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Friends

MAGAZINE FALL 2020

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HYBRID POWER

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SIDWELL FRIENDS MAGAZINE

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On the Cover
Willa Thompson '33 is outdoors, masked, and in her own hoop zone at the Lower School. Photo by Adele Paynter.

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We Can Get There from Here

How to find a path toward the common good.

BY BRYAN GARMAN

The day before the election, I joined the Parents Association's Quaker Life Committee for their monthly meeting. As I listened, it became apparent that we are all wounded to varying degrees: by the political culture, the pandemic, economic uncertainty, and racism and other forms of hatred. The election has been settled, but as we move forward, our country and community have much work ahead of us.

We might find hope in the passage that the Parents Association read from Melissa Elliot's "You Can Get There from Here" (*Friends Journal*, 1991). Elliot chronicled her experience traveling with other Quakers from the United States to Kenya. They found themselves at odds with the Kenyan Friends due to fundamental differences in beliefs. Kenyans asked if the Americans condoned same-sex relationships and wondered how they could consider themselves Quaker without being

avowedly Christian. Questions created discomfort; the unwillingness to answer widened the divide.

As the conference unfolded, however, the Friends began to work hard to listen closely. The turning point came after Elliot's "worship group" had "a particularly Western-style argument that hadn't gotten us anywhere." When the "leader" asked for suggestions for next steps, a Kenyan woman with "a touchingly quiet voice" requested that Friends embrace an evangelical format. Rather than imposing strict control over the group, the "leader" embraces Quaker process, listens for alternatives, and enables the way to open to mysterious results:

We sang several hymns together, picking out tunes tentatively, hearing each other's voices, as we tried to blend into something that sounded like music. Then we took turns reading the Book of James in our different voices, accents, and languages. As we read, a remarkable thing happened. It had something to do with the way those words can take us outside ourselves and center us on what really counts. Somewhere in there, we also began to hear each other in different ways, as we laid aside our opinions and let those timeless words wash over us.

This passage intimates that we might begin to cure our malaise by getting outside of ourselves and rediscovering values that unite us all. Easier said than done. Nevertheless, we can activate our more noble common traditions in order to blend our voices into one harmonious chorus that inspires us to care for the common good. Our political culture has convinced many that winning an argument—being right—is more important than doing what is right. Without shared sacrifice and examination of power dynamics, without actively seeking harmony with those who disagree with us, we cannot discern the truth together to pursue the common good.

This concept of the common good has exited our political vocabulary in recent years, perhaps because those who have traditionally defined it have sat at the center of power and ignored voices at the margins. When fear divides us, it impoverishes our thinking. It compels us to objectify those who do not share our viewpoint. We must liberate ourselves from self-righteousness and recognize that we all need to make

sacrifices to navigate the profoundly American—and Quaker—tension between freedom and equality with intention, compassion, and the knowledge that our efforts will be imperfect.

The Sidwell Friends community, suggested a friend from the Quaker Life Committee, has an opportunity to confront this challenge now in this complex environment, one that requires us to suspend judgment. "How will we respond to the pandemic?" he asked. Will families decide to ignore safety protocols designed to safeguard the community in order to live cavalierly as if it were last year? Will teachers feel safe on the campus? What risks and liberties need to be balanced?

In life, school, and politics, we must sometimes accept that intractable problems are precisely that: They have no easy answers, and if we expect approaches to be wholly responsive to our individual viewpoint, we are bound to be disappointed.

As we move on from the election to a new administration, I hope we can begin to see the edges of a path forward for our nation and our community. No matter the path we choose, we must recognize that it will be un-blazed, lest

we be disillusioned when we encounter obstacles and need to replot our course.

We could draw upon the hope represented in this photograph of the "future voter" button created by one of our Lower School students—to have faith that we can move forward together when our students start calling on our fundamental humanity and tending to one another. Tired as we are, we have not yet arrived. And so we must keep on.

Let us get outside of ourselves to work for human dignity and the collective good, regardless of who lives in the White House, sits on the Court, or serves in Congress. Like Elliot, I believe we can get there from here. ✨

BG





ON / OFF CAMPUS

Thank you to all who sent in a photo!

Over the summer and into the fall, Sidwell Friends was a decidedly *off campus* endeavor. But ever so carefully, the School began to bring students back *on campus* in small groups for face-to-face (mask-to-mask?) classes, student photos, and three and a half weeks of beautiful weather in November for the hybrid program. Over the better part of a year, these kids have spent heretofore unparalleled amounts of time indoors and in front of screens, so seeing other children in real life was palpably exciting.



AT YOUR SERVICE

Poll Position

Student volunteers keep voting safe.

Despite the prevalence of early and mail-in voting this year, a lot of citizens across DC, Maryland, and Virginia still turned out to vote in person on Election Day. Unfortunately, that meant a lot of people went out in public and waited in line during the pandemic. It also meant a shortage of poll workers, because “poll workers are usually senior citizens, and COVID-19 obviously poses a lot more risk to them,” says **Eva Youel Page ’21**. “So to prevent polls from being closed and to make sure that everyone still has the same access that they would during a normal election year, there was an effort to recruit student poll workers.” Upper School history teacher **Steve Steinbach** gave students the idea, says Youel Page. To qualify as poll workers, interested 18-year-olds had to fill out paperwork and get training specific to their county. That training protects poll workers and the voting process itself. “Because of COVID, fewer people are inclined to go to the polls,” **Vera Chaudhry ’22** says. “But it’s important to make sure that all of the poll locations are open so that you don’t have an influx of people at a very few locations where it’s unsafe or where people decide not to vote because they don’t have access.” Dozens of Sidwell Friends young



people signed up to work the polls in some capacity. The School supported those students with flexible scheduling and credit for their service hours. “If Upper School students worked the polls, they can get however many hours they volunteered added to their graduation total,” Youel Page says. “That’s a good benefit, but it’s also just a nice thing to do to make sure that senior citizens stay safe and that everyone in your community can vote.”



Isah '33

CULTURE CLUB

Fiesta Forever

Una celebración de la cultura hispana.

Lilo Gonzalez is “a superhero from El Salvador who sees music as a way of bringing hope, inspiration, justice, and peace to the world.” At least that’s how Lower School Principal **Adele Paynter** describes him. In September, the Lower School celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with Gonzalez as the guest star. And he brought the fun. Students wiggled, clapped, and sang along while Gonzalez taught them about the “human rainbow”—the special result of diverse peoples and cultures coming together. Gonzalez mostly performed in English and Spanish, though he also sang in French, Chinese, Swahili, and Nahuatl, an Aztec-derived language from El Salvador. (A song about the importance of handwashing was especially timely.) At the end of the month, the School’s Latinx teachers and families contributed videos of their own traditions for a Hispanic Heritage fiesta. Of course, the celebration of Hispanic culture—and all the diverse cultures that comprise Sidwell Friends—will always continue throughout the year.



KIDS 'N PLAY

Looking Foxy

Masks are the new black.

From fox masks to colorful bandannas, Sidwell Friends students prove that face coverings are both fashion forward and considerate.



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Scenes from hybrid learning

CLASS ACTS

Hybrid Energy

Learning to play it safe.

What does Sidwell Friends look like in 2020? Think plexiglass desks, smaller groups, and plenty of masks. As the School shifted to a hybrid learning program, making everyone's return as safe as possible was the top priority. But for the kids, it was friends and joy—a slice of normalcy in a year that went sideways. Some students met their classmates in person for the first time. Some felt better about asking questions and connecting with their teachers. Some had more robust

discussions, even from six feet apart. And some participated in athletics for the first time in a long time. For many teachers, it meant feeling the energy of students again while trying out a different way to teach. The School's hybrid model may not be quite the same as before, but at moments, it still felt like old times. Safety means breaking students into smaller groups, only hosting a few cohorts on campus at a time, and creating other ways for students to remain at a distance from one another and their teachers. That's why 4th graders, instead of heading back to the Lower School campus in Bethesda, found themselves traveling a few miles up Wisconsin Avenue to DC and the Middle School. After

working with the Sidwell Friends Medical Advisory Team and using guidelines from local and national health experts, the precautions are clear: Desks are shielded in plexiglass, students and teachers sport masks, lunches are individually packed, everyone on campus has recently been tested for COVID-19, and every morning parents fill out a questionnaire about student health. The return to in-person learning meant a return to a familiar routine. "The best part was hearing several conversations at the same time—and the kids could actually understand each other," 4th grade teacher **Teresita Cuesta** says. "And there was no need to use the mute button."

CULTURE CLUB

Let Them Eat Moon Cake

How to properly honor the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The Mid-Autumn Festival, celebrated in many East Asian cultures, is a time for families to gather. This year, despite social distance, the Parents of Asian Students made sure it still was. In October, the group hosted over 100 people from 50 families in a virtual class with Chef **Lisa Chang** of the acclaimed Mama Chang restaurant in Fairfax City, Virginia. Chang shared her recipe for moon cakes—their round shape symbolizes the moon, reunification, and togetherness—and taught the families how to make them over Zoom. "It's a new way to celebrate an old culture," said **Zhe Tang**, the co-clerk of the All-School Parents of Asian Students (PAS). "When the Mid-Autumn Festival was approaching, PAS thought it was the perfect time to host a moon-cake-making class and embrace the culture of the festival." Though of Chinese origin, variations of the cakes appear throughout East Asia. Chang showcased two recipes: a Suzhou-style meat moon cake and a Cantonese



Making moon cakes with Lisa Chang and Grace Mai.

red-bean moon cake. Even though the lesson took place virtually, the essence of the Mid-Autumn Festival remained: The bright fall moon hung in the sky, and families and friends were together in spirit.



Upper School students return to sports.

GOOD SPORTS

Field Days

Think your schedule is demanding?

How do you bring over 200 student athletes back to campus during a pandemic? It takes a unique approach to logistics. The 200 students are first divided into their individual sports and then subdivided into 34 discrete cohorts of five to seven kids. A cohort can't mix with any

other cohorts, but students in the same cohort can mix with one another—from six feet apart. Sidwell Friends coaches are only allowed to be in contact with three cohorts; that limits exposure and makes contact tracing easier. It also means teasing out the coaches affiliated with more than one sport so they aren't double-booked. All practices are held outdoors, so the coaches also have to figure out who gets which field or court when and for how long. To make all of this work safely, Athletics is also training on Saturdays. That means hundreds of students and any number of coaches having different practices at different times on any given day, six days a week—all while socially distancing. And, if an athlete or coach—or one of their family members—is exposed to COVID-19, a whole cohort may have to quarantine for two weeks. "It's very complicated," says **Keith Levinthal**, the David P. Pearson '52 Director of Athletics. But, he says, the "coaches are amazing," noting their willingness, and even enthusiasm, to work Saturdays. "They just want to be with the kids," Levinthal says. So, Athletics plans to press on with all-outdoor practices as long as necessary. "Why take the risk of going inside?" Levinthal asks. "It almost never goes below 30 degrees. Put on more clothing!"



Training while socially distant



KIDS 'N PLAY

There's No Place Like...

Sidwell Friends holds a Stay-at-Home Homecoming celebration.

How does Homecoming work in a stay-at-home world? With Spirit Days, trivia competitions, and, of course, sports. Yes, sports. Even though the Quakers couldn't take the field, students, parents, guardians, and alumni could watch some of the most exciting moments in Sidwell sports history: Athletes, alumni, and coaches weighed in with docu-style commentary about what it was like to be there during past excitements like the 2020 girls' basketball

championship; the 2019 boys' basketball championship, which the team won in the final heart-stopping seconds of the game; the 2019 girls' soccer championship; and the nail-biting 2015 football championship. Students celebrated with the usual Spirit Week theme days, including Twin Day, Crazy Hair Day, and Pajama Day (even though Pajama Day likely occurs regularly during distance learning). Lower Schoolers spent their Saturday participating in an outdoor



Pajama Day at the Lower School

scavenger hunt, crafts, and service projects; Saturday also included a Zoom show-and-tell session and a Meeting for Worship. Middle Schoolers showed off their decorated bedroom doors, part of a spirit-boosting competition, and they worked with their homerooms to create the best Zoom-enabled photo montage. Upper Schoolers, meanwhile, topped off their traditional activities with new ones, like a pie-eating contest and a *Jeopardy!* competition. While no substitute for in-person fun, virtual gatherings can offer friends an opportunity to come together in ways they wouldn't normally—proving that distance can't keep the Sidwell Friends community apart.

STATE OF THE ARTS

A Radical Proposition

How race, family, and art can change one's view of history.

An inheritance can look like many things. A trust fund. A painting. A grandfather's pocket watch. Or it might not look like a thing at all. "Birthright," a video by artist **Maren Hassinger**, addresses what it's like to inherit something unseen. "Birthright" is about a kind of inheritance," says **Charlotte Ickes '04**, the curator of Time-Based Media Art and Special Projects at the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery. "Maren isn't talking about inheriting property or wealth. She's talking about inheriting a 'feeling of being unloved,' and how settler colonialism, chattel slavery, and racial capitalism have produced this." Ickes hosted a screening of "Birthright" and a discussion with Hassinger for the Sidwell Friends community and the public in October. In addition to the screening, the discussion covered Hassinger's public installation "Monument," which arrived

in Dupont Circle this fall. Hassinger also taught attendees how to twist newspaper, a meditative ritual she performed through the course of the video. Even though the event wasn't in the National Portrait Gallery, there were some benefits to Zoom. "This is a work that ordinarily you'd have to go to a museum or gallery to see it, and Maren graciously allowed us to watch it from the comfort of our home and on our computer," Ickes says. "This isn't Netflix—this is an artwork. That's incredibly special." Ickes hopes students who attended the event took away a special sort of knowledge. "I'm hoping, especially for kids at Sidwell Friends who are studying the history of the United States, that they will see how this video becomes a kind of poetic archive, a radical proposition for an alternative way of considering history," Ickes says. "Artists make us see our past in a different way."



Hassinger

AT YOUR SERVICE

Peace Makers

How two parents created a handy kit to help kids sit in silence.

Meeting for Worship is a time to center, reflect, and listen to one's inner voice. It's also a time to be with others. "It isn't something to be done alone or in solitude," says **Noreen Muhib**, the co-clerk of the Lower School Parents Association Quaker Life Committee (parent of **Zaid '27**, **Aliya '30**, and **Isah '33**). "It's about being together. It wasn't meant to be done in isolation." During normal times at Sidwell Friends, it wasn't.

But these aren't normal times. Young students often find the digital divide of virtual Meetings for Worship difficult to overcome. That's why Muhib and her Quaker Life Committee co-clerk, **Melissa Merideth** (parent of **Isabel '27** and **Oliver '30**), created a Meeting for Worship kit. Each Lower Schooler received a candle, a packet of seeds, and a rock. "The candle's light symbolizes the Inner Light, the seeds represent connecting to and taking care of the Earth, and the rock reminds us of our testimonies," Merideth says. Last spring, Muhib says, her family would Zoom into Meeting for Worship from the couch, the bed, even the floor. It didn't feel

special. "But if the children are all able to see the same items on each other's tables," she says, "it creates a consistency so they feel connected."



Oliver '30 and Isabel '27



CLASS ACTS

The Itsy, Bitsy Spider Plant

This school supply is alive.

Adrian '34 shows off his new spider plant, which was just one of the materials he received when he and his brother, **Nicholas '30**, attended the Lower School's supply pickup. It's not just for decoration—this plant is a symbol of community during distance learning. Prekindergarten teacher **Katie Kunin** has the mother plant, and each student has one of the baby plants. "It's a way to connect to our campus classroom and connect to each other," says prekindergarten teacher **Kathleen Geier**, noting that she and Kunin also sent home pots and soil. "Each of us is caring for that connection in a real way through the spider plant baby. The kids are thrilled and proud to be a part of this experience, and mother and babies seem to be thriving!"



AT YOUR SERVICE

Health and Human Services

The Sidwell Friends School’s Medical Advisory Team rivals teams working at the city and state levels.

Moving to a full hybrid plan at Sidwell Friends was not a decision the School came to lightly. The Sidwell Friends Medical Advisory Team (MAT)—comprising parents, trustees, and alumni with deep experience in medicine, epidemiology, and pandemic response—scoured the data to inform the School’s approach. The MAT was instrumental in setting the metrics for the 2020/21 School Plan, which determined how and when to shift from distance to hybrid learning and vice versa. The School is also monitoring the area’s positivity rates daily and will consult with the MAT if Sidwell Friends has to return to distance learning. To help the community understand MAT thinking, Director of Health Services **Jasmin Whittfield** hosted several all-School conversations to introduce the MAT members and let them answer questions about the science behind the hybrid plan.

To give context as to how far the region has come since its peak, **Steve Evans** (P ’24), the chief medical officer at MedStar Health, explained the DC area’s journey. “In April and May, the average positive testing exceeded 20 percent,” he said. “We are down now to well underneath 5 percent, hovering at 2 to 3 percent.” That’s why maintaining a seemingly conservative 2 percent threshold of new cases at Sidwell Friends is relevant: Keeping community transmission down is critical because it reflects the community’s COVID-19 practices. “The health departments really want those numbers to be around 2 to 3 percent,” said **Amanda Castel ’91**, an epidemiologist at the George Washington University School of Public Health, who has been working on the COVID-19 response since mid-March.

“If you look at the baseline surveillance testing that’s been taking place in our School community, it’s less than 1 percent.”

Raj Shah (P ’24, ’27, ’29), the president of the Rockefeller Foundation, broke down those numbers further. “The background-risk math and what we’ve seen in about 1,100 schools that are open in the United States over the past six weeks is that the average COVID-19 rate is about one positive kid per 1,000 over a two-week period,” he said. “That’s really very, very low. Frankly, when you layer on the effectiveness of the risk-mitigation strategies we have in place, that presents an exceedingly low risk for our students and, importantly, for faculty in that environment.” Shah added that he is completely comfortable with his own three children attending School in the hybrid model.

Not only do Sidwell Friends students have a low risk of contracting coronavirus; there are real consequences to staying isolated. “A few things are more pronounced in kids in this distance-learning COVID model and way of life, including loneliness, boredom, anxiety, sleep problems, eating disorders, and decreased physical activity,” says **Ali Mohamadi ’94**, a pediatric endocrinologist. “That’s validated by data, experience, and expert counsel from around the country. The fact that we have onsite testing, can handle an expedited contact-tracing process, and can enable faculty to just have more confidence is extraordinary. It’s a risk-protection strategy that most places in America don’t have.”

Meet the Whole Team



AMANDA CASTEL ’91 (P ’21, ’24) serves as professor of epidemiology at the George Washington University School of Public Health.

STEVE EVANS (P ’24) is chief medical officer and executive vice president for medical affairs at MedStar Health. Governor Larry Hogan appointed him to serve on the state of Maryland’s Coronavirus Response Team

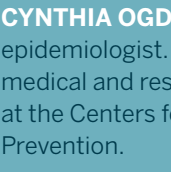


WAYNE A.I. FREDERICK (P ’24) is the 17th president of Howard University. At Howard, he has served as the College of Medicine associate dean, Department of Surgery division chief, Cancer Center director, and Health Sciences deputy provost.

PEGGY HAMBURG (P ’11, ’13) served as the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s president and board chair, as the National Academy of Medicine’s foreign secretary, and as the 21st commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.



ALI MOHAMADI ’94 (P ’23, ’26) is a pediatric endocrinologist and executive director of global patient advocacy and engagement at BioMarin Pharmaceutical, which develops medications for rare and life-threatening conditions.



CYNTHIA OGDEN (P ’15, ’18) is an epidemiologist. She leads a team of medical and research epidemiologists at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



CHANNING PALLER ’97 is a translational researcher and associate professor of oncology at Johns Hopkins, where she both treats patients and researches more effective and less toxic therapies for prostate cancer and other solid tumors.

RAJ SHAH (P ’24, ’27, ’29) is president of the Rockefeller Foundation, which has published a number of reports on pandemic response and recovery and has counseled cities and states on pandemics.



Well Wishes

Be SidWELL is an awareness campaign to keep simple, personal actions at the center of community health. One of the most critical changes the School community can make is to shift personal behaviors and habits—on and off campus. Students started to return to campus at a time of great unknowns, and, for many, that may have produced some level of anxiety about things like what it might feel like to be tested repeatedly or to wear a mask all day. With students ranging in age from 4 to 18 years old, Sidwell Friends needed a simple, visual language that would be instantly recognizable, so students and adults alike could keep the community safe by remembering the four W’s: Wash hands, Wear masks, Watch your distance, and Watch your words—and. Thanks to a little masked fox, they’re doing just that. #BeSidWELL



GOOD SPORTS

GAME CHANGERS

Leftwich

Two Sidwell Friends Coaches Earn Hall-of-Fame Honors

Sports teams may not have true seasons or games this fall, but the legacy of Sidwell Friends athletics still made its mark. This fall, the District of Columbia Sports Athletic Association (DCSAA) inducted two former Sidwell Friends coaches—**George Leftwich** (football and basketball) and **Sheila Weaver** (volleyball)—into its Hall of Fame. “It is a thrill to welcome these incredible coaches to the DCSAA High School Hall of Fame,” says **Clark Ray**, the executive director of the DCSAA, which serves District of Columbia public schools, public charter schools, and independent private and parochial schools. Since the DCSAA formed in 2012, student-athlete participation in the city has shot up. As for the new slate of Hall of Fame coaches, “Without these men and women, we would not be where we are today,” Ray says.

“Their contributions to athletics are immense.”

That is certainly true of Coach Sheila Weaver, who successfully led the Sidwell Friends girls’ volleyball team to a whopping five league titles and more than 200 victories. Weaver also founded the Academic and Athletic Alliance of Washington, DC, a nonprofit that works with underserved communities, coaches, athletes, and administrators in various sports around the country. The alliance helps young athletes balance academics and sports, so they can find paths to college and success.

“Sheila was one of the first people my family met who welcomed us into the Sidwell Friends community and the world of volleyball,” says **Candace Novoselnik ’98**, the current Sidwell

Friends varsity volleyball head coach, who actually played for Coach Weaver herself while a student at Sidwell Friends. “At that time, volleyball was dominated and mainly played on California beaches and at West Coast schools,” Novoselnik says. “Coach Weaver promoted the sport.” And not just at Sidwell Friends. Through the Academic and Athletic Alliance, she brought legendary beach-volleyball players like Sinjin Smith and Olympic gold medalist Karch Kiraly (now the head coach of the U.S. women’s national volleyball team) to the nation’s capital to introduce volleyball to inner-city students at camps and clinics. “Coach Weaver was able to merge the community and the sport of volleyball,” Novoselnik says. “She was a true ambassador for growing the sport’s diversity and making it as

competitive as basketball, especially among young African American kids.”

For George Leftwich, induction into the DCSAA High School Hall of Fame is yet another feather in his cap; he’s already a member of the University of the District of Columbia Hall of Fame. Leftwich, a local, was a star basketball player at Archbishop Carroll High School in Northeast DC before heading to Villanova University for college. But when the Detroit Pistons drafted Leftwich, he opted not to head to the NBA. Even then, Leftwich was destined for a career in coaching, a career that spanned five decades and stayed local. He coached at his alma mater, Archbishop Carroll; at Gwynn Park High School in Maryland, where he won a pair of state titles and was named coach of the year; at Georgetown University, where he assisted his former high school teammate, John Thompson, who’s also a DCSAA Class of 2020 Hall of Famer; at the University of the District of Columbia; and, ultimately, at Sidwell Friends, where he coached the Quakers in basketball and football for 13 years.

John Simon, the Sidwell Friends head football coach, says, “We had several championship football teams in the time George was a coach.” Simon specifically remembers a tough game against Potomac, in which Leftwich was pivotal. “We were driving downfield, trying to get in the endzone and win with only two minutes left in the game,” Simon says. “We called a timeout to discuss what play we wanted to run with our quarterback, **Nasser Muhammad ’05**, who was also the starting point guard for George on the Sidwell Friends basketball team.” But when Muhammad came to the sidelines, he asked for a break. Before Simon could say anything, “George said, ‘Nasser, you don’t need a break, you are the starting quarterback, and we need you to win this game,’” Simon says. “Nasser looked at me and George

and said, ‘Okay, coach, if you insist.’ Nasser returned to the field, and two plays later, he ran for the game-winning touchdown! I owe George that win, and I will never forget that game!”

Sheila Weaver and George Leftwich join Sidwell Friends Coach Anne Renninger (inducted in 2018) in the DCSAA Hall of Fame.

#GoQuakers!



Weaver

“More Than Just Magic Typewriters”

A brief history of computer technology at Sidwell Friends School.

BY LOREN HARDENBERGH

On September 8, more than a thousand students and over 200 faculty and staff used their Sidwell Friends—issued devices to connect on the first day of School. Meetings for Worship, assemblies, classes, faculty meetings, and student clubs were all held via Zoom video conferencing. At virtual Back-to-School Night, teachers shared QR codes that allowed parents to use their smartphones and other personal devices to download apps and monitor their children’s work.

In these extraordinary times, it’s easy to forget that starting the academic year online in this way would have been impossible at any other moment in School history. Let’s take this opportunity to look back on how we got to this point.



Lower School students practice typing, circa the 1950s.

1921

The Sidwell Friends Eye Street office has two typewriters and a “duplicator.”

1951

- There are two typewriters in the Middle School.
- The administration building boasts 10 typewriters, one keystone projector, one electronic mimeograph machine, one hand mimeograph, and one ditto machine.

1962

- Hank Dater teaches a Saturday computer class in the basement of the old Upper School building where about 20 students learn to

write a program to play checkers with the IBM 7090 mainframe computer. The highlight of the course is visiting the Bureau of Standards to see the IBM 7090 in person and try out their programs.

- An editorial in *Horizon* requests a School computer terminal: “There is no aspect of our lives which has not been touched by the computer, and there is no reason why the School cannot introduce this fact of life to the students.” (*Horizon*, 1972)

1974

The first computer terminal arrives on campus. It has paper-tape memory (similar to punch cards) so that students can reuse programs.

1976

A computer aids in scheduling: “With the advent of computer scheduling, it appears that the individual student has once again been thrown into the jaws of technology, an unwilling sacrifice to that impersonal deity, the computer.” (*Horizon*, 1976)

1979

The Upper School purchases Apple II Plus “microcomputers” that are “about the size of electric typewriters and can be carried easily from classroom to classroom.” (*Horizon*, 1979)



Two Upper School students use IBM-compatible computers, featuring dual disk drives, circa the late 1980s.

1980

The Middle School obtains computers (Radio Shack TRS-80) and one disk drive.

1981

The School retires the Phillips ledger-card system and computerizes the alumni mailing list.



In this math class in 1982, televisions are repurposed as monitors for the Apple II.

1982

The Lower School acquires four Texas Instruments computers (TI-99/4A).

1983

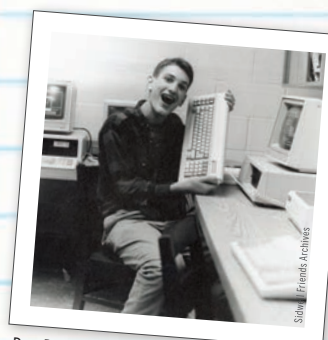
Six computers—Texas Instruments TI-99A with 64K memory—arrive at the Middle School, and students learn LOGO: “The computers are not equipped with any disk drives or cassette players to store the student’s programs.” (*Horizon*, 1983)

1988

Horizon describes the School’s computers as “a hacker’s dream, this megakilobyte, intercooled console, with tactile feedback keyboard, was recently acquired from the DC school system, and now resides in the computer room.” (*Horizon*, 1988)

1989

Computer classes replace the 5th and 6th grade shop program.



Dan Ragussis ‘90 knows he’s holding “more than a magic keyboard.”

1990

- Students produce *Horizon* totally in-house using the desktop-publishing software PageMaker.
- The freshman curriculum includes word processing, spreadsheets, and databases.
- Faculty teach typing on computers rather than typewriters: “More than just magic typewriters, computers are now something on which our students learn, reason, and invent.” (*Horizon*, 1990)

1991

The Upper School computerizes its library card catalog and acquires CD-ROM reference works.

1993

- The Middle School retires its DOS-only computers in favor of 386- and 486-chip Windows computers with CD-ROM drives.
- The Upper School joins the internet: “Electronic mail (also known as e-mail) ... enables people to send and receive mail to and from other users around the world. ... There are numerous ‘sites’ on the Internet from which anyone can download files.” (*Horizon*, 1993)

1995

Faculty departments receive computers so they do not have visit the computer room to access “CD-ROM technology and Internet information servers.” (*Horizon*, 1995)

1996

- The School purchases six laptop computers on a test basis.
- Sidwell Friends installs a School-wide inter-campus network. Faculty, staff, and students receive School email accounts.
- The School warns students that, if chain letters are found in their sent mail, their accounts could be suspended.

1999

The School purchases 10 laptops for all three divisions to share: “[E]-mail is a regular part of most students’ daily routines. I sometimes get the impression that students would rather read their e-mail than eat.” (*Horizon*, 1999)

2000

- The School purchases 72 new PCs for its four computer labs.
- Individual network drives, after experiencing frequent crashes, expand to 50MB per person.

2008

The Middle School pilots a one-to-one laptop program.

2011

- The Lower School pilots a one-to-one iPad program in kindergarten.
- All Middle School students receive School-issued laptops.

2013

The Lower School fully deploys iPads in grades K–4.



A student begins the academic year at home on his iPad in 2020.

2020

- Sidwell Friends holds its first completely virtual preK–12 classes—as well as its first virtual Commencement, Meeting for Worship, Back-to-School Night, Reunion, and Homecoming.
- The School issues tablets/laptops to all students in all divisions.

STRIVING FOR EQUITY

Equity at Sidwell Friends still has a long way to go, but the School will never stop working toward it.

BY NATALIE CHAMP, KRISTEN PAGE, AND SACHA ZIMMERMAN

The phrase “thoughts and prayers” has so saturated public discourse that it has been divested of all meaning and is virtually unusable. “Words and thoughts may create a sense of solace for some, but they are fleeting,” says Natalie Randolph '98, the director of the Equity, Justice, and Community (EJC) program at Sidwell Friends. “Real work is needed. We have to work together to move past the starting point and into sustainable, effective action.” It’s a message Ibram X. Kendi, the author of *How to Be an Antiracist*, echoed in several live events with the Sidwell Friends community: “Racial inequity is a problem of bad policy, not bad people” (see “Shocks to the Systems,” on page 26). As Randolph puts it: “This is a time for deliberate and strategic action.”

The School’s forthcoming EJC Strategic Action Plan does just that, outlining the concrete steps Sidwell Friends has taken and is taking to address issues of equity and justice (see “Planning for Equity,” on page 21). The plan focuses first and foremost on the students, including by bringing student government and student affinity-group leaders (from the Black Student Union to the Gay-Straight Alliance), into administrative discussions. Those discussions also include the Black Alumni Association, Parents of Black Students, Parents of Asian Students, Parents of Latinx Students, and many others who want to increase equity-related programming. Students are also at the heart of the School’s Center for Ethical Leadership, which helps students advance social justice through service as a means to make meaningful change. The center will also be launching a leadership conference.

Part of the EJC Strategic Action Plan calls for Randolph to gather quantitative and qualitative data, in part from surveys and focus groups, to assess the School’s climate and to better understand the experiences of the community. Randolph invited faculty and staff to participate in “listening sessions.” That broad invitation, in turn, led to a large and committed team devoted to equity work. “I am grateful to be collaborating with nearly 45 dedicated people,” Randolph says, “including our divisional EJC coordinators, student leaders, principals, teachers, and staff.” Head of School Bryan Garman is among them. “This kind of work,” he says, “restores hope and deepens understanding.”

Next, the School is emphasizing the importance of having a faculty that is as diverse as the student body. Courtney Peterson, the School’s culture officer and

chief of human resources, says that diversity projects are now strategic business imperatives. “Organizations are governed by policies, practices, and traditions,” Peterson recently told *Forbes* magazine, where she is a member of the Forbes Human Resources Council, an invitation-only expert panel. “Interrogate these things. Ask the hard questions about who is advantaged and who is not. Changing hearts and minds can be a goal, but sustained accountability for behaviors is how you shift culture.” As an example of the School’s initiative in this area, Peterson points to a new pipeline for Howard University student-teachers to train and work at Sidwell Friends (see “Citizens, United,” on page 22).

Just as important as recruiting diverse faculty is ensuring teachers are creating anti-racist classrooms and multicultural curricula. Several professional development programs are already taking on that challenge through the School’s Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL): So far, teachers have already attended two sessions of mandatory professional development focused on equitable teaching practices and anti-racist solutions—and more sessions are planned for next semester. Mandatory professional development will occur every year with equity-themed workshops built into the academic calendar. The EJC program will also offer in-house training for all affinity-group leaders. Faculty and staff have also been attending or leading “SEED” workshops at Sidwell Friends for three years. The National SEED (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Project asks teachers to acknowledge and respond to systems of power, oppression, and privilege. The intensive series meets every month throughout the academic year, and it is now required for first- and second-year teachers at Sidwell Friends—the idea being that one day all teachers will be SEED-trained. “You can’t have the CTL without EJC,” says Randolph, “Instructional practice leads to better equity.”

The Sidwell Friends curriculum strives to be multicultural, from its language offerings to cultural studies to a stream of events that celebrate Spanish and Latinx heritage, the Lunar New Year, international fashion, and Diwali, to name just a few, and the School still has much work to do. Part of the strategic-planning process will be to consistently review curricula to improve diversity of perspective and representation. Meanwhile, teachers are also dismantling traditional Western-focused educational norms. They are teaching through a vast spectrum of perspectives, whether it is using underrepresented primary sources to teach history, reconceiving reading lists for a globalized world, or learning about the disproportionate effect of climate change on minority populations.

“One of the most extraordinary things about our teachers is that they have always kept their eye on creating a more just and equitable learning environment for all students,” says Adele Paynter, the Lower School principal, who finds inspiration from the work of Ibram X. Kendi and Zaretta Hammond, the author of *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students*. “We continue to examine our teaching practices, curriculum, and policies with the end goal of allowing each of our children to share their Light and fulfill their full human potential.” Now teachers will have even more help in that mission. Sidwell Friends has introduced two new endowed academic chairs: the Señora Guillermina Medrano de Supervía Endowed Chair for Spanish and Latin American Studies (see “*ibuenos noticias!*” on page 25), and the African and African American Studies Chair (see “Against Erasure,” on page 24).

Helping the School complete and implement the EJC Strategic Action Plan is Dax-Devlon Ross '93, a social-impact consultant, attorney, and award-winning investigative journalist. Among other efforts, like identifying and dismantling systemic biases, Ross is also providing the School with an invaluable outside perspective to both detect potential blind spots and provide accountability. That is particularly salient in light of a number of alumni and students who have shared concerns and personal stories about a gap between the School's principles and their experiences on the ground. In a letter from the Sidwell Friends Board of Trustees, members acknowledged that the School had more to do to fulfill its obligations to equity and inclusion, and they committed to “identifying

and addressing all forms of racism and prejudice in our community, particularly anti-Black racism.” Ross wants to help Sidwell Friends follow through on that commitment. He has already led trainings for employees as well as the administrative team, and he will also be working with Randolph on an experience for Board members.

Most important, though, are the students. The first goal of the EJC Strategic Action Plan is to put students at the center of all equity work. “Given that the empowerment of young voices is central to the national dialogue,” says Randolph, “we are deeply committed to working more closely with our students.” One way the School has started on that path is through its new Student-First Framework, a living document outlining a number of reflective questions that employees can use to interrogate their own practices for equity and whether or not students, of any identity or experience, are at the center of their actions or decision-making processes.

Over the next several pages, you will find a selection of stories that highlight the School's equity work. It is by no means an exhaustive account, but hopefully it offers a window into the community's dedication to inclusivity. As Randolph says, “It's going to take a combination of urgency and endurance.”

To learn more, offer suggestions or advice, or simply connect with the EJC program, go to sidwell.edu/equity.



Randolph

PLANNING FOR EQUITY

Natalie Randolph '98 has a lot on tap. Here's a snapshot of the EJC Strategic Action Plan.

Key Broad Goals and Actions

GOAL NO. 1: Create and maintain a student-centered approach to all EJC work, increase student EJC programming and co-curricular experiences, and increase student collaboration in institutional planning.

A few things the School is currently doing:

- Establishing EJC clubs at the Middle and Upper Schools.
- Working with student leadership groups to determine key student concerns and generate ideas for improvement.
- Implementing a Student-First Framework—an inquiry tool that allows all employees to interrogate their practice for equity and focus on student experiences and outcomes.

A few things the School is planning:

- Start the research and planning process to launch age-appropriate affinity spaces in the Lower School.
- Restart curricular review processes for STEM and humanities.
- Establish regular communication protocols among student leadership, senior administration, and the Board of Trustees.

GOAL NO. 2: Create an evaluative culture in which the School regularly and critically evaluates institutional, divisional, and departmental policies, procedures, systems, structures, and curricula to identify those that may be harmful, inequitable, or indirectly cause inequities, as well as create strategies and plans to revise, dismantle, and/or replace them.

A few things the School is currently doing:

- Creating data-collection systems for key programs, such as the Student Support Team and Service Learning Programs.
- Reviewing hiring, onboarding, and retention programs and processes.
- Providing mandatory and optional equity professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.

A few things the School is planning:

- Restart the growth and evaluation procedure review process.
- Collect and analyze quantitative and qualitative data in all institutional areas.
- Create and implement clearer protocols to address equity complaints and concerns.

GOAL NO. 3: Broaden EJC practice to bring more community members into the work and keep them engaged. Let the concepts of voices, inquiry, empathy, and action guide all EJC work.

A few things the School is currently doing:

- Soliciting employee volunteers to assist with equity action steps and initiatives.
- Creating affinity spaces and book clubs for employees.
- Continuing the SEED program.

A few things the School is planning:

- Incorporate differentiated professional development opportunities for employees, and co-curricular opportunities for students, to meet community members where they are.
- Begin the professional development component of the Howard University partnership.
- Host more community conversations with prominent alumni and equity professionals.

Key Issues Already Identified via Conversations with Stakeholders

- Recruit and retain faculty and staff who represent the diversity of the student body.
- Further infuse diversity into the curricula and create a better representation of diverse perspectives
- Revise and enhance protocols to address equity complaints and concerns.
- Create and maintain a culture that continually strives to be equitable and anti-racist.

EQUITY IS THE MEDIUM

The School's Center for Teaching and Learning is infusing equity into curricula across subjects, making equity itself a learning medium. In the Lower School, the library is promoting books with equitable language. In the Middle School, teachers like Lauren Lamb are looking at math through the lens of equity—from analyzing the Electoral College to budgeting for the family in the play *A Raisin in the Sun*. In the Upper School, EJC Director Natalie Randolph and Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs Robert Gross are co-teaching “The DMV,” a course focused on the DC metro area, and the main challenges U.S. cities face—like education, housing, transportation, and criminal justice. DMV students will also work with nonprofits to make an impact on the area. Teaching with equity is vital because kids learn differently, and for some, context is critical.

CITIZENS, UNITED

An alliance between Howard University and Sidwell Friends will focus on teachers, curricula, dialogue, law, religion, and democracy.



Sidwell Friends and Howard University form a partnership.

The future of racial justice and equity in this nation rests on working with some of the top young minds so they can grow into the solution-oriented critical thinkers of tomorrow,” said Howard University President Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick (P ’24) at an event to formalize a partnership with Sidwell Friends. Working together, the two schools plan to transform discussions about race, justice, equity, and education among teachers and youth leaders. Building on a collaboration that began in 2018, Frederick and Sidwell Friends Head of School Bryan Garman officially signed the agreement in August. The partnership involves multiple projects spanning Howard’s Professional Schools of Education, Law, and Divinity, and its Departments of African Studies and Afro-American Studies. The agreement focuses on training opportunities for future teachers, culturally responsive curricula, interfaith dialogue, the law, and a national conversation on diversity and democracy. This isn’t the first partnership between the two schools: In the 1970s, Howard worked with Sidwell Friends to address the needs of Black students.

“Working with a Quaker school that strives to educate for a more just society and to act on moral imperatives continues to be very meaningful for the university,” Frederick says. Garman echoes that enthusiasm. “We hope to deepen the conversation

about racial justice in our communities and to inspire tomorrow’s leaders,” Garman says. “It is an honor to have a relationship with one of the most important academic institutions in our nation, one dedicated to the idea that education should free minds and promote a just society.”

Partnering with the Howard School of Education

In 2018, Dawn Williams, the dean of the Howard School of Education, and Courtney Peterson, the Sidwell Friends culture officer and chief of human resources, began collaborating on the School of Education’s Teacher Education Advisory Council, which consults on issues and trends in education. The council also provides Howard students who are training as teachers with professional opportunities at Sidwell Friends. The new partnership will focus on expanding this arrangement and offering more classroom opportunities for on-the-job training, career coaching, interview training, and skill building.

“It’s exciting,” Peterson says. “By working with Howard, we are building a way to expand our talent base and find gifted and talented professionals of color.” This year, the Lower School has welcomed three student teachers from Howard. “As we look ahead, we hope these relationships not only help inspire and grow the next generation of teachers,” says Lower School principal Adele Paynter, “but also provide Sidwell Friends with a long-term pipeline of diverse, talented teachers.”

Howard faculty will also work with Sidwell Friends teachers to host seminars and curriculum-development training. In 2019, this work began with Howard’s Associate Professor of Educational Leadership Kmt Shockley, who led several Sidwell Friends teachers as they decolonized the classroom. Using a Sidwell Friends Strategic Plan grant, Shockley and Sidwell Friends teachers examined traditional historic narratives from myriad cultural perspectives.



Garman and Frederick

Now, the Lower School is working with Howard faculty members Kimberly E. Freeman, Katina January-Vance, and A. Wade Boykin to develop more plans for inclusive teaching. According to Min Kim, the assistant head of school for academic affairs at Sidwell Friends, the partnership with Howard University will “provide teachers with access to professors engaged in the latest research and best practices in culturally responsive teaching as well as all of the major academic fields that inform our School’s curriculum.”

Partnering with Howard’s Departments of African Studies and Afro-American Studies and Howard Law School’s Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center

Howard University and the Sidwell Friends Center for Ethical Leadership will create a summer conference on race, democracy, and education for prekindergarten through 12th grade teachers and students. The conference will be a collaboration among the Howard Departments of African Studies and Afro-American Studies; Sidwell Friends’ Director of Equity, Justice, and Community Natalie Randolph ’98; and Sidwell Friends’ future African and African American Studies chair.

Eventually, Howard undergraduates and graduate students will serve as mentors to Sidwell Friends Upper School students in order to connect young leaders. In addition to the conference, Sidwell Friends will collaborate with Howard Law School’s Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center to co-sponsor a summer institute on racial equity and the law that will include active education through moot court.

Partnering with the Howard School of Divinity

Next, the Sidwell Friends Center for Ethical Leadership will join the Howard School of Divinity to promote interfaith dialogue and conflict resolution among young people throughout Washington, DC. Inspired by the work of Eboo Patel, the Sidwell Friends 2019 Peace Speaker, both communities will build shared programs, interfaith service projects, and a forum to promote cultural understanding. “This is a necessary journey,” Randolph says. “Building communities of respect is inherently fundamental to our Quaker values. Given the societal movements and inequities of today, this world could benefit from youth leadership that values the humanity of everyone.”

Engaged Citizens

Both Howard University and Sidwell Friends School are historic DC institutions with long-established histories of academic excellence. Founded in 1867, 16 years before Sidwell Friends, Howard remains one of the nation’s top-ranked private research universities and a preeminent historically Black university. Both institutions consider education a shared responsibility that prepares students to become active and engaged citizens for the benefit of the greater good. Howard University Provost Anthony Wutoh says that he looks forward to continuing to build on the relationship with Sidwell Friends. “In the context of the significant societal upheaval we are experiencing,” he says, “our actions can serve as a testament to how elevated scholarship and dynamic dialogue can bring to life a better future for our children and this country.”

AGAINST ERASURE

The School pursues a new endowed African and African American Studies Chair.

“Our history did not start with slavery, and our future did not die with Dr. Martin Luther King.” This is how DeDe Lea’s (P ’22, ’25) history lesson begins. And when Lea talks about African and African American history and culture, you begin to recognize the limitations of conventional narratives taught in most schools. She reminds you that the Moors ruled in the Iberian Peninsula for over 700 years—nearly three times as long as the United States has been a country. She rattles off the names of paradigm-shifting African American doctors, inventors, entrepreneurs, politicians, and philanthropists. She describes African kings and queens ruling over civilizations whose influence can still be felt around the world.

Lea also notes the danger of erasure, as she recounts the story of a young man who grew up in the Greenwood area of Tulsa—the affluent Black neighborhood once known as Black Wall Street—without ever learning of the sweeping racial violence that razed that community in 1921. In this and most African studies, Upper School principal Mamadou Guèye sees the “distorting lens of colonialism” at work. “The curriculum that is taught in so many institutions was not written by Africans or people of African descent,” he says. “Before colonization, before enslavement, there was an Africa with deeply rooted traditions, languages, and cultures that are not being taught.” DeDe and Dallas Lea feel an urgency to address the problem of distorted and buried histories. “There’s a Zimbabwean proverb: ‘Until the lion tells his side of the story, the tale of the hunt will always glorify the hunter,’” DeDe Lea says. “Well, the lion has arrived.”

Along with Simone and Wayne A.I. Frederick (P ’24), the Leas proposed an endowed African and African American Studies Chair in 2018. “Our kids have often questioned why they didn’t learn more about the African American experience and history at School,” Simone Frederick explains, “so we felt it necessary to make it a reality for them and students that follow.” As it turns out, Head of School Bryan Garman had been considering such a position to achieve the School’s strategic goals of inspiring ethical leadership and welcoming a wider community. “The Leas and the Fredericks are generous, thoughtful people who appreciate the need to teach African and African American history and culture, who



The Lea Family: Daniel '25, DeDe, Dallas, and Dallas '22.

know that our understanding of the past shapes the present,” Garman says. “They recognize that our students cannot be responsible, well-informed citizens without knowing this history and the impact it has had on society.”

Like the Señora Guillermina Medrano de Supervía Endowed Chair for Spanish and Latin American Studies (see “*¡buenos noticias!*” on the next page), the African and African American Studies Chair is one of the strategic initiatives the School is expediting to “take clear and purposeful steps to build a compassionate and anti-racist community.” In addition to this endowed chair, the School has formed a complementary African and African American Studies Advisory Council populated by parents and alumni with expertise in this area.

Frederick notes that “this chair is especially significant in the current environment, where racial discourse is of paramount importance.” Garman agrees: “If we hope to unravel the threads of racism and racist violence built into the fundamental economic structures of this country, we need to help our students to recognize, in age-appropriate ways, how they became systematically entangled.”

In order to jumpstart these goals and generate momentum for the endowed chair, the Leas and the Fredericks provided foundational funding for the position. Now, they hope others in the Sidwell Friends community who care deeply about elevating African and African American

voices will likewise commit to fully funding this position. “Members of the community have expressed a desire for something like this for some time,” says Frederick. “Now they can help us make it a reality by contributing to this endowed chair so that faculty, staff, and students can continue to be educated on this topic for years to come.”

“Endowing the African and African American Studies Chair underscores its centrality to our academic programs and affirms that every Sidwell Friends student needs to graduate with an understanding of these perspectives and histories,” Garman says. “Like the Leas and Fredericks, those contributing funds for these positions are making certain that our commitment to teaching these essential areas of study will have permanent financial support.”

Once fully funded, the chair will guide the School in developing decolonized curricula that will open windows onto unexplored cultures and transform all students into global citizens and leaders. And just as importantly, it will hold mirrors for African and African American students to see themselves reflected in historical narratives that have long denied voices, agency, and representation to people of African descent. “It’s important to the health of African and African American students at Sidwell Friends to know and understand their rich history and lineage,” Dallas Lea says, “and to recognize how much our cultures have contributed to the world.”

When Guèye considers the growth of the Chinese Studies Program over the past few decades, he imagines what a world-class African and African American Studies initiative will look like at Sidwell Friends. “There’s limitless potential for where this program can go,” Guèye says. “And it starts with the chair, who will help recruit a diverse faculty and train our teachers in decolonizing minds, decolonizing the curriculum, and demystifying the Eurocentric framework in research.”

The Leas and the Fredericks can see how that influence will spread through the students and alumni who will benefit from this program. “Our hope is that all students will leave Sidwell Friends with a better appreciation of African and African American history,” DeDe Lea says. “When they’re in a room with people who aren’t as historically versed or culturally competent, Sidwell Friends students can say, ‘Let me tell you what actually happened.’”

This article originally appeared in the Sidwell Friends 2019/20 Report on Philanthropy. To see more of the report, go to sidwell.edu/ROP.

¡BUENOS NOTICIAS!

The Supervía Chair for Spanish and Latin American Studies is a go.

Thanks to more than 50 alumni and friends, the Señora Guillermina Medrano de Supervía Endowed Faculty Chair for Spanish and Latin American Studies has been fully funded. The chair is a permanent addition to the Upper School faculty, ensuring a gifted educator with expertise in Spanish and Latin American studies will always be part of Sidwell Friends. The new chair will be a resource for faculty developing courses and enrichment programs relating to Spanish and Latin American history, art, language, and culture. “This is an important step in decolonizing our curriculum,” Upper School principal Mamadou Guèye says, “which we need to do to include voices and histories that are often excluded.” Natalie Randolph ’98, the School’s EJC director, agrees. “One of the goals in the EJC Strategic Action Plan is to critically evaluate the curriculum and make sure we are incorporating multiple perspectives,” Randolph says. As a member of the all-School EJC team, the chair will advise Randolph’s team on a variety of issues, like recruiting Latinx faculty and students, creating cultural programming, and guiding student affinity groups. The School is also forming a Spanish and Latin American Studies Advisory Committee with volunteers from the Sidwell Friends community who have expertise in those fields. The committee will promote Spanish and Latin history and culture, create activities for Spanish and Latin alumni, and encourage admissions applications from the Spanish and Latin communities in the DC area.

To learn more about the chair, check out the full story at sidwell.edu/supervia-update.

If you are interested in making a gift to help fully fund the African and African American Chair at Sidwell Friends, please contact Mary K. Carrasco, the assistant head of school for advancement, at carrascom@sidwell.edu.

SHOCKS TO THE **SYSTEMS**

Ibram X. Kendi teaches Sidwell Friends the difference between “not racist” and “anti-racist.”

In June, Head of School Bryan Garman asked faculty, staff, alumni, and Upper School students—to read Ibram X. Kendi’s groundbreaking book *How to Be an Antiracist*. Then he had the School buy everyone a copy.

Kendi’s work puts forth that it isn’t enough for people to be “not racist.” Instead, those pursuing racial justice and equality must be “anti-racist,” willing to dismantle racist systems and ideas wherever they’re found—including in oneself. He also explains the difference between “racism” (a system or a policy that leads to racial inequality) and “racist” (a person or an idea holding one group superior to another). Those working to achieve anti-racism should move away from the idea that “racist” is something someone is, and rather call out as racist specific actions that a person does.

To help Sidwell Friends create an anti-racist environment, Kendi held dialogues with different parts of the School. Kendi spoke with faculty and staff in a session moderated by Natalie Randolph ’98, the director of Equity, Justice, and Community. Then Middle and Upper School students held a student-led session with Kendi. Next, the Lower School hosted a parent dialogue about racism focused on Kendi’s book, and in each division, there were smaller discussion groups and book clubs. Middle School students, for example, read *This Book Is Anti-Racist*, Kendi’s book for younger learners. Finally, Randolph hosted an all-community event with alumni Dax-Devlon Ross ’93, an equity consultant, author, and educator; Christopher Brown ’86, an author and a professor of history at Columbia University; and Traci Cohen Dennis ’86, the director of undergraduate education at American University. The group discussed Kendi’s work and its salience to Sidwell Friends and Quaker traditions of equity.

With Sidwell Friends faculty and staff, Kendi explored education’s role in an anti-racist community. “We’re either educating our children to be racist,” he said, “or we are educating them to be anti-racist.” Kendi encouraged the faculty and staff to keep working to advance anti-racism, both in the School and the world at large; not to do so is tantamount to complicity in racist policies. “It is

a political choice to say and do nothing,” he said, “just as it’s a political choice to say and do something.”

When Kendi returned to the Sidwell Friends virtual campus again to speak to Middle and Upper School students, Adeoluwa Fatukasi ’21, Atswei Laryea ’21, and Justin Peikin ’21 led the event. The students prepared by reading *How to Be an Antiracist* and by watching Kendi’s previous interviews and appearances on YouTube. Kendi spoke to the students about the role of Black people in American culture and how they learn to perceive themselves. “It has long been the case that Black people are raised to appreciate Blackness, but then they’re simultaneously raised to appreciate and to value white American culture, to simultaneously be raised to want to be white,” he said. “For the better part of American history, Black people have been raised and trained to want to be Black and to want to be white—which is fundamentally in contradiction. That’s the dueling sort of consciousness that Black people have been forced to endure and even to overcome.”

The students asked Kendi about the value of intersectionality in an anti-racist world. “The way people experience racism in many ways is at the intersection of their identity,” he said. “You can’t really understand what Black disabled people are experiencing if you don’t understand ableism and racism and how they intersect. You can’t really understand what Black women are facing if you don’t understand racism and sexism and their intersection.” Kendi also talked about how racism can strike groups at different historical moments—like Muslims after 9/11 or Asians in the wake of COVID-19.

“You can’t really grow up in the United States and not come across some form of information or individuals who are challenging you on a racist idea,” Kendi said. “The question is, when that challenge happens, do you attack back, or do you seek to understand more?”



Kendi

ALUMNI AND STUDENT **VOICES**

The Black Alumni Alliance takes off.

Lory Ivey Alexander ’97, a multimedia artist and lawyer in DC, has been a dynamic member of the Sidwell Friends community for years. She has spearheaded alumni programming, helped launch the Art Among Friends initiative, and been an energetic fundraiser. But it is only in the last two years that she has been able to help lead the Black Alumni Alliance (BAA)—the affinity group simply didn’t exist before then. In fact, Alexander, along with Nasser Muhammad ’05, Ericka Blount-Danois ’90, and Neville Waters ’75, founded the BAA with indispensable help from Director of Alumni Engagement Anna Wyeth. Now in its third year, the BAA creates opportunities for alumni who identify as Black and African American to enhance their relationship with Sidwell Friends. BAA members celebrate excellence, forge relationships, and deepen connections to Sidwell Friends students and faculty. Those student connections are particularly important to Alexander, who is now a BAA Advisory Council co-clerk. “I’m an advocate for a strong statement about the School’s mission,” she says. “I encounter young alumni who are super well-prepared academically but who weren’t necessarily comfortable in the School community.” That’s why Alexander is a proponent of the School’s Center for Ethical Leadership; she wants kids to learn to advocate for themselves and build up resiliency. Of course, there’s room for all kinds of passion projects—more Black alumni voices and insights are vital to creating a welcoming space that best serves the needs of the community. To learn more, go to sidwell.edu/baa.

A new outlet for student voices puts a premium on race and identity.

In 1969, Sidwell Friends students established the Black Student Union. Half a century later, in 2020, the School’s Black Student Union launched a new magazine: *1969*. Several young Black voices from 1969 resonated with the School community. One belonged to Graciana Kabwe ’26. On the right, the Middle Schooler shares her poem “To Rise.”

“Writing about my experiences as a Black female in American society does not separate me from those of different races and genders,” says Kabwe. “By understanding and observing each other’s experiences, we can unite and love each other more. I am confident that within our differences, we can find similarities and accept each other openly and lovingly. We are all human. We can express our views of the world through our art. We tell others the thoughts that we are too afraid to speak. Art gives even the weakest and the most vulnerable individuals a voice in this world. I want my art to break through silence.”

To see the whole issue of 1969, go to bit.ly/SFS1969. ✨

To Rise

By Graciana Kabwe ’26

Rise.
My wish
for you and me
alike
is that within me,
within the last that is left
of my hidden strength,
you find the breath that brings you life,
the power, the determination
that keeps your blood pumping
and your limbs moving.
In knowing
you were alone
you find a community.
My wish
for you and me
alike
is that you will find
the motivation
within yourself
to rise.
I hope that in my chocolate brown skin
they see the gold shine through.
Like I do.
Like you do.
I know you have questions.
I know that with each story of pain
you hear,
you live in fear.
I feel your fear.
I know
your fear.
Because it is in my own heart,
In the heart of children like you and
me.
I, too, am afraid.
Still,
find, in me,
the future.
A moment.
A movement.
I live a life that is mine
and yours
to create.
How shall we live?
In fear,
like
before?
What will you do?
Rise?



BEYOND REPAIR

When Sidwell Friends closed for the pandemic, the School's Facilities team got to work.

BY SACHA ZIMMERMAN



Oudghiri



Galleher



McCall



Patton

It is a clear, sunny morning in early October, and the Sidwell Friends Facilities team is standing behind Zartman House admiring the campus. The fields are verdant, the trees are trimmed, and hints of autumn color are starting to ripple across the leaves. "You can run a beautiful school without any kids," jokes Paul Galleher, the School's chief carpenter and locksmith.

While the rest of the Sidwell Friends community was social distancing and staying home, the School's Facilities team was hard at work. The task before them was unprecedented: try to COVID-proof the School. "The sheer number of elements to address in a short period of time was very complex," says Fath-Allah Oudghiri, the director of facilities. Every building on both campuses needed attention. Water fountains had to be dismantled. New plumbing solutions were required. Heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems needed to be updated with a "needlepoint, bipolar ionization" system; filters needed to be replaced; and air flow needed to be tested and rebalanced. ("The new HVAC system also requires additional inspections," Ian McCall, the School's building engineer, points out.) Next, not wanting to rely solely on campus bathrooms for sinks, handwashing stations had to be installed. Tents and awnings for outdoor classes had to be erected. New, regular deep-cleaning and sanitizing measures had to be put in place, along with weekly electrostatic and chemical cleanings. And, of course, plexiglass—lots of plexiglass—had to be ordered and then attached to every single desk in every single classroom on campus. "We spared no effort," Oudghiri says.

"It was one of the more demanding projects we have faced," Galleher says. But nimble reactions are Facilities' stock and trade. Whether it's new construction, water leaks, the snowpocalypse, or equipment malfunctions, flexibility and dexterous responses to the unexpected are part of the job. "We always address emergencies," Oudghiri says, "but with COVID-19, there were no pre-set rules to follow." Earthquakes, fires, political protests—they all have "in case of X, do Y" protocols. But COVID-19 was utterly new. "The unknown made it very unsettling," Oudghiri says. "Our combined experience served us well. All the folks on our team are multitalented, seasoned, experienced individuals."



The Facilities team



Still, a global competition for plexiglass desk shields was definitely a first. “Everybody in the country and the world were having the same problem trying to get resources everyone else wants,” Galleher says. It was an echo of the quandary healthcare providers faced early in the pandemic as they tried to get more personal protective equipment. The urgency wasn’t the same, but the stress was quite real. “We were competing with everyone in the country for desk shields,” Oudghiri says. Add to that the perpetually fluctuating guidance from every level of government. “It was a constant evolution, everything changing on a weekly or hourly basis,” says Galleher. “New requirements were hard to keep up with: The codes could change 20 times since you placed an order” for protective materials. William Patton Jr., the superintendent of grounds, agreed, saying the team was “making decisions on the go.” At one point, he found himself wondering: “Do I get the field ready for baseball? When do I make it soccer? Do I take the pitcher’s mound down? How do I know?”

And yet, there was a silver lining to this new socially distanced world. “We started with a potentially negative situation with the pandemic and turned it to

our advantage,” says Oudghiri. With no one on campus and no events planned, the team could turn their attention to a wish list of longstanding projects. “We decided to leverage the pandemic,” Oudghiri says. So renovations that would be impossible to do with the full complement of Sidwell Friends summer activities occurring suddenly became, well, possible. The group tackled a Lower School roofing project, poured gravel outside of Wannan Gym, pressure-washed outdoor spaces, and built a much-needed ramp connecting the Upton property with the rest of the Wisconsin Avenue campus. “A coworker and I built the ramp,” says Patton, “but it took several weeks.” It was exactly the kind of project that might have been shelved during a busier moment. “With no sports, it freed up 20 percent of my time,” says Patton. It also gave the all the grass on campus a chance to recover—the Sledge Garden in particular needed time to itself. The team also tended to the School’s trees, including a 160-year-old tulip tree behind Zartman House that was precariously balanced. “A tree struck by lightning could be handled, too,” says Patton. They even took care of a giant poplar that fell over during a storm and took out two more trees as it crashed. Plus, says Patton, “all the dead limbs are out of the walnut trees, the School’s heritage trees.”

Of course, for a long time no one was around to appreciate all of this hard work. “We really miss people,” Oudghiri says. “The classes are clean and ready. We miss the students; we miss that interaction. I miss having lunch with colleagues.” The team’s sense of time is also out of whack. “Graduation day and the day after Labor Day”—the first day

“It was the first time in 20 years, I didn’t do graduation setups.”

of School—“are such a focus of our year, both outside and inside,” Patton says. Without these natural bookends, everything felt a bit surreal. “It was the first time in 20 years I didn’t do graduation setups,” McCall says. “That was probably the strangest part.”

The team’s work often strayed from their traditional areas. “But we’ve always been multifaceted,” Galleher says. “A carpenter will help out a plumber; a plumber will help an electrician. It’s what we all do.” And though acquiring and working with plexiglass was out of the ordinary, they still had all their normal tasks to accomplish, too. Invariably, Galleher says, someone always needs new keys made.

“This is all the stuff we do behind the scenes,” Oudghiri says. “When we’re not noticed, it’s a good thing.” ✨



Classrooms are swaddled in plexiglass. Fly swatters allow students to high-five each other.

THE FIX IS IN.

The Facilities team went to extraordinary lengths to keep Sidwell Friends safe and highly functional.*



4 tents installed

4 awnings installed

4.3K

square feet of covered outdoor classroom space created

5

HVAC contractors hired to address air balancing, controls, and repairs

175

air purifiers with UV light placed in classrooms and common areas

364

HVAC air filters replaced per quarter

THOUSANDS of hours spent on HVAC systems



20

portable handwashing stations purchased

435

gallons of hand sanitizer purchased



2.5K

yards of plexiglass desk shields installed

1.2K+

desks repositioned

90+

classrooms reconfigured to meet social-distancing guidelines

3.3K

yards of yellow tape put down for social distancing and directional use



*Data as of October 2020.



A team of Sidwell Friends students are curating the definitive (global, smart, and intimate) narrative about teenage life during the pandemic.

BY KRISTEN PAGE

Once upon a time in March—a time that feels like a very, very long time ago indeed—Sidwell Friends announced that due to COVID-19, students would leave campus and not return until April. That got Elson Bankoff '23 thinking.

“We were planning on being out for about a month,” she says. “It was exciting, like a break from School—we had all been working hard.” Then, just before School ended, Bankoff’s history class began talking about how they might use that time away from Sidwell Friends. “Naturally kids were kind of freaking out—we were all kind of freaking out—we didn’t know what was going on,” says Shaakira Raheem, Bankoff’s 9th grade history teacher. “The class was going to start a research paper, and we were talking about primary sources. I explained that the pandemic is scary, but by documenting it, we could create resources and primary sources for other people to use.”

“And it just came to me,” Bankoff says. “What if we got kids from all over to document the pandemic and film themselves and submit it?”

The Covideo Project was born.

“I originally wanted it to be just a documentary,” Bankoff says. “We would hold all of the footage and not touch it until it was all over and then compile it.” Of course, the pandemic had other plans—a month turned into a semester, which turned into the summer, which turned into the fall. “It just kept expanding,” Bankoff says. “I realized, we can’t just store this away because I don’t know how long the pandemic is going to last.”

Nine months later—and counting—the project has adapted. Over 100 teens from 30 different countries have submitted, and continue to submit, video footage. Some show the pathos of lockdown, like vacated neighborhoods and empty toilet-paper aisles. Some focus on the big issues of the day, such as this summer’s protests over systemic racism. And some explore a single topic, like “Quarantine Art” or “Pets of the Pandemic” (featuring enthusiastic dogs and indifferent cats). Covideo contributors have also used the platform to fundraise for Produce Alliance, which gives boxes of fresh produce to healthcare workers, and they are currently working on a video to support STARS, a youth-led charity that supports seniors affected by COVID-19. Covideo also produces a podcast, *Distanced: By the Covideo Project*. Recent topics of discussion on *Distanced* include COVID-19 in indigenous communities, the food-supply chain, and how the pandemic has affected activism.

When Covideo first started, Bankoff and the team were flooded with submissions. “In March, we had footage coming in every two seconds,” she says. “Everyone was like, ‘I’m bored out of my mind, so let’s submit and meet new people.’ It gave people an activity that they knew would be significant at some point or another.”

Watch

Check out the series of videos on how the pandemic affects the lives of communities from the youth perspective: thecovideoproject.com.



Images from the Covideo Project

That was certainly true for Becki M'mari '23. "It gave me something to do," she says. Now, in addition to being a Covideo contributor, M'mari works on the fundraising side of the project. She says the project not only squelched her boredom; it also kept her creatively engaged. Even better: "It motivated me to go outside," she says, "because I was like 'I need to get content. Let me do something with my life.'"

It soon became clear, however, that the significance of the project wasn't just about amassing and editing footage—it was about creating a worldwide community at a time when everyone was staying at home. "There are kids who live in places like Seattle and California and China, and I met them through this project," M'mari says. "When it started,

we were all in different stages of the pandemic because we live in different places. I especially enjoyed videos from this girl who lives in New Zealand." That girl is Kanna Washer, a 15-year-old living in Auckland. "I actually learned about Covideo from a friend of a friend," Washer says. "I follow that person on Instagram, and I saw a post about it and was interested in joining."

"I've met some really, really cool people," Bankoff says. "We would have calls that weren't even about the project, but just for fun, and it's created this community. It almost made me tear up on my birthday, because kids were reaching out to me saying: 'Happy birthday! Thank you so much for creating this community of people.'"

That community was something a lot of teens were craving. "It has helped so much with isolation," Washer says. "Lockdown was pretty lonely because when it started, I had just moved from Ho Chi Minh City, so I didn't have any friends in Auckland. But with Covideo, we had calls every few weeks or so. It gave me a lot more friends and gave me a feeling that I had a lot more to say in the world."

Raheem thinks the international scope of the project makes it particularly special. In her history class, she trains students to ask questions—like "Which narrative is missing?"—that bring out different perspectives. "One of the things that I really appreciate about what Elson is doing is, in having an international outlook, she wants to know how COVID-19 is affecting people from all over the world," Raheem says. "She could have kept it with just her

community and it still would have been a great project, but she wanted to create a space where kids from around the world can share their voices. They're not having their stories told for them. They are empowered to share their stories."

Bankoff always had big dreams for those stories. "At the beginning, I was a peak visionary," she says. "I was like, 'We're going to have a Netflix Original, we're going to win the Oscar for Best Documentary Short, this is going to be amazing.'"

It's still possible. There may yet be an edited, finished project one day. "I have this friend whose whole school is obsessed with the project, which is great," Bankoff says. "And they're like, 'We want to watch a screening when there's something finished.'" In the meantime, she recognizes that most people may have had enough of the pandemic for now. "But maybe in a couple of years," she says, "we'll have this finished product that we can show to people, like a documentary short."

Or maybe a feature-length documentary. "The amount of footage we have is insane," Bankoff says. "We have enough for a whole series. Netflix—or any other streaming service, for that matter—I am open to any calls!"

"A lot of teachers don't necessarily get the opportunity to see how the seeds they plant sprout immediately like this," Raheem says. "When it was a conversation in my class I could have easily said, 'Elson, that's way too ambitious.' And that could have shut it down. It's a reminder of how



The Covideo Project encourages teens to submit original art as well as their videos.

important it is for us as teachers to always encourage our students to be positive and curious, because you never know what words land."

For now, Bankoff has created a video archive for the ages. "The underlying idea was always that I wanted to be a primary source," she says. "I want future generations to learn from it."

So the Covideo Project, much like the pandemic itself, continues in an open-ended fashion—a time capsule of one of the most unusual moments to be a teen in recent memory. ✨



M'mari, with an original piece of art, on Covideo

AMERICA CALLING

Anand Giridharadas '99 on his big start in journalism at *Horizon*, his years as a foreign correspondent, the nature of hatred and forgiveness, and why reading *The New York Times* from cover to cover just might spark your next great idea.



America is trying to tell us something. As **Anand Giridharadas '99** put it to Head of School Bryan Garman on the Sidwell Friends podcast, *Lives That Speak*, the caste system, inequities, and extreme poverty he saw as a reporter in India are not so different from what is happening in the United States itself. Here, racism, grievance politics, and vast economic gaps are also baked into the fabric of society. That fundamental truth reveals the lie: that meritocracy is the story of America. This longstanding tension between the nation's founding narrative and its present reality seemed to explode this year with the arrival of five simultaneous calamities: coronavirus, an economic crisis, a racial uprising, a climate catastrophe, and threats to democracy itself. Yet, what if this moment is not the decline of a nation but its inflection point? Could these blows be the very traits that precede an American awakening?

BRYAN GARMAN: I remember you in my classroom with another great writer, Tory Newmyer '99, who also has a journalism career. You both were editors at *Horizon*.

ANAND GIRIDHARADAS: We had a controversial tenure. A lot of people who edit school newspapers in college or high school do so because it's a good extracurricular, and a lot of those folks don't end up necessarily having anything to do with journalism. But with Tory and I—and we would have predicted it then—it has turned out to be true. We really wanted to be journalists. And we both are still journalists 20 years later. We saw the platform of *Horizon* as the beginning of our career. This was our Woodward and Bernstein opportunity, and we acted accordingly, which got us into a tremendous amount of trouble. We had issues with being censored by the School, so we printed a blank front page in protest in which we pretentiously quoted Camus to try to justify our position on free speech. It was a fraught time.

I should also say, of the many, many years of education that I've had before, during, and after Sidwell Friends—many schools, college, an abortive graduate school attempt at Harvard—the four years at Sidwell were, by far, the most important for my education. There was a foundation of learning, becoming a lifelong learner, engaging with ideas, and cultivating a curiosity that was unlike anything else I've experienced.

BG: After Sidwell, it was off to the University of Michigan, and what happened next?

AG: Before Michigan, I had an internship with *The New York Times* my senior year at Sidwell. I reported, wrote, and published two stories. That was addictive. So all through Michigan, in the summers, I did internships in journalism, worked as a reporter for *The Michigan Daily*, found different ways to do stuff for *The New York Times*, and worked for *The New Republic*. After Michigan, I decided to be a foreign correspondent. I got this great advice from Jill Abramson [who would go on to become the *Times*' first female executive editor], who was my mentor. She said: "Don't spend your 20s hanging out around the building trying to get in. Go out into the world, collide with the world. That's how you make yourself a journalist." I had this idea to go to India and collide with the world, but I couldn't get a journalism job. So, I decided to just get whatever job would take me to India. The most irrelevant, strange-fitting, "we'll hire anybody from any intellectual background" job I could get was McKinsey & Company. I made \$14,000 a year working for McKinsey in Mumbai, living in a rat-infested room in someone else's apartment. It was not a very workable situation, but it was a way to get to India. I did McKinsey research projects, and after just over a year, I very luckily got a journalism job at *The New York Times*.

BG: How did that experience in India shape your work?

AG: India is an outlier in many ways. Just the levels of poverty there exceed anything you experience in a country like the United States—the breadth of it, the depth of it. The subjugation of women is on a scale like that, too. We have problems in this country with the way we treat women, but in India, it's on a different level. Everything feels like it's on a different level. As I became a reporter in India and started telling these stories, what became really clear is that India merely exaggerates a lot of the conditions and realities about the world that are true everywhere. So, while I was a journalist there, I would marry my reporting with a certain amount of reading about India and other countries' journeys to modernity. There are these deep patterns. When I came back to America many years later, the experience of India helped me understand how caste is not only something that exists in India; it exists in America. It helped me understand that when we talk, in America, about being a meritocracy or people ending up where they are because of their effort, it's not true. After India, I could see how profoundly untrue it is.

BG: Tell us how you came to write *The True American* and the lessons that book conveys.

AG: I moved back to the United States in 2009 and was still finishing up my first book, *India Calling*. I knew I wanted to write about America and the very peculiar nature of the divide we were experiencing. There was a lot of talk already about inequality, but in my travels and

observations, there was something deeper, a kind of a cold civil war: It was a coming apart of the country. But how do you tell a story of a country falling apart in this way? One day, I'm sitting in bed in Cambridge, Massachusetts, reading *The New York Times*, trying to get column ideas. I kept reading, I kept reading, and I finally ended up in National Briefing, which is the absolute dregs of *The New York Times*, when you've really read the entire paper. In the National Briefing, I saw this story of a guy executed in Texas the night before. So far, so Texas. But in his final days, one of his Muslim immigrant victims had fought to save his life in the name of forgiveness. I started digging into it. Two hours later, I called out to my wife, "This is my next big project!"

It's the story of a white supremacist who we would now say was Trumpism before Trump. It's the exact ideology of Donald Trump, the exact set of grievances, the exact inversion of personal hate into hatred of others, and the exact sense of white men being left behind and stiffed. This guy goes on a hate-crime spree after 9/11, goes to three gas stations and pulls the trigger on three clerks, all brown immigrants from South Asia. Two of them die. The third one, Rais Bhuiyan, a Bangladeshi immigrant, survives. He came to America because he wanted more. He's working in a gas station, saving money for a wedding and school, when he gets shot in the face by this white supremacist. A couple of days after being admitted to the hospital, Bhuiyan is kicked out because, essentially, being shot in the face is a preexisting condition, and he doesn't have insurance. He struggles, faces homelessness, medical debt, lives all the American traumas—in addition to the basic fact of being shot in the face because he's not white. He rebuilds his life and becomes whole again. He ends up making six figures in IT. He miraculously makes it in America. The America he had come for eventually does work for him. He starts to feel this immense gratitude and wonders what he can do to repay America. He realizes that, in the name of Islam and in the name of promoting forgiveness between the Muslim world and the West,

he wants to forgive the guy who shot him in the face. He wants to prevent the state of Texas from executing this guy. In a marvelous coup of trolling, he sues Texas, arguing that sharia law compels mercy from Muslims. Therefore, as a newly minted American citizen, under the First Amendment he has the right to extend mercy as prescribed to him by sharia law.

It was remarkable. It's about two men, two Americas, hatred, and forgiveness. It's also about every other thing America embodies: inequality, the breakdown of social structures, white working-class downward mobility, the coming majority minority America, meritocracy, the opportunity ladder, healthcare.

BG: Responding to the assertion that Joe Biden is vulnerable on law and order, you recently wrote that America does have a law and order problem: "It's white America, from the founding days of the republic, committing to an economic and political model that made violence a daily systemic necessity."

AG: In recent years there's been this really powerful, growing reckoning. The first thesis I lay out in that piece, the blood-at-the-root thesis, is not as controversial as it once was. The president of United States recently gave a speech critiquing the 1619 Project and critical-race theory, which is the ultimate endorsement of the importance of those ideas.

“WE ARE FALLING ON OUR FACE RIGHT NOW AS A NATION BECAUSE WE ARE JUMPING HIGHER, TRYING SOMETHING HARDER THAN ANY COUNTRY HAS EVER ATTEMPTED.”

The second thesis is that this is a profoundly special country with some ideals and practices that are unique in the history of the world. For all the flaws of this country, and all the moments I've encountered racism, there is an idea that, in this country, anybody can become an American and an American can be any kind of person. We are falling on our face right now as a nation because we are jumping higher, trying something harder than any country has ever attempted. This is as special an endeavor as any country has ever set out to do, and we are also a profoundly, existentially, from the root, flawed, broken country. I think there's space for both of those truths.

BG: You also say that America is ready for an age of reform.

AG: Five synchronous crises came to a head this revolutionary summer—coronavirus, the economic crisis, the racial uprising, the hovering crisis of the climate, and the democratic crisis embodied by Donald Trump. These crises are dark; they're a recipe for despair. But they also raise this question of whether we're at the end of an era; maybe what we are really seeing is that we have not been living right. The connective tissue in all these different crises are telling us: "You haven't been living right. You haven't been voting right. You haven't been eating right. You haven't been living in harmony with the planet right. You haven't lived with the right level of concern for each other. You haven't lived right in terms of checking greed and other base emotions." If this is a rock-bottom moment for the country, could it be a moment that precedes an awakening and an age of reform? An age in which public purpose once again overtakes private purpose as the defining striving of the age, in which what we do together matters more than what we do alone? If there is a silver lining or a way to find hope in this time, it's that a brokenness this complete has to give way to a dawn. ✨

To read Giridharadas's work, check out his newsletter, **The.Ink**.

For the full *Lives That Speak* podcast episode, go to sidwell.edu/magazine.

LIVES THAT SPEAK

Wired For Sound

Musician and composer **Kathryn Bostic** on otherworldly downloads, cosmic dictation, musical divination, and other forms of celestial inspiration.

Whether she's working on a symphony, an album, or a score for a major film, **Kathryn Bostic** is always a storyteller. Or, as she might put it, a sonic storyteller. On the *Lives That Speak* podcast, Bostic spoke to Head of School Bryan Garman and Director of Equity, Justice, and Community Natalie Randolph '98 about working with August Wilson, celebrating Toni Morrison, honoring her own self-sovereignty, and listening to silence.



BRYAN GARMAN: We're fortunate to talk with Kathryn Bostic, an amazing composer, songwriter, and musician. We are also delighted to be honoring you with a 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award.

KATHRYN BOSTIC: I'm completely honored and blown away. I think of so many of my class members as being distinguished alumni. Sidwell Friends has always been such a part of the way I've gone about my life. There's this energy field Sidwell encompasses; it's such a nurturing, giving environment. It's a sense that the sky's the limit, you're capable of doing anything. I didn't really intellectually understand that until I got out into the world, and I experienced the contrast. Life is always going to present itself in ways that are a lot more severe, full of naysaying and fear. At Sidwell, you're in this nurturing bubble. I'm so grateful it's a part of the foundation of who I am; it really has provided me with a sense of self.

BG: Who do you draw inspiration from?

KB: Musically, Frances Cleaver inspired me. Mrs. Cleaver was so passionate about her service of music at the Sidwell Friends community. The musicals she would create and the holiday season music she would galvanize everybody to perform was really powerful. And there were so many artists I grew up listening to. You had a range of artists who were also activists in their work, who were trailblazers—Earth, Wind and Fire, Joni Mitchell, Marvin

Gaye. For me, it's about being around people who are consumed with passion for their self-expression. I had the good fortune of working with August Wilson on *Gem of the Ocean*. That process—not just because of the amazing talent that he embodies as a playwright and as a griot, but his way of committing to that calling—had a big impact on me. Music is this incredible teacher. I call it “cosmic dictation.” I'm really just getting these inspiration downloads, and maybe in that way, I'm a griot, too. A sonic griot.

BG: When you're presented with an opportunity to score a movie like *Clemency*, which was the 2019 Sundance Grand Jury winner, what is your creative process?

KB: With *Clemency*, which stars Alfre Woodard and is phenomenal, the director wanted to convey, with a cold eye, the parameters of the prison system without weighing in on how you should feel about it. She just wanted to present the facts: a week in the life of this warden played by Woodard and the toll of being the one who deals with the rites of passage of death-row inmates. What kind of toll does that take on her psyche? The director wanted the music to be very, very sparse.

With a film, sometimes you'll get the script, but everything changes once you get the visual: That's how you're informed about how to use music to enhance the emotional cadence of a

scene, how to elevate the content of that scene and the overall arc of it in the movie. Typically, you have what they call “temp music,” so when you're cutting the scenes, you have something to cut to. They'll either use music that suits the tone of the film, or they'll ask the composer, “Would you have pre-existing music we can use to sculpt the film?” That's called a “temp score.” But this movie was edited without any music. I had no point of reference in terms of finding the tone.

It took a while to score because the director had become used to the silence—understandably, the prison environment is very stark. There's nothing warm and fuzzy about it. So any tonality could be over-emotionalizing or tipping the senses to feel a certain way. Music is so sensory-oriented, so visceral. It was a very challenging score, probably one of the most difficult I've written. I began to listen to the prison—the footsteps, the coldness, the austerity of that environment, the metal clanking of the cell doors. There's also echoing in this vast, cavernous place. I had to figure out what was going to be the palette—the sound, textures, instruments.

Initially, the director wanted a lot of vocal textures to reflect the warden's inner struggle. That was interesting, but a little bit too much in terms of a score, too heavy-handed. We ended up using a few vocal overlays, and I chose some ambient, metallic textures.

Whereas in the Toni Morrison film, *Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am*, the director and the editor just let me do my thing, which is very rare. Usually you have a lot of people weighing in with their notes, which is as it should be; it's their vision and it's a collaboration. But the moment I saw the Toni Morrison film open—the way it's edited, the way it's cut—it has a rhythm to it. I began to feel that rhythm, and I began to feel this swagger. Plus her voice, oh my god. Her voice alone is so majestic, so powerful. I wanted to frame that, not get in the way of it. I wanted the music to have a summoning kind of a quality to it, saying, “Gather around people, because you're about to go on a journey that is going to be beyond memorable and powerful.”

At that point, the music is more about what you're feeling than what you're hearing. I call it “musical divination.” I imagined this community of musicians coming together, and the music basically wrote itself—even that end title song, “High Above the Water.” I wrote an anthem to Toni Morrison. I started hearing this old-school piano revival, elevating the spirit, and lifting into a place of comfort, solace, and peace.

Morrison describes this in *Song of Solomon* as slaves were being brought to this country: The ancestors elevated the slaves off the ship and brought them back to Africa. That imagery was so powerful. These African angels coming to get their family and take them out of pain and misery. I started hearing that song based on that imagery and that feeling of being transcendent, transcending this horrific situation.

The water is also such a powerful element in Morrison's storytelling: There's tragedy in the water, carriage in the water, rebirth in the water. So the water became this baptismal element, and then I began to invoke the character who was telling that story. It was this old soul, an old woman telling her family about the water: “There's a shine on the water, high above the water, where secrets lie.”

griot noun

gri-ot | \ grē-ō \

Definition of *griot*

: any of a class of musician-entertainers of western Africa whose performances include tribal histories and genealogies

broadly: STORYTELLER

NATALIE RANDOLPH: I'm interested in how you don't define yourself in certain boxes and how you've managed to assert what you call your “self-sovereignty”?

KB: Self-sovereignty is about showing up in a way that is honest and enables an appreciation for life, even in the middle of all this chaos and struggle. What I do as an artist comes from another perspective, an otherworldly way of being informed. My goal is to be at peace.

The value of one's unique individuality is what you bring to the collective, what you bring to enhance and be of

service. Much of today's messaging though is topical and constructed. You have “people of color.” Do you say, “people of white”? The term, “white privilege”—why is it a privilege to be white? It is not a privilege to be white. The privilege is in the fact that there's access because of perverted legislation. The term “white supremacy”—there's nothing supreme about being white. These are acts of terrorism. Even the term, “racism”—it's not race; we're talking about pigment. How shallow and superficial is that?

These are constructed parameters that create a smoke-and-mirrors reality. How come we never talk about the belief system that put those constructs in place, the belief system that there is a need for hierarchy? That is the illusion we are living in right now.

BG: What are you listening to these days?

KB: I'm doing so much composing, though sometimes I do take a break from music. When I do, I am listening to silence, and to the birds and nature. ✨

Bostic is a 2020 recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. See “Friends in High Places,” on page 50.



Sherrill Slack '70 and
Thomas Yondorf '70 do-si-do
in a School production of
Oklahoma in 1970.

ALUMNI ACTION

Greetings Friends near and far,

I write to you from the constantly evolving landscape that is our current climate. By the time you read this, many things that are happening now will have changed or progressed, commenced or culminated, in ways that will surely be both welcomed and also lamented. Through this time of national tumult, I continue to find comfort and connection through you, the Sidwell Friends Alumni Network.



In this issue of the *Sidwell Friends Magazine*, you'll get a peek into some of the virtual programs that are taking place, including a community-wide celebration of Homecoming, as well as our recent virtual Reunion Weekend hosted for alumni in October, and the fabulous 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. I encourage you to read about the two phenomenal alumni profiled in our "Lives That Speak" section (one of whom was also honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award!) and the panel of alumni who helped us continue the discussion in September about Ibram X. Kendi's *How To Be an Antiracist*. These conversations and opportunities to engage with and celebrate classmates and peers remind us just how incredible this community is, and that despite physical distance from one another, the opportunity for connection is ever present.

Keep your eyes open for virtual event invitations, check out our Alumni Digital Resources page throughout the academic year, and of course, keep in touch with each other and with the School. As ever, this round of Class Notes reminds us that life goes on in big ways and small, no matter what the world throws at us. The vibrancy, resolution, humor, and commitment to empathy and to supporting each other contained in these updates and snapshots fill me with gratitude for this community. I hope the same for you.

In friendship,

Marika Cutler Meyer '94

Clerk, Friends Alumni Network Advisory Board

HOME IS WHERE THE



Creative alumni host a digital open mic.



Suzuki

Andy Suzuki '05 was touring the country with his band, Andy Suzuki & The Method. Then, as happened with so many others, his plans changed.

"This was our biggest opportunity to date; we were playing sold-out clubs to thousands of people," he said. "We were supposed to do 34 shows across the country—and then corona hit."

So, Suzuki turned to his Instagram account, where he plays a show every Friday at 5 p.m. In August, though, he added a special show as part of the "Art Among Friends: LIVE" social media series organized by the Sidwell Friends School Alumni Office and the DC Regional Alumni Committee to highlight alumni artists. Livestreaming via the Sidwell Alumni Instagram page, Suzuki gave an intimate, light-hearted performance for alumni and the School community.

"It was a hometown kind of thing," he said. "In the chat, I recognized the names of some alumni and some teachers. Seeing those people in the comments was really cool and exciting and comforting." Suzuki's sister, **Jessi Suzuki '00**, even got in on the act. "A good thing about these livestreaming performances is that there can be impromptu guests," he said. Classmates saw Jessi in the chat and lobbied for her to join him. "So we sang a little bit together."

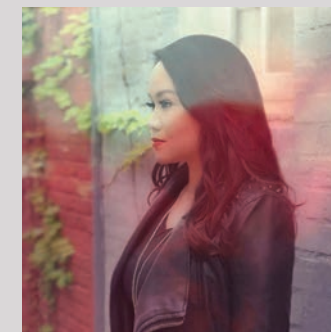
The artistic talents of the featured alumni ranged from **Deborah Zickler '03** showcasing her work in ceramics, a poetry reading by **Lory Ivey Alexander '97**, and a drawing session with **Liza Donnelly '73**. Some livestreamed on social media, while others prerecorded their performances. Only one, though, involved bison: **Kate Ochsman '05** took viewers along with her for a day of wildlife photography in Yellowstone National Park—and, like Suzuki, it was a place she didn't expect to be.

"I'm a wildlife photographer and safari guide in South Africa, and I was supposed to go back and move there permanently," Ochsman said. "I got my visa on a Tuesday, left home in Los Angeles on a Friday, and on Sunday I was in Zion National Park." Then South Africa revoked all visas and canceled all international flights from high-risk COVID-19 countries. "I was like, 'Oh my gosh, this is bad,'" she said. "I had nothing—just my dog and a week's worth of clothing." But she persevered. Now she has an unexpected, if temporary, life in Wyoming. "I've got a car, I've got an apartment, and I've been really focusing on my photography and truly seeing American wildlife for the first time," Ochsman said. "For this video, my hope is that viewers get an appreciation for what we still have here and what we risk to lose when habitat is lost with climate change. I'm the human facilitator to show people how incredible these animals and this landscape are."

While making her video for Art Among Friends, Ochsman recognized the deep connection between her work and Sidwell Friends. "Because of Meeting for Worship and Quaker beliefs, my understanding of oneness got me onto this path of conservation," she said. "That teaching has informed everything in my life. Sidwell teaches you to be someone who contributes to the world."



Ochsman



For a complete schedule of the series, as well as links to the featured artists' performances and demonstrations, go to sidwell.edu/alumni/art-among-friends-live.

A Zoom of Their Own

How this year’s Reunion was reimagined for the digital space.

BY NATALIE CHAMP

“Remember our commune?” It’s a question perhaps only the Class of 1970 could ask.

As in past Reunions, faculty member Robert Gross led a session based on his Upper School “History of DC” seminar for alumni celebrating the 50th anniversary of their Sidwell Friends graduation. After Gross shared *Horizon* issues from the Class of 1970’s senior year, classmates quickly began reminiscing about their experiences as Sidwell Friends students and DC residents in the late 1960s. Peace protests and pro-war rallies around the White House and National Mall. Debates raging over on-campus smoking and the length of girls’ hemlines. And yes, Senior Projects in which students from the Class of 1970 tried communal living in a house on Reno Road.

While the Class of 1970 had unique experiences, their remembrances sounded much like those shared in past 50th Reunion discussions—with the addition of some good-natured reminders to “unmute yourself!” as the Zoom discussion got rolling.

Like other alumni who graduated in “0” and “5” years, the Class of 1970 had planned to attend Reunion last May. Once it became clear that a smart pandemic response precluded large, boisterous gatherings where hugs and handshakes would abound, the School postponed Reunion so that it would coincide with Homecoming this fall. Although on-campus gatherings have yet to resume, the Alumni Engagement team and the Reunion volunteers agreed that it was important to mark this special milestone for alumni now, when moments of connectedness feel rarer and that much more poignant. Invites went out for Virtual Reunion 2020.

In advance of Reunion, alumni received a virtual care package, complete with Sidwell Friends Zoom backgrounds, an online photo booth, digital jigsaw puzzles, and curated playlists full of popular songs from their Upper School years. Even the beloved 5th Grade Buddies program was reimagined for the digital space, enabling those celebrating their 50th Reunion to have meaningful exchanges with current 5th grade (now 6th grade) students.

Reunion classes organized their own Zoom sessions—and in the case of the Class of 1950, their third since the spring, thanks to class representative and Reunion volunteer **Toby Riley '50**. For the Class of 1960, this format opened new possibilities for connecting with classmates they had not seen in years—some since graduation—because the technology eliminated the need to travel.

“What at past five-year Reunions had been a pizza party, this year became a three-hour, nonstop gab fest,” **Larry Robinson '60** said. “We continued unabated for another four hours the next night, where four of our classmates led topical discussions. Many called it the best Reunion we have ever had, and it was such a hit, we are planning to have a mini-Reunion over Zoom in December.”

Attendees had a full slate of activities to enjoy, especially since they could attend Homecoming events as well. Bob Levey (P '00, '05) hosted a panel discussion during Homecoming featuring **Zeeshan Aleem '04** and **Jonah Bromwich '07** titled “The Journalist’s Role in Civil Society Today.” Levey, Aleem, and Bromwich offered thoughtful responses to questions from attendees about topics like First Amendment rights, journalistic responsibilities in the age of social media, and how the 24-hour news cycle impacts reporting.

The Distinguished Alumni Awards honored **Dale Rogers Marshall '55**, **Kathryn Bostic** (see “Wired for Sound,” on page 40), **Nick Turner '85**, and **Thomas Kail '95** later in the evening. (See “Friends in High Places,” on page 50 to learn more about the winners.)

On October 17, alumni went back to class, selecting from one of three sessions offered by long-tenured Sidwell Friends faculty members and getting glimpses of how distance learning works for Upper School students.



Susan Banker's alumni class, “English Class Revisited”

Alumni in Ashish Patwardhen’s “The Literature of War” session previewed a course Patwardhen is designing inspired by Sidwell Friends alumni who have served in the military. Susan Banker invited alumni to her “English Class Revisited” session to read passages from great literature, as well as works they first encountered at Sidwell Friends. Robust discussion in Mamadou Guèye’s “Language and Identity” session touched on connections among language, history, and culture.

From there, attendees split off to meet with classmates in Zoom rooms and check out Homecoming athletics offerings. The weekend wrapped on Sunday with attendees taking a virtual tour of the Upton Street property and returning to an activity at the heart of their Sidwell Friends experience: Meeting for Worship.

Of course, the highlight of the weekend for the classes was the time they spent together. “We all left the weekend having shared earnest, heartfelt appreciation for each other’s presence in our lives—15 years ago and now,” **Allie Levey '05** said. “We reconnected and celebrated each other’s life updates. As my friend **Randa Tawil '05** put it, it felt like we were all actively rooting for one another.”

Chris Formant '70 described his Zoom call with classmates as a “marathon” session. “We updated each other on our lives over the years, while frequently devolving back into Sidwell Friends teenagers when a familiar name or place was invoked,” he said. “The call became a laugh fest. Everyone agreed we should do this more often to keep in contact, to keep supportive of one another, and to become teenagers again from time to time.”

Check out the virtual Reunions on the Sidwell Friends YouTube channel at bit.ly/SFS2020reunion.



Class of 1980 Zoom Reunion



Alumni received a Sidwell Friends recipe book as part of a virtual care package.

Friends in High Places

The 2020 Distinguished Alumni Awards honor accomplishments in academia, music, judicial reform, and theater.

Since 1994, the Friends Alumni Network has presented the Distinguished Alumni Award to nominated members of Reunion classes who have shown distinguished service to their community or within their profession. Sidwell Friends recognizes awardees from classes ending in 0 and 5 during Reunion Weekend each year. After receiving all nominations, the Friends Alumni Network Executive Board then meets and determines the final recipients.

THE ACADEMIC

Dale Rogers Marshall '55

Former President of Wheaton College and Wellesley College

Now in her 80s, Dale Rogers Marshall is still an active social-justice warrior, and her work is as relevant and as timely as ever. She is a specialist in American racial politics and has written and edited many books on the topic, including: *Protest is Not Enough: The Struggle of Blacks and Hispanics for Equality in Urban Politics* (University of California Press, 1984); *Racial Politics in American Cities* (Pearson Longman, 1990); *Urban Policy Making* (Sage, 1979); and *The Politics of Participation in Poverty: A Case Study of the Board of the Economic and Youth Opportunities Agency of Greater Los Angeles* (University of California Press, 1971). After earning her PhD in political science in 1969, Marshall taught at the University of California (UC) at Berkeley, where she was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow;



Courtesy Dale Rogers Marshall

at UCLA; and at UC Davis, where she was honored with their Distinguished Teaching Award in 1975. While at Davis, she also served as an associate dean of the College of Letters and Sciences and as faculty assistant to the vice chancellor. In 1986, Marshall came back to the East Coast as academic dean of Wellesley College; she also served as the school's acting president for a year. She was selected as the sixth president of Wheaton College in Massachusetts in 1992. She holds an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Law from Wheaton, and the school dedicated the Marshall Center for Intercultural Learning at Wheaton College to her on April 15, 2005.



THE MUSICIAN

Kathryn Bostic

Composer and Artist

Kathryn Bostic has dedicated her life and career to music. A prolific composer, songwriter, accomplished pianist, and vocalist, Bostic is known for her musical work on film, television, and live theater. She has received many fellowships, nominations, and awards, including the Sundance Time Warner Fellowship, Sundance Fellowship for Feature Film Scoring, Sundance/Skywalker Documentary Film Scoring, and the BMI Conducting Fellowship. Bostic was the vice president of the Alliance for Women Film Composers for two years, and she is currently a member of the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS); she was the first female African American score composer to join AMPAS. She has composed the scores for several award-winning films, including Sundance winners *Dear White People* and *Middle of Nowhere*. Bostic has also written for Broadway and received numerous awards for her original music. Bostic worked with renowned playwright August Wilson on *Gem of the Ocean* and on various productions of his last play, *Radio Golf*. Bostic returned to Sidwell Friends in 2019 to speak to choral and orchestra students in the Upper School about her journey. Notably, Bostic's musical success is matched only her work lifting up women in an industry that has spent decades tearing them down. At the Alliance for Women Film Composers, she shifted the conversation around women in the industry. "I discovered a vast resource of women who are phenomenal composers and from all different walks of life," Bostic says. "My intent was to get people talking to each other about their belief systems. You can talk about racism, ageism, and so on, but you only have progress when you start with yourself—challenge yourself and your perceptions." (See "Wired for Sound," on page 40.)



THE ACTIVIST

Nick Turner '85

President and Director, Vera Institute of Justice

The nation is starting to understand the devastating impacts of over-incarceration. Nick Turner is on the forefront of this movement. Turner is the fifth president and director of the Vera Institute of Justice, a nonprofit dedicated to rebuilding and improving U.S. justice systems. Under his leadership, Vera is focusing on ending the misuse of jails, transforming conditions of confinement, and ensuring justice systems effectively serve America's growing minority communities. Vera works around the country to reduce jail populations, minimize the use of solitary confinement, and to hold police accountable for building public trust.



Courtesy Nick Turner

Throughout his career, Turner has developed projects to keep youth out of the justice system and ease reentry for adult prisoners. At Vera, he launched a state-sentencing and corrections initiative, supervised domestic-violence projects, and started a youth justice program. He also



created the institute's Prosecution and Racial Justice Program and the Commission on Safety and Abuse in America's Prisons. A lawyer by training, Turner first worked with court-involved homeless and troubled young people at Sasha Bruce Youthwork, a DC youth-services organization. In 2015, Turner joined the advisory council of My Brother's Keeper Alliance, a nonprofit that eliminates gaps in opportunities for boys and young men of color. He currently serves on the Independent Commission on New York City Criminal Justice and Incarceration Reform and the Advisory Board to New York City's Children's Cabinet. At a moment of intense interest in justice reform, Turner is leveraging Vera's half-century of experience on the front lines of justice to shape the public debate, using initiatives such as a tour of the German justice system (covered by *60 Minutes*), a multimedia exploration of the 1994 Crime Bill's legacy, and an interactive tool that spotlights the role jails play in mass incarceration.

THE DIRECTOR

Tommy Kail '95

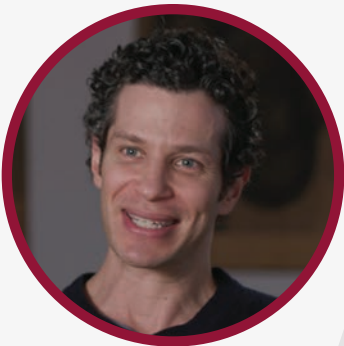
Film and Theater Director

When it comes to the American stage, perhaps no other play has had the staggering social and cultural impact of *Hamilton*. Part musical, part history lesson, and part political statement, Lin-Manuel Miranda's rap-infused homage to the first secretary of the U.S. Treasury was a game-changer. And at the helm of that force of nature was director Tommy Kail. Kail's long list of Broadway and Off-Broadway director credits include *Broke-o-logy*, which garnered Kail an AUDELCO Award (established by the Audience Development Committee to honor excellence in African American theater) and a nomination for Best Director of a Dramatic Production; an Encores! concert-series production of *The*



Courtesy Tommy Kail

Wiz; Eric Simonson's *Lombardi*, based on Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi, as well as Simonson's *Magic/Bird*, a play chronicling the



intertwined life stories of basketball Hall of Famers Larry Bird and Magic Johnson; Nathan Louis Jackson's *When I Come to Die*; Lin-Manuel Miranda's *In the Heights*, which garnered Kail a Tony Award nomination; and, of course, Miranda's *Hamilton*, which earned Kail the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical. Kail also works in film and television. He directed *Grease: Live*, which earned Kail an Emmy for Outstanding Director for a Variety Special; the play screened live on Fox and featured fellow Sidwell Friends alum Ana Gastayer '85. Kail also directed FX's *Fosse/Verdon*, which received a whopping 17 Emmy nominations, and the Directors Guild of America nominated Kail for Outstanding Directing for the project. In 2018, Miranda, Kail, and the two other co-creators of *Hamilton* received a special Kennedy Center Honor for a "transformative work that defies category." It was the first time an artistic work instead of an individual received the honor.

FRESH INK

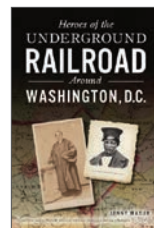


Heroes of the Underground Railroad Around Washington, D.C.

By Jenny Masur '67

The History Press, 2020

"Many of the unsung heroes of the Underground Railroad lived and worked in Washington. ... All demonstrated courage, resourcefulness and initiative. ... Enslaved people engineered escapes, individually and in groups, with and without the assistance of an organized network. Some ended up back in slavery or jail, but some escaped to freedom."

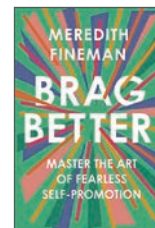


Brag Better: Master the Art of Fearless Self-Promotion

By Meredith Fineman '05

Portfolio, 2020

"Being unafraid to speak articulately about yourself, your life, and your accomplishments not only makes you feel great, but also leaves a positive and lasting impact on your listener. ... I want you to feel so good about bragging that you feel free to shout your greatness from the rooftops—and then help your colleagues and friends Brag Better, too."



Take a deep dive into DC across eras—from 19th-century abolitionists, to centuries of war-hawks, to the presidency itself. Then take inspiration from authors who activate fearlessness and strength, and one who even discovers transcendence in the darkest of corners. These recently published books from the Sidwell Friends community all have something in common: Whether in the highest levels of government or the deepest chambers of the heart, they are all about power.

The Hardest Job in the World

By John Dickerson '87

Random House, 2020

The presidency, according to CBS News' John Dickerson, is in trouble and close-to-impossible to perform. Americans need successful presidents and yet we simultaneously set them up to fail. The good news is that polarization is not America's natural state and change is possible. Still, would you want the job? "Your time is one of the most precious commodities in the world. How you spend that time, and how it is spent for you, determines the course of your administration and perhaps the country's future. This is why even your free time—those little shards of it you get—are also labeled and scheduled. The chief of staff knows you are taking the short walk downstairs to your office because he can watch the little red dot that signifies your movements on the White House grounds. You are tracked by your staff because other people are tracking your movements, too. They want to kill you."



More Than Ready: Be Strong and Be You... And Other Lessons for Women of Color on the Rise

By Cecilia Muñoz P '13

Seal Press, 2020

"Those of us with immigrant heritage often carry echoes of the choices that led our families to leave their homes and strike out for a new place. So many of us descend from people who didn't leave their homes to come to America at all—they were taken by force. Still others descend from people for whom America was home, and they were removed from their lands by force. ... Pretty much by definition, because we are women of color, we are at most only a few generations removed from people who showed extraordinary resilience and strength and who endured what seems unendurable. ... Whatever your circumstances, you are the product of a great chain of people, history, and forces that led to this moment and to you. It's worth taking time to reflect on it and build it into the arsenal of things to draw on when you need sources of courage."



The United States of War: A Global History of America's Endless Conflicts, from Columbus to the Islamic State

By David Vine '93

University of California Press, 2020

"Across the nineteenth century and into the twentieth and twenty-first, the invasions and wars of aggression generally grew lengthier, deadlier, and larger in scope. Although relatively few today think of California, the Southwest, and parts of Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming as occupied territory, they're controlled by the United States because the U.S. government instigated a war with Mexico in 1846, invading and taking almost half its land. The military invaded and occupied hemispheric neighbors, including Cuba (six times), Honduras (eight times), and Panama (twenty-four times). More fighting followed in China, Cambodia, Laos, Serbia, and Sudan, among others. Elsewhere the United States has waged proxy wars and backed coups in places such as Guatemala, Iran, Indonesia, Chile, and Afghanistan. ... Facing the longer history of U.S. wars and their terrible effects, from the eighteenth century to today, the inescapable question is *why*. ... What explains this record of war for a country long portrayed as a beacon of peace and democracy?"



Hello Darkness, My Old Friend

By Sanford D. Greenberg P '95, '98

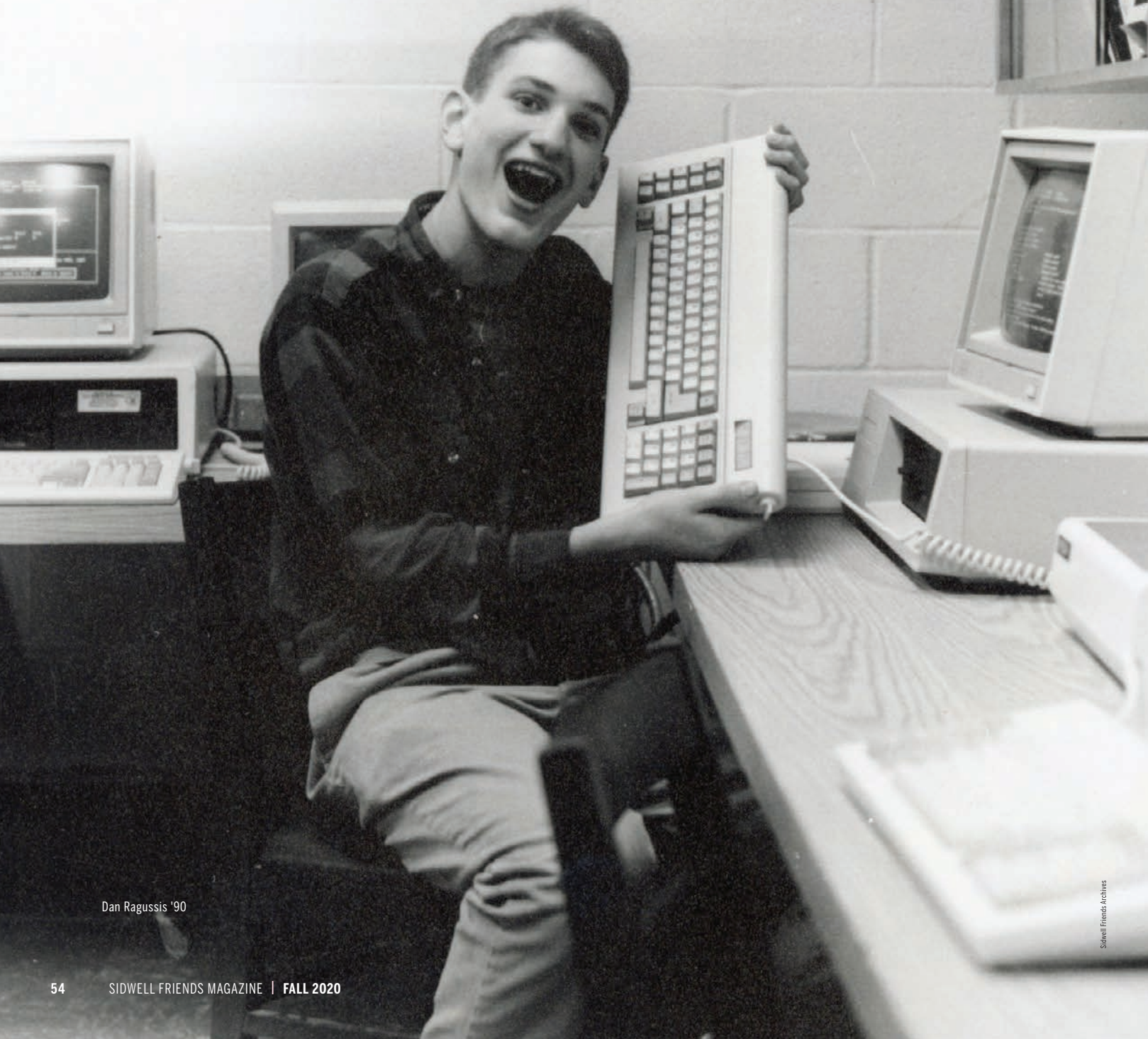
Simon and Schuster, 2020

Entrepreneur, inventor, and investor Sanford Greenberg was in college at Columbia when he lost his sight. But an enduring friendship with his roommate, Art Garfunkel, and a staggering amount of hard work helped him achieve a lifetime of extraordinary success. His latest pursuit? Curing blindness for humankind. *Hello Darkness, My Old Friend* includes an introduction by Garfunkel, a foreword by Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and a final word by Margaret Atwood. Sidwell Friends students and alumni may be interested in how losing one major sense can also open you up to previously undiscovered mental powers. "I memorized virtually every sentence read to me that year, something of which I did not know I was capable. Instead of cramming before an exam and then dumping the information and forgetting about it, I had to absorb material in a way I never had before. I still remember much of what I learned then. And I discovered that acquiring knowledge at such an insane pace would be a continuous wonder and joy for my life within the mind."



CLASS NOTES

At a moment when social media often overwhelms, proselytizes or vanishes before your eyes, Class Notes humbly offers respite. Here, you have a lasting, curated, and quirky window into the lives of your fellow alumni. Whether you knew them then, follow them now, or never met, you are all Friends.



Dan Ragussis '90

Sidwell Friends Archives

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Go to sidwell.edu/classnotes and let us know what you've been up to.

1940

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

1942

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

1944

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

1945

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

In Memoriam:

Margaret Stone Hesslein '45
June 11, 2020

John Jay Pohanka '45
May 17, 2020

1949

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

CHUCK WILSON: "That the pandemic has kept people from turning out to watch athletic events has given me a laugh. I remember Coach Harold 'Slim' Curtis griping because nobody came out to watch our baseball games. There was no pandemic, just a lack of interest. I don't think it mattered much to us players anyway. I also remember that being on Slim's team didn't help much in getting a better grade in Mr. Curtis's American history class, alas. He didn't play favorites, but I liked him anyway. Helen and I send best wishes to all classmates."



The Class of 1950

SPOTLIGHT: As Time Goes By

Class representative **Toby Riley** organized and emceed the Class of 1950's 70th Reunion from his Quaker retirement community in Medford, New Jersey. In the last 70 years, the former classmates have lived all over the planet: Brazil, Spain, Wyoming, Brooklyn, London, and Australia, to name just a few of their stops along the way. Currently, they are all in the United States, from Bethesda to Arizona. **Wally Christmas** spent 25 years in the Navy. **Stuart Belfield** and his wife once bought three original Robert Motherwell prints for \$30 from a clueless auctioneer. (In the Zoom photo on the next page, Stuart's in the penultimate square, and

two of the prints are visible behind him!) **Ann Parker Parks** joined the call while looking out over the Chesapeake Bay. **Mary King Flury** worked at the National Security Agency and married her boss, and when he left for Officer Candidate School, she took his job; then, for 45 years afterward, the pair were docents at the Smithsonian American History Museum and at the Old Executive Office Building. **Chuck Brown** was in the mining business and has three kids "who are not quite yet on Medicare—they're in their 50s." **Sally Rosenthal Brody** is a painter and had a one-person show in Chelsea in New York City earlier this year. **Chen Mersereau Byers**, who lived in Madrid and Puerto Rico, still credits Señora Supervía for her Spanish skills. In addition to

Supervía, the group remembered their teacher Harold "Slim" Curtis, who was passionate about the Washington Senators and would have loved to have seen the Nationals win the World Series last year. Then, Toby showed the group their class graduation photo from 1950 (see photo above), and together they identified each face. They also revisited their yearbook, which included each student's pet passions (sincere people, harmonious courtships, "les femmes," short shorts, boogie-woogie, good bargains); pet peeves (winter, those who lose their temper, small feet, shallow people); and favorite songs ("As Time Goes By," "Don't Fence Me In," "Ain't Misbehaving"). They all hope it's the start of renewed friendships through Zoom.



Members of the Class of 1950 on Zoom for their 70th Reunion: Ann Parker Parks, Toby Riley, Chen Mersereau Byers, Chuck Brown, Mary King Flury, Sally Rosenthal Brody, Stuart Belfield, Wally Christmas

1950

TOBY RILEY
toby.rileyq@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE:

See previous page for the 1950 Reunion wrap-up!

1951

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

1952

CAROL BLACK
carblack@comcast.net

1953

GLORIA GIRTON
ggat58b@orange.fr

GLORIA GIRTON: “Funny times. The United States doesn’t want to admit people coming from France, and France doesn’t want people coming from the United States. Twice, I have had to postpone a trip to the States to see my children. Here, the media have taken advantage of the times to try to scare people. At Les Halles, the stall owners must follow a rigid set of rules, and if they do not, they are fined 1,500 euros, more than many people’s individual monthly salaries.

The ‘yellow jackets’ are starting up again in 10 days, allied with the anti-maskers. The French can be rebellious. Many French are firmly anti-capitalist and see Emmanuel Macron as a banker—a dirty word. I will still go to Italy for my annual jaunt to Naples and Rome. I am keeping busy with piano lessons and Italian and Spanish classes. Somehow, I am more motivated if I have a teacher.”

HANK HOLMES: “I can’t boast about grandchildren, being a bit hopeless in that respect. Plus, who wants to read about mine anyway? To avoid boredom and total irrelevance during the pandemic, I came upon the idea of playing old songs on my piano for fellow musicians and dear forbearing friends. Once I get a request, I work it up and record it on my iPhone. Then I send it back. The good mutual feelings exchanged have been surprisingly yummy. Hint: Try me with a favorite song at henry.hankholmes@gmail.com.”

In Memoriam:

Eleanor Clephane Georgopoulos ’53
September 11, 2020

1954

RICHARD NICKLAS
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1955

NANCY ABOLIN HARDIN
nahardin@aol.com

ROBERT BRESLER: “I have been involved for 46 years with *USA Today: Magazine of the American Scene* (not to be confused with the newspaper), writing a bimonthly column and serving as national affairs editor. Last year, I suggested they do a piece on **George Anthonisen**’s work, which they not only did, amply illustrating it with photos of his work, but they also put one of his sculptures on the cover. (See photo on next page.) When I look back, I find that I disagree with some of my columns. But I believe that any kind of thoughtful journey in life should not be to a fixed point where one battens down the hatches against all enemies. I guess I am out of step with the times.”

ANN BROWN: “During this difficult time, I have found it helpful to keep busy with the things that normally would engage me. That is, mainly politics. (I am sure you can guess which party.) I stayed down in Florida rather than going to Martha’s Vineyard or Washington, DC, partially because Florida is where the political scene is at. I’m working with several groups to get the word out: I am working with a group to get out the Jewish vote, I am sending out 250 postcards, and I am making a lot of calls. I also do physical therapy, play tennis, read, and watch movies, and I am now living with a Jewish doctor. (I am sure my mother is thrilled about that!) Love to all of you!”



A sculpture by **George Anthonisen ’55** makes the cover of *USA Today: Magazine of the American Scene*.

LOCANA GUNARATNA: “In Sri Lanka, we still wear masks, and social distancing is considered important. The COVID-19 situation is not too bad here as compared with what is happening elsewhere, due to early and appropriate action by the present authorities. Of course, we are a small country of 21.5 million people, and our public health situation has always been reasonably good. We have saved many lives, but the impact of the pandemic on our country’s economy is severe. The construction industry is virtually at a standstill. Our own office is without much work. I am currently involved with a 14-member committee appointed by the international apex body for national science academies, the Inter Academy Panel, based in Trieste, Italy. Members, selected for their expertise, are from the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa and are nominated by their respective national science academies. Our assignment is to prepare a policy statement on ‘Third World Urbanization,’ which is taking place at a historically unprecedented intensity. We are about halfway through our work, and it is mainly what keeps me busy at present.”

BILL KERR: “After 35 years working with the museum in Wyoming, we retired and returned to Oklahoma. Joffa and I live near our two daughters, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. We

voted early by mail. Our personal politics have not changed. (Note: The name *Sidwell Friends* is iconic, there is only one.)

EDITOR'S NOTE:

That is definitely the prevailing sentiment, and the iconic *Sidwell Friends* name will continue to be the magazine’s title!

PEGGY SMITH LUTHRINGER: “I’m finding it very lonely up here in my same apartment on the 13th floor at 4000 Massachusetts Avenue, although I had a nice telephone conversation with **John Gardiner** recently, which helped, unlike conversations on Zoom, which I truly hate. Most of the friends who remain in my somewhat leaky memory bank have a Sidwell Friends connection, either as members of the Class of 1955 or as the parents of kids I taught in a kindergarten class. One memory I’ve been reminded of lately is how Bob Woodward (P ’94, ’15) squeezed into a small chair to read a story to a class that included his daughter. As for now: Please vote for Joe Biden! This means you, too, **Jerry Morgan!**”

ELEANOR QUINN: “I thoroughly enjoyed Tom Spain’s documentary on Ellen and **George Anthonisen**, *Anthonisen, Sculptor: George and Ellen Stories*. As I age, I so appreciate him and his well-lived life.” (See photo below.) Quinn also reports the sad news of **Ruth Simpson Woodcock**’s passing in October at her home in South Glastonbury, Connecticut. She very much enjoyed spending time with her 1-year-old great-grandson, Jay

Ogden. Quinn writes: “There’s a wonderful proverb: ‘When death finds you, may it find you alive.’ Ruth was vibrant until the very end.”

TOM SIMONS and his wife, Peggy, have spent 2020, beginning with a diagnosis in January, fighting a lymphoma at the base of her spine—so far successfully. There have been no active cancer cells since April, radiation chased down any strays in June and July, and her pre-chemo energy came back in September. Fringe benefit: The pandemic hasn’t much changed their habits. In the intervals, Tom is helping his research center at Harvard recruit the former U.S. ambassadors to Central Asia since independence for short podcast memoirs, which may also be strung together sometime as a book.

JUDITH HELLER ZANGWILL: “Hello to everyone. I am well, healthy, and enjoying time with the four ladies who are my housemates. I go out for some shopping, physical therapy, exercise class, and an occasional meal with a friend in an outdoor restaurant. Hoping for improvements in public health and national financial and political well-being. Best wishes to you all.”

In Memoriam:

W. Paul Hoffman Jr. ’55
April 17, 2020

Ruth Simpson Woodcock ’55
October 26, 2020



George Anthonisen ’55 from the documentary *Anthonisen, Sculptor: George and Ellen Stories*



A portrait of pianist Joyce Yang by Thomas Curtis '56

1956

CHARLIE HOLLAND
sshink@cox.net

THOMAS CURTIS held a major exhibition of his paintings at the Vogt Visual Arts Center in Tinley Park, Illinois, in September. The show, which ran for the entire month, included some of his major portraits, including those of Chief Justice William Rehnquist, pianist Joyce Yang, Captain Thomas Ohl, and Dame Stacey Starkes. Copies of his most recent book of portraits, *Cloud of Witnesses*, were available at the Center. A special reception was held (with COVID-19 precautions in place) for enthusiastic guests on September 12. (See photo above.)

1958

CRAIG MORGAN
craighmorgan@gmail.com

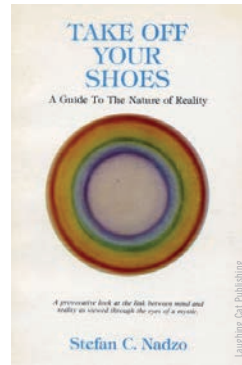
PEGGY PABST BATTIN reports that a book she and her colleagues (Margaret P. Battin, Leslie P. Francis, Jay A. Jacobson, and Charles B. Smith) published 10 years ago, *The Patient as Victim and Vector: Ethics and Infectious Disease*, is being reissued by Oxford University Press with a new preface on COVID-19. Who would have thought a book published a decade ago would be so relevant now?

REID CHAMBERS is still working—he modestly claims his role was minor in the July Supreme Court decision ruling that the eastern half of Oklahoma still belongs to Native Americans. “Two of my friends

argued this case, and we wrote an amicus brief that was cited in the opinion Justice Gorsuch wrote. It is a big victory for the five large tribes in Eastern Oklahoma—Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Chickasaw, and Choctaw—in terms of affirming their governmental authority and federal protection of their remaining lands. The decision redresses historic wrongs visited on the tribes, dating to their forcible removal from the southeast by Andrew Jackson and largely to open their lands in western Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi to cotton production and slavery. We and our tribal clients are very proud of the outcome.”

ANN MCINTIRE COCKRELL: “I continue to enjoy being safe on my farm close to Chapel Hill, North Carolina. I have a dog for company and my oldest daughter, Joanna, lives on the adjoining property with her husband. I’m in touch with all nine grandchildren, especially the two who are struggling to cope at UNC with classes online this fall.”

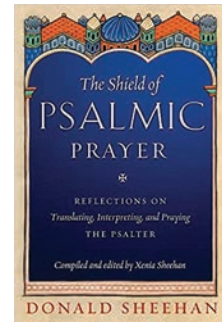
BOB MYERS initiated a discussion of the differences in today’s Black Lives Matter protests and the Civil Rights protests of the 1960s. He described the strict orientation he received in joining CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) to protest discrimination in Syracuse, New York. CORE “inculcated the four basic steps of nonviolent resistance set out by Martin Luther King: (1) verify that an injustice exists; (2) undertake self-purification, a process of shedding oneself of prejudice and embracing nonviolence; (3) attempt to negotiate with relevant officials to remove the injustice; and (4) direct action. My impression of the current BLM initiatives is that they’re very strong on step 1 (verify the injustice); cognizant of but weak on step 2 (purification), including struggling with the non-violence aspect; and ill-equipped to argue step 3 (negotiate with officialdom). BLM also seems shy of actionable agendas. Regarding step 4 (direct action against the police), the police are stonewalling and getting protection from the radical right and Trump. That is, BLM is operating against both widespread and well-armed cowardice (Gandhi cautioned that nonviolence might have a tough go against cowardice) as well as COVID-19. Given this, I wonder if nonviolence will succeed?”



One of the books by **Stefan Nadzo '58** that is now available on Kindle.

STEFAN NADZO has written four books that are available on Kindle at Amazon: one is a short story about his decision to leave the Foreign Service; another is what he describes as “a children’s book for adults, too”; and the final two are a consideration of his and his wife’s discoveries along the “eclectic” (his word) spiritual path they have chosen. Amazon offers three other titles that have been out of print for decades. Stefan and Nancy continue to live a quiet, contemplative life in rural Maine, where they have been since they “left the world” (again, his expression) nearly 50 years ago. (See above.)

DAVE PRICE, joining one of the class Zooms from Summerville, South Carolina, started a discussion about renaming buildings and removing statues. “There needs to be a greater awareness and understanding of the history and circumstances surrounding naming and statue erection. Context will help more people understand why some of these should be removed and relocated. Certainly, those that were blatantly placed during Jim Crow deserve removal. For there to be lasting acceptance with eventual goodwill and positive attitude change, this should be done in a measured manner with teaching and context. As we become, hopefully, a more caring and aware nation, we should keep our past alive and visible to learn from and as a contrast to where we would like to go and who we would like to become. Hopefully, those with a positive view of what our future can be will eschew the extremes of both sides and work to bring all together rather than making the divide wider and deeper.”



Carol Wood Sheehan '55 edited a third book of writing by her late husband.

TONY ROGERS: “Since I finished writing my memoir, *Fake Smiles*, I have been writing a mystery series featuring retired judge Jim Randall who stumbles into a new life as an amateur detective. The first, *Judge Randall and the Tenured Professor*, will soon be available on Amazon as an eBook and in paperback.”

CAROL WOOD SHEEHAN published a third book of writing by her late husband, Donald Sheehan, titled *The Shield of Psalmic Prayer: Reflections on Translating, Interpreting, and Praying the Psalter*. (See photo above.) She has submitted a fourth, *Transfiguring Violence*, to the publisher and has just begun work on a fifth, which involves transcribing and editing recordings of Don’s classes, lectures, and discussions on Dostoevsky’s *The Brothers Karamazov*. She publishes under her orthodox baptismal name, Xenia. Recently, she moved from Michigan to the Nyack, New York, area to live with her older son, David, who teaches English at the Nyack High School. Carol’s younger son, Rowan Benedict, has just seen the fruition of some hard work: He helped bring about a concert involving several choirs (including his own) that performed in 2018 at the National Cathedral with the Orchestra of St. Luke’s under conductor Leonard Slatkin, and he now has a Naxos recording of that concert, *Alexander Kastalsky’s Requiem for Fallen Brothers (1914–1917)*, which has been voted Billboard’s No. 1 Traditional Classical Music recording. She is proud of her sons and hopes she’ll live long enough to see what her grandson and seven granddaughters are going to do with their lives!

ANNETTE EISENBERG STIEFBOLD, in the wake of George Floyd’s death, wrote: “Today, I participated in a silent vigil in our community. It was heartwarming to see so

many people turn out and to hear the support of countless others who drove by. This positive experience somewhat alleviated my despair over the state of our nation. When Obama was elected, I naively thought we had reached a turning point in race relations. Now it’s clear that inequality of opportunity and unequal justice still plague us. For change to occur, we need visionary leaders and the national will to live up to the ideals most profess to believe in. We need to stop thinking of people not like ourselves as ‘other.’ However, to be clear, I also believe that those who break the law, whether by committing crimes against persons or destroying property, should be punished.”

STEVE STOVALL sent the class sensational photos of his daughter, Cindy Eastman, and 15-year-old granddaughter, Charlotte Eastman, rappelling down the face of a 38-story Denver skyscraper. They did it as part of a fundraiser to fight cancer.

1959

CLARK GRIFFITH
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ALAN BERNSTEIN is very pleased to report that the effort to raise \$1.2 million to fund the Señora Guillermina Medrano de Supervía Endowed Faculty Chair for Spanish and Latin American Studies was successfully completed! More than 50 alumni and friends made generous gifts. In the near future, Sidwell Friends will begin a search for a qualified person to hold the chair. In addition to teaching responsibilities, the chair will be a resource for faculty and staff who want to develop academic courses and enrichment programs relating to the study of the Spanish language and Latin American history, art, and culture. Alan writes: “To my classmates who participated in this effort, I am deeply grateful. You will be hearing more about the Supervía chair soon.” *Bien hecho, Alanzo, sigue con tu buen trabajo!*

BERNHARD GLAESER: “It was a shot out of the blue,” when **Pat Robbins** wrote to Bernard on August 5, 2020. Pat’s

daughter, Christina Cain, and family—husband, Mark, and their daughters, Eva (18) and Zoe (16)—who live in Lausanne, Switzerland, were visiting Berlin. “This was short notice but fun. The coronavirus was still going strong, yet the coronavirus gave us a chance to meet in Berlin—we usually spend our summers in Woods Hole on Cape Cod. It was quite hot, and we had a German *kaffee und kuchen* (coffee and cake) afternoon garden party with iced coffee under a shady apple tree. It was so nice to listen to everyone’s stories, including sightseeing, museums, and the teenagers’ thrift shopping—so many textile items for very little money! Christina enjoyed being able to bridge the divide of distance between me and Pat in a friendship that has lasted so long.” Bernhard added that, on rainy days in Berlin, he listens to a Bix Beiderbecke album he received from Pat in 1959.

MATTY WALTON: “I am alive and on my hind feet. A simple majority of my wives are also. I have so many sensory deficits that my doctor suggests retrofitting a new head—but I told him, ‘Dear Doctor, though I would enjoy all the restored senses, I am in mortal fear that I would find myself a Republican.’ Two of my children are adults and forging ahead with their destinies. My currently ex-ing wife lives, amicably, in New Zealand with our two children, 10 and 16. I miss them and hope that they come here or I go there some day. Other than that? Well, I have a gaggle of sisters, and they all are nearby, and I love and curry favor with them—also (this town being a summer ‘family compound,’ in its salad days) several cousins and descendants. I have treated them well enough so that these handsome and beautiful people treat me very well. My knees hurt, but I am not beyond walking. An importunate dog has been thrust upon me. My ex, Jenny, has taken me in, and I strive gratefully to be good company. I love so many classmates, too many of them gone!”

FROM THE CLASS REP.

I think you need a new doctor.

CLARK GRIFFITH: The Class of '59 held its first Zoom call recently. Present were **Susie Kroeger, Phoebe Meijer, Joan Zweben, Keen Stassen Berger,** and **Elizabeth Crook.** I hosted and my audio didn't work. Three participants didn't notice, and there was a suggestion that the meeting discussion was enhanced by that feature. The next meeting was set for October 18 at a time to be determined, as we cover time zones from Berlin to Berkeley.

In Memoriam:

Judith Schreiber Knox '59
September 13, 2020

1960

JODY HUTCHINSON
mjodyh@yahoo.com

JOHN SAPIENZA: “All of us have been affected by the pandemic. I've been lucky; although I have lost several friends to cancer this year, nobody I know has caught COVID-19. We've all been very careful indeed, giving up social gathering, wearing masks, and keeping watch as the recommendations from health authorities changed over time as they gathered more knowledge of the disease. If only we didn't have a political party that mocks science and urges people to live dangerously! As a natural introvert, I've been well-equipped to live alone. I'm blessed with enough income to isolate myself with books, TV, and the vast world of the internet. I spend my mornings reading three newspapers online and sharing thoughts with friends on Facebook. I spend my afternoons reading and my evenings reading or watching shows I've downloaded on TiVo. Life is, on the whole, pretty good at chez Sapienza. We've had meetings via Zoom preparing for our distanced 60th Reunion. The more technically informed are setting up online gatherings to let class members socialize safely. But I do hope that by the time our 65th Reunion comes around, we will be able to meet and greet together. My niece was married this month. The family reunion

that would normally have happened was canceled, so only immediate family attended. I hope they all stay safe. And my oldest granddaughter is engaged to be married. So there is good news, and life goes on.”

1961

LINDA DEMING RATCLIFF
ldratcliffe@comcast.net

CAROL CARPENTER ESTEBAN: “After living 40 wonderful years in Mexico, I lost my husband to liver cancer and have returned to the United States to be closer to my children and grandchildren. I currently live outside of Houston in Katy, Texas. While I find my neighbors to be friendly, hospitable, and generous, I need more time to get used to their mindset. A breed of their own, y'all! Visits from family and friends are welcome as soon as we get past the pandemic.”

KEITH MOSTOFI: “Just a quick note to advise that my family and I have so far managed to survive the pandemic this summer (although we weren't able to take the annual week in Rehoboth Beach). Despite my Parkinson's I am doing fairly well and the rest of the family is in great shape! Hope you all are doing well!”

1962

PETER ENEMARK
peter.and.meme@gmail.com

PETER ENEMARK: “The members of the Class of 1962—and the members of many other Sidwell Friends classes—all wrote JERPs (Junior English Research Papers). The JERP was part of the curriculum at Sidwell Friends, and—according to **Chett Breed**—in many other U.S. high schools during the 1950s and 1960s. **Judy Markley Wastler** got a lot of us thinking about our JERPs. Many of us (including Judy) could not remember what our JERP topics were. The class notes below were written in September during the time when much of the West Coast was on

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Go to sidwell.edu/classnotes and let us know what you've been up to.

fire. There are several references about the smoke and the air quality in Washington, Oregon, and California.”

JUDY MARKLEY WASTLER: “I have nothing much new to report. I did not take the Delta buy-out. I have just taken the 'high-risk' leave of absence, as my doctor doesn't want me flying until there's a safe cure. We're all pretty much open here in Georgia, so I'm shopping, etc. with a mask on. For some unknown reason the JERP (Junior English Research Paper) crosses my mind. I have absolutely no idea what I wrote mine about. Who remembers their JERP topic?”

CHETT BREED: “We're reveling in our granddaughter's emancipation from a rural, underfunded high school in Michigan to spend her senior year at someplace almost as good as Sidwell Friends—the Interlochen Arts Academy. She's blooming among like-minded and good-hearted classmates from around the world. Plus, the campus is positively closed so everybody's staying safe. She's a pianist, and her friends include a poet, songwriter, oboist, and clarinetist. Our son in Freestone, California, is replacing a roof on his 1950s home, only 25 miles from the coast so he gets bursts of fresh air to accompany the incredible smoke. His wife and college-aged daughter are helping him roll the material out. Suanna and I are hunkering okay. The title of my JERP was 'The Influence of Buddhism on Early Chinese Painting.' No kidding. It sounds like a graduate thesis! I had no idea what I was doing, but I got a B for it and loved sitting in the Freer Gallery for long afternoons looking at books of reproductions. Also I got to ride downtown with **Charlie Mills** in his wonderful woody wagon. I wonder how Mr. K graded them. So many elements, like the bibliography and footnotes (do I remember this right?), as well as mastery of content. It made my Ph.D. thesis 30 years later seem like a walk in the park.”

JUDY MCGREGOR CALDWELL: “So much has happened since last I wrote, and it's all good—really good. My neighbor's backyard garden is blooming nicely, thanks to an added 65 bags of organic peat. What a joy it has been to reach into the earth and help nature create more beauty than she already does by herself. The amount of sweat equity cannot be measured. It is not work. It is joy. I usually start digging, transplanting, and just playing in the dirt at daybreak (when it's coolest) and then fall into the pool around noon. The pool is yet another happy place for me, and I get to bring all this happy stuff into my studio. My paintings now are all about the gentle breezes that sweep into my studio and land on my canvases. I feel caressed as they pass by. Ah, to capture their gentle energies. There is peace here, a peace 'that defies all understanding.' So, I hope these peaceful breezes reach each and every one of you, especially those in the western states. Florida's torment will be coming soon, I am sure. Until then, I send you all an extra amount of loving thoughts and care.”

MEME LUND ENEMARK: “My husband, **Peter**, and I have managed to survive both the pandemic and the lead-up to the election. Peter has taken two painting classes and is beginning an art history class—all on Zoom. I hope to look over his shoulder in art history to review Italian Renaissance art. I've made a lot of desserts: six different icebox cakes, five different tiramisus, and eight different cheesecakes. The cheesecakes were the best—and most caloric. It helps that Peter and I work out at least twice a week and play pickleball once a week. Peter has volunteered with the local public-school district to tutor a grade-school student. I work with a friend in Liguria, Italy, on her ESL class homework. In turn, she coaches me in Italian—so I'm taking an ISL class. We've had friends over for dinner at our nine-foot-long table on our patio. It's a wonderful treat to spend time with friends almost up close. We're being conservative and, unfortunately, haven't been able to spend time with our children and grandchildren, aside from the occasional Zoom session. Neither of us has had a professional haircut for seven months. My short and spiked

hair is now medium-long and very curly. Peter has talked me into cutting his hair three times. It's made me realize: Barbers don't get paid nearly enough. We often comment on our good fortune: We're retired, our children have jobs, our grandchildren (and their parents) are managing distance learning, and we're all well.”

JEFF FLETCHER: “My wife, Tara, and I are healthy and staying relatively busy. We've had to cancel trips to a Virginia resort (anniversary), to Michigan (tulip festival), and to Key West (our first miss in 31 years), but we did spend a few days with friends in southwestern Pennsylvania in early July. A few things are opening here with timed-entry reservations, so we got down to the National Gallery to see the *Degas at the Opéra* show and an exhibit of 19th-century European *en plein air* landscape painters. Only certain parts of the West Building are open. Otherwise, Tara is painting a lot and still entering online art shows, I am bicycling every day, and we both are doing a lot of Zoom meetings with our local friends and volunteer organizations—and working on some political stuff (writing postcards to swing-state voters, donating to candidates, etc.). My daughter, Allison, and her family are well, although online learning for our elementary-school granddaughters this fall is a real challenge. I hope all is well with everyone and with their families.”

JILL ROBINSON GRUBB: “Having a son in Berkeley, California, inspired a letter to the editor. We all need to pressure our representatives to act now on global warming. (I've been trying for years in Ohio, a gerrymandered state that does whatever the NRA, fossil-fuel companies, and the president tell it to.) The letter reads in part: 'Your families and mine are being threatened by a political party that doesn't represent our interests. They roll back restrictions on pollution and allow the destruction of natural areas for short-term goals. My son and his family in California can't go outside or open windows because of the smoke and ash. ... America has faced longer droughts, harsher storms, rising waters, and devastating effects of wild

weather on crops and homes. Meanwhile, McConnell and the Republicans refuse to renew the \$600-a-week pay for those among us who've lost jobs. Democrats have had the Heroes Bill ready to go for ages, but now the Republicans are planning to ram through a skinny bill that cares about protecting corporations from liability more than keeping families afloat during this pandemic. ... How long do we let fossil-fuel companies, munitions factories, the NRA, and an administration run by the rich for the rich trample on us?’”

GAEL BROWN POST: “The air seems to have cleared in Laguna Woods, California, where I've lived almost three years. I've often been wistful about a dearth of more greenery; but considering the state of the state, that may be a good thing. As **Charlie Mills** pointed out, it's only the beginning of fire season. I still sing with a barbershop chorus and a newly formed quartet in addition to some solo performances that have been fun and energizing. Since mid-March, we've been relegated to Zoom rehearsals, which are vastly different experiences. Performances are accomplished independently in our homes on computers or iPads and uploaded to a coordinator who then assembles them and uploads them to YouTube. We're preparing for the next two virtual concerts, and it manages to keep at least part of the group together and engaged. A local food pantry for South Orange County takes up another part of my energies; I continue to volunteer in the pantry itself. I might be the only one in our demographic still there, but we've had a stable crew of masked and gloved folks. Other Zooms have taken over my life: various classes and a weekly movie group. We've even assembled a socially distanced Trivial Pursuit evening two or three times a month. Other than that, I try to manage the daily news barrage and contribute however I can to participatory democracy. My JERP was on stuttering—why? I don't know. Sending love to all!”

MARCIA ROSENBERG PRUZAN: “My husband, Jerry, and I are doing as well as can be expected in this very weird time. We're doing what a lot of you are doing:

reading; taking long walks; taking a lot of online courses; bingeing on TV series (*Borgen!* Try it!); Zooming with out-of-town friends, kids, and grandkids; visiting here with friends outside at socially appropriate distances; and, oh yes, hyperventilating about the election. I'm also still working part time, managing the AARP Age-Friendly program for Montgomery County. We've been worrying about our West Coast friends and hope everyone everywhere is staying safe and well—despite smoke and plague. And by the way, my JERP was on optical illusions because, well, I just thought it would be fun—and it was!”

JEFF ROGERS: “Kathryn and I are doing well in the smoky air, and we love living on peaceful Whidbey Island in Washington. Like in the San Francisco Bay area, the smoke has been very bad here, but it is even worse in Seattle and in our old ‘hometown’ of Portland. All four of our children and their families live in Seattle, so we are able to see them often but less easily than pre-pandemic. The combination of climate change and its effects, the COVID-19 pandemic, racial-justice issues, and Trump’s threats to our democracy seems unprecedented in our lifetimes. The 1960s were also turbulent, but this feels worse because the problems appear to be more intractable—or we somehow don’t have the wisdom and resources to be confronting them sufficiently. So, we all go on as best we can, enjoying life at the personal level and trying to make whatever difference we can.”

ERIK THORSON: “My wife, Rhonda, is teaching 3-, 4-, 5-, and 6-year-olds via Zoom. From what I overhear, it’s weird: older siblings in the same room, younger siblings in the same room, overzealous parents, no supervision, etc. I’m still trundling along, making dinners, and cheerleading. I walk and lift light weights regularly, trying to stay ahead of my ailments. Life is good. We hope everyone is doing well, too! The space race was on in 1961, and I wrote my JERP on space law. I found enough esoteric references—that the DC Public Library didn’t have—that I



Recent watercolors from Sharon Smull Hinckley '63

had to go to the Library of Congress. As I remember, we all tried to find references that weren’t in the public library so that we’d have to go to the Library of Congress. I love that building to this day. There was also an ‘art’ movie theater on that streetcar line, which on more than one occasion kept me from getting all the way to the Library of Congress. The films were racy for the time. The only one I remember by name was *The Fugitive Kind* starring Marlon Brando. Very steamy for a sheltered suburban boy like me. Anyway, my JERP on space law: I got a B+. A few years later, I read an article about space law in *The New York Times* that said pretty much what I did in my JERP. I was very upset with Hall Katzenbach that I didn’t get an A.”

1963

MARGO LEE HOFELDT
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JOHN BRALOVE: “Like most everyone else, life is quiet for us because of the pandemic. Anna and I are playing tennis but are otherwise keeping our distance. I am getting some long-postponed house projects done, reading a lot, and I have actually managed to lose some weight, which was much needed. But retired life in Sanibel, Florida, is much the same as before, except for not going out to eat. Stay well, everyone. I hope both a reliable and effective vaccine and president await us in 2021.”

GARTH DOCHERTY: “We went out to a restaurant to eat inside—the first time since January. Had a double order of french fries!”



Courtesy Sharon Smull Hinckley '63

ROSAURA EICHENBERG: “We are living hard times, but there is still hope that it will get better (see *that.it*). I have uploaded the third edition of my magazine website about literature and art, and I wanted to share this adventure with my former classmates. You can read it here: ibisliteraturaearte.com. Plus, the cover story is about Bob Dylan, your great American songwriter. I wish you well.”

SHARON SMULL HINCKLEY: “Apparently, I haven’t changed much since high school—still getting my homework (this note!) in at the 11th hour. We do live in interesting times. Last summer, the San Diego Community College canceled my class (and almost all of the other summer classes as well). This summer, I had two classes, with 60 students in each class. Now that fall semester has started, I am again teaching two watercolor-painting classes for the community college (70 students in each, plus a waiting list) and a private class for a retirement home, as well as an occasional workshop. I may have been busier at some point in my life, but I can’t remember when! As it turns out, Zoom lends itself really well to teaching watercolor painting. It’s easier for the students to see my demonstrations on their computer screens than it was with 30 to 40 people standing around in the classroom. I have so much gratitude for my time at Sidwell Friends. When I was in high school, there were no art classes; however, the School administrators took it upon themselves to arrange for three or four of us go back to the Middle School on a regular basis to continue our lessons with the Hoglunds. With love from my Zoom Room!” (See above for a few of the images that Hinckley painted in class recently.)

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Go to sidwell.edu/classnotes and let us know what you've been up to.

MARGO LEE HOFELDT: “We didn’t go to Connecticut this summer, and I haven’t needed a calendar for quite a while so I have no idea how it got to be September already. It’s amazing how quickly the days go by, and somehow, I keep busy. Early on, it was the grocery store that was an exciting outing, then we added the drugstore, the post office, and the bank. In late June, we did go away for three nights—so my husband could have a cataract removed, and again two weeks later for the other one. What a treat! We ate in restaurants (outside, of course) and stayed in a hotel. Back in Miami Beach, we occasionally order in, but mostly I’ve been cooking and my meals are getting better and better. We love Netflix, Amazon Prime, etc. and have seen some great series (e.g., *A Place to Call Home*, *Ozark*, *The Crown*, *Yellowstone*, etc.). Then, of course, there’s walking the dog, chores, paperwork, and lots of email. Other than that, I’m sure you can guess that going to the hairdresser was a momentous occasion. Presently looking forward to getting out more and seeing friends (at a distance), and as much as I hate injections... getting the vaccine.”

JEANNE PERKINS HOFFERKAMP: “As with most of us, Steve and I have not done much since the pandemic started. I can’t remember if I said this before, but we did go to Oahu the end of January. Wasn’t long after we got home that everything went crazy! It was a great trip, but a very long plane ride. Thankfully, our family is well, and we are fortunate that they have kept their jobs working from home. Weather in Chicago has been wonderful. We had our hot spell, but that was to be expected. So much of the country is experiencing untold disasters. So sad. Wishing everyone good health and happiness! Forgot to say how much time I spend doing jigsaw puzzles on my iPad. Lots of fun and you will never lose any of the pieces!”

DIANA ROTHMAN: “Late August to mid-September in Santa Cruz: With the temperature at 108, the sun burns west-facing apples, tomatoes bake on the vine. At night, dry lightning strikes the nearby mountains. As the fire approaches, I pack evacuation bags and wait; then unpack, as the firebreak holds. Eerie orange skies turn back to the familiar gray of fog and smoke. The just-cleaned headstones at Home of Peace are covered with ash again. When the sky clears to blue, my eight-foot hollyhock opens the last blossoms at its top, and like the hummingbirds and monarchs in my yard, I resume my usual rounds.”

ROBERT ZWEBEN: “This magazine will probably come out after the election. America should not be facing these stark choices. Four years of this president has been enough. Four years of his Republican enablers has demonstrated how greedy, power hungry, and morally bankrupt these people are. If re-elected, say goodbye to the great American democratic experiment. Say hello to an authoritarian government that turned over its economic and environmental policy to industrial giants. I never thought I would graduate from Sidwell Friends in 1963 and witness this election in 2020. What went wrong? Did schools like Sidwell Friends fail to instill social and moral teachings in its curriculum? Did Sidwell Friends provide an education to the children of too many elite politicians? Why have climate deniers triumphed over scientists and believers in the benefits of environmental protection of our sacred planet? Why does the money of rich people and corporate giants control our political institutions? Why can’t we provide affordable health care for all Americans? Why did this administration utterly fail to address COVID-19? My family is fortunate. We are healthy. We have seen fires and horrible air. We want America’s democracy back.”

1964

LOUISE BERRY STRAIT
lbstrait@gmail.com

LOUISE BERRY STRAIT: “The Class of 1964 has had several Zoom meetings with interested members. Participants have included Nancy Beiter, George Bernstein, Mary Bralove, Marika Moore Cutler, Bonnie Eisenberg, Norm Elrod, Lisa Freeman, Richard May, Scot McCulloch, Marilyn Mellowes, Susan Morse, Ray Murphy, Douglas Rogers, Louise Berry Strait, Bobbie Seitz Turnbull, Diane Wolf, and Douglas Yriart. Notification of each upcoming Zoom is emailed to all class members, followed up by a Zoom link to those interested.” (See photo on next page.)

SUSAN MORSE: “Love and peace to all. It’s a relief to know most are secure and sane in this time of ongoing uncertainty. Frank, my husband, is here with me napping, as is the cat, who models comfort impressively. Frank is unwell; his lungs and heart are fighting for his survival. He still wants to be here, and fortunately, we are extremely comfortable. I like to go outside and mess around in nature. I don’t garden in the formal sense, since nothing is very formal around us. We epitomize the intersection of urban and rural from the moment we step out the door. Both the cat and I stand in the doorway each morning checking for wildlife and inhaling the air. She is especially wary of her nemesis: bobcats. I look for any other possible predators. From inside, Frank watches his spirit creature, Rufus, a hummingbird, who patrols the two porch feeders. I’d like to be writing more than I am, but homekeeping and caregiving is close to full time when adding in my daily walks. Like Doug Yriart, I climb a serious hill each day, averaging two to four miles. I have endured one knee replacement and would prefer to avoid another. Amazingly, the hill hike has held off the need. When our caregiver is here, I head for the beach. There’s enough space on Monterey Bay to allow me to easily maintain social distance. I’m basically an optimist, although some days the current status gets me down. I hang onto real hope that this pause will allow us to shift gears to a truly new economic, social, and environmental approach to life on Earth.”

DOUGLAS YRIART: “Greetings from the Berkshires. Fall is coming in, the leaves are starting to change, and the weather is getting lots cooler. This summer has been great, but a lot less active, as my sons and grandchildren haven’t been able to visit and I haven’t been able to travel. I learned a new skill in the spring: Zoom. I give daily tutoring sessions to my grandson and granddaughter in Nashville. My favorite activity here, the Fall Foliage Parade, won’t be happening in early October. Usually, by this time, the parade committee I’m on is in the final stages of planning—deciding the lineup of floats, marching units, and bands—and recruiting the final volunteers. I’m looking forward to being able to engage with my friends on the committee eventually to bring next year’s parade to life.” (See photo at right.)



Douglas Yriart '64 at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, “decked out in my barn coat for fall.”

collection of autobiographical reminiscences of his life at Sidwell Friends—from living through the missile crisis at the age of 13 in 8th grade, when half of his classmates were evacuated from Washington; to working in the Kennedy Compound the summer Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated; to his crucial role in Operations Linebacker I and II at the age of 23, which brought an end to American participation in the Vietnam War. (See photo on bottom right.)

1966

CHRIS DEMATATIS
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1967

STEVE BATZELL
swb.abacus@gmail.com

CHRIS KNOWLES continues his writing on Martha’s Vineyard. His most recent book is *Peace is at Hand: From the Cuban Missile Crisis to Operation Linebacker*. It is a

1968

ROLLIE FRYE
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RANDY CURTIS: “We are blessed to be in one of the best spots for the pandemic (so far): Blue Hill, Maine, where we are

starting our third winter since retiring full time. Our pregnant daughter joined us in March from DC and is about to deliver a granddaughter any day now. Her employer, *Bloomberg News*, has a great maternity-leave policy, so we’ll have some more time to enjoy them all before she has to head back to DC. I just finished working on a sea-level-rise report as part of a local task force, and Blue Hill is fortunate compared with a lot of coastal towns. Lots of high granite shoreline! Stay safe and away from fires, hurricanes, derechos, etc.”

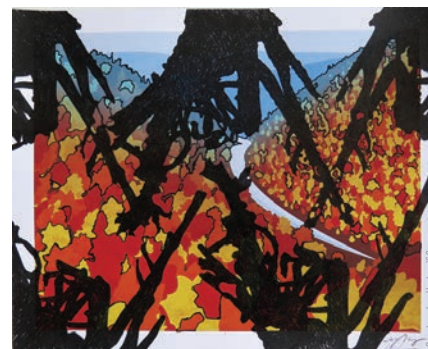
ERNEST EVANS: “I continue to teach at Kansas City Kansas Community College, where I have taught since 1998. My research on violence, terrorism, and extremist groups continues. In light of all of the concern about race relations in America today, I thought I should mention that I continue, as I have done for several decades, to work closely with law enforcement and private civil rights groups to combat violence against Jews and racial minorities by violence-prone white supremacist groups.”

CATHERINE O’NEILL GRACE: “COVID-19 sent me scurrying home on March 12 from a three-person office at *Wellesley Magazine*, the college’s alumni quarterly. I love working at the college, seeing the students, rubbing elbows with colleagues in the hallways, attending events, eavesdropping on conversations in the student café (and drinking their very good 75-cents-a-cup coffee). All that ended in a heartbeat. I have been back to our office once to pick up files. At 69, and with asthma, I am considered at high risk for working on campus. But I am so glad that I can continue to work from home, as



The new book by **Chris Knowles '67** includes essays about his days at Sidwell Friends.

Courtesy Chris Knowles '67



Lyn Horton '68 and Molly Henry, photo print and ink drawing, part of the USPS Collaboration, 2020

lonely as it can be. We are finding new ways to tell our stories. This summer, I wrote about auditing an Emily Dickinson class, and it’s one of my favorite pieces I have written. Here’s a link: tinyurl.com/wellesley-solitude-space. Hope everyone is staying well, staying safe, and staying six feet apart!”

LYN HORTON NEWELL: “My work was chosen to be included in two virtual exhibits in September. One is called *Eco-Consciousness*, from the EcoArtspace Group out of Santa Fe, New Mexico; the catalog for the show can be found here: ecoartspace.org/ecoconsciousness. The second show is an annual works-on-paper exhibit held at the Brand Library in Glendale, California. The show is titled Brand 48, and the catalog for the show and the video of the opening remarks can be seen here: brandlibrary.art/brand48. I collaborated with graphic artist Molly Henry of mollysocks.design in a project to support the U.S. Post Office (tinyurl.com/cmasseyart-usps), initiated by artist Christina Massey. The work will be in one of the shows exhibiting the hundreds of collaborations at Art Gym Denver (artgymdenver.com) in November. My work is available through the Cross Mackenzie Gallery (crossmackenzie.com/artists) outside of Washington, DC, and Four for Art (4forart.com/artists-1), seasonally, in Lenox, Massachusetts.” (See photo above.)

1969

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

ROB LORING: “I am back living quietly in Bethesda, Maryland. As the Next-to-New Sale couldn’t happen this year, I used the time I would have donated to the School to finish up my booklet, *Accurate Democracy*. I wrote it to help democracy in classes, clubs, co-ops, congregations, and on up to countries. It’s easy, optimistic reading with colorful graphics and three well-tested innovations. And it’s free on the web at accuratedemocracy.com/ebook.pdf.” (See photo below.)

SPOTLIGHT: Feed the World

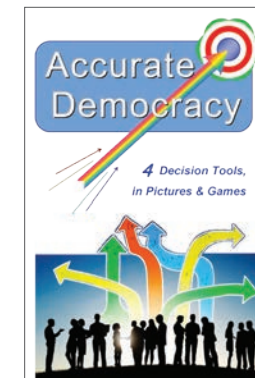
Members of the Class of 1970 celebrated their 50th Reunion year through civic action. First, they endowed a fund for the School’s Equity, Justice, and Community program in honor of their 50th Reunion. The unrestricted fund will make an enduring impact on the School. The class also engaged its Quaker values by helping a key non-profit further its work throughout America and around the world. The class joined together to donate to the World Central Kitchen, which feeds hungry people in crisis. The group partners with local chefs and small restaurants in an effort to keep communities fed and small businesses viable. The Class of 1970 is keeping the link open for anyone in the Sidwell Friends community who might want to donate: donate.wck.org/sfs1970.



1970

MARGARET WEAVER KRULL
mwkrull@me.com

ANNE BATZELL: “My husband, Henry Boom, and I have lived in our first home in the Cleveland suburb of Shaker Heights, Ohio, for 32 years. Henry is an infectious-disease research doctor, so he’s especially busy now. Besides coronavirus, his day job includes running a lab focused on TB and managing a decades-old TB/HIV clinical trials study in Uganda, where he often travels. Twice, I’ve joined him in that beautiful country. Many consider the Midwest flyover land, but it’s a fine place for friends, family, and life near a culturally rich city. I’ve kept busy volunteer tutoring, gardening, co-founding a 31-year-old book group, and lately, intently serving as the voter-service chair of the League of Women Voters’ Shaker Heights chapter. I’m running a station out of my house, coordinating 40 volunteers to reach underserved neighborhoods with information and vote-by-mail applications. About 2,000 forms have departed my home. Our daughter, a private investigator, works and lives in DC. Sadly, I was last in DC for the memorial service of Lower School principal Richard Lodish, my first employer when I started teaching. Lately, I’ve been coordinating with **Cathy Moreno Bodine** when she visits her mother, Alice Bralove. Alice, Cathy, and I have had a few ‘slumber parties’ in Alice’s apartment. Our son is in Oakland, California, where he’s lived since college (with a two-year Peace Corps interlude), and works in solar energy.



A new booklet by **Rob Loring '69**

Courtesy Rob Loring



Courtesy Louise Strat '64

Members of the Class of 1964 socialize over Zoom in September.

Brian Glassman '73, Betsy Glassman's cousin, lives nearby; we have fun talking Sidwell Friends. Brother Peter Batzell, who taught many of you, is teaching again in his adult retirement community. He's very content and finds his fellow residents share his outlook on life. His son is an American history professor at Lake Forest College in Illinois. Brother **Steve Batzell '67** maintains his financial-advisement business in the Boston area, is remarried, and enjoys reading and painting. His son is a sculpture/metal-restorer in Boston. Steve's daughter, an attorney, recently moved to Denver. Sister **Janie Batzell '74** has lived in South Portland, Maine, for 30 years and has three sons: one in DC, one in Maine, and the other back on the East Coast after living in Oregon. Her latest volunteer job was as Portland Landmarks' board chair. Janie maintains a hospitable home open to all, like our mother's on Woodley Road. This is the first year in 23 that the Batzell family hasn't spent a week together in Maine, a tradition our mother, Edna Mae, began. My best to all."

BETSY GLASSMAN is enjoying retirement and life as a seven-year stage-4 cancer survivor. She lives in northwest Connecticut and is a volunteer with the FBI and others to disrupt disinformation operations on social media. She also volunteers with her local Democratic town committee and is a mail-in ballot official for the 2020 elections. Otherwise, she grows organically at the local community garden, plays music, writes songs, and does yoga. She reminds us all to eat greens every day for good health!

JIM LYONS: "Madeleine and I are preparing to move across the country to Bellingham, Washington; we leave right at the start of October. We've been planning this for several years. Of course, now that we're finally getting going, there are fires, smoke, and COVID-19. But we're going anyway. It's going to be quite a trip—we're driving! And we've just obtained a six-month-old Lab puppy (who's about 60 pounds now!), who will be taking up the back seat. I'm teaching a couple of history courses online at Austin Community College

and will continue in the spring if ACC is still online. I hope to find a job up in Washington. I'm also getting back into Latin—currently I'm taking Latin III. I didn't know there were that many uses of the subjunctive! Madeleine is getting into the art scene up in Washington, and we're looking forward to frequent trips up to Vancouver, once the border reopens. Each son will get his doctorate in his respective discipline (math and music) within a year or two. I'm trying to steer them to the Northeast."

JEFF MAZIQUE: "Since mid-March, I have been the COVID-19 doc on the Sault Ste. Marie Reservation in upper Michigan—a stone's throw away from Canada. This involves not only screening for COVID-19 but also consulting with the Kewadin Casino—which provides the economic bedrock for the tribe. Furthermore, we have attempted to develop healthcare policy to protect the community at large. As we all know, minority communities have suffered a disproportionate morbidity and mortality rate since the arrival of COVID-19, and the story of COVID-19 on the rez has hardly been told."

RICHARD MURRAY has been busy during the lockdown. He has acted as a consultant to several health-related companies, working about three days per week, and he has continued as the chair of the board at the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America. "Keeping asthma patients accurately informed about the potential risks related to their asthma management has been very important," he says. "Fortunately most patients with asthma who have developed COVID-19 have not been shown to be at very high risk for poor outcomes." He spends half his time in Philadelphia and the rest in Conway, New Hampshire.

CHRIS TUFTY: "Margot and I had to cancel plans to DC (of course) but also to London after that due to the coronavirus. And we also canceled an Alaskan cruise in August. We're just hunkering down in LA and driving once and a while to our cabin in the mountains about an hour and a half away."

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Go to sidwell.edu/classnotes and let us know what you've been up to.

1971

MARY REYNER

mary.reyner@gmail.com

1972

JOYCE JACOBSON

joyce@brastedhouse.com

1973

APRILLE KNIEP SHERMAN

shermaner@msn.com

REGINA DESSOFF KESSLER

reginadkessler@gmail.com

WILLIAM ALTMAN has now completed his five-volume study of the Platonic dialogues with the publication of *Ascent to the Beautiful: Plato the Teacher and the Pre-Republic Dialogues from Protagoras to Symposium*, capping a love affair in which Anne Yondorf and M. Stephen Morse played a part in 1972/73.

1974

PAUL MARKUN

pmarkun@gmail.com

PAUL SHULMAN: "My wife, Anna, and I are honored, humbled, and blessed to welcome our son, Jacob Peter Shulman, into the world. He was born May 15, 2020, at 10:48 p.m., weighing in at 10 pounds, 14 ounces and measuring 21 inches long. Now my 19-year-old daughter, Vika, and 4-year-old son, Luke, have a new baby brother to play with."



Betsy Zeidman '76 and David Kleeman '75 (holding Kate) before their Washington, D.C., wedding in July.

1975

ALAN DRUMMER

alandrummer@hotmail.com

DAVID KLEEMAN: "Elizabeth Zeidman '76 and I were married on July 25, 2020, in Washington, DC. Due to COVID-19, it was a very small gathering in Betsy's father's yard, but nearly everyone had a Sidwell connection, including alumni (Betsy's daughter, **Ruby Zeidman '20**; her sister, **Jennifer Bloch '85**; and my sister, **Kathy Kleeman '70**) and parents and grandparents of alums (Betsy's father, Philip Zeidman, as well as Ginger Newmyer). What's more, Head of School Bryan Garman conducted the ceremony. We both worked on *Horizon* back in the day but didn't truly connect until 40 years later, when we met again at a Sidwell Friends alumni reception in Brooklyn. For the full wedding details, see *The New York Times*' "Mini-Vows" article: tinyurl.com/nytimeswedding." (See photo above.)

In Memoriam:

William Whitney '75

August 14, 2020

1977

ADAM STERN

adamcstern@aol.com

1978

PETER MACDONALD

pmacdona@skidmore.edu

DEIRDRE "DEEDIE" BOYLAN: "Greetings from beautiful Rome, Maine, where I officially retired from the University of Maine School of Social Work in July. The pandemic has interfered with my retirement plan to travel to see many far-flung friends and family. I will be able to connect with **Zoe Carter** in Vermont next week. Maine's low transmission rates reflect excellent leadership by our Democratic governor and the Maine CDC. I am hoping for positive change in the rest of the country come November. Please vote! And wear your masks and wash your hands!"

DAVID GARRITY: "I'm managing to be productive while engaged in this period of extended hunkering down. (News-wise, please see tinyurl.com/btbblocknews.) I'm very excited to be working on making operational the concept of self-sovereign identity in the area of DNA data. If we are our data, then we should be compensated for the use of it. Also, BTblock participated in panel discussions at the UN General Assembly in early-October: 'How to Deliver During COVID-19 Pandemic SDG 16.9: Legal Digital Identity (DID) to All by 2030' (see tinyurl.com/legaldigitalidentity). I was saddened by the news of the passing of **Scott Gelband's** mother, Carla Gelband, and of Fran Cleaver. We can only hope that we in our own way are giving as much to those around us as they did."

MELISSA "MISSI" PELHAM: "I have managed to navigate the choppy waters of 2020 in ways that have amazed even me: starting a new job; buying a small condo in St. Petersburg, Florida (downsizing!); selling my condo in Mystic, Connecticut, in a week's time; and finally, relocating to St. Pete—all within a span of a few months! Looking forward to the lifestyle change-up and living in the Sunshine State."

1980

WILLIAM RICE

williamrice63@gmail.com

NEPHELIE ANDONYADIS didn't write in, but **Maryland Pao** reports: "Nephelie just received the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Set Design for the play *Topdog/Underdog* at the Avant Bard Theatre."

DAVID BARNES: "I live in Philadelphia, where I teach the history of public health at the University of Pennsylvania. For 30-plus years, I have been researching, writing, and teaching about infectious diseases in various places in the past. My most recent project has been a book about Philadelphia's 19th-century maritime quarantine station (the "Lazaretto"), which still survives more or less intact on the Delaware River near the airport. I have also been working to preserve the weirdly beautiful site. I wish more than anything that my work hadn't become so timely. I hope we can learn from this catastrophe and use public policy to build resilience and immunity among our most vulnerable communities, so that the next threat (almost certainly a different pathogen) won't be as deadly. I am divorced and blissfully re-partnered, and I take great pride in my two grown sons. One lives in Baltimore and installs solar panels, while he studies for his "green contracting" certification. The other lives with me and works (remotely) for a campaign firm that helps elect progressive candidates at all levels of government. They are both trying to undo the damage that our generation has done to our country and to our planet. Let's help them!"

ALEJANDRA BRONFMAN didn't write in, but again the intrepid **Maryland Pao** reports: "Alejandra, known to us as Sandra, was promoted to chair, associate professor, and director of undergraduate studies in Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies at the University at Albany."

ELIZABETH CARTER: "I continue to work as a behavioral health clinician integrated with primary care. In the last year, I have been doing more work with

children and families and received grant support to increase the use of expressive arts therapies, including having a patient art showcase in November 2019. My son transferred to Brown University to finish his math degree. My daughter started her first year at the University of Rhode Island, studying international relations and diplomacy and participating in the Chinese Flagship Program. In late January, our daughter arrived home from winter term in China (!) just as COVID-19 was hitting the news. I left the office for what I thought would be a few days in March and never went back, pivoting to doing teletherapy from a storage room in our basement. The kids moved home, and our recently empty nest became full of people all working remotely. Our son graduated from Brown without fanfare. My workload escalated. I have been so grateful to have a good governor, a big garden, laying hens, good friends, good internet, a supportive and computer-savvy husband, solar house, and beautiful outdoor spaces at my fingertips.”

EVA SEMPLE DAVIS: “The highlight of my summer was traveling to Boston on Labor Day weekend to help my son move into an off-campus apartment near his college, Northeastern University. First of all, it was great to get away from Southern California, which had 121-degree heat and the start of several terrible fires that weekend. Boston had beautiful clear weather, and I really enjoyed walking all around the city, where the lockdown has eased relative to SoCal. And even better, connecting with Sidwell alums! **Chip Gidney '79** saw that I was coming to Boston on Facebook (so apparently social media is good for something!) and invited me over to where he lives, and we had a lovely walk and catch-up after having not seen each other for more than 30 years. The next day, I did brunch with classmates **Toba Spitzer** and **Martha Hausman**. Toba had reached out to me after our class Zoom call last spring, and we’d made plans to meet up in Boston. Needless to say, Martha, Toba, and I had the most fabulous time.” (See photo above.)

HELEN DAVIS: “I went to Sidwell Friends for transition, kindergarten and 1st, and then for 6th through 8th. I am looking



Toba Spitzer '80, Eva Semple Davis '80, and Martha Hausman '80

forward to saying hello at the next Zoom Reunion. I have two children, 17 and 22, and I live in Los Angeles. Here’s some catch-up news: I have been an educator all of my career, almost all at UCLA, teaching younger children; I was the director of an infant-toddler lab center, teaching undergraduates; and now, I am director of the Education Department at UCLA Extension. Fun fact: I’m building a ‘tiny house.’”

CHARLES HAVENS: “In 2012, besides getting divorced, I moved my gym into downtown Lander, Wyoming (population: 7,700; elevation: 5,300 feet), and underwent a hernia operation later that year. In 2013, I moved from an apartment into a house near City Park, then met a woman, Marilyn, in Los Angeles, and we eventually married in 2015. Before the pandemic hit in March, I had about 25 clients. That figure fell to five early in the crisis, eventually rose to seven, then 11, and now has reached 15. I am cleaning my gym extensively between clients and having free-weight workouts myself two or three times a week. Marilyn is feeding me very well, too, and I stretch one or two times a day. I continue to preach ‘holistic fitness’ (muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiovascular endurance, and flexibility) to my faithful followers. I put a big emphasis on stretching, especially for those of us over 50, because a stretched muscle is a *stronger muscle*! Here’s to continual self-improvement!”

ARSHAD MOHAMMED: “I write out of class-scribe solidarity with **William Rice**, who has taken up the pen for these notes with characteristic kindness and wit. Lois and I remain blissfully married; my two kids are still in, if not both at, college: My son is studying in his dorm room at Oberlin; my daughter is immured in her childhood bedroom upstairs but connected to Haverford via endless Zoom calls. The biggest event in our neck of the woods is that we’ve installed a Little Free Library in front of our house at the corner of 37th and Warren Streets in DC. We think it’s quite sweet, and it may, over time, prove a stealth way to shed some of the books that multiply while we sleep. Further down 37th Street, across from Sidwell Friends, the construction of an outdoor DC public swimming pool at Hearst makes glacial progress that I fear will not accelerate with the onset of winter. While we’ve missed many planned in-person celebrations this year—our 40th Reunion and the wedding of my stepson, Ben, and his lovely bride, Jayne, among them—we remain grateful to have our health and to live in an age where it is so easy to connect virtually.”

MARYLAND PAO: “Forty years later, I remain in Bethesda in the home I grew up in, work at the National Institute of Mental Health, and am happily married to the love of my life for the past 33 years and still going strong. Our youngest of three Sidwell Friends lifers just graduated from college COVID-style back here



Elizabeth Holland '16; Jennifer Holland '07 holding her daughter, Winnie; Madeline Holland '10; Maryland Pao '80

in Bethesda. I’m busier than ever trying to help NIH patients, research volunteers, and staff manage the stress and anxiety of living through the pandemic and the ensuing health disparities and systemic racism brought to the fore. I have so much to be grateful for, including our collective Sidwell Friends educations and communities that have compelled us to assist those in need, whether it’s refugees or the sick. It’s been fun to virtually reconnect to my friends from Sidwell Friends. Lastly, this summer our family has expanded to include a new granddaughter, Winnie, a bright light through all the uncertainty, grief, and changes. She is my sweet reminder of why we need to keep on ferociously working to make the world a better place.” (See photo above.)

WILLIAM RICE: “Like tender green shoots on the floor of a burned-out forest, normality has started to tentatively reappear in our lives over the past few months. Cathy and I have been to several outdoor-seating restaurants, hosted couples on our newly spruced-up back patio, spent a weekend in a stand-alone cabin of a lodge retreat in western Maryland, and even flown to Maine and back. Sophie has decamped to a shared apartment in Ann Arbor, Michigan; she’s there to engage with the University of Michigan in whatever forms they offer. Walter has been able to venture out more from his group home in Georgia, including to audit a college course that meets once a week in person. But it feels as if those green shoots of normality keep getting burned up by new crises—including actual forest fires! As of this writing, the

fall elections shimmer on the horizon as a potential new catastrophe. For every other campaign season of the past dozen years, I’ve spent the fall knocking on doors, working off the nervous discomfort of intruding on strangers through the vigorous pace to the next house. The age of COVID-19 restricts outreach to the phone, making voter contact more stressful but no less important.”

SIGNE ALLEN WILLIAMSON: “Kevin and I are happily ensconced here in Beaufort, South Carolina—pretty much the end of the road (the actual end of the road, on Fripp Island, is only about 20 miles away). We went into 2020 enthusiastically: a postponed celebration in February of a big birthday (not mine) involved cruising the Hawaiian Islands—loved it—and then the world changed. Highlights include: two bouts with influenza A, a five-day stay on a COVID-19 floor with fried kidneys, and a probable bout with COVID-19 despite negative tests. Better news: *All our kids have jobs!* Kevin’s oldest has a 2-and-a-half-year-old so that makes me a grandma (!), and his daughter is out in LA with a job in sports management. My oldest, Jack, is happy as a clam at his residential facility outside Atlanta, and my youngest, Judd, graduated from the University of Michigan in May and is working in Chicago while he waits to hear from the U.S. Navy about Officer Candidate School. I miss the DC area, but I have to say that the slowed down life here in the low country is beginning to take root. Visitors are welcome when the world changes back!”



EDITOR’S NOTE:

“The Case of the Vintage Jacket”

After graduation, Phoebe Stein '85 happened upon this mystery letter jacket from Sidwell Friends at a thrift store. She bought it and often wore it—it is super cool, after all—but never knew the original owner.

Clues: (1) The jacket was in a thrift store in Northampton, Massachusetts, in 1985. (2) The letter “D” is embroidered in cursive and with quotes around it on the front. (3) Our clever archivist suspects the jacket is post-1960s (when sweaters were the norm), so it is probably from the 1970s or early 1980s.

The Mission: Does this jacket look familiar? Do you know who “D” might be? Share any insights or guesses at alumni@sidwell.edu!

1983

LINDA GAUS

gaushaus1965@verizon.net

1984

SARAH WILLIAMS

sarah@propelcapital.org

ANN CLARK ESPUELAS

aespuelas08@gmail.com

LIZ BERNSTEIN NORTON

lizbnorton@gmail.com

1981

VIDISHA DEHEJIA PATEL

drv4kids@yahoo.com

1982

TED MORROW-SPITZER

tsplitzer@marketventuresinc.com



EDITOR'S NOTE:

Hey, Class of 1985! Can you name all of the Lower School girls in this picture? We can only manage to identify four. Turn to page 74 to see how you did.

1985

HILARY DAYTON BUSCH
hcdayton@gmail.com

TONY SILARD: “Hello there, I hope all of you are doing well! After researching how technology is affecting our relationships for the past 10 years, I recently published *Screened In: The Art of Living Free in the Digital Age* (all proceeds go to nonprofit education

programs), available at theartofliving-free.org and on Amazon. I'm also writing weekly articles at *Psychology Today* on the current situation: ‘The Art of Living Free’ (tinyurl.com/artoflivingfree).”

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In case you missed it, we featured *Screened In* in last issue's “Fresh Ink” section.

PHOEBE STEIN: “After starting my new job on May 1 as head of the national

membership organization for the nation's State Humanities Councils from my home in Baltimore (the organization is based in Arlington), I moved to Southwest DC on July 1. After 31 years, it is nice to be back in Washington and lovely to live near the Wharf. When it's safe, I look forward to in-person visits with School friends in the area. It was wonderful to see so many classmates in May on Zoom. Hoping folks are safe and well.”

SPOTLIGHT:
Arts and Craft

Helen Eaton '87, the CEO of the Settlement Music School in Philadelphia since 2010, received one of the highest honors in her field, the 2020 Arts Education Award from Americans for the Arts. The national award is given to people or organizations who provide transformational leadership in arts education through strategic planning, strong programming, and the engagement of partners to achieve community goals. Eaton is the first person affiliated with a Philadelphia organization to receive this prestigious award. Settlement, one of the largest community schools of the arts in the country,

has a 112-year history of arts education, providing over \$2.6 million in financial aid every year to its students. In Eaton's tenure, she has grown programming, diversified funding sources, strengthened the balance sheet, and cultivated partnerships, both locally and nationally. Among the partnerships that Eaton has championed and acted as lead partner is the Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth Artists' Initiative, which supports 5th through 12th grade students from underrepresented communities in becoming professional classical musicians. Eaton's work at Settlement has been featured in *Harvard Business Review* and will be featured as a case study in Scott Anthony's upcoming book, *Eat, Sleep, Innovate: How to Make*

Creativity an Everyday Habit Inside Your Organization. In 2016, Eaton was named one of the Top 30 Innovators by *Musical America Worldwide*.



Eaton

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Go to sidwell.edu/classnotes and let us know what you've been up to.

In Memoriam:

Stephen Moody '85
June 26, 2020

1986

LAURA LONDON
lauramlondon@yahoo.com

1987

TIP COFFIN
tip@teamcoffin.com

1988

LOUISE ANDREWS
louiseandrews@me.com

KRISTEN WALTON-WADE is entering her 20th year teaching British History at Salisbury University on Maryland's Eastern Shore. She also founded the university fellowship office in 2013 and has enjoyed watching Salisbury students flourish—with six Fulbright winners this year and

recognition for the third year in a row as a national top producer of Fulbright scholars. If anyone is interested in showing Salisbury University to their children, send Kristen an email (kpwaltonwade@gmail.com), and she will be happy to give them a personal tour, as she loves to see other Sidwell Friends alums. Kristen also loves catching up with people on Facebook, particularly while stuck at home in coronavirus quarantine with a new baby, Brooke Helen Post Wade! Kristen and her husband, David Wade, welcomed their new daughter on January 22, 2020. (See photo below.)

1989

ELIZABETH WYATT
ebwyatt@aol.com

1990

JUSTINE WRUBLE FAHEY
justinewfahey@gmail.com

CHRISTA FARMER: “I became co-clerk of the Westbury Monthly Meeting last year, and full professor of geology, environment, and sustainability at Hofstra University the year before. Let me know if you ever come through Long Island!”

HARTLEY KUHN WEST: “After leaving the Department of Justice a few years ago, I got the chance to re-live parts of my last

trial for the United States against Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)—specifically, its pipeline explosion—while filming for the CNBC show *American Greed*. Timely with the 10-year anniversary of the explosion and all the California wildfires. Look for the show to air in the next few months! Hoping everyone is staying safe.” (See photo below.)

1991

TIM HANRAHAN
tim.hanrahan@gmail.com

RACHEL SALEM PAULEY: “The Class of 1991 has been gathering periodically for informal Meetings for Worship and catch-ups during the COVID-19 pandemic and the protests for racial justice. While this has been a challenging time for all of us, it has been wonderful for all of us, it has been wonderful to reconnect with classmates, including **Eliza Leighton**, **Lara Leone**, **Dorothy Mares**, **Katja Lamia**, **Minh Lee**, **Michael Belle**, **Tim Hanrahan**, **Sacha Moss**, **Ed Meyers**, **Stephanie Lowy**, **Dahomey Coleman**, and others. We are looking forward to our upcoming 30th (gulp!) Reunion this spring.”

MASAKI HIDAKA recently moved back to the DC area and teaches at American University. “I sent my kids to Maret and am glad I did, because Sidwell Friends should be ashamed of itself for taking PPP.”



LEFT Kristen Walton-Wade with Brooke, 3 months old, and big brother, Jamie, 8 years old **CENTER** Hartley Kuhn West '90 while filming *American Greed* **RIGHT** Yvonne Adams '93 with her co-owners—Siphokazi Mangcu and Heidi Bailey—of RepHAIRations, a store for Black hair products



CHARLOTTE KAISER: “When I was 4 years old, my life plan was to marry Lorin Stein, move to Montana, and become a cowgirl and an artist. Well, one out of four ain’t bad: Nick, Linus, and I moved to Missoula this July after five years of spending summers here. We are loving the access to the outdoors, the in-person schooling (Linus is in 6th grade at Missoula International School), and the chance to vote blue where it matters. Post-pandemic visitors very welcome!”

SAM RIGBY: “I’m still living in McLean, Virginia, and teaching 6th through 8th grade science at Saint Luke School. The only interesting thing that happened in 2020? I now teach a section of 8th grade geometry. Oh, I got into making pickles, but my wife and children don’t like pickles, so now I have a lot of pickles.”

1993

CASEY COLEMAN HASSENSTEIN
caseycoleman30@hotmail.com

YVONNE ADAMS: “I live in Watertown, Massachusetts, and I have just opened a store called RepHAIRations in Arlington Heights with two friends. We are a hair shop (*not* a salon—look it up, white people!) and are a Black-centered retail oasis in the white desert that makes up the MetroWest Boston suburbs. Check us out at rephairations.com.” (See photo on previous page.)

LINDSAY DAVISON: “We’re hunkered down in Northampton, Massachusetts, glad to have beauty around us in what otherwise feels like an existentially scary time in this country and the world. My private psychotherapy practice is full; I’m seeing clients remotely or on the side porch of my office building in a socially distanced manner. It’s interesting to be one of the very few people some of my clients see in person. My twin 6-year-olds have just started 1st grade remotely. They’re each in a small learning pod, and they are *loving* being able to socialize with other kids. I imagine many of us are finding our own superpowers of juggling schedules, wage work, and kids’ school. Despite missing social connections, Sarah and I appreciate that life, while still

busy, is simultaneously slower and more spacious. We’ve spent more time together as a family, read some great books, had fun building raised beds for gardening, and look forward to finding ways to be outside as the weather gets colder. We put up a ninja line between two trees for the kids. (Is anyone surprised? These are my kids after all!) I sneak in some yoga classes and take bike rides outside a few times a week. In a time of COVID-related restriction and lack of access to usual sources of pleasure, I send love, humor, and nourishment to all.”

ANNA STEIN: “My big news is that my family is moving to Ireland! We are here now, in rural County Cork, where my husband is building our house a mile away from where he grew up. The children (ages 6 and 8) are going to the village national school here in the mornings and then coming home to do Zoom with their Brooklyn school in the evenings. We’ll return to Brooklyn before the holidays and then move back here permanently next summer! So any Sidwell Friends alumni should be in touch if they decide to vacation in Ireland in the coming years—eventually, we’ll have guest quarters.”

DAVID VINE: “In October, the Sidwell Friends Alumni Network was kind enough to host me in conversation with **Enid Logan ’90** about my new book, *The United States of War: A Global History of America’s Endless Conflicts, from Columbus to the Islamic State*. (See “Fresh Ink,” on page 52.) The book’s roots date to our days at Sidwell Friends and our introduction to Quaker philosophy. In short, the book tells the story of America’s long relationship with war, stretching from Columbus’s arrival at Guantánamo Bay to today’s ‘endless wars.’ Above all, I hope the book contributes to movements that make the world more peaceful and that end the endless wars. I’ve been lucky enough to be in (virtual) touch lately with **Mauricio Tscherny**, **Lindsay Davison**, **Stewart Ugelow**, and a motley bunch from the Class of 1992. Also, I’m now in Oakland, California, for some indeterminate period.”

View the recording of **Conversation with Friends** featuring David Vine ’93 and Enid Logan ’90 here: bit.ly/DavidVineCWF.



Billy Grayson ’96 and his wife, Michelle Siegel, at their new place in Adams Morgan

1994

BETSY STOEL
estoel@gmail.com

1996

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

BILLY GRAYSON and his wife, Michelle, bought a house! It’s on Ashmead Place in Adams Morgan, and it’s Billy’s first address without an apartment number since he graduated high school. He’d be happy to host nearby classmates as soon as the pandemic starts to subside. (See photo above.)

1997

ELLEN CORNELIUS ERICSON
eccornie@gmail.com

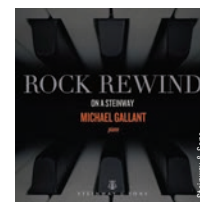
1999

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.



LEFT Ellen Sweeney ’99 with her new husband, Lamot du Pont IV, and new baby, Teagan RIGHT Bradford Nemcosky ’99, Ellen Sweeney ’99, Christopher Sweeney ’02, and Ian Carroll ’99 at Sweeney’s February wedding

MICHAEL GALLANT is a musician and writer living in New York City. His new solo piano album, *Rock Rewind*, just came out on the Steinway & Sons label (tinyurl.com/steinway-gallant). In September, Gallant held a live, virtual concert performance of the album, which WNPR called “fearless.” *Critical Jazz* gave the album five stars and wrote, “Fresh, invigorating, progressive—there are simply not enough positive adjectives to list here.”



The new solo piano album by Michael Gallant ’99

ELLEN SWEENEY married Lamot du Pont IV on February 29, 2020, just days before the COVID-19 curtain descended. In attendance were **Christopher Sweeney ’02**, **Lily Bradford Nemcosky ’99**, and **Ian Carroll ’99**. Sweeney gained two awesome stepchildren that day and welcomed a pandemic baby just a few months later: Teagan Kier du Pont Sweeney was born on May 27 in Baltimore, Maryland. (See photos above.)



2000

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

MASON BERRY: “Hi everyone! It was great to see those of you who attended the virtual Reunion a few months ago. A big thank you to everyone involved in putting together that event! Here is a quick update on us. I have been stationed at the Pentagon for the last two years as part of the Joint Staff, and Jessica recently changed jobs and is now the

vice president of sales for Rosaluna, a start-up mezcal tequila company. It has been a nice change of pace from the last tour, which had two long deployments and a lot of time away from home. We have two boys—Shaler, 4, and Caden, 1—and a third boy on the way this winter. Sadly, our time in DC is coming to a close, and we are moving back to San Diego this fall. I will be the executive officer and then commanding officer of a helicopter squadron, and Jessica will continue her work with Rosaluna. We will miss the East Coast, but we’re excited to get back to a part of the country we also love. If you find yourself in San Diego or SoCal, please look me up. Best to all of you!” (See photos below.)

VALERIE ISSEMBERT and her wife, Mini Macnab, welcomed their first child, daughter Eve Verónica Issembert, on June 29, 2020. Issembert currently serves as the director of theatre arts for Alexandria Country Day School and looks forward to the day when she can safely get her students in front of audiences again. (See photo on next page.)

JEROME NICHOLS recently launched Standard Real Estate Investments (“Standard REI”), a private-equity company that identifies and executes investments in real estate on behalf of institutions. The firm operates nationally across property sectors and risk profiles with a focus on development joint ventures and direct



LEFT Mason Berry ’00 and his wife, Jessica RIGHT Mason Berry ’00 and his wife, Jessica, with sons Shaler and Caden





LEFT Valerie Issembert '00 and wife, Mini Macnab, welcomed Eve Verónica Issembert into the world. **CENTER** Jerome Nichols '00 (right) with business partner Robert Jue. **RIGHT** Perrin Doniger '01 was honored by Folio magazine.

investments. Standard REI is minority-owned and founded on the idea that those who help deliver a better world will see better financial returns. Nichols was previously a senior director with CBRE Global Investors, where he led the Americas development investment platform with Robert Jue, his co-founding partner in Standard REI. (See photo above.) Nichols served as deputy portfolio manager for the firm's development fund series and as chair of the Americas Social Impact Committee. He began his 14-year real-estate career in Washington, DC, with Bozzuto Development Company, a vertically integrated development and

operating company. After earning a BS in business from Wake Forest University, Nichols was a professional athlete with the NFL's Green Bay Packers and the Washington Football Team. He holds an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and is an alum of the Robert Toigo Foundation. Nichols lives in Los Angeles with his wife, **Robynn Scott-Clayton Nichols '00**, and their kids, Maxwell and Ruby.

2001

ELIZA ORLINS
eorlins@gmail.com

PERRIN DONIGER was awarded *Folio* magazine's Top Women in Media award in June for her work at *Smithsonian Magazine*. At the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Manhattan, 200 business professionals in the media industry gathered to present awards for "the most inspiring women in media." (See photo above.)

BRENT LEE SANET: "My wife, Alexandra, and I welcomed our first child, Emerson Lee Sanet, to our family on May 17, 2020. Emerson is very curious and loves her walks around the neighborhood. We are enjoying our last few weeks of living in Rockville, Maryland, before we make the short move to Vienna, Virginia, later this year." (See photo at left.)



Brent Lee Sanet '01 and Alexandra Higgins Sanet with their new daughter, Emerson Lee Sanet

2002

CAMILO ACOSTA
cbacosta@gmail.com

2003

NAABIA OFOSU-AMAAH
n.ofosuamaah@gmail.com

KATIE MATHEWS
katiecmathews@gmail.com

2004

CAT DAWSON
catherine.v.dawson@gmail.com

CAT DAWSON: "Over the last months, we've all experienced an unprecedented number of changes to the world around us. My Diver Collective co-founder, Gabriel DeFazio, and I have been particularly moved by the protests over police brutality against Black Americans and what we hope will become more sustained efforts to combat the insidious effects of systemic racism. In this complex moment, Diver Collective created something to benefit others: People's

1985 ANSWER:

Amy Bowles, Lisa Bulman, Alex Gardner, and Celia Faulkner. **But who are the other two?**



LEFT Nick Kessler '07 and his son, Carver, in front of Dartmouth's Tuck Hall in June. **CENTER** Katie White and Doug Proctor '07 **RIGHT** Carly Ritzenberg Meltzer '08 and son, Luke Meltzer



Mic (peoplesmicapp.divercollective.com), a free and secure app that lets users broadcast their voices to the smartphones of any number of listeners on their channel, at any range, and for any length of time, without additional equipment. A demo of the app is available here: tinyurl.com/peoplesmicdemo. All you need to broadcast or listen is the app, which is available in the Apple and Google Play stores now. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter protests, People's Mic enables speakers at public gatherings to amplify their voices so that their messages can be heard by all who want to listen. We also know that education is key to a more just, equitable, and anti-racist world. But effective classroom communication is harder today than ever before given the constraints of remote learning; People's Mic can assist teachers in socially distanced classrooms. There are many contexts in which People's Mic might make sense, and we're excited to see what you do with it. Please let me know what you think and how you used it. So, enjoy! And share if you feel inspired."

2005

RANDA TAWIL
randa.may.tawil@gmail.com

NASSER MUHAMMAD
nasser.muhammad.1@gmail.com

2006

JOHN SANDERS
jsanders36@gmail.com

2007

ALEX AKMAN
Akman.alex@gmail.com

NICHOLAS KESSLER: "In addition to graduating from Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business this past June, my wife, Julia, gave birth to our first child, Carver, the same week as graduation! Baby and mom are happy and healthy and the whole family recently completed a move to the Pacific Northwest, where I am excited to reconnect with Sidwell Friends School classmates in the Seattle area." (See photo above.)

DOUG PROCTOR and Katie White married on June 20, on a mountainside overlooking Norrie, Colorado. (See photo above.)

In Memoriam:

Quinn Coleman '07
August 16, 2020

2008

DELANEY KEMPNER
dckempner@gmail.com

CARLY RITZENBERG MELTZER: "We welcomed our precious baby boy, Luke Jaden Meltzer, this June and are so in love!" (See photo above.)

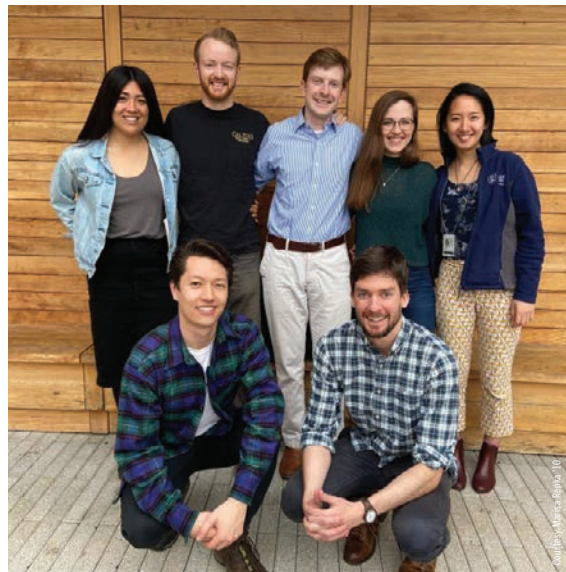
2009

MARIELLE "ELLE" YOUNG
xmaliellex@gmail.com

MARTIN BATE: "After leaving the world of IT and traveling the western United States, I moved back to Texas and decided to pursue a long-standing passion of mine: urban planning. I've begun a master's program at the University of Texas at Arlington and have never been more excited about what the future holds. I also took up motorcycle riding during quarantine!"

In Memoriam:

Breanna Snyder '09
May 26, 2020



LEFT The Cambium Carbon Team; back left: **Marisa Repka '10**, front right: **Dylan Murray '08**



RIGHT **Lesley Chen-Young '14** and her new husband, **Ehizokha Ihionkhan**

Save the Date!

REUNION 

APRIL 30 – MAY 2, 2021

*Reunion Weekend
is going virtual!*

Reconnect with Friends for Classes ending in 1 and 6 from the comfort of your own home. It may not be safe to travel just yet, but it's always a good time to get together online. So, put your sweatpants on with a smart top and grab a glass of wine. We're celebrating! Please visit sidwell.edu/reunion for the latest updates.

2010

KAI ZHENG
kaihuazheng@yahoo.com

MARISA REPKA received a master's degree in environmental management from the Yale School of the Environment this spring. While there, she teamed up with **Dylan Murray '08** (Yale School of Management '21) in building Cambium Carbon, a social-impact venture working to scale tree planting and wood salvage in U.S. cities. The team recently received the Nature Conservancy's Natural Climate Solutions Accelerator Grant in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation and will be piloting projects in three to five cities in 2021. Learn more at: cambium-carbon.com. (See photo above.)

2011

KIKI OCHIENG
akinyi.ochieng@gmail.com

2012

SALENA HESS
salenahess@outlook.com

JOHN VERGHESE
jjv2116@columbia.edu

2013

CECILIA LAGUARDA
xenia.cecilia.laguarda@gmail.com

2014

Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

LESLEY CHEN-YOUNG: "I married my college sweetheart, **Ehizokha Ihionkhan**, on September 5, 2020, and we are excited to build our life in Chicago. Thank you to all the Sidwell Friends alumni and teachers who wished us well!" (See photo above.)

2015

EMILY MILLER
emillerusa@gmail.com

2016

TALHA JILANI
jilani-talha@live.com

GRACE NOTES MESSAGES FROM FORMER FACULTY AND STAFF

KAREN O'NEILL (P '23, '25), a former 2nd and 4th grade teacher at Sidwell Friends writes: "Hello from Tokyo! **Stephen O'Neill '77**, **Jack '23**, **Sam '25**, and I are at the start of year two in Japan and cannot believe how quickly the last year passed by. Jack (10th grade) and Sam (8th grade) are now at the American School in Japan and are managing well in hybrid learning. My school, Nishimachi International School, will open fully next week after our first month in hybrid mode. Japan's borders remain closed to tourists but should open soon as Japan builds up momentum ahead of next year's Olympics (hint: please come visit!). All four of us feel fortunate that the number of COVID-19 cases remains low, but we miss all our friends back home. We encourage visitors once it is safe to travel. Take care!"

TERRY PARMELEE (P '74), a former Upper School art and history of art teacher at Sidwell Friends, writes: "Writing is a good occupation while sequestered at home for six months! I will have an article in *On Paper: Journal of the Washington Print Club* about Jane Haslem Farewell,

my art dealer who passed away in January 2020. On request of my daughter, Suzanne Parmelee Hren, I did a 44-page memoir of growing up in Michigan in the 1930s. Times have certainly changed. There were many benefits to living simply during the Great Depression, which I suppose are helpful in dealing with the current virus pandemic, although one is more aware now of how much we value contact with fellow humans!"

CHARLIE WHITEHEAD (P '94, '97, '00, '05), a former Spanish teacher, writes: "What can I say about news! As all know, it's been seven months (and counting) of quarantine. Some cycling, some walking, a couple weeks in Maine, and a lot of reading and British mysteries on TV. Maybe the most challenging news is that Lydia and I are back in education. Yes, we supervise study hall daily and have had to put a couple of local grandchildren in detention for inattentiveness to their online classes. Cellphones are as much of a pain as they were in class nine years ago. When submitting this note, in "Position at Sidwell," I listed "parent '94, '97, '00, '05" because the doings of

my daughters may be more interesting to my fellow teachers who taught them. In a couple weeks and probably after you read this, **Anna Whitehead '00** will have delivered her third child, our seventh grandchild. At the moment, she still goes to work at the ASPCA in New York City. **Amanda Whitehead '94** virtually pursues a Ph.D. in dancing education while dancing on Zoom. **Molly Whitehead Love '97** is local and a counselor at the McLean School. Her husband is head of lower school at St. Andrew's, which is why Lydia and I supervise study hall for them. **Catriona Whitehead '05** is in Media, Pennsylvania, with two children; she is making money again as a personal shopper and owner of the Magic Threads Consignment Boutique. Need clothes? She also sells online: tinyurl.com/magic-threads-boutique!"

In Memoriam:

Frances Bartley Cleaver
Sidwell Friends choral music director
for more than 20 years
July 11, 2020



Fran Cleaver and the Upper School chorus in 1982



Achieving your Philanthropic Goals

In March 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act was signed into law. It contains several provisions that can help you support Sidwell Friends School in 2020:



If you don't itemize your deductions...

Even if you don't itemize your deductions, you may now deduct from adjusted gross income up to \$300 (\$600 for a married couple) in cash gifts to qualified charities like Sidwell Friends. This deduction is not available for gifts of securities.



For itemizers: Deduction cap raised to 100% of income

If you itemize deductions, you may now deduct cash gifts to Sidwell Friends of up to 100% of your adjusted gross income, up from 60% in 2019. This deduction is not available for gifts of securities.

Because the cap on deductible cash gifts has been increased, if you are 59 and a half or older and you elect to take a distribution from your IRA to make a cash gift to Sidwell Friends, the amount of your gift can offset the income tax attributable to the distribution up to 100% of adjusted gross income.



Your IRA charitable distribution is still a great way to support SFS

Most required minimum distributions have been suspended for 2020. Nevertheless, you may still make a qualified charitable distribution of up to \$100,000 to Sidwell Friends from your retirement account or name Sidwell Friends as a beneficiary.

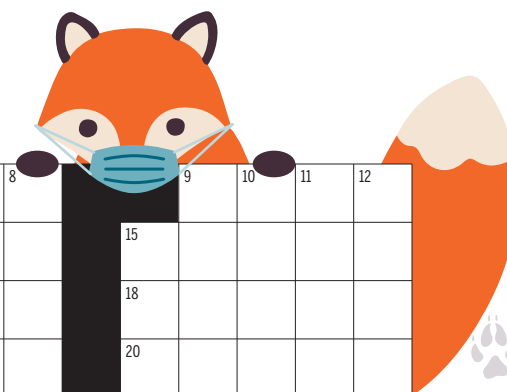


Thinking of corporate giving?

Corporations may now make deductible cash contributions to Sidwell Friends equal to 25% of their taxable income, up from 10% of income in 2019.

We welcome the opportunity to talk to you about how the CARES Act can help maximize your giving to Sidwell Friends in 2020 in a way that suits your needs and supports the School's important work. As always, Sidwell Friends encourages you to consult your professional advisors for more complex considerations. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Carrasco, the assistant head of school for advancement, at carrascom@sidwell.edu.

Words with Friends: Tools for Distance Learning



ACROSS

- 1 Dearth
- 5 David Bowie's rock genre
- 9 Longtime CBS drama spinoff
- 13 Workplace standards agcy.
- 14 "Return of the Jedi" dancer
- 15 Sycophant
- 16 Piece of equipment for English class this year?
- 18 Stomping grounds of the Wyandot people
- 19 "I don't know yet"
- 20 Advice for someone in a bad relationship
- 21 High on the Scoville scale
- 23 Compete
- 24 Meddle
- 26 B.C. neighbor
- 27 Awake
- 29 Piece of equipment for art class this year?
- 31 They're unnecessary when reading on a Kindle
- 32 Makes fun of
- 33 Ankle biter?
- 34 Little hopper
- 35 "Bob's Burgers" daughter
- 39 Sky scrapers
- 41 Poet Day-Lewis
- 42 Piece of equipment for photography class this year?
- 45 Betrays vanity
- 46 Part of S.O.S.
- 47 Taylor of fashion
- 48 Go
- 49 Indra Nooyi or Ursula Burns
- 50 Cheri of "Liar Liar"
- 52 Like some people whose pronouns are they/them
- 55 A tiny bit higher than a C
- 56 Piece of equipment for music class this year?
- 59 Wobbles
- 60 Banks on a runway
- 61 Ibuprofen target
- 62 Summers on the Seine
- 63 "Guys" alternative
- 64 Urban haze



Puzzle by Aimee Lucido

DOWN

- 1 Hack (off)
- 2 Bat wood
- 3 "Dig in!"
- 4 Singer/songwriter Brown who was rescued by police after getting lost on his own property
- 5 Brownie alternative?
- 6 Running free
- 7 Ointment ingredient
- 8 Book a flight, say
- 9 Thing, say
- 10 "WAP" singer
- 11 Enthusiastic reply to "Who wants to go to Six Flags?," say
- 12 Linguistics concern
- 15 "Look What ___ Done to My Song, Ma"
- 17 Shoemakers, sometimes
- 21 Not quite a minority
- 22 Not topical
- 25 Peachy keen
- 28 Jerk
- 29 A lot of what makes you you
- 30 Name in the makeup aisle
- 32 Go bad, as a situation
- 34 Response to "¿Cómo estás?"
- 36 Netflix & Chill'd or Chip Happens
- 37 Number of Billiards balls that fit in the diamond rack
- 38 Too
- 40 Fishtails and waterfalls
- 41 Believe it!
- 42 Low-carb pasta alternative
- 43 American Girl Doll purchase
- 44 "Because I'll be watching!"
- 45 Foreign correspondent?
- 48 Buck also known by her Chinese name, Sai Zhenzhu
- 51 "Nuts!"
- 53 Controversial canned goods company
- 54 Omar of "House"
- 57 Carnival locale
- 58 Oscar winner Lee



Pop Rocks

"I am inspired by artists like Shephard Fairey and Andy Warhol, as well as local artists such as Chris Pyrate and Yaddiya. I enjoy painting like this because you get the same shape every time, with the layers, but you can change up the color and background of the pieces (as can be seen with the four babies). The paintings here are of Davy Ruffin, radio host Little Bacon Bear, myself, and the four babies are from the cover of Notorious B.I.G.'s debut album, *Ready to Die*. One of my favorite visual artists is Salvador Dali, who does paintings and sculptures of melting clocks, multicolored sunsets, and other semi-realistic fantastical images. My favorite musical artist and someone whose work inspires my own is DC-born artist Lightshow. His music is motivational and raw, and relatable for anyone who has passion and drive, no matter what their background is."

—NIKHIL NELSON '21



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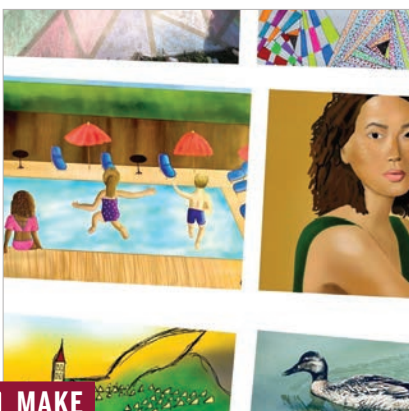
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TESTIFY

When asked "Which of these testimonies are you drawn to this week?" Lower School students gave answers like community and peace.



MAKE

The Parents Association asked students to make art in response to the query: What does it look and feel like to be a part of a community?



GATHER

Coming back to School in person meant taking precautions, but the spirit and determination of Sidwell Friends remains strong.



BE SIDWELL!

The School's new hashtag celebrates social distancing, handwashing, and mask wearing—just like Star the Fox does!



FILM IT

A student-led video project called Covideo captures the pandemic through the eyes of teenagers around the world.



READY, SET, GO!

The first day of School may not have occurred on campus, but it was still the start of something big—a new grade, new teachers, and old friends.