Upper School Art welcomes spring at FA
Strong Minds. Kind Hearts.

The Friends Academy Mission

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

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

The Meeting House

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From the Head of School

William G. Morris Jr.

From The Archives: 1823 – Gideon Frost Marriage Certificate

A copy of Gideon and Mary Frost’s Quaker wedding certificate, which begins: “Gideon Frost of the city county and state of New York, son of Caleb Frost and Sarah his wife, and Mary Willets daughter of William Willets and Letitia his wife, (the latter deceased) in the town of Marcellus, county of Onondaga, and state aforesaid, having laid their intentions of marriage with each other before two monthly meet-ings of the Religious Society of Friends, held at Scipio, in the state aforesaid, they having consent of parents, and nothing appearing to obstruct; their proposal of marriage was allowed by the meeting: These are to certify that for the accomplishment of their intentions, this twenty fourth day of the fourth month, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty three...”
Visting Buddhist monk Lama Tenzin’s completed Friends Academy Sand Mandala of Compassion, page 10.
A WARM-WEATHER WELCOME. Freshman Courtney Taylor started this assignment as a blind contour drawing in pencil on butcher paper. To add color and details, she went back in with oil pastel. Her painting, along with others, was displayed this spring in the Locust Valley Chamber of Commerce Art Walk.
Remembering Roger: shared testimonies to a favorite teacher

On Saturday, March 7th, over 100 former students, fellow colleagues, family and friends united under the roof of the Matinecock Meeting House to remember and celebrate the life of FA English teacher Roger Erickson. Read David Cressey’s ‘71 account of that incredible morning of sharing and remembering.

In the Meeting House, the pace was brisk. There were stories, humor, set pieces and testimony, wonderfully told. There were no commercials. A clear sense of the man emerged: Roger had been an important person to many because he had strong, uplifting interests and enjoyed sharing and teaching those interests. He loved to laugh. His central interest was people, young people especially. Many of his students who spoke described an experience remarkably similar to my own: he taught us English as freshmen and seniors and made each of us feel gifted in some aspect of the written or spoken word.

For a moment, I felt deflated. Far from being unique – as Mr. Erickson had led me to believe, hadn’t he – I was a mere foot soldier in a vast Quaker army.

The next moment of recognition was more ennobling. Mr. Erickson was the best because he cared the most and worked the hardest. He held himself to the highest standard.

Mr. Erickson was the best because he cared the most and worked the hardest.

He held himself to the highest standard.”
Freshmen Service Day gives students way to give back

Throughout the morning of Thursday, January 8th, 90+ freshmen spread out around campus and the greater community with service assignments in hand.

Ninth grade advisories assembled sandwiches for the Glen Cove INN, a local soup kitchen; ventured into Kindergarten to help their younger schoolmates learn about Australia; sorted through the campus Lost and Found, explored Human Rights issues with the Amnesty Club and traveled to the Glen Cove Senior Center to socialize with senior citizens.

Other students led adaptive physical education activities with autistic children from Brookville Center for Children’s Services (AHRC).

The largest group, numbering 21 students, gathered in the Quaker Student Life Center, to make over 100 sandwiches. “We need a reinforcement of meat!” declared one student as plastic-gloved hands quickly wrapped and packed the sandwiches.

Upstairs, on the third floor of the Kumar Wang Library, Amnesty Club president junior Julia Searby guided a class of ninth graders through a lesson in Human Rights advocacy. After a small group discussion, students chose an issue (i.e. police brutality in Chicago, Nassau County Human Rights Commission, Chelsea Manning) and began crafting letters to prominent leaders of organizations and countries.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,” quoted Searby of Nelson Mandela, who started the FA Amnesty Club this year.

Sixth grade students focused on four topics (Mythology, Pyramids/Tombs, Hieroglyphics and Mummification) for their Egypt unit. After being sorted into groups, each student wrote an essay about their topic and then began to develop a collaborative plan for their projects.

Students were asked to have one Art History component, an interactive piece, use their iPad and design a posterboard with pictures and information. "One group created a replica of the Rosetta Stone, one group created a pyramid out of Legos and filled it with candy, another developed a ‘carnival’ game where you dropped clay organs into the correct Canopic jar,” shared Social Studies teacher Phil Cicciari. “One of my favorites was the Pharaoh photo booth (bottom). Students and teachers stuck their faces into a cutout of a pharaoh and were given a keepsake photo.” Despite the time lost from snow days, the class went above and beyond to create their projects.
One World, Many Stories

MS Robotics team garners first place in Innovation

This spring, the Middle School Lego Robotics team walked away with first place in the Most Innovative Solution category of the FLL Long Island Championship.

The team of ten students developed a program to improve keyboarding skills using SCRATCH and a pair of custom gloves with conductive thread.

The gloves were used to interface with the keyboard that sounded a signal when a mistake was made. Early on the team wanted to focus their project on solutions that would help a variety of different learners.

In its fourth year, Lower School Goes Global, the year-long global studies program that is threaded through core classroom and special area curriculum, reached outward.

In addition to learning about the cultures and peoples of seven different continents, students personally connected with classrooms around the globe through Skype, e-mail and blogs.

In Early Childhood Play Group students adopted an Emperor Penguin while studying Antarctica; the older Pre-K students learned about Hawaii through song, dance and cuisine.

Kindergartners “dove” underwater to explore the Great Barrier Reef and created an undersea mural of its inhabitants.

Animal studies figured largely in first and second grades. In first grade, students investigated animal adaptations via their Science class, which culminated in a Canadian animal study for their North American unit. Second graders studied the birds of South America and the layers of their rainforest habitat.

Fourth graders examined the Nile River of Africa and in an integrated Science and Writing project, studied the pros and cons of the Aswan Dam and then wrote persuasive letters to African infrastructure officials about the construction of the Grand Inga Dam.

Finally, fifth grade immersed themselves in Asia, from eight different historical fiction book clubs, where students corresponded nightly on Edmodo, to a Writing Workshop unit in Persuasive/Opinion Writing, where students wrote essays to argue whether a 13-year-old boy should have climbed Mt. Everest, to an interdisciplinary study of kites, which are steeped in Asian tradition.
Artful SPICES

Students and faculty explore Quaker testimonies through art-based medium.

By Joy Lai
Visual Art Department chair

This year four students and two teachers had the opportunity to participate in the Quaker Youth Leadership Conference hosted by Tandem Friends in Charlottesville, Virginia. The theme of the conference was Art and Social Change: Engaging Peace and Justice, which explored how the Quaker testimonies of Peace and Justice are represented and encouraged through the visual arts, music, theater and creative writing. Through panel discussions, various artists of all types of media (dance, visual arts, writing, photography, spoken word, etc.) shared their strategies for creating change: risk-taking, imagination, collaboration, authenticity and honesty.

Students at these conferences tend to be passionate about Quaker education and about making the world a better place. By engaging SPICES, student dialogues are often very rich due to their shared commonality and participation in the student-led discussion groups which are by sign-up only. It was inspiring to see students taking initiative in leading discussions around topics they were passionate about.

A panel of artists spoke to students about the risks they’ve taken for the sake of their work.

In addition to workshops led on campus, we were given the opportunity to tour various local places of note and participate in service activities, including a trip to “The Haven,” an elegant old church now functioning as a shelter, community and cultural center, and drop-off point for food donations. It also doubles as a drop-in site for anyone in need of a warm place, no questions asked.

Students and faculty returned to Friends Academy inspired to initiate some of these ideas and, in fact, a recent alternative Meeting for Worship was modeled on student-led discussion.

“This conference was a great experience, and an excellent way to meet new people and participate in activities that further developed my Quaker values,” said Caroline Wilson, a first time attendee.

“I have gone to QYLC for the past two years in a row and it has been an incredible opportunity for me to meet kids from other Quaker schools and for me to learn more about our school’s mission and purpose as a Quaker school. Going on this conference was a phenomenal experience and I’m glad I am now able to better understand and embrace Quakerism at my school,” echoed Hannah Goldblatt.

Four students and two arts faculty members attended the Quaker Youth Leadership Conference in Charlottesville, VA this year.
‘Nothing lasts forever’

For four days, the red-and-golden robed Buddhist monk hunched over the table in the Atrium of the Dolan Center. As incense swirled through the air above him, only the repeated metallic vibrations of the chak-pur could be heard. An overflowing bowl of oranges and dimly glowing candles set behind him, the Venerable Tenzin Yignyen would occasionally raise his head to address a question from the gathering.

The Making of the Sand Mandala – January 20th to 23rd

1. A sampling of the colored sands used to construct the Tibetan Sand Mandala
2. Lama Tenzin vibrates a chak-pur to transfer the sand onto the Mandala.
3. The completed Friends Academy Sand Mandala
4. After a blessing, Lama Tenzin begins the “dismantling” of the Mandala.
Happiness does not come from praying to the gods or to Buddha,” instructed Yignyen. “You have to do it – develop compassion, patience and not be selfish.”

An ordained Buddhist monk and visiting professor of Tibetan Buddhism at Hobart and Williams Smith Colleges, Lama Tenzin worked diligently over Peace Week, from January 20 to 23, to create Friends’ first Sand Mandala of Compassion.

Using the chak-pur, an ancient Mandala tool, Yignyen methodically caressed the many-colored sands onto the table’s sketched pattern. Slowly the symbols of Love and Compassion, Humility, Patience, Appreciation and Wisdom began to emerge.

“Compassion, the heart and kindness for others is at the core of the Buddhist religion,” explained Lama Tenzin, who has constructed countless Mandalas. “We discourage against blind faith and believe that if something is against common sense, then discussions and debate are necessary.”

The size of the table determines how large the Mandala will be and what kind is created. Yignyen, who came to the U.S. in 1995 and regularly visits other schools around the country, worked roughly from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day on the FA Mandala.

“At all the schools I’ve been to, the youngest students are the most interested and some kids have very big questions,” he said. “‘Why are we here?’... ’What is the purpose of our lives?’... ‘Where do we go when we die?’... ’What is happiness?’”

Peace Week activities continued throughout the week with Lunch and Learns for Upper School students, an anti-bullying program for Middle School students sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, a sixth grade visit to the Holocaust Museum, Hunger Awareness Day for Middle and Upper School and a private screening of the film, Selma, at the Glen Cove Theater on Friday.

In Lower School, mixed-age groups spent a session using Design Thinking, as they collaborated to build a table from cardboard, newspapers and masking tape, solid enough to support the weight of a heavy book.

Groups had 45 minutes to brainstorm, build, test and evaluate.

On Thursday, the Parent Quaker Life Committee sponsored a special parent Meeting for Worship in the Meeting House. Against the backdrop of a time lapse of Lama Tenzin’s week-long work on the FA Mandala of Compassion, parents were handed typed quotes about kindness, compassion and respect.

By Friday, the square table in the Dolan Center Atrium was filled with the intricate designs of the Mandala, just in time for the “dismantling.”

Surrounded by students, faculty and parents, Lama Tenzin began to chant, ring his bell and then cut the diagram into quarters. Passing a small grey-colored foam brush to a student in the crowd of Lower schoolers who encircled the Mandala, Yignyen instructed him to start sweeping the sands into the center of the table.

“Help me, help me... over there!” urged Lama Tenzin as he shared the brush with other students.

Within a few moments, the red, blue, yellow and green sands, now a non-descript color of grey, were scooped into a solitary glass vase.

“To dismantle Mandala reminds us that nothing lasts forever – good, bad, young, old. Nothing lasts forever on this planet, so don’t get too attached to it. It has an end,” reminded Yignyen. “Enjoy it and let it go. Plus all bad things end too – so don’t get discouraged,” he added with a twinkle of his eyes.
FA faculty invite local educators and share tips, techniques for flipping a classroom.

“I’ve flipped ever since I started teaching,” recounted FA Upper School math teacher Alex Burt. “First I started with the final exam review and then I flipped anything that was highly procedural,” he added.

One by one, Friends Academy Upper School science and math teachers shared their insights into how and when to flip learning with six outside educators at FA’s first Flipped Class Open House earlier this spring.

Chemistry teacher Mark Alber, Math teacher Alex Burt, Chemistry and Biology teacher Joe Helpern, Math teacher Alec Lash and Biology teacher Jen Newitt walked participants through their own experiences with software such as Smart Notes, SnagIt, Educreations and Jing.

The essence of flipped learning involves separating out lecture-type material into at-home videos that students can watch at their own pace.

“Flipping leaves time for more great hands-on activities,” promoted Helpern. “There’s more time for both one-on-one assistance and group discussions. But what sold me was students weren’t turning to their peers for resources, but sticking with the source material.”

Each faculty member presented slightly different ways to set up the flipped experience. Science Department Head and Biology teacher Jen Newitt uses SMART Notebook in her class. She sets up blank online notebooks, in which her students can take notes from her video lectures. “It almost becomes like another notebook.” To create her staple of videos, Newitt recommended free software, Jing and Screencast-o-matic. “Students are able to rewatch content – and rewatch before a test,” she said. “It makes class much more fun,” added Newitt, who believes this is an invaluable resource for younger students, who sometimes forget questions from a previous class.

The Flipped field continues to grow, including software that records which students have watched videos and quizzes the students.

“With Educanon, a teacher can insert questions into video,” said Alber. “It definitely helps the students pay attention more,” added Newitt, who has seen in-class notetaking also reduce student focus. “It allows us to take the time in class to talk to students extensively,” said Lash.

Burt, who is known to insert jokes into his videos to keep his students interested, recommends a horse-before-the-cart philosophy. “Don’t flip anything you haven’t taught before.”

While a Flipped classroom will cater to differentiated learning, Alber emphasizes that the process won’t necessarily save time.

“It is going to take more time and effort. But in the end, the class is going to be more fun and active. I’ve been teaching a long time and most of the ‘new’ things that come up in education can be pointless...but this is a keeper.”
Friends Academy ISE Chess team records first place finish in league

The Friends Academy ISE Chess Team, comprised of Lower and Middle School students, earned the first place title and was recognized as the “Top Overall Team” for 2014-15.

Middle and Upper School win a bounty of National Language Exam honors

One hundred twenty four World Languages and Cultures students scored honors in the National Spanish, French, Latin and Chinese Exams.

13 students scored Gold, 30 in Silver, 22 in Bronze and 39 won Honors for their level in Spanish, French and Latin. Three Latin students received a Magna Cum Laude and one a Cum Laude award.

In the Introductory Latin Level, one student received a perfect score, two received purple ribbons and five were awarded Certificates of Merit. In the Chinese Exam, there is no award other than certificates for passing. Only students in the Chinese III course took the exam and all eight students passed with very high scores. Students who are scored as “bilingual” or as “outside experience” are scored on a more difficult scale.

A Time to Come Together

Sponsored by TASQUE, multi-age Community Groups from Kindergarten through 12th grade met a record six times this year to explore Queries together, complete community service and share experiential activity time. In groups, students created “Settling Jars” out of clear mason jars filled with water. Students added various materials, from sand and glitter to multi-colored plastic stars, as they voiced personal challenges and created a turbulence inside the jars. “Managing my time,” offered one student. “Leaving my friend who now lives in Massachusetts,” said another. “Watching my kids get older.” Then in silence, a student shook the jar and the group watched as the materials settled and the water returned to clear. “This is what happens when we take the time to be still,” summed up the group leader.
Well, well... “HELLO, DOLLY!”

By Andrea Miller
Director of Communications

Every four or five years, a production crosses the Friends Academy stage that unites the whole school. “This was our fourth all-school musical, and this time it was unique because it wasn’t an isolated cross-community event. I’d never felt that before,” said Director of Arts Tracey Foster.

Following in the footsteps of Les Miserables, Peter Pan and Carnival, Hello, Dolly! included a huge cast of 90 students from all three divisions, who connected from the start.

“Because of all our work in Community groups and Worship buddies throughout the year, as well as cross-divisional work during the summer, the students already had a foundation to build upon. It became a richer experience much more quickly,” said Foster. “The Upper School buy-in came so much easier because all the Upper School students already knew all of the Lower School kids,” she added.

Written in 1964, Hello, Dolly! left its mark on Broadway history as one of its most iconic shows, running for a total of 2,844 performances. “This show was produced as a big, old-fashioned musical with one purpose in mind... to provide the audience with an evening of fun, laughter, great music, lots of dancing and enough hijinx to keep you on your toes,” said Foster.

Set in the late 19th century, widowed matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi (senior Brooke Gardner) bursts into sleepy Yonkers...
The 90-student cast of “Hello, Dolly!” take to the stage to close out Act 1 with the full ensemble number, “Before the Parade Passes By.”

with New York City bravado.

Enlisted to find a wife for the grouchy, half-a-millionaire Horace Vandegelder (senior Perry Gordon), Dolly immediately begins to weave a plot-thickened tapestry of merry matchmaking with one goal at the end – her betrothal to Horace.

Dolly dispatches Vandegelder to NYC to see a potential wife – widowed hat milliner Irene Molloy (senior Sierra Fisher). She sends Vandegelder’s two unknowing store clerks, Cornelius Hackl (senior Alex Nagel) and Barnaby Tucker (junior Owen Collier) to the same place and the criss-crossed arrows of love start to fall.

At Irene’s store, the matches solidify between Cornelius and Irene, and Barnaby and Minnie (Morgan Rielly), Irene’s assistant. Under the ever-watchful eye of Dolly, the foursome head out for a night on the town at the famed (and expensive) Harmonia Gardens, where they ultimately cross paths with a bewildered and thoroughly grumpy Horace Vandegelder.

“We knew it was time to do an all-school musical,” reflected Foster. “And I knew we wanted it to be joyous. In picking this show, I kept thinking about the number, “Put on Your Sunday Clothes,” she added – a high-energy number, choreographed by FA dance teacher Kimo Kepano, which required a full-ensemble presence.

Ironically, this fall’s dark and supernatural thriller, The Right Now, penned by FA Theater teacher Andrew Geha, paved the way for Dolly.

“We always try to balance our season,” said Foster. “One dark and one lighter. The more dark, the more light.”

The large cast prompted Foster to add a fourth matinee to the schedule, which added to the students’ transformative journey.

“One of my favorite things about doing what I do is that we get to experience the evolution,” explained Foster. “With multiple shows, the audience will always see that...”
From props to wardrobe to choreography, blocking, cues and audience energy, each show built upon the last one. “From a performer’s perspective, each night of the show does something different for you,” said Foster. “The first night, your brain has to work really hard to control the adrenaline and it gears you up in a specific way that stretches you. The second night, you start thinking actively about the show – what things to fix. If you felt success the night before, you have to work really hard not to rest on that, but to contain your excitement and move it forward. The third night? That’s the time you can take your performance to a really joyful place. The play escalates to a point that has more depth and joy.”

According to Foster, the added matinee challenged the cast to deal with exhaustion and performance. “You learn how to balance yourself and how to keep yourself where you need to be between the two shows,” said Foster. “It’s very similar to being in a playoff situation. You have to pace yourself and you can’t stop thinking or think you have it,” she remarked.

One of the joys for Foster is that many of the students from Middle and Upper School have been involved with theater from their time in Lower School. “The show supported their work so well,” she said. Dolly’s huge set drew help from all corners. “The set is the biggest set we’ve ever built. It was by Stagecraft students under the direction of Technical Director Michael Grant; a lot of alumni also returned to help.”

Looking back on the show, Foster continues to marvel at the relationships that grew between all the students. “Because of the snow delays, we were still working out set changes and last-minute details for the first performance. At one point during the show, the piano bench got left on stage and I saw a Lower schooler run out and try to lift it. It probably weighed twice as much as she did, but she was going to get that thing off the stage, no matter what! An Upper schooler came and helped her and together they finished the job. That kind of thing went on all night. It was wonderful!”

The All-School Musical

The School Girls: Ife Anyoku, Kayla Koroma, Alesandra Lipman, Lauren Nagel, Grace Sands and Helena Ware

Continued from Page 15

evolution and I think that’s wonderful.”

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GSS Germany

What is the price of freedom? These American and German students find out

Last year, American, French and German high school students performed the Normandy Peace Project at the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. This year, returning and new FA students, along with two veteran Portledge students reunited with the German group to perform a sequel peace project entitled, “What is the Price of Freedom?”

Written entirely by the American and German students, the collaborative bilingual piece employs movement and vocals to send the message that peace is possible.

As part of the FA Global Studies Scholars Program, FA students will travel to Heiligenstadt, a city formerly part of East Germany, to continue their important efforts for peace and to perform the hour long project in late June.

The Middle/Upper School Jazz Band

The Upper School Jazz Band belts it out.

Too cool for jazz, members of the Middle School Jazz Band leave room for solos.

Middle and Upper School Jazz Bands left it all out there this March for their annual combined Jazz Concert. The Beginning Jazz Band, Middle School Jazz Band, Upper School Jazz Band and the Gospel Choir performed a selection of styles ranging from Swing, Funk, Rock, Latin Jazz and Gospel.
Diversifying Diversity

Friends charts new directions to explore issues of inclusion and identity

By Andrea Miller
Director of Communications

This fall, Kindergartners explored some favorite food words and learned how to use them in the context of each other. “We tweaked the whole Social Studies curriculum this year to reflect diversity,” said Kindergarten teacher Jennifer Ferreira.

After discussing the science of appearance – how skin color is affected by melanin and the regions of the world, Kindergartners dove into the book, *The Colors of Us.*

“We gave them new language that helped them understand that we are not really black and white, we are shades of brown and tan,” said Ferreira, who helped students mix paint to find and label the colors of their skin, hair and eye color.

Ferreira, who serves on the eight-member Lower School Diversity Committee helped create diversity programming for Lower School faculty, along with Niki Desai, co-committee member and third grade teacher.

“At the beginning of the year, we did things to get to know each other,” said Ferreira. “We discovered that we really didn’t ‘know, know’ each other and this was a great way to build our community,” she added.

Ferreira and Desai introduced units that faculty could bring back to their classrooms, including an examination of each other’s names and family traditions. Carlie Tietjen, the Lower School Learning Specialist and co-committee member, also presented on intellectual diversity, in terms of learning differences in students.

“This presentation allowed us to see through the students’ eyes when they are really struggling,” said Desai. “We filled out a survey to see what kind of learners we are.”

For Desai and Ferreira, language is key when teaching students about diversity. “We are giving students the language to work things out – and things they are already talking about,” said Ferreira.

“As a community, we need to ask questions,” stated Desai. “It’s dangerous to make assumptions. And the only thing that can break down those assumptions is having these conversations...”

You’re about to witness a “living-room” conversation among black men (three alums: Jon Ramsay ‘12, Jeff Daniels ’05 and Rob Abney ’05, and one current administrator: Mike Quinland, FA School Psychologist). The goal of this program is to have students hear the experiences of black men in the Friends community: their feelings about the Mike Brown and Eric Garner cases, their views as a father and how they have explained these incidents to their children (and the necessity of having to do so), their experiences as students at FA, and much more...

They are making their lives transparent to us in an attempt to open up a larger conversation as a school about why all of this matters.”

– Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Shanelle Robinson

From left, Jon Ramsay ’12, FA School Psychologist Mike Quinland, Rob Abney ’05 and parent and trustee Jeff Daniels ’05 in the classroom.

As part of the Upper School’s student-run diversity efforts, Desai was asked this spring to present about the faith she practices, Jainism, at Upper School Meeting for Worship.

“I’m brown and if I hadn’t given that talk at the Meeting House, a lot of people would have thought I practice Islam and celebrate Ramadan,” said Desai. “Appearance is not as important as knowing someone, knowing about their culture and their family.”

In her third grade class, Desai connected cultural identity to language and geography by having students share their cultural backgrounds, map them and then study similarities based on geography. “We also played the Middle Name Game, where students wrote their names down on index cards, shuffled them into a basket and tried to match them to each other.” Desai used the activity to delve into her own culture.

“I explained about my middle name, which is my father’s first name (Ashvin). My maiden name was my father’s last name (Shah),” shared Desai. “When I got married, I was expected to change my middle name to my husband’s first name and take his last name (Desai) as well. I decided instead to keep my father’s first name as my middle name. A lot of Indian women in my generation are either hyphenating their last name or keeping their maiden name. They are also giving their daughters a female middle name. Discussing this with my students helped them to understand that names are important,” said Desai.

Continued on Page 20
The visit of Lama Tenzin Yignyen, a fully ordained Buddhist monk and professor at Hobart and Williams Smith Colleges, gave Desai another cross-cultural opportunity. “I was able to teach a unit on Buddhism and the students were really excited about it,” she said. “This prompted us to learn how to say hello in different languages.”

At the start of the school year, national events from Ferguson to Staten Island, prompted school-wide conversation. In response Friends sponsored several opportunities for dialogue and discussion including a Parent Coffee, “How to talk to children about what's happening in Ferguson, MO,” a candlelight peace vigil, Upper School Lunch and Learns and the widely received “Living Room Conversation” for Upper School students and faculty.

“This Living Room Conversation was a chance for students and faculty to listen to and observe four Black men, of different ages from the FA community, talk about their experiences in the world – their feelings and fears about police shootings of unarmed Black men, explaining that to their own children, dealing with stereotypes, and their own experiences of being pulled over by police,” explained Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Shanelle Robinson.

“The audience heard from people they knew and respected – their classmate’s dad, former FA students and current faculty. These were people they knew and could relate to, but had never heard them share their personal experiences in that way,” added Robinson.

Response after the “Living Room Conversation” program was overwhelmingly positive. “Students and faculty told me this was the best assembly they saw this year,” noted Robinson.

“It was unstructured and unfiltered conversation and different from discussing Ferguson, which at times felt threatening,” said Robinson.

Friends dove into a discussion of civil rights history in January when the Middle and Upper School communities took part in a group screening of the Oscar-winning film, Selma, at the culmination of Peace Week. FA rented out the Glen Cove Theater in order to seat over 500 students and faculty and then sponsored classroom conversation following the film.

Using guided questions within small groups, students and teachers explored the history of
civil rights, public protest, the role of white allies, the possible parallels between 1965 and today and each participant was asked to consider a time he or she had stood up to injustice.

The path of difficult dialogue was not always smooth one this year. In April, FA hosted parent and student screenings of *I'm Not Racist...Am I?*, a new film that explored the journey nine NYC teens took as part of a diversity workshop, sponsored by The Calhoun School. The screenings drew upwards of 65 parents and students.

Powerful and controversial, the film was shown in full to parents and students before and after school, and excerpts of the film were shown at an assembly to the full Upper School student body.

"*I'm Not Racist...Am I?* struck a nerve ... it's intended to be provocative," said Robinson. "Reactions ran the gamut, from people who enjoyed it to people who didn't, and some who felt isolated. Those who saw the whole film got its full context," shared Robinson. "But the end goal was reached, another opportunity for our community to have open and honest dialogue about diversity issues head-on, even when it's difficult," said Robinson. "These conversations aren't always going to be easy, but they're necessary."

Dr. Howard Stevenson agrees. Stevenson, a visiting professor from the University of Pennsylvania, joined FA faculty at their February in-service day. Stevenson worked with faculty to examine racial literacy and racial stress – the emotional and physical toll that racism can cause. Stevenson's new book, *Promoting Racial Literacy in Schools*, teaches educators, community leaders and parents “how to emotionally resolve face-to-face racially stressful encounters.”

As Director of Diversity, Robinson offers programs that address various forms of diversity. In October, Early Childhood parents were invited to a Lunch and Learn about gender entitled, “Parenting Beyond Pink & Blue: How to raise your kids free of gender stereotypes.”

"This workshop was timed intentionally around Halloween and asked questions of parents, such as, 'Would you be comfortable if your son wanted to wear a princess costume for Halloween?' said Robinson. "That's when we have the tendency to shut down. How do we stay in?'"

Back in Kindergarten, Ferreira underscores the importance of teaching diversity at a young age. “It’s important for us to give children those social skills. In the end, it’s a skill. Just like Math and Reading, it’s a skill we have to teach children, so that they know how to navigate through our world.”

“When people who are not aware of other cultures are educated, they are able to find connections. In a small school like this, when we are talking about community, it starts with that. Building connections, awareness and putting it into action,” finished Desai.
Triumph and hard work. Perseverance and close calls. Battling it out in the top Class A division, Winter Sports athletes gave their all.

Top row: McClain Pascucci, Christian Barakat and Paige Duca; Middle row: Lindsay O’Sullivan, Julianne Florez and Lauren LeoGrande; Bottom row: JD Baptiste, Andy Muran and Glenn Lostritto.
Sports: Go FA!

FA 2014-15 Winter Sports

Conference co-champions

Girls Varsity Basketball:

Team-Building Year

The move to conference A from conference B-C proved to be very challenging this season for the Varsity Girls Basketball team. The departure of many senior starters last year opened up space for many new faces on this year's roster.

"Although our record within the conference was not what we hoped it would be, many of our losses were close," said Coach Mike Indovino. "We were certainly in most of our games this year. The toughest was the double-overtime loss to Mineola on senior night. Although we will graduate six seniors this year, many of our core players will be returning next year," he added.

According to Coach Indovino, that depth coupled with the experience of playing in the new more competitive conference will help the team next year. "The girls should be very proud of their

Continued on Page 24
FA 2014-15 Winter Sports

Varisty Ice Hockey:
Young Program Reaches Playoffs in 2nd Year

The Friends Academy Varsity Hockey team experienced an unprecedented success in its second year as a true varsity program. Led by a core group of seniors, the team was able to regroup after a rocky start and qualify for both the county and New York State playoffs.

A nail-biting game televised on MSG Varsity, as well as a heated victory against crosstown rivals Locust Valley were among this season’s highlights.

The Quakers opened the county playoffs with another victory over Locust Valley, as they swept them 4-0 in a shutout, but fell in subsequent rounds.

“It was the team’s goal from the onset of this season to raise a banner inside the Gym – something that is still well within reach,” said Coach Sven Pamuk.

“The coaching staff is enormously proud of the players for their continued work ethic and for their determination, even after the sub-par beginning to the year. The team and coaches would also like to thank managers and parents for their unwavering support as we continue our playoff run,” added Coach Pamuk.


INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ALL COUNTY AND ACADEMIC

ALL-STAR – LINDSAY O’SULLIVAN

ALL CONFERENCE – ALEXIS TOLES

TEAM SCHOLAR-ATHLETE – JULIA CIARDULLO

Junior scores 1,000th point

Heading into the Dec. 9th basketball match-up between Friends and Long Beach, junior Lindsay O’Sullivan was a little on the anxious side. And she had reason for it. Nine away from reaching a career-high of 1,000 points, O’Sullivan was poised to make FA history in that game.

“It was very exciting,” recounted the Lady Quakers’ point forward, who has been a Varsity basketball player at FA since 8th grade. “I was a little nervous going into the game, but once I got on the court I was fine.”

Three or four minutes into the 2nd quarter, O’Sullivan was fouled. “I sunk the first shot and missed the second. My teammate rebounded the ball and passed it to me,” she said. “I drove to the basket, put the shot up and missed.” Quickly, O’Sullivan grabbed back her own rebound, took another shot and scored the final point.

Junior Lindsay O’Sullivan is the first FA athlete to reach 1,000 points in a high school career.
FA 2014-15 Winter Sports

Season of success

Varsity Winter Track: Individuals and Relay Team Qualify for States

The Friends Academy Varsity Winter Track and Field team had a year of many successes.

“The boys and girls worked very hard and with their hard work came some great results,” said Coach Lauren Carballo.

This season, five athletes achieved All-Conference Honors, two of whom were conference champions in two events, and two athletes achieved All-County honors, both of whom were county champions.

This year the team also featured two individuals and one relay team that qualified for the State Qualifier Meet. “I am very proud to work with such a group of athletes that are so hard-working and talented,” added Coach Carballo.

In late winter, senior Paige Duca qualified for the Millrose Games, one of the most prestigious indoor track and field events in the U.S. Additionally, Paige, along with senior Glenn Lostritto qualified for the March 7th State Meet at Cornell.


INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

ALL CONFERENCE – PAIGE DUCA (1000M, 600M) – CONFERENCE CHAMP IN BOTH, GLENN LOSTRITTO (1600M, 1000M) – CONFERENCE CHAMP IN BOTH, CATHERINE SULLIVAN (1000M), KATHERINE HOM (300M), GABRIELLE FITZGERALD (1500M RACEWALK)

ALL-COUNTY CLASS – PAIGE DUCA (1000M, 1500M) – COUNTY CLASS B CHAMP, GLENN LOSTRITTO (1600M) – COUNTY CLASS B CHAMP

JV Boys Basketball: Team Plays Hard in New Class

The JV Boys basketball season this year can be summed up in three words: “Character and hard work.” This season the boys were faced with many tough games due to our move up to class A.

The JV Quakers handled it with much poise and perseverance. “A lot of our success this season had to do with the growth of our players from last year and how they matured on the court. We then added our new incoming athletes who lent their own character to the team. With the combination of the two, it all blended into one great team,” said Coach Matt Simeone.

From the first day of the season, the team was instilled with the passion to work hard and learned it would get them a long way. As a team, they prided themselves on defense. Working hard on the boards and the defensive side of the ball was the deciding factor in many games this season. Every night it was a different player making a big play and contributing to the team and the victory. “I am very proud of all the hard work the boys put into this season. We had a lot of fun and I wish the boys the best in their spring seasons,” said Coach Simeone.

2015 ROSTER: Charles Andolina, Kevin Baskind, Derek Chiang, Louis Durante, Casey Glover, Daniel McCoey, Samuel Mufson, Christopher Nishimura, Joseph Pascucci, Maclain Pascucci, Ka’Juan Polley, Stephen Popoola, Jared Rosenbaum and Ryan Tam.
**FA 2014-15 Winter Sports**

**JV Girls Basketball:**

**Huge Wins**

The Girls JV Basketball team played strong throughout the entire 2014-2015 season. Each athlete was able to further develop her basketball skills and elevate the team’s game to a higher level.

One of the highlights of the season was playing Mineola HS. “This was a game where everything seemed to flow,” said Coach Amanda Serif. “The shots were going in, the defense stopped our opponent, and the energy was high,” she said.

Friends Academy ended up winning that game by 7 points. Another highlight of the Lady Quakers’ season happened during the game against Island Trees.

“In the first game against this team, we lost by a wide margin,” recalled Coach Serif. “However, in the second game, the team showed true determination and skill by battling the entire match. The score was back and forth all game and the team played their best game all season.”

According to Coach Serif, this year’s team exhibited exactly what it means to be a team. “They worked together successfully, cheered for their teammates, and had each other’s back at all times. I look forward to seeing the future accomplishments of these athletes.”

**2015 ROSTER:** Marina Hilbert, Lauren LeoGrande, Noelle Munao, Kelsey Nathan, Sophia Pavlakis, Vanessa Quinland, Kristina Sanoulis, Julia-Kate Schamroth, Paige Silverstein, Sydney Themelis and Emily Wachtler.

**Varsity Squash:**

**Finishes 7th out of 16 at Nationals**

Noted cultural theorist and philosopher Michele Foucault once posited that the functional end-point of modernity was the Panopticon, a prison designed by Jeremy Bentham in which all the prisoners could see each other. For a nascent squash program, its first year as a varsity, one of the goals of the FA team in 2014-15 was to both see and be seen. For Foucault and Bentham, it would be the Panopticon’s mixture of freedom and restraint that would define modern life. For the FA squash team in 2014-15, players found themselves in a similarly empowered and constrained position.

Moving to a varsity program produced increased visibility and surely came with attendant spectacle. After placing second in the bottom division of the National tournament in 2014, the 2015 iteration of the team moved up to Division IV, preparing to tangle with more established programs.

Some of the regular season hardened the team for these eventualities, including long road trips to Poly Prep and Hackley, and the type of team-bonding that only interminable hours on the BQE can provide.

These tests produced gut-level strength, from sophomore and #2 player Alex Merrill, among many others. Though the team finished seventh of 16 teams in Division IV at Nationals, the tournament featured a close victory 4-3 over Malvern Prep, with junior Eva Mullarkey delivering the deciding match in a gutty, five-game test.

Junior Grant Elgarten similarly won a five-gamer against Greenwich High School, coming back from 2-1 down. At the National Tournament senior Captain Andrew Muran finished undefeated in three matches, preserving a perfect record in interscholastic competition as an FA athlete.

If the 2015 version of the team was about confronting some of the limitations and freedoms of a growing program, the future surely looked to deconstruct these frameworks. The team would like to thank Aggie Jones and Alan Quackenbush for their committed efforts on our behalf, as well as our team parents who traveled to support us this season.”

— Coach Geoff Nelson

**2015 ROSTER:** Robert Carroll, Grant Elgarten, Samuel Kahane, Tanner Kellan, Alexander Merrill, Thomas Mocorrea, Eva Mullarkey, Andrew Muran, Robert Parker, Gabriel Patino, Kyle Rosenbluth, Nicholas Schneider, Caroline Sgaglione and William Shea. Managers: Sarah O’Kane and Eva Valcic.

**Individual achievements lift team**

**Freshman Sophia Pavlakis eludes defenders.**
The Friends Academy Annual Dinner and Auction was held on Thursday, March 26th at the historic Oheka Castle in Huntington for the second year in a row. “A Celebration with Friends” drew over 360 parents, alumni, former parents and faculty for an evening of fun and good cheer to support a great cause – Friends Academy. The gala generated $621,828 to benefit our children, an all-time record.

Phaedra Kazanas, Amy Schamroth and Allison Weight served as our Auction Chairs. Their leadership, hard work and attention to detail truly created a night to remember for the FA community. The success of this year’s Auction is attributed to the grassroots efforts by the Auction Committee to sell more journal ads and increase the number of sponsors in advance of the event. The dinner was graciously sponsored by Debby and Scott Rechler and an anonymous donor.

The elegant evening began with cocktails and appetizers as guests browsed the vast selection of Silent Auction items, which included travel packages, fashion accessories, sporting events and unique internships for our students donated by the FA community.

The Upper School Jazz Band led by Joe Romano provided an encore performance. A sit-down dinner and Live Auction, which proved to be the highlight of the evening, was conducted by Jed Morey ’90, who returned as Auctioneer for his fourth year. Some of the Live Auction’s biggest ticket items included a trip to Italy, the Kentucky Derby, lunch for two in Martha’s Vineyard by private plane, exclusive opportunities to spend the day with fashion designer Zac Posen and Sean Hannity, a Murder Mystery party at the historic La Selva property in Upper Brookville and a scotch-tasting event hosted by Johnnie Walker, to mention a few. The Auction Scholarship Endowment Fund raised $77,400 to support children who need financial assistance to attend Friends Academy.

Please mark your calendar for the 24th Annual Dinner and Auction on Thursday, April 7, 2016!
Faculty Milestones

Former Faculty Notes

Upper School Art teacher Allison Doherty displays one of her paintings from her art residency this April in Ireland.

Upper School English teacher Brad Wetherell's essay about David Letterman's retirement appeared in a recent issue of Salon. Entitled, “We need David Letterman’s America: How the Leno/Fallon/Colbert choice defines us and how we see the world,” Wetherell ponders the meaning of what “funny” is and how it is defined by different generations.

Director of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Shanelle Robinson presented at two conferences this winter and spring.

At the People of Color Conference in December, Robinson gave three different workshops. The first session, “Where the Rubber Meets the Road! How Do We Take a Stand Against the ‘N-Word’ in Our Schools?” interactively guided participants through the process that three schools (William Penn Charter School, Friends Select and Friends Academy) underwent to ban the use of the “N-Word” from their campuses. “My Sisters’/Brothers’ Keeper...” A Roundtable Discussion on the Role of Historically Black Greek Letter Organizations in Independent Schools outlined how independent schools can use BGLOs to transform their diversity efforts. Along with Dr. Eddie Moore, Robinson presented, “There’s no such thing as the ‘N-Word’: A critical examination of the word in literature, pop culture, sports and more.”

In April, Robinson presented at the NYSAIS Diversity Conference on “REEL Diversity: Using Media Literacy as a Tool for Diversity/Equity Work,” where she taught participants how to evaluate media messages and understand the role media plays in the social construction of identity and difference.

Former faculty member Alex Edwards-Bourdrez is proof that one can be a grandparent at 35 years old! Kamryn Mary Edwards-Bourdrez was born March 19, 2015, in Boston. Alex continues to work with Bare Bones Theater in Northport.

Former maintenance staff member Greg Reid’s first art show in Harlem opened this winter at the Tikhonova & Winter Gallery. If you are familiar with Greg’s art, his most recent collection of masks may be some of his best work yet! The show opened in January and ran thru March 22nd.

Former maintenance staff member Greg Reid debuted his most recent show in Harlem.

Former faculty member Alex Edwards-Bourdrez holds his (first) granddaughter Kamryn.

Faculty Professional Development & Milestones

Wetherell writes, “I’d posit that Leno and Letterman represent two stark takes on what “funny” is. The difference is far greater than the varying ways in which both comedians (and they did both get their starts in stand-up comedy) are so often rendered cartoonish: a chin like a ski-jump; a smile that, as they used to say of Eleanor Roosevelt, could bite an apple through a picket fence. No, the most important, though perhaps least obvious, difference between Leno and Letterman’s two approaches to the late night television variety show is the way each host appeals to his particular audience in his own way. The significance of this difference is rooted in something we often take for granted: why we watch the shows we watch.”

Read the full essay at http://www.salon.com/2015/05/06/we_need_david_lettermans_america_how_the_lenofalloncolbert_choice_defines_us_and_how_we_see_the_world/#comments.

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Former faculty member Alex Edwards-Bourdrez holds his (first) granddaughter Kamryn.
We are grateful to all who choose to support the uniqueness of a Quaker education and the mission of Gideon Frost by making Friends Academy a charitable priority.

Your generosity helps to create a community that is committed to building strong minds and kind hearts throughout our entire student body.

Thank you for Making a Difference in the Lives of Our Children

www.fa.org/give | (516) 393-4269
Dear Fellow Alumni,

The beautiful spring weather is sure to provide an idyllic backdrop for the Class of 2015’s final days! They will go out with the same style and grace that characterized their years at FA. Soon they will be hitting the books at some of the finest colleges and universities across the nation.

The spring was also highlighted by another exciting New York City Reunion for 250+ alumni! This annual event grows larger each year and has become a rite of spring. The Princeton/Columbia Club was overflowing with FA Alumni on June 1st, and it appeared as though all had a great time. We honored 3 longstanding FA faculty – Judy James, Lillian Shulman, and Sharon Nelson.

March featured one of the more memorable events in recent memory at FA. On a chilly spring day, the Matinecock Meeting House was overflowing with former students, parents, current and former faculty and staff, and friends of beloved English and art history teacher Roger Erickson. A Meeting for Remembrance in Mr. Erickson’s honor was held on March 7th, followed by a luncheon. Numerous memories and stories were shared about this remarkable teacher and person. The legendary faculty at FA such as Mr. Erickson is what helps make Friends such a wonderfully special place for its current students and leaves us alumni with such great memories.

A special fund in Mr. Erickson’s memory has been set up and contributions can be made through the FA Development Office.

Looking ahead to the summer, on July 29, the FA Alumni Association will celebrate its first annual “Boys of Summer” event. Alumni will gather in the magnificent suites at CitiField for an evening of food, festivities and, of course, baseball to watch the Mets play the San Diego Padres. A limited number of tickets is available. For tickets or more information, contact Alumni Board member Rebecca Pacchiano ’07 at rebeccaleigh17@gmail.com. We look forward to making this an annual alumni event.

This issue of The Meeting House features an article close to home for me! On page 32, read about alumni and faculty Quaker wedding ceremonies. It’s an article that is sure to be talked about in the future.

Finally, the weekend of October 2-4 marks our 51st Fall Fair and Homecoming. Classes ending in 5 and 0 will celebrate special reunions. We are expecting a big gathering from our 50-year reunion class of 1965!

Also, for all classes from 1965 and earlier, please join us for our second annual Gideon’s Guard Luncheon on October 3 at noon at the Fall Fair. Last year’s luncheon was a huge success and we are expecting an even bigger turnout this year!

I wish you all a warm, relaxing summer filled with peace.

Peter Stein ’79,
Alumni Association President

Help us help you and your fellow alums stay connected

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

2 Connect by website:
   FA’s password-protected Alumni Community: www.fa.org/alumni
   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.
Alumni News

Reconnect at FA's Largest Community Event

Special Reunion Celebrations for Classes Ending in 5 and 0

Fall Fair & Homecoming October 2–4, 2015

Friday: 50th Reunion Luncheon for the Class of 1965

Friday Night: Class gatherings

Saturday: Fall Fair, followed by the Alumni Tailgate and Homecoming Reception on campus for all alumni.

Saturday Night: Reunion Dinners off campus for classes ending in 5 and 0.

Sunday: Meeting for Worship in Matinecock Meeting House

Volunteers in classes planning special reunions will reach out to classmates soon. More information will be posted on the alumni pages of the FA website: www.fa.org/alumni. Contact Kathy Fox in the Alumni Office with questions: alumni@fa.org or 516–465–1796.
Once upon a Quaker Wedding

Alumni and faculty reminisce about their wedding day

Take a trip down Memory Lane with 10 alumni and faculty who, inspired by their Quaker path and experiences, chose a Quaker wedding ceremony.

Explore how each couple incorporated aspects of simplicity, equality and respect into their own special day to make it their own. From seeking Clearness, to silent worship, to witnessed and signed Quaker wedding certificates – no story is exactly the same, but all reflect the idea that they “got it right.”
Once Upon a Quaker Wedding

Scenes from Ann Withington ’74 and Michael Wojtal’s wedding inside the Matinecock Meeting House. Photographed by Kathryn Abbe.

John Scardina
What is a Quaker wedding?

Each year, incoming Friends Academy Middle and Upper School students learn about the traditions of a Quaker wedding ceremony. Quaker-in-Residence John Scardina, who was married to his wife Lucille Rivin in a Quaker ceremony, shared details.

“As a member of a Monthly Meeting, you would submit a letter to your Meeting’s Ministry and Oversight Committee, asking to be married under the care of the Meeting. Meetings take this responsibility very seriously,” said John.

Once the Meeting agrees to oversee the marriage, a Clearness for Marriage Committee (usually three to four people) meet with the couple. “They have a set of Queries that are used, i.e. ‘What will be your faith practice as a couple?’ ‘Have you thought about your philosophy about finances?’ ‘Will you choose to have children?’ ‘If so, what will be your childrearing approach?’ ‘How do you deal with conflict?’ ‘Have you shared your dreams for what you want to do in five years?’”

Then the Clearness Committee returns to the Monthly Meeting at a Meeting for Worship for Business and issues a ‘yay’ or ‘nay,’” explained John.

An additional committee (often called the Marriage Oversight Committee) helps with the logistics of the Meeting for Worship for Marriage. They may offer greeters at the door, sit with the couple in the facing bench, provide an explanation of the wedding “service” to the assembled families and friends, and help the couple to complete the variety of tasks that need to happen at a Quaker wedding.

“Once the Overseer explains the process to the audience, you go into silent Meeting,” said John. “Just like a Meeting for Worship, anyone can speak. Once they have, they sit down and there is no applause. The ceremony, which usually lasts about 45 minutes, ends with a handshake.”

Quakers believe in the Testimony of Equality, which is demonstrated in the wedding ceremony. “The whole idea that you marry yourself is another representation that each person has a direct line with the Divine,” said John. “That is the most important thing.”

According to John, although there can be, there is generally not a best man nor bridesmaids, and music can be played and performed.

While Quakers still need a legal document from the county or registrar of marriage to get married without a minister, there is a Wedding Certificate (a beautiful document with calligraphy and traditional language for Quaker weddings) which is available to all for signing.

“It’s the only Quaker sacrament that we have,” said John; “the only practice that mimics other rituals from other faiths.”

One person at the wedding will read the entire marriage certificate out loud, after which the bride and groom sign it, then the Oversight Committee, and finally family and friends. “Even kids can sign it,” said John.

“There’s a sense of getting it right,” added John. “Meetings feel very strongly about supporting marriages under their care.”

– Andrea Miller

The Meeting House | Winter/Spring 2015
Beth Cocks Cobham ’60

‘Just like the old-timers’

A birthright Quaker, Beth Cocks Cobham ’60 always knew she would have a Quaker wedding.

“Both my parents were birthright Quakers, who married in June 1938,” said Beth. “That was my family history and I wanted to follow the same path as my parents. My husband, Geoffrey, was fine with that because he didn’t have any strong religious affiliation.”

Though Beth pressed her mother for a little bit of music – “Everyone will be looking at each other,” she protested – her mother persevered. “She said, ‘We will do it just like the old-timers did it.’”

At 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 22, 1964, Beth and Geoffrey walked into the Matinecock Meeting House, past the potbellied stove and sat on the upper facing bench, above their wedding party.

“We had 10 to 15 minutes of silence and then Geoff and I rose and spoke the typical Quaker vows in the presence of God and our friends and then there was another 5 to 10 minutes of silence,” recalled Beth, who wore the same dress that her mother and grandmother wore, as well as her grandmother’s shoes.

The only other testimony came from Beth’s uncle, Frederick Willits ’30, a Board trustee in the 50s, who delivered a speech about the importance of the Quaker wedding, Meeting and the significance of marriage.

“I can’t remember if Geoff and I decided it was time to be over, but the ceremony ended with a handshake,” said Beth.

While most in attendance were unaware of Quaker traditions – college friends or members of Geoff’s family – Beth resisted giving out information about the ceremony. “We made them available, but didn’t hand them out. We wanted people to make their own choice.”

In order to have a Quaker wedding, Beth and Geoff were required to meet with a Quaker Oversight Committee. “There were four people on our Committee and they came and talked to us to ask us about our understanding of marriage,” said Beth. “We had to get this certificate printed on parchment paper. Then at the end of the ceremony, the wedding certificate was signed by the Committee of Oversight (who were sitting sideways near the pot-bellied stove) and everyone else at the wedding signed it at the reception as witnesses.”

For Beth, time has only reinforced her decision to wed in a Quaker ceremony. The two have since settled in Charlotteville, VA, where they have continued to look for a Meeting similar to Matinecock.

“My husband was very much touched by it and deeply moved by the way it was done,” shared Beth. “As the years went by, my mother was right. Why take something and not have it be true? I’m glad I didn’t mess it up. I think she was right.”

– Andrea Miller
**Once Upon a Quaker Wedding**

"We didn’t want to do anything that was counter to the soul of the Meeting. It’s such a simple place, so pure and humble."

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**Alice Gardner Ingraham Davies ’61**

**Nantucket roots**

Alice Gardner Ingraham Davies ’61 was married to John Anthony Kent Davies in the Matinecock Meeting House on July 27, 1967. Her great grandmother, Alice Gardner Shotwell, after whom she was named, was a member of the Matinecock Meeting. As Alice explains, “I was absolutely joyous during the ceremony, especially since it was led by my grandmother.”

At that time, Alice’s beloved grandmother, Mary Shotwell Ingraham, was a member of the Westbury Meeting. The vows that Alice and Tony spoke were sent from Philadelphia because, as Alice stated, “They seemed right on target to us. I especially liked the ‘as long as we both shall live’ ending.” Many friends and relatives spoke or read poems and the official marriage certificate read at the meeting was signed by everyone present that day. After the ceremony the celebration continued at Alice’s family’s summer house on Asharoken Beach in Northport with a wonderful casual luncheon. The newlyweds then rode off in a Boston Whaler.

Alice’s family history is quite fascinating. She explains, “My Quaker roots in America go back to the 17th century as I am directly descended from nine of the original ten English couples who settled on Nantucket with their families in the 1660s. Two of their offspring, Mary Coffin and Nathaniel Starbuck, were the first English couple to be married on Nantucket, in 1662. Mary Coffin Starbuck is credited with introducing Quakerism to the island.” As stated in The Nantucket Historical Association: “In 1709 the first Quaker Meeting was held in their Starbuck house, called ‘Parliament House’, in the original settlement in Shelburne at Capaum, with Mary as an elder, and their son, Nathaniel, as clerk. Meetings were held in their home until 1711.”

As a student at Friends, Alice was unaware of her illustrious family history, but as she said, “I loved attending weekly Meeting the six years I spent in the Upper School, and I was fascinated to learn from Craig White ’61, when attending Meeting during our recent 50th reunion, that the Meeting House was restored to its original design when it was rebuilt after the fire.”

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**Phebe Willits Bergenheim ’67**

“Just right for us”

For her wedding, Phebe Willits Bergenheim ’67 wanted to return home to her “other church home” – the Matinecock Meeting House.

“My father was a member of Matinecock Meeting. From the time I was a kid, we would go to Meeting with my father and grandparents. We would also attend church with my mother, who was a Christian Scientist. But Matinecock was my other church home. I can remember going there many, many times before I went to Friends,” recalled Phebe.

When Phebe and her fiancé, Richard, who were both Christian Scientists, planned to get married, they were encouraged by their church to talk to other ministers and pastors. “We didn’t have a wedding ceremony in our church, but we were encouraged to have a religious ceremony,” said Phebe.

At the time, it seemed natural to the couple to get married at Matinecock. “We didn’t ask if we could have a Quaker ceremony, because neither or us are Quaker and that would have seemed hollow. So we talked to a minister, who said he would love to marry us at the Meeting House,” she said.

Phebe had long admired the unadorned traditions of the Meeting House. “It was the simplicity of the Meeting House itself. We didn’t want to do anything that was counter to the soul of the Meeting. It’s just such a simple place, so pure and so humble.”

Placing a single ribbon in the holiday wreath that had been hung on the Meeting House Continued on Page 36

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The Meeting House | Winter/Spring 2015
Once Upon a Quaker Wedding

The Meeting House | Winter/Spring 2015

Newly betrothed Rene and Herb Lape sample each other’s slices of cake.

Herb and Rene Lape

A personal celebration

“M y dad was an atheist and he said it was the best wedding he went to,” said Friends Academy faculty member Rene Lape with a smile about her Quaker wedding to her husband Herb, a History teacher at Friends.

Both convinced Quakers, Rene and Herb met at Quaker Meeting in Ashville, NC and after a couple years of dating, decided to marry in a Quaker wedding. “Our wedding was in the Unitarian church, because there was no Meeting House and the Y wasn’t really appropriate,” said Herb, who married Rene on May 8, 1982.

The couple went through the Clearness process, which Herb described as a series of queries, designed to help the pair affirm their commitment to each other.

“The Clearness Committee is responsible for nurturing you,” said Herb. “They asked us questions such as, ‘Are you free of past entanglements?’ ‘Are you clear to marry one another?’ and, ‘Is the Meeting free to take this marriage under your care?’

Continued from Page 35

ing House door in honor of Christmas, Phebe added a single basket of flowers to the potbelly stove that accented her fuchsia-colored bridesmaids’ dresses and hired a cellist and flutist to play soft and simple music.

“We married the afternoon of December 18, 1982 – a week before Christmas,” said Phebe, who also engaged Betsy Billhardt ’68 as their photographer. “I know I have pictures with Richard and me, and with the minister, but I don’t remember a lot of rushing around. There was no sense of intrusion. That was her style.”

Phebe and Richard invited guests to her parents’ home up the street on Duck Pond Road for the reception, but kept it fairly small.

“We had a tea at my parents’ house that was beautiful, but modest. I think that both my husband and I wanted it to be celebratory, but not a big party – a more sacred occasion. That was what felt right to us and what we wanted.”

Looking back, Phebe remembers how they balanced elegance and simplicity to create a day that became a celebration of family and being together.

“We really thought through why we do things, what’s the reason to have this, is this what we really want? Is it right for us,” said Phebe. “We loved the fact that it was celebrating the union of two people who had a very strong commitment to each other and commitment to family and marriage. I felt like our wedding was just right for us.”

— Andrea Miller
If they feel clear that this marriage feels right, it theoretically gives them some responsibility. How much in practice depends on the Meeting,” added Herb.

Sometimes described as a Meeting for Worship with marriage as the focus, Rene and Herb, once seated opposite their guests in the facing bench, settled into Worship at the start of their ceremony.

“People don’t usually give messages before the vows,” explained Herb. “Our vows included the traditional language from the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s Quaker Faith and Practice and from our wedding certificate. The basic idea is that God does the joining and everyone else is a witness to what God has done, not some human agency,” he added.

Historically, Quakers faced persecution in England regarding Quaker wedding traditions. “In England, the state did not recognize Quaker marriages because no clerical authority had signed off on it,” said Herb.

“Eventually, the state in the U.S. and England affirmed this exception – this right of Quakers to have a ceremony where there’s no one officiating. The state now recognizes Quaker marriage as valid and the clerk of the meeting signs the state license,” he said.

Once Herb and Rene exchanged vows, guests began to stand up to speak and share their thoughts about the couple.

“A Quaker wedding offers friends and family the ability to speak either about marriage in general, share their own experiences (generally positive) or stories about us,” said Herb. “It’s just more personal,” added Rene.

For Herb, the stories went in one ear and out the other. “I didn’t remember any of the messages,” he said. “I only had eyes for Rene.”

— Andrea Miller

Joe and I ended the ceremony with a handshake then a kiss – the perfect ingredients for a happy marriage – friendship and love.”

— Hayley Kucich

Justine Fasciano ’88

Friendship and love

“We had such a wonderful experience getting married at the Meeting House. It truly was the highlight of our day.

My husband and I met at Friends in 1988. He said even then that he knew I was the one for him. But, he was a freshman and I was a senior... so you can imagine how that went over! Of course, I never forgot him.

We met again many years later and knew instantly that we were meant to be. In 2004, with the help of Nan Tilton, we were married.

I remember going on Thursdays to the Meeting House as a student, sitting in the beautiful building in dead silence. Our wedding was nothing like that. Just moments after everyone sat down, a dear friend of ours who is Quaker, broke the ice. After that, it was a thoughtful, funny, loving, free-for-all.

— Hayley Kucich

Heather Upton ’94

Unprogrammed and lovely

“I was married in a Quaker marriage ceremony under the care of Cambridge Friends Meeting in Cambridge, MA.

That process included going through a Clearness Committee to approve the marriage, and having a member of the Meeting design and watercolor our wedding certificate, which every attendee at the wedding then signed.

The wedding itself is similar to an unprogrammed meeting, which made for a really lovely ceremony where everyone stood as they felt moved to speak to and about us as a couple.”

— Hayley Kucich

Alumni Profiles

Once Upon a Quaker Wedding

Justine Fasciano ’88 and her wedding party sit in the facing bench of the Matinecock Meeting House.
**Once Upon a Quaker Wedding**

**Steve Lapham ’63**  
A father’s story

While I am a Quaker, my wife was not so I did not personally participate in a Quaker wedding. But, the wedding of my father, Thomas Willits Lapham (Friends ’27, I believe), might be of interest.

His mother was a Willits and the Sands-Willits house in Port Washington has his wedding certificate along with that of Thomas Willits from the mid-1800s. As you know, members of the Meeting sign the certificate as witnesses to the marriage.

What people find most interesting is the bride and groom make their wedding vows to each other ‘in the presence of God and these our friends.’ There is no state or political authority performing the wedding. The number of times I have been asked if this is legal are numerous!

– Hayley Kucich

**Matt Brennan ’89**  
Participant and officiant

Matt Brennan ’89 has seen Quaker weddings from both benches.

“We incorporated the Quaker wedding certificate into our wedding and let people document that they were there and participated,” said Matt, who married his wife, Susi (Doebele) Brennan, on November 23, 2002.

“I based our wedding certificate on my sister’s (Kristin (Brennan) Shapiro ’92) who had gotten married earlier in the year and also had her guests sign their wedding certificate,” he added. “My sister found a local calligrapher and illustrator for their certificate. Hers was a little more decorative and ours was more text.”

Following his wedding, Matt was asked to officiate at two wedding ceremonies in California and then participated in a third. As officiant, he found a way to incorporate a Quaker approach, an approach he also used at his father’s Quaker memorial service.

“At the beginning I thought, ‘I’m not really a minister, so who gave me the right to speak?’ Inspired by Quaker wedding tradition, I sought a way that everyone would have the chance to ‘speak.’ The speech I gave was short and was an opportunity for me to say, ‘Hey, let’s all participate in this.’”

After thinking how would he officiate at his first wedding, Matt decided to deviate slightly away from the traditional wedding ceremony format, but not so much as to confuse the majority who weren’t familiar with Quaker tradition.

“I didn’t think everyone would understand the process of silence and standing to speak, so instead I asked people, to feel what you feel right now,” he explained.

“We provided clipboards with paper and pens to everyone and, after a few moments of silent reflection, asked them to write or draw what they were feeling in the moment of the wedding ceremony and what they wanted to tell the couple.”

Matt collected the notes and over the course of the next year, mailed back one or two at a time to the couple. “I wanted to remind them what other people were thinking and feeling during the wedding,” he said.

At his sister-in-law’s wedding, Matt again experimented and switched the attendees’ participation to musical quotes and music, at the request of the bride.

Seeing a Quaker wedding from the officiant’s perspective gave Matt a new perspective. “Sometimes standing up and speaking can be intimidating, but being able to write down messages gave everyone a way to participate and broadened the involvement. It worked out the way it should have. I wish I had thought of this idea sooner so we could have incorporated it into our wedding.”

– Andrea Miller
As a girl, Ann Withington grew up in and around the spaces surrounding Friends and the Matinecock Meeting House. Ann’s father, former headmaster Ted Withington became a convinced Quaker, but Ann did not. “I didn’t keep it up [going to Meeting] after I left Friends.”

But when planning her wedding, Ann immediately thought of the Meeting House. “I had not been a church-goer since I was very young, but Quakerism spoke to me more than any other religion. It most closely aligned with my own beliefs. I was very attracted to the Meeting House because of its simplicity, which was in keeping with my style and that of my husband,” said Ann. “We wanted to make the ceremony our own, so we added some elements that were not strictly Quaker,” she added.

At their ceremony, Ann incorporated readings and music. “I didn’t know what the standard Quaker ceremony was, so we had several moments of silence and then my husband’s father read a passage from the Bible – Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians – the one about love,” recalled Ann. “My dad said a few words about Quakerism, my best friend sang ‘Amazing Grace’, and my husband’s best friend sang ‘The Wedding Song’ by Peter, Paul and Mary.”

Ann had shared her vows with member of Matinecock Meeting and Justice of the Peace Jim Gardiner, who officiated at the wedding. She has saved the vows along with their pre-wedding correspondence.

“He asked me if I was going to be able to memorize all I had written because he felt strongly that vows should not be read. So, I pared mine down to a few simple sentences.”

Famed photographer and Quaker Kathryn Abbe took photographs of the wedding ceremony. “We asked Fuffy because we didn’t want someone there who didn’t understand Quakerism and its culture of silence. She was a very dear family friend. She didn’t use a flash and pretty much exclusively photographed in black and white. She had a sort of quiet camera. She stood in the back and above (looking down) before the ceremony started,” said Ann. “She had a way about her.”

For Ann, there were only two regrets about her wedding. The first involved her wedding dress. The first involved her wedding dress. “I wore the dress my sister wore at her wedding, but in order to make it have some individuality for me, I had a very good friend make a medieval-like hood that I was going to put over my head as I walked into the ceremony. I forgot all about that because, at the last minute, nerves took over.

The other big regret was about our cake. My husband’s aunt Ruth was a professional cake decorator and she designed and baked our cake. But when the caterers cleaned up they took the rest of the cake... and all the leftovers!”

Despite the ultra-diligent caterers, Ann says she would not have changed a thing about her wedding, especially when she considers the costs of some weddings today. “We did it really simply because that’s what we wanted,” she emphasized. “I feel like our wedding was really individual. We did it our way.”

– Andrea Miller
Florence Milyko Skinner sent in the news that she has just passed an anniversary of sorts in that she recently completed thirty-eight years of teaching singing, which began while she was still very actively performing – as a singer – throughout the states and Europe. She maintains a studio in her home in New Canaan, Connecticut and singers come from as far away as California for their lessons. As a hobby she has always been a stitcher and that is with English crewel, micro-petit point, and needlepoint. The proceeds of her finished products, along with 100 other women who belong to a sewing group, are allocated to non-profit organizations in the area. Last year she flew to Roanoke, VA to attend her seventieth class reunion at Hollins University and while there spoke on a panel of six women, describing how her years at Hollins had influenced her career. She begs to hear some news, any news, from her classmates. She questions: where – and how – are you?

Solange De La Bruyere Batsell Herter has written a fascinating autobiography, No More Tiaras (A Memoir of Eight Decades) published in 2012. Ron Holland from Amazon.com writes, “If you don’t know Solange Batsell Herter, you must have read about her. If you haven’t read about her, you must have heard of her. If you’ve never even heard of her, you are in luck. Because you’re about to meet this Roman candle of a woman, in the flesh.” Solange’s life reads like a page out of Who’s Who. Holland continues, “From her abiding friendship with Jack and Jackie Kennedy, her mother’s surprising episodes with J. Edgar Hoover, becoming a seven-year-old queen of the Normandie on her first crossing of the Atlantic, her boisterous run-ins with nuns in French and American schools, tangling with Barbara Walters on National TV, winning hundreds of thousands with a throw of the dice (and quitting while she was way, way ahead), opening her own art gallery, plunging into the wild-cat real estate of post-war Canada, singing at Carnegie Hall, playing piano at Camp David, getting into the gutter with Bobby Kennedy… It’s all her story, she takes you through triumph and trial and she’s as honest about it as the day is long.” Solange, who splits her time between Paris and New York has four children: Veronique de La Bruyere, Mary Deschamps, Jacqueline de La Bruyere Farman, and Marc de La Bruyere.
our condolences to Bob’s wife, Barbara, his two daughters and their families and his brother Ward ’54. It has been so much fun to speak to some of you in person. I talk to Donn Sullivan quite often and am pleased to report that he is well and still painting. Fay Biggins called me and I learned that she is training therapy dogs in GA. She sounds great and is in good health. Sandra Abramson Orhun reported that she had lost her husband a year and a half ago. It has been difficult for her but she is back to doing pastels and her paintings are being displayed in the window of a flower shop. She sounds chipper. Fluff Thayer wrote: “I still divide my time between Casey Key, FL and Bayville, NY. I do spend three weeks in Maine since two of my three live there. I am still missing Alec and always will, but keep myself busy by writing and painting. I wrote and edited a local newsletter for a number of years and also spent a lot of energy with two garden clubs and the Garden Club of America, attending several environmental conferences in Washington and serving as a delegate to annual meetings. I struggle at golf and love my Westie Terrier, and enjoy living by or close to the water. Our old stamping ground, Locust Valley, is both changing and staying the same – but aren’t we all! Margaret Shiel and family are doing well. We are looking forward to attending the wedding of my cousin Craig White’s (’61) daughter Kimberly ’05. We are blessed to have all three children living in Texas. I continue to be active in The Woman’s Club of Fort Worth where I am serving a two-year stint as editor of the newsmheet. I am giving a book review of King Peggy to several groups in Fort Worth. I enjoy the two book groups there and my art class. In Kaufman, I am still involved with the Friends of the Kaufman County Library Book and Author Luncheon. We just started a book club at the library, I would love to hear what everyone is reading and what they have enjoyed. I loved The Boys in the Boat. Come see us and by all means, stay in touch.

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!

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

If anyone from the Class of 1955 would like to be the class representative, please contact us at alumni@fa.org. We would love to hear from you!

activism for justice. Roanne Taylor, haunted by Emmett’s screams for mercy, comes face to face with her denial and failure to act as she begins her journey from denial to recognition and involvement. At this defining moment in our nation, the play illuminates how each character negotiates the struggle for identity and humanity in our embattled world. The audience witnesses their own individual paths to challenge limits and open possibilities.”

Emmett Down in My Heart, a play by Clare Coss ’53 at the Castillo Theatre in NYC
progress has been good: his speech is mostly back now, and he is close to walking with nothing more than a cane. Needless to say, we’re rooting for him to complete his recovery in record time.

Naomi Johnson Denslow has accomplished one of her bucket list items by attending the 2015 Super Bowl in Arizona with her son-in-law. Her daughter Barbara gave up her ticket so Mom, an avid Patriots fan, could watch her team beat the Seahawks in the final seconds. Most of the excitement actually happened right in front of them. Since Barbara and Michael live in Scottsdale, Naomi was able to visit the grandchildren at the same time.

Joanna Miller Jacobus reports that her newest activity is taking a sculpture course at the Lyme Art Academy in Old Lyme, CT. Her husband Lee is taking a Digital Art class there. Al Munro writes that his daughter is graduating from Skidmore and is headed toward work in marketing/graphic design, and that a granddaughter is graduating from UVM nursing school. Attending all of the Skidmore Equestrian Team’s competitions and many of his son’s crew races for Franklin and Marshall College has made for a high-mileage year driving to and from his home base in New Hampshire.

1956

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Peter Galbraith writes, “We were getting ready to hire a real estate agent to sell our house, and at the last minute Debby sold it to a friend.

We will be moving 6 miles down the road to Wake Robin, a life-care facility. Our former pediatrician and friends from the University of Vermont began more than 30 years ago to think about the kind of place they would want when they retired and were ready to give up their homes. The result was Wake Robin. We had to pass a memory test in order to be admitted. Fortunately we discovered that there is some residual neuro-firepower. While it is a difficult transition, we suspect that there is never a good time for this kind of move. Come visit us in Shelburne, Vermont, just down the road from the Shelburne Museum.” News from Peter Bergh, “All is well here in the Rockies (we are high above the drought). Having lived in Edwards (near Vail) for 18 years now, I cannot think of a part of the country/world where I would rather live. Three hundred sunny days a year, great skiing, hiking and biking, exciting culture, wonderful neighbors and plenty of elbow room. At left is an image of me on the beach in Santa Barbara this past January. Barbara’s son and his family live there and we visit them several times a year. My policy of avoiding stress, staying far away from doctors, getting plenty of regular exercise, eating a healthy diet and endeavoring to think positively seems to be working, as at 77, I am fit and trim and in fine health overall. Still very active as an owner/director of a business in Vermont, The Sports and Fitness Edge, www.edgervt.com, having helped to build it into a thriving business today with some 400 employees and over 12,000 members. I am proudest of our Kids and Fitness program that offers childcare and pre-school for over 400 children a day in facilities co-located with our five fitness clubs in Chittenden County where to date we have taught over 15,000 children a love of learning and movement. My son Graham lives in Hood River, Oregon, and runs a business he founded many years ago, www.resourcerevival.com; and my daughter Allison, who lives in Wilson, Wyoming, still works part time as a wilderness guide for NOLS and runs a successful consulting business with another woman, www.leadershipatplay.com. Barbara, my consort, lives in Aspen and we have been engaged for ten years with no plans to get married. We live 90 miles/90 minutes apart and though we very much enjoy spending time and traveling together (Patagonia, New Zealand) we have found that at our age and stage in life the advice of The Prophet to let some wind blow between us makes a great deal of sense. During September and October I can usually be found at my family’s lovely summer place on Buzzards Bay in South Dartmouth, MA where I enjoy windsurfing, sailing, fishing, crabbing, birding, beach walking, biking, doing chores...
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Not many responded to the request for news this time. But the news from Toni Naren Gates [tonigates@aol.com] sums it up for all of us: I think turning 70 is new for ALL of us!!!!!!! It is May as I write this and I know I turn 70 in June which is only one month away! By the time you get this news we may all be 70! Diane Olding Stanley [dianest@optonline.net] writes: Mel & I are looking forward to our 7th grandchild, Aaron John (AJ). He is due in July. We are also enjoying our other grandchildren, ages 6-12. Right now in April, Mel and I are in southern California soaking up some lovely sun, after a very cold winter in New Jersey. This summer we’ll be

in northern NY at our “StanleyCamp.” Other trips include Myrtle Beach, Belgium, and my annual missionary trip to France with France Pour Christ (FPC). This year the FPC team of Americans, French Canadians, Europeans from France and elsewhere in Europe, and some from Africa as well, will be spreading the good news of the Gospel in the northeastern French towns of Lille, Valenciennes, Douai and Lens. Later in the fall, Mel and I are planning a trip with friends to Germany, Austria, Holland and France. That’s all the current news for now. May God bless you all! Your reporter, Paula Howe [phowe0612@comcast.net] will be spending her 70th birthday in Berkeley and the San Francisco area visiting friends from her years attending graduate school at UC Berkeley and working at Stanford University. In April I visited with two college friends in Kiawah Island, SC. One of them lives there and we toured all 6 golf courses/clubs on the island, including the well-known Ocean Course. We also visited Charleston and took a carriage ride around the city, visited some historic homes and a plantation and went on the annual Home and Garden Tour. It is a lovely area. Meanwhile in Houston we are running out of “cool fronts” and the brutal heat of summer will soon be upon us.

Save the date for Fall Fair and Homecoming Weekend and the Class of 1965’s 50th Reunion: October 2-4, 2015. And to get you in the mood, visit www.fa.org/yearbooks. Recently I spent a day working with my son, modifying a trailer frame that we salvaged from under a derelict camper. I had been cutting out little pieces and fetching tools for him, but now I was holding a wind screen for a weld he was making. Twenty years ago I did the designing, I did the welding. Today I am his helper. I felt old and fumble-fingered, but also kinda’ proud. I talked with Barbara Kemp, and we had some laughs. She told a funny story of me that I didn’t remember. (Imagine!) Like and messing around in boats. Maria Espinosa visited me two years ago (please come again), and I would be most happy to host any of my classmates from Friends Academy should you wish to get a first-hand glimpse as to just why Colorado is one of the fastest-growing states in the country.” Wendy Odenweller spent the spring on a 17-day cruise on Regent Seven Seas from Miami to San Francisco. More about Wendy in the next issue! Bill Jones writes, “We are very happy in Frisco, TX, a very great and a fast-growing town in the country. We are just north of Dallas. We have been here about two years and the climate and the people are great. We visited my son down here about three years ago to dog-sit for him when he and his wife went to Alaska for four weeks. While here we looked around, got a real estate broker and looked at some homes, played golf and decided the weather and neat things to do were very attractive. We sold our Maryland home in October, 2012 and moved in with my son and daughter-in-law while we looked for a new home. We moved into a 20-year-old+ community in Frisco. Lots going on here, people are very welcoming, taxes are great, weather is great, lots to do. On December 31, 2014 I retired from the activist association (Association of Bell Tele Retirees Inc.) that I started and led since 1996. I am very proud of our accomplishments having filed four lawsuits, forcing changes in corporate governance and creating a lobbying organization, ProtectSeniors.org that is forcing changes in the law to protect retirees’ pensions and benefits. I continue as the Chairman of ProtectSeniors.org. In addition to community work, I am Chairman of the Capital Committee. I try to play golf two or three times each week, all year – thanks to the nice weather. Community Committees. Life is good.”
most of us she is retired, but she isn’t beyond picking up small projects that seem interesting. She spent a week with Annamarie VanTuyl Mazieka, and they apparently toured Florida like teenagers. Annamarie stays busy with lots of kids and even more grandkids. Marianne Darbee Pecoraro was an IT and business strategy specialist in the banking industry. She has beaten two separate cancers and most recently a badly broken ankle, and is busy loving every breath of every day. It was a joy to hear her. Marianne also provided me the hint I needed to find Laura Brugge McLyman in Philadelphia, where she was a paralegal for many years. Robin Neuschel Reeves is ready to face the world again after Ross’ death and is anxious to attend the reunion. Eddie Boyd moved from Las Vegas to New Hampshire, and Bill Benjamin moved from Massachusetts to California, both of them for retirement. Dave Pratt is moving to an old farmhouse in Vermont this summer and will be near both of his kids. Lynn Barker Caruso is happy to just stay home after 40 years of teaching. Dave Laemmle is still in the transition process – readjusting from the county at the end of November, and moving from Las Vegas to Brightwaters, New York. Tina Hokanson writes: “I retired from the county at the end of November, and am still in the transition process – readjusting time, attention, and activities for balance. I love the words of a friend of mine – ‘I’m more aware than ever of the craftsmanship that goes into constructing a day to remember…’ Being at work gave me a predictable path to satisfaction.’ I created a chart of healthy habits to give some predictable form to the days. One day I tried to do them all. It was really funny – I started at about 8:00 in the morning (meditation, sun salutation, journaling, kale smoothie, reading, exercise, etc.) and it took all day! – no time for anything else. So lately I have been having fun spending time with my friends, but all of the breakfasts, lunches, and dinners out have been a little too delicious. So …I’m rebalancing again, but enjoying it all. I finished taking a class through the Sound Salmon Solutions organization, and am working on a project related to water quality – about the impact of lawns and garden chemicals on Puget Sound, Orcas, and other marine life. During the class I was inspired to learn more about environmental restoration projects in this region and in other parts of the U.S., and about the interesting and surprising collaborations. In Boston Harbor the shipping industry and an energy company worked with marine biologists for the benefit of the whales. Ocean Frontiers highlights this and other stories that inspire and show that these new partnerships are creating positive change. Betsy Gordon Kirk is doing well in North Carolina, where she and

The Class of 1965 will celebrate their 50th Reunion October 2-4, 2015.

with Jay Tucker and Brandt Rising every few months. All is fine with them. Brandt, by way of a chain of siblings and friends, coaxed a note from Peggy Attridge Young. She now lives on the outer banks of North Carolina after practicing law in Indianapolis for 40+ years. She is staying busy “giving back.” On a lunch, I Googled “Jeff Davis folk musician” and was delighted with what I saw (and heard). It all started at FA… Remember his yearbook informal? Lots of good stuff started at FA. We are each the sum of our experiences, and together we experienced many things during those formative years. Speaking for everyone else I hope you will attend the reunion!

1966

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Clinton Bush stopped for by lunch this January. Brandt and I have a place in Islamorada and Clint drove down from Key Biscayne where he is living. Clint works as Medical Director of Occupational Medical Center in Miami, sings in his church choir and is on the board of the City Theatre of Miami. Bill Young’s mother celebrates her 90th birthday at Peconic Landing in Greenport, NY. Bill will be up to visit her and stop by our place in Brightwaters on his way home. He was recently cleaning up at his office and came across a NY Times article from July 24, 1987. The article included a picture of Libby Keffer with George Shultz. She was handing Mr. Shultz notebooks before his testimony at the hearings into the Iran-Contra affair. Carol Edgerton Downey is enjoying the view from her home on Wrights Mountain in Bradford, VT where she and her husband Donn have retired. They are near their son, his wife and two granddaughters. Carol keeps in contact with Nancy Gad-Harfi who has moved back to Michigan. Nancy writes: “We moved back to the Detroit suburbs in January, 2013. Our son, Josh, and his wife, Danielle, had moved back from Chicago shortly before Jonah was born…he will be 3 in July. They asked us to come home; so we did!” David is dong fundraising at Henry Ford Health Systems. I am enjoying the most peaceful time in my life. I make handwoven beaded jewelry that I sell at shows and in several boutiques here. It is fun and a great outlet. I also volunteer for a few organizations. Mostly, I am really enjoying being a grandmother!” Tina Hokanson writes: “I retired from the county at the end of November, and am still in the transition process – readjusting time, attention, and activities for balance. I love the words of a friend of mine – ‘I’m more aware than ever of the craftsmanship that goes into constructing a day to remember,…’ Being at work gave me a predictable path to satisfaction.’ I created a chart of healthy habits to give some predictable form to the days. One day I tried to do them all. It was really funny – I started at about 8:00 in the morning (meditation, sun salutation, journaling, kale smoothie, reading, exercise, etc.) and it took all day! – no time for friends, projects, getting out in the world, or much of anything else. So lately I have been having fun spending time with my friends; but all of the breakfasts, lunches, and dinners out have been a little too delicious. So …I’m rebalancing again, but enjoying it all. I finished taking a class through the Sound Salmon Solutions organization, and am working on a project related to water quality – about the impact of lawns and garden chemicals on Puget Sound, Orcas, and other marine life. During the class I was inspired to learn more about environmental restoration projects in this region and in other parts of the U.S., and about the interesting and surprising collaborations. In Boston Harbor the shipping industry and an energy company worked with marine biologists for the benefit of the whales. Ocean Frontiers highlights this and other stories that inspire and show that these new partnerships are creating positive change. Betsy Gordon Kirk is doing well in North Carolina, where she and
involved. As I had nominated someone else, it organizations in which an individual may be to the town and any other volunteer based recognizes cumulative volunteer service Service Clubs Council as the 2014 Citizen of learned I had been selected by our town’s Joint 2014, I received a surprise honor when I and they are very fun!! Earlier in February think 40 years has flown by but it has! W e now keep that time frame in mind for our last big reunion in 2016.

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. I never want the class of 1968 to be blank. I haven’t edited the news from your replies as this way the class can see what you all were thinking. Those that are on Facebook with me, please send me what you would like the class to see, as I won’t take the liberty to show your post out of respect to you. On to our 50th reunion in 2018! Willy Merriken shares: “The Merriken Clan is healthy and well. Last year (2014) was a year of surprises. Our three kids threw us a surprise 40th wedding anniversary party last June and caught us totally off guard. They planned and executed the surprise very well!! It was a nice smallish affair with family and close friends. Hard to think 40 years has flown by but it has! We now have 8 grandchildren ranging from ages 1-9 and they are very fun!! Earlier in February 2014, I received a surprise honor when I learned I had been selected by our town’s Joint Service Clubs Council as the 2014 Citizen of the Year. This honor has a 62-year history and recognizes cumulative volunteer service to the town and any other volunteer based organizations in which an individual may be involved. As I had nominated someone else, it was indeed a big surprise! We’re late to “the traveling the world scene,” but we’re easing into it. We went to Alaska in 2013 for a one-week small boat tour and one week on land. Truly a land unto its own with incredible scenery. It really is “The Last Frontier.” There is nothing quite like being surrounded by a pod of 50+ humpback whales for six hours and watching them play, jump and breach. We gave up taking pictures!! We recommend it to anyone who has not been. Last year we did a self-guided driving tour of western National Parks and this summer we’re off to the Blue Danube, Budapest and Prague. Louise and I certainly agree with Ken Burns that our National Parks are America’s Best Idea!! Absolutely spectacular and inspiring! I continue to enjoy helping people strategize on the best and most efficient uses of their money and have no plans to retire. Steve Tilden shares: “A milestone that is happening right now to all of us from our class and I reached back to my Friends experience for help in finding a way forward. Recently, every week or so, one of our classmates has been receiving their Social Security card. When my envelope came I did not find a ticket to the gates of Oz, as we may have imagined when we were still classmates. Instead, I noticed a hand landing gently on my shoulder, like the cautionary hand of a study hall teacher reminding me to keep my thoughts on the page. How do we address this messenger bearing a certificate of passage to a milestone of mortality – a hand reputedly grim and firm – yet somehow gentle? It was helpful for me to remember how we saw our learning flourish as we began to trust rather than fear our teachers at Friends, who were there shepherding us toward new beginnings. In much the same way we need to open a dialogue with this new teacher, to find the confidence and the trust to listen, while he is pointing us toward new uncertainties.” Jim Evans shares: “I consider myself a fortunate man to have had my parents as part of my life for many years. Both of them turned 90 in 2014. Longevity seems to run on both sides of the family. This past year has been difficult because of the need to have my father move into a nursing home to care for him as he coped with terminal cancer. It was hard on my mother living in the empty house by herself and it was difficult on all three of us with daily trips to visit Dad in the nursing home. Dad passed away on February 1, 2015, just four days after his 91st birthday. His last week was very uncomfortable for him so I know that his letting go brought some relief and peace to him. He seemed to be holding on because he did not want my mother to be alone. They were married almost 68 years! He was an amazing Dad! He was a man of high moral character and integrity. His example sets a standard for how one should live his or her life. He was considerate of our feelings right until the end. I will truly miss him! After almost a year of routines that supported my Dad through his illness, I was finally able to have a vacation to Florida this March. My traveling companion was a good friend who is from Brazil, but enjoys dual citizenship – U.S. and Brazil. We had a...
Buddy Guy are coming to southern VT this fall and a week in Florida. Lots to catch up on the farm. Had a nice trip to Newfoundland in the fall and a week in Florida. Good time in Ft. Lauderdale and Orlando. However, two days of theme parks were enough for a lifetime for me! I am hoping to go to Brazil in July and my friend and I will be going on an Alaskan cruise in September. The cruise will be a birthday celebration for each of us! I cannot believe that I will turn 65 in June. The big relief will be having Medicare and dumping my individual (not so affordable) insurance obtained through the government marketplace. Laurel Brandt shares: I’ve got some news, though I blush as I write this. At the Massachusetts Prosecutors Conference in Boston on March 26, 2015, I was awarded the 2015 William C. O’Malley Prosecutor of the Year Award. Quoting from the e-mail I received advising me of the award and inviting me to the conference: “The O’Malley award is a lifetime achievement award, which recognizes the special combination of talents embodied in a truly outstanding prosecutor: extraordinary courtroom advocacy skills; a gift for mentoring new prosecutors; compassion for victims; and dedication to the highest standards of professionalism in investigations and in all dealings with defense counsel, the judiciary and the public at large.” The District Attorney for whom I currently work nominated me, and the eleven elected District Attorneys in Massachusetts selected me. I am truly honored … but I feel very, very old. I’ve been at this for a long time. I worked for one District Attorney from 1991 through 2010, when I retired along with him and much of our senior staff. In 2012, the “new” District Attorney contacted me and asked me to come back to work on a special project: unsolved homicides. I’ve been working part-time since then for the “new” District Attorney, a “newer” District Attorney and now the “newest” District Attorney, handling unsolved homicides, training, and other special projects. I am proud that, in the last two years, the detectives and forensic analysts with whom I work (and whom I nag) solved four cold murder cases!! John Malcolm shares: “I have enjoyed being home on the farm this winter and especially this spring and being outside every day. I do miss the excitement and challenges of the Legislature but not the stress. Lots to catch up on the farm. Had a nice trip to Newfoundland in the fall and a week in Florida in December. Rumor has it that ZZ Top and Buddy Guy are coming to southern VT this summer! Hope all is well in Joplin and with all 68ers. Love, John.” Clifford Dascio shares: “We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of our third grand (any minute now). Including this, life is very good. While all are retiring around us, we continue to enjoy our professional lives. I am doing some research for the International Space Station and having good success in the lab. I was just awarded an endowed professorship in translational science, so why quit? Sheri is directing her firm’s health law practice. We spend a fair amount of time at our home on Spruce Head Island in Maine where the contrast with Texas could not be greater. The two grands in Galveston are close by when we are here and we see them (and their parents) every weekend. Now, we will spend most of our lives on 1–45. Karin Nelson shares: ‘Hi, all. I can’t remember the last bits of information I sent, so you can ignore anything in this update that sounds too familiar. The past 12 months have been…weird, with lots of disruptions. My work has required such a high level of discipline and routine that any disruption tends to create chaos. But it was a good year overall. And now I’m easing into my retirement. I’m not the type to quit cold turkey but I’ve begun to cut back. Don’t misunderstand me; traveling around the world for free has been an outstanding experience but I’m really enjoying living a more normal life. I’ve got a work event each month till Christmas, including a return to Africa; we’ll see what happens after that. As some of you may know, one of my retirement projects (I started it a bit early) was to retrace the route of the Vikings from Norway to North America (flying, not sailing in a longboat). After a couple of visits to Norway and some vacations in Scotland, I took the next step and went to Iceland. What a great place, and although I love winter weather, I suspect most people would find a summer vacation more enjoyable. Next step…Greenland and Newfoundland. It may not be this year but definitely soon. What a fun project this has been. Also, I took up Snowshoeing as a new sport. I’m much less than graceful and proficient right now but it’s fun to be outside, and these new snowshoes are much more stylish than their predecessors. I’m still active as VP in the Pittsburgh Branch of the AAUW but also about to be inducted into the D.A.R., so that should open up even more opportunities for volunteer work. It’s interesting and exciting to live in a place that was integral in the settlement of this country. I’ve been reading so many of my stockpiled volumes about the pioneer days of this region; fascinating stuff. I think that’s it for now; I’ll try to be a better correspondent in future newsletters.” As for me, nothing new since the last issue as life in Joplin remains tranquil and easy. I have to say while writing these issues for the class, I often reflect on all my time at FA. I can’t believe it all started 60 years ago in Kindergarten where I met Kathy, Sally and Susan and we traveled all 13 years, then in 1st grade came Willy and Johnny and the rest progressed. Great memories of the class and then the 5 years as a teacher after college…okay, now onto finishing this. I did travel to So. Cal for the big 65th birthday to celebrate with my buddies. I love hearing regularly from Kathy Attridge Anas and Greg Tarone. It is fun to see what’s new periodically on Facebook with Peggy Springerstew Weiner, Nancy Goldberg Kassop, Bob Piro, Betsy Harris Radecki, David Porter, Bob Rushmore, Paul Hand, Anne Moer 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 Wynn; it is such fun staying in touch. I wanted to share these links to help out my talented nephew Clayton, (Todd’s ‘67 son). He posted this on his Facebook page and his designs are really cool especially for kids. He definitely inherited his Grandfather’s talent, thank you Dad. No pressure, just wanted to share; ClayGrahamArt – www.clayrahamart.com. Your place for all things Clay Graham, illustrator and graphic artist! For all his designs, you can let them know to use teepublic for shirts, tank tops and hoodies (better prices) using this link (https://www.teepublic.com/user/ClayGrahamArt) And RedBubble for phone cases, duvet covers, pillows, coffee mugs, travel cups, tote bags and prints (http://www.redbubble.com/people/ clayrahamart). Now onto a great rest of 2015 to you all, keep the news coming for next time and be sure to send me your e-mail address for future correspondence.

1969

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1970

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Save the date for Fall Fair and Homecoming Weekend and the Class of 1970’s 45th Reunion: October 2-4, 2015. And to get you in the mood, visit www.fa.org/yearbooks.
1971
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After a long while without class reps, team Cressey and Manno are taking up the mantle. For the next Meeting House, please name something in the past 40 years that you’ve done that you’d like others to know about and send to: David Cressey – ddcressey23@gmail.com and Angela Manno – amanno@angelamanno.com. We aim for nothing less than reviving the Spirit of ’71! Thanks to Craig Kronman and Robin Dell Campbell for their many years of serving as class reps. Have a great summer!

1972
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Almost 43 years out of Friends Academy and our class is still very much connected, thanks to computers and social media replacing smoke signals and tin cans. Here’s the latest: Susan Johnson Banta writes: “Many of you attended my sister Jill’s funeral service at St. John’s of Lattingtown on December 10th and the reception that followed at Seawanahaka. It was a full house – filled with friends from far and wide who loved Jill. The FA friend who traveled the furthest distance award goes to Barbara Boyle Weiner ‘73 – who drove up through a snow storm from West Virginia. There was a huge turnout from the classes of ’72 and ’73 – too many to name here. Thank you everyone for your outpouring of love and support and coming to honor Jill, and also deep gratitude to those who have written me lovely notes. I miss Jill greatly – as I know many of you do as well. She would have turned 60 on August 18th. I would like to do something for her on her birthday – I will keep you posted. Last month an old friend, Nicholas, offered me the chance to get away and heal. Some of you may remember Nicky – who I babysat for in high school. With the loving support of my husband and kids, I bid farewell and headed off on a three-week voyage to Madagascar aboard a National Geographic expedition ship. We made stops in South Africa and Mozambique along the way – places that are facing the challenges of what I imagine it must have been like in America during the Era of Reconstruction. Places which made me think of Bill Finlayson ’72 – our Civil War class historian and the work of Susan Schulman ’72 – who I think covers “places living on the edge” like this. Last stop – Madagascar – a land where time seems to have stood still. A place unique in its biodiversity and beauty – which has been greatly threatened after 90% of the country was deforested. I explored with many wonderful fellow passengers – two of whom are leading the way in conservation and restoration – Dr. Patricia Wright, an expert on lemurs and Madagascar and Dr. Carl Safina, who has written many books on the ocean and man’s relationship to the natural world. Both are all heart – and it was a privilege to get to know them. Carl attended Syosset High School – perhaps some of you in our class played sports against him. I’m planning my next trip to Madagascar to work with Pat’s research facility – the Centre ValBio. I’m bringing my youngest daughter along this time – a rising senior in high school. The young shall inherit the earth – time to get them started.” Francie Bush-Brown Thompson reports that life is good! “Bob and I traveled to Zurich, then London.” Francie enjoys spending time in NYC with her children Sarah and Gus, where they meet for lunch, go on leisurely walks through Tribeca and Soho, and spend some quality time together. Jonathan Rapp writes, “I lead a that a staid but comfortable life that no news is good news. I haven’t written a book (only a few chapters years ago), or invented a new cancer treatment or otherwise saved the world. But I do have a few good stories to tell at our next reunion! Regards to all.” (Note: Jonathan isn’t kidding, as some of you will attest. John Mankiewicz, do you need some ideas for a new Netflix series? ‘House of Cards’ meets ‘King of the Hill!’) Kevin Glynn checked in from Los Angeles: “I am still schmoozing my book having exhibited at the LA Festival of Books last Sunday at USC (at last, I can say I am an “exhibitionist”!). I am now gathering materials for a second volume of “Tyranosaurus Sex” based on an examination of the 1980s. Padded shoulders anyone? Tom is graduating high school and is off to the University of California, Riverside while Karleen is tearing it up here with me at LA High. They do grow up!” (Rumor has it that Steven Spielberg was interested in the rights to Kevin’s book for a potential spinoff of Jurassic Park, until he realized the book wasn’t about his favorite dinosaur.) Maurice A

The Brockhurst File

The Brockhurst File by Jane Dillof Mincer ’72 and Lynne Kramer

1971

1972

Class Notes
Dear classmates gone too early.” In a recent post, Bill Dudjoc wrote, “In August of 2006 I got news that changed my life. My cousin Janet was diagnosed with Stage IV Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. At the time I was not even really sure what that meant. Then I heard the word: CANCER. The word was not a stranger to me. At eight years old my third grade teacher Mrs. Lapham died from lung cancer (never touched a cigarette). In 1983 I lost my Uncle Fritz to brain cancer and in 1986 my Dad passed away from liver cancer. So why was this different? Well... Janet was about my age. She was the closest thing I had to a sister. We used to sneak cigarettes and drinks at family parties. We were best friends. All I could think of was my best friend was going to die. Because you see, growing up in my lifetime cancer meant death. I had a total feeling of helplessness... there was nothing I could do. A week or so later Janet told me that she would be walking across the Brooklyn Bridge for Light the Night / The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. I found out that I was no longer helpless. I learned cancer was treatable. I could help. I could raise money to help find a cure!! Janet went into remission in 2007 and has remained cancer-free since then. The money you have donated over the years has funded research, treatment methods, and patient services. In the ’60s a child diagnosed with Leukemia had a less-than-10% chance of survival. Today that rate is over 90%...Thanks to you. Since 2006 you have helped me raise $46,893 towards the fight. Each year I think I can’t raise any more and each year you prove me wrong. SO... prove me wrong again, I need $3,107 to hit a lifetime goal of $50,000.” To help Bill in his fight against cancer follow this link: http://pages.teaminntraining.org/nj/ambbr15/BillyDudjoc. And more from Bill... Bill Dudjoc writes: “2015...the year we all turn/turned 60. In August of 2006 I hit a lifetime goal of $50,000.” To help Bill in his fight against cancer follow this link: http://pages.teaminntraining.org/nj/ambbr15/BillyDudjoc. And more from Bill... Bill Dudjoc writes: “2015... the year we all turn/turned 60. I hear myself saying it, but not really getting it. Plans for my 60th year? Six century rides, one for each decade and 60 miles with friends. It seemed that everyone wanted to express their thanks to him and to share what it was about Mr. Erickson that changed their lives. When we met at the 40th reunion, I was able to thank Roger for all he had done for me as a teacher. I told him about a book I was writing and promised to send him a copy, but I had no idea he was ill. I didn’t get it to him in time. I sent him my farewell – and my regret – in the book’s acknowledgment. It’s also because I often imagined Roger reading over my shoulder as I edited that it took so long to finally say “finished!” I kept finding errors and even once it came out in print, there they were – a few typos and at least one particularly unfortunate grammatical error! But, it’s out there on Amazon at last. I wrote the book along with my co-author, Lynne Kramer. The novel, The Brockhurst File, is based loosely on our experiences as divorce attorneys and features an intricate custody matter we enjoyed conjuring up in our first “family law thriller.” We got a great Kirkus review, and the book can be found in print or on Kindle. We hope to make this the first in a series! As for me, I am anxiously waiting for my husband John to retire early 2016 so that we can travel with Ajax around the country in our soon-to-purchase trailer. Ajax is our chocolate lab puppy, who views me as a litter mate and chew toy! He is the only puppy in obedience training that has an IEP (independent education plan). While you are enjoying life, remember to stay happy, healthy and in touch! Warmest regards, Karen Spero Albers

1973
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Susan Nappa is still living in CT and working hard on her growing business, PK Collection – Fashion Accessories. She writes, “I have been traveling extensively doing private events and shows for charities. Cyndy Beach and Lulu Viscardi and I celebrated our birthdays together in January with our husbands – we are all within two weeks of each other. It was like old times and we had such a great time. I echo Bill’s sentiment as we mourn the loss of some
I’d venture to guess that my fellow classmates from the class of ‘78 enjoyed a much-needed sunny spring, and that your summer frolickings are well upon nigh. I’m hoping that you all have a broad pastiche of vacation and barbecue plans which will render some good postings for our next issue of The Meeting House magazine.

I have recently had the opportunity to be in touch with some of our classmates and I am truly appreciative that they took the time out from their busy schedules to send us these following updates on their lives. Leslie Garner writes, “My daughter is a junior in high school and we’ve started looking at colleges for her. Exhausting! She’s decided she wants to attend an all-women’s college. Score! Nothing else new in my life... Trying to figure out who Leslie Garner is now that the time has come to focus on me again. I’m looking forward to meeting her again!” Well, Leslie, you’re in for a big treat. She’s a most exceptional woman, indeed! Greg Gavin sent this information along to us, “Nick graduates from Hamilton college in May, and Will graduates from Friends Academy in June...” It sounds like Greg will be attending some pretty formidable and poignant events in the near future. We all wish both of your boys great good luck in the future, Greg! Keep us updated as to their future plans.

Jeff Schiff is enjoying life in Raleigh, North Carolina with his daughter Sydney and his lovely wife Shelley. “Between teaching Sydney how to drive and starting a new business, I’ve been quite busy lately!” I’m sure that Sydney will do just fine in learning how to drive, as she will have an excellent teacher by her side! We got word from Mark Janoska that he has finally retired and bought a chain of tattoo parlors in Tennessee. We wish Mark bonne chance with these new endeavors, and congratulate him on turning his attention to his artistic callings. Mary Ellen Schloss and Ellen Westermann reconnected in New York City this last April. Mary Ellen and her husband, Tom Robotham, live in MA where she is the Conservation Administrator for the Town of Weymouth. Their son, Christopher, is a sophomore at Brown University and son James is a freshman at U. Mass., Amherst. It was great to hear from Carl Simpson, who is “currently living in Grayson, GA. I am exceptionally happily married to someone that I’ve known since Kindergarten. My son, Carl T. Simpson, II, also a FA grad, is a junior at FIT in Manhattan. I’m very active in my church (Trustee, teacher of New Members Class, President of the Hospitality Ministry). My current goal is attempting to build a community center in one of Atlanta’s poorest neighborhoods.” Please let us know next time you are planning to visit Carl II in Manhattan! And finally, we were delighted to get word from Kurt Winner that he and his wife were visiting New Orleans this spring. Kurt wrote, “I am a food, wine and travel writer, currently on assignment down south, enjoying a most inspirational career.” We would love to hear more about your travels, Kurt, as it sounds like an amazing career, for sure! And to all of our fellow ‘78 Friends Academy alums, I am certainly looking forward to our next FA gathering as it would be the perfect opportunity to get together with folks that we haven’t seen in forever! –Lis
The Class of 1980 will celebrate its 35th reunion this October 24.

1980
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Save the date for Fall Fair and Homecoming Weekend and the Class of 1980’s 35th Reunion: October 2-4, 2015. And to get you in the mood, visit www.fa.org/yearbooks. Wow! For the first time in the almost 35 years since we left friends, I have plenty of material to write for our class notes. No, it isn’t because you guys have suddenly become interactive; I’ve gone to Facebook. There, I can find great stuff to report to all of you, and I get to pick! I think as a policy I will refrain from posting your silly selfies, if you promise to protect me from mine. Most of this stuff is real (!): Jim Chaddick enjoyed Armenian Coffee on April 28th at The Shish Kabob House in Las Vegas. Mike Ainbinder seems to be on a paleo diet, looks like he’s still in great shape, and posts some pix that I couldn’t because my daughter trolls my Facebook account. On September 4th, Bill Dalton enjoyed dinner at Buccan Restaurant in Palm Beach. Said Bill, “As we are still in our 50s, my friends and I enjoy being some of the only folks in the restaurant after 7:30!” Sue Lomenzo had a run-in with Woody Allen and his family in New York. It seems that the cunning Woody and his daughter/wife were able to maneuver Sue into playing a role that enabled them to ditch their paparazzi. My threat to make up stories about classmates also brought out Ellen Auwarter, who had a great reunion with Jim Mitchell ‘81 in Orlando. They reminisced about our performance of “How to Succeed in Business.” Speaking of that show, the great Peter Lash is living in Florida. Retaining his star power, Peter appears to have all of his hair and he isn’t fat. I will be monitoring Peter’s Facebook pictures for any mean reversion on those fronts, and report them with glee! Greg Conway, Evan Deoul, Carlos DelCristo, and I had a mini-reunion a few months ago. Well, we actually didn’t have that reunion, but we almost did. Certainly, the biggest and most interesting story of all is that Ellen Sywolski won a lump sum of $615,000 in the Maryland State Sweepstakes. She took her winnings, purchased a rare BMW K1300 GT motorcycle, learned how to ride the thing and just completed a solo ride along the entire length of Central and South America – from Baja in Mexico all the way to Patagonia. Along the way, she shared her winnings by identifying and making grants to excellent but needy agricultural research facilities. Now, she’s back in Baltimore in time for blue crab season. With this new research technique, I’m confident that I will be able to provide you insight into the lives of classmates forever. You are even invited to help me pick the tidbits of your life that you’d like classmates to share, by being in touch!

1981
Betsy Jorden Gahagan
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Greetings Class of 1982! Your class reps (Leslie and Michael) continue to enjoy life in LA. We recently bought a “fixer-upper” and will be using Michael’s architectural and building skills to renovate and expand. Michael’s kids, Chloe, Nick and Nina, continue to do well; Chloe graduates from college this May, with a degree in nursing. Nick continues in college and Nina is off to college in the fall. Jim Hummerstone writes with news from a number of classmates: “Jill Capobianco, Matt Bloom and I attended Roger Erickson’s memorial earlier this year. While a sad occasion, it was nice to catch-up with fellow ’82ers. Jill sounds like she’s enjoying London, while Matt is taking a (not) hasty plunge into marriage in June. Matt works in financial services in an anti-money laundering role, and is likely the class’s most prolific author. Ed Balazs, John Corcoran, Evan Myrianthopolous and I (see attached) got together for a few post-work beers in March in NYC. Like me, John and Ed are commuters from Connecticut, while Evan is keeping the Port Washington school district busy with a gaggle of his offspring. Chris Dalton, another Metro North regular, had a previous commitment with his two soccer-playing sons, but pledged to attend the next gathering. Chris’s sons are both top-notch athletes (mom’s genes,
clearly) and goalies in the Norwalk, CT school district. Dave Geiger has been enjoying life in South Florida for coming on 10 years. The next stop on his long strange trip is to Chicago in July to take in the final three shows ever for the Grateful Dead. Harry Stecopolous is considering putting aside his wheat scythe and horse-and-buggying it up from Iowa too. Rich Stingi and I will be taking in the much more contemporary band The Who at Forest Hills in May. Will be brown-bagging lunch for the next few years as I’m sending my second kid off to college in the fall [we can relate, Jim!]. Margeaux is entering her sophomore year at University of Richmond, while my daughter Cammy will be a first year at UVa. My brother-in-law Peter Gilden will likely join them at a fraternity party or two from his nearby home in Norfolk, VA. Pete keeps busy by running a government contracting business and chasing after his three great kids.” Thanks for a great update Jim! We’ve heard other tidbits of news about our classmates through the grapevine, so please take a moment and send us a quick note about your doings to share with the class to include next time! And until then, have a great summer!

1983
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1984
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1986
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Chuck Ritter
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1987
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1988
If anyone from the Class of 1988 would like to be the new class representative, please contact us at alumni@fa.org. We would love to hear from you! Thao’s Library, a film inspired by a photo taken by photojournalist Stephen Katz, premiered May 6 and won the Audience Award at the inaugural Bentonville Film Festival, an event created by Academy Award winner Geena Davis to celebrate women and diversity in film. The film explores the unlikely friendship of two women, a Vietnamese ravaged by Agent Orange exposure and an American suffering from depression. Stephen was also the documentary’s Director of Photography. For more information about the film visit www.thaoslibrary.com.

1989
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Greetings class of 1989... no updates to report
but a quick anecdotal story... tuning into the hit show *The Affair* to see the Village Club of Sands Point where my husband and I married ten years ago as a setting for one of the glamorous Hampton-esque scenes, I learn that Steve Kunken plays a book editor for the main character, Noah. Steve does a great job in this role and it’s definitely worth watching to catch him in four different episodes. Steve also did a fantastic job in the Oscar-winning movie *Still Alice* starring Julianne Moore where he plays the role of Dr. Benjamin. And, these are only a couple of Steve’s incredible performances in 2014 alone! He was also in the *The Wolf of Wall Street* and will be in the upcoming *Bridge of Spies* and the television series slated for 2016 *Billions*. I think it’s pretty incredible to be able to turn on the television to see one of our tremendously talented classmates... stay tuned for much more from Steve Kunken in 2015 and 2016. Hope to hear from you for our next update in the fall! Sincerely, JoAn

1993
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1995
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1996
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Please feel free to drop me an e-mail or give me a call if you make it down to San Juan.

1997
Devon Broderick Carroll
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Devon A. George
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1998
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Justin P. Meli
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Congratulations to Dion Short Metzger on the birth of her beautiful son Blake Robby Metzger!

Michelle Rabinowitz Carney can now add “Emmy” to her credits. Michelle is the supervising producer of the Emmy award-winning documentary film *We Could Be King*. For more on the documentary visit https://tribecafilm.com/wecouldbeking.

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Dara Broxmeyer Gruenberg
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2000
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Save the date for Fall Fair and Homecoming Weekend and the Class of 2000’s 15th Reunion: October 2-4, 2015. And to get you in the mood, visit www.fa.org/yearbooks.

2001

Hadley Devon Mongell
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hmongell@gmail.com

Hi Everyone. Hope this finds you well! Mark your calendars as Fall Fair is going to be October 3, 2015. Heather Rubinstein and I will be in touch to plan another pre-Fall Fair gathering on that Friday before. Buckrams worked out great since we were able to be on the back patio and catch a glimpse of the FA Bonfire Fireworks. It was such a great time and we hope to keep the tradition alive this year! In other exciting news, Josh Hundert has been in Boston since leaving NYC after his graduation from medical school in 2008; this past July he finished his medical fellowship in nephrology at the Harvard teaching hospitals and he is now splitting his time between seeing patients at the Boston VA Medical Center and continuing his research on chronic kidney disease at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital. Due to the fact class notes are a little light this round, I thought I would encourage people to write in about any charity/community service projects you are involved with. Friends Academy helped build our foundation and appreciation for giving back, and it would be great to highlight fellow classmate’s causes. Michelle Javian was recognized by the New York Observer as one of the “Top 20 Philanthropists under 40.” Congrats to Michelle and all of her countless hours dedicated to growing her non-profit Harborin Hearts, which provides patients and their families with housing, meals, transportation and emotional support. If there are any former FA lacrosse players in New York City, I recently started coaching a weekend clinic with the non-profit organization, CityLax. We are currently focused on introducing/expanding lacrosse into New York City schools and geographies that historically have had little or no access to the game and that are predominantly comprised of populations from lower income families. It’s a great way to give back and be involved with the sport. If anyone is interested in learning about volunteer opportunities, I’d be happy to tell you more.

In closing, I wish you and your families a very happy and healthy spring/summer. I’ll look forward to seeing you at upcoming FA events! All the best, Hadley

2002

Lauren Marie Bebry
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Lauren.Bebry@gmail.com

Jacqui Young ’01 and Noah Weissman ’01 wed in Brooklyn, NY.

Kristin Morrison ’06

‘Connect the Dots’

You might not realize it, but everything you are doing on the field, on the court, in the pool, on the putting green, or on the track is setting you up not only to be a better athlete, but to be a better person – a better friend, a better employee,” shared Kristin Morrison ’06, a Friends three-sport athlete, she went on to play Division I lacrosse at Princeton University, before ultimately landing a job as an analyst at Goldman Sachs.

In addressing Upper School students and faculty, Kristin shared how FA athletics impacted her life; how sports taught her about “failure, joy, disappointment, excitement, winning and losing; about maturity, teamwork, humility and selflessness.”

Kristin asked students to connect the dots in their lives, confiding that it might not be until later when the dots make sense. “You’ll come to realize that sports are teaching you some of life’s greatest lessons. And you will carry these teachings with you for the rest of your life, as will I. Friends greatly shaped who I am today and is a large contributor to my successes in life and I know that it will do the same for you.”
2003
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2004
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2005
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Garrett Dooley
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243 Cleft Rd.
Mill Neck, NY 11765

Save the date for Fall Fair and Homecoming Weekend and the Class of 2005’s 10th Reunion: October 2-4, 2015. So dust off your copy of The Lamp and get ready to celebrate with your friends from Friends!

2006
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2007
Rebecca Pacchiano
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2008
Laura Berke
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Alexandria Phillips
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2009
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John E. Mascari
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john.mascari@dartmouth.edu

2010
Alexa Gordon
24 West Creek Farms Rd.
Sands Point, NY 11050
alexa.gordon@wustl.edu

Save the date for Fall Fair and Homecoming Weekend and the Class of 2010’s 5th Reunion: October 2-4, 2015. So dust off your copy of The Lamp and get ready to celebrate with your friends from Friends! Ryan Rosmarin moved to Sun Valley, Idaho after graduating from Pitzer College in May of 2014. Since his move, he has become a part owner of a small startup, PlayHard GiveBack. Founded by a group of individuals who believe in the importance of social responsibility, PHGB aims to create a culture among athletes around the importance of giving back. They empower passionate athletes who have the potential to redefine the world in which we live. PHGB has created an infectious movement that has the potential to positively alter the athletic paradigm. Ryan attributes his work in the social enterprise industry to his educational experiences at Friends Academy and Pitzer College. Learn more about PlayHard GiveBack by checking out their online platform at: www.playhardgiveback.com.

2011
Amanda Lamothe-Cadet ’11 spends the weekend at Yale with Kira Garry ’11 and Jacquelyn Nakamura ’11.

Holly Constants
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hol9331@aol.com
Gabrielle McPhaul-Guerrier  
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Central Islip, NY 11722  
gmcphaul-guerrier@live.com

Katie Sands graduated from the University of Richmond with double honors in her major in theater and minor in communications. Next she’s off to a two-year acting conservatory in NYC.

2012

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Jake Ingrassia  
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Chris McCann  
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Sarah Chartash  
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2013

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John O’Brien  
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2014

Lydia Graham  
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East Meadow, NY 11554

Simi Akinola  
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Westbury, NY 11590

William Sands was named lacrosse rookie of the year at Bucknell University and was ranked by Inside Lax magazine as the 15th best college freshman in the country. University of Pennsylvania’s Candace Taylor had an amazing freshman year. Candace finished 2nd in the 500 meters at the indoor Ivy Championships and 6th in the 400 meters in the outdoor Ivy League Championships. She made the Penn Top 10 All Time record books in the 200, 400, 500, 800, 4x400 SMR (where she set a new record), and DMR. Candace was named Ivy League Rookie of the week three times and was also

Candace Taylor ‘14 readies for a meet with the University of Pennsylvania track team. Candace was named Ivy League Rookie of the week three times.

Candace Taylor ‘14 amazing rookie year garnered her UPenn’s Most Valuable Track award – the first time in UPenn history that it was given to a freshman.

ECAC Rookie of the Week once. Nicknamed “The Freshman Phenom,” this was a great rookie year for Candace!
Kenneth Manos ’73: Systems analyst with wordplay talent

Kenneth Manos ’73 passed away on January 7, 2015 after an extended illness and a 6-year battle with the after-effects of a stroke. Ken was born on January 27, 1955 in Brooklyn, NY. After Friends, Ken graduated from Colgate University. He was a Computer Systems Analyst at State Street Bank, The Bank for Savings, and PNC Financial Services. He loved music, travel, books, and movies. He will be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor and inventive wordplay, his jovial attitude, and his determination, repeatedly, to outlive everyone’s expectations. He is survived by his mother Denise, wife Brenda, son Nick, brother Tom and wife, his niece and three nephews, and many caring and supportive friends.

Obituaries

Please send announcements and memories to Kathy Fox at kathy_fox@fa.org or call (516) 465-1765. Feel free to include a photo with your message.

Abbie Gail Freedman ’59: Honored as one of a ‘Thousand Points of Light’

Abbie Gail Freedman ’59 passed away on January 5th, 2015 after a long series of illnesses. She was born August 7, 1941 in New York City to Virginia Pennington Freedman and William B. Freedman. In addition to her skills in art and music, Abbie was a fine athlete, playing on eleven varsity teams while at Friends. After graduating from Marietta College, Abbie taught in elementary, middle, and high schools in Connecticut and New Hampshire for 10 years and received an M.F.A. in art history from Assumption College. She moved to Northern California and managed a women’s health retreat for five years before having an automobile accident from which she became a paraplegic.

Abbie received a master’s degree in counseling the disabled from the University of San Francisco and volunteered to work with the disabled for many years. She was awarded individually one of President George H.W. Bush’s Thousand Points of Light. She later earned a J.D. from Empire College School of Law. Abbie loved animals and surrounded herself with them. She loved her dogs, cats, goats, and pot-bellied pig and she supported numerous animal rescue charities. She was an inspiration to many, showing great courage and perseverance in the face of many different adversities. Abbie had many close friends and leaves them behind along with her brother Don, sister-in-law Susan, and nephew Derek; all of them will miss her enormously. Anyone wishing to honor her life can make a donation to a charity to benefit the lives of animals or to preserve the environment.

David Warden ’60: Service to his country, community and family

First met David when we were freshmen and he was our class president. David left Friends for Phillips Academy in Andover. When he transferred back to Friends, he had to repeat a year, placing him in the class of 1960. To all the members of the class, he will always be a member of the ’59 “Master Class.”

David was captain of the tennis team and played football and basketball on the varsity teams. He graduated from Randolph Macon College and was a decorated USMC Veteran. Wounded in Vietnam, David received an honorable discharge as a Captain in 1967. He had a very dangerous assignment of taking green troops on their first patrols. David married his Navy nurse, Judy Helmstetter. He retired as a senior executive for the Mobil Oil Corporation after 30 years, 20 years of that time in the Middle East.

After writing about David’s life history, I thought about what made him special. He was a man’s man, and at the same time, a very sensitive guy. I visited him in South Carolina. He was dressed as Santa Claus for a local charity: I could not resist sitting on his knee and requesting my Christmas wish. Then two days later, we were at a local TV station, this time with a dog on his lap, requesting donations to the Foothills Humane Society. During his TV tenure, he had a 100% adoption success.

This all brings me back to Friends, with our theme of “service.” David did his part: service to his country, service to his community, and service to his family and friends.

– David Seeler ’59
Robert Burian '52:
National Guardsman who advocated and understood consumer needs at IBM

Robert Ward Burian, 80, of Fairfield, CT, surrounded by family, died peacefully at home on May 5, 2015, from complications following a stroke. Bob, as he was known to his friends, was born on November 4, 1934, in New York City.

He attended Mount St. Michaels, Friends Academy in Locust Valley, the University of Pennsylvania and the Wharton School. A member of Sigma Chi fraternity, he was also a member of the eight-man varsity Lightweight crew that topped a winning season by competing at the Royal Henley Regatta.

After graduation, he proudly served his country in the National Guard before embarking on a career in marketing, first with Arthur B. Little and Beechnut, and then with IBM. During his tenure at IBM, he gained a reputation as an advocate of the need to understand customer requirements. Known to his colleagues as ‘Mr. Voice of the Customer,’ Bob was a pioneer in shaping the way companies bring products to market.

Bob was active in the Episcopal Church, serving on the vestry and as Senior Warden at St. Timothy’s Church in Fairfield, and was a member of the New Canaan Society, a global, connected network of men who are committed to friendship with Jesus and with each other. He devoted his retirement years to helping others: As a member of the Bridgeport Deanery, the Service Corps for Retired Executives (SCORE), and as an advisor to the Fanny Crosby Nursing Home and the Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

As a talented amateur actor, Bob was a member of the Amateur Comedy Club (New York City) and the Westport Community Theatre. His favorite role was that of Colonel Pickering in Pygmalion.

The highpoint of his acting career occurred when he was a member of the cast of Our Town, a Westport Playhouse production that starred Paul Newman. He also enjoyed singing, both in the choir at St. Timothy’s and as a stalwart of the Coastal Chordsmen (Connecticut).

Bob was an avid sailor and past member of the Shinnecock Yacht Club (Quogue, NY) and the Pequot Yacht Club (Southport, CT). He shared his love of sailing with family and friends, enjoying trips on Long Island Sound, Buzzards Bay, the waters of Nova Scotia and the Caribbean.

When not sailing, Bob loved his time at the Surf Club of Quogue and the Quogue Field Club, and more recently at the Fairfield Beach Club. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Barbara, two children – Pamela Elizabeth Badger and Susan Paige Woods Richards and their husbands, Thomas Badger and George Richards, his brother, Ward Burian, two nieces – Jennifer Burian Rowe and Allyson Burian Sands, and five grandchildren, Grace and Witt Badger, George, William and Kate Richards.

A memorial service was held on Wednesday, May 13, at 11:00 am at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in Fairfield. The Redgate-Hennessy Funeral Home, 4 Gorham Pl, Trumbull, CT, assisted the family with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, 4670 Congress Street, Fairfield CT 06824 or the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, 1088 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport, CT 06605.
“We realized very quickly what a special place Friends Academy is to our children.”

– Jennifer and Henry Williams, FA parents

Fifteen 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.
On Monday, June 1, 2015, over 200 alumni gathered at the Princeton/Columbia Club of NY to honor retiring faculty members: Sharon Nelson, Mary Ann Reardon, Lillian Shulman and Judy James. For more photos, head to www.fa.org/alumni.

Left, Jared Jones-Crosby ’00, Natalie Harrington ’05, Upper School Spanish teacher Edgar Posada, Middle/Upper School art teacher John Regan and Reid Pauly; right, Lydia Graham ’14 and Shekinah Pettway ’14 with librarian Laurie Fleming.

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**Alumni Upcoming Events**

**2015 Fall Fair & Homecoming**

Special reunions for the Classes ending in “0” and “5”

**Saturday, October 3**

10 AM – 4 PM

Look for class reunion details on the alumni pages of the Friends Academy website: [www.fa.org/alumni](http://www.fa.org/alumni)
Friends Academy, Portledge and German students deliver a powerful and united performance as they search to answer the question, "What is the price of freedom?" in a joint Global Studies Scholars program this spring, page 17.