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On the Cover

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“I Want People to Know the Word ‘Peace’”

Yamaoka-san and the responsibility of survivorship.

BY BRYAN GARMAN

Over the past weeks, I have been remembering Michiko Yamaoka (1930–2013), an extraordinary person affectionately known to the Sidwell Friends community as Yamaoka-san. Born in Hiroshima, the 15-year-old Yamaoka-san found herself trapped beneath rubble located 800 meters from the hypocenter of the atomic explosion that decimated her birthplace and reshaped the world. She endured and witnessed

unspeakable horrors, struggling for her own life while casualties from the history-altering blast approached 100,000. “I suffered the pains of burns and of growing up in a world of tears as a result of constant confrontation with the dark face of death,” she reflected. “It was like being in hell while still alive.”

Disfigured and scarred, Yamaoka-san traveled to the United States in 1955 with 24 other survivors: the Hiroshima Maidens.

Surgeons at Mt. Sinai Hospital performed 27 procedures to restore functioning to her hands and reshape her face, which, due to the explosion, had been fused to her neck. During her visit to the country that had warred with her own, Yamaoka-san visited Pendle Hill, the Quaker retreat center outside of Philadelphia, and lived with a family of Friends while undergoing her surgeries. She eventually joined the Japan Yearly Meeting and made her way to Sidwell Friends School as the 1995 Peace Speaker. Thanks largely to our former colleague, Ellen Pierson, the former advisor to the Upper School Japanese summer exchange program, Yamaoka-san returned to campus on five other occasions and offered students poignant opportunities for deep learning and understanding (see “Paper Hearts,” on page 24). The School memorialized her contributions by planting a Japanese maple behind Zartman House, where her spirit continues to guide us.

To be in Yamaoka-san’s presence was at once humbling and inspiring. An unapologetic humanist, she never leveled blame nor acted with bitterness. Having miraculously survived a nuclear attack, she accessed a level of consciousness that few of us will ever know. She moved mindfully and lovingly through the world, conveying a wisdom and gravitas that I have experienced neither before nor since our meetings. She was a powerful witness to our collective shame and possibility as a species, a truly beautiful person whose body was a physical reminder of what we are capable of doing to one another at our worst. Weakened by radiation exposure, she often needed to pause during her campus visits so that she might find respite from myriad complications. These moments revealed a tender sense of humor, a determination to live joyfully, and an indefatigable commitment to peace.

“I abhor war because it truly destroys humankind, transforming human kindness, sympathy, peace, and love into an unthinking, devilish power,” she reflected in *Friends Journal*. “I absolutely cannot accept a ‘peace’ built upon the sacrifice of individual human beings. ... I firmly believe that I must continue, as long as I live, to raise my single voice to declare to as many people as I can the horror of war and the preciousness of human life.”

As we emerge from the pandemic, I am struck by Yamaoka-san’s ability to reframe historic suffering—suffering that we all hope will be the sole example of its kind—as strength and possibility. Given what she endured, she could easily have withdrawn into anger and self-pity. She recognized, however, that her survivorship carried a sacred obligation.

“As we begin to make sense of the losses we have experienced, we too must welcome the possibility to think beyond ourselves and build a better community.”

As we begin to make sense of the losses we have experienced, we too must welcome the possibility to think beyond ourselves and build a better community. Yamaoka-san encourages us to channel loss so that we might achieve the greater gain of peace; she calls us to abandon our typical privileges and entitlements to work for the betterment of humanity. Our suffering neither compares to hers nor to that of the countries where the pandemic continues to rage. Still, we are enduring a significant historic challenge. How will we teach our students to honor the preciousness of life?

Yamaoka-san fully understood that preciousness. She recognized that we cannot intentionally harm another human being without dehumanizing them. We have seen plenty of dehumanization, hate, and violence over the past year. It seems that every category by which we typically dismiss and debase one another has been exploited.

We must strive to see beyond our typical field of vision and imagine the world anew. While our students’ suffering may pale in comparison to that of the young Yamaoka-san, they too have struggled and need time to heal. “I want people to know the word ‘peace,’” Yamaoka-San insisted. “I don’t want children to be the victims of war anymore.” If we want our students to know peace, we must help them build a bulwark against the rising tide of hate; otherwise, we will witness more violence, a threat that deteriorates relationships and edges us toward global conflict. The most profound and joyful Friend I have ever met, Yamaoka-san understood that peace is not simply the absence of war, but a state of being in which the dignity and divinity of every human being is affirmed. When we practice this affirmation, we cultivate peace in ourselves and in one another. This practice is the best hope we have to protect ourselves and the world against violence.

Yamaoka-san let her life speak to the peace testimony every day. How can we bear witness to her efforts? How will we use our survivorship? How might we embrace this moment to reflect on the contributions we have made to our communities and build upon these contributions in the future? What kind of community do we want to be? As we reflect on our survivorship, we have a precious opportunity and pressing need to examine these queries with the earnestness and urgency they require. ✨



ON CAMPUS

CONGRATULATIONS 2021 class of

A little rain? Sweating under a mask?
A few cicadas dive-bombing the class photo?
No problem. The Class of 2021 ends the year
in stride at a Commencement to remember.

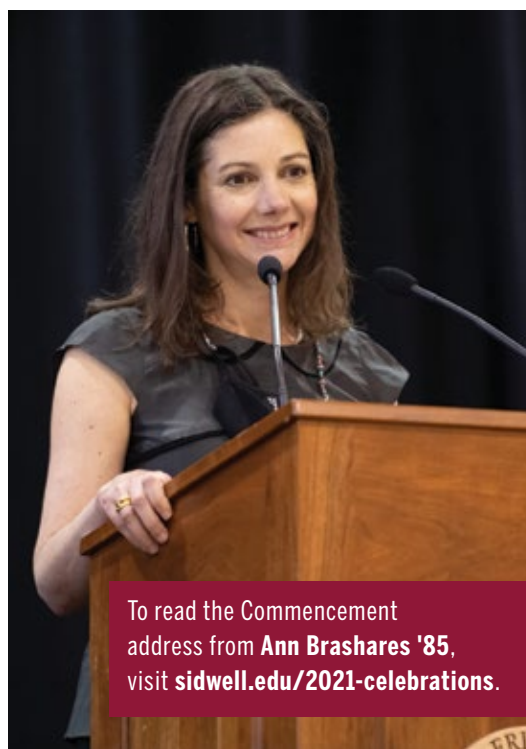
After traditional portraits on the Zartman steps and a nontraditional class photo, students and faculty gathered for a final Meeting for Worship before the soon-to-be alumni walked to the David P. Pearson '52 Athletic Center for their final exercise as Sidwell Friends students.

Head of School **Bryan Garman** spoke of the class's flexibility, humor, and compassion in the face not only of the pandemic, but the continued struggle for racial equality, the fight against climate change, and the deeply personal loss of **Brittany Chase**, who served in the Upper School for six years and passed away in January. "You have been through it," Garman said. "You have learned not only to survive, but to thrive."

Upper School Principal **Mamadou Guèye** selected a poem by Ezzeddin Nasafi for his reading. Board of Trustees Clerk **David Milner '86** introduced this year's Commencement speaker, award-winning author **Ann Brashares '85**. She was frank about how she and her three brothers, all Sidwell Friends alumni, were not model students ("I received more after-school detentions than there were days of School," she said of one memorable year). She told the students—and their families—not to worry if they felt they had somehow fallen short. "Take the long view of your life," she said. "There is no right path; there is no path. Be patient with yourselves—you will find a way."

Each student's walk across the stage to receive their diploma looked short, but not when you consider what led to that moment. A final academic year that began at home, juggling online and in-person learning, before carefully returning to a campus that looked very different than the one they had left in March 2020. Now the Class of 2021 was standing together, knowing that what was behind would fuel them for what lies ahead.

"The campus felt more normal," said Garman in his remarks. "And normal felt like paradise." ✨



To read the Commencement address from Ann Brashares '85, visit sidwell.edu/2021-celebrations.



Fred Photography

walks to Remember

Before the Class of 2021 held their Commencement, the Classes of 2025 and 2029 marked the end of their Middle and Lower School years with in-person ceremonies celebrating the strength, community, and kindness that defined the last year.

You might think that the first 4th grade closing ceremony to be held on the Wisconsin Avenue campus wouldn't be that exciting—after all, in-person learning for the Class of 2029 has been at the Middle School all year to free up space for social distancing at the Lower School. The smiles and waves shared between parents and students, though, reflected the kind of excitement that only comes when something new is in the air.

This 4th grade class is accustomed to being first: When the School reopened to hybrid learning, for a time they were the only students on the campus at all.

"You led the School in coming to the campus early," Head of School **Bryan Garman** told the class, mentioning that hearing their voices echoing around the halls was one of the earliest signs to him that things were returning to normal. He also commended the students on their handling of the pandemic. "Two things got you through this crisis," he said. "Kindness and gratitude."

Lower School Principal **Adele Paynter** spoke to the class, congratulating them on completing "the longest and the shortest year to have ever happened." She read a poem composed by the Lower School faculty called "You Rose," inspired by Maya Angelou's "Still I Rise," that celebrated the students' determination to "rise and decide that we will make

a difference to each other and to the world." Paynter then spoke to the class about the lessons they learned over the past year—the most important of which weren't academic. "You have learned that when the path is dark, you can light the way," she said. "You have learned that when the world seems broken, you have the power to change it."

To end the ceremony, the Lower School faculty showed a video performance of them singing "Rainbow" by Kacey Musgraves. While outside it was certainly more rain than rainbow, thanks to the joy of the students and those who were there to cheer them on, inside felt nothing but sunny as the newest Sidwell Friends Middle Schoolers looked forward to brighter days ahead. ✨



Frederick Photography

As the Class of 2025 walked into the Pearson Athletic Center for their 8th grade closing ceremony on June 10, their eyes shone brightly with joy, pride, and more than a few happy tears as they said goodbye to their Middle School years.

But first, they took a stroll down memory lane. A student-produced slideshow showcased family photographs of the soon-to-be Upper Schoolers as babies, young children, and the young adults they have become. Afterwards, students from each advisory spoke movingly about the teachers who guided them through their 7th and 8th grade years; they also expressed gratitude to all of those whose work meant a return to in-person learning this year, including

the Facilities and Health Services teams, the dining crew, and other often-unsung members of the Sidwell Friends staff. As part of their gratitude, the class donated three American sweetgum trees to be planted on the Middle School campus, symbolizing this class's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability.

Head of School **Bryan Garman** spoke about how the Class of 2025 has faced challenges no one could have foreseen when they started their time at the Middle School. "Your energy reminds us that change begins with every one of us, ... and that the smallest gestures make a difference," he said. "Thank you for making the Middle School a better place."

Middle School Principal **Rachel Kane**

also spoke about how the class had maturity and fortitude beyond their years, celebrating not only their endurance over the past year and a half, but their commitment to anti-racism, the environment, and social justice. "You are ready for the fight," she said. "You have seen some dark days, and you have seen, leaned into, and lived in the Light."

Each student then crossed the stage for individual recognition, a certificate, and a fist bump from Garman, as their families proudly applauded. They were proud not only of the academic accomplishments of their students, but how they have met the challenges and demands of a year that asked so much of them. The Class of 2025 is ready for any fight that lies ahead—first, though, perhaps a well-deserved summer break. ✨



Megan Lavitt



CLASS ACTS

The Tides of March

A trickle becomes a deluge during minimester.

The Middle School's minimester usually involves a trip—sometimes just down the road, sometimes halfway across the country. This pandemic year, however, the 5th grade team had to plan a different kind of minimester. In what teachers dubbed a “micromester,” the 5th grade came together virtually and in person for a four-day interdisciplinary study of water. Students heard from experts from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, had a session with a woman who walked for water in her native Gabon, and read Linda Sue Park's *A Long Walk to Water*. Two homerooms walked the mile and a half to Hazen Creek, gathered a gallon of water, and returned to School, representing Park's character Nya. Two other homerooms completed an obstacle course to represent the physical challenges encountered by a Lost Boy, Salva Dut. Academic technology coordinator **Holly Kinnamont** and Middle School librarian **Nanyamkah Mars** showed students how to use Google Earth to map the Chesapeake Bay. Art teacher **Eliza Bright** had students create art installations with water. “It inspired me to



Michael Salmon's 5th grade homeroom students display the gallons they collected on their three-mile round-trip walk to water.

create a project for my students I might not otherwise have been inspired to create,” Bright says. “Drawing inspiration from my colleagues is always great.” Chinese teacher **Yuan Angel** explained China's burgeoning water crisis. And choral teacher **Hilary Hogan** had students play music on water glasses. “This was a real opportunity for the whole team to put in an effort,” Middle School teacher **Mary Dufour** says. “It just showed what a remarkable group of people we have in 5th grade.”

AT YOUR SERVICE

Grand Prix

Grandparents Zoom to School.

It has been a tough year for grandparents. Missed holidays, no hugs, and more “FaceTime” than, you know, “face time” have affected relationships and well-being. So, Sidwell Friends understood: Grandparents Day could not be just one more event that didn't happen this year. For four days in May, grandparents and other special friends joined in virtual activities from across the country. They attended Middle School art, music, and drama classes; listened to student-led panels on ethical leadership and service; did yoga; met with Head of School **Bryan Garman** and all of the Sidwell Friends principals; shared photos of themselves and their grandkids; and more. “The School gave us a remarkable week of Zoom activities,” says participant

STAY FRIENDS

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Lucy Labson (GP '21, '23). “It was interesting and exciting to see all the thinking that goes into every aspect of life at Sidwell Friends, from academic to social to putting one's values into action. It was such a special experience.” **Judith Barnett (GP '26, '29)** agrees: “Grandparents have so much to give to their families, and, with this inclusion, we are far more aware of the lives of our grandchildren.” Hopefully, all the grandparents in the community are now reunited with their grandchildren. Still, you can always count on Sidwell Friends to bring families together.



Harold '22 and Ella Fuson '25 with their grandfather, Craig Henderson.



Seniors Adeoluwa Fatukasi '21, Kennedy Fleming '21, Atswei Laryea '21, and Spencer Tyson '21 hosted the 2021 BSU production.

CULTURE CLUB

DC Unmuted

This Year's BSU production celebrated the past, present, and future of DC.

“Our city is not a postcard.” So begins *Bustin' Loose: DC Unmuted*, the Sidwell Friends Black Student Union's 2021 production. Like the typical production, putting together the annual celebration of Black culture took months. Unlike the typical production, everything moved online. That meant meeting and rehearsing on Zoom, distributing microphones, shuttling footage between remote editors, and roping moms, dads, and siblings into becoming camera operators. BSU members shot footage of themselves dancing, reciting poetry, and explaining the history behind some of the most important—and sometimes unknown—monuments to DC's Black history. “Places like the Smithsonian's Anacostia Community Museum, the Frederick Douglass House, or Malcolm X Park—these places that were pivotal to the civil rights movement and to the storytelling and gathering of people who came together to fight racism,” says **Raphael Peacock**, director and interim Upper School theater arts teacher. “We asked

people to explore areas they weren't familiar with, but we also asked them to find places they wanted to make sure other people knew about.” With the editing help of **Nathaniel Potts '18**, a BSU veteran, students showcased landmarks, as well as their own streets and neighborhoods. While *Bustin' Loose* celebrates DC's Black history, the future of the city is also a theme. Students report on DC's rapid gentrification, the displacement of incarcerated people, and the risk of losing out on a broader culture that makes DC unique. “In equity, justice, and community work, we talk about students being able to bring their full selves to the School every day,” says Upper School English teacher and BSU advisor **Hayes Davis**. “This production really helped students to do that—to bring their full selves, to bring their knowledge of DC and of the way DC is gentrifying.” The production was dedicated to **Brittany Chase** and **Brian Stark**, BSU advisors who both passed away in the last year.

JUST CAUSES

On the Books

An Upper Schooler's nonprofit stems from a love of reading.

There are lots of ways to pass time on a commute. Podcasts, Instagram, reviving a once-dormant addiction to Candy Crush—



Nia Brown '22

all viable options. **Nia Brown '22**, though, used her commute to School to find inspiration. “My mom attended school in Ward 7, and she was constantly telling me about the disparities within those schools, and I have to drive past them to go to Sidwell Friends,” Brown says. “I felt like I was in a position to do something to help.” She was. With the support of LearnServe International, which supports high school entrepreneurs eager to change the world, Brown founded a nonprofit: Boosted Reading. After a preliminary presentation nabbed the organization \$200, Nia went on to win \$500 in the Incubator Final Pitch competition. Boosted Reading will bring books by and about people of color to local elementary schools and encourage kids to read with a book club. “I researched and saw that students' reading scores were really low in comparison to schools located in Ward 3, where Sidwell Friends is,” Brown says. “Reading for enjoyment is really how kids will make improvement in those scores. I'm going to give them incentives and make sure the books they're reading are representative of the students.” A few Black publishers have already reached out to donate books to Boosted Reading. “I had to do something to help schools in Wards 7 and 8, which is part of my community,” Brown says. “Community is really at the heart of this.”



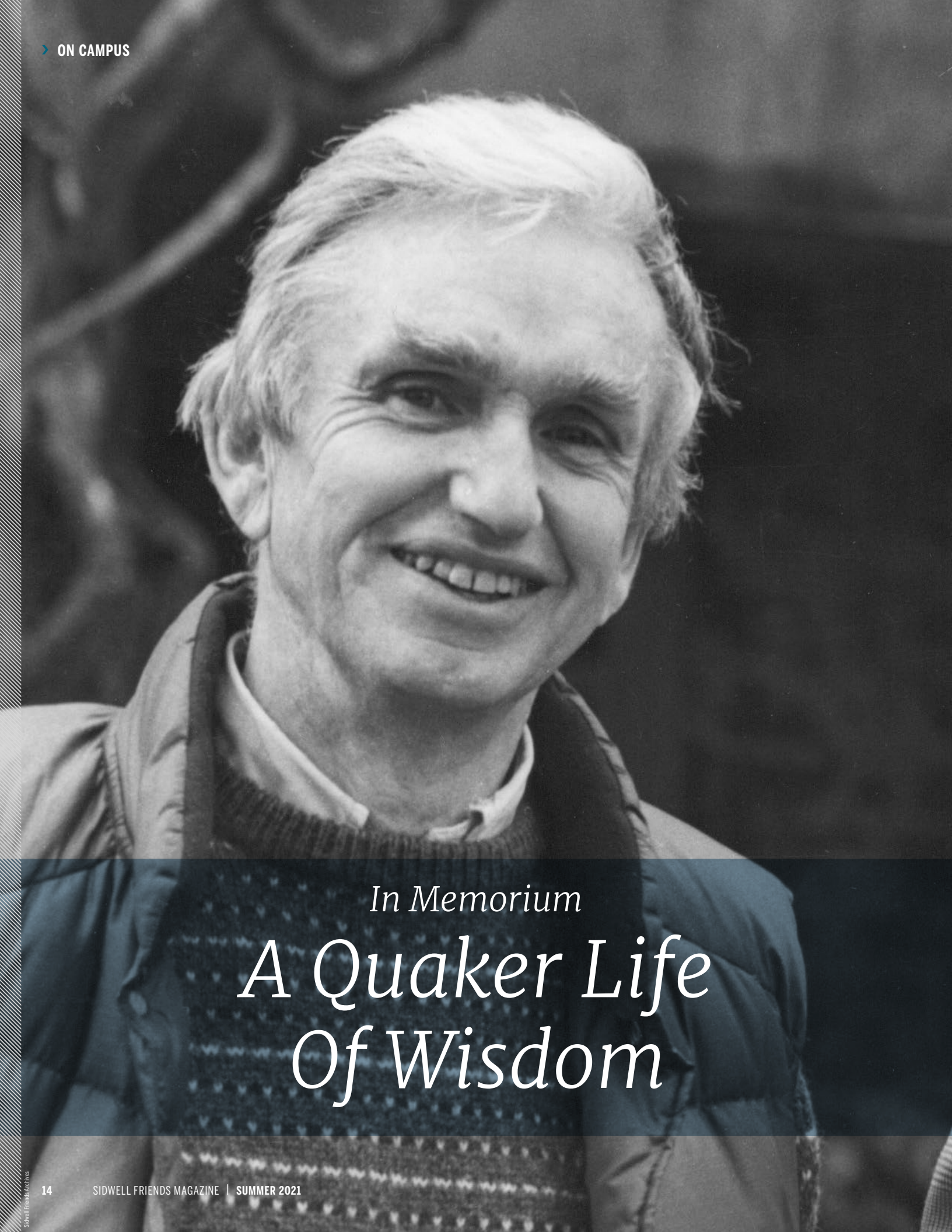
KIDS N' PLAY

Quaker Superpowers!

Celebrating Founder's Day with games, popcorn, and a call for justice.

Founder's Day is, of course, about marking Thomas Sidwell's birthday with good old-fashioned fun and games. But it is also a day of reflection—one that comes after a particularly turbulent year. This year, Head of School **Bryan Garman** asked the community to think carefully about the seeds they plant in the young minds at Sidwell Friends: "We are called to still the waters and help our children contemplate questions of equity and justice. Peace, reflection, and compassion—these are the superpowers of a Quaker education, when properly watered."





In Memorium
A Quaker Life
Of Wisdom

The spectacular days of Robert Lawrence Smith

In a message to the community, Head of School Bryan Garman remembered Smith with fondness and love.

Former Head of School and trustee **Robert Lawrence Smith** died peacefully on May 24 at the age of 96, at his home in Bethesda. The entire School holds his children, **Susan Smith Bastian '72**, **Katie Smith Sloan '73**, and **Geoff Smith '77**; grandchildren Hannah, Emily, Hunter, **Chris '04**, **Jennifer '07**, **Moria '11**, Benjamin, and Katherine; and the entire extended family in the Light.

It is impossible to capture the full scope of Smith's legacy and impact on the Sidwell Friends community. A formidable intellect and profound moral thinker, Smith was a remarkably kind man who cared deeply about young people and Quaker education. He served as head of school from 1965 to 1978 and as trustee from 2000 to 2008. He and his wife, Eliza, who passed away in 2009, were remarkable stewards of the School and shared their sense of responsibility with their children—Katie served as a trustee from 1993 to 2001 and 2008 to 2016, and Geoff is a current trustee. Their extended family includes former parents and trustees Peter and Eleanor Stokes Szanton.

Smith came to Sidwell Friends in 1965 from Columbia University, where he was an assistant dean and the assistant registrar. During his tenure at Sidwell Friends, he fortified the foundation of Quakerism, civic engagement, and community service. Born in 1924, Bob was a birthright Quaker and a graduate of Moorestown Friends School. After matriculating at Harvard University, he soon felt called to enlist in the Army during World War II, serving for three years and fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. He met Eliza at an American Friends Service Committee work camp in Mexico, and they married in 1948. Eventually, he earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley in 1949 and his master's degree in English from Columbia University in 1952.

Smith was a transformational leader who saw the School through a time of enormous change in the United States. He leaned heavily on the humanistic Quaker precepts of racial and gender equality, social justice, and nonviolence when examining practices at the School and addressing gaps. From the beginning, Smith was committed to increasing the enrollment of Black students at Sidwell Friends. He presided at the School's graduation of the first African American alumni in 1967, and he continued to broaden both recruitment and financial aid strategies to further

this goal. Smith also eliminated the last remnants of quotas for Jewish students and encouraged the election of the School's first Jewish trustee, **James Newmyer '37**.

Smith firmly believed that students should be involved in the surrounding DC community. In 1967, he began the Friends Morgan Summer Project, which began as a cultural-enrichment

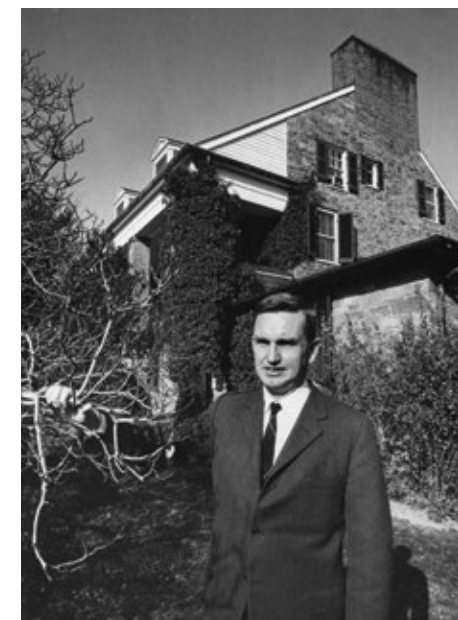
program with DC's Morgan Elementary School. This led to more collaborations with two DC high schools, a junior high school, and neighboring Hearst Elementary School. Eventually, Smith established the Community Link program, which he described to the Board as "creating extracurricular opportunities to participate in meaningful activities, to serve others, and to attempt to bring reality and learning closer together."

Smith was beloved by generations of Sidwell Friends faculty, students, parents, and alumni for building a sense of community and purpose. "To me, Quaker values of simplicity and silent contemplation, truth and conscience, seem more important now than ever before," wrote Smith in his 1998 book,

A Quaker Book of Wisdom: Life Lessons In Simplicity, Service, and Common Sense. During his tenure, Smith reinforced the Quaker practice of reflective silence and required time in the academic week for Meeting for Worship for all students. The Robert L. Smith Meeting Room has been dedicated twice—once in 1982 (in the space currently known as the Rosenberg Theater), then again in 2011 (in its current location). The School continues to distribute *A Quaker Book of Wisdom* to all community members. Last year, the School established the Robert L. Smith Family Scholar Program to honor Smith's legacy and to inspire ethical leadership in future generations of students.

After Sidwell Friends, Smith worked as the staff director of a report on education commissioned by the U.S. Senate, collaborated with the Community Foundation of Greater Washington, and for 10 years served as the executive director of the Council for the Advancement of Private Education.

While this is a moment of loss, remember all that Sidwell Friends has gained and how the School has benefited from the wisdom and life of Bob Smith. The School is collecting memories and photos of Smith. To send a message to the family or to contribute a memory, go to sidwell.edu/robertsmith.



CLASS ACTS

In the District

The Upper School explores urban ethics and leadership.

“If we come away with the idea that this is easy to solve, we haven’t done it right,” says **Robbie Gross**, the assistant principal for academic affairs, during a session of “Metropolitan Policy and the DMV,” an Upper School class taught by Gross and Director of Equity, Justice, and Community **Natalie Randolph ’98**. Students examine the Capital Region’s challenges, how they’ve been addressed, and how they might be solved more equitably. In one class, special guests **Kanti Srikanth**, the deputy executive director at Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and **Bryan Hayes**, a transportation planner at MWCG, Zoomed in to talk about transportation. The day’s activity proved that getting from one place to another is about much more than driving versus the Metro. Because the city can be unaffordable, commuting and transportation issues offer a glimpse into the area’s economic and racial climate. That’s the idea, says Randolph: “When the School was talking about establishing a Center for Ethical Leadership, I thought it would be cool to get the kids to learn about this region in a way where they’re thinking



Robbie Gross and Natalie Randolph '98 teach "Metropolitan Policy and the DMV."

about problems and how to solve them.” In one activity, for example, students had to decide how to expand a highway to connect the inner and outer suburbs with DC’s core. The students role-played representatives from the city, inner suburbs, outer suburbs, and environmental community, among other groups. The students then had to arrive at a solution that all parties could agree to. The class allows students to see how the DC area is a microcosm of the intersections among class, race, infrastructure, governance, and more. As Gross puts it: “The class represents one way we can connect our academic program to the goal of inspiring ethical leadership among our students.”



Kristen Page

KIDS N’ PLAY

Field Study

The Lower School celebrated the return of their favorite day—and of the 4th graders.

On May 12, most Sidwell Friends Lower Schoolers sported colorful T-shirts that read, “I’m smiling under this mask because it’s Field Day!” The shirts didn’t lie. Groups of smiling children hurtled between racing the 50-yard dash and

jumping into potato-sack races. All over campus—including the 4th graders, who spent much of the year at the Middle School to help de-densify the Lower School—students shrieked and reveled in the near-perfect weather. They decorated the driveway in front of the main building with chalk drawings; they joined music teacher **Matthew Stensrud** for a rhythmic stick activity; they ran obstacle courses, tossed water balloons, and played the active video game “Just Dance,” the sounds of which echoed across the playing fields. **Star the Fox** ambled around offering cheers and encouragement as students jumped, ran, and played.

CLASS ACTS

Our Stories, Ourselves

Let Your Life Speak goes global.



A Middle School student logs in to the Let Your Life Speak keynote address.

For this year’s Let Your Life Speak morning, celebrated as part of Founder’s Day, the School invited a record 33 alumni to virtually speak to Upper Schoolers. “I only make it to DC once or twice a year,” said **Nate Heller ’94**, the co-founder and COO of PEG Africa, a Dakar-based business that sells solar home systems to off-grid households. “I was excited to speak at the event because I remember what it was like to be a high school student.”

Grace Dammann ’65, a physician with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, spoke about how her mantra of “just say yes” led her to begin medical school at age 30 and to open a step-down unit for HIV/AIDS patients in San Francisco in the early 1980s. “We got to just be with people,” she said. “We could not offer them much except ourselves, which is the greatest gift you have to give.”

After the Upper Schoolers finished their two morning sessions, the Middle Schoolers joined them for the keynote discussion between author and journalist **Anand Giridharadas ’99** and writer and podcast host **Baratunde Thurston ’95**. During the discussion, moderated by *Horizon* editors **Emily Fagell ’21**, **Abbey Kim ’21**, and **Eleanor Walsh ’21**, the two alumni noted how Sidwell Friends taught them to examine

not only the stories that surrounded them, but who was left out of the telling. “We’ve had 1,000 Tom Hanks movies about World War II and the American white hero,” said Thurston. “I don’t believe we’ve had any major stories about women who held the country together that whole time.” Giridharadas agreed: “Families, cities, and whole countries have stories and meta-stories that they tell about themselves, or about other people,” he said. “There is a massive challenge in telling a new story that is true, that is inclusive, that doesn’t erase and marginalize all kinds of people, and that is inspiring to people.”

While many of the Let Your Life Speak participants spoke about their careers, the overarching theme was that your life will never truly be defined by the title on your business card, and that certainty about a career path can actually limit you. “It’s perfectly fine not to know what you want to do with your life,” said Heller. “You have no idea how amazing life can be if you’re open to it.”

AT YOUR SERVICE

Get Up and Do Something

Back on campus, the Community Action Club tackles homelessness.

“The pandemic exacerbated a lot of need,” says **Vera Chaudhry ’22**, one of the School’s three Community Action Club co-presidents. “We decided to orient the week around the specific problems that the pandemic not only caused, but worsened.” For this year’s Community Action Club Week, the group asked students to write letters to Congress to advocate for the Bring America Home Act, legislation that would coordinate a national response to homelessness. Then they held a toiletry drive and packed kits for Here2Help, which provides food and other necessities to people in need. Finally, they held the year’s first all-

Upper School collection, featuring **Donald Whitehead**, the executive director of National Coalition for the Homeless. Whitehead’s presentation, which details his own experience of homelessness, carried a special meaning for **Sara Jones ’21**, another CAC co-president. “He talked to the School my freshman year; it’s one of the reasons I joined this club,” Jones says. “His is a message that stays with you.” **Laney Tarr ’21**, another CAC co-president, agrees. “The main point Whitehead made was that people experiencing homelessness are often ignored,” she says. “The most important thing you can do is say hi to



Students in the Community Action Club keep their distance while serving their community.

someone; by saying hi to people who are experiencing homelessness, you’re humanizing them.” The real point of CAC Week, of course, is that its effects should last longer than a week. “It’s not like we can help everybody in one week,” Tarr says. “This is just dipping in a toe, and trying to expose the School to information about the DC community so they can help.”

GOOD SPORTS

PLAYERS V. THE PANDEMIC

Despite everything, Sidwell Friends had a stellar year in athletics.

Allison Barker '21

Susie Shaffer

The 2020/21 Sidwell Friends athletics calendar was unlike any other in recent memory. Even with the initial challenges of masks and physical distancing, the athletes persisted, reached several major accomplishments, and moved forward. By exploring new opportunities and expanding current ones, athletes took advantage of their natural adaptability—and the show went on. Students and coaches learned how to hold team meetings on Zoom. Meeting rooms were replaced with living rooms, kitchens, porches, and family rooms. From Middle School to the varsity teams and from field hockey to wrestling, staying connected was essential.

While a lot of games were canceled and competition had to be replaced with practice, off campus alumni were shining. **Taylor Knibb '16** qualified for the Tokyo Olympics after earning gold at the World Triathlon Championship Series in Yokohama, Japan. Knibb, 23, is the youngest woman in history to make the U.S. Olympic triathlon team. Knibb joins **Jair Lynch '89** and becomes the second Sidwell Friends alum to compete in the Olympics. Jair won a silver medal in the parallel bars at the 1996 Summer Olympics in

Atlanta. Another major accomplishment came from **Kendall Dudley '24** and **Jadyn Donovan '23**: They are among 20 players selected to try out for the International Basketball Federation's (FIBA) 2021 U16 USA National Team, which will compete in the FIBA Americas U16 Championship in Santiago, Chile. In 2019, **Kiki Rice '22** was a member of the USA U16 National Team that won gold. What's more, over at Middlebury College, two Sidwell Friends classmates, golfer **Jordan Bessalel '17** and ice-hockey player **Elise Park '17**, were awarded the Haseltine-Klevenow Memorial Trophy, Middlebury's top honor given to a male and female athlete for combined excellence in both athletics and academics (see "Par Excellence," on page 81).

Back on campus at Sidwell Friends, the Athletics department welcomed the new head football coach, **Donald Davis**, who previously coached a winning team at Calvert Hall High School in Baltimore. He joined the coaches as they brought passion and excitement to the players when the School celebrated the 13 graduating seniors who have chosen to continue their athletic and academic careers at the NCAA level. Additionally, the



Wibb Marzilli '21 and Harry Robison '21



Ava Partridge '22



Mihir Patel '21



Ariel Beck '21

School held its annual Celebration of Athletics ceremony to honor those graduating seniors who have made lasting impacts on campus and within their teams. The Distinguished Achievement Awards went to **Ryan Cornish '21**, who will play basketball at Dartmouth; **Akira Morgenstern '21**, who will play tennis at Georgetown; and **Michael Zhang '21**, who will play tennis at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Unsung Winners Awards went to: **Eva Ross '21** and **Charlotte McGuire '21**, who will play soccer at Amherst; and to **Max Freishtat '21**, who will play basketball at Hamilton College. The Fine Award went to **Delaney Edmonds '21** and the Wannan Award to **Beau Burns '21**, who will play lacrosse at Bowdoin College. This year's Tyler Christian Rusch '04 Award recipients were **Alexi Weinberg '21** and **Allison Barker '21**, who will run cross-country at Washington University in St. Louis.

In early April, just over 13 months since Sidwell Friends' teams last competed on campus, the Athletics department was able to host its first on-campus competitions—and they haven't looked back. Since those early April contests, athletes have been able to play home games in baseball, softball, tennis, and boys' and girls' lacrosse. (Maybe you've even checked out a livestream of a game or two? sidwell.edu/athletics) With a more typical 2021/22 academic year and athletics calendar on the horizon, the athletes are looking forward to a full competitive schedule on campus next fall. #GoQuakers

THE AWARDS

THE UNSUNG HERO AWARD recognizes a senior male and female athlete for contributions that might otherwise go unrecognized. The recipients of the award—by virtue of their presence, participation, dedication, and enthusiasm—have significantly enriched the Sidwell Friends Athletic Department.

THE DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD honors senior student-athletes who have earned significant accolades at the league level and beyond and who have admirably represented their teams and Sidwell Friends in competition.

THE WANNAN AND FINE AWARDS acknowledge a senior male and female athlete who, by consensus of the Athletic Department, deserve recognition for their talent, leadership, dedication, sportsmanship, broad participation, and involvement in all aspects of School life.

THE TYLER CHRISTIAN RUSCH '04 AWARD commends a senior male and female athlete who have significantly enriched Sidwell Friends Athletics through motivational leadership, steadfast participation, dedication to teamwork, enthusiasm, and all-out effort. This award is named in memory of former student **Tyler Rusch '04**.

If you missed the live ceremony, you can watch the Athletic Celebration video at: sidwell.edu/2021-athletics-celebration.

Fond Farewells

The community salutes beloved and retiring faculty, who have collectively served the School for more than a century.



LANGUAGE LAB

Anne Charny

20 years

"I remember so vividly feeling like an equal when we were given the time and space to just talk about books," **Kate Villa '10** says about her time in Anne Charny's Middle School English class.

For two decades, Charny created a sense of comfort, safety, and belonging in her Middle School classroom—particularly important for students in their awkward, pre-teen years. Her love of literature—from Shakespeare to Hurston, Achebe to Adichie—ignited in her students an interest in diverse perspectives and curiosity about the world.

Just as importantly, Charny supported her colleagues in becoming more thoughtful educators. "Her passion for developing inquiry-based learning habits among students has lifted us all," Middle School teacher **Andrew Callard** says. "I am grateful for her impressive example and leadership, which helped us explore our craft of teaching more deeply."

Caitlin Lesczynski '09 speaks for many of her fellow alumni: "To know and be taught by Ms. Charny is to have the privilege of being led through the wonders of the literary world by an expert guide and the pleasure of being set alight by a true champion and dear friend."



FIELD STUDIES

Melanie Fields

34 years

"Mrs. Fields is the reason I went into science as a career," **Andrew Berstein '03** says. It's a statement echoed by generations of Sidwell Friends students who transformed their experiences in Melanie Fields's Upper School science classes into careers in medicine, public health, research, and education. For many students, like **Bruce Altevogt '94**, Fields's "commitment to push the boundaries of what high school biology students could do" set them on a lifelong path of scientific discovery.

"Her classes were not just classes; they were enterprises, and she invited us all to be participants in the fullest sense—not just as students but as collaborators and creative leaders," **Daniel Winik '03** says. **Julian Weiss '12** agrees: "Her passion for science and knack for finding creative ways of teaching it through hands-on demonstrations and activities definitely brought out my own passions and sparked a drive in me that really hasn't stopped since."

And Fields's leadership in the Outing Club was just as memorable for those she took on trips through wild spaces across the United States. "She was a true mentor to students outside the classroom and created a strong sense of community in the Outing Club," **Minh Le '91** remembers. "Our trip to Joshua Tree brought so many of us closer together."



TIME TRAVEL

Richard Lesczynski

26 years

Energy. Enthusiasm. Excitement. When Richard "Mr. L" Lesczynski's students reflect on experiences in his Middle School history classroom, they describe a teacher in constant motion. **Rachel Brown '11** recalls "the zeal he brought to the classroom—including occasionally jumping and shouting—which brought U.S. history alive and made us all excited to keep learning."

"He made every bit of history into a fascinating story, and his presentation of these stories was nothing short of a performance," **Carolyn Peyser '11** says. According to **Max Weiner '09**, this is why "Mr. L is a once-in-a-lifetime teacher whose energy, warmth, and passion for learning are still with me today."

Students and parents also remember the Russian-exchange program that Mr. L initiated, including the new cultures they explored and the delight in travel it fostered. "He lived through the Cold War and knew how literally dangerous 'othering' can be," **Maya (Soble) Winkelstein '02** says. "The program was ultimately started as a way to humanize each other. This lesson is one of the most important I learned during my eight years at Sidwell Friends. It is still the most important lesson any of us can learn."



WISDOM WELL

Barbara Davison

28 years

Wait a minute: Didn't Barbara Davison retire in 2014? Indeed, she did, yet returned the next academic year to fill a short-term vacancy in the 4th grade—one that lasted six years!

Of course, it's hard for her colleagues to say goodbye to the "Yoda of the Lower School": the person they go to for honest advice about teaching and parenting, says **Eve Eaton**. "Barbara's gift as a teacher, colleague, and a friend is that she always makes whomever she is speaking with feel heard and valued," **Edith Zhang** says. It's a sentiment **Kathleen Geier** echoes: "She somehow always knew exactly what you needed to hear. She would ask the perfect question that you didn't even know you were waiting to be asked."

Most importantly, she extended her warmth and wisdom to her students. "She has a real appreciation of students as individuals. She accepted and nurtured who they are, shaping them to be the best that they can be while being true to themselves," **Zarya Navarro** says. "We all know that she is the real thing: sincere, true, and kind."

Note: A few other cherished Sidwell Friends faculty and staff are also leaving and have requested a quieter departure.

AT YOUR SERVICE

The Response Element

The Newmyer Awards honor service and spirit.

The 45th annual Newmyer Awards honored the Sidwell Friends Medical Advisory Team and **Neeknaz Abari '16** for their extraordinary spirit of community service during the pandemic. The awards could not have come at a better time. This spring, students attended classes, played impromptu games of spikeball, grabbed drinks from the Fox Den, and marveled at Brood X cicadas—all thanks in large part to the ongoing volunteer efforts of the Sidwell Friends Medical Advisory Team.

This year, rather than honor one or two individuals who “have made the greatest contribution over a sustained period of time to the values of Sidwell Friends and the life of the School community,” the Newmyers chose to recognize the entire Medical Advisory Team: **Amanda Derryck Castel '91 (P '21, '24), Stephen Evans (P '24, '27), Wayne A.I. Frederick (P '24), Peggy Hamburg (P '11, '13), Ali Mohamadi '94 (P '23, '26), Cynthia Ogden (P '15, '18), Channing Paller '97, and Rajiv Shah (P '24, '27, '29)**. “The Medical Advisory Team has worked tirelessly to protect our community and safeguard our collective health over the past 14 months,” **Elsa Newmyer '72** and **Ginger Newmyer (P '72, '74, '76)** explained. This dedicated team—with extensive experience in medicine, epidemiology, and pandemic response—ensured the School continued to deliver on its mission throughout COVID-19.

Across the country, Abari felt drawn to serve unhoused people in her Bay Area community. Recognizing that those experiencing homelessness face a greater risk of contracting COVID-19 and that masks offer a simple way to help mitigate the spread among this population, Abari co-founded Masks2All. Through Mask2All, Abari purchased and distributed thousands of masks to homeless-services nonprofits. With some help from old friends at Sidwell Friends, Mask2All's distribution—which began in Berkeley—expanded to Oakland, San Francisco, San Diego, Richmond, and Washington, DC. For her service and selflessness, Abari was awarded the Newmyer Young Alumni Service Award, given annually to a young alum with an exceptional commitment to volunteer service.

“I just can't overstate the way in which these honorees have let their lives speak to the values of the School,” Head of School **Bryan Garman** said, “and revealed to all of us the extraordinary human beings that they are.”



Team Foxes for a Cure

JUST CAUSES

Raise for a Cure

Students collect a cool quarter-million bucks to battle cancer.

How do you raise nearly \$250,000 to fight leukemia and lymphoma? Not alone. Team Foxes for a Cure, a Sidwell Friends student fundraising squad, recently competed in the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) Students of the Year campaign, a seven-week challenge to raise money to combat and cure blood cancer. Led by **Sofia Gaviria '23** and **Elson Bankoff '23**, the group's six-digit success placed them fourth out of 42 teams in the National Capital Area. (All of the region's teams—including another Sidwell Friends group, Team CUREsaders—raised a combined \$3.3 million, shattering local and national records.) “We decided we wanted to build a team that was on the larger side to be able to raise more money,” Gaviria says. The 16-member team raised the money by reaching out to friends and families, approaching companies and sports leagues for sponsorships, and even partnering with a cycling instructor to offer free Peloton-style workout classes for donors. They did this to reach their original goal of \$60,000.

Then they upped the goal to \$80,000.

They met that. So, they upped it again.

“Our LLS mentor would say, ‘Oh, some people just get to their goal and stop,’” Bankoff says. “But that would never be an option for Sofia and me.” Donors often shared their own stories and really showed the team just how many people cancer affects. “We could really see how we were touching people's lives,” Gaviria says. It was intensely motivating, and, as the money ticked upward, it was exciting, too. Neither Bankoff nor Gaviria had previous experience in fundraising, but both say this campaign won't be their last. “I got a lot out of it,” Bankoff says. “There's the organization aspect, the leadership aspect, and the community service aspect.”

HISTORICAL FICTIONS

A Common Language: Honoring the Legacy of Señora Supervía



Meet **Silvana Niazi**, the inaugural Señora Guillermina Medrano de Supervía Endowed Faculty Chair for Spanish and Latin American Studies. Niazi joined Sidwell Friends in the 2020/21 academic year, teaching the history of Latin America and American Studies in the Upper School. A social scientist by training and fluent in four languages (including Spanish), Niazi brings years of experience working in Latin America and expertise in public policy, research design, interdisciplinary approaches, and program management. Niazi looks forward to inspiring students in their intellectual journeys while contributing to the evolution of the School's curricula and to its Equity, Justice, and Community program.

1. Before you joined Sidwell Friends, how were you engaging with Spanish and Latin American studies?

SN: I was pursuing my graduate studies in comparative government at Georgetown University, where I focused on comparative constitutional politics in Latin America. Latin America is now experiencing its longest democratic moment, and my research looks at how citizens are increasingly, albeit unevenly, using legal strategies to address socioeconomic problems linked to persistently high inequality in the region. I was working to reframe how we think about legal mobilization on a broad level, and then to identify how and when

citizens pursue justiciable grievances—legal claims—in healthcare or education.

2. What new developments in Spanish and Latin American studies would you like to introduce to Sidwell Friends?

SN: I am interested in expanding the visibility of Latin American studies at Sidwell Friends through the study of the region's history and Spanish language. Working collaboratively with faculty in the History and Spanish departments and division principals, I'd like to identify age-appropriate possibilities for new frontiers in our Latin American studies programming and ways in which we can offer deep dives in the field. Together, we can augment existing curricula in ways that invite students to immerse themselves in diverse works of art, literature, history, politics, and economics through the disciplines of history and language.

3. As you consider the potential for growth in the Spanish and Latin American studies program, what are the first steps you hope to take?

SN: As part of this work, I will look to members of this community for ways in which they believe we can more fully celebrate the varied Latin American contributions to the School, city, and nation. Listening deeply to our community members is an essential part of identifying and exploring ways we can push against dominant narratives to amplify the voices of those who may be less seen or heard.

4. How does your work contribute to the School's larger Equity, Justice, and Community (EJC) Action Plan?

SN: Through conversations and focus groups, I will collect and assess data with the purpose of establishing benchmarks that create standards and measure growth, in line with the EJC Strategic Plan—from student learning, to faculty and staff professional development, to broader community programming.



for **SILVANA NIAZI**

As we contemplate our own roles in knowledge production as an educational community, we can begin, for example, by explicitly acknowledging the legacies of global slavery and colonialism and how they intersect with pressing contemporary problems in social justice throughout the Americas. Through text-based readings and discussions, I seek to lead students in making meaningful connections between the past and present, intentionally making spaces in which they can explore the contradictions and tensions in our many histories.

5. How will your work as the Supervía Endowed Chair extend the legacy that Señora Supervía began?

SN: Señora Supervía's legacy during her years at Sidwell Friends demonstrates the importance of finding common language to bravely introduce classroom discussions and debates that are connected to the problems and issues of our time. I'm excited to continue exploring questions in Latin American Studies—including governance, democracy, and democratization—through a comparative lens. Having a master's in Latin American studies, I use Spanish language and literature to bring an interdisciplinary, age-appropriate, and holistic approach to studying Latin America and the Caribbean. This is how I help students develop skills that are fundamental to lifelong learning. In this sense, I hope to continue Señora Supervía's legacy.

Paper Hearts

BY LOREN ITO HARDENBERGH

Commemorating Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month held particular significance this spring in the face of the most recent wave of violence and anti-AAPI racism in the country. Along with **Erika Lee**'s Zeidman lecture on the history of anti-Asian racism, visits by children's book illustrator and author **Grace Lin**, and other events (see "Into the Fold," on page 26), the Sidwell Friends community gathered to do what we've done for decades as we strive for peace and healing during difficult times: We folded.



In the spring of 1987, as the District awaited the emergence of the Brood X cicadas, students were studying all things Japan in anticipation of the Japanese Language and Culture Program trip that summer, which launched in 1985 with the help of U.S.-Japan Culture Center president and Sidwell Friends parent **Mikio Kanda (P '86, '89)**.

In their studies, they read the story of *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr. Sadako was a toddler when her hometown of Hiroshima was bombed, and she later developed leukemia from the radiation. According to Japanese legend, if you fold a thousand paper cranes, you are granted a wish. After

Sadako's passing, thousands of paper cranes have been left at the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima Peace Park in her honor. That summer, four students and advisor Ellen Pierson placed 4,000 paper cranes at the base of Sadako's statue, and a Sidwell Friends tradition was born.

Folding origami cranes for the School's student peace ambassadors to bring to Hiroshima each year has been a regular spring occurrence at Founder's Day and other Sidwell Friends events for decades now. Some alumni may even remember sitting under the cherry blossom trees in the courtyard near the Kogod Arts Center with **Michiko Yamaoka**, a survivor of the

bombing of Hiroshima who served as Peace Speaker and became a longtime friend of the School. Only 15 years old when the bomb dropped, Yamaoka-san felt connected to the Friends community after living with Quakers while receiving over 25 procedures for the disfigurement caused by the radiation. For decades, students who participated in the Japan trip had the unforgettable experience of being a personal guest of Yamaoka-san while visiting Hiroshima.

Not all of these cranes have flown across the Pacific. Several student art displays over the years have become a part of campus life. While some may suspect the Upper School's Crane

Room next to the cafeteria is named for a celebrated teacher or benefactor with the surname "Crane," it is in fact named after the tradition of folding paper cranes for peace. The original student mural covering two walls of the Crane Room depicted an origami crane transitioning into a flying crane as it travels from the DC campus to Hiroshima. Today, another student-painted origami crane mural greets families in the parking structure each day during student pickup and drop-off.

In April 2019, another tragic bombing took place in Asia, this time in Sri Lanka. It prematurely ended the life of one of our cherished students, **Kieran Shafritz de Zoysa '26**. Overcome with grief and

a sense of helplessness in the face of violence, the Asian Students Association created an origami crane art installation that the student organizers hope will "be a reminder to future generations that in unity we may find the strength to overcome bigotry and violence."

After a year of assaults and animosity toward Asian Americans, Lower, Middle, and Upper School students again felt called to transform square pieces of paper into thousands of cranes of peace. In a year when many School traditions have had to be modified or postponed due to the pandemic, these students have continued what decades of alumni have done before them—they folded, they reflected, and they hoped for peace.

1. Students gather in front of the Kogod Arts Center on Founder's Day in the 1980s to fold origami cranes.

2. Members of the Community Action Committee designed and painted the mural that depicted the theme of the Crane Room, dedicated in 1988.

3. Students take in the many thousands of origami cranes placed at the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park while on the annual Japan trip in 1990.

4. Seeing Hiroshima through Michiko Yamaoka's eyes was for decades the most impactful part of the annual Japan trip.

5. A student hangs the Sidwell Friends *senbazuru* (strands of 1,000 cranes) at the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park during the 60th anniversary of the atomic bomb in 2005.



IN JAPANESE TRADITION, THE FOLDING OF 1,000 ORIGAMI CRANES CAN SIGNIFY MANY THINGS: LUCK, HOPE, PEACE, AND MORE.

In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month, the Sidwell Friends Asian Students Association and the South Asian Students Association decided to soar a little higher: They enlisted students at all grade levels to hand-fold 1,000 cranes for each division. Now more than 3,000 cranes have been created to hang in each division next fall.

Crane-folding is a rich tradition at the School (see “I Want People to Know the Word ‘Peace,’” page 2, and “Paper Hearts,” page 24), though not on an annual basis. But for Brooke Bao ’22 and Rashi Gupta ’22, this year it was more important than ever to continue the tradition. “We did it when I was a freshman, and it was always a nice gesture,” said Bao, the head of the Asian Students Association at Sidwell Friends. “But this year, we wanted it to represent more and use it to show solidarity and support for the Asian community as a School.” So, all divisions received special origami papers, and across the campuses, students got to folding.

“Upper Schoolers are usually able to fold more than kindergartners,” said Gupta, the head of the South Asian Students Association. “So, we thought we’d help with their 1,000 cranes. But the Lower School has been folding much more than we thought; they’re really getting into it. The Middle School sent over two giant garbage bags that have at least 500 each. It’s brought us all together; it’s really good to see.”

Amid a disturbing rise in anti-Asian hate over the course of the past year, including more than 140 incidents in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia area, Sidwell Friends took AAPI Heritage Month as an opportunity to learn about and honor the role Asian cultures play in the School. The month kicked off with the 2021 John Fisher Zeidman ’79 Memorial Lecture with author and professor Erika Lee, who discussed patterns of anti-Asian sentiment across U.S. history (see “Asian Americans and America,” on page 30). The month also began with the traditional Sidwell Friends iftar, the nightly meal that breaks the Ramadan fast, on May 1. Sponsored by the Parents of Asian Students and held virtually, the guest speaker was Tarek Elgawhary, an imam at the Islamic Community Center of Potomac and the co-founder and president of the Coexist Foundation. The Lower School also recognized Ramadan, which held a special assembly about Islam’s holiest month. Recordings of students asking and answering questions about Ramadan and Eid, the holiday that marks the end of the month, played not only to students but to grandparents, who were joining virtually for Grandparents Days.

On May 12, children’s book author and illustrator Grace Lin joined the Middle School 5th and 6th graders and the Lower School via Zoom for a special presentation. While her name wasn’t necessarily familiar at first to everyone, when an image of her book *Where the Mountain Meets the*



INTO THE FOLD

PAPER CRANES RETURN TO CAMPUS IN A PAN-ASIAN CELEBRATION OF ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH.

BY KRISTEN PAGE AND SACHA ZIMMERMAN / ILLUSTRATIONS BY DONGYUN LEE



Moon popped up on the screen, there were gasps and multiple murmurings of “I love that book!” Lin spoke about being the only person of color in the town where she grew up in upstate New York and how she wanted to suppress her Chinese heritage to better fit in with her white classmates. “I said, ‘Okay, I’m just going to pretend I’m not Chinese,’” she told the kids. “And I did a really good job of pretending.”

Things started to change, she said, when her mother put a book of traditional Chinese fairy tales on the bookshelf. (Lin said her mom knew that if she just handed Lin the book, Lin never would have read it; she had to find it for herself.) In that book of Chinese fairy tales, she found stories she had never heard before—along with some disappointment. The book, unlike the beautifully illustrated books of Western fairy tales, largely lacked pictures and was printed on cheap paper, which made Lin feel that the stories of *The Lady and the Moon* and *Lu-San, Daughter of Heaven* were somehow worth less than *Sleeping Beauty* and *Snow White*. That stuck with Lin as she began her writing career, and when she

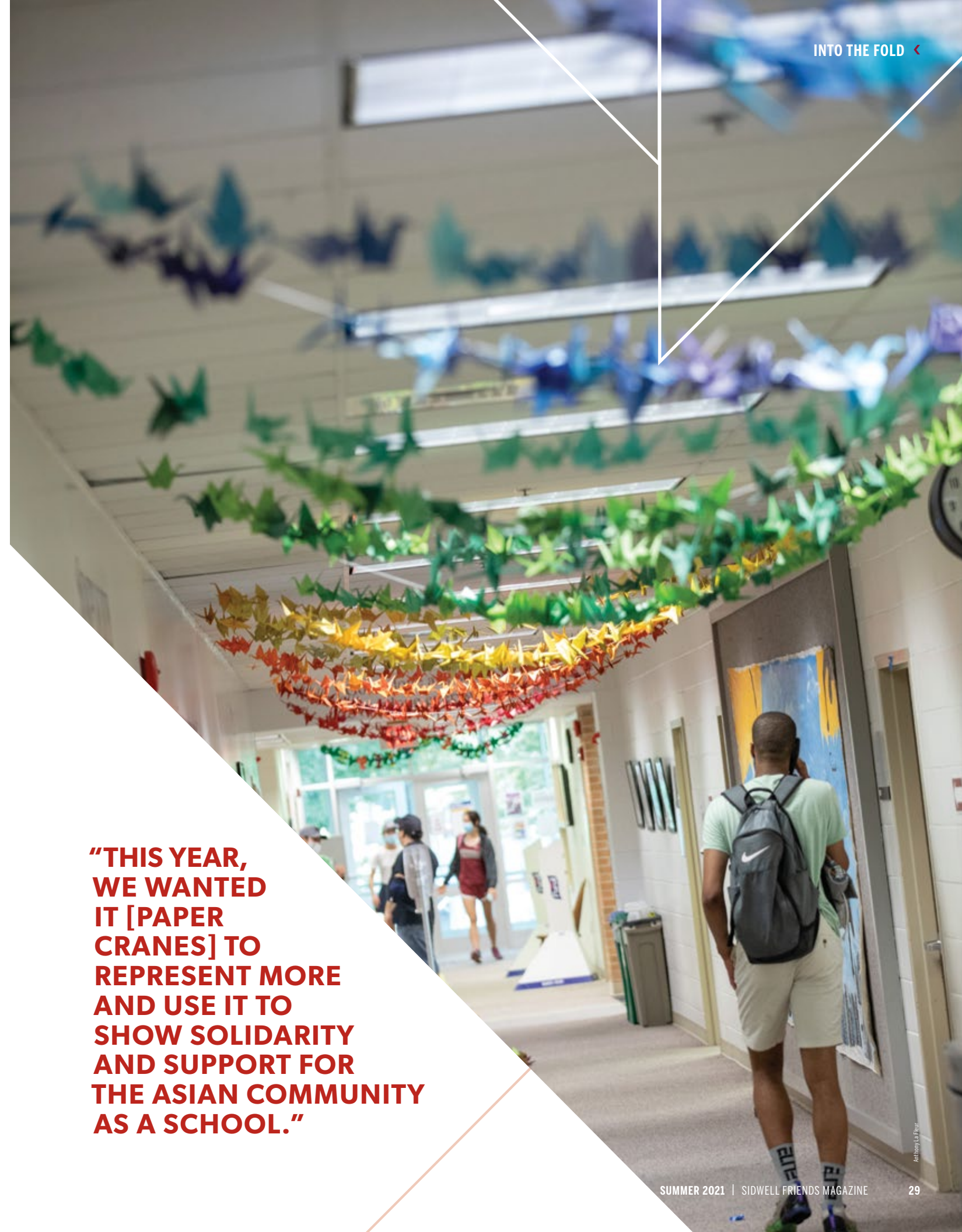
published *Where the Mountain Meets the Moon*, she insisted that it be printed on high-quality paper, with lots of lush, full-color pictures (which Lin also drew). “I didn’t want anyone who read my book,” she said, “to feel the way I did when I read those stories back then.”

The Asian Students Association and South Asian Students Association then turned to the Sidwell Friends community for the month-long “This Is Us” photo-essay project (see page 31). Photos of smiling families, traditional dress, festive foods, and family heirlooms, along with brief descriptions of the photos, gave a glimpse into the wide range of Asian cultures found in the School community.



“Because of all the anti-Asian hate we’re seeing, AAPI month has become more important,” Gupta said. “Even when we hopefully have more awareness and unity, it’ll still be there to be celebrated.” AAPI month will always be cause for celebration—and the cranes will always fly over Sidwell Friends. ✨

“THIS YEAR, WE WANTED IT [PAPER CRANES] TO REPRESENT MORE AND USE IT TO SHOW SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT FOR THE ASIAN COMMUNITY AS A SCHOOL.”



ASIAN AMERICANS AND AMERICA

Zeidman Lecturer Professor Erika Lee tackles the history of racism against the AAPI community.



"Many call racial hatred un-American," said Erika Lee in her 2021 John Fisher Zeidman '79 Memorial Lecture to the Sidwell Friends community. "But the hard truth is that it is very American."

Since March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in the United States, the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community has become the target of renewed and virulent anti-Asian racism across the nation. Throughout her talk, "The Long History of Anti-Asian Racism in the United States and What We Can Do About It," Lee, the author most recently of the American Book Award-winning *America for Americans: A History of Xenophobia in the United States* and a featured contributor to PBS's *Asian Americans*, connected recent animus toward the AAPI community with a centuries-old narrative.

It was a striking moment for the 38th Annual John Fisher Zeidman '79 Memorial Lecture. The last 12 months of the pandemic reignited Asian hate, from slurs about the "Chinese virus" and "kung flu" to violence and fatal attacks, including an eight-person massacre outside Atlanta, Georgia. It was also the year an Asian American woman reached the vice presidency and two Asian women won Academy Awards. Making sense of these events is a vital component of the Zeidman lecture, part of the Sidwell Friends Chinese Studies Program, which receives funding from the John Fisher Zeidman '79 Chinese Studies Fund and the Dora Chao, M.D., Endowed Fund.

The evening began with an introduction from Head of School Bryan Garman, who noted that the event was "the kickoff to AAPI Heritage Month at Sidwell Friends." He also explained that while the lecture was originally set to focus on China policy, the School pivoted in order to address America's current climate. Lee—Regents Professor, Distinguished McKnight University Professor, Rudolph J. Vecoli Chair in Immigration History, and director of the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota—Garman said, was exactly who the Sidwell Friends community needed to hear from.

She began with a look at the fallout from 2020. "Asians have been the subjects of attacks; they've been yelled at, spit on, harassed," Lee said. In the last year alone, the group Stop AAPI Hate recorded nearly 3,800 incidents of anti-Asian hate since the start of 2020, up by more than 1,200 from the previous year. But Lee cautioned against calling it a surge, as the roots of such hatred are inseparable from U.S. history. Asians came to the United States as slaves and laborers as early as the 1600s, though the first major wave of AAPI immigration occurred in the 1800s when white Americans began to use people across Asia to build the transcontinental railroad, to work on sugar plantations in Florida, to man lumber mills in the Pacific Northwest, to head into mines in Wyoming, and much more.

Even then, Lee said: "The Chinese, in particular, were considered vectors of disease and contamination. It's a trope that returned last year." She described insults about the Chinese eating rats and being hypersexualized. She recounted how Asians were tossed out of entire cities while white people burned local Chinatowns to the ground. She explained that then and now, the AAPI community is often made into an "other," an outsider, a foreigner—never citizens. "Xenophobia," Lee said, "is inextricably related to the discrimina-

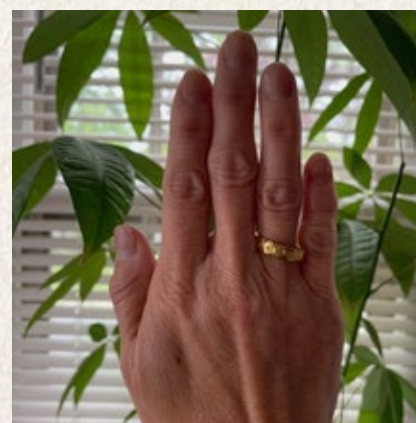


this is us

During AAPI Heritage Month, Sidwell Friends invited all students, faculty, and staff to participate in a photo essay as a way to celebrate the many Asian cultures and identities within the community. Here are just a few of the submissions.



To read the stories from "This Is Us" go to sidwell.edu/about/community/this-is-us.



tion of indigenous peoples, to Mexican nationals, to African Americans," and to all American minorities.

That connection to other forms of racial oppression created its own warped dynamic as communities were compared with and even pitted against one another. Over the decades, this has meant a false inflation of the AAPI community as the "model minority," one that "respects authority, values gender roles, family, and academic and economic success." For Jim Crow America, the contrast to the Black Civil Rights movement in the 20th century became a useful tool: "Asians' quiet success versus Black power." This patronizing view of Asians as role models—as long as they didn't complain and remained submissive—included Lee's own family: In 1953, her grandmother won a mother-of-the-year contest for raising seven accomplished children (the local paper called her "a fine Christian woman"); yet the U.S. government still barred Lee's grandparents from becoming American citizens because of their race. That is, so-called "good behavior" and full access to constitutional rights were not linked.

But the persistence of tropes like the "Asian whiz kid" and "Asian docility," Lee said, led to dismissive attitudes toward AAPI hate. "The minimization of anti-Asian racism has left many unprepared for this last year." (And

by "many," she means more Asian Americans than ever: The largest wave of Asian immigration to the United States occurred over the last two decades, from 2000 to 2014.) She spoke of a rattled Hmong family in her home state of Minnesota who found a yard sign in front of their house telling them to go back to China and take the disease with them. "It is," Lee explained, a full-circle moment, "a continuation of a much longer history."

But history can also be made. On March 18, Lee testified before the U.S. Congress at a historic House Hearing on Discrimination and Violence Against Asian Americans. It was only the second time Congress had ever taken up the topic (the first was in 1987). Now the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act is close to passing; the act would create a new position at the U.S. Department of Justice to review hate crimes related to the pandemic, to educate the public, and to offer other agencies relevant guidance.

"Asian American history is American history," Lee said. That includes a lot of positive changes, too: Asians, for example, helped create birthright citizenship—now a potent American value. Unfortunately, Asian American history is rarely taught in schools. Or at least, schools that are not Sidwell Friends. (Lee also directly addressed all Upper Schoolers the morning

"WE EACH NEED TO INVESTIGATE HOW WE CAN MAKE THE WORLD SAFER SO THERE IS NEVER THE HATE AND VIOLENCE WE SEE TODAY."

after the lecture.) Lee cheered the Nancy Levy Zeidman Gift for Student Experiences, which invites new generations of Sidwell Friends students to experience the wonder of China each year. And she is excited about "curricula that start with representation," including the deluge of Asian literature, hip-hop music, films, and more that have flourished in recent years. "The materials are there," Lee said. "It's about bringing them in." She exemplified exactly that for the 7th through 12th grades, as she reprised her lecture specifically for Sidwell Friends students.

"What we're seeing now is not new," Lee said. "It has happened in the past, and it will happen in the future unless we act now. We each need to investigate how we can make the world safer so there is never the hate and violence we see today." ✨



PHANTOM THREAD

Sonya Clark '85 unravels the power
of the mundane and the sacred.

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

On the *Lives That Speak* podcast, Head of School Bryan Garman spoke to artist **Sonya Clark '85** about art with purpose, objects in conversation, and Clark's favored medium: textiles. Clark has added an afro to Lincoln's pate on the \$5 bill, sewn long rows of dreadlocks to a chair, and invited spectators to join her in painstakingly unraveling the Confederate battle flag until it's just thread. The deconstruction of "monumental" cloth specifically—whether it's flags, Black hair, currency, or literature—demonstrates the possibility and the power of undoing to, paradoxically, create something more whole. Her show, "Sonya Clark: Tatter, Bristle, and Mend," was on exhibit at the National Museum of Women in the Arts from March 3 through June 27 this year.

BRYAN GARMAN: You've had a homecoming with this incredible show at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. It's a mid-career retrospective with 100 objects.

SONYA CLARK: I'm very excited. Kathryn Wat, who is the chief curator at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, really understands objects and understands what my work is trying to do. She put things in conversation that perhaps had not been in dialogue with one another. So, a piece from 1994 might be in conversation with a piece from 2004 or a piece from 2014. To see that arc across time and have someone handle the work with such diligence, care, and intellect—that's, as an artist, what I hope for. I have a certain amount of intent around making that artwork—perhaps it's asking a question, or it's an attempt at answering a question—and then it goes out into the world, and it has the opportunity to then engage with others. A good curator is like a good editor—she understands what the artist or the writer is trying to do and puts things in juxtaposition in a way that can help. It can be really generative. I had a show in 2006 in New York, and a curator asked for a piece that I made in 1995 and then a piece that I made in 2005. In my eye, I couldn't understand why these works would go together. Then when they were in the same space, it made me think about new works. So, I'm really grateful

for curators. I'm also really grateful for the audience, because when people ask questions, are challenged by something, or don't get something, all of those things are also generative.

BG: How did Sidwell Friends shape your work and the person you are now?

SC: There's something about Quaker values, this idea that everyone has something to offer and that everyone has a potential part in the community—it forms a kind of solidarity. That is something I hope for as I'm making work. Another thing I would say is that the reason my parents sent me to Sidwell Friends is that it had the reputation of knowing how to work with students who are intellectually capable and who are also creative in lots of ways. Sidwell nurtured that. I took some classes with Percy Martin. One of things that Percy did in our art classes, he just allowed us space. It was a space to be and think creatively. But even within that space, there was room for diligence and criticality, which, as an artist, you find your balance between those two things: the space and the discipline.

BG: You went to Amherst—and you did not take a single studio class there?

SC: I ended up majoring in psychology because I was following in my father's footsteps. He was a psychiatrist, and I was really interested in the way that the

mind works. My parents' graduation present from Amherst was to send me to West Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, and study traditional art forms in West Africa. When I came back from that trip, I knew I wanted to go to art school. Enough of doing everything for everybody else. I went to the Art Institute of Chicago, and the first art class I took there felt like I got oxygen in my lungs. It just felt like, "Oh my gosh, this is what I've been waiting for." I realized that art was one of the hardest and most challenging things for me, but something that I needed to do to understand the world around me.

BG: What is the process you go through to choose symbols, and how have you chosen to work with them over time? I'm thinking of two here in particular: hair and flags.

SC: You could sum up my whole practice in hair and flags. I was trained as a textile artist. Textiles have the ability to speak—I mean that literally. There are ways in which people learn how to weave textile structures while they're singing into the cloth. You understand the pattern and how you're supposed to weave the cloth through a work song. In that sense, the song becomes a score, a kind of text. But even as I say *text*, you hear its relationship to the word *textile*. And *text* and *textile* come from the Greek, meaning *to weave*. So literally

ancient Greeks were like: Text and cloth are the same thing. It makes me think of this quotation when it comes to flags, about the power of a textile: A flag can be a piece of cloth that makes the "guts of men grow bold." That's something that poet John Agard said and it's true. It's just a piece of cloth, but as soon as it becomes a symbol and is imbued with meaning—whether that be nationalism, hate, patriotism, civil liberties, civil rights—the cloth is capable of absorbing all that potency, that language. The other thing is that we're walking around swaddled in cloth all day, every day. When I teach textiles, I often ask students to think of a time when they are not engaged in cloth. And it's maybe a moment in the shower—then you grab your towel, or you step on the bathmat. We're constantly touching cloth, which means that we have a visceral understanding, a haptic, nonverbal relationship with the medium, so it strikes deep.

With hair, I have so much to say about hair. Sometimes I'm working with actual human hair, which is to say that I'm working with DNA. I'm also working with the power of our ancestors in each strand of hair. Hair is the fiber that we grow, and so each strand of hair is also an ancestral strand. We think of ourselves as being individuals, but not one of us is here without all the people who came before us. And all those people are codified in a strand of hair that might get just washed down the sink. Everybody is in that hair that holds all that DNA. It's powerful, powerful stuff. If you plucked one of your hairs and one of my hairs and we looked at our DNA, then as human beings we're essentially the same. Phenotypically, we would be divided, according to what the anthropologists did so many years ago, into different races, but genetically, we're the same. So, because of the constructions around race, the kind of hair that I grow and the kind of hair that you grow separate us. But the hair itself, the DNA in it, actually brings us together. That's power.



These Days, This Country, This History, 2019

Courtesy Sonya Clark

I'm interested in the etymology of mundane objects. The more everyday something is, like the hair we grow or the cloth that we surround ourselves with, because they are so common, my hope is that when someone encounters my work, they might think about those everyday objects differently.

BG: You're talking about etymology of words, etymology of art, the mundane. But you're also deconstructing sacred symbols.

SC: Specifically, the deconstruction of a Confederate battle flag. There were many Confederate flags. But the one that we use and the one that we commonly think of as being the Confederate flag is the one that got popularized by the KKK, and it is associated with white terrorism. In the piece *Unraveling*, I invite people to stand next to me, and just with our hands, we pick apart a Confederate battle flag (see *These Days, This Country, This History*, above). It's slow work. One of the things that happens is that people realize that they know cloth, but they don't actually

understand how cloth is structured. To undo the damage of white supremacy, which rears its ugly head daily in this nation, is to understand its structure at a granular level, to understand it at a grand level, and all the spaces in between.

Then there's the additive property, like the \$5 bill and putting an afro on Abraham Lincoln (see *Afro Abe* on page 38), which is admittedly funny. But I like to unpack humor by saying, "Why is it funny for Abraham Lincoln to have an afro on him?" In part, it's funny because I'm collapsing 1864 with 1964. Maybe it's also funny because Abraham Lincoln didn't grow that kind of hair. But then you think, "Well, lots of African Americans don't grow the kind of hair that they don't." In fact, in this nation, we have to pass laws to say that it's okay to grow the hair that we grow and wear it naturally. The CROWN Act is literally saying, "The way your hair grows from your head, it's okay for you to let that happen as opposed to straightening it." That's what The CROWN Act is saying. Imagine if people who grow straight



Courtesy Sonya Clark

Afro Abe, 2008

hair were told that they had to perm their hair to have it be afros. You think it's funny because there's already this hierarchy of white is right and anything else is not. So, it's funny when Abraham Lincoln is wearing an afro, and it's not at all funny when Beyoncé—and I love Beyoncé, so this is no disrespect—has her hair long and blond. Nobody thinks, “Oh, that's hilarious what she's doing.” The other thing I like to say about that piece is that I've made 44 of those \$5 bills with the afro stitched on them, and not one of them sold for \$5, not anywhere close—so the value is the afro!

BG: You're holding in both hands the subjugation and the celebration of humanity at the same time. That is what your art does and why it's so resonant now and so important.

SC: When I think about the hate that is perpetrated in this nation, the virulence of it is the fear of losing the privileges that come with the formation of whiteness, as opposed to realizing that

literally nobody's free until everybody's free. There's a way in which people are trapped by their own privilege and it's hard to see that, because you just experience the privilege. And I walk with lots of privileges. I walk with class privilege, educational privilege, and so I'm always trying also to unpack that. How are my privileges undermining other people's freedoms? We can't just finger point; we also have to say, “If we're all in this together, then how can I do the work of turning the mirror on myself, so that I can make sure I'm doing my part to turn unfreedoms into freedoms?”

BG: Talk about the importance of literature and its influence on your work.

SC: I started a project called the Solidarity Book Project to acknowledge how much books have influenced my life and how they have shaped me. I ask other people to consider the books that have shaped their thinking around solidarity as well. Together, we're making a collaborative monument to solidarity made

of books (see *Solidarity Book Project* page 39). Books get sculpted with the iconic solidarity fist. And every time someone makes a book or dials in with their definition of solidarity, Amherst College sets aside money, anywhere from \$25 to \$100. They're setting aside up to \$100,000 to go to Black and indigenous communities, who could benefit from having greater access to books and book knowledge. It's artwork that can help change other people's lives, and I'm really honored that Amherst agreed to do that.

BG: What does *solidarity* mean to you?

SC: Solidarity is the lifeblood that holds communities together. I think about solidarity as something that is in flux but leaning toward the goal of making sure that all of us are cared for. If we're not all cared for, then really none of us are cared for. Solidarity is an ecosystem that requires all the parts to be in constant interaction with one another. I'm answering you with a metaphor, but that's the best I can do as an artist. ✨



Solidarity Book Project, 2021



Mom's Wisdom or Cotton Candy, 2011

Courtesy Sonya Clark



POWER TO THE STUDENTS

Liz Kleinrock '05 on creating an anti-racist classroom, tossing out standardized curricula, empowering kids, dismantling the model-minority myth, and purging capitalism-fueled grind culture.

Liz Kleinrock '05 spoke to Head of School Bryan Garman on a recent episode of *Lives That Speak*, the Sidwell Friends School podcast. An anti-bias and anti-racist educator and founder of Teach and Transform, Kleinrock is also a career classroom teacher, an AmeriCorps alum, a TED Talk speaker, and, as of May, the author of *Start Here, Start Now: A Guide to Antibias and Antiracist Work in Your School Community*. Here, she discusses why antibias work can't be scripted, how parents and teachers can create racial literacy, and why scarcity is a defining feature of white supremacy.

BRYAN GARMAN: What was your first teaching job?

LIZ KLEINROCK: I got my first teaching job through AmeriCorps. I moved to Oakland, California, right after graduating from Washington University in 2009—so peak recession. But teaching was something that was still hiring. I taught for two years with AmeriCorps—one year in West Oakland, one year in East Oakland, 1st and 2nd grade. I did in-school literacy intervention and taught an after-school literacy program, but I had my own self-contained class of kids who I saw every day throughout the year. And after that, I moved to Los Angeles and got my master's at UCLA's Teacher Education Program. I student-taught 5th grade in South LA. I got hired as a founding lead teacher at a charter school in East Hollywood, where I taught 1st through 4th grades for seven years. And now I'm back in DC. I'm teaching 6th grade English here. So, at this point, I've taught 1st through 6th in the past 12 years.

BG: Most young people leave teaching within the first five years. What got you to stay?

LK: Teaching was really challenging, but I was also really excited to come to work every single day. I had one desk job before starting to teach, and I was just so incredibly miserable sitting in a little

cubicle in front of a computer all day. With teaching, I love how social it is. I love that every day is different. To this day, I have not been able to find a creative outlet that fulfills me the same way that teaching does. Also, kids are just so much fun. They're hilarious, insightful, and so smart. There are so many things I loved about my schooling experience at Sidwell Friends that I was able to bring into my classes in Oakland. Even just things like read-alouds. As a kid, I loved being read to so much; that was such an amazing part of elementary school at Sidwell Friends. Library time was one of my favorites. Being able to introduce my favorite books to my students and see them fall in love with them, too—it is just really awesome and magical.

The idea that there's a Light in everybody is something we could all benefit from. So many students have come to me having accumulated so much internalized negativity and self-doubt, even kids in 2nd and 3rd grade, because they've heard so often from adults reprimanding them for things or telling them they can't do something or they're doing something wrong. Part of my practice in anti-biased work is flipping a lot of the descriptors that we use to identify students. Instead of saying, "English-language learner," why don't we think about students as "emerging bilinguals"? Viewing those languages as a gift instead of a detriment.

BG: What do teachers say is the biggest impediment to practicing anti-racist work in their classrooms?

LK: Fear is always the underlying cause—fear of your principal, fear of what parents and caregivers are going to say, fear of your own ignorance and not knowing where to start. A lot of teachers have difficulty relinquishing control in their classroom, too. But that's really necessary—to be able to let go and let students guide the conversation and their learning in order to make this work really authentic. Something I hear from teachers a lot is: "Where's the curriculum? Can you give me a curriculum? Can you give me a binder or a script?" And I will never be about that, because in terms of being culturally responsive to your students, this work is going to look different every year because your students change every year. I remind teachers that the second anything becomes standardized—if it's a test, if it's a curriculum—it's no longer responsive to your students. There's a lot of fear around students saying something problematic or asking a question and a teacher not knowing the answer. But there's a lot of power in telling a student, "I actually have no idea what the answer to that question is, but let me go look it up, or we can research it together." It creates this really authentic learning experience that also de-centers you as the so-called "expert in the room." We're all figuring this out together.

BG: How should parents talk to their kids about race?

LK: Being able to provide tools, strategies, and resources to make adults feel more comfortable talking with kids is really necessary. I tell parents, caregivers, teachers—you have to start with yourself. I ask parents to think about what they were taught about race when they were young, and what sorts of emotions or baggage might they be bringing into the conversation? A lot of adults today were brought up in an era of: “You don’t notice race. You don’t talk about it. You don’t point it out. It’s rude. So just pretend it’s not there.” And clearly that hasn’t gotten us anywhere productive. I know there are people out there who will say, “Well, if you talk about race, it’s just going to make people racist.” But if you’re going to try to cure cancer, you have to talk about cancer. You have to be able to talk about the problem in order to fix the problem.

An inquiry-based lens when working with your own children can be a really powerful entry point. You can say things like: “Hey, there have been a lot of protests going on in our country. I’m curious, have you heard about Black Lives Matter? Has anyone at school talked about it?” Just offer your kids an opportunity to share what they know and ask questions. Then locate different resources so you can continue learning together. When I work with the parents and caregivers of my own students, I tell them about what we’re doing in class. I even write guiding questions for them: “Hey, at dinner tonight, try asking your kid X, Y, or Z. This is what we talked about today.” It also shows that what we’re doing in school and at home is a partnership; it’s not learning that happens in isolation.

BG: What does creating an anti-racist classroom mean to you?

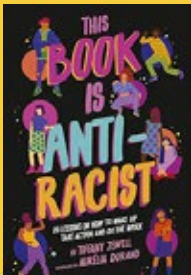
LK: I think first about making sure my students are racially literate. Do they actually know what race is? Do they

READ ALL ABOUT IT

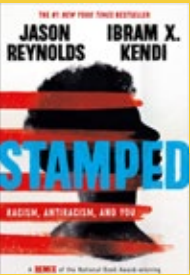
Looking for more resources for your anti-racist home or classroom? The Sidwell Friends Equity, Justice, and Community Resources page has dozens of books, articles, and websites that can help. Check it out at: bit.ly/SFSEJC. Below, Liz Kleinrock '05 shares a few of her favorite books—along, of course, with her own!



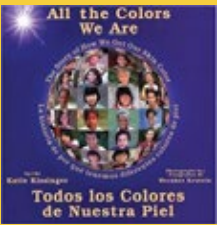
Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools
Glenn E. Singleton



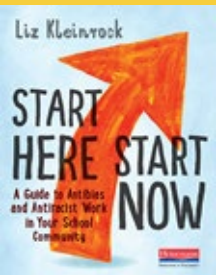
This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work
Tiffany Jewell and Aurélie Durand



Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You
Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi



All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color
Katie Kissinger



Start Here, Start Now: A Guide to Antiracism and Antiracist Work in Your School Community
Liz Kleinrock

know the difference between race and ethnicity? How much work have they done in their own racialized identity development? With young kids, it’s: Can you talk about what you look like and what other people look like with love and respect for each other? Can you talk about the reasons why people have different physical characteristics? We talk about why people have different skin color—because of the amount of melanin in our skin and the proximity our ancestors lived to the equator and who our own biological parents are. I want my students to know that concepts like race and gender are socially constructed.

It’s also important to focus on the ways race has been weaponized in order to harm people, looking at racist systems of oppression here in the United States and around the world. But we have to balance that out with the resilience that resulted from having to deal with injustice and oppression. When I think of an anti-racist classroom, I don’t think about a classroom that just talks about Jim Crow and enslavement and anti-Asian immigration laws. We should balance that with joy, power, and resilience. It’s also really important to hold onto the notion that being anti-racist is rooted in action. So, once you have this information, once you’ve developed this knowledge and understanding, what matters is what you go out into the world and do with it. What does it mean to align yourself with people who have been historically marginalized? How do you think about your own privilege and what you’re willing to give up in order to create more inclusive and equitable spaces for everybody? This is where kids get the most excited. They don’t want to just talk; they don’t want to just read—they want to do; they want to act.

BG: Talk about your recent participation in a Smithsonian event about the model-minority stereotype.

LK: We have to accept that there’s a lot of ignorance around Asian American history. If you’re a product of U.S. education,

chances are you did not really learn anything about Asian American history beyond maybe Chinese laborers building the transcontinental railroad or maybe the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. The stereotype that’s called the “model-minority myth” seems like a good thing but is actually incredibly harmful. A lot of folks don’t know that there’s a specific starting point, an origin story, to the model-minority myth. It was coined in 1966 by William Peterson, a sociologist at UC Berkeley. His work was popularized when he compared the so-called success of Japanese-Americans with African Americans in the United States. It solidified this prevailing stereotype that Asians are industrious, rule-abiding, quiet, hard workers. He took Asian people as this monolithic group, stuck them next to Black folks in the United States, and basically said: “Look how successful they are. Black folks, why can’t you just excel the way Asians do?”

It drives this wedge between the Asian American and the Black community, and perpetuates an enormous amount of anti-Blackness. I’ve also seen far too many Asian Americans internalize this model-minority myth themselves. A lot of the work I do with Asian American communities is identifying that stereotype and dismantling it through education, interracial solidarity, and community building. The myth views the Asian American community as this monolithic group, when there are dozens of different countries within Asia.

“
INSTEAD OF SAYING, ‘ENGLISH-LANGUAGE LEARNER,’ WHY DON’T WE THINK ABOUT STUDENTS AS ‘EMERGING BILINGUALS’?
”

And data, when we’re talking about different racialized groups, is almost never disaggregated. It might look like Asians are performing better than other communities of color in the United States, but when you break it down, the disparities are enormous. The average income for someone who is Taiwanese-American versus Laotian-American or from Myanmar or Butan, it’s enormous. And we don’t see that struggle. We don’t see what different Asian American groups have been faced with or what they’ve had to overcome. Ultimately, the model-minority myth perpetuates the idea that there’s only so much liberation or justice to go around. This scarcity is a defining feature of white-supremacist culture. It causes communities of color to spend more time fighting each other, rather than coming together to try to dismantle white supremacy.

BG: What should not go back to normal when we return to our classrooms in the fall?

LK: I would love for people to hold onto is this idea of giving each other a lot of grace and compassion. It’s so important to just allow people the space to breathe. We live in this very capitalism-fueled grind culture, where we think that if we’re not constantly producing something every minute of the day, then who are we and what are we worth? But we’re so much more than that. I hope people can still remember those things as we begin to open up again. ✨

Peter Rice teaches a 6th grade class in the 1940s. Rice's grandson returned to campus decades later to teach 4th graders about the Chesapeake Bay.



Dear Friends,

Having closed out the 2020/21 academic year and enthusiastically welcomed summer, I hope this finds each of you in good health and with renewed optimism. As more opportunities to safely gather with loved ones take place, we look forward to welcoming alumni and friends to join us on campus in the near future with open arms.

If there is anything we have learned during this tumultuous time, the opportunities we have to be in community together—however and wherever we can—are compelling and essential. Despite needing to rely on virtual versions of gatherings large and small for over a year, we have found over and over that our relationships to one another and to Sidwell Friends remain strong and that new opportunities for connection can grow. It is with this in mind that we look forward to finding innovative and thoughtful ways to maintain aspects of the virtual engagements we've created over the last year, to complement and enhance the in-person events that so many of us have come to know and love. Whether you live down the street or halfway around the globe, we hope that many of you will return to Wisconsin Avenue very soon. But regardless of how often you come to campus or attend an in-person event locally, we look forward to offering opportunities to connect with each other and the School virtually and in a variety of other ways.

I would be remiss without including a thank you to the incredible faculty and staff at Sidwell Friends who have navigated an unprecedented year and remained committed to the students, to each other, and to the value of a Quaker education. Each and every employee, no matter their role, has been critical to the continued success of the School. We are deeply grateful for all that they have done and continue to do.

In this issue of the *Sidwell Friends Magazine*, there is much to savor and to learn from; from profiles of beloved retiring faculty members (see “Fond Farewells,” page 20), to this year’s incredible Zeidman Lecture with the inimitable Professor Erika Lee (see “Asian Americans and America,” page 30), along with highlights of some uncommonly special alumni: our five 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients (see “Friends in High Places,” page 48), and the most recent *Lives That Speak* guests, Sonya Clark '85 (see “Phantom Thread,” page 34) and Liz Kleinrock '05 (see “Power to the Students,” page 40). I hope you enjoy every page.

I wish each of you a wonderful summer and look forward to new opportunities to connect with you next year.

In friendship,

Marika Cutler Meyer '94

Clerk, Friends Alumni Network Advisory Board

ALUMNI ACTION

Conversation Starters

Bob Woodward (P '94, '15), Mei Xu (P '19, '21), and Adama Konteh Hamadi '04 on truth, business, and clarity.

BY SACHA ZIMMERMAN

Throughout the year, Sidwell Friends hosts Conversation with Friends events to connect community members and have meaningful discussions about everything from current events, history, art, and science to professional advice, volunteerism, and personal expertise. Recently, the School hosted conversations with Sidwell Friends parent authors and an alum. Below is just a sample from each. sidwell.edu/conversationwithfriends

PHONE A FRIEND

Bob Woodward (P'94, '15) on his surprising and contentious relationship with Donald Trump and the lessons of Watergate.

After calling Donald Trump's White House a "nervous breakdown of a presidency," *The Washington Post's* **Bob Woodward (P'94, '15)** found himself on the 45th president's bad side. And yet, after denouncing Woodward publicly, Trump soon began a telephone relationship with the renowned journalist—one that led to an uncommon amount of access. Trump, Woodward said, "called the house over and over and over again." And at all hours. Soon Woodward and his wife, journalist and author **Elsa Walsh (P'94, '15)**, had "recorders all over the house—by the bed, in the office." Altogether, Woodward had 10 hours of interviews with the most controversial president since Richard Nixon. For the man who had written *All the President's Men*, Walsh noted, Woodward had "come full circle."

"Have we forgotten the lessons of Nixon?" Walsh asked Woodward, who, along with Carl Bernstein, had helped to bring down that presidency. Woodward immediately said yes. "What was potent about Watergate is that it showed who

Nixon was," he said. "What turned the party against Nixon was character. It was all the lies, deceit, and hate. Nixon was a professional hater."

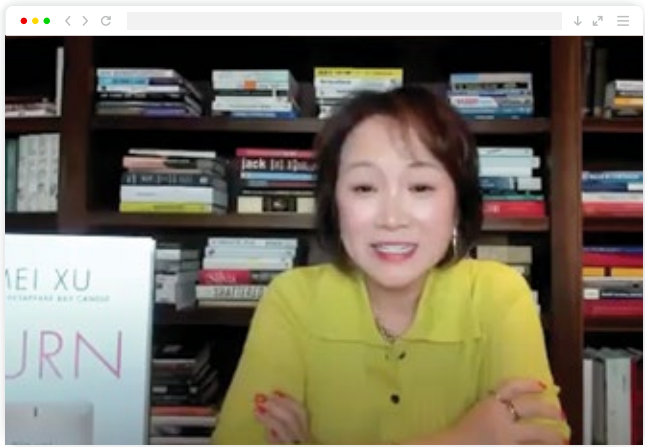
Trump, he added, was not much different in that regard. Woodward said that by Trump's own definition of a successful presidency—to protect the American people—he had "failed miserably." After all, Trump's national security advisor warned the president in early February that the coronavirus will be "the greatest threat to national security during your presidency." And yet, Trump downplayed the nature of the pandemic. "He had the biggest microphone in the world," Woodward said, "and he failed to use it correctly." He contrasted Trump's capriciousness with Franklin Delano Roosevelt, whose fireside chats beseeched Americans for their fortitude at a time when "our survival as a nation is in doubt."

To learn more about why Trump—without even telling White House staffers—opened up to Woodward, watch the full video. You'll also learn why George H.W. Bush wrote Woodward a scathing letter, why George W. Bush did just about the opposite, why Defense Secretary James Mattis channeled Abraham Lincoln, what advice famed Post owner Katharine Graham gave him ("Beware the affliction of pomposity"), and why Gerald Ford was the most moral president. bit.ly/CWFwoodward.

THE FIRE WITHIN

Mei Xu (P '19, '21) on innovation and the bamboo ceiling.

One of the symptoms and lasting effects of COVID-19 is the loss of the sense of smell—an especially meaningful factor in memory, which is triggered by scent. It is a detail that was not lost on **Mei Xu (P '19, '21)**, the founder and CEO of the Chesapeake Candle Company. "Scent is intimately connected to memory," she said during a Conversation with Friends event



with **Lesli Foster Mathewson (P '24)**. Which is why Xu—the author of the new memoir, *Burn: How Grit, Innovation, and a Dash of Luck Ignited a Multi-Million Dollar Success Story*—was not surprised to see candle sales spike over the last year despite COVID's effect on sensory experiences. People in lockdown, she said, "want to experience those memories of places and people and scents they can't access from home."

Thanks to strong language skills, Xu trained to be a diplomat in China from the age of 12. But it was when living in New York City—next to Bloomingdale's—as an adult that she found her calling. "The fashion was so crisp and minimalist," she recalled. "But the home section was so dated and grandmotherly." Xu saw room for candles in that space—specifically environmental fragrances, which was a new concept in the 1990s.

The Chesapeake Candle Company thus came about not because she grew up in the Chesapeake Bay region, but because she was inspired by it. "In China, I never saw a tree that wasn't planted, everything was so manicured and intentional," she said. But on the bay, she discovered, "nature in the wild, sailing, water—it's just ideal." She captured that ambience with scents like Cottage Bay, which includes notes of wood and fresh linen. She explored moods, learning for example that citrus is the smell of happiness, and created a line of aromatherapeutic fragrances.

But Xu's success was hard won. An immigrant, a woman, and Asian, Xu had to persevere over stereotypes and ignorance—what she calls the "bamboo ceiling." And it isn't just Xu's theory: A Harvard Business School study found that, among minorities, Asians were least likely to be promoted. It's a kind of paradox—despite excellence in education and successful careers, many Asians find themselves locked out of the c-suite. It's why Xu makes the business case for Asians in corporate America: In a globalized world with a roaring Asian market, U.S. companies can't afford to lose out on this huge pool of talent bit.ly/CWFmeixu

CALLING ALL SUPERWOMEN

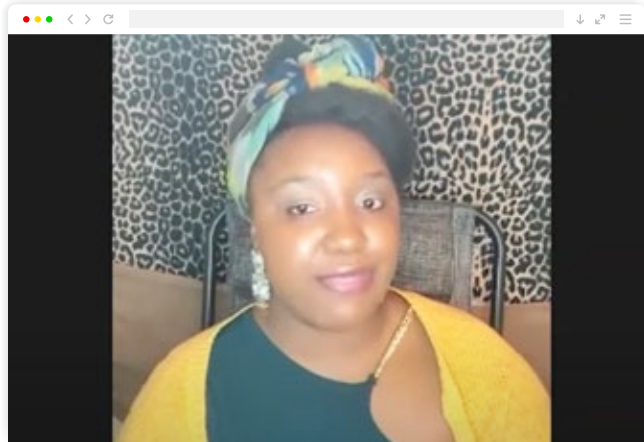
Adama Konteh Hamadi '04 on how to put away the cape, live intentionally, and find purpose in chaotic times.

Are you a "high-octane, high-performing, visionary" woman looking to make a significant leap career-wise? Has your inner critic been even more active during COVID times, when you find yourself struggling to perform to the high standards to which you typically hold yourself? Do you find it hard to set and maintain boundaries between work and home life, with work getting a disproportionate amount of your time and effort? If so, **Adama Konteh Hamadi '04** has some advice for you.

During a Conversation with Friends with classmate **Helen Li '04**, Hamadi, a clarity coach and life design specialist at dreamleaplive.com, discussed the "invisible scripts" women write for themselves. "Everything we want in life only requires two things: a willingness to see things differently and a willingness to have uncomfortable conversations," Hamadi said. "Once you're willing to see things differently, once you're willing to entertain that this may not be the only possibility for you, then you can start having hard conversations."

Of course, that can feel easier said than done, especially when individuals with intersecting and marginalized identities have inequitable access to power in the workplace. Power and privilege are themes that Hamadi explores with her clients, many of whom are Black women. Supervisors, mentors, and colleagues can be crucial allies to professionals from marginalized groups by cultivating safe spaces. The first step? Acknowledging that privilege exists.

Hamadi also shared practical tips for those hoping to start reclaiming time, sanity, or purpose. Ready to combat imposter syndrome? Remind yourself of how others see you by examining why colleagues, clients, and friends praise you or regularly turn to you for advice. "That's your superpower," Hamadi said. bit.ly/CWFhamadi



Friends in High Places

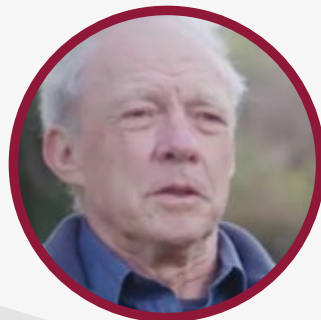
The 2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards honor accomplishments in science, religion, mental health, climate, and medicine.

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 6 and 1 during Reunion Weekend each year. After receiving all nominations, the Friends Alumni Network Executive Board then meets and determines the final recipients.

THE PHYSICIST

John “Jack” Gunion ’61

Integral to the discovery of the Higgs boson particle



Jack Gunion is a distinguished professor emeritus in physics at the University of California, Davis, where he has worked since 1975. Gunion received his undergraduate degree in physics from Cornell University in 1965 and his Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego, in 1970, followed by postdoctoral fellowships at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During his tenure at UC Davis, Gunion led the U.S. Department of Energy’s High Energy Theory Group and created the High Energy Frontier Theory Initiative, which engages in research of supersymmetry, supergravity, quantum gravity, general relativity, extra space-time dimensions, particle dark matter, phenomenological implications of string theory, and more. With Howard Haber, Gordon Kane, and Sally Dawson, he co-wrote the seminal *Higgs Hunters Guide* (Westview Press) on Higgs boson theories, signals, and search techniques. As a result of his work establishing the importance of the two-photon and four-lepton search modes for detecting a Standard Model Higgs boson and the detector properties needed to exploit them, Gunion was made a member of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) collaboration and was a co-author on the CMS Higgs discovery paper. His current research examines theories of extended Higgs boson sectors and supersymmetry with special focus on the prospects for observing the predicted new particles at the LHC and future colliders. He has earned many honors and distinctions, including winning the 2017 J.J. Sakurai Prize for Theoretical Particle Physics. The prize citation noted that he and his three co-honorees played a role in “one of the biggest scientific achievements of the past 50 years” for their work in detecting the Higgs boson particle.

THE PREACHER

Cheryl Sanders ’71

Professor at Howard University and senior pastor of the Third Street Church of God



Cheryl J. Sanders, Th.D., is professor of Christian Ethics at the Howard University School of Divinity where she teaches courses in Christian ethics, pastoral ethics, and African American spirituality. Her key areas of research and writing are African American religious studies, bioethics, pastoral leadership, and womanist studies. Sanders has been senior pastor of the Third Street Church of God in Washington, DC, since 1997 and has ministered nationally and internationally for more than 30 years. In 2005, she was honored as one of the elders in the fall volume of *The African American Pulpit: Those Preaching Women*. She has published more than 100 articles and four books: *Ministry at the Margins* (InterVarsity Press, 1997); *Saints in Exile: The Holiness-Pentecostal Experience in African American Religion and Culture* (Oxford, 1996); *Empowerment Ethics for a Liberated People* (Fortress, 1995); and *Living the Intersection* (Fortress, 1995). From 2000 to 2007, she was a contributing guest editor for *Leadership*, a journal for pastors. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College and Harvard Divinity School and has been awarded two honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees. During Sanders’s time at Third Street Church of God, she has led the expansion of its outreach programs to the poor and homeless, and its urban outreach with community involvement.

THE ADVOCATE

Caryn Curry ’76

Supports the mental health of children and teens dealing with trauma



Caryn Curry ’76, a social worker and mental health consultant at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago’s Center for Childhood Resilience, has devoted her life to working with children and teens to overcome obstacles. Curry studied psychology and social relations at Harvard University, received a master’s in clinical practice from the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago, and then earned certificates in social and emotional intelligence for leadership and coaching from the Wright Graduate University for the Realization of Human Potential. Curry’s work has included clinical practice, program development, and management in hospital, residential, community, and educational settings. Curry builds the capacity of schools and other organizations to create informed and healing systems and practices. Her work emphasizes the importance of adults building their social and emotional capacity to effectively educate and guide children toward success and well-being. Curry’s work develops character and leadership skills and promotes inclusion among those with invisible wounds, bringing them back to productive and fulfilling lives in community.

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

Braden Kay ’01

Founder and director of the Office of Sustainability in Tempe, Arizona



Braden Kay is the founder and director of the Office of Sustainability in the city of Tempe, Arizona, where he developed the city’s first Climate Action Plan. He sits on the Planning Advisory Committee for the Urban Sustainability Directors Network and the Steering Committee for the Sustainable Cities Network. For the city of Tempe, Kay leads initiatives that actively engage both municipal leaders and community organizations to combat the climate crisis. Kay is also the senior sustainability fellow at the Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation at Arizona State University, where he earned his Ph.D. In 2019, Kay won both an Outstanding Alumnus Award from ASU and the Gabe Zimmerman Public Service Award for Emerging Leadership in Arizona. Kay then secured a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to pilot a program called Cool Kids, which empowers teenagers of color in Tempe to engage in cooling projects that inspire a sustainable culture change; the program also works with indigenous leaders to support decolonization and eradication of structural racism. Prior to his work in Tempe, Kay was the sustainability project manager for the city of Orlando, Florida, where he led sustainability implementation in waste diversion, urban forestry, and urban agriculture programs. An avid urban gardener, Kay spearheaded the growth of an urban farm in downtown Phoenix that is now a bustling center of community development.

THE PHYSICIAN

Amanda Derryck Castel ’91

Professor of epidemiology and specialist on the impact of HIV/AIDS on the Washington, DC community



Amanda Castel is a tenured professor in the Department of Epidemiology at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. She previously co-directed GWU’s Master of Science in Public Health Microbiology and Emerging Infectious Diseases. Castel’s research focuses primarily on HIV and related infectious diseases. She has worked internationally on HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment as a Fulbright fellow, a USAID consultant, and through a GWU partnership with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. Castel’s expertise in applied public health and surveillance stems from her training as a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) officer at the Maryland Department of Health and as a CDC preventive medicine resident at the National Center for Health Statistics. She also served as the chief epidemiologist on a public health academic partnership between the DC Department of Health

HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, TB Administration and GWU. Castel is a recognized expert in HIV surveillance, the HIV care continuum, and has contributed to the National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2020 updates, as well as served on the National Institutes of Health AIDS Research Advisory Council. Castel received her undergraduate degree from Brown University, her medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania, her master’s of public health (international health) from Johns Hopkins University, completed her pediatric residency at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and EIS and preventive medicine residency at the CDC. She is a volunteer physician at Children’s National Medical Center Special Immunology Clinic and the DC Department of Health’s Health and Wellness Center. Castel currently serves on the Medical Advisory Team for Sidwell Friends.

Brittany Chase Memorial Fund

From 2015-2021, Brittany Chase was a pillar in the Sidwell Friends community, supporting and welcoming students, faculty, staff, and families. Brittany died on January 30, 2021, and now, parents and students have come together to establish an endowment to honor her significant contributions to the School.



The **Brittany Chase Memorial Fund** will provide an enduring commitment to the hallmark of Brittany's leadership, ensuring that all Sidwell Friends students are valued, respected, and honored. Each year, a committee of students, parents, and faculty will designate funds towards activities that best promote a culture of inclusivity and respect. These include:

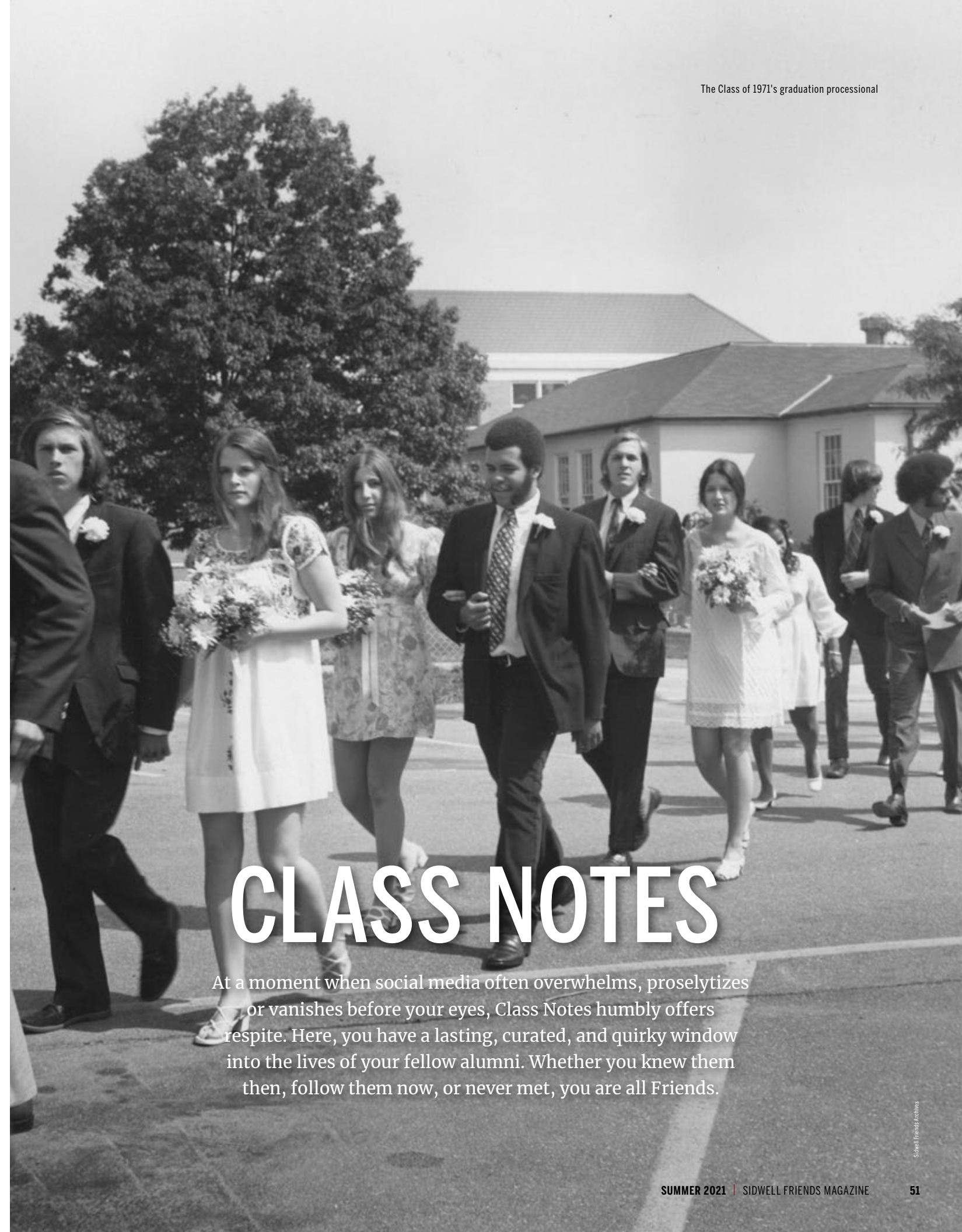
- A **speaker series** that will inspire students and the broader Sidwell Friends community to take action towards racial equity, anti-bias, inclusion, and anti-racism; and
- **Support for the Black Student Union and Black Girls Society**, including on-campus or off-campus educational activities aligned with the mission and purpose of these programs.

Your gift to the Brittany Chase Memorial Fund will continue her legacy and enable students to actively contribute to equitable and just communities—at Sidwell Friends and beyond.

sidwell.edu/brittany

For assistance, please contact: **Tara Arras**, assistant head of school for advancement, arrast@sidwell.edu.

The Class of 1971's graduation processional



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.

1943

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

In Memoriam:

Virginia Wilson Simons '43
April 21, 2021

1947

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

In Memoriam:

Margo Griffith Earley '47
February 5, 2021

Claude Charles Noyes '47
April 23, 2021

1948

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

In Memoriam:

George Gowen '48
March 14, 2021

1949

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

In Memoriam:

Kathaleen Fishback Hempstone '49
February 20, 2021

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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



LEFT Sally Brody '50 RIGHT One of the pandemic paintings Sally Brody '50 made this year

1950

TOBY RILEY
tobyirileyq@gmail.com

TOBY RILEY missed his favorite pastime of yard-sale-ing all last summer due to the pandemic. He just had a full family reunion for his youngest granddaughter Jessica's 15th birthday. He has owned motor scooters continuously since getting his first Lambretta at age 17, while working for Sidwell Friends's summer tennis courts. He has been living at the Quaker retirement community Medford Leas, New Jersey, for 23 years, while attending meetings in George Fox's Mt. Holly, New Jersey, Quaker Meeting-house, built in 1775.

ANN TYLER FATHY: "I survived the year of pandemic by self-isolating in my one-bedroom condo in downtown San Diego. I was helped by Amazon, including receiving all the food and wine I needed delivered to my doorstep by Whole Foods. I changed my exercise habits from outdoors to indoors, where I now have an elliptical machine and a stationary bicycle. I've recently begun to meet friends for lunch at the many outdoor restaurants in my neighborhood. I look forward to a pandemic-free future."

CHUCK BROWN: "Kitty and I are still living at Trilogy at Vistancia, a 55-plus community northwest of Phoenix. I am still the captain of our bocce ball team, "Andiamo." We won our league for three consecutive bocce fall and spring sessions until it was all shut down for COVID. Last year was miserable with few, if any, activities."

SALLY ROSENTHAL BRODY: "I spent a lot of time during the pandemic painting. I am about to have an exhibition of my pandemic painting at the Atlantic Gallery in Chelsea, New York." (See photos above.)

WALLY CHRISTMAS: "I have been limiting my activities due to COVID-19 like everyone else. I survived the last 14 months with a lady-friend watching MSNBC and *Masterpiece Theater*. Fortunately, nobody close to me picked up the infection."

In Memoriam:

Lalla Pearson Hays '50
January 29, 2021

Alison Griffith Tennyson '50
April 9, 2021

Ann Parker Parks '50
February 27, 2021

1952

CAROL BLACK
carblack@comcast.net

FROM THE CLASS REP:

The 70th anniversary of our graduation from Sidwell Friends School is next June 2022. It seems a good moment to let each other know how we are and what we are doing. We are trying to keep up with everybody because Sidwell Friends was such an important part of our lives. Please jot down some of your memories and send them to both of us. Also, send any news from other classmates. Many thanks!

JANE KUSHNER SCHISGALL PAPISH: "My wonderful husband, Irv, died five years ago. I live now in New York City near my kids. I am healthy, do lots in the city, riding my three-wheel bike all over. I have become fearless. I wonder how many others remember library in the Quonset hut, typing in Mrs. Legrand's living room, and theater in the gym. Give me a call: 240-441-5155. I'd love to see you!"

1953

GLORIA GIRTON
ggat58b@orange.fr

GLORIA GIRTON: "France has been back and forth with its COVID restrictions—probably a more political than sanitary approach. I have been playing my piano more and more, and cooking for friends, since restaurants have been closed since October in the second shutdown. I hope to start traveling again in the fall. I did not make it to Italy last year with the pandemic. The French are very anti-vaccine; many well-educated, cultivated people believe that the COVID virus and vaccination campaign are both a government plot to control us—and this long before the U.S. conspiracists exported their ideas to France. Apparently, the French are the most anti-vaccine people in the world. Certainly, for a nation that prides itself on its cuisine and loves to eat out, the closure of restaurants has dampened its spirits."

HANK HOLMES: "As the COVID restrictions have eased up, I've started playing the piano again at the Kaiser Hospital as a volunteer. It seems to have a cheery effect on the staff as well as the patients."

GEORGE SATTERTHWAITE: "I am enjoying retirement from a 35-year military career yet remain very involved in volunteer activities, such as Sons of the American Revolution, Sidwell Friends alumni, and Wreaths Across America for the past 12 years. My four children are doing exceedingly well, now with 11 grandchildren and one more on the way. Three of the grandchildren are married with one

great grandchild so far. Very satisfied with my life and the family I have as I survey it from the top of the mountain. Thanks in part to what I gained from the many experiences at Sidwell Friends and the dedicated faculty and staff. Go Quakers." (See photo below.)



George Satterthwaite '53 with his 11th grandchild, Colette, while celebrating his 86th birthday

1954

RICHARD NICKLAS
rnicklas@mfa.gwu.edu

ROLAND HABICHT: "I retired from Sarasota County in 2018 after 22 years (my third career after 30 years in the Navy and nine years as project manager for a small engineering firm.) My wife of 58 years passed in 2017 and is greatly missed. I have three grown children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. I am enjoying retirement in sunny Sarasota, Florida, and pass the time with volunteer work and learning how to fly RC airplanes."

1955

NANCY ABOLIN HARDIN
nahardin@aol.com

KAMALA LOCHENA GUNARATNA: "The 14-member group I chaired for the global apex body for science academies, the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP),

to prepare a policy statement on Third World Urbanization was finally completed in May. Broadly stated, we recommended planned urbanization as opposed to reliance on market forces and/or ad hoc planning."

WARREN OLNEY: "Susan's and my oldest daughter, Jennifer, has retired (!) from TV news in San Francisco with a room full of Emmys, while her sister, Lise Olney Fulham, has led the Wellesley Hills Town Council to a series of ambitious climate goals, including net zero by 2040. My wife, Marsha Temple, has provided housing, healthcare, and jobs for hundreds of otherwise homeless people in Los Angeles. I'm hosting a six-part podcast series on climate change in SoCal and, occasionally, Zoom events for *America at a Crossroads*, produced by Jews United for Democracy and Justice. My most recent victim was Fareed Zacharia."

ANN WINKELMAN BROWN: "Coming out as we all are during this miserable time of COVID, I'm staying busy playing bridge online, and I have become a Life Master! I even met my new partner, Dr. Ted Poritz, playing bridge. My mother in heaven is saying, 'Finally: a Jewish doctor after 60 years!' I am helping the community through my role on the board at the Lord's Place, as well as raising money to support El Sol, both in Florida. I continue to support the Don and Ann Brown Theatre by being an active board member with Palm Beach Dramaworks. My support for Sidwell Friends has been through the Ethical Leadership Program Fund, which specifically helps programs in the Lower School. I was very saddened by **Dale Rogers Marshall's** death and will remember her fondly."

In Memoriam:

Virginia Fletcher Atwood '55
May 6, 2021

1956

CHARLIE HOLLAND
sshrink9@gmail.com

ELIZABETH KELLEY: “The definition of major life events has certainly changed at this stage of my life! In brief, I am still happily living with my older daughter, son-in-law, and 9-year-old grandson, Otis, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I am hoping many of Brood X will emerge this far north! My younger daughter and family (kids Faith, 16, and Joshua, 15) live about 15 miles east, and, sadly, I have seen very little of them due to the pandemic. Fortunately, I’m still able to gather with groups of friends via Zoom. I am thankful to be in good health as far as major issues are concerned, and I am working on becoming more patient with all the nuisance-level ones. Best wishes to all of you!”

KAI RASMUSSEN: “Still working full time at Intelsat in Tysons Corner. Living in McLean, Virginia, with Susan. At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, we bought a small place in St. Michaels on the Eastern Shore. Great for stress relief. Plan to finally retire at the end of this year.”



Mary Ellen Spector Druyan '56 and John Podliska

MARY ELLEN SPECTOR DRUYAN: “Greetings from Chicagoland, where I’ve been working onsite through the pandemic. What a godsend to have been functioning constructively (as quality assurance manager for a food company) without being shut in for months. With the warmer weather, John Podliska (significant other) and I have been week-ending at our cottage in the Michigan dunes. (See photo on left.) We hope to see grandkids (who live in Seattle and the San Francisco area) sometime in

2021 now that everything is opening up. The COVID-related restrictions put dampers on two of my usual activities: community theater and choir. Zoom can get you only so far. Here’s to making the remaining months of 2021 and beyond healthy and happy.”

DAVID BRADFORD: “I’ve just published my eighth book, *Connect: Building Exceptional Relationships with Family, Friends and Colleagues*, with Carole Robin and published by Random House. This is based on the most popular elective at Stanford’s Graduate School of Business, ‘Interpersonal Dynamics’ (that students call “touchy feely”). The book has been out only three months and is in its second printing.”

1957

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

EARLE WESLEY RICHARDSON: “Sealed (married, sealed for all time and all eternity) in the Oquirrh Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to Janet Bush (relative of presidents ’41 and ’43). Employment: mathematics/software engineering, IBM; U.S. Air Force Minuteman; U.S. Navy, deep-submergence; Naval Research Laboratory, extra low frequency communicates with boomers, Manned Orbital Laboratory (International Space Station); NASA-Houston, *Gemini-Apollo* manned spaceflights. Moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, 1968: Advanced Planning Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Later, a lot of database software engineering before moving into sales and marketing management. Janet and I have four children, each by previous marriages. Oldest daughter an attorney, middle daughter lives north of Salt Lake City, son retired Air Force, and youngest daughter married a doctor. Janet has two sons in Salt Lake City and two married daughters in McKinney, Texas. Semi-retired to Washington, Utah. If there are any alumni who are looking for more meaning and value in this life and in the life to come, I invite you to contact the Mormon missionaries,

and they will show you the way to eternal life and exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom of our Heavenly Father. God Bless You, everyone.”

1958

CRAIG MORGAN
craigmorgan@gmail.com

FROM THE CLASS REP:

Peggy Pabst Battin, amid a discussion about recent mass shootings, revealed that in her career as a medical ethicist, she has come up with various whimsical thought experiments. Among them is: “Thought Experiment #8. How to Solve the Drugs Problem and the Guns Problem at the Same Time: Provide safe spaces (call them modern-day opium dens) where drug users can use their drugs of choice with adequate medical supervision, and maybe even for free—provided they remain in the den as long as they are under the influence and provided they bring their guns. They must bring at least one gun each time and leave them behind.”

On the web, **Ted Mascott** found a copy of the 1957 Yearbook and emailed to the rest of the class a picture of the School cheerleaders forming a pyramid: **Debby Barger Hanrahan ’57, Antoinette Chautemps Samuels, Samayla Dodek Deutch ’57, Ann McIntire Cockrell, Carolyn Mulliken Dubuque ’59, Susan Richards Shreve ’57, Mary Elizabeth Wahrenbrock Hoinkes, and Carol Wood Sheehan**. This triggered a discussion of the cheerleaders from all our years, how they inspired us, which of us had a crush on which, and who they eventually married.

This past March we lost **Adam Mott**. He was such a humble, adventurous, service-oriented guy. He served in the Air Force (including a tour in Vietnam), eventually retiring with the rank of major. He served in the Maryland Air National Guard for 14 years; worked as VP at McIntire Hardware for 13 years (until it was sold); owned and ran a restaurant in Emmitsburg, Maryland, for seven tough years; and helped to manage

a lumber yard in Middletown, Maryland. He then retired with his wife, **Josephine McIntire Mott ’61**, to a beautiful cabin in Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee. But he could not stay retired, so he then went to work 12 more years as a highly valued auxiliary officer for the Sweetwater, Tennessee, Police Department. This was the job he said he enjoyed most of all. Shall we say he gets the Class of 1958 Varied Experience Award? At each stage he made lifelong friends, and wherever he went showed great generosity. In addition to Josie, he is survived by two kids and six grandkids.

TONY ROGERS: “The second Judge Randall Mystery is now available on Amazon. The title is *Judge Randall Has Doubts*, and the story is: Retired Judge Jim Randall is approached in The Long Gone coffee shop by the wife of a man he sentenced to life for murder 20 years ago. She implores Jim to support her husband’s petition for parole, which he tells her he cannot do, but the case was Jim’s first murder trial as a judge, and curiosity gets the better of him. Given the amount of time that has passed, it is a hard case to unravel, but even harder for Jim is admitting he may have been wrong.”

JOAN FRIEDMAN SEYMOUR: “I want to announce my emergence from COVID isolation (after two injections of Pfizer vax) and finally becoming an octogenarian (April 15). Big change in my lifestyle and location: I’ve moved from Cary, North Carolina (where my older daughter had been living but she has just relocated to Austin, Texas) to Southbury, Connecticut, to be near my younger daughter and her family. My move was originally set for last September, but my apartment in a new complex under construction burned to the ground. So,



Joan Friedman Seymour '58 with Mousse

we invoked Plan B: building an addition onto my daughter’s house. It will give me and Mousse, my very spoiled poodle, our own space (keeping Mousse from triggering my son-in-law’s allergies). (See photo below.) For the next two months, I am living in an Airbnb about five minutes away and getting acquainted with local services and shops. Come see me after mid-June at: 106 Kettletown Woods Road, Southbury, Connecticut.”

STEVE STOVALL remembers **Adam Mott**: “My first memory of Adam is how he befriended me in September 1950, my first year at Sidwell Friends. He took me under his wing to make me feel at home. In high school, we played soccer for four years. He was a stalwart on defense as we played through the muck and mire of winter. The last time I saw him was summer 1962, when he and Josie wedded, and he started his Air Force career. His dad (then Naval judge advocate general) pinned second lieutenant bars on his uniform. Adam sent me the picture. All that said, the most beautiful part of our friendship began within the last 10 years when we began communicating via text. We shared and commiserated about how we were dealing with the vicissitudes of aging. We eventually were texting first thing in morning and last thing in the evening every day. It’s hard to find the appropriate words to describe how meaningful those exchanges were. We were as close friends recently as much as at Sidwell Friends—treasured and loyal from 1950 to 2021. He cared so very much about others. Not a day goes by that I don’t think about him.”

Chett Breed ’62 regrets announcing the death of his brother **Larry Breed** due to complications associated with age and dementia. He passed quietly with the companionship of his wife, Beverly Radin, and with the recent visits and continuing love of his brother and sister, Chett and Cindy, and their spouses.

In Memoriam:

Adam Mott ’58
March 14, 2021

Lawrence Breed ’58
May 16, 2021

1959

CLARK GRIFFITH
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ELIZABETH FLETCHER CROOK spent much of the pandemic year working on a compilation of emails she wrote to friends and family between 2004 and 2010, while she was on contract with the U.S. government to train officials in foreign countries on the techniques of intelligence analysis. These countries included Afghanistan, where the U.S. training center was hit by a mortar attack while she was on duty there, and Libya just before the ouster of Gaddafi. “Since this record is meant mainly for my 24 grandchildren, I am thinking of titling it *Grandma was a Spy!* Do you think that will capture their interest?”

From Clark: It certainly captures my interest, thanks. By the way, our other spy tells me he refuses to use a computer with either a microphone or a camera attached.

KATHLEEN STASSEN BERGER: “Big year for me and publishing textbooks: The first edition of *A Topical Approach to the Developing Person Across the Life Span* and the 12th edition of *The Developing Person Through Childhood and Adolescence*. If any Sidwell Friends alums are college professors using my texts, I would love to receive some cogent feedback.”

Thanks Keen, I may need to look at the newest book.

MARTIN MYERS: “My book *Immunization Information: The Benefits and Risks* will be published in October. This is my attempt to address the many questions people have about vaccines.”

That’s very timely, Martin. I love our discussions on Zoom. “To mask or not to mask?”—is that the question?

SUZIE KROEGER: “Keith and I spent a long weekend in Washington in May for our granddaughter’s graduation from Georgetown. It included the actual graduation at Nationals Park, a ball at the International Spy Museum, a graduate/parent/grandparent dinner at a downtown restaurant, Aperol spritzes in our granddaughter’s garden at the house on

35th Street (the very steep block) she has been renting this year with four classmates, and general frivolity. Keith and I hope to work in a visit to Dumbarton Oaks' newly renovated gardens and to the Phillips Collection. Thinking of our happy years at Sidwell Friends when Washington was our oyster and the Wisconsin Avenue trolley car clanged its way slowly along through Georgetown. We stayed at the Marriott Le Méridien across the Key Bridge."

Thanks, Susie—and thanks for telling me what an Aperol spritzer is.

BERNHARD GLAESER in Berlin has a view of German politics. In answer to a question from **Dave Woolpert**: "It will be difficult for anyone to follow Angela Merkel's footsteps. The Green Party success is partly due to the weakness of the (conservative) Christian Democrats (Merkel's party) and the Social Democrats (Germany's oldest party, founded way before World War I, and in many details, comparable to the U.S. Democrats). The relatively young woman (Annalena Baerbock) is not only good looking. She is smart and called by some 'the new Merkel.' She has one disadvantage, however. She has never held any substantial office, neither on a federal nor state level. Still, the Greens have a chance to run the country, for the first time ever, if they find partners to form a coalition government. Both Christian Democrats and Social Democrats are also candidates. In short: There are definite chances, but everything is unclear."

Thanks, Bernhard. I may have to pay attention to the New Merkel.

JOAN ZWEBEN in Berkeley: "Our class is now having monthly calls on Zoom, and they include some who live abroad. It is good to stay in touch, and we have interesting discussions. Some of us are still actively working. As for me, I teach one day a week for the University of California at San Francisco VA Medical Center, and Zoom allows me to invite speakers from all over the country. Hopefully, these benefits will endure."

Thanks, Joan. See you on Zoom.

The Class of 1959 Zoom calls are at **2 p.m. CENTRAL** time the last Sunday of each month. The invite is sent via email with "Zoom" in the subject line. Please join our growing group.

1960

JODY HUTCHINSON
mjodyh@yahoo.com

LEE PLEDGER has been self-isolating during the pandemic, keeping in touch with friends and family, and missing them. Cape Cod residents, including Lee, are finally venturing out and back to their favorite restaurants and other activities. After coming off the Cape Cod Academy for Lifelong Learning board, Lee continued to help with desk coverage and registration before the pandemic began. She is now on the Cape Cod Tufts Club board, helping to plan virtual events and speakers for the members. After the last Class of 1960 Reunion, where using Zoom was such a huge hit, **Jody Hutchinson** has kept the reunions going on a monthly basis. She mails the details to all 1960 grads. Lee would love to hear from them in future Class Notes.

1961

LINDA DEMING RATCLIFFE
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SUE FINAN IKENBERRY is still teaching history at Georgetown School. She has two sons, the younger of whom is in Vietnam. Her husband retired from his *Washington Post* career.

SALLY PABST HOGENAUER, a hospice nurse, has spent the last months administering COVID vaccines.

MIKE BECKER retired in 2018 from teaching law and moved with his wife to Manhattan, into an apartment literally three minutes from the front door of the Metropolitan Opera. Their first year there, they attended 250 concerts, operas, and

REUNION

Recap

Twenty-one classmates gathered around the Zoom screen for our virtual Reunion celebration. **Chuck Bresler** in Los Angeles was a wonderful host and set a perfect balance. Everyone shared, and some even told humorous anecdotes about both students and faculty. Discussion included opinions about the Quaker-influenced experience. Life seemed much simpler and less competitive back then. Memories were stirred, and it took a few days to process all the information that was shared. Many are eager to meet again virtually in the fall.

—PETRA DUB SUBIN

plays. The next year was the shutdown, but recently doors are opening and the Beckers are planning to travel again.

PETRA DUB SUBIN used her energy during the lockdown to write a children's book about a beloved cousin and her huge collection of teddy bears. In *Follow Me to Grammie Ammie's Closet*, the bears come alive and talk about where she has gone. There are themes of loss and peace amid fantasy, color, and whimsy. Petie is grateful that this effort transformed her grief into joy. (See photo below.)



Petra Dub Subin '61 with her new book, *Follow Me to Grammie Ammie's Closet*

1962

PETER ENEMARK
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FROM THE CLASS REP:

Necmi Dayday, an American Field Service student from Turkey, joined our class senior year and graduated with us in 1962. Necmi passed away on April 20, 2021. Necmi was one of the nicest people you will ever meet, and he excelled on the soccer field.

Necmi excelled in physics class; and his post-secondary school goal was to study nuclear physics. After he graduated from Sidwell Friends and completed his undergraduate work in Turkey, Necmi earned a master's degree in nuclear engineering, a second master's degree in reactor physics, and a Ph.D. in reactor physics. During his career, Necmi served on the Turkish Atomic Energy Commission (TAEK) and was a member of the TAEK Nuclear Safety Committee. Necmi taught at the Istanbul Technical University Nuclear Energy Institute and at the Turkish Air Force Academy. Later in his career, Necmi worked at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and served on the IAEA Safeguards Effectiveness Evaluation Section. Necmi shared the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize, which was awarded jointly to the IAEA and to Mohamed ElBaradei "for their efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way."



Necmi Dayday '62



LEFT Art Hill '62 has a new pup, Muddy. RIGHT Erik Thorson '62 and his wife with their newly married son, Lars, and daughter-in-law Laura Galanti last fall



JEFF FLETCHER wrote of Necmi: "Necmi had a delightful and fun personality, warm and engaging, and with a smile for everyone. It was wonderful to get to know him and to have him in our class. I especially enjoyed playing soccer with Necmi; he had dazzling footwork and a very stylish kind of play."

JILL ROBINSON GRUBB: "After I was sworn in as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), I expected to be assigned to my first child, probably a teenager, who had been removed from home for neglect or abuse. As it turned out, my first experience as a CASA started when I received a call to help two teenage sisters. I hope I can make a difference in their lives."

ART HILL: "Perhaps addled by pandemic fatigue, Sherry and I have adopted a new dependent. His name is Muddy, in honor of the Washington Senators catcher who scored the winning run in game seven of the 1924 World Series. Muddy may not look like his namesake, but he's a lot cuter and also pretty good at retrieving balls." (See photo above.)

ERIK THORSON: "Our son, Lars, got married to the charming and wonderful Laura Galanti, on October 16, 2020 (see photo above). They met at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, when they were both there seven years ago. Laura grew up in Herndon, Virginia, and her parents still live there, so

we had a charming meet-in-the-middle, nuclear-families-only wedding in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. Beautiful bride, beautiful weather, beautiful venue, beautiful company. The new Thorsons live in Nashville, where he's the fiddler in the Kane Brown band (and all over YouTube), and she's an accountant on the verge of getting her MBA from Belmont University in Nashville."

JUDY MCGREGOR CALDWELL: "Life in Vero Beach, Florida, and most especially in my studio here, continues to bring forth my best art (see photos on next page). And the sight of me working barefoot in my garden may be why my neighbors made me head of the landscape committee. Since I've been wintering in Vero Beach, I have found a supportive art community here. I will be exhibiting some of my paintings in five local juried art shows, and I also will be exhibiting some of my paintings in a solo show this coming November in Philadelphia. (I can't wait to hug my grandchildren in Philadelphia.) My art feeds my soul and has brought me a more deeply felt joy and peace. I think of you all often. I am grateful for my memories of you all."

In Memoriam:

Necmi Dayday '62
April 20, 2021



Artwork by Judy McGregor Caldwell '62



Garden Club; I'm not cooking as much, which is wonderful; we're still watching Netflix, etc., and Zooming; and the two apartments we own in the building, which are being renovated, are almost completed, so we will be moving into one of them soon. The other one is for our daughter, who is currently living in a small rural town in Georgia. We plan to visit her in a few weeks, and we may drive to Connecticut later in the summer. If we do go to Connecticut, we'll only stay for about a month. Recently, we did have a change of scenery and spent four days in Palm Beach, where we saw a designer showhouse and visited with friends. That's the extent of our wanderings for now. Life is busy, interesting, challenging, happy, and fun, and we are grateful for every day."

ALISON FEISS KRIVISKEY: "Bruce and I are making a major change: We are moving to a retirement community only two miles from our home in Northampton, Massachusetts. The new community, Lathrop, is an affiliate of Kendal, a Quaker nonprofit that has communities in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Our home is a two-level townhouse built down a hillside, with a walk-out lower level. It is an end unit with lots of light inside and space outside for me to garden. Our hobbies and home office fit on the lower level—my orchids even get their own room! The Lathrop philosophy is to support older people to age in place. We already have friends there and are impressed by how active the residents are. Many are former faculty of one of the five colleges in the area, so it is an interesting bunch of people. Since being

beautiful. Those were our first flights since February 2020. It has been a long road back from the height of the virus. Basically, I spent time doing jigsaw puzzles and playing Words with Friends with many friends. The whole family is well. Olivia, my oldest granddaughter, will be going to the University of Wisconsin at Madison in the fall. These little ones sure grow up fast. I have another granddaughter who is 16 and a grandson who is 7. I missed seeing them during this pandemic."

MARGO LEE HOFELDT: "We are finally emerging from 'isolation'—slowly but surely! Fortunately, everyone in our circle has been healthy and are now vaccinated, so I'm feeling a new sense of freedom. We have actually been out and about to some degree during this whole mess, since it's easy to eat and do things outdoors in Miami. I'm still busy with

1963

MARGO LEE HOFELDT
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JOHN BRALOVE: "Anna and I have been vaccinated against COVID 19, and with the risks reduced, we are planning a Smithsonian trip to the Galapagos in late October. Then up to DC for Thanksgiving. We, as many others, look forward to seeing family that we haven't seen in ages except on Zoom."

GARTH DOCHERTY: "Anne and I got COVID-19 before the vaccine came out. We got it from a dentist's office visit. Not bad though, a slight headache and feeling sleepy for a while. Of course, I am always sleepy, and Anne gives me a headache sometimes. Got the shots in March, Pfizer, which was good, since the first batch was Moderna (our friends didn't like its aftereffects). Shut down here in Iowa, including the two best restaurants in our town. Had a terrible winter: 20 days below 0, so cold the deer came into town and ate most of our evergreen trees. Next year, I will put down motion-sensor lights to scare them away. Won't be here though, going to Florida for the winter."

JEANNE PERKINS HOFFERKAMP: "This month, Steve and I spent a wonderful week in Clearwater Beach, Florida. I had never been there, and it truly was



Bobby Turnbull, Nancy Beiter, Sue Morse, Scot McCulloch, Doug Yriart, Richard May, Marilyn Mellowes, Ray Murphy, Louise Strait, and George Bernstein—all from the Class of 1964

vaccinated, life has gotten a lot better, especially since all our adult kids and older grandchildren are vaccinated, too. We have a social life again, thank goodness!"

DIANA ROTHMAN: "From the profuse blossoms here one would never guess that Santa Cruz is already in extreme drought: Our water comes only from stored rainwater—not from the state—and this was a dry year. There will certainly be wildfires this season, but we hope not locally again. Similarly, while I appear to be in robust good health, I am homing in on a mysterious foggy area in my lung that may be very early lung cancer. I am grateful for the science and my wonderful family and community that help me navigate both crises."

1964

LOUISE BERRY STRAIT
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FROM THE CLASS REP:

The Sidwell Friends Class of 1964 continues its Zoom gatherings, meeting on the first Thursday of each month (see photo on previous page). We are fortunate to have a few milestones, such as graduations, to report amid the pandemic, and we welcome the opportunity to share news about vaccinations and transitioning to something that looks like "before."

SUSAN MORSE: "My husband, Frank Ludovina, and I huddled down just outside Monterey for the infamous year of 2020. Our closeness to nature was a refuge to me. This March, my husband, boss, and inspiration passed on. We had an intimate, loving, and ultimately sad year together. I am coping. Our work with migrant children throughout California and many states was a shared passion that made our lives full and intense. Frank's drive for social justice was what drew me to him. Our life together, trying to make a difference, was an adventure. Now, a new challenge for me and many for our 1960s generation: how to continue on, and how to have an impact even

as we age. This shouldn't be too hard, since we are confronted by challenges to fairness, justice, and the health and welfare of our life on earth, and every little effort helps. My contribution may be through writing, teaching, or as yet undecided. I will be here, in the woods outside Monterey, and invite friends to get in touch and visit when you are near. I want to hear how others are meeting the challenges."

1965

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

KEN LESURE: "The Class of 1965 held a virtual 55th Reunion on Saturday, October 17, 2020. While we were disappointed that the scheduled in-person Reunion weekend was canceled, the unexpected positive result was the participation of nearly half of surviving classmates from locations scattered across six U.S. time zones. **Flip Todd** hosted the event from his perch on the scenic Alaskan coast. As our Reunion occurred at the peak of the pandemic, much of the conversation focused on the virus, but much more time was spent sharing our memories of our former teachers, coaches, classroom shenanigans, and many surprises—some sad, but more often funny as we collectively caught up with one another more than half a century after we parted company on the fabled Zartman House lawn. Since my retirement from teaching in 2010, I've been enjoying a quiet life in the scenic Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania. I keep busy with hobbies and outdoor activities, such as hiking, biking, and kayaking. I look forward to publishing some fiction later this year. Lately, I drifted into volunteer teaching in a local nonprofit organization called the Older Adult Learning Center, which offers nearly free noncredit courses led by volunteer instructors with expertise in numerous fields. Now that COVID restrictions are lifting, I hope to resume traveling to visit family and friends around the country."

JILL MCCLANAHAN WATSON: "I'm still living in Washington, in isolation this last year with my husband, Richard. I have been much solaced by drawing and painting during these long months, including Zoom art sessions with my granddaughter, Winter (now 6), when we invent and illustrate fantastic stories. She has dual Canadian and American citizenship and lives in Nova Scotia, where my only daughter, Ariel, who teaches at a university in Halifax, lives with her partner, Dan. The border with Canada has been closed for a very, very long time. We're hoping this year to make our annual pilgrimage to the Marlboro Music Festival in Vermont and stay in Rudyard Kipling's beautiful house; sadly, it was canceled last year."

1966

CHRIS DEMATATIS
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REUNION Recap

Almost half of the Class of 1966 gathered virtually on May 8 for the group's 55th Reunion, including a few classmates for whom this was their first Reunion. (See photo on next page.) **Kathy Paull Brown**, the designated class "cat herder," worked for months to organize this special event. Among some of the many challenges she faced in corralling so many classmates were a few '66 alums who have not yet embraced computers or cell phones as an integral part of life in 2021. Ever the editor, Kathy distributed a questionnaire several months in advance of the Reunion in which she asked classmates to briefly summarize their lives, hopes, and dreams in one page. Fifty members of the Class of '66 responded and included current photos of themselves. The result was a Reunion yearbook that far surpassed any such efforts the class has made over the past half-century. At the beginning of the Zoom session, which was ably hosted

continued on next page

Recap cont.

by **Duncan Hollomon**, each person had an opportunity to greet everyone and let them know where they were. Among those who attended, most live in New England and the Mid-Atlantic states, although there were a few from the deep South and the West Coast. The award for the attendee who “traveled” the farthest went to **Joe Evans** who joined us from Alaska. As has been the case for all of the previous class Reunions, the Class of '66 was joined by several former classmates who had attended Sidwell Friends for a number of years but had not graduated with the class. They have always been welcomed as though they had never left, and their continued connection to us speaks to the depth and value of the friendships established at the School. At the end of the Zoom gathering, there was a consensus to schedule an in-person Reunion well before the 60th Reunion rolls around.

—CHRIS DEMATATIS

RICHARD HOWARD: “Shoutout to **Zoe Fitzgerald Carter '78**, whose new album is terrific. Read her Class Note in the spring issue! Great voice and lyrics. Right up there with Brandi Carlile and Allison Moorer.”

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Everyone can find out more about Zoe's latest album at zoefitzgeraldcartermusic.com.

TIM SMITH: “Great shame was visited upon me when, after planning on participating for months, I simply forgot about our Class Zoom 55th Reunion and was a no-show. No amount of abject groveling will suffice, given the countless hours spent by **Kathy Paull Brown** in whipping us all into shape. However, in preparation for the big event, I enjoyed catching up with our elusive classmate, Judge **David Murchison**. He is great, his wife and kids are great, and his siblings are great. Even more impressive, he has developed a wise and, dare I say, judicious view of the world, of people from



Members of the Class of 1966 connect over Zoom for their 55th Reunion.

our shared past, etc. In other words, years on the bench have made him a mensch.”

1967

STEVE BATZELL

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FROM THE CLASS REP:

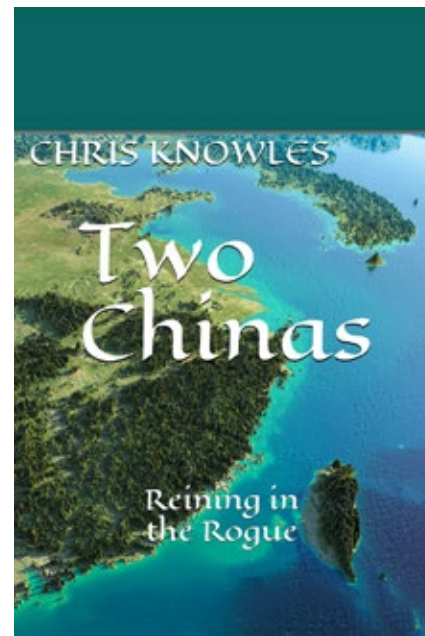
Our dear Classmate **Stephanie Faul** passed away this year. She was original, authentic, and a font of well-crafted humor.

JEFF COHEN writes: “At the end of May, Beth and I are migrating from our Boca Raton bubble to Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Still working on the renovation of multiple historic mills in the Berkshires but looking forward to following in Peter's footsteps in the not-too-distant future. I've begun the process by ‘retiring’ as chairman of the Conservation Commission and as treasurer of the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center. Looking forward to more family time as Jodi and her family are on the way to Great Barrington, and Craig will visit with his family, as will Beth's children and grandchildren.”

Our prolific **CHRIS KNOWLES** is at it again! “In February my 21st book, *Two Chinas: Reining in the Rogue*, was published (see photo on next page). For 70-plus years, Taiwan has been a thorn in the side of the People's Republic of China. The PRC finally decided to put an end to their embarrassment by invading and occupying its neighboring ‘rogue province.’ The invasion was overwhelming, and the outcome was in doubt while Taiwan's allies struggled with the decision as to whether or not to come to the aid of their outcast ally. The tension between the two has been tolerated for just about as long as I've been alive.”

LOUISE THORSON crafted a brilliant idea for our class: Get classmates to list and briefly comment on a few of the books he or she read during COVID sequestering. Here are just a few of the offerings:

Baldwin, James. *If Beale Street Could Talk* This tale from 1974 resonates powerfully today. Baldwin's characters exude passion and are harbingers for the current tensions between persons of color and urban police.



Barth, John. *The Floating Opera, Lost in the Fun house, and The Sot-Weed Factor* These are wonderful tales—or I thought so when I read them in college. (Maybe I liked them because I was stoned and they take place on the Maryland shore region.)

Brinkley, David. *Washington Goes to War: The Extraordinary Story of the Transformation of a City and a Nation*

This history by the famed newsman is a total laugh riot, and we DC kids will revel in it. It paints the World War II leaders of the Greatest Generation as barely swifter than the Marx Brothers.

Knowles, Chris. *Peace is at Hand: From the Cuban Missile Crisis to Operation Linebacker*

Our classmates will see themselves reflected in Chris's book, not only in the Sidwell Friends chapters (1962–1963), but in the antiwar years in Georgetown and the Vietnam War years.

Montgomery, Ben. *Grandma Gatewood's Walk: The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail*

If you haven't heard of Grandma Gatewood and her ‘walk,’ read this inspiring story to get you out of your chair and into the woods.

Rhodes, Richard. *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*

This is the best, most interesting single book I've ever read. This half-century tale is as rich as any novel—a mystery, a thriller, and a drama about the most profound issues.

Let's send a few more book recommendations to Louise to fill our libraries and savor the quiet to enjoy reading again. Viva the local bookstore!

In Memoriam:

Stephanie Faul '67

1968

ROLLIE FRYE

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LYN HORTON: “My new address, after 42 years of being at the old one! 47 Arnold Place, North Adams, MA 01247 (phone: 413-398-5176; website: lynhorton.net.) My studio is right down the hall in my new place. And 50 years of art is right up the stairs in storage. Art is my only true occupation, I think. Except for being a mother to the greatest son ever, who is now engaged! Thrilling.”

CATHY RITZENBERG MCCULLOCH: “I can't tell you how much pleasure I get from having two grandchildren at Sidwell Friends School. Samantha is graduating 4th grade and becoming a Middle Schooler, and Logan is entering 2nd grade. Their parents—our son **Matt McCulloch '97** and his wife, **Jill Roman-sky McCulloch '97**—met while 9th graders at Sidwell Friends! The faculty did a fantastic job using Zoom to keep these kids engaged and educated. Our other son, **Jon McCulloch '00**, and his wife live in Chicago and have two little girls, Eva and Brooke, ages 4 and 2, and we're finally flying to Chicago to see them for the first time since last summer. Life begins again! Otherwise, **Scot** and I are ready to put our traveling shoes on again and continue our global travels that were postponed.”

DAVID NICHOLSON: “While I'm up to the 1930s in what I hope is the final draft of my family history/memoir, *The Simonsons of S Street: The Story of an American Family*, there are still at least two more decades to write about. (If I make it past the 1950s, then it becomes a memoir.) Meanwhile, I'm taking encouragement from the selection of my story, “That's Why Darkies Were Born,” for *The Chicago Quarterly's* forthcoming anthology of African American writing.”

MERLE LADD SILVERMAN: “After 9th Grade, I transferred from Sidwell Friends to Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, Maryland. During senior year there, I attended a Sidwell Friends football game and re-met **Roger Lowe**. He invited me to a dance in the winter and we dated over the rest of the school year. We went our separate ways, but I often wonder where he ended up. He wanted to be a veterinarian, I think. **Kate Waits, Kay Burgunder Stevens**, and I went to Cornell, where I studied architecture and met my husband. He was (among other things) a test pilot for the Navy and United Airlines. I worked in architecture wherever we lived, until San Diego. There, I taught in a computer lab at a K–8 school and loved it. Next, I had a 10-year career in publishing elementary math materials. This ended in 2000 when my company was sold, and I didn't want to move. Since then, I've dabbled in various part-time jobs. We have three married children and nine grandchildren. When our daughter got married and started a family, early childhood education became my passion. I took courses at the junior college and have been applying what I learned ever since. I'm a great grandma!”

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

SPOTLIGHT: A Long Walk Home

George Cohen '69 recalls heading home from Sidwell Friends during the 1968 DC riots.

"I grew up at 932 S Street NW in the epicenter of Black paradise. The neighborhood offered a respite from the omnipresent racism, discrimination, and humiliation I encountered in white DC—like eating hotdogs on the street outside of Hecht's because only whites could eat inside at the counter, or purchasing clothes and hoping they'd fit because Blacks weren't allowed in department store fitting rooms.

In Black paradise, we could sit inside at Ben's Chili Bowl and enjoy a half-smoke. Cavalier's was the quintessential players' haberdashery, with the latest in purple hats with large feathers and matching suits. There was also Black Broadway on U Street, with the historic Lincoln, Republic, Booker-T, and Howard Theatres, where Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, and innumerable Black entertainers played. Waxie Maxie's sold 45 rpm records for 69 cents. Wings and Things made indescribably delicious chicken with mumbo sauce. Log Cabin Liquors was a favorite spot; when I turned 18, I could buy beer by showing

my draft card. Soul-food restaurants, barber shops, WUST Radio Music Hall, and more were all cultural icons. One mile north, at the apex of a steep hill, sat Banneker Jr. High School and the capstone of Black education, Howard University. From there, I could smell the goods baking at the Wonder Bread factory, and on a clear day, I could see past Black paradise all the way downtown and feel that all was well.

Then, on April 4, 1968, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, and Sidwell Friends dismissed us early. There was a mix of anxiety, fear, sadness, shock, and disbelief—and maybe even some malignant glee—in the air. But my immediate problem was how to get home. Sidwell Friends is four miles from 932 S Street as the crow flies; but to get there, I had to take two buses, making the journey closer to six miles. No buses were running though, and no white classmate in their right mind would drive me home into what was shaping up to be a Black riot. My choice was simple: I had to walk the six miles to S Street, the whole time sensing an eeriness in the city: no cars, no taxis, no buses, few people.

When I reached the hill near Banneker and Howard, the fragrant smell from the bread factory was replaced by the acrid stench of burning buildings. Instead of the inspiring vista of Black

paradise, there was a roiling black cloud punctuated at its base by the scattered red flashes of ongoing fires. The descent to S Street was tantamount to Dante's inferno. Each block became more hellish. On 7th Street, the riot was at its peak. Fresh fires raged. Stores were burnt out. Broken glass littered the sidewalks. People were running through the streets with TVs, furniture, groceries, anything they could carry. No cops were in sight. Cavalier's was looted—no more Ban-Lon shirts or hats with feathers. Waxie Maxie's and Wings and Things were ablaze. Virtually every store was destroyed. At the corner of 7th and S, I found the charred remnants of my beloved Log Cabin Liquors. Through the shattered door, I saw empty and broken shelves, soot everywhere, and one lone bumper of Colt 45 miraculously intact on the floor.

The next day, armored military vehicles drove by with machine guns on display. Stern, white soldiers marched menacingly down our residential street. After a few days of calm, I took the usual two buses back to Sidwell Friends. But as I rode, my heart ached: I yearned for wings with mumbo sauce, a new record from Waxie Maxie's. Everything was gone. For decades, the neighborhood remained a charred desolate shell. Black paradise had been lost."

1969

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

MICHAEL CAPLIN: "We have moved our family HQ to Charlottesville, Virginia, which is my hometown. Very happy to be here, living on the bank of a river amid bluebirds and herons. Looking forward to engaging in the life of our village and embracing the great outdoors. I have two grandchildren in Lower School, and marvel at all that Sidwell Friends has become."

JIM HIGHSAW: "The Appalachian Trail Museum in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Pennsylvania, has posted my account of my end-to-end hike in 1974-1975, Georgia to Maine, on their Online Museum under "Journal Project" (bit.ly/ATHike1974 and bit.ly/ATHike1975). There are also some photos I took under 'Class Photo Collections.' Some of the inspiration for this hike came from backpacking with **Jack Hanly**, **George Herndon**, and **David Mills** on spring vacations in high school. It took six and a half months and was the trip of a lifetime!" (See photo below.)

SARA IRWIN: "Great to have an update from **Mari Thompson** in the spring 2021 issue of *Sidwell Friends Magazine*. Hope you got to Bend safe and sound and are beginning to feel settled.

Just a few days ago, I finally received my credential to tutor students with dyslexia—after almost 12 years of working at it! It has been so long I don't think it has registered yet. My students range from K to grade 8, so I am always stretching to meet their needs, although grades 1 through 3 are in the majority and not so challenging. I have had occasion to revisit one elementary school here in Atlanta since Christmas; it has been great to see how well everyone is faring at this difficult time, although the numbers are greatly reduced. I'm looking forward to seeing all of my students vaccinated and able to resume a more normal life hopefully in the fall. Anti-racism efforts continue at my church here, integrating Black Lives Matter into the efforts already in place. We continue to hear about the terrible conditions in the state prisons and immigrant detention centers in Georgia, and no evident shift in the numbers of individuals on death row. Lots of social justice issues to work on, to be sure! I've been wanting to reach out to check on everyone during this pandemic but got too busy just maintaining. Let's think about a Zoom meeting soon—for those who are not already Zoomed out! My email is spirwin@mindspring.com. Lots of love to all!"

REBECCA KELLY: "After 47 wonderful years of dancing, touring, living, raising a family, and working in SoHo, New York City, we move out on June 1 to the northern Adirondacks, where we will continue living, working in dance, and showcasing other creative expressions at the Tahawus Cultural Center in Au Sable Forks (see photo below). We are proud that our nonprofit Center, the Tahawus Center, was added to the New York State and the National Register of Historic Places! Over the past 10 summers, we have been refurbishing, updating, and renovating, while offering many community programs. Come visit. If you fly fish, it's a destination. A wonderful contrast from the city, we now join rural America from our self-built cabin, Clarion, on the beautiful Saranac River. Our trail cam shows us glimpses of the ever-fascinating woods and populations of deer, turkey, and snowshoe hare. In 2021, we just got internet (we can be reached by cell phone!), and we can watch the foreign films and programs we love on Netflix. It took 10 years of writing to Congresspeople! But COVID suddenly quickened the pace. Connectivity is so key in all of rural America."

MARI HILDENBRAND THOMPSON: "Some might say a 70-year-old slightly handicapped woman driving 3,000-plus miles alone from Florida to Oregon except for her trusty cattle dog companion was fool's folly. Other than having my fuel pump go out in Blythe, California, and being stuck there during Easter Week for four days in 100-degree weather until

'Big Red' was fixed, the drive was easy-peasy, and I'm back at our home in Bend, Oregon. Could it be that the children of the 1960s are an adventuresome lot for whom the road trips of our past keep us in the mind-set that it's okay to go on extended road trips nowadays? Who can say? What I do know is that, despite having mobility issues and being legally blind without corrective glasses, I'm ever so glad our generation had its youthful (some might say devil-may-care) experiences, which could only help make us bold in our senior years. Remember that 70 is only a number (a large number, surely) but, still, it's only a number. We all may be somewhat slower and less sure-footed, but stay hardy, stay inquisitive, stay adventurous, Class of 1969!" (See photo below.)

1970

MARGARET WEAVER KRULL
mwkrull@me.com

PALMER FORET: "My wife, Mari, and I were visiting Asheville with our Canadian friends who are going to retire there. We called **Laura Peery** and were lucky to see her at her studio. She makes such incredible works of art and is a primo artist." (See photo on next page.)

STEVE SCHWARTZMAN leads the Environment Defense Fund's work on tropical forests and economic incentives for large-scale forest protection. For more

CATHERINE O'NEILL GRACE was thrilled to be awarded a silver medal for feature writing from CASE District 1 for an essay she wrote about reading Emily Dickinson during the pandemic for *Wellesley Magazine*, where she is senior associate editor (read: magazine.wellesley.edu/summer-2020/solitude-space). She hopes that beloved English teacher Christine Chapman would be proud. Catherine lives in Sherborn, Massachusetts, and has no plans to retire—yet.



LEFT Jim Highsaw '69 on Mt. Katahdin summit on August 6, 1975 **CENTER** Rebecca Kelly '69 and husband in front of their nonprofit, the Tahawus Cultural Center **RIGHT** Mari Hildenbrand Thompson '69 with Tildy



LEFT Palmer Foret '70 and Laura Peery '70 in front of her studio RIGHT Mom Bette (chair), Chris Strudwick-Turner '70, and her daughter, son, and grandchildren.



than 20 years, Steve has worked in the Brazilian Amazon with indigenous and traditional communities, governments, scientists, and the private sector to slow deforestation and protect forests.

CAROL SISCO: "The Annapolis Maritime Museum recently christened a new exhibit, *Our Changing Waterfront*, in memory of Marjorie Voith, my wife. The exhibit is divided into three sections: Bay Health, Oyster Economy and History, and Annapolis Waters."

CHRIS STRUDWICK-TURNER: "It has been an especially hard year on our seniors. They have been shuttered away from the social outlets and companionship that kept them lively and thriving. So, our family was truly happy, being finally vaccinated, to celebrate our matriarch on a momentous occasion. My mom, Dr. Bette Catoe Strudwick, who still holds all her memories of our time at Sidwell Friends during the late 1960s, turned 95 in April. We did an outside drive-by party, with almost 100 extended family and friends participating. Most of her grandchildren were present, including my two children and twin grandchildren (who I had not seen in more than a year). Hopefully, many more families will be able to enjoy safe and fun reunions as we work our way back to normal life." (See photo above.)

1971

MARY REYNER
mary.reyner@gmail.com

SALLY MOULTON: "I am an enthusiastic volunteer for several groups focused on climate and environment and one that relates to housing and life quality for older to very old people. Graduate studies in the sociology of work, organizations, and technology and years as a research assistant in those areas have proved useful in my volunteer work. My earliest and very positive volunteer experience during high school, with Friends of the National Zoo, primed me for reengaging as a volunteer later in life when time once again permitted."

JOAN HEDRICH WOOTEN: "For the past 17 years, my husband, David, and I have lived in northwest Florida, where I serve as one of the pastors on staff at First Presbyterian Church in Pensacola. I provide pastoral care, preach occasionally, and assist where needed. The past two spring semesters (2020 and 2021), I have taught an online course at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Quite a vertical learning curve to navigate Zoom, Teams, and Moodle (the school's online learning platform) all at once! But it's fun, and I love supporting and mentoring students

REUNION Recap

A likely record of 57 members of the class of 1971 joined together in a three-part Zoom party on May 1 to celebrate their 50th Reunion and classmate **Cheryl Sanders**, who received the Distinguished Alumni Award. The advantage of a virtual reunion was that members were able to attend from as far away as New Zealand (**Ingrid Beach**), the U.K. (**Mike Williams**), British Columbia (**Lucy Rothman Bissell**), and all over the United States, including **Ann Yoklavich** in Hawaii and a few still in DC itself. Some had not been heard from in decades. The first part, masterfully moderated by **David Bradley** with extraordinarily creative technical support from **David Markun**, lasted two and a half hours and featured various individual capsule summaries of what classmates have done and where they have been; there was also a small group breakout session and a contest to identify senior year pictures (won by **Lenore Beattie Millison**). The formal part of the party closed with a poem from **Jerry Cave**, not previously known to have literary talent! He reflected on his experiences in the Upper School and our ability to be friends despite differences. We broke for a few minutes and reconvened for an "after-party," envisioned and hosted by David Markun. This featured multiple "rooms" to discuss particular topics—including the results of a 1971 trivia contest run by **Meredith Smith Indursky**, music submitted by members of the class, and talking in small groups with brief interludes of everyone together. Although this officially ended at midnight, **Kenny McCauley**—on Pacific time—hosted another two hours of discussion. All told, we were together for over eight hours of discussion, memories, and so much fun that follow-up Zoom sessions are already scheduled! We all look forward to meeting in person within the next year.

—MARY REYNER AND BRIAN STEINBACH

in their vocational journeys. I didn't get to participate in the 50th Reunion festivities on May 1, so am grateful for my classmates' efforts to continue Zoom gatherings. What a fascinating group of fellow travelers we are! This year, I hope to turn my Ph.D. dissertation into something resembling an interesting, marketable book while also looking for ways to serve others in my community."

1972

JOYCE JACOBSON
joyce@brastedhouse.com

GUILFORD QUEEN was recently named a deputy commander of a major region in Maryland in the Civil Air Patrol (the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary). Lt. Col. Queen is in Group I, which encompasses one third of Maryland. The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is responsible for conducting air and ground search/rescue missions for the United States within the United States. Further, CAP provides aerospace and military training for a cadet corps (students who volunteer) at schools and joint adult officer and cadet squadrons.

1973

APRILLE KNIEP SHERMAN
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REGINA DESSOFF KESSLER
reginadessler@gmail.com

LIZA DONNELLY has a new book coming out November 15, titled *Very Funny Ladies: The New Yorker's Women Cartoonists*. Published by Prometheus Books, it is a revised and updated version of her 2005 history, *Very Funny Ladies*, which chronicled the women cartoonists at the magazine from 1925–2000 (see photo on right). For this edition, Donnelly wrote two new chapters and is thrilled to have a foreword by *The New Yorker's* senior editor David Remnick and cartoon editor Emma Allen.

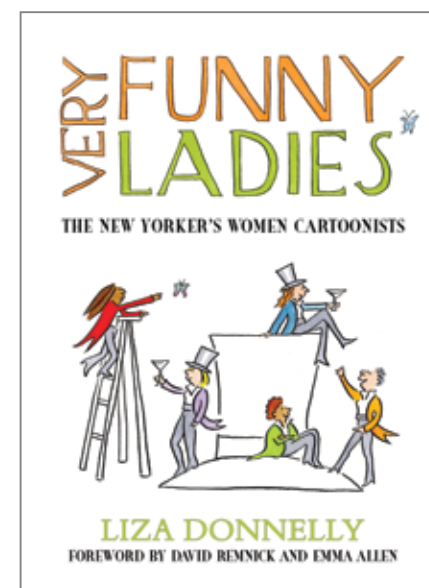
1974

PAUL MARKUN
pmarkun@gmail.com

CHRIS NORDLINGER has been named head of the Cybersecurity Academy (1,500-plus high schools, colleges, universities, and nonprofits in 75 countries). They are managed by Palo Alto Networks, the global cybersecurity leader.

CRAIG WILSON: "I have (finally) retired from legal work; my occupation now is dog walker (I have two: a mixed-breed rescue and a shih tzu). I now have permanent residence status in Thailand, which is where I will remain. After 22 years, Bangkok truly is home. I have been fortunate that numerous Sidwell Friends classmates and friends have visited me here, and the welcome mat is always out. Everyone please stay safe and healthy."

LESLIE WOLF-CREUTZFELDT is pleased to report that three Sidwell Friends Upper School students will be Dehejia Internship program interns at the China-U.S. Women's Foundation, where she is the executive director. In addition to exploring the financial, political, and social impact of the pandemic, interns will help to organize the Gen-Z Global Forum 3 taking place at the end



The new forthcoming book by Liza Donnelly '73

of July. Leslie writes: "It feels great to continue the relationship with Sidwell Friends through hosting students this summer. Their enthusiasm and desire to learn about China-U.S. relations makes me confident that international relations can improve and grow more nuanced. For more information about the China-U.S. Women's Foundation summer internship program, contact leslie@cuswf.org."

1975

ALAN DRUMMER
alandrummer@hotmail.com



LEFT Neville Waters '75 at Springfield College in front of his onetime freshman dormitory, International Hall RIGHT Neville at the Basketball Hall of Fame

NEVILLE WATERS: "Fully vaccinated, I took my first flight since February 2020 to attend the Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement ceremonies on May 13–16. The Hall of Fame was formerly on the campus of my college, Springfield College, so I took a side trip to visit campus (**Jim Stone** also went to Springfield). I had not been there in almost 20 years. (See photos above.) However, my freshman dorm room looked eerily unchanged (including the mattresses and furniture). I also enjoyed a meal with Villanova Head Basketball Coach Jay Wright. I shared with him my gratitude for elevating Sidwell Friends to elite basketball status with two current NBA players who played for him, **Josh Hart '13** and **Saddiq Bey '18**, and Coach Wright expressed his gratitude to our basketball program. Moreover, I felt safe traveling so I'm ready to pack, mask up, and take flight in 2021!"



Ed Hoover and **Martha Whitman '75** on one of their early dates

MARTHA WHITMAN: “Despite COVID-19 much as happened in the past year. I got married, moved to the mountain area east of Albuquerque, had another grandchild, and retired! (See photo above.) I hesitated a lot about retiring and now, six months in, I don’t know what that was all about; it’s marvelous. Anyone traveling through New Mexico is welcome to reach out as I would love a visit—and we’re vaccinated.”

1976

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



Members of the Class of 1976 connect over Zoom for their 45th Reunion.

1977

ADAM STERN
adamcstern@aol.com

MIKA BREWER: “All is well in Boston as we emerge from a dark and lonely winter to an active and colorful spring. **Susan Bernstein** keeps us busy with visits to

REUNION

Recap

It was a real celebration this year; over a third of the Class of '76 attended one or more events of this year's Reunion. (See photo on left.) And we heard back from over half of you—a great showing for the 45th. **Caryn Curry** received the Distinguished Alumni Award discussed her important work on mental health issues in children and adolescents in a short film (available at bit.ly/2ShNXTS). Many Many classmates have already contributed to the Class Memory Book (news and reminiscences), and we invite you to continue to share news and catch up with classmates. The Memory Book may be accessed on the Class Facebook page, which is always a great place to post photos and contact classmates. We all remembered the classmates we had lost at the Friends Memorial Meeting; sat in on science, culture, and arts virtual classes; and were treated to a virtual tour of the fantastic new facilities at Sidwell Friends. Some things don't change, however, and we all had a chance to remind each other of that; we shared news of children's accomplishments and grandchildren (!), and just enjoyed each other's company. The winner, by the way, of the “Name that Classmate” pop quiz was **Betsy Zeidman** (with Caryn Curry a close runner-up). In the time-honored Yale tradition, Betsy received the answers in advance. It was a wonderful chance to catch up with each other—and for one class member, **Phillip Matthews**, it was his first Reunion ever! We are happy to arrange a fall Zoom call for Homecoming weekend and to keep you posted of Meetings open to Alumni if you wish. Let us know your ideas and preferences. And keep a weekend open in May 2026 for the 50th!

—**BETSY ZEIDMAN AND MARY ANN MCGRIL**

beautiful pottery exhibits, **Bea Alice Loos** paints amazing artwork, and **Geoff Smith** keeps fishing stories honest! I am lucky to spend time with such wonderful classmates.” (See photo on next page.)

AMANDA EASTMAN BUSCHI: “Work has remained very busy through COVID. I had always worked virtually, so not much changed except for less business travel. My daughter, Sarah, and I managed a trip to Florence, Italy, just before COVID hit, which was fabulous (see photo on next page). My husband, Neil, stayed home with our elderly dog. Sarah has been home studying virtually for her junior year at Mount Holyoke College—wonderful for us but not so much for her (all of the work and none of the fun of college!). Neil was able to take an early retirement package from United Airlines, so all in all we fared pretty well. I’m almost fully vaccinated. Wishing everyone good health as we emerge from this crisis.”

ROBERT YMAN lives six months of the year in Washington, DC, not far from Sidwell Friends, with his wife, Deb Atwood, and six months of the year in Bellingham, Washington. (See photo on next page.)

BILL HYUN: “For better and worse, the past year has been the craziest of my professional life. In March 2020, I was running around San Francisco looking for RNA-extraction kits and throat swabs to do COVID-19 testing as we tried to move beyond 25 tests a day. Fast forward a year with leaps in automation/robotics and enterprise solutions, the team at University of California, San Francisco, easily hits 9,000 tests a day. That remembered urgency is now tempered by the sad, unnecessary loss of 300,000 lives. I’m working on pooled and wastewater testing as we get back to offices and classrooms, and a recent effort to monitor vaccine effectivity (i.e., will you need a booster?). With our friend and classmate, **Jeff Pierson**, I co-founded Zorro Bio, a terrific effort to monitor COVID-19 and other airborne hazards leveraging a novel nanoparticle technology. And with **Steve O’Neill**, I launched a genomics startup in Boston. I had a cautious dinner in Sonoma with **Eddie Lazarus** and his wife, Amanda, and took my first business trip in over a year to New York City, celebrating the post-vaccine breakout with **Adam Kolker** (see photo on next page). My latest priorities are to get off the Zoom calls, exercise outdoors (with

sunscreen!), drink lots of water, and see more friends in real life. Help me out!”

STEVE JOHNSON: “Ely and I are doing well, and fortunately our boys, Stevie and Andreas, are also doing well. Ely and I are finishing riding out the pandemic. We’ve been very fortunate with work and play. The boys have been great through it all. Andreas, 13, has continued with becoming a great travel baseball player, and Stevie, 17, is already a great photographer, getting Honorable Mention in *The Washington Post* photography contest for a drone photo he took in Italy at the age of 15. More importantly, the boys have continued to be great students through it all. Peace!”

BRIAN MUYS: “With the help of a good bit of karma, my wife, Siobhan, and I decided to check out of the DC rat race last April. We sold our Arlington townhouse and bought our dream home in Asheville, North Carolina, in October. Between frequent hikes along the nearby Blue Ridge Parkway, touring the Biltmore, enjoying local breweries, and getting our vaccine shots, I recently joined the board of a new local nonprofit, the Weaverville Center for Creative and Healthy Living, as vice chair for marketing and communications. Any classmates visiting this beautiful area would be welcome to stop by.” (See photo on next page.)

ADAM STERN: “For the past two years, I’ve been directing Offshore Wind California, a business association of offshore wind developers and technology companies.

We’re making steady progress advancing plans for this renewable energy resource to be a key part of California’s clean energy and climate future. More than 25 companies are part of our coalition, and now environmental groups and labor unions are supporting our policy objectives.”

1978

PETER MACDONALD
pmacdona@skidmore.edu

JUDY INGRAM: “After five years gleaning surplus produce at farmers markets for Food Rescue, a pandemic year supporting our ward’s mutual-aid network by delivering groceries to financially challenged neighbors, and six months pressuring the University of the District of Columbia to donate space, I am co-leading a volunteer team launching a Sunday pantry in Van Ness. It’s called Feed the Family (feedthefamilydc.org), and it’s the only pantry in our ward to offer free fresh produce. We will also be providing cleaning supplies, another item that eats up the budgets of people on fixed (or no) incomes.”

PAT OWENS-LAYNE: “Hello, Class of 1978! I’m still here in Washington, DC. I now have a son-in-law and he is a jewel. Can’t wait until this pandemic is clear, and we can all see each other.”

LEONORA ROTH SAMUEL: “Six years ago, we got a golden retriever puppy. We thought

it would be a good career move for our youngest son, who has Down syndrome, to learn to look after her. It was helpful for his career, but not in a way I expected. It helped him to understand that, much as he loves dogs, he would rather work with human beings. So, I get to look after the dog. It means that I go for a nice walk every so often. It’s been good for my mental health. I’m looking forward to doing with my dog what we did before the pandemic: visiting groups of people to spread the special happiness that a dog can bring. We work with a charity called Pets As Therapy, PAT for short. My eldest son lives about three miles northwest of my home. He is a gardener and works in private gardens near where he lives. He runs his business without a car or van. He travels to customers on his bicycle, which is big enough to carry his lawn mower. That’s his way of reducing his carbon footprint. My daughter just got married in May, a very quiet but beautiful wedding. She is an advisor for nurses. She and her team help nurses or retired nurses make sure they have enough money. She married a man who specializes in helping charities assess how much good they’re doing. Best wishes to all, from me and my family in London, England.”

CHRIS VANOCUR: “I am busy settling into a new loft in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah (see photo on next page). It’s in an old, converted chocolate factory, but unfortunately no chocolatey samples were left behind. I have also just finished writing a biography of my father, Sander



LEFT Bea Alice Loos '77 with Boston Public Garden tulips



LEFT CENTER Amanda Eastman Buschi '77 with her daughter, Sarah, in Florence



RIGHT CENTER Robert Hyman '77 with his father, D Jay Hyman, who turned 90 in November 2020



RIGHT Bill Hyun '77 and Adam Kolker '77 in New York City



LEFT Brian Muys '77 and his wife, Siobhan, in the Blue Ridge Mountains **RIGHT** Chris Vanocur '78 has a new loft in Salt Lake City.



Courtesy Chris Vanocur '78

Vanocur. Please wish me luck in finding a literary agent and a publisher!”

MIRIAM ZIMMERMAN: “With all the losses this past year piled on top of the trauma of the Trump era, for me it was time to leave film and radio production and turn in a new direction. COVID pointed me downward—to the earth. I have spent most of the past 13 months (and counting) expanding the pollinator gardens on my three-acre property in Loudoun County. When the weather cooled, I started playing with dried flowers as I listened to election results and impeachment hearings. Now that some sanity has been restored to the White House, I listen to Zoe Carter’s new album along with my favorite musicals as I channel joy into colorful botanical collages of animals. You can find my whimsical art on Instagram at *ArtfromtheGardenOriginals*. I look forward to hearing how others navigated these past few years.”

1980

WILLIAM RICE
williamrice63@gmail.com

HELEN DAVIS: “I really enjoy being in touch with my classmates, even though I didn’t graduate with you. I continue to work in education at UCLA, running social-justice-oriented teacher-preparation programs. My children (17 and 23) are finishing high school and working on college. (Both have special needs.)”

JENS GORNE: “Just one of those things: I ran into **Robert Morris** some 44 years after last seeing him at **Lisa Graham**’s 8th grade graduation party (although the ‘running into’ part took place on LinkedIn). One discussion topic led to another, and before long, we were deep into shared boating passions. Long story short, he managed to convince me that his dream was to retire dockside and focus on his art. I ended up helping Bobby export/import a custom-renovated Storebro Storö Royal Cruiser 34—a true classic, hand-built, of a bygone era—from its country of origin to a new home at the mouth of the Savannah River. Why exactly I thought this was a good idea I

do not fully understand, and who knew that two guys living at opposite ends of River Road in the 1970s would end up talking teak decks and Volvo Penta marine diesels from opposite ends of the Gulf Stream half a century later. (For like-minded enthusiasts out there, ping me for details, pics, and how to get your own.)”

ROBERT MORRIS: “The teamwork, friendship, and trust that developed over the course of the past year as Jens and I worked toward finding, shipping, and learning about this magnificent and indeed rare craft has been a remarkable story of how seafaring, much like life, is a journey. When I received a random LinkedIn request about 14 months ago from a name I hadn’t seen or heard from in more than 45 years, I had just lost my dad, finalized a divorce that I neither wanted nor saw coming, become a single dad of a 4- and 7-year-old while pushing 60—and then COVID hit. Enter Jens and his, shall we say, existential approach to life. And soon our conversations changed from the past to my lifelong dream of traveling, creating, and being a daddy on a floating, cruising studio. Sidwell Friends inspires and nurtures friends and collaborators for life;



Dave Carmen’s 6th grade class camping trip to Western Maryland, October 1973



ABOVE The boat procured by Jens Gorne '80 for Bobby Morris '80 leaves snowbound Stockholm. **BELOW** Some weeks later, *Swedish Grace* arrives in sunny Georgia.

my boat, *Swedish Grace*, is one example but there are many, many others.” (See photos above.)

MICHAEL HELLER: “I recently published *Mine! How the Hidden Rules of Ownership Control Our Lives* (with Jim Salzman P '13). The book explores who gets what and why in the 21st century. **Arshad Mohammed '80** and I had a wonderful “Conversation with Friends” for Sidwell Friends for the book (bit.ly/HellerMohammed). *Mine!* got great reviews, including in *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*: a “fascinating,” “thought-provoking,” “fantastically well-written,” “must-read.” If you enjoyed *Freakonomics* or *Tipping Point*, we wrote this book for you. Check out my *Washington Post* op-ed (bit.ly/SDheist) on how South Dakota makes you poorer and *Harvard Business Review* (bit.ly/HBSelon) article on surprising ownership tools. My website, *MineTheBook.com*, has cool videos, free excerpts, links to media coverage, and tons more. In other news, my family and I spent most of the pandemic in the Hudson Valley, a break from New York City apartment living—and we got the most adorable puppy. I’m still teaching at Columbia Law School; also, I’ll be, starting this summer, vice dean. My wife, Debora, is now a showrunner for Netflix, and my oldest is starting high school this fall. If you’re passing through New York City, look me up. I’m hopeful about meeting IRL again.”

EMILY JACOBSON: “It has been a difficult few years. Immediately before the pandemic began, I lost both my parents within four months of each other. Both of their memorial services were held in the Sidwell Friends Meeting Room, which felt oddly comforting. I know that many other classmates have lost parents as well and my heart goes out to them. On a more uplifting note, I was recently awarded the Smithsonian Institution Secretary’s 2020 Research Prize for a project investigating the paintings of a 15th-century Persian manuscript that had been repainted by Mughal artists during the 17th century. The resulting publication is freely available at bit.ly/hiddenpaint. Despite the pandemic, I recently had a lovely lunch with **Stuart Irvin** and **Louisa Hollman** and am looking forward to visiting **Tina Berliner** in Austin in July.”

CHARLES KUPFER: “COVID-19 is supposed to teach us lessons in perspective: what matters most, how to improve our outlooks and be better in all we do, how to help save the planet and uplift the nation. ‘You know the thing,’ as a great man said. For me, the big lesson is to devote myself more to goofing off. I’ve vowed to lower my output at work and accomplish less professionally, while seriously upping my avocation game. Birding and stargazing are early winners in my pastime derby, with tentative forays into scuba (have yet to leave the pool) and fly fishing (local streams) offering room for further recreational growth. Youngest child going to college in Colorado offers ample skiing chances. If any trusted classmates have advice, I’m all ears. I prefer stuff outdoors, but above all, utterly unproductive and contributing nothing to social improvement.”

WILL MCMILLAN: “Hi, classmates! Although I only attended Sidwell Friends from transition through 4th grade, I still dream on a regular basis that I am back on the Bethesda campus. I have managed to stay in touch over the years with one Sidwell Friends classmate (dear **Eve Stern**) and continue to savor the impact that Sidwell Friends music teacher Maybelle Imhoff has had on my

life—especially now that I lead music classes for small children in the Boston area. On a related musical note, I’ve been using COVID-related downtime to release recordings via Spotify, Pandora, Apple Music, etc. If you are curious, you can search for Will McMillan (accompanied by a wonderful pianist named Doug Hammer) on your favorite digital music platform. You are also welcome to visit my website (willsings.com) which includes a lot of music or visit my blog (amusicalifeonplanetearth.wordpress.com) for thoughts about the world—and more music!”

WILLIAM RICE: “Though—as I always go to great pains to remember and convey—I have suffered perhaps least of anyone during the pandemic, I find that emerging from it carries its own anxieties. At this writing, I have not yet received my second inoculation, placing me uncomfortably behind my peers. I try to remind myself that COVID shots are not Wacky Packages and I’m not in 6th grade, but I still can’t help feeling unfashionably out of it. Here I thought I was being a good citizen by patiently waiting my turn, when in fact the thing to do apparently was work every angle for an early shot. Then there are masks. Early on, it seemed logical to me that they were unnecessary when walking outdoors at a healthy distance from others. Yet the faces of my fellow Cleveland Parkers were routinely wreathed in fabric out-of-doors, only their eyes visible and full of reproof for me. I slowly acclimated myself to this super precaution, only to have all the early shot-getters this spring rip their masks off and level an accusatory gaze at me as apparently unclean. Oh, well. At least I’m not wearing unnecessary surgical gloves anymore.”

KEEP IN TOUCH!
Go to sidwell.edu/classnotes and let us know what you’ve been up to.

REUNION

Recap

After 40 years, dozens of Sidwell Friends Class of 1981 alumni from across the country reconnected with one another on Zoom. The evening opened with a moment of silence for our dear classmates who have passed away and entered into the Light. We featured a special music video, which was compiled by **Joie Gelband, Dolly Fox, Ainslie Binder, Marilyn Fletcher, Barton Rubenstein, and Michael Parks**, and is featured on the class Facebook page. Many of us had not been in touch or seen one another in four decades and the genuine enthusiasm and interest in hearing about one another was palpable, even in a virtual format. Over the course of two hours, we held several rounds of breakout rooms, where small groups of us could talk. We asked one another about our lives in the pandemic, and several of us shared that we had new insights about ourselves, new takes on life in general, and even new hobbies. We found that we had many shared life experiences: marriage, divorce, employment, unemployment, starting a family, and raising children. Many of us also talked about suffering the loss of a mother and/or father and reflected on our grief. Some of us remembered meeting the parents of our classmates when we were at Sidwell Friends. We reminisced about the good times and not so good times while we were at School, ranging from academics, to sports, to traveling to Poland with the chorus, and going to prom. More than one person talked about the meaningful impact of attending the Sidwell Friends silent meetings and noted that they have sought out a Quaker meeting at different times in their lives since graduating. The evening flew by, and we had so many requests to send out the Class of 1981 contact list, it was clear that folks were going to continue the conversations.

—LAURA DIAMOND

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

1981

VIDISHA DEHEJIA PATEL
drv4kids@yahoo.com

VIDISHA DEHEJIA PATEL: “This being our 40th Reunion year, it was wonderful to catch up with over 50 percent of our classmates via Zoom. Several people attended who I had not seen probably since graduation, including **Robert ‘Colonel’ Sidbury, Cassandra Dickson, and James Ross**. Coming back to Sidwell Friends, in any format, is like coming home to family with a sense of familiarity even after so many years. Several of our musically talented classmates put together a video. Thank you to **Ainslie Binder, Marilyn Fletcher, Dolly Fox, Joie Gelband, Michael Parks, and Barton Rubenstein** for kicking off our celebration with your music.”

DAVID WEINBERG: “This academic year, I am on sabbatical from my position as chair of the Ohio State Astronomy Department, spending most of my time in Princeton. My long-standing research interests are the matter and energy contents of the universe and the physics of galaxy formation, and these days I am having a lot of fun trying to decode the origin of the chemical elements. I recently won a gratifyingly prominent prize from the American Astronomical Society, primarily for my work on large cosmological surveys. My daughter, Ellie, is now finishing her first year at Oberlin Conservatory, where she is studying jazz percussion. One of my more offbeat activities has been collaborating with artist Josiah McElheny on the design of cosmological sculptures. I met up with **Michael Govan** in Stanford at the most recent exhibition of one of those sculptures, an intricate rendition of multiple universe cosmology, and it is now in ‘his’ collection at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.”

In Memoriam:

Meigs Hodge '81
September 29, 2020

1982

TED MORROW-SPITZER
tspitzer@marketventuresinc.com

1983

LINDA GAUS
gaushaus1965@verizon.net

1984

SARAH WILLIAMS
sarah@propelcapital.org

ANN CLARK ESPUELAS
aespuelas08@gmail.com

LIZ BERNSTEIN NORTON
lizbnorton@gmail.com

FRANCES BARBOUR MELBOSTAD: “After an intense and rewarding career with the U.S. Information Agency/Department of State Professional Exchange Program in DC and San Francisco, I retired to raise my son. Fast forward 22 years: I now locally administer the State Department Au Pair Exchange Program for Cultural Homestay International (the U.S. headquarters is seven miles from my house). I am the age of most au pairs’ moms, so I enjoy being their surrogate U.S. mom and am better able to relate to/support them (especially during the pandemic, being so socially restricted). I also can relate to their experience living abroad with a host family; thanks to my role model and Sidwell Friends Middle School French teacher, Helene Barcilon, I did a two-year, two-week exchange with a ‘college’ English class outside of Paris. I became a part of my French host family, majored in French, lived in Paris, and personally know the benefit of the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs exchange programs. I highly recommend



Teddy Hayden, the son of **Frances Barbour '84**, and Ring Mountain Park Ranger Mike Warner examine and identify a wildflower species with a group of Cultural Homestay International au pairs, host families, and Teddy's classmates. The park is the only home in the world for the Mariposa Lilly and Tiburon Paintbrush species.

study abroad, hosting an exchange student or au pair (if you need childcare), or for my classmates, working part time as a community administrator for Cultural Homestay International, wherever you live in the United States. Every required monthly cluster meeting, I plan an activity to better appreciate our culture and society. This month was a Family Day wildflower hike with a Marin County park ranger, who taught us about the flora, geology, and history of Ring Mountain, once home to several native American tribes (see photo above).”

1985

HILARY DAYTON BUSCH
hcdayton@gmail.com



Members of the Class of 1986 connect over Zoom for their 35th Reunion.

REUNION

Recap

The Class of '86 celebrated our 35th Reunion with a virtual event on May 1 (see photo below) and an in-person gathering on May 15 in Washington at the home of **Laura McGiffert Slover**. (As of writing, we are planning another gathering in Washington in June and one in October with a handful of get-togethers around the country for Homecoming Weekend.) There is so much to celebrate and cherish in our long-standing friendships. Between the two events, over 40 members of the class joined together, with several rounding out the fun at both. We spoke of our children, projects of all sorts—in the arts, policy, new homes, our businesses and organizations, teaching, news of parents and siblings, the state of the world, memories, and ways to stay in touch. During the pandemic year, the class had gathered multiple times for virtual Meetings for Worship, extraordinary opportunities to center ourselves with collective wisdom and calm among the silence of trusted friends. Those in-person together on May 1 enjoyed a full evening outdoors, feeling an extra sense of happiness to be together in person. Happy 35th Reunion Year!

—LAURA LONDON

1986

LAURA LONDON
lauramlondon@yahoo.com

1987

TIP COFFIN
tip@teamcoffin.com



EMERGE! by **Andrea Ottesen '87**, taken exactly 17 years ago—in the previous year of the cicadas

SPENCER BOYER joined the Biden-Harris administration in February as the deputy assistant secretary of defense for European and NATO policy, where he is responsible for managing the day-to-day defense relationship between the United States and NATO, the EU, and the nations of Europe. He is looking forward to adding a Defense Department perspective to his Obama administration transatlantic experience at the State Department (where he served as a deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs) and in the intelligence community (where he was the national intelligence officer for Europe in the National Intelligence Council, based in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence). He lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, where he manages his son's travel soccer team and plays an assortment of imaginative games with his young daughter.



Wendy Kline Paula '87 got a pandemic puppy, a mini-goldendoodle named Maya, pictured here with stepson Ben and daughter Emily (posing for prom).

WENDY KLINE: For me, the pandemic started in a dramatic fashion as I ended up stuck in the UK with my wife, Brigitte, and stepson, Ben, for two months beginning in mid-March 2020. Luckily, I made it over there just in time for my wife and stepson's green card interview at the U.S. Embassy in London on March 16; we received the good news that the green card was granted, exited the building, and proceeded to watch London shut down entirely that very day—including the West End theater district, which has yet to reopen, and the aforementioned U.S. Embassy!—turns out Brigitte and Ben were the *last* to be granted green cards for several months, so we were very lucky. In mid-July, they were able to move over to the United States, where Ben is now a 9th grader and Brigitte works for Aetna/CVS Health as the mental well-being product and growth lead (see photos above). I continue to teach courses such as 'Death, Disease, and Medicine' at Purdue University (surprisingly well-attended this fall and all too relevant), and my third book, *Coming Home: How Midwives Changed Birth*, came out in paperback with Oxford University Press. More info on the book is available at wendykline.com. I am now working on a book about the history of psychedelic psychiatry in the U.S. and the UK I've been keeping up with music performance, now playing electric violin and singing in a band in West Lafayette, along with playing with the Lafayette Symphony."

1988

LOUISE ANDREWS
louiseandrews@me.com

MEREDITH ASHLEY: "We are living in New Jersey, and I am working for Hearst Magazines in Brand Development. I oversee branded consumer products, such as *Men's Health* fitness equipment and *Prevention* CBD products. My two sons, Charlie and Lud, are 9 and 10 years old. We seem to go from field to field and court to court for sports all year long. It was great to catch up with **John Meyers** at the Ripken Baseball Tournament in April in Aberdeen, Maryland. Travel baseball will take us to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Charleston this summer."

KRISTEN WALTON-WADE: "I had a very busy year for being mostly in quarantine. Two weeks before shutdown, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Brooke Helen Post Wade, who joins her 8-year-old big brother. While negotiating how to teach on Zoom (and sometimes falling asleep while taping lectures), I published two new chapters on the Scottish Reformation and have continued my work as the founding director of Salisbury University's Nationally Competitive Fellowships Office. I am so proud of my more than 70 major fellowship winners since starting the office—and for helping Salisbury become a top producer of student Fulbrights for the past four years! I love getting to work with students from every major and have had to brush up on those Mr. Biggs—inspired biology skills! My work with students resulted in my being awarded the University System of Maryland Award for Mentoring this year. I also recently got to see **Sam Blum '89** for the first time in a year and would love to catch up with anyone who ends up on the Eastern Shore! At least when I wake up from sleeping for the rest of 2021."

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

1989

ELIZABETH WYATT
ebwyatt@aol.com

1990

JUSTINE WRUBLE FAHEY
justinewfahey@gmail.com

ERICKA BLOUNT-DANOIS: "I am a professor in the Media, Journalism and Film Department at Howard University. My two daughters also attend Howard University. I am a fellow in the Sundance Episodic Makers Lab working on a dramatic script."



Kaile Shilling '90 and her family moved to Canada. Good thing they didn't forget their kids! (Pictured: Isaiah Beiser Shilling)

KAILE SHILLING: "We moved to Canada! Vancouver, where my husband grew up, finally proved irresistible. While moving during a global pandemic has its challenges, being surrounded by grandmother and cousins, having kids in school (in person!), and suddenly having free healthcare are definitely worth it. (See photo above.) Just started a new gig as the executive director of the Vancouver Writers Fest, so seems like we're here to stay, and glad to be connecting with fellow ex-pat Canadian-dwelling classmates (thanks for all the reading recommends, Anton!)."

REUNION

Recap

Kicking off the Class of 1991's 30th Reunion weekend, **Amanda Derryck Castel** was recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award on Friday evening for her work in HIV research and public health. Amanda was nominated by **Dahomey Coleman** but celebrated by all! On Saturday evening, more than 30 members of the class gathered for a Zoom trivia hour, put together by **Che Chisholm**, which included both general questions and specific questions about our time at Sidwell Friends, such as the former name of the student lounge (answer: the Crane Room). The contest went down to the wire, with the Smokin' Joes team of **Che, Frank Hanrahan, Justin Murphy, Stephanie Lowy Parks, Liz Needham Waddell, and Sam Rigby** taking the title. A Bruce Springsteen question helped separate them from the pack. Afterward, we gathered as a group more informally, enjoying themed cocktails (the "Mr. Tonken," the "Billy Ament," and the "WAWA-kazi") and catching up. We took a moment of silence to remember the classmates we've lost much too soon: **Michael Byrne, David Granger, Mona Kanda, Mike Maran, and Chris Wyatt**. We enjoyed a slideshow of our class yearbook, with background music from our high school years, including EU and Dee-Lite. And while we all felt like we looked exactly the same, the photos reminded us that our hair—and shoes!—have largely greatly improved. We also marveled at **Kaho Abe's** illustrations of our classmates from our yearbook. It was fantastic to have Kaho joining us from Japan, one of the few benefits of a Zoom reunion. It was great to catch up and hear where everyone had landed in their lives. **Stephanie, Shelleye Bailey Mulumba, and Camilo Mendez** discovered they lived minutes apart in New Jersey.

—TIM HANRAHAN

1991

TIM HANRAHAN
tim.hanrahan@gmail.com

LEE BOYLE: "A few vaccinated 1991 alumni who were not quite satisfied with a virtual 30-year Reunion gathered for drinks and fellowship at **Jon Bulman's** house (where else?) in Chevy Chase in May." (See photo below.)



Lee Boyle, Rachel Pauley, Mark Raspberry, Troy McLean, Jon Bulman, Tim Hanrahan, Brandon Green (Dorothy Mares McCuaig and Ed Meyers also attended), all from the Class of 1991

1992

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

KATE FULLERTON: "Hi, everyone! It has been great to see all our classmates during the Class of 1992 Zooms during the past year. For those who haven't been in attendance, I started a new job in February. I am the supervising planner for the Department of Planning and Land Use in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. This is a pleasing advancement professionally, after taking time off to be a stay-at-home mom and working part-time for the past five years. This job entails working closely with state agencies and other departments. It certainly keeps me busy! If you are ever in central Jersey, please let me know; I'd love to connect."

1993

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

Maria Fernanda Torres passed away surrounded by love at home on April 8, 2021,

at age 46, after a long battle with brain cancer. Her quick wit, infectious smile, compassion for others, and deep friendships will be missed by all, but never forgotten. Fernanda is survived by her mother, Olivia; her husband, Rusty; their two children, Kian and Spencer; and a set of loving extended family and friends too long to list. Make donations in her honor to organizations and causes where Fernanda worked and was passionate about throughout her life: Washington Innocence Project (wainnocenceproject.org/donate) and National Alliance to End Homelessness (help.endhomelessness.org/donate).

LINDSAY DAVISON: "Life in Massachusetts is slowly but cautiously beginning to reopen. Our kids are back in school. It was helpful having twins and a yard during COVID, but even more helpful having a school pod that met at someone else's house. 'At someone else's house' being the key part of that sentence, as it was the only thing that allowed my partner and I to work remotely, and for the four of us to have enough space that our together time was less fraught and often quite lovely. It has been interesting and very busy being a psychotherapist during COVID. Our most significant, and exciting, piece of news is that we are in the process of adopting my 5-year-old niece, Annie, who went into foster care in Texas due to her mother's severe health conditions. Annie will be a kindergartner in the fall, and Ruthie and Rowan, currently 7, will become big sisters. There is a lot of legal and bureaucratic paperwork associated with Annie's transition, but we are hoping she will physically join our family this summer (she already has our hearts). Finally, I want to acknowledge **Fernanda Torres's** passing and say how sad I am that we lost this warm and kind classmate. As I hit middle age and am brought closer to my own sense of mortality, I think of the past experiences and friendships that I most value, and many of these are from Sidwell Friends and include many of you."

DAVID VINE: "I feel very lucky to have had not one but two fall conversations with fellow academic **Enid Logan Allen '90** and other Sidwell Friends folks about my new book, *The United States of War: A*

Global History of America's Endless Conflicts, from Columbus to the Islamic State. Thanks to everyone who joined the Zoom events, and thanks to the Alumni Association for making everything possible! Inspired by the conversations, I'm thinking with other people these days about new strategies to end the Endless Wars, defund the Pentagon, create a healing-focused society, and dramatically roll back the power of the military industrial complex. If you have ideas, let me know at vine@american.edu. Hopefully we'll have all of it taken care of in time for the next alum mag update."

In Memoriam:

Fernanda Torres '93
April 8, 2021

1994

BETSY STOEL
estoel@gmail.com

IVAN PETROVITCH was recently elected president of the medical staff at Virginia Hospital Center after previously serving as chair of several committees at the hospital. Ivan has also been elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors at the hospital. He also sits on the Virginia Hospital Center Foundation Board. Ivan and his wife, Sonia, have two sons who are currently in the 5th grade and 1st grade at Sidwell Friends.



LEFT Eva Brinn Grayson, daughter of **William Grayson '96** **RIGHT** Barbara Davison (P '97, '01) with her granddaughter Emma Davison Fox

REUNION Recap

The Class of 1996 celebrated our 25th Reunion over Zoom, with people joining from all over the country, with some friends sharing the same screen, and with children making appearances to say hello. Though it was incredible to see each other and for each person to have the spotlight for a few minutes to share personal updates, we all agreed we can't wait to see each other in person again soon. We are also continuing to hold our classmate **Audrey Russek** in the Light after the recent loss of her husband.

—SERENA JONES

1996

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

WILLIAM GRAYSON and his wife, Michelle Siegel, welcomed new baby Eva Brinn Grayson to the world on January 15, 2021. (See photo below.)

1997

ELLEN CORNELIUS ERICSON
eccornie@gmail.com

NICOLE DAVISON FOX and her brother, **Ben Davison '01**: "After teaching more than two generations of Sidwell Friends Lower School students, our amazing mother, Barbara Davison, is retiring at the end of this academic year. We are inspired by her remarkable commitment to the Sidwell Friends community and her students, and we are grateful for the example she has set for us as we chart our own careers. Barbara is a proud, loving, and intellectually curious educator, and we know she made an important and lasting impact on the lives of many children and their families. Her adoring grandchildren—Henry, Sydney, Emma, and James—are excited to get even more time with their favorite teacher in the years to come. Our deepest thanks to the Sidwell Friends community for embracing and supporting our family." (See photo below.)

RAËL NELSON JAMES: "I am excited to be joining the team at GirlTrek, the nation's largest public health movement for Black women and girls, as chief operating officer. This role continues to build on my passion for strengthening organizations that serve Black people, people of color, and other marginalized groups."

BEN TRACHTENBERG: "In January 2021, I became associate dean for academic affairs at the University of Missouri School of Law. It's hard to believe 11 years have passed since my family moved to Columbia, Missouri. Then again, we arrived with a 1-year-old son, Akiva, and he just turned 12, so the math checks out. His 9-year-old sister, Shoshana, is the only real Missourian in the family. The two of them are looking forward to returning to wrestling, which they've missed over the past year. My wife, Joanna, is running a small law firm, suing everyone in town for things like employment discrimination and civil rights violations. Please say hello if you're ever in mid-Missouri."

1998

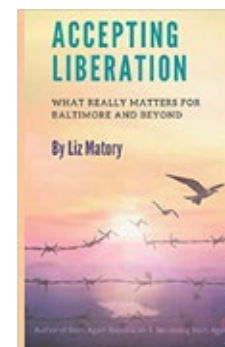
Want to be a class representative?
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.



LEFT The new documentary written by **Michael Palmer '98** **RIGHT** **Eli Moyer '99** with his wife, Hollie, and four of their five children (Jeshurun, Ryken, Aurora, and Arthur) pose in papakhas, the traditional wool hats of shepherds and warriors in the Caucasus.



ELIZABETH MATORY: "Last year, I was able to survive the craziness of back-to-back primaries for Elijah Cummings's old congressional seat in Maryland by moving across the mountains to West Virginia for a fresh start! I love it: fresh air, good people, wholesome atmosphere. For a year now, I have served as vice president of government relations for And Then There Were None, the first and only nonprofit ministry that helps abortion-clinic workers leave the abortion industry to find new life-affirming work as well as emotional and spiritual healing. This year, we helped pass the Unborn Child Dignity Act in Tennessee. Effective July 1, 2021, babies who perish from elective abortions will receive humane disposition of either burial or cremation like other humans who have died. Oh, and I published my third little book on Amazon called *Accepting Liberation: What Really Matters for Baltimore and Beyond* to share my perspective on race consciousness and the power of the mind. Finally, I'm serving as



an adjunct professor at Glenville State College in West Virginia, teaching political science and, soon, business law."

MICHAEL PALMER: "Slaving over those essays for English class finally paid off. I received a Writers Guild of America

award for best documentary script for *Agents of Chaos*, an HBO film about election interference (see photo above). I'm grateful to the Sidwell Friends teachers and peers who taught me to write and supported a cadre of aspiring filmmakers in the Class of '98!"

1999

IVY GARDNER '99
ivymgardner@icloud.com

ELI MOYER: After spending three years in the North Caucasus mountains of Russia focused on ethnographic research and film, Eli and his wife Hollie enjoyed a full year back in the U.S. due to COVID but also to welcome their fifth child, Elo-die Kathleen. She joins her older siblings Jeshurun (10), Ryken (7), Aurora (5), and Arthur (3). (See photo above.) They joyfully have plans to relocate to the country of Georgia in June.

2001

ELIZA ORLINS
eorlins@gmail.com

LEIGH SPOON SHULL and her husband, Zach, welcomed their first child, Ella Spoon Shull, on March 2. Ella joined them a week early, weighing in at 8 pounds, 3 ounces, and measuring 20 inches long. She is happy and healthy, and her parents are over the moon (see photo on

next page). After almost a decade in Manhattan, Leigh and Zach moved to the Boston 'burbs and are settling into suburban life in Wellesley, Massachusetts. (Their dog, Zoey Van Pickles, is loving the change of scenery and having a yard.) Leigh still works for Visa, Inc., where she is vice president, North America marketing. She leads marketing strategy, operations, and card design.

REUNION Recap

Over 45 members of the Class of 2001 participated in various Sidwell Friends Reunion activities, including a virtual watch party Friday evening for the live premiere of the Distinguished Alumni Award Presentation honoring our very own **Braden Kay**. The Class of 2001 held a virtual class gathering via Zoom with three sessions offering different themed breakout-room options. The "Student Center" Zoom room was a mainstay during all sessions for casual conversation and family introductions and, as was the case 20 years ago, served as the epicenter of class shenanigans. Attendees patched in from England, Japan, and dozens of cities across the United States, with several classmates clocking in for well over four hours of time. The Reunion planning committee—co-organized by **David Mills**, **Melissa del Aguila Talvadkar**, and **Dev Talvadkar**—created a fun and interactive experience, from the first outreach email to the closing Zoom. In addition to offering an array of diverse breakout-room topics, the committee procured personalized video messages from celebrities, via Cameo, who were emblematic of our time in high school and who helped energize the class in the days leading up to Reunion weekend.

—MELISSA DEL AGUILA TALVADKAR

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



LEFT Leigh Spoon Shull '01 with 1-week-old Ella Spoon Shull **RIGHT** Lisa Frienkman '03, Naabia Ofosu-Amaah '03, Willa Brown '03, Juliet Izon '03, Kate Chiappinelli '03, Nana Meriwether '03, Kaia-Joye Moyer Wesolowski '03 (with Luna), Silvana Arevalo '03, Brittany Toscano Gore '03, Katie Mathews '03, Bobby Gottfried '03



2002

CAMILO ACOSTA
cbacosta@gmail.com

CAMILO ACOSTA: “I bounced from San Francisco back in September to work remotely with my partner and dog. We’ve spent most of the pandemic in the Florida Keys, where we’ve started dabbling in real estate investing when not working on our day jobs—or scuba diving, snorkeling, and generally enjoying island life. If anyone finds themselves in South Florida, let me know!”

RACHEL WILSON PATTERSON: “On February 25, 2021, our son, Cameron, was born (see photo on right). He has brought us great joy amid the pandemic. Our family is thankfully in good health. I am on maternity leave until the fall. I am still doing diversity and inclusion work and am now at Orrick LLP in DC.”

2003

NAABIA OFOSU-AMAAH
n.ofosuamaah@gmail.com

KATIE MATHEWS
katiecmathews@gmail.com

FROM THE CLASS REPS:

On March 6, some folks from the Class of 2003 got together via Zoom to catch up and share some laughs! (See photo above.)

WILLA BROWN spent the pandemic increasing her dog’s bow-tie collection. Ernest now has a choice of six jaunty collars.



Rachel Wilson Patterson '02 and Cecil Patterson welcomed Cameron to the world.

KATE CHIAPPINELLI: “Big sisters Clara (4) and Sonia (2) were excited to welcome their new baby brother, Charles Chiappinelli Oaks, born on April 28, 2021!” (See photo on next page.)

RUSSELL FINE married Elizabeth Cuje on May 1, 2021, in Los Cabos, Mexico. They were joined by their families, including their children, Vivienne (5), Olivia (4), and Holden (3). (See photo on next page.)

2004

ZEESHAN ALEEM
zeeshanaleem2@gmail.com

DINO ADELFO: “In reflecting on life since graduating from Sidwell Friends, it has been the many service projects that have provided wonder and joy: volunteering at the California School for the Blind; working with a UC Berkeley program (Y-Plan) that teaches urban planning, real estate development, and finance to inner-city and public high school students; launching several public-service campaigns in San Francisco; and, recently, advancing state policy initiatives. Many thanks to the Quaker community for the values that you have passed forward and to all of my friends and family that have supported these efforts through the various ups and downs. And here’s to the next one.” (See photo on next page.)

DAVID HENRY GERSON: “My new film, *The Story Won’t Die*, a documentary about Syrian artists in exile, premiered in May at Hot Docs in Toronto and will be in DC at AFI Docs and online nationwide at the end of June. More information, reviews, etc. are at thestorywontdie.com. I’d love to share these inspiring stories of creative resilience with the Sidwell Friends community.”



The new film by David Henry Gerson '04

MICHAEL RALPH FLORENZ ROCKS and his wife, Dana, welcomed their third child, Jordan Hope Rocks, on December 12, 2020. (See photo below.)

2005

RANDA TAWIL
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NASSER MUHAMMAD
nasser.muhammad.1@gmail.com

JOHN GEISE: “My wife, Crystal, and I welcomed our first child, Edward (“Teddy”) John Geise, on May 16. Everyone is doing well, and we couldn’t be more in love.”



LEFT Kate Chiappinelli '03 and Jason Oaks's three children, Clara, Sonia, and newcomer Charles **LEFT CENTER** Russell Fine '03, his bride, Elizabeth Cuje, and their children Vivienne, Olivia, and Holden **RIGHT CENTER** Dino Adelfio '04 advancing a community service project in downtown San Francisco circa 2013 **RIGHT** Michael Ralph Florenz Rocks '04 welcomed a third child, Jordan Hope Rocks



2006

ALEXANDRA HOLLMAN
aphollman@gmail.com

NATALIE BRANCHE: “I am living with my family on Hilton Head Island and loving life by the beach! I am the property manager for a luxury apartment complex and enjoy fostering a sense of community for residents. I had a blast seeing everyone at the virtual Reunion! Time really flies, so it was wonderful to reconnect.” (See photo on right.)

ANNA RUSCH BURANDT: “I am currently living in Chicago with my husband, Ryan, and our two daughters, Mackenzie (2.5) and Payton (6 months). We are doing well and looking forward to things opening back up and seeing friends and family who we have missed over the past year!” (See photo on next page.)

ANNIE KOHANEK DELL lives in south London and is responsible for public policy for the Salvation Army UK and Ireland. She and her husband recently celebrated the first birthday of their boy, Spencer, and are eager to come back to the States and finally have Spencer meet his family (see photo on next page). Annie promises she has yet to pick up a fake British accent.

JON EXTEIN: “I moved back to DC in May to start a residency in psychiatry at Georgetown University after just graduating from Brown Med School. I’m excited to be living closer to family and



Natalie Branche '06 with daughter Rose

friends, including a number from our Sidwell Friends class!”

JONI MILLER and Thomas Schneider welcomed a baby boy last year, a true pandemic baby! Born on February 29, 2020, Arthur “Archie” Miller Schneider was the first leap baby born in DC that day and was featured on both NBC and FOX local news (see photo on next page)! Joni and Thomas have a conservation landscaping business together, Native Roots Landscaping, and live and work in tandem with their son, Archie, and their four-legged crew, Poppy, Basil, Pesto, and Bagel.

EMILY ORLINS had her second child on December 5, 2020. His name is Conan Oliver Traver Orlins (see photo on page 79). She lives with her family in

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

REUNION

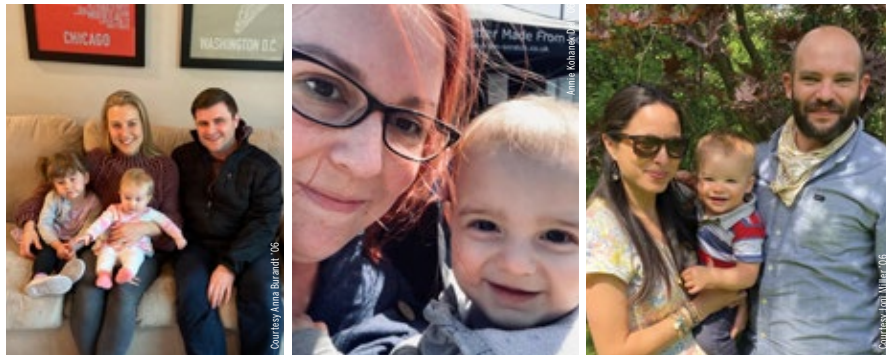
Recap

The main event of the Class of 2006's Reunion was our largely unstructured Zoom "party," with classmates from across the country providing updates on life, work, family, and future plans. It was a great opportunity to see both how much, and how little, has changed in the 15 years since our high school graduation. Breakout sessions were a highlight of the evening because they allowed for more intimate stories and remembrances, as well as levity, and the storyboard was a great way to commemorate our time together and this event. Overall, it was moving to see the continued closeness of many in our community, both in geography and friendship, and reconnect with those we have not seen in years or since graduation. We'd like to give a special thanks to **Daniel White**, who was our Zoom leader of the evening and who is also a middle school teacher at the Hewitt School, an all-girls K–12 independent school in New York City. Dan facilitated the experience for us and planned our activities along with the rest of the Reunion committee: **Ali Hollman**, **AJ Blood**, and **Dekonti Sayeh**. AJ lives in Boston and just welcomed his second daughter, Margaux. He is currently in a cardiovascular medicine and critical care fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Dekonti recently moved to Los Angeles, where he has kept his East Coast job and East Coast hours. Ali lives in Washington, DC, and works for Cityblock Health, a startup that delivers a comprehensive-care model to low-income communities. We look forward to keeping in touch with our classmates and having more Class Notes in the coming issues!

—ALEXANDRA HOLLMAN

Baltimore and teaches elementary special education in Baltimore County Public Schools. She looks forward to seeing Sidwell friends in person in the near future.

ANDREA RAINES: "Last summer, my husband-to-be, Michael Gehlken, and I had to cancel our Napa wedding, instead getting married in front of our immediate



LEFT Anna Burandt '06 with her husband, Ryan, and two children, Mackenzie and Payton. CENTER Annie Kohanek Dell '06 with son Spencer. RIGHT Joni Miller '06 and Thomas Schneider with baby Archie.

families on my mother's front porch in Cleveland Park (see photo on next page). After a couple months in DC with my family and our pandemic pup, Reyna, we returned to our home in Dallas, Texas, where I lead a communications team at Samsung and my husband covers the Cowboys for *The Dallas Morning News*. Please don't hate us, Washington Football Team fans!"

2007

ALEX AKMAN
Akman.alex@gmail.com

LUMAY WANG MURPHY: "My husband, Padden, and I welcomed our son, Wilde Augustine, on Election Day 2020. He is a rambunctious little fellow, and we are thrilled to become parents. (See photo on next page.) During the pandemic, I also moved from Brooklyn to Bozeman, Montana. So, if anyone comes through for hiking, skiing, or fishing, please let me know! I also recently joined the board of the Ocean Foundation, the only community foundation for the ocean dedicated to reversing the trend of destruction of ocean environments around the world. Our priorities include supporting coastal resilience and regenerative agriculture and changing the way plastics are made by developing original science and legislative approaches."

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

2008

DELANEY KEMPNER
dckempner@gmail.com

STEPHANIE HOOVER BOYAR: "We welcomed our baby boy, Finn Hawking Boyar, to the world in October 2020! All three of us are loving our new home in Richmond, Virginia." (See photo on next page.)

RACHEL REEVES: "I married Zachary Ramirez-Brunner, my longtime partner, in New York City on May 8, 2021. We first met as classmates at Yale Law School. I feel extremely fortunate that science enabled my sister, **Alanna Reeves '11**, to be with us in person, and technology allowed for some of my dearest Sidwell Friends, **Lucy Powell**, **Hannah Steckler**, **Katie Stewart**, **Pete Braunohler '07**, **Ariel Trilling**, and **Gabi Villanueva** to witness our vows and share beautiful toasts and readings (including a passage from *A Quaker Book of Wisdom*) over Zoom." (See photos on next page.)

2009

MARIELLE "ELLE" YOUNG
xmaliex@gmail.com

COLIN HARRIS: "My wife, Calynn Harris, and I welcomed our first child, Audrey Mei Harris, on March 26, 2021 (see photo on next page). She was born at Inova Alexandria Hospital here in Virginia, weighing 7 pounds, 3 ounces! Her middle name, written with the character '美,' means "beautiful," and is her maternal grandmother's Chinese name."

2010

KAI ZHENG
kaihuazheng@yahoo.com

COLLEEN OBERG: "I'm starting a new job at Vail Resorts as a senior marketing manager and moving to Denver this summer!"

2011

KIKI OCHIENG
akinyi.ochieng@gmail.com

CHRIS BORGES has been living in Nashville for the past two years working in the electronic medical record industry. This fall, he will be moving back home to DC to pursue a master's in international science and technology policy from George Washington University.

CAROLYN PEYSER: "I had a great time planning our virtual 10-year Reunion with **Emily Siegel** and **Kira Ullman**. It was so much fun for to reconnect with them both, as well as everyone who joined the call! I am still living in Baltimore, Maryland, and I am looking forward to reconnecting with family, friends, and old classmates in person!"

2012

SALENA HESS
salenahess@outlook.com

JOHN VERGHESE
jjv2116@columbia.edu

ELIE GOLDMAN: "After five years of teaching high school in Chicago, India, Israel, and DC, I'm launching an education company called InnerView. InnerView runs online cohort-based courses for high schoolers who want to capture their

REUNION

Recap

The Class of 2011 had a great 10-year Reunion! It was small, but perfect for Zoom (though, of course, we missed all of our classmates who could not join). Everyone shared a quick update, and we all got to catch up on engagements, big moves, and new jobs. Classmates joined the Zoom from California and Vermont (as well as many places in between), and a few lucky (vaccinated) classmates were able to be together in person for the call! A special shoutout to **Matthew Malone** who stayed up way past most of our bedtimes to join from across the pond! A highlight was sharing favorite memories from our time at Sidwell Friends—these ranged from ice-skating on senior skip day to memorable Meetings for Worship. Reunion planning efforts were led by

continued on next page



TOP FAR LEFT Emily Orlins '06 has two children, including her latest, Conan Oliver Traver. TOP LEFT Andrea Raines '06 and husband, Michael Gehlken. TOP RIGHT Lumay Wang Murphy '07 and her husband, Padden, welcomed Wilde Augustine into the world last fall. TOP FAR RIGHT Stephanie Boyar '08 and new baby, Finn Hawking Boyar. BOTTOM LEFT AND CENTER Rachel Reeves '08 marries Zachary Ramirez-Brunner. Pals from Sidwell Friends watch from a Zoom breakout room. BOTTOM RIGHT Calynn Harris, Colin Harris '09, and their new daughter Audrey Mei Harris.

Recap cont.

Carolyn Peyser, Emily Siegel, and Kira Ullman. Carolyn shared about the experience: "I feel really lucky to be part of such a fun and kind group of people. Though it had been years since I had talked to many of my classmates who joined the call, the sense of community and friendship felt just as strong as it did when we were in class together each day. I can't believe that was 10 years ago!"

—CAROLYN PEYSER

stories, skills, and potential in one-minute or less videos. Over the course of eight weeks and eight classes, learners engage in the process of community-focused, project-based, experiential learning to support them in communicating their unique potential through the product of short-form videos to upload to college applications, job applications, and social media profiles (LinkedIn, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram). This fall, InnerView is piloting its first 20-student cohort with seniors at a public charter school in DC. Future cohorts will include diverse groups of students representing private, public, and charter schools around the country. InnerView's curriculum uses universal design for learning to ensure all learners can access our courses and achieve in our community. InnerView aims to democratize high-quality, student-centered learning that empowers students through a process of learning and with a digital marketing product to serve them for years to come. Please reach out if you want to enroll your student in a future cohort, work together, or learn more!" (See photo on right.)

SCARLETT KAO: "I moved to Seattle almost two years ago for work after getting my master's in international relations from Johns Hopkins, and after spending half a year living in New York City while interning at a beauty company. I have since gotten a new job with a DC-based international-development nonprofit and will remain in Seattle for the foreseeable future, though I'll likely move back to DC at some point depending on how the pandemic plays out."

2013

CECILIA LAGUARDA

xenia.cecilia.laguarda@gmail.com

CECILIA LAGUARDA is returning to Sidwell Friends as an Upper School biology teacher in the fall of 2021.

CHRIS STEVENS: "This past May, I got my MFA in acting from the American Conservatory Theater after three years studying in San Francisco. I'm excited to start a new chapter in the professional world!"

2015

EMILY MILLER

emillerusa@gmail.com

MAX KOHN: "I moved up to Juneau, Alaska, where I currently work in the state legislature. It's an incredible joy to live, work, and play in such a beautiful place. I feel very lucky to have found a community here that welcomed me quickly and warmly. Sidwell Friends didn't do a great job preparing me for what to do when bears get in your trash, but I will forgive this lapse in my education."



The Nats win! **Matthew McLaughlin '12, David Steinbach '12, Stephen Weiner '12, Ellie Goldman '12**

2016

TALHA JILANI

jilani-talha@live.com

REUNION

Recap

When I graduated in 2016, I certainly didn't anticipate having my five-year Reunion in the middle of a global pandemic (or, for that matter, having my college graduation canceled). But, if Sidwell Friends has taught me one thing, it is the importance of building and nurturing community no matter the circumstance. That is why, along with a few other classmates, I offered to help plan our virtual five-year Reunion to give us an opportunity to reconnect as a class. (The Class of 2016's Reunion planning was led by **Maya De Jonge, Alex DiMeglio, Caroline Monahan, Olivia Nash, and Philippe Sanchez.**) Though the Reunion looked different this year, we worked to make sure it was full of fun with opportunities to catch up and reminisce on everything from embarrassing pep-rally skits to junior year research paper horror stories. We also appreciated that this virtual Reunion format made it easier for classmates to join us online and celebrate as a class when they otherwise would not be able to make it back to DC. Like all of you, I'm looking forward to the time—hopefully not too far away—when we can gather in person. But for now, I was grateful for the chance to connect with my class community this spring.

—OLIVIA NASH

2017

Want to be a class representative?

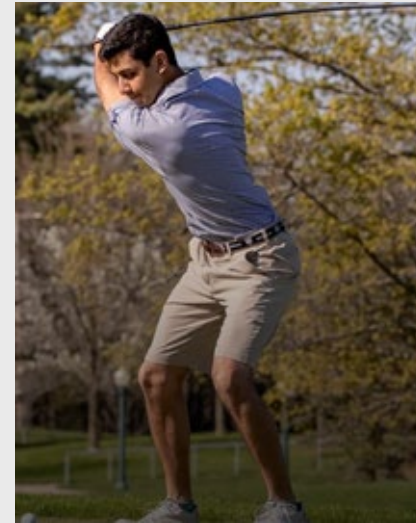
Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

ALYA AHMED: "I'm graduating from Yale University this May in economics and math. I won the Tobin Scholar Award, which is given to the top-performing student in the Economics Department, which was very exciting! After

SPOTLIGHT: Par Excellence

When **Jordan Bessalel** was in 1st grade, his father, Gustavo Bessalel, had a conversation with then-Sidwell Friends Athletic Director Anne Renninger ("Poff"). Poff asked him what sports his kids played. For Jordan, Gustavo listed the usual games: soccer, baseball, basketball, tennis—and golf. Incredulous, Poff exclaimed: "Golf? He plays golf?! In 1st grade?" Gustavo assured her that Jordan not only played golf; he loved it. "Great!" Poff replied. "Tell him to stick with golf. I have more soccer players than I know what to do with." It turned out to be good advice.

This May, Jordan Bessalel led the Middlebury College Panthers to the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) Championship. Bessalel, the men's golf team senior co-captain, had a two-day score of 147, the lowest among all players in the championship, which



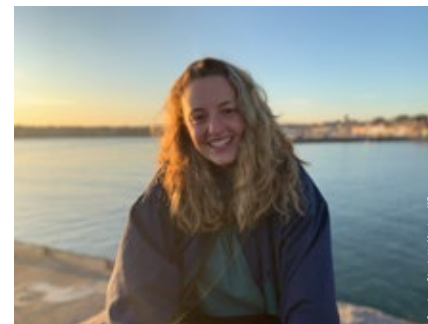
Jordan Bessalel '17 caps off his golf career with a big win.

earned him NESCAC Player of the Year and First-Team All-NESCAC Honors. Also, this May, the Haseltine-Klevenow Memorial Trophy, Middlebury's top honor given to a male and female athlete for combined excellence in both athletics and academics, was awarded to two Sidwell Friends classmates, Bessalel and ice-hockey player **Elise Park**.

Bessalel started out his Middlebury career by being named NESCAC Co-Rookie of the Year in 2018. He is only the second player in Middlebury men's golf history to earn both NESCAC Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year Honors during his tenure.

These accomplishments mark the culmination of Bessalel's 13-year run in competitive golf. While at Sidwell Friends, Jordan won the individual MAC championship in his junior year (he was runner-up senior year) and led the Quakers to their first-ever Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAC) Championship in golf in 2015. Now Jordan is putting down his clubs and will be moving to New York City to join Prudential Private Capital as an analyst in the Infrastructure Debt group. Jordan, an economics major and history minor, graduated from Middlebury in May. Jordan, along with his sister, **Sonya Bessalel '14**, were lifers at Sidwell Friends, having both started out in Peggy Luthringer's pre-K class many years ago.

graduation, I'll be moving to New York City to work in finance."



Charlotte Masters '17 in Anstruther, Scotland, during her junior year abroad at the University of Edinburgh

CHARLOTTE MASTERS is graduating from Northwestern University's School of Education and Social Policy in June with a bachelor's degree in human development and psychological services and a history minor. While at Northwestern, Charlotte served in executive leadership roles with Kesem, a national organization dedicated to supporting children ages six to 18 through their parent or

guardian's cancer and is currently working at Northwestern's Personality Across Development Lab as a research assistant. Charlotte was a Northwestern Brady Scholar in Ethics and Civic Life and completed her practicum at Advocate Children's Hospital, where she worked as a pediatric developmental intern. Continuing her love of the game of basketball, Charlotte played on the club team for four years at Northwestern and with Edinburgh University in Scotland, where she spent part of her junior year abroad (see photo on left). Governor J.B. Pritzker recently appointed Charlotte to serve on the Illinois Holocaust and Genocide Commission, where she will work on expanding relevant social justice education across the state before attending the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy & Practice in fall 2022 for her master's in social work.

2018

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

NATI GEBREMARIAM: "I will be campaigning this summer for New York City mayoral candidate Paperboy Love Prince."

2020

PATRICK NEWCOMBE

patricknewcombe@gmail.com

We are pleased to share that on Sunday, August 1, 2021, Sidwell Friends School will host an in-person celebration for all members of the Class of 2020 and their parents in honor of their graduation. Full event details coming soon. If you have any questions, please email us at alumni@sidwell.edu.

GRACE NOTES MESSAGES FROM FORMER FACULTY AND STAFF

ANNE MONAHAN (retired PE teacher and coach at Sidwell Friends for 45 years): “I have been retired six years, but with the pandemic it feels like 20 years—Twilight Zone! I’m living in Reston, Virginia, working part time at Madeira School and the Potomac School teaching field hockey, lacrosse, and squash. My new obsession has been playing Pickleball... seven days a week. I have six grandchildren living in Georgia, Florida, and nearby in Sterling, Virginia. I had a wonderful family reunion in the Outer Banks last summer. I look forward to seeing everyone without masks!”

GEORGE OVITT (Sidwell Friends faculty, 1990–2000), with his colleague Peter Nash, recently published *Trotsky’s Sink*, a collection of essays on a variety of lesser-known literary works (see photo on right). Available from the usual online suspects.

TERRY PARMELEE (art and history of art teacher in the Upper School, 1969–1978): “Having a vaccination allowed me to meet with other formerly restricted Upper School faculty members: math teacher Florrie Fasanelli and librarian Jane Howard. It was a pleasure to converse without the masks that we have

been sporting for the past year! We are all at present well and looking forward to widening our spheres of activities this summer and to seeing more old friends from Sidwell Friends.”



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A simple way to create your legacy and support the Quaker education of future students is to name Sidwell Friends School as a beneficiary of your:

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- Commercial annuity.

Beneficiary designations let you specify the individuals and charities you want to support and the percentage of the assets you want each beneficiary to receive. It's as easy as filling out a form.

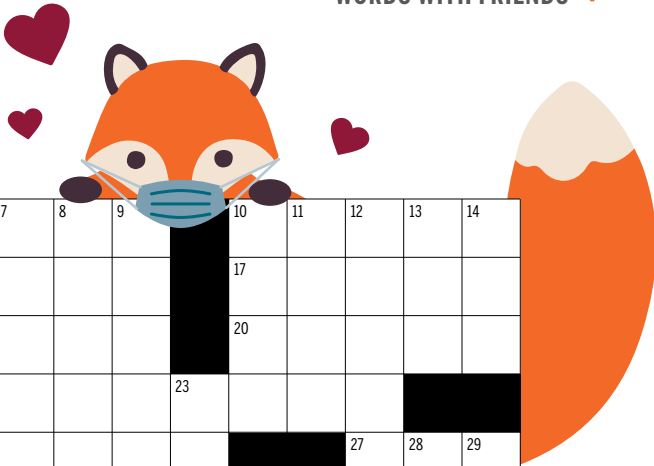
You can obtain a “beneficiary designation form” by calling or visiting the website of your account administrator. The form takes just a few minutes to complete, yet the

impact of your gift will be realized in our students’ lives for generations to come. To learn more about ways to leave your legacy, please go to plannedgiving.sidwell.edu.

For assistance, please contact **Tara Arras**, assistant head of school for advancement, at arrast@sidwell.edu or **202.537.8117**.

If you have already included Sidwell Friends in your estate plans, please let us know and allow us to add you as a member of our **Thomas and Frances Sidwell Society**. We will not publish your name without your permission.

Words with Friends:
A Heart to Heart



ACROSS

- 1 Japanese stock
- 6 Dry out
- 10 2006 Amy Winehouse song
- 15 Currer Bell, for Charlotte Brontë
- 16 Golden disc in many Renaissance paintings
- 17 Present at a podium
- 18 Like some challenging books
- 19 Kon-Tiki Museum site
- 20 Dug for treasure, in a way
- 21 How we will dance in September
- 24 Before, before
- 26 Raise canines?
- 27 Swift runner?
- 30 Singer Carey who referred to herself as "The Elusive Chanteuse"
- 33 Make angry
- 36 Spork, for one
- 38 Soap opera staple
- 39 What we will finally be when school resumes in September
- 42 "Vincent and _____: The Van Gogh Brothers" (Deborah Heiligman book)
- 45 Where Excalibur was forged
- 46 Male deer
- 50 Shetland food
- 51 Easy win
- 53 Rio greeting
- 54 Immobile
- 56 Film holder
- 57 Cookies with a "Golden" variety
- 59 Waited on the bench
- 61 "How's it hangin'?"
- 62 "FOOD!"
- 64 Titular husky voiced by Kevin Bacon
- 65 "Match Game" host Baldwin
- 67 Lipton unit
- 70 Piece of news
- 73 Ding-dong
- 74 Word before "Bueller" in a famous movie quote
- 75 Shout after a slice
- 76 Check
- 77 Does the leg work?
- 78 "You really think so?"



Puzzle by Aimee Lucido

DOWN

- 1 Pop
- 2 Porter alternative
- 3 Heartfelt
- 4 Jumble
- 5 "Ahhh"
- 6 Experience stage fright, say
- 7 Proverbial waste creator
- 8 Portion (out)
- 9 Puppe
- 10 One location for "Eat, Pray, Love"
- 11 Lake bordering Cleveland
- 12 Tear cloths?
- 13 Broke bread
- 14 Place for a snooze
- 22 Word often used to describe sustainable fashion
- 23 "Siddhartha" author Hesse
- 24 Blue-necked bird
- 25 Snitch
- 28 "Certainly, monsieur"
- 29 Massage spot
- 31 Deets
- 32 Butterfield of "Sex Education"
- 34 "Monsters, _____"

- 35 Some jeans
- 37 Burton of "Reading Rainbow"
- 38 In conflict
- 40 G-rated
- 41 Of yore, of yore
- 42 It's not that
- 43 Mandlikova of tennis
- 44 How we will see in September
- 47 How we will go in September
- 48 Jesus of baseball
- 49 [Egads!]
- 51 Wow
- 52 Ancient eyeliner
- 55 "Runaway Bride," for one
- 58 Confirm
- 60 General Mills cereal brand
- 61 Pay
- 63 One of several at the top of a window
- 64 Batman villain with an appropriate name
- 65 Shakespearean affirmatives
- 66 Luck
- 68 Novelist Rand
- 69 Quagmire
- 71 Long period
- 72 [Shrug]



The Message, Not the Medium

2021 Rubenstein Guest Artist Suzanne Brennan Firstenberg explores the pandemic, empathy, and thousands of unfinished stories.

"In my art, you will see a theme," said Suzanne Brennan Firstenberg, the 2020/21 Sidwell Friends guest artist at the School's Rubenstein Guest Artist Lecture in May. "I take on topics where there has been a lot of discussion, but very little movement." Perhaps no issue epitomized that theme so precisely as COVID-19, which ravaged the nation while the previous White House fumbled its reaction. In response, Firstenberg created *In America: How could this happen...*, an instantly iconic installment in the DC Armory featuring more than a quarter of a million small white flags—each representing a coronavirus death.

"I wanted to use art to explain to people the real depth and breadth of this tragedy," Firstenberg said. "The number of deaths in America got so extreme that people were ignoring it in a way." The 270,000-plus flags, she said, each represent "unfinished stories." She chose the flags for their movement and color: "The flags, when they ripple, it is the only movement, and there's beauty in that. But on the whole, when

you look at this immense field, that white really looks like what it is: the flag of surrender." Of course, even a quarter-million flags couldn't keep pace with the pandemic. So Firstenberg partnered with George Washington University to create a digitized, geolocated version of the installment. Now, Americans everywhere can "visit" the flags and even add their own.

Firstenberg has worked across a spectrum of critical issues, from addiction to immigration. In doing so, she has used clay, bronze, wood, sharpies, flags, and even ice to express herself. "You will not recognize my art visually," she said. "You will feel it viscerally." Sidwell Friends Middle Schoolers had a chance to experience that for themselves during a virtual field trip to Firstenberg's huge Bethesda studio. She started out by asking the class who among them were artists. But before the students could answer, Firstenberg said: "You should all have your hands raised. You are all artists. Everyone has an artist on the inside."

THE FOX DEN

SLY STYLE

The Fox Den's online store has all of your Quaker spirit gear and merch needs covered. You need masks? We've got 'em. Plus, scarves, plush blankets, backpacks, water bottles, sweatpants, ornaments, PJs, hats, onesies, and more!



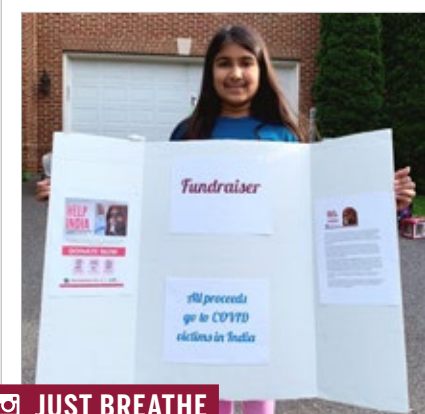
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JUST BREATHE

Roma '28 wanted to raise \$500 with a garage sale—enough for an oxygen concentrator—to support COVID relief in India. She ended up raising \$810.



SNEAK PEEK INTO SCHOOL

Take a peek at some favorite photos submitted by our grandparents for Grandparents & Friends Days 2021!



THE EYES HAVE IT

During 48 Hours for Scholars: "I gave more this year than any other because I could see this adorable kid smiling through his mask. Resilience = Sidwell kids!"



SPRING FORWARD

A collection of brightly colored photos from spring on campus, celebrating students being on campus five days a week!



JUMPING IN

Two students jumping into the new week.



THROWBACK THURSDAY

From the archives: Sidwell Friends students taking part in the May Festival in 1920.