The Meeting House
Winter/Spring 2014

The Friends Academy Magazine for Alumni, Parents & Friends

The Meeting House

Artists Issue

Cover Photographs by Kathryn Abbe
FA Trustee, Parent and Quaker, 1920 - 2014
The Friends Academy Mission

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

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

The Meeting House

Editorial Board, 2013-2014
Amanda Fisk ’99
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Andrea Miller
Jennifer Ryan Woods ’99
Friends,

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From the Archives: Did an FA Teacher Inspire You to Teach?

Chalk diagrams. Animated group discussions. Out-of-the-classroom experiences. SmartBoard lessons. We’ve heard from so many alumni over the years how Friends Academy teachers changed you for the better, gave you direction and strengthened your self-confidence. Now we’d like to seek out those of you who were inspired to literally walk in their footsteps.

Were you inspired by your FA teacher to become a teacher yourself?

If so, we’d love to hear from you for an upcoming story. Please contact Kathy_Fox@fa.org or call (516) 465-1796.
The (Modern) Wild West

Between 2006 and 2013, Lucas Foglia ’01 traveled throughout rural Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Wyoming documenting the modern American West. This photograph and others were just published in his second book, Frontcountry. Read more about Lucas and other Friends Academy alumni artists in our Alumni Artists Issue, starting on page 24.
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**SHE WAS FRIENDS ACADEMY.** Board of Trustee member, Quaker, Friends parent and photographer extraordinaire Kathryn Abbe documented decades of campus life at FA with her insightful and whimsical images. We chose our three favorites for a special cover ensemble. KATHRYN ABBE FOR FRIENDS ACADEMY
The inspiration of Mr. Springsteed

First thought I’d let you know how much I enjoyed the recent issue of The Meeting House. Do the kids ever have regular classes? Kidding... We never had all the Quaker Groups and people in charge of so many more “groups” of all kinds. We had French Club, etc. and Service Club (which seems now so elementary compared to the complex “Community Service”... it encompassed such a limited outreach). Reading this issue made me think I attended a very primitive Friends Academy... and I loved it just as it was and glad I was there when I was.

Well, as to my teaching inspiration, I hadn’t planned on it... had a liberal arts B.A. majoring in Art, minoring in Music... and then went on to get one of my Masters in teaching...Art. Mr. Springsteed was my instructor and he had such a wonderful, casual way of presenting and instructing, I know he had a lot to do with my teaching career.

– Abbie Freedman ’59

Send Us Your Thoughts and Memories

We want to hear from you! To send a letter, respond to an article or share a memory of Friends Academy, please e-mail Andrea Miller at andrea_miller@fa.org.

Clear and warm memories ... 65 years later

My brother and I came to FA as students (me, 6th grade; my brother Bob, 8th grade) and my dad, Glen Henderson, who was the new head coach for the boys. It was 1946.

We lived in the dorms. My dad was one of the dorm proctors. My mom was studying voice in Europe, aspiring to be a Wagnerian Dramatic Soprano most of those years. She had turned down a contract with The MET on the advice of her manager, who advised her to study and sing in Europe. Thus FA was home for my dad, brother and me.

On vacations we often were in our dorm rooms even though the heat was turned off, etc. (Summer vacations we were at summer camps where our dad was head of the waterfront, etc.) Seven years of living together, eating in the dining hall together and going to Quaker Meeting together, for me at least, created wonderful, close and affectionate bonds.

I could write a book about the meanings the Quaker Meetings had for me – the congealing of spirit, which although it occurred often, I was not aware of then.

My senior year I worked as an orderly at Glen Cove Community Hospital on weekends, rode the ambulance, cleaned the morgue, etc. Roommates making rockets, my brother climbing out the dormer window after lights out to sneak into a friend’s room with ice on the slate shingles in winter, knitting wool squares to make blankets for the Dutch at war’s end.

Sixty-five years later the memories are clear and warm.

– Dick Henderson ’53

(Read more of Dick’s reminiscences in the 1953 Class Notes, beginning on page 45.)
What FA Traditions Do You Remember?

Do you remember a special tradition, custom or event that occurred at Friends during your school years or your children’s years?

Perhaps it was dressing up in costume as your child’s Mystery Reader in Pre-Kindergarten...

Perhaps it was the first time you braved Pharaoh’s Fury at Fall Fair...

Or, perhaps it was singing the Friends Academy Alma Mater song together at Convocation, Founder’s Day and Commencement each year...

We are collecting traditions of past and present for an upcoming story for The Meeting House and would love to include any and all that you remember.

Please send memories and photos to Kathy_Fox@fa.org by August 1st, 2014.

All-school Peace Week strengthens bonds of entire community.

By Andrea Miller
Director of Communications

Delayed by a snow day, students, faculty and staff gathered together the next day, undaunted, to kick off Peace Week with a special Lower School Community Groups day.

For the first time, Early Childhood students joined the entire division for community building and a division-wide line dance practice choreographed by seniors Carina Goebelbecker and Cissy Shi.

“We have always tried to have a tri-divisional planning practice,” said Angie Martin, Director of Quaker Studies at Friends.

“We have always tried to have a tri-divisional planning practice,” said Angie Martin, Director of Quaker Studies at Friends.

“Now that Peace Week is under the auspices of TASQUE, we are hoping it will make it easier to organize cross-divisionally,” she added.

Groups used ice-breaker exercises to make even the youngest students feel at ease – with questions about family and favorite Fall Fair rides.

“There was a lot more excitement this year,” said senior and Community Group leader Ryan Dobrin about integrating Early Childhood through second grade. “It was nice to have new faces and to be able to do activities with everyone. Usually, during all-school activities like Convocation and Founder’s Day, most people just get to listen,” he added.

The final third of Lower School Community Groups was dedicated to teaching everyone a specially choreographed line dance, which all divisions would eventually learn. “Part of the goal was to give our younger students the chance to lead the older students by already rehearsing and knowing the dance,” pointed out Martin.

This year’s school theme, “Call To Action,” resonated each day with Queries such as, “How can we use our own education to spread peace?” and “How do we care for those around...
us?” The Queries worked in concert with daily themes of Inspiration & Education, Community, Reflection and Action.

Each year, TASQUE works to maintain similar Community Groups so that the students from each division can stay, learn and grow together at Peace Week.

Upper School departments sponsored special Lunch and Learns each day. On the final Friday, the World Languages & Cultures Department hosted a lunch that explored the concept of “The First Follower.” “The First Follower is that person who gives a movement legitimacy,” said Martin.

Throughout the week, students heard from inspirational outside speakers, including Rodney Glasgow and Chelsea Barker, who spoke about respecting differences.

Glasgow addressed Middle and Upper School students about his own personal experiences with rejection and acceptance. He started by telling about how when he bullied a new member of his class in 5th grade, his teacher stepped in to help him to grow out of this selfish behavior.

He went on to share some of his own experiences of rejection in high school and beyond, stressing the impact of our efforts to reach out to those who we see bearing the brunt of teasing or unkind behavior.

The Arts Department hosted a special interactive workshop and exhibit entitled, “The Combat Paper Project.”

A national outreach program, The Combat Paper Project “utilizes art-making workshops to assist veterans in reconciling and sharing their experiences of war with fellow veterans and with civilians. Participants in the workshop use the transformative process of papermaking to reclaim their uniforms as art.”

Through a series of paper-making workshops, artists and veterans Jenny Pacanowski, a former combat medic, and Patrick Sargent demonstrated how to turn the actual uniform into paper pulp and then expressive art.

According to the Combat Paper Project website, “Coming home from war is a difficult thing. There is often much to account for as a survivor. A new language must be developed in order to express the magnitude and variety of the collective effect. Hand papermaking is the language of Combat Paper.”

This year, Hunger Awareness Day was marked during the four-day Peace Week as students dined on a simple meal of rice at lunch and made sandwiches together for local shelters.

A final K-12th grade Meeting for Worship wrapped up the week as almost 40 students lined up at a single microphone, following a silent reflection, to voice their responses to: “How do I put my beliefs into action?”

“Stop is Go.”

“Don’t wish to be someone else.”

“Don’t wish for things – achieve them.”

“Positive change always has opposition.”

“Look for the inner light.”

Community Group emcee Sofia Patino, 10th, extolled the all-school interactions. “Once we create a safe community, we are more able to be ourselves and help each other.”

And this was the key for Martin. “If we can know each other better, we can be a kinder and more caring community. We can work together because we have this sustaining example of community.”
Around the Quad

Beyond 1,2,3s and ABCs...

Lower School character education program links social education and academic excellence

Eight years ago Parent Council gifted Lower School faculty with funds for Responsive Classroom Training, a character-based nationally used program that emphasizes the importance of both the social and academic curriculum.

“The Responsive Classroom is a classroom management philosophy that helps teach social skills in the early weeks of school, as well as helping us to know the children – their hobbies, their families and ultimately their issues better – so we can create a more trusting partnership between home and school,” explained Lower School Principal Deborah McCrimmon.

At the core of Responsive Classroom are ten classroom practices: From Morning Meeting (where children greet and share news with each other) to Collaborative Problem-Solving (using conferencing, role-playing and other strategies to resolve problems). With these, teachers are able to nurture a sense of belonging, significance and emotional safety so that students feel comfortable taking risks and working with a variety of peers.

As teacher Sara Mosle writes in her 2012 New York Times blog, the guiding principle of Responsive Classroom “is a belief that students who develop social skills like cooperation, assertiveness and empathy can achieve more academically. Part of what makes the approach effective is that each routine is highly structured, and so replicable, but allows for student input and choice.”

According to McCrimmon, the Responsive Classroom model is designed to help children understand some key issues with peer relationships: learning the names of peers, listening, compliments versus put-downs, peer pressure and conflict resolution.

“Why does Responsive Classroom work where other approaches do not?” questions Mosle.

The answer lies in the infrastructure of the program, investing not only in initial training, but also in follow-up coaching and support from the administration.

At Friends, the Responsive Classroom lessons of cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy and self-control (C.A.R.E.S.) align directly with the school’s Quaker framework and the Quaker tenet of respect for all.

“Children start by holding doors for each other, addressing each other and their teachers respectfully and eventually move to resolving conflicts to a win-win outcome,” said McCrimmon.
Middle School robotics team takes top honors

The Middle School Robotics team wowed judges with their research and presentation during the First Lego League Robotics Competition at Central Islip High School.

The team of seven boys and one girl presented their “Tornado Prep App” and received First Place for the Most Innovative Solution. Overall, the FA team finished 7 out of 34 teams and advanced to the next round.

The team’s app followed the competition’s theme of “Nature’s Fury” and was inspired by a team member’s experiences with tornados while living in Texas. The app not only provides preparation instructions while dealing with the before/during/aftermath of a tornadic event, but also enables the user to locate family members via a GPS bracelet.

The Middle School team, coached by Middle School teacher Clare Nesfield, was comprised of Jared Rothberg, Taye Holder, Michael Sensale, Shiva Ward, Griffin Kang, Alan Cooper, Ben Cooper and Max Miller.

“Although we didn’t win in the Championship,” said Claire Nesfield, “the kids embraced the FLL core values that friendly competition, cooperation, and learning together as a team are just as important as winning. The team had fun and are all looking ahead to next year’s challenge!”

Students, teachers and parents flew around the world on Friday, March 28th for Lower School Goes Global. Every year, for several months, each grade focuses on the cultures, peoples, language and food of a different continent. Above, Early Childhood’s Thomas Rubenacker browses through a classroom-made picture book on Hawaii with his mother. Middle, third grader Emma Daniels walks viewers through the leaders and famous people of Italy. Bottom, fourth graders perform a rousing set of African dances with the Upper School African Drumming group.
For one full day, Middle schoolers explored twelve different careers, from stunt performing and cooking to the Operating Room and real estate.

Sports journalist and author Kimi Puntillo ’75 kicked off the morning with a keynote speech, in which she encouraged students to grab hold of their goals. Puntillo also holds the Guinness Book of World Records as the first woman to run a marathon on every continent.

Puntillo chronicled her running quest in her recent book, Great Races: 100 Places.

“I never planned on running more than one marathon,” said Puntillo, who told the students that the races helped her learn more about herself and how to achieve any goal, including the advantages of reading and research, networking, arriving prepared and to always expect surprises.

“Getting prepared and digging down and doing the hard work really prepares you for your goal,” she said.

Following Puntillo’s presentation, students broke into small groups to explore a variety of careers one-on-one with alumni.

Aspiring culinary artists sampled homemade potato chips and pretzels with Chef Alexandra Troy Beattie ’79.

After graduating from Friends (where she learned how to whip up a cheese souffle for her senior project), Beattie attended the Culinary Institute and cooked under Wolfgang Puck.

Beattie stressed to students the importance of organization, especially in catering and restaurant work.

Students learned about how to give back in their career with Elizabeth Salzhauer Axel ’83, who founded Art Beyond Sight/Art Education for the Blind, which makes it possible for blind people to “see art.”

Temporarily stricken with blindness during an illness she eventually overcame, Axel was determined to create a tactile art language. “Disability could happen to any one of us at any time.”

Romola Ratnam ’03 shared her story of social responsibility. Ratnam is Executive Director of Seed Academy, an African-based program that offers students academic and athletic opportunities in exchange for service.

“Get as many internships as possible,” she instructed students. “Look for ways to volunteer.”

Students also heard from Realtor Maggie Keats ’79, Interior Designer Katherine Posillico McGowan ’86, Operating Room Nurse Kim Colombo Aberman ’94, surgeon Peter Stein ’79, Tilles Technical Director Tom Pascarella ’95, stunt performer and actor Corey Pierno ’02, architect Greg Andrea ’78 and Educational Technology teacher and software developer Adam Weber ’02.
During their sophomore year, every student takes part in YSOP (Youth Service Opportunity Project). Students and their advisors spend two days in New York City at a local soup kitchen, helping to feed some of the city’s homeless.

For advisor Casey Reed, this year marked her third YSOP and every one has been unique.

“My favorite part of the experience is the dinner party we host on the first night. I think it’s valuable for the students because it gives them a comfortable environment to break the ice and they start to see that people who are homeless are normal, nice and have a lot of interesting things to say,” said Reed.

“It also allows them to see how good they are at making conversation with strangers and how much joy they bring to the people around them. It really shows the students how capable they are of giving back and helps them get over the ‘it’s such a big problem, I can’t possibly make a difference’ feeling,” said Reed.

According to Reed, the trip is unique because it gives students the chance to question their own beliefs and stereotypes about homelessness. “The trip doesn’t force the students to feel shock or fear, but rather to understand that the issue is complicated,” explained Reed.

“Hopefully, they come away with an understanding that people who are homeless are still humans with hopes and dreams, and an understanding that small acts like donating cans or serving at a soup kitchen can make a huge difference.”

Top: Students outside the soup kitchen where they help out. Middle: A group of sophomores dish out a hot meal to partakers. Bottom: A quote from Quakerism’s founder George Fox in the Friends Seminary Meeting House reminds students about the mission of YSOP.
The Moore family together in church: Vi Moore (junior Julia Newitt), Rev. Shaw Moore (senior Parker Huseby) and their daughter, Ariel (junior Gloria Fortuna).

We’ve heard a lot about the Winter of 2013-14, but this year, a cast and crew of energetic Upper School students kicked up their cowboy heels and chased those wintry blues away with an ensemble performance of “Footloose, The Musical.”

Based on the 1983 movie, the film quickly grew beyond its iconic Kevin Bacon dance moves and classic 80s pop hits as the decades passed.

As director Tracey Foster explained, “On the surface, the story of Ren McCormack and Bomont looks like a piece of fluff. But looking a little deeper ... the 1983 movie has become in so many ways a cul-

This winter, FA cut loose....

Upper School brings back round 2 of the 80s...
We have felt the need to break loose from our frustrations and everyday challenges,” she said. “That fight between freedom and rules, (between the young and the old) never ends. It just transforms through the years.”

The story begins in the fictional small town of Bomont, which is rocked by the tragic loss of four of its young people, and consequently outlaws all alcohol, all drugs and all dancing.

Enter upstart Ren McCormack (senior Sam Riese), who unwillingly uprooted from his big-city home by his mother (senior Caitlin Rubin), immediately alienates the town elder, Reverend Shaw Moore (senior Parker Huseby) and draws the attention of his daughter, Ariel (junior Gloria Fortuna).

Determined to bring dancing (and joy) back to Bomont, Ren teams up with unlikely ally, Willard Hewitt (senior Ryan Dobrin) and the rest is Footloose history.

High energy dominated the show, which featured nearly 80 Upper School students, with high-flying kicks, jumps and even some breakdance moves.

Valley girl inflection, coupled with musical oldies like “Almost Paradise,” “Holding Out for a Hero” and “Let’s Hear it for the Boy,” gushed early 80s for the audience.

The cast and crew, one of the largest for FA, had to contend with numerous delays from unrelenting weather, but never faltered.

“We had two seniors, Carina Gobbelbecker and Cissy Shi, who stepped into leadership roles and served this production and their fellow students in ways which were simply... spectacular,” ended Foster.

**Winter Performances & Concerts**

**The Jazz Concert**

FA’s new gospel choir debuted at this year’s annual Jazz Concert on March 6th. Middle and Upper School jazz band students treated listeners to a variety of musical styles, including Swing, Funk, Rock and Latin Jazz.

**OriginalWorks15**

FA's new gospel choir debuted at this year's annual Jazz Concert on March 6th. Middle and Upper School jazz band students treated listeners to a variety of musical styles, including Swing, Funk, Rock and Latin Jazz.
Back in the Final Four, matching Long Island championships for Varsity and strong JV seasons – that’s longhand for a dynamic Winter Sports season this year and next!

Top row: Grant Elgarten, Ryan Weight and the MS Jazz Band; Middle row: Patrick Crowley, FA Upper School fans and Tyrone Perkins; Bottom row: Josh Goldblatt, Kristina Kim and Candace Taylor.
Boys Varsity Basketball: Team reaches Final Four

Momentum was on the side of the Friends Academy Boys Varsity Basketball team this year as they rallied through each playoff game to capture first the Long Island championship against Stony Brook, 55-48 and then the Southeast Regional Final in a routing win over Haldane High School, 71-49.

But that momentum was not enough to propel them to the state final championship game, as they fell to Middle Early College of Buffalo, 72-66.

The team finished the regular season with an overall record of 14-3 and an impressive unblemished league record of 10-0 to win the conference BC championship for only the third time in school history.

“It has truly been a great team effort as different individuals have stepped up throughout the season to be instrumental players in our success,” said coach Steve Hefele.

Hefele went on to recognize seniors Patrick Moodhe, Will Sands, Jack Forlines and Jon Nierenberg for their contributions over the years. “Their leadership this season was instrumental in our success,” said Coach Hefele.


Girls Varsity Basketball: Strong 15-2 Season Finish

Coming off the 2012-2013 season that resulted in the school’s first Girls Basketball Long Island Championship, the team had high expectations for the 2013-2014 season. The team was led by five returners, three of whom are seniors, and joined by five new contributors.

The girls started off the season with seven tough non-league games in a short time frame, and ended that part of their season 6-1, as well as winning the Port Washington Tournament Championship.

Moving into 2014, the team continued their schedule with league games, finishing with a record of 9-1 in league, and an outstanding 15-2 overall. In those nine league wins, the players showed heart, determination, team camaraderie, and used their experience to walk away with the regular season Conference Title.

In March, the Lady Quakers won the

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ALL-CONFERENCE – CYRUS HOLDER, JACK FORLINES AND TYLER SEHRING

ALL-COUNTY – TYRONE PERKINS AND JON NIERENBERG

CONFERENCE STUDENT-ATHLETE – JON NIERENBERG

CONFERENCE PLAYER OF THE YEAR – TYRONE PERKINS

Long Island Champions

Sophomore Lindsay O’Sullivan goes on the offensive.

ALAN QUICKERBUSH/FRIENDS ACADEMY
Continued from Page 17

Small School and their second Long Island Championship.


INDEPENDENT AWARDS

ALL COUNTY – LINDSAY O’SULLIVAN, KRISTINA KIM
ALL CLASS – ROSE MANGIAROTTI
ALL CONFERENCE – MADDE O’BRIEN
CONFERENCE BC PLAYER OF THE YEAR – LINDSAY O’SULLIVAN

JV GIRLS BASKETBALL: Huge Wins

The Friends Academy JV Girls Basketball team worked hard to perfect their basketball game, strategies, and teamwork. The season was filled with some very close, exciting games and lots of dedication and drive. The culmination of the team’s efforts came toward the end of the season. The team finished their season with three huge wins against Syosset, Oyster Bay, and Wheatley – two of these teams had beaten FA earlier in the season. The athletic ability and determination of each of the players on the team was able to shine through and helped to contribute to the success of the team.


FA 2013-14 Winter Sports

Hard work pays off for many

VARSITY WINTER TRACK: Multiple Athletes Achieve Honors, Break Records

The Friends Academy Varsity Winter Track and Field team of 2013-2014 was one of many successes. The boys and girls on this team worked very hard and with their hard work came great results.

This season, six athletes achieved All-Conference Honors, five athletes achieved All-County honors, six individuals and one relay team qualified for the State Qualifier Meet, and the athletes also managed to break nine school records.

“I am very proud to work with a group of athletes that are so hard-working and talented,” said Coach Lauren Carballo.


INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ALL COUNTY – CANDACE TAYLOR, HARMONY GRODSKY, AIDAN VASCCOTO, GLENN LOSTRITTO, PATRICK CROWLEY (1200M)
ALL-COUNTY CLASS – CANDACE TAYLOR, HARMONY GRODSKY, GLENN LOSTRITTO, AIDAN VASCCOTO, LYDIA GRAHAM, SHEKINAH PETTWAY, KATHERINE HOM
FA RECORD BREAKERS – CANDACE TAYLOR (300M, 400M, 600M), GLENN LOSTRITTO (1600M, MILE), AIDAN VASCCOTO (SHOTPUT), SAHIL MASSAND, GLENN LOSTRITTO, PATRICK CROWLEY, PATRICK MARGEY (4X4MILE), IAN D’SILVA (TRIPLE JUMP)
A return to Varsity play

**Varsity Ice Hockey: Deep Team Looks Ahead**

This season marked FA hockey’s inaugural season in the Nassau County High School Hockey League. Competing for the first time in four years as a varsity program, the boys hockey team finished the season a respectable 7-11-1.

The 2013-14 hockey season is best characterized as “a season of what ifs.”

Against a strong Massapequa club, the season started in a most exciting and dramatic way. FA emerged victorious with a 5-4 win. “The coaches were brimming with enthusiasm – and most importantly, optimism. We started thinking big: What if we get this kind of goaltending all year? What if we get this kind of passion all year?” recalled Coach Sven Pamuk.

But like in any sport, seasons are a marathon, not a sprint. And FA was about to be challenged in a way that would test their character and mettle. Plagued by injuries and illness that further thinned their ranks, the middle part of the season was a struggle for the boys. “Despite these challenges, and while we were tested physically, the boys persevered and displayed an uncanny grit and determination that made us coaches proud. It was this test that set the stage for a strong close to the season,” said Pamuk.

As the season came to a close, the final six games of the year showed the Quakers’ potential. The team rallied around one another, not only picking up victories along the way, but earning the respect of powerhouses like Bellmore-Merrick and Long Beach in close, tight games.

The Varsity team will return next season intact. “We stand here ready to pronounce, no, guarantee, a berth in the playoffs next season!” said Coach Pamuk.


**JV Boys Basketball: Strong 13-5 Season**

Character and hard work defined the JV Boys basketball season this year.

This season the boys finished with a 13-5 record. The team finished with a league record of 9-1, which is the best league record the JV has had in several years. “A lot of our success this year had to do with the growth of our players from last year and how they matured on the court,” said Coach Simeone.

New incoming athletes added their own character to the team. With the combination of the two, it all blended into one dynamic team.

From the first day of the season, the team was instilled with the passion to work hard. “They were told that hard work will get them a long way and as a team we prided ourselves in defense. Every night it was always a different player making a big play and contributing to the team and the victory. I am very proud of all the hard work the boys put into this season. We had a lot of fun and I wish the boys the best in their spring seasons,” said Simeone.

Lower School librarian **Kate Madigan** made her acting debut in her first full-length play in Northport this spring as Elizabeth Cady Stanton in the play *Victoria Woodhull – The Rise and Fall of America’s First Feminist.* Woodhull was the first woman to run for President (against Ulysses Grant), the first woman stock broker and among the first women to testify before Congress. Madigan also appeared in the play with former colleague Alex Edwards-Bourdrez.

Upper School Biology department head **Jennifer Newitt** and Upper School science teacher **Joe Helpern** recently presented at the Teaching with Technology conference. The duo team taught a workshop on Flipped Classrooms, a fairly recent teaching technique, where “students are assigned video notes for homework instead of taking notes in class. As a result, class time is freed up.” Both Newitt and Helpern regularly apply this style of teaching in their classes.

At the end of the workshop, participants were able to explain the advantage of flipping a unit, use technology to create video notes (with Jing, Snagit and the SMART Notebook), design a flipped unit and add hands-on resources to their courses.

Upper School English teacher **Shawn Marie Garrett** drew upon her background in theater when she presented “Sing, Act, Engage: A Workshop on Performance, Pedagogy and Professional Development” at the National Council of Teachers of English in Indianapolis on March 19.

The workshop, comprised of 25 college writing teachers, learned about Garrett’s techniques in improvisation and invention. She and her workshop leaders – writing teachers from Stony Brook University, Lehman College and Nassau County Community College – led participants through a series of exercises and scene-building techniques derived from the world of improvisational performance.

“Classroom teaching is a kind of performance, so it’s no surprise that exercises and techniques derived from the world of theater can be enormously helpful for writing teachers – as well as for writing students,” said Garrett.

The workshop focused on the relationship between performance and rhetoric. “We had a section on karaoke (an example of a rhetorical act) and another section on how to create a persona for yourself in the classroom,” explained Garrett.

Prior to Friends, Garrett spent most of her career in the world of theater and teaching theater. “I’m really interested in the connection between performance and writing – understanding that writing is a physical process and a sort of performance in itself with a persona and a voice,” explained Garrett.

In the coming academic year, Garrett will lead the Writing Fellows program, and she will teach a Shakespeare senior elective in the fall.

“Performance techniques obviously come in handy when studying writers like Shakespeare, and even in bringing novels to life in the classroom. But these processes can also help writers young and old in the invention, or idea-generation, stage of their own writing,” she said.

The workshop was such a hit that she and her workshop leaders plan to reprise the presentation this fall at Nassau Community College.

“There can be a lot of stiffness and anxiety around writing and these types of techniques can not only loosen writers up but also aid those who may not be naturally strong critical writers, but are learners who excel in speaking extemporaneously.”

At the end of the 2013-14 school year, we will be bidding farewell to two veteran teachers. Upper School Physics teacher **Dick Abbene** and Upper School Math Department head **Maxine Lifshitz** are both retiring at the close of the school year. Abbene has been teaching since 1974 and Lifshitz since 1987. Both faculty members will be honored at the New York City Reunion at the Princeton/Columbia Club on Monday, June 2, beginning at 6 p.m. More details on page 71.

**Former Faculty Notes**

Former faculty member and alumni director **Alex Edwards-Bourdrez** recently inaugurated the role of Cornelius Vanderbilt in a new play, *Victoria Woodhull: The Rise and Fall of America’s First Feminist,* about the first woman to run for President of the United States. The play was produced in Northport, NY, this past March. Alex is in his fourth year as annual giving director at The Stony Brook School. He enjoys his contact with former FA students and colleagues on Facebook!
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Dear Fellow Alumni,

The early spring was an exciting time for alumni on the FA campus. On March 25th, 12 alumni gathered at the Middle School for the entertaining and informative Career Day, which began with an outstanding lecture by Kimi Puntillo ’75, the first woman to run a marathon on every continent. Kimi spoke to the students about the lessons she learned while completing her global quest, including achieving your goals, finding support, getting a new perspective, and always expecting surprises. Following her keynote speech, students learned about numerous other professions, including architecture, real estate, community service advocacy, catering, and stunt performing to name a few. Operating room nurse Kim Colombo Aberman ’94 and I participated, and had a blast in an amazing simulated operating room full of equipment and also putting on casts on a number of middle schoolers who proudly showed off their “injuries” until the casts were removed before school’s end, so as not to unnecessarilyalarm their parents.

Speaking of careers, check out pages 24-43 to see the artistic profiles of 17 of our alumni. Both professional and recreational, these artists and their works are quite impressive! Look for some of their masterpieces at the Homecoming Alumni Art Show being organized by Lis Dreizen ’78. If you are interested in displaying your work, please contact Lis (artland95@aol.com). Additionally, as this is the 50th anniversary of FA Homecoming and Fall Fair, we are planning an extra special day, so make sure you mark your calendars for October 18th. Some of the festivities include a Homecoming Cabaret being organized by Tom Pascarella ’95. If you are a performer and want to participate, please contact Tom (tompasc@tompasc.com). Former FA athletes will be honored at halftime during the football game, so dust off your old uniforms and join us! All alumni from the classes of 1964 and older are invited to a special inaugural luncheon which has been appropriately named Gideon’s Guard. It will be held during Homecoming at noon. And back by popular demand is the Alumni Tailgate Party. Come and tailgate with your fellow alumni during the football game – this event was held last year for the first time and proved memorable! Of course, all class years ending in 4 and 9 will also have special reunion events. Please contact Homecoming Chair Penelope Wyler Mayer ’75 (pwm25@aol.com) or Kathy Fox with questions or comments regarding Homecoming festivities.

But there is still so much left to do this spring! The Class of 2009 will gather at the Jackson House on May 30th for their 5-year reunion. Our always popular New York City Alumni Reunion will be held on June 2nd at the Princeton/Columbia Club from 6-8 p.m. We will be honoring two legendary FA teachers who are retiring this year. Beloved science teacher Dick Abbene will leave the hallowed halls and labs of FA after a 40-year career! Math teacher Maxine Lifshitz is also retiring after a stellar 27-year FA career. We would love to see all of our older alumni attend the NYC Reunion this year. We will be giving each member of the class pre-2000 with the most members in attendance a special gift, so call your classmates and make plans to attend.

As always, if you are ever near Duck Pond Road, stop by campus and see your alma mater. Wishing you all a joyous spring!

Peter Stein ’79
Friends Academy Alumni Association President
Reconnect at FA's Largest Community Event

Special Reunion Celebrations for Classes Ending in 4 and 9

Fall Fair & Homecoming
October 17-19, 2014

Friday: 50th Reunion Luncheon for the Class of 1964

Friday Night: Off-campus class gatherings

Saturday: Fall Fair, Alumni Art Show, Homecoming Cabaret, Gideon’s Guard Luncheon and Homecoming Reception for all alumni.

Saturday Night: Reunion Dinners off campus for classes ending in 4 and 9.

Sunday: Meeting for Worship in Matinecock Meeting House

Volunteers in classes planning special reunions will reach out to classmates soon. More information is on the alumni pages of the FA website: www.fa.org/alumni. Contact Kathy Fox in the Alumni Office with questions: alumni@fa.org or 516-465-1796.
“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”

– Pablo Picasso
The Alumni Artists Issue

From sculptors to writers, filmmakers to arts educators, musicians to jewelry designers, painters to architects, the following 17 alumni artists each add a bit of their own magic into what can sometimes become a mundane world.

While some of the artists found their passion immediately, others eased in with side projects that offer them regular bubbles of joy.

Here at Friends, the Arts Department offers programs across four central areas of Music, Visual Arts, Theater and Dance.

Next fall, Friends will be adding a new program area for Media Arts that will encompass photography, graphic design, music and sound, motion design, video and animation.

Over the last eight years, the FA Arts has been dedicated to bringing all arts programming under one large umbrella in order for faculty to share resources, support curriculum in the different areas, create opportunities for interested students to engage in a variety of artistic experiences outside the classroom and invigorate curriculum and teaching practices.

According to Arts Department head Tracey Foster, all the classes are largely experiential. “Students are constantly engaged in the process of making art. Historical and global context, literature, critical analysis and self-reflection are layered in as students grapple with a particular concept, technique or style,” said Foster.

Exposure to the Arts at FA begins with the youngest students in Early Childhood and culminates in challenging college-preparatory programs for juniors and seniors.

By Upper School, an Arts student has not only an understanding of him/herself as an artist, but s/he has discovered his/her own voice and how to share that through artistic work.

A year ago, Theater teacher Andrew Geha, undertook a study of the department’s best practices as part of his Fahey master Teaching Award.

“I visited each of my 13 colleagues’ classrooms over the course of the year, logging 24 hours of formal observation and numerous more hours of informal observation,” he recounted.

Geha found that students thrived when they felt empowered, simultaneously independent and responsible for one another, understood clearly-defined boundaries, were individually challenged and finally, were inspired by the work in front of them.

In his conclusions, Geha emphasized that the Arts must stay the course and retain their core values.

“As independent educators across the country struggle to shift from test-based learning to the authentic assessment of skill and character development, there is a sense of the educational community scrambling to redefine our priorities in order to keep up with the trends and needs of the modern world.

In the arts, students must be creative to be successful and our goal has always been to educate the whole person through art so that they can find the very best of themselves,” said Geha.

This issue and the following profiles honor all of our Friends Academy alumni who work in the arts and who help lift the spirit of the world around us and wash away from our souls the dust of everyday life.
Unites music, video & interactivity

By Elizabeth Siris Winchester ’91

Daily e-mails from the Cure’s Robert Smith. Sibling-like fights with Kanye West. Conversations with President Obama and Bono. These interactions are just part of life for Chris Milk ’91 (who changed his last name from Mertens as a project in art school, and never changed it back).

Milk is a director whose work includes music videos for West, as well as U2, Green Day, Arcade Fire, Johnny Cash and Courtney Love. In the fall he co-creatively directed the YouTube Music Awards with Spike Jonze. His latest project Sound & Vision, which is a collaboration with the musician Beck, is the world’s first virtual reality film. It premiered at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival, and screened in New York in April at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Earlier works include numerous television commercials and a portion of President Obama’s biography film used in his 2008 campaign. Milk created an interactive film with Arcade Fire, thewildernessdowntown.com, which was exhibited at the MoMA in New York City in 2012. His interactive video installation, “This Exquisite Forest” just finished a year run at the Tate Modern in London. (See his work at chrismilk.com.)

Milk’s interest in making music videos started in childhood. “I made about 100 of my own versions of Michael Jackson’s ‘Thriller’ video with my grandfather’s VHS camcorder and dressed my brother, Jeff, and whoever play dates he had over, as zombies,” Milk shares. “I think Mike Cuales ’91 and Mikey Roosevelt even made a few cameos.” While Milk’s FA senior year ISP project wasn’t filmed, it was musical – Milk wrote and recorded a song, played guitar and sang. Dennis Petrou ’91 played piano. Recalls Milk: “I think it was a decent song, though I’m sort of thankful there’s no music video evidence of the event.”

It was after Friends, when Milk went to the University of California at Santa Barbara for film and then to the Academy of Art in San Francisco, that he learned the professional craft. He started his own production company, first directing TV commercials and then music videos. It was his third music video, for Kanye’s song “All Falls Down,” that launched his career. A career highlight so far was working with U2, which Milk says “was a childhood dream come true.”

Milk’s interactive work has been praised for its innovation. “My primary goal is always to tell a story that will resonate with people on a deep emotional level. But what fascinates me, and what I’ve been experimenting with a lot lately, is figuring out how we can use modern developing technology to tell stories that feel more human and have more poignancy than what was possible before that technology existed,” Milk explains. “We don’t know what the established model of interactive storytelling will be in 100 years. The best part about this rapidly evolving interactive model is that the audience isn’t a passive receiver anymore. Instead, the viewer is participating in the narrative and co-creating the art because he or she is now a part of it.”

Milk may begin directing his first feature film later next year. No details yet but lessons learned from Friends will likely have an impact. “I think Friends really taught us to be caring, understanding, and compassionate of our fellow human beings,” Milk says. “I see some of the intolerance and hate permeating through so much of our country’s politics these days, and wonder if it all wouldn’t be better if everyone went to a Quaker high school.”
Christopher Milk ’91 offers this advice to aspiring filmmakers.

“The technological bar has been lowered for filmmaking in the last 10 years. Before that, if you wanted to make something that looked professional, you needed equipment that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. Now, pretty much anyone can get their hands on a good cheap camera and edit with the software that comes built in on most computers.

So, my advice for someone who wants to be a filmmaker, is to get a camera and start making films. They can be short films, music videos, documentaries, anything; just practice the craft. There is this pervasive attitude in the arts that great auteurs come out of the womb that way. I don’t really believe that.

Filmmaking is a craft, and you need to learn it and practice it, a lot. The only way to get better is to fail over and over, and it’s better to do that now while no one is really looking.

Eventually, you’ll figure out what works and what doesn’t, you’ll start finding your own voice instead of copying what you think is good, and you’ll build a portfolio of work that actually makes you proud. Then it’s time to start showing it to people.”

Elizabeth Siris Winchester ’91 is a contributing writer and editor at Time For Kids, Time’s magazine with editions for children in grades K-6, their teachers, and families.

Nina Stein Wolf ’64: Watercolor Artist

Local painter immerses herself in the arts

By Kathy Fox
Alumni Affairs Coordinator

Nina Stein Wolf, raised in Huntington, Long Island, and a resident of Great Neck for over 40 years, has always been interested in the arts.

Having majored in art history at the George Washington University, Nina supports the Metropolitan Museum of Art and MoMA, as well as art guilds on Long island, including the National Art League, the Manhasset Art Association, and the Art Guild of Port Washington. She continues to study with artists Steven Lampasona and Max Hergenrother.

For the last nine years, Nina has exhibited her work in many art shows on Long Island.

She is the proud recipient of the Bronze Medal for original watercolor in 2010. Nina also had a one-woman show at the Great Neck Courthouse in July 2011, which she dedicated to the memory of her sister, Juliet Stein, class of 1956.

Nina is fortunate to come from a long line of artists in her family. Her grandmother, Lena, was a sculptor and a couture designer; her mother, Helen, is an interior designer; and her sister, Juliet, was a sculptor and artist.

As Nina states, “Looking at one’s surroundings in the eyes of an artist changes one’s perspective and challenges oneself to create and grow. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to immerse myself in the arts and to widen my horizons.”

Nina Stein Wolf from the 1964 Lamp Yearbook

Left, one of Nina Stein Wolf’s signature watercolor paintings. Nina regularly exhibits in art shows around Long Island.
James Boorstein ’73, has been working as an architectural and museum conservator for the past 34 years. With an expertise in woodworking, and a broad knowledge of many other architectural materials like metal and stone, combined with the ability to track down difficult to find tools and parts, Boorstein had the good fortune to attain a position at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1980 as a restorer. He attained many of the old-fashioned conservation techniques necessary for such work while on the job, much like an artisan would learn. In 1984, Boorstein partnered with another craftsman and founded Traditional Line, “[architectural restoration] a company devoted to returning historically significant architecture to its original splendor,” as noted in a 1987 New York Times article. Over the past 20 years, a significant amount of the company’s work has been with museums, including the Getty, the Seattle Art Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and many museums in New York City. In addition, Boorstein is currently doing conservation projects for the New York Yacht Club and other private historic homes and clubs.

Boorstein attended Friends Academy for 7th, 8th and 9th grades after which time his family moved to Manhattan and he attended a Quaker school in Pennsylvania. It was there that he started to learn technical skills with wood. He then went to Colgate University and spent some time at the Art Institute in San Francisco.

While Boorstein worked part-time at the Met, he maintained a studio in Chelsea and sculpted objects out of brick and wood. He often let the material create the shape of his sculptures, thereby creating works that “mini-mized the effect of his hand.”

In 1984, Boorstein gave up traditional studio work in favor of site-specific installation work. After creating a series of photographs made with a camera in motion, he began to shoot short videos.

Boorstein captures moments in time and nature with short 30-second videos, above and left.

Boorstein has always been interested in “ephemeral motion” and the work that he does today captures moments in time: such as steam moving through the air, rain falling, dust floating, light reflecting and falling leaves. His videos are 30 seconds long – more like “photographs with a duration.” While some of these works have a natural narrative, others are more abstract. “With each piece, you know its duration – you have the choice after 4 or 5 seconds to decide if you are willing to invest another 25 seconds. If you do, you let yourself become more present with the piece.” Boorstein’s works give the viewer “another level of looking, slowing down and observing more carefully what is around you.” Boorstein describes his works alternatively as “little meditative moments.”

Boorstein lives and works in New York City. Over the past six years, Boorstein has made more than 1,000 of these works that he calls video pictures. Visitors can sign up at www.videopictures.org to receive his video pictures either daily or once a week.
Jennifer Briggs Stanley ’88 has written over twenty traditional mystery novels under several pseudonyms, including Ellery Adams, Jennifer Stanley and J.B. Stanley. In Jennifer’s case, quantity does not interfere with quality...her last four novels, Written in Stone, Poisoned Prose, Buried in a Book, and Peach Pies and Alibis hit the New York Times Bestseller List.

Other titles include her Books by the Bay Mysteries, which are set on the coast of North Carolina and feature unpublished writers turned amateur sleuths.

The titles in this series include A Killer Plot, A Deadly Cliché, The Last Word and two of her bestsellers: Written in Stone and Poisoned Prose.

Jennifer has also authored the Charmed Pie Shoppe Mysteries featuring an enchanted pastry chef who runs a pie shop and solves mysteries in northwest Georgia: Pie and Prejudice, bestseller Peach Pies and Alibis, and the recently released Pecan Pies and Homicide.

Two other mystery series include The Supper Club Mysteries with six titles: Carbs & Cadavers, Fit to Die, Chili Con Corpse, Stiffs and Swine, The Battered Body, and Black Beans and Vice (watch out if Jennifer invites you over for dinner) and Collectible Mysteries with three titles: A Killer Collection, A Fatal Appraisal, and A Deadly Dealer.

This year Jennifer will debut a new series featuring a resort for bibliophiles (and a few murderers) in western Virginia.

Stanley has received enormous praise for her books from the literary community. “Written in Stone is written with skill, as Adams continues to entertain her readers with a clever story and further develop Olivia, one of the most intriguing heroines of the genre and one created by a maturing and empathetic author.”

– Richmond Times-Dispatch.

“[Ellery Adams] has already proven she has a gift for charm. Her characters are charismatic and alluring, and downright funny. Not to mention, the plot is an absolute masterpiece as far as offering the reader a true puzzle that they are thrilled to solve!...A Deadly Cliché is a solidly great, fun read!” – Once Upon a Romance.

Jennifer dedicated one of her books, The Last Word, to former Friends Academy English teachers Frank Brogan and Roger Erickson.

For more information on Jennifer, visit www.elleryadamsmysteries.com.
When Jeff Davis ’65 was in the seventh grade at Friends Academy, folk-singer and folksong collector Frank Warner performed for the Middle School at a morning assembly in the gym. As Jeff recalls, “There was a hit song at the time called ‘Tom Dooley,’ sung by the Kingston Trio. It was an unlikely pop hit. The song was different from anything I had heard, full of murder, hanging, deception, gloom, and a seemingly remote locale. Suddenly I wanted to play the banjo.”

Jeff continues, “So, there, at Friends Academy that day, was Frank Warner, playing a banjo made for him by a North Carolina mountain man, surrounded by photographs that he and his wife, Anne, had taken on their travels around the country while collecting old songs. One of the songs they found was ‘Tom Dooley,’ that was the very song we were all listening to, and here, right in front of us, was the man who had dug the song out of the mountains.”

Frank Warner had learned the song from Frank Proffitt, an Appalachian old-time banjoist who had learned the song from his aunt. (Proffitt’s great aunt had known the figures portrayed in the song.) Hearing Warner play amidst archival photographs was a pivotal moment in Jeff’s life. “My interest in history and music slammed together at that moment and have never let go.”

And in 1963, Jeff bought one of Frank Proffitt’s hand-made banjos. (Incidentally, another one of Frank Proffitt’s banjos is on display at the Hall of Musical Instruments at the Smithsonian and another can be seen at the Rock ‘n’ Roll Hall of Fame.)

Jeff Davis is a life-long professional musician, playing and collecting traditional American folk music culled from field recordings and archives. He performs regularly at festivals at home and abroad and runs curriculum-based, in-school programs on a wide variety of subjects. Jeff performs internationally as well. “This winter saw me playing at folk festivals in England and, for the fourth time, playing Appalachian music to Norwegian school kids in Oslo!”

Besides the banjo, Jeff plays a wide variety of instruments, including the fiddle (he inherited one from his great uncle), the dulcimer, the mandolin, the mandocello (a guitar-sized mandolin), spoons, and bones. He has released a number of CDs, most recently Some Fabulous Yonder, which includes Appalachian songs, Long Island fiddle tunes, American versions of English folksongs, and a wide variety of other old music. Jeff’s other CDs include Sharp’s Appalachian Harvest with Brian Peters, a Smithsonian-Folkways project called Civil War Naval Song, in which

Jeff is the voice of the South, and an English anthology, called Song Links, of old English songs and their American variants. Jeff also performs in the duo The New Boys of Old New York, singing and playing the traditional music of New York State. Jeff and Jeff Warner ’61 (Frank Warner’s older son), former music partners for decades, have recorded together three times. He also stays in close touch with Frank Warner’s younger son, Gerret ’64.

Jeff Davis is one of the most respected performers, interpreters and collectors of traditional American folk music. As David Kidman from NetRhythms writes, “Jeff is one of the most charismatic and widely-regarded of American old-time-folk revival performers, possessing that maddeningly enviable trait of being master of several different instruments… as well being a darned fine singer, a man of wholly unpretentious and completely natural musicianship who all the while makes everything he does seem totally effortless.”
Michelle Rabinowitz Carney ’98: Director, Tribeca Enterprises

Love for storytelling fuels documentaries

By Jennifer Ryan Woods ’99

I t was during a college internship with WNYC public radio that Michelle Rabinowitz Carney ’98 realized her love for storytelling. What she didn’t know at the time was that storytelling would soon become a cornerstone of her career.

As director of production for Tribeca Enterprises – the media company behind the Tribeca Film Festival, a film distribution company and related ventures – “It’s my job to oversee any original content we produce,” says Carney. This role includes everything from producing web series and documentaries to trailers and DVD ‘extras.’

One of the best parts of the job, Carney says, is that it allows her to tell stories that matter. For example, one project she worked on was a web series for AOL, Acting Disruptive, which gives a behind-the-scenes look at the business and passion projects launched by celebrities – projects that have the ability to make a real impact on the world.

Currently, she’s producing a documentary, We Could Be King. It’s about a high school football team, comprised of two rival schools, that were forced to merge due to budget cuts. It follows their first season as they learn to work together not only for the team’s sake, but also for the fractured community they represent on the field. It premiered during the Tribeca Film Festival and it aired on ESPN 2 on April 26th.

While the job is a perfect fit for Carney, if you had told her a decade ago that she’d be working in the film industry, she might not have believed you.

“I had this crazy job where one day I’d be interviewing Green Day and the next I’d be shooting a show with the 2008 presidential candidates.”

“Love for storytelling fuels documentaries”

“I had this crazy job where one day I’d be interviewing Green Day and the next I’d be shooting a show with the 2008 presidential candidates.”

“That was my first TV news job and I loved it,” says Carney, who had by then determined the career path she planned to pursue.

“On my first day of grad school when we were all talking about why we decided to go to grad school... I remember standing up and saying my goal in life was to make young people care about the news and the world around them.”

It wasn’t long before she had the chance to do just that.

After grad school, she was one of 10 journalists selected for the Carnegie Fellowship Program, which allowed her to receive hands-on training at the ABC News headquarters in New York, where she worked in the investigative unit alongside correspondent Brian Ross.

About six months later, she was offered her dream job: political producer for MTV, in charge of producing all of the political content.

“It was so meaningful to travel around the country... meeting young people and finding out what was important to them in this upcoming election and why they did or didn’t care about the election.”

When things were quiet on the political front, she was often asked to produce entertainment segments as well. “I had this crazy job where one day I’d be interviewing Green Day and the next I’d be shooting a show with the 2008 presidential candidates.”

Carney was thrilled to be doing exactly what she had set out to do.

Continued on page 32
Sarah Klass ’07: Jewelry Designer

By Hayley Kucich ’03

Sarah Klass, Friends Academy Class of 2007, is the creator of “The Sarah Klass” jewelry line that was formed in 2012.

The name of the line, interestingly enough, is a product of Friends Academy and it comes with an anecdotal story.

“FA helped me in naming my business,” recalls Sarah. “I chose ‘The Sarah Klass’ because in high school an older student had an instant messenger screen name that started with “The” and then their name. I thought that was silly and I never forgot about it!”

You never know how you are going to influence another person without even knowing it!

Sarah’s aesthetic is sort of an abstract and whimsical interpretation of natural line formations in brass and silver.

After FA, Sarah attended Parsons The New School for Design where she studied fashion, product design and printmaking: “the combination that brought me to jewelry,” she said.

“FA contributed to me taking an artistic route. I had access to art techniques and culture that I otherwise would not have had. I got to do things like print my own designs onto fabric, go to art exhibits like Chihuly at the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and use my interest in fashion to help design and create costumes for the theater department. After school, I would participate in the Art Therapy community service program with SCO Family Services. I got to see the limitless possibilities of the art world and how I could fit into it.”

For more information about The Sarah Klass and how to purchase her designs, please visit www.thesarahklass.com.

Photos courtesy Sarah Klass

Abstract line emulates natural world

“My goal in life was to make young people care about the news and the world around them.”

Unfortunately, after three years, her job became one of the many casualties of the struggling media world.

After being laid off, she says, “I spent the next two years freelancing, producing episodes of True Life for MTV and working on a documentary for Vice. I hustled to get a few days of TV work here and there.”

She also spent some time at a non-profit, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, which she was very passionate about. After a few years she wanted to get into the media world full-time. She was offered a job with the Sundance Channel, producing their Sundance Film Festival website.

“Sundance needed a producer to oversee film festival coverage on the web. I used it as an opportunity to learn more about producing online.”

After having a baby in 2012, Carney continued to freelance for Sundance.

But after a while, she felt the itch to get back to doing full-time production work.

“I thought it would take forever to find the right position that would allow me to still be a mom. I stumbled across this job at Tribeca... I blindly sent my resume and was sure I wouldn’t hear back but they immediately wrote back. After four months of interviewing, I got the job.”

“This job is a good combination of everything I’ve worked up to. I’ve always been passionate about storytelling and I’ve always loved documentaries,” she says, adding, “Even though I’m not in the news business anymore, I have the opportunity to work with amazing film makers... helping them get their documentaries made.”

Michelle Rabinowitz-Carney ’98

Continued from page 31
Tom Pascarella ’95: Tilles Center Technical Director

Jack of all trades keeps it fresh and fun

How many people can say they get paid to play? Well, count Tom Pascarella ’95 as one of them.

As Technical Director for the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, Tom is responsible for all the needs of the productions that come through Tilles, from lighting to labor and crew, sound, lobby music, catering, costumes and more.

“The favorite thing about my job is that the office is different every weekend,” said Tom. “There are never the same challenges twice, never the same four walls,” he added.

Tom picked up the theater bug early at Friends and was thrust into the scene in 7th grade after two errant Upper Schools students and stage hands set the PA on fire. “They were asked not to help out any more,” confided Tom.

At Friends, Tom’s relationships with many different faculty members helped shape his career path. “Peter Carvell in the Theater Department was my first exposure to real theater personality. His sense of humor sparked something in me personally and professionally. Bob McGuire was a real technical guy, who had worked in design on Broadway. I really started to identify with him,” recalled Tom.

While studying production and design at Long Island University’s Post Campus, Tom continued to work part-time as technical director at Friends. “I was learning what I didn’t know during the day and applying it at Friends in the afternoon,” said Tom.

At Tilles, Tom devotes much of his time to lighting design and ensuring that each show has the right crew, which is crucial to its success. “Sometimes I work with as many as 60 people, and sometimes just two,” said Tom.

Tom will draw hires from the stagehand union, non-union freelancers and Post students, and appoint up to 200 people during a season. “We’ve had a few FA alums also pass through during my time,” added Tom.

Working with a diversity of performers, from Idina Menzel to the Dresden Philharmonic, constantly enriches Tom. “One of my favorite shows was one of the first I ever did at Tilles,” said Tom.

“The favorite thing about my job is that the office is different every weekend. There are never the same challenges twice, never the same four walls.”

“The Children of Uganda locked it in for me that this is what I wanted to do.

We brought over kids and teens from Uganda, who were sharing their native music to raise money for their villages. Some of these kids had never been out of the country. On the first day, we ordered pizza for them and, yes, we got to teach these kids how to fold pizza.”

Every year, Tilles sponsors a major art installation, which calls for a unique set of design and lighting. “We need to show the art in the same eye that the artist originally intended.”

In November, Tom married Jessica, whom he met at Tilles and who now works as Director of Ticketing at Adelphi University. “She runs the front of the house and I run the back of the house!”

What does the future have in store for Tom? “I spent all my youth knowing exactly what I wanted to do. Now I can do anything I want. Tilles is one of the few places where I can have a mix of everything.”

Tom Pascarella, behind the lights, from the 1995 Lamp Yearbook

Tom Pascarella ’95 with Penelope Wylie Mayer ’75 at Middle School Career Day

KATHY FOURFRIENDS ACADEMY
Author fights for overlooked, invisible

By Andrea Miller
Director of Communications

Lawrence Schimel ’89 was always a voracious reader as a child. The problem was he could not find any of the stories he wanted to write about.

“I like to write about things that are overlooked or invisible,” said Lawrence.

Writing in both Spanish and English, for both children and adults, Lawrence has published over 100 books as author or anthologist.

Lawrence’s stories explore points of view that are not frequently seen in mainstream children’s or adult literature. “In my children’s books, I write from the point of view of the child. I also want to tell the other side of the story.”

The other side translates into a unique look at social issues that are often generalized or truncated.

“In Let’s Go See Papá! I wanted to tell the other side of the immigration story. We always hear the stories about coming to America, but never hear the side about the people that are left behind.”

In Let’s Go See Papá!, Lawrence introduces a young girl who lives with her mother and grandmother in Latin America. She regularly corresponds with her father, who lives and works in the United States, through handwritten letters.

When it is time for the girl and her mother to move to America, Lawrence illustrates the anguish the girl feels at leaving behind those she loves most – her best friend, her grandmother, her dog.

Lawrence turns adoption upside down as well. “There are not a lot of books about being adopted, and aside from a few where the adoption is the crux of the story, these kids never have lives afterward.”

Social inclusion and issues of sexual orientation and gender are strong themes for Lawrence, who says that some of his inspiration is rooted in personal experience.

“Belonging to multiple minority groups, I have experience with not being accepted by the mainstream. Ultimately, we can’t allow any prejudices to exist, so we must fight them all to make the world a better place.”

Lawrence penned his first published piece while at Friends, which he entered in 6th grade.

“There was an anthology series called Sword and Sorceresses that featured women who were heroines, instead of victims. I sold a number of stories to that,” said Lawrence.

Influenced by FA English teacher Roger Erickson, Lawrence also worked with Katharine Maris on the student-run literary publication. Ironically, Lawrence credits his persistence and resilience to the time he spent running and competing in FA Track.

“The thing that was the best for becoming a writer was running track,” explained Lawrence. “I was the slowest runner and as a freshman, I always competed against juniors and seniors and always came in last. But I managed to finish all the time.”

The tenacity and determination Lawrence learned helped him cope with publishing rejection. “I submitted my work again and again, stayed the course and worked through it.”

Running also afforded Lawrence the opportunity to free his mind. “When I was running, the physical motion was very useful to me for narrative motion. It would free up the creative mind and let me figure out what I was going to do.

Continued on page 35
Meghan Farrell '02: A New Standard of ‘Classic’

Jewelry combines love of medicine, romance

By Hayley Kucich '03

After graduating from Friends Academy in 2002, Meghan would find herself taking jewelry classes at FIT. Though never imagining it would become a career, the MF collection (her initials) launched in the fall of 2010 and has sold at Opening Ceremony ever since.

Being inspired by her parents who are in the medical field, medicine was always around, so it was inevitable that Meghan’s jewelry took on a medical theme. However, a true romantic, and having always loved the Shakespearean heroine, the pieces also took on this love narrative. The first collection was neurology themed, and then went onto cardiology. The collection features everything from delicate EKG Heartbeat Rings with heart shaped stones, dimensional DNA rings, and bulkier interlaced rings that represent kisses.

Meghan says that her “ultimate goal is to create a collection of jewelry that sets a new standard of ‘classic’: pieces that are bold and different, but that are also timeless and remain to be one of your favorite pieces that you will wear forever.” The collection has been featured in Lucky, Refinery 29, Vice, Vogue, and most recently on Selena Gomez for the feature story in Teen Vogue.

Meghan explained that “Friends Academy really encouraged my artistic spirit and cultivated my love for romance and theatricality, and it helped me build a sound foundation of knowledge against this idea of magic. This was accomplished through the little ways I never imagined; like reading Wuthering Heights in Doc Sullivan’s class, baking different objects in the kiln in Mrs. Lindner’s Lower School art class, or studying Helena in scene study with Jorge Vega. In the end, life is really all about projecting who you are through creation.”

For more information about Meghan’s collection, please visit www.meghanfarrell.com.

The Meeting House | Winter/Spring 2014
Jeff Hull ’73: Sculptor and Arts Educator

Artist brings passion into classroom

By Natalia Porcelli Good ’93

Jeff Hull ’73, has devoted his life to being a follower of Christ and one of the ways he lives out that faith is by using his God-given talents as an art educator and artist. Hull is a sculptor, welder, potter and furniture maker in the American Craft movement. Hull sells his works and has won local art competitions in Longview, Texas and surrounding East Texas cities.

Hull discovered his passion for making art as a young student at East Side Elementary School, in Cold Spring Harbor. He was greatly impacted by a fourth grade class trip in 1964 to the Guggenheim where he “fell in love” with the works of Alexander Calder. Once Hull became a student at Friends in 7th grade, he did not take any formal art classes, but he always enjoyed working with his hands building model cars. In 7th grade, he recalls making a found object sculpture in tribute to his science teacher Mr. Alkins. The head was made from split firewood (see inset). Hull used wire for his glasses, pieces of sea glass for his eyes, a wooden dowel for his nose, and a worn brick he found on the beach for the tongue. This early sculpture was a harbinger of the type of art for which Hull would eventually become known.

After graduating from Friends, Hull attended Wheaton College, where ironically enough, he was told that he would never make it as an artist. Hull quit school, moved home and worked for some time as a busboy and gas pump jockey. Six months later he returned to college and graduated from Le Tourneau University in Texas.

After a circuitous career path working with non-profit organizations, as a youth pastor, helping handicapped and special needs individuals, and a 10-year stint as a manager/owner of a quick-lube business, Hull was encouraged to apply for a teaching position that had become available. In 2000, Hull began “the most satisfying and longest lasting job I’ve ever had” – he was hired as an art teacher at Longview High School in Longview, Texas where he currently teaches Art 1, Ceramics I, II and III and Pre-AP and AP Sculpture classes. The immense pride he has in his students and the work he puts into their submissions for regional and statewide art competitions and college admissions is remarkable.

In addition to his work at Longview High School, Hull creates his own art works, primarily sculpting works out of found objects. For example, he created various sculptures out of the hoods of cars and trucks. He also creates one-of-a-kind pieces of handcrafted furniture of the American Craft movement. In addition, Hull and his students have competed many times in the annual Houston Art Car Parade, in which ordinary moving vehicles are transformed into rolling sculptures. In the 2007 competition, which he won, Hull’s team took a full size van and turned it into a toaster with pop tarts coming out.

Hull has now turned to hanging art, some of which has religious or political messages. With respect to interpretations of his work, Hull intends to create truly unique works that provoke strong visceral reactions in the viewer.

Hull lives with his wife, Bonnie, in Longview, TX and has three grown children, Kimberly, Chris and Brandi.

For more information on Mr. Hull’s work, visit www.jeffhullart.com or https://sites.google.com/site/jeffhullart/home. You can also find his work on Facebook.
So how did a brainy girl from a nice family on the North Shore of Long Island who studied classical, folk and flamenco guitar end up belting out torch songs and ballads in New York City night spots? It’s a long way from a Quaker high school and Seven Sisters graduate to cabaret chanteuse, but no one ever said life should be predictable,” Robin writes on her website, robinjamescabaret.com.

The story begins when Robin was very young. Growing up, her house was alive with music. From Theodore Bikel (who inspired not only a love of music but a love of languages), Edith Piaf and Pete Seeger, to Gregorian chant and JS Bach, music filled the rooms. As Robin explains, she “grew up with music in her blood.”

After receiving her first guitar from her grandparents, Robin headed to the Guitar Workshop in Roslyn where she took lessons from fellow alums Jeff Davis ’65 and Jeff Warner ’61. Robin was there several times each week studying classical, folk, and flamenco guitar, as well as attending folk music sings every Tuesday evening. (Her mother was a patient chauffeur!)

Robin sang, danced and acted her way through Friends under the inspired direction of Joe Servello, including roles in Threepenny Opera, Under Milkwood, Ondine, West Side Story and The Madwoman of Chaillot.

“I was an avid participant in all the arts at Friends in the four years I was there – theater and fine arts with Joe Servello, vocal music with Arthur O’Hanlon and chamber groups as a classical guitarist.”

“Theater,” Robin explains, “was a wonderful outlet for a geeky girl who didn’t know how to make friends easily.”

Following Friends, Robin attended Bryn Mawr College, where she majored in French. At Bryn Mawr, Robin sang under the tutelage of Tamara Brooks. It didn’t occur to her to “let myself be a theater or music major,” says Robin. “Now, I look back and ask why?”

At the time, Robin viewed herself as someone who could sing, not as “a singer.” Today, Robin is not only a singer, she is much more. Her “day job” is with Lee Hecht Harrison, in human capital consulting. She considers herself incredibly lucky to be able to have two simultaneous careers. Not having to make a living as a musician, Robin explains, “I get to have my cake and eat it too!” She is also a choral singer and soloist (and current President) with New Amsterdam Singers (www.nasingers.org), and a cabaret singer (www.robinjamescabaret.com), “activities which offer welcome balance and enrichment to my professional career.”

But there’s even more. A mother of two, Robin considers herself lucky to have two wonderful grown children who live nearby in NYC.

As a vocalist, Robin loves deconstructing songs, examining the lyrics, and helping others discover the meanings behind the words and music. This winter Robin performed in a cabaret, a venue she loves as it allows her to perform “so many different flavors” of music.

Her advice to aspiring musicians? “Give yourself permission to say that’s who you are, not just something you like to do. Go ahead...make music!”
By Jennifer Ryan Woods ’99

Stephen Kunken ’89 always wanted to see the world through many angles. So it’s no surprise he chose to pursue an acting career, which has allowed him to be different people for a living.

“Being an actor lets you dip into different types of people and places, live them for a while and then move onto something else,” says Kunken.

During his prolific career, Kunken has worked on films with some of the most acclaimed actors and directors of our time, guest-starred in various hit TV shows and acted in a slew of Broadway shows — one of which earned him a Tony nomination.

Kunken’s interest in theater was first sparked while he was a student at Friends. “There’s something about the Quaker philosophy and having compassion for all different people that inspires a kind of desire to want to know what drives people to do the things they do. Not to judge them in black and white but to pursue the universal truths that live in the gray,” Kunken says.

“I remember going to Quaker Meeting and hearing the inner monologues that people would voice and that would give me an insight into that person… that made me want to know more about the world that I would only know through my own eyes.”

During his time at Friends, Kunken participated in numerous theater productions. Coincidentally, he recently found himself cast opposite a fellow FA classmate Melissa Errico ’88 in an episode of the TV show Blue Bloods.

After graduating Friends, Kunken enrolled at Tufts University where he majored in theater. He then went on to complete a four-year graduate program in acting at Juilliard.

“What I wanted to do more than anything else when I got out of Juilliard was work on new plays,” he says adding, “I like to lend my voice as an actor to help writers create new work. The majority of my career has been [doing] that.”

In addition to acting in various critically acclaimed off-Broadway productions, Kunken has also appeared on Broadway in shows such as Proof, Frost/Nixon, Rock ‘n’ Roll, High and The Columnist. He was nominated for a Tony award for his portrayal of disgraced CFO Andy Fastow in the play Enron.

In addition to stage work, Kunken has guest-starred in a number of TV shows such as Law and Order, The Good Wife and Unforgettable. He has also worked with renowned directors including Ang Lee, Barry Levinson and Spike Lee on various films. Recently Kunken played the role of Jerry Fogel, Leonardo DiCaprio’s first boss in Martin Scorsese’s Wolf of Wall Street.

While Kunken’s career has run the gamut between the stage and the screen, he enjoys being able to transition between the two. “Going back and forth is really great… When you work in theater, you get an immediate response to the work you’re doing. So it feels the best as an actor. You also get to live it sequentially as the experience is happening to the character… so it’s the most cathartic.”

However, he says, “in terms of proliferation of material…there’s nothing like a movie or TV show.”

“Also, when you finish a film project, you don’t see it again for six months or a year so it’s amazing to see when all of the elements are put together, what your small part adds up to. Luckily I’ve been able to have a great life going between the two,” says Kunken, who is looking forward to working on new plays and creating new roles in the future.

Kunken lives in Red Hook, Brooklyn with his wife, Jen Thompson, an award-winning theater director and their 4 ½ year-old daughter Naomi.
Lucy Gould Reitzfeld ’69: Painter of Timeless Scenes

By Kathy Fox
Alumni Affairs Coordinator

Lucy Gould Reitzfeld ’69 found her passion early in life. She began painting as a child and has not stopped. Inspired by the old masters and Impressionists, Lucy paints in many layers according to old master recipes, thereby creating depth and luminosity.

With a long list of exhibitions, both solo and group, nationally and in Europe, and selected collections on display throughout the country, it is easy to see why Lucy has garnered such respect as an artist. She has recently shown at the George Billis Gallery in New York City and is currently exhibiting at the Affordable Art Fair in New York City with The Front Art Space.

Additionally, Lucy has been an arts educator for 10 years. She has taught plein air painting at the New York Botanical Gardens and landscape painting at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

As she explains, “I see my landscape paintings as windows that invite the viewer to look through and experience the sensuality of nature.” Indeed, one wants to gaze through those windows again and again. “For the viewer, Reitzfeld’s paintings compel us to return to them over time, as if each reading offers a means of experiencing nature, even momentarily, through the eyes of the artist,” explains artist and art dealer Robert G. Edelman. Celia Bergoffen from The Villager further explains her style: “Lucy Gould Reitzfeld’s landscape paintings encompass nature’s many moods, including her own. Devoid of people, they are timeless scenes of forests, meadows and rivers, places in the artist’s past or memories of masterpieces seen long ago... Hard-edged reality is subsumed by her emotional response to the momentary visions of dappled light in a forest, reflections on water or cloudbursts.”

Lucy’s work is not limited to landscapes; it includes still lifes, abstracts and a series of paintings of New York City’s Mercer Street which were painted in her Manhattan loft.

“All realistic painting has elements of abstraction,” says Lucy.

In her work, she explores “the color sensations and patterning” found in everyday life. While Lucy spends time in the country sketching and taking photographs, most of her painting is done in her studio in Ridgefield, CT.

For more information, and to view Lucy’s work, visit http://lucygr.com.

Photos courtesy of Lucy Gould Reitzfeld
Michael Poloukhine ’82: Architect

Solving ‘earthly problems’ with design

By Natalia Porcelli Good ’93

Michael Poloukhine ’82, an architect who founded a design/build practice, ReSquare Architecture and Construction in 2008, based in Los Angeles. As his website states, “ReSquare Architecture and Construction is focused on providing custom architectural design, building and construction management solutions tailored to discerning homeowners looking to elevate their living environment and lifestyle.”

Can you tell me about your background, such as where you were born and raised, and how that has impacted your work?

I was born in Glen Cove, NY in 1964. My mother was an artist and art teacher, and that without question affected my affinity for creativity. My parents chose FA for its commitment to both education and spiritual growth, and I fit right in.

In our family, education was seen as the most important achievement to pursue. That commitment to learning is critical to being an architect in staying on top of advancements in the field and exploring paths for new ones in my work.

Our family’s Russian Orthodox Christian faith is a deeply spiritual one that accepts we are all imperfect and at the same time called to be divine. To me architecture is a little like that: solving an earthly problem like keeping the rain out in a spiritual way.

Was there a teacher or teachers at Friends Academy who inspired you to do the work you do today?

While my art teachers Mrs. Gilden and Mrs. Tilton were very supportive of my creative talents and nurtured my love of them, my AP English teacher Mr. Al Haulenbeek was the most influential. His love of literature and teaching opened my eyes to the great authors’ yearning for self-expression and inspired my creative core. Al knew this, used it, and I am a better person and professional for it. I deeply regret not realizing this in time to let him know it.

You mention that you have “a passion and devotion to building and environmental stewardship.” Can you elaborate on that?

My parents grew up as poor immigrants in a dirt floor shack in WWII Nazi-occupied France, surviving by conserving... everything. My views of the world around me were affected by that in many ways. I also spent two summers on a remote island building our family vacation home with my uncle, an architect/builder with the same background as my parents. Conservation was crucial. All the materials

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needed to be imported, so everything got used in some way, even the packing materials. The beauty of the natural environment was why we were there, so preserving it was paramount. That experience instilled in me a reverence for delicately living in our natural environment; we are not its owners, but tenants called to preserve and improve it for the next generation.

Who/what are the inspirations/influences behind your work?

Frank Lloyd Wright is a great influence. His love of nature, form and how we experience them in motion are inspirational. His designs reflect an understanding of what it means for us to move and live in spaces in a way that elevates our lives.

I also admire the work of Santiago Calatrava. He has a genius ability to unify engineering and sculpture in a way that is greater than the sum of its parts. Architecture’s challenge is combining the pragmatic with the ideal, the prosaic with the creative. Calatrava’s work reminds me that this is possible.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

A few words to FA students. Think! Explore! Express! Walt Whitman said it best (thank you Mr. Haulenbeek!):

“What good amid these, O me, O life? Answer: That you are here – that life exists, and identity; That the powerful play goes on, and you will contribute a verse.”
“It’s not like a normal show,” begins filmmaker Fernando Gutierrez De Jesus ’00 in describing the two-years-in-the-making documentary that he and three other British filmmakers recently showed at the Tribeca Film Festival.

And indeed it’s not. Entitled Choose Your Own Documentary, the film takes its format and inspiration from the popular 1980s children’s series, Choose Your Own Adventure.

Written by Edward Packard (who is now coincidentally Long-Island based), the complete set of 106 books offered its readers choices, decisions and consequences as they tackled plot twists and multiple endings.

Fernando’s path was equally intriguing. “I had gotten an e-mail from an old friend that this guy, Nathan, was looking for a filmmaker to put this together. He wanted it to follow the CYOA format, but still be real and entertaining. I found some guys I had worked with previously and we received enough funding from the Arts Council in England to cover shooting and travel. As we were filming, we never knew how it was going to end. We went out on a limb with this project and people have really reacted to it. It was an amazing journey for us.”

The documentary was born after the central narrator, Nathan Penlington – an avid childhood reader of the CYOA series – found four pages of a diary in a used copy of one of the books and notations from a boy named Terence Prendergast. The boy writes of bullying, running away from home, expulsion from school and suicide and Nathan decides to start a quest to find the author and reunite him with his diary.

An interactive experience, there are 1,566 permutations of the show given all the decision points and five distinct endings. Audience members are given remote controls and at various points during the film are asked to vote on the next step. Consult a psychic? A handwriting expert? Choose wisely, but majority rules.

“The first show we ever tried was in 2012 in England during the early stages. In 2013, we played at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and won The Scotsman Fringe First Award for Innovation in Storytelling. After that we were invited to various festivals,” said Fernando.

CYOD has received multiple accolades from media outlets like The New York Times, “Ultimately a love letter to the ‘Choose Your Own Adventure’ books and a directive to live actively and make choices,” to Official London Theatre, “Enough intrigue, excitement...”
and decision making to keep you glued to your seat.”

It was back at Friends, where Fernando tasted and gulped down his passion for film. “I started in the drama department and did a lot of work in the theater. I was really inspired by Mr. Vega who gave me a lot of confidence. My experience at Friends made me think about performance and audience reaction. I really got into that by doing a lot of plays and I liked the ability to control reactions. That translated quite nicely into making films,” recalled Fernando, who started at Friends in the 4th grade.

A lack of formal video curriculum at FA was no deterrent as Fernando created videos on the side for class projects. In Upper School, he and classmate Ryan McCally ’01 made a film called A Touch of Frost, that spoke to diversity and how the school was improving it. They submitted it to the Bridge Film Festival, a competition for student-made films from Friends Schools and Meeting worldwide, where it won first place.

On a whim, the two decided to found a film club and were taken by surprise when 80 or 90 students signed up. “The school was amazing,” said Fernando. “They bought us (then) a state-of-the-art PC, which allowed video capture from mini DV. They even gave us a room. At that time, what we were doing was not all that popular and there were not that many institutions that provided that sort of support for young kids,” Fernando added.

After graduation, Fernando attended Providence College where he started the college’s first TV network, and finally traveled to England to attend the prestigious National Film and Television School.

“I was able to study England’s process of making television and to see the differences between there and America.”

Currently, Fernando works for the production arm of the British television network ITV (known for shows like Hell’s Kitchen), where he directs and produces a variety of programmes for ITV and other networks. He also has worked in the area of format development where a show is thought up, produced, and subsequently sold to international markets.

“A show like American Idol or So You Want to Be A Millionaire is a big format that sells internationally,” said Fernando. “In factual shows, it benefits us to have a formula to make the show, which we can then sell as a recipe card to other territories,” he explained. “This experience translated well to help me create the many paths for Choose Your Own Documentary and tell them all effectively.”

Following the success of Choose Your Own Documentary, Fernando and his fellow filmmakers created their own company, CYOD Ltd. dedicated to finding and supporting other interactive projects. “My hope is that this type of format can become more mass audience. Interactive documentary is an emerging world of storytelling. It allows us to use technology in new and exciting ways in order to enhance and enliven a story while still creating powerful and emotional reactions with audiences around the world.”

Fernando Gutierrez De Jesus lives and works in London. He and his girlfriend, Daisy Lilley are expecting a son in July. For more information about Choose Your Own Documentary, visit www.cyod.co.uk.
1940

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

Miles up the Amazon to Manaus. Numerous
ports including Devil’s Island, Trinidad
and Tobago, Aruba Bonaire and Curaçao,
Barbados, St. Maarten, etc.

1947

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

1948

Marian Schwartz Feniger
16 West 77th St., Apt. 9E
New York, NY 10024
(212) 362-8968
srajerry@aol.com

1949

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

1950

Suzanne Didier DeVito
59 West 12th Street, 16A
New York, NY 10011
(212) 627-7103
suzannedv@sprintmail.com

1951

George H. Gifford, Jr.
12 Oak Ridge Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2011
(631) 757-7489

1952

Margaret Whitney Shiels
5477 FM 2515
Kaufman, TX 75142
(972) 962-8124
mspaulmanok@aol.com

A letter to the Class of ’52 about William
Kenneth Shenkel: How many of you recall
Ken Shenkel, a gentle giant of a man? We
were roommates when I first came to Friends
Academy in the fall of 1948. He had a
younger brother, Richard (now deceased,
I believe: does anyone know where his
remains may lie?). Once Ken got his driver’s
license, he became a day student from his
Garden City home. I believe Ken went onto
Washington & Lee after graduating from
Friends. I also know that he served two or
three years in the Army (some of the time
at a defense missile site not far from my
home here in Fairfield, CT). Sadly, we just
got word that Ken passed away on May 17; Ken
was 80. I was his Primary Health Caregiver
and need to identify and reach out to
some of his relatives. Can
anyone give me a name
to follow up? Thanks for
your assistance. (Please
look for a remembrance
of Ken in the next issue.)
– Bob Burian. Terry Scheetz
describes her as she has
lots of camellias, and bulbs are popping up
in SC. “Even in SC it has been unusually
cold…even some ice. Not complaining when
looking northwards! I still ride horses, play
a bit of golf, run the PPhood fundraising
benefit in our area of SC, do yoga, and
garden with Ted. The citrus trees he planted
are loaded with fruit. Our eldest grandson is
in prep school and plays soccer and squash
when he is not playing ultimate frisbee or
involved with the photography club.” Bob
Burian avoided the winter snow. “We just got
back from Sanibel Island, Florida, for two
weeks. It is just off the western coast near Ft.
Myer. It is delightful. Had sun 13 out of 14
days. Clean, clear, quiet, restful, calm waters,
many shells, good food. Do go if you can. I
play bridge twice a week with several great
guys. Both daughters and families live here
in Fairfield, CT on the same street. Daughter
Susie and husband hosted Thanksgiving for
20. Barbara took granddaughter, 13-year-old
Grace, to Paris last year. Barbara has several
friends there so Grace got to see a little bit
of Parisian life. My son-in-law, Tom, took
me to the Penn-Columbia game at Baker
Field. Penn 21-Columbia 7. I can remember
my father taking me there in 1951 because
he knew I was Planning to go to Penn.”
Wendy Murphy thanked me for keeping
track of everyone. “You’re right about the
snow. It’s almost a daily affair this year
and I find myself keeping fit by shoveling;
though finding places to put the excess was
becoming a problem and avoiding falls on
the ice was a challenge. My mother went well
in SC. “Even in SC it has been unusually
cold…even some ice. Not complaining when
looking northwards! I still ride horses, play
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benefit in our area of SC, do yoga, and

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weeks. It is just off the western coast near Ft.
Myer. It is delightful. Had sun 13 out of 14
days. Clean, clear, quiet, restful, calm waters,
many shells, good food. Do go if you can. I
play bridge twice a week with several great
guys. Both daughters and families live here
in Fairfield, CT on the same street. Daughter
Susie and husband hosted Thanksgiving for
20. Barbara took granddaughter, 13-year-old
Grace, to Paris last year. Barbara has several
friends there so Grace got to see a little bit
of Parisian life. My son-in-law, Tom, took
me to the Penn-Columbia game at Baker
Field. Penn 21-Columbia 7. I can remember
my father taking me there in 1951 because
he knew I was Planning to go to Penn.”
Wendy Murphy thanked me for keeping
track of everyone. “You’re right about the
snow. It’s almost a daily affair this year
and I find myself keeping fit by shoveling;
though finding places to put the excess was
becoming a problem and avoiding falls on
the ice was a challenge. My mother went well
in SC. “Even in SC it has been unusually
cold…even some ice. Not complaining when
looking northwards! I still ride horses, play
a bit of golf, run the PPhood fundraising
benefit in our area of SC, do yoga, and

garden with Ted. The citrus trees he planted
are loaded with fruit. Our eldest grandson is
in prep school and plays soccer and squash
when he is not playing ultimate frisbee or
involved with the photography club.” Bob
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in Fairfield, CT on the same street. Daughter
Susie and husband hosted Thanksgiving for
20. Barbara took granddaughter, 13-year-old
Grace, to Paris last year. Barbara has several
family. Wendy’s children, Zachary and Sophie are at the school where Wendy teaches French. Kari and David moved to a larger home in White Plains. Both Alex and Ben are in school jazz bands. They spent Christmas in China. They fly many places with David piloting. We haven’t seen Jens and Junko in Tokyo in several years. Their girls are both in college. Bruce’s family is enjoying the Williamsburg area. Natalie is a sophomore at Roanoke College. Alyson is a high school sophomore. Gail and Bruce enjoy biking, kayaking and sailing. WA is especially beautiful in summer and AZ is delightful in the winter. Both near National Parks. The guest rooms are waiting.” When Connie and Bob were in Williamsburg, VA visiting their son Bruce and his wife Gail, they had dinner with Annemarie and Fritz Schreiber! Fay Biggins still does not have internet. She may be forced into it when her daughter comes to spend the summer. “Nancy has been developing a business: “Copper Hummingbird.Etsy.com.” She shows all over AZ and plans to do the southeast circuit this summer using my place as home base. She will need the internet. She may be forced into it when her daughter comes to spend the summer. “Nancy has been developing a business: “Copper Hummingbird.Etsy.com.” She shows all over AZ and plans to do the southeast circuit this summer using my place as home base. She will need the internet. She may be forced into it when her daughter comes to spend the summer. “Nancy has been developing a business: “Copper Hummingbird.Etsy.com.” She shows all over AZ and plans to do the southeast circuit this summer using my place as home base. She will need the internet. She may be forced into it when her daughter comes to spend the summer. “Nancy has been developing a business: “Copper Hummingbird.Etsy.com.” She shows all over AZ and plans to do the southeast circuit this summer using my place as home base. She will need the internet. She may be forced into it when her daughter comes to spend the summer. “Nancy has been developing a business: “Copper Hummingbird.Etsy.com.” She shows all over AZ and plans to do the southeast circuit this summer using my place as home base. She will need the internet. She may be forced into it when her daughter comes to spend the summer.

1953

The Class of 1953 mourns the loss of class rep Bruce Nichols. His obituary appears in the “In Memoriam” section on page 67. If you would like to follow in the footsteps of Bruce as class representative, please let us know. Congratulations to Clare Coss, whose historical play, Dr. Dubois and Miss Ovington, presented by the New Federal Theatre, hit the NY stage this past January and February. The production, which was directed by Gabrielle L. Kurlander starred Tony nominee Kathleen Chalfant (Angels in America, Wit) as Miss Ovington and Timothy Simonson (The Trial of Adam Clayton Powell, Deadwood Dick Legend of the West) as Dr. Dubois. The 60th reunion this past fall inspired Dick Henderson to send

Sara graduates from Baylor U. and already has a teaching job in Waco, TX. Andrew is studying biomedical engineering and will have to do several more years since he changed from Civil Engineering. Kate will do another year at Oklahoma City U. studying and performing opera. She will go this summer to Taos, NM, to study. Cameron is a sophomore in college. Cousin Craig [Craig White ’61] has kept us current on the terrible snowy winter on LI. He sent pictures of snow up to the first floor windows. He called to tell us a “small world” story. He took Nancy to “21” for her birthday. A slick spot on the floor sent her sprawling. She was not hurt but you can imagine what a flurry there was. The young Maître’D rushed over and they assured him she was fine. In conversation Craig realized that he was not from those parts and it was revealed that he was from OK. Craig told him that his cousin Kate Shiels was at OKC studying opera. Craig asked where he went to school. He revealed that he went to OKC and got a degree in opera! After 30 minutes or so, the young man came back to their table to say that he texted his professor about Kate and found out that she was in one of his classes. Life on the farm is very busy. Cattle prices are up and we have had lots of calves to take to auction. Robert and David are building another corral for round up. He is doing a lot of welding with help from son David and grandson Andrew. I go to Fort Worth every week for art classes and 2 book groups. Here in Kaufman we will have our 14th Book and Author Luncheon supporting the library. We sell 200 tickets. Not bad for a town of 6,700. Keep in touch and please support Friends with a donation when you are writing those checks for good causes. Let’s make sure that future students will have the same wonderful experience that we did.
The Meeting House | Winter/Spring 2014

some wonderful reminiscences to Kathy Fox in the alumni office about how and why FA was so special to him: “My brother and I came to FA as students (me, 6th grade; my brother Bob, 8th grade) and my dad, Glen Henderson, who was the new head coach for the boys. It was 1946. We lived in the dorms. My dad was one of the dorm proctors. My mom was studying voice in Europe, aspiring to be a Wagnerian Dramatic Soprano most of those years. She had turned down a contract with The MET on the advice of her manager, who advised her to study and sing in Europe. Thus FA was home for my dad, brother and me. On vacations we were in our dorm rooms even though heat was turned off, etc. (Summer vacations we were at summer camps where our dad was head of the waterfront, etc.) Seven years of living together, eating in the dining hall together and going to Quaker Meeting together, for me at least, created wonderful, close and affectionate bonds. I could write a book about the meanings the Quaker Meetings had for me— the congealing of spirit, which although it occurred often, I was not aware of then. My senior year I worked as an orderly at Glen Cove Community Hospital. The memories are clear and warm. My dad left Friends after my sophomore year to join my mom in Germany where he worked for the US Army Special Services so for my last two years I was alone since my brother had graduated in ’51. My brother and I had gone to Germany the summer after 11th grade to be with our folks courtesy of the US Army. I felt such loyalty and closeness to Friends that I chose to return for my senior year rather than finish high school in Munich and be with my family. One of the hardest decisions I ever made. Thankfully after graduating and returning to Munich that summer I was able to spend my freshman year there with my brother and parents. I had to give up my full scholarship to Oberlin in doing so and transferred to Oberlin the following year. It all worked out. My brother and I were remarkably close all through our lives. The year in Munich together was wonderful. My brother became a dentist and I became a psychiatrist, and we both lived near each other in San Diego. Dave Fox was my roommate at Friends and at Oberlin. I stayed at Bruce Nichols’ home Christmas vacation my senior year. In four weeks my friend Tracy Flynn whom you met at the reunion and I will be driving to Tucson, Arizona for Clare Coss’ opening night of her play which is being performed there. I’m still working two days a week as a psychiatrist at our local county mental-health clinic near where I live in Apple Valley. I inherited some of my mother’s vocal genes and enjoyed singing all through my life. I gave Bill Morris a copy of my CD of Negro spirituals when I was at the 50th reunion. I performed the bass solos of Handel’s Messiah with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra, sang various opera production solo roles and enjoyed many years or singing in church choirs etc. Currently one of my vocal chords for unknown reasons is not working and I’m unable to basically sing a note. I’m also hindered in my speech production. The loss of being able to sing is greater than I could ever have imagined.” With many thanks for the care that you bring to us – Dick Henderson ’53.

1954

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

1955

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

Naomi Johnson Dempsey
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Madison, CT 06443
203-245-7617
Naomi.Dempsey100@gmail.com

Never before revealed in this column is that Sandy Abramson is a serious car enthusiast. He has a 1970 Chrysler Newport with a raised-block, TNT engine and 375HP; his father’s 1974 Jeep Wagoneer; and a 2002 Cadillac Escalade. Connie Edie and Mike Hellman have moved to a smaller home in the same community: 53 Oyster Landing Lane, Hilton Head, SC 29928-4131. They recently returned from a cruise around Cape Horn from Lima, Peru to Buenos Aires, Argentina. The highlight was the Falkland Islands, with its friendly people, bird rookeries, and plentiful penguins, which could be approached within 10 feet. In other important news: their daughter Elizabeth was married at 41 and at 42 gave birth to their seventh grandchild, Eleanor Harper Freeman. The Hellmans, who had no interest in venturing north of the Mason/Dixon line in the past, now have this latest grandchild to visit in New York and we hope to persuade them to join us at a future class reunion.

Naomi Johnson Dempsey and Clark Denslow were finally married early in April. Last year they discovered the Mayan Riviera and enjoyed two vacations there. This spring, they spent Easter with Naomi’s youngest daughter and family in Scottsdale, AZ.
Keville Larson, who has lived in Mobile, Alabama since 1962 and has been “retired” from his forestland property management company for a few years, still goes to work five days a week by choice because this is how he can spend time in the woods that he so loves. As previously reported, Owen Smith remains very busy with the family restaurant, service to Nassau County, and the Institute for World Politics in Washington D.C. His latest e-mail includes some previously unreported items: that he chairs the finance committee of St. Mary’s church in Roslyn, continues as Vice Chairman of the Nassau County Republican Committee, is Chairman Emeritus of the Finance Department at Long Island University whence he retired, and writes op-ed pieces on vexing issues like college student loans, the escalating cost of higher education, how Ronald Reagan would handle the mess in the Ukraine, and the need for energy independence. By the time you read this, Owen and Bernadette should have been to Rome in April for the canonization of John Paul II and to Ireland in May for their annual trip to St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth, Ireland’s national seminary, where Owen is to receive an honorary Ph.D! Joan Konvalinka Hawkins writes that “this fall I shall have not one, but two grandchildren heading to Cornell … Miranda, daughter of Jack and Simina, will graduate from St. Anthony’s in June and has been selected as a Tanner scholar at Cornell; Alex, Katie’s son, will graduate from Friends and plans on a computer science major there. You may wonder how anyone related to me could possibly qualify for anything to do with computers, but I assure you it is so. Amalia, Jack’s older daughter, graduated from UPenn last June as a computer science major and is currently employed as a software programmer at MongoDB. Jake, Tom’s youngest, started his freshman year last September at Union where he is in the Engineering program, as well as throwing the discus and shot put. Sam, Tom’s older son, is a junior at the University of Vermont, with a major in Political Science and Emmie, Tom’s oldest, will graduate this June from Wellesley with a double major in Classics and History of Art. … Nick is finishing his sophomore year at FA, and Ben, Peter’s son, is finishing 8th grade at The Wellington School in Columbus, Ohio. Both are having very successful academic experiences, probably because each one is extremely charismatic. As for the two old coots, we’re hugging in there. I broke a minor bone in my foot this winter and have been hobbling around since then and George ’54 hobbles around in general due to knees that should be replaced. We’re going to Scotland after the last graduation in June, but had to cancel a scheduled trip with Bryn Mawr to Iceland as traipsing around the rough terrain did not seem feasible for bone-on-bone knees.”

1956
Anne Wauchope Smith
297 London Drive
Beaconsfield
Quebec H9W 5Z1
Canada
(514) 695-1951
awsmith@uniserve.com

1957
Roger O. Sanders
324 Fishing Ln.
Deland, Fl 32720
(386) 736-8015
rsanders38@cfl.rr.com

1959
Charles G. Jameson
13464 Brightview Way
Gainesville, VA 20155
(703) 743-1619
626036@comcast.net

Help us Find Lost Classmates
We need your help in finding FA alumni with whom the school has lost contact. The name below is a lost alum from the Class of 1959. If you have current contact information please let us know. We would love to welcome her back to Friends Academy!

Jane Lewis Miller ’59

1960
Bob Powell
5344 Reasor Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
(757) 201-5525

1961
Park Benjamin, III
P. O. Box 368
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
(516) 922-9537
pbenjamin3@optimum.net

All is well with the Hiatts as we continue to try to age gracefully. Our four sons and six grandkids provide endless joys … and surprises, I might add. We are blessed. Anyone remember the “Girls’ Gym” in the basement of the main building? Some of the boarding boys used to fly model airplanes down there. The diameter of the arc they flew was only slightly less than the width of the gym. If they didn’t stay right in the center of the gym, the plane would “crash” into the wall with disappointing results. Ah ... memories. Peter Javicsas checked in recently. Daughter – Laura, son – Aaron, and three grandkids – Evan, John and Daniel, have “given me a heightened interest in longevity,” he writes. “Anne retired a couple years ago after 22 years as head of Plymouth Meeting Friends School. I’m still working part time on transportation reform here in Pennsylvania, heading a group called PenTrans ... Anne and I have joined with others here in Mt. Airy (Philadelphia) to form an aging-in-community group. This activity is leading to new and stronger friendships in the area. Had the pleasure of visiting last summer with Mike Bliss and wife, Susan, in Watertown, Mass.” As always, Pete would love to “catch up” with other classmates (215-247-0457 or jjp7130@gmail.com). I would like to hear from you also. Please take a moment to jot me a note to include in the next issue. Your classmates will enjoy hearing from you. - John
1962

Randi Reeve Filoon
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Ketchum, ID 83340
(208) 788-1734
filoons@yahoo.com

The Class of 1962 mourns the loss of Caroline Meirs. Her obituary appears in the “In Memoriam” section on page 66.

1963

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

Paula E. Howe
4914 Eigel Street
Houston, TX 77007-3326
(713) 863-7541
phowe0612@comcast.net

Dear classmates, the reunion fun continues as we get more news from classmates as well as calls from those who have seen the photos and want to know more about the weekend! In addition, some future “get-togethers” are in the works as well with those of us who live closer and others who plan to visit here. Please let us know if you will be in the New York area and we will try and help get some other classmates together at that time!!

For future Fall Fair weekends the school is having a luncheon for all of us who have had our 50th reunions during the day of the Fair. This will be a wonderful way to continue seeing each other and planning some mini reunions!!! Keep in mind there are some really fun things to do in the area as well as trips out east or to Manhattan. We look forward to seeing classmates more often!! – Paula and BJ. News from Earl Kabnick [twostate@aol.com]: I am continuing my work in Women’s Imaging with concentration on osteoporosis. I recently discovered my diaries that date back to 4th grade and continued through my residency in Radiology. I was struck by my actual attention to details. For example first date in 4th grade was Christine Godfrey. We went ice skating...there were also a lot of rhetorical questions: English teacher 7th grade was a German (Kyle Keith), our civics teacher was a Frenchman (Andres), and our math teacher was an Estonian who was pretty hard on the ears. There was a segment on my favorite teacher Mr. Stevens and a teacher that haunted me from 7th grade through graduation...(DH)...to be polite we did not mesh at any level. I’m going to Las Vegas and continuing on to Mexico to lecture on Women’s Imaging...When I (Paula) asked Earl if I was mentioned as having the same birthday (June 12) Earl replied: absolutely...and that you were the first person I danced with at the Nassau dance (Miss Stephanie). Speaking of Miss Stephanie, I (Paula) was surprised by how many people attended this class and remembered it – I think being at Nassau Country Club for our reunion dinner reminded people – I remember Hardin Davis especially. And I remember too that Hugh Brown pulled the chair out from under me there when I went to sit down once – OUCH! News from Lee Cronbach [ceeleee123@msn.com]: Lee is now the staff keyboardist for Tagaytay United Methodist Church (Philippines). Toni Naren Gates [tongates@aol.com] reported: On Feb. 8 we celebrated…I mean really celebrated…our daughter’s marriage! Our family is expanding in the most delightful way. Lindsey went from a “girl-less” family to having two stepdaughters, and her 9-year-old son, an only child, is thrilled to have stepsisters. Wonderfully, we were friends with our son-in-law’s parents before we ever met David. Must say, we all seem to party well together! Of course, Nancy Wadsworth Hanna and her husband, Ali, joined the festivities. They’ve known Lindsey since she was just an embryo and in attendance at THEIR wedding! I truly hated to miss the reunion. The pictures sure captured everyone having a very, very good time! Anyone who happens to be roaming around the Adirondacks in the summer(s) or nearby environs, we would love to have you come for a visit! Diane Olding Stanley [dianest@optonline.net] wrote: Mel and I shared a lovely Christmas season with our friend Christine Bonneux (from Bordeaux, France) and with our children and grandchildren. We enjoyed some sun in St. Kitts and Nevis in January. Mel is making plans to build a bocce court this spring at our summer home north of Syracuse, N.Y. Anyone close by (Arno) or even far away, is invited to join us. Just e-mail us for directions. I plan to again be in France for part of July. This year I will be in Alsace, France. I will do some short term Christian missionary work there for France for Christ. FPC works in various ways: opening closed churches, encouraging growth in existing churches, coffee houses, and visitations, distributions, street ministry at local parks and fairs, and FPC sponsors gospel concerts as well. The director of FPC, Jeannot Gauggel, will be staying here with Mel and me in May for a short time while he visits local churches in our area. With six grandchildren, there is lots of babysitting going on! We are always doing fun outings with them and our adult children as well. Well, that’s all the news that I can think of at the moment. I always love to hear news from FA Alumni, so keep in touch! Elin Mainwaring Richards [e.richards@live.com] shared: Many thanks again for all you and BJ did to make our 50th Reunion such a success! I look back on it now with a pang of longing to experience it all over again. It was great to see my classmates and to feel so welcomed despite leaving after my sophomore year. My two years at Friends, though brief, had a permanent, positive impact on my life. Reunion made me feel as though I were
returning to a deeper, truer part of myself. Fifty years seemed almost to melt away and life seemed filled with the possible rather than the past. My family was not Quaker, although I knew it had been generations ago on my mother’s Case side. Last month while pursuing my genealogical research, I discovered that I am a direct descendant of the Quaker heroine Provided Southwick, whose story is told in John Greenleaf Whittier’s ballad, “Cassandra Southwick.” In Puritan Massachusetts, her parents, Lawrence and Cassandra Southwick, were persecuted, imprisoned, and banished in 1659 to Shelter Island, where they perished after a harsh winter. To satisfy the heavy fines levied against the family, Provided and a brother were ordered sold into slavery to “any Christian in Virginia or Barbados.” She was probably the only white woman in America ever threatened with slavery for religious reasons. It’s quite a story!

1964

Suzanne Notides Melzig
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snmelzig@comcast.net

The Class of 1964 mourns the loss of Shelley Galehouse Broven. Her obituary appears in the “In Memoriam” section on page 67. Turn to page 27 to read about Great Neck painter Nina Stein Wolf in our profile of FA alumni artists. Mark your calendars for the October 17-19 weekend for our 50th Reunion. In fact, plan to come on the 16th so you won’t miss any of it. There is a lunch on campus both days and we have a dinner at Stangos in Glen Cove on Friday night and a dinner at the Creek Club Saturday night. Lesley Birckett Jacobs will organize Friday night’s dinner, and her e-mail is lesleybjacobs@gmail.com. Contact her for more information and to sign up to attend. There is also Meeting for Worship on Sunday morning. Betsy Malcolm Eklof and Gail Spencer Chase will be contacting you with more details but it’s not too soon to make a reservation. The Glen Cove Mansion has a senior rate and an AAA rate. Both are better than a group rate. Looking forward to seeing a lot of classmates and also celebrating the 50th Homecoming. Call me or e-mail me with any questions. Jeffrey Bloom is gearing up for the big 5-0. He writes: “We are in our 50th anniversary year and I am feeling nostalgic (translate: old). It is early to ask, but I would love to hear from anyone who is planning to attend our reunion. I am on Facebook and you can respond by phone or e-mail per my profile. Looking forward to seeing your (not really) old faces again!” – Sue

HELP US FIND LOST CLASSMATES

Additionally, we need your help in finding FA alumni with whom the school has lost contact. The names below are lost alumni from the Class of 1964. If you have current contact information please let us know. We would love to welcome them back to Friends Academy!

Mary Yawger Bromley ’64
Norman Hagen ’64

1965

Robert D. Tilden
3640 County Road 16
Montour Falls, NY 14865
(607) 535-2217
rdtilden@yahoo.com

Turn to page 30 to read about life-long professional musician and collector of traditional American folk music Jeff Davis in our profile of FA alumni artists.

1966

Helen Lotowycz Rising
98 South Bay Avenue
Brightwaters, NY 11718
(631) 666-0335
HRising@aol.com

Rick Barr reports that he is working on a book, Irene Means Peace, with his childhood friend Pastor Dick Kretchmar. Rick writes, “My first book, Play the Game! is all about five strategies we face in the essential conflict of Life and Death.”

1967

Diana Dickson-Witmer
24 Brendle Lane
Greenville, DE 19807
(302) 656-1190
ddickson-witmer@christianacare.org

Lesley L. Graham
615 NW Murphy Blvd.
Joplin, MO 64801
(417) 781-1858
llgraham@cableone.net

Here we go again. As always, I appreciate any news from the class to report for The
to occasionally see the latest on Facebook for Anne Maher and family, Liz and Bob Rushmore and Bob Piro along with his family events. Paul Hand shares, “Basically I have nothing after that awesome article Kathy Fox did for me. It is amazing how life is treating us all. I am still crazy after all these years. On March 28, I celebrated my 64th BD and all I can ask is: ‘Will you still need me, will your still feed me, when I’m 64? God I hope so!’ Brian C. I miss you, we had so much fun together.” Had a wonderful Christmas card from John Malcolm saying he is very busy with his position with the Legislature and all is well in Vermont. “Come on by for a visit.”

Peg Springsted Weiner also shared a Christmas letter that her family is thriving. Her three sons have wonderful careers and lives. Peg still enjoys her art work and has donated many pieces to local hospitals in San Diego. She and Ken traveled to India and life is grand. Sally Rising Dean sent a fabulous photo card with her four darling grandchildren belonging to daughter Carrie and son Micah. Jim Evans shares: “I am continuing to enjoy retirement. It is so great to get up in the morning, which is at an earlier time than when I was working, and realize that I do not have to get ready for work. Even better is that I do not have the daily stress coupled with the demands of the job. I never knew that working in higher education could be more stressful than working at the secondary level. I am planning to visit friends on Long Island from May 20 to 28 (over the Memorial Day Weekend). I have not been back to Long Island for a couple of years! Otherwise, there is not too much else new to report. I hope that our class can put together a great 50th Reunion. I am looking forward to making that one! As for me nothing has changed since last news; life remains tranquil in Joplin, MO. I am enjoying retirement. Will plan a Graham family reunion with brother Todd ’67 and his family this spring. I always hear from my favorite history teacher Robbie Thomas during the holidays and all is well with his family. One of the best friendships that came out of my teaching years was with Kal and Judy Wynot. We stay in touch and it has been such fun to see the three Wynot boys all grown up with such fabulous families. As difficult as it is collecting news from all of you, it still gives me pleasure hearing from you and sharing with the class. Friends Academy is very near and dear to my heart as I went K-12 and then taught for 5 years after college. Who could ask for anything better? The friendships are the best after all these years. Stay in touch and make sure we get lots of news next time. Be sure to send me your most recent email address for future correspondence. Have a wonderful rest of 2014.

1969

Jane Forelle Casey
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203-570-1866

Turn to page 39 to read about painter and arts educator Lucy Gould Reitzfeld in our profile of FA alumni artists. I hope these notes find those of you living in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic region having survived a nasty winter. It’s been nearly 20 years since we’ve had so much cold weather and I, for one, welcome the sun that’s bouncing off the Chesapeake and streaming into my office window. Judith Fox Javelly had much to celebrate last year. Her son, Alex, graduated from GW law school, passed the NY State bar and is living in NYC, having joined the law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman. Before embarking on his new career, he and his dad had a father-son celebration in Spain where they explored the “Ham Trail,” searching for the world-famous “Bellota” ham. Judith writes that they shared amazing adventures, fabulous meals and great sightseeing and, along the way, Bernard taught Alex how to drive a stick shift. But, there was much more. Judith and Bernard’s daughter, Nicole, is in her third year of residency at NRH in Washington, D.C. as she prepares to become a physiatrist (PM&R) and, in her spare time, gave birth to Stella, the first grandchild on both sides of the family. Nicole’s husband, David, graduated from his medical residency program and is now an attending psychiatrist with the U.S. Navy, working at Camp LeJeune in North Carolina. Mary Baird is still living in Atlanta where she has run The Baird Company for over 25 years, providing marketing research and strategy to banks and mortgage companies. It’s hard to believe that it’s been 10 years since her older sister, Connie, lost her battle to cancer. But, it’s given Mary and Dave the opportunity to be grandparents without ever having kids of their own. Connie’s youngest son, Evan, and his wife Sophie have three boys – Hudson, Easton and Ellis - to whom they are Grand Mary and Grand Dave. In April, Melissa Moody ran a two-day workshop in Austin on natural vision improvement where she instructs on lifestyle, workplace and environmental stressors in modern life that compromise visual health and function, leading to poor eyesight. The class is experiential, offering specific techniques that include relief for computer and digital eyestrain, making reading easier and reducing dependency on eyeglasses. I wish I could have attended, recently finding the need to up my reading glasses to 2.5 if I want to see what I’m knitting! Bob and I have been in Annapolis for almost two years and I’m still commuting to Blyth in CT which is not nearly as bad as it sounds. The once-a-week trip on Amtrak really does beat the daily commute on I-95 I left behind. With Taylor a sophomore at Brown, we’re awash in Amtrak and Southwest points. I transitioned out of the Treasurer role into Investor Relations, which allows me to work remotely sometimes. However, I’ve also picked up some other functions that have kept me totally engaged and plan to renew my apt. lease for another year. Thankfully, Bob works at the nearby RBC Wealth Management office and holds down the fort during the week. Taylor’s off to Beijing this summer and I’m looking forward to getting back to rowing and enjoying leisurely paddles in the bay on my SUP. This year marks 45 years since we graduated from “Old FA” so let me hear from anyone that’s marks 45 years since we graduated from.

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Help us Find Lost Classmates
We need your help in finding FA alumni with whom the school has lost contact. The names below are lost alumni from the Class of 1969. If you have current contact information please let us know. We would love to welcome them back to Friends Academy!

Linda Hawkins Carlisle '69
Roger Mack '69

1970

Deborah Gianelli
587 Highland Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043
973-655-1011
deborahgianelli@gmail.com

1971

If anyone from the Class of 1971 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at alumni@fa.org. We would love to hear from you!

1972

Karen Spero Albers
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klalbers@charter.net

Happy Birthday to all of you FABULOUS sexagenarians! (And thank you, Kevin, for coining the term!) As we start a new decade of adventure, keep in mind the words of Sophia Loren, “There is a fountain of youth: it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love. When you learn to tap this source, you will truly have defeated age.” Mike Della Ratta writes, “Hi all. After 34 years of the salary man’s life, of which 24 have been in Japan (Yikes!), I joined the ranks of the evil consultants who prey upon foreign companies that mistook Japan for a normal country. This resulted in two simultaneous jobs so I am decidedly lessened the shock of this momentous milestone with good food and a few drinks. Also, Susan and John have been kind enough to help and advise me on the production of a documentary for Harvard fencing 125-year anniversary!” Susan Johnson Banta writes, “I’m back in the saddle after a long stretch of raising four kids and serving on local community boards. I’m working with Stewart Brand (Whole Earth Catalog) The Long Now Foundation Revive & Restore project – the de-extinction of the Heath Hen and bringing back this extinct species to Martha’s Vineyard. I’m the community development consultant. Interesting work.” Congratulations to John Mankiewicz, co-producer and writer of the Netflix original series “House of Cards” (which, by the way, stars fellow FA alum, Sebastian Arcelus ’95). If you haven’t had the opportunity to watch it, you are in for a treat. Do we see an Emmy in his future? Also congratulations to our fearless classmate Susan Schulman, who has been documenting the violence in the Congo for many years. She was featured by Nicholas Kristof of the NY Times in April for her “Photos of Survival in Congo.” http://kristof.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/04/02/photos-of-survival-in-congo. As for me, I am living la dolce vita. My daughter Melissa plan her summer wedding.” Francie B-B Thompson writes, “On Maui for month of April. Life is good.” Aloha. Philippe Bennett writes, “Happy to say that Susan, John and I have seen each other and have decidedly lessened the shock of this momentous milestone with good food and a few drinks. Also, Susan and John have been kind enough to help and advise me on the production of a documentary for Harvard fencing 125-year anniversary!”

1973

Laura Wicker Hackett
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lwh5@comcast.net

Read about two artists from the class of 1973: visual artist James Boorstein on page 28 and sculptor and arts educator Jeff Hull on page 36. Bill Dudjoc – along with the rest of us in the north – is tired of winter. Winter/spring issue? How about the winter/winter issue lol. Supposed to be 50 where I am going today in New Jersey. It is the first outdoor ride for the New Jersey Chapter of Team in Training. I have a selfish reason for riding with them this year. My cousin Steve Gurnis was a
in the “service excellence” arena. One of my patients not too long ago is a graduate of FA. We had a nice time catching up and it was a good distraction from his postsurgical pain! We are enjoying life as empty nesters. We get to visit our kids and our two grandsons on the west coast regularly which was the essential survival tactic for this unending and gruesome winter.” Jeffrey Hull reports, “Our oldest daughter Kimberly exchanged wedding vows on October 9th, 2013 with Will Granich of Jefferson City, Missouri in an intimate church wedding followed by a beautiful 5 p.m. beach ceremony on Hilton Head Island, with the Atlantic Ocean serving as backdrop. Our youngest daughter Brandi was the Maid of Honor, and our son Chris was a Groomsman. Following a honeymoon in Aruba, Kim and Will returned to Macon, Georgia where Kim works as an investigator for the Department of Justice, and Will is a Professional Environmental Engineer with the firm Hodges, Harbin, Newberry, & Tribble.” Jeffrey Leach writes that he has been selected to be a Mobile Champion by his company, Oracle. “A Mobile Champion explains our Mobile Strategy and provides architectural guidance to our customers and sales teams on any mobile platform.” He was also made sales consultant of the quarter and as Jeffrey explains, “one slide was dedicated to me in the Quarterly Business Review. My sales counterpart went 453% over quota and he stood up and clapped when you can get...when you can get it. On a fantastic note, Cindy and I are celebrated our 32nd anniversary on March 12th. How she put up with me for so long I’ll never know. Jim Robinson writes, “Sorry to have missed another reunion due to short notice and my only child’s graduation from U.S. Naval Academy followed by our road trip to Pensacola where Bond is in naval pilot training. Traci and I moved back to Dallas last year after a year in Austin. We have executed the great downsizing within the same zip code; we have lived in Dallas since 2005. Smaller home gutted and updated and now we can walk to dozens of restaurants, movies, et al. I suspect a number of us have been in a career transition at some point and mine began late 2009 following twenty years at ABC Radio. Four years later I am pleased with the road I am on. I work from a home office where I developed a significant radio talent agency business representing a couple dozen top market morning show personalities. Particularly pleased to have created a business I can do from anywhere for as long as I might choose and I have tried to plan a mini-reunion down, Kathy Levitt Leventhal: “Timing is everything...I had dinner just last night with Denise Levisl Chernoff ’72 who was in NYC for the weekend. We are still very good friends and we revel in the good ol’ carefree days whenever we get together. I am working at the Hospital for Special Surgery...”
Kim Puntiolo ’75 at Middle School Career Day

been walking the side streets of Manhattan documenting each and every shop, boutique, restaurant, bar, garden, museum and so much more. She began walking and biking the first 100 streets of Manhattan’s iconic grid, from the East River to the Hudson. She continues to re-walk every street as Manhattan Sideways introduces readers to one street at a time, every few weeks. There are fabulous photos, video interviews and write-ups. It is her hope that Manhattan Sideways will encourage people to get off the avenues and to explore the side streets. Her ultimate goal is to give more exposure to the side street businesses. Please check out the site manhattansideways.com to see what she has achieved thus far. Friends Academy’s Middle School Career Day this past March was a huge success thanks to the efforts of Penelope Wylie Mayer who spearheaded the event. The day began with a keynote speech from sports writer Kimi Puntiolo. She spoke to FA’s middle schoolers about pursuing a career in news and sports journalism. Kimi, who was the first woman to run a marathon on every continent in the world landing her in the Guinness Book of World Records, currently teaches journalism and multimedia communications at St. John’s University. She is the author of the book Great Races, Incredible Places.

1976

Nancy Toher Hawkins

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Nthawkins23@aol.com

1977

Chuck Cooperstein

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coo@pator@aol.com

Hello 77ers. Not much response from you, but from those I have heard from/seen/talked to, here goes…. Marcy Westerling writes in with “A little note to my classmates … It’s been decades since I have visited the campus of Friends Academy but I have fond memories and track school progress. Friends gave me such tools for life! I relocated to Oregon after college, became a community organizer founding the Rural Organizing Project, a non-profit I still actively volunteer with. Four years ago I was diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. It was bleak news but I have since realized that you can live in treatment and many of us do for quite a while. My life is full of art, love and social justice volunteering. What more could anyone want? I blog about the journey at LivelyDying. My best to all and I encourage that everyone become experts on early diagnosis – it is tricky but can be done. http://livinglydying.com” Susan Weinstein Dobuler lives in New Haven, CT, and has for many years. She is a child psychologist, in private practice, at Yale. Elizabeth Boyle, followed the route so many of us take too long to do, by leaving New York to move South. She has settled at Sullivans Island, outside of Charleston, SC, one of the truly quaint and beautiful places in this country. Your love of art and photography, Liz, will serve you well in your new digs. One of the best parts of my job is that I travel to most anywhere to see people. So it was when I caught up with Cindy Colombo Robinson in Charlotte, NC in February. We had a great lunch trying to fit 35 years into about two hours. Suffice it to say, we didn’t get it all done, but will continue to try in the future. Cindy is a real estate attorney, and Charlotte is one of the fastest growing metros in the US. She has three children. A daughter, Rachel, has graduated from North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and is a schoolteacher. Sons Jason and Jordan, are a junior and freshman respectively, at UNC Wilmington and Catawba College in North Carolina. I caught up with Steve Mills when the Knicks came to Dallas in January. Steve was brought back to the Knicks in September to be their General Manager, and even though Phil Jackson has now been brought in to oversee the basketball operations, Steve will still be responsible for the day-to-day running of the team. I was hoping to see Steve when the Mavericks came to town in February, but we didn’t connect. Steve, you still owe me the $.05 tour to show me what $1 billion can get you when you refurbish a building like Madison Square Garden. Which leaves me. It’s hard to believe that 30 years ago in August, I set out for Dallas, confident in my ability, eager to see a place I’d never seen, but hardly believing that it would turn into home. Yet, except for a 16-month stint in Philadelphia in 1992-93, Dallas has been my home, and in the broadcast business that simply doesn’t happen. I’ve been just amazingly lucky that I’ve only made those two moves (to and from Philadelphia). I love the people. The sports. And yes, the weather (even when it’s 105 in August, or icing over in January). I’m finishing my ninth year as the radio play-by-play announcer for the Dallas Mavericks. The job is as great as it ever was. Every part
awkward than anyone at this task. As a result, I offer you this “Mad Lib” version of “class notes.” I thought it might simplify your efforts in light of how busy everyone must be. Use this template if it helps; add to it as you see fit. Looking forward to any and all correspondence from you! Love, Lis Dilof Dreizen and Tom Hawkins

Hey all! Life is adj in place where you live where it’s been adj as usual. I have been adj working at noun where it is always adj. In my free time, I verb and verb when the weather is adj. I’ve been in touch with name of another FA Alum and talked about plural noun and how adj we have become. We are making plans to verb in the near future. Hope everyone is adj. Best regards! News from Lis Dilof Dreizen…Hey all! Life is good here in Huntington, where this record-breaking winter has educated us in some new snow removal techniques along with the greater safety strategies for avoiding the hazards of black ice. I’m still painting, showing my work at the b.j. spoke Art Gallery here in town along with an upcoming show in May at the family home of Walt Whitman, also in Huntington. Speaking of art, this year, as it marks the 50th anniversary of the Friends Academy Homecoming, I will be working with Joy Lai, head of Upper School art at FA, in celebrating the talents and inspirations of Friends Academy Alumni Artists. Please join us, either by sharing your artwork with us (please contact me at artland95@aol.com) or stop by during the Fall Fair (October 18th) to see the wonderful work we have curated at the Dolan Center Art Gallery. This event will include an open house reception for all who wish to attend. I am hoping to be accompanied by our little grandson, Weston Sawyer Howell (born August 25, 2013) and his parents, Eric and Olivia Dreizen Howell ’03. Our daughter Jenny ’05 will be sharing her art work with us in the Alumni Art Show, and son Collin ’09, will be helping out with some of the reception arrangements. Hope to see you there! Bill Hodson writes: News from here is that we are all fine. Karen and I are still living in Burlington, NC but we now go back and forth to our place in Delray Beach, FL. We celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary in February. Hard to believe. Our son (Nicholas) and daughter (Christina) are back home with us, but Nicholas is waiting to hear of his acceptance to law school, and Christina is getting her masters and working in retail fashion. I run a reinsurance intermediary company based in Greenville, SC and go back and forth between here (NC), Greenville, and Florida (when not traveling elsewhere for business, which is frequent). Karen is a Tax Director with Grant Thornton in their Private Wealth Services division. Other than running around for work, etc., not much is going on. I promise to let you know the next time I’m going to be “up north.” I really enjoyed seeing you and the rest of the group back in October, and in the weeks afterward I very vividly remembered how much all of my classmates meant/mean to me. All the best, Bill (Buck). From Lynn Gardner Stack: Lis, Thanks for helping Tom keep up with all of our FA friends. The reunion was great fun and I’d love to keep in touch with folks. As for news, I live in CT with my husband, Richard, and two dogs. My eldest daughter lives in Brooklyn and works for an Internet start-up. An artist, illustrator, writer, choreographer and dancer, she’s currently writing a novel in her spare time. My youngest daughter is spending four months studying in the Balkans, chiefly in Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. An International Studies major concentrating on peace building and conflict resolution across borders, she’s in her junior year at the College of Charleston, which she loves. Alex, my stepson, migrated to San Diego where he is a Project Manager with a large commercial construction company by day and often surfs after work – lucky guy – and my stepdaughter, Chrissy, graduates this spring from University of Indiana, with a degree in psychology. As for me, I’m a marketing communications professional, freelance editorial writer and content developer, and Richard’s with a financial services firm. We’re big outdoor people and environmentalists. All in all, life is good. Hope all is well with you. Happy Spring…it’s just around the corner, or so they say. From Barry Pailet: Hey all! Life is good, but busy up in Boston. Working as Sr. Manager with Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA & juggling coaching youth sports, volunteering, etc. Taking a family service trip to the Dominican Republic in April to teach English in the school system and then a 2-week Alaska adventure this summer. Looking forward to the annual concert and fishing excursion with Mark Janoska in the months ahead. Best regards to you all and let me know if you’re ever heading to the Boston area. Meg Flynn Frost writes: I managed to catch up with some of you when I was in NYC in December. We had a great time watching the years fall away – and by that I mean about 35 of them, since that is about how long it has been since I have seen most of my FA classmates. We just moved back into our London house, after a six-
month refurbishment and it feels like a completely new place. The downside being that we have spent all of our cash and will therefore be holidaying this year in our living room. Anyone who wants to pop over to London and say hello will be most welcome. Anne Swzy Mallory writes from Albuquerque, NM: “I live in the desert and miss the ocean.” She has two grown sons (one who is on tour 10 months of the year as a show electrician with the musical “Ghost”), who are also great friends and she is patiently waiting for either one of them to make her a grandma. Craig Wheeler is living in Kennesaw, Georgia with his 10-year-old daughter. He works as an independent contractor selling medical software, and enjoys travel and sports. Much to our delight, Vanessa Fromm Holloschutz and Sara Klocke Scarfone did a bit of detective work and actually located Dinah Huntoon and Kathy Drasher, both of whom are living in New York. We all had a delightful meal in the village followed by a wonderful dessert at the home of Kathy and her husband Bob Deutsch, who is an anthropologist and author, his most recent book being The Five Essentials. Sara is “living in Greenwich, two boys – one high school, one college (and a husband!) I have really enjoyed all the official and unofficial reunions this year.” Vanessa is enjoying her family as well as her business, “Ridgewood Needlepoint,” which is located in Wyckoff, New Jersey. Here Vanessa carries any and all needlepoint supplies for all levels of needlepoint crafters. “Among the most popular activities held at the store, the “stitch and chat,” is an “informal class where students sit around a table with one of the staff members and work on their projects.” Sounds a bit like our 6th grade afterschool “Knitting Club!” Greg Andrea, a partner in the firm of Andrea Baker Architects, participated in Middle School Career Day this past March, and introduced students to the overall design process, from conception to finish. Susan Francolini Jordan lives with her husband in Virginia where she is a dedicated RN in Charlottesville. Susan was all ready to attend our reunion but sent regrets, having undergone hand surgery at the last minute. So sorry to have missed you, Susan, and greatly looking forward to seeing you at our next gathering! Leslie Garner writes: “I’m still a public servant, emphasis on the servant part right now. I’ve been an attorney with the SEC since 1999. Before that, I was a prosecutor in Brooklyn and NYC for 7 years. I have a 15-year-old daughter (soon to be 16) who is an avid and talented basketball player. This is where much of my free time disappears – taking her out other tasks for the class and school. Everyone’s support and involvement through the years was heartening. There are no words to describe the pleasure of bringing everyone together, seeing the smiles and hearing the laughter as if no time had lapsed at all since graduation.” If anyone from the Class of 1979 is interested in taking over the reins, please contact us at kathy_fox@fa.org. We would love to hear from you! Three members of the Class of 1979 returned to their alma mater for Middle School Career Day. Peter Stein, Chief of the Hand Surgery Division at North Shore/LIJ Hospital and Kim Colombo Aberman ’94, an operating nurse at North Shore/LIJ , wowed current FA students by showing them everything from rib spreaders and x-rays to how to repair broken bones; and although a number of students left the “operating room” with colorful casts, they were removed before they got home, so as not to alarm their parents! Alexandra Troy Beattie also participated in Middle School Career Day, and certainly knows the way to middle schoolers’ hearts – through their stomachs! She entertained the class with “The Sweet Life of Catering” – a delicious cooking demonstration which delighted the hungry students. And finally real estate agent Maggie Keats showed the middle schoolers just how relevant her profession is to them by explaining how a realtor uses math, geography and even art to sell homes.

Peter Stein ’79 with Kim Colombo Aberman ’94 at Middle School Career Day with FA middle schoolers
Help us Find Lost Classmates

In preparation for the Class of 1979’s 35th reunion, we need your help in finding FA alumni with whom the school has lost contact. The names below are lost alumni from the Class of 1979. If you have current contact information please let us know. We would love to welcome them back to Friends Academy!

Cathy Jordan ’79
Margaret Irwin Madden ’79
Gregory Peirez ’79

1980

Michael Salzhauer
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Betsy Jordan Gahagan
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Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-6697
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Robert Blechman
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Mill Valley, CA 94941
(415) 810-8889
rsb753@yahoo.com

The Class of 1981 mourns the loss of Alice Irwin Barnes. Her obituary appears in the “In Memoriam” section on page 70.

1982

Leslie Oren & Michael Poloukhine
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Pacific Palisades, CA 90272
fa@poloukhine.com
leslie@babygrande-inc.com

Turn to page 40 to read about architect and class rep Michael Poloukhine in our profile of FA alumni artists. Greetings FA Class of 1982! Only a few respondents this time around, but plenty of news! Matt Bloom writes, “I’m still writing novels, but work for JP Morgan Chase doing anti-money laundering investigations to pay the bills.”

Captain Jonathan Christian surfaced after more than two decades of silence with this synopsis of what he’s been up to:

“Greetings from sunny and WARM Florida. It is difficult to fathom how many years have passed since we enjoyed the (almost) care-free life at FA. Well ... let’s just say that I was blessed to have an amazing career as a senior Naval Officer: Promoted to the rank of Captain, three Command-at-Sea assignments aboard the most sophisticated ships in the world with the greatest men and women in our nation and Navy. Won the Navy’s “Shiphandler of the Year” competition, served as a “Commodore” of five ships and Fleet Task Force Commander, selected as the Briefer for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, and as required, went to war more than once to defend our nation’s interests. Saw the world, drove fast ships, helped many; I couldn’t ask for better. It is what I was called to do. More importantly, I’m blessed to have an amazing family: Loving “Daddy” to twin girls, Hannah Grace and Sophia Hope – they are my life. Devoted husband to Sarah; a super lady who offers more love, lasagna, and loyalty than I deserve. Talk about lucky! Following retirement from 25 years of active duty, I continued serving our country as a Program Manager for Raytheon Corporation overseeing U.S. and Coalition training in Iraq and Kuwait and a few other vacation spots in Afghanistan. But the sea still “called” me and, last year I left the sands of Iraq for the last time and began another career at Crowley Maritime Corporation in Jacksonville, Florida as Manager of Marine Personnel. I’m now charged with overseeing 70 ships and nearly 2,000 mariners throughout the world. So fortunate to be from FA and honored to have served you, our families and country for almost three decades. Despite the personal hardships and sacrifices, I would do it again in a NY minute.” I think we speak for the class as a whole when we say “Well done! And thank you for all you’ve done for our nation, Jonathan!”

Peter St. Wecker writes, “In 2013, we had the incredible joy of adding another member to our family. Zoe Elizabeth was born on September 19th, and is a very happy, healthy baby. Alix (who is now 6 years old) is overjoyed to be a loving (kissing, hugging) big sister, and Sarah and I have grown accustomed again to a life of bottles, diapers, and limited sleep. Now if I can just keep working until I’m 75, we’ll be all set! We continue to love living in Piedmont, just east of San Francisco. I don’t make it back to the east coast very often, so I recommend that everyone move out to California!”

Finally, looking forward, Laura Solinger writes: “I am having an FA reunion/
party on August 2 at my home in Cutchogue. My contact info is solinger@optonline.net. Any FA alum is more than welcome! RSVP to give me an idea of how many people to expect.” Also, stay tuned to the Class of 1982 Facebook page (www.facebook.com/groups/FA1982/) where you can stay in touch with more daily updates from classmates and regular updates on events and happenings. That’s it for now, have a wonderful summer!

1983
Laura Dilimetin
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lawyers@nyc-lawyers.com

Elisabeth Salzhauser Axel, a community service and arts advocate, and founder of Art Beyond Sight/Art Education for the Blind participated in Middle School Career Day. She discussed not only her career but also how following one’s interests and entrepreneurial skills can lead to a really interesting new facet of your career.

1984
Beth Anne Melkmann
162 East Both Street, Apt. 3B
New York, NY 10075
(212) 988-1753
lebonchien@aol.com

Save the date! Our 30th reunion will be held on October 18. Lydia Fichera ([fichera@visualmillwork.com]), Diana DiMondo Yastrzemski (theya@optonline.net) and I are planning the weather. We look forward to seeing all of you in the fall! – Beth Melkmann

Help us Find Lost Classmates

Also, we need your help in finding FA alumni with whom the school has lost contact. The names below are lost alumni from the Class of 1984. If you have current contact information please let us know. We would love to welcome them back to Friends Academy!

Christopher Simko ‘84
Peter Zizzo ‘84

1985
Laura Match Schaffer
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Riverwoods, IL 60015
lematch7@gmail.com

This winter, it probably wasn’t the optimal time for a visit to Chicago (which was, at times, no doubt, the coldest place in the northern hemisphere, but the weather for their time here was surprisingly a mild 32!), but Ed Strauss, and wife Peggy, weren’t afraid. Despite it being a ‘work trip,’ they had time for a great dinner downtown with my husband and me, as well as Erik Feldhaus, and his wife, Wendy. These guys are still my fantastic friends who haven’t changed a bit (well, maybe there’s a little more grey, and we all need reading glasses!). David Johnson was in touch to say that he, his wife and two children (Nicole and Christopher) are living in Madison, NJ. Dave just started a real estate investment company and is studying for a Certificate in Financial Planning.

1986
Kara Vossel Lewis
44 Pinehill Crl. East
Tequesta, Fl 33469
kmvlewis@gmail.com

Chuck Ritter
79 The Promenade
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516-676-8271
chuckr@universalphotonics.com

This past March, Interior Designer Katherine Posillico McGowan participated in Middle School Career Day. The students were fascinated by all that is involved in her profession, from floor plans to color schemes, fabric to finishes…many were eager to run home at school’s end to redecorate their rooms! Congratulations to Gregory Zecca, who was named the new Head Lacrosse Coach at Ohio Valley University. In addition to his position as head lacrosse coach, Greg also serves as the university’s director of the sports management program. Greg holds a BA from Ohio Wesleyan University, where he played both football and lacrosse and a Masters degree in sports management from Adelphi University. Greg leaves his position as the director of athletics and physical education at The Calverton School in Huntingtown, Maryland where he has been for the past eleven years. He coached Calverton’s Lacrosse team when they set a school record for wins and earned the school’s only national ranking in any sport. He was named both the All-League and U.S. Lacrosse Coach of the Year for that season. For ten seasons prior to Calverton, Greg was the head lacrosse coach at Haverford College. “Being back at the college level has been great,” Greg said. “My experience with the guys thus far has been outstanding. We have a great foundation to build on.” In addition to his coaching in the US, Greg has three years of experience coaching internationally. From 2003 to 2005 he served as head coach and general manager of Team Italy and served as the team’s General Manager and assistant coach for the 2006 world championship.

1987
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barry@globalkids.org

Emily Beiles Kaufman
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Saddle River, NY 07458
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emkaufman@optonline.net

1988
If anyone from the Class of 1988 would like to be the new class representative, please contact us at alumni@fa.org. We would love to hear from you! Turn to page 29 to read about novelist Jennifer Briggs Stanley in our profile of FA alumni artists. Melissa Errico returned this April to 54 Below with a newly titled show called, “At the Corner of 54th & Crazy.” Melissa played there post-Hurricane Sandy and got a rave review from The New York Times. For more information visit http://melissaerrico.com.

Melissa Errico ‘88 performs at 54 Below in NYC.
1989

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(646) 438-9264
joanMonaco@aol.com

Read about actor Stephen Kunken on page 38 and author Lawrence Schimel on page 34 in our profiles of FA alumni artists. Greetings Class of 1989...we have another reunion year that has snuck up on us and FA has a great reunion planned for October 18th at the Creek Club...hoping we have a great turnout! As for our class updates, everyone has been busy and the updates have been much appreciated. Erika and Vik Iyengar have been extremely busy with their academic careers and keeping up with Connor who is almost seven and their twins, Tyler and Jackson who are 4 1/2. They moved into a bigger place and live near a nature preserve where their boys are in paradise with wildlife on the property in Pennsylvania. Vik continues to enjoy teaching entomology, ecology and animal behavior at Villanova University, and Erika is teaching courses related to (marine) ecology at Muhlenberg College in Allentown. Tyler and Jackson are known in their day care as the kids who love bugs and Connor entered his first Allentown fair. His love of building things led him to win six blue ribbons, a second place and a fourth place...at six years old!! Andrew Wu is enjoying his career as a realtor on Long Island and has captured a wide market based out of Port Washington with Sotheby’s International. He has listings all across Long Island and does an incredible job selling properties...look him up if you are ready to change homes! And when he’s not selling properties, Andrew keeps busy with his two sons who are now nine and ten years old. Tanya Zuckerbrot published her second weight-loss book: The Miracle Carb Diet. Tanya, her F-Factor Nutrition brand, and private counseling practice in Manhattan received international attention with profiles appearing in The New York Times Sunday Styles section, London’s Stella magazine, Italy’s “D” magazine, the Sydney Morning Herald, New You magazine, and more. Tanya is a regular contributor to Fox News Channel providing on-air nutrition commentary and writing the network’s weekly nutrition blog. Lawrence Schimel wrote: I’m still living in Madrid, it’s been over 15 years now, I’m mostly translating (Spanish-English) these days, although I am still writing, mostly kidzbooks or poetry. Recently published translations include two books for Assouline, a fashion book for te Neus, two pop-up children’s books about artists for Princeton Architectural Press, three volumes of poetry by Mexican writers in co-edition between Mantis Editores in Mexico and BookThug in Canada, an anthology of Spanish-language science fiction for Sportula, etc. In terms of my own writing, my bilingual children’s book Just Like Them/Igual Que Ellos was chosen by IBBY (International Board of Books for Youth) for Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities last year, and has also appeared in Catalan-English, Basque-English, Galician-English, German-English, German-Spanish, German-Greek, German-Italian, German-Russian, German-French, German-Turkish, and Portuguese (monolingual) editions. My picture book ¡Vamos A Ver A Papá! (which I had already mentioned in a previous class notes) was translated into English by Elisa Amado and published by Groundwood Books as Let’s Go See Papa! It’s just come out in Japanese a few weeks ago, and has also been published in Brazil and Korea (and has a Catalan translation, too). For adults, last year I published a new collection of poetry titled Deleted Names (A Midsummer Night’s Press) which was chosen by the American Library Association’s GLBT Round Table for their Over the Rainbow List. Regan Otto was just featured on Fox for her new position at Credit Suisse. Regan applied for an ultra-competitive ten-week program for moms reentering the work force through Credit Suisse where she was awarded this highly sought after position. She then turned this into a great opportunity to excel and landed a position in their litigation department. It’s definitely worth looking for the FOX link to see Regan’s interview. Gail Havokote Vlacich sends quick emails from her travels to Grand Cayman and Turkey to name a few...she’s doing great and keeps really busy at work and with Taylor who is involved in every possible little kid activity from karate, baseball, religion, chess and piano! Michele Pauporte is doing great. She is based out of the city and works as a dermatologist. Her son Tiger is five years old and is going to kindergarten in the fall. He plays basketball at Dalton’s DRIBBL program and met Sandeep’s (Sandeep Singh ’89) second son there – who is the same age. Michele had a second baby this past October and named her Samantha Joelle! She is adorable and so much fun. They plan to come to the Fall Fair in October when she is one and hopefully walking! Nicole Petallides continues to work at Fox Business where she is always on top of the latest in breaking business news while still finding the time to spend with her husband and sons! As for this class rep, my husband Mike and I are happy to report...
the birth of our son Matthew in August. He joins his big sister Caroline who is five. We are thrilled to become a family of four! Our practices keep us busy but there’s nothing like rushing home to an infant smile... especially when our little guy is being entertained by his big sister! Thanks for the updates and looking forward to seeing everyone at our reunion in the fall. All the best, JoAn Monaco

Help us Find Lost Classmates

Additionally, we need your help in finding FA alumni with whom the school has lost contact. The names below are lost alumni from the Class of 1989. If you have current contact information please let us know. We would love to welcome them back to Friends Academy!

Kathryn Schmude Kehoe ’89
Grace Kim ’89
Andrew Kolovas ’89
Diana Minge Najera ’89

1990

If anyone from the Class of 1990 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at alumni@fa.org. We would love to hear from you! Jennifer Steuber, Forefront Faculty Director, reports big news at Forefront: “Washington’s legislature passed the most ambitious suicide prevention law of any state across the country. ESHB 2315 requires that all doctors and nurses in the state are trained in the skills needed to prevent lives lost to suicide and couples that requirement with the development of a phone consultation line to assist front-line providers caring for patients of concern. This is on top of the two laws already passed in Washington in 2012 and 2013 to better equip mental health professionals and schools in the prevention of suicide. To use sports lingo, it’s a Hat Trick and a rare occurrence to have three legislative successes so quickly.”

1991

Michael Fox
1209 N. Citrus Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90038
(646) 373-7535
mfox789@gmail.com
Colleen Doyle Moran
10 Arbor Way
Morristown, NJ 07960
(973) 690-1513
colleendmoran@aol.com

Hi everyone. Spring has finally sprung and there are many exciting new beginnings for many of our classmates. Joshua Sussman will be married May 3rd in Anguilla. Adam and I are very much looking forward to celebrating this wonderful occasion with Josh and his wife to be, Kateryna. Alexandra Tsakanikas Andrejkoviks and I enjoyed spending time together at Jillian Stile’s baby shower. Jillian and her husband Neil are expecting their first child at the end of May. Todd Jacobson and his wife, Jana, are expecting their first child in June. Shaleen Patel and his wife Greta had their second daughter, Leila Jane, in January.

1992

Clayton Siegert
100 I Street
S. Boston, MA 02127
(617) 821-2867
csiegert@the80sgame.com

1993

Natalia Porcelli Good
2 Tondan Lane
Lattington, NY 11560
nataliapgood@yahoo.com
Danielle Valenti Smith
1036 Park Avenue
Apt. 12d
New York, NY 10028
(646) 334-3888
danvalenti@hotmail.com

Hi everyone. Spring has finally sprung and there are many exciting new beginnings for many of our classmates. Joshua Sussman will be married May 3rd in Anguilla. Adam and I are very much looking forward to celebrating this wonderful occasion with Josh and his wife to be, Kateryna. Alexandra Tsakanikas Andrejkoviks and I enjoyed spending time together at Jillian Stile’s baby shower. Jillian and her husband Neil are expecting their first child at the end of May. Todd Jacobson and his wife, Jana, are expecting their first child in June. Shaleen Patel and his wife Greta had their second daughter, Leila Jane, in January.

1994

Heather Upton
451 East Sacramento Street
Altadena, CA 91001
617-803-9199
hupton@mac.com

Kim Colombo Aberman, an operating nurse at North Shore/LIJ Hospital together with Peter Stein ’79, Chief of the Hand Surgery Division at North Shore/LIJ Hospital, wowed current FA students at Middle School Career Day. The team discussed such things as how to control bleeding, how to set bones, and how to use rib spreaders; and their audience was mesmerized. A number of students left the “operating room” with colorful casts; however, they were removed before they got home, so as not to alarm their parents!

1995

Thomas A. Pascarella
156 Lewis Avenue
Westbury, NY 11590
tompasc@tompasc.com
Kelly Reid Walsh
96 Grove Street
Wellesley, MA 02482
(781) 237-2893
reidkel@gmail.com

Tim Kane and his wife also recently had their first child in October. We were very saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Cybil Hudak Taylor. We extend our deepest sympathies to her friends and family... As always, we look forward to hearing from more of you. Reach out to us on Facebook!

1990

If anyone from the Class of 1990 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at alumni@fa.org. We would love to hear from you! Jennifer Steuber, Forefront Faculty Director, reports big news at Forefront: “Washington’s legislature passed the most ambitious suicide prevention law of any state across the country. ESHB 2315 requires that all doctors and nurses in the state are trained in the skills needed to prevent lives lost to suicide and couples that requirement with the development of a phone consultation line to assist front-line providers caring for patients of concern. This is on top of the two laws already passed in Washington in 2012 and 2013 to better equip mental health professionals and schools in the prevention of suicide. To use sports lingo, it’s a Hat Trick and a rare occurrence to have three legislative successes so quickly.”

1991

Michael Fox
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Colleen Doyle Moran
10 Arbor Way
Morristown, NJ 07960
(973) 690-1513
colleendmoran@aol.com

1992

Clayton Siegert
100 I Street
S. Boston, MA 02127
(617) 821-2867
csiegert@the80sgame.com

1993

Natalia Porcelli Good
2 Tondan Lane
Lattington, NY 11560
nataliapgood@yahoo.com
Danielle Valenti Smith
1036 Park Avenue
Apt. 12d
New York, NY 10028
(646) 334-3888
danvalenti@hotmail.com

1994

Heather Upton
451 East Sacramento Street
Altadena, CA 91001
617-803-9199
hupton@mac.com

From left, Brett Lambert ’95, Dino Anagnostopoulos ’95, Tom Pascarella ’95, Sebastian Arcelus ’95 enjoy a moment at Tom’s wedding.
Turn to page 33 to read about Tilles Center Technical Director and class representative Tom Pascarella in our profile of FA alumni artists. Cheers all! If you enjoy watching the morally bankrupt at work, be sure to catch Seb Arcelus in the second season of “House of Cards” on Netflix. (Fellow FA alum John Mankiewicz ’72 is the show’s co-producer and writer.) Seb’s role grew last season, as the colleague and new love interest of ruthless journalist Zoe Barnes. The show has fans in very high places… President Obama admitted on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” that he is a fan of “House of Cards!”

Dan Fisher and his wife Emily welcomed their third son, Burke Samuel Fisher, on March 5. Burke joins his big brothers Cabot (6) and Winston (4). Dan is the co-head of Akin Gump’s M&A practice and splits his time between New York and Washington. Congrats to the Fisher Family!

Allison CS Lewis (Serpe) has also welcomed a new addition to her family, a baby girl named Mackenzie Azul, born at home by an unassisted water birth! Mackenzie is now 17 months old, and joins her brothers Jackson, 8 and Cole, 5. Allison writes that their restaurant in Costa Rica is doing great in its now second year. “Alice Restaurant and Bar” is organic Caribbean family-friendly dining in Puerto Viejo de Talamanca. Be sure to look it up on TripAdvisor, or stop in if you are in the area! I have a bit of my own news to share. In addition to participating in Middle School Career Day by demonstrating how to design lighting for the stage and what techniques are needed to make sure the show goes on every night, I got married this past November on Long Island to my wife Jessica! We had a wonderful wedding surrounded by friends and family, followed by a Honeymoon in the Dominican Republic. I hope to see you all, and introduce you to my new wife at the June reunion in NYC and the 50th Homecoming and Fall Fair in October!

1996

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

More good news from the Class of 1996, Courtney Higgins Nevis and her husband Jason celebrate six years of marriage this October 2014. They currently live in the San Francisco Bay area where Jason is the Athletic Director at St. Raymond School, a JK-8 Catholic school in Menlo Park. Courtney, a former Challenge Producer for reality TV shows such as The Apprentice, Big Brother and several others, now stays at home to raise their two kids. Magnolia Grace (Maggie) turned 4 in January and will be attending St. Raymond School this fall. John Higgins will turn 2 at the end of May. Jason and Courtney run a sports and creative arts summer camp in Menlo Park called Camp Argo. With a mission to show the campers that everyone can be a hero, Camp Argo exposes the children to local heroes, charitable organizations, educators and entertainers to hopefully inspire the campers to be kind and considerate to others, and give back whenever possible; little gestures can make a world of difference. Summer 2014 will be Camp Argo’s second season, so check them out on Facebook and visit their website www.campargo.com.

Frank McRoberts and his wife, Sue, had a baby boy, Jack, on December 17. Congratulations Frank! Frank is enjoying fatherhood and his busy law practice at Farrell Fritz. We wish the growing McRoberts clan all the best. We’ve been in touch with Friends alums, Sameer Sayeed, PJ DeCurtis, Zach Smith, Brian Shields, and Daryl Holzman. They’re all doing great and keeping busy with work and family. If anyone makes it down to San Juan, please e-mail or call; you’re always welcome and it would be great to catch up with you.

1997

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

Devon A. George
163 West 18th Street, Apt. 9B
New York, NY 10011
(516) 457-8082
devon@dmvcapital.net
1998
Justin J. Boults  
222 Gates Ave., Apt. #2  
Brooklyn, NY 11238  
boultsman@hotmail.com

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

Turn to page 31 to read about Michelle Rabinowitz-Carney, who is the Director of Production for Tribeca Enterprises (the media company behind the Tribeca Film Festival) in our FA Alumni Artists Series.

1999
Jennifer Ryan Woods  
2 Meadow Spring lane  
Glen Cove, NY 11540  
(516) 398-0888  
JenniferlynnWoods@gmail.com

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

Plans are underway for the Class of 99’s 15th reunion, October 18th, 2014. We hope you can all join to celebrate! Many thanks to John Reid who is stepping down from his role as class rep. We welcome Dara Broxmeyer Gruenberg who joins Jennifer Ryan Woods in the role of Class of 1999 Class Rep. Welcome aboard Dara!

Help us Find Lost Alumni
Also, we need your help in finding FA alumni with whom the school has lost contact. The name below is a lost alum from the Class of 1999. If you have current contact information please let us know. We would love to welcome him back to Friends Academy!  
Khalid Johnson ’99

2000
Paul P. Corrigan  
1 The Preserve  
Woodbury, NY 11797  
(516) 448-2228  
ppcpaul@aol.com

2001
Hadley Devon Mongell  
245 E. 63rd Street  
Apt. 517  
New York, NY 10065  
(212) 759-1377  
hmongell@yahoo.com

Turn to page 41 to read about photographer Lucas Foglia, in our FA Alumni Artists Series.

2002
Lauren Marie Bebry  
8655 Edgewood Park Drive  
Commerce, MI 48382  
(631) 875-5725  
Lauren.Bebry@gmail.com

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

Turn to page 35 to read about jewelry designer Meghan Farrell, in our FA Alumni Artists Series. FA welcomed stunt performer and actor Corey Pierno who participated in Middle School Career Day this past March. Although Corey did not summersault off the roof of Frost Hall, the students were fascinated by all his career has to offer. Corey teaches fight choreography at NYU, The New School, and right here at Friends! Congratulations to Ashley Fee, who will marry Conor Reeves this August!

2003
Jessica Jakobson  
434 East 11th Street  
New York, NY 10009  
jess.jakobson@gmail.com

Romola Ratnam, who began her professional career in the business office of the NBA, is currently the Executive Director of the SEED Project, a non-profit based in Senegal. Romola, who participated in Middle School Career day this past March, spoke about how she has traveled around the world with the NBA and the SEED Project using basketball as a tool for positive social change. She shared the many ways that sports can be used to combine one’s professional career with social responsibility. Adam Weber, who currently works at Friends as a computer science teacher and technical specialist, didn’t have far to travel to participate in Middle School Career Day. He spoke to the students about software development and careers in technology.
2004

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

Jonathan Harley Koenig
31 Yukon Drive
Woodbury, NY 11797
jonathan.hkoenig@gmail.com

For the month of April, Pacific Standard is profiling the individuals who made their inaugural list of the 30 top thinkers under 30. “The young men and women we predict will have a serious impact on the social, political, and economic issues we cover every day here at Pacific Standard. Our stated criteria: We were hunting for intellectuals in the social and behavioral sciences who, because of their brilliance or originality of thought or ambition or charm… are likely to be famous in five to 10 years.” The goal was to find the world’s not-yet-known Milton Friedman and Philip Zimbardos and Margaret Meads. On the list is Molly Fox whom Pacific Standard calls “The Brilliant Researcher Who Wants to Put an End to Dementia.” As stated in Pacific Standard, “Dr. Fox’s academic career is already distinguished by three big discoveries: One, that good hygiene is linked to a higher risk of Alzheimer’s – she used data from 192 countries to determine that. Two, that breastfeeding lowers a mother’s risk of developing dementia. And three, that, for genetic reasons, grandmothers like their sons’ daughters best. Thanks to these and other revelations, Fox’s peers and higher-ups regard her as a brilliant researcher. When she amended the prevailing hypothesis for the evolutionary origin of human longevity to include a genetics perspective, her paper became one of the Royal Society’s most downloaded articles…” It concerns Fox deeply that Alzheimer’s affects one in six American women. ‘With an aging population so ravaged by dementia, we are losing the wisdom of the elderly,’ says Dr. Fox. ‘The moral synthesis and historical perspective that should guide our lives are damaged.’ By doing the work she does, Fox hopes to figure out how to stop dementia from stealing so much.”

Help Us Find Lost Alumni

We need your help in finding FA alumni with whom the school has lost contact. The names below are lost alumni from the Class of 2004. If you have current contact information please let us know. We would love to welcome them back to Friends Academy!

Jacqueline Palma ’04
Justin Roth ’04

2005

Helen Simpson Hatch
137 Lindens Farms Road
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 609-3339
helen.s.hatch@gmail.com

2006

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

Congratulations to Kat Christie who reports that she is getting married to her boyfriend of 7 years this fall. October 18th marks the Class of 2004’s 10th Reunion, so save the date!

Help Us Find Lost Alumni

We need your help in finding FA alumni with whom the school has lost contact. The names below are lost alumni from the Class of 2004. If you have current contact information please let us know. We would love to welcome them back to Friends Academy!

Jacqueline Palma ’04
Justin Roth ’04

2007

Rebecca Pacchiano
93 Tenth Street
Hicksville, NY 11801
516-932-0002
rebeccaleigh17@gmail.com

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

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

Congratulations to Jenna McCann on her upcoming wedding to James Gilchrist Messer (Gil). Jenna and Gil, who met at The College of William and Mary are getting married this August at St. Andrew’s Church on Block Island, RI with a reception to follow at the Sullivan House. Congratulations to Jennifer Wagner on her engagement to Matthew Nowlin. They met at Miami University in Ohio and currently live in Chicago.

2008

Laura Berke
310 3rd Avenue, Apt. 1906A
New York, NY 10010
(212) 680-4437
laura.berke@nyu.edu

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


Dylan Pancer (Dylan Reid) writes: “I’m back in the US (for about 11 months) and now I’m back in NYC – Running a start-up...”

The Meeting House | Winter/Spring 2014
company (we just opened a second office here). We launched a few months back and the FA community came out in full force! Ed Dugger was one of our first customers :D” Dylan is co-founder and CEO of Matter.io, whose company’s software allows designers and companies to turn their ideas into custom 3D products. For more information follow this link: http://www.bloomberg.com/video/matter-io-bringing-3d-printing-to-the-masses-PbzSUjH7QMy8W4oYo3Gefg.html

Laura Berke writes: “I switched jobs in February and started working for Bravo and Oxygen Media at NBCUniversal in their Digital Media department.” Ally Phillips reports: “I work for a not-for-profit organization in foster care doing education advocacy for children from 2 to 21! It is so rewarding being able to help these kids and watch them reach milestones such as graduating from high school and getting into colleges. I also recently was elected to the W&M alumni board!” News from Charlotte Russell: “I moved back to NY from San Francisco this past fall and have been working as a jeweler and the wholesale manager for Catbird (www.catbirdnyc.com) I live in South Williamsburg (pretty close to Andrew Schlenger!).” Suzy Weiss reports: “Right now I’m Assistant Editor for Footnote, a new website that showcases academic research with accessible articles for mainstream audiences (pardon the elevator pitch). Basically, we work with academics to translate their work into plain English. In addition to my editorial duties, I’ve been writing about various topics from birds to financial decisions.” Samantha Sharf reports: “I write about the stock market and 20-something personal finance for Forbes ranging in topics from how to handle having less money than your friends to why Tesla shares are jumping on a given day.” News from Shant Keskinyan: “In August I will be joining our fellow classmate Bryce Robinson and starting medical school at Wake Forest School of Medicine.” Message from me and Ally: “It has been so great to hear from all of our fellow classmates and learn more about what everyone has been up to! Hopefully we can organize another event soon where we can all meet up and reconnect!” All the best, Laura

2009

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

Gunnar Esiason ’09: Why to Give Everything

“Throwing yourself 100% into anything will always make you better ... if you give it everything you have inside,” instructed Gunnar Esiason ’09 this past winter, who has helped coach football and ice hockey for Friends this year.

Invited back to address Upper School students at the Winter Sports assembly, Gunnar spoke about his athletic experience at Friends and how it has impacted him in other areas of his life and career.

“I was never the strongest or fastest athlete, but I played my heart out,” said Gunnar, who played football and ice hockey for Friends.

Diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis as a child, Gunnar appreciated the risks involved in athletics. “I was different from other athletes. I had CF. It attacks your lungs and it is difficult to breathe and put on muscle mass. Imagine trying to breathe through a straw and then doing everything in your life with your only source of oxygen through that straw.”

Despite physical challenges, Gunnar made the FA Varsity Football team as a junior and never looked back.

“Football demands a level of commitment like no other sport. Commitment is one of the driving means of success,” said Gunnar. “Most CF patients are not athletes. And don’t live past 20. I’m 22 and I’m right here. I’m not in a hospital attached to breathing tubes. I’m stronger than that.”
The January 2, 2014 episode of HBO Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel featured Boomer and Gunnar Esiason in an in-depth look at their work with cystic fibrosis and the CF community, interviewed by Senior Correspondent Frank Deford, whose own daughter, Alex, lost her battle with cystic fibrosis at the age of eight. Since its inception, the Boomer Esiason Foundation has raised more than $100 million to support research toward a cure for CF. The class of 2009 will celebrate its 5th Reunion on Friday, May 30th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Jackson House. So drop whatever you are doing, and make plans to join friends and faculty at this special event!

2010

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

Meredith Mangiarotti was named captain of Villanova Women’s Lacrosse Team for the 2014 season. The season, which started this February, runs through May. Meredith also participated in the Fifth Annual Women’s Nicholas Colleluori Lacrosse Classic celebrating the life of the Ridley High graduate who died seven years ago after fighting Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. “I think it is really awesome for us to have a chance to do something for others, play the sport that we love, and have it go to charity,” said Meredith. “We are a great group of girls and think it’s nice that we can all rally together and fight a terrible disease.” At Villanova, Meredith participates in the Episcopal Community Services’ St. Barnabas Mission. “Being in a place as special as Villanova, we are constantly reminded of how lucky we are, which leads to taking time to share our blessings,” said Meredith.

2013

Sydney Menzin
6 Tappenwood Drive
Lattingtown, NY 11560
sfbmenzin@gmail.com
516-639-2083

John O’Brien
16 Wishing Well Lane
Old Brookville, NY 11545
johnob12@yahoo.com
516-375-9860

At Wesleyan College, Keyonne Session serves as an Admissions Intern, planning campus events such as the school’s Admitted Students Week. He is currently coordinating activities, organizing hosting, and helping to prepare Wesleyan for when the students visit for “WesFest.” Emily Leogrande is a member of the graphics staff of the bi-weekly independent student newspaper at Boston College. She also spends her time teaching an art class at a local elementary school that had to cut its art program for grades K-5. A student at Barnard college, Kira Sanchez has gotten involved with the Columbia University Gospel Choir and started working for a college prep program helping under-represented students in the NYC area. Kira is looking forward to spending part of summer in Spain, where she plans to stay with the host family she connected with through an FA study abroad trip to Málaga last year. A perspective psychology major, Kira will be interning with her host parents, who are Developmental Psychologists. Jake Hawkins joined the Varsity Track team at Union College. He is in the school’s Honors Program and it looks like he will pursue their 5-year program with a Masters in Engineering. Chris Sawicki has declared his Major in Biology at Clarkson. He wants to become a veterinarian. Chris also rows for the club crew team. Kirsten Grady joined the swim team at Bentley. She has also joined the sorority Phi Sigma Sigma and she’s the marketing chairperson for the Campus Activities Board. Augusta Mayer had a very successful fall golf season playing either the number 2 or 3 spot for St. Lawrence University. The Men’s and Women’s Golf teams competed in a tournament in Florida over Spring break and began the Spring season on April 12. In January, Augusta and Kirsten got out of the snowy Northeast and vacationed on St. Croix in the Caribbean.
The enduring lessons of Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs

One Wednesday, the phone rang mid-morning and I saw that someone was calling from the Headquarters of The Episcopal Church in NYC. Indeed, it was someone I’ve known since I was three: “I have a Mr. Stubbs question,” said my sister Elizabeth (‘Penny’ ’62). She then read a sentence from a report she was editing and said the word “less” – I immediately interrupted – “fewer.” “I thought so,” said she.

I can’t begin to count how many times this has happened since we were at FA. Usually we both know the answer and are just checking in; sometimes one of us isn’t quite sure and knows the other will be.

Dear dear Mrs. Stubbs – had you any idea what a delightful presence you would be in my life 55 years after I graduated? Were any of us to talk with a high school student today and say we really loved our English teacher and our math teacher, her husband, they would think we’re crazy. It’s true, isn’t it – Classes of 1959 and 1962?

When “Aunt Jean” and “Uncle George” retired and moved to Florida, I kept track of them, first because they remained in touch with St. John’s of Lattingtown where my father was Rector, and then I stayed in correspondence with them on my own.

Their lives in Florida were always busy and interesting. I wondered if they missed the ‘good old days’ at FA where they had taught for so many years. As I look back, I realize that we all had so many questions, some probably stupid, that we must have tried their patience over and over again. But they loved teaching and really liked their students.

Perhaps even more than learning more than anyone else today knows about English, what I learned from Mrs. Stubbs was to really like and respect all students. Only, she wasn’t teaching anyone else today. What I learned from Mrs. Stubbs is the radical belief that any student today knows about English, what I learned from Mrs. Stubbs was to really like and respect all students.

Does anyone else in “The Master Class” react as I do when I encounter a misplaced apostrophe? In my old age, I am becoming less and less tolerant of that particular mistake and have written letters to newspapers and websites correcting it. When I got a thank you from The Times of London about a mistake in Princess Margaret’s obituary, my first thought was, “Bless you, Mrs. Stubbs!”

We stayed in touch for years after his death. Then when she stopped writing, I Googled her and learned that she had died on August 31, 1921 and Elizabeth is amazed that I remember it. May they rest in peace.

– Ann S. Lowell ’59

Dorothy Van Siclen Dayton Barmeyer ’32: Painter and philanthropist

Friends Academy mourns the loss of our oldest alumna, Dorothy Van Siclen Dayton Barmeyer. Dorothy died at home in Missoula, MT on Sunday, March 9, 2014. Lovingly known to her family as “Dottic” or “Lady” and to her classmates as “Dot,” she entered Friends in February of 1929, midway through her freshman year. Dorothy quickly became involved in school activities. She played both basketball and hockey, participated in the operetta “Riding Down the Sky,” and managed the junior and senior plays. She was known to her classmates for her good humor and good-heartedness.

After graduating from Friends in 1932, Dorothy attended Smith College where she majored in English and art history. In 1940, Dorothy married George Henry Barmeyer, whom she knew as a child in Sunday school. They lived in New York while George completed his medical training and Dorothy worked as a secretary at Paramount News.

During World War II, George was stationed in the Pacific, and Dorothy and their first-born daughter, Barbara, returned to Long Island to live with her parents. After World War II, the Barmeyers moved to Boise, Idaho, where George was the physician at the Army’s rest and rehabilitation camp. Both Dorothy and George fell in love with the Western landscapes, and in 1947 the family relocated to Missoula, MT when George was offered a position as a pediatrician at the new Western Montana Clinic. Dorothy and George settled into their dream home in Missoula’s Pattee Canyon, where they raised their four children; Barbara, John, Mary and Susan.

During this time, Dorothy began her art career, and in 1973 she founded Missoula’s Main Street Artists. She specialized in painting landscapes, and exhibited at art galleries around the state. In addition, she painted miniature oils for dollhouses, which have sold nationally. Dorothy also created a museum-quality dollhouse patterned after a rural farmhouse she remembered from childhood.

Dorothy had a strong compassion for children and animals, exhibited by her philanthropy to a wide variety of organizations, including the Florence Crittenton Home, Intermountain Deaconess Home for Children, Lake County Youth Guidance Home and the Humane Society of Western Montana.

Dorothy will be remembered for her compassion, can-do attitude and loving generosity. She is survived by her four children: Barbara Barmeyer, John Barmeyer (Anda Olsen), Mary Barmeyer O’Brien (Dan O’Brien), and Susan Barmeyer (Jon Haber). She will also be dearly missed by her nine grandchildren: Matthew Weld, Mary Rosales, Wilson Barmeyer, Mary Logan Bikoff, Jennifer O’Brien, Kevin O’Brien, Kathleen O’Brien, Steven Haber and Benjamin Haber.

Dorothy also had three great-grandchildren: Zoe Weld, Ethan Weld and Tinsley Barmeyer. Dorothy’s beloved husband George predeceased her on Sept. 4, 2000.

A private family gathering will be held at a future date on Dorothy’s beloved property in Pattee Canyon. Messages can be left for the family at the website for Garden City Funeral Home: www.missoulafuneralhomes.com.

An early painting of the St. Mary’s Mission in Pattee Canyon, MT by Dorothy Van Siclen Barmeyer ’32
Caroline Virginia Meirs died peacefully on February 28 after a prolonged battle with salivary gland cancer. She was surrounded by family in Rochester, NY.

Caroline received her B.A. from Wellesley College in 1966, and earned her M.A. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1972. She was a great believer in lifelong learning, and spoke French, Italian, German, and Spanish fluently.

She served as a Foreign Service Officer for the United States Information Agency, later incorporated into the Department of State, from 1968-1995. She held positions as Country Program Officer in Mexico and Central America (1979-80); Cultural Affairs Officer in Lima, Peru (1980-82); Deputy Policy Officer, Office of the Assistant Director for Africa (1982-83); Pearson Fellow, Office of Congressman Dante B. Fascell (1983-84); Chief, Latin American Branch, Office of Research (1984-85); Counselor for Public Affairs, United States Embassy, Bogota, Colombia (1985-88); Senior Branch Public Affairs Officer, Berlin, Germany (1985-92); and as Policy Officer, Office of the Assistant Director for European Affairs (1992-94). Caroline also worked with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), was Chair of the Editorial Board of the Foreign Service Journal, served on The Foreign Service Grievance Board of Appeals, and was a leader in the Foreign Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX).

During her 12-year battle with cancer, Caroline participated in numerous clinical trials in the hope of advancing knowledge of this rare and stubborn disease; shared her experience by participating in support groups and by writing a blog on the MD Anderson web page; and never wavered in her commitment to living each day to its fullest by traveling extensively, visiting with friends and family, skiing and swimming, walking her beloved dog, and exploring the many cultural opportunities offered by her residence in the D.C. area. She had utmost faith in her health care team and expressed gratitude at every opportunity.

Caroline was loved and will be missed by many who had the honor of knowing her. She is predeceased by her parents, John and Virginia Meirs. She is survived by her loving sister, Susanna Meirs Morgan, brother John Meirs, and by five nieces: Elizabeth, Susanna, Mary Anne (Morgan), Abigail, and Tara (Meirs). She shared her love with her seven grandchildren, one grandniece, and dog, Bonnie, along with countless friends across the globe.

In lieu of flowers, Caroline requested donations be made in her memory to Christ Church, 118 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 http://www.historicchrist-church.org/ or to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Head and Neck Cancer research, P.O. Box 4486 Houston, TX 77210-4486 or online at www.mdanderson.org/gifts.

Caroline left a letter including the following:

“I was so blessed to find a career I loved, doing things like international educational exchange that I felt passionate about, and able to meet all kinds of fascinating people, from writers to country presidents. My friends from around the world have enriched my life in ways I can only begin to describe. I am proud to have been a public servant, and to have served good causes in other ways. I wish that you may be as fortunate. . . . Thank you for all your love and support throughout my life, but especially during my long cancer challenge. May you and your children and grandchildren live long, healthy, happy and productive lives, always being aware of the needs of others.”

Caroline was loved and we will miss her.

– Susanna Morgan
(Caroline’s niece)
Bruce Nichols ’53: International banker and horse breeder

Bruce Churchill Nichols passed away on February 8, 2014 surrounded by loving family and friends following a long battle with cancer. He was 78 years old.

Born on August 20, in Glen Cove, New York, Bruce was the son of the late Frank Churchill Nichols M.D. and Ethelyn Louise Anderson. He attended Hamilton College in Clinton, New York and graduated with a Masters degree from Columbia University.

Bruce was an international banker specializing in Central and South America. He worked for many years as a private consultant to multi-national banks including the Inter-American Development Bank and World Bank. Aside from his work, Bruce will be remembered for his passions cooking and horses. He was involved with breeding and racing of thoroughbred horses for many years on his farm in Galena, MD.

Bruce is survived by his partner of 27 years, Margaret, two sons, Frank and Brad, his sister Susan, three nieces, Holly, Jennifer and Kimberly, two step daughters, Nancy and her husband David and Pam and her husband Brad, and three grandchildren, Jackson, Sam and Olivia.

Reflections from his Classmates

At the fore on the football field

I’m sorry to hear his passing was so hard. A combination of tough and gentle he was, and it must have been hard for Maggie to see those two very strong traits he had play themselves out in his going.

I remember Bruce so clearly at football. Though small in stature, his slim, wiry strength and fast feet brought him to the fore on the fields of play, both at home and away games.

In Spanish class, he and I were rivals for the attention of our teacher, Miss Ruff. I know she was quite fond of us both, and we excelled in her subject, both because we loved the language, and to impress her. We both went on to use it well, thanks to her inspiration, both in business and personally.

I’m glad we got to room together at the Fifteenth, and we looked forward to doing so again last fall. Events conspired to prevent that, sadly.

— Stephen Fisher ’53

60th Reunion: His final gift

Bruce was a dear friend and a gallant man. His ready laugh, always entertaining, and sometimes a bit naughty, made him a close friend to many of us.

As Bruce struggled with a horrific disease, he never lost hope that he might win yet another battle. In a way, he did win. We will always remember with love his final gift: a joyful gathering and return to F.A. for our 60th reunion and so many memories.

— Timmie Buck Wiart ’53

Brotherly bond forever

I first met Bruce probably on the football field, in the fall of 1950. As the years passed, we were teammates, roommates, classmates, and fraternity brothers at Hamilton College. There were occasional visits or dinners together after he moved to Maryland’s Eastern Shore. Bruce was a very bright guy, although his academic career was more fun than study. He was a good friend, and I will miss him.

— Donn Andre ’54

A passion for life

Bruce Nichols of the beautiful blue blue eyes! And the most engaging smile!

I remember him fearless on the Red and Black football field, a dependable F.A. linebacker: Hold that Line! Hold that Line! And he gave his all to Hold it! I was a new cheerleader and he confided, “Clare, you need more pep!” Okay! I hadn’t realized I was being too “ladylike” (my southern background) so I kicked into my cheerleading with more punch and exuberance. Thank you, friend.

Bruce’s passion for life was displayed in his devotion to his beloved family – generous spirit – smart business acumen – his sense of humor – love of nature and horses. In recent years his interest in my playwriting and new opera project meant so much to me.

We became e-mail buddies. He organized our splendid 60th F.A. reunion but his health kept him from attending. Our mighty little band of alums passed a cell phone around at the Saturday night dinner he had planned so carefully – we wished him comfort and let him know we were holding him in our hearts. We will forever hold him in our hearts.

— Clare Coss ’53

Shelley Galehouse Broven ’64:
Moment News reporter

Shelley Galehouse Broven, of East Setauket, died on Oct. 5 at the age of 66 after an incredibly brave fight against breast cancer. She was born on Nov. 6, 1946, in New York City; the only child of Clark and Aleece Galehouse.

Raised in Cold Spring Harbor on the grounds of the laboratory, where she knew many of the renowned scientists, she was educated at West Side School, before coming to Friends Academy. After graduating, Shelley attended Bradford College, the University of Michigan and Penn State while obtaining her master’s degree in art history.

Her father headed Shelley Products, one of the largest independent record pressing plants on the East Coast, from the 1950s through the early 1980s. The Huntington Station-based business operated the Golden Crest and Shelley record labels, with Golden Crest releasing national hit records. That Clark adored his daughter is evident in the names of his corporations.

In Manhattan in the 1970s, Shelley organized a business women’s networking newsletter and worked as a paralegal before joining, in the next decade, The Heckscher Museum of Art in Huntington as director of public relations and working as a reporter for The Smithtown News.

She then launched her Beaux Faux garden stationary business with a shop in Huntington, then Cold Spring Harbor.

After Shelley married Hugh King, an import businessman and former Rhodes Scholar, they settled in East Northport before moving back to the Cold Spring Harbor family home.

When Hugh died in 1995, Shelley married Englishman John Broven, music history author, retired bank manager and currently with the Times Beacon Record Newspapers’ editorial office.


Following the couple’s move to East Setauket in 1997, Shelley was active with the Three Village Historical Society, where she won the Volunteer of the Year award with John in 2010.

Shelley is survived by husband John, sister-in-law Barbara (Phil) Satchell, Hugh’s children, many friends and beloved English springer spaniel, Jay Jay.

Thanks are due to the doctors and nursing staff who treated Shelley throughout her illness, including at Mather, St. Charles and Stony Brook University hospitals, and the Smithtown Center for Rehabilitation.

Donations may be made to her final carers, Good Shepherd Hospice, 245 Old Country Road, Melville, NY 11747.

A Celebration of Life event will be held at a later date.

Arrangements were entrusted to Bryant Funeral Home of Setauket. Please visit www.bryantfh.com to sign the online guestbook.
Kathryn Abbe died peacefully at home on January 18, 2014, after a brief illness following a stroke. She was 94. Kathryn had a long and exceptionally rich association with Friends Academy. She served for 22 years on the Board of Trustees and for 40 years on the Board of The Meeting House magazine. She contributed hundreds of photographs she made to The Meeting House to illustrate articles and to numerous other publications to document significant events in the history of Friends Academy.

For example, in 1977, she led the publication of Friends Academy’s centennial history entitled “A Century of Friends.” Its Acknowledgements page credits her as having made all the photographs from 1967 through the 1977 publication date. The Fall 2009 issue of The Meeting House featured a retrospective of 50 covers, 30 of which were photographs made by Kathryn.

Importantly, Kathryn was a Friends Academy parent of Tom ’67, Lucinda ’68, and Eli ’70. Kathryn was also a sought-after mentor to generations of Friends students interested in careers in the arts. “She was there from the earliest days of my photography, when we set up a darkroom in an unused closet on the top floor of Friends,” recalled photographer Elizabeth Billhardt ’68. “When I received the last issue of The Meeting House, I reflected on how many extra memories she gave us in the journal as well as the yearbooks long before the digital age might have made photo documentation easier.”

Kathryn and her late husband, James, joined the Religious Society of Friends in Jericho in 1957. Kathryn was a past Clerk of both the Jericho Monthly Meeting and of the Jericho Preparative Meeting.

One of her most profound achievements (and one of my favorite projects with her) was her photographic documentation of generations of Long Island Quaker leaders, almost all of whom have since died. All of those individuals were Friends Academy graduates, parents, donors, or trustees whose stories I was privileged to record as Kathryn photographed them for the Friends Academy Archives (which she also helped establish). Among those individuals were William Masland, Fred Willits, Phoebe Willets, Marion Jackson, and Bob Albertson. The photographs and stories of these individuals were so compelling that they were featured in a 1987-88 show titled “A People Called Quakers” at the Nassau County Museum of Art. Kathryn and Frances McLaughlin-Gill, her twin sister who survives her, began their careers as freelance photographers in 1942 at a time when few women worked in the profession. In a career that spanned over 70 years, Kathryn’s photographs were published in more than 80 books and periodicals. Kathryn was also a co-author of three books: Times on Trams, Ten Lives in Photography, and Stars of the Twenties Observed.

Few have contributed as much to Friends Academy as Kathryn Abbe. My life has been enriched by our long friendship and professional collaboration. We are all blessed to have Kathryn’s photographs of the Friends Academy family by which to remember her, her documentation of our lives as Friends students, teachers, parents, and administrators, and her decades of service.

– Victoria Baum Bjorklund ’70
Crusader for the Arts at FA and Beyond

The news of Fuffy’s passing sparked a bank of memories that are forever etched in my mind. From the day I set foot at Friends and throughout my tenure from 1970-1980, Fuffy was a treasured friend, inspiration, and consummate role model. When I joined Friends in 1970 the Arts Department was virtually non-existent. Fuffy's support of my vision to develop an arts program for FA students was unequaled. I attribute the development of the program to her encouragement and understated yet effective influence on Headmaster Ted Withington and the administration to provide funding for the arts. As a result it was possible to hire a staff of wonderful teachers and build what became a robust arts curriculum.

The creation of a professional caliber photo lab and popular photography program followed. Once again Fuffy’s confidence and ongoing support were key to the success of photography at FA. Her stature as a professional photographer on and off campus was an inspiration to the students and acclaimed by all members of the Friends Academy community...parents, faculty and students.

Fuffy worked tirelessly for years as a member of the Board of Trustees. Her dedication to the preservation and practice of Quaker values at Friends is legendary.

Kathryn Abbe may have left us physically but her inspiration, gracious spirit, dignity, beautiful images and books she created up to the end of her life endure forever.

– Lillian Gilden

No Obstacle was Insurmountable

I was so sorry to hear of Fuffy Abbe’s passing – she has been a longtime friend of Friends. Fuffy, a Quaker, had been a parent, a grandparent and a board member at FA, though her support continued long after these roles ended.

Fuffy and I worked together on a wide range of projects over the years – often for the Development Office or for publications, where Fuffy’s superior photography skills were most in demand, but sometimes in unlikely places, like mounting old artifacts from the school’s Quaker collection.

Fuffy was one of the most creative people I have ever met, with an eye for meticulous detail and all the skills and tenacity to get the results she sought. When Fuffy had an idea, no obstacle was insurmountable. On one particular project, I remember trying to take an easier route, in the interest of time and effort. It was no use – Fuffy had the easiest, most charming smile and was always able, as in this case, to win me over. This determination was matched only by her graciousness, though, and Fuffy was always quick to share the credit for her creative ideas.

As our work together grew into friendship, I learned more about Fuffy’s full life and wonderful family. She and her twin sister Francis had been trail-blazing fashion photographers at a time when that was a male-dominated profession. Fuffy and her husband, James Abbe, had been part of New York’s vibrant, post-war art scene, and some of their earlier photographs document the vitality of the 50s and 60s art world.

Fuffy was modest about her connections to some of the best known artists and celebrities of the twentieth century, but sometimes in unlikely places, like the news of Fuffy’s passing sparked a bank of memories that are forever etched in my mind. From the day I set foot at Friends and throughout my tenure from 1970-1980, Fuffy was a treasured friend, inspiration, and consummate role model. When I joined Friends in 1970 the Arts Department was virtually non-existent. Fuffy's support of my vision to develop an arts program for FA students was unequaled. I attribute the development of the program to her encouragement and understated yet effective influence on Headmaster Ted Withington and the administration to provide funding for the arts. As a result it was possible to hire a staff of wonderful teachers and build what became a robust arts curriculum.

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– Lillian Gilden

Charlie Buchan: FA Mailroom clerk and Santa Extraordinaire

Charlie Buchan was FA’s mailroom clerk for 18 years, and for 18 years he was friends with everyone who entered our school mailroom. Known for his kindness, Charlie greeted his friends with a “hidey ho” and a warm smile. He was born on May 21, 1923 and passed away on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at the age of 90. Charlie is survived by his children Leslie Marentis (Steven) and Cameron Buchan (Deborah); his grandchildren Alexander, Mitchell and Philip; his brother David (Barbara); and his brother-in-law, Edward Butt. His beloved wife Isabelle predeceased him.

What follows are reflections of Charlie from his colleagues at Friends.

Fond memories of morning chats

My fondest memories of Charlie all represent what a kind and simple man he was. Year after year playing the role of Santa, watching him bring wonder and joy to the children and to us as well. Our early morning mail chats were always about family, holidays, weekends and sharing the simple pleasures of having loved ones around him. He is missed, but left very fond memories.

– Cathy Philipakos

Charlie brought me back to center

Charlie and I shared time together talking about our feelings. Both of us agreed that today is the most important time of our lives, but I learned this from Charlie. I was often impressed how Charlie could bring me back to center. If I was thinking too much of the past days and how something went wrong, or right, Charlie reminded me that what happens now is more important. If I was worried about the future he would say, “How is today going?” I went back to class relaxed.

– Dick Abbene

A model of kindness and respect

As much as anyone, Charlie modeled kindness and respect in our community. It is hard to imagine a more gentle person. The Class of 2012 recognized him with their yearbook dedication. He quietly went about his work. Last year, when I would come in late, he would say, “Charlie Buchan is FA's mailroom... and he still is.” I truly admire him for the hard work he did, enjoyed having him on campus, and will miss his presence.

– Regina Papa

Always a smile on his face

Charlie was a friendly man who always had a smile on his face and was willing to help out with anything.

– Brian Baxter
Alice Irwin Barnes ‘81: The love of – and for – one dog

I t is with great sadness and a still broken heart that I tell you about the loss of an amazing and lovely woman, Alice Irwin Barnes.

In October, Alice was diagnosed with a type of cancer called Carcinoid Sarcoma, which had no symptoms or warning signs. It was only after she had surgery to remove what was believed to be fibroid tumors that the cancer was discovered and diagnosed.

Despite being treated by doctors at Memorial Sloan Kettering, the type of cancer Alice had was both very rare and very aggressive. She displayed a formidable battle against the cancer, but sadly lost the fight on November 10, when she passed away at Overlook Hospital, in Summit, New Jersey, with Ella (now 20 and a Junior at Virginia Tech), Caitlin (now 18 and a senior at Verona High School) and me holding her hands and letting her know how much we loved her.

While there is little positive one can find in a situation like this, Alice to the end continued to think about others more than herself. She had us direct donations to an organization called Home for Good Dog Rescue, where we’d adopted our dog, Cubby, this past May.

Shortly after Alice died, I got a call from a woman named Toni Ann Turco (Founder and Director) at Home for Good Dog Rescue who said she had received many phone calls from people who wanted to donate to them in Alice’s memory. She was so grateful because within a day of joining our family we had virtually no fur on his lower torso, was euthanized when HFGDR arrived in Georgia Cubby was about a day away from being put to sleep.

He didn’t trust anyone (easily understood) and would cower in fear if anyone came near him. It took the foster family nearly four weeks to get him well enough to travel north to a new foster home, where he was for just a few days before we adopted him. Alice always felt that Cubby brought a breath of life into the house that was missing after we lost Becky, and felt there was a reason we found Cubby and brought him home.

Ella, Cait and I believe that the reason was to look after Alice while she was sick and bring her love and companionship when she was home alone and needed it more than ever. Last night, Toni Ann called to say that at Home for Good Dogs Rescue recent capital fundraising dinner, she told everyone Cubby’s story and how he had come to be such an important part of our family in a short time, and how he helped Alice through her illness. She said that by the time she was done telling the story, she was in tears, as was the rest of the room.

This past Monday, she got a phone call from a woman who had been at the event, and that the woman and her husband had decided after hearing Cubby and Alice’s story to make an anonymous donation of $10,000 in Alice’s memory. HFGDR is in the process of moving to a new office in Berkeley Heights, and one of the rooms in the new office will be dedicated to Alice’s memory, along with a plaque bearing her name and Cubby’s, and the photo of our family (taken the day we adopted Cubby) would also be included.

It was a shock to say the least, and as Ella put it when I told her last night, it’s hard to believe that one stray dog from Georgia coming into our lives could change the world for Mom and for future dogs everywhere … he was a true blessing in disguise.

This holiday season has not been an easy one for us, but hearing this story last night has brought some holiday cheer into our house and we wanted to share it with all of you.

The photograph was, I believe, the last one taken of Alice. She is wearing the wig she bought to be ready for when her hair fell out. She still had the ability to smile, and she looked beautiful in it, as she did every day of our life together.

– George Barnes
Alumni Upcoming Events

Five-Year Reunion for the Class of 2009
Friday, May 30, 2014 from 6 – 8 p.m.
Join classmates and faculty for an informal reception at the Jackson House

New York City Reunion
Monday, June 2, 2014 from 6 – 8 p.m.
Princeton/Columbia Club
15 West 43rd St., NYC 10036
Honoring Retiring Upper School Teachers
Dick Abbene and Maxine Lifshitz

All FA alums, faculty and staff are welcome!
Continue to check www.fa.org and your FA Alumni portal for more details.

2014 (50th!) Fall Fair & Homecoming
Saturday, October 18
10 a.m – 4 p.m.

More information is on the alumni pages of the Friends Academy website: www.fa.org/alumni
Save The Date!

**June 11**  
Fourth Day Honors  
11 AM (Theater)

**June 14**  
Commencement  
10 AM

**June 30**  
FA Summer Camp Begins

**July 25-26**  
Artist’s Institute Festival  
7 PM (Theater)

**September 2**  
First Day of Classes,  
2014-15 School Year

**September 7**  
New Parent Gathering  
11:15 AM (Matinecock Meeting House)

Fourteen upper School students, two faculty members and one parent worked alongside future tenants in Mastic Beach to install sheetrock with Habitat for Humanity.

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**Find us ... and join us online**

**Our website**  
[www.fa.org](http://www.fa.org)  
Visit our official school site to see regular slideshows of school and updates on campus life.

**Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/FriendsAcademyNY](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsAcademyNY)  
Become a member of our Friends Academy Facebook page and see behind-the-scene videos, alumni updates and campus life photos.

**Twitter**  
[www.twitter.com/FAtoday](http://www.twitter.com/FAtoday)  
Sign up and follow instant updates about athletic wins, art and theater openings, news coverage, and more.

**Linked In**  
[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)  
Register and join the Friends Academy Alumni group to network with fellow alums.