Students, from Kindergarten and older, along with faculty, share memories of their Favorite FA places. Page 7
The Meeting House Staff

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Congratulations Class of 2015!

Amherst College  Barnard College  Bentley University  Boston College  Brown University  Bucknell University  Claremont McKenna College  Colby College  College of William and Mary  Columbia University  Connecticut College  Cornell University  Dartmouth College  Davidson College  Dickinson College  Emory University  Endicott University  Fairfield University  Fordham University  George Washington University  Georgetown University  Harvard University  Haverford University  High Point University  Hobart & William Smith Colleges  Hofstra University  Lafayette College  Lehigh University  Loyola University - Maryland  Macalester College  Muhlenberg College  New York City School of Visual Arts  New York University  Northeastern University  Northwestern University  Oxford College  - Emory University  Pace University  Quinnipiac University  Rollins College  Savannah College of Art and Design  Stanford University  State University of New York at Geneseo  Syracuse University  Texas Christian University  The College of New Jersey  The University of California – Los Angeles  Towson University  Trinity College  Tulane University  Union College  University of Colorado – Boulder  University of Connecticut  University of Georgia  University of Miami  University of Michigan  University of Pennsylvania  University of Richmond  University of Southern California  University of Vermont  University of Virginia  Vanderbilt University  Vassar College  Villanova University  Wake Forest University  Washington University – St. Louis  Wesleyan University  Yale University

Strong Minds. Kind Hearts.

The Meeting House | Spring/Summer 2015
Points of Reflection

Community groups share memories of favorite places around campus

By Andrea Miller
Director of Communications

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

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

Slowly and deliberately students and faculty marked points on campus with colored stickers (right) that answered the question, “Where on campus do you feel...?” (Green – Joy; Blue – Peace; Red – Connection to FA community; and Yellow – Inspired to be the best version of yourself).

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

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

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

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

Community Group Selfies

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

Drumming to a rhythm of their own

An eyewitness to history

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“It’s all about using the drum to show the kids how to connect with others.”
A 20-year tradition at the Nassau County Victory Games

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Graduation Legacy

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

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

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

In addition, 14 students had situations where athletics influenced their process (see Page 28), three were artistic recruits, several students opted for gap-year experiences and one student gained recognition through chess at Washington University.
A Founder’s Day challenge of equality

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

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

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

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

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

Return to Germany with GSS

‘We are all, deep down, the same’

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

By Margery Bevad
GSS Coordinator

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

Sixteen FA students and their six mentor chaperones received the warmest welcome from their German host families when they arrived at the Bergschule on June 24th to begin rehearsals on a second series of performances, inspired by the students’ writings, conversations and common experience.

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

The schedule was intense, the students excited and hard-working through it all. We visited the Borderland Museum in Eichsfeld, former site of a passing zone in the Iron Curtain. We stood on the grounds of Buchenwald prison in quiet reflection. We spent two wonderful days in Berlin, visiting the city, the American Embassy [site of the famous ‘star jump’ by Owen, Reed and Matt] and the Reichstag, where we sat under the famed dome during a briefing with the senator of Thuringia. Students were articulate, respectful and well-informed in their discussions with him.

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

Juniors Matt Tidona and Reed Mullin throw an exuberant Owen Collier into the air at the American Embassy.
team develop that message on the stages of Heiligenstadt and at the Borderland Museum, in a piece that spoke of their own journeys, their own discoveries about peace and understanding and their own dedication to each other and to the message they shared.

American students rose to the occasion, memorizing their lines in German to the surprise and pleasure of the audiences. One of the German parents captured the importance of the exchange when she said, “My father fought in the war. He has carried the pain and scars of those awful days in his heart for 70 years. You have made him cry. You have given him a great gift.”

And our students’ words echo this message.

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

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

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

39 plays, 80 minutes ... no problem!

Shakesplosion!

By Andrea Miller
Director of Communications

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

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

The many deaths of King “Steve”... Outgoing Middle School Principal Steve Rubenacker delivers his final performance in an FA Middle School production.
Arts Tracey Foster, the pair decided it had been a while since the Middle School had done any Shakespeare – and it was time.

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

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

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

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

While Foster worked on creating a shorter version of *Hamlet* and the Histories, Geha stumbled upon an inspiration for *Macbeth*. “Forty-five minutes later I had a draft,” said Geha. “It was a great running joke,” smiled Geha, “and our own way of saying a fond farewell to Steve. The fact that he was such a good sport only highlights what a great presence he was at Friends.”

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

Geha is hoping the play has some staying power and is looking to possibly circulate it to other schools in the future. Whatever happens, he knows one thing’s certain about the original cast of *Shakesplosion*! “What made this piece work was that all the kids gave their all.”

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

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

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

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

How a bowl of Bunny’s Chicken Soup® changed lives in San Diego.

Distinguished Alumnus: Paul Hand ’68

“Find the needs. Fix the problems... one person at a time.”
Growing up in Queens, the son of a single mother, Paul Hand ’68 never imagined that years later he’d be nourishing the food insecure of San Diego once a week, 52 weeks a year.

“I wanted to be a disc jockey,” laughed Paul.

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

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

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

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

Sitting in Meeting for Worship as a senior began to take on new significance for Paul.

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

“It’s a peaceful place and part of the reason why Bunny and I still attend church.”

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

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

Eventually Paul moved into the tele-

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

Neighbors and friends, including Geno and Manouchehr Dadkhah, help serve 8 to 10 pots of chicken soup out of Paul and Bunny Hand’s car down the street from their home in San Diego.
We have been providing soup for the last four years to between 60 and 100 people a week. Unfortunately, the lines seem to get longer and the clientele seems to get younger. We (Bunny and our neighbor Geno) prepare between 8 to 10 pots of soup each week, including day-old bread donated by a local bakery, and cookies, snacks, fruit and bottled water that the other volunteers bring on their own. It all works and the entire meal process is over in a half-hour.

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

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

As weeks slid into years, the operation became something of a calling for Paul and Bunny. “I’m not the richest person in the world and if I did win the lottery, I would certainly spend the money helping other people. I’d open up a food truck for the homeless,” said Paul. “The biggest
benefit to all this is just feeding people. Sixty percent of this population goes hungry every day and I find that amazing and disgusting. We focus on the whole world, but we’re not focusing on what we should. I don’t see enough being done locally,” he emphasized.

A certain circle of life has not gone unnoticed by Paul, as the pendulum of fate swings ironically back and forth. “We’ve seen people who had jobs – people who worked for HP, for the city; and when the economy was in the dumps, they would get in line. They have jobs now and they help us serve,” said Paul. “One day, a guy riding his bike stopped to see me. ‘Remember me?’ he asked. ‘I got a job. And it’s because of you and this soup.’”

Some of his favorite memories have been of just sitting down and shooting the breeze, but one is particularly poignant. “It was Bunny’s birthday, Dec. 22, and it was dark out. Some of the men presented her with a box of Godiva chocolates and on top was a big candle they’d lit; then they all sang ‘Happy Birthday’ to her. They’d even gotten her presents – Maui Jim sunglasses and a ring... little trinkets that they’d found on the beach,” recalled Paul. “That birthday was overwhelming.”

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

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

I saw kids in the hospital who didn’t have the insurance my company provided me. My daughter has a platinum plate in her head and we’ve been through a lot, but now she walks among the wounded. We’ve taught our girls to be thankful for what they’ve got and to reach out to help other people because no matter how bad you have it, someone else has it worse.”

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

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

Bunny’s Chicken Soup®
(Recipe for 1 large soup pot)

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

1. Place chicken in roasting pan and cover with water; sprinkle generously with pepper, onion powder and garlic powder. Cover with foil and roast for 1 to 1½ hours at 350 degrees. Place chicken and all the juice from roasting pan in a pot and add water to fill the pot by rinsing the pan to get all of the juices and flavor. Boil uncovered for 1 hour.
2. Drain with a colander into another pot separating the chicken from the broth. Skim the fat off the broth.
3. Pull the chicken apart into small pieces discarding what little skin or gristle that might be on them, adding them to the broth. Add generous amounts of pepper, celery salt and poultry seasoning. Add 2 Tbsp. of chicken bouillon.
4. Bring to a boil and add finely chopped carrots, celery and onions. Note: feedback from the recipients...they do not like big pieces of vegetables in the soup!
5. Boil the vegetables until soft; then add one box of cooked and drained pasta (small or medium shells work well). Tip: Make pasta ahead of time and freeze it so when adding it will cool down the soup for refrigeration.

Have fun! E-mail your questions or comments to: bunnys.soup@gmail.com or phand1@gmail.com.
Teams meet challenges of top Class A conference with unwavering competitive spirit, grace and teamwork during the Spring Sports season.

Top: Chris White, Gavin Tam, Mary Stingi; Middle: Isabella Burrus, Caroline Sgaglione; Bottom: Andy Muran, Stephanie Gherlone and Matt Feinstein.
Teams bring home 9 State medals

Varsity Track & Field: Seven Athletes Honored with All-County

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 22
Team repeats Conference title

Varsity Boys Golf: Undefeated on the Road

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

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

Despite deploying four players with no previous starting experience on Varsity, the team pushed our proverbial rock uphill again, claiming the Conference II title for a second season in a row, posting a record of 9-1. For the second season in a row, the team was undefeated on the road, our only loss, a narrow two-stroke defeat to Manhasset.

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

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

– Coach Geoff Nelson


 Continued from Page 21

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


The Varsity Girls Lacrosse team had an exciting, yet challenging season, losing by only several goals in many games. Although the team’s record of 4-9 may not reflect their ability, the team showed tremendous talent. The girls’ eagerness and dedication proved to be an asset as they only improved both their individual and team play. The offensive unit led by Julia Ciardullo, included Caroline Wilson, Julia Serko, and Morgan McCartan and they strengthened as the season progressed. The midfield was consistently strong with significant contribution from Morgan Bauer, Caroline Sgaglione, and Madison Rielly.

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

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


Second place in conference

Varsity Girls Golf:
Team finishes 9-3

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

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

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

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFIER – MARIANNA CUOMO MAIER, STEPHANIE GHERLONE
ALL-COUNTY – MARIANNA COUMO MAIER, STEPHANIE GHERLONE
ALL-CONFERENCE – CHRISTINA YANNELLO, DEVIKA KEDIA
ALL-CLASS – LIZ GHERLONE
FRIENDS ACADEMY PLACED SECOND AS A TEAM IN THE NASSAU COUNTY TOURNAMENT.


varsity girls lacrosse: tight losses in competitive season

Varsity Girls Golf: Tight Losses in Competitive Season

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INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ALL-COUNTY – CAROLINE SGA-GLIONE (HONORABLE MENTION)
ALL-CONFERENCE – MADISON RIELLY, MORGAN BAUER
UNSUNG HERO – JULIA CIARDULLO
SCHOLAR ATHLETE – CAROLINE SGA-GLIONE
The 2015 Boys Varsity Lacrosse team had a challenging schedule in its first year in a new conference, yet still had high hopes of qualifying for the playoffs. With only seven Varsity players returning from last year’s team, success would have to be built from a core of first-time Varsity players.

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

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

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

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**Varsity Boys Lacrosse: New Conference for Quakers**

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**INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

- All-County – Pierce DellaFera
- All-Conference – Pierce DellaFera, Ryan Tam, Gavin Tam, Struan Coleman
- Coaches Award – Struan Coleman
- Offensive MVP – Pierce DellaFera
- Defensive MVP – Gavin Tam

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

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

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

**2015 ROSTER:** Mohammed Aazaa, Christian Barakat, Nour Bendary, Alexander Campbell, Louis Durante, Patrick Kavan, Nicholas Miller, Samuel Mufson, Christopher Nishimura, Christopher Panici, Alexander Sutherland, Michael Wootten and Stephen Zerilli.
**Varsity Softball:**
**Team Debuts in Varsity League**

The 2015 season proved to be an exciting one for the Friends Academy Varsity softball team. After two strong JV years, the team made its debut as a Varsity team. The move from JV to Varsity and to a higher class, presented the team with early challenges. The team rose to the challenge and played a strong season. Some highlights included an 8-7 victory over Malverne in the 7th inning, a 14-run inning against Hewlett, and two substantial wins over Lawrence.

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

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

**Individual Awards**
**All-Conference –** Mary Stingi
**Scholar Athlete –** Danielle Ramsay

**Varsity Boys Tennis:**
**Playoff Contenders**

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

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

Highlights included wins over Manhasset, Garden City (2x) and Jericho. Co-MVPs Samir Singh and Adam Spector, played number 1 doubles together, finished with Conference 1 (9-3) and were selected to compete in the Nassau County Individual Championships on Mother’s Day weekend.

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

Varsity Baseball: Quakers Pushed to Top Conference Level

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

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

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

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


Boys JV Tennis: Team Depth and Chemistry Marks Season

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

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

The competition for spots on the JV team was very high; players squeezed a large volume of challenge matches into a very compressed time frame.

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

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

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

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

**Varsity Crew: Local Medals, State Competitors**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Honoring Marshall Lindner: Baseball Dugout Dedication**

Marshall Lindner coached baseball at Friends Academy for 30 years. On May 5, current players, coaches and many of the Friends Academy community members took a moment to honor his contribution to the baseball program. He is a fixture in Section VIII sports and at Friends.
19 FA Athletes Playing Collegiate Competitive Sports in 2015-16

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

FA Track Alumni in Abundance at Collegiate Level

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

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

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

“To me, it’s something we should all be really proud of,” commented Coach Louisa Garry. “These are not just kids who were superstars, but a wide range of athletes; and for them to make the commitment at the collegiate level is not easy.”

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

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

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

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

- Kira Garry ’11 (Yale/University of Michigan)
- Margey ‘12 (Villanova)
- Sunny Sullivan ’13 (Clemson)
- Lostritto ’13 (Yale)
- Candace Taylor ’14 (UPenn)
- Harmony Grodsky ‘14 (Quinnipiac)
- Aidan Vascotto ’14 (Lehigh)
- Glenn Lostritto ’15 (Texas Christian)
- Paige Duca ’15 (Boston College)

**DIVISION III**

- James Hawkins ’13 (Union)
- Lydia Graham ’14 (Williams)
- Shekinah Pettway ‘14 (Bowdoin)
- Katherine Hom ’15 (Amherst)
Several teachers developed curriculum for new courses over the summer. Upper School Math teacher Alex Burt designed a new multivariable Calculus course. Middle School science teacher Dan Kriesberg joined with US teachers Katy Howard (English), Joe Helpem and Casey Reed (Science) to integrate more environmental sustainability education into the Upper School curriculum. The group focused on lessons for AP Environmental Science and American Studies. In addition, Katy Howard created curriculum for a semester-long course on Gender and Literature. Upper School Science teacher Carolyn Pocius developed two new senior science electives – Sports Anatomy and Physiology; and Diseases, Plagues and Pandemics. Fifth grade Math teacher Brie Kraska and second grade teacher Jaimee Connors created a skeleton for a new Math workshop program in Lower School, where second and fifth grades are piloting the new differentiated and hands-on approach. Upper School History Department Head Christine Kulke worked to create a GSS (Global Studies Scholar) European Studies course that will meet GSS goals while supporting students who wish to take the AP European History exam. Kulke is looking to build on FAs existing relationship with the school and community in Heiligenstadt, Germany. Upper School Math teacher Emily Pursino developed a new Algebra 2 course this summer, which will help support students in Physics, as well as, prepare them for SATs and college math entrance exams.

Sixth grade Math teacher Allison Barth and fifth grade teacher Kim Jennings collaborated on fine-tuning the 5th/6th grade transition. Working in tandem, the pair sought to develop curricular initiatives that will improve the executive function and social/emotional skills in 5th and 6th grade students.

Director of Quaker Education Angie Martin, Upper School Science teacher Carolyn Pocius and College Counselor Lauren Carballo collaborated over the summer to enrich the current 9th grade Quakerism course. “We would like to explore ways that the GSS platform (project-based learning and essential questions) could be used to support and enrich portions of the current 9th grade Quakerism course,” the group explained.

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

Upper School Math teacher Julia Haltermann received her Master of Education degree from Peabody College of Education and Human Development at Vanderbilt.

Upper School Science Department head Jennifer Newitt is attending the AP Biology Leadership Academy – a two-year program designed to deepen the participants’ understanding of the AP Biology curriculum and to develop teacher leaders who can lead professional development programs for the Biology teaching community. “As a cohort of 35 educators, we spent a week each summer refining our ability to develop coherent curriculum, familiarizing ourselves with the latest pedagogical tools, and collaborating on developing effective professional development sessions,” said Newitt. The goal is to seek out leadership opportunities both within and beyond schools to help others become better science educators. ‘In the fall of each of the years we attended the yearly conference of NABT (National Association of Biology Teachers) and did more of this work together, in addition to taking part in various workshops and conference sessions. My students have benefited a great deal from what I have learned in this program and I have enjoyed sharing new tools and strategies with my colleagues at FA and beyond,’ she added.

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

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

Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Shanelle Robinson founded the Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice in June 2015. The Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice is an annual professional development program open to individuals interested in building more inclusive and affirming classrooms through experiential activities, exploration and development of strategies and skills to effectively navigate diversity issues in independent schools. Participants receive research-based tools and practically-useful resources to increase their capacity to implement anti-bias curriculum and strategies for change within their classroom and school environments.

As part of her work with the NAIS Emerging Leader’s Institute, History Department chair Christine Kulke collaborated with English head Shawn Marie Garrett on developing an FA code of character/honor code. Over the summer Garrett worked to clarify, simplify, consolidate and make consistent FAs various existing statements and policies related to academic integrity, tutoring, the writing process, citation of sources and teacher’s protocol.

Faculty Retirements
Lillian Shulman – Third grade teacher; Sharon Nelson – Middle School learning specialist; Mary Ann Reardon – Archivist; Judy James – Library Director.
(See photos on Page 45)
Dear Fellow Alumni,

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

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

The spring of 2016 was highlighted by our annual New York City reunion. We had a record crowd on hand where we honored Middle School Learning Specialist Sharon Nelson, Archivist Mary Ann Reardon, Library Director Judy James and third grade teacher Lillian Shulman. We wish them well in their next chapters of life and new adventures!

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

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

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

Peter Stein ’79
Friends Academy Alumni Association President

Peter Stein ’79

Help us help you and your fellow alums stay connected

1 Send us your news and address and e-mail updates:
Alumni Office
Friends Academy
270 Duck Pond Road
Locust Valley, NY 11560
alumni@fa.org; 516-465-1796

2 Connect by website:
FA’s password-protected Alumni Community: www.fa.org/alumni
Click on ALUMNI DIRECTORY to search for classmates by last name, maiden name, class year and profession.

3 Are you on Facebook?
If you love Friends, like us! Head to www.facebook.com/ friendsacademyNY for more campus life photos, alumni updates and behind-the-scenes stories and videos.

*If you do not know your username and password, e-mail Kathy Fox in the Alumni Office: alumni@fa.org.
A Call for Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations

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

2015: Paul Hand ’68 – Finding the needs, fixing the problems one person at a time, Paul and his wife Bunny provide homemade soup every week for 60-100 people

2014: Sharon McGee Crary ’89 – Founder of Social Promise, an organization that supports critical health and educational resources in impoverished Ugandan communities

2013: Marja Brandon ’79 – Life-long educator and educational innovator helps found and cement a school for girls based on her Quaker beliefs

2012: Barbara Boyle Weaner ’73 – Establishes rural clinics to treat patients with chronic kidney disease; uses organic farming to educate others about sustainability

2011: Peter Galbraith ’56 – Leaves dental practice and private sector to answer Quaker-inspired calling in public health

2010: Susan Stein Danoff ’60 – An inner-city family court judge with a heart and mind continually open to service

2009: John Gambling ’69 – An unparalleled devotion to Friends and its values and a longtime member of the Board of Trustees

2008: Thomas Carter ’59 – Dedicating his life to working with economically struggling communities as they strive to improve their conditions

2007: James Greene ’74 – Investing in the betterment of others’ lives through years of service to Friends Academy on the Alumni Board and Board of Trustees

2006: Peter Darbee ’71 – A career distinguished not only by achievements but also by a commitment to values, faith and ethical conduct

Please consider nominating a fellow alum for this honor. Submit his or her name to the alumni office at alumni@fa.org or call 516-465-1796. Please include a brief note about your nominee. Deadline for submissions is March 15, 2016.
Duncan Guild ’68

“PEOPLE MAKER”

By Natalia Porcelli Good ’93

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

Above, Duncan Guild from the 1968 Lamp yearbook.
Duncan Guild began attending Friends Academy as a sophomore. Guild recalls his first structured interaction with children while he was at Friends.

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

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

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

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

Guild’s first real experience working with children who had behavioral, psychological and emotional needs “touched his soul from the very start” and led him to specialize in the special education field.

Guild also enjoyed working with young children because he felt that he could make a profound difference in their lives at an early age. Guild really “enjoys the personalities of 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds because of everything they have to offer and everything they can do.”

Guild’s educational philosophy, which he developed early on, is one of fostering a positive self-concept and self-image in children. Guild achieved this by creating a welcoming environment in his classroom, demonstrating unconditional love and acceptance and valuing children as individuals.

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

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

For 33 years, Guild taught in the Jefferson County, Colorado public schools. He lobbied to have children with special needs integrated into the general student population. This required a great degree of communication with teachers, staff, parents and students. (In Colorado, free and equal education is granted to special needs children at the pre-school level.) While some teachers were reluctant to even have “mainstream” children engage in free play with special needs children, Guild always saw the benefits of integrated classrooms. For the special needs children, they would be exposed to good language and age-appropriate behavior models.

Continued on Page 34
Duncan Guild ‘68: ‘People Maker’

Continued from Page 33

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

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

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

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

In spite of working in such a challenging field, there was never a time when Guild wasn’t motivated, excited, having fun and enjoying being a teacher. In the local news piece, one can see Guild being interactive with his students, dancing with them and creating an environment where young children with substantial obstacles to learning could flourish. For Guild, his self-described “hyper-active personality” served him well in being successful as a teacher. In addition, he was motivated and inspired by the children. “I got so much back from teaching as it was rewarding for my self-concept – just being with the children, the staff and the parents.”

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

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

Every student should be as fortunate to have a teacher like Duncan Guild to help shape them as a young child. By following his passion, Guild is leaving behind a legacy of transforming people’s lives.
“We realized very quickly what a special place Friends Academy is to our children.”

– Jennifer and Henry Williams, FA parents

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

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

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

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

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

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

You can make a gift that has a substantial, long-lasting impact.
You can leave a legacy and recognize the value Friends holds in your heart.
You can make a difference in more students’ lives with a bequest than with a gift that comes from today’s income or savings.

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

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

Jennifer and Henry Williams have been a part of the FA community since 2000; their daughters, Mackenzie ’15 and seventh grader Madison, both started at Friends in Play Group.
Sheila Morrisey Potter sent in lovely photos so all her classmates could take a walk down memory lane. Pictured on the next page are Solange De La Bruyere Batsell Herter, Sheila Morrisey Potter, and Jan Cookley Robinson at Sheila’s family home in Hampton Bays during their senior year. The other photo below is of classmates Lew Zimmerman and Jack Kennedy with Sheila during her freshman year at Vassar and their freshman year at Lehigh.

1946
Henry Palau
38 Yarmouth Road
Rowayton, CT 06853-1847
(203) 855-0021
hsprett@optonline.net

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, Apt. 16A
New York, NY 10011
(212) 627-7103
suzannedv@sprintmail.com

1951
George H. Gifford Jr.
12 Oak Ridge Road
Stony Brook, NY 11790-2011
(631) 751-7489

1952
Margaret Whitney Shiels
5427 FM 2515
Kaufman, TX 75142
(972) 962-8124
mspaumanok@aol.com

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

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

1955
Arthur M. Geoffrion
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Santa Monica, CA 90402
(310) 394-0185
arthur.geoffrion@anderson.ucla.edu

Naomi Johnson Dempsey/Denslow
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Madison, CT 06443
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Naomi.Dempsey100@gmail.com

Sondi Conkin Wright and husband Hal are still spending 5 weeks every 3 months in San Miguel de Allende (in Mexico), and both continue to work (yoga and psychiatry). Their son Juan’s book, *Stories I tell Myself Growing up with Hunter S. Thompson* will be published in January. Sondi comments that “what he’ll have to say about his mom is a mystery and of course a bit of a concern!” Grandson Will Thompson, who is entering his senior year in high school, is already making good progress on the college-selection problem. Pete and Sandy Klinge’s oldest grandson, Billy, tied the knot July 24 in Chicago in a large and elegant wedding with eight groomsmen (just for starters). A middle school music teacher and in professional theatre, he has a fine voice and sang several songs. The happy couple honeymooned in Portugal and Spain. Peter III and Skyeler, both twelve and the youngest grandchildren, danced up a storm at their first formal event.

1956
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News from Wendy Oden: Thought that you would like to know that I recently visited with Peter Bergh in Breckenridge, CO a few weeks ago. We have a Hyatt timeshare and traded to go there this year for two weeks. Peter lives near Vail so he came over and we had lunch. We tried taking him to our favorite restaurant, Relish, but it now is only open at night. So of all places we went to Bubba Gumps, not exactly the place we had in mind. We had a nice visit and he looked well and has had a very interesting life. This summer is awful here so next year we may head north, maybe New England or Canada. Loren Godfrey writes with the sad news that his wife Cynthia, who had Alzheimer’s, died peacefully at home a year ago. “Thankfully, my children and grandchildren are all well and have been very supportive as I try to rebuild my life,” writes Loren.

1957
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1958
John Hiatt
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1959
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Gerry Bocian is President, Director of Research for Palmtree Clinical Research Inc. He will be in Eastern Connecticut in October and hopes to see some of us then. Martha Livingston McDermott bought a small house in East Islip, near her old home in Great River, after spending some time in PA. She recalled a great
story of meeting a woman and asking where she went to high school. “When I said FA, she asked what year I graduated. When I told her ’59, she exclaimed “Oh my God – The Master Class!” She was only in 7th grade when we graduated – that’s how memorable we were.” Judy Reeve and husband Ken had their annual reunion this past winter in Tucson, with John Froehlich and Carol and John Wenger and Sally. She is 90% retired from her landscape consulting/design business. Judy’s mom is now 98 and sends her best to all. Charles Jameson is spending more time with his trains located in his basement. When I last visited him, he broke through the wall and is starting to fill the entire basement with this super layout. At this point, the neighbors are worried about possible aggression. Steve Sundgaard (why the 2nd A?) will be visiting the East End of Long Island this September. Dan Voorhees and I will be hosts. By the way, he recalls “Dave Warden and I were great friends in 5th and 6th grades. We used to sneak his father’s medical books to look at female body parts and thought we knew all about sex.” Besides complaining about old age, John and Sally Wenger are in great shape. Spent some time traveling in Georgia, New Jersey, and Manhattan. They plan to spend time in Dublin, Ohio visiting daughter Karen and the rest of the Wenger Clan. That includes Tom and Jane Wenger, Class of ’62. John nominated me to organize the 55th Anniversary of our graduation. Thanks John! Bruce and Gay Burrows sill have the travel bug. This year... to Europe. John Froehlich is making a great recovery from his stroke. Jim Sykes and I keep badgering him to keep at it. Thanks to everyone who contributed to Annual Giving. Our Class is still #1!

1960

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1961

Park Benjamin III
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1962

Randi Reeve Filoon
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1963

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bjbrundige@aol.com

Paula E. Howe
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phowe0612@comcast.net

The big news for the Class of 1963 is we are turning 70 this year. Toni Naren Gates (tonigates@aol.com) wins the prize so far for celebrating this momentous event! Actually her husband, Bud Gates, takes the credit for planning the most spectacular SURPRISE event: June 26, Ritz Carlton Battery Park (NYC) at The Rise, a venue at the top of the hotel. Guests gathered at 5:15 and Toni and Bud arrived at 5:30 “to have a drink before going to dinner.” Toni was totally surprised – it was priceless! Drinks continued, with tasty hors d’oeuvres, and then another surprise – a private jazz concert by Sarah Partridge, an accomplished jazz singer whom Toni taught years ago. This was followed by a lovely dinner. What an evening….And Saturday night the celebration continued with a dinner (also planned and hosted by Bud) at Gigino across the street from the Ritz. Paula Howe, Kathy Leemmlle Garren, Nancy Wodsworth Hanna and B.J Shoen Brundige as well as two college classmates joined Toni’s extended family for this wonderful weekend. Here is an addendum note from Toni: “Might I say, I was more than surprised. I was touched. And I was totally in thrill reconnecting with friends and having a chance to recapture, as well as appreciate, the wonderful coming of age years we had! Seemed like yesterday; prompted making old friends new friends for today!” Steve Lapham (lapham.s@gmail.com) has good news to report: 70 is six weeks away, youngster that I am. As you know life has thrown me some curves, but I continue to move forward. I view the various times in my life as chapters. They may be read and re-read and not forgotten. For
my next chapter I am moving to Tampa and starting a new life with a widow who lost her husband to sudden death similar to the way I lost Natalie. We are looking forward to this new story of our lives and embrace all that will proceed. Her name is Kathy and she grew up in Manhasset as Kathy Nicholson. Together we have eight children and 14 grandchildren, so travel is part of our lives. Anyone who wants to avoid the cold and visit us in Tampa, you are welcome. Best to all. And news from MaryAnn Engle Jenness [maj1028@comcast.net]: As some people know, Steve and I live in New Hampshire, not far from the seacoast. It is a beautiful state and we love it here. Steve is a native and I am, of course, a transplant, but this is home to me. After the long, cold, and snowy winter, Steve and I are enjoying the lovely summer and a new toy (his really). He has given up his motorcycles (yea!). He always wanted me to ride with him, but I refused. Fear is the great motivator. So, we now have instead a 1999 dark blue Corvette. We are taking day trips around our state and doing photography of lighthouses, animals, waterfronts, and anything else of interest. I am learning, and Steve is a great teacher. We are also enjoying time with our godchildren – though we have not seen them in person for a while. We have been keeping in touch around the world. As for me, life continues the same here in the Philippines. I have around six piano students now, who help me keep in touch with the post-2000 generation! (Just think, talking to a kid now about Janis Joplin and James Brown would be the same as if an oldster fell into conversation with us when we were in our 20s about ragtime and music before the phonograph. Not only was I born before all of these kids’ parents, I was born before many of their grandparents!) Music here is a blend of Taylor Swift pop, rap, and reggae – with occasional touches of Arabic and Indian music and the rare hard-rock guitar solo. My spouse Rodel is now teaching a course on Anatomy at the Cavite State University, but next year when he turns 65, he will reach compulsory retirement age. He hopes to continue teaching at a private college after that. Meanwhile, in the mornings he runs a medical exam clinic for drivers’ license applicants at the local Mahogany market, and enjoys the work with his friendly and efficient staff of two (great esprit de corps there), and is well known as ‘Doc’ to all the fruit, vegetable and meat merchants at Mahogany. We spend most of our time reading (several decent book chains in the Philippines), watching movies on DVDs on our huge screen TV, walking the dog through the farm country, eating in the many great restaurants around here, and – when it is not raining – swimming in the Indang River pool resort; ciao to all, Lee Cronbach.

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

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

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

1964

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News from Perry Clark: “The Friends School of Portland, where I remain as a board member and treasurer, will soon be opening for its 10th year in its new building in Cumberland, Maine. The building is a net zero structure, meaning that it will produce as much energy as it will use. The construction of this innovative building on a new campus is the culmination...”
of the hard work and dedication of our school community—parents, board members, teachers, administrators, students, and donors. We are also very grateful for the welcome and cooperation we have received from the Town of Cumberland. We look forward to a bright future in our new home. Anyone from the Friends Academy community who plans to visit Maine and is interested in our school should contact me. I will be pleased to conduct a tour. My second item is that in August I became Chair of the External Advisory Board of the Institute on Aging at the University of Pennsylvania. The IOA, based in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine, is the umbrella organization for all clinical, basic research, and educational programs relating to aging across the entire university. The IOA’s current research projects encompass neurodegenerative diseases, frailty, and longevity, among other areas. The External Advisory Board provides advice and philanthropic support to the IOA. I am honored to have been asked to be its Chair.”

1965
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1966
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1967
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1968
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As I said in the last issue, here we go again. As always, I appreciate any news from the class to report for The Meeting House, even if it’s only a few. I never want the class of 1968 to be blank. I haven’t edited the news from your replies as this way the class can see what you all were thinking. Those who are on Facebook with me, please send me what you would like the class to see, as I won’t take the liberty to show your post out of respect to you. On to our 50th reunion in 2018. Duncan Guild says hello and sends his best wishes to all. Such fun staying in touch with my buddy Duncan. Please read more about Duncan on pages 32-34. Sally Rising Dean writes in with sad news. She has decided to let her heart pour out to her friends from the Class of 1968: “My husband Steve died very suddenly of a heart attack in November of 2012. It was not imminent, but he did have whooping cough that summer. His 2008 vaccine did not cover him for the widespread outbreak that season and I feel that with all his coughing he had done damage or dislodged something in his heart. All very sad for me and my family. I am adjusting to life alone in a big house and barn with a lot of equipment on 50 acres in VT. However, I am making a great change! I will be moving to NH, next door to my daughter and her family, where I am building a new “downsized” house on 2.3 acres. It will be mostly landscaped natural except close around the house and I am looking forward to the synergy of being a Grandma next door with two grandchildren, two dogs and a bunch of chickens and parrots. My other three grandchildren will only be two hours away in Gloucester, MA...another plus. I will do my best to make it to the FA reunion in three years, but no guarantees. My best to everyone who has shared their news and to those who only read.”

I want to share this wonderful introduction of Paul Hand by Head of School Bill Morris. Paul was receiving the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus Award at Fourth Day Honors. He is highlighted in this issue (on page 16), but I had to share it again. Paul you are the best. “After graduating from Friends, Paul continued his education at NYT and Quinsigamond College in Worcester, Massachusetts. He started an independent consulting business in retail marketing technology, eventually relocating to San Diego in 1990 in the field of mobile telecommunications network technology. He currently works for LG Electronics MobilComm, where he is the Director of Customer Advocacy and leads a team that provides quality management support for all major US telecommunications carriers. If you are having trouble with your cell service, call Paul. While Paul has pursued a successful career to support a wonderful family that includes Bernice (Bunny), his wife of 34 years, Rebecca and Erika, his two daughters, and two cats, Thelma and Louise, we are recognizing him today for the remarkable service he has provided to the homeless in San Diego. After joining St. Andrews by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in 2007; he and Bunny started an outreach mission to feed the homeless as they had done in their prior parish. The food was “Bunny’s Chicken Soup (bunnysoup@gmail.com),” a homemade stew of chicken, pasta, and vegetables. The church mission serves over 80 homeless individuals every Tuesday and, as Paul says, ‘changed the nature of our conversation about the relationships with one another in our local community.’ Even with the church mission, Paul and Bunny were still troubled seeing the homeless without food, and they discovered that no local organizations were feeding the homeless on Thursdays. So, at their home at the end of Diamond Street, they started serving Bunny’s Chicken Soup to some 75-85 hungry people, 8-10 pots each week. Paul put an additional stove in the garage to speed preparations, and they built a team of 10 other volunteers to help with the work and make sure soup is served every Thursday night, rain or shine, though in Southern California it is mostly shine, even when they are away. The whole operation lasts 45 minutes, and the dinner guests make sure to clean up before leaving. In that brief time, Paul, Bunny, and their friends offer more than just food. As one guest put it, “It’s not just soup you give us. It’s a sense of belonging somewhere, a feeling of respect, a good night’s sleep, but most of all, hope.” Paul and Bunny’s Thursday night soup mission gives wings to our Quaker testimonies of simplicity, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship. As Paul says, ‘this is pay it forward stewardship, an opportunity for us to offer our support of the homeless through time and work and a small amount of treasure.’ What an important lesson for all of us, that we...”
Take a look at some of the most recent books and writings by Friends Academy alumni:

**David Hlavsa ’79**

*Walking Distance: Pilgrimage, Parenthood, Grief, and Home Repairs*
Michigan State University Press, 2015

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

Enduring a series of misadventures, including a brief stay in a Spanish hospital, David and Lisa walked more than 400 miles across the north of Spain to their final destination of Santiago. Shortly after their return to Seattle, Lisa became pregnant, and the hardships of the Camino were no comparison to what followed: the stillbirth of their first son and Lisa’s harrowing second pregnancy.

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

**Theodore L. Lewis ’44**

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

Theodore L. Lewis is an Anglican priest and a retired US Foreign Service Officer. After service in World War II, he earned advanced degrees from Harvard University and, later, Virginia Theological Seminary, his ordained vocation having come from exposure in the Foreign Service to churches of the Global South. Following his Foreign Service retirement, Lewis turned to theological study and writing, privileged by connections with Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and the Duke Divinity School. He presently engages in parish ministry.

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

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

**Lindsay Jill Roth ’99**


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

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

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

What Pretty Girls Are Made Of is Lindsay’s first novel. She always loves to connect with Friends Academy alumni so feel free to reach out @LindsayJillRoth.

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If you’ve written or published a book, please consider donating a copy to the Friends Academy Kumar Wang Library. Contact Interim Library Director Laurie Fleming at 516-393-4279 or laurie_fleming@fa.org.
people's lives, while providing their caregiving families with much-needed respite. Last year (toot, toot!) Long Island Alzheimer's Association awarded me for “Outstanding Alzheimer's Advocacy,” and in 2013 our program was nominated for Best Adult Day Program on Long Island. At Friends, my place to shine was in good old Mr. Springsteen's art room (remember the rickety old red building?). I always wanted to do art of some kind. And dear departed Roger Erickson encouraged me to do children's books. After graduating Middlebury (where Larry Haydu was a classmate), I spent many years as a commercial artist/illustrator, living in Manhattan (and I did do some children's books!) but traveling extensively. I do miss the artwork, but I still get freelance drawing assignments, and in 2012 I published an illustrated cookbook/memoir of my grandmother's treasured Moroccan recipes. And there you have it, pretty much. Please forgive me for such a long silence. I see Craig White weekly because, in addition to being an FA trustee and a very busy business man, he also finds the time to be a volunteer drummer for the Continentals, a jazz band who plays at our Senior Center every Friday afternoon! Steve Tilden and I are still very good friends; we make it a point to get together every October for Fall Fair, and we always marvel at how the school has “morphed” over the years. We would love to meet up with more of our classmates there! I hope this finds you well and happy. I always enjoy reading your news, and I applaud you for having stayed in touch with so many of us and keeping us connected for all of these years.

Many thanks, Lisa Craig '68. As for me, nothing new since the last issue as life in Joplin remains tranquil and easy. I have to say while writing these issues for the class, I often reflect on all the success and opportunities to needle and support each other with references that are decades deep. Could it be that we have finally found some value in avoiding the fringe and playing the straight and narrow? Lisa Craig writes: Been so long! Craig White '66 urged me to get back in touch, and I was so delighted to read all your news in this latest Meeting House issue -- all the success stories and adventures of Willy, Steve, Jimbo, Lolly, Johnny, Cliff and Karin -- wow! What an impressive group of people. Nineteen years ago I moved back to the same house I grew up in on Duck Pond Road. I totally sympathize with Jim Evans in his utter devotion to his parents, because I too took care of my folks as well as my two daughters. My folks are gone now, but my older daughter is still living here, and my youngest is living with her. Until she begins her doctorate program next year. My older daughter is busy raising four kids of her own in Pennsylvania; they are 9, 7, 5 and 2 years old, and delicious! I'm now in my tenth year living in good old Mr. Springsteen's art room (toot, toot!) Long Island Alzheimer's Association awarded me for “Outstanding Alzheimer's Advocacy,” and in 2013 our program was nominated for Best Adult Day Program on Long Island. At Friends, my place to shine was in good old Mr. Springsteen's art room (remember the rickety old red building?). I always wanted to do art of some kind. And dear departed Roger Erickson encouraged me to do children's books. After graduating Middlebury (where Larry Haydu was a classmate), I spent many years as a commercial artist/illustrator, living in Manhattan (and I did do some children's books!) but traveling extensively. I do miss the artwork, but I still get freelance drawing assignments, and in 2012 I published an illustrated cookbook/memoir of my grandmother's treasured Moroccan recipes. And there you have it, pretty much. Please forgive me for such a long silence. I see Craig White weekly because, in addition to being an FA trustee and a very busy business man, he also finds the time to be a volunteer drummer for the Continentals, a jazz band who plays at our Senior Center every Friday afternoon! Steve Tilden and I are still very good friends; we make it a point to get together every October for Fall Fair, and we always marvel at how the school has “morphed” over the years. We would love to meet up with more of our classmates there! I hope this finds you well and happy. I always enjoy reading your news, and I applaud you for having stayed in touch with so many of us and keeping us connected for all of these years.

Many thanks, Lisa Craig '68. As for me, nothing new since the last issue as life in Joplin remains tranquil and easy. I have to say while writing these issues for the class, I often reflect on all the time at FA. I love hearing regularly from Kathy Attridge Anas and Greg Tarone, Duncan Guild, thanks for the birthday wish and such fun catching up. It is fun to see what's new periodically on Facebook with Peggy Springsted Weiner, Nancy Goldberg Kassop, Bob Piro, Betsy Harris Radecki, Paul Hand, David Porter, Bob Rushmore, Anne Meher Franchot and Susan Abrams Butler. So next time send me your news. And of course, I have to mention my great friendship with Kal and Judy Wynot – it is such fun staying in touch.

1969

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

1970

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1971

David Cressey
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Angela Manno
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Being in the Matinecock Meeting House, after all these years, was something. You may recall it dates from 1725, burned down in 1985 and was then reconstructed. The March 7th Memorial Meeting for Mr. Erickson was like no meeting we ever had as students, with infinitely more speaking. Yet the building looks and feels and smells exactly the same, uncannily so. To be there is to be transported to a well-peopled glade, including an encounter with your younger self. Angela Manno, Billy Vitriol and I were the stragglers on the way back from the Meeting, on the red brick walkway, catching up, when Paula Jensen-Moulton – clutching one of Roger's books, which were distributed at the reception – happened by on the way to her car. We were at the front of the Main Building and the four of us, no one else in sight, had a brief pow-wow. It struck Angela and me as the best kind of moment (it is not on YouTube; I checked), as an invitation to regroup. And so we attempt to restart a conversation of sorts in this space, in The Meeting House. Cressey's story: Fleeing Swats College, three bricks shy of a load, for the bracing effect of 10 winters in upcountry Maine, I scurried a livelihood from quasi-teacherdom and youthful exuberance. Salad days, I think they are called, and the end result – after a summer's layover in Beantown, clocking out at the MIT Coop to enjoy a nightly $3 perch in the Fenway bleachers – was refugee status in my bro' Brian's Washington crip. There unfolded the ParaGerbil years, scurrying about the beautiful Federal city on behalf of an old school firm of legal beagles; Mayor Marion Barry's wide-open D.C.; multi-racial power plunder, hedonistic, endless redevelopments, softball on the Mall, Joe Gibbs' Skins uniting the District, Virginia and Maryland. Seven years on, I poached a city woman who was not unwilling to be dragged to the backwoods, and we landed in hill 'n' holler country – a crick trickles through it – barely north of the Mason-Dixon Line, a pawpaw's throw from the WV border in two directions. Everything you've ever heard about West Virginia is true – wink out to Barbara Boyle Weiner '73 – which is to say, our Greene County, a classic backwater, is the West Virginia of Pennsylvania. We are Forest Stewards – in cahoots with Penn State – and help run a top-notch local history library in Waynesburg... No children, no livestock, no degrees, no tractor (still), no religious or political affiliations, no still, two dogs, one woodstove, three Red Sox World Series, coronations, 55 wild life acres. Vit and I have been engaging in a Proustian e-mail exchange, savoring (misremembering?) details from the Friends past and trashng our respective teams, he being very hard on the Yankees (and the new Yankee Stadium) and me bemoaning the let's-just-throw-money-away BoSox. He remains a devoted baseball fan, making annual treks to Wrigley Field and Fenway Park. Chris Gatty has joined us (in an awesome Gmail 3-way) and reports that his 10-year-old son is quite the athlete, with basketball a favorite sport. Chris and Peter Darbee, and Peter's wife, are planning a cruise from Stonington, CT to Block Island on Peter's 65-foot Fleming. Chris also writes: “It was great to see Peter Bebry's daughters Lauren and Pamela at a get-together in NYC. They are Friends alumni as well and both reside in the City. Pamela is an attorney and Lauren an architect. With Peter gone it’s...
2015 NYC Alumni Reunion
Held Monday, June 1, 2015 at the Princeton/Columbia Club

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

Above, Henry Palua ’46 with his guest

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

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

Jenna McCann Messer ’06, Emily Brown ’06 and Rebecca Pacchiano ’07
Class Notes

To see more photos from the NYC Reunion, log onto the Alumni Portal at www.fa.org/alumni

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


Left, Michael Salzhauer ‘80, Carlos Del Cristo ‘80, Emily Hawkins ‘10 and Board of Trustees President Tom Hawkins ‘78; center, Courtney Taylor ‘03 and College Counselor Marge Bevad; right, Laura Berke ‘08, Rob Morse ‘99 and Julia Berke ‘10.
Continued from Page 43

nice to see that things turned out well for his kids.” From Scott Neilson: This year I have had two grandchildren... Christian and Emma... born 4 months apart. Both are healthy and very happy little people. Daughters and son-in-laws are all doing well. Other than that, I am enjoying retirement... spend about half the year in Europe with my main squeeze (we live just 2 km outside of Brussels). So a lot of traveling there. Summers are mostly spent on my boat in the Chesapeake... Eastern Shore. Lots of cruising to new sites and anchorages, many water sports, hiking and biking. Hobbies are playing guitar, cooking, and learning French!!! I seem to have somehow missed something about that), so playing a little catch-up now! Can’t send me out in the hall here... of course, I guess they could always evict me from the marina!!! Looking forward to next year’s reunion...45th??? Ugh! From Catherine Viscardi Johnston: Last July 19th our oldest son, Ben, was married in Lausanne, Switzerland, where his in-laws live. Our son works in product development for Johnson & Johnson and they live in Boston. Our other news is that we are building a new home in Palmetto Bluff, South Carolina. Until the house is finished, we will be living part time in Rowayton, CT and part time in South Carolina and would love to have anyone come visit! From me (Angela Manno): Though I’ve kept in touch with a handful of classmates over the decades, the past few years have brought me into more intimate contact with Friends. One response is from Jim Bebry: “I’ll take her, Jimmy.” I learned a good lesson that day, before first period.” From Jim Babry:

1972

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For this edition, classmates were asked to share their memories of high school. Here are their responses. Jim Neville wrote: “I remember the very beginning of school in September, 1971, our senior year. I drove to Friends with my sister Vicki, who was just starting Friends as a 7th grader. Being the typical big brother, I was insensitive to her tears. Cal Wynot happened along. He took Vicki’s hand, turned to me and said, “I’ll take her, Jimmy.” I learned a good lesson that day, before first period.” From Catherine Viscardi ’71 at the wedding of her son, Ben, in Lausanne, Switzerland
Todd and I skipping class to play basketball. Unfortunately, the extra practice did not yield the desired results. Discovering the joys of poetry through Mr. Erickson’s comprehensive teaching of The Wasteland. And on and on…. best years of my life!” As for me, FA was very special. I remember 7th & 8th grade sock hops, Mrs. Mohaupt coaching our undefeated JV and Varsity field hockey team with Clare Laemmle, Amelia Erickson, Karen Kerwin, and Patti Brink; outdoor Shakespearean productions, Mrs. Vuilet’s Spanish classes: field trip to see ‘Sticks and Bones’ with Mr. Thomas in his ‘Topics in Alienation’ class, 10th grade trip when Dang saw snow for the first time, John Mankiewicz’s rendition of the Beatle’s ‘Help’ before morning assembly, Mr. O’Hanlon leading the Accapella Choir’s in ‘Lo, How a Rose e’er Blooming’, Mrs. Kissam’s smiling face, Claire Sieberg and I as wrestling team managers, crashing Mr. Lewis’ party on graduation night, winning class of 1970 in Slave Day competition, Mrs. Gordon’s advanced Biology class with fetal pigs and locusts, senior lounge antics, ad infinitum. Don’t forget that we’ll be planning another class get-together in 2016. Stay connected with class news on Facebook “FA Class of ’72 Reunion” and e-mail.  

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1973

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In an effort to get some news from the class of 1973, a question was posed: give us a favorite memory of your years at Friends. What follows are some responses…Susann Nappa: “I am in the middle of moving my home and my office!!! Up to my ears. The one funny story that immediately came to mind (probably because I need a chuckle right now!) is taking typing class with Lulu Viscardi and the teacher put on the song “Popcorn” and told us to type to the beat of the music!!! We laughed so hard we couldn’t get through it!!” Jim Boorstein recalls, “Going to Meeting in that wonderful old Meeting House with wood stove for heat. Sports, friends, the theatre, dances. What else was there… not the food or classes. I am part way through a sabbatical (more or less) from work after 30 years at Traditional Line.”

Kathy Neissler Leventhal: I had the pleasure of attending graduation for the class of 2015 since my niece, Julia Neissler is part of this group. It was such a meaningful ceremony and while double the size of our class of 1973 which, as I recall, was a mere 52 in all, the class is a collegial and cohesive group. Lots of good memories were brought back. Campus has changed dramatically since the “old days.” The campus is really so beautiful. From Bill Dudjoe: For some reason, this summer has been filled with nostalgia for me and I am not sure why. Maybe because I will be turning 60…Maybe because the Dead have retired (my favorite band of all time). Maybe because I lost a great friend…Kenny Manos… Gosh I miss you Kenny. I can’t really say I liked high school. I did not really fit in with any of the groups: The jocks, the smart folks, the politically aware. But that all seemed to change senior year. Barriers broke down. We were all just people coming of age. Going to Dead concerts together. Out partying at John Glick’s house or Gafney’s in Fort Washington, or a beach party at Jimmy Kane’s beach house. Summer of ‘73 was one of the best summers of my life. It was the start of all of us starting our new lives and saying hello and goodbye to a lot of friends. Many of us have known each other since grade school. It is so hard to believe it has been 42 years. I can’t say I want to live it over again but I am glad I lived it. Thank you Laura for being there for 42 years and reaching out to us. I am not sure when The Meeting House will be out but there is a 60-mile bike ride to help me celebrate my 60th Birthday on August 22nd…all are welcome. Tailwinds, Billy, Cliff Gardner: As for me, I have many, many fond memories. In 9th grade, Scott Boege and I getting Benjie (Steve Benjamin) – who boasted he could rip a book in half – to rip Dr. Woods’ annotated copy of Julius Caesar in half. Little did we know, Benjie could actually do it! Little did Benjie know it was not Scott’s book, but Dr. Woods’ book. Dr. Woods’ reaction was priceless. So was Benjie’s. In physics, Mr. Holland asked us to pick a book, read it, and do a presentation. My book was on alien life. Since I was unprepared to present a report on the book (which I had barely begun to read), I talked Kris Horvath into allowing me to interview him as an alien. I dressed him in fins and snorkel gear (why I thought that would make him look like an alien is, in retrospect, difficult to fathom). After Kris answered my relatively easy five or six questions (which I prepared him on by reading the book jacket) Mr. Holland asked him a complex question, which required one to have actually read the book. Without blinking, Kris put the snorkel in his mouth and answered in some kind of incomprehensible alien tongue. Mr. Holland laughed and all was fine. During our performances of the senior play (Guys and Dolls), Scott Boege had one line. It was very early in the first act. Something like, “Hey Nathan, guess who’s in town? Sky Masterson. And he’s looking for action.” Of course, Sky was one of the two leads, played by Mike O’Brien. At that point in the play, he had not yet appeared on stage. For weeks I worked on Scott to change the line slightly: “Hey Nathan, guess who’s in town? Me, Sky Masterson. And I’m looking for action.” Then Scott could have gone on to star in the play as Sky and – who knows – perhaps a Broadway career. But he wouldn’t quite do it. The path not taken. In Mrs. Gordon’s advanced biology class, Scott and I were dissecting our fetal pig. We took a vein from one of the other pigs, sewed it into ours and called Mrs. Gordon over. She was mightily puzzled. Then we explained it was “You’re so Vain” and Scott began singing that Carly Simon song. I think Mrs. Gordon actually punched us. I have many, many more memories. All good ones. I recall meetings at the Meeting House where people spoke about the Apollo 13 mission. I recall discussions about the war. And I recall my friend David Rosenberg reading a poem during one meeting – shortly after his mother passed away: Rudyard Kipling’s “IF” Whenever I hear that poem I think of David, who I remain in touch with occasionally. I could go on – and on. But I will let you go for now. Cheers, Cliff. I think my two favorite places on campus were the Meeting House – I still recall the peaceful atmosphere, a serene setting amidst the hustle and bustle of classes, and for some reason, the glass house, waiting for the buses at the end of the day, chatting with friends before we headed home. OK, to get you started on my question for the next MH: Did you do anything special to commemorate turning 60? If you did not get my e-mail question for this issue, that means I do not have a valid e-mail for you. I also put it out on the Facebook page, “FA class of 1973.”

1974

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1975

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The Alumni office would like to officially welcome class rep Tilde Mariani Giacché back home to the USA. Tilde arrived in time to join her classmates for a wild 40th reunion weekend! The photos tell it all. If you couldn’t make it to FA this fall, make sure you follow the class e-mail chain (it includes lots of
You may have read in an earlier Meeting House about Marcy Westerling and her battle with ovarian cancer. That battle was lost on June 10, but I hope you’ll take the time to read about what a remarkable life she led. Her obituary can be found on page 56. Thanks to Nevin Dubin for the update. Speaking of Nevin, he admits to being in “Semi-Retirement.” He has two daughters, Lana, who graduated last year from Kenyon College and is now interning in Washington D.C., and Jenna, who is back at Franklin and Marshall, after spending a semester in England. On a trip through Denver, I had the chance to catch up with Allison Davis Kinsley, whose daughter had just graduated from North Carolina and is now working in Shanghai, China. She and her husband, Steve, are making the trek east, this fall. Their son, Will, is a junior at Auburn majoring in mechanical engineering. Ran into Steve Mills at the NBA Summer Meetings in Las Vegas, as he was checking out the Knicks’ new great hopes Kristaps Porzingis and Jerian Grant. He still owes me the real $.05 tour of the refurbished MSG, and exactly, what $1 billion gets you in NYC these days. Meanwhile, Karen and I celebrated our fifth anniversary beating the summer heat of Dallas for a fantastic week renting a house in Lake Tahoe, with a side trip to Reno where she does the PR for Whitney Peak Hotel, the first non-smoking, non-gaming hotel in Reno. It’s a phenomenal place. It has all of the amenities of a great hotel, including a celebrity chef restaurant. The gambling is right across the street if you want it. Your clothes will thank you for not subjecting it to any more smoke than is necessary. My son, Jeffrey, is a sophomore at the University of North Texas and is doing great. He’s been able to combine both broadcasting and writing. Not sure where he will ultimately specialize, although at the rate the media business is going these days, he’ll probably need to be able to do both. I’m getting ready for my eleventh season with the Mavericks, and of course, life is NEVER dull around them. The DeAndre Jordan mess dominated my July like no story has in a long time. I am still working football nationally for Westwood One Radio as well. I’m also 50 pounds lighter thanks to a radio station endorsement (or as I like to say, a bribe. Hey, everyone has their price!). Anyway, it’s weird to have so many more clothing options, and it’s fun. I feel great. Obviously, it’s something I should have done long ago. Would love to hear from more of you. I’m quite findable on Twitter at @CoopMavs, on Facebook, and of course via e-mail at CoopGator@aol.com. Of course if none of that works, contact the FA alumni office and they’ll get your info to me.
With so many members of the class of 1978 on vacation, the class notes for the summer issue of The Meeting House magazine are a bit scant. Many thanks to the following members of the class of ’78 for helping me out with some news. Hope that everyone had a great summer holiday and is doing well. Great news from Jack Lee as his daughter Kristina is about to make Jack and his wife, Lisa, grandparents! He writes, “Lisa and I are living in Garden City and recently celebrated our 30th Wedding anniversary. We have two children, Paul who is 26 and lives in NY, and our daughter who is now Dr. Kristina Miholich living in San Diego with her husband Kyle. We recently found out that we are going to be grandparents as Kristina is due in October. We will be downsizing our home in Garden City, and are looking for a home in San Diego so we can spend half the year with our daughter and grandchild.” That’s wonderful news, Jack. We are looking forward to your next Meeting House posting in October. Please be sure to keep us updated. An FA alumni bib is on the way! Mark Janoska writes to us from New Jersey, “This last June, I went fishing with Barry Pailet in Martha’s Vineyard for a few days, I also went camping with some friends, including Jeff Schneider out at Montauk in July.” And Ellen Westermann continues her work with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, where she is about to become a permanent resident. This last summer, Ellen sold her home in Leonia, New Jersey and she and her family will be moving to Manhattan, thereby making her commute to work a whole lot easier! Congratulations, Ellen! Looking forward to hopping on the LIRR and checking out your new neighborhood!

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

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Though summer has turned up the heat (even in temperate California) we’re imagining a brisk, cool FA fall as we write this – hope you’ll read it that way! Your class reps remain in Los Angeles and, having moved twice last year, settled into a permanent home we purchased in March. But…we’ll be moving out again within the year when we renovate and expand under Michael’s architectural and GC guidance. On the kid front, Michael’s oldest, Chloe, graduated from college in May with an RN degree – couldn’t be prouder of her as she braves the nursing job market to gain some work experience before pursuing a graduate degree. Nick continues his college career – physical therapy is now his passion – and Nina heads off for her freshman year as well. One down, two to go! We are also happy to report a few of our classmates checked in with plenty of news. Captain Jonathan “JC” Christian writes: “Things are well in sunny (and really hot) Jacksonville! As a Senior Port Captain in charge of six U.S. Naval vessels, I’ve traveled recently to the Middle East to ensure that some of our nation’s intelligence (ok, spy) ships are operating safely. Meanwhile, my twin girls (Hannah Grace and Sophia Hope) are now in 5th grade…unbelievable (I’m not that old)! Sophia is the surfer and Hannah is the dancer…both doing great in school and more importantly, life. It was great to reconnect with our classmates and my buddy Matt Bloom – he was one of life’s cool blessings at FA.” Thanks for all you do for our country, Jonathan! He asked us to extend his very best wishes to everyone…and if possible, a special hi to Lisa Gathard (from whom we would also love to hear; the e-mail address we have for Lisa doesn’t work anymore!). Michelle Pistone also wrote in: “Everything here is amazing! Just got back from three weeks with my mother visiting family on Long Island, which culminated with a big family reunion. We spent a week with my sister, Gina, and her family in East Hampton – with lots of fun beach and family time and great food! We also spent two weeks on the North Fork. We went to visit my cousin, Daniele, and her family. Daniele and her husband recently joined forces with a chef from Umbria, Italy to start an amazing restaurant in Southold, called Caci. It’s been open just 10 months and is already on Newsweek’s top 100 list! For those of you living in NY, think about a day trip to the vineyards and Caci for dinner – it will not disappoint. The last time I was on the North Fork was years ago, when Pam, Jill, Ellen and I worked with the NoFo wineries to throw wine tasting fundraisers in NYC to benefit homeless women and children. Fun memories! As to my family, my daughter Julia is starting middle school this year. And Luke is starting kindergarten. They both love music. Julia sings and plays piano and drums. Luke is starting with drums; he’s beginning to be able to hold a beat. I am still a professor at Villanova University’s law school and still love my work. My students and I work at the intersection of immigration law and human rights – we represent refugees who have fled to the US because they were persecuted or tortured in their home countries. Our clients are among the most courageous and inspirational people I know and it is truly a privilege to be able to serve them during times of need. My husband and I also recently started as co-managing editors of the Journal for Migration and Human Security, which keeps us current on the migration literature. Would love to get together with others. Any plans for a reunion?” Good question. We’ll check with the class reps. Oh, wait...no. But we’re open to suggestions and, more importantly – reunion chair volunteers. Two years goes by FAST! Anyone game to take it on? Let us know. Until next time.

1983
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its subjects, is why this film resonates so deeply with viewers,” said Katz. The Bentonville Film Festival was created by Academy Award winner Geena Davis and ARC Entertainment founder Trevor Drinkwater to champion women and diversity in film. The star-studded awards ceremony was hosted by Nick Cannon and Soledad O’Brien. Presenters included Courtney Cox, Rosie O’Donnell, Bruce Dern, Melissa Joan Hart and Judge Reinhold. Jurors included the likes of Emilio Estevez, Brian Yang, Darla Anderson, Michelle Thomas and Sarah Clark. With 70 corporate sponsors, including Walmart, Coca-Cola, Kraft and AMC, the Bentonville Film Festival is expected to become one of the country’s premier venues for both narrative and documentary films. Stephen Katz is a staff photographer at The Virginian-Pilot and POyi’s Newspaper Photographer of the Year for 2008. Thao’s Library was produced by Elizabeth Van Meter and edited by Leandro Badalotti. For more on the film, visit www.thaoslibrary.com. Melissa Errico has exciting news: “My two-song release is now available on iTunes, and I’m so glad to not have these delicate and beautiful songs sitting in my closet. I was so fortunate that Tony Award nominee (Best Orchestrations, The Last Ship) Rob Mathes arranged and produced so many songs during my Lullabies & Wildflowers sessions, and we held onto these, feeling they were more “theatrical” than lullaby. One, of course, is one of the most beloved musical theater songs ever! Both sing of aspects of a dream; a place beyond reality. I offer them now for charity. And I hope you will buy them and know this small fee will go to supporting maternal health and women in their early years of parenting.”
production, the cast was listed in alphabetical order, just like the credits appear onscreen. The cast includes Jeannie Berlin (the daughter of Elaine May and a supporting actress Oscar nominee for *The Heartbreak Kid*), Jesse Eisenberg, Blake Lively, Parker Posey, Kristen Stewart, Corey Stoll, Ken Stott and Bruce Willis. Co-stars are Anna Camp, Stephen Kunken, Sari Lennick and Paul Schneider. Keep the updates coming everyone... it'll be reunion time again very soon and it's great to stay connected in between the formal times! – JoAn Monaco

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

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Attention all basketball alums!

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

Please let **Coach Hefele** (left) know if you plan to attend at Stephen_hefele@fa.org. Hope to see you there.

Take on your fellow alumni at this annual event!
FA alumni watch the Mets take on the San Diego Padres in style at Citifield Stadium on July 29 at a special Alumni Association event.

“The Boys of Summer”

New York Mets vs. San Diego Padres

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

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

2002

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

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

2005

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With the arrival of our 10-year reunion, there have been many milestones in the class of 2005! Luis Medina got right to the point, asking: “How did we get so old?” Navin Yadlapalli graduated from Thomas Jefferson Medical College in 2011 and completed an internal medicine residency at Tufts Medical Center in 2014. He is currently working as a hospitalist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and instructor at Harvard Medical School. Andrew Giocondi also resides in Boston, where he works for Skanska as a Project Engineer on the Longfellow Bridge Rehabilitation Project, reconstructing the century old “Salt-and- Pepper Shaker Bridge.” Sarah Schoenhut lives in Philadelphia, where she is working towards her Veterinary degree at the University of Pennsylvania with a major in Small Animal Medicine. Meg Paintal is based in New York, having recently moved into a role at Oracle as a Regional Business Development Manager. Rob Abney lives nearby in Brooklyn with his wife and two little girls, Luciana (2) and Maleah (1). Rob has worked at Viacom in Integrated Marketing for their Entertainment Group for the past three years. He can be found watching Disney Junior on Saturdays. Lauren Jackson and Ashlee Evarts are roommates in Brooklyn. This spring, Lauren worked on a series for TLC called “Curvy Brides,” which followed a plus-size bridal salon in the D.C. area. An Editor with Half Yard Productions, Lauren took advantage of the summer off to travel to Marrakech, Morocco with her boyfriend and Charlotte, NC to visit her mother. Her next show with TLC, “Say Yes to the Dress,” begins filming this fall. Lily Kahrs works in project management at McCurry/TMG in Saratoga Springs, where she has been since 2012. Lily and her husband Andrew Kahrs welcomed their second child to the world in June, simultaneously celebrating their sixth wedding anniversary! Their elder daughter, Aliana (4), has welcomed siblinghood with open arms. Genevieve Dreizen works in Chelsea at a boutique technology company managing a team of developers and designers building apps and digital experiences. When not in the office, she officiates weddings, and has married people everywhere from the top of the Empire State Building to the Boat House in Central Park. In addition to a feature on A&E’s “Married at First Sight,” Genevieve recently married Melanie Tannenbaum Helper and Justin Helper, Melanie’s longtime partner and labmate from the University of Illinois. Melanie also earned her Ph.D in social psychology, moved to Reno, Nevada, began teaching at the University of Nevada, writing for Scientific American, and working on her first popular press book. In their spare time, Melanie and her husband have taken on a number of Tough Mudder competitions, and were chosen to beta test new obstacles for the 2015 courses. On June 20, Greg Spatola married longtime girlfriend Emily O’Kane. The two met at Stonehill College and exchanged vows at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. Eric Vidal, Scott Dello-Iacono and Peter and John Boisi ’07 were groomsmen for the wedding. And most recently, Lauren Abruzzo married John-Paul Morrell from Seattle, WA in New York City on September 6th. Their marriage took place in Tribeca and included fellow alumni Natalie Harrington, Emily and Glenn Silverstein, Kim White and Emily Alexander.

2006

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

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2012
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grechler11@hotmail.com
(516) 404-4105

Jake Ingrassia
jake.ingrassia@gmail.com
(516) 256-6064

Chris McCann
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2013
Sydney Menzin
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John O’Brien
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(516) 375-9860

Sydney Menzin had an exciting summer at the White House where she brought her FA experiences out into the real world through her internship in Michelle Obama’s Reach Higher Program (education Initiative). Although it targets First Gens and kids overcoming major hardships, it sends a message that all kids can relate to transitioning to college as far as acclimating to a new environment, hard work and dealing with failure, following their passion, and ultimately paying it forward.

2014
Lydia Graham
2000 Front Street
East Meadow, NY 11554

Simi Akinola
215 Rushmore Street
Westbury, NY 11590

2015
Cameron Hellerman
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(516) 554-5401

Marianna Cuomo Mayer
Danielle Kahn

Cameron Hellerman’s essay published in The Concord Review last fall has been awarded one of the 2015 Emerson Prizes by the same publication. These prizes are awarded to less than 10% of the essays The Concord Review publishes. Congrats, Cameron!
Sallie Hickok Tomasi Ward ’55
Court Appointed Special Advocate

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

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

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

Helen Gayer Shettel ’75
Big smile, zany sense of humor

Reflections on Helen Gayer Shettel ’75 from her classmates

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

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

Jill Fowler Dragiff ’75: “For me remembrances include her zany sense of humor and her passion for her horses.”

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

Submit a memory
Please send announcements, memories and photographs to Andrea Miller at andrea_miller@fa.org or call (516) 393-4295.

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

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

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

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

I want you to know that Ka’Juan was writing an amazing story at Friends Academy, a story in which he was the shining light. We will never forget that smile, wide enough to make room for us all. That smile was not just an expression on his face, it was the laughter of his heart. It came from a place deep in his soul, a place of goodness that Ka’Juan wanted to share. He touched all of us with his goodness.

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

During the year, when he faced challenges in his classes or on the court, he did not give in but he raised his game, worked harder, asked his teachers and coaches what he could do better, and showed us that the higher the expectations, the more he would give to be successful. In his final English essay, which is reproduced in the back of your program, he expressed the importance of overcoming any hurdles we face. His words speak volumes: “Adversity or suffering can either break you or you can take that adversity and make your life better by forgiving and being a better person.” Forgiving and striving to be better, what wisdom from Ka’Juan, what a lesson for all of us. We make a better world if we forgive and strive to be our best person. He was always respectful, never complained, and whenever I asked him how things were going, he would flash his smile and say “everything is great.”

How was it that he was always so upbeat, so able to raise the spirits of those around him? I love the story Jennifer told Newsday about one of his last texts to a friend who was having difficulties at home – “You have to hold your head up. You have to speak to your mom.” I think that Ka’Juan had tremendous appreciation for life, each little moment, and he turned that gratitude into blessings that flowed from him to all of us. That gratitude developed from the love of his family and all of those who supported him along the way. I wonder how a heart that big could fit in such a small body, but I now understand that he kept giving away pieces of his heart to all of us, and he just kept giving, so there was always room for that heart to keep growing.

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

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

Ka’Juan, I know you are listening, so I want you to know that all of Friends Academy and I love you and will miss you. May you rest in God’s eternal peace, and keep shooting those 3s.
Marcy Westerling ’77: ‘Fiercely smart, brave and bold,’ devoted life to advocating for those who couldn’t

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

Marcy traced her identity as an organizer to her Dutch ancestry shaped by her forebears, and the role her forebears played as organizers to her Dutch ancestry. Her childhood on rural Long Island, NY shaped her love of being outdoors. Marcy graduated as an art history major with a passion for the role her forebears played as organizers to her Dutch ancestry. In 1981 she was one of eight national civil rights leaders selected for a two-week Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Fellowship, accompanied by a $115,000 cash award. In 2001 she was granted a National Community Service Fellowship to advance her model of organizing at a national level. In 2003 she was selected from 3,000 nominations for a two-year Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Fellowship, accompanied by a $115,000 cash award. In 2001 she was one of eight national civil rights leaders selected for a two-week delegation to Israel. A frequent featured speaker, Marcy gave the 2000 commencement address at the University of Oregon. Marcy was honored with awards from organizations including the Oregon Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Social Justice Fund NW, Lesbian Community Project, McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, Columbia County Women’s Resource Center, Coalition Against Hate Crimes, Oregon Gay and Lesbian Legal Alliance, and Right to Privacy PAC.

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


Marcy’s hands were never idle. She biked to work with dog and computer in her basket, rain or shine. She quilted during meetings and gardened in between conference calls. She reused every piece of paper and stretched every dollar. She sent out hundreds of handmade Valentines every year and made her surroundings beautiful. After Marcy and Mike met through their shared political commitments, they moved to a half-acre pond surrounded by orchards, animal pens, and year-round beds of vegetables and flowers. They fed themselves from what they harvested, sold eggs, and imagined a small farm stand at the end of their driveway that would be the pension that neither of their children would have. Their children were their life as a cancer warrior – the moniker she had tattooed onto her wrist. “I dare the world to ignore my diagnosis just as I defy any attempt to limit me to my diagnosis,” she wrote. In nearly continuous treatment for five years, she tracked every possible option and enrolled in clinical trials and innovative approaches that took her from Philadelphia to the Bronx to Marin County and San Jose. She kept her doctors on their toes and organized other patients and an impressive support system everywhere she went. In Portland, she cycled to chemotherapy and complementary care appointments with a large “Cancer Sucks” sign affixed to her bike.

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

After her diagnosis, Marcy and Mike moved from their house on the pond into town where they created an incredible urban oasis. If Marcy had any regrets from her purpose-filled life, it was that she didn’t have a chance to grow old with Mike; her partner in every sense of the word. She described her notion of heaven as one in which she would be by Mike’s side for eternity in the gardens of their homestead, in the sun, with water bubbling nearby.