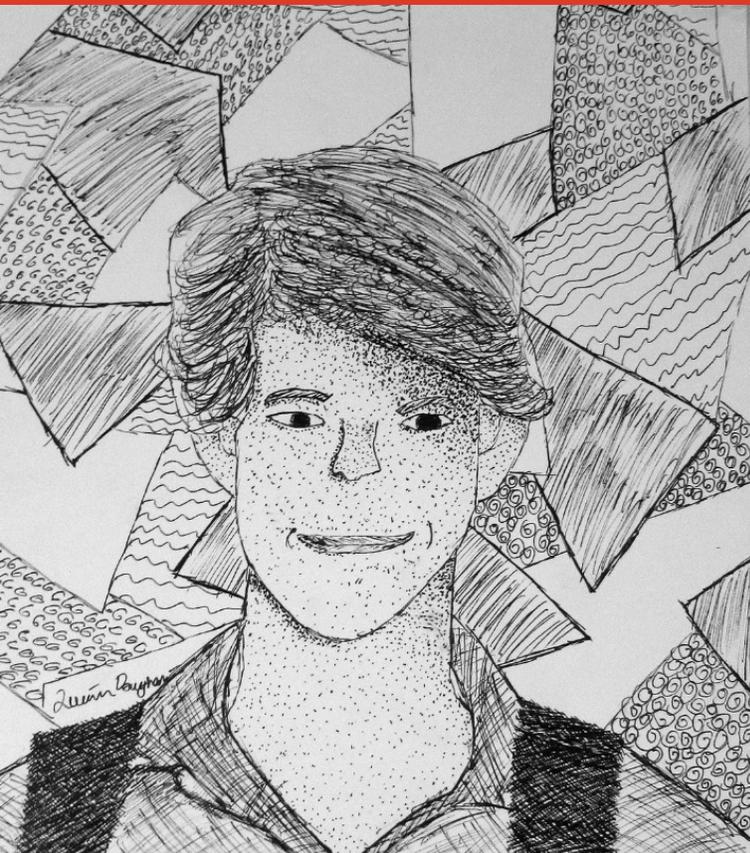
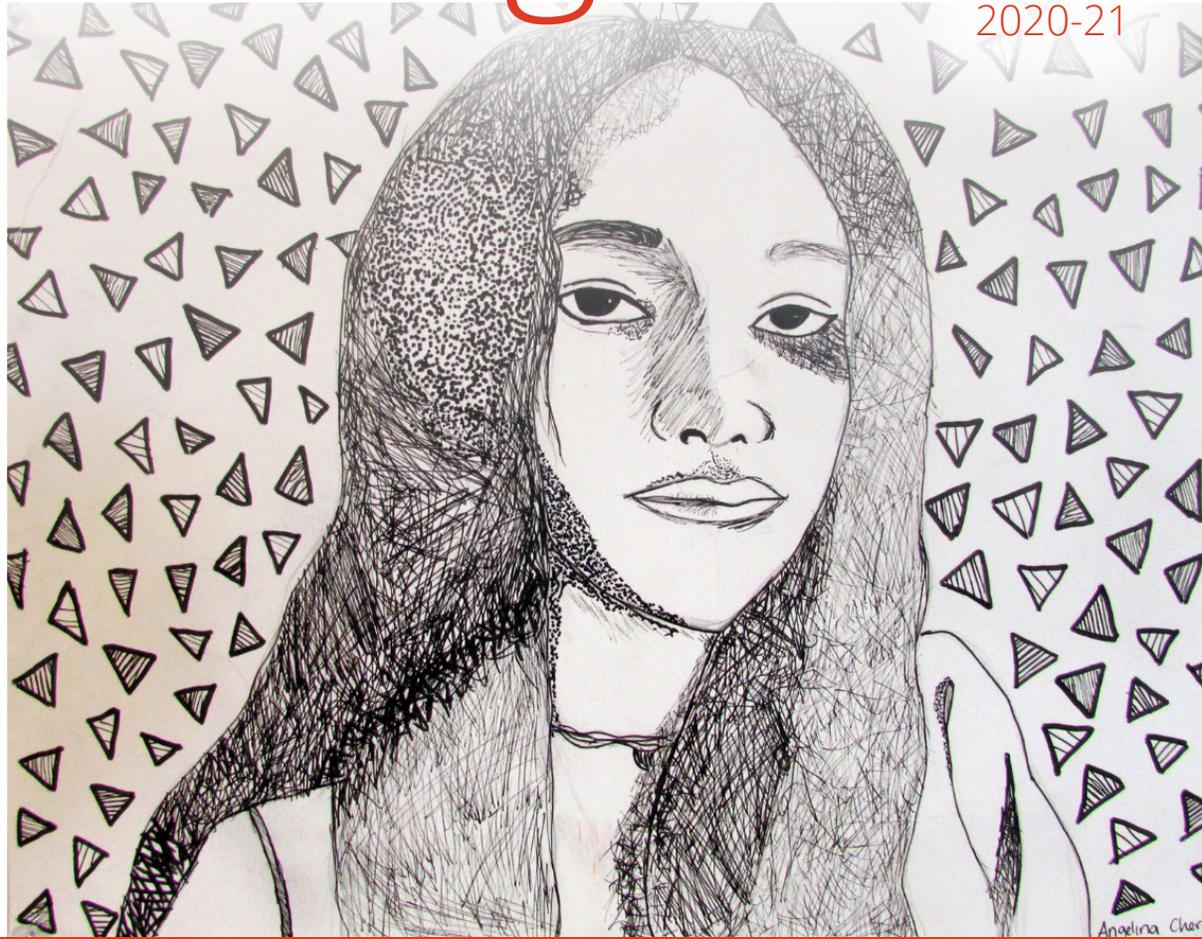


The Meeting House

2020-21



AMPLIFYING
voices





Our Mission

Guided by Quaker principles, Friends Academy educates our students to discover and develop the best of who they are and who they can become.

Our Belief

At Friends Academy, we achieve educational excellence by committing to the highest standards of learning and living.

Our diverse and welcoming community is strengthened by our Quaker values, which empower our students to inquire, reflect, and engage in their classrooms, in their neighborhoods, and in the world.

Because when we inspire students to learn and live with purpose, they can achieve greatness without sacrificing goodness.

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Letter From the Head of School



As I read through this season's issue of *The Meeting House*, a message tugged at the edges of my memory. I could not recall what it was exactly, or when or where I had read it, or if I was making it up? I had only two words that were certain, "lift me." One quick Google search and the perfect sentiment to capture the year was in my grasp.

"Thee **lift me** and I'll **lift thee**, and **we'll ascend together.**" – Linda K. Burton, Quaker

Every issue of *The Meeting House* tells the Friends Academy story – news of the day, interesting pieces about the ebb and flow of the school year, and the usual features we count on – Fall Fair, Athletic records, Alumni feature stories, and Class Notes. This issue, however, is one to preserve. It will forever mark in time where we were and how we responded when the world was reeling due to a global pandemic, as well as worldwide reaction over racial violence in our nation. So, how did we respond? You will read about the indomitable spirit of our Quaker School and everyone in the community who refused to be deterred from its mission. Every day I was driven by one goal, "We must keep school and we must hold our mission at the center." You'll read about outdoor Meeting for Worship, the expansion of Peace Week, and our efforts to preserve, and in some cases, renew and strengthen our bond with our beloved Alumni Community.

Our feature story, one of the longest in the magazine's history, takes a comprehensive look back in time, what is current and what is in our future in the areas of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Friends Academy is not riding the wave of a new trend. Our Quaker mission and reflective worship always have and always will compel us to assess whether we rise to the testimonies including equality and justice. It also challenges us to acknowledge when we meet the mark and to hold ourselves accountable when we do not. One quote Camille S. Edwards, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, comments in the article about our first two-week Peace Week celebration, "There should be no light between our Quaker mission and our work in DEI."

The idea or word "lift or uplift" appears several times throughout this issue. I invite you to find these references. It was not our intent to create this pattern but the fact that it speaks volumes about our community. I know you will find moments within these pages that will lift you up, will bring you hope and inspiration. Your connection, love, and belief in Friends Academy have certainly lifted us during this unprecedented time. I have faith that we can ascend together.

Andrea Kelly

Andrea Kelly



A few scenes from the 100th Day of School, the 8th Grade Moving Up Ceremony, and the Class of 2021 Commencement.

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Quakers believe Meeting for Worship is not bound by a physical location or building. This year, students engaged in Meeting for Worship in so many new ways, including socially distanced on the Meeting House lawn, as the eighth graders are shown here.

FROM THE FRIENDS ACADEMY ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

A Message from the Director of Advancement...

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that I am well into my third year at Friends Academy, and as always I am so proud of the accomplishments of our community. No one could have ever imagined the circumstances of the past year, and time and time again our community has come together to support and uplift each other. Whether it be through our virtual events, continued volunteerism, and financial support, the Friends Academy family has shown unparalleled resilience and generosity.

COVID-19, we are faced with expenses far exceeding our expectations as we work to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students to learn. We have made it possible for all of our students to be on campus five days a week, through leased modular classrooms and ongoing virus monitoring with additional nursing staff, and saliva pool testing. These added expenses have put financial strain on the school.

By the time you receive this issue, we will have held our second Virtual Benefit and Auction, "Friends Together." If you were unable to join us that evening, you can visit our website at www.fa.org/give/auction to watch a beautiful evening of performances and features of life at Friends Academy this year. While we have missed holding this in-person annual auction and dinner, we are so grateful for the support of this year's event, which raises critical funds for our students and programs.

Now more than ever, we need your support. I ask every member of the Friends community to make a gift in support of our Annual Fund. For those who are able, please consider increasing your gift. Your gift is important, no matter the size. Please, join our list of donors today!

Best wishes to you and your family!

Sincerely,
Kevin Barry



Kevin Barry
Director of
Advancement

As we press on towards the end of another great school year, it is so important that we all come together to support this year's Annual Fund. This year, due to

A Message from the Director of Alumni Relations...

Dear Alumni,

Greetings to you and your families! While it has been a challenge to be physically away from you for over a year now, I have been lucky to see so many of you join in our virtual programming from webinars to reunions, and coffeehouses to virtual Meeting for Worship. It has been great to see new faces and old, and has been a special treat to connect with alumni across the US and abroad who may not have made it to campus.

by taking on a volunteer role and more. Please let us know how you would like to be involved. We want to hear from you—we want to know where you are and hear about what is happening in your life!

Stay tuned for alumni happenings, and send any ideas you might have my way!

Wishing you all the best.

Sincerely,
Christine Lunsford



Christine Lunsford
Director of Alumni
Relations

Our goal is to help alumni stay in touch with classmates and friends, to provide updates on the latest news from Friends Academy, and to encourage alumni involvement in the life of the school. We hope that you will connect with us directly – by attending an event, (as we return to a "new normal") by stopping by campus,



The 1876 Society

Support Friends Academy through a Planned Gift

A well-planned gift sustains your generosity after your lifetime and makes a powerful statement about the legacy you wish to leave. Planned gifts can also be a tax-efficient way to achieve financial and estate planning goals while supporting Friends Academy into the future.

For more information on planned giving, please contact Kevin Barry, Director of Advancement at 516-393-4269 or kevin_barry@fa.org.



Strong Minds.
Kind Hearts.

FRIENDS ACADEMY COOKBOOKS

By Karl Hoeznisch, Friends Academy Archivist

This year, the Parent Council is reviving the tradition of a Friends Academy cookbook. The Friends Academy Archives contain two cookbooks from past years. The oldest cookbook, *Recipes of Our Friends*, was distributed at our Fall Fair on November 8th, 1919. *Recipes of Our Friends* is hardcover bound with notes and recipe alterations penciled in by the former owner. Sections include those listed in the image to the right.

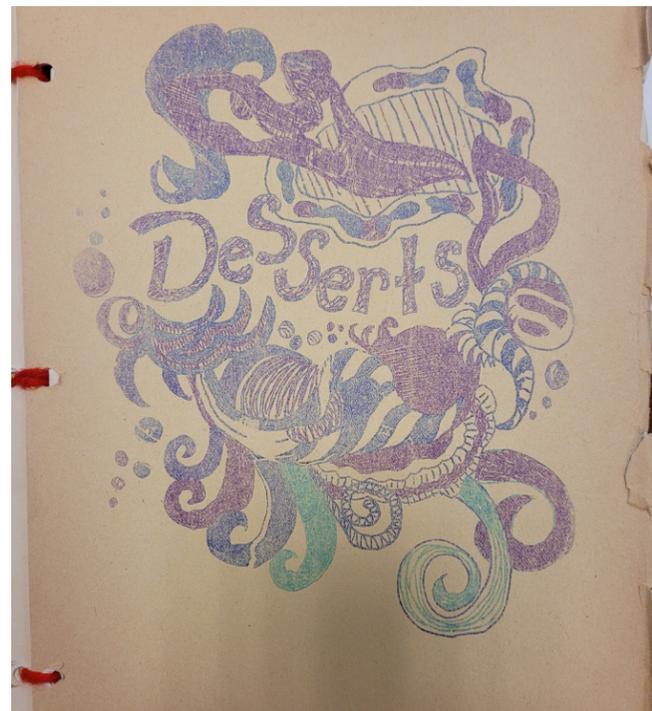
Directions for recipes range from highly detailed to sparse and economical. For example, a recipe for "Cheese Rolls" by a Mrs. William Post lists the following ingredients but provides no instructions:

- 1 cup cheese
- 1 cup flour
- Butter size of an egg
- Cayenne pepper

Even the more detailed baking recipes provide imprecise instructions calling for either a "slow" or "moderate oven." Interpretation (and creativity) are key skills when recreating these recipes.

The second cookbook from the Friends Academy Archives is undated but can be placed after 1962 because of a reference to a document from around then. The binding from this cookbook is more informal than the 1919 cookbook. Paper sheets with hole punches are held together by red yarn. Hand-drawn illustrations separate sections.

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TOP: The Index page from "Recipes of Our Friends," the oldest cookbook in the Friends Academy archives, which was distributed at Fall Fair on Nov. 8, 1919.

BOTTOM: A hand-drawn illustration separating sections from a circa-1962 Friends Academy cookbook.

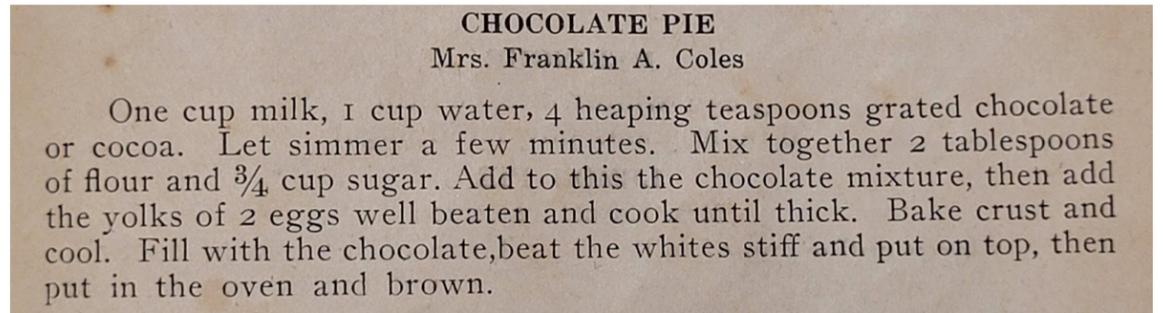
Perhaps the most intriguing recipe from the 1962 cookbook is a recipe for Tomato Soup Spice Cake by Julie Fatherley. Intrigued but skeptical, I decided to make this recipe along with a Chocolate Pie recipe from the 1919 cookbook.

My family and I first recreated the Chocolate Pie recipe by Mrs. Franklin A. Coles.

Overall, we had no issues following this

recipe although we had to temper the eggs. Salt was notably absent from this recipe. For authenticity's sake, we opted to make the pie without salt, but its addition would have improved the flavor.

The filling of this pie was not overly sweet. Its texture was thin rather than creamy. The chocolate flavor was present but did not overpower the meringue.



TOP: A Chocolate Pie recipe from Mrs. Franklin A. Coles from the 1919 Recipes of our Friends Cookbook.

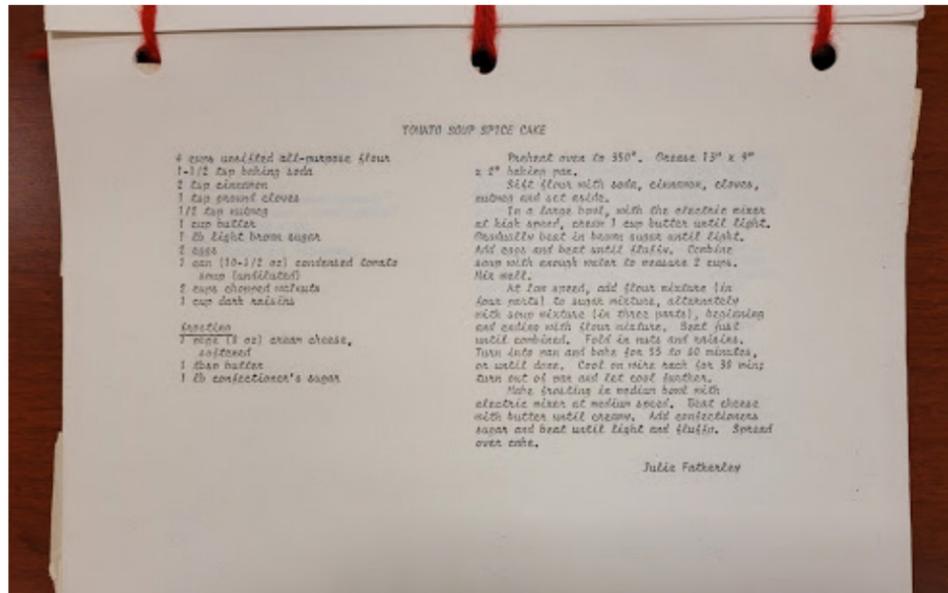
BOTTOM: Karl's family's Chocolate Pie, baked following the recipe from the 1919 cookbook.

Next up, we made the Tomato Soup Spice Cake.

Salt was also left off this recipe because the tomato soup provided the required amount. This recipe was easy to follow and did not require any adjustments.

To the surprise of my family and other taste-testers, this recipe was a complete success. The spice cake was firm. The moisture was perfect (neither too wet nor too dry). The cinnamon and nutmeg provided a good deal of flavor while the two sticks of butter made the outcome completely satisfying.

Recreating these recipes was a fun way to connect with the culinary heritage of our school. Thanks to the Parent Council, the tradition of a Friends Academy cookbook has been revived. Who knows, perhaps one hundred years from now, someone might recreate today's recipes!



TOP: A recipe for Tomato Soup Spice Cake from Julie Fatherley from the 1962 cookbook.

BOTTOM: Karl's family's Tomato Soup Spice Cake baked following the recipe from the 1962 cookbook.



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A RENEWED COMMITMENT: THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AT FRIENDS ACADEMY

By Andrea Miller P '22, '27
Director of Strategic Communications

The past year has been one of renewed self-examination and self-reflection in which the school reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to diversity efforts and to connect directly with alumni and students about their experiences while attending Friends Academy.

In the months following the murder of George Floyd, Friends Academy was inspired by the honesty of its community members and guided by its Quaker mission of integrity, respect, and peaceful resolution of conflict, to reflect on its commitment to justice. While we can celebrate a history of progress, we also must acknowledge that there are areas where Friends Academy can do more.

"I was moved and inspired by the dozens of conversations I have had with students, families, alumni, and alumni parents since last summer," said Head of School Andrea Kelly. "Every person spoke out of generosity and care for Friends Academy, and hope for our future. Each story helped to deepen my understanding and I invite any member of our community to share their experiences with me."

In this article, we review the school's history of diversity efforts since its founding, share our current school-wide initiatives and take a look inside our classrooms at the student experience.

As we bridge the past, present, and future, we are compelled to ask this question: "What can we do as a school to bring our entire community closer together?"



Top: Upper School students on an Outdoor Education trip, believed to be dated in the 1970s or 1980s.

Bottom: Upper School students with former Head of School Frederic B. "Ted" Withington, who introduced a plan to increase diversity in the 1960s.

PART 1: A WELL-TRAVELED PATH

To understand Friends Academy's present, it is necessary to look into the past. Since its founding, our Quaker school has relied on its values to guide efforts towards diversity, equity, and inclusion. Over the years, Friends Academy introduced initiatives that, in retrospect, were revolutionary for their time and place. It began with a co-educational start in 1876 (uncommon at the time), to diversifying its student body with the addition of Catholic and Jewish students over the ensuing decades, followed by Asian, Latinx, and Black students by the late 1960s. Today, we are proud that Friends Academy serves a student body that represents a diverse spectrum of faiths, race, ethnicity, and country of origin.

Natural tension emerges

Throughout the years, and as the school gradually opened its doors to a more diverse community – by way of gender, religion, race, ability, class, and sexual orientation – a natural tension emerged. While some in the community embraced diversity initiatives, others expressed concern about a possible "new" direction for the school. For example, in the 1980s, differing points of view regarding the celebration of holiday concerts, curriculum, and religious observances began to arise. "In truth, there has always been one direction," explained Kelly. "Friends Academy has always been committed to its core Quaker values and will remain so going forward," she added. "Of course, we can always improve on how we pursue those values, and how we communicate to our Community about new initiatives," Kelly stated.

Beginning in the early 1980s, the first Black Students Group and Black Parents Support Group were formed in response to issues that were confronting students of color, a precursor to today's Black Student Alliance, and this year's burgeoning Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Parent Group.

Continued on Page 14

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Friends Academy: A History

This timeline was compiled by Friends Academy archivist Karl Hoenzsch using printed, photographic, and digital historical records housed in the Kumar Wang Library.

1880 Hannah B. Cock is the first female member of the Board of Trustees.

1927 Mallon J. Flynn is one of the first Catholic students at Friends Academy.

1936 Marjorie Li is the first Asian-American student to graduate from Friends Academy. She is accompanied by her sister, Constance Li, who graduated the following year.



1940s Friends Academy admits its first Jewish students.

1960-70 The Board's rules change to allow half of its seats to be occupied by non-Quakers.

1963 Judith Singleton is one of the first Black teachers at Friends Academy, who teaches Spanish and French from 1963 to 1966.

1965 Lien Chem Siew is one of the first Asian-American Pacific Islander faculty members, who teaches Chemistry and Physics for the 1965-1966 school year.

1965 Friends Academy admits its first Black student.

1966-67 Headmaster Frederic B. "Ted" Withington introduces a plan to increase diversity and issues two directives – tuition is not increased to pay for scholarships and every student must pay at least part of the cost of tuition. "Thus the only source of revenue for financial aid came through donations and the small business transactions of the school."

FA's first Director of Diversity & Multicultural Affairs

Throughout four changes of headships, the calls for diversity initiatives that aligned with the school's Quaker mission were integrated into the curriculum, student life, and Board leadership. In 2002, the Board of Trustees directed that the new incoming Head should focus on fostering "racial, religious, ethnic, and economic diversity" within the first two years of tenure. At the same time, a concerted effort by faculty members, through calls to action, prompted the New York State Association for Independent Schools (NYSAIS) to recommend the hiring of the school's first Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Shanelle Henry Robinson, in 2011.

Robinson spearheaded annual events, such as the annual Diversity Night, which allowed community members to literally step into each other's cultures with visits to a Sikh temple, The African-American Museum, and Centro Cultural Hispano in Oyster Bay, among others. Two decades earlier in the 1990s, the Upper School Diversity Committee had also developed programs that celebrated the diversity of the community with guest speakers and cultural events.

The school continued to explore topics of identity across the arts, in assemblies, and in curriculum—from gender and sexual orientation, to religion, socio-economic class, and race. In 2017, Theater teacher Andrew Geha authored the Upper School musical, *Standing in the Current*, which featured multiple characters from the LGBTQ+ community, including a transgender character. Pre-show discussion in Upper School advisories and Meeting for Worship about identity offered students and faculty a common ground from which to experience the production.

Seen as groundbreaking by some members of the school community at the time, this wasn't the first time the school had addressed LGBTQ+ issues. In 1996, Kevin Jennings, the founder of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Network (GLSEN) was invited to speak. Jennings would ultimately recommend creating an environment in which members of the community could feel more comfortable with coming out publicly – one of the running themes of *Standing in the Current*.



Friends Academy families enjoy a performance at Centro Cultural Hispano in Oyster Bay during Diversity Night at the Museum in 2016.

PART 2: A REPEATED COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION

In 1988, outgoing Headmaster Ted Withington recommended that an "area of high priority is to find minority teachers, particularly Black teachers." In 2016, Friends Academy's first female Head of School Andrea Kelly, refocused attention on the hiring process while considering Quaker principles of equity – holding workshops for school leadership and department heads with the Minority Recruitment organization, NEMNET, which is committed to helping schools recruit and retain diverse teachers, administrators, and coaches.

In the spring of 2015, just before Kelly's arrival, the Board of Trustees adopted the school's first Strategic Plan for Diversity, *Vision 2020*. That plan was developed by Robinson in conjunction with the Equity and Diversity Committee (EDC) and laid out recommendations regarding curriculum, student life, parents, school leadership, faculty and staff, and more.

Diversity Strategic Plan lays groundwork

Today, each member of a hiring committee participates in anti-bias training and each committee includes at least one colleague of color. Beginning in 2019, all faculty and staff participate in annual anti-bias training and new employees complete The Kirwan Institute's implicit bias module series, which introduces the origins of implicit bias.

Kelly launched a school-wide curricular audit to ensure each discipline met standards of best teaching and most current academic practices, including attention to diversity and inclusion. In the spring of 2019, Friends Academy was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Facing History And Ourselves, an organization that partners with schools to integrate ethics, social responsibility, and justice into curriculum.

In 2018, Kelly reframed the school's DEI efforts

Continued on Page 16

1967

Ted Withington and the Board of Trustees formally create a long range plan that included "a stronger scholarship program" tied to diversity goals.



1972-73

Students speak out against a school speaker who expressed racial stereotypes about people of Asian descent. The student newspaper (the Red and Black at the time) highlights massive wealth inequality in Glen Cove and across the North Shore of Long Island.

1973

Marty Jacobson is hired as Athletic Director. Over the course of his tenure, he works to give the girls athletic program more equal opportunities, including increasing the number of girls programs, moving the girls teams into the main athletic building, and entering the girls teams into the Section VIII public school league.

1980s

Black students form a Black Students Group. The school holds "several dialogues that focused on issues confronting students of color." African-American parents also formed a Black Parents Support Group and invite parents, alumni, and students to share their experiences at the school.

1986

Following construction, female Friends Academy athletes are now able to participate in Physical Education classes and athletics in the main gym.

1988

Headmaster Ted Withington recommends to incoming Headmaster David Drinkwater that an "area of high priority is to find minority teachers, particularly black teachers."



1990

Friends Academy creates a new summer program to "help disadvantaged young leaders make a difference within their own public schools."

1991

The Upper School's Diversity Committee is formed.



1992

School administration and the Board call for "[improving] diversity of faculty and students." A student committee identifies a need to "hire a more diversified faculty."

The dress code is reformed. Faculty consider that, specifically, "for Black students, this controversy over the dress code may be making their fragile position even more difficult."

Friends Academy has its first open member of the LGBTQ+ community.



Though people may have different backgrounds, you can come together and make change in the community for the better.”

– Nyah Thomas '22

by combining Diversity, Service Learning, Health & Wellness, and Quaker Practice within one structure (the Quaker Practice & Community Engagement Team), as well as hiring Camille S. Edwards as the new Dean of Diversity, Equity + Inclusion. Friends had used a similar approach in the late 1990s, when it established the Peace and Social Action Plan committee (PASAP), which was formed to “articulate a Quaker approach to diversity issues.”

Redefining and expanding “diversity”

Since 2018, Edwards has worked to create curricular opportunities, programs, and events that opened a wider door by inviting each community member to think of themselves as part of the diverse Friends Academy community with all-school family programs like FAMily Night, an evening of shared cultural cuisine, family origin stories, and cultural performances, and Holidays with Friends, an annual faith-exchange.

For rising senior Nyah Thomas and co-clerk of the 2021-22 Upper School Diversity Committee, achieving unity through diversity is an important throughline for her. “Though people may have different backgrounds, you can come together and make change in the community for the better,” reflected Thomas. “I’ve also learned that you also may find that you have similar beliefs and connect with someone outside of your background in many different ways,” she added.

By the spring of 2020, Edwards and school administrators were meeting with stakeholder groups of students and families to hear the equity concerns of the school community. In response, and overseen by Edwards, the school launched new student affinity groups, including African-American/Black, Bilingual/Multilingual and/or New to English Language, Student-Athletes, East Asian, Latinx/Hispanic, and South-Asian – all to help foster a deeper sense of belonging for our diverse student body.

In concert, Edwards implemented student-led conversations that centered around civic engagement, community building, equity, and inclusion. At the adult level, affinity and alliance groups, including Colleagues of Color, White Affinity, and the Allies Group formed as communities that support both educational conversation and constructive allyship.

“Diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts prepare our students to be thought-leaders and community leaders in our diverse society and multicultural workplaces,” emphasized

Edwards. “Focusing on equity supports us in creating a unique experience for each and every child so that they can thrive in their academic journey and gives each a true sense of belonging,” she added.

Edwards also created a new framework for student alliance groups with the re-activated Asian Awareness Club, Student Organization of Latinos, the Sexuality & Gender Awareness Club and, following a hiatus from the 1980s, Friends Academy’s next iteration of the Black Student Alliance. Members of these clubs helped plan events during the school’s first two-week Peace Week celebration, Lunar New Year, and Black History Month.

“As a young South Asian and Muslim woman, I’ve learned that there are so many parallels between our different communities and identities,” remarked rising senior Savannah Mahmud, incoming co-clerk of the 2021-22 Upper School Diversity Committee, who as a poignant cultural storyteller at this year’s Peace Week shared her own family’s racial and ethnic challenges. “Through the years, I’ve learned that no matter what, people are going to discourage you from using your voice and power. However, if our ancestors and previous activists can persevere, so can I.”

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Director of Diversity, Equity + Inclusion Camille S. Edwards speaks at FAMily Night, a cultural exchange event, in January 2020.

1993

Goal informally established to “educate Board of Trustees on issues of diversity,” including using the NAIS (National Association of Independent School) Multicultural Assessment Plan to examine issues of racial, socioeconomic, ethnic, and gender issues.

Mid-1990s

Kevin Jennings, the founder of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN), speaks at FA about his personal experience and the challenges faced by members of the LGBT community. Jennings recommends that the school create an environment in which members of the community could feel more comfortable with coming out publicly.

1994

The PRIDE club starts, evolving into Gay-Straight Alliance.



1995

An Educational Policies Committee (EPC) determines that the school’s curriculum should include “non-traditional voices and experiences,” as well as emphasize “inclusion of non-European cultures in non-academic areas such as plays, music, and school holidays.” The committee recommends that “Friends Academy strive for greater diversity in our faculty and on our Board of Trustees.”

The handbook is revised to state community members can fulfill religious obligations during a school day and that “tests and quizzes would not be given on these days nor the day following a holiday.”

1998

The Peace and Social Action Plan (PASAP) is formed to “articulate a Quaker approach to diversity issues” and authors “Diversity at Friends Academy: A Brief and Incomplete Overview.” School curriculum is rewritten to address diversity goals – extensive rewrite of the History curriculum; English courses in grades 5-12 expanded to include world literature; library curriculum focused on indigenous peoples and immigration stories.

2002

In the search for a new Head of School (Bill Morris), the Board establishes that the new Head should focus on “[fostering] racial, religious, ethnic and economic diversity” within the first two years of their tenure.

2005-06

The school begins work on a strategic plan, which is published in 2006 and is committed to expanding “efforts to create a school environment where all students feel welcomed and can participate fully, regardless of their financial or personal circumstances.”

2009

The Diversity Committee develops a draft based upon a statement from the Parents and Students of Color Alliance.

The Diversity Admissions Committee launches.

PART 3:

BUILDING ON THE PAST WITH BAFA

In July 2020, Edwards was promoted to Director of Diversity, Equity + Inclusion and Friends Academy's next and current chapter began.

Throughout the summer, calls to "do better" and "be better" were heard throughout the country. Leading institutions responded – from real estate to entertainment, retail to Fortune 500 companies, and more – and publicly declared their allyship with Black Americans. At the same time, anonymous Black@ Instagram pages exploded across public and private schools, recounting personal stories of racism and bias.

At Friends Academy, whose own social media pages and posts touched off an emotional accounting of anti-Black injustices over the years, the reflections, shocking to some and unsurprising to others, galvanized school and Board leadership.

Days after George Floyd's murder, Head of School Andrea Kelly, shared a video message pledging her support and belief in Black lives, acknowledging incidents of past injustices, and with Board support, redoubled her attention toward a pathway of education and awareness, around inclusion and belonging for all students.



In Summer 2020, Head of School Andrea Kelly shared a video with the Friends Academy community offering acknowledgment and action.

From outreach to action

Catalyzed by the 100+ social media comments on Friends Academy social media accounts, alumnus Keyonne Session '13, formed a grassroots group, The Black Alumni Steering Committee, with fellow alumni Kayla Scott '18 and Taylor Quinland '14, who submitted a draft proposal to Friends administration that suggested working recommendations across several areas to build an anti-racist environment – from hiring to the student experience to school culture and alumni.

Many of their suggestions, though not publicized, were already works in progress at the school, including curricular audits that included queries focusing on equity and diversity, formation of student affinity and alumni groups, including those specifically for Black students, and employee anti-bias training. The Steering Committee also encouraged Friends Academy to create a specific

anti-bias community Code of Conduct. "One of our top priorities this year was creating an anti-bias reporting and response protocol," said Kelly. "We want all students to know that when an incident of bias, racism, or prejudice occurs, they know how to report such an incident and what clear steps and actions the school will take in addressing it. This is a written commitment to the kinds of actions that the school will take." According to Kelly, the protocol will be introduced to students and families at the start of the next school year in September 2021.

Challenged by past, and committed to change

A long-time member of the Friends Academy summer community, Session entered the school in his sophomore year in 2011 and quickly immersed himself in athletics and arts. "For many, Friends Academy was a home, a place where they felt safe and accepted. For others, it was a place that they attended in order to receive an exceptional education, but at a cost," he recalled. "Many BIPOC alumni share similar stories," added Session. "I can relate to finding myself being treated differently due to my race, or not having as much support as I needed and wanted. But on the other hand, I also found myself in the rare position where I also felt supported and accepted by my peers."

This fundamental dichotomy would drive him during the summer of 2020 to develop, first, The Steering Committee, and then help co-found its next iteration – BAFA (BIPOC [Black and Indigenous People of Color] Alumni of Friends Academy) with fellow clerks Jessica Marie Rizzi '09 and Maceda Alemu '09 and working in partnership with Director of Alumni Relations Christine Lunsford, and Camille S. Edwards. "Our mission is to develop an intergenerational network for BIPOC students and alumni within the wider community to cultivate belonging, celebrate cultural differences, empower each other to be culturally competent, and ensure equity for all," explained Session.

For Jessica Rizzi, the road back to Friends has been challenging but also one that has strengthened her resolve to reconnect. "What

Continued on Page 20

2011

The school identifies a need to "hire a Director of Diversity/Multiculturalism to support current students and families and serve as a resource for our community; continue efforts to attract students of intelligence, talent, and character from a full range of diverse backgrounds;" and "raise endowment funds to support our diversity initiatives."

Shanelle Henry Robinson is hired as first Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.



2011-17

Robinson launches new programming, assemblies, speakers, and film screenings designed to improve cultural competencies in regards to gender, religion, socio-economic class, race, anti-immigration, discussing difficult topics, and more. Robinson introduces the annual community-wide event "Diversity Night at the Museum" with an initial program at and with the African American Museum of Long Island, followed by the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center, Islamic Center of LI, Gurdwara Sahib Sikh Temple, Chinese Center on Long Island, Centro Cultural Hispano in Oyster Bay, and My Home Indian Senior Center.

2013

American Defamation League honors Friends Academy as "No Hate" School; The Gold Star Banner is awarded to schools who have gone above and beyond with their diversity education activities within the school year.

2014

Friends Academy Equity and Diversity Committee is formed (Staff, Students, Parents, Alumni)

2015

The Diversity Strategic Plan, Vision 2020, is published.



2016

First Educators of Color Open House invites local prospective teaching candidates to a panel discussion with principals and the Head of School.

2017

Upper School original musical, "Standing in the Current," written by Friends Academy Theater teacher Andrew Geha explores themes of identity, including gender and LGBTQ.



2018

Camille S. Edwards is hired as Dean of Diversity, Equity, + Inclusion.





BAFA co-clerks Maceda Alemu '09, Jessica Rizzi '09, and Keyonne Session '13.

prompts me is not the great things FA did for me, but rather where FA failed me," she shared. "Race was complicated then and still is today. As I look back on my experience, I find myself with no meaningful relationships with any of my white peers from the FA community, and yet, I have many lifelong friendships that have stood the test of time with my BIPOC friends. Why?" asked Rizzi, who has seen personal echoes within the experiences of other alumni from the 90s through today, including alienation and insensitive comments. "Why are these problems from previous generations still relevant today?" she asked. Instead of deterring her, Rizzi is determined to use this to achieve positive outcomes with BAFA. "Friends Academy provided me with so much, including many tools for success personally and professionally, and for that, I am eternally grateful," said Rizzi, who is dedicated to helping future generations at Friends Academy. "I am here to build networks and community for everyone who is interested in making the BIPOC experience better for students at Friends Academy and to make (it) a home for every member of the community who want to come back to."

Co-clerk Maceda Alemu, who joined Friends in fifth grade, sees her work with BAFA as an extension of gratitude, reflection, and growth. "I received a world-class education that challenged me to think critically about society's biggest issues, imagine the role I could play in designing innovative solutions, and then use my agency to improve mine and other communities around the world," began Alemu. "However, it was only when I reached college that I understood how failing to have a diverse faculty limited the lens through which everything was done at FA," she added as she recounted experiences of racial insensitivity and her struggles with feeling that her individuality and perspective were equally recognized or valued. "I remember far too many instances where my peers were not held accountable for making culturally inconsiderate statements or thoughtless comments. I want to believe they were always said in jest, but I think it's telling when I reflect on my time at FA or speak with other minority alumni across classes who recall similar experiences. They too, decades later, remember the weight of the jokes and remarks they internalized as students," said Alemu, who counted herself as one of four Black students out of 60+ in Middle school and 90+ in Upper School. "That being said, I believe that going to FA changed the trajectory of my life, and I sincerely appreciate each person that helped me along my journey to graduation."

For Alemu, the summer of 2020 became her turning point and a period of growth. "I spent a lot of time reflecting and introspecting on who I am, what I believe in, and how I handle

adversity," said Alemu, who became overwhelmed by the number of crises happening at once. "FA was one of the communities in my life that I knew I could intentionally give back and work to make better for future generations."



FA was one of the communities in my life that I knew I could intentionally give back to and work to make better for future generations."

- Maceda Alemu '09

Alumni conversations converge about race

At the same time, spurred first by the murder of George Floyd and later by testimonials of Black Friends Academy alumni, 1974 classmates Evette Beckett-Tuggle, a former Friends trustee, and Roberta de Araujo invited Director of College Counseling Ed Dugger to facilitate a series of three Zoom dialogues entitled, Conversations on Race that employed videos, personal anecdotes, and queries to help participating alumni explore the impact of racism. "To us, this feels like a natural outgrowth of our Quaker education," wrote Beckett-Tuggle and de Araujo in an invitation to classmates. Inspired by the dialogue, members of the Class of 1974 drafted a letter to the school, authored by Mike Gordon, which encouraged the

Continued on Page 22

2018-19

Edwards launches new all-school programs, including Family Night - which honors the diversity of all of Friends Academy's families; Holidays with Friends - an inter-faith evening featuring speakers from the faiths of Catholicism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and the Caring Community Dinner, which features presentations from students who attend SDLC at the annual, national People of Color Conference.

2019

Colleague Affinity Groups (Colleagues of Color, White Colleagues, The Allies Group) are created; required annual anti-bias training for all colleagues launches.

July 2020

Camille S. Edwards is promoted to Director of Diversity, Equity + Inclusion.

Summer 2020

Edwards launches first DEI Family Summer Series, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice, along with faculty/staff DEI intensive.

The first combined Board of Trustees and School Leadership Team training with Long Island-based Erase Racism takes place.



Sept 2020

The Board of Trustees creates a Diversity Standing Committee;

Oct 2020

An alumni affinity group, BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) Alumni Association (also known as BAFA) is created.

Winter 2020

DEIJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice) Parent Group launches. Student-led cultural clubs are piloted in the Upper School (Student Organization of Latinos, Black Student Association, Asian Awareness Club).

Jan 2021

Edwards introduces and reorganizes DEI goals around five strands of curriculum, programs, professional development, hiring & retention, and relationships & culture.

2021

Three-divisional student affinity groups (Black/African-American, East-Asian, South-Asian, Latinx, New to English Language, Student-Athletes) are formed.

administration to involve Upper School students in the process of creating a Code of Conduct.

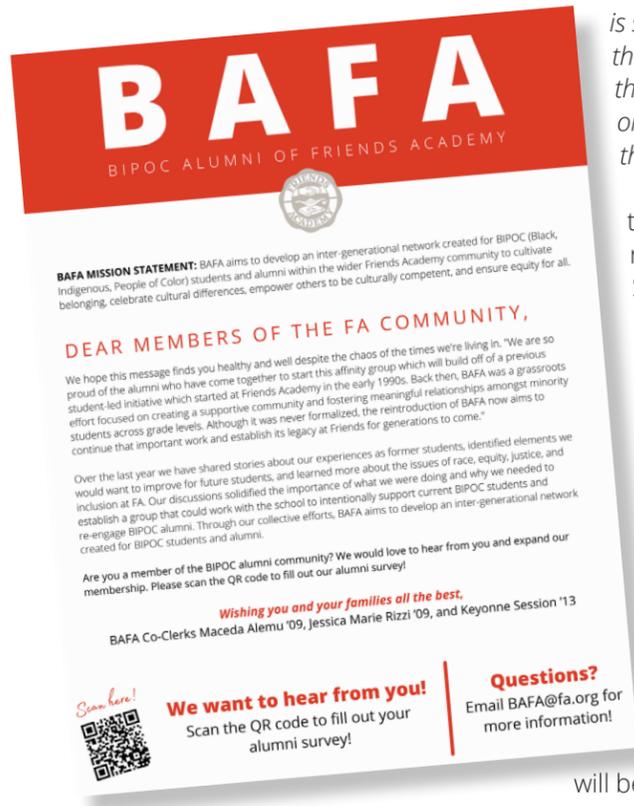
“At its core, it should insist on respect for the race, ethnicity, religion, and gender affiliations of our students, faculty, and administrators; but to be genuinely great, it should do more,” wrote the signatories. “It should require students to also be actively responsible for the well-being of their classmates, to intervene and seek help, not only if another student is being mistreated, but also if that person is suffering or in crisis for whatever reason. Finally, we feel strongly that this Code of Conduct not focus on punishing or ostracizing those who break it—after all, we all fall short of our ideals—but on helping those who violate it to become the best version of themselves.” (Excerpted).

While a similar Code of Character currently resides in the School Handbook, after speaking with a Class of 1974 representative, Kelly and Upper School Principal Mark Schoeffel will engage Upper School student leaders this fall to review its language and co-construct language that reaches a sense of the meeting and a commitment to adhere for all students.

For Session, success must begin and end in partnership with school leadership. “When it comes to diversity work, in any PWI (Predominantly White Institution), there tends to be a desire to support BIPOC students, but never any tangible action plan to do so,” remarked Session, who shared that thus far their journey has been positive and they are looking forward to a partnership that will provide “a space for BIPOC alumni to feel heard and included.” This winter, BAFA launched an alumni engagement survey and plans to send out a follow-up survey designed to collect information specific to the BIPOC student experience that

will be used to affect positive change (*read more about BAFA’s 2021-22 initiatives on Page 53*).

Moving forward, the clerks of BAFA are eager to continue to build on the work that was started decades earlier at Friends Academy in the 1990s. “Back then, BAFA [same acronym] was a student-led grassroots affinity effort focused on creating a supportive community and fostering meaningful relationships amongst minority students across grade levels. Although it was never formalized, the reintroduction of BAFA [as an alumni group] now aims to continue that important work and establish its legacy at Friends for generations to come,” said Alemu. “I hope BAFA can be what I wish I had and part of FA’s beautiful legacy of honoring its Quaker mission and values for equality, community, and diversity,” she concluded.



Learn more about BAFA on page 53.

PART 4:

A SUMMER AND SCHOOL YEAR OF LEARNING

Throughout the summer of 2020, Edwards focused on grounding the entire community in common language, practice, and goals around diversity, equity, and inclusion through new programming for employees and families. “The DEI Summer Series was an opportunity to welcome families across our community to engage in three workshops over the course of the summer to learn alongside one another...“The sessions built upon one another by: 1) defining the domains of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice, 2) explaining the process of cultivating a growth mindset when it comes to DEIJ focused learning & thinking, and 3) creating a framework of understanding around faculty and family as partners in building a more equitable and inclusive school culture.”

Dedicated parents follow in footsteps

Following these conversations and workshops, the new DEIJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice) Parent Group formed at the beginning of the current school year, and picked up the threads that the Black Parent group from the mid-1980s had first laid down. Stewarded by veteran parent, Rana Henderson, and new parent Jess Teutonico, the group is open to all parents. “Like all institutions, Friends found itself facing some tough truths last year and the school responded with an open and honest approach... The school’s openness made me hopeful, as a committed parent, that our voices are welcome and can have lasting impact,” said Henderson. Teutonico reached out to Edwards after participating in the DEI Family Summer Series and connecting with Henderson as a fellow 3rd grade parent. “DEIJ is a journey, not a destination. Our hope is that all parents will join us and model how critical equity and inclusion is, not just to our own kids, but to the future families attending Friends,” said Teutonico. “This is not a reaction to a current event, this is our legacy. Everyone has a responsibility and a role to play,” she added.

One of the group’s first community initiatives was to invite Nelson Mandela’s grandson, Kweku Mandela, to a “fireside chat” during Friends Academy’s Peace Week celebration, which drew over 100 attendees. Moving forward, Henderson and Teutonico hope to listen to what school stakeholders are already working on so that they can be an effective parent body. “Parent engagement is critical in helping to shape the culture of our community. The greatest asset we have is connecting with all parents,” shared Teutonico.



Our hope is that all parents will join us and model how critical equity and inclusion is, not just to our own kids, but to the future families attending Friends.”

– Jess Teutonico, co-clerk DEIJ Parent Group

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Board President Frank Ingrassia (left) and Vice President David Gelfand have underscored the Board of Trustees' commitment to furthering the school's diversity efforts.



The Board remains absolutely committed to doing what is necessary for Friends Academy to continue to lead the way as an educational beacon of diverse thought and talent."

- Frank Ingrassia, President Board of Trustees

A renewed Board commitment

On a parallel track, Friends Academy school leadership and several Trustees attended a joint workshop in August 2020 led by the Long Island-based organization Erase Racism. The workshop included a presentation highlighting the history of bias and racism in America and on Long Island. In addition, the Board of Trustees amended its by-laws to convert the Diversity Committee, which had previously been a sub-committee of the Quaker Life Committee to a permanent Committee, clerked by Board Vice President and parent David Gelfand. The Board's Committee of Diversity has been working with Camille S. Edwards, Andrea Kelly, and others in furtherance of the school's diversity efforts.

"Diversity and inclusion are central to our Quaker Mission at Friends Academy," shared Board President Frank Ingrassia. "As a Board, it is paramount that we work from our vantage to strengthen Friends Academy as a place of belonging where every student is, in fact, and feels like a valued member of our community - where they can not only learn, but thrive," he added. "Our goals include not only diversifying our board membership and our faculty and staff to better reflect our school community, but also to ensure that the school has the resources available to continue to invest in and embed diversity into our institutional strategies. Consistent with our Quaker history and principles, the Board remains absolutely committed to doing what is necessary for Friends Academy to continue to lead the way as an educational beacon of diverse thought and talent."

PART 5: DEI TEACHING AND LEARNING – ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND DIVISIONS

Throughout the school year, across disciplines and divisions, Friends Academy faculty use the inspiration and practice of Quaker inquiry to ask important questions about the who, what, why, and how.

A look inside the classroom

In Director of Early Childhood Kristin Minuto's Pre-K class, children build important foundational skills around identity formation that they use to see themselves and each other in their immediate neighborhoods and communities. "As children build awareness and understanding of various cultures, belief systems, and values, they, in turn, begin to recognize the power of diversity and inclusivity." Minuto also works to teach her students a developmentally appropriate vocabulary, and also shifts and eliminates language that could be viewed as stereotyping, demeaning, exclusionary, or judgmental.

Every year, one fourth grade project involves students exploring their own family's roots. The students interview family members and retell their stories to gain insight into their family's journey to and through America. During their studies, students explore the history of who was "allowed to come into the country and who was not" by studying events like the Chinese Exclusion Act, which was enacted in 1882 and not repealed until 1943. Additionally, students take a look at the historical significance of New York's Ellis Island and California's Angel Island through the examination of primary resources, such as poetry that was carved into the walls of Angel Island by immigrants awaiting decisions, as well as the differences between modern-day immigration and refugees.

This spring in Middle School, fifth and sixth grade Science teacher Dan Kriesberg taught a series of student workshops with Camille S. Edwards that connected and drew parallels between the necessary strength of biodiversity in nature with the important value of diversity within human systems. "When we exclude people, we lose out on their gifts and achievements. It's unfair to all of us," shared Kriesberg.



As children build awareness and understanding of various cultures, belief systems, and values, they in turn begin to recognize the power of diversity and inclusivity."

- Kristin Minuto, Early Childhood Director

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For the past 15 years, Ed Dugger has been teaching the senior-level "Narratives of African American Identity," a course that focuses on the role narrative has played in shaping the experience of Americans of African descent from the 19th century to the present. Dugger uses hands-on interactive projects and intertwines current Black guest speakers who speak with students about their personal experiences – from Councilwoman Viviana Russell of North Hempstead to Dugger's 105-year-old Great Aunt Josephine Folkes, whose great-grandfather was born enslaved.

By using the narrative of slavery, Dugger hopes that this will help his students and others overcome their fear of talking about this part of American history. "There is a fear that it will trigger people, either through ancestral fear or guilt. Ultimately, we need to stop being afraid

of looking slavery in its eye," he said.

Elsewhere in Upper School, English teacher Cherkira Lashley has worked to open up the curriculum and engage her students in new ways by pairing traditional Canon texts with modern films and authors. One unit combines *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Jordan Peele's horror genre commentary on race, *Get Out*, and *Sula* by Toni Morrison. "When you read and experience these three works consecutively, you are able to see through comparison

where the gaps are and it really deepens and opens the learning up," explained Lashley. "Diversity is essential to anybody's learning and it is more rigorous and challenging."

As the 2020-21 school year comes to a close, Friends Academy colleagues will be finishing their final chapter of the year-long all-school read *Mindful of Race* by Ruth King, which explores the emotional and spiritual impact of racism and offers a tender and multi-tiered meditative practice to help heal racial suffering in all. "I think about my own ignorance as a minority – we are all capable of prejudice and bias,"

reflected Lashley. "But, the only way that people grow and change are if the dialogue is facilitated with love, empathy, and compassion."

Looking toward the future

With attention focused on strategic DEI initiatives of leadership, recruitment, and retention, Andrea Kelly is convinced that the school's Quaker mission will continue to lay the groundwork for a dialogue that is open to all members of the Friends Academy community. "In the last few years, we have worked to develop school leadership that is more representative of our student body and community," shared Kelly, who since her tenure, has hired or added administrators of color to the Leadership Team from the offices of Admissions, Athletics, Auxiliary Programming, College Counseling, Communications, DEI, and Student Life. "And, we are not done," she added. This fall, veteran Upper School Math teacher Tamara Clark will take on a new role as Dean of Faculty Mentoring, a position that will help advocate for all faculty.

"The one thing we knew is that we wanted an internal person, a long-standing faculty member, who possesses a high degree of institutional knowledge, understands school culture past and present, and one who commands the respect of her colleagues and understands how to support and advocate," said Kelly, who counts Clark's warmth, organization, and belief in others as critical to this role. "I am excited to be a welcoming face and supporter for our new colleagues and to be an advocate, listening ear, cheerleader, and coach for our current faculty. It is important to build stronger bridges and relationships between our colleagues," said Clark. "I do not accept this position lightly. As a Black woman, I am fully aware that colleagues, students, and parents will be attentive," reflected Clark.

"Some students and adults see me as an

example of possibilities, some students and adults see me as an example of a long-needed change, and some students and adults see me as a role model," she added. "There is a large body of research that demonstrates the important educational benefits – cognitive, social, and emotional – for all students who interact with classmates and teachers from different backgrounds, cultures, and orientations to the world.

I do believe my mere presence in 'the room' helps our colleagues remember the importance of diversity when hiring, creating practices, developing programs, and advancing the mission of the school."

Kelly is acutely attuned to how the past, present, and future intertwine at Friends Academy and while she recognizes the efforts and accomplishments of previous administrations, she understands the journey still ahead for the school. "When you look over Friends Academy's history, even if they did not always succeed, each generation was attempting to meet the school's mission with strength and conviction – through curriculum changes, increasing

the diversity of the student and faculty body, programming, and affinity groups," she reflected.

"All of these past efforts echo the very well-worn path we are on now and the goal now is to continue to listen, persist, and ensure we continue to move forward," Kelly added. "Inequality mattered to us throughout our history and it matters now. And, at the end of the day, our Quaker mission is what calls us and empowers us to continue to work toward a culture of belonging and learning for all."



New Dean of Faculty Mentoring Tamara Clark



At the end of the day, our Quaker mission is what calls us and empowers us to continue to work toward a culture of belonging and learning for all."

– Andrea Kelly, Head of School



In Cherkira Lashley's Upper School English classes, students explore texts from diverse voices, comparing canonical literature to modern pieces.

AROUND THE QUAD

Without a doubt, the 2020-21 school year has been like no other. Words like “nimble” and “pivot” have become common vocabulary when discussing how education – and the world – have responded to the COVID pandemic. At Friends Academy, our entire community has gone above and beyond to ensure that our students continue to receive the highest standard of education, including not only academic study, but also social-emotional well-being, community building, and of course, living out our Quaker values. By the end of February, additions of modular classrooms on the Quad, allowed us to welcome all grades back on campus for in-person learning five days a week, making Friends Academy one of the first schools in the area to do so.



MIDDLE SCHOOL MOVING FORWARD

By Christine Saunders P '28, '31
Middle School Principal

Quarter Three ushered in exciting opportunities and projects in Middle School. Snow! Mother Nature provided abundant opportunities for fun and safe play outdoors. After our first major snowfall, grades 5 and 6 took part in a snow-building competition – snow people and snow creatures decorated the football field. Teamwork led to some larger-than-life-sized sculptures! Snow-touch football and making snow angels were also popular pastimes. We consider ourselves fortunate to get outside nearly every day, often multiple times per day.

Indoors, students delved into many academic projects. In 5th grade, students examined oral histories by reading *Harbor Me* by Jacqueline Woodson, and simultaneously interviewed a close family member for their Family History Project in Social Studies. 6th graders prepared



A snowy winter did not deter our Middle Schoolers from getting outside! Grades 5 and 6 put their collaboration, problem-solving, and engineering skills to work with a snow-building competition.

diligently for their Science Share Experiment. 7th graders merged science and literacy studies in their recent storybook project. Our 8th graders dug into the concepts of voice and agency, and the responsibilities and opportunities that go hand-in-hand with these ideas. They explored these ideas

across advisory activities, such as a gallery walk to think about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life, influences, and choices, class reflections on American History movements, reflections on the courage offered in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and in a final advisory activity, researched someone they admire who uses their voice to make a positive impact on the world.

Finally, we offer gratitude for student leadership shared in our winter Peace Weeks and Lunar New Year celebrations. And finally, we rolled out our long-awaited leadership opportunities in Quarter Four – Admission Ambassadors for new families, student opportunities to meet with teaching candidates, and service learning opportunities, just to name a few!



Students in Clare Nesfield's 7th Grade technology class present prototypes of their empathetic design products, created collaboratively to solve a community member's problem.

UPPER SCHOOL

KEEPING IT REAL

By Mark Schoeffel P '17, '20, '22
Upper School Principal

Our Upper School academic program responded to the challenges of managing distancing protocols while still working to remain engaged with the real world to retain the essential connections needed for relationship-based learning.

The Speech and Debate English elective did an “interview skills workshop” where students were given two local job advertisements to choose between and to apply for, and wrote a focused resume and cover letter, in preparation for a ‘real’ interview (Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Schoeffel served as their gauntlets); the Entrepreneurship elective had students brainstorming solutions to local and regional businesses affected by COVID, giving group presentation



Malachi Russell, a student in the Entrepreneurial Studies course, presents business ideas to Dan Gutierrez, co-owner of Glen Cove-based RADD Crossfit.

itches on problem-solving with immediate business impact; and AP Bio students have been working on a COVID-19 portfolio project, where students wrote updates on their topic through class blog posts, which are published on an AP Bio edublog site, eventually sharing their discoveries with the community to help educate on COVID topics.

While the high school opened to be fully in-person, on-campus, every day in February, even with new modular buildings for almost all classes, clubs and activities had to construct new virtual platforms given the challenges

of managing in-person meetings for different numbers of students in spaces. Student Faculty Board leaders constructed an entirely virtual platform with links for virtual club meetings during community time each week, and students envisioned new options: Hearing All Voices (a cross-divisional forum to meet wellness needs and promote student voice); Art for Activism (a working group looking at social justice oriented pieces of art as they may impact community); Choose your Charity (sponsored the FreeRice competition with the Whole Food program to combat world hunger); Poetry Society (poetry competitions and discussions of verse); and Political and Civic Discourse (a non-partisan club to empower people to re-evaluate or develop their beliefs on civic and political questions through civil discussion) among them. All of these offerings and the frame were powered by student leadership and student voices.

It's in the Air – The transmission of COVID-19

BY ALEX DOUGLAS / ON JANUARY 19, 2021 / IN STUDENT POST

Since the start of this global pandemic in March, a major issue has been the lack of knowledge on the virus. It has been the job of scientists to research and informs the general public of the virus. As more research has been conducted, we have a better understanding of the virus and its effects. The most important part of stopping the virus though is understanding how the virus is transmitted.

Students in Mrs. Newitt's AP biology class published educational blog posts throughout the semester to educate the community about COVID-19.

LOWER SCHOOL

BRIDGING THE DISTANCE

By Dot Woo P '33, '35
Lower School Principal

In an age when keeping one's distance mitigates the health and safety for all, our young learners have continued to build upon the Quaker testimonies to bridge the distance. Building relationships, seeking to understand others' stories and perspectives, working toward common goals whilst exploring one's identity and role within the community, continue to be threads in the tapestry of Lower School. While we cannot gather in-person on a weekly basis, as per our tradition, or share silence in the Meeting House, we have been able to use technology on-campus to Zoom into each other's classrooms, interface with notable change-makers, learn about upstanders and how to be of service to and with others. Worship Sharing in the classroom has become a familial way to share silence and what is on our hearts and minds. We remain true to ourselves, our mission and our values, as we reimagine how to actively take part and contribute to a healthy and positive school and global culture in an ever-changing world. Our Lower School TASQUE (Teachers and Students for Quaker Understanding Education) is an example of one such group that seeks to support how we

internalize and externalize our mission.

Peace Week was evidence of this connectivity both within our micro and macro communities. Our Kindergarten through Fourth Grade students “met” with Ms. Helen Turner, Director of Education at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center in Glen Cove. Ms. Turner's queries and developmentally appropriate literature encouraged us to explore inclusion and the importance of celebrating our differences. Our students were also able to join Pastor Kim, whose service-learning opportunity – a basic necessities drive for migrant/refugee children – united all three divisions. Pastor Kim, based here on Long Island, is an immigrant advocate, and we felt fortunate to learn more about her experience of being in service to others. Changemakers Chander Payne and Ahmed Badr Zoomed across grade levels to engage with our students about how they have taken action to be in service to others. Chander Payne's realization of creating urban farms to address urban food-insecurity demonstrated how being a changemaker can come out of one's passion to actively problem-solve around immediate issues that hit home. Ahmed Badr's

passion and commitment to creative expression that focuses on migration, identity and self-expression truly embodied this year's Peace Week theme: Voice.

To close Peace Week, our young musicians shared their voices by giving us the gift of music as they sang “Light a Candle,” which was recorded and shared with families.

Our youngest learners in Early Childhood continuously grow in their understanding of each testimony and the many ways they can be lived day-to-day. The children learn how they can practice these values and recognize how others practice these values. They choose a testimony that resonates with them and also create a visual representation. During Peace Week, our youngest learners explored what it means to internalize and actively live peace, as well as recognize what makes them feel peaceful.

Children have the power to advocate for themselves and others. They do not have to wait to be changemakers; they can take action during their everyday experiences. Hearing others' stories and witnessing stewardship living in the hearts, minds and actions of others inspires our inner lights to shine.



Mrs. Weinstein's second grade class dressed in blue during Spirit Week, one of the many ways we helped preserve community in the Lower School this year.

PEACE WEEK

By Andrea Miller P '22, '27
Director of Strategic Communications

The spirit of community shone brightly this winter with Friends Academy's first two-week Peace Week celebration.

An annual tradition for more than a decade, the celebration kicks off just after Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday – also recognized as National Day of Service.

A true planning effort between students and adults, events ranged from special speakers, student-run evening activities, Meeting for Worship, community film viewings, and an evening student-centered Coffee House.



"We were really thinking about community partnerships this year," shared Director of Diversity, Equity, + Inclusion Camille S. Edwards, who helped plan the two-week celebration with Quaker-in-Residence Jen Cort. "From our programming with the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center to Pastor Kim Wilson, to our youth activists, and a fireside chat with Kweku Mandela, every guest speaker had a message for us about peace or our Quaker testimonies," added Edwards.

Guided by the theme, "Uplifting and Amplifying Voice," students explored the concept of peace and the impact of voice through daily queries and accompanying activities.

In Lower School, students first read about youth activists in history and current events and then had the opportunity to meet virtually with Ahmed Badr, 22, and an author/poet/social entrepreneur, who highlights the expression of young refugees; and Chander Payne, 18,

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Clockwise from left: Playgroup students create peace signs out of sticks they found on a nature walk as way to connect the outdoors to peace and studied identity and "peace makers" through a series of read-aloud books; Liam Mott asks a question of Chander Payne, a youth activist who helps plant urban gardens; Madison Mack and Gretchen Waechter color mandalas in an alternative Meeting for Worship connecting mandala coloring to peace; the entire Middle School gathers in community for socially distanced Meeting for Worship on the track.



an urban farmer who founded Urban Beet in order to create regenerative farms at homeless shelters across the country.

Themes of education, goodwill, gratitude and conflict resolution shaped the two weeks for Middle School students, as they took virtual tours of the Glen Cove-based Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, and listened to the powerful life experiences of a survivor.

In Upper School, students grappled with how to use voice in the name of justice and peace and uplift the voices of others. Learning from each other, students involved in The Witness Project, an organization dedicated to passing on the stories of Holocaust survivors, presented their reflections on working side-by-side with survivors.

Guided by Edwards, Upper School students explored the building blocks of DEI allyship and identity, later translating this through the power of service after listening to Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Drum Major Speech."

"So many of our faculty and staff reminded our students that Peace Week starts on MLK Day, not on the day that we get back to campus," said Edwards.

Three different student clubs led



Top: (clockwise from top left) senior Tina Huang, Director of Diversity, Equity + Inclusion Camille S. Edwards, and seniors Dominick Williams and Sarah Wang introduce Cultural Storytelling with our FAMILIES, a pre-recorded program that featured significant tales from Polynesian and Chinese cultures.

Bottom: Lower School students perform the sign language and vocal arrangement for "Light a Candle for Peace." The Performing Arts Department recorded the performance socially distanced on the playground, and the recording was shared during the Peace Week Closing Ceremony.



Senior Isabella DiMeo teaches families to make Tres Leches cake virtually during Cooking with our FAMILIES.

service drives for children in need and marginalized communities.

The Upper School Diversity Committee played an integral part this year, planning and launching a new series of evening events for families focused on cultural sharing through storytelling from East Asia, cooking from Spain, and Persian dance. "Our teachers took the lead from our students and created new curriculum and content based on some of the stories they heard in the diversity conversations," remarked Cort.

In Lower School, students got to meet with Long Island-based Pastor Kim Wilson, who spoke about her work in unifying refugee families, at the same time as they were reading a book on the very same topic. "There should be no light between

the work of equity and diversity and Quakerism," stated Edwards.

All families and students in Grades 7-12 were invited to a special film viewing of "Feeling Through," which tells the real-life inspired story of a deaf/mute man (played by Robert Tarango, who himself is deaf and mute) and his relationship with a young Black man, portrayed by Steven Prescod.

Following the viewing, both lead actors, the director of the film, and directors from the Long Island-based Helen Keller Center offered viewers the chance to ask questions about the film and their personal experiences in a panel presentation. "Because we were virtual, we got to do so many things that we've never done before and it made me really feel that I was in community," said

Edwards. "It just really gives us the opportunity to see what is possible for the future."

Peace Week provided three times for community Meeting for Worship, which provided powerful messages from students across all divisions. "One of my favorite parts of Peace Week were the student speakers," recalled Edwards. "We had 47 speakers and performers across all divisions amplifying this message of how to use their voice." For Cort, the link between equity and peace is strong. "Though the process was new, the essence was the same. It was about listening to students of all ages in order to connect and partner with them. I hope Friends Academy will take away doing one thing at a time to be agents of peace in the world."



After a screening of the film "Feeling Through," actors and directors from the film as well as directors from the Long Island-based Helen Keller Center present a special panel for the Friends Academy community, answering questions about the making of the film and their personal experiences.

CATASTROPHE THEORY

When Middle and Upper School Theater teacher Andrew Geha, confronted by the challenges of the pandemic, decided to film a TV show instead of staging a play this past fall, he was... "a mix of terrified and excited. We were thrilled to create an opportunity for students unlike anything we'd ever done before," he said. "But that also meant there was a steep learning curve for each one of us (including me), which was daunting. Thankfully, everyone who worked on this project brought the very best of themselves to the table, wanting to make it the best it could be."

By Andrea Miller P '22, '27
Director of Strategic Communications



Clockwise, Dominick Williams prepares for his scene. Luke Jennings and Sarah Wang rehearse for a diner scene. Upper School Teacher and 9th Grade Dean Erin Nolan has her moment in the spotlight as Lauren Pasquale calls "Action." Luke Jennings and Mark Jennings help set up lighting equipment for filming.

The challenge of portraying the actors without masks and seemingly right next to each other drove Geha, the production staff, and the students to strategize filming in new and innovative ways. "There are some fundamental differences between acting on stage and on film," explained Geha. "In theater, it's 90% a back-and-forth relationship with your co-actor. With film, and especially in the middle of COVID, sometimes the co-actor isn't there. Actors have to give and give without any return from fellow actors... And this group of students just gave and gave."

An original script written by Geha and workshopped with a writing team of six students, the four-part series follows the zigzag paths of:

- **Kai Touré (Dominick Williams '21)**, who as an online cultural influencer, preaches love and radical empathy after unintentionally picking up the mantle of his Civil Rights leader/father;
- **Chastity Cole (Sarah Wang '21)**, a human rights activist who is on a crusade to find out how her father died;
- **Hewie Pascale (Luke Jennings '21)** – Chastity's best friend from middle school, a coder and hacker, who wants to make the world a better place; and
- **The Doctor (Julie Fine '21)** who is overseeing the therapies of these three people.

"In physics and engineering, catastrophe theory explores how systems break down. How a natural state (like a mountainside) can turn into a disaster (like a landslide). There are certain variables at play, and a change in just one variable can shift everything towards its breaking point," explained Geha, who was inspired by the events of the Summer of 2020.

"Last summer, our country shifted," reflected Geha. "In the wake of George Floyd's murder, we saw 100 days of

Continued on Page 38

non-stop protests. The reaction was loud and direct, and it has persisted. It has been an amazing breaking point for us as a country – a shift in how our culture talks about race, society, and humanity. Our show, *Catastrophe Theory*, is not a direct response to the murder or the protests. But it is about reaching your breaking point, and how the forces that want us to behave might respond."

The process of writing this story was different this time as well for Geha, who has authored several original musicals and plays for Friends Academy. "Typically, when I present a script to students, it's in or near a final draft. This time, the students were seeing the initial work at a far less developed stage and we were able to workshop ideas about this world and these characters together."

Five of the students who collaborated with Geha during the writing stages would go on to act in the film and Geha sees their involvement as pivotal to shaping the final script. "By having students bring their own experiences to the conversation, we were able to craft identities for these characters that I might not have done on my own," shared Geha. "The students' perspectives and experiences were invaluable in shaping our characters, their identities, and their points of view."

The production, which involved 21 student performers, four faculty performers, and six students and adults behind the scenes, filmed in various locations around campus, as the student crew managed through COVID interruptions, transforming classrooms and conference rooms into bedrooms and laboratories. "COVID made it a lot harder because we could only film one person at a time. Anytime you see two or more people talking to one another in an episode, it's fake. It's a composite shot of two or three separate takes," said Geha.

With all four episodes now available to stream, Geha is excited by the promise of a new way of storytelling for the future. "This project has been a wonderful and wonderfully challenging learning experience for everyone. It's opened up different ways of thinking and storytelling for us. Will we do this again? Who knows. But the reaction so far has been amazing. We're really proud of the work we've done and how that work has gotten to reach a wider audience than before. *Catastrophe Theory* is streaming now on Youtube! Tune in!!"



Clockwise, Chastity (Sarah Wang) sits in the interrogation chair, where the doctor asks her probing questions about her past.

Jeron (David Cooper-Boyce) is Kai's best friend and manager when he is launched into the public eye.

The Doctor (Julie Fine) keeps a close eye on her patients, Kai, Chastity, and Hewie.

COLLEGE SIGNINGS

After years of hard work and storied high school careers, several seniors have signed to continue their athletics journeys at the next level. Friends Academy commends our college signees, as well as all graduating members of our athletics program, particularly after the challenges they've endured over the past two years.



Back row, from left to right:

Ella Barry – Princeton Univ., crew
 Spencer Kriegstein – Georgetown Univ., sailing
 Gretchen Waechter – Lafayette College, soccer
 Sydney Kang – Amherst College, lacrosse
 Meriwether Florence – Dartmouth Univ., lacrosse
 Billy Daal – The Taft School, football

Front row, from left to right:

Madison Mack – Union College, soccer
 Caroline Green – Williams College, track
 Julia Bonvino – Long Island Univ., equestrian
 Albert Paniccia – Providence College, lacrosse
 Alex Douglas – Trinity College, basketball

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE 2001 GIRLS TRACK STATE TITLE

By Louisa Garry P '11, '14
 Varsity Track Coach

June 8 and 9, 2001 were big days for the Friends Academy Girls Track program. Twenty years ago at the NYSPHSAA Class C/D State championships held at Mitchell Field on Long Island, Candace Arthur '01 won the 200 meters in 24.78 seconds, the 400 meters in 57.87 seconds and anchored the Girls 4 X 100 meter relay (with Brittany Garell '02, Victoria Garell '01, and Sophia Louis '01) securing Friends Academy's first State championship and qualifying for Nationals.

It was a busy week for the team and they had to squeeze in races in between prom on June 7 – they reminded me recently that they still have “prom hair” in the photo – and they threw on their robes over their uniforms to attend graduation after the meet finals on June 9.

Despite all the potential distractions and scheduling conflicts, these amazing young women competed well with speedy legs and flawless handoffs and achieved their goal of WINNING at the State level. It was a special day for them and for Friends Academy and they still hold the FA school record for 4 x 100m relay with a time of 49.27 seconds.

It is a pleasure to celebrate these fine young women and their accomplishments then and today. It's not surprising that they transferred all that hard work, discipline, and passion that they demonstrated on the track to success in their academic study and careers.



Candace Arthur, Vicky Garell, Brittany Garell, Sophia Louis

From left to right: Candace Arthur (Yale, B.A.; Georgetown J.D.), Victoria Garell, (Barnard College B.A.; Emory University B.S.N.; University of Georgia J.D.), Brittany Garell Campbell, (Georgetown B.A.; Penn State M.D.) Sophia Louis (Haverford, B.A., M.P.H. Mount Sinai School of Medicine) won the 4x100 meter relay en route to Friends Academy's first girls track state championship in 2001.

2020-21 ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the challenges of condensed seasons and quarantine disruptions, the Friends Academy athletic program had one of the most successful years in recent memory. The perseverance, adaptability, and determination of our student-athletes and coaches proved absolutely remarkable in the face of adversity. The list here is a completely non-exhaustive snapshot of some of the incredible athletic accomplishments over the past year.



HIGHLIGHTS:

Newsday Top 25 on Long Island:
Mary Droesch '21 – girls golf

Newsday Top 100 on Long Island:
Adrienne Coleman '21 – field hockey
Billy Daal '21 – boys basketball, football
Marco Derlly '22 – boys soccer
Alex Douglas '21 – boys basketball
Albert Paniccia '21 – boys lacrosse
Paris Panagopoulos '23 – girls lacrosse

Boys Basketball: Went undefeated, winning five games, in a shortened season

Field Hockey: Finished the regular season undefeated at 11-0; head coach Christine Botti named conference Coach of the Year

Boys Golf: Finished second in the County Championship, with brothers Sean Shallat '24 and Zach Shallat '22 finishing second and third overall, respectively

Girls Golf: Captured the conference title and advanced to county championships, where Mary Droesch '21 finished 20th overall

Girls Lacrosse: Advanced to county quarterfinals

Boys Lacrosse: Claimed Long Island Class D Championship with a 15-14 double-overtime win over Port Jefferson, after winning the Nassau County Class D Championship with a 13-7 win over Oyster Bay

Boys Tennis: Finished the regular season undefeated at 9-0 and advanced to Nassau County tournament

Track and Field: Both girls and boys varsity teams captured the Division IVB championships and finished second at Nassau County Championships

Clockwise from bottom left: Varsity Boys Lacrosse team after winning the Nassau County Championship; Girls and Boys Varsity Track Team after capturing the Division IVB Championship; Mary Droesch '21, who was named a Top 25 golfer on Long Island; the field hockey team went 11-0 in the regular season; boys golf finished second in Nassau County

BRAND-NEW TURF FIELD!

In the Fall of 2020, Friends Academy broke ground on a brand new, state-of-the-art turf field. Set to be completed by Summer 2021, the turf field will offer Friends Academy student-athletes a top-notch facility for soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey to remain competitive in the Nassau County Section VIII public school athletic league. The field will allow student-athletes to hone their skills and continue to train, rain or shine. The new facility will also offer an improved fan experience, with paved walkways surrounding the field and bleachers.



Clockwise from bottom left: Friends Academy administrators and LandTek project supervisor; turf field nearing completion in June; captains of the Boys Varsity Soccer Team and head coach Edgar Posada; captains of the Girls Varsity Lacrosse Team and head coach Rachel Dooley; captains of the Varsity Field Hockey team and head coach Christine Botti; captain of the Boys Varsity Lacrosse team and head coach Bill Garry; captains of the Girls Varsity Soccer Team and head coach Gail Baker; the finished logo at midfield.



FACULTY MILESTONES



Edgar Posada

Congratulations to Upper School Spanish teacher **Edgar Posada**, who was named one of The University of Chicago's Outstanding Educators! Each year, incoming first-year students at The University of Chicago nominate educators who "think carefully about their instruction, share an infectious love for learning, and care for their students both inside and outside of the classroom." Mr. Posada was nominated by Devishi Narula '20, who is now attending the university!



Dan O'Keefe

Upper School history teacher **Dan O'Keefe** is pursuing a Ph.D. in political theory in the Humanities program at Salve Regina University. The course work of the program is interdisciplinary and focuses on the impacts of advanced technology on humanity. His intended dissertation will likely involve exploring the intersections between political populism and cultural decadence in the US between 2008 and the present. To ascertain the relationship between the two, he aims to use a comparative framework and use as an ancient example the Catilinarian Conspiracy in the late Roman Republic, and then modern examples of the Spanish Civil War and Weimar Germany.



Sara Pozzi

Music teacher **Laura Backley** has accepted a role as a vocal pedagogy curriculum consultant for the Music Essential Teacher Training Program at Tianjin Juilliard School. The vocal pedagogy module is one of 5 classes PreSchool (birth-6yr) teachers take to make them feel more comfortable



Laura Backley

Literatures for her excellence in the program. According to Profesor Juan Caamaño, Chairman of the Hispanic Language and Literatures Department at Queens College, this award is one of the highest honors bestowed by the department at the CUNY Queens Commencement. This is Sara Pozzi's second master's degree. "I've always wanted to complete this Spanish literature degree," states Pozzi. "I'm grateful to Friends for extending me a sabbatical semester in 2018 so I could throw myself 100% into Spanish poetry, novels, and film." Her goal is to imbue her Spanish courses at Friends with as much of this literature as possible. "Our students' lives can be so enriched by seeing the human experience through this amazing body of work and really taking some of it to heart. Most recently, for example, we read a poem by Mexican poet Carlos Pellicer in Spanish 4; students connected the first verses with their own experience—"No tengo tiempo para mirar las cosas/ como yo lo deseo" (I don't have time to look at things / as I would like), likening their own busy schedules with that of the Mexican writer. I hope my love of this body of literature can burn brightly in my students." Pozzi was invited to present her paper on historic documentation as seen through the lens of the film *Aguirre, Wrath of God* at the AATSP National Conference in 2020 in Puerto Rico. Due to the pandemic, she'll have to wait a few months, but plans to present her work in 2021 in Atlanta to fellow AATSP colleagues. When she's not teaching language, Sara loves spending time with her husband Carl, and her FA alumni children, Pat (Class of 2011) and Courtney (Class of 2013).



Debbie Reynolds

Extended Day teacher **Debbie Reynolds** created B.O.R.E.D (Better Off Reading Every Day) at FA in January 2020. She started the [YouTube channel](#) when quarantine started in March to stay in touch with our families and community. She read 600 children's books on "Bored with Miss Reynolds" on her YouTube channel by December 18 and is still sharing her storytelling magic. Her students tell her they see her all the time when school is closed. She has 1,200 followers on her Instagram *Bored with Miss Reynolds* and has been interviewed by podcasts and met several children's book authors. Her subscribers continue to grow and she's connecting with families every day.



Tricia Licari

Director of Human Resources **Tricia Licari** has been selected as a recipient of the NBOA Professional Achievement Award. The NBOA Professional Achievement Award recognizes the invaluable contributions made by independent school business, finance and operations staff who are not business officers. These staff members distinguish themselves

adding music to their classrooms. The module is the only one that balances the information about the teacher's vocal technique as well as healthy techniques for children. This summer, she begins teaching the class to teachers in Shanghai and in Tianjin virtually, three hours a week. Then, the program directors on both the Tianjin and NY campuses are hoping to market the program to pre-schools all over the world just like they have done with the Juilliard K-12 music program. She said, "I am very blessed that I was asked and I am really loving geeking out about vocal education with some cool people."



Laurie Fleming

Learning Commons Director **Laurie Fleming** attended the virtual ALA conference (American Library Association), a four-day experience. Among the many featured speakers, most of whom had written recent books, were Ruby Bridges (grown up!), Ibram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain, Ethan Hawke, Ziggy Marley, Amanda Gorman and Dr. Jill Biden. The conference was not only inspirational but forward thinking in terms of new books and authors. As these books are released in the coming months, Laurie will enthusiastically add them to our collections in the LS and MS/US libraries. Please come and check them out!



Jen Newitt

Upper School Science teacher **Jen Newitt** recently served on a National Science Foundation panel reviewing proposals for STEM Education grants in their division of Research and Learning in Formal and Informal Settings. She notes that it was an illuminating experience to read and evaluate proposals to improve STEM education and be part of the rigorous process involved in approving funding grants. She was invited to serve by Rob Ochsendorf, former FA Science teacher from 1999-2001 who is now a program director with the NSF.

every day and make exceptional contributions to their schools and the independent school community. The award is given to a member of the business and operations staff who has made significant and lasting contributions to his or her school's operations or financial health. The award provides a unique opportunity for business officers and other senior administrators to recognize the work of these highly valued colleagues.



Dan Kriesberg

Middle School science teacher **Dan Kriesberg** has a [website](#) highlighting his podcasts and his more recent essays. His writing and interviews are primarily focused on his experiences in the wilderness both near and far. In his work, he tries to share the joy, awe and wonder for the more than human world that comes from time outdoors. His hope is to encourage others to get outdoors and take advantage of the mental, physical and spiritual benefits of being out there. By being out of doors we are better able to understand the connections we have to a community that includes all beings.



Brad Wetherell

Upper School English teacher **Brad Wetherell** recently had a new essay, "Longo," published in *Joyland Magazine*. In addition, he has been awarded a fellowship by the Jentel Artist Residency Program. Jentel is located in a rural setting on a working cattle ranch in the Lower Piney Creek Valley approximately 20 miles southeast of Sheridan, Wyoming. Brad will be among the award recipients focusing on their own creative projects at this working retreat for artists and writers. A panel of arts and literary professionals review samples of artwork and manuscripts before making final recommendations for residency awards.

Brad Wetherell is a graduate of the MFA program at the University of Michigan and a former Writer in Residence at Saint Albans School in Washington, D.C. His short stories and essays have appeared in *The Missouri Review*, *ZYZZYVA*, *Five Points*, *Joyland*, *Salon*, *Hippocampus*, *Superstition Review*, *Berkeley Fiction Review*, and elsewhere. He lives in Brooklyn, New York, and is currently completing a collection of personal essays, *NOTHING HERE IS FREE*.



Jasmine Claude Narcisse

Upper School French teacher **Jasmine Claude-Narcisse** served as a panelist for "Postmonolingual New York," the finale of *Translating the Future*, a 20-week series of conversations among translators. The virtual event was held in September 2020 and focused on the "monolingual paradigm [that] persists in narratives of the city's history and literature disseminated by its most prominent cultural and media institutions."



Christine Lunsford

Director of Alumni Relations **Christine Lunsford** has joined the Board of Directors of The Association of Fundraising Professionals Long Island Chapter. AFPLI offers educational programs, trains fundraisers in leadership and ethics, provides mentoring, a job bank, access to certificate programs and resources provided through the Association of Fundraising Professionals, a global organization dedicated to elevating the profession.

During the four week long residency, Jentel provides communal spaces designated for research, recreation, food preparation, and dining. Each artist and writer is offered a private comfortably furnished accommodation and a light airy workspace. Each resident receives a stipend to help defray living expenses during the program. Here artists and writers experience unfettered time to allow for thoughtful reflection and meditation on the creative process in a setting that preserves the agricultural and historical integrity of the land.

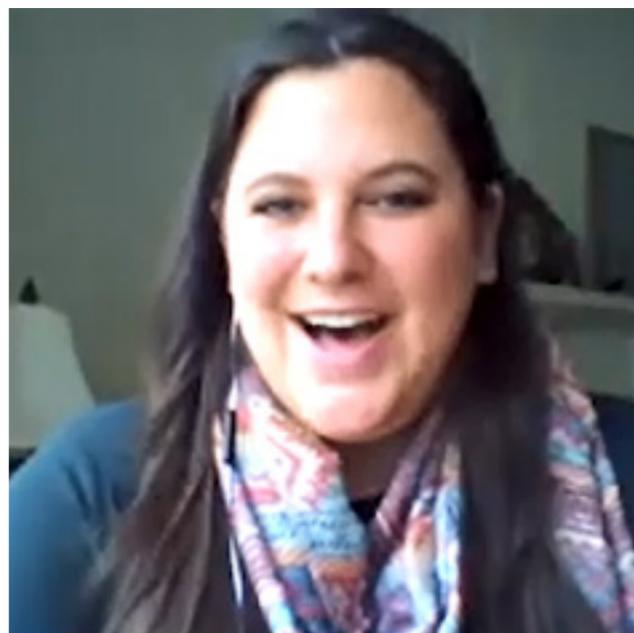
ALUMNI ON CAMPUS (VIRTUALLY!)

Alumni continue to play a vital role in the day-to-day life of Friends Academy students. Here are just a few ways in which alumni have shared their expertise, experience and sound advice with our students...

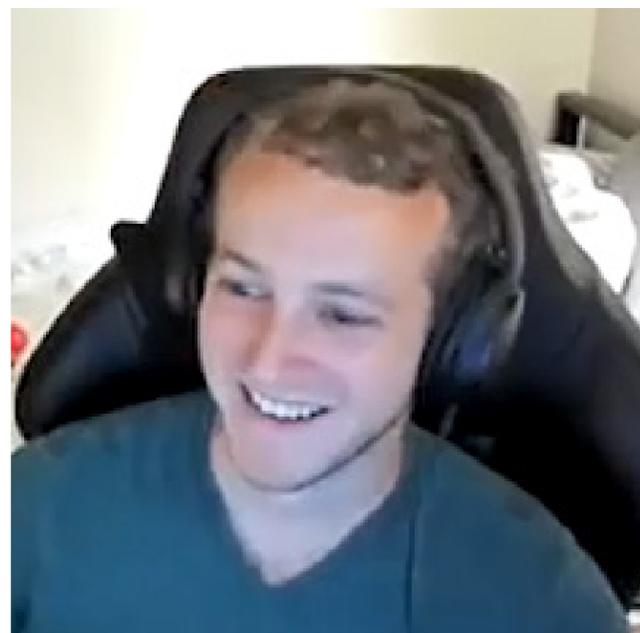
One of our newer FA traditions, this year our recent college-age alumni returned back virtually to offer tips and advice to our seniors as they come closer to the end of their time as FA students. Thank you to **JD Baptiste '16, Jalijah Daniels '16, Sofia Patino Duque '16, Kaitlyn Hardy '17, Joe Horne '19, Julia Mariani '17 and Christina Yannello '16** for sharing their wisdom with us.



At the height of the pandemic, alumni joined together to read "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens for our first ever Alumni Book Club.



Laura Berke Mottel '08 talks to Upper School students about her work at NBCUniversal Media at Bravo! and Oxygen Media, working in both brand marketing and consumer marketing.



Nicholas Moretto '13 talks to Upper School students about his choice to study engineering, and his work as both an equipment engineer and a manufacturing engineer at Tesla, Inc.

The Parents of Alumni Association organized a Wellness Webinar with FA current parents and entrepreneurs Michelle Walrath and Fran Paniccia, owners of Organic Krush healthy lifestyle restaurants.

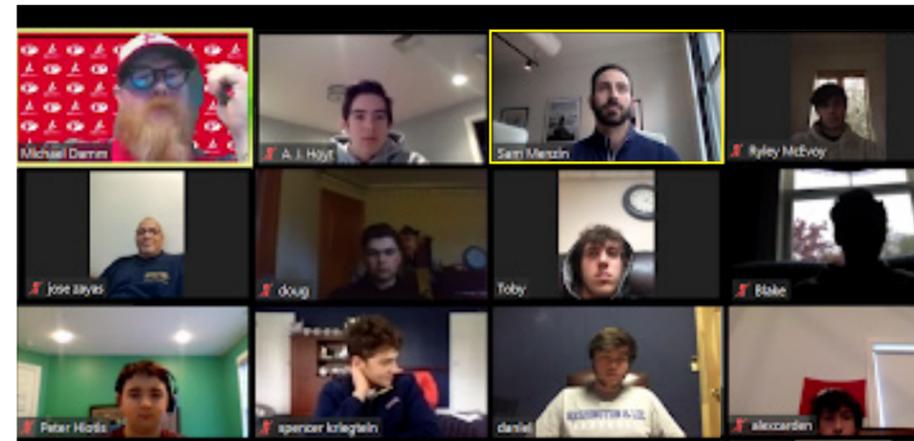


BASEBALL ALUMNI INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

With their season halted due to COVID-19 last spring, baseball coach Mike Damm created a series of talks for his team, inviting alumni from various areas of baseball to speak on their careers.



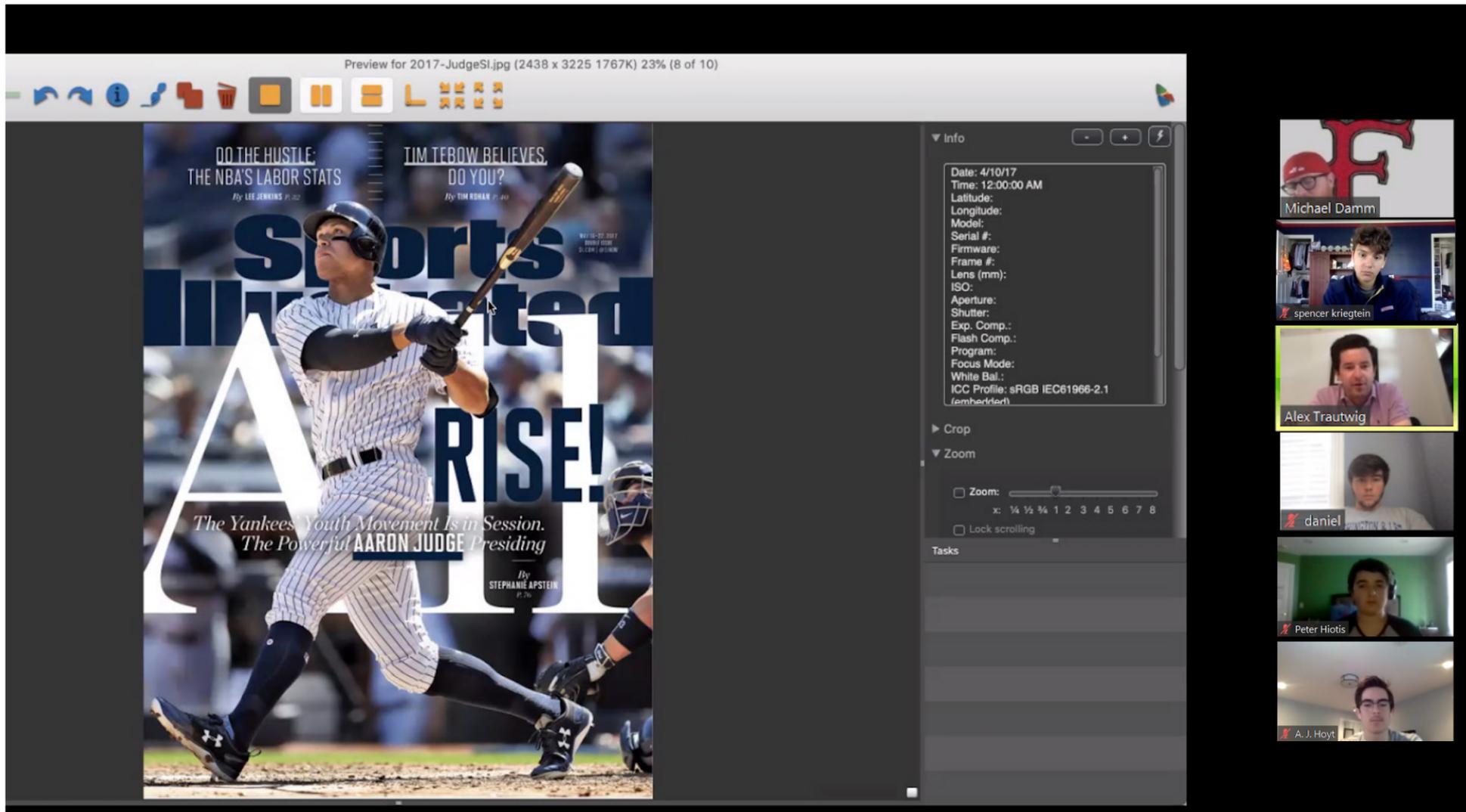
Matt Feinstein '15 (above, center) talked about his baseball career at Dartmouth College and his professional pursuits, signing on with the New York Boulders of the Frontier League.



Sam Menzin '08 (left, second from right) talked about his work as Director of Baseball Operations for the Detroit Tigers, and his role as a team scout.



Alex Trautwig '08 (left, center) talked about his work as a photographer for Major League Baseball, sharing insider tactics on securing incredible action shots, and the "best moment of his career," when his photo of Aaron Judge graced the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. [Photo above by Alex Trautwig '08]



FROM THE PRESIDENT

PETER STEIN '79, P '17, '20, '23

Dear Fellow Alumni,



Peter Stein '79
Alumni Board President

I am writing to you in what is hopefully the wake of one of the most challenging times in our lives. At Friends Academy, we have persevered through the eye of the storm, shifting from virtual learning to hybrid instruction. I am proud to report that this past February we were able to welcome all students back to campus full-time, five

days a week, with the help of a series of new modular classrooms in the Quad, lovingly called our "Academic Village." As alumni we have joined together over the course of this trying time, with virtual reunions and classroom speakers, connecting in new and different ways.

During this time we have had an opportunity to re-examine and restructure the Friends Academy Alumni Board. It will now be guided by committees formed to make us more efficient and to help us represent a larger and stronger alumni community than ever before. We hope you will consider joining us on the alumni board or on one of our volunteer committees. Our Parents of Alumni Association (POAA) affinity group remains united and strong, and held a wonderful Health and Wellness webinar this past Fall. They are looking forward to socially distanced outdoor gatherings this Spring/Summer. Our newest affinity group, BIPOC Alumni of Friends Academy (BAFA), is highlighted in detail on the following page and is a welcome addition to the branches of the alumni association. This group joins together Friends Academy alumni of color to share commonalities and provide support to students of color.

In conjunction with our ongoing efforts, if you have not already done so, we are asking you to complete our official 2021 ALUMNI SURVEY: bit.ly/2RNTUHS. This survey will help us to understand who our alumni are – your careers, your interests, your passions, and the ways in which we might use your expertise to help us build a better alumni community, and a better Friends Academy. Even if we already have your contact information, we urge you to complete the survey so that we can hear your feedback and continue to enhance our alumni connections.

Last but certainly not least, in the pages that follow we have the pleasure of highlighting three alumni, each impressive in their own right. Melissa Korn '02 has built a name for herself as a higher education writer at the *Wall Street Journal*, recently co-writing the book *Unacceptable: Privilege, Deceit, and the Making of the College Admissions Scandal*. Her own story is one of perseverance, drive and determination. We then take a look at the work of Ed Page '85 who, through his academic accomplishments and business acumen, has become President and COO at Relation Insurance. Ed takes pride in serving as a mentor and leader for the younger generation. Next, David Rosenberg '73 shares his lifelong commitment to the homeless community in Los Angeles, CA after weathering a period of homelessness himself, rescued with the help of former Friends Academy Athletic Director Marty Jacobson.

I have always been inspired by our alumni and have seen that demonstrated in new and innovative ways over the last year. I hope that as the weather warms, and as the Coronavirus wanes, I get the chance to see some of you soon!

Peter Stein '79, P '17, '20, '23

BAFA

BIPOC ALUMNI OF FRIENDS ACADEMY



BAFA MISSION STATEMENT: BAFA aims to develop an inter-generational network created for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) students and alumni within the wider Friends Academy community to cultivate belonging, celebrate cultural differences, empower others to be culturally competent, and ensure equity for all.

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE FA COMMUNITY,

We hope this message finds you healthy and well despite the chaos of the times we're living in. "We are so proud of the alumni who have come together to start this affinity group which will build off of a previous student-led initiative which started at Friends Academy in the early 1990s. Back then, BAFA was a grassroots effort focused on creating a supportive community and fostering meaningful relationships amongst minority students across grade levels. Although it was never formalized, the reintroduction of BAFA now aims to continue that important work and establish its legacy at Friends for generations to come."

Over the last year we have shared stories about our experiences as former students, identified elements we would want to improve for future students, and learned more about the issues of race, equity, justice, and inclusion at FA. Our discussions solidified the importance of what we were doing and why we needed to establish a group that could work with the school to intentionally support current BIPOC students and re-engage BIPOC alumni. Through our collective efforts, BAFA aims to develop an inter-generational network created for BIPOC students and alumni.

Are you a member of the BIPOC alumni community? We would love to hear from you and expand our membership. Please scan the QR code to fill out our alumni survey!

Wishing you and your families all the best,

BAFA Co-Clerks Maceda Alemu '09, Jessica Marie Rizzi '09, and Keyonne Session '13

Scan here!



We want to hear from you!

Scan the QR code to fill out your alumni survey!

Questions?

Email BAFA@fa.org for more information!

DAVID ROSENBERG '73

"DAVE THE RAVE"

By Lauren Putter Menzin '81, P '13, '16

It is no wonder David Rosenberg '73 has been approached more than once to make a movie of his life. After the first few moments of speaking with David (during two hour-long interviews) and learning intimate details of his personal journey, it quickly became apparent that his story truly needs the more expansive platform of a book or film to do it justice. His life unfolds like a suspenseful page turner, with twists and turns and a plot line that evokes a plethora of emotions and life lessons.

Upon first impression, David seems to be a larger-than-life character who, after surviving a very difficult upbringing, internalized the unending gratitude he has for those who supported him by dedicating his life to help others. One might expect to feel intimidated by David's booming, confident voice, admitted muscular physique (a nod to his past as a champion powerlifter) and quick wit; however, his humble manner and friendly banter instantly puts one at ease. Delightfully engaging, David continuously resorts to self-deprecating humor (instigating many a chuckle) in a well-intentioned attempt to understate his many inspiring achievements. He works hard to appeal to others to see him as just an ordinary guy – but his experiences and actions suggest otherwise.

David first came to Friends Academy in the 9th grade, when a summer camp coach connected him with the school. From the beginning,

he was involved with sports, playing football, baseball and basketball (eventually as captain). Unsure about the funding, he said, "I never paid to go there...and it was not a scholarship."

At this time, his parents were going through a "nasty" divorce and were reportedly trying to get David, a young teen, to testify. Around the same time, his mother, Dolores, disclosed the fact that Charlie Rosenberg, the man who he thought was his dad, was in fact not David's real father. He said, "Normally you would think such news would have a negative impact on a 15-year-old, but all I felt was relief."

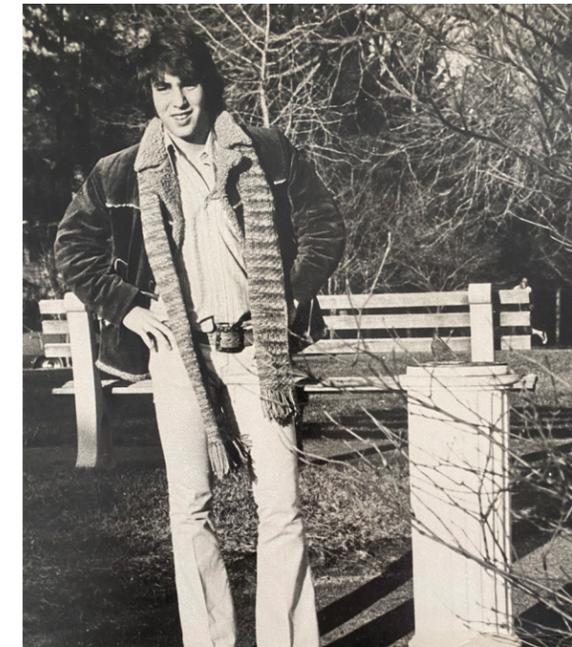
Soon after, on his 16th birthday, David found his mother, an addict who had made past suicide attempts, at 3 a.m. in her room "lying in a bed of fire." He remembers frantically pulling her and his baby brother to safety, "nearly passing out from smoke inhalation." Despite his efforts, David reports that his mother tragically walked back into the bedroom and

died when the ceiling collapsed on her. He recalled the overwhelming responsibility of having to deal with the coroner, funeral home, and police and fire departments for the next 48 hours. When Charlie Rosenberg was finally reached, he came to pick up his biological son (2-year-old Jason), but "it was not an option" for David to go live with him. He admitted, "We never got along even when I thought he was my father [...] to be very honest, my life was actually enhanced after my mom passed, because it was very challenging living with an alcoholic and drug addict. I used to have to come home (from school) and then care for my infant brother." At Meeting for Worship after his mother's passing, David repeated the last lines from the Rudyard Kipling poem he had read called *If*: "...yours is the Earth and everything that's in it, And - which is more you'll be a Man, my son!".

David soon found himself without a home or family during a very pivotal time in a young person's life. He remembers his friends, fellow FA students Vince Mazzeo, Brian Cressey and Cliff Gardner who were good to him. "I stayed in people's homes, sometimes garages. I lived in Queens briefly [and] I never broke in, but back in '72 sometimes people would leave car doors open and I would go in to sleep." Although many years have passed, David still marvels at the support he was given by the people around him, "All I know is there is no way that someone like me should have been able to stay at a place like Friends Academy," citing anger management issues, and frequent fights.

At this time, Mr. Martin Jacobson (the FA Athletic Director) had come to his aid, giving him guidance after David tried "to throw a ref out a window." He replays the critical day that Mr. Jacobson approached him in the cafeteria and asked, 'where are you sleeping tonight? I acted cool and answered, 'wherever I want.'" David recounted how Mr. Jacobson took him across campus to the gym, laying out blankets and pillows for him. "He gave me 3 lockers, towels, even clothing from the lost and found. That was some high-quality stuff," he laughed. "He [Mr. Jacobson] gave me the keys to the universe – in my case it was the keys to the gym. He said, 'I don't want you sleeping outside anymore,' and that I could stay there whenever I wanted." David sighed, "So my days of sleeping outdoors, in cars, and telephone booths came to an end. I would stay with friends or on campus and Mr. Jacobson would bring me food...He was like my guardian angel and to this day I don't know why. I was very lucky."

Promptly presenting his contact information, David insisted that the story should focus on Mr. Jacobson. "I always thought I was special because he helped me, but now I realize he is the special one. Who knows how many other people he has helped." Marty Jacobson, retired since 2005, lives between Florida and New York with his wife Claudia (who taught for 35 years in the Huntington School district and in the 3rd grade at Friends Academy). He was eager to talk about David and the special kinship they shared. "When David was a student in high school he had to deal with a tremendous amount of adversity, things were difficult for him at home, way beyond what



During his time at Friends Academy in the 1970s, David often slept in the gym at the urging of former Athletic Director Martin Jacobson.

“

[Mr. Jacobson] gave me the keys to the universe – in my case it was the keys to the gym."



David Rosenberg '73 (second from left) with daughter Jennifer, wife Barbara, and son Daniel

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I was able to see the goodness in David, a kindness and inner strength that enabled him to overcome a lot of the sadness."

a normal teenager should have to go through. He had never met his [real] father and his mother was an addict. Many times, David brought his anger to school with him, but I was able to see a goodness in David, a kindness and inner strength that enabled him to overcome a lot of the sadness.

"At 16, he found himself homeless [...] and it was that inner strength that helped him get through and do so much with his life. He has accomplished an incredible amount. He took those tough times, learned and grew and has done so much for others."

Mr. Jacobson, the first to arrive at work in the morning and the last to leave at night, would see David shooting hoops at all hours. "He loved athletics and was a basketball junkie." They got to talking about the "dysfunctional environment" at home (when David still had a home) and it became clear why he was reluctant to leave school in the evenings. When Mr. Jacobson offered the option of sleeping in the wrestling room he made it clear, "what you can't do is turn on the lights at night to shoot hoops" because there were a lot of people living on campus. He admitted, "I had only been working there five years; I was young myself...it was kind of risky to give a teenager a key to the gym, but it was a different time and place. David seemed to love it - he was a gym rat and this was a safe and stable space for him." Mr. Jacobson noted, "The school was good to David. Ted Withington (headmaster at the time) knew he loved it there and let David finish without having money for tuition." He referred to many others at FA who had helped, including the Mazzeo and Mernit families who had children in David's class. Both Mr. Jacobson and David concurred

that coach Cal Wynot had been very "kind and generous" as well.

Coincidentally, Mr. Jacobson's own life experience at the school mirrored David's in the sense that "Friends Academy had also been a beacon of light" for him. He began his 38-year career in 1967. "Ted Withington interviewed me in his kitchen offering \$5,800 for a head coach and Middle School teaching position. Great Neck South was offering much more money, but Ted promised a 20-year plan including a chance to diversify the student and faculty body, the title of Athletic Director in three years and the opportunity to bring the women's athletic department up to par with the men's.

Jacobson said, "I owe FA so much. I love the school." He went on to share the story of how his first wife had left when his children were only five and eight years of age. "In that situation, I could not stay in our house in Huntington and take care of two small kids and was (luckily) given the opportunity to rent an apartment on campus." Faculty housing was on the edge of the soccer field and Marty recalled how the students would come to play soccer with his children and the Upper School principal and his wife, Frank and Myrna Brogan, would invite the family to their home for weekly dinners.

"It was all good. Every Thursday I went to Meeting (for worship) and every Friday night I went to temple." With exuberance he asks "How do you say thank you enough? The entire Friends Academy community raised my kids." His boys Brett and Todd attended FA from Pre-K to 12th grade. "I am proud of them. They are both dads who do good things and teach their kids the right stuff. You hope they pass on what you taught them, that is

our legacy." He pointed out countless acts of kindness he witnessed at FA over the years, recounting stories like the time he and a colleague drove to a student's home to assist a mother who was going to sell their furniture to help pay for tuition.

As humble as his mentor and friend, David also talked of several people at Friends who stood up for him, including Sarah Vuillet (his Spanish teacher and guidance counselor) who "helped him attend Villanova to play basketball." David met his beloved wife of 44 years, Barbara, there, "I could go through life 10 times and never meet another woman like her." They headed to San Diego after college where he worked for a year to save money for law school at the University of San Diego. In 1981, he built his law practice, now Rosenberg, Shpall & Zeigen, a full-service firm specializing in physician and healthcare provider defense. The first major "million-dollar" case David won was for an OB/GYN

whose wife was a physician from New York. In a twist of fate, he asked if she might know Peter Sternlieb, another doctor from there (whose name David's mother had disclosed 10 years earlier as his biological father). He was "stunned" when the woman answered affirmatively that he was a brilliant internist who had actually been her mentor.

In his mid-30s David finally learned the truth and made the call to Dr. Peter Sternlieb. "He is gone now, but I will never forget, his words will stay with me forever. He said, 'You are my son, you are my first-born child.'"

When they arranged their first encounter, David discovered that his biological father ironically lived in Upper Brookville, only three miles from where he had gone to school at Friends Academy. "So that is how I met my father. We developed a very nice relationship. One of the very first things I did after reuniting with Mr. Jacobson was to have my father meet him, because I wanted my dad to know the man who made such a difference in my life. My father was very appreciative and I think a little embarrassed because he had been unaware of the type of life I had lived."

David has spent his life lending a hand to others. "I am just an average guy with people around me who have been incredible, who helped take me from adversity when I did not have many choices." Becoming a member of the Board of Directors for San

Diego Youth Services at the young age of 25, he was instrumental in founding "The Storefront," a shelter for homeless teens, which either reunites them with their families or provides safe placement. In 1984, just a few years out of law school, David helped to rent a storefront in downtown San Diego. "We got it started. I bought 20 cots and now the shelter has a \$10.5 million annual budget." He said, "I did it with Mr. Jacobson in mind. I wanted to thank him for what he had done for me. We have served well over 10,000 kids."

As the shelter began to grow, David got the idea to fundraise by auctioning off autographed celebrity T-shirts, album covers, and other items. "I wrote to everybody, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennet, Liza Minelli, The Rolling Stones." Bruce Springsteen signed several T-shirts each year and has helped to raise a lot of money. David refers to the Springsteen album, "The Ghost of Tom Joad" (based on migrant workers from the Steinbeck novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*), as embodying the underlying theme that people often treat "those less fortunate not only with disrespect, but with a lack of dignity."

One of the songs on the album, 'Balboa Park', deals with a "Hispanic, immigrant teenager who comes here to raise money to support his family and winds up becoming a prostitute—an ongoing problem in this area." David is particularly proud of the organization's neighborhood outreach program, which works around the clock "getting the kids off the street and into the shelter...It means so much to me." He continued, "I know what it is like to be homeless.... So, I wanted to get these kids off the street."

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David (right) was inspired by Bruce Springsteen (left), particularly his album "The Ghost of Tom Joad." Over the years, Springsteen has helped raise money for David's shelter.



TOP: David brought his sons to Friends Academy in 2005 and ran into Mr. Jacobson. David and Mr. Jacobson continue to see each other regularly.

BOTTOM: David and his daughter Jennifer – both Jennifer and David's son Daniel are champions at steer wrestling and barrel riding. His wife Barbara ranks second in the nation in mounted shooting.

David presented the stark facts: “If you get a teen off the streets within the first six months, you have a good shot that they can have a life. Six months to a year, you are fighting a different battle. Over a year, these teenagers become drug addicts, prostitutes, criminals and then they are dead. I have worked really hard every year, but the reality is there are always more kids. If you do a good job, the work is never done.” In a more somber tone, David disclosed that he, himself, has never tried a drink, cigarette, or drugs. “I grew up surrounded by [people using] narcotics, pills, and alcohol. It did not have a good ending – they were all very unhappy people...Charlie Rosenberg ended up putting a gun to his mouth and committing suicide.”

In 2005 (over 30 years after graduating from Friends) on a trip to New York with his two sons, David took them to campus, deciding they were old enough to learn more about his youth.

“I had not seen Mr. Jacobson in all those years but always appreciated him. Sometimes you don't realize the impact people have. Naturally, the first place I took them was the gym and it was a Saturday and no one was around.” As fate would have it, Mr. Jacobson was in his office and recalled “hearing the basketball and seeing David and his two kids.” They both remember that remarkable day they reunited with much fondness and emotion. Mr. Jacobson brought the kids down to the locker room to show them where David had slept, divulging stories about “Dave The Rave” (his nickname in high school).

Meeting up the next morning to play tennis, Mr. Jacobson recounted, “When David went to get some water with Daniel, I said to his other son, Joey, you must be really proud of your father and he answered, ‘Well, he is not really MY dad, he is ALL of our dads.’” When Mr. Jacobson asked what he meant, Joey shared that he had been homeless and that David and his family had taken him in. Mr. Jacobson said, “It brought tears to my eyes. Here is a kid who David took under his wing to help shape his life.”

The storyline was all too familiar, as Joey's parents were addicts and David, his basketball coach, had given him a stable place to call home during his high school years. David and his wife Barbara have informally “adopted or taken in various kids” over the years...We are like an open house.”

Barbara (second in the nation for mounted shooting) also has assisted many kids through her work with the rodeo. It is obvious that a strong work ethic has been passed down to their biological children, Daniel (a paramedic, firefighter, and ferrrier) and Jennifer (an Equine Veterinarian), both champion steer wrestling and barrel riders. David has been able to recreate a haven reminiscent of the one that gave him shelter, with a gym and weight room extension of his home, tennis and (needless to say) two basketball courts. “I am so grateful, I still can do what I loved to do when I was 16 when I lived in the gym shooting hoops.”



Bruce Springsteen (center) has visited David's shelter, “The Storefront,” on several occasions, and gave some of the teens impromptu piano lessons.

“I have been blessed in many ways, financially as well, but how can one really be happy with their own success and not see the kids sleeping in the streets, kids who are abused – you've got to try to do something. Maybe you can't change the world but we can each change it a little bit. I know what it is like to be looked down upon as a street person or in my jobs as a busboy, waiter, or valet. If you have not lived it, maybe you don't understand the importance of doing something – whether it is donating money or getting involved in some small way.”

David, who also has given inspirational talks to high school students, is still very much involved in continued fundraising and legal work for the shelter. Over the years, he has developed a personal relationship with Bruce Springsteen and his family, having attended 181 of his concerts

worldwide and [has appeared in a documentary](#). The messages and philosophy behind the song lyrics have been a great influence to David throughout his life.

Bruce has visited The Storefront, generously giving the kids impromptu piano lessons (and even front row seats to a concert). When he asked David what motivated him to do this work he answered, “You once said that individual freedom without a connection to friends, family and community is meaningless, and I took that to heart.” David added, “Bruce always says, ‘no one wins unless we all win.’”

Marty Jacobson was able to see David's accomplishments firsthand when invited to the shelter and yearly fundraiser (they currently visit one another yearly and speak on the phone weekly).

“It was phenomenal. I am incredibly proud of David. One of my favorite movies is ‘Pay It Forward’ and that is what David did – he paid it forward! He knew what it was to be homeless, not have food and shelter, and he created a place that helped thousands of kids. I am so happy for him – he has a great family and is doing well.”

David even flew the Jacobsons out to attend a party intended to thank all of the people who had helped him in his life. Similarly modest about the ongoing impact he has had on others, Mr. Jacobson is remiss to mention the Friends Academy Sports Scholarship in his name (a thank you from other former students). He asserts, “This is David's story, I am just happy to be a small part of helping him – I love him. I am very fortunate to know David and so many great kids who have come through Friends and done great things.”

David, who spoke at both of Mr. Jacobson's retirement parties relates that he is almost 65 and still overwhelmed by the “kindness and generosity” he and others showed him. “To this day I don't know why. I was not a star player on one of his teams, I wasn't even very likeable – not the kind of kid parents would want their children to be around with my lifestyle and background.”

With his resonant, yet gentle voice he expresses his gratitude with conviction, “I want to convey my appreciation for the kindness people have given me at Friends Academy and tell others to take the time to reflect and count your blessings, because I have been so enriched (by them). Everyone should have a Marty Jacobson in their lives. Literally my heart is full of love and appreciation for what he and others throughout my life have done for me. I am blessed... beyond blessed.”

MELISSA KORN '02

HOW FAR WOULD A PARENT GO?

By Laura Schoeffel P '17, '20, '22

Melissa Korn can tell you more than you may want to know about college admissions—she has been in the thick of it for about six years as a higher education reporter for The Wall Street Journal. When the Varsity Blues scandal erupted on March 12, 2019, Melissa knew immediately that this story was not just big news, it was explosive: the largest college admissions scam ever prosecuted by the Justice Department. What was striking was the scope of the investigation, the sheer audacity, and how so many successful, wealthy parents, including celebrities, were entangled in the indictments. From New York City to San Francisco, Aspen to LA, parents had been rounded up in early morning raids, investigated and scrutinized, along with college counselors and coaches from storied universities like Stanford, Yale, and USC.

"It was a circus," and Korn and her WSJ colleague, Jennifer Levitz, were in the front row. "We didn't



*Melissa Korn '02 co-authored **Unacceptable: Privilege, Deceit & The Making of the College Admissions Scandal**. [Headshot courtesy of Erin Silber.]*

break the story, nobody did. It came from the prosecutors." But Melissa did happen to be first byline on the initial stories published by her paper, and when she and Levitz broke the news about the tipster who set the whole thing in motion, it propelled them into the national spotlight: "It snowballed in the best way possible." Korn was instinctually drawn to investigating and writing the whole story. "I think every writer has a vague dream of writing a book...and the day the story broke, I heard from two literary agents." She called up Levitz, whom she barely knew, and asked, "Do you want to write a book with me?" Korn and Levitz spent that



I think every writer has a vague dream of writing a book... and the day the story broke, I heard from two literary agents."

weekend holed up, writing the proposal for what would become their acclaimed book, *Unacceptable: Privilege, Deceit, and the Making of the College Admissions Scandal* (Portfolio/Penguin, 2020).

"That weekend changed my life," says Korn, describing a whirlwind year of reporting the story as it unfolded, crisscrossing the country, knocking on doors, trying to connect the dots. Her whiteboard looked like something out of a TV detectives' crime scene diagram: a spider's web of lines connecting people and places, and the details of the scheme, dating back to 2008: "We were kind of like detectives, trying to piece the whole thing together."

The result of painstaking, hard work, *Unacceptable* is a riveting story that not only lays out the facts of the investigation, but digs relentlessly into the backstories of the players involved. For Korn and Levitz, it was important to do more than paint a picture of criminality. They wanted their account to humanize the people involved, which is why their book is so compelling and, yes, relatable. "You don't want to believe you are like somebody who would cross the line like this, but we all have our insecurities as parents, our concerns, our competitiveness," says Korn. It is the extent to which some parents were willing to go to give their children a leg up, that truly fascinated Korn. "Ultimately, I think many of these people saw what they were doing as buying a service"—like hiring a math tutor or a violin teacher. But then it became a slippery slope, an act of desperation, as parents crossed the line, committing fraud to get their kids into college. "As long as these admit rates are below 10%, there will be people willing to do anything to get there."

So, how did a self-described awkward middle-schooler become such a tenacious journalist? "My parents got *Newsday*, *FT* (The Financial Times), *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* every day, so I was always surrounded by newspapers and news; I always loved to write, I loved English, reading." Melissa gravitated to those interests at Friends Academy, joining in fourth grade. Her brother, Dan Korn ('99), was a few years ahead, paving the way at the school newspaper: "My brother was the editor of *Inkwell* my freshman year...there may have been a little nepotism with story assignments," laughs Korn. She wrote her way to become *Inkwell*'s editor in her senior year. FA was

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TOP: Korn came to Friends Academy as a fourth grader and gravitated towards English and writing.

*BOTTOM: Korn and her father (right) and brother Dan '99, who was the editor of *Inkwell* while at Friends.*

“

The way Friends was there to support me was something I knew I could never get at any other school.”



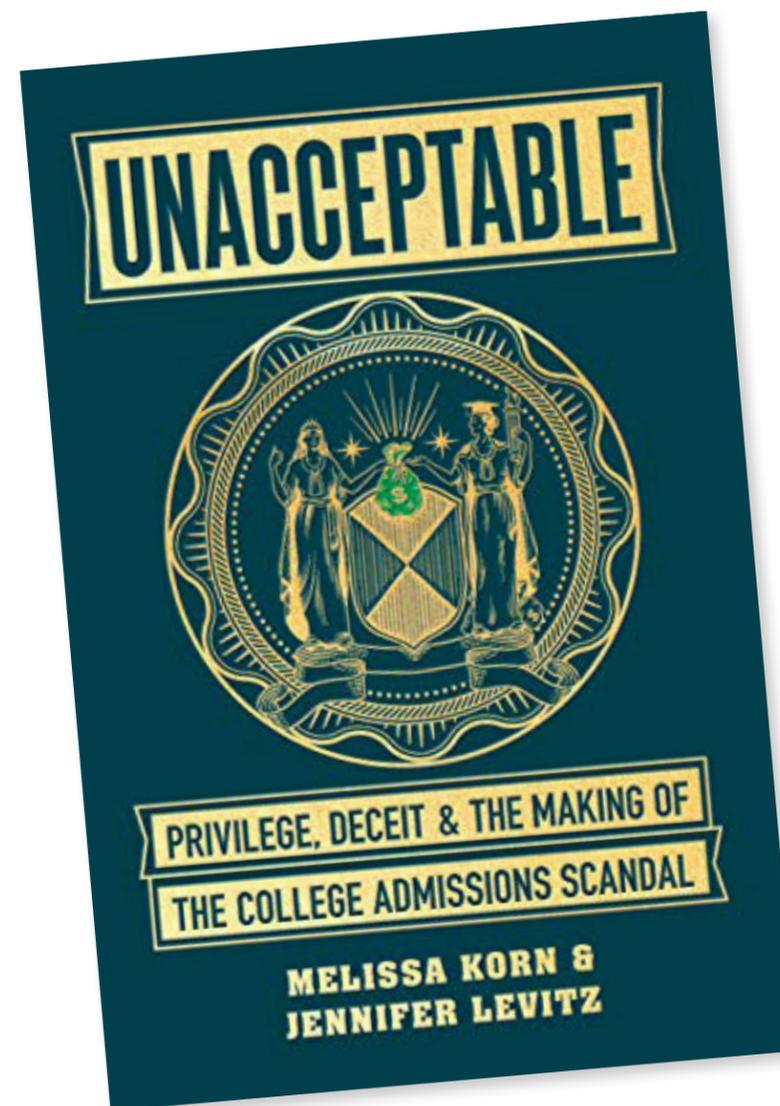
Korn with Director of College Counseling Ed Dugger, who helped Korn continue her academic journey at Cornell.

not always easy for Melissa, and she talks about having ups and downs, even making the decision to apply to boarding schools in sophomore year. And then her mother was tragically killed in a car accident. Everything changed in that moment. “My mother had been a very active member of the parent community. Everyone knew her.” In her grief, Melissa chose to stay: “The way Friends was there to support me was something I knew I could never get at any other school.” She came to value the close-knit community, and the teachers who intuitively knew when she needed to talk, or sit silently in an empty classroom. She values that her teachers supported her in figuring out her own sense of self. “Looking back, I am so grateful for my Friends experience.”

With her deep understanding of the college admissions process, one might wonder what it was like for Melissa: “Stressful!” She was in love with Yale, and hoped to join her brother there, but was deferred and ultimately rejected. Ed Dugger was her college counsellor. “Ed got to know me really well, and he helped me make tough decisions.” The best decision, she says, was accepting Cornell, where she joined The Cornell Daily Sun, a serious publication: “It was absolutely the best training I could ever have for this career.” On her Junior year abroad at Oxford, she wrote for Cherwell, more of a tabloid, but a fun experience. Then it was straight to Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, which led to her first job at Dow Jones, and then a staff position at their premier publication, The Wall Street Journal.

No doubt, 2020 was a tough year to publish a book, but this may be just the beginning for Unacceptable, which has been optioned for a miniseries. While there is at least one related trial to cover this fall, for Korn, it is a bit of a relief to not be doing two jobs at once. It is enough right now to have a day job and to do right by her young daughter, who is only just beginning her own school journey.

AN EXCERPT FROM UNACCEPTABLE



Kim Miller had a long list of things she'd rather do. Perusing the Arden Fair mall, for one. Spending time with her boyfriend. Anything was more exciting than the heavy gray pages of a college application, for sure.

It was fall 1993, and Miller was sixteen. In upper-middle-class Sacramento, this was what you did at sixteen. You started planning to get into college. Though she was a good student, the prospect scared her. Those little fill-in-the-dot tests were just not her friend. She had already convinced herself she would bomb the SAT. And what would she study? She liked theater and fashion, but “I didn't know what the hell I wanted to do,” she recalls.

But then a minor miracle touched down in her life, a force of nature.

Years later, she would still have his business card, imprinted with future stars, the royal blue letters in all caps with a star in place of the A.

Miller's parents had retained Rick Singer as a private college counselor. She liked him straight off. He was in his early thirties, super fit, energetic, tanned, and conspicuously casual, often in shorts, running shoes, and a windbreaker. He was hired to help her study for the SAT, to weigh her college options, and to complete those intimidating applications.

Singer led strategy sessions at the formal dining room table in her family's pretty Mediterranean-style home on leafy Forty-Sixth Street in East Sacramento. Just as important as nailing the test, he told her, was shaping her image.

“What is going to really make you stand out on paper to these schools?” he would probe. “What are you going to bring to the table, Kim Miller? Who are you? Who is Kim Miller?”

No one had ever talked to Miller like that before. She liked it. His words, his coach-like “you got this, kid” attitude, empowered her. She discovered a growing strength inside, and a new, kick-the-door-down confidence that she could choose who she would be.

ED PAGE '85

EACH ONE, REACH ONE

By Elizabeth Siris Winchester '91

Ed Page '85 grew up in Uniondale, attending Friends from maybe first grade through 12th (please cut him some slack – at age 53, it's hard for him to remember exactly!). After completing a bachelor's degree from M.I.T., the native New Yorker headed West for graduate school – first for a master's degree in Electrical Engineering from UC Berkeley, and then for a master's degree in Business Administration from Stanford University. Ed has mostly been in California ever since, now residing in Oakland, where he works as the President and COO of Relation Insurance Services. Ed's success as Relation's COO includes growing the company from \$70 million to \$170 million in just eight years – and expects the number to reach as high as \$300 million by year's end. But the biggest part of his success, said Ed, is "the cultural aspect of it – people saying it's a great place to work."

Ed has been a leader in advocating for diversity in the workplace and giving back to future generations.



Ed Page '85 is the President and COO of Relation Insurance Services in California.

He credits his Friends Academy foundation for equipping him with the tools to handle the many educational and professional challenges he has faced. We talked about that, as well as jazz, cooking, and Kobe, Ed's "Weimador" puppy, in an interview for *The Meeting House*, during which Ed also shared his advice for current students: "Don't take it all too seriously. Your life is going to go in a different direction than you think."

Nice to meet you! I've heard you remembered by former Friends students (thanks, Brian Doyle '86!) as being "quiet but brilliant, with a funny, dry sense of humor" and even as "early onset intellectual." Accurate?

I do think I have a good sense of

humor, so that one I'll take, and probably the intellectual-brilliant part, there's probably a little bit of truth in that as well. It's interesting – I'm both an introvert and an extrovert. My natural tendency is to be more introverted and I'm actually someone who likes to spend a fair amount of time by himself, but there's a whole other side of me that is very extroverted and very social as well. I tend to be the opposite of the people I'm around.

What activities were you most interested in at Friends?

Running track, which was really cool back then – not so much cool because I was super good at it, but it was more because we had a really good track

team at the time. We had a graduating class of only around 80 people, but our track team was among the best in the state. A large part of that was because we had a couple people who were really good, like my good friend Bert Payne, who was one of the fastest runners in the state and helped carry us. Everyone was really dedicated and it taught me a lot about discipline and team sports – the whole team dynamic.

How about music? You've also been a jazz pianist for 30 years. What got you into that, and did you play at Friends?

One, music was always playing [in my house]. And two, I have a godfather who is also named Ed – Eddie actually – he was a jazz pianist and drummer. He played drums with the famous jazz singer Alberta Hunter ages ago. He was a music teacher in Brooklyn for an ungodly amount of years. He was part of the influence as well. I remember him showing me piano when I was really young.

I also played the trumpet when I was at Friends and even thought about becoming a professional jazz musician, but that's a hard way to make a living...so I didn't do it. Then I switched to piano in college.

When did your interest in jazz take off?

It was in high school when I really started getting into jazz – I played the trumpet. I always listened to jazz but I was more of an R&B kind of person. I listened to Earth, Wind and Fire, Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder and that kind of stuff. I liked jazz, I listened to it growing up, but then one day it just clicked for me and I just couldn't live without it. For me it's a lot like wine. Wine is an acquired taste and one day if you get it, you get it and you just can't live without it. It's the same thing for me with jazz.

Which Friends teachers and experiences most influenced you?

First, Friends has had a lot of great teachers but in particular Doc Richardson, who taught science for many years. I know he passed away a few years ago, which made me sad. He was such a special guy and helped open my eyes to the wonders of science. He also was a guy who had a really dry sense of humor, which I appreciated.

Ken Austin was another guy. I was in middle school and I still remember an English class when he brought in lyrics to a song. It was a song written by Stevie Wonder, and for me, since Friends is primarily white, having something that kind of was my cultural background being shown and brought to the class made a real impact. I have a real strong black male role model – my dad, we're super close and he's a super guy, but having another black male role model at school was pretty cool.



Ed developed an interest in jazz in high school when he played the trumpet, before switching to the piano in college. "I just couldn't live without it," he said of jazz.

What was your experience as a student of color like at Friends?

The good news is that Friends, relative to most places, is more welcoming and embracing of diversity. There were a couple ugly things that happened to me. I can't remember his name actually, but one guy said some racist things to me, and I remember we got into a fight about it when I was in high school. But that was the exception and not the rule.

The other thing that was good is that there was a community there. The challenge is that if you're Black in any type of scenario, if you're literally the only one – which for me has often been the case in my career – that's really challenging, but if you have a community, even if it's a minority community, that makes a big difference. And one of the things that was cool was that there was a sizable minority there, so there was a community. If I think back to guys I went to high school with – Chris Dowling, Darryl Preston and Bert (I'm leaving some guys out) – we had our own community, and it was enough that we could kind of do our own thing and bond and feel as if we belonged and that was important. Overall, it was a good experience, but you do always have that undercurrent of feeling like you're a little bit of an outsider. It's not that Friends did anything wrong, that's just kind of how things are.

Is that why you wanted to join the board of Flourish Agenda, an organization that has programs for youth of color?

They have a great program called Camp Akili where they take the kids off to camp and they go through a program of self-discovery and how they should relate to the world. It's a healing program to help them understand all the effects of racism and classism, how that affects them, how they internalize it, and how to deal with that. So, it's really pretty powerful stuff and interesting to see the kids before and after. It can be quite emotional overall, and it's really great when you see the kids that you reach and they get going in a more positive direction. It's also heartbreaking when you see the kids that are really good kids – and frankly some of the things that happen to kids are just awful – and they can't get out of that, and that's heartbreaking too.

When and why did giving back to future generations become a priority to you?

It kind of always has been. Well, both of my parents are extraordinarily good



Ed, with girlfriend Felicia, and her kids Sarah, 14, and Christian, 16. "I literally date the most beautiful woman in the world, both inside and out," gushed Ed.

people. My dad was a professor at Brooklyn College and I saw how he took an interest in the students and helped them point their lives in good, positive directions and I wanted to do similar types of things. I'm lucky, I'm blessed beyond words and because I've been so blessed, I feel like I have a responsibility to others to help them go down a positive path as well. My success comes from a lot of people who helped me along the way and I just feel it's my responsibility to do the same.

How do you give back to future generations and how can others do the same?

Find whatever is passionate to you. For me, working with kids and helping youth has always been something I've been passionate about. That's why I've worked with Flourish Agenda for such a long period of time. I like to find the opportunities to help people who are coming up. At Relation, I'm always on hand to help some of the younger folks to rise up, get into insurance and get into the company. I also did that when I was at Bain & Company – if you've been blessed, it's your responsibility to help others who have not yet been as blessed to take a step in your direction.

How did Friends prepare you for your many post-high school academic experiences?

Friends was a great preparation for all of that. So, when I went to M.I.T., which is an extremely intense intellectual environment, I felt well prepared for that. I think that was true throughout my education. I felt like I had a really strong foundation to build on.

Why did you go into the insurance industry?

I stumbled into it like most people do. There are very few people who say, "I really want to be an insurance person—that's my life's calling." I had

worked for a while in a lot of different industries. I am hired by private equity firms to help run companies that they own. After I helped turn around one company and sell it about 10 years ago, I met the guys who owned what was then called Ascension, now called Relation, and they asked me to come talk to them. I met the CEO, Joe Tatum, who was just a phenomenal guy, and I've always believed in the "who" versus the "what" and that the "who" matters more than the "what." When I met Joe, I could tell he was a great "who," so despite having another job offer that I was planning to take, I took the leap of faith of working with Joe. It's been fantastic and I consider him now like my fourth brother. We had some tough times when we got started and had to turn the company around, but we did something right. We are on a great path now and I'm looking forward to continuing that trend.

You have nearly 25 years of experience at improving companies' operations, finances, strategy and development. As the COO of Relation, you oversee operations, information technology and human resources. What's a typical day like for you, and what do you like most?

Nowadays the days are not that different because I feel like I'm just in front of my computer all day on Zoom calls. Before the pandemic, it was very different. Everything from working to hire new salespeople, which is a big part of our business, to recruiting and integrating mergers and acquisitions (M&A) candidates, to helping to fix operational problems, to getting better financial controls in place, to improving our technology—it's varied every day, which is the thing I like.

I like having a variety of different things to do. A lot of stuff I deal with is people-related stuff these days, which



I've always believed in the 'who' versus the 'what' and the 'who' matters more than the 'what.'"

is a weird departure for me because I am a highly analytical, numbers-driven person. I've found that as you rise up in your career, what happens is the data becomes less and less important and it becomes much more about managing people. I've found that I'm actually pretty good at it, which is not what I would have expected early on in my career.

How big is Relation, and where do you hope to take it?

We're up to more than 700 employees in roughly 50 offices around the country. By the end of the year, [we'll likely be at] more than 1,000 people and probably around 75 offices. Our goal is to triple our revenue over the next five years while building a company that will thrive for 100-plus years. We're on pace for that. We're actually probably going to beat that. We're probably going to be triple the size by the end of this year.

Culture drives every organization and to make sure the organization lasts, it's really critical that we invest in the culture and build the culture. The way in which we're doing it is by making sure the levels of leaders below us have the same cultural values and bringing them up to take on more and more responsibility.

You've said that it's important to create a company culture that is fun. Why?

You only have one life, so you want to spend it doing something enjoyable and if you're not enjoying what you're doing it's hard to do a good job at it. Companies are about people, process, and technology. Great people can overcome poor process and poor technology, but the other two can't overcome poor people. You have to have people who are excited, who enjoy the culture, and frankly, fun is what we all want to have. That's what we're here for, so if you're not having fun you probably should be doing something different.

You've been described as a leader in encouraging diversity in the workplace. Why is this a goal and how have you worked to achieve it?

One, there's a saying: 'Each one, reach one.' The whole idea of reaching back to bring someone along with you. I think one of the worst things you can do when you reach a certain level of

success is to be an island and not think about the people coming up behind you. I'm where I am because other people brought me along and helped me along, so it's important to continue that trend. Part of it is also that in the insurance industry there are literally almost no African American leaders. I'm committed to trying to change that. I think also just being upfront and talking about it is important. Just to give you an example, when we had the George Floyd situation over the summer and the Black Lives Matter movement, we hosted a town hall on what happened and I shared a presentation with the whole company about my life, my experience, and what it's like to be an African American man in this society and in this industry, and then we had a discussion about it. I think it was really well received because not many people were having that deep of a

discussion. I think being able to be in a position to encourage people to talk and reflect and think about what is going on, is one of the things that I've been trying to do.

By the numbers, your success includes helping to grow Relation from a \$70 million to \$170 million company in just eight years. How do you define your success in the workplace?

I think by the end of the year, we're going to be somewhere between \$250 and \$300 million. From just that metric, we're doing well. But for me, the biggest part of success is the cultural aspects of it – people saying it's a great place to work. By creating a culture where people really feel that they can be and do their best...that's what success looks like, and I feel that that success drives the financial success. I focus on that first part and if we do that, I think all the other stuff will happen and I think we're doing a pretty good job.

What do you like most about your job?

Honestly, the people. For me, it goes back to talking about Friends and my experience being on the track team. I like being on a team that's winning and doing good things with good people. That's how I feel with Relation. It's a good set of folks that I consider not only colleagues but friends as well. Doing good things, having success with your friends, that's really cool and that's what I like. I also like the variety of things that I do every day. I'm also super excited about the path that we're going down. When you feel you're on a winning team doing something special, it's hard not to be excited about it.

What is your life like outside of work?

I like to cook. There's a spicy Asian salmon dish that's one of my current

favorites. Lately, we've been making black truffle risotto with seared scallops while truffles were in season.

I also collect wine – I've got about 1,100 bottles in my wine cellar these days. I try to stay pretty physically active – I ride on my Peloton fairly frequently and try to find other ways to stay in shape, like hiking. I also like fast cars but haven't been on a track for some time.



I like people trying to lift each other up instead of tearing each other down and that's what I felt at Friends."

Tell me about your puppy-office mate!

She is a "Weimador," a mix between a Weimaraner and a Labrador and she's super smart and super high energy. One of the reasons why I got her is so we could go hiking together. Her name is Kobe (named after Kobe Bryant), [and will be a year old] on June 20. She's my office mate during the pandemic, and she gets super excited when my girlfriend (Felicia) comes around!

What advice do you have for today's students?

Don't take it too seriously. Your life is going to go in a different direction than you think. Enjoy the time you

have in high school. It should be some of the best times of your life. The time in college too. And, it's too early to know what you're really going to be ultimately passionate about. Explore and try different things and see what grabs you.

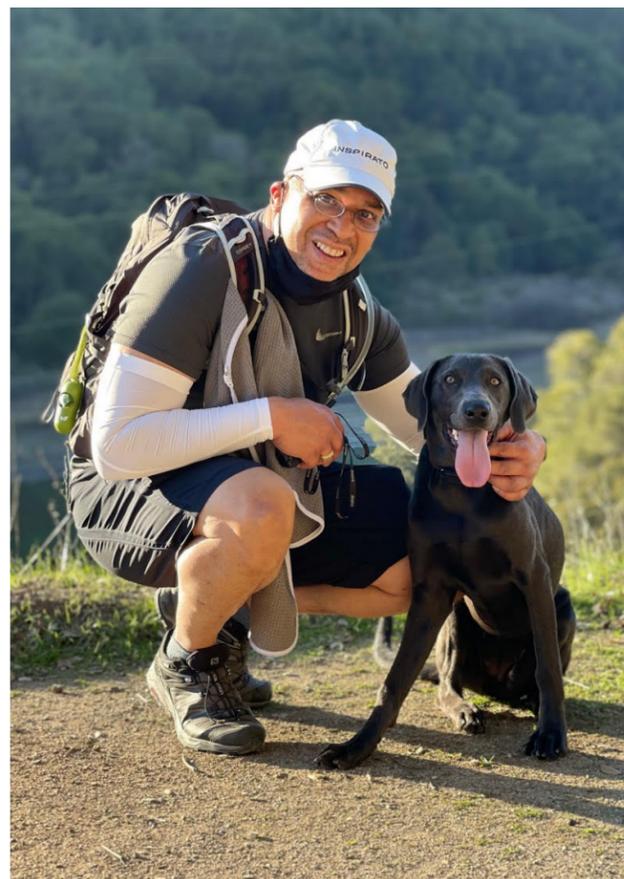
Would/do you encourage students to pursue a career in the insurance industry?

Insurance is a great career, which is not what I would have thought. And it's also an industry where the workforce is aging out so there are great opportunities for younger people coming in. It takes a little while to get going, but like anything that's worthwhile, if you get into it and work at it for a while there are great long-term rewards. Frankly, it can provide a great lifestyle.

Last words about Friends?

I do think it's a special place. It has a special feeling about it. It's been a long time since I've been on campus, but the thing I do like is there's a sense of positivity there. Some places are dark and have negative energy, but Friends has a really positive energy, which I really appreciated. It really gave you the sense that you could accomplish things. I felt like I had a very strong foundation to build on.

Also, although I really couldn't call Friends a diverse place, what I liked about my class is everybody pretty much got along. Did everyone get along? No, but the different cliques kind of all clicked together in different ways. I like people trying to lift each other up instead of tearing each other down and that's what I felt at Friends.



Ed and his dog Kobe enjoying life in California. "There's a reason why so many people live in California," he said.

VIRTUAL REUNIONS

-65th Reunion-

1955

Led by Art Geoffrion and Naomi Dempsey, the Class of 1955 joined together via Zoom to reconnect and reminisce. Alumni had a chance to view yearbook photos, digital archives, and current life at Friends Academy.



-Pre-50th Reunion-

1970

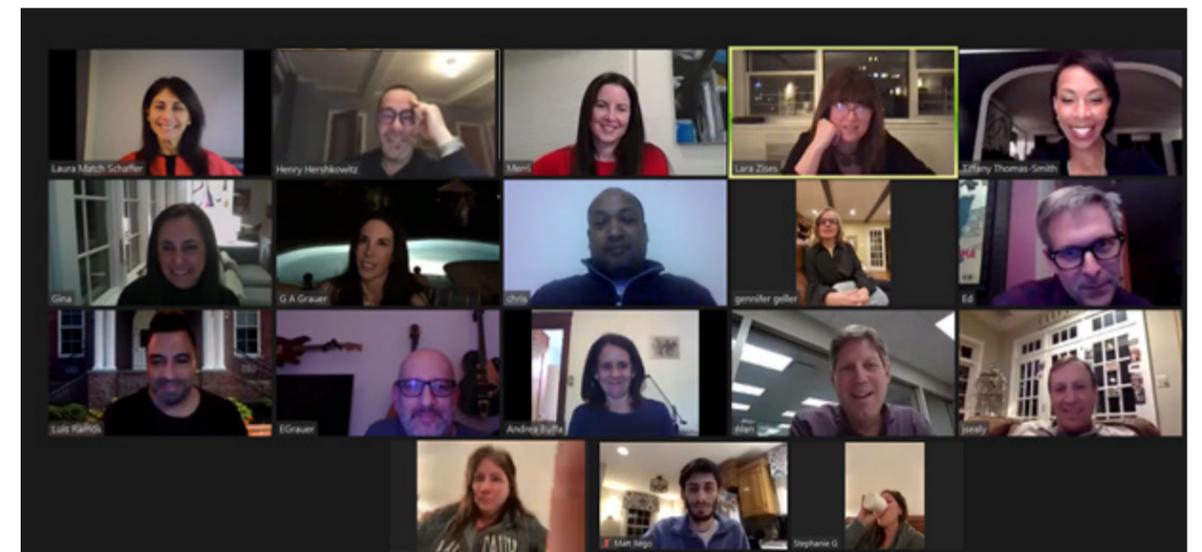
In hopes of an in-person reunion in the months to come, the Class of 1970 reunited for a Pre-Reunion via Zoom. Stories of pandemic perseverance were shared, and optimism for the future.



-35th Reunion-

1985

Alumni from the Class of 1985, as well as other alumni from the 80s, joined together to talk about their days at FA while supporting their classmate, Tiffany Thomas-Smith '85, who is running for Judge in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.



-60th Reunion-

1960

Led by Bob "Boom" Powell, the Class of 1960 gathered via Zoom. It was great to see both alumni who were able to attend the 50th Reunion in person, and those that couldn't make it, see each other again and hear where their lives and careers had taken them.



CLASS NOTES

1940

Florence Milyko Skinner
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nightingalelady@att.net

1942

Helen Crafts Price
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1945

Joy Mayes Brown
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1950

Suzanne Didier DeVito
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1951

George H. Gifford, Jr.
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1952

Margaret Whitney Shiels
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mspauamanok@aol.com

Bob Wilkinson writes that he spent a quiet Christmas with his son Bruce and family. They live less than a mile away from him. For exercise he got an electric bike. "It's great but spills come easily. I have already spent a couple hours

in urgent care. Balance is not what it once was." Bob sent some great senior pictures of things from our era. How many of you have bronzed baby shoes? Remember the mimeograph machine? White buck shoes? (They nearly ruined my feet wearing them as a cheerleader.) Bunny hop. (I loved the Bunny Hop.) Dances where you actually danced with someone. A black phone that you dialed. Getting sodas at the drugstore. I loved Snouder's in Oyster Bay. Getting gas that an attendant pumped, not you! Diaper pins. How about cloth diapers?

Terry Scheetz writes, "We were fortunate to enjoy the spring months on our lovely SC island which is quite a nature preserve so out of doors. Lots of walking, biking and even golf were possible. Oh, including Yoga on the lawn, which is the best! Two of our adult children visited pre-COVID and were stuck there until June which was fine with us. Currently our Grands are doing classes online for college and high school. One just started his first job in Atlanta. We drove safely back to PA, where we are until late October. I am having trouble getting in touch with Wendy Buhner Murphy in Kent, CT. Has anyone heard from her?" (I contacted Wendy and was pleased to know that she is a friend of my daughter-in-law's, sister and brother-in-law who live in Kent. Wendy lives in the same place as always. If anyone wants the latest class list that I have, I will be happy to send it. Please let me know if there are any changes in your contact information.)

Fluff Macy Thayer wrote from her daughter Ann's house in Maine. She will be returning to Florida where she still has a house. "I have my Westin doggie to keep me company. I moved from Long Island last summer and so I no longer pass Friends as I did every day for all those years. Finally, not living on Long Island for the first time in my life! Great to hear about classmates.

Laurie and Valerie Greenman Castleman report that they are fine and protected from the virus in their retirement community. "We gave up our New Hampshire home after 81 summers at the lake—too far and too much trouble at our age. We have four

grandchildren doing college at home. Our oldest granddaughter is living in D.C. going to George Washington Law School, also virtual classes. We celebrated my sister Mary's 90th birthday with a lunch and a Zoom with her son and our son and their families. I am still playing golf regularly and have shot my age a couple of times this year. Enjoy playing occasionally with son John and grandson Andrew. Had a nice call from Ann Galbraith after Jimmie died. So good to hear from her. Maybe we should try a class reunion with Zoom?"

Wendy Buehr Murphy writes that she is not lost. "Except for summer excursions to our island in Maine, I can be found at 109 Geer Rd., South Kent, CT 06785. As if anyone has a choice as to where we are in the last 11 months and counting. But if one has to be stuck somewhere, South Kent is definitely one of the winners. Ask John Baker, '55, my friend and neighbor if you need a second opinion. (John Baker is married to Margaret's daughter-in-law's sister and went to Middlebury) BTW, the name is BUehr.

Robert Shiels and I are sequestered at home and survive with help from son David and Carol who live nearby, shop, and bring food. Daughter Heather comes up from Austin and fills our freezer. We visit in the courtyard. Everyone is afraid of exposing us to COVID. Son Frank takes care of all banking and financial things, etc. Frank has recently remarried after being a widower for a long time. Marie is a lovely person and we are all crazy about her. I am very thankful for a great local library that keeps me furnished with books. I talk to Ann Galbraith Hayward from time to time. She has moved to a wonderful senior community and is very happy. Persistence pays off! I often talk on the phone with Donn Sullivan with the help of his son Mike who lives with him and is a great help. Sadly, I just learned of the passing from cancer of Anne (Nanette) de Fontnouvelle Stasny. She was my neighbor and playmate in Oyster Bay and was the Class of '54 at Friends. Her full obituary can be found in the "In Memoriam" section of this magazine.

Connie Miller called. She is still in Glen Head and is happy to have one of her sons nearby. She, like most of us, has had health concerns but has recovered. We reminisced about our years at Friends. We were cheerleaders together with Ann Galbraith Hayward. Lots of fun! Football games were brutal. So cold! Basketball games were better in the gym.

1953

Stephen Fisher
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1955

Naomi Johnson Dempsey
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(203) 245-7617
naomi.dempsey100@gmail.com

Arthur M. Geoffrion
322-24th Street
Santa Monica, CA 90402
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art.geoffrion@anderson.ucla.edu

1956

Anne Wauchope Smith
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Beaconsfield
Quebec H9W 5Z1,
(514) 695-1951
awsmith297@gmail.com

Wendy Crane Odenweller writes: I am visiting my son and family in Spring, Texas near Houston. We had a large family Thanksgiving. The weather is gorgeous. I am doing well and live on a large lake, Lake Conroe, Montgomery, TX. I still find it hard with my loss of Hank four years ago. If anyone is visiting in the Houston area they are welcome at my home. I have five bedrooms. I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

Bill Jones writes: My wife, of 62 years, and I live in Frisco, TX. We came here

about 7 years ago and love the weather and the friendly folks in our community of about 600 homes. Our community is next to a wonderful golf course with two 18-hole facilities. We are close to all of the facilities that we need for eating out and church, all other daily shopping, maintenance, cars and other necessities. If you find yourself near our town just north of Dallas, please call me and I would love to see you.

Tom Bentein notes that after a wonderful summer in Vermont they drove through a dreadful snow storm on their way back to Florida. Tom recently had surgery for his carpal tunnel and now has full use of his wrist. Their 10+ year old granddaughter, Evan, came to visit for 10 days over Thanksgiving. He and Charlene are fine, not doing much but working around the house and having the pool redone.

Anne and Morley Smith remark that they have barely been out of the house since March 19, when they came back from St. Martin, in fact they were lucky to get back as the airlines were all cancelling the flights.

*If you have an updated email address, please send it to awsmith297@gmail.com

1957

Roger O. Sanders
324 Fishing Lane
Deland, FL 32720
ramblinrog1@yahoo.com

1959

David Seeler
Bayberry, P.O. Box 711
Amagansett, NY 11930
(631) 537-3717
dseeler@thebayberry.com

Tom Carter: Now living in L.A., recently traveled to Dodger Stadium to get COVID vaccination. While there he wanted to show his wife, Romola, some of his old football moves. Thankfully he was restrained at the gate.

John Froehlich: Has decided to quit driving after wrecking two cars (actually

his partner Carol hid the car keys.) They had to cancel their trip to Alaska, as a result of COVID. He sends his best to all.

Judy Reeve: Has retreated to their home at Dartmouth because of Tucson COVID numbers. She still does work with OSHA regarding Desert topography and water issues. Judy's sister Randi Reeve Filoon ('62) moved to Sun Valley. She is taking skiing reservations for next season. Randi, I'll take the large room with a view.

Jim Sykes: Is trying to keep up with his children, who are spread from California to Greenwich, CT, to Miami. All are doing well during this terrible COVID time.

Gerry Bocian: Recently completed hand and knee surgery. He is semi-retired from his company that does medical research.

Timothy O'Connell: Passed away in 2020. He will be remembered by many of us as a fine athlete. He was certainly a guy with great humor. His full obituary can be found in the "In Memoriam" section of this magazine.

Bruce Burrows: Daughter, Kat, is the Arts and Sciences Dean of North Virginia Community College. Daughter Emily is the publications design manager at IHS Markit, a London based ratings firm. Bruce does part time teaching at the University of Alabama, currently lecturing on FDR and The New Deal.

Karen Willets: And husband, Hank, have sold their home in Florida and settled back to their home base in Fort Collins, CO. Karen is recuperating from hip surgery and looking forward to open water swimming long distances again this summer. Small World: In July of 1966, without their realizing it, Karen and Judy Reeve each moved to Colorado at about the same time. They had their first babies about the same time, and named both girls "Kristin."

Robert Pickles: Has scaled down his medical practice and himself as well. He works in a clinic for people without insurance and has lost 80 pounds. Bob has a home in Sanibel, FL, where he will spend the month of March. "I enjoy my winters in Sherrill, NY. I spend much of my time building furniture and constructing wood bowls." He should get together with Dan Voorhees, who works in his shop in Maine making specialty

lumber products. Sounds like a great company – Pickles and Voorhees – “We Mill it, We Make it.”

David Seeler: I am still operating my business, The Bayberry, in Amagansett. My travel plans for Opera in the U.S.A., England, France, and Austria, were all cancelled due to COVID. Ngaere and I are concentrating on keeping our 40-acre rental property in Sagaponack in good shape. We move to Amagansett for the summer season, and improve the 12-acre site there. We build ponds and natural landscapes. Great Fun! Don't forget to support Annual Giving at Friends. That's where we thank Friends Academy for getting us into great colleges.

1960

Bob Powell
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vigihawk@gmail.com

1961

Park Benjamin, III
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pbenjamin3@optimum.net

1962

Andrew Merton
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Durham, NH 03824
(603) 868-7256
andrew.merton@unh.edu

Randi Reeve Filoon writes: We are hunkered down in Sun Valley. I did get COVID-19 last March but fortunately not a bad case. There is no question that the fearful environment we live in with this disease is a challenge. Wearing a mask and washing hands seems easy to me but the social distancing is hard, especially with family. We have the benefit of the great outdoors at our fingertips so at least that has been wonderful. Watching films on Netflix and Amazon is our main evening entertainment. Can't stand watching the news – so much anger and division.

And like many others, we keep good contact with our kids and grandkids with FaceTime. Many good lectures are offered online so that keeps the brain alive. I'm not as crazy about Zoom – too many people at one time for me. And thank God the election is over and we can move on! Hoping for a healthier year ahead and Bravo for the Vaccination.

Sandra Ray Holland writes: This has been a surreal time for everyone, and is still not over. I feel fortunate to live on Nantucket during the pandemic, although we have had many cases. I also feel especially lucky to be in frequent touch with **Randi Reeve Filoon**. Here's hoping that the vaccine will bring some normalcy back to all of our lives much the way a vaccine did for polio. Happy New Year to all.

Elizabeth Lowell writes: My “news” is hardly earth-shattering: Endless hours on Zoom, as I fulfill the (unpaid, unstaffed) role of Development Officer for five non-profits. All struggling at this time: a bilingual, environmentally-focused school in the mountains of rural Costa Rica; the Navajo (hard hit by COVID-19, as you doubtless know from the media); a Haitian school for 200 children who are deaf and/or blind and/or in wheelchairs; a chaplaincy at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and the Outreach Commission at my church here in New London. As I pen the newsletters, solicitations, acknowledgements, etc., I am eternally grateful to the Friends Academy English teachers, especially Mrs. Stubbs – and to the world view inculcated there which spurs me to be globally conscious...not to mention understanding emails in three different languages, the curiosity to work in different currencies and the sensitivity to different cultures. How fortunate we are to have had such mentors! My 18-year-old grandson is a freshman in college, and his 14-year-old sister is a freshman in high school. Tempus fugit. I don't see nearly enough of them and suspect that most grandparents feel the same.

Andy Merton writes: For Gail and me it has been an uneventful year. Due to COVID-19 we've had to cancel two trips, one to Newfoundland and Labrador, the other to Durham, NC, to visit our daughter Rachel, son-in-law Matt, and grandson Kirby, now two (not necessarily in that order; we visit via Zoom, which, while hardly satisfactory, is better than

nothing.) Also via Zoom I'm conducting a writing workshop with a nearby alternative school, and I'm doing a bit of editing and writing on the side; hoping for a fourth book of poetry in the next year or so. I, too, have fond memories of Mrs. Stubbs, who, among other FA teachers, gave me a strong foundation from which to grow into a writer.

1963

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35 Wood Lane
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bjbrundige@aol.com

Paula E. Howe
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1964

Lesley Birkett Jacobs
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1965

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What a great time! I sent out for class news, and suggested that everyone use “reply all” for their responses. Some replies were sent, then more, and then more again. We shared many stories and pictures, back and forth, over a span of weeks.

I have to start with **Mike Bruce**, who has become a legitimate ridin' an' ropin' cowboy in Durango, CO. He included a picture taken “at work,” and it was remarked that he looked like a movie star. He replied that “movie stars don't castrate their own calves.” Having retired from the world of finance, he spends a lot of time “giving back” in many ways, including horse therapy with kids.

Peggy Attridge Young has retired to the Outer Banks, loves it there, and also spends a lot of time giving back. At the end of her law career she went back to school for a masters degree in healthcare management so that she could volunteer and counsel in the many areas of the health field.

Joe Williams is still at work in the insurance business, alternating the seasons in Florida and Idaho.

Eric Koster retired from his job as a real estate attorney and promptly took a job as a corporate counsel. Working from home, he has grown a bushel of facial hair. I referred to his picture as “the bearded man of workfromhome.”

Steve Beslity finally retired after several attempts. He spent years in England working in marine insurance and moved back to the same house in New Jersey that he had left long ago.

I sent **Barbara Kemp** a note shortly after Sean Connery died. I was recollecting the night that many of us went to see *Goldfinger* in Glen Cove. She remembered it too, and was happy to think back to the night. She wondered if we '65ers weren't a closer knit group than most others. Can I offer up the recollection of the “Senior Breakfast,” when we gathered at the Frontier Diner before our first day as seniors?

Jay Tucker, by coincidence, continued the thought of togetherness with the suggestion we all gather once again at Bromley this summer (?)... Younger days, good lookin' kids, knees that could bend, bodies that could thrive all day...

Jack Beuttell, skier extraordinaire, is now retired in Virginia, close to one of his sons. He spent 40 years in global marketing, and lived variously in the US, South Africa, and Western Europe. He stays active.

Angela Van Rynbach, another globe-trotter and a person of great charity, is laying low on Shelter Island until these low times pass. She is doing well.

Bill Benjamin is not too far from her as the gull flies; he has been on the Cape this winter, out of general circulation.

Susy Deane too, has been laying low in



Mike Bruce '65 has retired from finance and become a cowboy in Durango, CO.

colder climes. She usually winters with one of her children and grandkids in New Zealand, and was stranded there last spring. You may recall **Jeff Davis** who spent 1964 with us; he married a Kiwi years ago, and recently moved permanently to New Zealand.

Dave Laemmler, seldom heard, wrote a long note to us. Some of us are still working, and some of us keep very busy, but Dave is exceptional. He climbed a ladder from back street mechanic to become a guru and restorer of vintage European cars and Italian motorcycles, and he is still busy with it... I visited him a few years ago and marveled at his place; a house that dates back to colonial times at the dead end of a road that was once “the Kings Highway.” His two kids are 22 and 20. Do the math... He was a bachelor until age 50!

This summer we visited **Carol Curran Lyall** on our way to the Cape. It was a fun visit, with coffee and muffins on her back porch. We laughed about old times and talked about our current interests. She is “all solar”... her house, her car, and even her lawnmower.

Brandt Rising and Sandy stopped here at Haphazard Manor last fall. They were on a trip and stopped here for the night. What a treat to show them around town, and talk with them for hours and hours! Late last fall they made a COVID-secure caravan with “our” Momma Neil and sister Sally, from Long Island to the Keys for the winter. Brandt is collecting old photos and stories for the Long Island Maritime Museum. There is a lot of maritime history on Long Island.

Mike Brown is also a boat guy, and sent along a picture of him and Anne departing Westport, MA for Cuttyhunk Island in their cruising sailboat. He retired shortly after his part in the Boston Bay cleanup project.

Holly Russell is still in Colorado and narrowly ducked a confluence with cancer this spring, and like many of us ol' fogies is anxiously awaiting the vaccine, and will promptly seek some California sun.

Marianne Darbee Pecararo has had several types of cancer through the years and found a new variety last year. I have had several enjoyable conversations with her, and she sounds as good as ever. She and her husband worked in different parts of the banking system, and they live in Aiken, SC. She describes it as just like Locust Valley, but warmer and friendlier.

Annamarie Van Tuyl Maziaka has been in Tampa for decades, and recently moved a bit north to be close to one of her daughters. She has adjusted to Joe's passing, and is very content.

Wendy Miller Coslett is still on the DelMarVa, looking across the bay at the busier part of the world. She travels, but not this year. Like Mike, she is involved with riding therapy, and like all of us looks forward to seeing kids and grandkids.

Robin Neuschel is still in Richmond, busy with the community, and rarin' to go to Florida as soon as she gets her shots.

Liz Zoob checked in, apparently in good health.

As far as things around here, all three generations of us have been healthy and happy. I tinker in my workshop and Donna and I work the garden and tend our AirBNB. I would have to draw Donna a map if I asked her to go to the chicken coop, but that's OK because she does everything else. We stay busy and are happy to live in Paradise. I feed the chickens, the chickens feed the garden, and the garden feeds us. Every morning I walk out the door, look at the sky and the hills, and proclaim: "Thank you Lord, for another day in your garden!"

The last word belongs to **David Pratt**, a boy of many words long ago. Several others said the same thing, but not so loud and clear: "...The person I am now is largely the result of years at FA, and the years with all of you. I'd like to think that my children thank you for how I turned out."

1966

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Chuck Kaplanek sends this news: Beth and I live in Coral Gables, FL having moved last year from Miami and over 15 years ago from New York. Our three sons live within an hour of us here in South Florida. Rather than going into a long history of myself and my family I would like to share my latest business and hobby. Since I was always involved with the commercial architectural glass industry, I found it easy to develop an interest in alternative energy...solar power. Owning or leasing large roof areas of commercial and industrial buildings in the New York area makes for the opportunity to develop solar arrays, contrary to common belief, New York is a good state partner in the alternative energy field along with the Federal incentives. We are able to provide discounted and less expensive energy, from the sun, to local homes in the area. The efficiency is on the rise and one day solar power will be a large factor in our power grid. The

current challenge is storage, and as battery efficiency improves, the power harvested from the sun can and will be used as needed later, overnight or stored until needed. See pics of current installations on Long Island.

Jan Markowitz Dubin is doing well and still writing for *Family Feud*, a job she started in 1976. She is fortunate to have her daughter Johanna, her son-in-law Jeremy and 2 grandchildren living close by. Jan keeps in contact with Noni and Libby who are both doing well.

COVID has made it a difficult year for many non-profits. **Tina Hokanson** volunteers at the Shack Art Center in Everett, WA. Shack has been able to have art classes which Tina enjoys. We talked about healthy living as we age, eating right and exercising. It is one thing to talk about it, but another to practice it. We keep trying!

Priscilla Newell Terry writes: I'm in the midst of caring for my once-strong and robust cowboy husband, Jim. It seems Agent Orange had laid dormant since his time of service in the USMC in Vietnam. He is receiving excellent care through the VA Community Care network, something for which we will continue to be grateful! Life in NM has been stretched to its limit with our governor shutting so many small businesses down. I am writing when I can and I go "forest bathing," weather permitting... not in a tub, but soaking up the sounds and smells of my beautiful forest home. Our daughter, Alison, and her husband, Matt, are still working from their home and have actually adapted well to incorporating chores and Zoom meetings! Thankfully, our family continues to remain COVID-free.

Clint Bush writes: Not much to share. Still working (Medical director for Occupational Medical Center, Miami, FL), and busier than ever. Recently nudged into the position of Senior Warden at our church during a time of transition



Chuck Kaplanek '66 develops solar arrays to provide discounted energy to local homes on Long Island.

and turmoil. A new learning curve for that. Still devoting lots of time to Rotary and the Cruising Club of America. No choir or Master Chorale singing for now; hope to resume by summer.

Nancy Gad-Harf and her husband David have both gotten the vaccine. She writes: We have been fortunate during the pandemic to be able to see our grandchildren who live nearby. David is working from home, which means we are able to spend lots of time together. We are also blessed to have family and friends who have helped us to get through the pandemic so far reasonably intact emotionally. We have spent the past year working on State and National politics as well as on fighting the increased hunger and homelessness caused by the virus. I hope everyone in the Class of '66 is doing as well as possible.

Nancy Rauch Douzinas writes: As far as my news, I continue to remain busy with the Rauch Foundation but the process of leadership transition has started and my daughters will be playing bigger roles over the next years. However, right now I am still quite involved and the cross-sector collaboration that we have going on with the LIA and *Newsday* (which is the new home of the research effort we started) is doing exciting work. Besides this, I am an involved grandmother who is in touch via FaceTime with my five grandchildren, assisting with their learning experiences in select courses. For me this is fun – except if it takes place too late in the day. Kostas and I are looking forward

to traveling again – and seeing family in person and seeing the island of Poros too.

From Lopez Island **Holly Harris** drops a line: Steve and I are tucked away up here near Canada on one of the San Juan Islands called Lopez Island. Life is pretty slow unless you are volunteering at several of the local non-profits. I am currently on the kitchen staff for our Meals on Wheels program once a week. Other than that, I grow a lot of our veggies, and have a small oyster farm. My husband retired from commercial fishing at 70 and I retired from the canned seafood business last year finally. No more Papa George Gourmet Albacore. Except now, we have Hidden Inlet Oysters. They are not anything fancy like a Kumomotu or Olympia oyster, just Pacific oysters that we grow in mesh bags either anchored to our beach or swinging on racks. Right now we have about 6,000 oysters growing, which is a very small farm by Pacific NW standards. Our biggest nemesis is barnacles and now and then our oyster bags get rammed by a big log. You can't keep commercial fishermen away from fishing for long. We sold our big seiner, kept our 36' lightboat with a hired skipper, and bought a 24' fast runabout for sport fishing around the San Juan Islands. Last year we had a ball out shrimping for spots, crabbing for dungeness, and trolling for salmon. Steve was landing a nice 10-pound silver for me and leaned over too far, tearing two hamstrings. He had to stay off his legs for two months and recover slowly. His orthopedist told him he was "too old" for surgery to be effective. He is much better now, but he missed a short reef-net salmon season as one of the crew. I would love to have a sailboat to add to the fleet, but maintaining two row boats and a runabout is plenty. Today they are covered in snow and I have a little time to answer email. Our son and his family came up from Moss Landing, CA for Christmas and we launched the runabout and dropped four crab pots on some nice Dungies. My grandkids, 10 and 7 learned how to catch the crab buoy, haul in the line, put the line in the crab puller, and then coil the line in a laundry bucket. They helped eat all of them too along with some fried oysters. We had a great Christmas. We see our local friends quite often and keep in touch with our family with

a three generation group text almost weekly. My daughter works at MIT, my niece is in Newburyport working for OReilly, and one of my sisters is in Rockland, ME. We get the east coast news and then we have two kids in Seattle and another in Portland. Two of our kids are involved in COVID planning, one at MIT and one for the Oregon Dept of Health. Needless to say they have been working really hard to keep their populations safe. Steve and I are waiting for a less experimental vaccine to come along. For the time being we are trying to keep our immune systems functioning well. There has been a good supply of the Moderna shot on our island for over-65 and essential workers.

Dave Gallagher is "enjoying" the snowy winter in Vermont. He adds: For the last year I have been telling people that no news is good news, and I really don't have any news to report. Just volunteering for things and getting along. My partner Ana and I, along with her daughter, have been hiding out at my place in Vermont since last March. We had a very nice summer and fall, but winter here is very long and with COVID we are not really doing much but looking out the window at snow. I've had this place since '98, but have never spent an entire winter here. We have always had a place in the city to go back and forth from, but we gave our apartment up in May, and we don't ever plan to return to NY. We'll look for a place somewhere else eventually, when this is over. I don't have anything on the "missing" classmates. I keep in touch with **Chris Lockwood** and **Jim March '67** and get some news about others from them.

Speaking of '67, I noted the passing of **Andy Black** recently. He and I grew up in Lake Success, but hardly knew each other until he started at FA. One day we arrived at school in a blinding snowstorm to find classes cancelled. The Pierce bus never returned to pick anyone up, and the day ended with Andy and I walking all the way home from Locust Valley, arriving well after suppertime. Unforgettable.

Glad that **Todd Smith** decided to send some news: After 38 years in the financial advisory role I've sold my practices in Boston and Tucson and retired. I don't like having an office to go

to and the hundreds of weekly emails, telephone calls and compulsory exams. I miss my clients. I will start another vocation in April. I have taken on a 7-week-old Labrador Retriever who will become a bi-functional therapy animal for the hard of hearing and trained to alert victims of seizures and stroke. Hershey and I have about two and a half years of daily training before certification. Because he's so young we cannot fly him home for the summer and will have to drive cross country. Making a stop in Loveland, CO to see our oldest son and then back to CT to see the other four and two new grandchildren. Maybe that's my new job! Relaxation isn't in my cards.

Carol Edgerton Downey emailed some news: As has everyone else this past year, our lives have been quite uneventful. Thankfully, except for a classmate of Sarah's who passed away from COVID last year, everyone we know has escaped and is doing well. Not all have received their vaccines yet, and they're our age, so hopefully should happen soon, but seems everything depends on not just what state you live in, but what county in that state. But since nothing like this has ever happened in this country before, it seems that once the bugs were worked out, more or less, things have been moving along more smoothly. At first I was pretty upset with the non-response from VT, but eventually vaccines became much more available and we were all a bit calmer. As a matter of fact, Donn and I get our first shot on Wednesday, right here in Bradford. As long as there isn't some monumental storm headed our way!

Lockdown wasn't all that hard for us, except for not being able to visit our kids and grandkids. That was truly the worst. But, we're in a beautiful spot in VT, with land and places to roam that are not populated, so we just stayed busy with our usual routine, except without any of our friends here. Lots of emails and waves from cars and passing neighbors, but so weird not to have normal visiting back and forth. But, do see an end to that. So Donn stays busy with his woodworking and some furniture making, (since he's built all the structures needed on our land), and I love to read, bake and back into painting again, after an absence

from classes. We both love the hiking around us, and getting ready for spring to begin the gardens again. Of course up here, spring never really arrives until May. That's hard! Very short summers! Our son and his family, about 30 min. south of us, have all stayed well. He and his wife are very fortunate to have been able to work from home. In Sept. the grandkids went back to "physical" school, and it has worked out remarkably well. They are now also involved in other activities, Mavis on Alpine ski team, and Leo involved in "Kung Fu", (which is not the actual name of the martial arts, but can never remember the real one!). So since they are out and about more than just school, we still maintain a distance. Zoom is OK, but not a great substitute for human contact!! But, told our son as soon as we have our 2nd shot, probably at end of March, we will be popping up at their door again! And our daughter, Sarah, and her husband are in NY, about 3+ hrs, away. They too are able to work from home, and although boring at times, they are very grateful they have that opportunity. Once we can all be together again, there will be a family reunion here. We haven't all been together since Christmas 2019. Ridiculous!!

Brandt '65 and I are enjoying Islamorada from Jan-March. Brandt's mother Neil (95) is enjoying the lovely weather and has a condo near ours.

Sally Rising Dean '68 has a house next door where we keep our little Whaler. Sally has a flats boat and five crab traps so we have been going out for stone crabs every 5-7 days. This has not been a stellar year for stone crabs but it is fun to get out on the water. Sally and I have also been doing stained glass art twice a week at the local Methodist church. We head back to Long Island the first of April. Just in time to get the garden going and for Brandt to work on getting his boats in the water ready for some summer fun. We are grateful that all four of us have gotten the vaccine and look forward to a more open society.

1967

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From **Sherry**: Hello again – while the responses were not as good as I expected, I did get some great information from quite a few. As far as I know, we have all escaped the grasp of COVID. Let's keep it that way! I'm still in Vermont, braving the cold weather this year, rather than going south, as a precaution against the pandemic. Hopefully, we will all be getting our shots soon. Well, here goes the news!

I'll start with **Didi** and congratulations! "Please take the time to congratulate **Dr. Diana Dickson-Witmer** in her new appointed position as Chief of Breast Surgery at the Tunnell Cancer Center at Beebe Healthcare. Her last day is January 22nd. Dr. Dickson-Witmer has spent her entire professional career taking care of Delawareans as a General Surgeon, Trauma Surgeon and Breast Surgeon. She established the Breast Center at Christiana Care and over the years brought cutting-edge techniques and program building to Christiana and Delaware. Techniques such as sentinel lymph node mapping and breast conserving surgery are just two. She established the Breast Multidisciplinary Center at the HFGCCRI which was no easy task. Through all of this she continued to publish in peer review high impact journals, teach residents and students and become part of the Breast Cancer Research Program in the Cawley Center for Translational Cancer Research. Her accomplishments have been recognized nationally, which has led her to hold prominent positions in National Surgical Societies/Associations inclusive of being appointed Chair of the Accreditation Committee of the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer. This Committee sets standards for over 1,500 approved Community and NCI Designated Cancer Centers in the United States and surveys the programs every three years to assess the level of compliance with those standards. The latter position doesn't give you much free time!!! Dr. Dickson-Witmer has served on the editorial board



Dr. Diana Dickson-Witmer '67 has been appointed Chief of Breast Surgery at Tunnell Cancer Center at Beebe Healthcare.

of *Breast Diseases: A Yearbook Quarterly*. She was an author on Operative Standards for Cancer Surgery. Her name is mentioned in surgical circles with the likes of Monica Morrow, Chief of Breast Surgery at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in NYC and Kelly Hunt, Chair of Breast Surgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. I think it is also important for all of you to know that Dr. Dickson-Witmer did her general surgery training in an era when she was told many times that women don't belong in surgery. She survived in a challenging environment and no doubt opened the door for women in surgery. She also didn't hesitate to help set up a triage center in NYC to treat survivors of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center where she was attending a professional conference. Something I'm sure she will never forget. There is no question in my mind that Dr. Dickson-Witmer will bring the Breast Program at the Tunnell Cancer Center at Beebe Healthcare to the next level in an extremely short period of time. Together with Dr. James Spellman, Chief

of Surgical Oncology patients in Sussex County will get high quality breast cancer care. Although Dr. Dickson-Witmer will be missed, as many of you know Beebe/Tunnell Cancer center is a member of our NCI clinical trials program so you can guess that breast cancer patient accrual on clinical trials will skyrocket upon her arrival. Diana, congratulations, Godspeed and thank you.

Didi also writes: Big news – my son, Hunter, got married Nov. 7, 2020, in a microwedding/reception at our house. He is a Surgical Resident at the University of Chicago, currently doing the first of two research years, and simultaneously getting an MBA at the same institution. His wife, Haley (both of them went to Wilmington Friends School, and they have dated since high school, 12 years ago) works in a mortgage loan business. We have owned for 16 years a small townhouse a couple blocks from the beach, about 30 minutes south of Beebe's main campus, and we are renovating it for me to spend 3 nights a week there. So, once there is a vaccine, you all can visit me at the beach anytime. Not renting the beach house out anymore.

Diane Williams Murphy writes from sunny California: I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and "wearing their masks." On the personal front, big news is that my daughter, Meghan, is engaged and my son, Ian, is having another baby. Didi will love that that's the name 2-year-old Rose calls me. I've learned a lot about COVID-19 in the last 6 months, as one of my clients is COVAXX, which is manufacturing a synthetic peptide vaccine. It's safe and highly effective in our early clinical trials. On the fun side, I'm putting on the world's first autonomous high-speed head-to-head race at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway next year. Think Indy 500 with no drivers in the gorgeous Italian Dallara racecars going 200 mph. 500 college students around the world are designing the AI. So even though life is restricted right now, the giant colorful rainbow is on the horizon. Take care.

Candy Adelson writes: It's been a long while since I've checked in. My husband of 17 years, Jerry Rossman, and I and our two rescue dogs, Buddy and Abby, are flourishing in Nashville,

TN. Jerry has three grown kids and now 7 grandchildren (ages 6-17), so my family has expanded exponentially. I retired from my curatorial position at the Tennessee State Museum in June of 2019 – the best decision I ever made. Now I teach yoga (for "mature" people like us) once a week on Zoom and am more dedicated to my own personal spiritual growth and healing after 50 years of an exhausting – albeit often exhilarating – workaholic career. Until COVID-19 hit, I taught our weekly yoga class at the Nashville Friends Meeting House. It felt like I had come full circle. The grounding in tolerance and comparative religion that we received at FA continues to be foundational for me. If any of you out there would like to join our little Zoom yoga class on Wednesday evenings, let me know! My cell is (615) 516-1861. Namaste! Candace

Chico writes: Sherry – Hope you and yours are safe and well. Regardless of the pandemic, we are moving forward. My youngest daughter gave birth to Mason five months ago, which now totals eight grandchildren from my brood. Just this past Monday, Nov. 30, 2020. Emma and I sold and closed on our house in CT and hopefully will close on our house in Oak Ridge, TN along the Clinch River on Dec. 17, 2020. We refuse to slow down or give up to this virus or anything else. I am retiring at the end of the year but will continue part time still doing Risk Management work with some clients. Emma retired from teaching, but she has a free hand to go shopping for the new house in Tennessee. The Atomic bomb was developed in Oak Ridge, but do not worry that is not on my Risk Management list of things to work on even though I did work with nuclear power plants in the past. Emma and I wish everyone a wonderful and healthy Christmas and New Year and go forward. Respectfully, Fernando Moreno AKA Chico, Cholo, and a list of other names and call signs.

Pete Lyman, also from sunny Cali: Hi Sherry, still living in Santa Barbara, which of course, is the best. Only problem is, it's in California! We have been remodeling our downstairs with help from a water leak. All the fun of remodeling and none of the profit. We are doing great despite getting older.

Katy had a second hip replacement a couple of months ago and I have been diagnosed with Parkinson's. Trying to get upstairs reminds me of "running the hill" with the football team. I can hear Coach Smith yelling behind me now. My son Peter continues to pile up Grammys and nominations. So very proud of his accomplishments. My son, the engineer! I needed Wicker to help get through Geometry! My daughter Melissa is busy raising two teenagers in Dallas. We now have 10 grandchildren, which brings great joy to our lives. Thank God for Zoom and FaceTime!! I have spoken to **Ned Maher** and **Bill Wicker** many times and keep in touch with **Chico** and **Eddy D**. Best to all.

From **Brad Lovette** down in Florida: Things are quiet down here in S. Florida. No annual X-mas to New Years overseas travel extravaganza for the first time in eons. We had a Thanksgiving trip to the mountains of Northern Georgia via an Atlanta dinner with my brother Cliff but cancelled when the CDC advised against travel. So it's been home improvements – planting here and there and putting up motion sensor lights to discourage the neighborhood killer racoon. The first time he charged me when I was working out after dark by the pool I thought he was smiling. Then I realized racoons don't smile. Still working full-time – mostly on an Indian-based software development project. One of the attractions was the promise of a traverse of the foothills of the Himalayas as a late summer add-on to a legit business trip. Nice idea – no way. India was seriously locked down; nothing in nothing out. Major life issues – helping my dad who turns 98 this month (December '20) transition from healthy and sharp to not-so-healthy and not always in the moment. At the same time I am managing a Medicaid application and the transfer of our former housekeeper into a permanent elder care facility. She was a significant factor in raising the 3 Lovette brothers for almost more than a decade, with both parents practicing lawyers. And she was the one who took care of my mother when she was dying of Leukemia our senior year. The three brothers are her only surviving family. Happy Holidays and health and happiness to all, Brad.

Thor Eckert, Jr. writes: I was in Sun Valley with my sister until Jan.2...She needed to come back to prepare for hip-replacement surgery on Jan. 19 and I needed to be back in time to quarantine for 10 days before a tooth extraction. But I find days meld into weeks and I'm not getting all that much done, but it is what it is. News? It's all about COVID, isn't it! On March 8, I sat in a perfectly dreadful new production of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman* at the MET, and two days later the blissful two parts of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*. Harry Potter was jammed, and only a scant smattering of masks were to be seen. Then on March 16, I sat through a long day of auditions for the new 2020-21 singers at the Academy of Vocal Arts (AVA) in Philadelphia, at which point people were talking about social distancing. On March 17, I flew to Florida for what ended up to be a nine-week stay in the apartment I inherited from my mother in 2018. Five days later, AVA sent out an email informing us that one of the faculty at the auditions had contracted Covid. As it turned out, he gave it to five others who were there, but fortunately I was NOT one of them. In FL I was able to walk every day and as it turns out I have more friends down there now than I have in NY so we were in touch with some frequency, including **Brad** and **Ikuyo**. I got back north on May 23, the same day my sister, nephew and his wife and family plus brothers/sisters-in-law returned. I spent a week at my sister's in NJ then I moved up to the CT house in Ridgefield for the summer. Come fall, AVA was one of the few prominent music schools to actually open. So beginning in September, I commuted down to hold sessions with the students. November's excitement was a saliva test I took that proved to be positive. The day after getting that result, I took a nasal-swab test and another saliva test: The nasal test was negative, the saliva test again positive! On Thanksgiving eve – by which point I believed I didn't actually have COVID since I had NO symptoms and the people I knew who had contracted it said they were experiencing symptoms by day 4 or 5 after the exposure – I had another nasal swab COVID test plus a nasal-swab antigen test – both negative. But it dramatized to me how one person infected can disrupt so many lives, as

we had to scrub our Thanksgiving plans, and so did the two people with whom I'd met for business earlier in the week. As I write this, I'm in NJ (where I'm living slightly more than part-time until my nephew's new house on my sister's property is completed, at which time I'll move into their current house. I'm keeping my NYC apartment (complete with basement parking!) and selling my parents' apartment on Central Park West. Beyond that, there's not much to add. I'm NOT missing going to the opera; I'm NOT missing going to the theater; I'm NOT missing going to concerts; I'm NOT missing guest hosting the quiz on the Metropolitan Radio broadcasts (which I did for 18 years, hard as that is for me to realize!). I really never thought I'd be saying that after 45 years of doing all of the "above" in a professional capacity (which does not include the opera or the theater I'd seen since I was 7). I heard and saw countless legends in all the disciplines, and frankly, across the boards there are few performers who could get me into a theater/concert hall/ opera house these days. And that's what I have to say about me!

From Colorado, **Ned** says: I've been staying busy with home improvement/ repair projects on our 136-year-old row house in Denver. We've been navigating the whole skiing experience carefully with day trips only and packing our own lunches. I've begun beer brewing again and have a batch of cerveza modelo ready to be racked and then bottled. Our 50° winter basement is a perfect lager brewing temp. Will move to ales in March. And yes, I do read too... This was the first time in 39 years where I have not sent out our annual family Christmas card photo. We were not able to get together for the group photo (OMG, and there's nine of us now). We get to see our son, Peter's family in Ft. Collins often enough, and haven't seen Amanda's in New Orleans for over a year. I received my first vaccination 12/30 (as a hospice volunteer I qualify as an essential worker) and my second on 1/21-25 and then on a plane to NOLA! Christina plans to retire from the library this May, so perhaps the timing will be better for the National Parks road trip we've been talking about for several years now. Best regards to all; we're in the homestretch now!

From Washington State, **Jay** writes: First, an actual bit of news no one wants – **Dr. Corbie Eissler** died on December 27. He had turned 71 October 14, not nearly old enough, but then, given that he was a life-long type I diabetic, and back when he was diagnosed life expectancy was about 45-50, I suppose you'd have to say he did pretty well. Which doesn't make it not suck. Todd's gone, now Corb's gone, Tom and me are back to where we began: Tom and me. It's funny. Didi (I think it was Didi) once was surprised to hear from me, and informed me that I had been counted among the "lost." I said, how could I be lost: Tom, Todd, and Corbie knew where I was every minute of my life, same as it's been for every minute of my life. Can't escape them, but they keep escaping me. We are well, though in serious contemplation of leaving Washington and heading to year-round warmth in Florida. My forebears, some of 'em, were Floridian, and I have been the only member of my immediate family not to live there. That may change this year. Thinking seriously about northern Florida, around St. Augustine – where one of my great-grandfathers landed in America. (I forget when, and I also never remember which cemetery he's in. It's the one off the Avenida Menendez. I'm a fount of information!) I don't know what's *Meeting House* worthy, we roll along very much as usual. Quiet lives, at this point. (It's about time...)

(And in closing, I'd like to mention how sad it was to hear of Paul's passing this past July 22.)

1968

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Nanette Stevenson is the latest to join the Friends Academy Class of '71 Facebook group. As the USA, indeed the world, wobbled on its axis this past year and social distancing became a thing, **Craig Kronman** took matters into his own hands and organized a Zoom for '71.

Craig files the following: "Members of the Class of '71 held a virtual reunion on August 30, 2020, a respite from confining times and a general lack of social interaction. **Chris Baum** is living north of Detroit and working in the convention and visitor's bureau business. He earned a degree in hospitality and worked for several prominent hotel chains over the years, including Westin Hotels, and for Conde Nast Travel.

Robin Campbell has been teaching American History and Historic Preservation, mostly on-line these days. (She earned a Ph.D. some years ago in historic preservation.) She is still living in Saratoga Springs, NY, though the cottage on Saratoga Lake that was subject to periodic flooding has now been replaced with a more conventional home with a view of the same.

Peter Darbee and his wife, Melinda, spend much of their time aboard Sequoia visiting Rhode Island, the Sound, and points north. They winter in Jacksonville, FL, having left California a year or two ago. Peter was the head of Pacific Gas & Electric for some years. He also worked with the Salvation Army before moving east. He enjoys his children and their businesses and finds advising younger businessmen a rewarding pursuit.

Chris Gatty is now in Connecticut working in private wealth management. He also worked years ago at Lehman Bros. and Raymond James.

Craig Kronman is still living near San Francisco and still playing the viola, cycling, and sailing. Gardening has been a major pasttime this year. His law practice continues unabated.

Cece Levy lives in Southern California, working for a dog rescue foundation and

as a publicity person for a wellness spa in Spain. She has worked for QVC – The Shopping Channel, Jaguar, Land Rover, and Mustang, spending lots of time at car shows. She has also done some acting, though she did not mention any details.

Amy Ringenbach told us of her brother's trials in Vietnam while she was in high school. She is still among Friends and living in the Philadelphia area. She has had experience over the years in banking, quality assurance, and some forms of higher math, providing a summary of it that may have escaped most of us.

Dr. Steve Schrenzel reported that he is still working part-time as an anesthesiologist. He married a nurse and now has two grown children. His son, a nurse-practitioner, just married this fall. Steve has chartered a number of sailboats in the Caribbean over the years.

Dr. Greg Stella, after stints at Johns Hopkins, Harvard, and Yale, went into private practice in Daytona Beach. He has recently retired as a gastroenterologist in Florida. He is spending more time with his son, who is commuting to his private school in Central Florida. Greg is serving on that school's board. Greg has also been writing a few puts and calls, making options trading something of a new hobby. He noted that his older children visit and are great at fixing things. Greg told us a touching tale: his father used to work at Roosevelt Raceway for Cece's father. When Greg's grandfather passed on in Italy, Mr. Levy quietly slipped Mr. Stella the necessary funds so he could revisit his homeland.

Bill Vitriol has been selling his liquor distribution business. He told of a droll encounter with a business person who happened to live near Bucknell while Bill was a student there. But he wasn't attending Bucknell. Eventually, Bill realized to his chagrin that the individual had been incarcerated there. "There are only two reasons to be living in this area..." We were all pleased to learn of Bill's improving health and hope that he is now completely recovered.

Marcia Weirda Halpern has recently retired from being a San Diego high school science teacher. Her three children, who have always gone by Moose, Griffin, and Gator, have been saving the coral reefs of the world,

farming, rock climbing, and traveling. Craig again thanks **Robin Campbell**, **Peter Darbee**, **David Cressey**, and **Scott Neilson** for their help in organizing this virtual meeting."

2021 marks 50 years since we, and subsequent mutations, were launched from the hallowed halls. Memories of our 45th "ReOnion" bash linger. If only we had been able to lobby Captain Darbee into firing up the Sequoia and finding our beach. What might have been: a pastiche of Gilligan's Island and Lord of the Flies, eternal quarantine. What are the chances of a 50th—a Great Gatsby-esque soiree bookended by watching the Quakers in a Homecoming athletic battle and some time out in the Matinecock Meeting House perhaps?! Stay tuned, stay well, stay engaged.

1972

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Our class was glad to close the book on 2020. What a year of profound sadness as we said our goodbyes to: **Ken MacHarg** (Feb 2019), **Rekha Desai Packer** (June 2020), **Lelly Bush-Brown Gimbel** (Oct 2020), and **Augusto 'Augie' Mariani** (Oct 2020). To quote Charlie Cappello, "in spite of some heavy losses and sadness, happily we also had some balance of happiness and joyful moments, too." Thanks to **Matthew Stevenson**, **Karen Hohner**, and **Jim Neville**, our class held its first Zoom reunion in January. Sixteen classmates logged on for almost two hours to share news, stories, anecdotes, memories and smiles. Hopefully, this will be the start of many a virtual get-together!

Matthew Stevenson captured it best: "Our Zoom reunion, on January 27, stretched from LA to Munich, with some side trips to Switzerland, Canada, Connecticut, Maine, and, even, yes, Long Island. (Who knew we would all flee?) We were 16 squares, both listening and talking, with some conversations looking back (remembering Augie, Rehka, Maureen, and Lel, among others) and others zooming forward (plans for road trips to the West, reunions to be organized, houses to be rented, and

books to be shared). At once it was a large dinner of a far-flung family—a Thanksgiving or maybe Fourth of July—with everyone catching up, and then, on other levels, it was a quiet talk in front of a fireplace, in which small gestures, little jokes, the odd tease, and the gently probing questions brought us all back to the meeting house of our minds in 1972.”

And with that, here’s some class news: **Jamie Bergford** writes: In 2020, we were mostly in Seattle, sometimes in Mazama, WA, and took one road trip. Lesley and our grandson, McKinley (11.5 years), live about twenty minutes by dog from our home in Seattle. Cameron, his wife, Niki, and our granddaughter, Jasmine (7 months) live a long drive away in Los Angeles. Geoff and I celebrate our 44th anniversary this year.

Clare Laemmle Bridge: 2020 gave a lot, and took a lot... but it didn’t erase some wonderful memories. Let 2021 be a year of rebuilding a path to joy and peace! Sending you all a warm hug.

Kim Albertson Ruth: As far as my time from high school until today, I went to Bucknell (with Matthew Stevenson) and then lived on the east coast in NY and Boston for a bit until moving to Texas back in 1988. Long career in banking/finance which I have recently retired from and live with my husband of 35 years, David, about 70 miles outside of Houston in Brenham. We share three sons and four grandchildren, plus two big dogs. My mother at 91 is living in a retirement community in Westchester County and sadly my father passed away 10 years ago. Love to travel and look forward to getting back to that when we can.

Patricia Brink: Still in Connecticut... prior to ‘lockdown’ traveled to Malawi, Africa, for a first-hand tour of one of the world’s poorest countries by my niece, who was working on a Clinton Foundation fellowship. All travel canceled this year, of course. Enjoying my gardening and hiking.

Betsy Wood Bigler: Paul and I are now empty nesters with our six kids spread out from Washington State to Nice, France, with everything in the middle, Montana, Connecticut and Miami... Lots of nice places to visit! For the past

seven years I have enjoyed running a small floral design business, designing weddings and parties small and large... it has been a wonderful experience, but I am ready at this point to step back and focus on other things. I am still playing lots of competitive tennis (although not during this dreadful pandemic), bridge, and am very involved with my local garden club...all of which has brought me great joy and kept me busy during the last year while isolating at home. It was wonderful to see so many classmates and catch up during our Zoom reunion and look forward to seeing everyone in person hopefully in the fall!!

Jim Kane: All good in Maine and am enjoying three years now of retirement. Keeping busy with family, hiking, camping (Hot Tent in winter), and our spring/summer/fall farm with sheep, pigs, hens and dogs! Come visit ... we have plenty of room ... 10 min outside Portland (Maine)!

Kevin Glynn: All is well that ends well: happy to report that my “wild oat,” Christopher, is now an emergency room doctor in Newport News, VA with two brawny children and that Thomas is now a biochemist in San Diego. Kathleen is a biology senior at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and is chainsaw certified. I am hanging up my binoculars after 42 years with the Navy. Fair winds and following seas to you all.

As for me, 2020 was a year of change and adjustment; my mother now lives with us following the death of my stepdad. Even though COVID may have stifled social gatherings and travel, John and I continued to enjoy camping at Pacific NW state parks with our two fur babies in tow. When we aren’t camping, we are either kayaking/boating on the Columbia River or attempting to play that four-letter sport called Golf! Retirement certainly has its advantages! Please take a moment to read the ‘In Memoriam’ tributes written to honor classmates **Rekha Desai Packer** and **Augie Mariani**. Also, 2022 marks the year that we will celebrate our 50th class reunion! And guess what—Jim Kane has already taken the lead and began researching venues and locations. This will be the class get-together you won’t want to miss! Stay tuned... With that said, I will leave you

with an apropos motivational poem by **Kevin Glynn:** “Roses are red. Violets are blue. Let’s all get together In Twenty Twenty-two.”

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay connected on Facebook: ‘FA Class of ‘72’ -**Karen Spero Albers**

1973

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There were some common themes in our lives this past year: missing seeing our children, grandchildren, and other loved ones; being retired and not able to travel; waiting for vaccines. Sadly, we lost two classmates in 2020, **John Shipman** and **Doug Shaw**. However, there is lots of good news, too.

Elaine Gould writes, I am still working full time as the Interim Chair of Radiology and Professor of Radiology at Stony Brook University. Enjoying it, although it has been a challenge due to COVID. I split my time between Oyster Bay, East Marion, NY, and Block Island when I can, and enjoy sailing when my schedule allows. I have three children – Catherine, Edward, and Matthieu – who are scattered between NY and California. My daughter Cat, a chemical engineer, lived in New Zealand for 10 years, then UK, and now has come back to Oyster Bay temporarily due to her sailing interests.

From Salisbury, Vermont, **Chris Rising Turner** reports: We will drive to Florida this year to be with my mother and other family members. I am already planning our garden. Has anyone else witnessed seed shortages and increased prices? Still, we enjoy the produce that has fed us during these strange times, and we will again raise our own meat birds. They get lots of care and love from our 11-year-old granddaughter. Knitting, weaving, puzzling, working on a new hiking trail in town, formatting our town’s annual report for town meeting, and

creating welcome brochures keep me sane.

Van Stogner retired from BP after 10 years and his wife Sandy just retired as a dental hygienist after 46 years: I plan to live the snowbird life as long as I can; we will shuttle between our houses in The Villages, FL and Moultonborough, NH. I am keeping busy playing a lot of golf and tennis and enjoying retirement!

Susan Nappa Cocke writes: We did spend the winter in Florida where we were for my work when it all started – so that was a blessing as we had the beach and outdoor activity in the warmth and sunshine. My fashion and accessories business took a major hit as all of my events were cancelled for the year. I’m looking forward to going back to Florida soon to resume work.

John Silbersack: Our big news in this COVID year was the marriage of our daughter Johanna (FA ‘10) to Daniel Hickey in Southampton, NY this last August in a ceremony with just parents and siblings. Johanna had her first co-authored book published last year with the blockbuster title *Retirement Migration from the U.S. to Latin American Colonial Cities*. The couple just bought their first house in Durham, NC and once travel restrictions ease, Nora and I look forward to visiting. Our son, Nichols (FA ‘06), continues to work as Deputy Policy Director for the New York City Comptroller’s office doing great work on environmental issues among other things, and our daughter, Catryn (FA ‘12), was recently promoted to Publicist at Henry Holt Publishers where she has worked with Hilary Mantel, Paul Auster, and Michael Wolff’s *Fire and Fury*. Nora and I continue to work and divide our time between Long Island and Chestertown, MD. I continue to represent fiction and non-fiction, and have been much involved this year (and many others) with the Frank Herbert Estate, author of *Dune*, which I first read at Friends so long ago before becoming Frank’s editor and then agent. Otherwise, I continue to race my 90-year-old Manhasset Bay One Design and, hammer in hand, spend spare hours trying to keep our 250-year-old farmhouse and outbuildings in good nick.

Nick Seamon writes: My wife, Barbara, and I have been holed up on our farm for most of the past year. The good news is that we have had more time than ever to raise vegetables, berries, sheep, pigs, and golden retrievers, and do more canning than ever before. The sad news is that we can’t see our kids and grandkids as much as we would like. No COVID in our family, thankfully. Unfortunately, our country is not only infected with COVID, but also with incredible ignorance and bigotry. We would be better off if everyone threw out their cell phones and disconnected from the internet. On another note, I was deeply saddened by the passing of **John Shipman**. We were the closest of friends in high school. I spent countless hours at his house in Munsey Park, hanging out with John and his brothers, going to many Grateful Dead concerts, listening to the brothers band (“Baxters Saints Rest”) practice in their basement (with **Walter Magill**), and drinking wine with his mother, Phyllis, while waiting for John to come home from his after-school job. I will miss him. All the best to everyone. Stay healthy, and grow a garden. “When the world wearies, and ceases to satisfy, there’s always the garden.”

Laura Wicker Hackett writes, Charlie and I played a lot of golf during the warmer months, a good social distance activity, and we’ve taken to long walks every day just to get out of the house! I did a lot of reading and puzzles and got into making masks for family, friends, and for a school for disadvantaged middle school students in Boston where our daughter is Director of Special Education. There was one very bright spot; we added a new grandchild in May! Fitzgerald Jeffrey Hackett came home from the hospital on my 65th birthday – how’s that for a great gift!

Bill Dudjoc: We pretty much stayed home and remained safe. With a good friend, we did manage to get in several thousand cycling miles in, which is always fun. The Lake Tahoe event was canceled in 2020 and has been canceled for 2021 as well. Cancer however has not been canceled, so we will continue to fundraise and ride 100 miles locally the first weekend in June. My wish for all my classmates is to stay safe and don’t do anything stupid!

As for me, **Jan Klocke O’Sullivan**, I’m still competing in crossword tournaments now that the wonderful crossword community figured out how to have them virtually. My mom and I have been going through her travel journals over the phone to break up her day, and we have enjoyed this virtual travel, which takes us all over the world, supplemented by online research on how much it would cost to stay at the same hotels 50 year later! I had time to research and write two articles for the *Gazette of the American Friends of Lafayette*: one on the gold buttons presented to Lafayette in New York on his 1825 Farewell Tour, and one on tavern signs in Connecticut with his likeness.

1974

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Evette Beckett-Tuggle writes: 2020 was a very challenging year on many levels. One of the things that happened during that time that I am most grateful for is the gathering of members of our class over three virtual sessions to discuss issues of racial equity in a series titled “A Conversation About Race.” In total, close to one-third of our graduating class showed up at one or more sessions. I thank everyone who participated and the small committee of classmates that followed up in writing the very compelling letter and recommendation that appears in this publication. I truly hope that we will continue “the conversation” with others in our respective circles. My understanding as of this publication is that the Class of 1974 was the only graduating class to intentionally develop and engage in a discussion like this. Your commitment of time, thought, and action – your intentionality – speaks volumes about you as individuals and as us as a class. As the only African American female in our class and as your class representative for decades, I thank you, friends.

Patricia Marcus writes: I think we've all learned to use Zoom (or its equivalent) to connect with family & close friends we couldn't see in person this past year. Some of that will continue, I think, since seeing facial expressions — the smiles that go with the laughter — really does make a difference. For me, though, the real impact has been an increased connection with "old" friends — especially my Friends friends/classmates. Kudos and thanks to my classmates who orchestrated a virtual get-together — especially since it ultimately morphed into more substantial conversations about race & racism.

Cliff Lovette writes: I am organizing a 125th-year celebration of the US Army 25th Bicycle Corps (AKA Buffalo Soldiers) by recreating a 1,900-mile ride from Fort Missoula, MT, to St. Louis, MO (however, I will be cruising on my Yamaha Vstar 1300). I am still working from home in my tracksuit.

Alan Mincer writes, "As far as my life since Friends Academy, I graduated from Colgate University in 1978 (seems like a long time ago, but time did pass quickly), went to dental school at Northwestern University, did a dental residency at University of Illinois Hospital and did my periodontal specialty training back at Northwestern. While doing my post-grad at Northwestern, the director of the dental residency at Cook County Hospital asked me to take on the role of attending in charge of Periodontal therapy at the program, but I had to decline and focus on my studies (I am sure that you know how intense graduate studies can be). Subsequently, despite receiving several offers to go into private practice, I decided to accept a new offer to become a full-time attending at Cook County Hospital as I was uncertain as to the direction that I wanted to take (return to NY, stay in Chicago, or go to Florida). Also, as I had always been fortunate about the events in my life, and as this hospital is the one that serves the underserved community in Chicago, I felt that it would allow me the opportunity to perform some beneficial services while considering my alternatives for the future. Low and behold, a limited commitment turned into a 19-year career and me becoming the director of the dental residency. At the same time, in 1990, I also decided to establish my own practice, thereby probably taking on far

more commitments than may have been advisable. Alas, I ended up getting divorced in 2007, and with my two children living with me 50% of the time, I was forced to give up one of my obligations, and thus resigned from the residency program (after all, I knew that I would be paying college bills and other expenses in the future).

As far as my two children, my daughter (like my ex, my brother and myself) ended up attending Colgate University where she graduated magna cum laude with high honors in English. I was a little shocked by this because every time I visited her there, she seemed like she was partying rather than studying. But there again, kids have the most amazing ways of fooling you. Upon graduating, she took a job at Morgan Stanley, and ended up, at the age of 24, in 2019, earning more money than her mother, who received a JD from Cornell University. (I do not understand how the world works at times, but there again, NY is an entirely different place). After two years, she transferred to JP Morgan, and although the building was shut down on the day she was supposed to start due to COVID-19, she has been gradually integrating into the company over the past several months.

As far as my son, he is literally one of the smartest people that I know. He was also accepted into Colgate (and Cornell), but decided to attend college locally. He therefore went to Lake Forest College in a north suburb of Chicago, graduated summa cum laude and turned down admission into the Phi Beta Kappa Society because he "did not want to be in a self-congratulatory organization." In addition, he felt that gaining knowledge should be the true reward of education. Not a realistic attitude in the real world, but it was a laudable approach. Subsequently, he received a master's degree in History and was considering going for a Ph.D. However, he found the education curriculum somewhat constricting, and therefore decided that he could independently educate himself far more effectively. Therefore, in the last few years, he wrote a book on some aspect of Illinois history (which he may ultimately use for a Ph.D. thesis), routinely reads two to four books a week, and coincidentally, has a photographic memory. Whenever I hand

him an article that I would find interesting, he would finish reading it before I even had the opportunity to finish the title. Or if the article were on my cellphone, he would scroll down it faster than I could view the words. His newest project is that now he is considering going to law school, something that was recommended to him by his uncle (my brother-in-law), who happens to be a law professor. However, we will have to see where this endeavor ends up as it is currently interrupted by COVID. (Sorry for the extended summary of my life since Friends, but there was a lot to catch up on).

As far as the discussion about racial injustice, I believe that it is a critical topic that needs to be addressed. On a personal basis, when I see an individual, the only thing that I see is a human being. For example, my general physician is Asian, my ophthalmologist is Chinese, my Neurologist (for the treatment of a herniated disc) is African American, my orthopedic surgeon is Hispanic, and my retinal specialist (for a torn retina) is Filipino (I think). I take the same approach to all my friends, colleagues, and patients. And my children have adopted this same attitude (my daughter's boyfriend is half Chinese, a quarter Persian, and a quarter French, while his sister is half African American).

At the same time, I only found out this year that there are military bases named after southern military leaders. This, along with their statues, seems analogous to me to the German government naming military bases and putting up statues honoring members of the Nazi regime. It is inconceivable and should be addressed. As far as how to address the racial injustice that occurs throughout the country, that is a far more difficult problem. People's attitudes have to change (perhaps through education), but when they can't even be convinced to wear masks in the face of a life-threatening pandemic, how are they going to be convinced to become aware of the detrimental aspects of racial inequality. Discussions are a good way to start addressing the issue, but at the same time, additional approaches need to be taken.

1975

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Terrence Chermak and Cathy Blechman write: What interesting times! Cathy is great; she added residential to her real estate business and that's going well. Vanessa just turned 18; I remember when we turned 18 we could drink officially, so... Vanessa is a straight A student and waiting to hear back from college admittance offices. My oldest Tara had a boy; that makes me a grandpa again. (Funny, I still feel too young for that.) Jennifer, my middle daughter opened a puppy and dog supply store, Pups on Main, in Cold Spring Harbor; mention my name when you go. I recently wrapped up work on building SoFi Stadium; so beautiful and never a crowd! I snuck Cathy and Vanessa in for a private tour.

Doug Mallory writes: I can report quality time, eating crackers and thinking about comic books. It's HARD to maintain healthy weight. But blame it on a sweet tooth. I remain a professional student. Retirement is good for you. Make a plan.

Ellen Fasano writes: I don't have much in the way of news. I have been working as an asylum officer for more than 25 years and I plan to retire from US Immigration in 2022. My husband, Scott Gutterman, retired this year from a career as a senior



Terrence Chermak '75 (right, with wife Cathy Blechman '75 and daughter Vanessa) helped build SoFi Stadium



Ellen Fasano '75 and her family

tax manager. He is now a full-time online student working towards a Master's degree in English literature and writing. He plans to work part-time tutoring and teaching writing to college students. My eldest son, Alex, will be 30 this month. He is working as a full stack computer engineer for a diamond company. My youngest son, Zac, is working freelance for an E-sports company and was working for large music festival productions before the COVID crisis hit.

Daphne Riker Hagan writes: Gee what can I say – the pandemic kept us home most of the year. Thank God we live in a beautiful place – Cold Spring Harbor. We ventured outside every day, whether it be a neighborhood walk, or in the nearby Nature Conservancy or our state park in Lloyd Harbor, Caumsett. We also thankfully live close to the beach and tried to spend a lot of the summer days enjoying the ocean and beach in Southampton. The hardest part of the

pandemic has been not seeing the family as much as we were used to. That said, we did celebrate Kevin's father, James Hagan, 90th birthday in June. However, everything is bittersweet as my father has been in hospice in Florida since November (the end is near) and of course we lost our little pug, Ollie. Don't really have anything worth printing for class notes, but here is a quote that I think is an inspiration: "In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." – John Muir

Phillip Sih writes: Thank you for being so annoying, Tilde! I just want you to know that I appreciate the task you are doing and have enjoyed your emails through the years. As you may recall, I was supposed to have graduated HS at Friends with the class of 1975 but did not actually make it past 8th grade because I ended up going away to a different school. (I graduated the same year from what was called back then The Choate School.) But I did manage to make it all the way from K to 8. And believe it or not, I'm still in touch with **Bob Holterman**, with whom I went to K, even though we are separated by a continent! He even sent me some pictures of the old K room recently. Go figure who would have a fond memory of that dungeon! Presently I am in the Northern NV/CA area deep in "fly over territory." If anyone is out here between Reno and the SF bay area and remembers who I am they are welcome to write or call and check in. 775-223-4455/cell. For those so interested I can teach them how to fly little airplanes like the kind that seem to crash all the time in the movies. Fortunately we're not in the movies. May 2021 bring a better year for everyone.



From left to right: Jim, Kevin Hagan '73, James, Liz Hagan Schellhorn '77, Mark Hagan '79 and David



Drew Diaz '75 shows off his COVID outfit



From left to right: Howie's son Matthew, wife Lisa, Howie Klein '75, and son Ben

Drew Diaz writes: Club COVID – Started by buying \$500 of groceries & TP, grateful for how lucky I am to be able to do so. Cast and loaded 1,000 shotgun slugs. Made 3 or 4 types of alcohol stoves and experimented with tin can hobo stoves. Tried and gave up on bread baking. Got back into growing tomatoes. Kicked off FB. Practiced archery a lot. Had my daughter live with us for a while. Figured out how to lay out 3 home offices. Embraced meggings. Got a black belt in Zoom. Attended a few BLM rallies. Beefed with a few anti-maskers & sturmtrumpers. Missed the reunion? Lost enough weight to go down two pant sizes. Got 1 hummingbird visit the day we were planning on putting away the feeder. Fell asleep hanging in a tree.

Lost a few people I knew, but none that I loved. Convinced a good woman to marry me.

Howie Klein writes: Here's my news: With the closing of the Commodity trading floor in 2018, I spent two years working for a friend who owned the Crown Trophy franchise in Manhattan. It was a great store with a steady flow of business that encompassed the sports world as well as education and local businesses. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the store is no longer operating in Manhattan. I will continue to enjoy my second job for the last 20 years, working as a baseball umpire in the city and Westchester. The city is one of the safest places to be right now, and Lisa and I frequently exercise along the East River. Our son Matthew works for an on-line education company, Coursera, based in San Francisco. Our son Ben works in Finance at Cosmetic Executive Women, where Lisa is Vice President, in charge of Development. That's my news – of course I look forward to seeing you all when we are all vaccinated and rid of this. For now, all of you please stay safe and I hope that all is well.

Sue Gravina King writes: Here are my "meaningless thoughts"! My younger son and I left Manhattan in late March for the relatively COVID-free environment of Shelter Island. I assumed it would be for a couple of months. Wrong. On the positive side, I was able to spend a lot of time on the water, and my sailing skills improved from dismal to almost mediocre. By the end of November, I understood why I lived in a city and not on an island with 2,000 residents. I was seeing way too many deer, geese and turkeys and not enough people. I am thrilled to be back in NYC.

Linda Relli writes: I hope everyone is doing well! I am biding my time with work (I work in a small office and am still able to go into work) and farm life. Other than that my mental and physical health is bolstered by walks at a closed campground nearby and caring for my critters. (I have a mini horse who I adopted from a rescue, a Burro, a Kune Kune pig who I saved from ending up on a dinner plate, and my beloved pupster). Sorry, I don't have a picture of Milton Burro :)

Robin Beckhard writes: Here is my news, with a picture enclosed of my new husband Bryan and me :-)



Linda Relli '75 spends her time caring for the mini horse, Kune Kune pig, and burro she adopted

What a year 2020 was. I'm happy to report that, in the midst of so much hardship in the world, and personal challenges like losing my job, my personal life during the pandemic has actually been very good. On May 30, 2020, I married Bryan Shelby, to whom I became engaged a year earlier, at the Amsterdam wedding of my son Alex and his husband Alex. Our wedding was not the 80-person party we had planned, but was a beautiful affirmation of love and new beginnings, in a park two blocks from our NYC apartment, with one of each of our children attending to represent all the friends and family who were with us in spirit, though not in person. I have also begun a new career, as a mediator. COVID-19, and a country deeply divided on so many fault lines have made me want to contribute my time and skills in listening and relationship building to lessen conflict where I can. And I've started a business, Cohabitalk™ (with a website, www.cohabitalk.com, designed by Betsy Bober Polivy's graphic designer!), offering guidance to couples, roommates and intergenerational families who are moving in together. Please have a look and reach out if you'd like to discuss!



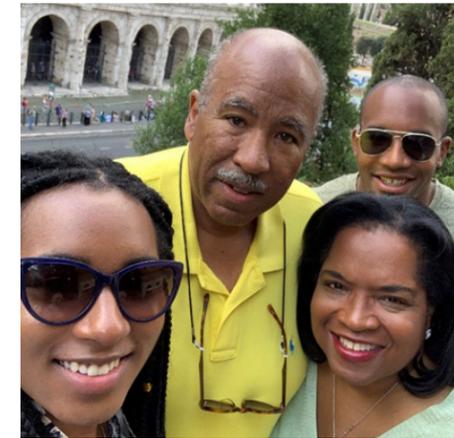
Robin Beckhard '75 married Bryan Shelby on May 30, 2020.

Look forward to seeing everyone on Zoom and hopefully in person before the end of the year.

Valerie Taylor Hamilton writes: We are all doing well, continuing to shelter in place, and can't wait to get our vaccines. Just as Gary and I were beginning to enjoy being empty nesters, the pandemic hit and we were all together again. In the beginning we binge watched our favorites on Netflix and HBO, caught up on our reading, and appreciated working remotely and not having to commute. However, the year has been bittersweet. We've lost some loved ones. Stan's mother passed in October, my sister-in-law, Kate (married to Gene) lost her mother in 2020 as well. We celebrated my mother's 100th birthday in July and feel blessed and fortunate to have had her for so long when she passed in early November. Our children, Nicole and Gary, are doing well and enjoying their 20s. The pandemic has forced them to curtail some of their "activities" (we don't ask for details) but they are back in their respective apartments, enjoying virtual happy hours with their friends and learning how to live safely and have fun in this new normal. Gary and I are looking forward to visiting Caribbean islands with the goal of becoming snowbirds in the near future. Hope that we'll be able to see all of you soon.

Chip Behal writes: During this past year, Jo-Anne and I spent a lot of time on Ancestry.com (which we have nicknamed "Crack-cestry" because it is so addictive). Once we are vaccinated and travel restrictions ease, we will be planning some trips to our respective ancestral homelands in Europe where we hope to dig back further and see where our forebears came from.

Vicki Chesler writes: We worked hard to make the best of a challenging year and felt grateful for all we have. I send deep condolences to those who have lost loved ones during this pandemic, and wishes of good health to everyone in our class and in their circles of friends and family. It has truly been a time to count our blessings. My husband Matt Kovner and I completed our only trip of the year the week the pandemic exploded in the US: a ski trip to Colorado, with a side trip to Seattle. During lockdown, we spent our time hiking in the Catskills and Zooming with friends. Our daughter Melissa had moved from Brooklyn to Nashville where she and her husband bought a house



Valerie Taylor Hamilton '75 (front right) and daughter Nicole, husband Gary, and son Gary Jr.

last January, and our daughter Kelsey left Brooklyn when COVID hit and stayed with us for a few months before giving up her apartment and buying a house in Highland, NY. Over the summer we were thrilled to be able to spend time sailing around New England. It was a great way to see friends safely outdoors, and we were able to see **Pam Walker McNamara**, her husband George, and their family. We were also able to make a trip to the Adirondacks to visit **Tina Rose Erardi** and her husband Greg. And I got to see **Tilde Mariani Giacché**, **Daphne Riker Hagen** and Tina, in NYC where we enjoyed the City's commendable move to safe outdoor street dining. Working via Zoom and with political and arts organizations kept me busy during the many days at home. But seeing family was the best medicine: Melissa and Nick drove up from Nashville in July, and the whole family visited from NYC and MA. In August we made a road trip with Kelsey to Nashville. And



Vicki Chesler '75 (left) and Tina Rose Erardi '75 in the Adirondacks



Pam McNamara '75 with her husband George and their first grandchild, Cody

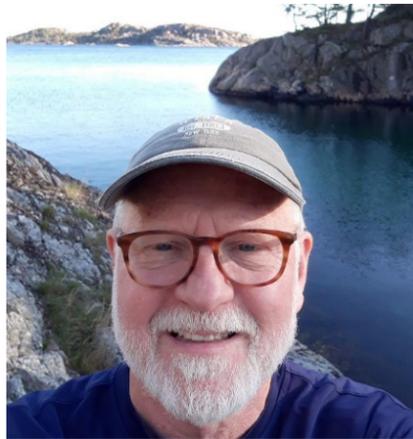
in December we all quarantined for ten days so we could safely spend Christmas together at our home in Olivebridge, NY.

Kimi Puntillo writes: I left NYC several years ago and am now happily living in Austin, Texas and writing a new book. During Pre-COVID times I took a trip to Italy with Susan King and enjoyed reminiscing, great meals and everything the country has to offer. I hope everyone is doing well and is staying safe!

Pam Walker McNamara writes: We are excited at the birth of our first grandchild, Cody Walker Cutting. His parents, my daughter, Casey, and her husband Mike live nearby, and we are so fortunate to be able to visit, staying safe together in our pandemic pod! I continue my work in telehealth and mobile patient engagement with Health Helm, Inc., helping patients better manage themselves and staying connected, remotely, to their clinicians



From left to right: Tina Rose Erardi '75, Daphne Riker Hagan '75 and Vicki Chesler '75 in NYC



Kurt Olander '75, pre-COVID, in Sweden and caregivers. I'm also deeply involved with the American Kidney Fund (AKF) – as a board member and activist. Kidney disease is large and growing, with nearly 1 in 3 Americans at risk of the disease, and the pandemic hitting harder the 37 million kidney patients in the US. AKF is impacting social justice, with the disease striking a disproportionately large share of Black or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos. More than ever, the Friends Academy values we learned keep me grounded – thank you, FA – and staying close to our most special FA friends – organized by Tilde and Vicki!!

Kurt Olander writes: This year marks 45 years post High School graduation. 2020 has stood out as one of the most difficult years due to COVID-19, the resulting economic collapse, and the existing severe political disunity. Thankfully, all those in our immediate family



Betsy Bober Polivy '75 with her book, *Walking Manhattan Sideways – Side street businesses that have stood the test of time*, which was published in November.



are healthy, but everyone is stressed in differing levels. 2021 will be a better year for everyone. With my thoughts of peace, please stay healthy everyone.

Betsy Bober Polivy writes: I hope that everyone in the Class of '75 and beyond have not had to suffer too greatly during this past year. I have been truly blessed and certainly appreciate the good that has come from a desperate time. At the beginning of March 2020, my husband and I decided to drive up to Boston to visit our daughter for the weekend. We had made the decision to cancel our yearly vacation with her family, but needed to get some hugs from our three grandchildren. Little did we realize when we packed for a three-night stay that we would end up remaining for four months! What a gift this was for each of us. My daughter and son-in-law both needed to quickly figure out how to work remotely and help the older kids adapt to a new way of learning from home while the little one needed constant attention. We set everyone up in a separate room – including my husband who was also navigating the new norm – and I had the pleasure of taking care of the 3-year-old and supervising the 6- and 9-year-old's schooling. Crazy, but so wonderful at the same time. I never dreamed of having this rare opportunity to spend this kind of quality time with my family. While in Boston, I also made the decision that I must push and self-publish *Walking Manhattan Sideways – Side street businesses that have stood the test of time*. It was imperative to me that I celebrate and honor these amazing places that were struggling during the pandemic. The book

came out at the end of November, and almost immediately went into a second printing. Never did I imagine it to do as well as it has – worldwide. I do believe that people are enjoying living vicariously right now. Reading the stories of the small business owners allows people to get a small glimpse into a New Yorker's world. My son was able to visit us from Salt Lake City in September for several weeks. It was so nice to be with him, but so sad to see him go. We are hoping that come the spring, both he and his wife will be able to return – safely. So many of us have had to be separated from our family and friends. By the time we are reading this *Meeting House*, I hope that we will all have been vaccinated and able to reunite with those we love and to move on with our lives.

Robert Holterman writes: Hi, we're holding down the fort here in upstate NY during the second surge. All children are well – our daughter Leigh Ann lives in Burlington, VT, Nick is in Clifton Park, NJ and Kait lives in Chicago. Details are for another time since I don't want to be "that alum." We're hoping for the resolution of so many crises in 2021. Stay safe '75, this is gonna end.

Tilde Mariani Giacché writes: Hi to all my wonderful classmates! What a year this has been for all of us. I was lucky enough to travel back to Italy for the entire summer, two weeks of quarantine as soon as I got there were well worth it! Sadly, my adored big brother Augie (Class of 1972) passed away very suddenly and unexpectedly October 21 – he was the best brother, uncle, cousin and friend you could ever hope for. We all miss him so much every single day and keep all of our wonderful memories together in our hearts. Jennifer and Josh with their families moved up to Stamford, CT and are loving it. Nonna Tilde gets to visit them really often and they come into the city whenever they get the chance – I get to be the designated Italian speaker with my little grandson Marco! Oreste, like all of my kids, is working remotely and living with his boyfriend Tyler in California then making their way back East on a road trip. My youngest, Vienna, is still at home with me and just got her first promotion at her adtech company. I still teach afterschool with Manhattan Youth and am really looking forward to being back in person with my spunky middle schoolers! I also volunteer making birthday and caring calls to senior citizens – I've met some of



Tilde Mariani Giacché '75 with her son Oreste out to lunch in New York City (above) and with her family (below)

the most amazing women who have led incredible lives. I'm thinking of you all and sending you all a big giant hug.

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As those of you that responded know and some who didn't respond – I sent out a letter via snail mail and asked for the past 40 years worth of notes! To those of you that emailed me I am so grateful! Thank you!! For those of you that didn't – it's never too late for the next edition of *The Meeting House*.

As for me, I am new to this so I did my best to copy and paste and only the smallest amount of editing. I was so thrilled to hear what everyone has been up to and some of your adventures have been fantastic and/or heart warming. There have been a lot of us who have taken care of parents. Kudos to all of you as I know how hard that is. There are a lot of kids, marriages, divorces, fantastic sounding jobs, adventures, passions found and pursued, sad news and other interesting notes. What you would expect from a boat load of years of living. Thank you so much for sharing. So without further ado it's time to catch up with the Class of 1979.

John DiMatteo writes: Went to Polytechnic Institute of NY and graduated with an engineering degree in 1984 (one extra year for me!) Worked as a civil engineer while attending St John's Law School at night Met my beautiful wife Angela, a registered nurse, while going to night school (she is from the same small town in Italy as my family – it was an arranged marriage LOL) Changed the pronunciation of my last name from "dah Matt t o" to "dee mah Tay o" – proper Italian pronunciation and people have

a better chance of spelling the name correctly. Worked as an IP (patent) trial attorney in NYC until 2017 and picked up a few more degrees along the way (MSCS, Polytechnic; LLM Trial Advocacy, Temple; MA Biotechnology, Columbia) During those years my wife gave birth to three beautiful children (they got her genes thank goodness) Andrew, 31, (med school), Nicholas, 29, (hospitality) and Daniella, 27, (teacher). Semi-retired in 2017 to sail around the world with my wife on our sailboat. Returned in May 2019 and trying to decide what next to do with our lives. Currently dabbling in the practice of law, while Angela retired to work as a nurse.

Alexandra Troy (aka Gigi) writes: I'm living in Manhasset with my wonderful husband (soon to be our 25th Anniversary) and our almost 21-year-old son and two adorable schnauzers. My mom is zippy and feisty and lives in Manhasset too, about four minutes away. I love catering and cooking. Although it is a challenging time to own a small business, Culinary Architect Catering is hanging in.

From **Joe Borini**: Past 40 years in a nutshell, my wife Joanne and I celebrated our 32nd wedding anniversary last October. She is an attorney. We have two sons, Peter, 21, who is at New York University (remotely), and Lucas, 15, who is a sophomore at the Horace Mann School in the Bronx. Peter played soccer; Lucas is a wrestler. We have a ways to go before we are empty-nesters. We live in Manhattan, at least for the time being. After college, I went to work for the *New York Daily News* as a copy boy during the city's crack epidemic in the mid-1980s. That was an adventure. Long story short, I eventually left journalism and now write plays. If you haven't happened to have seen my work on Broadway, that's because it hasn't made it there, yet. I have had off-off Broadway productions in New York and LA as well as in Italy and Australia.

Jon Kenton (formerly Spinello) writes: Right now, I'm home writing plays, saying rosaries and driving my wife and kids crazy. I am told I am such a Boomer. To get the ball rolling, we live in Fairfield, CT now, after some time on the Outer Banks in North Carolina, and Virginia. (Just fyi, our family (sister Amy FA 1981, mother Bunny — passed last year) changed our

names from Spinello to Kenton right after high school) I was in the Navy for a few years, then business, investing. Beth and I have been married 30 years, three kids also, one son (NYU grad) is a film editor/ animator, another son just graduated University of Colorado Boulder Business School, and a daughter still at CU Boulder for Junior Spring Semester COVID-style. And two small Havanese dogs!

Leslie Fromm-Hyder: I've been living in East Meadow for 35 years now. Was married 30 years, but happily divorced now about five years now. I'm a licensed wildlife rehabilitative and have been doing it for years. I specialize in raccoon, bats and skunks. I'm also a licensed Nassau County foster mom. I took in two kids 10 years ago and finally I'll be adopting them shortly. I also have four older kids – Sarah, Saraya, Jav, and Cam. They range from 24-34. Sarah is an OT specialist and has two perfect kids so I'm a grandma. Saraya lives outside D.C. and works for Deloitte. Jav and Cam both work for a company called strategic financial based out of Manhattan. I must say I'm very proud of my four older kids. They're all on their own and doing great. Adalila and George are 12 and 13 and have some issues that we're working on due to some severe trauma they suffered before they came to me at 3 and 4. I also am on the nighttime emergency list for kids that get pulled out of their homes in the middle of the night and need a warm bed and a big dinner. I'm still best friends with Susan Colombo and see her often for dinner." Leslie also mentioned that her sister Vanessa passed away last May after a 12-year battle with cancer. So sad. I always remember Vanessa with her beautiful long brown hair and a huge smile on her face.

Joanne Jaffin Mason writes: I took a different path so my kids are young—two boys ages 17 and 10. My older son is at Taft and the younger one is in 4th grade (!). Both hockey and lax players. After Friends I went to Brown, then spent the next 33 years working on Wall Street (MBA from NYU along the way), 23 years living in Manhattan. My husband hated the city so we moved to Connecticut in 2006 and I commuted for 10 years. I retired about five years ago. Now I'm a suburban mom in Weston, CT, playing tennis and paddle and driving kids to sports events! Jackie Mykoff hit the nail on the head: Almost 60 is quite sobering, but I've been busy and

am grateful for my achievements, and happy to share.

I have four adult children ages 28, 30, 33 and 36, Rachel, Sofia, Harry and Sam. I am also a grandma, each daughter has one child (so far) and Harry and his wife Michelle are expecting this July. My oldest grandchild Evelyn, age 5, named me Oma as she was born in Hamburg, Germany and I spent five years traveling there to play and learn German! Rachel and family have recently relocated to Montreal so now I'm dusting off and using my French while forever thanking Madame Miro and Madame Hummerstone for teaching me so well! My husband Buddy and I will be celebrating 39 years of marriage this summer! Whaaaaaaa!!!! Whoa. We were married when I was 20 so I never quite pulled off establishing a career before we started our family, and with four children, family became my full time job. I did squeeze in one hobby while my children were growing up. In 2000, I fell in love with Spinning when indoor cycling was in its formative years. I combined a passion for teaching along with a passion for Spinning and became a certified Mad Dogg Spin instructor. Teaching group fitness led me back into sports and I learned how to swim, picked up running, and competed in every distance of triathlon racing. My biggest race was competing and completing Ironman Lake Placid before focusing on just teaching/ coaching indoor cycling. I completed my professional training by becoming ACE and AFAA certified and also became a USAT triathlon coach. I was teaching until this past June when the boutique studio I helped to establish in Long Beach closed its doors due to COVID. I miss working, I miss the collective energy and making a difference in so many lives, but I am fortunate to have had a solid 16 years of doing exactly what I loved doing! Now I am happily grandparenting my seven-month-old grandson Theodore in Brooklyn so my daughter can work. There is always so much to tell. My path was unexpected and there were many bumps along the way but we are all well, our family is growing, I and that is the best gift.

Gerard Vecchio's "Cliff Notes" version of the past 40+ years: I have been married for 30 years to Jenny Merrick Vecchio who I met at Middlebury College back in 1980 – we were married in 1989. We live in Tolland, CT (midway between Hartford,

CT and Sturbridge, MA) We have two daughters: Sabine (age 30) and Lexy (age 28). Sabine (pronounced "Sa Bee Na") lives in Mesa, AZ with her husband Andy. Sabine works for an online high school called StrongMinds, creating online Spanish, Math, and History course curricula, while Andy is a software and hardware engineer and QA guru. Lexy and her boyfriend Matt live with Jenny and me in Tolland. Lexy is getting an MFA at UConn in Digital Media & Arts, while Matt is a lighting engineer who works for an architectural firm located in midtown-Manhattan.

As for me, I had a 25-year career in private equity from 1992 to 2016, after which I took a leave of absence from my second private equity partnership to help care for my dad after he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. After dad passed in 2016, I joined Marsh Berry & Company, a specialty investment bank focused on the insurance industry and headquartered in Cleveland, OH. I run MarshBerry's midtown-Manhattan office, and have dual responsibilities as head of MarshBerry's Specialty Insurance M&A division and head of MarshBerry's Capital Markets division. In my spare time, I have helped establish MarshBerry's international operations in Amsterdam (a great European city). I still play guitar regularly and am part of an over-50 group of about a dozen musicians who gather twice a month to pretend to play music (that is, before COVID set in).

Amanda Walpin Leath: So, what have I been up to? I live, as you know from my mailing address, in Brooklyn, NY. I was married a long time ago, and got divorced. I have two sons, who I raised on my own — now, 26 and 23. Both, because of COVID, living at home. The older is figuring out what's next in his life, knows things he doesn't want to do, but hasn't quite figured what he does want — but he will. He went to Kalamazoo College in MI. My younger son went to UVM and majored in forestry, but his real passion is bouldering, and he just started working at a climbing gym in Brooklyn. His girlfriend's family is also from Brooklyn, so when COVID gave no sign of going away they both moved back home from VT and hope to get an apartment soon and eventually go west or south or anywhere other than NY — somewhere with climbing and nature (she majored in soil). I work at a managed

healthcare organization (it's a not-for-profit) and am in Human Resources. My current role is leading the shared services team. It's pretty crazy. We are all working from home since the middle of last March and my team has overseen everything COVID. It means I work way too much, but it keeps me busy and I enjoy it. Before COVID, for fun I'd take advantage of NY, see lots of music and shows. Looking forward to that again. My dad died a little less than five years ago; he was hit by a car! My mom is hanging in there. She lives in Manhattan, and is anxious to get her first COVID vaccine this week. My sister lives in NJ with her husband and has three kids. My brother lives in Santa Fe with his wife and has one kid. We all are close and talk often and will resume seeing each other hopefully this year. They both still keep in touch with some of their Friends Academy classmates.

I asked **Billy Nicholas** about hockey after high school: "I played for Team USA and then minor league pro hockey for a whopping two years after college! More *Slap Shot* than *Miracle*. My Dad is 93 and living in Venice, FL with his Canadian girlfriend (91). I've been married for 28 years to Christine Wolfe from Perrysburg, OH. We live in Greenwich, CT (also 28 yrs) have two daughters, 26 and 23. I don't see a lot of the Friends crew. I see **Tom Hawkins** at Yale lacrosse games."

Leesa Sklover: Here is my summary: Talked to Joanne yesterday she said hers was four lines. Not me. I just got off the phone from Donna who told me of your letter. I am very out of the loop. I am best of friends with Donna, we speak almost every day. Joanne as well has been a lifetime friend. **Lori Blodnick Krakow** I have seen but not as much as I would like. I have a career as a singer songwriter. Never stopped performing and producing albums of my music. Now ideally for film and TV. I am a Ph.D. licensed psychotherapist with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and integrative Therapies (bringing meditation, music sound healing, mindfulness to the mainstream back in the early 90s, masters in Music therapy as well, as a Yoga Therapist-teacher. I combine my research and work in the creative process and the use of sound, and do counseling with women trying to conceive, all the way to being an end-of-

life doula. Worked at Canyon Ranch Spa for 12 years as therapist and lecturer. I lecture and do work online and in person in CT and NYC. I worked in film music and at MCA records after school before being a therapist to support my creative life. New album coming out – lots on Apple and Spotify. Most proud of my daughter Emma Rae, age 23, and my years bringing up my step-soul children—many. I am now divorced and live on the shoreline in CT and hope to be working on both coasts, not that COVID allows me to be non-local. My life has been about being a great Mom, service in hospitals, spas and private practice and healing, composing music, but being a songwriter is my main identity and gift. I never stopped performing and recording music since I started at Northwestern. It all has come together now.

Peter Stein gave me the official story after seeing him in *The Meeting House* so many times – "I think I've probably had the most contact with FA then almost anyone in our class. I graduated Lafayette College and then went to Cornell University Medical School. I did all my graduate training at various NYC hospitals and then moved back to Long Island in 1993 and joined an orthopaedic surgery practice in Manhasset. I do exclusively hand surgery and practice has been fun and successful. It's hard to believe that I've been in practice for 28 years! Over the years, I've taken care of many FA alumni/ students/parents and FA teachers so I've maintained contact with the school community. My practice is the "team doctors" for the school too. When I started practice in '93, I was carefree and single. Life was great!! FA sent out a letter saying they were organizing a reunion in NYC for local alumni and I went. I met a gal from the class of 1984, Susan Witkoff, and we started dating and were married in '96. The FA alumni office loved this story of attending a reunion and meeting your spouse and essentially made us the poster children for the FA Alumni Association! I've been the president of the Alumni Association at FA for the past 15 years. (It may sound impressive but it's not!). Through that affiliation, I've heard lots about FA alumni and have seen some of our classmates over the years. Additionally, as one of five Stein siblings to graduate FA, I've seen and heard lots about

alumni from various years in the mid-70s through 90. My wife and I moved to Sands Point and had three kids. It turns out our neighbor is **Maggie Keats** who lives with her Dad in her childhood home. Her Mom died a few years ago and Maggie has been a very successful real estate broker. Despite my wife and I both being FA alumni, we never intended to send our kids to FA but as time went on we realized that it was a better choice than the Port Washington public high school. My daughter Lizzy graduated FA in 2017 and is a senior at Univ. of Wisconsin. My son William just graduated in 2020 and is a freshman at Univ. of Pennsylvania. My daughter Alison is a 10th grader at FA.

Each year the school gives out the FA Distinguished Alumni Award at 4th day Honors. It's their "highest honor" to their alumni and it's gone to some pretty cool folks over the years. Last year, I received the award which was quite humbling. I was the second class of '79er to receive the award. **Marja Brandon** received it several years ago and I saw her at 4th Day Honors when she spoke. She's an educator of the deaf (she was in Seattle and I think she is now a head of school in Illinois) and has done remarkable work."

Peter was right, **Marja Brandon** shared: "was last at Friends back about 8 or 9 years ago when I was honored to receive a distinguished Alumni Award! I now live in Evanston, IL and am the Head of School at a small, young Montessori IB High School. I'd be happy to reconnect and be a resource should anyone need it."

The **Danny Gleitman** story: Cornell '83 engineering, straight to Houston to work for an oilfield company that ultimately was bought by Halliburton. So I've been effectively with Halliburton for the whole 38 years since college. Currently, and really for many years, overseeing the company's patent portfolio and associated processes, and our external technology (some call 'scouting' and 'open innovation') functions. My role combines technical, business, and legal aspects. It's technically challenging, and of course has the boom and bust business challenges of the oilfield as well. I've been married 21 years – Wife Pauline Schloesser was a college prof

(Political Science), and now owns / runs a yoga studio. Google it – Alcove Yoga. Operating via Zoom now of course. Two boys – Jonah just now in first year at Univ. of Texas in Austin, and we just helped him move into a tiny apartment. Aaron is in 9th grade, and is a high-ranking official (so I'm told) in the Minecraft community. As long as the A's continue I guess that's okay. I'm active in Boy Scouts with a local troop, with one son an Eagle, another maybe on the way, we've hiked Philmont, and camping every month or so. That and my obligatory weekly yoga class keeps me from feeling 60!

Tod Aufiero is doing well and writes: After Grad school he went to work at a large corporate architecture firm in NYC where he worked on large-scale urban development. After working in corporate architecture he went into private practice! Both he and his wife have always felt fortunate to have homes both in Manhattan and on Long Island, but never so much so as during this pandemic. They've set-up feeders in their backyard and enjoy watching and photographing an incredible variety of birds while they've been isolating.

As for me, **Susan Thomas Cosmopolous**, I gave my fellow classmates the long version in my letter. For those of you who didn't get it – **Bill Shea, Margaret Irwin Madden** and **Mike Lagana** whose letters came back in the mail – here are my notes: I married a man named Nick that I met my freshman year of college. We are settled in southeastern Massachusetts where we've been for about 30 years. We have three boys – William (Billy), 30, Ryan, 27 and Eric, 24, who are now, of course, men! As I mentioned in my letter, my kids went to the Moses Brown School in Providence. A carbon copy of FA, Quaker meeting and all! Billy got married in 2019 to a wonderful woman whom he met in Washington, D.C. They both went to Georgetown – only a year apart. They met while he was tending bar before law school. His long story short: he's a lawyer in a suburb of San Francisco where Daniella, aka Dani, is from. They were knee deep in the city during the COVID lockdown and decided enough was enough and bought a house. No grandchildren yet. I say that with some relief because I can't help thinking being a grandmother will definitely make me

feel old. My second son, Ryan, ended up following in his older brothers footsteps as he played baseball at Saint Anselm in NH. (Oops forgot to mention, Billy played baseball at Georgetown.) Then he too went on to law school. First DePaul, then Georgetown Law. He's also currently a lawyer but, in DC. My youngest Eric decided to forgo the baseball route and got recruited as a QB for Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). He now works for Net Suite and lives in South Boston. So, yup, all three of my kids were very into sports so, you can tell what we did after school and every weekend as they were growing up. I've been VP and Treasurer for Seekonk Little League for 18 years this spring. I like to think of it as my way of giving back to my community. Now that I don't have kids in the league or as I say "skin in the game" – I can lend an unbiased vote and with this many years I can say, "Been there, done that – it didn't work." I'm also very busy with the family business my brothers and I own. My job is the accounting/bookkeeping and property management portion. So, Nick and I get back to the Long Island area often.

Thank you again to all that responded. If you didn't please email and we can catch up before the next edition! Stay safe!

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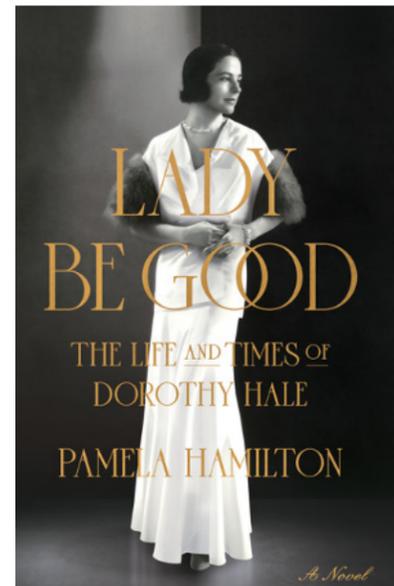
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Author and producer **Pamela Kawi Hamilton** has a new book coming out in March 2021. "Lady Be Good", hailed by Pulitzer Prize winner Bill Dedman as "a magnificent debut novel," is a moving portrait of Dorothy Hale, the legendary 1930s socialite immortalized in one of Frida Kahlo's most famous paintings.



Pamela Kawi Hamilton '84 released "Lady Be Good" in March 2021"

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Sarah Cowan launched the Cash Transfer Lab at New York University, where she is an Assistant Professor of Sociology. The Lab's mission is to understand how cash transfer policies like a Universal Basic Income (UBI) impact American families, communities, and economies. The idea of a UBI dates back to the 16th century and has supporters such as Thomas Paine and Martin Luther King, Jr. The Lab's work intersects with the Quaker education, as it seeks to answer fundamental questions about how a UBI can cultivate a more equal and just society for all individuals, while also supporting each person's autonomy and dignity. The Cash Transfer Lab's initial funding comes from Jack Dorsey's #StartSmall Initiative.

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Wow – what a crazy year this has been. It has been wonderful connecting with classmates near and far over the past few weeks. Neely and I hope that you and your families are doing well during these, let's say, interesting times. We are very much looking forward to an actual in-person event whenever that will be possible!

We are grateful that several classmates have written in. Here are quite a few fantastic updates:

Kim Colombo Aberman writes an eye-opening and quite telling account of her life as an OR Nurse this past year: Hi everyone! It's been about 10 months for all of us and I hope that you all have been healthy. Our lives and our kids lives have been turned upside down. I'm pretty strict with my COVID rules and for good reason. Most of you know I am an OR nurse for now 23 years – I love my job! I believe the emphasis on service to others at FA solidified my career choice. Some things I learned over these last months have really changed me personally and professionally. I know one thing for sure, I will never be the same. In some good ways and some not so good. Even though I work in the OR, that quickly changed March 15 when I got a call from my director saying that all our ICUs were filled and the vented patients in the ER had to move somewhere to make room for the non-stop influx of arrivals to our hospital. She wanted me and three other nurses to turn our Ambulatory Surgery unit into an ICU. So, basically a giant room with some curtains around each of the 30 patient spots would now be a vented COVID unit. We threw the unit together as patients just kept coming. It was extremely frightening because we knew very little about the disease and these patients were very sick. That room quickly filled up over the next few days, we turned our 30-bed recovery room into another vented unit and were now spreading into the children's hospital. I proudly work for Northwell at Long Island Jewish and this health system went above and beyond. I had PPE at all times – my biggest fear. They took an area designated for the new Cohen's Recovery room and within two days turned it into a 60-bed COVID ICU. It was a well-oiled machine. We are a 583-bed hospital and we had 960 patients at the peak with 860 positive for COVID. It was unreal. I saw many patients die. More in one particular day than in my entire career. I wept with their families over FaceTime or, if they were able to come in, at the bedside with their loved one. No patient was alone, EVER. Not in the successes and not in the passing. This time distanced and restricted has renewed my faith, my family connection and love



Kristin Gruber-Grunert '94 spent the last five years working on the expansion of the Children's Center at Boston University

for my career. Please, wear your mask, get together with friends and extended family outside, and I urge you to get vaccinated when it becomes available to you. If you have any questions please, reach out. I recently was vaccinated, something I spent a lot of time deciding whether or not to receive it. Hope you are all well.

What a true hero. We are grateful for Kim and everyone else in our class on the front lines. Thank you for all you do!

Kristin Gruber-Grunert also has a great accomplishment to share: Over the last five years, I have been working on an expansion project for the Children's Center at Boston University. Little did we know that we would be moving into our new home in the middle of a global pandemic, but we did, and the children are thriving! We spent the last few years gut renovating a 100 year old home to create a new space for the children of University families. We grew from one classroom to seven and have been busy settling into our new space since last August. I am excited that we can now serve a larger number of families in our community and to embark on this new adventure in my second decade as Director!

Alvin Haruthunian chimed in as well with some fun news: Pandemic got you down? Well I've got just the thing to lift your, uh, spirits. Our business Hi-Lo Liquor Market (www.hiloli liquor.com) is going strong and growing, with more locations and

nationwide shipping coming soon. Can't wait to see you all!"

Kelly Mackinnon has recently joined Neely in what they call the best Borough, although I may beg to differ. Kelly writes: After a decade in Hell's Kitchen, I moved to downtown Brooklyn in 2019 and have been loving the new neighborhood, especially the easy commute to Fried Frank, where I am the Director of Business Development. I have been in the legal

marketing industry for the past 13 years and was named the 2021 Legal Marketing Association International President. I am still actively playing field hockey on the USA Masters Over 40 team and very much looking forward to getting out on the pitch for the Masters World Cup 2022.

Angelish Kumar reported some exciting news from last year as well. After finishing medical school at Tufts and residency at NYU, Angelish has been practicing urology for almost 10 years. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two daughters, ages 7 and 8. Last year, she finally decided to follow her dream of opening up her own



Angelish Kumar '94 at her urology practice

urology practice, focusing exclusively on high quality care for women with bladder and urinary leakage issues. Her father passed away in 2019, and her mother still lives in Mill Neck, 10 minutes from Friends. She loves pointing out the school to her daughters when they go to visit her mother. She has especially fond memories of the 9th grade outdoor ed trip, the fresh baked chocolate chip cookies from the cafeteria, tennis team, softball team, the ski trip to St. Anton junior year, and Madame Miro saying "dans la lune" when you weren't paying attention in French class.

Neely got to see Angelish right before COVID hit as they both live in Brooklyn. She also spent time with **Eden** in Cape Cod, by chance staying at the same place. **Josh Speisman** was mostly cocooned in Port Washington with his wife, four kids and dog. She got to see him there and for a quick outdoor visit on the beach in Florida. Josh also got to see **Adam Ronzoni** out in Shelter Island, once, that I know of.

Mike Longo is continuing to enjoy life in Andover, MA with his family. He writes: We added a beagle named Parker to the gang last year. He has been a great motivation to get us outside to enjoy all the hiking trails that surround our home in Harold Parker State Park. Thankfully, Connor and Susie have been able to play hockey throughout the pandemic, so that has allowed for some semblance of "normal" throughout all of this. Connor is



Neely (Doshi) Cather '94 and Eden (Yariv) Goldberg '94 in Cape Cod last summer

off to high school next year – and Susie middle school. Where does the time go???? To keep life interesting, I changed jobs in September, joining an expanding national personal injury law firm starting an office in Boston as a lead trial attorney. Yes, I know what you are thinking – but I enjoy helping my clients and conducting trials (when they are allowed again). I have, so far, managed not to appear for any Zoom hearings as a cat!

Much warmer than Massachusetts, **Gavin Skeen** has moved to sunny Florida! Here is what Gavin has to share: In late 2020, my job was reclassified as full-time remote, so I put my apartment in Yonkers on the market and moved down to Bradenton, FL. It is a suburb on the Gulf Coast, tucked in between Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota. I don't miss the Northeast's snow or the shoveling at all. The one month of winter was uncharacteristically chilly for this part of the Sunshine State, but the outlook is warm and bright from here on out. Culturally speaking, this area reminds me a bit of Long Island in the summer. There are some beautiful beaches, some world class museums like the Ringling and the Dali, some great food, and plenty to do when I can find the time. I even found a brick oven pizza place run by a guy from New Jersey, with a pie that would be considered special even back home. And then there is this incredible fish taco bar overlooking Sarasota Bay! I love it down here. I cannot imagine ever moving back. 2020 was a wild ride. Be well. And feel free to reach out if you are ever in the area.

Meredyth Kravitz kindly wrote in as well and reminded me about our great COVID group Zoom calls and texts with **Kristin (Kelly) Pieper, Lara (Hirsch) Yanke, Rashmi (Shetty) Licht, Katie (Hsu) Hoberman, Anne (Siegert) Thomas** and **Devon Metz**. After many years, the pandemic got us all back in touch and it was fun catching up! Meredyth has seen **Danielle (Lia) Van Riper, Philip Van Riper & Dana (Minutoli) Forbes** regularly. Meredyth reports: Danielle, Dana & I had an outdoor girls' dinner date recently. This past summer we took two family vacations with Danielle and Philip to Newport, RI and NH. I am still living in Cold Spring Harbor with my husband David and 2 sons, Jonah and Kyle (12 and 10 years old). I continue

to work as a pediatric neuropsychologist, specializing in the evaluation and treatment of learning and attentional difficulties. I recently opened an office in Oyster Bay after COVID prevented me from commuting to my Manhattan office regularly. "

Dana's job in Commercial and Residential Real Estate has given her the opportunity to connect with so many FA alum and work together with **Alexandra Tsakanikas Andrejkovics, Mary Beth Maioli Kelly, Jessica Foschi Gallo** and **Jesse Schaeffer**, just to name a few!

John Siris lives a few blocks away from me in Manhasset with his lovely wife Susan (who I introduced him to, by the way). He works in finance and coaches his boys in football, basketball and lacrosse. His girls are in 9th and 7th at FA and they have enjoyed seeing so many friendly faces at Friends like Coach Baskind, Coach Quack, John Regan, Bill Gary, Mrs. Newitt and more!

As for me, **Alana**, I am grateful to report that my family and I are doing well. My oldest daughter just turned 13, which I find crazy to have a teenager in the house. **Pamela (Foschi) Danbusky '97** helped make it a special celebration by creating personalized donuts with my daughter's picture on them from one of her Dunkin' Donuts establishments (really fun!). These are such a great addition to any celebration if you are local! I'm excited that Friends Academy may be on the horizon for us in the near future. Kristin (Kelly) and **Damian Pieper** live nearby as well with their three boys and are all doing well. I typically would see them much more often than currently! I also have enjoyed seeing **Danielle (Valenti) Smith '93, Devon Metz, Lauren (Rubinstein) Aryeh '95, and Colleen (Doyle) Moran '91**, who it was fun to catch up with at a lacrosse tournament with our daughters in NJ. Also, I love working for Beautycounter with **Annie (Long) Sullivan '90**, who is a great mentor. It's always great catching up with and keeping in touch with FA alum! Thanks to everyone for writing in. Neely and I hope you all stay well, safe and healthy in the coming months and we look forward to seeing you in person soon!

1995

Thomas Pascarella
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tompasc@tompasc.com

Kelly Reid Walsh
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(617) 285-5819
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1996

Luke Cass
3000 Washington Boulevard, Apt. 823
Arlington, VA 22201

1997

Devon Broderick Carroll
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Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724
(917) 531-7579
devon.broderick@gmail.com

Devon George
7 Summit Avenue
Bronxville, NY 10708
(516) 457-8082
devon@dmvcapital.net

1998

Justin J. Boults
222 Gates Avenue
Apartment 2
Brooklyn, NY 11238
boultsman@hotmail.com

Justin P. Meli
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New York, NY 10036
(713) 553-4108
justinpmeli@gmail.com

1999

Jennifer Ryan Woods
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Glen Cove, NY 11542
(516) 398-0888
woods@me.com

2000

Meredith MacKinnon
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mmackinnon35@yahoo.com

2001

Hadley Devon Mongell
80 East Putnam Avenue
Cos Cob, CT 06807
(516) 857-2177
hmongell@gmail.com

Courtney Devon Taylor joined Hogan Lovells as a partner in the Litigation, Arbitration, and Employment practice in Philadelphia and New York. She represents global and U.S. clients in commercial litigation and regulatory enforcement matters. She joins the firm's Financial Institutions and Insurance Sector, and the Sports, Media & Entertainment team.

Sallie Touma writes: I'm so excited that my company is rebranded! salliemathtutor.com Since FA is family to me, I have a FA family package available for SAT/ACT math or homework/test prep. To the Class of 2001, I've changed # to (516) 368-6001 & want to stay in touch :)

2002

Lauren Bebry Kenter
160 Madison Avenue
Apartment 42E
New York, NY 10016
(631) 875-5725



Sallie Touma '01 recently rebranded her tutoring company

Michael Jason Weiss
60 West 23rd Street, Apt. 411
New York, NY 10010
(516) 695-3155
michael.jason.weiss@gmail.com

Laura Yip writes: I wanted to share that I had a baby during the pandemic, my first. Her name is Clementine McAuley. We also learned to bake beautiful bread this year => My husband and I have been working from our home in San Diego and taking care of the baby with no help. The struggle is real! We can't wait to bring her to visit NY and meet my parents as well as our friends at FA.

2003

Jessica Jakobson
434 East 11th Street, Apt. 4RB
New York, NY 10009
(516) 628-1241
jess.jakobson@gmail.com

Jessica writes: In an effort to keep the Class of 2003 connected and engaged, we are asking for classmates to share their updated contact information. Please email your contact information to Jess Jakobson at jess.jakobson@gmail.com. The Class of 2003 hopes to host an outdoor "mini-reunion" in the Fall of 2021.

Justin Shaffer writes: I recently joined Waypoint Real Estate Investments as a Senior Development Manager. I will be based out of their headquarters in Boca Raton, FL. Waypoint Real Estate Investments is a vertically integrated real estate investment firm focused on the U.S. multifamily sector. Since 2011, Waypoint has invested over \$4.5 billion across over 28,000 multifamily housing units located nationwide. Please do reach out should you find yourself in South Florida.

2004

Angela Batista Forrest
451 East 14th St. Apt 5G
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(516) 857-6572
Batista1023@gmail.com

Jonathan Harley Koenig
15 West 72nd Street, Apt. 3M
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jonathan.h.koenig@gmail.com

2005

Garrett Dooley
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Helen Simpson Hatch
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2006

Brian T. Alessi
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Emily Lepore Jonap
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2007

Caitlin Koufakis deSvastich
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Christine Farrell
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Rebecca Pacchiano
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2008

Laura Berke Mottel
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Alexandria Phillips
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2009

Nell C. Kucich
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NellKucich@gmail.com

John E. Mascari
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2010

Alexa Gordon
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alexa.gordon@wustl.edu

Emily Hawkins
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Glen Cove, NY 11542
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2011

Holly Constants
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Holly.constants@gmail.com

Gabrielle McPhaul-Guerrier
188 Leaf Avenue
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gmcphaul-guerrier@live.com

Katie Sands was featured on Forbes.com in an interview that begins ..."But Katie Sands, the 27-year-old behind HonestlyKate, has spent her career defying the influencer status quo, ensuring that each post she makes and every brand she collaborates with works towards a greater good and inspires her audience to act with kindness. With more than 284 thousand followers on Instagram, ongoing partnerships with some of the world's most coveted brands, and a gig as an On-Air Style Host for Amazon Live, Sands has seen continued success with her do-good approach to influencing, and she's only just begun. Read on to learn how she's staying true to her mission even as the influencer arena has changed, why she thinks it's so important to give back, and what she sees as the future of influencing."



Sydney Menzin '13 participated in the White House Internship Program in Summer 2015. (Left photo: Official White House Photo by Chuck Kennedy and Amanda Lucidon, 2015)



2012

Sarah Chartash
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schartash@gwu.edu

Jake Ingrassia
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Los Angeles, CA 90007
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jake.ingrassia@gmail.com

Gabrielle Rechler
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2013

Sydney Menzin
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Lattingtown, NY 11560
(516) 639-2083
sfmenzin@gmail.com

John O'Brien
16 Wishing Well Lane
Old Brookville, NY 11545
(516) 419-2689
john.obrien1294@gmail.com

In Summer 2015, **Sydney Menzin '13** had the special opportunity to participate in the White House Internship Program. She served in the Office of the First Lady supporting Mrs. Obama's Reach Higher initiative, which promotes the importance of postsecondary attainment

and celebrates students continuing their education past high school. This was a pivotal experience that motivated Sydney to pursue a career in education, championing equitable access to empowering learning opportunities for all young people and elevating student voice in decision-making. That summer, Sydney and the rest of her intern class had the unique and fortunate opportunity to meet then-Vice President Biden and hear him speak.

2014

Simi Akinola
215 Rushmore Street
Westbury, NY 11590
simisolaakinola@yahoo.com

Lydia Graham
2000 Front Street
East Meadow, NY 11554

2015

Marianna Cuomo Maier
2 Lancaster Court
Manhasset, NY 11030
(516) 676-1957
mariannacm430@gmail.com

Cameron Hellerman
318 East Shore Dr.
Massapequa, NY 11758
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cameronhellerman@me.com

Danielle Kahn
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Mackenzie Williams is currently working for Trusted Media Brands as a photo editor for *The Healthy*. Trusted Media Brands is home to some of the best-known media brands in the U.S. such as *Reader's Digest* and *Taste of Home*. She began her career at Trusted Media Brands as a digital photo assistant for *Reader's Digest* and took on a new role with TMB's newly launched digital vertical, *The Healthy*. She manages all visuals and creatives for *The Healthy*.

Javana Clark graduated from the Tulane School of Social Work with her Master's in Social Work (MSW.) She started a new position as a Clinical Social Worker at Responsibility House (RH). RH is an inpatient addiction treatment center for homeless men.

Gabrielle Auerbach is working as a social media and digital marketing consultant.

Jeffrey (Alex) Nagel is going into his second year of employment as a software engineer at Bloomberg L.P.

Thomas Frey is in his 2nd year of Law School at Hofstra.

Cameron Hellerman graduated summa cum laude in 2019 from University of Pennsylvania, and has since worked as Deputy Finance Director for a 2021 NYC mayoral campaign.

Marianna Cuomo Maier graduated from Yale University in May 2019 and moved to Chicago to begin a two-year commitment as a Teach for America Corps Member. She is currently in her second year as a Chicago Public Schools Pre-K teacher in Englewood. Currently teaching virtually due to the pandemic!

Eva Valcic graduated from Boston College Carroll School of Management Class of 2019 with a double major in Marketing and Management & Leadership. Currently living in NYC. Currently working for The Walt Disney Company in integrated marketing across sports and entertainment.

2016

Maximo Lipman
11 Prospect Lane
Sands Point, NY 11050
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Maximo1219@gmail.com

Christina Yannello
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2017

Kaitlyn Hardy
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Mishie Macy
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Reed Mullen
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Elizabeth Panacciulli
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2018

Elissa Fielding
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Raquel Hutt
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Lauren Nagel
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Ally Zucker
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2019

Margaux Blau
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Alexander Clinton
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Huntington, NY 11743
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Olivia Lizza
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Oyster Bay, NY 11771
olivializza123@gmail.com

Morgan Pascucci
541 Centre Island Road
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
morgan1055@aol.com

Roland (Carl) Afzelius successfully launched a new business venture last summer. Just months after the COVID pandemic brought many businesses to a virtual standstill, Oyster Bay Water Sports brought a safe & fun activity, generally reserved to far away vacation spots, right here to the North Shore. Learn to waterski, wakesurf, wakeboard, or tube in beautiful Oyster Bay Harbor, or enjoy a dinner cruise across the Long Island Sound to Bartaco. No matter what your ideal day on the water is, they can make it happen. This year Oyster Bay Water Sports will be offering a private kids camp in which parents make a group of up to six children to participate in their five-day Monday-Friday water sports camp. Kids will spend the entire time on the boat and can wakeboard, wakesurf, waterski, and tube. At OBWS, safety is the top priority, campers wear vests at all times and there will never be more than 6 children in the boat. Roland is a U.S. Coast Guard Certified Captain, and all employees at Oyster Bay Water Sports are certified in both CPR and first aid. For more info on Private Charters, Lessons & Dinner cruises please visit the website oysterbaywatersports.com or email info@oysterbaywatersports.com.

2020

Billy Duke
billy_duke@fa.org

CONGRATULATIONS, PETER STEIN '79!

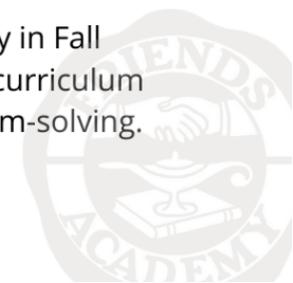


DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Many of you know Peter as the longstanding President of the Friends Academy Alumni Association Board. In addition to giving so many years of service back to our school, he is a renowned hand surgeon, having worked in the North Shore community for 30+ years. In addition to his practice, Peter is passionate about helping the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services responsible for providing health services to Native American Indians. He travels to Chinle, Arizona, on a regular basis to perform volunteer surgery on a Navajo reservation.

We are also pleased to announce that Peter will be joining us in another capacity in Fall 2021...teacher! He will pilot our first-ever "Solutions in Medicine" course, with a curriculum mirrored like a mini-medical school/clinic that offers real-world, complex problem-solving.

For everything you do, we thank you Peter!





James Francis Castleman '52

Dr. James Francis Castleman, 84, passed away on Monday, December 23, 2019, with his loving wife of 60 years by his side. A resident of Delmar, he was born in Brooklyn on February 17, 1935, to the late Reverend Lauriston Castleman and Mary Castleman. He was a graduate of Friends Academy in 1952, Princeton University in 1956, and New York Medical College in 1961. Upon completing his medical residency, he was drafted into the Vietnam War where he served from 1966-1968 as a captain in the United States Army. He was in private practice with privileges to St. Peter's and Albany Medical Hospitals since 1965 and medical director of St. Peter's Addiction Recovery Center (SPARC) from 1972. He was a member of the New York State Medical Disability Board since 1985 where he worked up until October 2019.

A member of the Albany Country Club and the Fort Orange Club, he was passionate about spending time with his family enjoying various events, especially activities centered on golf and cards. Simply, he loved nothing more than standing on the first tee on a bright sunny morning or playing cards with his lifelong friends in the 19th hole.

Survivors include his wife and best friend Jan Castleman whom he married on September 26, 1959; a daughter Lauren Castleman Bott (Marc); two sons, Francis Lee Castleman (Bri) and James Francis Castleman Jr.; his sister Mary Castleman Goodman and his twin brother Lauriston "Laurie" Castleman; 12 grandchildren, Lindsay, James, Liam, Drew, Scarlet, James III, Ian, Madelaine, Sawyer, Keegan, Reese, and Kyla; and his beloved puppy, Chester.

Contributions may be made in memory of James Francis Castleman to the American Cancer Society at www.donate.cancer.org. Applebeefuneralhome.com.



Van (Adele) Hanford MacDonald '52

Van was born in Port Washington on Oct. 4, 1934 to John Babcock Hanford and Adele Johnston Hanford. She survived her brother John Babcock Hanford Jr. Van attended Friends Academy in Locust Valley, graduated with a teaching degree from Bennett Junior College, then taught elementary school in NYC. Van married Dan in 1956 and enjoyed an enduring marriage lasting 63 years. They provided love and direction to three children, while balancing a commitment to community service. Active in the Junior League wherever she lived, Van was appointed Head of the Long Island Junior League Provisionals.

After moving to Ponte Vedra, FL, in 1993 she subsequently became Junior League Chairman of the Beaches Sustainers. Van was an active athlete during her collegiate years and throughout her adult life. She played field hockey and lacrosse at Friends Academy and enjoyed competitive club paddle tennis and tennis for decades after. Van tirelessly studied and mastered numerous art forms. Her mediums included oil painting, needle point, knitting, fine jewelry making, enamel work, watercolor, bronzing and gold leafing. In addition, she was a gifted interior designer who both oversaw and assisted numerous projects including home transformations and community projects.

Van was also an accomplished and recognized art historian. She was

President of the docents at The Cummer Museum in Jacksonville and headed the Museum outreach program at LaVilla School of the Arts. During her retirement she served as an advocate, fundraiser, and most importantly to her, as an art educator to people of all ages.

Van lived life richly. She was not only a gifted teacher but a constant student. She touched lives and made them better through her friendship, verve, humor and warmth. She was loyal, kind, intelligent, well-read, forthright and irreverently funny. We will all miss her deeply.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: The Vicar's Landing Members Trust Scholarship Fund: vicarsmembershiptrust@gmail.com, or Community Hospice and Palliative Care Foundation, 426 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257, www.communityhospice.com/give.



Anne-Renée (de Fontnouvelle) Stastny '54

Anne-Renée (de Fontnouvelle) Stastny, age 84, of Royse City, TX, passed away on December 20th 2020. She was born October 13, 1936, in Paris, France, to Charles Hippolyte Marie de Ferry de Fontnouvelle and Renée (Ripley) de Fontnouvelle. Her grandchildren affectionately called her "Nan." Anne-Renée will be deeply missed by everyone who loved and knew her.

Anne-Renée is survived by her loving husband: Thomas Stastny; stepchildren: Sylvia June Roy and husband Soumit, and Andrew Justin Stastny. She was preceded in death by her siblings: Pierre de Ferry de Fontnouvelle, and Charles de Ferry de Fontnouvelle; and her parents.



George Harold Cadwell, Jr. '55

Mr. George Harold "Grampa" Cadwell, Jr., age 81, a resident of the Gilead Shores Community, died Wednesday August 21, 2019. Mr. Cadwell was born in Brooklyn, NY, October 5, 1937 to the late Sarah E. Cadwell and George Harold Cadwell Sr.

George received a Bachelor of Science, Mechanical Engineering, with Distinction from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1960. After graduation, George worked as an engineer for the New York Telephone Company. In 1965 he began working with Flanders Filters as an engineer, then as Vice President from 1969-1988. George was instrumental in the relocation of Flanders to Washington, NC in 1969. He was a major contributor to establishing Flanders as the leading HEPA Filter Manufacturer in the World, as he is the holder and/or inventor of six U.S. patents related to clean room technology.

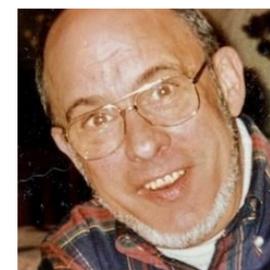
After retiring from Flanders, he traveled the world consulting on various filter products and operations for private corporations and governments. George was a published author having written numerous magazine and trade journal articles, and recently co-authored "American Dream, From Coasters to Containment: a Memoir of Flanders Filters, Inc." George was everyone's grandpa, and was affectionately referred to as "Grampa" by all, regardless of his relation.

He was a sweet, loveable man who loved nothing more than his family and spending time with his wife, children, grand-children and great grand-children. He loved playing music (guitar, ukulele, piano, kazoo) and leading family sing-a-longs. He was fond of the card game cribbage which he taught all his children, who taught their children, and their

children and those children who didn't get taught were sent to Uncle John's Cribbage Camp. There was never a family gathering where this card game was not played. George was an avid picture taker and has created quite a family history of photos, many of which can be viewed on his Facebook page. His other hobbies included gun collecting, music and literature.

George is survived by his wife of 46 years, Myrna R. Cadwell; children Elizabeth A. Cadwell of St. Petersburg FL, Cathy Cadwell Wills, and husband Greg of Fort Worth, TX; John F. Cadwell of Covington, GA; and Charles H. Cadwell and wife Cindy of Raleigh, NC; Stepchildren Mona Joy Edwards of Blounts Creek, NC, Debra G. Clark and husband Mike of Blounts Creek, NC, Peggy Bright and husband Frankie of Chocowinity, NC, and Mike Edwards and wife Dail of Blounts Creek, NC. Numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and the mother of his children – the former Ingrid Fredrickson.

George was preceded in death by his parents, his son George H. Cadwell III and two stepsons, Daniel D. Edwards and Gregory D. Edwards.



John "Fil" Graff, Jr. '55

John "Fil" Filson Graff, 82, of St. Thomas, PA passed away October 21, 2020 at Chambersburg Hospital surrounded by his family. He was born on February 9, 1938 in Long Island, NY to the late John Filson Graff, Sr. and Mildred Millar Graff. Fil was very active in The Boy Scouts in his youth. He retired from the Chinnet Company after more than 25 years of service, which was highlighted by achieving several package design patents. After retirement he ran multiple

antique businesses. He became an internationally known researcher and restorer of Aladdin and other kerosene lamps. Fil is survived by wife of 55 years, Roberta Hershey Graff and his son, David Scott Graff (wife, Christina.) In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son John Filson Graff III and his sister Karen Thompson. Kelso-Cornelius Funeral Home, Ltd. of Chambersburg has been entrusted with his care. Services will be private and at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to either Cumberland Valley Animal Shelter in Chambersburg or the American Lung Association. Online condolences may be made at www.KelsoCorneliusFH.com



James Graham '55

James Graham, 82, passed away peacefully at his home in Califon, NJ on October 8th, 2020. Having forever made an impact on all who knew him, James was loved by all, and will be greatly missed. James was born in Jamestown, N.Y., but was a longtime resident of Hunterdon County and lived in Califon for over 30 years. James was the only child of Ann Hewitt and Alfred Lucco. He also had two half-siblings; Anjanette Valiente and Angelo Lucco.

James was the devoted husband of Gael Graham for 45 years and was the father of five children from previous marriages. He is survived by Lizbeth Lucco, Nina Drinnan and her husband Scott, Andrew Graham and his wife Dawna, and Christopher Graham and his wife Sandra. James was predeceased by his daughter Carla Nowell. His children also blessed him with four grandchildren; Sarah, Emily, Philip, and Dylan, along with a great-grandchild, Jameson.

James' marriage to Gael also gifted him five stepsons; Chris Laskey and his wife Linda, Steven Laskey and his wife Nancy, David Laskey, and Jimmy Laskey. He was predeceased by his youngest stepson Craig Laskey. James is survived by several grandchildren; Tatham, Caitlin, Erin, Brianna, Peter, Brian, Erica, James, Hogan, and Declan. James was also the great-grandfather of Tyrus and Jacob.

James attended Syracuse University and joined the Air Force soon after. Having acquired a particular set of skills early on in his life, James went on to master many crafts. He was a broker for Paine Webber, an agent for Century 21, an owner of the Graham/Snyder corporation, and then of JG Construction. As a last endeavor, James became the building inspector of High Bridge Borough, and Clinton Township, as well as the zoning officer of Union Township.

All of his life, James enjoyed building things; from his own home several times from scratch, to his final creation of an impressive, high tech chicken coop. His pride and joy was a red and white convertible Nash Metropolitan that he successfully refurbished and drove in many parades, including the Lebanon Borough Fourth of July parade, for over 25 years.

James also considered Maine to be his second home. Gael's parents, Francis and Rayna Keane, lived in the small town of Jonesport, and they would visit there as often as possible.

Memorial contributions in James' name may be made to the charity of your choice. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.coughlinfuneralhome.com.



Allan Frisbie Munro '55

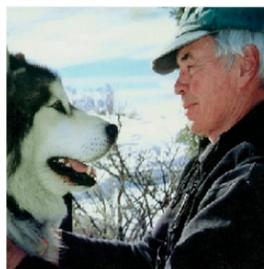
Allan Frisbie Munro, 83, passed peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at home in New London, NH, surrounded by family. Born February 8th, 1937, in Boston, MA to Louis Westfall Munro and Harriet Shepard Munro, he was the eldest of three brothers. He attended Friends Academy in Locust Valley, NY, and graduated from Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, NH, in 1955. Graduating from Dartmouth in 1959, he enlisted in the Army and served in Washington D.C. and Germany.

He loved his family and treasured his friends, nurtured his relationships, and never met a stranger. He was passionate about his family, KUA, Dartmouth College, soccer, lacrosse and fishing. His heart was big and his laugh infectious. Allan's drive to succeed, his boundless energy, inspiring enthusiasm, unquestionable integrity and his belief in himself and in the causes he deemed worthy inspired people and led him to leadership positions not only in his professional life but in his philanthropic endeavors as well.

His professional career began at Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, Manhattan. In 1973 he joined Greenwich Associates, Greenwich, CT, as a founding partner, retiring from the firm in 2001. He was a tireless traveler, listener and mentor. Allan's devotion to Kimball Union Academy began when he enrolled and continued throughout his lifetime. Over the years he gave his time, energy and expertise to his Class and to the Board of Directors of KUA, chairing that body and heading up the school's highly successful Capital Campaign. The impact of his leadership, friendship and

dedication is legendary and ongoing. His skill in gathering people together to unite in a common cause, making each person feel like a critical part of the whole, and in continually energizing that group was unparalleled.

Allan is survived by his beloved wife Kathy (Fritz), daughters, Robin M. Gronlund and her husband, Steve, of Shelburne, VT; Lauren M. Dole and her husband, Trux, of Lake Oswego, OR; Rebecca M. Horning and her husband, Jason, of Chandler, AZ; Amy Sage Munro and son, Jonathan Allan Munro, both of Boston, MA; grandchildren Annie and Christopher Gronlund; Logan, Blake, Devin, and Mason Horning; brother Charles Blake Munro and his wife Denise of Boulder, CO, and niece Alix Munro Wilson (David) and nephew Tyler Munro (Christie). He was predeceased by his parents, his brother Louis "Sandy" Munro; Peggy (Wenzig) Munro, his former wife and mother of daughters Robin, Lauren and Becca, and his grandson Gage Dole. He leaves behind cherished family and delightful friends who have brought him joy and laughter, inspiration and solace. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, we ask that donations be made in Allan's name to Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, NH.



Peter Bergh '56

Peter C. Bergh of Edwards, CO, formerly of Charlotte, VT, died on June 3. He was born in New York City in 1938, the son of Henry Bergh and Frances Glasgow Bergh. He was the great-grandson of the ship builder Christian Bergh and

the great nephew of the animal-rights activist and ASPCA founder Henry Bergh.

Peter grew up in Oyster Bay, Long Island, listening to the sound of Grumman Aircraft doing test flights overhead, swimming, fishing, and exploring the woods. As a teen, he got his pilot's license and worked as a lifeguard. He graduated from Syracuse University with a degree in Forestry and the Harvard School of Design with a Masters in Landscape Architecture. As a good friend of his wrote, "Peter used his considerable talents to do his best to make things better."

He was very involved in the communities where he lived, serving on the Planning Commission, School Board and Select Board in Charlotte, Vermont, and on the board of the Baird Center for Children and Families. Among the projects he worked on were Camel's Hump State Park, Red Rocks Park and campus planning for the University of Vermont. He was an owner in the Sports and Fitness Edge and proud of his impact on the health of adults and children in the Burlington area. In Colorado, he served on the Berry Creek Metro Board, advocated for thoughtful land-use planning including public access to trails and playing fields, and inspired the planting of hundreds of trees. Peter's relationship with art is a significant piece of his legacy. He greatly admired the work of the painter Ogden Pleissner with whom he became close friends and in 1984 he wrote the definitive book on Pleissner's work. Spending time in Peter's home was like visiting a gallery. It was brimming with paintings, sculptures, decoys, rugs, furniture, and Inuit carvings of hunters, otters, polar bears and other critters. His fireplace was flanked by two totems, his walls lined with collected works by Pleissner, Benson, Wengenroth, Kent and others. Masks, etchings and lithographs lined his stairways. His collection was truly an extension of his personality.

His many other passions included flying, baking, skiing, hiking, fishing, windsurfing, and malamutes. His ideal day might involve hopping in his

seaplane, a friend by his side, landing in a remote spot on the ocean or a lake, catching, cleaning and cooking a fish, and enjoying the solitude. Peter loved to engage in dialogue, whether in person, or via mail or email. He was intelligent, funny, grouchy, visionary, skilled, and opinionated, known for penning wise and often critical letters to the editor of the *Burlington Free Press* and *Vail Daily*. While he often seemed to have boundless energy, he suffered from serious bouts of depression. He said he moved to Colorado for the sunshine, choosing to try to help himself rather than seek assistance. Self-sufficiency was one of his core values.

Peter is survived by his son Graham Bergh, of Hood River, OR, his daughter Allison Bergh of Wilson, WY, his grandson Tabor Bergh of Portland, OR, and his brother William Bergh and his wife Linda Staniar of Pennington, NJ. Peter took great pride in his children's endeavors and instilled in them a healthy sense of curiosity and adventure, a love of nature and the outdoors, a commitment to making the world a better place, and an entrepreneurial spirit. His children remember their childhood in the home he designed, "Mud Hollow," as filled with art, crafts, vinyl records, books, explorations, possibilities and many, many pets, including ferrets, geese, a pig, an injured great horn owl, two orphaned raccoons, guinea pigs, and numerous well-loved dogs. Peter did not wish to have a memorial service. His children plan to have a private service together. They encourage those who knew him to gather in small groups at safe distances to howl, yodel, recite poetry, fly planes, tell stories or whatever else moves them to remember him. Gifts in Peter's name are welcome at the Charlotte Land Trust, Western Colorado Community Foundation, or the Climate Accountability Institute.



Robin Holske '59

Robin Holske, father, pianist and jazz musician passed from this world to the next on April 11, 2019 after a long period of declining health. Born on July 24, 1941, Robin grew up in Glen Head, Long Island. He loved sailing with his parents up and down Long Island Sound. As a boy, his mother delighted him with the gift of an accordion which led to lessons in the City where they explored Carnegie Hall among many other cultural attractions. Thus began his lifetime love affair with music. His grandparents were senior editors at Random House and he had a long familial history of editors and authors including Harry E. Maule who edited for Sinclair Lewis. After graduating from Antioch College he took a job in a music store where he met his wife, Maria Kennedy. Robin became an accomplished Jazz pianist. One night while listening to long time jazz disc jockey Symphony Sid, he heard Latin music ("Yes! SALSA"), and decided then and there that he would play with a salsa band. He got his chance with Johnny Colon and afterwards joined The Rey Davila Orchestra where he later became their Music Director. With Rey he recorded "Ya Era Tiempo," now a collector's album that includes "Robin's Montuno," one of Robin's many compositions. Essie and Pete Hull, dear friends from the Antioch days, enticed Robin and Maria to New Hampshire. As much as he loved to wryly poke fun at Cow Hampshire, he loved the outdoors and his adopted home state. Knowing city pollution well, he reveled in New Hampshire's fresh air, clean water, and freedom of choice within his home.

Robin was the rare single dad who filled his life with his daughter's lives and interests. There were birthday parties,

playing the recorder, paddling on Lake Umbagog, learning to ski together, and countless activities with Horizon's Edge School. During these years Robin made his living offering piano lessons and playing in restaurants. The Artie Shaw Jazz big band once needed a pianist and asked him to join their tour of the country. His daughter, Rebecca, heard the phone call. He paused a long while and replied that he would have to decline. Though it was the dream offer of his professional life, his daughters were teens now and required a LOT OF SUPERVISION. He had both a classical and jazz radio show at WEVO in the 80s.

Robin was very outspoken against any type of racism or injustice. He was an active environmentalist, and he always offered rides to the polls during elections. Robin was a proud union member and Secretary Treasurer as well. In his younger years he was very involved with the Unitarian Universalist church and cooked every week for the congregation. While he was known to "have words" and disagreements with people, Robin never disliked anyone. Among Robin's accomplishments were a musical, an autobiographical novel about his travels with his two dogs, and a book of Broadway shows from his New York City years. But his proudest achievement was being father to Rebecca and Cynthia. Robin leaves behind his two daughters Rebecca Holske and Cynthia Holske-Sapier; two grandchildren, Alexandra Sapier and George Sapier; and Lilianna and Christopher his great, great grandchildren. They would like to thank Dr. Julia Burdick for the wonderful care provided over many years and the VNA Hospice team. Robin never said goodbye. He always left you with a joke.



Katherine Millham Latimer '59

Kate Latimer died peacefully at home in Carmel, CA, on March 22, 2020 at the age of 78, the end of a full life of blessings. A graduate of Vassar College, Simmons School of Social Work, and Yale Divinity School, Kate was a minister of the United Church of Christ, a welcoming presence well-known for her poetic sermons on life's joys and sorrows, and best known as a warm friend. Kate was equally fond of study in Hebrew and of working with her hands in all ways—and always enjoyed singing with others above all. Kate is survived by her dear husband of 55 years, Arthur; her children Andrew, Barney, and Jane; her grandchildren Leo and Suzy; her sisters Lucia, Alida, Ellen, Clodagh, Geraldine, Tirza, and Françoise; her brothers Peter, Ki, and Tony; her many nieces and nephews; and many friends old and new. Each was her favorite, and all were deeply loved.



Timothy James O'Connell '59

Timothy James O'Connell passed away peacefully on September 10, 2020 at the West Haven VA Medical Center in Connecticut. Born in Rockville Center, NY, on June 28, 1941, Tim was the son of the late James and Eileen (O'Connor) O'Connell of Glen Cove, NY. He graduated in 1959 from Friends Academy of Locust Valley, where he excelled and loved sports. A

natural athlete, he was invited to try out for the New York Yankees while still a teenager, a thrilling moment of his early life. Tim was recruited to play football for multiple Ivy League colleges. He proudly chose Yale, keenly aware that New Haven was where his father's Irish predecessors had settled. At Yale, he lived at Jonathan Edwards College and was a member of Skull and Bones. He polished his Latin translating skills and developed a love of history. Known for his calmness under pressure, Tim was quarterback of the 1959 undefeated freshman team. He also played on the 1960 varsity team. That team also won every game – and to this day, is Yale's only undefeated and untied varsity football team since 1923. Tim also played basketball and baseball for Yale. He graduated in 1963.

A proud member of the Air National Guard, Tim was among the thousands of reservists mobilized in 1968 by President Johnson to back up U.S. demands for the return of the USS Pueblo, a spy ship with 83 American sailors, which North Korea seized at gunpoint in international waters. During his service, Tim relocated to Myrtle Beach, SC, with his then-new wife Nancy (Freitas) O'Connell, formerly of Brooklyn, NY. The Pueblo crisis ultimately ended without a need to resort to combat. Upon his honorable release from active duty, Tim had considered following in the footsteps of his father, a trial lawyer on Long Island. He attended Chase College of Law in Northern Kentucky, just across the border from Cincinnati, OH, while Nancy attended the University of Cincinnati for her master's degree in education. Tim then worked at the O'Connell law firm in Mineola, NY. But Tim ultimately decided that law was not his calling and he moved into insurance and financial services, working at Transamerica.

By 2008, Tim relocated to New Haven and he lived a retired and active lifestyle, enjoying many Yale football games and reunions with his football teammates. Living just blocks from campus, Tim often visited local restaurants, including Mory's. He was jolly and positive, and so grateful to share happy memories with his son, Anthony, his daughter Vanessa and his grandchildren. Tim suffered several bouts of cancer, starting in his early 30s and until his death. He appreciated the doctors and other medical professionals who treated him over the years, especially at Smilow Cancer

Hospital at Yale-New Haven and at the VA hospital in West Haven.

Survivors include three children, Patricia Gottesman of Potomac, MD, Vanessa O'Connell of New York, NY, and Anthony O'Connell of Rocklin, CA, as well as six grandchildren: Elizabeth and Christian Stork, Fiona and Savannah Neibart, and Emma-Rose and Isabella O'Connell. He is also missed dearly by his first wife, Nancy, who enjoyed spending time with him in his final years. He was truly an inspiration to his family. Tim was preceded in death by a sister, Jane Eileen O'Connell Thom, and by two brothers, James and Edward R. We are remembering Tim with donations in his memory to Yale College, Yale College Athletics, and the VA Connecticut Healthcare System.



Lesley Lee Graham '68

Lesley Lee Graham, age 70, of Joplin, MO passed away on Friday, November 6, 2020 at her home after a sudden illness. Lesley was born May 20, 1950 in Evanston, IL, daughter of the late Lee Patrick Graham and Wilrose Long Graham. She grew up in Glen Cove on Long Island, NY, where she graduated from Friends Academy and was an outstanding tennis player. She attended Skidmore University and received her Bachelor's Degree before earning her Master's Degree from Adelphi University in Physical Education. She traveled for some time on a semi-pro Tennis Circuit before landing a job with JPM International, later MCI, as a recruiter. She moved to the Joplin area 15 years ago to be closer to her family. In addition to her parents, Lesley was preceded in death by her brother, Todd Graham. Survivors include her nephews, Gardner Graham of Wiesbaden, Germany, and Clayton Graham of San Diego, CA;

sister-in-law, Courtney Graham of Richmond, VA. In Lieu of flowers please send donations in care of Lesley Graham at Friends Academy 270 Duck Pond Road, Locust Valley, NY 11560.

No formal services are planned at this time. A memorial celebration will occur in the future.

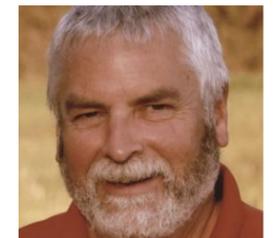


Lesley Bush-Brown Gimbel '72

Lesley ("Lel") Bush-Brown Gimbel, 66, died peacefully on October 20, 2020 at NSUH Manhasset, NY, surrounded by family. She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Thomas S. T. Gimbel, her daughters Lesley B. Gimbel and Hope K. Gimbel, her brother, David Bush-Brown, her sisters, Frances B. Thompson, and Martha B. Risom, her daughter-in-law Jessica Resnick-Ault and granddaughter, Helen R. Gimbel. She was the caring and loving mother of four, including two sons, Peter and Tommy, both of whom had Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy and predeceased her in 2016 and 2017. Family and friends were her life's priorities. She was a loyal and selfless friend, devoted wife and mother.

She was active in her community; a Board Member of her Property Association, Co-Head of the Altar Guild at St. John's of Lattingtown, former trustee of the Portledge School, and member of the North Country Garden Club. She graduated from Bowdoin College with a BA in Art History, followed by banking courses. She began her career as a Trust Officer at Chemical Bank and served as a Manager at Loeb Rhoades, Hornblower & Company, but left to raise her growing family. She treated her children equally; yet, having two sons with Muscular Dystrophy demanded extra time and effort. She started lifting weights

specifically to be better able to physically assist her sons. She organized successful fund-raising events for both the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy. Information about a forthcoming Memorial Service will be available on the church's website stjlat.org. Contributions in Lel's memory may be made to St. John's of Lattingtown/ Memory of Lel, 325 Lattingtown Rd., Locust Valley, NY 11560. Lel will be immensely missed by her many friends and family.



Kenneth G. MacHarg '72

Kenneth G. MacHarg passed into God's arms on February 12, 2019. Ken was a loving husband of over 40 years to his wife, Trish MacHarg, an exceptional father to his son Graham MacHarg and wife Cayenne, and daughter, MacKenzie Seeley and husband J.P. "Pop" was most adored by his grandsons, Calvin, Ryan, Ethan, and Wyatt. Ken leaves an unforgettable legacy with his family and friends.



Augusto (Augie) Mariani '72

On October 21, 2020, Augusto (Augie) Mariani, FA 1972, died peacefully at home on East 12th Street, New York City, above the former location of Asti, the fabulous, musically joyous restaurant that Augie brilliantly steered from 1980 to New Year's Eve, 1999. Asti was founded by Adolfo Mariani, father of Augie, Lorenzo, Tilde and Angela. Augie Mariani came to Friends Academy in the fall of 1967, when we were in the 8th grade. He and I became fast buddies because I used to hand the football off to him; we were members of the 7th and 8th grade team, called the "Mid-Jets." Augusto had starred at Buckley Country Day School the previous year. Matthew Stevenson, who came to Friends in 1968, was the quarterback of that 1966 Buckley team, which out-scored us, due to Augie's cuts and dodges, and Matthew's accurate tosses. Just the other day, Matthew emphatically recalled Augie's foot speed and powerful running style. It was quite a relief the following season to have Augie line up on the FA side of the ball! Fellow '72 FA grad Kevin Glynn, who put on the pads with us in the 9th grade, remembered Augie's "aggression." Soft-spoken and respectful in any other context, Augie was indeed fierce and determined with the pigskin tucked away! October 8, 1967. Eighth grade. Augie had invited me to go with him to (the original) Yankee Stadium to a New York Football Giants game. The G-Men were playing the New Orleans Saints, a brand-new NFL franchise. The Giants overcame the upstart Saints, 27-21. Directly from Yankee Stadium, Augie and I arrived "home" at 13 East 12th Street, between 5th Avenue and University Place - Asti Restaurant - for the rich sustenance of food and family... and a lot of fun! Sitting with Augie, my fork held close to

a generous bowl of the best pasta around, I felt a strong, gentle hand on my shoulder. I turned and looked up: Mr. Mariani! Tall, charismatic, and very welcoming, Augie's father inquired and declared: "That's better than the spaghetti they give you at school, isn't it?" Starstruck, with a strand of spaghetti draped on my chin, I nodded yes, of course!

My introduction to Asti that night continued with my donning the monk's cowl, holding a flashlight as if it were a candle, and meandering, giggling behind Augie, around Asti's many crowded tables with beaming and laughing diners, all to the uplifting Anvil Chorus from Giuseppe Verdi's, "Il Trovatore." The electric, loving life force that pulsed through Asti wouldn't allow you to be inhibited...you were just picked up and you soared; you were transported to an ecstatic place. Augie wasn't just a talented athlete; Augie was whip smart! One afternoon in 8th grade, Augie and I were sitting in a sun-drenched third-floor science classroom with two attic ceiling angles and dormered windows. Our instructor that afternoon was Robin Alkins, a soft-spoken professorial soul with longish hair, a tidy moustache, and, of course, wire-rimmed glasses. During this 1968 school session, Mr. Alkins led a discussion about space travel, and coming trips to the moon. (Keep in mind that on July 20, 1969, a bit more than one year later, Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin would journey to and tread on that heavenly body.) Mr. Alkins was putting calculations on the blackboard, telling of orbits and trajectories, things like that. Since I had not a clue about what Mr. Alkins was explaining, I naturally assumed that no one else in the class did, either...until Augusto began offering incisive, discerning questions, while also correctly answering queries offered by Mr. Alkins. I remember looking to my left at Augie with wide eyes, (and not a little jealousy), wondering how he could be following all that? In that instant, I saw my friend as first officer to "Captain" Alkins, rocketing off toward our planet's only natural satellite. I was left behind, my two feet planted firmly on Mother Earth. Furthermore...after his impressive career in the restaurant business and as an entertainer, Augie directed himself toward a new profession. Augie loved animals and always had dogs, and so he applied to and was accepted by Colorado State University

Veterinary School, one of the best such programs in the country! Augie's sister Tilde told me that Augie aimed to prove to himself that he could gain entry and thrive in veterinary school, and indeed, he did just that. Augie was well-immersed in his studies out west, but the shockwave of September 11, 2001 reached Colorado; always the big brother, Augie hurried home to protect his cherished family.

Augie always had style along with leadership qualities. In November 1969, 10th grade, our class went for a rewarding week of outdoor education in Stokes State Forest, NJ. One magical afternoon that week, in an exquisite, cathedral-like pine forest, I spotted Augusto, outfitted in laced-up boots and a well-tailored barn coat, looking like an Armani model who somehow landed in an L.L. Bean catalog. During that same week in Stokes Forest, I sat at breakfast feeling completely immune from any possible peer-criticism the moment I noticed that Augie had also put a pat of butter on his oatmeal. I know that plenty of Friends classmates loved Augie, and he returned it! Maurice (Kerry) Kerins, calls Augie the "consummate host." Augie told me in recent years how he enjoyed his camaraderie with Clare Bridge (Laemmle) while at FA. According to a reliable source, Clare and Augie would sneak off campus for lunch on occasion; one such time, they conspired to knowingly refrain from correcting the server who apparently believed that they were of age to legally consume an adult beverage! I know Augie thought the world of Karl White, Larry Mauer, and Charlie Capello. (Charlie commands extra-special and enviable status because, long ago, he enjoyed some dazzling summer days in San Terenzo with the Mariani Family). In his own tribute to Augie, Charlie recounts that he and Augie had gone their separate ways for many years, but that one wonderful day, Augie reached out, and the two re-established their strong bond. Numerous times, Augie traveled to Houston to commune with Charlie, il suo caro amico from high school.

More about Asti. From San Terenzo, Italy, Augie's father Adolfo had traveled to New York on a merchant ship. A confident, brave and ambitious chap, young Mariani decided to stay on in the Big City, and make a "go" of it! He loved to sing, (and he had to eat), so he thrived as a street performer. A

kind couple took a liking to Adolfo---barely 25 years old---and they underwrote his brainchild---Asti Restaurant. Over the years, the restaurant evolved into the Greenwich Village mecca for opera, great food, and oh, so much fun!

Mr. Mariani passed away in 1980, and so it became time for Augie's tenure at the helm. If you want to see Augie in 1980 after he had recently taken over Asti, go online and watch the A&E production about the restaurant, featuring opera talents Ashley Putnam and Joseph Shore. In 1984, I worked three nights a week at Asti, tending bar. It wasn't work at all. I had a ball! A "regular" night at Asti was cheerful, raucous and tremendously satisfying. There was always a core group of musicians---a soprano, tenor, pianist, a handful of "singing waiters, and, of course, Augie himself. I always found Augie's rendition of "The Surrey with The Fringe on Top" from "Oklahoma!" quite poignant. There was also the mischievous Pasquale, who turned smiles into laughs as he produced a strong, irreverent interpretation of "Figaro," fooling everyone to think he was spinning a disk of dough to make a legitimate pizza. Victor, baritone and my fellow bartender, always gave a rousing interpretation of "New York, New York," bringing eager applause. There were extra-special nights, too. One New Year's Eve, the world-famous baritone Leo Nucci came to Asti to dine. He got up and sang! The place was hushed. Augie was a renaissance man and a funster. When a diner at Asti asked who had written a given aria just sung, Augie turned to the patron and quipped, "Giuseppe Verdi--- Joe Greene!" (Hall of Fame NFL player for the Pittsburgh Steelers, from 1969 to 1981.) Augie showed kindness. One evening Augie approached me at the bar and told me there was someone I should meet. I shook hands with "Jim Neville," one of FDNY's "Bravest." Augie's sweet manner mimicked that of his mother. Mrs. Mariani was warm, loving, and gorgeous. If you haven't seen the 1988 movie "Big," starring Tom Hanks, watch it! There's a great scene in it at Asti! You'll see Augie and his musician waiters, raising up Hanks' "Josh Baskin" with "Happy Birthday." There he was, presiding, as only Augie could! I thought of Asti as a place to go and take in the great food, the delightful amusement,

the fine music, the sparkle and joy---and all those things it was...but Augie worked, and worked. Thank goodness Augie was able to close every summer and go to San Terenzo for two months of rest and fun. As sad as it was to see Asti close, I'm also very glad for Augusto that he had a good number of years of retirement to enjoy speed boat trips across the Ligurian Sea, navigating to Corsica! Augie was the booster part of the soaring rocket that are the Mariani siblings. Augusto burnished the family jewel that was Asti--- enabling Lorenzo, Tilde and Angela to fly off and reach for the stars, accomplishing so much. Family tributes to Augusto and "Zio Augie" prove that he was the guy who was always there for everyone. (Augie was especially fond of his grandnephew, "Big Marco.") Especially emotional were the sweet, loving words of Augie's sister Tilde, to her dear "Augie-Doggie."

What impressed me the most about Augusto was how he was so "regular" and "salt of the earth." He was a sincere person. You would find no pretense about him. Augie also had struggles in life...as do we all...at times I perceived a melancholy in his wise eyes. The last time I saw Augie was in 2018. I had arranged to meet classmate Susan Schulman for lunch at Otto on 8th Street near 5th Avenue. After our repast, Susan and I found ourselves on 12th Street, and we rang the bell... Augie was there! Ever the host, he offered a glass of wine, and what a pleasant visit we had! I will cherish forever those last moments. Augusto, you have been so accomplished as son, brother, "zio," husband, father, dog-lover, friend, athlete, musician, generous host, restaurateur, entrepreneur, raconteur, seafarer, movie star--- all that as a regular guy...(Augie-Doggie!) Ciao, Augusto, mio caro amico.

From Tilde:

It is with great sadness that Lorenzo, Tilde and Angela communicate the sudden passing of their beloved brother Augusto (Augie) Mariani on October 21st, 2020. He was not only our wonderful big brother, but also a loving "Zio Augie" to his nieces and nephews, an affectionate cousin, a loyal friend, not to mention the most dedicated dog owner you could ever meet. His immeasurable attachment to his

dear sweet Noelle was unparalleled. To know Augie was to love him, all of these characteristics are what made him so unique, he was sharp witted, stubborn, fun loving, loyal, quirky (in the most wonderful way possible) and truehearted. Most of all, he was unconditionally devoted to his family. Augie carried out the legacy of the ASTI Restaurant, a NYC landmark founded by our father in 1925 to perfection - he was a consummate entertainer and host and will be greatly missed by us all.



Rekha Desai Packer '72

It has been a great pleasure and honor to have called Rekha Desai Packer '72 my good friend for the past 52 years. We became best of friends in Mr. Cressey's geometry class, when he discovered that the two of us were reading novels in class while he went over last night's homework problems (which we had gotten all correct). So he would send us out of class, and we would go for long walks around the FA campus, giggling about this or that and sharing a love of all things Jane Austen. Rekha graduated as Valedictorian of our class, and went on to graduate from Harvard University in 1976. Rekha met her husband and love of her life, Michael Packer, at Harvard. These two brilliant young people found one another in a chance encounter, and discovered a common love of music, travel, and learning. Rekha went on to graduate school at Harvard's School of Law, and Michael went to grad school at MIT. Rekha became an accomplished attorney in tax law and labor negotiations, first in a Boston law firm (where she made partner at the tender age of 31) and then in Philadelphia.

In 1990 Rekha suffered a near-death rupture of a cerebral embolism, which caused extensive brain injury and paralysis. She retaught herself to speak, read and write, and retrained the left side of her body to compensate for the loss of the right side. Her FA classmates will remember Rekha's love for playing the piano, which was one of her many sacrifices from the brain injury. Throughout her recovery, Rekha was supported by what she termed "her rock and her best friend." Michael was her primary caregiver and shared many of the responsibilities of parenting and housekeeping.

Rekha lost her beloved Michael on September 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center was destroyed. Michael was in a conference room at the top of one of the WTC towers, preparing to give a lecture to an audience of his peers. Rekha recounted to me that she was on a train to her office in Philadelphia that morning when she heard the news of the plane strikes, and promptly turned right around back to New York City to be with her children and to search for Michael. It wasn't for many weeks later that she finally received confirmation of his passing. She was devastated at the loss of her great love and best friend.

Rekha summoned her enormous inner strength once again, and picked up the pieces of her life. Her two children became her primary focus. Rekha loved them both tremendously, and was proud of their many accomplishments. She beamed with pride when she talked about her daughter Emily's talents as an accomplished singer and performer, and of her profession in international/Middle Eastern affairs. Rekha often tried to explain to me her son Jonathan's work in genomics, and we would both end up laughing about the extent of our ignorance in the subject. However, she was very proud that Jonathan's cutting-edge genomic work was gaining national recognition, and that he is on course to make huge advancements in the field.

Even after she retired from her legal profession, Rekha never stopped working. She went on to serve on the board of Scarsdale's Hoff-Barthelton School of Music. She was also very active in the Harvard Alumni Association of Westchester County. One of Rekha's proudest accomplishments was being a founding

member of the Harvard-Yonkers Early College Awareness Program. The purpose of the program is to inspire and motivate middle schoolers from under-served communities in Yonkers to work towards obtaining a college degree, and to inform their parents of scholarship opportunities. Rekha put together funding through Harvard's Alumni Association, obtained speakers, and coordinated with the Yonkers school system to put together this annual program. Many of the participants went on to take AP and similar advanced classes in high school, helping to put them on a college-bound track.

Rekha passed away on June 28, 2020, in the Hartsdale home she had shared and renovated with Michael, and where her beloved children grew up. She will be sorely missed by her brother Rahul Desai '76, family, friends, her FA and Harvard classmates, and me – all of us missing her wit, her wisdom, and her Jane Austen quick quips. Rekha, I hope you are playing the piano once more.

~Pamela de Toledo '72



Sharon R. Goldstein,
former Lower School teacher and
Assistant Lower School Principal

Sharon Goldstein passed away on October 6, 2020. She was the beloved wife of Burton; loving mother of Dan (FA '88), Jane (FA '86) and Matthew (FA '90). Cherished grandmother of James, William, Sophie, Nathaniel, and Blake. Private Cremation. The Goldstein family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to the Scholarship Fund at Friends Academy in her name where she worked as a teacher in the Lower School for twenty six years. Donations may be made online directly to www.fa.org/SharonGoldstein or mailed

to Friends Academy, 270 Duck Pond Rd., Locust Valley, NY 11560. Arrangements entrusted to the Charles G. Schmitt Funeral Home, Inc., Seaford, NY.



Michael Constantino,
Father of Michael Constantino '86,
grandfather of Olivia '17,
Penelope '20, Clementine '24,
and Jemima '26 Constantino

In memory of Michael Constantino who passed away at the age of 81 after surviving multiple cancers that began over 20 years ago. He proudly served his country as a United States Marine and was honorably discharged in 1957. He has been a Friends Academy parent of Michael Constantino III, class of '86 and an active supporter, attending and supporting all the scholastic and sporting events. He was actively involved in the Fall Fair at its beginning contributing to a successful event for Friends Academy that continues today. In addition to being one of the founders of the "Kringle's Korner" boutique, he hand painted numerous signs that were used for many years. He was the proud grandfather of Olivia, class of 2017, Penelope, class of 2020, and still attending are Clementine, class of 2024 and Jemima, class of 2026.

Brian J. Hom Memorial Run – Virtual 5K

Thank you for your support!

This year, we raised over \$4,500 in support of the **Brian J. Hom Memorial Scholarship**, and we couldn't have done it without you!

The Brian James Hom Scholarship at Friends Academy was established in the spring of 2011. It honors students who embody Brian's qualities and live according to his motto, "I am the me I choose to be" as coined by Sidney Poitier.

Brian, Class of 2011, left a lasting impact on all who knew him through his passion for social equity and justice, innate generosity and personal warmth, wonderful sense of humor and smile, and unparalleled commitment to excellence as a runner and a scholar.



CORRECTIONS

Corrections from the Fall 2020 issue

We inadvertently did not give proper photography credit to recent alum Kenny Silver '20. His photos are reprinted here.



Due to an editing error, notes from Chris Baum '71 were inserted into the 1972 class year. Chris was also misidentified as Class of 1972 in an accompanying photo.



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➔ Find us online...

for campus news, snapshots of student life, and behind-the-scenes videos!

@FriendsAcademy

The Varsity Field Hockey Team finished the regular season undefeated at 11-0!

FriendsAcademyNY

Families submitted photos of how they spent their first (of several!) snow days this winter.

Friends Academy

Meet Katie Sands, The Influencer Who's Using Her Platform For Good

Gabby Shacknai Contributor
I write about the beauty and wellness space and the women shaping it.

Fashion influencer Katie Sands '11 was featured in Forbes for how she's using her platform for good!

www.fa.org

Long Island native Diana C. Parente was announced as the incoming Director of Athletics.

@FriendsAcademy

Lower School students collected non-perishables for local food pantries.

FriendsAcademyNY

Dr. Duke's ninth grade French class practiced learning food words by hosting a cooking show!