interest and understanding of history and politics. Matt Schoman '04, had his own longstanding interest in sailboats and purchased an old NYS32 that was in dire need of major work.

Matt spent 22 months restoring the boat with the help of his girlfriend and now races *Vitesse*. Coincidentally, the boat was previously owned and raced by Ms. Roosevelt's father in the 1930s as *Esmeralda*. Hayley Kucich, '03, unravels this intriguing tale of generations of FA sailors on page 44. Cliff Gardner '73 is a west coast criminal lawyer who has argued before the United States Supreme Court on several occasions. He is an anti-death penalty attorney and abolitionist whose career is examined by Natalia Woods '93 on page 48.

## HELP US HELP YOU AND YOUR FELLOW ALUMS STAY CONNECTED

### 1 Send us your news and address and e-mail updates:

Alumni Office  
Friends Academy  
270 Duck Pond Road  
Locust Valley, NY 11560  
alumni@fa.org; 516-465-1796

### 2 Connect by website:

FA's password-protected Alumni Community: [www.fa.org/alumni](http://www.fa.org/alumni)  
Click on **ALUMNI DIRECTORY** to search for classmates by last name, maiden name, class year and profession.

### 3 Are you on Facebook?

If you love Friends, like us! Head to [www.facebook.com/friendsacademyNY](http://www.facebook.com/friendsacademyNY) for more campus life photos, alumni updates and behind-the-scenes stories and videos.

*\*If you do not know your username and password, e-mail Kathy Fox in the Alumni Office: [alumni@fa.org](mailto:alumni@fa.org).*





## FRIENDS ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Alumni are the living legacy of Friends Academy.*

# THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

At Friends we prepare our students to be citizens with strong minds and kind hearts, people who lead by example. Each year Friends Academy presents the Distinguished Alumni Award to someone who has let his/her life speak. It is our hope that others will find the recipient's life inspirational and will be motivated to devote themselves to a life of service.

**2015: PAUL HAND '68 –**

Finding the needs, fixing the problems one person at a time, Paul and his wife Bunny provide homemade soup every week for 60-100 people

**2010: SUSAN STEIN DANOFF '60 –**

An inner-city family court judge with a heart and mind continually open to service

**2014: SHARON MCGEE CRARY '89 –**

Founder of Social Promise, an organization that supports critical health and educational resources in impoverished Ugandan communities

**2009: JOHN GAMBLING '69 –**

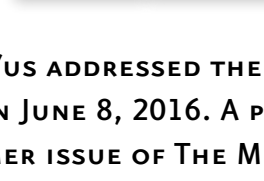
An unparalleled devotion to Friends and its values and a longtime member of the Board of Trustees

**2013: MARJA BRANDON '79 –**

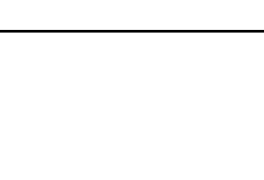
Life-long educator and educational innovator helps found and cement a school for girls based on her Quaker beliefs

**2008: THOMAS CARTER '59 –**

Dedicating his life to working with economically struggling communities as they strive to improve their conditions

**2012: BARBARA BOYLE WEANER '73 –**

Establishes rural clinics to treat patients with chronic kidney disease; uses organic farming to educate others about sustainability



**2007: JAMES GREENE '74 –** Investing in the betterment of others' lives through years of service to Friends Academy on the Alumni Board and Board of Trustees

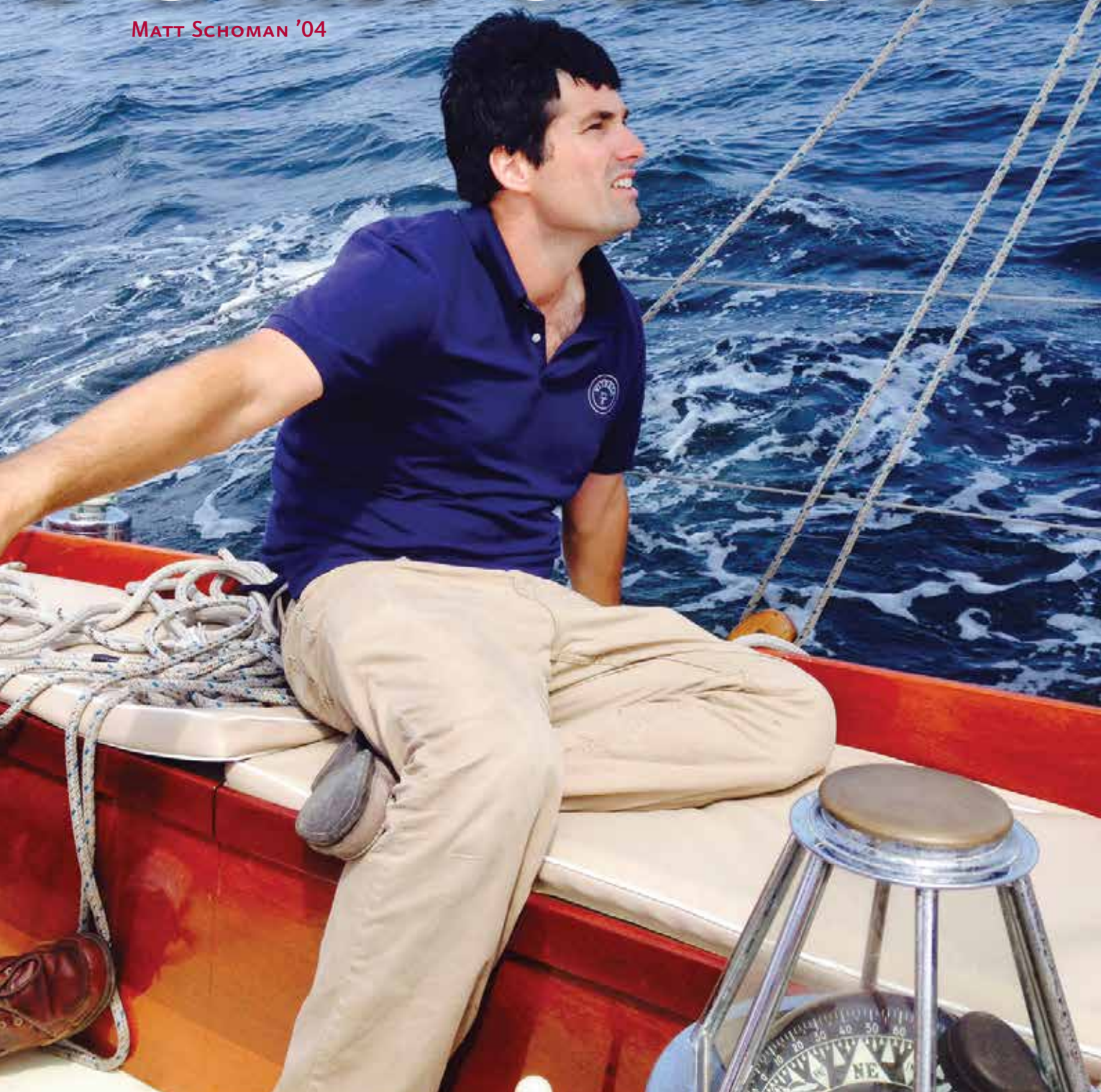
**2006: PETER DARBEE '71 –**

A career distinguished not only by achievements but also by a commitment to values, faith and ethical conduct

**THIS YEAR'S DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA/US ADDRESSED THE UPPER SCHOOL STUDENT AND FACULTY BODY AT FOURTH DAY HONORS ON JUNE 8, 2016. A PROFILE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE OF THE MEETING HOUSE.**

# FULL CIRCLE

MATT SCHOMAN '04





## Alum's passion to restore an old sailboat leads him on a circuitous journey

BY HAYLEY KUCICH '03

"My, She was Yar..."

Some may recognize the title of this piece from dialogue between Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant in *The Philadelphia Story*. The word "yar" has always thrilled me, and each time I hear it, it brings me back to that scene when Tracy Lord, played by the goddess-like Katharine Hepburn, is describing a model of the "True Love," a sailboat designed by Dexter, played by the dashing and loveable Cary Grant. She describes this boat by exclaiming, "My, she was yar...It means, uh...easy to handle, quick to the helm, fast, right. Everything a boat should be."

The sea is expansive and unknown, and a sailboat is a means to explore that unknown; but what better way to tackle that large oasis of infinite possibilities than with a craft that is yar. A sailboat provides its crew with strength, grace, and vulnerability, but it is this vulnerability that too requires the crew to use its knowledge and intuition to guide it to its ultimate destination...not quite unlike the journey of the *Esmeralda* from former FA faculty member Elizabeth Roosevelt to FA alum Matt Schoman '04.

The *Esmeralda* is an NY32 (New York 32 fleet), a type of sailboat that was launched in 1936 for the New York Yacht Club by the Henry B. Nevins yard. The design was conceived by Sparkman & Stephens, and it was created to replace the beloved 30s, which were an 18-piece, one-design class of small cruising boats. According to maritime historian Maynard Bray, the NY 32s were a 20-piece launch that were, and are still known to be, as, "Good all-around boats: simple, seakindly, sensibly rigged, and conveniently arranged – they are yar."

The *Esmeralda* is #5 of this collection and it originally belonged to John Kean Roosevelt, father of Elizabeth Roosevelt,

former Friends Academy teacher. John K. Roosevelt was first cousin once removed of President Theodore Roosevelt and sixth cousin once removed of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The Roosevelt family, descendants of Presidents Theodore and Franklin, has played an integral role in the history of Long Island, and notably in the sailing community.

Sailed by the Roosevelt family out of Seawanhaka Yacht Club in Oyster Bay, the *Esmeralda* tackled the Newport-Bermuda race in 1936. Elizabeth explained, "My father raced the *Esmeralda* to Bermuda in 1936 with my two older brothers as his crew. They were W. Emlen Roosevelt and J. Alfred Roosevelt."

The boat passed through many hands over the years, awarded its commodores



Former FA history teacher Liz Roosevelt's (above) father was the original owner of the *Esmeralda* (top), an NY32, which was later renamed the *Vitesse*. Twenty boats were built, of which about 17 remain today.

with various high honors, crossed oceans, and eventually fell into disrepair, until it ended up in the hands of Friends Academy Class of 2004 alum Matt Schoman, a seafarer himself.

Following graduation in 2004 from FA, Matt attended Drexel for a five-year Mechanical Engineering degree, which included 36 month co-ops. He was able to complete his third and final co-op at Electric Boat Corporation

in Groton, CT, which is one of only two shipyards in the U.S. constructing nuclear submarines for the Navy. He was offered a full-time job following that internship, and started in September of 2009.

According to Matt, "One of the most

*Continued on Page 46*

"Being on the water has always been a significant part of my life, beginning as a newborn child living aboard year-round on a forty-two foot motorboat for the first few years of my life."

— MATT SCHOMAN '04

## MATT SCHOMAN '04: FULL CIRCLE

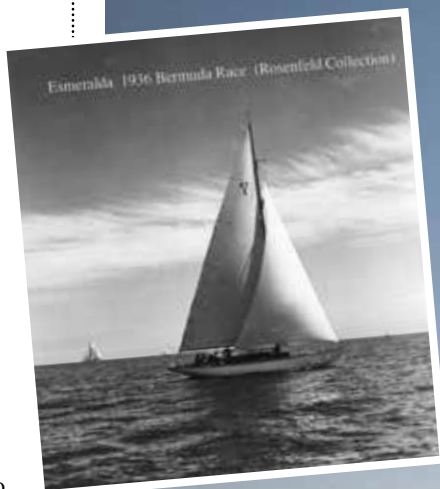
Continued from Page 45

appealing aspects of the job was that it is centralized in a great area of New England, where I was able to spend every summer of my youth cruising aboard our family's 45-foot motorboat *American Flyer*. Over the past few years at Electric Boat, I have been mainly involved in design and manufacture of various submarine components. At work I was recently able to get a new position as the lead engineer for the submarine *Illinois* SSN786, which will be the most advanced nuclear attack submarine to date and is scheduled to be delivered to the Navy in April 2016."

Matt explained, "Being on the water has always been a significant part of my life, beginning as a newborn child living aboard year-round on a forty-two foot motorboat for the first few years of my life. I started sailing at various summer camps at a young age, including several summers in the FA summer sailing program, where we sailed in Hempstead Bay. In junior year of high school, I worked to get a sailing instructor's certification at Manhasset Bay YC, and was able to start up a sailing program at the Long Island Yacht Club for the summer of 2003 in Babylon."

During Matt's first year living full-time in CT, he discovered his first sailboat – a 36-foot Whistler Sloop built at Knutson's Shipyard in Huntington in 1956. "It was interesting that I was on the FA Crew team with Eric Knutson (Class '03), whose grandfather owned the Knutson Shipyard that built the boat. Seeking a new project, I came across *Vitesse*, formerly known as *Esmeralda*, which underwent a three-year restoration to get her back sailing, during which I was able to make the connection with Liz Roosevelt."

The now-named *Vitesse*, previously known as the *Esmeralda* and *Gaucha*, had journeyed all over the world; one that initially began on Long Island and has returned full-circle to its roots – but this time with another Long Island seafaring family.



In 1999, *Vitesse* was restored by a couple in Boston, where she hailed from until 2009 and was re-named *Gaucha*. Notably, in 2006, she sailed to Castine, ME for the 70th anniversary of the NY32 class in conjunction with the wooden boat races in Penobscot Bay. By 2009, *Vitesse* had again fallen into disrepair and was donated to the Block Island Maritime Foundation as a tax write-off.

Matt came upon *Vitesse* in a field in

Essex, MA in 2012, in need of significant work. Realizing the potential of the boat, he did not hesitate to obtain ownership and make arrangements for relocating the boat to Masons Island Marina in Mystic CT for a significant restoration.

Over the course of the next 22 months, he and his loving girlfriend rebuilt the spars, replaced the aft deckbeams, cockpit, and deck, fibreglassed the deck and coach top, completed significant frame and floor



## MATT SCHOMAN '04: FULL CIRCLE

What started as an after-school activity for Matt at FA, catapulted him into a world of waves and endless shades of blue, and throughout his journey, he was fortunate enough to unite with Liz Roosevelt.

work, new mast step, all systems and many other odds and ends that never seemed to end. After a one-day sail, the boat was deemed fit for use, and Matt quickly began preparations to sail 300 miles to Brooklin, ME for the 2014 Eggmoggin Reach Regatta where five of her sisters planned to race once again.

Today *Vitesse* sails from New London and is actively raced. Still competitive, she placed second in the Spring Off Soundings race to and around Block Island.

What started as an after-school activity for Matt at FA, catapulted him into a world of waves and endless shades of blue, and throughout his journey, he was fortunate enough to unite with Liz Roosevelt.

Matt dove into the *Vitesse* and after researching its origins, realized that his new project once belonged to the Roosevelt family. He connected with Liz, where they immediately bonded over their connection to Friends Academy.

Liz taught at FA from 1965-1995; she taught Science from 1968-1969, History from 1968-1973, Upper School Social Studies from 1977-1981, and was the convener of Upper School Social Studies from 1992-1995. She continues to be active in the sailing community on Long Island, a community that she has long identified with throughout her life.

I immediately thought about Katharine Hepburn when I learned I would be writing a story on sailboats; as we earlier discussed the word “yar” and how it has always appealed to me. But I also conve-



Matt Schoman '04, at work on the *Vitesse* in the boatyard.

niently thought of Katharine Hepburn because from what I know of Liz Roosevelt; she too reminds me of Katharine Hepburn – a stoic, independent, adventurous spirit, who does not want to waste any time spending life with her two feet only on the ground, but rather out on the sea and through its unknown.

There is much to explore on our history-filled Long Island, and Matt paved an exciting path for himself right in our own backyard by seeking a new project filled with human connection, passion, and adventure. And it all began with a boat, but not just any boat... the *Esmeralda* and “my, was she yar.”



Matt Schoman  
in 2004 at Friends

*I would like to acknowledge the following people for their contributions to this article: Deb Schoman, Matt Schoman, Elizabeth Roosevelt, Nell Kucich and Karl Hoenzsch. Thank you for your contributions!*



# OF CAPITAL IMPORTANCE

“**W**hat drives me in my work is an abiding belief that the death penalty will be abolished.

BY NATALIA WOODS '93

*Cliff Gardner, Class of 1973, is a criminal defense attorney in Berkeley, CA who primarily represents defendants who have committed capital crimes and are seeking to either prove their innocence or establish that the death penalty was improperly imposed. While this is not the type of work Gardner initially set out to do, it has become his life's work, and it is apparent that he is passionate about what he does.*

I am a passionate abolitionist. Thirty-one states currently have the death penalty, but that number is diminishing as public perception is changing and organizations like the Innocence Project are shedding light on the number of cases involving false imprisonment,” said Cliff Gardner '73.

Upon graduating from Friends, Gardner attended SUNY Binghamton and later graduated from UCLA School of Law. Gardner's first job after law school was in the litigation department of a large, international law firm. It only took a year and a half before Gardner realized that he did not go to law school to defend big corporations, but rather to “defend the underdog.”



Cliff Gardner  
from the  
1973 Lamp



## CLIFF GARDNER '73: DEATH PENALTY ABOLITIONIST

One of Gardner's early cases involved the representation of a large school district against a janitor who had been fired from one of the district's schools. Not surprisingly, the representation the school district received from its big firm lawyers as compared to what the janitor received from his union lawyer was incomparable.

The janitor was both a Second World War and Korean War veteran, yet Gardner found himself on the side of the school district ensuring that the defendant would not retain his job. Whether the gentleman deserved to keep his job or not, after "winning" the case, Gardner decided that he had lost sight of why he had gone to law school.

The day after his big win in court, Gardner gave notice and took his one pro bono client with him to start his own legal practice. Since that day, Gardner has never looked back and has never regretted his decision to leave big law firm life in order to do meaningful, gratifying work, one client at a time.

Gardner was excited at the prospect of beginning a new chapter in his legal career. As he stated, "at 25 I thought I could conquer the world." At first Gardner accepted any case he could get, but a few years into his practice, he read an article in *The New York Times* written by an attorney in the NAACP's legal defense fund about a death row inmate who was about to be executed, but had no legal representation. Gardner contacted the NAACP, sent in his resume, and even though he had no prior experience with capital work, was appointed to the case.

The NAACP provided Gardner with the necessary contact people from whom Gardner could gain expertise and he did an inordinate amount of research in order to take on the case. Gardner was successful, and consequently, his former client is still



COURTESY OF CLIFF GARDNER

Cliff Gardner has been practicing criminal law for over 30 years and has briefed and argued several cases in the United States Supreme Court.

**The capital cases...do not involve the question of guilt or innocence, but rather whether the defendant deserves to be executed.**

alive today.

From that moment forward, Gardner has primarily focused on cases involving capital crimes and is contacted from all over the country by people in custody who are seeking help with their convictions.

As Gardner explained to me, the capital cases he defends often do not involve the question of guilt or innocence, but rather whether the defendant deserves to be executed.

Once a defendant has been convicted of a capital crime, both mitigating and

aggravating circumstances are presented in subsequent proceedings to determine whether the death penalty will be granted.

In Gardner's mind, as anyone in his line of work believes, even if the defendant is guilty, the state should not take an individual's life. However, in many death row cases, the defendants have court-appointed lawyers who often have limited resources to properly present mitigating factors that would assist their defendant in avoiding a death sentence. Often it varies on a state-to-state basis, depending upon the resources that a particular state has at its disposal to defend those without legal representation.

Gardner has pondered whether the Quaker philosophy at Friends had an impact on his chosen profession. "As Quakers are very much against the death penalty, it certainly couldn't have hurt."

Whatever it is that led him along his path, Gardner has been incredibly successful and "feels like the luckiest lawyer on the face of the earth. I've had a great practice, and I wouldn't change it for anything." Gardner has argued before the United States Supreme Court and has appeared in the California Supreme Court and other high courts throughout the country countless times.

In addition, Gardner has received various honors from his peers, and shares his practical experience by serving as an Adjunct Professor of law at the University of California Berkeley's Boalt Law School, teaching seminars in capital punishment and post-conviction litigation to second and third year law students. Winston Churchill once said that the test of any civilization is how it treats the most unpopular of its citizens. Our society is fortunate to have talented attorneys like Gardner who take pride in what they do, represent the unpopular and fight to prevent injustice.

## DEATH PENALTY: BY THE NUMBERS

1

1 in 25 sentenced to death in the U.S. is innocent, claims a 2014 study from the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

1,430

Number of people who have been executed since 1976 (when the Death Penalty was reinstated by the U.S. Supreme Court).

31

Number of states with the Death Penalty

SOURCES: Newsweek, Death Penalty Information Center, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., Criminal Justice Project

## 1940

**Florence Milyko Skinner**

4202 Avalon Drive East  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
203-966-9475  
nightingalelady@att.net

**Florence Milyko Skinner** reports, "At 93 I'm still very active, teaching and singing for more than 38 years, still upright, enjoying two clubs: Sewing and Book, and, since New York City is just an hour away, I go regularly to the opera at the Metropolitan Opera House. I consider myself very fortunate to be able to live such a full life. It would please me so to hear from my classmates." So to all those out there from the great class of 1940, please reach out to Florence, your class rep, and fill us all in on your life or any memories of the good old days at Friends Academy!

## 1942

**Helen Craft Price**

173 Ocean Pines Terrace  
Jupiter, FL 33477  
friscomaru1@aol.com

## 1945

**Joy Mayes Brown**

2110 West Center Road  
P.O. Box 239  
Otis, MA 01253  
(413) 269-6398  
Hopbrook2@gmail.com

**Sheila Morrissey Potter**

37 Coles Meadow Road  
Apt. #301  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413) 584-1578  
sheila85rock@comcast.net

## 1946 70TH REUNION THIS FALL!

**Henry Palau**

38 Yarmouth Road  
Rowayton, CT 06853-1847  
203-855-0021  
hspret@optonline.net



Bookmark [www.fa.org/alumni](http://www.fa.org/alumni)  
for the latest news and reunion pics

## 1947

If anyone from the Class of 1947 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at [alumni@fa.org](mailto:alumni@fa.org). We would love to hear from you!

## 1948

**Marian Schwartz Feniger**

16 West 77th St., Apt. 9E  
New York, NY 10024  
(212) 362-8968  
[srajerry@aol.com](mailto:srajerry@aol.com)

## 1949

If anyone from the Class of 1949 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at [alumni@fa.org](mailto:alumni@fa.org). We would love to hear from you!

## 1950

**Suzanne Didier DeVito**

59 West 12th Street, Apt. 16A  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 627-7103  
[suzannedv@sprintmail.com](mailto:suzannedv@sprintmail.com)



Friends from 1950: Jim Stockton, Frieda Marie "Beanie" Carroll (aka Fritzie Mumford) and Suzanne Didier DeVito

Inspired by a photo above sent from **Jim Stockton's** wife, Karen, class rep **Suzanne Didier DeVito** reminisces about the good old days at FA. "I am the dark haired girl standing to the right of the tree. In the middle is **Beanie (Frieda Marie) Carroll**. Her name now is **Fritzie Mumford** – no more "Beanie." Below (not pictured) is **Gay Brinkerhoff**. Beanie, who was my roommate, Jim, and I were boarding students. Gay was a day student. The boys thought it was just the height of hilarity when in assembly we sang 'When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again,' Do you remember how that goes? Jim is retired now after an



A 70-year-long friendship – 70 years after becoming friends at FA, Jim Stockton and Suzanne Didier DeVito at the Library Hotel in New York City

extremely successful professional life as a graphic artist. Fellow alums will recall his artistic talent. He and Karen divide their time between San Francisco and a gorgeous spread a few hours north right on the Pacific Ocean. I am happily retired as well, after a career mostly in book publishing. For a few of those years I rubbed shoulders with Jackie Kennedy Onassis who, like me, worked at the publishing house Doubleday." And proof is in the picture that special friendships last a lifetime. Suzanne continues, "So here we are, 70 years after we became friends at FA (above). We met at the Library Hotel, located (no surprise) at 43rd and Madison Ave., just a short distance from the big public library on 42nd and Fifth."



A pyramid of old friends: top row: Anita Kapner '49 and James Stockton '50, middle row: Frieda Carroll '50, Sally Moffett '50 and Barbara Van Vranken '51, bottom row: Robert Sassanoff '51, John Hanford '49, Gerald Anthony '50 and Richard Allwork '50





The girls from '52. Back Row: Betsy Schulze, Margaret Whitney, Ann Galbraith, Cordy Reid, Christine Hagen, Barbara Burnham; Bottom Row: Jane Rein, Sandra James, Beth Weeks (friend of Heather's from St. Mary's in Garden City), Heather MacDonald and Margo Howe

## 1951 65TH REUNION THIS FALL!

George H. Gifford, Jr.  
12 Oak Ridge Road  
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2011  
(631) 751-7489

## 1952

Margaret Whitney Shiels  
5427 FM 2515  
Kaufman, TX 75142  
(972) 962-8124  
mspauanok@aol.com

Heather Poetzsch sent a wonderful photo of many of us girls back in the day. Heather wrote: "I remember those days at Friends so well. My great niece, Ashley, is having a baby in April. (Sister Donna's granddaughter.) We are going down to a shower next week. Hope there is no snow then. We have had the craziest winter, hardly any snow and it has been warm. I like the snow and felt sorry for the skiers and the resorts. They are making snow daily." Fritz Schreiber says that his grandson, who is in his third year at The Citadel, was sent to the Helmut Schmidt Army Academy in Hamburg, Germany, for a semester. "If anyone wants to come to Williamsburg they are welcome to stay at our abode. Otherwise, I am doing all my honey do's." I had mentioned Mrs. Wilt as my outstanding teacher. Wendy Murphy replied, "I well remember my first fall (9th grade) as a boarding student being seated at the Wilt's table for meals and being terrified

about passing the butter dish or anything else. It had to go to the left or right but NEVER across the table no matter how close it was to the person who wanted it. The forbidden "boarding house reach." I also remember that one of our classmates lived with the Wilts when she began boarding in the second grade. How weird was that?" (Interestingly, I believe that the 2nd grader was Jane Rein. Her folks were in the middle of moving from upstate to Oyster Bay and they wanted her to start school on time.) In my family she is known as "mybestfriendjane." When daughter Heather was little, she thought that was her real name! Terry Scheetz replied, "We spend summer and fall months in Pittsburgh at our condo, including Ted's small but well-loved vegetable garden, which also has some fun flowers. We are busy in the winter months at Spring Island, in S.C. Nature/Art programs here, golf, and yoga still important. Also, I run a yearly benefit for Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic in our community. (This is my 15th year, so it takes a ton of organization and good co-chairs!) All four children and five grandchildren are busy with a whirlwind of academics, athletics, businesses and more. Most important is the recovery of our son, Peter, in Seattle, from viral encephalitis last winter. We have become immersed about the brain recovery, slowly ongoing, but encouraging in this case. All the best to the great FA class of 1952, especially the wonderful classmate who keeps us posted and together!" I talk on the phone with Donn Sullivan every few months. He is doing well and still paints. If you remember, he was

always very talented. His son Mike lives with him in Connecticut. Bob and Connie Wilkinson spend the winter and spring in their place in Sun Lakes playing pickleball and tennis. "In the summer, we once again cruised Alaska with friends. Then spent a week at Whistler, Canada with Wendy, Sophie, Bruce and Locke. Connie had her Dobbs reunion in CT in July. Connie is working on her pickleball skills and both play tennis and duplicate bridge. Connie writes, "Just after Bob's birthday, we left on a marathon trip – three weeks at sea visiting Hawaii, Samoa, Fiji, and N. Caledonia; arriving in Sydney where we spent five days with old friends. Spent eight days touring New Zealand. We spent Christmas at Rosario, Mexico with Wendy's and Bruce's families and New Year's in AZ with Kari and family." News from Ann Hayward: "I recently moved to temporarily live with my daughter, Donna, in Petaluma, CA. I am registered for senior affordable housing and the waiting list is long. Anyway, my terrier and I have settled into Donna's beautiful new home." Down here in Texas, we would love to see you. Several of you have Texas contacts and we are near Dallas. Give us a shout! We made our annual July road trip to visit my college roommate at her place on Pawley's Island. I am planning to fly up there in May so that Olive and I can attend our 60th college reunion. We stopped to visit with Alabama friends, who were in Midland, Texas with us, when we were newly married with a baby. It is a nice leisurely drive. In August we flew up to Long Island for cousin Craig White's '61 youngest daughter's wedding. (Remember my 'little Cousin Craig'?) We rented a car so we toured Friends. It has changed a lot from our day but it has been over 60 years since we were there! We stayed in rooms at Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club where I had sailed as a junior member. It was beautiful and we were thrilled to meet mystery writer Nelson De Mille who was staying there. He lives in Garden City. I had read every one of his books because they take place on Long Island. He and his wife were charming. Their young son was in the junior sailing program. Granddaughter Kate is an opera singer in Boston. Her brother Cameron is in his last year of college. David's son Andrew is a biomedical engineer in San Antonio and David's daughter Sara, is teaching high school in Waco and getting her master's in school counseling. She is finishing her provisional year in the Junior League. I am the editor of the Woman's Club of Fort Worth's newsheet, *The Courier*. I am still giving book reviews at The Woman's Club and here in Kaufman

I am planning the 16th Book and Author Luncheon. I am secretary of the Friends of the Kaufman County Library and secretary for the Fox Cemetery Association. Robert's mother's family, the Foxes, came here in a covered wagon in 1851. (That is OLD for Texas!) What are you reading? I recommend *When Books Went to War* by Molly Guptill Manning. Also, *Moby Duck* and a bio of Stonewall Jackson by James Robertson. Come see us and let us hear from you. If I don't hear from my friends, I fear the worst.

## 1953

If anyone from the Class of 1953 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at [alumni@fa.org](mailto:alumni@fa.org). We would love to hear from you!

## 1954

If anyone from the Class of 1954 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at [alumni@fa.org](mailto:alumni@fa.org). We would love to hear from you!

## 1955

**Arthur M. Geoffrion**  
322-24th St.  
Santa Monica, CA 90402  
(310) 394-0185  
[arthur.geoffrion@anderson.ucla.edu](mailto:arthur.geoffrion@anderson.ucla.edu)

**Naomi Johnson Denslow**  
69 Webster Point Rd.  
Madison, CT 06443  
203-245-7617  
[Naomi.Dempsey100@gmail.com](mailto:Naomi.Dempsey100@gmail.com)

**Naomi Johnson Denslow** reports that Reunion weather was very rainy at the outset, so all the festivities were indoors. But that didn't dampen anyone's fun. She and her husband Clark and Gael and **Jim Graham**, who all had a great time staying with **Joan** and **George Hawkins**, went to the Gideon's Guard Luncheon (for those out at least 50 years) at the Jackson House. The campus looked wonderful. The culmination of the festivities was a dinner at Milleridge Inn hosted by Bernadette and **Owen Smith**. **Woody Glenn** and his wife Glo and **Anne** and **Morley Smith**



The class of 1955 celebrates their 60th Reunion at Milleridge Inn hosted by its owner Owen Smith '55. L-to-R: Owen Smith '55, Glo Glenn (Woody's wife), Woody Glenn '55, Naomi Dempsey/Denslow '55, Clark Denslow (Naomi's husband), Bernadette Smith (Owen's wife), Joan Hawkins '55, Jim Graham '55, Anne (Wachoupe) Smith '56, Morley Smith '56, and Gael Graham (Jim's wife).

joined all of the above-named for a lovely evening, probably the last in a long line of them since Owen is now out of the business. Shoot **Art** an e-mail if you'd like to see some photos, and a nice video taken by Jim of George playing the piano at his home. **Allan Munro's** daughter Amy, having graduated from Skidmore, is now working in Boston at Copernicus Marketing in South Station and living in the North End with two other girls among many young people and five or six Skidmore graduates. Son, Jonathan, now a junior at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, continues to row crew there. Al continues to be active in fundraising for Kimball Union and Dartmouth, along with serving on the board of The Fells Historic Estate & Gardens, nearly 1,000 acres on Lake Sunapee in Newbury, NH. **Sarah Leonori Pusey** writes that she continues to volunteer at the Museum of the American Indian in Novato, CA (in spite of the commute) and has returned to basket-making after a long pause. A couple of years ago she visited Long Island for the first time in over fifty years. Relatives took her to the river, the Sound, and the ocean. The development over the last half-century was all too obvious. She found some fabulous Italian food, but the star attraction for her was the woods. People tell her, "You have trees out there" (in Calistoga, CA), but they are missing the distinction between

trees and woods. **Owen Smith** reports that he retired from the restaurant business effective New Year's Eve, marking the first time in 70 years that he does not have an affiliation with a restaurant.

## 1956 60TH REUNION THIS FALL!

**Anne Wachoupe Smith**  
297 London Drive  
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**Bill Jones** reports that he and Gail have moved to Frisco, Texas. Bill writes, "We are closing in on three years here. We are only about 20 minutes north of Dallas, in non-rush hours. Frisco is one of the fastest growing towns in the country. At present, the Dallas Cowboys are building their headquarters and extensive practice facilities only about two miles from our home. Frisco is also attracting many corporate headquarters, shopping malls and numerous residential communities. We are happy to be away from the cold and snowy northeastern winters. While it is certainly hot in the summer, it is not usually humid. There is a lot to do here and the people are very friendly. So, come on down for a visit!"



Turn to the Red & Black channel at  
[youtube.com/friendsacademyschool](https://youtube.com/friendsacademyschool)



Sadly, **Wendy Crane Odenweiler's** husband Hank died in February of complications following a stroke. They had been married 56 years and have three children. We only met Hank once but he was a good sport and had a great sense of humor.

## 1957

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## 1958

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## 1959

**David Seeler**  
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**Carol Klarberg** retired two years ago, but still substitute teaches, hikes, and enjoys movies and origami groups. She also does meditation and yoga. Her 14-year-old grandson sings in an a cappella group called "Till Dawn," a program sponsored by Marin Youth and Art. Carol, I hope you have rehearsed "Let the Good Times Roll" (Shirley and Lee) from our era. I received an update from **Gerry Bocian**, which I have forwarded to you all by e-mail. Don't forget Gerry invites us all to visit Palm Springs. Call him at 415-595-1314 for reservations. **Wendy Stone** writes, "All is well in Scottsdale. I am still an 11 handicap in golf and won the club championship this year at the Biltmore. We are all trying to stay upright." **Steve Sundgaard** took a trip from Dallas to Long Island, and visited **Carter, Voorhees, Seaman**, and **Seeler**, too! **Tom Carter** continues his working life with USAID "developing a new, congressionally-mandated program that we hope will help the foreign assistance community recognize that in many countries where we work, there are large numbers of very capable organizations." Tom and his wife, Ramola, are now grandparents, courtesy of their younger daughter, Anisha. **Sam Sugden's** response was forwarded to our class. And please remember his invitation to his winter home in tropical Mustique, in

the Grenadines. For reservations, call 845-351-2334. Sam, I'll take a double with an ocean view. **John Froehlich** will be visiting New York on his way to Europe the first week of April. We hope to organize some kind of reunion at that time. **Jim Sykes** enjoys his three children and five grandchildren. He is retired in Manhattan, after fifty years of Wall Street life. Jim sends his best to the "master class" with the words "may the force be with you." **Charles Jameson** and wife Dana have had their 42nd Anniversary this year. Charles has model trains (he claims for his grandchildren, HA!), electric guitars (he claims Dana loves it, HA!) and drives his restored 1957 Chevy convertible. He also does target shooting and has a massive gun collection in case the Democrats invade Northern Virginia. Give 'em hell Charles, but don't shoot me. Gay and **Bruce Burrows** continue to be travel bugs. Bruce's goal is to travel to 100 countries and he teaches history at the University of Alabama. Bruce was named one of the 10 "intriguing" people in the *Tuscaloosa Magazine*. Gay is President of the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra. Bruce, I always thought you were intriguing when, in '58, you were driving around with your car on the 15th hole at Piping Rock Country Club. **Sue Dundon** says she is "no longer hang gliding or parachute jumping," but rather "enjoys quieter pursuits, like books, gardens, walks, movies, opera – and loves Simulcast!" She is feeling fortunate and sends best wishes to all, for a happy and brighter 2016! **John Wenger** writes that he is proud to have taken a recent mandatory driver's test (on a stick shift) and it was a "piece of cake." Also remembering his red M.G., which still lives at his brother's house. This past summer, he spent time in Atlanta, New Jersey, and New York City (NYC will always be his first love). He sadly missed the 55th Reunion and hopes someone is planning the 60th. **Alice Fisher** enjoyed the beginning to her New Year as she and her family (including her daughter, Diana, Diana's husband, their three children and a few of Alice's other grandchildren) spent a few days together in Vermont eating, talking, walking and touring. "Life doesn't get much better." Alice has also taken on two major projects: "the personal, a continuing exercise program for my legs and heart, the more policy-targeted for another – creating a village program for older LGBT residents in Greater Boston." **David Seeler**: My life continues at The Bayberry in Amagansett, finishing my 46th year in business. We also have a 40-acre site in Sagaponack with four rental houses on the property, which keeps us busy. We plan

to build a house on a portion of our 12 acres in Amagansett this coming year, which will be for sale. Any buyers out there?

## 1960

**Bob Powell**  
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Contacted classmates about the time of the Blizzard of Ought-16 so lots of chats about how deep the snow was in their neck of the woods. Thanks to Facebook, learned **Carol McNeary** is still in Blackshear, GA, and active in keeping the Satilla River beautiful. **Louis Licht** writes, "Pam and I are still working on becoming Hearty New Englanders, after six years in Concord MA, where we moved to be close to our children. (You can't, however, become a true Concordian without the proper ancestors, so we do not aspire to that.) I spend a lot of time practicing and playing the cello in a local orchestra. I envy the music program FA has now, it was sort of anemic in our day." (Did we even have a music program?) **Fred Kuffler** is "Still working full time trying to get the ship owners of the world out of trouble but the work is still fascinating and my firm is growing." Mrs. Flackbert must have had a profound influence on **John Trauth** who is as much *Monsieur* as Mister. (Hmm, **Francis Edmunds** is in Berlin and **Mike Samuels** in Greece.) John is helping United Way of Monterey County establish an affordable housing initiative, working with the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition and, naturellement, with the Alliance Francaise of San Francisco. **Beth Cocks Cobham** volunteers at Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital and does "whipping in" for the Farmington Beagles as she did many years ago for the Buckram Beagles on Long Island. Early last year she went kayaking with **Michele Piro Purcell** in Florida. **Andy Dott** is heading for Germany soon and will meet with Herr Edmunds while there. His orchids have burst into glorious bloom. Me? Doing fine. Still gliding, flying the old ones at the Aviation Museum and writing. (Another non-fiction, aviation book should be out by next year.)

## 1961 55TH REUNION THIS FALL!

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## 1962

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Not much to report, as I haven't heard from anybody. Fred and I are off to Cambodia and Vietnam on a National Geographic/Lindblad Expedition. We are both really looking forward to learning about their culture and what they lost during the years of war and living under the Khmer Rouge as well as where they are today. Everything I have read has been pretty darn depressing. I do regularly talk with **Sandi Ray Holland** who has been my dearest friend since we were in 5th grade at Friends. She still lives on Nantucket, has five very young grandchildren and continues to love to go sailing with her life partner Alfie, to many varied destinations. Their boat has been waiting to come back from the Mediterranean, but it is just not a safe place to pleasure cruise right now! I also have talked with **Betsy Stuart Kintz** several times this year. She and her family still live in Colorado and she sounds just as wonderful as ever. She has lots of grandchildren and even has a great grandchild – yikes! Always get a Christmas card from **Chip Malcolm** who has had numerous joint replacements, but he and Nancy still love to travel and enjoy their camp on Lake Champlain. They are lucky to have their kids all living near the Middlebury area where they live too. Chip has cut back on his Ob-Gyn practice so I guess he is “semi-retired.” Also heard that **Andy Merton** has written another book! I think I heard that he has also cut back on his teaching. I keep in touch a bit with **Ann Raymond Montague** through Facebook and **Melissa Fox** always remembers my birthday. Thank you Melissa! Anybody else who would like to share some news, please write or e-mail me! Here's to a happy, healthy 2016! – **Randi**

## 1963

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Sylvia Dawkins '63, pictured with her motorcycle, passed away from cancer on May 6, 2015.

Welcome to 2016 Fellow Classmates! First of all, I have sad news to report – our dear classmate, **Sylvia Dawkins**, died of cancer on May 6, 2014, in Arizona, at the age of 69. I have been in touch with her sister, **Marantha '62** (aka Marty), and am sharing her wonderful comments as well as her e-mail [marantha.dawkins@icloud.com] so that you can share remembrances of Sylvia with her – I know she would like that: “Thank you for your thoughts, Paula. I will pass your e-mail along to my sisters and brothers, who will be pleased to see it. Chris, Dru, and I were all with Syl when she died, for which we're grateful, and all her siblings had been there to visit shortly before she died. Her son Jake came out from Berlin, as well. Syl was a creative, sometimes subversive, artist with wide-ranging intellect, interests, and abilities, making everything from egg tempera paintings to dummies, and supported herself just as eclectically. We had a memorial service for her in Arizona, attended by her family, friends, and fellow



Myrna, one of Sylvia Dawkins' dummies, and her alter-ego



Sylvia in 1969

she died. Her son Jake came out from Berlin, as well. Syl was a creative, sometimes subversive, artist with wide-ranging intellect, interests, and abilities, making everything from egg tempera paintings to dummies, and supported herself just as eclectically. We had a memorial service for her in Arizona, attended by her family, friends, and fellow

artists and corrections officers (yes, she was a corrections officer in the last two years of her life – can you believe that?). Syl was very proud of her son, Jake. He is a DJ in Berlin, and is married to another artist, Henrieke. They have two children, Alaska (6) and Tennessee (10 months). Syl only knew Alaska, but loved being a grandmother. She leaves three sisters, two brothers, a son and daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. We all miss her wit, her talent, and her eccentricity. I will see if I can figure out how to send some pics of her work, so you can see for yourself... Thanks again for your email – **Marantha** (aka Marty).” The only other news I received this time is from **Bruce Birkett** [btbirkett@gmail.com], who lives and works in Portugal. He is still working and has some interesting perspectives to share: “I do like to read newsy class information in the FA magazine. Things that strike me are how different and enriched the classes are at FA now compared to when we were there – more science, robotics, more sports teams (more kids in each grade). As I reflect on these changes, I guess I'm glad to be so “un-retired” and involved in so many new things like business consulting. For example, through HourlyNerd (out of Boston) where I've had a chance to work with both small and larger businesses looking for help with business plans and financing. To keep up, there are all sorts of new media sources like TechCrunch, Crunch Base and Palico – so instead of golf and dog walking, I get to constantly learn about new things. One of my young business associates from the Czech



Republic went to grad school in Beijing and is now working in government relations with a Czech company with offices in China. The modern world – knowing Czech, English and Mandarin. I'm also involved in some business start-ups here in Europe, one of which is launching in early 2016, opedaconsult.com. I don't like working 40-hour weeks, but like keeping busy for at least 30 hours per week. If there is any benefit to age, other than a wealth of experience, it is the ability to work even faster with tech tools like MS Word, Excel, PPT, etc. Oh yes, I also have a new personal website: <http://bbabirkett.wix.com/bba-us>. It's great feeling part of the future. Wishing everyone well." Until next time...

## 1964

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Well, to quote a great philosopher, "Sometimes, you get what you need!" I sent out a very nice, hardly threatening (so unusual), but urgent request for news from our fabulous class, and, as usual, you did not disappoint! Of course not! The replies, which really should be printed in their entirety, fall into three important categories: #1) Whoppers, #2) Mothers still alive, and #3) Just like me (hereinafter, JLM)! Let's start with #3 (bien sur!) First to respond was **Sue Notides Melzig** who has the distinction of attending Camp Locheam for Girls with your humble (well) correspondent. She and **Perry** are also, JLM, retired, downsizing and blessed with wonderful grandchildren. And they did – eh hem – spend a delightful weekend with **Ned** and **Gail Frey**. See how nice it is to keep in touch with your chums? Also, JLM, **Nina Stein** and her devoted husband **Irwin** (he has never missed a Reunion – eh hem) are doting grandparents and intrepid, happy travelers. And sort of JLM – well, no – they enjoy all sorts of cultural activities in NYC. Nina is also an accomplished artist and we love, love, love her watercolors. Mostly, we treasure Nina for her loyalty and love. She also mentioned three dear classmates we yearn to see: **Mary Yawger**, **David Dykstra** and **Jill Stamberg**... And now, Nina brings us to #2) because her dear mom is still "vibrant, charming and a wonderful friend." Amazing! As is **Jeff Bloom's** dear mum! She, too, is very much alive and kickin' at almost 93. And now, dear friends, it is with a heavy heart that I say we must turn to #1) Whoppers. Really, you



Douglas Alcheck's '64 skin care line...internationally famous!

can't believe what some people say. Yes, I was known as the most gullible attorney in the General Counsel's office, but, really, talk about stretching credulity! So, for example, **Jeff Bloom** was one of the very first to reply and he wrote a very lengthy, wonderful (for the most part) e-mail. He started our so nicely, talking about his lovely bride of 35 years, who is the mother of their three wonderful children, and his law partner. And that they are expecting their first grandchild in a few weeks. Lovely. So far, so good, right? Then, he says that his daughter is a – get this – neuroscientist in the SF area. Sure! Trouble ahead! Then, he says, one son is finishing his residence at – watch out now – Brown University Medical School – as is his fiancée! Of course! And just when you might expect a rebel in the bunch, Jeff says – wait – the other son is a biologist in animal husbandry doing research at UCSD. Bob's your uncle! But does he stop there? Nuuuuuu. He claims that he and Greta have done weeks and weeks of medical missionary work in Sierra Leone, Honduras, Mexico (twice), Guatemala and Africa as well as work on the California Innocence Project. And they may



Friends from 1964: Perry Melzig, Sue Notides Melzig, Geoffrey Steinemann and Annchen from October 2014.

retire (JLM) and do more! I am exhausted just typing this and concerned, very concerned about our classmate's apparent tenuous connection to reality. Therefore, I am referring him to my good friend and Sea Cliff neighbor, Victoria Young Ryan for treatment! And I am reluctant (well,...) to report that our beloved classmate, **Sophia Lotowycz Stoller** joins him in the Whopper category. As you know, Sophia and Peter live in Boulder (say no more!). For years, Sophia has talked about Boulder as the sister city of Dushanbe, Tajikistan so that MAY very well

be true. Now we know that Boulder is a long plane ride for some of us in the east. But you should hear where she says they have or are going to be traveling! First, she says they've been to China to visit their older son and his partner. OK. OK. Then, she says this summer they are going to visit their younger son, who lives in the French Alps with his French wife after attending the wedding of their Tajik exchange student outside of Paris! Oh, sure! I have jet lag just writing this, but, you may recall, I was always overly sensitive... Sophia has long been a loyal correspondent and we remember her so well, and maybe this is true. Well, it probably is, because she is such a good person. Just as is Jeff. But you know who is really good? Really good? **Geoff Steinemann**. His e-mail gets reprinted in its entirety, because he is the best of the best! "Hi Lesley, Once several of us were called to the study hall. I do not know who we teased or worse yet, mocked, but it was someone on the janitorial/cafeteria staff. I think it was Fred Smith who so severely chastised us that we all felt very guilty. I particularly remember when he told us that someday at least one of us would work as a janitor. I don't think anyone believed this, but he was right. I run a women's bowling league and have to clean their toilet, sink, etc. It is really annoying trying to vacuum the spectator area with a machine with bad suction. Kudos to the Friends philosophy for always fostering our character. Geoff." Love to all, from your somewhat chastened **Lesley**. P.S. Imagine if I hadn't gone to Friends! I also send greetings from my most loyal of friends, **Indira Licht Garner** and **Douglas Altchek**, who are always there through good times and bad. Isn't that why we are still connected?

## 1965

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Ten years ago we had our 40th reunion, and had so much fun that we had a 45th just so that we would be in good practice for our 50th. This year's reunion, as the last two, was centered at **Rising's** "farm" in Brightwaters. We are fortunate to have **Brandt**



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These folks are way too young to be celebrating their 50th Reunion!

and **Sandy** as friends and hosts. The forecast of a hurricane that weekend, combined with several classmates' prior commitments, cut into the attendance. We saw **Angela Van Rynbach** and **Lynn Barker Caruso** for the first time in several decades though. Angela was voted the "Most Influential" member of the class, in recognition of her lifetime work in Africa and Asia for the World Food Programme. Lynn had recently retired after 50 years as an elementary school teacher, and was happy not to be "shot out of a cannon at 5:30 a.m." anymore. We saw **Jeff Davis** for the first time in 50 years; coincidentally, he was performing at Old Bethpage Village that weekend. **Jack Beuttell** spent the reunion weekend at his son's wedding in Virginia. After decades in Texas, he will be moving to the Richmond, VA area this spring. **Dave Pratt** is moving to Bradford, VT imminently, and his kids will be nearby. In the course of communications leading up to the reunion, I had conversations with many classmates who have been out of contact for years. **Peggy Attridge Young** spent her years practicing law in Indianapolis, but is now on the outer banks of North Carolina, "giving back" in her retirement years. **Laura Brugge McLyman** is in Philadelphia, and has been a legal assistant most of these years. She will be moving to California soon. **Marianne Darbee Pecoraro** is enjoying life in Aiken, SC; she helped me find Laura. I talk with **Jay Tucker** from time to time and he told me that he had a great visit with **Jay Cawley** in Carlisle, PA. Both of our Jays are doing well. **Linda Jansson** sent a short but sweet e-mail from O'Brien, FL. I continue to bump and stumble through the years. My official narrative is that "I moved to the boondocks, married a local, and went

native." I'm not a jet-setter, but I did spend years flying a turbo-prop, and I am happy that I landed here in 1974. We are all healthy, and we wish health and happiness for all of you in 2016. Pictures of the reunion and updated classmate pages can be viewed at [fa65.com](http://fa65.com). Come visit us!

## 1966

50TH REUNION THIS FALL!

**Helen Lotowycz Rising**  
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We are planning our 50th reunion this fall – October 14th and 15th. Many classmates have led busy lives and have not returned for any of our reunions. Well this is the last hurrah, the "big one!" We want to get as big a group as possible to celebrate that we have made it this far. We want to remember those in our class who have not...**Connie, Hank, Priscilla, Louis, Julie and Roland**. I spoke with **Todd Smith**, who divides his time between Arizona and Connecticut. Since his serious health issues in the early nineties, Todd has learned to appreciate life more and seize the day. He and a group of senior bikers take two-week trips every fall. He cruises on his Indian motorcycle. When Todd is not biking he can be found on the racquetball court. **Betsy Kirk** and her husband got rid of their snow shovels when they moved from Iowa to North Carolina but Mother Nature had other ideas and dumped two feet of snow on them in January. Fortunately there was no snow during Christmas and they were able to enjoy the holiday with their daughter, son-in-law and lovely granddaughter, Lena. **Roger Halpert**



continues working part-time in real estate litigation consulting. He and his wife Janet plan on being at the reunion. **Tina Hokanson** has been enjoying retired life. She has been volunteering in a program called “Farmer Frog” teaching children in schools how to grow gardens. The work involves bringing back farming and teaching children about farming. Tina is also involved with a group trying to unearth the creative self, called “The Artist Way” based on Julia Cameron’s book. As if that is not enough, Tina has started an online nutrition program at the Institute of Integrated Nutrition. **Neola Caveny** plans on venturing east after many years in Hawaii. We look forward to hearing stories of Island life. **Betty Jo Grossman Pheiffer** is alive and well in Santa Fe. She is the president and founder of the Greenhouse Grocery, a Santa Fe community coop. Hope that we see you all at our 50th reunion this fall. — **Sandy Rising**

## 1967

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The class of ’67 promptly sent in lots of news after this class representative threatened to make up news about them if they did not send any ACTUAL news! **Chico Moreno** reports: Emma and I are now up to six grandchildren. Family reunions are pretty hectic at this point with kids from 9 years old to 1 year old running and crawling around. My youngest daughter, Catherine, will be getting married in October on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. This is the last wedding for Emma and me as far as our children go and I gotta say thank goodness! Being “Father of the Bride,” love that movie, is no easy task. Emma is now teaching at a Montessori Charter School in New Haven and I continue with Risk Management/Engineering work focusing on worker’s compensation. I also am now the Commander of Flotilla 24-01 out of Branford, CT with the CG Auxiliary and work closely with the New Haven CG Station SECLIS doing SARS, watchstanding, vessel inspections, etc. **John Watson** and I had our annual reunion this past fall fishing for blue fish on the Hel-Cat out of Groton. We each caught 12-pound blues and had a feast of fillets that were delicious and IPAs. I also fish off my lobster boat, URSA II with the older grandkids who are now adept at salt water fishing, swimming and tubing. **Candy Adelson** reports, “Jerry-Yah’kov Rossman, my husband of nearly 13 years, has been

retired for a while, but I’m still working at the Tennessee State Museum. The museum’s planned new facility will open in fall 2018, so we are in “crunch” mode. On the side, I belong to the local hand-weavers guild, work on awakening more spiritually, and teach a restorative yoga class once a week (coming full circle in a way) at the Nashville Friends Meeting House. For five years, I’ve also recorded and edited Jerry’s local TV show, “Spiritual Awakening 101,” which can be seen on YouTube (search on “3086 Spiritual”). The (step) grandchildren are now six in Cleveland Heights, ranging from 2 to 13 years old (first bar mitzvah coming up), and one here in Nashville who just turned 3. Speaking of **Andy Black**, didn’t Andy promise a couple of years ago to organize a cruise for our 50th reunion? By my count, that would be coming down the pike in just over a year, and we’ll probably need quite a bit of lead time to be sure to get so many busy people together. Any news? It sounds like a great idea.” Candy, Andy has done lots of research on the topic of a 2017 reunion trip. The cruise looked like it would be too expensive for many of us. Andy suggests a resort called Las Terrasas, in Belize. He has been there many times, and loves it. They have a website, [www.lasterrasasresort.com](http://www.lasterrasasresort.com) and the phone number is 1-800-447-1553 (or e-mail them at [reservations@lasterrasasbelize.com](mailto:reservations@lasterrasasbelize.com)). I just sent the resort the following inquiry: “Our high school class of ’67 is considering locations for a 50th reunion trip. Andrew Black suggested your resort. We would be a group of 12-14 individuals, interested in 6-7 rooms, in the

winter of 2017. What would be the best rates you could offer us?” And *still* speaking of **Andy Black**, I have an admission of guilt to make. Several years ago, Andy mailed to me by snail mail a lovely message that he wanted included in *The Meeting House*. It was on paper. I could not file it immediately in an Outlook folder. I could not find it when time came to send in notes. So, a little late, having just uncovered the letter, I will give you the whole beautiful message from Andy: “Last June I had the distinct pleasure of attending the wedding of Katherine Eldridge, the daughter of **Peter Eldridge ’67** and **Debbie Debus Eldridge ’68**. Katherine was an exquisite bride and the wedding itself was such an elegant affair that I think Will and Kate may have suffered some anxiety out of fear of being upstaged. My mother was always fond of Katherine, and shortly before Mom died she gave Katherine, who was then still a little girl, some of her jewelry as a keepsake. Katherine incorporated the jewelry into her bridal apparel as a remembrance, and I was very touched that a lady of her tender years made such a graceful gesture.” And from **Jay Dowling** today, a little less sincere, but very entertaining, “The desert resounded with a silence so big it was almost palpable. On the eleventh morning the last of our native bearers died, and by late afternoon the last camel had given up the ghost as well. As Phipps-Fogarty remarked, the situation was showing signs of becoming precarious. Of course by then we knew – had known for days – we were being followed, but we still didn’t know by whom. (No matter how desperate the situation, our well of English



Diana Dickson-Witmer ’67, husband Dennis and son Hunter hit the slopes in Utah.

remained undefiled.) One thing was certain: as we got closer to the lost border of the Forbidden Lands, whoever that was who persistently dogged our footsteps would have less and less interest in our continued good health. But there was nothing we could do about that, except keep our eyes open, keep moving, and be grateful Dianne Feinstein hadn't been able to confiscate our assault weapons. As it became increasingly obvious we were about to be assailed, we were glad to have them." **Diane Murphy** writes, "I'm in year two living up here by Griffith Observatory in the Hollywood Hills with the famed lion P22. Eddie Murphy (my dog) and I walk the same trails. I continue to consult for high tech and aerospace firms, so travel a lot and work with super interesting people (like the lead guitarist for Queen and Astrophysicist Brian May). My kids are great: daughter Meghan works for the (Michael) Milken Institute, and son Ian for Boston Consulting Digital – both in Santa Monica/Venice and Ian just got engaged. I've been approached to write a screenplay about my dad's invention of the Credit Card and still feeling guilty each midnight when I didn't take the time to play the piano. I love LA – a great place to live, full of diversity and cleverness, invention and creativity." News from **Paul LaLicata**: "This April 20th I will celebrate my 20th wedding anniversary to my Russian bride Luba La Licata. Against the majority opinion, I have been extremely happily married these past 20 years. To supplement my social security payments, I work as a Night Watchman for a few nights a week. My wife and I plan to attend the 50th class reunion in 2017. Wishing everyone good health." Dennis and Hunter and I are all doing well. The picture is from our ski trip to Utah, which was great fun, but -15° at the base of the mountain each morning! BRRRRRR. Hunter is getting honors in his second year at med school at Jefferson, and has decided to do an MD/MBA program. Dennis is still getting gold medals in senior Olympics bike races at 64. I haven't had any more heart issues. Knock on wood, and keep taking Plavix. Very excited about an upcoming girls' trip to Costa Rica. Since all four of us are over 55, and three of us are over 65, we are not too worried about getting pregnant and the Zika virus. – **Didi**



Bookmark [www.fa.org/alumni](http://www.fa.org/alumni)  
for the latest news and reunion pics

## 1968

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Happy 2016! Hope you all had a wonderful holiday. As I said in the last issue, here we go again. As always, I appreciate any news from the class to report for *The Meeting House*, even if it's only a few. I never want the class of 1968 to be blank. I haven't edited the news from your replies as this way the class can see what you all were thinking. Those that are on Facebook with me, please send me what you would like the class to see, as I won't take the liberty to show your post out of respect to you. Onto our 50th Reunion in 2018! **Mary Watkins** shares: "Hello to you each and all. I am still teaching liberation psychology at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara in a doctoral program in Community Psychology, Liberation Psychology, and Ecopsychology. I have been working for the last decade on issues of forced migration, particularly from Mexico to the U.S. I wrote with my husband, Ed Casey, *Up Against the Wall: Re-Imagining the U.S.-Mexico Border*. We spend each fall in New York City where Ed teaches philosophy at SUNY, Stony Brook. In NY I am active with regard to the sad state of affairs of privately owned detention centers and detention and deportation hearings for people who are seeking asylum. I am a very happy grandmother of one little boy, Aaden, with one more on the way. I am deeply enjoying my four adult daughters and watching the ways their lives are unfolding in their twenties. I hope to attend our 50th and see you all!" **Karin Neilson** shares: "No real news; I had a wonderful trip to Africa again this fall." **Lisa Craig** shares: "Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. Right now, everything is 'same old, same old,' but in this crazy world we're living in, a little bit of boring ain't so bad!" **Jim Evans** shares: "As I write this, I am sitting in the Monroe Regional Airport terminal waiting to board a flight to Houston where I will change planes to fly to Rio de Janeiro. This will be my second trip this year. I will spend New Year's and approximately two weeks following in Cabo Frio, a resort town where my good friend, Alex Lima, owns a Bed and Breakfast. This has been a year of travel. I went to Florida last March and enjoyed Ft. Lauderdale and Orlando. The two days spent at Universal and Disney were enough for a lifetime. With the exception of

Epcot Center, I had enough of the "parks" for a lifetime. I spent almost three weeks with Alex in Cabo Frio last July and then, he and I took an Alaskan cruise in September to celebrate his birthday and a belated one for me. That trip was wonderful and probably will be among my memorable travels. After my current trip, my mother will be happy that I am planning to stay in Ruston for the rest of the winter and most of the spring. I am planning to take a road trip up the East Coast in my brand new 2015 Red Mustang in May 2016. The Mustang was my 65th birthday gift to myself! My best to all in the Class of 1968. Can't wait for our 50th!" **John Malcolm**, thank you for the Christmas card! **John** shares: "Hello Everyone. I continue to live on my farm here in Vermont and bale hay, mow brush, cut wood and manage the forestland with some timber harvest sales. A neighbor farmer cuts hay, pastures his cows and taps some of the maple trees on other parts of the farm and we get some fresh eggs, bacon, maple syrup, and even some venison. I enjoy my less stressful life now that I am not fulltime dairying or in the VT Legislature and enjoy hiking daily through my fields and woods and seeing all the wildlife. However, as the years go by I have come to realize that land can own you as much as you own it! For fun again this year we rented a cabin during the summer on a nearby lake and we also heard some of our music favorites like bluesman Buddy Guy, and the Susan Tedeschi/Derek Trucks Band, and heard an opera in Middlebury. We continue to be Town Justices of the Peace and on other local committees. Hope all is well with everyone." **Cliff Dasco** shares: "Thanks to you, Lesley, for curating these entries. Sheri and I have had an eventful year in a good way. We have a new grandson, Eitan Micah Bracha; he joins his two cousins who are thriving. Consequently, we spend a fair amount of time cruising up and down I-45 between Dallas and Galveston. I have had a very good year in the lab with even a eureka or two. I also continue to see patients although with a bit of a reduced schedule to accommodate the research time demands. It is an interesting time what with periodic messages from friends and colleagues announcing their retirement. I'm having way too much fun to pursue that route. As time goes on my appreciation of the intellectual and ethical underpinnings garnered at Friends increases. All the best and, once again, thanks." I received this e-mail from **David Cressey '71** attached with his note and had to share: "Hi Lesley: I read with great interest the profile on **Duncan Guild** in the recent *Meeting House*.



Duncan was one of my heroes at FA, and reading about him triggered some memories. Perhaps you can use the attached in your Class Notes since it mentions a number of 68ers. I just looked thru the 1968 Lamp and it brings back that time and place in a very rich way. Hats off to **Bob Piro** and his editorial crew. And kudos to you for being so faithful to the Class Notes over the years." David continues, "I enjoyed the excellent profile, from a recent issue of *The Meeting House*, of the ebullient **Duncan Guild** and his 40-year teaching career. Duncan, then a senior, took me – new to the school, new to the Island – under his wing my freshman year, and it made all the difference. Clearly, he found his calling as a special needs teacher of the very young and vulnerable. And, let us not forget, he was a linchpin of the undefeated 1968 baseball team – at short – along with backstop **Willy Merriken**, ace southpaw **Rick Spencer**, and skipper **Mr. Marty Jacobson**. The vintage photo, in the same issue, of **Paul Hand** standing next to his ride brought a remembrance that seemingly half the guys in '68 and '69 posed for their Yearbook pages with their sports cars. (OK, OK, more than two.) And then there was Dunc, sympatico with his dog, and **Johnny Malcolm** tending a herd of sheep. Regards, **David Cressey '71**." As for me, nothing new since the last issue as life in Joplin remains tranquil and easy, enjoying retirement. I have to say while writing these issues for the class, I often reflect on all my time at FA. I love hearing regularly from **Kathy Attridge Anas**, who called over the holidays with a surprise visitor, sister **Anne Attridge '67**, who sounded great and still was the best softball pitcher. **Greg Tarone** shares: "I dropped by the Alumni Reception for Homecoming this past fall and had the thorough pleasure of not only seeing **Vicki Baum Bjorklund** again for the first time since graduating, but meeting her likewise sharp husband, Hank. Our little Quaker school campus sure has evolved nicely with time – like wine, becoming finer." It is fun to see what's new periodically on Facebook with **Peggy Springsted Weiner**, **Nancy Goldberg Kassop**, **Bob Piro**, **Betsy Harris Radecki**, **Paul Hand**, **David Porter**, **Bob Rushmore**, **Anne Maher Franchot** and **Susan Abrams Butler**. So next time, send me your news and of course, I have to mention my great friendship with **Kal** and **Judy Wynot**, it is such fun staying in touch. And **Robbie Thomas**, thank you for the fabulous Christmas letter. So keep the news coming and all the best for 2016. – **Lesley**



Teaching at Friends, especially as an alumna, was a very powerful and rewarding experience. Can you pick me (Angela Manno '71) out?

## 1969

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## 1970

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## 1971 45TH REUNION THIS FALL!

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*A note to the Class of 1971: In the last issue of "The Meeting House," I accidentally made an error in the Class of 1971's class notes... so here they are again, correctly recorded, with my apologies. – Kathy Fox*

After a long while without class reps, team **Cressey** and **Manno** are taking on the mantle. Thanks go out to **Craig Kronman** and **Robin Dell Campbell** for their many years of being our class reps. Well done! We're thrilled that so many classmates sent in their news for our first run. We hope everyone will want to join in for subsequent issues of *The Meeting House*. **Angela Manno**: "Though I've kept in touch with a handful of classmates over the decades, the past few years have brought me into more intimate contact with Friends Academy. The first was the memorial for **Roger Erickson** at Matinecock Meeting-house last March. During the Meeting, the spirit of Friends was palpable, and I was transported back to those tender and exciting years as a student at Friends. Tears came to my eyes as I sat in the spot I usually occupied as a teenager, gazed in awe at the faculty

*Continued on Page 62*



Peter Darbee '71 and Chris Gatty '71 on Block Island

## 2015 HOMECOMING WEEKEND

HELD OCTOBER 18-20, 2015



Reminiscing about the Class of 1995 under the Alumni Tent at Fall Fair & Homecoming



Alumni parents Joanne and Ron Menzin, **Lauren Putter Menzin '81**, **Andy Menzin '81** and **Ellen Field Greene '82** gather at the rain venue for this year's Alumni Tent.



**CLASS OF 1995:** **Sarah Hendler**, **Jessica Axinn-Posillico**, **Andrew DeNatale** and **Laura Dello-Iacono Pellicone**

**CLASS OF 1995:**  
Classmates check  
in at their 10th  
Reunion.



Log on to LinkedIn to network with  
hundreds in the FA Alumni Group





Class of 1964 classmates  
Ned and Gail Frey, Sue Notides  
Melzig '64 and Eric Melzig '64

Left, Chip Behal, Maurice  
Reid, Christopher Mayer  
and Doug Mallory



CLASS OF 1985  
(FAR LEFT):  
Merri Kaye  
Yacenda,  
Chris Dowling,  
Gina Pistone  
Plansker, Laura  
Match Schaffer  
and Luis Ramos

(Left) 1964  
basketball captains  
Ned Frey and Perry  
Melzig had their  
own 51st reunion  
at Fall Fair.



Members of the Class of 1975 attend their 40th Reunion Dinner.



CLASS OF 2015: Brooke Gardner and Sierra  
Fisher reunite at Fall Fair and Homecoming.

CLASS OF 1975: Nick Nichols, Peter Brock-  
way, Roger Gilmartin, Mike Ruppel, Greg  
Van Raalte, Adele MacDonald Kristiansson,  
Tom Kaufman, Paulette Peters Simpson,  
Roger Stern, Julia Sefton, Cliff Lovette,  
Anita Peters, Laura Schmidt, Evette  
Beckett-Tuggle, Jackie Feldman Aaron,  
Josie Meriken Scupp, Roberta de Araujo  
and Leslie Lawrence in front.



Catherine Viscardi Johnston '71 celebrates the wedding of her son Ben in Lausanne, Switzerland.

*Continued from Page 59*

from our era on the facing bench and listened to so many familiar voices giving vocal ministry about the great and beloved teacher that was **Roger Erickson**. Following that moment was agreeing to be the class rep with **David Cressey**. It feels like no time has passed and I am enjoying being in touch with our classmates and working with David. And last but not least, was coming back to teach at Friends last April as a Visiting Artist for Middle School Arts Week! It was a very layered experience; being on a transformed campus, with all new faces, in my role as a teacher and no longer a student, brought up so many powerful emotions. On the one hand, I was viscerally aware that you can't go home again. On the other, I loved working with the art faculty, delighted in the receptivity of the students and felt completely embraced in the safe and loving container that is still Friends Academy." **David Cressey**: "It is a treat being in touch with so many of you. There has been a great deal of ground to cover, but a certain continuity does reign. Looking through *The Lamps* from our day, for the first time in many years, I am struck by how well they encapsulate the mood and doings and people of that time and place. I guess that's why we have the dang things. **Angela, Scott, Peter & Chris** are planning a blockbuster 45th Reunion. Please consider attending. The latest from SW Pennsylvania is that the insect hordes are continuing their relentless advance. Deer ticks have overrun the area, carrying the dreaded Lyme's Disease, and the Emerald Ash Borer is systematically decimating the White Ash stands. It's like being in a bad Sci-Fi movie. As for corporate incursions, the shale natural gas fracking industry is taking a

bit of a breather as the markets sort themselves out." **Chris Gatty** writes about his trip to Block Island with **Peter Darbee** and his wife Melinda in August aboard Pete's Fleming 65, Sequoia. "We had a lovely time and it gave me the opportunity to meet his wonderful wife Melinda. They are both very nautically accomplished, and the two of them make a great team. Peter and I went below to the engine room at one point to tighten a loose fan belt. I was very impressed that he not only could identify that there was a loose fan belt but was able to go below and break out the tools to fix it. During the day, Peter graciously rented mopeds and the three of us traveled around Block Island and visited some landmarks and had lunch. Upon returning to Sequoia, we ran into some friends of theirs and had sunset cocktails aboard. I had a wonderful time and we shared many memories of our days at Friends during our trip." Chris also writes about the FA reunion in New York City in June: "It was great to see **Peter Bebry's** daughters **Lauren '02** and **Pamela '05** at a get-together in NYC. They are Friends alumni as well and both reside in the city. Pamela is an attorney and Lauren an architect. With Peter gone, it's nice to see that things turned out well for his kids." **Peter Darbee** writes: "I have been retired now for four years and see and talk to **Craig Kronman** occasionally as he also lives in San Francisco. I spend my time on the board of The Salvation Army in Oakland as well on the board of a venture capital investment when not playing Papa to our three grandchildren. I am also spending time writing a book entitled *The Adopted Journey*, which is the story of adopting our three children and the lives we have spent together." From **Sharon Barbano**: "I continue to enjoy working in the

performance-running industry heading up public relations for Saucony in Lexington, MA. I've been with the brand for 16 years and I hope to be at it for a few more. I continue to feed my own running passion with trail runs and snowshoe racing, so it's a win-win deal for me. After a few decades of competitive racing, the body is still holding up just fine. As a matter of fact, I captained and ran on a Saucony international relay team that raced across Ireland this summer – from Dublin to Kinvara. What a way to see the country! I continue to live in Marblehead, MA by the beautiful harbor with my partner Janet, who also happens to be in the footwear industry. We rescue and care for senior dogs with disabilities and hopefully give them a better life for their final years. Love to the class of '71!" **Merle Gordon-Dowling**, "sticking to most recent 15 years," chimes in: "When Brian (Dowling) and I went our separate ways in 2001, I moved with our 5-year-old son and light of my life, Ethan, from Miami Beach to South Salem, NY, where Mom (Lila) lived. I started working with my brilliant brother Mike, who had an energy start-up. I did drama school and made commercials in FLA, mind you, so this was not a career move many had reason to hope for... but those corporate and operations folk, they just love drama queens and so it went better than expected. In 2010 the company was sold to one of those big nasty corporations and I survived less than two years before wailing, "uncle." We had a place in the mountains in South Carolina so Ethan (recently graduated from Oakwood Friends) and I picked up and relocated from NY at the end of 2014. And that's where we are – well Ethan's due back intermittently – he's a first year student at Landmark College in Putney VT. He plans to do computer game design. And I am doing three things – getting healthy (and staying clear of bears), Guardian ad Litem-ing, where I raise my sword to keep abused children safe (safer is more apt), and working for my brother again with his next iteration of an energy start-up, Joule Energy. Start-up culture is SO much more better and 'good-er' for me." **Scott Neilson** writes: "This year I have had two grandchildren...Christian and Emma...born four months apart. Both are healthy and very happy little people. Daughters and son-in-laws are all doing well. Other than that, I am enjoying retirement... spend about half the year in Europe with my main squeeze (we live just 2 km outside of Brussels). So a lot of traveling there. Summers are mostly spent on my boat in the Chesapeake... Eastern Shore. Lots of cruising to new sites and anchorages, many water



sports, hiking and biking. Hobbies are playing guitar, cooking, and learning French!!! I seem to have somehow missed that opportunity at Friends (Dan, you might remember something about that), so playing a little catch-up now! Can't send me out in the hall here...of course, I guess they could always evict me from the marina!!! Looking forward to next year's reunion... 45th??? Ugh!"

**Catherine Viscardi Johnston**, "Last July 19th, our oldest son, Ben, was married in Lausanne, Switzerland, where his in-laws live. We had a fantastic time and are thrilled to have such a great new extended Swiss family. Our son works in product development for the cervical spine in the medical devices division of Johnson & Johnson and they live in Boston. Our other news is that we are building a new home in Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina. Until the house is finished, we will be living part-time in Rowayton, CT and part-time in South Carolina and would love to have anyone come visit!" **Robin Campbell** writes: "After 30 years as Curator for the New York State Bureau of Historic Sites, I retired in 2009 and began teaching adjunct for U Albany and Excelsior College in their respective history departments. I love it – the pay barely keeps me in shoes but the rewards of working with students are priceless. As of the spring 2016 meeting in Cleveland, I will finally (after nine years) finish my commitment to Costume Society of America leadership roles. That is the end of my official Past President duties. Then I can go back to just enjoying the conferences instead of having to attend Board meetings. Mom is still going strong at 93 – taking ballet lessons at the dance museum here in Saratoga and driving me crazy – so what else is new? Hope all is well in everyone's corner of the world."

**Kitty Taylor Clifford**: "My husband & I just spent the morning going through boxes and boxes of things we never unpacked (we've moved a lot – buying wrecks – renovating them – selling and then doing it again). So many albums of photographs & books (now everything is online) & outdated electronics & all my old portfolios of every piece of artwork I ever had published plus an old notebook where I scribbled 100s of art directors' names and numbers who I would call and actually reach (no VM). 40 years of memories – yes, things have changed. Makes you wonder what's in store for our kids in 40 years. All in all it's been a great 40 years. I'm married to the same guy:) Love my work, my kids, and my friends. Thankful every single time I step on a tennis court with someone half my age:) I'm sad for what's going on in the world and a little fearful every time I go to

the movies but still go. Can't wait for the next 40. Best to everyone and Happy 2016."

## 1972

**Karen Spero Albers**

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**Jim Neville** writes, "I'm enjoying my law practice in NYC. I saw the **Hamilton's** over Christmas during their visit from Spain and Germany, and we had a great time! **Gene** brought me up to speed on all the details of the Catalan secessionist movement. I was in Barcelona with my daughter in November, and I highly recommend seeing that fantastic city! Spent a fun afternoon with **Betsy** and **Paul Bigler** at my sister-in-law's Christmas party in Connecticut. Good health and cheer to all!" 2015 was a banner year for **Jim Beby**. "My son Jimmy got married on July 2 in Aruba to Heather Lami and my daughter Lydia got married December 12 to Mike Butler, a NYC detective! It's been a busy year!" Speaking of banner years, congratulations to **Jane Dillof Mincer**! Jane and co-author Lynne Kramer's debut novel *The Brockhurst File* received a Pinnacle Prize book award for Best Novel in 2015, via Smithtown Matters! According to Jane, "The award is from a syndicated columnist, Jeb Laduoceur, who chose the book as his favorite novel of the year, with three other books awarded in other categories. We were happily stunned to hear about it!" It's always fun to hear from **Matt Stevenson**:

"Hi, everyone! We're empty nesters, and still Europeans, which makes the house that much quieter. (Cats don't count.) Sometimes I daydream about America (spent a few political weeks covering the New Hampshire primary) and sometimes about Asia (a forthcoming book is about China, seen on trains and bikes), so maybe that explains why we're "stuck in the middle." I spent an enjoyable summer weekend reading Kevin's novel, the perfect flashback to our senior year. Which reminds me... when our kids are tired of my growing-up stories, they say something like: 'We don't want to hear about Long Island in the 1970s.' Strange, isn't it? When the boys were in junior high, and left for school looking like someone coming off an NBA bench, I used to ask: 'Don't you have to wear a necktie to school?' I biked around Rome in November. Not a good idea, but the Keats-Shelly Museum reminded me of Harry Shaw's tenth grade classes, and is 'worth a detour.' Best to all, **Matthew**." As for me, I am glad to say 'good riddance' to 2015. Death is a part of life, and yet it is still very difficult to say goodbye to loved ones and friends. We had our own scare when my husband John was diagnosed with cancer. Thankfully, it was caught and treated early. On a lighter note, he is retiring in the spring, and we are busy planning our own travel adventures with Ajax, our rambunctious chocolate lab. A 'Class of '72 get-together' is in the works for this year. Details will be posted on our "FA Class of 72 Reunion" Facebook page as well as through e-mail. Stay tuned...Wishing you and your families a year filled with love, laughter and happiness.

– **Karen Spero Albers**



Classmates from 1972 – Larry Mauer, Augie Mariani, Karl White and Jimmy Neville had a blast at a recent get-together.

## 1973

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The question I posed to the class for this issue of *The Meeting House* was, "What I did on my 60th Birthday." I see that many of you are refusing to acknowledge this milestone, since I only heard from a few of you! **Billy Dudjoc** set the bar pretty high when he said, "I was going to ride 60 miles... and that is what we did. The day was perfect from a weather standpoint and was more perfect having eight friends give up a Saturday to help me celebrate (four of them were over 60!). 61 miles on August 22, 2016!!!!" Amazing, Billy!! **Kathy Neisloss Leventhal**: "Loved my 60th birthday. I hosted a garden party in our backyard. I was surrounded by family and friends. It was a perfect celebration. Sixty is the new forty... right????!!!!" Absolutely, Kathy – we can't possibly be more than 40! **Andrea Tudy Cassullo Harkins**: "Well I just turned 62. The Ft. Worth Stockshow and Rodeo is in full swing. Going to bring my grandson and daughter to see it. Everything in cowtown is good. Enjoying my 60s." And our world traveler, **Chris Rising Turner** wrote: "For my 60th year my husband and I decided to add the last two continents of the world to our list. Only Asia and Australia were missing. So the two-month adventure began in Vancouver, BC. Our youngest daughter, Erin (32), lives there with her husband. After a week in the Vancouver area, we continued on to China for two weeks of touring with another couple from Germany and my husband's cousin's wife. She grew up in Beijing and was our personal guide and most importantly our voice. After China we set foot in Cairns, Australia and enjoyed four days on Green Island snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef. From Cairns we flew to Christchurch, New Zealand to begin 20 days of a self-driving tour covering both the north and south islands. Halfway through we met up with **Beth Rose** and her husband, Ron, in Dunedin. Beth is a professor there. This is the second time we have met each other overseas. The first was in Estonia of all places! Now comes the daunting process of creating a slideshow from the 5,000 photos clogging up the computer. It truly was a grand adventure. Not sure if we'll venture far this coming year! There are plenty of beautiful places to visit right close to home." And proving that connections we made at Friends can



A mini NYC reunion dinner for the Class of 1975

stay with us forever, **Sue Nappa Cocke** wrote: "Mark and **Cyndy Beach Koch** along with Ian and **Lulu Viscardi Laird** came to our house in Greenwich to celebrate together last January. Each of us girls have birthdays within 12 days of each other! We had a ball going to a great restaurant, dancing and definitely not acting our age!! Great memory!!" I had two birthday celebrations (why not?). The kids, spouses, significant others and grandson all came for my birthday weekend in May. It was just wonderful, as it is so hard to get everyone together!! And then in the fall we took a Danube River Cruise with two other couples, which was magnificent!

## 1974

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## 1975

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We had such a great turn out for our 40th reunion this year! Thanks to **Tilde's** great effort organizing Friday night's dinner and keeping lists of attendees in order! I was



Above, members of the Class of 1975.  
Below, Tina Rose Erardi '75, Kyle Erickson (son of Barbara Gallagher '75 and Frank Erickson '74) and Debbie McNair '75



sorry that the weather kept many of you from coming to campus during the day because we had a private tour of the campus, which was really an eye opener. Friends' campus has changed a lot, even since our 25th reunion and I'll try to give you some highlights here: We met our tour guide on the steps of the Kumar Wang Library, which is now referred to as The KW Learning Commons. It's an amazing three-story structure with language labs and an archive department on the lower level. On the second floor you can gain access to the Upper School building through an enclosed bridge. It connects the Learning Commons to the old tower and to the new, air-conditioned classroom wing (science, language and English classrooms in our day). Remember the basement in the Upper School building where we had the freshman and sophomore lounge/locker room? That's now The Quaker Student Life Center. (I have no idea what that is used for.) There are no more junior and senior lounges; they have been replaced by "social spaces" located throughout the hallways. The Upper School building is now called Frost Hall and boasts a renovated science wing that offers marine biology and engineering along with the science courses we were taught. Next, we come to The Learning Center. Gone is the Alpha, Beta and Omega open classroom setup, replaced with the traditional style classrooms with all the technological bells and whistles. Friends is also now calling it Lower School. Finally, Underhill Hall, our Girls Gym, is now home to The Robotics Lab. All of the plays are performed in the Dolan Center Theatre. This Theatre rivals any Broadway theatre, and the Dolan Center also is home to several music/band rooms, art classrooms, darkroom and a mezzanine-level gallery that exhibits student artwork and outside artists' work as well. The cafeteria is also located in this building, but now is referred to as The Commons. The Boys Gym is now The Field House and houses an indoor track as well as three basketball/tennis courts in addition to our old basketball court. There are two outdoor swimming pools, six more outdoor tennis courts, a new baseball diamond, soccer field, lacrosse field and a refurbished outdoor track around the football field creating a pretty spectacular sports complex. Hyland Circle is now The Quad. These days you can see kids tossing frisbees or footballs around there, rather than the more sedate activities such as **Peter Flint** playing guitar in the olden days of 1975. —**Penelope Wylie Mayer**

## 1976 40TH REUNION THIS FALL!

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## 1977

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## 1978

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Greetings from the post-winter land of Long Island! Amid the efforts of everyone as they shoveled out from under some major snowfalls this year, the following folks were kind enough to answer the call for some class of '78 news updates and notes. **Bill Hodson** writes, "Karen and I are still living in NC, and trying to spend as much time as we can at our place in Delray Beach, Florida. Karen has had some severe health issues lately, so we don't get down there as much as we would like. Son Nicholas is in his second year of law school at Valparaiso University in northern Indiana, and daughter Christina graduated with her Master's last summer and is working in retail fashion. I'm still hoping to win a nice chunky Powerball drawing so I can retire early...other than that, not much else going on." And we caught **Susan Francolini Jordan** at work, taking care of patients, "at a job I still love. I am planning a trip to Guadeloupe early spring and Italy late spring. Photography is the hobby I will be taking up this year." Sounds good, Susan, and we would love to have you send some of your photos of Guadeloupe to *The Meeting House* magazine so that we can publish them in the next issue! **Jack Sieburg Lee** and his wife Lisa welcomed the arrival of gorgeous new granddaughter, Karinna, born to Jack and Lisa's daughter, Kristina Marie and son-in-law Kyle.

# author's corner

Take a look at some of the most recent books and writings by Friends Academy alumni:

### JANE DILLOF MINCER '72

*The Brockhurst File*



Congratulations to **Jane Dillof Mincer '72**, whose debut novel *The Brockhurst File* (co-authored with Lynne Kramer) received a Pinnacle Prize book award for Best Novel in 2015, via Smithtown Matters.

### HEATHER VUILLETLENDE '77

*Find the Good: Unexpected Life Lessons from a Small-town Obituary Writer*  
Algonquin Books

**Heather Lende '77** has published her third book, *Find the Good: Unexpected Life Lessons from a Small-town Obituary Writer* (Algonquin Books). Inspired by 20 years of writing obituaries at the *Chilkat Valley News* in Haines, Alaska (population 2,000), *Find the Good* touches upon a combination of town resident anecdotes and Heather's reflections and musings as seen through the lens of her personal profession. Heather was recently profiled in *The Atlantic* (<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2016/02/obituarist/462570/>), PRI (<http://www.pri.org/stories/2015-12-31/what-writing-obituaries-taught-them-about-life>) and WBUR (<http://hereand-now.wbur.org/2015/05/20/find-the-good-heather-lende>).



*If you've written or published a book, please consider donating a copy to the Friends Academy Kumar Wang Library. Contact Interim Library Director **Laurie Fleming** at 516-393-4279 or [laurie\\_fleming@fa.org](mailto:laurie_fleming@fa.org).*

The proud grandparents manage to get out west as often as possible and are currently on the lookout for a west coast home so that they can spend even more time with the beautiful new family. Congratulations, Jack and Lisa!

**Ellen Westermann** and I had a lovely dinner at her new home in Manhattan, which is but a few blocks from her work at the Metropolitan Opera and the American Ballet where she performs as a cellist. Ellen's beautiful apartment has a spectacular view of Lincoln Center, as well as Juilliard where she attended college. It certainly brings Ellen's career full circle!

## 1979

If anyone from the Class of 1979 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at [alumni@fa.org](mailto:alumni@fa.org). We would love to hear from you!

## 1980

**Michael Salzhauer**  
Benjamin Partners  
589 Broadway  
New York, NY 10012  
(212) 744-7974  
[michael@benjaminpartners.com](mailto:michael@benjaminpartners.com)

Classmates, one thing about today's technology is that it makes it so easy for us to be in touch...that we are not in touch! I would have hoped that last go-round's desperate attempt to draw you out by making up stories based on kernels of information found on Facebook would have drawn someone, just one someone (?), to be in touch. Had I hoped that too strongly, I might be beyond consolation. Fortunately, I did have a mini-reunion of sorts with **Evan Deoul** and **Greg Conway** somewhat recently. Greg's wife Karen is on the board of a terrific charity that provides educational and recreational services for children around the world, Right to Play. They had a fundraiser in NYC, and it was a chance for us all to get together. Greg shocked us with James Bond-esque coolness by being the shill for a \$20,000 item in the auction. When his bid was topped, the relief was apparent to his friends of almost 40 years but his secret is (was) safe with us.

## 1981 35TH REUNION THIS FALL!

**Betsy Jordan Gahagan**  
PO Box 12  
142 Skunks Misery Road  
Locust Valley, NY 11560  
(516) 759-6697  
[gahagan@optonline.net](mailto:gahagan@optonline.net)



Lara Zises, Tiffany Thomas-Smith, Merri Kaye Yacenda, Gina Pistone Plansker and Laura Match Schaffer gather at the Class of 1985 25th Reunion.

**Robert Blechman**  
42 South Knoll Road  
Mill Valley, CA 94941  
(415) 810-8889  
[rsb753@yahoo.com](mailto:rsb753@yahoo.com)

## 1982

**Leslie Oren & Michael Poloukhine**  
930 Embury St.  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272  
[fa@poloukhine.com](mailto:fa@poloukhine.com)  
[leslie@babygrande-inc.com](mailto:leslie@babygrande-inc.com)

Dear FA '82 classmates: As the Atlantic coast digs out from the first blizzard of the year, we have news from two of you. **Rich Thatcher**, avoiding the snow in Jacksonville, FL recounts his busy year: "In the spring of 2015, I attended Intensive Sommelier Training at The International Culinary Center (formerly French Culinary), where I learned in depth about wine/spirits and their service in formal dining situations. I had an exceptional opportunity to study with Master Sommeliers, Master Chefs, and other restaurant and wine industry professionals. Upon graduation in September, I passed the introductory and three-part Certified Sommelier Exams (back to back) given by The Court of The Master Sommeliers in NYC. Translating my new education and my previous restaurant training was not difficult, as Restaurant Depot hired me to run their new wholesale wine & spirits department in Jacksonville, FL. I designed and constructed the new department, which recently opened before Christmas. It's not like working, as I

enjoy talking with chefs, restaurant owners, bartenders, vineyard owners, and suppliers during the course of my day. Talking about wine usually leads to tasting wine in good company." **Gina Galgano Hoagland** also checked in to let us know all is well in St. Louis: "Keith is 20 and in college at Grinnell in IA. Nathan is 17 and a high school junior. Simone is 13 and a seventh grader. Both Nathan and Simone are at a school here in St. Louis called John Burroughs School and it reminds me so much of FA. Lee has returned to Anderson Hoagland, an investment firm his dad founded, and is working half days. I still have my company, Collaborative Strategies, but am also chairing a bank board, Triad Bank, and am working on buying another business. We will see **Jeanine Kawi Suchecki** next week and **Paola Martino** in mid-January. Really love catching up with FA friends." Meanwhile, we are preparing a major renovation of our new home, just waiting for the El Nino rains to subside. We'll keep you posted on that in future reports! We look forward to a prosperous 2016, wish you all the same and hope you can tell us about it soon, **Michael & Leslie**.

## 1983

**Laura Dilimetin**  
66 Eakins Road  
Manhasset, NY 11030  
[lawyers@nyc-lawyers.com](mailto:lawyers@nyc-lawyers.com)



## 1984

Beth Anne Melkmann  
162 East 80th Street, Apt. 3B  
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lebonchien@aol.com

## 1985

Laura Match Schaffer  
1220 Studio Lane  
Riverwoods, IL 60015  
lematch7@gmail.com

The class of 1985 held its 30th reunion at the beautiful home of Margaret and Eamon Lavin. The 18 attendees were: Nick Baratoff, Rick Singh, Justin Quinn, Laura Match Schaffer, Philippa Barnat Miller, Lara Zises, Chris Dowling, Gina Pistone Plansker, Eamon Lavin, Merri Kaye Yacenda, Peter Canelli, Wendy Messing Grauer, Robert Lawrence, Tiffany Thomas Smith, Alan Weissman, Luis Ramos, Ed Strauss, and Steve Salerno. As always, it was wonderful being together again, and it was as if nothing had changed. We had a surprise guest: Justin Quinn made his first reunion appearance! Great seeing you! Our conversations continued long into the evening, we laughed, hugged, and as usual, the time passed way too quickly for us to have a proper catch-up. On a more serious note, we remembered the classmates we have lost with a moment of silence: Carl Murray, Judith Smith, Michael Grauer, Matt McDermott (and as mentioned in the *In Memoriam* section of this magazine,



Margaret and Eamon Lavin host the Class of 1985 25th Reunion.



1985 classmates Steve Salerno and Ed Strauss

our dear classmate and friend, Amy Ritter Kowalski, who passed away on January 15th. We all left determined to meet back again, possibly within 2.5 years, versus the normal 5. Thanks to everyone who made it, special thanks to Eamon and Margaret, and hopefully, we'll see even more folks at our 32.5 (more than likely 35th!).

## 1986 30TH REUNION THIS FALL!

Kara Vassel Lewis  
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Tequesta, FL 33469  
kmvlewis@gmail.com

Chuck Ritter  
79 The Promenade  
Glen Head, NY 11545-1739  
516-676-8271  
chuckr@universalphotonics.com

Hello Class of 1986, we have really not been doing a great job of collecting notes as I am guessing that you are too humble to believe that your classmates care about your whereabouts and what you are doing. That is not true! I don't know about you, but I wonder... I was thinking that we could try a new angle on the notes and I was able to get more from my friends than the usual. I asked how they are servicing their communities. With that question, I was able to get more interesting information about how their FA roots continue to serve them.

Valerie Miller

has been living in Geneva, Switzerland for the last 15 years.

She has two children and gets across to the States every summer. She has been working for Ralph Lauren for the last nine years. For eight years, she was in charge of the Pink Pony Fund for the European Headquarters and part of that was organizing a Gala Dinner called the Pink Hope Ball which benefited a cancer charity in Geneva. The last gala was October 2014 (because of budget cuts they are doing the gala every other year), and the next one will be in October 2016. She is working as Marketing Manager for France and Benelux for Ralph Lauren and



Valerie Miller and her new husband on January 30

is newly remarried as of January 30, 2016. Jane Goldstein lives in Needham, MA with her husband and two sons. For the past five years she has been the Sales Director for Revitalise Organic Food and Juice Company in Newburyport MA. They have raw, vegan cafes in Massachusetts and an e-commerce business that ships their products all over the country. It is recognized as a Social Impact Company, hiring people with disabilities for all phases of production and operations. Check us out at [www.revitalise.com](http://www.revitalise.com)! In addition, for the past 15 years Jane has been coaching Girls Varsity Lacrosse at Needham HS in Needham MA, at Mass Elite club program, and volunteering for Needham Youth Lacrosse. She is loving all of it! Patti Mitchell Posillico has been working on the board of Pal-O-Mine Equestrian for the last five years. Pal-O-Mine is a 501C3 non-profit organization located in Islandia that serves children, adults, war veterans and first responders in the area. While the organization offers many transformative programs aimed at growth, learning and healing, one of its most powerful is the Equine Assisted Psychotherapy program which has been effective in helping those who have suffered from abuse, trauma, grief and addiction. Patti actively works to build awareness and raise money for this program and proudly volunteers each week at the farm. [www.pal-o-mine.org](http://www.pal-o-mine.org). Congratulations to Katharine Posillico McGowan, who was selected as one of Long Island's top 10 interior decorators by *Newsday*. Read about Katharine and see photos of her and her work at [http://www.newsday.com/classifieds/real-estate/all-star-interior-designers-newsday-s-class-of-2015-1.10930343?cmpid=Real\\_Estate](http://www.newsday.com/classifieds/real-estate/all-star-interior-designers-newsday-s-class-of-2015-1.10930343?cmpid=Real_Estate). Finally, the Class of 1986 was shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of Amy Ritter '85. Amy was a fun, loving and kind older sister to many of us. Chuck wanted to thank all of the members of the Class of '86 for their support through their family's difficult time.

## 1987

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Forest Hills, NY 10010  
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Emily Beiles Kaufman  
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AL QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Ron Mitchell '88 talks to Upper School students and faculty about the link between athletics, success and happiness.

### RON MITCHELL '88

#### The uncomfortable advantage

“We live in a really crazy world today,” began Ron Mitchell '88, facing Upper School students and faculty at the recent Winter Sports Assembly. “I call it the VUCA environment, which stands for Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous,” he explained.

From ISIS to Syria to stock markets to the taxi industry, more and more, people have to be ready to embrace change and the tension change brings, Mitchell emphasized.

“Friends prepared me for Harvard, but it's not really a VUCA environment here,” said Mitchell, who played basketball at Harvard for four years, is still in the record books for rebounds and points in a season, and is currently the CEO and founder of Virgil, Inc.

“Where is the training ground to teach you how to be comfortable being uncomfortable?” asked Mitchell. “It's actually the sports,” he answered, due to its unpredictable nature. “This stuff really matters.”

“Once you are comfortable being uncomfortable, you may take off a semester going to a country where you don't speak the language or you don't really know that much about; those are the people that become successful, but also happy,” he finished.

## 1988

If anyone from the Class of 1988 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at [alumni@fa.org](mailto:alumni@fa.org). We would love to hear from you!

## 1989

JoAn Monaco

315 East 72nd St., Apt. 18-L  
New York, NY 10021  
(646) 438-9264  
[joanlmonaco@aol.com](mailto:joanlmonaco@aol.com)

Greetings Class of 1989! We have had another great year of fun and accomplishments for our classmates.

Vik Iyengar writes that he was promoted to Assistant Chair of his Department at Villanova where he continues to teach entomology, ecology and animal behavior. His wife, Erika, continues to teach marine ecology at Muhlenberg College in Allentown. Vik won a teaching award this spring! Both he and Erika keep busy with their boys, Connor who is in third grade and Tyler and Jackson who are in kindergarten. Congratulations Vik! Alan Gernhardt is pleased to announce the birth of his second daughter, Rachel Emmeline, who was born in Sept of 2015. Congrats Alan!! Ivy Tseng Hatsengate is living in Forest Hills and is happily working part-time at Columbia Business School in the Career Management Center and at the Tamer Center for Social Enterprise. With the other half of her

time, she's busy trying to keep up with her seven- and four-year-old boys – and barely keeping up! Matt Brennan writes, “Matt was disappointed to miss a chance to visit with JoAn in August 2015 during his annual family trip to NY. He's hoping to see her and meet the latest addition to her family this coming summer. Matt also reconnected with Sharon McGee Cray. Sharon's non-profit is doing good work – support her if you can!” Marisa Pick Giesler writes, “I am still living happily in Southern California. In the spring I was able to see Regan Otto for a quick visit at Universal Studios (so touristy!) with her boys. We picked up right where we left off and it was amazing to spend time together. Then a couple weeks later Cindy Rushmore stopped by for a visit and we had a super fun day getting our boys together for Dodger dogs and a ball game! So great to get a taste of home!! My son Andrew is 11 and plays year-round soccer, baseball and, can you believe, my California boy plays and loves ice hockey?! My daughter, Emily, is 14 and she is a competitive swimmer. Her goal is to qualify for Olympic trials. This March we will be in Orlando for age group Nationals. Anyone in FL? Joanna?? My door is always open if you come out west I would love to see familiar FA faces!!” I am really excited to write that Steve Kunken is fantastic in *Billions* on Showtime. This is a must see series! Another familiar FA face on *Billions*... Melissa Errico '88 who plays a 9/11 widow and is also fabulous!! Of course, as I write this, *Billions* is old news for Steve who is filming with Matt Damon. Holy cow!! As for myself, JoAn Monaco, I have a newborn baby



The Class of 1994 unites at their reunion: Alana Teutonico, Adam Ronzoni, Phil Van Riper, Danielle Lia Van Riper, Eden Yariv Goldberg, Dana Minutoli Forbes, Kelly McKinnon, John Siris, Mike Longo, Dan Herscher, Katie Hsu Hoberman, Damian Pieper, Gavin Skeen, Kristin Kelly Pieper, Angelish Kumar, Lauren Kisner Slaven, Kim Columbo Aberman, Kirsten Zinchuk Haley, Claudine Bitel, Neely Doshi Cather, Alvin Haruthunian, Danny Colasuonno, Meredyth Kravitz and Lara Hirsch Yanke



boy at home, Sebastian, who joins his seven-year-old sister Caroline and his two-year-old brother Matthew. My husband, Mike, and I are sleep-deprived but happier than ever as a family of five! I look forward to your updates. Keep them coming!! xoxo

## 1990

If anyone from the Class of 1990 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at [alumni@fa.org](mailto:alumni@fa.org). We would love to hear from you!

## 1991 25TH REUNION THIS FALL!

**Michael Fox**

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(646) 373-7535  
[mfox789@gmail.com](mailto:mfox789@gmail.com)

**Colleen Doyle Moran**

10 Arbor Way  
Morristown, NJ 07960  
(973) 656-1513  
[colleendmoran@aol.com](mailto:colleendmoran@aol.com)

## 1992

**Clayton Siegert**

100 I Street  
S. Boston, MA 02127  
(617) 821-2867  
[csiegert@the80sgame.com](mailto:csiegert@the80sgame.com)

## 1993

**Natalia Porcelli Good**

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Lattingtown, NY 11560  
[nataliagood@yahoo.com](mailto:nataliagood@yahoo.com)

**Danielle Valenti Smith**

1036 Park Avenue  
Apt. 12D  
New York, NY 10028  
(646) 334-3888  
[danvalenti@hotmail.com](mailto:danvalenti@hotmail.com)

## 1994

**Heather Upton**

451 East Sacramento Street  
Altadena, CA 91001  
617-803-9199  
[hupton@mac.com](mailto:hupton@mac.com)

**Beau Peelle**, Ph.D resides in Manhattan Beach, CA with his wife Elizabeth and two vivacious children, Leo and Ella. Cut hair a decade ago. Worked at BCG on global M&A. Founded a solar tech company, acquired by Sunrun.

## Kindergarten Club



Sarah Hendler (front row, second from left), Crispin Thielen (front row, third from left), Amanda Sokolow (front row, far right), Darren Monti (second row, far left), Seth Abbene (second row, second from left), Mike Davidian (second row, fourth from left), Andrew DeNatale (second row, second from right), Stanley Jackson (back row, fourth from left).



Members of the Class of 1995 celebrates their 20th Reunion and above... remembers their beginnings.

Very fond memories of FA and misses east coast friends...and invites all to visit California! **Meredyth Kravitz** lives in Cold Spring Harbor, NY with her husband and two sons. Following many years working in private practice, she recently joined the Child Mind Institute in Manhattan as a pediatric neuropsychologist. Meredyth keeps up with many of her classmates from Friends Academy and is looking forward to a weekend skiing trip with **Danielle** (formerly **Lia**) and **Philip Van Riper** and their three

children, including their most recent addition, Julian.

## 1995

**Thomas A. Pascarella**

156 Lewis Avenue  
Westbury, NY 11590  
[tompasc@tompasc.com](mailto:tompasc@tompasc.com)

# alumni in arts

**Jeff Davis '65**, one of the nation's foremost performers, interpreters and collectors of traditional American folk music, spent part of his 50th Reunion weekend performing at Old Bethpage Village Restoration on Long Island. Jeff has been playing there for more than four decades.



Jeff  
Davis

It's a small world after all! **Catherine Callahan '95** and **Melissa Errico '88** appeared together on an episode of Showtime's *Billions*. As Catherine tweeted: "Another great day *Billions* Style. Showtime. Coming soon. Hung out with an FA alum Melissa Errico #smallworld."



Melissa Errico and  
Catherine Callahan

And if two FA alums weren't enough, *Billions* also features **Stephen Kunken '89** (below)! Stephen will also appear onscreen later this year in *Jason Bourne* along with fellow actors Alicia Vikander, Matt Damon, Julia Stiles, and Tommy Lee Jones.

Below, Stephen Kunken (Ari Spiros) plays opposite Paul Giamatti (Chuck Rhoades) in a recent episode of *Billions*.



Nicole Nadel '96 and family

**Kelly Reid Walsh**  
96 Grove Street  
Wellesley, MA 02482  
(781) 237-2893  
reidkel@gmail.com

The Class of '95 is fresh off their 20-year reunion during Homecoming last October. Over 25 alums plus their guests ate, drank, and had fun as we celebrated our over 20 years of kinship, and a few celebrated over 32 years of kinship, as we had five of the eight members of the "Kindergarten Club" at the party. We would also like to announce that our Math teacher, Bill Garry, won the "Mr. Myagi Award" voted for being the teacher we had that we will never forget. Congrats! Big thanks again to **Andrew DeNatale**, **Jackie Berkell**, **Lauren Aryeh**, and **Chris Monge** for all their help in organizing a great evening! **Lauren Rubinstein Aryeh** writes that she is well and living local. She is a proud mom of daughter River, 6, and son Wyatt, 3. Lauren owns her own clothing store in Roslyn named "Revival." Go check it out, or Google Map it! **Michele Yip** checks in with us from San Francisco. Although sorry she had to miss the reunion, she is excited to announce that

she, her husband Peter, and 4½-year-old son are expecting a baby girl in February. We are looking forward to pictures of the expanded family in the next notes.

## 1996 20TH REUNION THIS FALL!

**Luke Cass**  
350 Chardon Ave.  
Suite 1202  
San Juan, PR 00918  
lukecass@gmail.com

Happy New Year, Class of 1996! **Nicole Nadel** is an Emergency Medicine, Wound Care, & Hyperbaric doctor living in Charleston, South Carolina for the past two years. Nicole and family (Stanley Wilhelm and their two boys) are very happy enjoying their life in Charleston, which includes friends, parties, sunny weather and palm trees. The family recently took their boys on a Disney cruise and Nicole highly encourages all to migrate south!! A photo of the happy gang is above. **Daryl Holzman** and **Zach Smith** continue to do well and are keeping busy. Wishing you all a great 2016, Best **Luke**

## 1997

**Devon Broderick Carroll**  
28 Bedford St., Apt. 23  
New York, NY 10014-4471  
(917) 531-7579  
devon.broderick@gmail.com

**Devon A. George**  
163 West 18th Street, Apt. 9B  
New York, NY 10011  
(516) 457-8082  
devon@dmvcapital.net



Virgann Shonda Maddison Pryor and Tom  
Pascarella at the Class of 1995 Reunion



## 1998

**Justin J. Boults**  
222 Gates Ave., Apt. 2  
Brooklyn, NY 11238  
boultsman@hotmail.com

**Justin P. Meli**  
1500 Chicago Ave., Apt. 620  
Evanston, IL 60201  
(713) 553-4108  
justinpmeli@gmail.com

## 1999

**Jennifer Ryan Woods**  
2 Meadow Spring Lane  
Glen Cove, NY 11540  
(516) 398-0888  
JenniferLynnWoods@gmail.com

**Dara Broxmeyer Gruenberg**  
24 Hampton Road  
Scarsdale, NY 10583  
914-723-1796  
dbroxmeyer@gmail.com

**Alexis D'Elia** writes, "In June 2015, I graduated from a Cardiology Fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, New York which marked the completion of seven years of post-graduate training for me. Upon graduation, I was offered a position and now work for Montefiore Medical Center as a physician specialist in Cardiovascular Disease. I am incredibly happy there among my good friends, cardiology colleagues and mentors. Congratulations to **Ashley Winn Freger** who writes in with good news: "I would love to update everyone that my husband Sasha and I had a baby boy, James Winn Freger, on June 30, 2015. He is almost 7 months old already and is the light of our lives. We still live on the UWS of Manhattan and both work in finance."



James Winn Freger, son of Ashley Winn Freger



Matthew Donoghue '05 weds Nicole Moodhe. FA alums include best man James Donoghue '07, usher Patrick Moodhe '14 and bridesmaid Kate Donoghue '03.

## 2000

**Meredith A. MacKinnon**  
539 East 6th Street, Apt. 1A  
New York, NY 10009  
(516) 759-2063  
mmackinnon35@yahoo.com

## 2001 15TH REUNION THIS FALL!

**Hadley Devon Mongell**  
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Apt. 924  
New York, NY 10065  
(516) 759-1377  
hmongell@gmail.com

## 2002

**Lauren Marie Bebry**  
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Commerce, MI 48382  
(631) 875-5725  
Lauren.Bebry@gmail.com

**Michael Jason Weiss**  
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Sands Point, NY 11050  
(516) 883-1572  
michael.jason.weiss@gmail.com

## 2003

**Jessica Jakobson**  
434 East 11th Street  
New York, NY 10009  
jess.jakobson@gmail.com

## 2004

**Angela Teresa Batista**  
2 Greenway  
Muttontown, NY 11771  
(516) 857-6572  
batista1023@gmail.com

**Jonathan Harley Koenig**  
31 Yukon Drive  
Woodbury, NY 11797  
jonathan.h.koenig@gmail.com

## 2005

**Helen Simpson Hatch**  
917 634 7646  
helen.s.hatch@gmail.com

**Garrett Dooley**  
516-314-5241  
gsdooley@gmail.com  
243 Cleft Rd.  
Mill Neck, NY, 11765

Congratulations to **Matthew Donoghue** on his marriage to Nicole Moodhe!

## 2006 10TH REUNION THIS FALL!

**Brian T. Alessi**  
50 Shore Drive  
Plandome, NY 11030  
(516) 365-3983  
alessib@bc.edu

**William McAllister** is living in Red Hook, Brooklyn and working in the coffee industry.

## 2007

**Rebecca Pacchiano**  
93 Tenth Street  
Hicksville, NY 11801  
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rebeccaleigh17@gmail.com

**Christine Farrell**  
1971 Cedar Swamp Road  
Glen Head, NY 11545  
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farrelcl@bc.edu

**Caitlin Koufakis**  
239 Cleft Road  
Mill Neck, NY 11765  
(516) 627-5222  
caitlin.koufakis@trincoll.edu

## 2008

**Laura Berke**  
211 W. 56th St.  
Apt. 9F  
New York, NY 10019  
(516) 680-4437  
lberke@gmail.com

**Alexandria Phillips**  
801 N. Monroe St., Apt. 719  
Arlington VA 22201  
(631) 421-3332  
afp1013@gmail.com

**Ally Phillips** writes, "Hey Class! I hope everyone is doing well and has been experiencing tons of success and adventures! I am currently living in New York City and attending New York University where I am a candidate for a Master's in Social Work. I also have found a way to keep up my soul cycle addiction by working at the Chelsea studio part-time! Laura and I would love to hear from you! Please make sure to send us your updated contact information and mailing addresses." **Laura Berke** is also living in New York City and enjoying working on the Consumer Marketing team at Bravo. You can find **Hayley Harrington** in New York City



**Hayley Harrington '08** with her band "Ransom Pier"

as well, along with her band "Ransom Pier." Haley writes, "We are a roots rock sextet that formed in March of 2015 and we've been playing around NYC at venues like Arlene's Grocery, Rockwood Music Hall, and the Bitter End. We released our debut EP, *If They Can't Take a Joke*, in August and it is available on Spotify, Apple Music, Pandora, Soundcloud and Bandcamp. We are traveling down to Nashville this week to play a couple of shows with local bands and we have a bunch of shows lined up for the spring in New York. You can find more information on our website: [www.ransompierband.com](http://www.ransompierband.com)." **Suzannah Weiss** is currently a writer focused on women's issues. Suzannah reports, "I regularly write for *The Washington Post*, *Glamour*, and many other publications. Some of my best work is at [clippings.me/suzannahweiss](http://clippings.me/suzannahweiss)." **Louis Croce** lives in Boston where he works as a Full-Stack Software Engineer at TripAdvisor. **Shant Keskinyan** writes, "I'm in my second year of medical school at Wake Forest School of Medicine. I'm loving life in North Carolina and also really loving school." And finally, congratulations to **Sam Menzin** who was just named Director of Baseball Operations for the Detroit Tigers!

## 2009

**Nell C. Kucich**  
316 Manhasset Woods Road  
Manhasset, NY 11030  
(516) 965-0635  
NellKucich@gmail.com

**John E. Mascari**  
Dartmouth College  
3153 Hinman  
Hanover, NH 03755  
john.mascari@dartmouth.edu

**Jennifer McAllister** is living in Weymouth, Massachusetts. She is working full-time and attending Northeastern University part-time for her Master's in Psychology.

## 2010

**Alexa Gordon**  
24 West Creek Farms Rd.  
Sands Point, NY 11050  
alexa.gordon@wustl.edu

## 2011 5TH REUNION THIS FALL!

**Holly Constants**  
52 Ayers Road  
Locust Valley, NY 11560  
hol9331@aol.com

**Gabrielle McPhaul-Guerrier**  
188 Leaf Avenue  
Central Islip, NY 11722  
gmcphaul-guerrier@live.com

## 2012

**Gabrielle Rechler**  
58 Hoaglands Lane  
Old Brookville, NY 11545  
grechler11@hotmail.com  
516-404-4105

**Jake Ingrassia**  
95 Feeks Lane  
Lattingtown, NY 11560  
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**Matthew Gutierrez '12**

**Matthew Gutierrez**, a senior at Bowdoin College, spent last summer working at The Island Institute in Rockland, ME where he was a Sea-Level Rise Research Intern studying the impact of



sea-level rise (SLR) on Maine's coastal/island communities.

## 2013

Sydney Menzin  
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John O'Brien  
16 Wishing Well Lane  
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516-375-9860

**Augusta Mayer** has been elected President of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority at St. Lawrence University, where she is majoring in communications. She worked in the PR Department at 1-800-Flowers last summer and Domaine Integrated, a PR firm in New York City, this past January. She will be working as an Intern this summer for former FA student, **Angela Mariani's** PR company, C&M Media, PR. Augusta is also busy writing a monthly blog for *College Fashionista*. **Kirsten Grady** spent a semester abroad in Ireland and has returned to Bentley University in Massachusetts. She plans to intern for KPMG Accountants in Boston this summer. **Heather McAllister** is a chemistry major at Siena College in Loudonville, NY. She is looking forward to her graduation in May 2017.

## 2014

Lydia Graham  
2000 Front Street  
East Meadow, NY 11554

Simi Akinola  
215 Rushmore Street  
Westbury, NY 11590



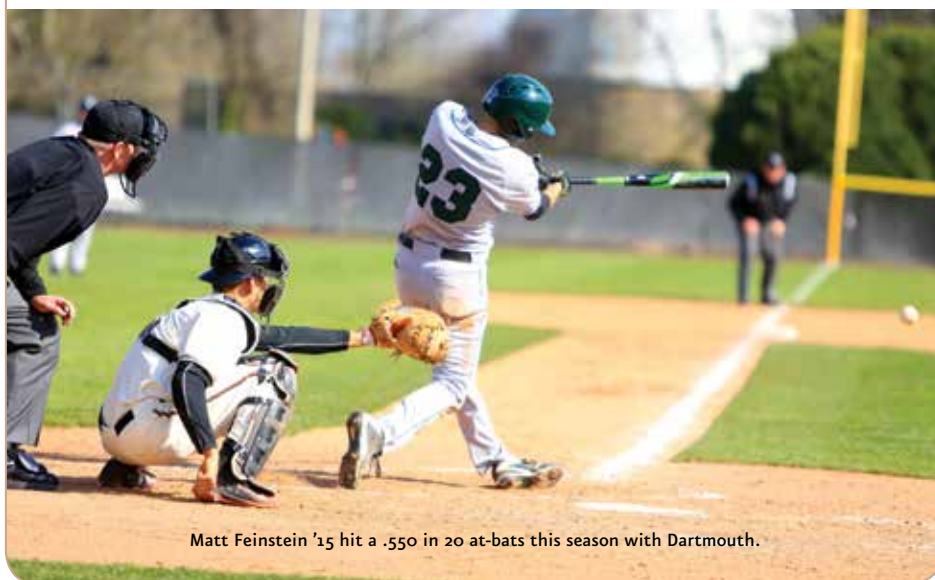
Heather McAllister '13 and Jen McAllister '09 on a hike in Massachusetts.

# alumni in sports



Congratulations to **Sam Menzin '08** (left), who was recently promoted to Director of Baseball Operations for the Detroit Tigers. Previously, Sam was the team's statistical analysis coordinator.

As guest speaker at this year's winter sports assembly, **Ron Mitchell '88** shared some wisdom with the Upper School. Ron played basketball at Harvard for 4 years, where he was a two-time captain and is still in the record books for rebounds and points in a season. He is a member of the Harvard University Hall of Fame. Ron is currently the CEO and founder of Virgil, Inc.



Matt Feinstein '15 hit a .550 in 20 at-bats this season with Dartmouth.

**Patrick Moodhe** was an usher at his sister Nicole Moodhe's wedding. The groom is FA alum **Matthew Donoghue '05**. Friends Academy was well represented at Nicole and Matthew's wedding: the best man, **James Donoghue '07**, and the bridesmaid, **Kate Donoghue '03**, are also graduates of FA. Upon arriving back at Tulane this fall, Patrick and his mother, Dr. Carole Moodhe, met John Besh, the famous New Orleans chef.

## 2015

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Congratulations to **Scott Gulbransen** who made the Dean's List for his first semester at Bucknell University, where he was also inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. Congratulations to **Matt Feinstein**, who is having a tremendous year at Dartmouth. Matt hit a .550 in 20 at-bats this season, has had four multi-hit games in his first five starts, including a 4-4 in his collegiate debut against Villanova. In the last three games of the Russ Matt Invitational, the outfielder went 7-for-14 (.500) with a double, four runs and an RBI.



Sylvia Dawkins '63, pictured with her motorcycle, passed away from cancer on May 6.

### Sylvia Dawkins '63: Creative, passionate and wide-ranging

Sylvia Dawkins '63, died of cancer on May 6, 2014, in Arizona, at the age of 69.

Syl was a creative, sometimes subversive, artist with wide-ranging intellect, interests, and abilities, making everything from egg tempera paintings to dummies, and supported herself just as eclectically. We had a memorial service for her in Arizona, attended by her family, friends, and fellow artists and corrections officers (yes, she was a corrections officer in the last two years of her life – can you believe that?).

Syl had a son, Jake, of whom she was very proud. He is a DJ in Berlin, and is married to another artist, Henrieke.

They have two children, Alaska (6) and

Tennessee (10 months). Syl only knew Alaska, but loved being a grandmother.



Sylvia Dawkins  
from the 1963 Lamp

She leaves three sisters, two brothers, a son and daughter-in-law, two grandchildren; we all miss her wit, her talent, and her eccentricity.

– Marantha Dawkins '62

### Amy Ritter Kowalski '85: Beloved classmate, wife and mother

I am sad to write this unfortunate news to all of you, but our dear classmate and friend, Amy Ritter Kowalski, passed away on January 15th.

Amy was the loving wife of Ken, and mother of beautiful Alina. Our hearts and prayers go out to her family, including sister Jill, brother Chuck, and her parents, Alan and Ellen.

We all have endless happy memories of Amy. She was a great friend to us all, and will truly be missed. May her memory be a blessing.

– Laura Match Schaffer '85

Amy Ritter Kowalski from the 1985 Lamp



## WE REMEMBER...

Donald W. Smith '44

Sylvia Dawkins '63

Amy Ritter Kowalski '85



Donald Willits Smith from the 1944 Lamp

### Donald Willits Smith '44: Alumnus, dedicated Trustee and Quaker

Donald Willits Smith '44 died in late March at the Peconic Landing skilled nursing facility. Donald, a birthright Quaker, served many years on the Board of Trustees of Friends Academy.

Don was a civil engineer by profession. He worked for Levitt & Sons, and then joined the consulting engineering firm of Andrews & Clark in 1952 where he worked until 1989, retiring as president of the firm. Major design projects during his professional career included the Long Island Expressway, the Meadowbrook Parkway, Sunken Meadow State Park, and the 1964 to 1965 World's Fair at Flushing Meadow (*Suffolk Times*).

As a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee he applied his skills and experience for the benefit of the school over a long period of time.

I believe Don entered Friends in the first grade and continued there until graduating in his senior year. He is survived by Jane Ann Smith, his wife of 66 years, of Greenport; his children Scott Smith of Astoria, Doug Smith of Kensington, MD, and Martha Smith of Glen Cove; and six grandchildren.

### In Memoriam reflections

Please send announcements and memories to Andrea Miller at [andrea\\_miller@ja.org](mailto:andrea_miller@ja.org) or call (516) 393-4295.

Feel free to include a photo with your message.





FRIENDS ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

*Alumni are the living legacy of Friends Academy.*

## ALUMNI UPCOMING EVENTS>>



New date! Return and reconnect with old classmates and former faculty at the NYC Reunion on Thursday, June 2.

### NEW YORK CITY REUNION 2016!



SUE AND BILL MORRIS

RICK SULLIVAN

**THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2016 FROM  
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.**

**PRINCETON/COLUMBIA CLUB**  
15 West 43rd St., NYC 10036

Honoring retiring Head of School  
Bill Morris and his wife, Sue and  
Upper School English teacher  
Rick Sullivan.

**ALL FA ALUMS, FACULTY AND STAFF ARE WELCOME!**

Continue to check [www.fa.org](http://www.fa.org) and your FA Alumni portal for more details.

### 2016 FALL FAIR & HOMECOMING

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14-16**

**10 A.M – 4 P.M.**

MORE INFORMATION IS ON THE ALUMNI PAGES  
OF THE FRIENDS ACADEMY WEBSITE: [WWW.FA.ORG/ALUMNI](http://WWW.FA.ORG/ALUMNI)





## FRIENDS ACADEMY

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## SAVE THE DATE!

### JUNE 11

COMMENCEMENT, 10 A.M.

### JUNE 20

YOUNG ARTIST'S  
INSTITUTE BEGINS

### JUNE 27

FA SUMMER CAMPS BEGIN

### SEPTEMBER 6

2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR  
BEGINS

### OCTOBER 15

FALL FAIR AND  
HOMECOMING, 10 A.M. TO  
4 P.M.; ALUMNI RECEPTION,  
4 P.M. (JACKSON HOUSE)

### NOVEMBER 3-5

UPPER SCHOOL FALL PLAY,  
7:30 P.M. (THEATRE)



Community Group members wrap care packages of socks and candy for families in need during December 2015.

## FIND US ... AND JOIN US ONLINE

### OUR WEBSITE

[WWW.FA.ORG](http://WWW.FA.ORG)

Visit our official school site to see regular slideshows of school and updates on campus life.

### FACEBOOK

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/  
FRIENDSACADEMYNY](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FRIENDSACADEMYNY)



Become a member of our Friends Academy Facebook page and see behind-the-scene videos, alumni updates and campus life photos.

### TWITTER

[WWW.TWITTER.COM/  
FATODAY](http://WWW.TWITTER.COM/FATODAY)



Sign up and follow instant updates about athletic wins, art and theatre openings, news coverage, and more.



### LINKED IN

[WWW.LINKEDIN.COM](http://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM)

Register and join the Friends Academy Alumni group to network with fellow alums.