



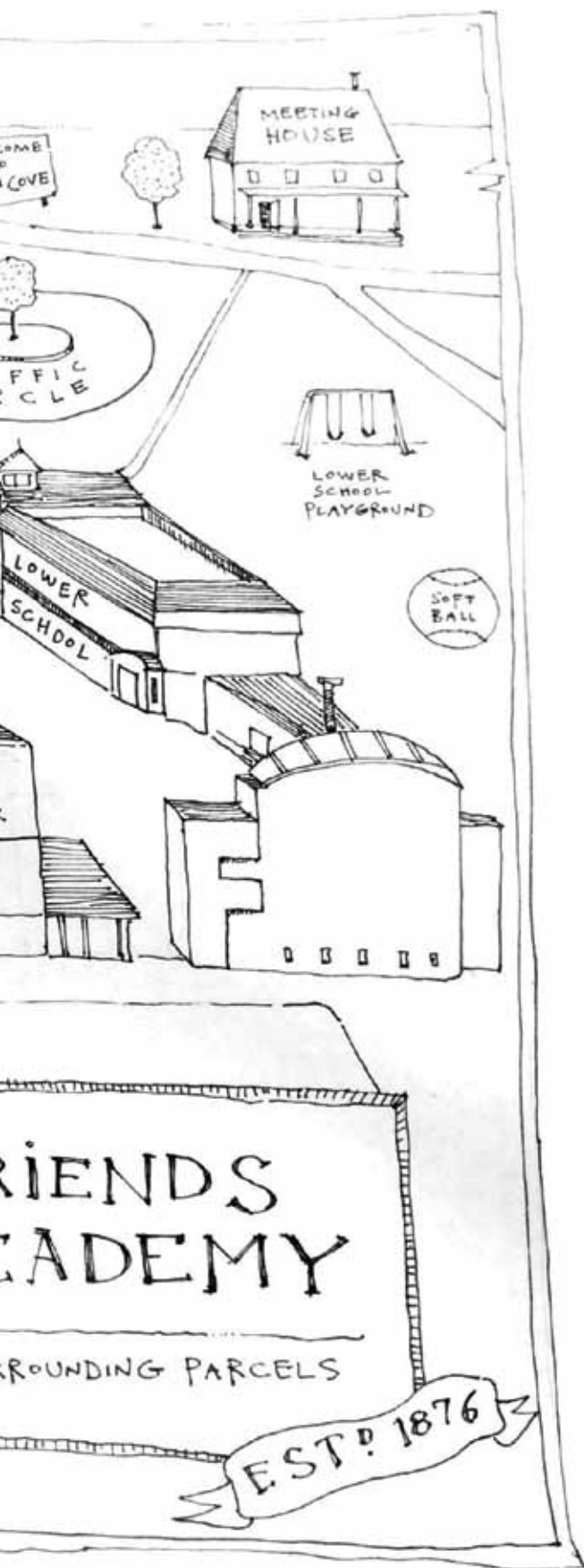




# FA Points of Reflection



PETE DYBDAHL FOR FRIENDS ACADEMY



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VOL. 50, NO. 3



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# on the cover

**A PORTRAIT OF OUR COMMUNITY.** This spring the entire FA student, faculty and staff community posed for an all-school photo. PANFOTO, LLC



ISLAND PHOTOGRAPHY FOR FRIENDS ACADEMY

# Congratulations Class of 2015!

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## FRIENDS ACADEMY CLASS OF 2015 COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS

Amherst College • Barnard College • Bentley University • Boston College • Brown University • Bucknell University • Claremont McKenna College • Colby College • College of William and Mary • Columbia University • Connecticut College • Cornell University • Dartmouth College • Davidson College • Dickinson College • Emory University • Endicott University • Fairfield University • Fordham University • George Washington University • Georgetown University • Harvard University • Haverford University • High Point University • Hobart & William Smith Colleges • Hofstra University • Lafayette College • Lehigh University • Loyola University - Maryland • Macalester College • Muhlenberg College • New York City School of Visual Arts • New York University • Northeastern University • Northwestern University • Oxford College

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Boulder • University of Connecticut • University of Georgia • University of Miami • University of Michigan • University of Pennsylvania • University of Richmond • University of Southern California • University of Vermont • University of Virginia • Vanderbilt University • Vassar College • Villanova University • Wake Forest University • Washington University - St. Louis • Wesleyan University • Yale University



STRONG MINDS.  
KIND HEARTS.

# Points of Reflection

*Community groups share memories of favorite places around campus*



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Community group members discuss what places on campus bring them joy, peace, inspiration and connection.

BY ANDREA MILLER  
Director of Communications

“Places can be very important to us,” read one student from her final Community Group instruction sheet. “Certain places can sometimes make us feel happy, sad, excited, or many other emotions,” shared another. “The FA campus is important to us all in different ways. One way to build community is to learn about how this place is important to different people,” yet another student said.

A “Where’s Waldo” icebreaker session relaxed group members, before they leapt into the activity. Separating into four smaller groups, students of all ages gathered around a hand-drawn map of the FA campus with different-colored stickers.

Slowly and deliberately students and faculty marked points on campus with colored stickers (right) that answered the question, “Where on campus do you

feel...?” (Green – Joy; Blue – Peace; Red – Connection to FA community; and Yellow – Inspired to be the best version of yourself).

Director of Quaker Education Angie Martin retrieved one map from each group and with US TASQUE students tallied the sampling. Here are the top results:

- **Joy:** Quad, Gym, Commons, Lower School playground and Theatre
- **Peace:** Meeting House and Quad
- **Connection:** Quad, Library and Meeting House
- **Inspired:** Meeting House and Gym

“We spend a lot of time on this campus, and it feels good to take a moment to reflect on this place, what it means to us and what we bring to it,” reflected Martin.



PETE DYBDAHL FOR FRIENDS ACADEMY

## COMMUNITY GROUP SELFIES

In mixed-age community groups, students from Kindergarten to 12th grade used colored star stickers to mark their favorite FA places – places where they felt joy, peace and most connected to the FA community. Then groups ended their year with a spontaneous group selfie in a favorite place. Take a look...





AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Junior Liam Bardong listens to author Kristen Iverson, left, and Reiko Yamada, a survivor of the bombing of Hiroshima and part of the hibakusha, Japanese for "bomb-affected-people).

### An eyewitness to history

Coinciding with the UN Review Conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the 70th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bombs on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Friends Academy students and faculty became one of the last to hear eyewitness accounts from a group of Hiroshima survivors known in Japanese as the "hibakusha."

With the help of an interpreter, Hiroshima survivor Reiko Yamada spoke quietly as she recounted the day the bombs fell. "My home was 2.5 km from where the bomb was dropped," said Yamada. Upwards of 140,000 died that day in Hiroshima. Survivors were shunned by their government, who mistakenly believed that their subsequent radiation exposure was "like an infectious disease."

"We faced discrimination as a group in Japan. But we never felt like there was anything to forgive. We felt no resentment, anger or revenge," stated Yamada. "We never want Hiroshima or Nagasaki to happen again."

Krisen Iverson, author of *Full Body Burden: Growing up in the Shadow of Rocky Flats* also spoke about growing up near a secret nuclear facility located three miles from her childhood home in Colorado.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CONNECTIONS

# Drumming to a rhythm of their own



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Spirit Sky Drum owner George Schulze demonstrates a rhythm for Julian Constantine and Maddie Esquenet.

With heads uplifted and eyes closed, children soaked in the rhythms of Spirit Sky Drum.

"We teach children and adults to find their own unique natural rhythm and to transcend that into a deeper awareness of self, so they can pursue a positive path," explained George Schulze, a percussionist and self-proclaimed drum healer, and owner of the Freeport-based Spirit Sky Drum.

This spring, Early Childhood children explored the percussion of the animal world; from the bear to eagle, crow and frog, children beat out a particular rhythm.

"1-2-1, 1-2-3, 1-2,1-2,1-2,1," instructed Schulze. Tapping feet in concert, the children turned the drums around, experimenting with different holds.



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Pre-Kindergartners Luca Kraska and Dylan Keefer feel the beat.

Gradually Schulze layered in a freestyle orchestra of sounds, including humming, the caw of a crow and a tambourine.

"It's all about using the drum to show the kids how to connect with others."



AMANDA FISK PHOTOS/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Eighth graders (above and below) assist young physically challenged athletes at the Nassau County Victory Games.

### A 20-year tradition at the Nassau County Victory Games

For the last 20 years, the eighth grade has hosted a variety of simple interactive games at the Nassau County Victory Games for the hundreds of young physically challenged athletes who come to compete in the track and field events, often accompanied by many of their classmates.

"This year we gave out thousands of stickers as prizes for finding buried treasure in a sandbox, catching wooden fish with a magnet and throwing balls, rings and beanbags at targets ranging from floating ducks and wiffle balls balanced on traffic cones, to a giant wooden cactus and a juggling clown," said 8th grade Science teacher Selina Collier. "We met a lot of very determined and enthusiastic young people, and came home from Mitchell Field exhausted, wind-blown and buoyed by the moments we had shared."



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Between kisses and hugs, Lower School grandparents took a tour inside their grandchild's classroom this spring at the biennial Grandparents and Special Friends Day. Students presented author studies, projects and their Global studies to some of their favorite family members.

## A GRADUATION LEGACY

# Passing the FA torch



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Upper School students participate in National Day of Silence this April.

## Students and faculty stay quiet to make their voices heard

On April 17, 2015, the hallways and classrooms of Friends Academy grew a little quieter as both students and faculty observed National Day of Silence.

Student coordinators and juniors Julia Vascotto and Sachi Dulai created and sold out of T-shirts designed to “raise awareness of anti-LGBTQ+ bullying and support gender fluidity.”

Due to the response, students were encouraged to make their own from plain white T-shirts with “FANDOS” (FA National Day of Silence) tags affixed to the shirts.

First observed in April of 1996 at the University of Virginia, hundreds of thousands of students take part in National Day of Silence each year.

According to GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network), “this quiet, but powerful, student-led action raises awareness about the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying, harassment and discrimination.”

This year, the National Day of Silence will fall on Friday, April 15, 2016.



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Six seniors celebrated graduation with their alumni parents, including Jack Statfeld with father Brian '84, Oliver Muran with father William '76, William Gavin with parents Gregory '78 and Donna '79, Glenn Lostritto with father Glenn '84, Tyler Leon and Julia Neisloss with father James '76. (Not pictured Daniel Leon '79)

Beneath the folds of the white graduation tent, 98 seniors sat, with tassels bobbing occasionally, in front of family and friends at Friends Academy's 129th Commencement.

“Ultimately my biggest fear was fitting in,” shared Commencement speaker Julia Ciardullo '15. “But Friends Academy taught me that being myself was fitting in.”

This year the Class of 2015 may have encountered one of the most selective college admissions years with acceptance rates falling at “astonishing rates” according to Director of College Counseling Ed Dugger. FA remained in strong standing as 57% of the class attended the top 50 national universities and liberal arts colleges.

In addition, 14 students had situations where athletics influenced their process (*see Page 28*), three were artistic recruits, several students opted for gap-year experiences and one student



SCOTT RECHLER FOR FRIENDS ACADEMY

Senior Glenn Lostritto runs the distance – from his home to the Commencement tent. An FA track tradition that runners initiated, athletes have run from as far away as Huntington and Sands Point.

Class of 2010: Ryan Rosmarin and Chris Crowley

Class of 2011: David Sher and Jack Vissichio

Class of 2012: Rob Adams

Class of 2013: Cole Valentino and Zach Kriesberg

Class of 2014: Pat Crowley and Sahil Massand

Class of 2015: Glenn Lostritto

gained recognition through chess at Washington University.



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Upper School TASQUE students present at Founder's Day in April.

### A Founder's Day challenge of equality

Each year Founder's Day unites the entire school to celebrate and remember the vision Quaker businessman Gideon Frost conceived in 1876 of creating a school for "the children of Friends and those similarly sentimented."

This year Middle School students asked, "At Friends Academy, we believe in equality, but do our actions demonstrate this?" Students described a series of everyday scenarios, expectations and behaviors that seem at odds with our commitment to equality, and left the challenge, "What can YOU do today not just to believe that we are all equal, but to live that belief?"



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Guest parent speakers Andy Menzin '81 and Lauren Putter Menzin '81, whose son Marcus will be the 11th of their relatives to graduate from FA, commented, "No matter how many new structures or expansions, what we remember most along our journey are the people, our relationships with them and the impact they have had on our lives."

## WHAT'S IN YOUR SLUDGE?



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Eighth graders bubbled, distilled and soaked solids, liquids and gases to determine the chemical nature of the mysterious "Sludge." Students work in small groups for half a day. An annual scientific event, the experimenting challenges students to use hands-on, collaborative teamwork to solve the mystery.

### ART IN ACTION: LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Above, fourth grade art docents lead tours of the Lower School Art Exhibit this spring. Middle schoolers try their hand at plein painting during MS Arts Week. Bottom, a whimsical student-created shadow puppet show.

### RETURN TO GERMANY WITH GSS

## ‘We are all, deep down, the same’

*Joint German/American performance  
gives audience members the gift of release.*

BY MARGERY BEVAD  
GSS Coordinator

In late June, the Friends Academy GSS German American Peace Project team traveled to Heiligenstadt, Germany, to rejoin their friends at the Bergschule Saint Elizabeth and continue their important work around the question, “What is the price of freedom?”

Sixteen FA students and their six mentor chaperones received the warmest welcome from their German host families when they arrived at the Bergschule on June 24th to be-

gin rehearsals on a second series of performances, inspired by the students’ writings, conversations and common experience.

A typical day included rehearsal time, sharing circles, barbecues, sightseeing and time to be part of family life in a German home.

The schedule was intense, the students excited and hard-working through it all. We visited the Borderland Museum in Eichsfeld, former site of a passing zone in the Iron Curtain. We stood on the grounds of Buchenwald prison in quiet reflection. We spent

two wonderful days in Berlin, visiting the city, the American Embassy [site of the famous ‘star jump’ by Owen, Reed and Matt] and the Reichstag, where we sat under the famed dome during a briefing with the senator of Thuringia. Students were articulate,

respectful and well-informed in their discussions with him.

At Friends, in April, this group had left us pondering their questions about the price of freedom after a powerful performance in both English and German. It was impressive to watch the



MARGEY BEVAD/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Juniors Matt Tidona and Reed Mullin throw an exuberant Owen Collier into the air at the American Embassy.



MARGERY BEVAD/FRIENDS ACADEMY

German and American students rehearse in Germany.

team develop that message on the stages of Heiligenstadt and at the Borderland Museum, in a piece that spoke of their own journeys, their own discoveries about peace and understanding and their own dedication to each other and to the message they shared.

American students rose to the occasion, memorizing their lines in German to the surprise and pleasure of the audiences. One of the German parents captured the importance of the exchange when she said, "My father fought in the

war. He has carried the pain and scars of those awful days in his heart for 70 years. You have made him cry. You have given him a great gift."

And our students' words echo this message.

"I will never forget this experience... It was transformative... I have made friends for life... We are all the same. People can pick themselves up from awful things and move forward in unity.

Things can change. We are all, deep down, the same."

## SPRING CONCERTS: LOWER, MIDDLE AND UPPER SCHOOL



AMANDA FISK/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Upper, Middle and Lower School students perform for family and friends in the Spring Concert Series.



*39 plays, 80 minutes ... no problem!*

# Shakesplosion!

BY ANDREA MILLER  
Director of Communications

**“K**ing John. Edward III. Richard II. Henry IV, Part 1. Henry IV, Part 2. Henry V. Henry VI, Part 1. Henry VI, Part 2. Henry VI, Part 3. Richard III. Henry VIII. Othello. Julius Caesar. Coriolanus. Macbeth. The Two Noble Kinsmen. Hamlet. Romeo and Juliet. Antony and Cleopatra. Troilus and Cressida. Twelfth Night. Merchant of Venice. The Two Gentlemen of Verona. As You Like It.

*Cymbeline. A Midsummer Night's Dream. A Comedy of Errors. Titus Andronicus. Timon of Athens. The Taming of the Shrew. The Tempest. Measure for Measure. Much Ado About Nothing. All's Well That Ends Well. The Winter's Tale. Pericles. The Merry Wives of Windsor. Love's Labors Lost. King Lear.”* recited 40 Middle schoolers in a rapid crescendo of rhythm in this spring's original *Shakesplosion!*

Penned by William Shakespeare and theater teacher Andrew Geha and Director of



Above, the cast of *Shakesplosion!*, which synopsized every work William Shakespeare published, included a co-written play.

**“What, is the old king dead? As nail in door.”**



The many deaths of King “Steve”... Outgoing Middle School Principal Steve Rubenacker delivers his final performance in an FA Middle School production.

Arts Tracey Foster, the pair decided it had been a while since the Middle School had done any Shakespeare – and it was time.

“Shakespeare can get a bad ‘rep’ for being stodgy and old. Kids think it is hard to understand. So we wanted to come up with a way to introduce them to the Bard that was fun, accessible. We also wanted to use both original language and modern language so the cast and audience could really see the relevance to today. We want to meet Middle School students where they are in their life experiences,” said Geha.

Auditions commenced after February break and the cast dove into a six-week rehearsal.

“Everyone walked in the door with enthusiasm and varying levels of knowledge about Shakespeare,” recalled Geha, as Foster worked to teach the students all the titles with a specialized memory process. “In teaching them the titles of each play, we were able to then teach them the stories in smaller groups.”

To fit all 39 plays into one piece, Geha and Foster divided – and conquered. “I had an idea to cram all the comedies together... for example, what if all the women who dress as men meet each other,” explained Geha.

While Foster worked on creating a shorter version of *Hamlet* and the Histories, Geha stumbled upon an inspiration for *Macbeth*. “Forty-five minutes later I had a draft,” said Geha. “It was ridiculous, but faithful to the original plot.”

While *Hamlet* was cut to 15 minutes, which ultimately miffed Shakespeare, (played by 8th Grader Nico Santiago) it was still the longest piece in the show – timed by a huge on-stage alarm clock.



AMANDA FISK PHOTOS/FRIENDS ACADEMY

From the top, scenes from *Hamlet* and *Macbeth* in this spring's Middle School original production of *Shakesplosion!*

Other plays varied in length, from a few seconds to a few minutes. “We thought of the plays as a puzzle,” Geha explained. “Every student got their pieces of the puzzle to work on and then we brought them all together during show week.”

Throughout the show, one thing remained constant – the deaths (eight of them) of the “King,” valiantly played by Middle School principal Steve Rubenacker. “It was a great running joke,” smiled Geha, “and our own way of saying a fond farewell to Steve. The fact that he was such a good sport only highlights what a great presence he was at Friends.”

While most of the writing was completed by rehearsals, with approximately 30 plays condensed, a portion was crafted along with the students as they learned. Foster took the History plays and by examining all the plots, the group found

the essential points of the very complicated War of the Roses together.

“Each rehearsal we would work, then I would go away and edit, based on our work together, and then we would see what we had, and continue to refine. It was incredibly complicated, and as a teacher, I began to realize that there was actually a larger lesson about our crazy world and how easily we have gone in and out of war,” said Foster.

“We presented it with humor, but there was also a poignant moment in the middle where 6th grader Luke Jennings donned the crown and gave a stirring rendition of the St. Crispin Day speech given by Henry V. He got to work with alumna Kristi Artinian '04 on the interpretation and performance of the speech, and it was a wonderful moment, both for Luke, and for the audience,” added Foster.

“Because this was original material, we could make sure every student had a role and a speaking part,” said Geha. “Our philosophy in our Middle School Theater program is to make sure each student is seen and heard and has the opportunity to make a valuable contribution. And we want to do that with a script that doesn't talk down to them or is inappropriate. That is why we often do original material,” he added. “We can custom-make the experience for the students.”

Geha is hoping the play has some staying power and is looking to possibly circulate it to other schools in the future.

Whatever happens, he knows one thing's certain about the original cast of *Shakesplosion!*

“What made this piece work was that all the kids gave their all.”

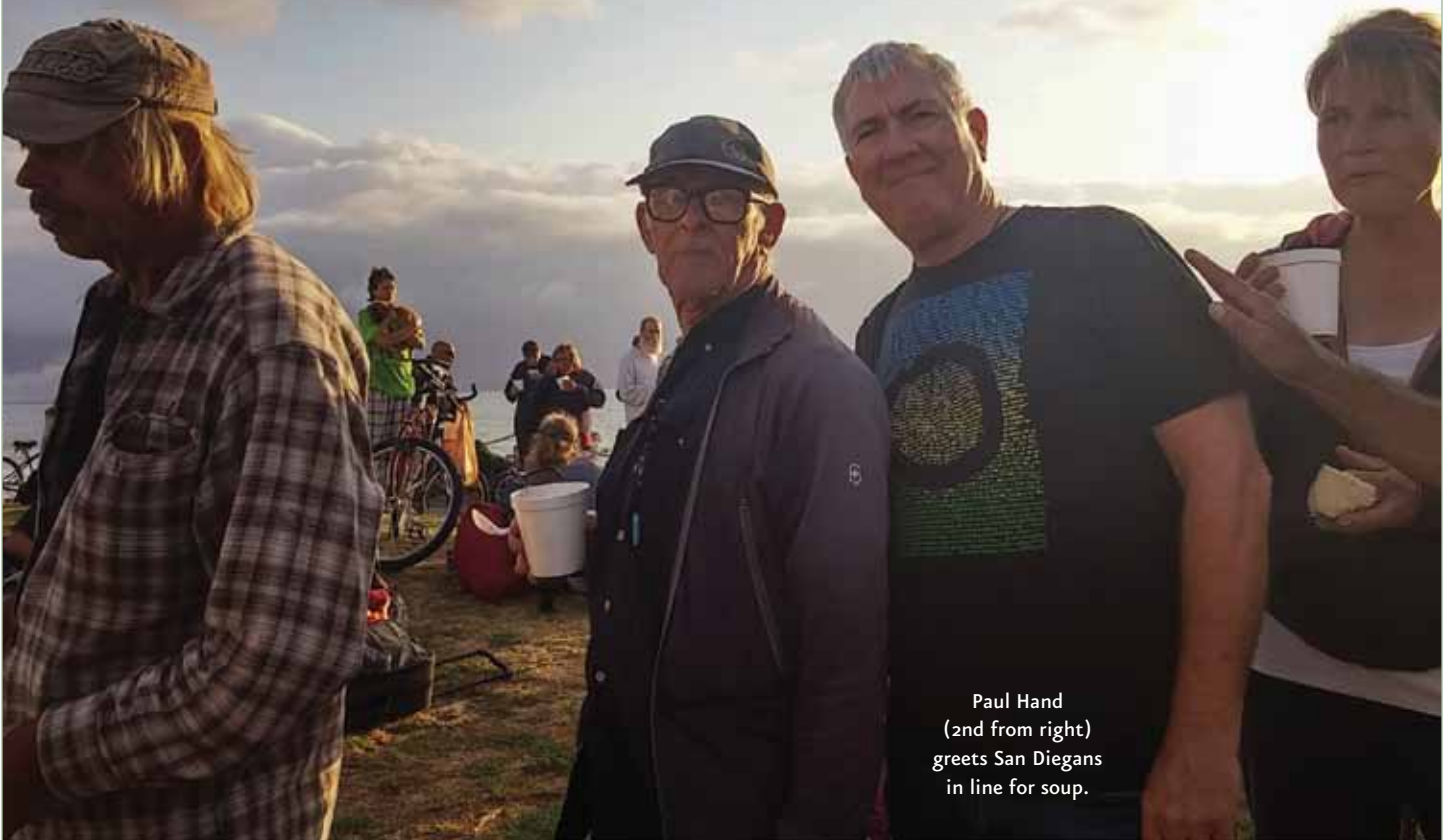
– Henry IV, Part II (c. 1597-99), Act V, scene 3, line 126



AMANDA FISK PHOTOS/FRIENDS ACADEMY

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS: PAUL HAND '68

*"Find the needs. Fix the problems...  
one person at a time."*



Paul Hand  
(2nd from right)  
greets San Diegans  
in line for soup.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAUL HAND

# Simple Gifts

*How a bowl of Bunny's Chicken Soup<sup>®</sup>  
changed lives in San Diego.*

BY ANDREA MILLER  
Director of Communications

Growing up in Queens, the son of a single mother, Paul Hand '68 never imagined that years later he'd be nourishing the food insecure of San Diego once a week, 52 weeks a year.

"I wanted to be a disc jockey," laughed Paul.

Before heading to Friends, Paul had spent 4th through 8th grades at the Coindre Hall Boarding School for Boys, run by the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. "A friend of mine, Chris Calvo '68, attended Coindre with me and his parents spoke with my mother and suggested maybe they should go to school together at Friends the next year," he recounted. He would spend the next three years living with the Calvos on LI and returning to Queens on the weekends to see his mother.

By his senior year, the Vietnam War was reaching a climax and Paul was not immune.

"I was of draftable age and totally against the war and violence in the world," he said. "I remember I was #223 when they stopped the Draft. It was a bad time in the world. I was 18. I could drink and drive a car, but I couldn't vote," remarked Paul.

Though I'm still anti-war, I have deep respect for all men and women in uniform," he added.

Sitting in Meeting for Worship as a senior began to take on new significance for Paul. "When I was a younger kid, I didn't understand what it really was – just that I didn't have to go to class. As I got older, it became apparent that it was really a time for reflection. Rarely did someone get up and say something, but when they did, it was about what was going on in the world ... how to help each other live peacefully," remarked Paul, who returned to the Meeting House after a hiatus of 47 years.

"It's a peaceful place and part of the reason why Bunny and I still attend church."

Following Friends, Paul enrolled at New

York Institute of Technology. His mother had remarried and invited Paul to live with her and her new husband. Paul declined, first living out of his car for a week and then renting a room and working until 1972.

"At that point, attending college full time wasn't cutting it for me at that time," he said. "I remained great friends with Lesley Graham '68 – she was a headhunter with retail clients. I was in retail and that's how we remained friends."

Eventually Paul moved into the tele-

"I'm not the richest person in the world and if I did win the lottery, I would certainly spend the money helping other people. I'd open up a food truck for the homeless."



Neighbors and friends, including Geno and Manouchehr Dadkhah, help serve 8 to 10 pots of chicken soup out of Paul and Bunny Hand's car down the street from their home in San Diego.



### Remarks from 4th Day Honors – June 10th 2015

**“W**e have been providing soup for the last four years to between 60 and 100 people a week. Unfortunately, the lines seem to get longer and the clientele seems to get younger. We (Bunny and our neighbor Geno) prepare between 8 to 10 pots of soup each week, including day-old bread donated by a local bakery, and cookies, snacks, fruit and bottled water that the other volunteers bring on their own. It all works and the entire meal process is over in a half-hour.

Understand that what my wife and I do is not for everyone. As you continue your education I can only suggest that you follow your heart and use your knowledge and education to reach out into the world, in your local community, to help someone.

Whether you become doctors, lawyers (oh, we have enough lawyers), psychologists, accountants, or entrepreneurs, you all have the opportunity of changing someone's life. So I encourage you try to help change someone's life, one person at a time; just pass it forward.”



### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS: PAUL HAND '68

communications field landing jobs at Qualcomm, Ericsson and finally with LG Electronics. And, that's precisely where the next chapter of his life began.

As parishioners at Saint Andrews Episcopal Church in San Diego, Paul and his wife Bunny convinced their church to start providing food for some of San Diego's "food insecure" citizens.

"We had met a homeless group of maybe six or seven people outside of our local library and we started feeding them once a week. At first the church wouldn't let them eat inside and due to inspection regulations, we had to prepare everything on site at the church," said Paul.

That's when the Hands decided to move the operation to their home, cooking pots of "Bunny's Chicken Soup" every Thursday out of their garage kitchen.

"Thursday is the day that no other church offers food," explained Paul. "We store and cook everything in our garage. We've gone through two microwaves and a stove, but I work for LG – so I get a discount on appliances," smiled Paul.

Over time, the Hands have drawn a following of mostly men, some families and husbands and wives. "We started to see a lot of younger people, the surfer crowd, a lot of women and people who would show up with their babies," noted Paul. "People would even show up with their dogs, so we'd feed the dogs some bones."

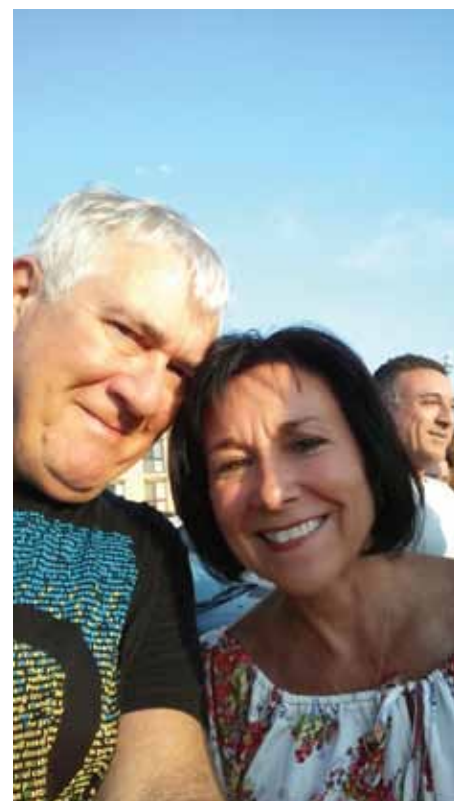
A core group of old and new friends have signed on to help the Hands each week. "There's Dave and Annette, who make a pot of soup for us every week (I don't even know where they live). Two young ladies, Chrissy and Lauren, just

walked up to us one day and started handing out bread. Other people show up with bananas, extra Snapple or pizza pies. I have this one guy, Manouchehr, who has his Ph.D in Engineering; he just shows up and serves the soup."

Even the police have recognized the Hands' work. "One time an officer intervened to take a woman downtown, but before he did, asked if he could give her a cup of soup because she said it was the best soup she'd ever had."

As weeks slid into years, the operation became something of a calling for Paul and Bunny. "I'm not the richest person in the world and if I did win the lottery, I would certainly spend the money helping other people. I'd open up a food truck for the homeless," said Paul. "The biggest

**"We focus on the whole world, but we're not focusing on what we should. I don't see enough being done locally."**



Paul Hand and his wife Bunny in San Diego.

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS: PAUL HAND '68

benefit to all this is just feeding people. Sixty percent of this population goes hungry every day and I find that amazing and disgusting. We focus on the whole world, but we're not focusing on what we should. I don't see enough being done locally," he emphasized.

A certain circle of life has not gone unnoticed by Paul, as the pendulum of fate swings ironically back and forth.

"We've seen people who had jobs – people who worked for HP, for the city; and when the economy was in the dumps, they would get in line. They have jobs now and they help us serve," said Paul.

"One day, a guy riding his bike stopped to see me. 'Remember me?' he asked. 'I got a job. And it's because of you and this soup.'"

Some of his favorite memories have been of just sitting down and shooting the breeze, but one is particularly poignant.

"It was Bunny's birthday, Dec. 22, and it was dark out. Some of the men presented her with a box of Godiva chocolates and on top was a big candle they'd lit; then they all sang 'Happy Birthday' to her. They'd even gotten her presents – Maui Jim sunglasses and a ring... little trinkets that they'd found on the beach," recalled Paul. "That birthday was overwhelming."

"Every week there's always dialogue and a story and a joke. They always ask how you are, how my daughters are, especially Rebecca, who is disabled," said Hand. "I rarely see most of the people – I have my back turned to them, but I get a lot of hugs. You can't put a price on that."

Paul and his wife have two daughters, Rebecca, 30, and Erika, 28. "When our oldest daughter was 9, she developed a brain tumor. We spent two months in the hospital in rehabilitation with Rebecca, and during that time you get these profound, divine interventions that change your mind about life.

I saw kids in the hospital who didn't have the insurance my company provided



FRIENDS ACADEMY 1968 LAMP YEARBOOK

Paul Hand from the 1968 Lamp Yearbook.

me. My daughter has a platinum plate in her head and we've been through a lot, but now she walks among the wounded. We've taught our girls to be thankful for what they've got and to reach out to help other people because no matter how bad you have it, someone else has it worse."

Over the summer Paul and his wife put their condo up on the market. "Bunny and I are reaching retirement age and are going to downsize and rent for a year, but I don't know how we can continue to do the amount of cooking we are doing with just one stove. What's going to happen to the soup?" he asked.

But wherever they move to, Paul knows that homelessness won't be far away. "Our soup is not going to stop," he said. "It's a matter of changing gears and serving in other places."

## Bunny's Chicken Soup®

(Recipe for 1 large soup pot)

3-4 (depending on size) boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
Pepper, onion powder, garlic powder, celery salt and poultry seasoning (to taste)  
2 Tbsp. chicken bouillon  
3 to 4 carrots, 4 stalks of celery, 1 small onion (all chopped)

**1. Place chicken in roasting pan and cover with water;** sprinkle generously with pepper, onion powder and garlic powder. Cover with foil and roast for 1 to 1½ hours at 350 degrees. Place chicken and all the juice from roasting pan in a pot and add water to fill the pot by rinsing the pan to get all of the juices and flavor. Boil uncovered for 1 hour.

**2. Drain with a colander into another pot separating the chicken from the broth.** Skim the fat off the broth.

**3. Pull the chicken apart into small pieces** discarding what little skin or gristle that might be on them, adding them to the broth. Add generous amounts of pepper, celery salt and poultry seasoning. Add 2 Tbsp. of chicken bouillon.

**4. Bring to a boil and add finely chopped carrots, celery and onions.** Note: Feedback from the recipients...they do not like big pieces of vegetables in the soup!

**5. Boil the vegetables until soft;** then add one box of cooked and drained pasta (small or medium shells work well).  
**TIP:** Make pasta ahead of time and freeze it so when adding it will cool down the soup for refrigeration.

**Have fun! E-mail your questions or comments to:**  
bunnys.soup@gmail.com or phand1@gmail.com.

{SPRING 2015}



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Teams meet challenges of top Class A conference with unwavering competitive spirit, grace and teamwork during the **Spring Sports** season.

Top: Chris White, Gavin Tam, Mary Stingi; Middle: Isabella Burrus, Caroline Sgaglione; Bottom: Andy Muran, Stephanie Gherlone and Matt Feinstein.

## FA 2015 SPRING SPORTS

# Teams bring home 9 State medals

## VARSITY TRACK & FIELD: SEVEN ATHLETES HONORED WITH ALL-COUNTY

The Friends Academy Boys and Girls track teams' competitive season was in full swing as 17 new athletes joined the teams. In regular season competition, the Girls Track team Conference IV record finished 12-2 and 6-1 in Division IVB and the Boys track team finished with a Conference record of 5-8-1.

The boys team finished 3rd in the Division IVB Championships and 6th in County Class A. The girls team finished 2nd in Division IVB Championships and 7th in County Class A. Some highlights of this season included the Quakers' participation in the Penn relays and the Loucks Games. The boys 4 X 100 m. relay team won the County Class A race and broke the record set in 1988.

Senior Paige Duca and junior Tau Holder set new records in the 400 hurdles and Paige won the 2K steeplechase at the County meet. At the State meet, the 4 X 100 m. relay team finished 4th (breaking their own record), the 4 X 400 m. relay team finished 6th (setting a new record) and Paige Duca finished 6th in the 800 m. run. This season Friends Academy track teams boasted 14 All-Division athletes, seven All-County athletes, and nine NY State medalists.

The team held a well-attended 4th Annual Brian J. Hom Memorial run and raised almost \$2,000 for the Brian J. Hom Memorial Scholarship. "We are proud to participate in the community



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

At this spring's NYPHSAA track meet, Friends athletes broke two new FA track records and nine earned NY State medals, including Paige Duca (6th place and PR in 800 m.); Nathaniel Shepherd-Tyson, Jaliyah Daniels, JD Baptiste, Cyrus Holder (4th place in 4 x 100 m. Relay), which set a new FA record of 42.94; Jordan Christian, Jack Deutsch, Glenn Lostritto and Julian Christian (6th place 4 x 400 m. Relay), who also set a new FA record of 3:28.

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**STATE MEDALISTS** – PAIGE DUCA 6TH IN 800 METERS; NATE SHEPHERD-TYSON, JALIJAH DANIELS, JD BAPTISTE, CYRUS HOLDER 4TH PLACE IN 4 X 100 M. RELAY (NEW FA RECORD 42.94); JORDAN CHRISTIAN, JACK DEUTSCH, GLENN LOSTRITTO, JULIAN CHRISTIAN 6TH PLACE 4 X 400 M. RELAY (NEW FA RECORD 3:28)

**ALL-COUNTY** – COUNTY CHAMPION TEAM 4 X 100M. BOYS (JALIJAH DANIELS, NATE SHEPHERD-TYSON, JD BAPTISTE, CYRUS HOLDER); COUNTY CHAMPION 2000 M. GIRLS STEEPLECHASE PAIGE DUCA; 100 M. BOYS CYRUS HOLDER; 800 M. GIRLS PAIGE DUCA; 800 M. BOYS GLENN LOSTRITTO; GIRLS DISCUS JAVANA CLARK

**ALL-DIVISION** – BOYS 100 METERS JALIJAH DANIELS, CYRUS HOLDER; \*GIRLS 400 HURDLES PAIGE DUCA (SET NEW SCHOOL RECORD 67.1); GIRLS 400 M. STELLA DAVIS; GIRLS 800 M. PAIGE DUCA; BOYS 800 M. JACK DEUTSCH; GIRLS 3000M. ANNA PAPPAS; BOYS 3200 M. GLENN LOSTRITTO; BOYS 200 M. JULIAN CHRISTIAN; BOYS 4 X 100M. RELAY (NATE SHEPHERD-TYSON, JD BAPTISTE, JALIJAH DANIELS, CYRUS HOLDER); GIRLS 4 X 400 M. RELAY (GLENN LOSTRITTO, JULIAN CHRISTIAN, JORDAN CHRISTIAN, JACK DEUTSCH); GIRLS SHOT PUT JAVANA CLARK; BOYS HIGH JUMP JULIAN CHRISTIAN

**FA Track alumni in abundance at collegiate level, Page 28.**

Continued on Page 22

## FA 2015 SPRING SPORTS

# Team repeats Conference title

## Varsity Boys Golf: UNDEFEATED ON THE ROAD

In Greek mythology, the Gods sentenced Sisyphus to push an enormous boulder up a hill in perpetuity, and, most cruelly, to watch the object of his labor roll back down the incline each time. Golf can feel a bit like a Sisyphean project, forever lifting and driving our burdens higher and higher, only to see them respond to a more ineluctable force – gravity – rolling back at us.

The 2015 Varsity Golf team, especially, felt this weight. Having won the Conference for the first time since '96 last season, the 2015 squad surely acknowledged the project began anew on the still snowy, desolate and windswept fairways of mid-March. Our early season motto may well have been: "I Wish I Brought A Jacket. We only had a boulder."

Despite deploying four players with no previous starting experience on Varsity, the team pushed our proverbial rock uphill again, claiming the Conference II title for a second season in a



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Freshman Will Parker lets the ball fly.

row, posting a record of 9-1. For the second season in a row, the team was undefeated on the road, our only loss, a narrow two-stroke defeat to Manhasset.

Chris White and Cole Vissicchio, both captains, finished with All-County honors, owing to their position as the lowest and fourth lowest scoring players in Nassau Spring Golf.

## INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ALL-COUNTY – CHRIS WHITE, COLE VISSICCHIO, WILL PARKER  
(HONORABLE MENTION)



Freshman Will Parker was honored with All-County Honorable Mention, the 11th lowest spring Golfer. Will Podbela, Jesse Wilensky and Alex Valentino were all named All Conference for their play.

– Coach Geoff Nelson

**2015 ROSTER:** Cristian Del Vecchio, Tyler Leon, Daniel McCooley, Marcus Menzin, William Parker, William Podbela, Maxwell Popper, Alexander Valentino, Cole Vissicchio, Christopher White, Jesse Wilensky and Erik Zetterstrom. Manager: Gabriel Patino.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Sophomore Kaitlyn Hardy sprints with the relay handoff.

*Continued from Page 21*

service program at Friends. Several athletes on the team are involved in the Art with Friends program and AHRC Sports on Wednesday night. Please congratulate our seniors as they move on to compete in the cross-country and track teams at Boston College, Texas Christian University and Amherst College," remarked Coach Louisa Garry.

**2015 ROSTER: GIRLS** – Anna Asnis, Grace Burrus, Amelia Cardone, Javana Clark, Julianne Cottone, Stella Davis, Riley Denihan, Emma Deutsch, Paige

Duca, Julianne Florez, Gloria Fortuna, Hannah Goldblatt, Kaitlyn Hardy, Katherine Hom, Bailey Hughes, Sloane Hughes, Jennifer Keogh, Jenna Koufakis, Colleen Marshall, Kelsey McEvoy, Lily Neisloss, Anna Pappas, Katherine Pappas, Riona Park, Isabella Pascucci, Vanessa Quinland, Julia-Kate Schamroth, Andi Simon, Catherine Sullivan, Courtney Taylor, Eleana Tsiamtsiouris, Helena Ware and Ryan Weight. Managers: Gabrielle FitzGerald and Rhea Nagpal.

**BOYS** – Johndee Baptiste, Jordan Christian, Julian Christian, Jalijah Daniels, Jack Deutsch, Stephen Graham, Cyrus Holder, Tau Holder, Robert Izquierdo, Glenn Lostritto, Brendan Naughton, Tyrone Perkins, Josiah Pettway and Nathaniel Shepherd-Tyson.

## FA 2015 SPRING SPORTS



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Senior Marianna Cuomo Maier follows through on her shot down course.

## Second place in conference

### Varsity Girls Golf: Team finishes 9-3

The Girls Varsity Golf team had a very successful season this year. Consisting of four seniors, two juniors, and three sophomores, the girls were very dedicated in all practices and matches.

This season, the Lady Quakers finished with a 9-3 record after engaging with tough competition. Overall, the team finished in 2nd place for the conference behind Great Neck South and competed as a team in counties at Bethpage golf course.

**2015 ROSTER:** Gabrielle Auerbach, Marianna Cuomo Maier, Elizabeth Gherlone, Stephanie Gherlone, Devika Kedia, Sasha Levin, Lauren Leo-Grande, Christina Yannello and Lily Drosch.

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFIER** – MARIANNA CUOMO MAIER, STEPHANIE GHERLONE

**ALL-COUNTY** – MARIANNA CUOMO MAIER, STEPHANIE GHERLONE

**ALL-CONFERENCE** – CHRISTINA YANNELLO, DEVIKA KEDIA

**ALL-CLASS** – LIZ GHERLONE

**FRIENDS ACADEMY PLACED SECOND AS A TEAM IN THE NASSAU COUNTY TOURNAMENT.**



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Senior Caroline Sgaglione races for the ball.

### Varsity Girls Lacrosse: Tight losses in competitive season

The Varsity Girls Lacrosse team had an exciting, yet challenging season, losing by only several goals in many games. Although the team's record of 4-9 may not reflect their ability, the team showed tremendous talent.

The girls' eagerness and dedication proved to be an asset as they only improved both their individual and team play. The offensive unit led by Julia Ciardullo, included Caroline Wilson, Julia Serko, and Morgan McCartan and they strengthened as the season progressed. The midfield was consistently strong with significant contribution from Morgan Bauer, Caroline Sgaglione, and Madison Rielly.

"With the speed of Alexis Toles, agility of Julianne Florez, and the field sense of Ranait Denihan and Mairead Gahan – the defense was solid. Emily Jane Waechter was a consistent contributor to this group. And though our goalie situation proved to be an issue, many players volunteered to take their turn for the team; but one player consistently stepped in – thank you to Leila Baadarani," said Coach Kellie

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**ALL-COUNTY** – CAROLINE SGAGLIONE (HONORABLE MENTION)

**ALL-CONFERENCE** – MADISON RIELLY, MORGAN BAUER

**UNSUNG HERO** – JULIA CIARDULLO

**SCHOLAR ATHLETE** – CAROLINE SGAGLIONE

Huggins.

While the 2015 Girls Lacrosse team finished their season with a playoff loss, "it wasn't their record that demonstrated their true talent," said Huggins, "it was their energy, enthusiasm, positivity and ability to persevere when need be, which created the memories that will last a lifetime."

**2015 ROSTER:** Leila Baadarani, Morgan Bauer, Ashley Brown, Julia Ciardullo, Bell Evans, Julianne Florez, Mairead Gahan, Laura Greene, Julia Kavan, Morgan McCartan, Sophia Pavlakis, Madison Rielly, Kristina Sanoulis, Julia Serko, Caroline Sgaglione, Andi Simon, Alexis Toles, Emily Jane Waechter and Caroline Wilson. Managers: Julia Neisloss, Jacqueline O'Brien and Paige Sklar.

## FA 2015 SPRING SPORTS



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Above, senior Pierce DellaFera on the lacrosse field. Below, Nick Miller fends off a defender.

### VARSITY BOYS LACROSSE: NEW CONFERENCE FOR QUAKERS

The 2015 Boys Varsity Lacrosse team had a challenging schedule in its first year in a new conference, yet still had high hopes of qualifying for the playoffs. With only seven Varsity players returning from last year's team, success would have to be built from a core of first-time Varsity players.

Great improvement and growth was seen throughout the year on both the offensive and defensive sides of the field, even with the loss of several key players during the season.

While the team worked hard and positioned itself to meet its goal of making the playoffs, with a strong team win over Plainedge, a late-season overtime loss to Division dashed their hopes. With nine juniors and three underclassmen returning, next season looks promising.

**2015 ROSTER:** James Araskog, Jason Baskind, Julian Coleman, Struan Coleman, Pierce DellaFera, Matthew DeMatteis, Andrew Greene, Tanner Kellan, Ryan Kelly, Scott Kriesberg, Andrew Marsh, Jesse Rabaglia, Nicholas Schneider, William Schneider, Tyler Sehring, William Shea, Jack Statfeld, Gavin Tam, Ryan Tam and Matthew Tidona

#### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**ALL-COUNTY – PIERCE DELLAFERA**

**ALL-CONFERENCE – PIERCE DELLAFERA, RYAN TAM, GAVIN TAM, STRUAN COLEMAN**

**COACHES AWARD – STRUAN COLEMAN**

**OFFENSIVE MVP – PIERCE DELLAFERA**

**DEFENSIVE MVP – GAVIN TAM**



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Celebrating the moment.

### BOYS JV LACROSSE: TEAM CHEMISTRY A WIN

This year the JV Boys Lacrosse team did many things well, but the one that stuck out was perseverance. When games began, the team was a little rusty and had to shake off the cobwebs after being kept from the fields by snow.

"While competition was tough early on, it did not deter the boys from coming to practice each day with a positive attitude, ready to learn and make themselves better players," said Coach Garrett Dooley.

The turning point in the season emerged against Lynbrook. While the Quakers did not come out on top of that game, falling 6 to 3, the boys began to discover their chemistry. The season came to a close with a victory over Massapequa, and the boys displayed the chemistry and confidence that had been built over the course of a long season. "We believe that with discipline over the summer, the team will be able to increase their skills in the off-season that will help benefit both the Varsity and Junior Varsity programs," added Coach Dooley.

**2015 ROSTER:** Mohammed Azaz, Christian Barakat, Nour Bendary, Alexander Campbell, Louis Durante, Patrick Kavan, Nicholas Miller, Samuel Mufson, Christopher Nishimura, Christopher Paniccia, Alexander Sutherland, Michael Wootten and Stephen Zerilli.

## FA 2015 SPRING SPORTS

### VARSITY SOFTBALL: TEAM DEBUTS IN VARSITY LEAGUE

The 2015 season proved to be an exciting one for the Friends Academy Varsity softball team.

After two strong JV years, the team made its debut as a Varsity team. The move from JV to Varsity and to a higher class, presented the team with early challenges. The team rose to the challenge and played a strong season. Some highlights included an 8-7 victory over Malverne in the 7th inning, a 14-run inning against Hewlett, and two substantial wins over Lawrence.

The season was filled with great fielding plays, excellent pitching, exciting games, and exceptional hitting, with even a few home runs. "In addition, this team was fortunate enough to have two graduating seniors as our captains; Danielle Ramsay and Casey Rosen; both led the team, not only in skill but also in heart," said Coach Christine Botti.

**2015 ROSTER:** Daniella Auerbach, Katherine Emlock, Sabrina Farahani, Alexandra Hoffman, Emily Horne, Jennie Miller, Danielle Ramsay, Casey Rosen, Lauren Russell, Elisabeth Shibley, Mary Stingi, Samantha Strauss, Jacqueline Walzer and Victoria Wu.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Junior Emily Horne up at bat.

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**ALL-CONFERENCE – MARY STINGI-  
SCHOLAR ATHLETE – DANIELLE  
RAMSAY**



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Junior Christian Mandrakos reaches for the ball.

### VARSITY BOYS TENNIS: PLAYOFF CONTENDERS

While daunting weather challenges delayed the start of the season by two weeks, the players were still able to condition before taking to the tennis courts.

These conditioning programs brought a great deal of competitiveness and team camaraderie. The Boys Varsity Tennis team (4-8) finished off a difficult season with a hard-fought victory, knocking Jericho HS out of the playoffs with a 4-3 win. "It was a great feeling to see the team surrounding Mike Kliger and Will Doran as they clinched the final match over Jericho," said Coach Brian Baxter. The team incorporated many new faces into the lineup this year, and all improved with each match.

Highlights included wins over Manhas-set, Garden City (2x) and Jericho. Co-MVPs Samir Singh and Adam Spector, played number 1 doubles together, finished

with Conference 1 (9-3) and were selected to compete in the Nassau County Individual Championships on Mother's Day weekend.

The boys lost a tough first round against a seasoned Roslyn team in a 3rd set tiebreaker. Many thanks to seniors Mike Kliger, Andy Muran, Stephan Herard and Vivek Lam for being a part of our program. "Next year's team should have youth and experience, with several starters reappearing, so we look forward to returning to the playoffs," said Coach Baxter.

**2015 ROSTER:** Charles Andolina, Samir Aziz, Kevin Baskind, Derek Chiang, John Doran, Max Evans, Ian Friedman, Peter Fornell, Andrew Habberstad, Stephan Herard, Theodore Ingrassia, Samuel Kahane, William Kaminsky, Michael Kliger, Ryan Kliger, Vivek Lam, John Lawrence, Dennis Lin, Christian Mandrakos, Patrick Margey, Alex Merrill, Eric Moslow, Andrew Muran, Constantine Pappas, Vasily Potanin, Tyler Riese, Jacob Rush, Luke Sandoval, Austen Schweber, Jonathan Sgaglione, Matthew Sgaglione, Samir Singh, Adam Spector and John Zerilli. Managers: Brooke Chartash, Jessica Friedman, Caroline Miller and Amanda Yraghi.

## **VARSITY BASEBALL: QUAKERS PUSHED TO TOP CONFERENCE LEVEL**

This year's baseball squad was comprised of 19 athletes who entered the 2015 campaign playing in a very competitive A conference, which is, perhaps, the deepest and most talented in Nassau County.

The Quakers finished the season with a record of 5-14. "Although our record in the win-loss column doesn't necessarily depict success, we were able to achieve it in many other ways throughout the season. Not only were our few wins against very skilled teams, but we had some incredible pitching performances, in addition to becoming a consistently dangerous offensive squad," said Coach Mike Damm.

The season highlight included an opening day win against Clarke, who is a perennial powerhouse in Nassau County baseball. Additionally, three of the Quaker's four conference wins came against teams that finished in the top three of the division and in the playoffs. "We truly had shades of brilliance this season," said Coach Damm.

The team was led by six inspiring and dedicated seniors: Matt Feinstein, Perry Gordon, Narain Badhey, Greg Petrossian, Steven Petrocelli, and Thomas Frey, who contributed so much to the Quaker Baseball program. "Each has shown selflessness in his participation, and all have helped to pave a path of excellence as a model for our rising seniors to emulate," finished Coach Damm.

## **FA 2015 SPRING SPORTS**



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Senior Narain Badhey takes a swing.

**2015 ROSTER:** Narain Badhey, Andrew Becker, Max Botwinick, Nicholas Campbell, Brian Chiang, Grant Elgarten, Matthew Feinstein, Benjamin Freund, Thomas Frey, Perry Gordon, Matthew Kaplan, Frank Lizza, Christopher Petrocelli, Steven Petrocelli, Gregory Petrossian, Giles Rutson, Donovan Sbiroli, Jhett Suzuki and Sam Towse. Managers: Marina Hilbert, Sabrina Schamroth and Sydney Themelis.

### **INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

**ALL-CONFERENCE – MATT FEINSTEIN**

**ALL-LEAGUE – GRANT ELGARTEN**

## **BOYS JV TENNIS: TEAM DEPTH AND CHEMISTRY MARKS SEASON**

The Boys JV Tennis team began the mid-March season with a tremendous turnout, as an influx of new players joined the sophomores and juniors from last year's squad.

Brutally cold weather and snow delayed outdoor play and players even pitched in to shovel a foot of snow off of the tennis courts in order to get outdoor practice(s) going.

The competition for spots on the JV team was very high; players squeezed a

large volume of challenge matches into a very compressed time frame.

After a week of matches, the roster solidified and the team prepared for their first match in early April.

The boys started off strong, winning two of the three matches before the April recess. The team continued its consistent play and managed a very respectable record of five wins against five losses by the end of the second week in May.

Excellent team chemistry and the team's overall flexibility in dealing with a host of changes in scheduling, opponents and playing conditions contributed to a successful 2015 season.

**2015 ROSTER:** Charles Andolina, Samir Aziz, Kevin Baskind, Derek Chiang, Andrew Habberstad, Teddy Ingrassia, John Lawrence, Dennis Lin, Alex Merrill, Eric Moslow, Dean Pappas, Tyler Riese, Austen Schweber, Jonathan Sgaglione, Matthew Sgaglione and Jack Zerilli.

## FA 2015 SPRING SPORTS

HONORING MARSHALL LINDNER:  
BASEBALL DUGOUT DEDICATION

Marshall Lindner coached baseball at Friends Academy for 30 years. On May 5, current players, coaches and many of the Friends Academy community members took a moment to honor his contribution to the baseball program. He is a fixture in Section VIII sports and at Friends.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

Seniors Giles Rutson and Jack Zerilli navigate a double this fall.

## VARSITY CREW: LOCAL MEDALS, STATE COMPETITORS

The Friends Academy Varsity Crew program started off the season on a positive note after winning medals in all of their events at the Big Duck Regatta in Flanders, New York. The Quakers continued their success at the Long Island Championships in Centre Island, where rowers medaled in five out of 11 events.

More strong rowing was on display at the New York State Scholastic Championships, despite hot conditions. "Although competition was tough, we rowed extremely well," said Coach Stephanie Olsen. Senior Eric Friedlander, who joined the team for the Spring season rowed in a Varsity Double event with junior Peter Psyllos. The pair competed in the finals and finished 9th. "Although they didn't place in the top 3, competing at Varsity level is a huge accomplishment for a beginner rower like Eric," remarked Coach Olsen.

In other highlights, junior Gabrielle Nagel rowed in a Varsity race at States, finishing 7th in the State. Gabrielle and freshman Caitlin Cobb finished in 7th place at States and junior Julia Searby and sophomore Gabrielle Bauer followed in 8th in the Girls Junior Double category.

Freshman Alex Hutzel and sophomore Sarah Richter rowed a lightweight double to finish 8th in the state.

During indoor training, many of the rowers broke their personal records on the erg. Gabrielle Nagel broke 8 minutes at a 7:55 2K time, Julia Searby broke 9 minutes with a 8:53 2K, Mack Hoyt rowed a 7:30 2K, which was seconds faster than his last 2K time, Gabrielle Bauer rowed a 8:38 2K, which was 20 seconds faster than her last, and Peter Psyllos rowed a 7:06 2K.

Injuries struck the team during the spring season, forcing three of the team's athletes to sit out for the majority of this season. "Although they couldn't participate in the events we had, they were extremely helpful during practices and especially at our regattas, helping their fellow teammates," said Coach Olsen.

**2015 ROSTER:** Gabrielle Bauer, Caitlin Cobb, Federico De Geronimo, Olivia Fine, Eric Friedlander, Caroline Hoyt, Mack Hoyt, Alexandria Hutzel, Gabrielle Nagel, Lauren Nagel, Elizabeth Panacciulli, Peter Psyllos, Sarah Richter and Julia Searby.



ALAN QUACKENBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY

The girls Quad practices this fall.



## 19 FA ATHLETES PLAYING COLLEGIATE COMPETITIVE SPORTS IN 2015-16

Back row, from left: Matt Feinstein – Baseball (Dartmouth), Brandon Rosenbaum – Soccer (Endicott), Andy Muran – Squash (Cornell), Tyler Sehring – Lacrosse (Lafayette), Glenn Lostritto – Track and Field (Texas Christian University), Caroline Sgaglione – Lacrosse (Wesleyan), Catherine Sullivan – Equestrian (Univ. of Georgia), Jack Statfeld – Lacrosse (Muhlenberg University), Pierce Della Fera – Lacrosse (Connecticut College), Jesse Wilensky – Golf (Oxford College), Katherine Hom – Track and Field (Amherst), Julianne Florez – Field Hockey (Bentley), Alexis Toles – Soccer (Towson Univ.) and Zach Sideris – Football (Macalester). Not pictured: Paige Duca – Track and Field (Boston College), Bel Evans – Crew (Harvard), Max Heffron – Soccer (Dartmouth), Isabella Pascucci – Track (Harvard) and Tyrone Perkins – Football (Syracuse).

## FA TRACK ALUMNI IN ABUNDANCE AT COLLEGIATE LEVEL

A small, but solid athletic presence with an average of 30 athletes competing per year, the Friends Academy Cross-Country & Track Team is seeing an unprecedented number of alumni compete at the collegiate level.

In 2015, 14 FA alumni are actively competing in Cross Country or Track programs at Division I and Division III colleges and universities.

“Normally, most sports are represented by an average of three or four athletes competing at the college level at any given point,” noted Athletic Director Alan Quackenbush. “So, 14 is really remarkable.”

“To me, it’s something we should all be really proud of,” commented Coach Louisa

Garry. “These are not just kids who were superstars, but a wide range of athletes; and for them to make the commitment at the collegiate level is not easy.”

A unique co-ed team, FA athletes train, compete and cheer for each other over three seasons. In the fall, athletes run distances of 2½ to 3 miles along trails and on uneven surfaces. During winter, indoor track combines relays, jumps and throwing events with shorter-distance runs (55 m. to 2 miles). Due to insufficient island-wide facilities, athletes must compete at four-hour evening meets. Finally, the spring outdoor track season features 16 events, including the Steeplechase, an event that combines running, hurdles and water jumps, in which two Quakers have been named All-

American.

In recent years, the Girls and Boys Cross Country and Track teams have garnered both state and national honors, with a national championship in the 1500 m. and state championships in the 800 m. run, 1500 m. run, 4 X 800 m. Relay team and 4 X 400 m. Relay team.

For Garry, cross country and track offer many opportunities and ways to grow.

“It’s difficult for students to take the time for sports with all the competing academic and extracurricular pressures, but ultimately they will gain so much from participation in sports – not only from training and competition but from the long-lasting fellowship they experience with their teammates,” said Coach Garry.

### IN-COLLEGE TRACK & CROSS COUNTRY ATHLETES: DIVISION I



Kira Garry '11 (Yale/University of Michigan)	Kelsey Margey '12 (Villanova)	Molly Sullivan '13 (Clemson)	Sunny Lostritto '13 (Fordham)	Katrina Garry '14 (Yale)	Candace Taylor '14 (UPenn)	Harmony Grodsky '14 (Quinnipiac)	Aidan Vascotto '14 (Lehigh)	Glenn Lostritto '15 (Texas Christian)	Paige Duca '15 (Boston College)
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### DIVISION III



James Hawkins '13 (Union)	Lydia Graham '14 (Williams)	Shekinah Pettway '14 (Bowdoin)	Katherine Hom '15 (Amherst)
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## SUMMER CURRICULUM GRANTS

Several teachers developed curriculum for new courses over the summer. Upper School Math teacher **ALEX BURT** designed a new multivariable Calculus course. Middle School science teacher **DAN KRIESBERG** joined with US teachers **KATY HOWARD** (English), **JOE HELPERN** and **CASEY REED** (Science) to integrate more environmental sustainability education into the Upper School curriculum. The group focused on lessons for AP Environmental Science and American Studies. In addition, **KATY HOWARD** created curriculum for a semester-long course on Gender and Literature. Upper School Science teacher **CAROLYN POCIUS** developed two new senior science electives – Sports Anatomy and Physiology; and Diseases, Plagues and Pandemics. Fifth grade Math teacher **BRIE KRASKA** and second grade teacher **JAIMEE CONNORS** created

a skeleton for a new Math workshop program in Lower School, where second and fifth grades are piloting the new differentiated and hands-on approach. Upper School History Department Head Christine Kulke worked to create a GSS (Global Studies Scholar) European Studies course that will meet GSS goals while supporting students who wish to take the AP European History exam. Kulke is looking to build on FA's existing relationship with the school and community in Heiligenstadt, Germany. Upper School Math teacher Emily Pursino developed a new Algebra 2 course this summer, which will help support students in Physics, as well as, prepare them for SATs and college math entrance exams

Sixth grade Math teacher **ALLISON BARTH** and fifth grade teacher **KIM JENNINGS** col-

laborated on fine-tuning the 5th/6th grade transition. Working in tandem, the pair sought to develop curricular initiatives that will improve the executive function and social/emotional skills in 5th and 6th grade students.

Director of Quaker Education **ANGIE MARTIN**, Upper School Science teacher **CAROLYN POCIUS** and College Counselor **LAUREN CARBALLO** collaborated over the summer to enrich the current 9th grade Quakerism course. "We would like to explore ways that the GSS platform (project-based learning and essential questions) could be used to support and enrich portions of the current 9th grade Quakerism course," the group explained.

## FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Middle School Educational Technology teacher **CLARE NESFIELD** received a Graduate Certificate in E-Learning in the Educational Technology Leadership program from The George Washington University's Graduate School of Education and Human Development.



Clare  
Nesfield

Upper School Math teacher **JULIA HALTERMANN** received her Master of Education degree from Peabody College of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt.



Julia  
Haltermann

Upper School Science Department head **JENNIFER NEWITT** is attending the AP Biology Leadership Academy – a two-year program designed to deepen the participants' understanding of the AP Biology curriculum and to develop teacher leaders who can lead professional development programs for the Biology teaching community. "As a cohort of 35 educators, we spent a week each summer refining our ability to develop coherent curriculum, familiarizing ourselves with the latest pedagogical tools, and collaborating on developing effective professional development sessions," said Newitt. The goal is to seek out leadership opportunities both within and beyond schools to help others become



Jennifer  
Newitt

better science educators. "In the fall of each of the years we attended the yearly conference of NABT (National Association of Biology Teachers) and did more of this work together, in addition to taking part in various workshops and conference sessions. My students have benefited a great deal from what I have learned in this program and I have enjoyed sharing new tools and strategies with my colleagues at FA and beyond," she added.

Science teacher **CASEY REED** earned her Masters of Arts from Teachers College at Columbia University, as a Supervisor/Teacher of Science Education, with a major in Secondary Physical Science.



Casey Reed

Physical Education teacher and coach **DAVID BARTH** recently completed his Masters of Science in Education, with a major in Educational Leadership and Administration, from the College of Saint Rose (Albany). Barth took some courses on Long Island, and some on campus in Albany as part of the Extension program.



David  
Barth

Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, **SHANELLE ROBINSON** founded the Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice in June 2015. The Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice is an annual professional development program open to individuals interested in building more

inclusive and affirming classrooms through experiential activities, exploration and development of strategies and skills to effectively navigate diversity issues in independent schools. Participants receive research-based tools and practically-useful resources to increase their capacity to implement anti-bias curriculum and strategies for change within their classroom and school environments.

As part of her work with the NAIS Emerging Leader's Institute, History Department chair **CHRISTINE KULKE** collaborated with English Department head **SHAWN MARIE GARRETT** on



Christine  
Kulke



Shawn Marie  
Garrett

developing an FA code of character/honor code. Over the summer Garrett worked to clarify, simplify, consolidate and make consistent FA's various existing statements and policies related to academic integrity, tutoring, the writing process, citation of sources and teacher's protocol.

## FACULTY RETIREMENTS

**LILLIAN SHULMAN** – Third grade teacher;  
**SHARON NELSON** – Middle School learning specialist; **MARY ANN REARDON** – Archivist;  
**JUDY JAMES** – Library Director.  
(See photos on Page 45)

# from the president

PETER STEIN '79

Dear Fellow Alumni,

The 2015-16 academic year is off to a great start! It's been a gorgeous and warm autumn in Locust Valley highlighted by the 51st Annual Fall Fair and Homecoming over the October 2-4 weekend. We celebrated reunions with classes ending in 0 and 5. The class of 1965 celebrating their 50th year reunion in style starting with a luncheon on Friday and culminating with Meeting for Worship on Sunday afternoon. There was much fun and plenty of festivities. Mother Nature and her rainfall did nothing to dampen the excitement and energy of a wonderful weekend. We enjoyed our second annual Gideon's Guard luncheon in a dry Jackson House for all classes from 1965 and earlier.

The summer of 2015 featured a new alumni event – "The Boys of Summer." On a memorable night in July, FA alumni filled a beautiful suite at CitiField to watch The New York Mets take on the San Diego Padres in an unforgettable night of baseball. All Met fans will remember the night Wilmer Flores cried and the FA alumni association was there to witness it. Many feel this was the night that launched the Mets to their first pennant in 15 years. We all enjoyed a great night of food, camaraderie and, of course, great baseball. We are all looking forward to next summer's outing and a chance to watch the defending National League Champions play! Details and ticket information will follow.

The spring of 2016 was highlighted by our annual New York City reunion. We had a record crowd on hand

where we honored Middle School Learning Specialist Sharon Nelson, Archivist Mary Ann Reardon, Library Director Judy James and third grade teacher Lillian Shulman. We wish them well in their next chapters of life and new adventures!

In campus news, plans are underway to refurbish the Middle School in time for September of 2016 and the arrival of the 6th, 7th and 8th graders, who will spend the second half of the 2015-16 school year in an "Academic Village" so that the Middle School can undergo a significant renovation. Along with the new beginnings at FA, we remain keenly aware of the newest members of the FA alumni family. The FA class of 2015 are scattered around the country at some of the finest colleges and universities. I am confident they will excel and use their FA foundation to build a stellar academic career. I look forward to welcoming them back to FA in the upcoming years.

This issue of *The Meeting House* features two profiles about classmates from the Class of 1968. On page 32, read about Duncan Guild, who discovered his passion for teaching early on and proceeded to spend nearly four decades connecting with and inspiring special needs pre-schoolers in Colorado public schools.

Finally on page 16, meet this year's Distinguished Alumnus, Paul Hand, who with his wife, Bunny, have worked tirelessly to not only feed the "food insecure" of San Diego over the last five years with a bowl of Bunny's Chicken Soup® every week, but have changed the course of lives as well.



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

## 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.*

## A CALL FOR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD NOMINATIONS

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



**2014: SHARON MCGEE CRARY '89** –

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



**2013: MARJA BRANDON '79** –

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



**2012: BARBARA BOYLE WEANER '73** –

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



**2011: PETER GALBRAITH '56** –

Leaves dental practice and private sector to answer Quaker-inspired calling in public health



**2010: SUSAN STEIN DANOFF '60** –

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



**2009: JOHN GAMBLING '69** –

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



**2008: THOMAS CARTER '59** –

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

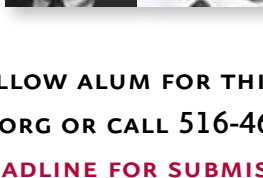


**2007: JAMES GREENE '74** – Investing in the betterment of others' lives through years of service to Friends Academy on the Alumni Board and Board of Trustees



**2006: PETER DARBEE '71** –

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



**PLEASE CONSIDER NOMINATING A FELLOW ALUM FOR THIS HONOR. SUBMIT HIS OR HER NAME TO THE ALUMNI OFFICE AT [ALUMNI@FA.ORG](mailto:ALUMNI@FA.ORG) OR CALL 516-465-1796. PLEASE INCLUDE A BRIEF NOTE ABOUT YOUR NOMINEE. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS MARCH 15, 2016.**

DUNCAN GUILD '68

# “PEOPLE MAKER”

BY NATALIA PORCELLI GOOD '93

*Duncan Guild, class of 1968, taught special needs pre-schoolers during an illustrious career spanning 40 years. Guild feels that he was very lucky to discover his passion for teaching early on. It is clear, however, that Guild is much more than a teacher. He showed such compassion and devotion to his students that families felt he changed their lives. Guild was described as a “blessing to Jefferson County [Colorado]” in 2011 when he received the “Channel 9 Teachers Who Care” award from a local news station because of his tremendous dedication as a teacher.*



.....  
Above, Duncan Guild from the 1968 Lamp yearbook.

ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

## DUNCAN GUILD '68: 'PEOPLE MAKER'

*Working with special needs children 'touches alum's soul'*

**D**uncan Guild began attending Friends Academy as a sophomore. Guild recalls his first structured interaction with children while he was at Friends.

He participated in a program started by a religion teacher, Robert Fatherly, which gave young children from Glen Cove the opportunity to play in a basketball clinic with students from Friends.

After graduating from Friends, Guild attended Union College where he majored in psychology and political science. During college, he worked as a teaching assistant in a middle school in Schenectady and was a playground supervisor at a private school, which involved special needs children. Guild remembers that it was during that time that he came to the realization that he could make teaching his profession, especially in the field of special education.

After a year of teaching in Schenectady, Guild attended George Washington University where he received his Masters in Early Childhood Special Education.

While Guild was at GW, he learned about the importance of teaching and what a rewarding and highly valued profession it could be. He also discovered that teachers are in the career of what Virginia Satir called "people making," that is, in the process of supporting the development of children.

Guild's first real experience working with children who had behavioral, psychological and emotional needs "touched his soul from the very start" and led him to specialize in the special education field. Guild also enjoyed working with young children because he felt that he could make a profound difference in their lives at an early age. Guild really "enjoys the personalities of 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds because of everything they have to offer and everything they can do."

Guild's educational philosophy, which he developed early on, is one of fostering a positive self-concept and self-image in



COURTESY OF DUNCAN GUILD

Duncan Guild teaches a class of pre-schoolers with special needs in Colorado.

children. Guild achieved this by creating a welcoming environment in his classroom, demonstrating unconditional love and acceptance and valuing children as individuals.

In addition, he feels that it is crucial for learning to be fun. In the "Channel 9 Teachers Who Care" piece, Guild stated: "If something doesn't have meaning for a child, he/she is going to lose interest. I will introduce something that is of high interest, that I know the children are going to like and that will keep their attention. I add music, laughter and fun. They can pick up on it if we're having fun."

Guild consistently strived to make children excited about learning, to want to come to school and to be successful.

For 33 years, Guild taught in the Jefferson County, Colorado public schools. He lobbied to have children with special needs integrated into the general student

population. This required a great degree of communication with teachers, staff, parents and students. (In Colorado, free and equal education is granted to special needs children at the pre-school level.) While some teachers were reluctant to even have "mainstream" children engage in free play with special needs children,

Guild always saw the benefits of integrated classrooms. For the special needs children, they would be exposed to good language and age-appropriate behavior models,

**"I got so much from teaching as it was so rewarding for my self-concept – just being with the children, the staff and the parents."**

*Continued on Page 34*

# HAVE You MOVED?

*Or are thinking  
of moving?*

If so, be sure to alert  
Alumni Office  
at (516) 393-4269  
or joan\_bruen@fa.org,  
so that your subscription  
to *The Meeting House*  
continues uninterrupted.



## DUNCAN GUILD '68: 'PEOPLE MAKER'

*Continued from Page 33*

while the other pre-schoolers would learn about diversity and acceptance, as well as enjoying the interactions and friendships with the children with special needs.

After working in the public schools, Guild began teaching autistic students and children with significant needs in a Columbine area pre-school in Littleton, CO. It was during this time that one family nominated Guild for the "9 Teachers Who Care" award. "Because of his guidance," one family stated, their son can "deal with classroom situations, has friends, can use seven-plus word phrases to communicate and can sit for extended periods and focus on a meal or playtime."

Another mother stated, "Duncan Guild has changed our lives and the lives of many other families with special needs children." In the story, Guild is described as being "patient and loving every minute of class time" which is so apparent by watching him work with his students.

To read the entire article and see the news clip, please go to: <http://archive.9news.com/news/article/175403/662/duncan-guildjanuary-2011-winner>

In spite of working in such a challenging field, there was never a time when

Guild wasn't motivated, excited, having fun and enjoying being a teacher. In the local news piece, one can see Guild being interactive with his students, dancing with them and creating an environment where young children with substantial obstacles to learning could flourish. For Guild, his self-described "hyper-active personality" served him well in being successful as a teacher. In addition, he was motivated and inspired by the children. "I got so much back from teaching as it was rewarding for my self-concept – just being with the children, the staff and the parents."

Since his retirement, Guild has given speeches to pre-school staff about the importance of developing positive self-esteem and self-regulation. He also puts on puppet shows to demonstrate how to use appropriate social skills.

Guild concluded by reflecting upon the changes in elementary education. "I was happy to promote a more social, child-driven curriculum as opposed to one based on standardized scores and accountability."

Every student should be as fortunate to have a teacher like Duncan Guild to help shape them as a young child. By following his passion, Guild is leaving behind a legacy of transforming people's lives.



# “We realized very quickly what a special place Friends Academy is to our children.”

— Jennifer and Henry Williams, FA parents

Sixteen years ago Jennifer and Henry Williams joined the Friends Academy community when their eldest daughter, Mackenzie, entered Play Group.

“During Mackenzie’s elementary school years, we realized very quickly what a special place Friends Academy is and what it offers as a whole to our children,” said Jennifer.

For the Williams’, it was a natural and easy decision to support Friends Academy with a Planned Giving Bequest and continue the level of support they had afforded other institutions.

“We planned this a long time ago,” said Jennifer. “We feel strongly that it was important to not only give back on a yearly basis to FA with the Annual Fund, but to consider a planned giving for the future. While this type of financial estate planning can be involved, it helped us to put our minds at ease, knowing that contributions would be made to organizations that were



Jennifer and Henry Williams have been a part of the FA community since 2000; their daughters, Mackenzie ‘15 and seventh grader Madison, both started at Friends in Play Group.

meaningful in our lives.

We are so pleased to have found an academic environment that has benefited our children and enriched their lives in so many ways. We have a unique community,” said Jennifer.

## PLEASE JOIN JENNIFER AND HENRY WILLIAMS, WHO HAVE INCLUDED FRIENDS IN THEIR ESTATE PLANS:

You can make a gift that has a substantial, long-lasting impact.

You can leave a legacy and recognize the value Friends holds in your heart.

You can make a difference in more students' lives with a bequest than with a gift that comes from today's income or savings.

**A bequest is a simple way to make the maximum positive impact  
without compromising your lifestyle or budget.**

*For information on how to include Friends Academy in your estate plans, how to establish an endowment, or to discuss ways to match your interests with school needs, contact Director of Development Jim Michalek at [jim\\_michalek@fa.org](mailto:jim_michalek@fa.org) or 516-393-4269.*



STRONG MINDS.  
KIND HEARTS.



Florence Milyko Skinner '40 at home in NYC

## 1940

**Florence Milyko Skinner**  
4202 Avalon Drive East  
New Canaan, CT 06840  
(203) 966-9475  
nightingalelady@att.net

## 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

**Sheila Morrissey Potter** sent in lovely photos so all her classmates could take a walk down memory lane. Pictured on the next page are **Solange De La Bruyere Batsell Herter**, **Sheila Morrissey Potter**, and **Jan Coakley Robinson** at Sheila's family home in Hampton Bays during their senior



**Lew Zimmerman '45**, **Sheila Morrissey Potter '45** and **Jack Kennedy '45** at Vassar circa 1946

year. The other photo below is of classmates **Lew Zimmerman** and **Jack Kennedy** with Sheila during her freshman year at Vassar and their freshman year at Lehigh.

## 1946

**Henry Palau**  
38 Yarmouth Road  
Rowayton, CT 06853-1847  
(203) 855-0021  
hspret@optonline.net

## 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

## 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

## 1951

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

## 1952

**Margaret Whitney Shields**  
5427 FM 2515  
Kaufman, TX 75142  
(972) 962-8124  
mspauamanok@aol.com

## 1953

If anyone from the Class of 1953 would like to be the class representative, please contact



Classmates Solange De La Bruyere Batsell Herter, Sheila Morrissey Potter and Jan Coakley Robinson in 1945

us at [alumni@fa.org](mailto:alumni@fa.org). We would love to hear from you! Another exciting new project for **Clare Coss**! She is at work on *Emmett Till*, the opera, with African-American composer Mary Watkins. Mary has finished writing the piano vocal score to Clare's libretto (adapted from her play). This promises to be an amazing collaboration! And Happy 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the class of 1953! Although the class was unable to celebrate this milestone at FA this fall, hopefully a collective 81<sup>st</sup> birthday party can be celebrated on campus next fall.

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

**Sondi Conklin Wright** and husband Hal are still spending 5 weeks every 3 months in San Miguel de Allende (in Mexico), and both continue to work (yoga and psychiatry). Their son Juan's book, *Stories I tell Myself Growing*

*up with Hunter S. Thompson* will be published in January. Sondi comments that "what he'll have to say about his mom is a mystery and of course a bit of a concern!" Grandson Will Thompson, who is entering his senior year in high school, is already making good progress on the college-selection problem. **Pete** and Sandy **Klinge's** oldest grandchild, Billy, tied the knot July 24 in Chicago in a large and elegant wedding with eight groomsmen (just for starters). A middle school music teacher and in professional theatre, he has a fine voice and sang several songs. The happy couple honeymooned in Portugal and Spain. Peter III and Skyeler, both twelve and the youngest grandchildren, danced up a storm at their first formal event. **Owen Smith** reports that he has finally sold his family's historic (1672!) restaurant, but is still running it until the buyers can find someone to take over. His trip to Ireland to receive an honorary Ph.D, originally scheduled for 2014, was delayed by a year owing to an untimely fire in the restaurant's kitchen. A new project is writing a book tentatively titled *Cold War II – World War III*, drawing on his extensive background in national security issues. The choir that **Mike Volow** sings with (Triangle Jewish Chorale) will be going to Buenos Aires for almost two weeks to give concerts and join Argentine choirs. Spectacular Iguazu Falls is also on the itinerary. Becci will be going, but not singing. She and Mike have been frequent travelers to Pittsburgh of late to support their son's family.

## 1956

**Anne Wauchope Smith**  
297 London Drive  
Beaconsfield  
Quebec H9W 5Z1  
Canada  
(514) 695-1951  
[awsmith297@gmail.com](mailto:awsmith297@gmail.com)

News from **Wendy Oden**: Thought that you would like to know that I recently visited with **Peter Bergh** in Breckenridge, CO a few weeks ago. We have a Hyatt timeshare and traded to go there this year for two weeks. Peter lives near Vail so he came over and we had lunch. We tried taking him to our favorite restaurant, Relish, but it now is only open at night. So of all places we went to Bubba Gumps, not exactly the place we had in mind. We had a nice visit and he looked well and has had a very interesting life. This summer is awful here so next year we may head north, maybe New England or Canada. **Loren Godfrey** writes with the sad news that his wife Cynthia, who had Alzheimer's, died peacefully at home a year ago. "Thankfully, my children and grandchildren are all well and have been very supportive as I try to rebuild my life," writes Loren.

## 1957

**Roger O. Sanders**  
324 Fishing Ln.  
Deland, FL 32720  
(386) 736-0815  
[ramblinrog1@yahoo.com](mailto:ramblinrog1@yahoo.com)

## 1958

**John Hiatt**  
21 Brookview Drive  
Glenmoore, PA 19343  
(610) 942-8814  
[jhiatt333@comcast.net](mailto:jhiatt333@comcast.net)

## 1959

**David Seeler**  
P.O. Box 718  
Amagansett, NY 11930  
(631) 267-3000  
[dseeler@thebayberry.com](mailto:dseeler@thebayberry.com)

**Gerry Bocian** is President, Director of Research for Palmtree Clinical Research Inc. He will be in Eastern Connecticut in October and hopes to see some of us then. **Martha Livingston McDermott** bought a small house in East Islip, near her old home in Great River, after spending some time in P.A. She recalled a great

story of meeting a woman and asking where she went to high school. "When I said FA, she asked what year I graduated. When I told her '59, she exclaimed "Oh my God – The Master Class!" She was only in 7th grade when we graduated – that's how memorable we were."

**Judy Reeve** and husband Ken had their annual reunion this past winter in Tucson, with **John Froehlich** and Carol and **John Wenger** and Sally. She is 90% retired from her landscape consulting/design business. Judy's mom is now 98 and sends her best to all. **Charles Jameson** is spending more time with his trains located in his basement. When I last visited him, he broke through the wall and is starting to fill the entire basement with this super layout. At this point, the neighbors are worried about possible aggression. **Steve Sundgaard** (why the 2nd A?) will be visiting the East End of Long Island this September. **Dan Voorhees** and I will be hosts. By the way, he recalls: "**Dave Warden** and I were great friends in 5th and 6th grades. We used to sneak his father's medical books to look at female body parts and thought we knew all about sex." Besides complaining about old age, **John** and Sally **Wenger** are in great shape. Spent some time traveling in Georgia, New Jersey, and Manhattan. They plan to spend time in Dublin, Ohio visiting daughter Karen and the rest of the Wenger Clan. That includes **Tom** and **Jane Wenger**, Class of '62. John nominated me to organize the 55th Anniversary of our graduation. Thanks John! **Bruce** and Gay **Burrows** still have the travel bug. This year... to Europe. **John Froehlich** is making a great recovery from his stroke. **Jim Sykes** and I keep badgering him to keep at it. Thanks to everyone who contributed to Annual Giving. Our Class is still #1!

## 1960

**Bob Powell**

5344 Reasor Court  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464  
(757) 201-5525  
vigihawk@cox.net

## 1961

**Park Benjamin III**

P. O. Box 368  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771  
(516) 922-9537  
pbenjamin3@optimum.net



Toni Naren Gates '63, Paula Howe '63, Murphy Litvack (Toni's cousin) and Kathy Laemmle Garren '63 celebrating Toni's 70th birthday

## 1962

**Randi Reeve Filoon**

P.O. Box 5495  
Ketchum, ID 83340  
(208) 788-1734  
filoons@yahoo.com

## 1963

**Barbara Shoen Brundige**

35 Wood Lane  
Lattingtown, NY 11560  
(516) 922-3944  
bjbrundige@aol.com

**Paula E. Howe**

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The big news for the Class of 1963 is we are turning 70 this year. **Toni Naren Gates** [tonigates@aol.com] wins the prize so far for celebrating this momentous event! Actually her husband, Bud Gates, takes the credit for planning the most spectacular SURPRISE event: June 26, Ritz Carlton Battery Park (NYC) at The Rise, a venue at the top of the hotel. Guests gathered at 5:15 and Toni and Bud arrived at 5:30 "to have a drink before going to dinner." Toni was totally surprised – it was priceless! Drinks continued, with tasty hors d'oeuvres, and then another surprise – a private jazz concert by Sarah Partridge, an accomplished jazz singer whom Toni taught years ago. This was followed by a lovely dinner. What an evening....And Saturday night the



Paula Howe '63 and Nancy Wadsworth Hanna '63 join in the festivities of Toni Naren Gates' '63) 70th birthday.

celebration continued with a dinner (also planned and hosted by Bud) at Gigino across the street from the Ritz. **Paula Howe**, **Kathy Laemmle Garren**, **Nancy Wadsworth Hanna** and **B.J. Shoen Brundige** as well as two college classmates joined Toni's extended family for this wonderful weekend. Here is an addendum note from Toni: "Might I say, I was more than surprised. I was touched. And I was totally in thrall reconnecting with friends and having a chance to recapture, as well as appreciate, the wonderful coming of age years we had! Seemed like yesterday; prompted making old friends new friends for today!" **Steve Lapham** [lapham.s@gmail.com] has good news to report: 70 is six weeks away, youngster that I am. As you know life has thrown me some curves, but I continue to move forward. I view the various times in my life as chapters. They may be read and re-read and not forgotten. For

my next chapter I am moving to Tampa and starting a new life with a widow who lost her husband to sudden death similar to the way I lost Natalie. We are looking forward to this new story of our lives and embrace all that will proceed. Her name is Kathy and she grew up in Manhasset as Kathy Nicholson. Together we have eight children and 14 grandchildren, so travel is part of our lives. Anyone who wants to avoid the cold and visit us in Tampa, you are welcome. Best to all. And news from **MaryAnn Engle Jenness** [maj1028@comcast.net]: As some people know, Steve and I live in New Hampshire, not far from the seacoast. It is a beautiful state and we love it here. Steve is a native and I am, of course, a transplant, but this is home to me. After the long, cold, and snowy winter, Steve and I are enjoying the lovely summer and a new toy (his really). He has given up his motorcycles (yea!). He always wanted me to ride with him, but I refused. Fear is the great motivator. So, we now have instead a 1999 dark blue Corvette. We are taking day trips around our state and doing photography of lighthouses, animals, waterfronts, and anything else of interest. I am learning, and Steve is a great teacher. We are also enjoying time with our godchildren – though we have no children of our own, Liam and Aine are just like the real thing. We are their legal guardians and have been very much a part of their lives from day one. Unfortunately, they are growing up, with Liam heading to the University of Maine at Orono and Aine heading into her junior year of high school. Both kids are honor students and Liam is in the honors program at Maine. He is also getting his education paid for by enlisting in the National Guard. They keep us very involved and young. They are



Lee Cronbach '63 cools off in the Indang River pool resort in the Philippines.

fabulous young adults, and we are so lucky to have them in our lives. **Marcia Haughton Nybakken** [jnybakken@sbcglobal.net] wrote that **Linda Rouzee Halley** lost her valiant fight against cancer on July 14, 2015. She remained always cheerful and brave to the end. She will be greatly missed! Everyone who was fortunate enough to meet her loved and respected her. I was lucky to be with her in the end and will miss her friendship and wise words. On a note from your reporter Paula – **Steve Lapham** and I and others remember both Marcia and Linda fondly from our early days in lower school. I still have a little candy cane pin that Linda gave me one Christmas. **Earl Kabnick** [twostate@aol.com] writes: Just when I thought I was ready to give up radiology, I got inundated with job offers... so I am now working 12 hours a day six days a week but I made sure about vacation. In April we took off for Paris. This week we are going to Las Vegas and Aruba at the end of September. I made a vow on my 69th birthday to lose weight and to date have lost 130 pounds (Atkins). Promised myself an Indian – had one in Medical school. My wife is not thrilled, but in 20 pounds I shall start the fight. (Earl did not explain what Indian meant – said this was another topic...) **Lee Cronbach**

[ceelee123@msn.com] is our ever faithful classmate reporting from the Philippines. First, thank you Paula, et al., for this service. I have heard from a couple of classmates who saw my name in the previous class news – one is now an internet investor in the Iberian Peninsula, the other a farmer in North America. Speaking of internet investing, my son Jason is running a similar business in Estonia. Amazing how the Internet, Facebook and Skype keep us all in touch around the world. As for me, life continues the same here in the Philippines. I have around six piano students now, who help me keep in touch with the post-2000 generation! (Just think, talking to a kid now about Janis Joplin and James Brown would be the same as if an oldster fell into conversation with us when we were in our 20s about ragtime and music before the phonograph. Not only was I born before all of these kids' parents, I was born before many of their grandparents!) Music here is a blend of Taylor Swift pop, rap, and reggae – with occasional touches of Arabic and Indian music and the rare hard-rock guitar solo. My spouse Rodel is now teaching a course on Anatomy at the Cavite State University, but next year when he turns 65, he will reach compulsory retirement age. He hopes to continue teaching at a private college after that. Meanwhile, in the mornings he runs a medical exam clinic for drivers' license applicants at the local Mahogany market, and enjoys the work with his friendly and efficient staff of two (great esprit de corps there), and is well known as 'Doc' to all the fruit, vegetable and meat merchants at Mahogany. We spend most of our time reading (several decent book chains in the Philippines), watching movies on DVDs on our huge screen TV, walking the dog through the farm country, eating in the many great restaurants around here, and – when it is not raining – swimming in the Indang River pool resort; ciao to all, **Lee Cronbach**. So that is it for the Class of 1963 until next time!

## 1964

**Suzanne Notides Melzig**  
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News from **Perry Clark**: "The Friends School of Portland, where I remain as a board member and treasurer, will soon be opening for its 10th year in its new building in Cumberland, Maine. The building is a net zero structure, meaning that it will produce as much energy as it will use. The construction of this innovative building on a new campus is the culmination



Lee Cronbach '63 listens to one of his piano students in the Philippines.



Ned Frey '64 and Gail Frey with Sue Notides Melzig '64 and Eric Melzig '64.

of the hard work and dedication of our school community – parents, board members, teachers, administrators, students, and donors. We are also very grateful for the welcome and cooperation we have received from the Town of Cumberland. We look forward to a bright future in our new home. Anyone from the Friends Academy community who plans to visit Maine and is interested in our school should contact me. I will be pleased to conduct a tour. My second item is that in August I became Chair of the External Advisory Board of the Institute on Aging at the University of Pennsylvania. The IOA, based in Penn's Perelman School of Medicine, is the umbrella organization for all clinical, basic research, and educational programs relating to aging across the entire university. The IOA's current research projects encompass neurodegenerative diseases, frailty, and longevity, among other areas. The External Advisory Board provides advice and philanthropic support to the IOA. I am honored to have been asked to be its Chair."

## 1965

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## 1966

**Helen Lotowycz Rising**  
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## 1967

**Diana Dickson-Witmer**  
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## 1968

**Lesley L. Graham**  
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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 who 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. On to our 50th reunion in 2018. **Duncan Guild** says hello and sends his best wishes to all. Such fun staying in touch with my buddy Duncan. Please read more about Duncan on pages 32-34. **Sally Rising Dean** writes in with sad news. She has decided to let her heart pour out to her friends from the Class of 1968: "My husband Steve died very suddenly of a heart attack in November of 2012. It was not imminent, but he did have whooping cough that summer. His 2008 vaccine did not cover him for the widespread outbreak that season and I feel that with all his coughing he had done damage or dislodged something in his heart. All very sad for me and my family. I am adjusting to life alone in a big house and barn with a lot of equipment on 50 acres in VT. However, I am making a great change! I will be moving to NH, next door to my daughter and her family, where I am building a new "downsized" house on 2.3 acres. It will be mostly landscaped natural except close around the house and I am looking forward to the synergy of being a Grandma next door with two grandchildren, two dogs and a bunch of chickens and parrots. My other three grandchildren will only be two hours away in Gloucester, MA... another plus. I will do my best to make it to the FA reunion in three years, but no guarantees. My best to everyone who has shared their news and to those who only read." I want to share this wonderful introduction of **Paul Hand** by Head of School Bill Morris. Paul was receiving the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus Award at Fourth Day Honors. He is highlighted in this issue (on page 16), but I had to share it

again. Paul you are the best. "After graduating from Friends, Paul continued his education at NYIT and Quinsigamund College in Worcester, Massachusetts. He started an independent consulting business in retail marketing technology, eventually relocating to San Diego in 1990 in the field of mobile communications network technology. He currently works for LG Electronics MobilComm, where he is the Director of Customer Advocacy and leads a team that provides quality management support for all major US telecommunications carriers. If you are having trouble with your cell service, call Paul. While Paul has pursued a successful career to support a wonderful family that includes Bernice (Bunny), his wife of 34 years, Rebecca and Erika, his two daughters, and two cats, Thelma and Louise, we are recognizing him today for the remarkable service he has provided to the homeless in San Diego. After joining St. Andrews by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in 2007, he and Bunny started an outreach mission to feed the homeless as they had done in their prior parish. The food was "Bunny's Chicken Soup (bunnys.soup@gmail.com)," a homemade stew of chicken, pasta, and vegetables. The church mission serves over 80 homeless individuals every Tuesday and, as Paul says, 'changed the nature of our conversation about the relationships with one another in our local community.' Even with the church mission, Paul and Bunny were still troubled seeing the homeless without food, and they discovered that no local organizations were feeding the homeless on Thursdays. So, at their home at the end of Diamond Street, they started serving Bunny's Chicken Soup to some 75-85 hungry people, 8-10 pots each week. Paul put an additional stove in the garage to speed preparations, and they built a team of 10 other volunteers to help with the work and make sure soup is served every Thursday night, rain or shine, though in Southern California it is mostly shine, even when they are away. The whole operation lasts 45 minutes, and the dinner guests make sure to clean up before leaving. In that brief time, Paul, Bunny, and their friends offer more than just food. As one guest put it, "It's not just soup you give us. It's a sense of belonging somewhere, a feeling of respect, a good night's sleep, but most of all, hope." Paul and Bunny's Thursday night soup mission gives wings to our Quaker testimonies of simplicity, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship. As Paul says, 'this is pay it forward stewardship, an opportunity for us to offer our support of the homeless through time and work and a small amount of treasure.' What an important lesson for all of us, that we

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# author's corner

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

## DAVID HLAWSA '79

*Walking Distance: Pilgrimage, Parenthood, Grief, and Home Repairs*

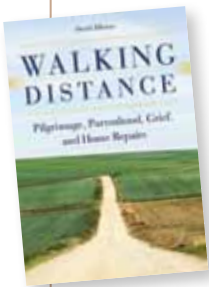
Michigan State University Press, 2015

In the summer of 2000, David Hlawsa and his wife Lisa Holtby embarked on a pilgrimage. After trying for three years to conceive a child and suffering through the monthly cycle of hope and disappointment, they decided to walk the Camino de Santiago, a joint enterprise – and an act of faith – they hoped would strengthen their marriage and prepare them for parenthood.

Enduring a series of misadventures, including a brief stay in a Spanish hospital, David and Lisa walked more than 400 miles across the north of Spain to their final destination of Santiago. Shortly after their return to Seattle, Lisa became pregnant, and the hard-

ships of the Camino were no comparison to what followed: the stillbirth of their first son and Lisa's harrowing second pregnancy.

*Walking Distance* is a moving and disarmingly funny book, a good story with a happy ending – the safe arrival of David and Lisa's second son, Benjamin. David and Lisa get more than they bargained for, but they also get exactly what they wanted: a child, a solid marriage, and a richer life.



## THEODORE L. LEWIS '44

*Theology and the Disciplines of the Foreign Service: The World's Potential to Contribute to the Church* with a foreword by Stanley Hauerwas (whom *Time Magazine* has called "America's best theologian"). Wipf & Stock Publishers

Theodore L. Lewis is an Anglican priest and a retired US Foreign Service Officer. After service in World



War II, he earned advanced degrees from Harvard University and, later, Virginia Theological Seminary, his ordained vocation having come from exposure in the Foreign Service to churches of

the Global South. Following his Foreign Service retirement, Lewis turned to theological study and writing, privileged by connections with Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and the Duke Divinity School. He presently engages in parish ministry.

Alister McGrath, Oxford's Professor of Science and Religion and Britain's best known theologian, has called *Theology and the Disciplines of the Foreign Service* "A fascinating account of a remarkable theological voyage of discovery, bearing a powerful witness to both the intellectual delight of theology as a discipline, and to the perspicuity and perseverance of its author."

In the course of Theodore Lewis' career in the US Foreign Service – spanning 29 years and including tours of duty in Vietnam, Pakistan, the DR-Congo, and Korea – he came upon many significant links with theology. This book tells the story of his discovery of these links and their importance.

## LINDSAY JILL ROTH '99

*What Pretty Girls Are Made Of*

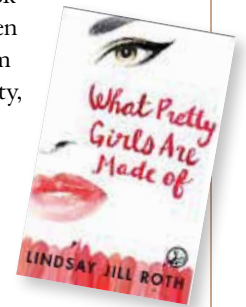
Simon & Schuster, 2015

Lindsay Jill Roth started her career as a radio producer for the nationally broadcast WOR 710AM at age 16, thanks to an internship from FA alum, John Gambling '69.

Before making her way into television she took a leap of faith when offered a position in the cosmetics industry. Lindsay is currently in production and development for Carlos Slim and Larry King's Ora TV and Stick Figure Studios in NYC, where she produces and sells both linear and digital television shows.

Some of Lindsay's current shows include: *Larry King Now*, and Emmy-nominated *Haylie Duff's Real Girl's Kitchen* (which she created for Ora, The Food Network and Cooking Channel) and Queen Bee. She graduated from Northwestern University, studying in the School of Speech and Medill School of Journalism. *What Pretty Girls Are Made Of* is Lindsay's first novel.

She always loves to connect with Friends Academy alumni so feel free to reach out @LindsayJillRoth.



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).



Paul Hand '68, with his wife Bunny, and Head of School Bill Morris at Fourth Day Honors

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can make a dramatic difference in the lives of others through recognizing and responding to a local need. Paul, in hearing your call to action, you improve the plight of the homeless in San Diego. For the difference you make and living the mission of our school, I am privileged to recognize you with Friends Academy's highest honor, the Distinguished Alumnus Award."

**Karin Neilson** shares: Things here are status quo; I can't think of anything interesting to share with the group this time, but I didn't want your note to go unanswered. I should have more to report in the fall, after my trip to Africa, which I think will be my last trip there. Other than that... Best, **Karin**. **Jim Evans** reports: I traveled to Brazil for two weeks in mid-July and an Alaskan cruise in September. Otherwise, I have nothing new to report since the last update. I might have more to say after these two vacations take place. **John Malcolm** writes: As always, thanks for doing the class notes. I just realized this month is the 40th year I have been on the farm here and I continue to bale hay and clip pastures and cut wood. Although I am no longer in the VT Legislature, I still serve as a local Justice of the Peace and am active in the town Historical Society. Enjoyed a production recently of *Turandot* by the Middlebury Opera Company (my brother Chip is President). This summer we spent a week on a nearby lake, went to hear a favorite band, Susan Tedeschi/Derek Trucks, visited a local horse ranch (and hay customer) saw a rodeo and stock car races. Recently saw FAers **Don** and **Steve Lyon** in South Londonderry, VT and occasionally have

seen **Brandt Rising '65** and **Sandy '66** who are friends with a neighbor on this road. My best to you and all 68ers. Love, John. **Steve Tilden** shares: After a hiatus of almost 50 years, Stephen Tilden is playing golf again, touring the public links of the outer boroughs with **John Reilly** – a Subway Series, of sorts. "John is a very consistent player – he consistently beats the pants off me." Our adventures provide opportunities to needle and support each other with references that are decades deep. Could it be that we have finally found some value in avoiding the fringe and playing the straight and narrow? **Lisa Craig** writes: Been so long! **Craig White '61** urged me to get back in touch, and I was so delighted to read all your news in this latest *Meeting House* issue – all the success stories and adventures of Willy, Steve, Jimbo, Lolly, Johnny, Cliff and Karin – wow! What an impressive group of people. Nineteen years ago I moved back to the same house I grew up in on Duck Pond Road. I totally sympathize with Jim Evans in his utter devotion to his parents, because I too took care of my folks as well as my two daughters. My folks are gone now, but my younger daughter is still living here, until she begins her doctorate program next year. My older daughter is busy raising four kids of her own in Pennsylvania; they are 9, 7, 5 and 2 years old, and delicious! I'm now in my tenth year working at the Glen Cove Senior Center. I am the Director of the Glen Cove Adult Day Program, which provides fully-scheduled days of recreation, socialization and stimulation for frail elderly seniors who would otherwise be home alone and isolated. I am firmly convinced that we have added years of vitality to many

people's lives, while providing their caregiving families with much-needed respite. Last year (toot, toot!) Long Island Alzheimer's Association awarded me for "Outstanding Alzheimer's Advocacy," and in 2013 our program was nominated for Best Adult Day Program on Long Island. At Friends, my place to shine was in good old Mr. Springstead's art room (remember the rickety old red building?). I always wanted to do art of some kind. And dear departed Roger Erickson encouraged me to do children's books. After graduating Middlebury (where **Larry Haydu** was a classmate), I spent many years as a commercial artist/illustrator, living in Manhattan (and I did do some children's books!) but traveling extensively. I do miss the artwork, but I still get freelance drawing assignments, and in 2012 I published an illustrated cookbook/memoir of my grandmother's treasured Moroccan recipes. And there you have it, pretty much. Please forgive me for such a long silence. I see **Craig White** weekly because, in addition to being an FA trustee and a very busy business man, he also finds the time to be a volunteer drummer for the Continentals, a jazz band who plays at our Senior Center every Friday afternoon! **Steve Tilden** and I are still very good friends; we make it a point to get together every October for Fall Fair, and we always marvel at how the school has "morphed" over the years. We would love to meet up with more of our classmates there! I hope this finds you well and happy. I always enjoy reading your news, and I applaud you for having stayed in touch with so many of us and keeping us connected for all of these years. Many thanks, **Lisa Craig '68**. As for me, nothing new since the last issue as life in Joplin remains tranquil and easy. 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** and **Greg Tarone. Duncan Guild**, thanks for the birthday wish and such fun catching up. 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.

## 1969

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**Mary Baird** writes that attending Dave's 50th high school reunion in Brattleboro, VT has inspired her to return to old FA in 2019. Mary, I think we need to start now if we're going to mobilize sufficient interest from our classmates. Dave retired from GE Capital eight years ago, and while Mary continues to conduct marketing research for a few clients, she's thinking about an official retirement next year. She and Dave (the 'Grands') spent a week in Somerby, UK recently, visiting her late sister Connie's children and their three kids. Not having had children of their own, this was a special adventure for Mary and Dave. Her travels also took them to Dallas for Dave's stepmother's 90th birthday and on a wonderful trip to Croatia. By the time you read this, they'll have added Alaska to their trip list as well. **Peggy Pinto** writes that she'd like to make our 50th reunion if her spinal fusion surgery and all the screws in her spine allow it. She's settled into a new pattern in Orange County, CA with two great cats since the passing of her husband, wishing for some of the rain that the East Coast has too much of. It's hard to imagine athletic Peggy with arthritis in her hips! Scouring Facebook, I caught a glimpse of **Judith Fox Javelly's** beautiful granddaughter, Stella (her daughter, Nicole's), and see **Russ Notides** and **Pat Robinson** from time to time. **Jane Organist Karushchkat**, otherwise known as Raw Chef Jane, can be found sharing ideas on a healthier diet. Jane, a Certified Nutritional Consultant, and her husband, Glenn, provide Reiki classes and private healing sessions using Reiki and Access Consciousness; they also facilitate private retreats encompassing healthier lifestyle, spiritual growth, private healing sessions and life coaching.

## 1970

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deborahgianelli@gmail.com

## 1971

**David Cressey**  
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**Angela Manno**  
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Being in the Matinecock Meeting House, after all these years, was something. You may recall



For **Angela Manno '71**, teaching at Friends during Middle School Arts Week, especially as an alumna, was a very powerful and rewarding experience.

it dates from 1725, burned down in 1985 and was then reconstructed. The March 7th Memorial Meeting for Mr. Erickson was like no meeting we ever had as students, with infinitely more speaking. Yet the building looks and feels and smells exactly the same, uncannily so. To be there is to be transported to a well-peopled glade, including an encounter with your younger self. **Angela Manno**, **Billy Vitriol** and I were the stragglers on the way back from the Meeting, on the red brick walkway, catching up, when **Paula Jensen-Moulton** – clutching one of Roger's books, which were distributed at the reception – happened by on the way to her car. We were at the front of the Main Building and the four of us, no one else in sight, had a brief pow-wow. It struck Angela and me as the best kind of moment (it is not on YouTube; I checked), as an invitation to regroup. And so we attempt to restart a conversation of sorts in this space, in *The Meeting House*. **Cressey's** story: Fleeing Swats College, three bricks shy of a load, for the bracing effect of 10 winters in upcountry Maine, I scabbled a livelihood from quasi-teachdom and youthful exuberance. Salad days, I think they are called, and the end result – after a summer's layover in Beantown, clocking out at the MIT Coop to enjoy a nightly \$3 perch in the Fenway bleachers – was refugee status in my bro' Brian's Washington crib. There unfolded the ParaGerbil years, scurrying about the beautiful Federal city on behalf of an old school firm of legal beagles; Mayor Marion Barry's wide-open D.C.: multi-racial power plunder, hedonistic, endless redevelopments, softball on the Mall, Joe Gibbs' Skins uniting the District, Virginia and Maryland. Seven

years on, I poached a city woman who was not unwilling to be dragged to the backwoods, and we landed in hill 'n holler country – a crick trickles through it – barely north of the Mason-Dixon Line, a pawpaw's throw from the WV border in two directions. Everything you've ever heard about West Virginia is true – wink out to **Barbara Boyle Weiner '73** – which is to say, our Greene County, a classic backwater, is the West Virginia of Pennsylvania. We are Forest Stewards – in cahoots with Penn State – and help run a top-notch local history library in Waynesburg... No children, no livestock, no degrees, no tractor (still), no religious or political affiliations, no still, two dogs, one woodstove, three Red Sox World Series, coronations, 55 wild life acres. **Vit** and I have been engaging in a Proustian e-mail exchange, savoring (misremembering?) details from the Friends past and trashing our respective teams, he being very hard on the Yankees (and the new Yankee Stadium) and me bemoaning the let's-just-throw-money-away BoSox. He remains a devoted baseball fan, making annual treks to Wrigley Field and Fenway Park. **Chris Gatty** has joined us (in an awesome Gmail 3-way) and reports that his 10-year-old son is quite the athlete, with basketball a favorite sport. Chris and **Peter Darbee**, and Peter's wife, are planning a cruise from Stonington, CT to Block Island on Peter's 65-foot Fleming. Chris also writes: "It was great to see **Peter Bebry's** daughters **Lauren** and **Pamela** 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

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## 2015 NYC ALUMNI REUNION

HELD MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015 AT THE PRINCETON/COLUMBIA CLUB



DANIEL GOODRICH FOR FRIENDS ACADEMY

Alumni, their spouses, current and former faculty mingle at the 2015 New York City Alumni Reunion on Monday, June 1, 2015.

Bill Vitriol '71,  
Angela Manno  
'71 and Chris  
Gatty '71



Above, Henry Palua '46 with his guest



Victoria  
Wang '13,  
Upper School  
History  
teacher Geoff  
Nelson, Lydia  
Graham '14  
and Shekinah  
Pettway '14



Jenna McCann  
Messer '06,  
Emily Brown '06  
and Rebecca  
Pacchiano '07

>>To see more photos from the NYC Reunion, LOG ONTO THE ALUMNI PORTAL AT [WWW.FA.ORG/ALUMNI](http://www.fa.org/alumni)



Left, Music teacher Martha Regelmann, **Ryan Dobrin '14**, **Carina Goebelbecker '14**, **Regan Dvoskin '14**, **Emma Brown '14** and **Amanda Wylie '14**. Center, NYC Reunion honorees: Middle School Learning Specialist **Sharon Nelson**, Archivist **Mary Ann Reardon**, Library Director **Judy James** and Third grade teacher **Lillian Shulman** with Head of School **Bill Morris**. Right, **Tom Pascarella '95** and Alumni Association President **Peter Stein '79**.



Upper School Principal Deb Schoman with Pamela Bebry '05, **Lauren Bebry '02**, **Carolyn Frieberg '59** and former teacher and Board of Trustees Vice President **Doris Paillet**

Bottom, **Tyler Newitt '13**, **Raghav Kedia '13**, **Robert Berke '13** with English teacher **Rick Sullivan**



Top left, Head of School Bill Morris with Jon Koenig '04 and Will Gambling '03; center, **Adina Grodsky '14**, **Kara McNelis '14**, **Rachel Garibaldi '14**, World Languages and Culture Department head **Polly Duke**, **Kira Sanchez '13** and **Melissa Sanchez '06**.

Left, **Michael Salzhauser '80**, **Carlos Del Cristo '80**, **Emily Hawkins '10** and Board of Trustees President **Tom Hawkins '78**; center **Courtney Taylor '01** and College Counselor **Marge Bevad**; right, **Laura Berke '08**, **Rob Morse '99** and **Julia Berke '10**.



Catherine Viscardi '71 at the wedding of her son, Ben, in Lausanne, Switzerland

*Continued from Page 43*

nice to see that things turned out well for his kids." From **Scott Neilson**: This year I have had two grandchildren... Christian and Emma... born 4 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!

From **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 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! From me (**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 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 being asked 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 as a Visiting Artist for Middle School Arts Week in April. 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 and delighted in the receptivity of the students and felt completely embraced in the safe and loving container that is still Friends Academy.

## 1972

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For this edition, classmates were asked to share their memories of high school. Here are their responses. **Jim Neville** wrote: "I remember the very beginning of school in September, 1971,

our senior year. I drove to Friends with my sister Vicki, who was just starting Friends as a 7th grader. Being the typical big brother, I was insensitive to her tears. Cal Wynot happened along. He took Vicki's hand, turned to me and said, "I'll take her, Jimmy." I learned a good lesson that day, before first period." **Jim Bebry** shared some great memories: "The glass house waiting for the late bus in the winter; Mario's corn fritters; the bonfire the night before homecoming; the 4th floor; the Fall Fair; ISP; the Green Room; Big Chief Brown Bear (that was fun, Masha); Hans – (Hi Jamie!); Oberon (Here's to you, Holly – my Titania); the walk to the Meeting House; the spiral staircase up to Mrs. Gordon's lab; football, basketball, track (my Co-Capt. Mike Della Ratta); the FA Fight Song that was banned – what a mistake; Mr. Chomat, Mr. Buell, Mr. Hitzrot, Mr. Cressey, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Sampsidis and Mrs. Miro, Jake, Mr. Wynot, Al the custodian and let's not forget "Sleepless and Mary" Roger Erickson and Mr. Woods; and I can go on and on and on, and one more thing – the 10th grade trip to NJ! We are a family! And on a personal note, my son Jimmy got married this past July 2 in Aruba and my daughter Lydia will be getting married on December 12. What a great year!" And who can forget, as **Jonathan Rapp** recalls, "Driving up in Keefe's & McHargs jeeps to morning assembly in military garb with weapons, attempting a coup. Mr. Wood was complicit – how cool was that? How about French with Mrs. Hummerstone? Hanging out between classes with John Kelly, John McGrane, Kevin Glynn, Jim Kane, et al., on the 4th floor staircase. John Kelly, Jeff Jordon & I as the basketball team "managers." Other morning assembly skits with Matt Stevenson as key inspirator. What fun!" **Mike Della Ratta** reports in from Japan: "Life is good at the base of Mt. Fuji. I spend five days a week working from home, traveling to Tokyo weekly to attend to my clients (foreign companies making a go of it in Japan). This work/life balance is ideal as it allows my wife some time to reflect on why she married a crazy American. While at home, we spend the majority of our time furthering the TNR (Trap Neuter Return) program for feral cats in our area. We have made a sizable dent in the feral cat population while accumulating a menagerie of kittens for our home. Okay, what do I remember from Friends? Among many fond memories... Amelia tackling me harder than any rival football team player during our offsite (not sure where it was). I was in a fog for days after that. Football coach Joe Froemich being disgusted at my answer to his question: What kind of animal would you be? My answer: Galapagos tortoise because they live so long. So much for personality tests.

Todd and I skipping class to play basketball. Unfortunately, the extra practice did not yield the desired results. Discovering the joys of poetry through Mr. Erickson's comprehensive teaching of *The Wasteland*. And on and on.... best years of my life!" As for me, FA was very special. I remember 7th & 8th grade sock hops, Mrs. Mohaupt coaching our undefeated JV and Varsity field hockey team with Clare Laemmle, Amelia Erickson, Karen Kerwin, and Patti Brink; outdoor Shakespearean productions, Mrs. Vuillet's Spanish classes: field trip to see "Sticks and Bones" with Mr. Thomas in his "Topics in Alienation" class, 10th grade trip when Dang saw snow for the first time, John Mankiewicz's rendition of the Beatles' 'Help' before morning assembly, Mr. O'Hanlon leading the Acapella Choir's in 'Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming', Mrs. Kissam's smiling face, Claire Sieberg and I as wrestling team managers, crashing Mr. Lewis' party on graduation night, winning class of 1970 in Slave Day competition, Mrs. Gordon's advanced Biology class with fetal pigs and locusts, senior lounge antics, ad infinitum. Don't forget that we'll be planning another class get-together in 2016. Stay connected with class news on Facebook "FA Class of '72 Reunion" and e-mail. – **Karen Spero Albers** (klalbers@charter.net)

## 1973

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In an effort to get some news from the class of 1973, a question was posed: give us a favorite memory of your years at Friends. What follows are some responses... **Susan Nappa**: "I am in the middle of moving our home and my office!!! Up to my ears. The one funny story that immediately came to mind (probably because I need a chuckle right now!) is taking typing class with **Lulu Viscardi** and the teacher put on the song "Popcorn" and told us to type to the beat of the music!!! We laughed so hard we couldn't get through it!! **Jim Boorstein** recalls, "Going to Meeting in that wonderful old Meeting House with wood stove for heat. Sports, friends, the theatre, dances. What else was there... not the food or classes. I am part way through a sabbatical (more or less) from work after 30 years at Traditional Line." **Kathy Neisloss Leventhal**: I had the pleasure of attending graduation for the class of 2015 since my niece, **Julia Neisloss** is part of this group. It was such a meaningful ceremony and while double the size of our class of 1973 which, as I recall, was a mere 52 in all, the class

is a collegial and cohesive group. Lots of good memories were brought back. Campus has changed dramatically since the "old days." The campus is really so beautiful. From **Bill Dudjoc**: For some reason, this summer has been filled with nostalgia for me and I am not sure why. Maybe because I will be turning 60... Maybe because the Dead have retired (my favorite band of all time). Maybe because I lost a great friend... **Kenny Manos**... Gosh I miss you Kenny. I can't really say I liked high school. I did not really fit in with any of the groups: The jocks, the smart folks, the politically aware. But that all seemed to change senior year. Barriers broke down. We were all just people coming of age. Going to Dead concerts together. Out partying at **John Glick's** house or Gafney's in Port Washington, or a beach party at **Jimmy Kane's** beach house. Summer of '73 was one of the best summers of my life. It was the start of all of us starting our new lives and saying hello and goodbye to a lot of friends. Many of us have known each other since grade school. It is so hard to believe it has been 42 years. I can't say I want to live it over again but I am glad I lived it. Thank you **Laura** for being there for 42 years and reaching out to us. I am not sure when *The Meeting House* will be out but there is a 60-mile bike ride to help me celebrate my 60th Birthday on August 22nd...all are welcome. Tailwinds, **Billy. Cliff Gardner**: As for me, I have many, many fond memories. In 9th grade, **Scott Boege** and I getting Benjie (**Steve Benjamin**) – who boasted he could rip a book in half – to rip Dr. Woods' annotated copy of Julius Caesar in half. Little did we know, Benjie could actually do it! Little did Benjie know it was not Scott's book, but Dr. Woods' book. Dr. Woods' reaction was priceless. So was Benjie's. In physics, Mr. Holland asked us to pick a book, read it, and do a presentation. My book was on alien life. Since I was unprepared to present a report on the book (which I had barely begun to read), I talked **Kris Horvath** into allowing me to interview him as an alien. I dressed him in fins and snorkel gear (why I thought that would make him look like an alien is, in retrospect, difficult to fathom). After Kris answered my relatively easy five or six questions (which I prepped him on by reading the book jacket) Mr. Holland asked him a complex question, which required one to have actually read the book. Without blinking, Kris put the snorkel in his mouth and answered in some kind of incomprehensible alien tongue. Mr. Holland laughed and all was fine. During our performances of the senior play (*Guys and Dolls*), Scott Boege had one line. It was very early in the first act. Something like, "Hey Nathan, guess who's in town? Sky Masterson. And he's looking for action." Of course, Sky was one of

the two leads, played by **Mike O'Brien**. At that point in the play, he had not yet appeared on stage. For weeks I worked on Scott to change the line slightly: "Hey Nathan, guess who's in town? Me, Sky Masterson. And I'm looking for action." Then Scott could have gone on to star in the play as Sky and – who knows – perhaps a Broadway career. But he wouldn't quite do it. The path not taken. In Mrs. Gordon's advanced biology class, Scott and I were dissecting our fetal pig. We took a vein from one of the other pigs, sewed it into ours and called Mrs. Gordon over. She was mightily puzzled. Then we explained it was "You're so Vain" and Scott began singing that Carly Simon song. I think Mrs. Gordon actually punched us. I have many, many more memories. All good ones. I recall meetings at the Meeting House where people spoke about the Apollo 13 mission. I recall discussions about the war. And I recall my friend **David Rosenberg** reading a poem during one meeting – shortly after his mother passed away: Rudyard Kipling's "If." Whenever I hear that poem I think of David, who I remain in touch with occasionally. I could go on – and on. But I will let you go for now. Cheers, **Cliff**. I think my two favorite places on campus were the Meeting House – I still recall the peaceful atmosphere, a serene setting amidst the hustle and bustle of classes, and for some reason, the glass house, waiting for the buses at the end of the day, chatting with friends before we headed home. OK, to get you started on my question for the next MH: Did you do anything special to commemorate turning 60? If you did not get my e-mail question for this issue, that means I do not have a valid e-mail for you. I also put it out on the Facebook page, "FA class of 1973."

## 1974

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## 1975

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The Alumni office would like to officially welcome class rep **Tilde Mariani Giacché** back home to the USA. Tilde arrived in time to join her classmates for a wild 40<sup>th</sup> reunion weekend! The photos tell it all. If you couldn't make it to FA this fall, make sure you follow the class e-mail chain (it includes lots of



Tilde Mariani Giacché's '75 niece Vienna, her daughter Vienna (they were both named after Tilde's mom!), Tilde's daughter Jennifer, Tilde and Mary Mann Dean '75



Vicki Chesler '75 and Peter Flint '75 rafting up in front of Peter's former family home on Center Island in July.

photos, memories, and updates). The photos are fantastic! And way back in the summer, before the big 40<sup>th</sup>, **Drew Diaz**, **Lynn Chamberlain Adams**, **Tina Rose Erardi** and **Vicki Chesler** had a mini-reunion and a wonderful sailing day out of Oyster Bay, along with Vicki's husband Matt Kovner and Tina's husband Greg Erardi, aboard Vicki and Matt's boat *Easy Wind*. The class can't wait to celebrate their next milestone together!

## 1976

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## 1977

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You may have read in an earlier *Meeting House* about **Marcy Westerling** and her battle with ovarian cancer. That battle was lost on June 10, but I hope you'll take the time to read about what a remarkable life she led. Her obituary can be found on page 56. Thanks to **Nevin Dubin** for the update. Speaking of Nevin, he admits to being in "Semi-Retirement." He has two daughters, Lana, who graduated last year from Kenyon College and is now interning in Washington D.C., and Jenna, who is back at Franklin and Marshall, after spending a semester in England. On a trip through Denver, I had the chance to catch up with **Allison Davis Kinsley**, whose daughter had just graduated from North Carolina and is now working in Shanghai, China. She and her husband, Steve, are making the trek east, this fall. Their son, Will, is a junior at Auburn majoring in mechanical engineering. Ran into **Steve Mills** at the NBA Summer Meetings in Las Vegas, as he was checking out the Knicks' new great hopes Kristaps Porzingis and Jerian Grant. He still owes me the real \$.05 tour of the refurbished MSG, and exactly, what \$1 billion gets you in NYC these days. Meanwhile, Karen and I celebrated our fifth anniversary beating the summer heat of Dallas for a fantastic week renting a house in Lake Tahoe, with a side trip to Reno where she does the PR for Whitney Peak Hotel, the first non-smoking, non-gaming hotel in Reno. It's a phenomenal place. It has all of the amenities of a great hotel, including a celebrity chef restaurant. The gambling is right across the street if you want it. Your clothes will thank you for not subjecting it to any more smoke than is necessary. My son, Jeffrey, is a sophomore at the University of North Texas and is doing great. He's been able to combine both broadcasting and writing. Not sure where he will ultimately specialize, although at the rate the media business is going these days, he'll probably need to be able to do both. I'm getting ready for my eleventh season with

the Mavericks, and of course, life is NEVER dull around them. The DeAndre Jordan mess dominated my July like no story has in a long time. I am still working football nationally for Westwood One Radio as well. I'm also 50 pounds lighter thanks to a radio station endorsement (or as I like to say, a bribe. Hey, everyone has their price!). Anyway, it's weird to have so many more clothing options, and it's fun. I feel great. Obviously, it's something I should have done long ago. Would love to hear from more of you. I'm quite findable on Twitter at @CoopMavs, on Facebook, and of course via



Chuck Cooperstein '77 and Steve Mills '77 in Las Vegas

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## 1978

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With so many members of the class of 1978 on vacation, the class notes for the summer issue of *The Meeting House* magazine are a bit scant. Many thanks to the following members of the class of '78 for helping me out with some news. Hope that everyone had a great summer holiday and is doing well. Great news from **Jack Lee** as his daughter Kristina is about to make Jack and his wife, Lisa, grandparents! He writes, "Lisa and I are living in Garden City and recently celebrated our 30th Wedding anniversary. We have two children, Paul who is 26 and lives in NY, and our daughter who is now Dr. Kristina Miholich living in San Diego with her husband Kyle. We recently found out that we are going to be grandparents as Kristina is due in October. We will be downsizing our home in Garden City, and are looking for a home in San Diego so we can spend half the year with our daughter and grandchild." That's wonderful news, Jack. We are looking forward to your next *Meeting House* posting in October. Please be sure to keep us updated. An FA alumni bib is on the way! **Mark Janoska** writes to us from New Jersey, "This last June, I went fishing with **Barry Paillet** in Martha's Vineyard for a few days. I also went camping with some friends, including Jeff Schneider out at Montauk in July." And **Ellen Westermann** continues her work with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, where she is about to become a permanent resident. This last summer, Ellen sold her home in Leonia, New Jersey and she and her family will be moving to Manhattan, thereby making her commute to work a whole lot easier! Congratulations, Ellen! Looking forward to hopping on the LIRR and checking out your new neighborhood!

**1979**

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

**1980**

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**1982**

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Though summer has turned up the heat (even in temperate California) we're imagining a brisk, cool FA fall as we write this – hope you'll read it that way! Your class reps remain in Los Angeles and, having moved twice last year, settled into a permanent home we purchased in March. But...we'll be moving out again within the year when we renovate and expand under Michael's architectural and GC guidance. On the kid front, Michael's oldest, Chloe, graduated from college in May with an RN degree – couldn't be prouder of her as she braves the nursing job market to gain some work experience before pursuing a graduate degree. Nick continues his college career – physical therapy is now his passion – and Nina heads off for her freshman year as well. One down, two to go! We are also happy to report a few of our classmates checked in with plenty of news. **Captain Jonathan "JC" Christian** writes: "Things are well in sunny (and really hot) Jacksonville! As a Senior Port Captain in charge of six U.S. Naval vessels, I've traveled recently to the Middle East to ensure that some of our nation's intelligence (ok, spy) ships are operating safely. Meanwhile, my twin girls (Hannah Grace and Sophia Hope) are now in 5th grade ... unbelievable (I'm not that old)! Sophia is the surfer and Hannah is the dancer ... both doing great in school and more importantly, life. It was great to reconnect with our classmate and my buddy **Matt Bloom** – he was one of life's cool blessings at FA." Thanks for all you do for our country, Jonathan! He asked us to extend his very best wishes to everyone... and if possible, a special hi to **Lisa Gathard** (from whom we would also love to hear; the e-mail address we have for Lisa doesn't work anymore!). **Michelle Pistone** also wrote in: "Everything here is

amazing! Just got back from three weeks with my mother visiting family on Long Island, which culminated with a big family reunion. We spent a week with my sister, Gina, and her family in East Hampton – with lots of fun beach and family time and great food! We also spent two weeks on the North Fork. We went to visit my cousin, Daniele, and her family. Daniele and her husband recently joined forces with a chef from Umbria, Italy to start an amazing restaurant in Southold, called Caci. It's been open just 10 months and is already on Newsweek's top 100 list! For those of you living in NY, think about a day trip to the vineyards and Caci for dinner – it will not disappoint. The last time I was on the North Fork was years ago, when Pam, Jill, Ellen and I worked with the NoFo wineries to throw wine tasting fundraisers in NYC to benefit homeless women and children. Fun memories! As to my family, my daughter Julia is starting middle school this year. And Luke is starting kindergarten. They both love music. Julia sings and plays piano and drums. Luke is starting with drums; he's beginning to be able to hold a beat. I am still a professor at Villanova University's law school and still love my work. My students and I work at the intersection of immigration law and human rights – we represent refugees who have fled to the US because they were persecuted or tortured in their home countries. Our clients are among the most courageous and inspirational people I know and it is truly a privilege to be able to serve them during times of need. My husband and I also recently started as co-managing editors of the *Journal for Migration and Human Security*, which keeps us current on the migration literature. Would love to get together with others. Any plans for a reunion?" Good question. We'll check with the class reps. Oh, wait... no. But we're open to suggestions and, more importantly – reunion chair volunteers. Two years goes by FAST! Anyone game to take it on? Let us know. Until next time.

**1983**

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## 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! Kudos to international award winning photojournalist and film director of photography **Stephen Katz**. His first foray into documentary filmmaking, "Thao's Library," has won the Audience Award at the inaugural Bentonville Film Festival, guaranteeing the film distribution at select AMC theaters, at Walmart stores across the country, and on Vudu. Thao's Library "will change the future of documentary film making," raved NWACC film professor Megan Bolinder. As America marks the 40th anniversary of the the end of the Vietnam War, the documentary explores the complex relationship between two women from opposite sides of the planet – one Vietnamese, and ravaged by Agent Orange exposure, the other American, and drowning in depression. United by a photo and a simple request, they forge an unlikely sisterhood, transcending language and culture. "The film's honesty and commitment to capturing candid, uncontrived moments, combined with the vulnerabilities shown by



**Melissa Errico '88** has released two new songs, available through iTunes.

its subjects, is why this film resonates so deeply with viewers," said Katz. The Bentonville Film Festival was created by Academy Award winner Geena Davis and ARC Entertainment founder Trevor Drinkwater to champion women and diversity in film. The star-studded awards ceremony was hosted by Nick Cannon and Soledad O'Brien. Presenters included Courtney Cox, Rosie O'Donnell, Bruce Dern, Melissa Joan Hart and Judge Reinhold. Jurors included the likes of Emilio Estevez, Brian Yang, Darla Anderson, Michelle Thomas and Sarah Clark. With 70 corporate sponsors, including Walmart, Coca-Cola, Kraft and AMC, the Bentonville Film Festival is expected to become one of the country's premier venues for both narrative and documentary films. Stephen Katz is a staff photographer at The Virginian-Pilot and POYi's Newspaper Photographer of the Year for 2008. Thao's Library was produced by Elizabeth Van Meter and edited by Leandro Badalotti. For more on the film, visit [www.thaoslibrary.com](http://www.thaoslibrary.com).

**Melissa Errico** has exciting news: "My two-song release is now available on iTunes, and I'm so glad to not have these delicate and beautiful songs sitting in my closet. I was so fortunate that Tony Award nominee (*Best Orchestrations*, *The Last Ship*) Rob Mathes arranged and produced so many songs during my *Lullabies & Wildflowers* sessions, and we held onto these, feeling they were more "theatrical" than lullaby. One, of course, is one of the most beloved musical theater songs ever! Both sing of aspects of a dream; a place beyond reality. I offer them now for charity. And I hope you will buy them and know this small fee will go to supporting maternal health and women in their early years of parenting."

## 1989

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Greetings Class of 1989! The summer sweltered and our class continued to send updates on fun and exciting times! **Vik Iyengar**, a biology professor at Villanova University, is spending his summer doing entomological research at Friday Harbor Laboratories, a marine research station located in the San Juan Islands of Washington state. He is conducting research on competition and mate choice in earwigs found under washed-up driftwood and seaweed on local beaches. When he's not running experiments and trying to avoid getting pinched by these ferocious bugs, Vik spends time hiking, kayaking and horsing around with his wife and three sons (who also occasionally try to pinch him :-). **Phil Canelli** recently led a team of music and radio industry professionals, musicians, and technologists in the development of Cliqmusic, an amazing new social streaming music service. Cliqmusic is available now for iPads and iPhones with Android coming soon. From **Matt Brennan**: "I'm continuing my work restoring and managing West Coast estuaries and wetlands. As you might imagine, sea level rise has intensified the focus on our shorelines. I am also now eating my own dog food, with two to three swims a week in San Francisco Bay. As for the rest of the family, well, they make a nice school community: my wife Susi is now teaching at my kids' elementary school, Liam (9) and Audrey (6), that's just a few blocks from home. Pictures and stories from the 25th reunion made me sorry to have missed it – I hope to see at least some of you before the 50th." From **Cindy Rushmore Kuechle**: "My family and I traveled to southern California for spring break this year and met up with **Marisa Pick Giesler** and her son, Andrew at a Dodgers game! It was so much fun to see Marisa – who looks exactly the same but with an awesome California tan. My children, Ben (10) and Eliza (7) loved hanging out with Andrew (10) at the game – eating Dodger dogs, running on the field after the game, and enjoying the California sunshine." **Gail Vlacich** sends her best to our class. Gail seems to pack more into her summers off with her son than any other person I have ever met... traveling from LBI to Grand Cayman to Florida to Montauk... busy, but fun times with her handsome little guy. Woody Allen unveiled the cast of his latest untitled film, which will begin shooting this month on location in New York and Los Angeles. As typical with an Allen

production, the cast was listed in alphabetical order, just like the credits appear onscreen. The cast includes Jeannie Berlin (the daughter of Elaine May and a supporting actress Oscar nominee for *The Heartbreak Kid*), Jesse Eisenberg, Blake Lively, Parker Posey, Kristen Stewart, Corey Stoll, Ken Stott and Bruce Willis. Co-stars are Anna Camp, **Stephen Kunken**, Sari Lennick and Paul Schneider. Keep the updates coming everyone... it'll be reunion time again very soon and it's great to stay connected in between the formal times! – **JoAn Monaco**

## 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!

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# alumni in sports

Attention all basketball alums!



Dust off the high tops and get ready for another game for the ages. The annual Alumni Game will again take place this year on **November 28 at 1:00 p.m.** Snacks and beverages will follow at a local establishment. Participation in either or both activities is always a good time spent with fellow warriors of the hardwood.

Please let **COACH HEFELE** (left) know if you plan to attend at [Stephen\\_hefele@fa.org](mailto:Stephen_hefele@fa.org). Hope to see you there.



Take on your fellow alumni at this annual event!

## 1994

**Heather Upton**

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

## 1995

**Thomas A. Pascarella**

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

**Kelly Reid Walsh**

96 Grove Street  
Wellesley, MA 02482  
(781) 237-2893  
[reidkel@gmail.com](mailto:reidkel@gmail.com)

## 1996

**Luke Cass**

350 Chardon Ave.  
Suite 1202  
San Juan, PR 00918  
[lukecass@gmail.com](mailto:lukecass@gmail.com)

## 1997

**Devon Broderick Carroll**

28 Bedford St., Apt. 23  
New York, NY 10014-4471  
(917) 531-7579  
[devon.broderick@gmail.com](mailto:devon.broderick@gmail.com)

**Devon A. George**

163 West 18th Street, Apt. 9B  
New York, NY 10011  
(516) 457-8082  
[devon@dmvcapital.net](mailto:devon@dmvcapital.net)



FA alumni watch the Mets take on the San Diego Padres in style at CitiField Stadium on July 29 at a special Alumni Association event.

## “The Boys of Summer”

 **New York Mets**   
**vs. San Diego Padres**



Above, Alana Teutonico Brock '94 and Pam Foshi Danbusky '97 with Ian Brock and Dan Danbusky

Below, 1979 classmates Peter Steing and Maggie Keats cozy up to Mr. Mets.



Left, Tom Hawkins '78, Katie Hawkins Schneider '86, Ellen Field Greene '82 and Marc Greene

## 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

## 2000

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

## 2001

**Hadley Devon Mongell**  
245 E. 63rd Street  
Apt. 924  
New York, NY 10065  
(516) 759-1377  
hmongell@gmail.com

Congrats to **Courtney Devon Taylor** who has joined the Firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP in their Philadelphia and Cherry Hill offices. Courtney is Counsel in the Firm's Litigation Department. Before joining Schnader, she was a litigator at a New York-based international firm, where she focused her practice on commercial litigation, securities litigation and enforcement, and financial services disputes. Courtney has a deep commitment to community affairs, with a particular interest in youth and education. She serves as Chairwoman of the Board of Directions for Our Youth, a Bronx-based youth development organization that provides after-school and summer programming for students in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Harlem. She is also

a member of the Friends Academy Alumni Association Board! Need a reason to attend the 2016 NYC Reunion? Courtney met the recruiter for this position, fellow alum **Laurie Block '75**, in June at the 2015 NYC reunion!

## 2002

**Lauren Marie Bebry**  
8655 Edgewood Park Drive  
Commerce, MI 48382  
(631) 875-5725  
Lauren.Bebry@gmail.com

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

While in college at BC **Cristina Vitiello Sheldon** started her own jewelry business. This past Mother's Day, MSNBC's "Your Business" featured Christina and her company "Christina V" when they devoted the program to hard-working families, who run small businesses together. And who is Christina's number one employee? Her mom, Linda Vitiello!

## 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

Filmmaker **Drew Tobia** is featured in Brooklyn Magazine's list of the "30 under 30" most creative artists from Brooklyn. The magazine describes Drew's film *See You Next Tuesday* as a "...cover-your-mouth funny film that also evokes real compassion for characters ..."

## 2005

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



Melanie Tannenbaum '05 married Justin Helper. In the photo are Genevieve Dreizen '05, Lily Perez Khars '05, Nate Klass '05, Laura Goodman '05; Genevieve was the wedding officiant!

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

With the arrival of our 10-year reunion, there have been many milestones in the class on 2005! **Luis Medina** got right to the point, asking: "How did we get so old?" **Navin Yadlapalli** graduated from Thomas Jefferson Medical College in 2011 and completed an internal medicine residency at Tufts Medical Center in 2014. He is currently working as a hospitalist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and instructor at Harvard Medical School. **Andrew Giocondi** also resides in Boston, where he works for Skanska as a Project Engineer on the Longfellow Bridge Rehabilitation Project, reconstructing the century old "Salt-and-Pepper-Shaker Bridge." **Sarah Schoenhut** lives in Philadelphia, where she is working towards her Veterinary degree at the University of Pennsylvania with a major in Small Animal Medicine. **Meg Paintal** is based in New York, having recently moved into a role at Oracle as a Regional Business Development Manager. **Rob Abney** lives nearby in Brooklyn with his wife and two little girls, Luciana (2) and Maleah (1). Rob has worked at Viacom in Integrated Marketing for their Entertainment Group for the past three years. He can be found watching Disney Junior on the weekends. **Lauren Jackson** and **Ashlee Evertsz** are roommates in Brooklyn. This spring, Lauren worked on a series for TLC called "Curvy Brides," which followed a plus-size bridal salon in the D.C. area. An Editor with Half Yard Productions, Lauren took advantage of the summer off to travel to Marrakech, Morocco with her boyfriend and Charlotte, NC to visit her mother. Her next show with TLC, "Say Yes to the Dress," begins filming this fall. **Lily Kahrs** works in project management

at McCurry/TMG in Saratoga Springs, where she has been since 2012. Lily and her husband Andrew Kahrs welcomed their second child to the world in June, simultaneously celebrating their sixth wedding anniversary! Their elder daughter, Aliana (4), has welcomed siblinghood with open arms. **Genevieve Dreizen** works in Chelsea at a boutique technology company managing a team of developers and designers building apps and digital experiences. When not in the office, she officiates weddings, and has married people everywhere from the top of the Empire State Building to the Boat House in Central Park. In addition to a feature on A&E's "Married at First Sight," Genevieve recently married **Melanie Tannenbaum Helper** and Justin Helper, Melanie's longtime partner and lab-mate from the University of Illinois. Melanie also earned her Ph.D in social psychology, moved to Reno, Nevada, began teaching at the University of Nevada, writing for *Scientific American*, and working on her first popular press book. In their spare time, Melanie and her husband have taken on a number of Tough Mudder competitions, and were chosen to beta test new obstacles for the 2015 courses. On June 20, **Greg Spatola** married longtime girlfriend Emily O'Kane. The two met at Stonehill College and exchanged vows at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. **Eric Vidal**, **Scott Dello-Iacono** and **Peter** and **John Boisi '07** were groomsmen for the wedding. And most recently, **Lauren Abruzzo** married John-Paul Morrell from Seattle, WA in New York City on September 6th. Their marriage took place in Tribeca and included fellow alumni **Natalie Harrington**, **Emily** and **Glenn Silverstein**, **Kim White** and **Emily Alexander**.

## 2006

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



FAers at the wedding of Greg Spatola and Emily O'Kane; from the left, Peter Boisi '05, Greg Spatola '05, Eric Vidal '05 and John Boisi '07

**Liz Alber** registered to run in the NYC marathon on November 1, 2015 in an effort to raise money for the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Go Liz! ([http://mskcc.convio.net/site/TR/FredsTeamEvents/Freds\\_Team?px=2350556&camp%3Bpg=personal&camp%3Bfr\\_id=2420](http://mskcc.convio.net/site/TR/FredsTeamEvents/Freds_Team?px=2350556&camp%3Bpg=personal&camp%3Bfr_id=2420))

## 2007

**Rebecca Pacchiano**  
93 Tenth Street  
Hicksville, NY 11801  
516-932-0002  
[rebeccaleigh17@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccaleigh17@gmail.com)

**Christine Farrell**  
1971 Cedar Swamp Road  
Glen Head, NY 11545  
(516) 606-1300  
[farrelcl@bc.edu](mailto:farrelcl@bc.edu)

**Caitlin Koufakis**  
239 Clef Road  
Mill Neck, NY 11765  
(516) 627-5222  
[caitlin.koufakis@trincoll.edu](mailto:caitlin.koufakis@trincoll.edu)

## 2008

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

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

## 2009

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

**John E. Mascari**  
Dartmouth College  
3153 Hinman  
Hanover, NH 03755  
[john.mascari@dartmouth.edu](mailto:john.mascari@dartmouth.edu)

## 2010

**Alexa Gordon**  
24 West Creek Farms Rd.  
Sands Point, NY 11050  
[alexa.gordon@wustl.edu](mailto:alexa.gordon@wustl.edu)

## 2011

**Holly Constants**  
52 Ayers Road  
Locust Valley, NY 11560  
[hol9331@aol.com](mailto:hol9331@aol.com)

**Gabrielle McPhaul-Guerrier**  
188 Leaf Avenue  
Central Islip, NY 11722  
[gmcphaul-guerrier@live.com](mailto:gmcphaul-guerrier@live.com)

## 2012

**Gabrielle Rechler**  
[grechler11@hotmail.com](mailto:grechler11@hotmail.com)  
516-404-4105

**Jake Ingrassia**  
[jake.ingrassia@gmail.com](mailto:jake.ingrassia@gmail.com)  
516-236-6064

**Chris McCann**  
[Christopher\\_mccann@me.com](mailto:Christopher_mccann@me.com)

**Sarah Chartash**  
[schartash@gwu.edu](mailto:schartash@gwu.edu)  
516-941-7309

## 2013

**Sydney Menzin**  
[sfmenzin@gmail.com](mailto:sfmenzin@gmail.com)  
516-639-2083

**John O'Brien**  
[johnob12@yahoo.com](mailto:johnob12@yahoo.com)  
516-375-9860

**Sydney Menzin** had an exciting summer at the White House where she brought her FA

experiences out into the real world through her internship in Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Program (education Initiative). Although it targets First Gens and kids overcoming major hardships, it sends a message that all kids can relate to transitioning to college as far as acclimating to a new environment, hard work and dealing with failure, following their passion, and ultimately paying it forward.



Sydney Menzin '13 interned with the First Lady's Reach Higher Program this summer.

## 2014

**Lydia Graham**  
2000 Front Street  
East Meadow, NY 11554

**Simi Akinola**  
215 Rushmore Street  
Westbury, NY 11590

## 2015

**Cameron Hellerman**  
[cameronhellerman@me.com](mailto:cameronhellerman@me.com)  
516-554-5401

**Marianna Cuomo Mayer**  
Danielle Kahn

**Cameron Hellerman's** essay published in *The Concord Review* last fall has been awarded one of the 2015 Emerson Prizes by the same publication. These prizes are awarded to less than 10% of the essays *The Concord Review* publishes. Congrats, Cameron!

## Sallie Hickok Tomasi Ward '55 Court Appointed Special Advocate

Sallie Hickok Ward, 78, from the Class of 1955, residing in Port Charlotte, FL, passed away Friday, September 4 at Fawcett Memorial Hospital. Graduating from the University of Vermont, she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. As a lifelong member of DAR, she was a resident of Charlotte County since 1996, having lived in Rutland County, VT, for the previous 41 years. In 1971, she married Vernon Ward and they just recently celebrated their 44th anniversary. During her time in Vermont, she was an active member of the Rutland Garden Club, was on a state championship bowling team, served as President of the Poultney Women's Club and the Poultney PTA. She also served as a Stephen Minister and served two terms on the Board of Rutland Hospital.



After moving to Florida, she served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate, and was employed as a receptionist at Charlotte Harbor Health Care for the past 11 years. She loved playing Mah Jongg with her friends.

She will be greatly missed by her loving family and friends.

## Helen Gayer Shettel '75 Big smile, zany sense of humor

*Reflections on Helen Gayer Shettel '75 from her classmates*

**Debbie McNair Ostrowski '75:** "Helen was pretty much the first person I talked to when I walked through the FA doors in 10th grade. Her big smile made me feel I was going to be ok. I was! Thanks to her and all of you. Helen and I had different interests once I got into the FA mode but we always remained friends. I never forgot that and I hope she knew."

Helen...thanks for reminding me of how precious life is."

**Jill Fowler Dragiff '75:** "For me remembrances include her zany sense of humor and her passion for her horses."

**Tilde Mariani Giacché '75:** "I have really nice memories of Helen. She was a very sweet girl, shy as well, but when she opened up she was also very funny. I didn't have many classes with her but would sometimes just hang out with her during lunch time, in the Highland Gardens or in the Senior Lounge. I was so incredibly sad to hear the news."

## Submit a memory

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

## Ka'Juan Polley '18: Raised the spirits of those around him

*The following eulogy was given at Ka'Juan Polley's funeral on July 29, 2015 by Head of School Bill Morris.*

On behalf of the Friends Academy community, students, parents, and teachers, I want to offer our prayers of sympathy, support, and love for Ka'Juan, Jennifer and Juan, the entire Polley/Smith/Cole family, and all of you gathered here to honor and celebrate Ka'Juan today. We are heartbroken as a community to lose this remarkable young man, but we are also thankful for our brief time with him because Ka'Juan was a blessing to our community, a beautiful person who enriched our lives.

As I walked out into the heat today, I thought of a Ka'Juan shooting streak and his intensity as a competitor. I recall one game against Clarke when he drained all five of the 3s he took and finished the game by driving to the basket between the two bigs, ensuring a win for us as he did so many times here in Hempstead. His passion for playing ball was unmatched.

I want you to know that Ka'Juan was writing an amazing story at Friends Academy, a story in which he was the shining light. We will never forget that smile, wide enough to make room for us all. That smile was not just an expression on his face, it was the laughter of his heart. It came from a place deep in his soul, a place of goodness that Ka'Juan wanted to share. He touched all of us with his goodness. When we interviewed him over a year ago, Ka'Juan's smile and character captured us all, and we said we must have this young man at Friends Academy.

He made his mark early on the 9th grade outdoor education trip to a camp in Northwest Connecticut during the first week of school. Early the first morning, it was 40 degrees and the sun was not yet up, but there was Ka'Juan and a bunch of boys playing hoops on an outside court near the bunk houses. His spirit and energy drew the others together. They played each morning – can you imagine that, 14-year-old boys getting up early – but Ka'Juan made sure it happened, and he energized the others. He was also the first to master a difficult high ropes course, showing athleticism and courage that inspired his classmates. He gave confidence to his classmates so that others were successful. At that moment, we knew he was a leader.

During the year, when he faced challenges in his classes or on the court, he did not give in but he raised his game, worked harder, asked his teachers and coaches what he could do better, and showed us that the higher the expectations, the more he would give to be successful. In his final English essay, which is reproduced

in the back of your program, he expressed the importance of overcoming any hurdles we face. His words speak volumes: "Adversity or suffering can either break you, or you can take that adversity and make your life better by forgiving and being a better person." Forgiving and striving to be better, what wisdom from Ka'Juan, what a lesson for all of us. We make a better world if we forgive and strive to be our best person. He was always respectful, never complained, and whenever I asked him how things were going, he would flash his smile and say "everything is great."

How was it that he was always so upbeat, so able to raise the spirits of those around him? I

love the story Jennifer told *Newsday* about one of his last texts to a friend who was having difficulties at home – "You have to hold your head up. You have to speak to your mom." I think that Ka'Juan had tremendous appreciation for life, each little moment, and he turned that gratitude into blessings that flowed from him to all of us. That gratitude developed from the love of his family and

all of those who supported him along the way. I wonder how a heart that big could fit in such a small body, but I now understand that he kept giving away pieces of his heart to all of us, and he just kept giving, so there was always room for that heart to keep growing.

But now Ka'Juan is gone, so how can we return the favor to him and keep his beautiful story alive? We begin today by mourning his passing and celebrating his many gifts to us. We must believe in the power of prayer and love to help us see a way forward and past this tragedy. But what about after today? First, for all of us who gave love and support to Ka'Juan, we need to give that to all young people so they can see the world with the same hope and appreciation that Ka'Juan had. And then, and this is the hard part, and here I speak specifically to the young people here today, we need to find in ourselves the qualities of Ka'Juan that we will miss – his smile, his feisty spirit, his joy for life, his will and determination, his passion, his friendship – and give those away, and when there is nothing left but his love, then we need to give that away as well. Can we do this? If we can, then his story will continue and an amazing end for all of us is still out there.

Jennifer and Juan, we will always consider Ka'Juan a member of the Friends Academy Class of 2018, and you both as parents in our community. You are welcome always. May the blessings of love and peace be with you and your family today and always.

Ka'Juan, I know you are listening, so I want you to know that all of Friends Academy and I love you and will miss you. May you rest in God's eternal peace, and keep shooting those 3s.

I want you to know that Ka'Juan was writing an amazing story at Friends Academy.



## Marcy Westerling '77: 'Fiercely smart, brave and bold,' devoted life to advocating for those who couldn't

**M**arcy Westerling '77, a long-time community organizer with a passion for justice who founded the Rural Organizing Project, died late June 10th in her home in outer southeast Portland amidst the flowering gardens she loved so well, in the devoted care of her husband Mike Edera, family, close friends, and her loyal dog, Sawyer. In the five years and three months since being derailed, as she put it, by Stage IV ovarian cancer, Marcy continued her lifelong role as a leader and organizer, informing and inspiring countless followers around the world through her reports from the frontlines of treatment on her blog, "Livingly Dying: Notes & Essays on Daily Life with Terminal Cancer."

Marcy traced her identity as an organizer to her Dutch ancestry and the role her forebears played in the resistance movement during WWII. Her childhood on rural Long Island, NY shaped her love of being outdoors. Marcy graduated as an art history major with honors from Smith College in 1981 after attending the University of Florence during her junior year. She credited her time in Italy with teaching her about the power of women standing up for other women; she came back to the U.S. and founded a campus rape crisis center.

Marcy's first job out of college was with ACORN (Association of Communities Organized for Reform Now) in Minnesota and then Iowa. She learned more about the workings of power through three years serving the developmentally disabled confined to institutions.

In 1986 Marcy moved to Scappoose, Oregon, enchanted by the idea of life on a houseboat. She got involved in Central American solidarity work with the Ben Linder Brigade and then from 1988 to 1993 served as executive director of the Columbia County Women's Resource Center, a grassroots feminist rural crisis intervention program. As president of the board of the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence during this time, she began to do statewide work responding to violence, bigotry, and injustice in rural communities.

Spurred by rural resistance to divisive homophobic ballot measures, Marcy founded the Rural Organizing Project (ROP) in 1992 to develop the ongoing capacity of pro-democracy groups in over 60 rural and small town communities in Oregon. This network of Human Dignity groups, committed to a broad agenda of social change, including cutting-edge anti-racist solidarity work, was the first of its kind in the state of Oregon and has since become a national model featured in videos, magazines, web sites, blogs, books, journals, and national radio shows. Marcy provided hands-on training to organizers in Wyoming, Texas, Maine, New York, Colorado, Washington, Idaho, Nebraska, and Minnesota.

A number of prestigious awards and honors have recognized Marcy's accomplishments and pioneering leadership. In 2009 she was granted an Open Society Fellowship to advance her model of organizing at a national level. In 2003 she was selected from 3,000 nominations for a two-year Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Fellowship, accompanied by a \$115,000 cash award. In 2001 she was one of eight national civil rights leaders selected for a two-week delegation to Israel. A frequent featured speaker, Marcy gave the 2000 commencement address at the University of Oregon. Marcy was honored with awards from

organizations including the Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Social Justice Fund NW, Lesbian Community Project, McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, Columbia County Women's Resource Center, Coalition Against Hate Crimes, Oregon Gay and Lesbian Legal Alliance, and Right to Privacy PAC.

Marcy's groundbreaking solidarity work with Oregon's farmworkers union was documented in an ethnography titled "Building Alliances: Collaboration Between Causa and the Rural Organizing Project in Oregon." Marcy and PCUN President Ramon Ramirez spent a year as the "Marcy and Ramon roadshow," traveling the country telling the story of their collaboration.

Marcy served in volunteer leadership roles for Political Research Associates, Oregon Coalition Against Hate Crimes, Western Prison Project, Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity, Community Action Team, Columbia County Alcohol and Drug Planning Commission, McKenzie River

Gathering Foundation, and the Rainbow Coalition.

Marcy's hands were never idle. She biked to work with dog and computer in her basket, rain or shine. She quilted during meetings and gardened in between conference calls. She reused every piece of paper and stretched every dollar. She sent out hundreds of handmade Valentines every year and made her surroundings beautiful. After Marcy and Mike met through their shared political commitments, they moved to a half-acre pond surrounded by orchards, animal pens, and year-round beds of vegetables and flowers. They fed themselves from what they harvested, sold eggs, and imagined a small farm stand at the end of their driveway that would be the pension that neither of their cherished day jobs offered.

Marcy was a force to be reckoned with: fiercely smart, brave and bold, profanely funny, strong and determined. She brought these same qualities to her life as a cancer warrior – the moniker she had tattooed onto her wrist. "I dare the world to ignore my diagnosis just as I defy any attempt to limit me to my diagnosis," she wrote. In nearly continuous treatment for five years, she tracked every possible

option and enrolled in clinical trials and innovative approaches that took her from Philadelphia to the Bronx to Marin County and San Jose. She kept her doctors on their toes and organized other patients and an impressive support system everywhere she went. In Portland, she cycled to chemo and complementary care appointments with a large "Cancer Sucks" sign affixed to her bike.

Marcy shared her quest to "enjoy every moment of every day while having my pink slip from the world" through her blog, which was accessed by women from 45 countries, along with interviews, a support group she organized, and articles published in a range of venues including *YES* magazine.

After her diagnosis, Marcy and Mike moved from their house on the pond into town where they created an incredible urban oasis. If Marcy had any regrets from her purpose-filled life, it was that she didn't have a chance to grow old with Mike, her partner in every sense of the word. She described her notion of heaven as one in which she would be by Mike's side for eternity in the gardens of their homestead, in the sun, with water bubbling nearby. In an essay written for the local Ovarian Cancer Alliance Marcy wrote, "While I stay saddened at how deeply interrupted my life was and how likely it is I will die younger than planned, I do marvel at how content Mike and I are with the life we rebuilt. We had a good life. We have a good life."

Marcy is survived by her sweetie Mike; mother Mary Westerling, father Karel Westerling and his wife Doris; sister Pam Westerling, her husband Steve and their daughter Kathryn; brother Randy, his wife Peggy and their children Nina, Ricky, Peter, and Jonathan. Marcy was predeceased by her beloved younger brother Peter. Joining the family in mourning Marcy's death are Mike's family and Marcy's tremendous circle of devoted longtime friends, organizing colleagues, and other cancer warriors, in Oregon and across the country.

Marcy chose a natural burial at River View Cemetery in Portland, and encouraged frequent visits to her grave. A public memorial will be held at a future date. University of Oregon is establishing a Marcy Westerling Collection on Rural Organizing. Memorial gifts are encouraged to a Legacy Fund established in Marcy's honor by the Rural Organizing Project. Visit [ROP.org](http://ROP.org) for details.



Top, Marcy Westerling is on the left; above, in more recent years.

## WE REMEMBER...

Ruth Fox Wood '44

Sallie Hickok Tomasi Ward '55

Sylvia Dawkins '63

Roland Hassanein '66

Marcy Westerling '77

Ka'Juan Polley '18



Roland Hassanein '66

Sylvia Dawkins '63



