

SIDWELL

MAGAZINE SPRING 2023

Friends



The Elective Imagination

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Zeeshan Aleem '04
rediscovers the Sidwell
Friends cafeteria
experience.

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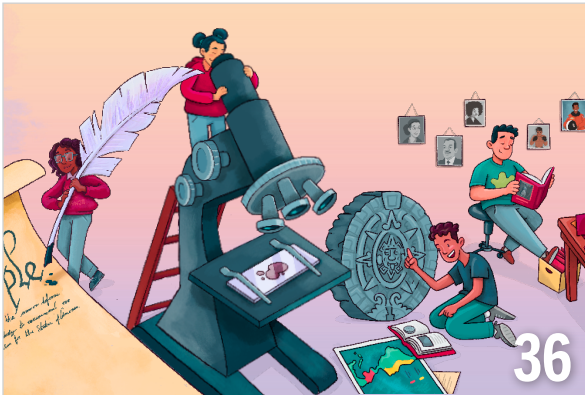
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On the Cover
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Contents

Spring 2023 Volume 94 Number 2



DEPARTMENTS

2 FROM THE EDITOR

3 ON CAMPUS

The head of school remembers a wandering troubadour; the Lower School breathes; Middle Schoolers get in on the robotics craze; winter sports wrap up; A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth comes to Sidwell Friends; we ask Marlon Byrd five questions; and more.

20 THE ARCHIVIST

"Lunch Time!"

47 ALUMNI ACTION

50 CLASS NOTES

"The Eye on LA": We remember iconic photographer Julian Wasser '51.

75 WORDS WITH FRIENDS

"Food Fight"

76 LAST LOOK

"What Dreams May Come"

FEATURES

24 EAT YOUR HEART OUT

Zeeshan Aleem '04 discovers that the Sidwell Friends cafeteria experience goes way beyond "just lunch."

34 THE ELECTIVE IMAGINATION

An expanding array of elective courses at Sidwell Friends allows students to explore their emerging interests, take a deep dive into an advanced subject, and broaden their academic perspective even before they leave Upper School.

42 PARADISE NOT YET FOUND

Economist J. Bradford DeLong '78 on the 20th century's startling successes—and unfulfilled promise.

From the Editor

SACHA ZIMMERMAN P'29

One of the great perks of working at Sidwell Friends School (aside from arriving at a leafy oasis in the middle of the city every day!) is the lunch. It is like a wonderful secret that all faculty and staff at Sidwell Friends share: The cafeteria is really, really excellent. Many of us delight in reporting back to our families each night: *Today was roasted red-pepper soup, Tuscan tuna and white bean salad, Cajun roasted chicken thigh, blackened tofu with corn and tomato salsa, and green-chili/cheddar polenta. What did you have?* So I was thrilled when alum and reporter Zeeshan Aleem '04 agreed to return to Sidwell Friends to see what the team in the cafeteria has been up to in the years since he graduated. You'll find he was not disappointed (see "Eat Your Heart Out," on page 24).

Inspired Aleem's hard work in the lunchroom, Loren Ito Hardenbergh, the School's archivist, went above and beyond to report out the history of meals at Sidwell Friends, including unearthing a longtime favorite recipe and an archival photo of Sidwell-branded dinnerware (see "Lunch Time!" on page 20). And puzzle maven Aimee Lucido joined in on the fun with a crossword that is sure to whet your appetite (see "Food Fight," on page 75).

This issue's cover story takes a deep look at the Upper School's dynamic curricular offerings (see "The Elective Imagination," on page 34). One of the best parts about being an independent school is that Sidwell Friends faculty and staff can create courses that best serve the students—like offering advanced language courses that maintain students' fluency rather than placing them out of leveled coursework, or science classes that act like real laboratories, or literature classes that look more college seminars than high school classes. Exploring the unique scholastic offerings at Sidwell Friends is a good reminder of the incredible opportunities students have here.

Also, in this issue, economist J. Bradford DeLong '78 reflects on the last century's impressive successes—as well as its unfulfilled promise (see "Paradise Not Yet Found," on page 42). In *Slouching Towards Utopia*, the Berkeley professor tackles the "criminal" and uneven distribution of wealth and its simpering legacy in today's world. DeLong joined Head of School Bryan Garman to discuss all of it in an episode of *Lives That Speak*, the Sidwell Friends School podcast.

Of course, there's so much more to discover—an interview with Marlon Byrd, the School's head of security; a tribute to *Urinetown*, the Upper School's highly praised musical; the 40th annual John Fisher Zeidman lecture; and more.





ON CAMPUS

John, the Good Luck Man

At a time of gun violence and fear, a wandering troubadour for love and good fortune might just be seen as a security risk instead of a missionary.

BY BRYAN GARMAN

After attending a meeting at which Middle School students shared their opposition to gun violence, I found myself reflecting on a remarkable person I knew as an undergraduate. John, the Good Luck Man, as he was affectionately known, visited my college campus everyday, rain or shine, to share his joy and optimism with everyone he met. Thinking of John in this context left me overcome with nostalgia for a simpler if imperfect world we inhabited before Columbine, one that retrospectively and selectively seems more innocent than I appreciated.

John was more recognizable to my classmates than any faculty member on our rural campus. Each morning at 7, this kind and eccentric man scaled the steps to the academic quad, wearing a black trench coat and high round-toed work boots as his vestments. With both hands in front of him, he clutched an oversized paper bag stuffed with mittens, ski caps, a Bible, a handful of keepsakes, and a few sandwiches secured from the local food bank. The bag seemed to pull him perpetually toward his mission, often blocking his view without slowing his purposeful gait. Thinning gray hair slicked back on his pale forehead, John peered around the edges of the tattered brown sack, dropping it with relief and purpose when he reached the library. There, he staked claim to the high-traffic area where he could minister to the locals.

John greeted each of us with the same message: “Good luck.” Day in and day out, he shared these words with genuine interest and caring, no questions asked. He assumed goodwill and good intent in everyone he met and exuded a joyful positivity he selflessly conferred to others. Those who engaged with him would be welcomed into his ministry. Bible in hand, he preached a universal love rather than chapter-and-verse brimstone. “We have so many blessings, we are

so fortunate,” those conversations would conclude. As long as we had faith and focus, evil would be eradicated, blessings would rain down upon us, and we could immerse ourselves in the resulting joy. That was his gospel, and when Mikhail Gorbachev allowed the wall to be torn down, it seemed the prophecy had been realized.

We might not expect a man of John’s humble circumstances to live with such happiness. After all, he lacked necessities that most of us are fortunate enough to take for granted. It was not clear, for example, that he knew where he would find his next meal, even if providence often delivered him to a fraternity house kitchen. While we students moped around campus with self-imposed angst—our largest demonstration of defiance came when the faculty voted to abolish the Greek system—

John taught us to find peace within ourselves, to express gratitude, to long for and forge connections with others. Through his words and example, he taught us that humanity mattered.

John’s memory evokes a time far less complex than ours. The challenges our students now face were merely nascent in the 1980s, even if those of us approaching adulthood

during the Reagan-Bush era thought we had plenty of torches to carry and swords to fall upon. There were real problems. But looking back now, it seems like we were chasing windmills, innocently convinced that perhaps our faith and good fortune to be educated would enable us to solve the major problems that threatened our common humanity.

In 1989, Don Henley declared the end of our innocence. Little did we know, however, that innocence would continue to dissipate with each passing generation. And we would subsequently come to understand that unless we became more vigilant, so too would our shared veneration of humanity, a concept I once naively believed we all were dedicated to honoring. Today, it’s hard to imagine that John, who would likely

“When will we find the courage to lay down our weapons so that our children can love and learn without fear?”



Students protest gun violence at Sidwell Friends.

be identified as a security risk, would be permitted to have a pulpit from which he could teach his privileged clientele how it might see the world differently. His presence on any campus today would raise anxiety about security; his simple message would have no meaning in a complex moment where we cannot take for granted the ability to learn and live in relative safety.

How do we respond to student concerns about gun violence when our broader society has forsaken their safety in favor of a right first asserted in an archaic context? How might we work with students to create meaningful change and embody the peace testimony? How can we affirm and help students to develop resilience in dangerous and disjointed times? When will we find the courage to lay down our weapons so that our children can love and learn without fear?

These are questions we can ill afford to leave to chance. I fear, however, that our children are paying the price for our collective willingness to have done so. Will they ever again experience the blessings of innocence? ✨

BZ



Photos by Anthony La Fleur



CULTURE CLUB

Easy as Pi

Question: What's the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter? Answer: Delicious! Math Counts set up pi trivia challenges on 3/14, so Sidwell Friends students could earn treats for their knowledge of that most famous of mathematical constants. Meanwhile, the cafeteria offered up pies for dessert on Pi Day—proving once and for all that math is sweet.



Pi Day is more than pie.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Just Breathe

The Lower School's new mental health program demonstrates the power of mindfulness.

This winter, the Lower School initiated the Wellness Wednesdays program to focus on mindfulness and mental health in Sidwell Friends' youngest grades. Wellness Wednesdays featured child psychologist **Dr. Lenka**

Glassman P '36, author of the *Kid Confident* book series, and Lower School Principal **Adele Paynter** as they explored topics such as managing bodies, working through anxiety, and handling overwhelming emotions. "As a society, we are phenomenally distracted, and we are passing those habits on to our children," says Paynter. "In schools, we see the impact of this on kids and their learning. They have difficulty sustaining attention, curbing impulsivity, and sitting with uncomfortable feelings—which, of course, are all a part of the learning process." Mindfulness, she

adds is a powerful strategy to combat distractedness. "While some of us might still equate mindfulness with the warm and fuzzy aspects of life, it's actually an incredibly practical tool and is used everywhere from corporate America to the military to the NFL," says Paynter. "The good and bad news is that the most effective way to bring mindfulness to kids is to embody it ourselves." Research shows that, with practice, children can incorporate mindfulness as a tool to use independently as they navigate the big feelings (positive and negative) that are part of growing up. And one of the most effective ways to harness mindfulness is incredibly simple: intentional breathing. "When we control our breathing," says Paynter, "we can control our bodies and, in turn, help manage our feelings."



Lower Schoolers practice mindfulness.

CLASS ACTS

Modern Biology

For some 9th graders, Bio1A is the chance to be a scientist.

"Does bad luck cause cancer?" **Delaney Hughes '26** asks as she holds an iPad aloft. She scrolls through a slide show explaining cell division and rates of mutation before answering: "Even for people with bad mutations, there is still a lot they can do to prevent cancer." Lifestyle, it turns out, trumps luck. A few feet away **William Panner '26** is explaining how hybrid speciation works. Recently, scientists discovered a new species of bird in the Galapagos Islands. It's a hybrid of a bird from Daphne Major Island and a different bird from Española Island; but this hybrid cannot mate with any bird except other hybrids. Hence, a new species. The Upper School at Sidwell Friends innovates new ways to teach even the oldest subjects. Bio1A is a prototypical example. There, 9th grade students read dense articles from scientific journals and learn to comprehend

academic texts and the process of science. "What is biological research?" asks Upper School science teacher Cecilia Laguarda. "By picking an article, the students get to see what science looks like and does in the real world." Once the students have made sense of their article, they each write an abstract for it at a 9th grade level. Ultimately, they describe their efforts through a presentation. Which is what **Kai Schropfer '26** is doing when he asks, "Did you know bacteria can degrade PET plastics?" Colonies of specific bacteria can consume plastic, rendering it into purely organic matter. It could be a huge breakthrough for the environment—if scientists can get



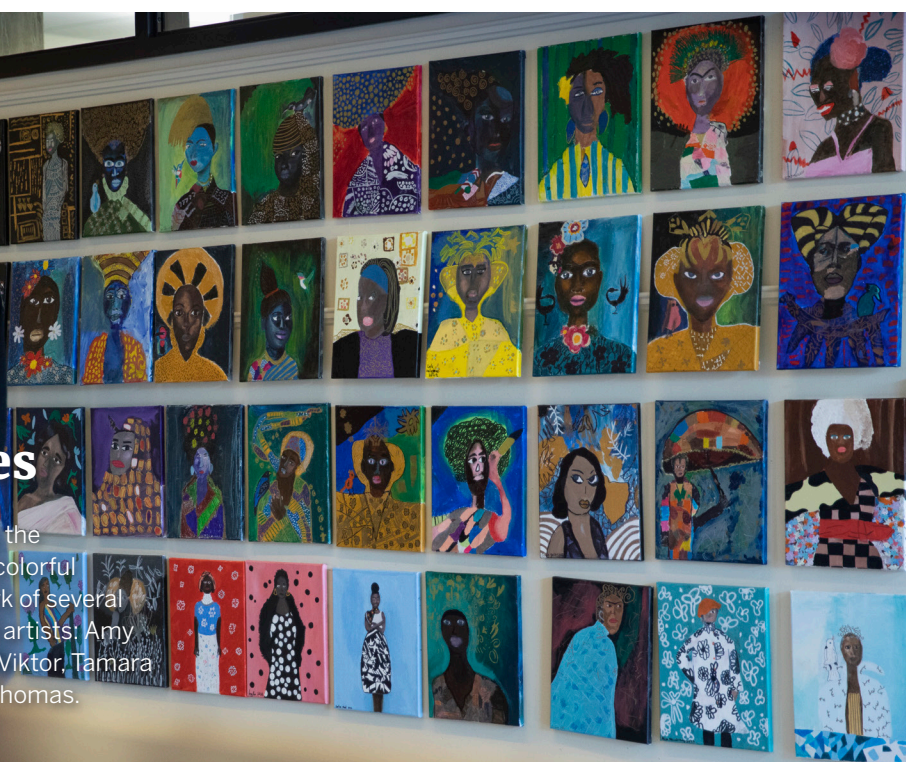
9th graders tackle academic texts.

the bacterial colonies to do so at scale. Meanwhile, **Isaac Jain '26** is explaining why humanity should be grateful for the dinosaurs: Their mass extinction led to the conditions in which human life could evolve. And **Vir Arora '26** is revealing why helmets may make brain injuries worse, not better. "They applied what they have already learned in class to new material and learned new things, too," says Laguarda. Throughout the class, students also see real lab work and hear from scientists. What's more: "They all worked really hard."

STATE OF THE ARTS

Mosaic of Faces

In honor of Black History Month, the 5th graders created these bold, colorful portraits inspired by the real work of several contemporary African American artists: Amy Sherald, Kehinde Wiley, Lina Iris Viktor, Tamara Natalie Maiden, and Mickalene Thomas.



AT YOUR SERVICE

The Cascade of King's Movement

Ayanna Gregory, Kabir Sehgal, and Sidwell Friends create an MLK Day to remember.

"The power of Dr. King was the opportunity to feel something you never thought you would," activist and singer **Ayanna Gregory** told viewers during a virtual Sidwell Friends Martin Luther King Jr. Day program. "It was the power of energy, vibration, and frequency—the power of a movement." That movement, the Civil Rights movement, pushed the needle on the American conversation, leading to the women's rights campaign, the fight for people with disabilities, gay rights activism, and every other social crusade in the United States since. As a result, said Gregory, "Civil Rights transcended racism, because the real fight was actually for all of humanity."

Gregory's presentation—part call-and-response, part song, part memoir—was the culminating event to a day that saw the Sidwell Friends community in action throughout the region. There were groups of Sidwell Friends families and friends at the annual Peace March, which made its way down Martin Luther King Avenue; groups at a park cleanup in Anacostia; groups volunteering at the School's partner organizations, like Martha's Table and A Wider Circle; and groups who stood in solemn awe before the eponymous memorial, where King's presence is somehow tangible. What's more, the Sidwell Friends community kept going with a month of giving back, demonstrating that these efforts should never be limited to a solitary occasion.



The Lower Schoolers pay tribute to the 60th Anniversary of the March on Washington.

For Gregory's part, her life has been an object lesson in giving back. She is the daughter of groundbreaking comic Dick Gregory, who burst into the American zeitgeist in the 1960s by making fun of racism in his act and becoming a trailblazing activist. Dick Gregory even did advance work for Dr. King, going to places ahead of King's visits to jumpstart conversations and critical thinking. "My father was a very dangerous man because he could not be bought," Ayanna Gregory told the Sidwell Friends community. "Because he told the truth, he was dangerous in an America that was trying to oppress people."

These days, Ayanna Gregory is more sanguine. In a post-George Floyd world, she thinks something has shifted. "There is a conversation happening now that wasn't happening before, and we get to tap into it," she said. "We're living in a time where, even though we see so many examples of oppression, we are going to see the end of an era of racism and white supremacy or white fragility."



That optimism was echoed by **Kabir Sehgal**, who co-wrote *Carry On: Reflections for a New Generation* with the late John Lewis, and who also spoke to the Sidwell Friends community during the School's Martin Luther King Jr. Day programming. Sehgal emphasized the poignant lessons of Lewis's life: nonviolence, hope, and empathy. Gregory also spoke of empathy—particularly the need for empathy across difference. "America has reduced us to race, but race it just a construct," she said. "We are all one human race." Then, reflecting on the power of King's work, she asked, "What revolution, movement, revelation can we start

KIDS 'N PLAY

Foxbot Power

How Quaker values helped a group of Middle Schoolers shine at a robotics competition.

Every year, under the skillful eye of Coach **Darby Thompson**, the Upper School Robotics Club competes in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Competition, the culmination of months of work in engineering, coding, design, and innovation. Each August, FIRST sets out a specific thematic challenge; this season, it was “Energize.” Students were asked to incorporate sustainable energy concepts, including remotely moving energy cells, starting a wind turbine, and engaging solar panels. The Upper Schoolers did just that with a successful season.

But in the Middle School, a group of seven boys, all 6th graders, decided they couldn’t wait until 9th grade to get started with FIRST. One of their parents, **Matt Phillips P ’29, ’31, ’33**, stepped up to help. Phillips, a national security, strategy, and defense consultant, inhaled hours of YouTube videos, enlisted two more parents, offered his basement, and acted as coach for the 11-year-olds. Using Lego (unlike the Upper Schoolers, FIRST’s 10-to-14 age group does not wield power tools), the “Foxbots” team worked from late October through January. They built Lego robots, they coded, and they studied Thorium as a potentially safer form of nuclear energy. They even interviewed a nuclear energy expert—another Sidwell Friends parent—and wrote a skit to showcase their understanding of the technology.

But most of all, they worked together, supported one another, and genuinely enjoyed the process, even when it was difficult. Facing stiff competition from veteran FIRSTers, most of whom



The Foxbots are all smiles at the FIRST competition.

started their projects two months earlier than the Sidwell team, the Foxbots entered the contest on January 14 as underdogs. And though the team did not move from the regional competition to the state level, they did something right. While other teams earned engineering awards, innovation awards, and robot performance awards, the Foxbots won the Judges Award (also known as the Motivate Award), which is given to the team that, during the course of competition, is consistently in the running for other awards; who various judges “have noticed and commented on the positive aspects of the team”; and who “has fully embraced the principles of FIRST” (like inclusion, teamwork, and positivity).

“Building and coding robots to act autonomously is not easy, even with Lego robots,” says Phillips. “I couldn’t be more proud of the amount of effort that our team put in, and it was great to see their hard work and enthusiasm pay off—especially when they won the Judges Award. Seeing our team recognized not just for their hard work, but also for their enthusiasm and teamwork, was really great. They are amazing kids, and they carried their Quaker values with them throughout the competition.”



A sampling of the valentines from PA Pride

AT YOUR SERVICE

Proud Valentines!

The PA Pride families gathered their arts-and-crafts supplies, headed over to the DC Center for the LGBT Community, and made cards for senior citizens. Romance and service—everyone at Sidwell Friends was smitten.



Courtesy Dee Dwyer

STATE OF THE ARTS

Visual Voice of The People

DC photographer **Dee Dwyer** talks to Middle Schoolers about her work and recent rise to prominence.

In just the past three years, photographer **Dee Dwyer** has taken pictures for *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, and *Rolling Stone*; given a TED Talk; and won an Edward R. Murrow Award for reporting. But if you ask her, Dwyer's real accomplishment is chronicling her favorite place in the world, Southeast DC. "I've been documenting Southeast DC since I was a teenager," Dwyer told Sidwell Friends Middle Schoolers at a special assembly in January. "I want to be the visual voice of the people. I want to show that DC isn't just monuments." Dwyer studied photography and filmmaking in college and became inspired by Spike Lee's cinematic love letters to Brooklyn, New York. Dwyer wanted to convey the vibrancy of her neighborhood, too. "I started taking pictures at the go-gos," she said of the venues devoted to DC's native sound. "It was where people

smiled." She became well-known in DC and has been a regular feature of Art All Night, the District's 22-ward arts festival. But it was Dwyer's still images from Black Lives Matter protests in 2020 that catapulted her to national prominence. Dwyer's reputation as a trustworthy local voice gave her access to DC's Black activist community. "Black Lives Matter shed light on my work," she said. "I wouldn't be here were it not for Black people insisting that other Black people tell their stories." She encouraged all the students to find their own voices, expressed joy upon hearing they could take photography as early as Upper School, and went back and forth with the kids about who the best new rap artists on the scene are right now. Learn more about Dwyer's work, which she says, "shows the world what it's made of," at deedwyerjonts.com.

SPECIAL TOPICS

Social Network

How to grow up in an age of pervasive online media.

Rage bait. Thirst traps. Witch hunts. Trauma dumps. These are just a few of the problematic themes that can crop up on social media, according to Middle School Academic Technology Coordinator **Nate Green**, who spoke to parents this month at a special tech talk called “Teens and TikTok.” Though Green started the discussion by bringing up TikTok, he warned parents to be wary of all social media platforms, which can send viewers down algorithmic rabbit holes that eat away at kids’ self-esteem. Studies show that teens, inundated with quick screen shots and videos, fall prey to overstimulation and feel like they need to watch three screens at once to feel engaged. And with programmatic algorithms designed to keep them watching, teens often start to act and think like a social media clip, Green said. The effects of

split-second media consumption on how kids behave is critical—and worrying. Green calls these behaviors—like changes in diet, a desire for new products, a change in how teens dress—“second-order effects,” which can be consequences of consuming too many mental and physical messages. As Green noted, one 8th grader he spoke with thinks social media forces kids to grow up more quickly. Green encouraged parents to hold off on allowing access to social media platforms for as long as possible, to make sure kids’ accounts are private if and when they do get access, to watch images and videos with their kids (or over their shoulders), to monitor the amount of screen time kids have, and to “investigate changes in kids’ decisions” away from screens. The encouraging news is that Green believes many Sidwell Friends students are aware of the risks and downsides to overconsumption of social media—in part thanks to classes that discuss it. Even so, he cautions, parents should revisit the platforms their kids are using often and keep monitoring the messages young people are internalizing.

JUST CAUSES

Empowering Action

A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth comes to Sidwell Friends.

How do you build an effective anti-racist movement? One conversation at a time—which for **Kyle Williams** **P '17, '19, '24** has meant nearly 300 conversations (and counting) over the last two and a half years. Williams is the chief empowerment officer of A Long Talk About the Uncomfortable Truth, a nonprofit devoted to creating an “anti-racism activation experience” and a network of educated activists. “I’m not trying to change people’s minds,” Williams says. “I’m trying to empower people to act.” In other words, Williams is not attempting to argue with or convert white supremacists; he’s meeting people where they are, igniting a sense of activism in them, and then arming them to go into the world and end racism.

It all started organically, after Williams spoke to his son’s college basketball team in the wake of the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests. It was a familiar role: Williams has been an educator for the last 25 years, including as head of a DC charter school. That one conversation led to more with other colleges and universities, athletics teams, workplaces, and organizations, and the program just skyrocketed forward. Now, more than 7,000 people have had the conversation; they represent groups from the University of Michigan, Yale, Duke, Syracuse University, the Aspen Institute, LinkedIn, Deutsche Bank, Inova Health System, and dozens more.

Sidwell Friends is now on that list as Williams hosted members of the community for A Long Talk. With three Sidwell Friends kids, Williams had been eager for the School to join in. After all, Quakers have deep ties to the earliest abolitionist movements. So, in February, nearly 40 parents, faculty, and staff joined the talk, and Williams hopes to host more conversations, including with students, going forward.



Kyle Williams

The Long Talk experience includes “pre-work”: an hour-plus video and readings to ground the group in a common understanding of U.S. history. Then there are two sessions, each two hours long, in which participants respond to materials and questions in a supportive environment. Participants also practice new skills, conversational approaches, and protocols to become actively anti-racist. Williams is clear that A Long Talk isn’t “DEI” (diversity, equity, and inclusion) training, though that’s also important work. A Long Talk is less about how individuals behave in a given setting than it is an outward-facing call to action.

To that end, A Long Talk’s Pillars of Change network is there to brainstorm ideas, provide resources, and help participants activate. Whether it’s the basketball coach in Pennsylvania who only gets team meals from Black-owned businesses or the 6th grader in New Mexico who personally trained his teachers in anti-racist principles, there are big and small acts people can take every day to make a difference. Helping people commit is why Williams says, “I didn’t just find my purpose—I’ve found my people.” To learn more about A Long Talk, go to alongtalk.com.



Jessica Chen Weiss

Watch the full 40th Annual Zeidman Memorial Lecture here: sidwell.pub/zeidman.



The audience at the John Fisher Zeidman lecture

SPECIAL TOPICS

China and Realpolitik

Zeidman lecturer Jessica Chen Weiss wants the United States to coexist with China—not beat it.

"It is a privilege to be at a community that leads with peace," **Jessica Chen Weiss** told an audience of 175 people at Sidwell Friends School on March 2. Weiss, the Michael J. Zak Professor for China and Asia-Pacific Studies at Cornell University, was on campus to give the 40th Annual John Fisher Zeidman '79 Memorial Lecture. In the field of China studies, Weiss has become something of a sensation of late—she was even the recent subject of a *New Yorker* profile—with her staunchly realist take on East-West relations, which calls on the West to compete with China but not to push the relationship to the breaking point. It's an argument she lays out in her new book, *A World Safe for Autocracy? China's Rise and the Future of Global Politics*, and one she explored during the Zeidman lecture.

"The conventional wisdom is that we are entering a new cold war with China," she said, "an existential struggle with a techno-totalitarian state. But we should be careful about taking these claims at face value." That conventional wisdom is predicated on the idea that China's goal is to replace the United States as the sole superpower on the world stage, which is exactly what the 2022 National

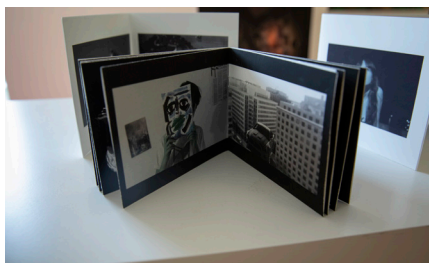
Security Strategy posits. But Weiss asked the audience, is that really the case? "What does China want?"

Weiss argued that China is far more beholden to its own domestic politics than Western politicians realize. From the Biden administration to the far-right wing of the Republican Party, there are "no shortage of alarm bells that China intends to replace the U.S." But, she posited, China isn't as rigid as many in the West may think. She cited examples of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) making room for entrepreneurs and capitalists to thrive and innovate; changing its stance on climate change to make investments in renewable energies, despite its laser-focus on economic growth; and yielding to protests demanding an end to COVID lockdowns. She said the CCP still needs popular support, and it is all too aware that most communist states have collapsed. So, what China wants, Weiss clarified, is less domination than survival: "China wants sovereignty, security, and development."

Currently, Weiss said, "The U.S. and China are still more interested in leading by example than putting their thumbs

on the scale, but that's fragile," and as of now, "we're on a very dangerous trajectory." Weiss said there's no indication that China wants other countries to follow in its image: "It wants countries to refrain from criticizing it, not to copy it." To that end, Weiss thinks that's exactly what the West should do: Reverse the chilling effects of rhetoric and tone down the existential-threat-to-democracy hyperbole. She calls it "strategic ambiguity." The United States should continue to lead by example, not by demand, and to allow for a world in which China also perseveres. "A world safe for autocracy," Weiss said, "can also be a world safe for democracy."

After fielding tough questions from the Sidwell Friends audience about China's moral failings, Weiss concluded by reminding the room that her point was not to ignore human rights violations or Taiwan statehood issues. Rather, she said, her first goal is to avoid all-out war, which of course would only exacerbate conditions for persecuted Uyghurs or Taiwanese independence. "The alternative to sharing is war," Weiss said to the audience. "Naming and shaming doesn't move the needle. What are the tools that would? What furthers our interests more? Taking a softer tone with China or aggressive tactics?"



STATE OF THE ARTS

Art. Work.

Students display their talents.

The Upper School Art Show was on display in the Kogod Arts Center throughout the winter and featured an illuminating peek into the artistic curriculum at Sidwell Friends. “Art is life—and the students spent a good part of their lives making these artworks,” says **Catherine Dunn**, the Upper School art teacher. “It shows how they really observed and worked with what they saw.” For the Advanced Art students, they spent a good part of the fall out in the hallways, working on their big charcoal drawings. “They worked boldly out in public rather than tucked away in the classroom,” says Dunn. Meanwhile, the drawing classes combined observations from life with their imaginations, and the digital art pieces were incredibly labor-intensive and required a real commitment to the process. As for Dunn: “I am thrilled with what everyone created.”



Photos by Anthony LaFleur



STATE OF THE ARTS

You're in Luck!

Photos from the Upper School's performance of *Urinetown* are almost as good as the show.

What happens when the government restricts the most basic of necessities? A free-flowing stream of subversion! *Urinetown*, the Broadway sensation became the Upper School's spring musical in the Caplin Theater. The three-time Tony Award-winning show takes place in a Gotham-like city, where a water shortage has led to a ban on private toilets. Citizens must use public amenities—regulated by a malevolent company that profits by charging for one of humanity's most urgent needs. Amid the people, a hero must rise and start a revolution to lead them all to freedom! *Urinetown* is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, environmental collapse, bureaucracy, and musical theater itself! Even better: The show earned rave reviews.



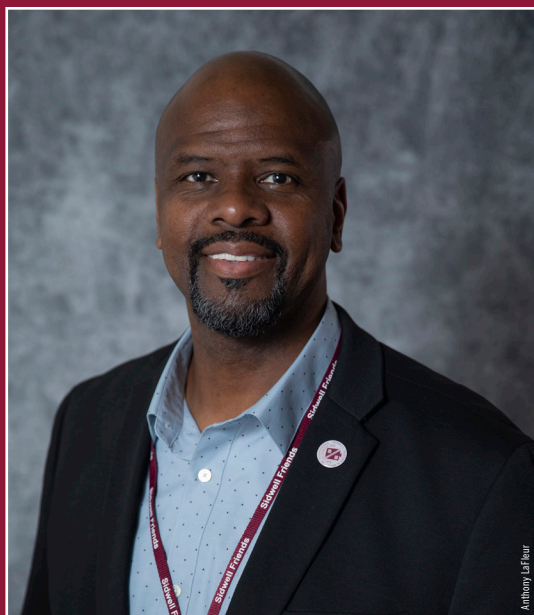
Artwork by Luca Bea Kountoupes '26
and Lauren Jain '26
Photos by Cameron Whitman



URINETOWN

The (Tony Award Winning) Musical





Byrd



for
MARLON BYRD

AT YOUR SERVICE

How to Thrive

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL SAFETY MARLON BYRD JOINED SIDWELL FRIENDS last fall after decades of experience as a police officer and safety expert. Byrd supervises the School's safety officers; maintains relationships with local law enforcement; coordinates with off-duty police officers who provide security to both the Bethesda and DC campuses; and regularly conducts safety audits, amends protocols, and trains students, faculty, and staff. Byrd also oversees monthly fire and lockdown drills.

1. What is your law enforcement background?

I spent 23 years in the police department in Ithaca, New York. My first couple years, I did regular street patrol. Eventually, I started our community-policing division. We created a unit where part of my job was actually being in the high schools. It wasn't that we were concerned about crime in high school; it was about forming normal relationships with the students, because ultimately, you're going to engage with them out on the street as well. So being able to meet them in *their* space without there being a police response to a complaint, it really allowed for a better relationship. Then I became a detective sergeant for about 10 years, and finally I got promoted to lieutenant. I ran a lot of units, and I was the crisis negotiator for a joint task force made up of mental health experts and police. I was the person who came in and talked people out of very distressing situations and brought everything to a close without violence. Then I went to the FBI Academy in Quantico for a two-month, executive-level training program with law enforcement officers from all over the world.

2. How did you end up in school safety?

I was recruited to work at the Maryland Institute College of Art, or "MICA," right in the city of Baltimore as their associate vice president for campus safety. Of course, you're in a city that's having all types of challenges, and the campus was experiencing a high rate of crime. A lot of MICA's safety work was antiquated, the training wasn't the best, and the staffing wasn't where it needed to be. We had to come up with a full plan to address this, and we were successful: After two years, we had a drop in crime of 60 percent. It was huge. Deployment was right, personnel was right, and we updated technology to focus on deterrence as opposed to response. We deterred a lot of crime—so much so that the Bolton Hill neighborhood reaped the benefits. Even the Baltimore PD was like, *Oh jeez, the numbers are going down!* It was great to get contacted by parents who were ecstatic that their kids were now in a safer environment.



Bethesda campus

3. What's the biggest challenge working in a K-12 setting?

Violence and active shooters are the biggest challenge of working in a school

environment. People have this misconception that because the president's kids went here, the School is like Fort Knox. And, of course, we have security measures in place: cameras, gates, guards. But I believe in making secure spaces without creating a fortress. At many schools, if something happens, they immediately say, *Oh my God, everybody shelter in place*. I'm not a proponent of that because of the emotional turmoil it has on the kids (and even the adults), and it disturbs learning. That's why we create these modes. For example, we can have a closed campus without a lockdown. A "closed campus" means something's going on off campus but close by; so, we're not letting kids leave and we're restricting access to campus, but we're continuing classes. With a "secure campus," no one's coming in whatsoever and no one's leaving; you can still go to classes, but we restrict outdoor activity. Then you have "shelter in place," where you stay where you are; you don't have to get under tables, but you limit movement—no going to the bathroom, no moving around. Then, you go into "lockdown"—shades down, chairs against the door—and that's because there's presumed violence or a weapon on campus. That's the only time you're going to do an actual lockdown. Lockdown should not be the first response. When people are unsure about what to do, they immediately go to, *What's the safest possible option? It'll never hurt to be the safest, right? I'm gonna go ahead and lockdown, and we'll just deal with everything else afterward*. That isn't sustainable, it's disruptive, and it's going to have emotional and educational repercussions down the road.

4. What other fixes have you put in place at Sidwell Friends?

Having the gates in place is critical, and so is having cameras associated with those gates. Cameras can give you alerts in real time if someone breaks a certain barrier. Cameras also allow us to go back and say, *Hey, how did that happen? Or: How did that strange object get there?* Patrols are also critical. The officers don't spend much time inside the school buildings because, again, that's the kids' space. We aren't policing the students. We want to be a deterrent to those who may want to come across the gates. Perception is reality. By being visible, it sends a message to the criminal mind that this is not a target. Having guards at different locations at different times and switching it up—those are key parts of the security system at both campuses. Putting these procedures, protocols, and guidelines in place helps protect the School 24/7.

5. What does working with children in 2023 mean to you?

Working with K-12 is refreshing because you get to see all this energy and learning. I have a master's degree in criminal justice and was an instructor at a community college. I'm always thinking in terms of, *How can I educate this person not just for today but for the days to come, for the years to come?* When I talk to young folks, I recognize they're coming up in a post-Columbine generation. We're doing these lockdowns, and it's based on the fact that it revolves around violence. When I'm engaging with kids, I want them to recognize that they can use the information I'm giving them at school when they're at the mall with their friends. It's an opportunity to teach them how to handle adversity anywhere. We're dealing with something uncomfortable, but life can be uncomfortable. How can we manage that? We start addressing these issues early so kids have the tools and coping mechanisms to handle stressful situations.

We're at a point in K-12, where we need to rethink how we educate—not in the sense of English and math: How do we educate the other components of life? Crimes on campus can derail a young person, but we can make sure they are equipped with the necessary tools and education to endure anything. I'm a big fan of acknowledging that everyone can survive any type of incident and emergency, but we have to give kids the information and tools to have the best chance possible. Not teaching students how to survive during an active shooter or assailant situation does a disservice to the kids and the community. The biggest hang-up is often the adults. Kids get it—like I said, they're post-Columbine. When I talked to the Middle Schoolers, I asked by a show of hands who has been doing a lockdown since 1st grade. Every hand went up. That can be a somber moment: *Oh my gosh, you guys have been dealing with this since you were six years old*. But it's their conditioning; that's the world that they live in. So, yes, they live with lockdowns, but they're also more prepared. Then they can transfer those skills to the mall, to an earthquake, to any emergency-response situation. It's critical we give them everything possible to survive and come out unscathed.



DC campus

For all news and up-to-date information, you can find more at sidwell.edu/athletics and on Twitter and Instagram by following @SFSQuakers! #GoQuakers.



GOOD SPORTS

SPORTING SPIRITS

The winter season exemplifies the determination of Sidwell Friends athletes.

BY CALEB MORRIS

The book *Endurance* chronicles the story of Sir Ernest Shackleton and his crew as they attempted to cross the Antarctic continent in 1914. They faced unimaginable challenges and braved harsh conditions, isolation, and uncertainty for months. Yet, they refused to give up, embodying hope in the face of every obstacle. Like those explorers, athletes also showcase the human spirit and its testament to resilience and perseverance through adversity.

Looking at the winter season, similar themes emerge. Through their dedication, hard work, and

determination, Sidwell Friends' winter athletes, coaches, trainers, administrative staff, and the entire community of fans have demonstrated their endurance, pushing themselves to the limit and refusing to give up even in the most challenging of struggles. From wrestling and the swim and dive teams, who persevered through tough competition and set personal bests, to the basketball teams, who battled their way to championships, each athlete demonstrated their own version of endurance.

Girls' basketball had high expectations this season—and that came with its own challenges. The Quakers



competed against some of the best teams in the country and came out stronger for it. Claiming another District of Columbia State Athletic Association (DCSAA) championship, back-to-back now, the team was led by **Jadyn Donovan '23**, who became the School's second McDonald's All-American. "It has been such an honor to coach and represent our community," **Coach Tamika Dudley** said after the game. "Through hard work and perseverance, we accomplished our goal of winning a state championship. We are grateful for the continued support of the Sidwell Friends community." All-ISL (independent school league) selections this winter included Donovan, **Kendall Dudley '24**, and **Leah Harmon '24**. Signature wins this season were over nationally top-ranked Montverde Academy, the Webb School, and Paul VI.



LEFT: The girls' basketball team **CENTER:** The boys' basketball team **RIGHT:** The wrestling team

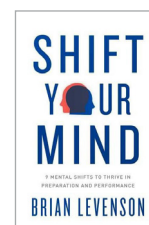
Boys' basketball was led by All-MAC (Mid-Athletic Conference) selections this season with **Cam Guillus '23**, **Acaden Lewis '25**, **Jalen Rougier-Roan '26**, and **Caleb Williams '26** as the team captured back-to-back MAC and DCSAA championships this season. "Getting back to the championship game and winning it means a lot," Gillis said after the game. "Knowing our difficult season with injuries and sickness, and the team's resilience to keep fighting, made this championship more fulfilling. I would not have done it with any other group of guys." Signature wins this season included Jackson-Reed and nationally top-ranked Paul VI and Gonzaga.



The Sidwell Wrestling Team was young this year but made some great strides as a team and is poised to make a push for MAC titles in the years ahead. For the first time since 2020, the team had three individual MAC Champions—**Luke Borkowski '25**, **Isaac Jain '26**, and **Jack Rosenstein '25**—as wrestling finished up with impressive individual performances. The girls' team also made outstanding progress, placing as finishers at various local events.

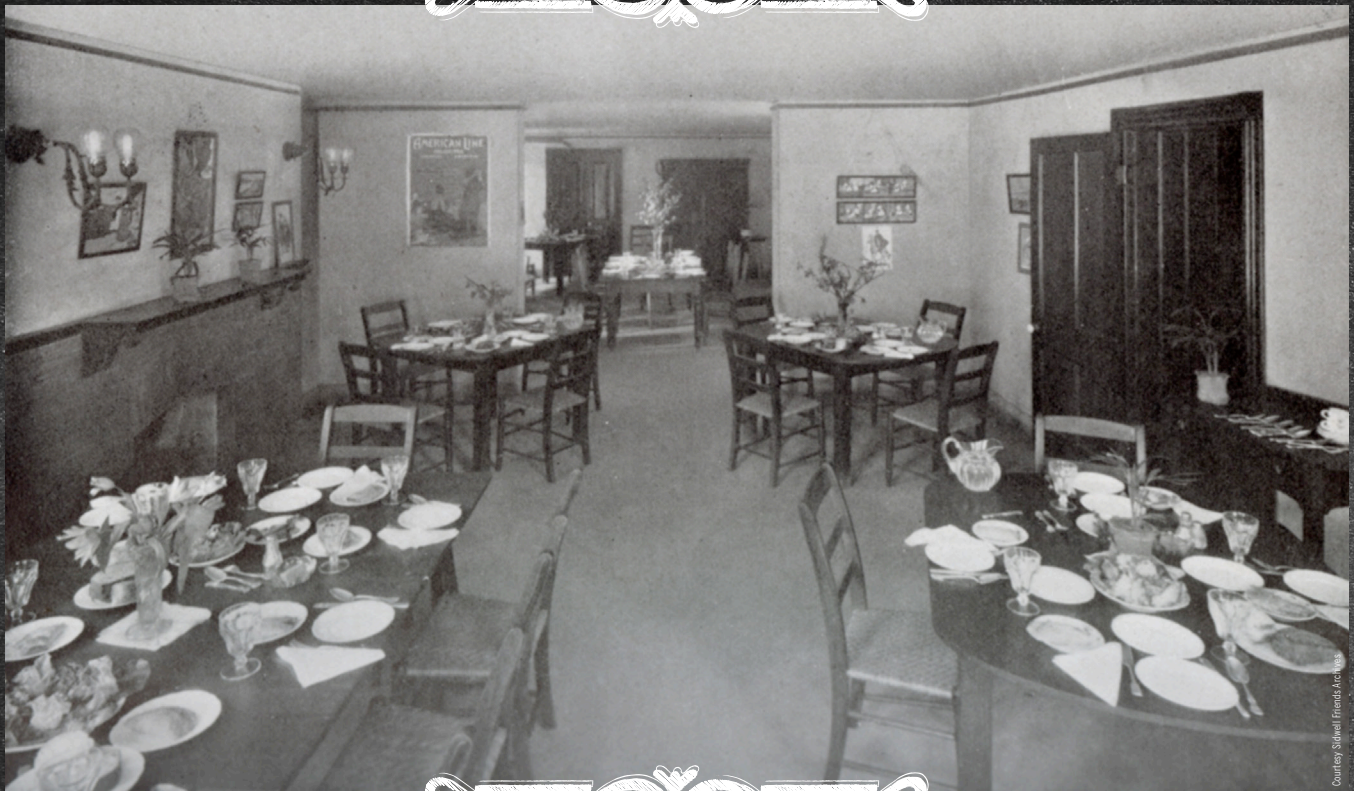
This season's swim and dive teams competed at DCSAA Championships, MAC, and WMPSSDL (Washington Metropolitan Prep School Swim Dive League) meets. Personal bests were broken, and grueling pool workouts and training sessions were conquered. Congratulations to Metro qualifiers **Jason Babcock '24**, **Patrick Jiminez '26**, and **Lily Palmerino '24**!

The Sidwell Friends Athletics Leadership Academy wrapped up its year with special guest **Brian Levenson P '34, '35**, the author of *Shift Your Mind* and host of the *Intentional Performers* podcast. Levenson spoke about the difference between the "preparation mind" and the "performance mind." Applications for the 2023/24 Leadership Academy will open in April, and interested applicants can contact Coach Cho or Coach Mormino. **#GoQuakers!**



Sports Leadership Academy





Courtesy Sidwell Friends Arch.

THE ARCHIVIST

Lunch Time!

Thomas Sidwell promised patrons
"a substantial hot lunch at a low
price with dainty service."

A day at Sidwell Friends can be quite packed, but we always manage to squeeze in room for a midday meal with friends.

BY LOREN ITO HARDENBERGH

IN THE EARLIEST DAYS OF THE SCHOOL, students either went home for their midday meal or brought lunch to eat wherever they could find a seat, such as on the front steps of the Eye Street Meetinghouse. Others found sustenance at nearby shops. Always looking to improve, Thomas Sidwell sent out a parent survey in 1895 about whether to serve hot lunches. In his accompanying letter, he denounced the "injurious eating" of city children who might rely on the local bakery for lunch, and "owing to their fondness for sweets, usually choose unwisely." In 1904, he built the School's first kitchen and dining room in the basement of the new building at 1809 Eye Street. The catalog noted that for \$40 a year, the School would provide "a substantial hot lunch at a low price with a dainty service."

When a second campus was added on Wisconsin Avenue in 1922, the first lunches had to be prepared in the Sidwells' own home while the kitchen and cafeteria in the new primary school was still under construction. Once consolidated on the DC campus in the following decade, it became clear that the primary school cafeteria (known as the "cardboard box" because restless children could kick their feet through the thin walls) was not going to cut it for the entire K-12 population.

In 1938, the first brick building was constructed on the DC campus, which housed Middle School classrooms on the top two floors with a kitchen and dining room in the basement. Older students who were sad to say goodbye to their quaint

downtown campus were buoyed by the new, large cafeteria—complete with milkshake machines. Out of that kitchen, Food Service Director Helen Calhoun served thousands of meals to hungry students from 1938 to 1959. Parents would ask her how she prepared the food, as their children seemed to prefer school lunch to what was served at home. “It was embarrassing,” she would say, “because it was just plain food seasoned well.”

Lunch was served family-style, and students carried communal bowls of food to the tables. At first, Calhoun tried a cafeteria-style buffet line, but the students took too long to make up their minds. *The Quarterly* wrote: “[T]he majority agree that the food tastes better when served at each table. In true Friends’ tradition, [it] is the homelike, simple, and friendly way of serving the food, and all find it agreeable.”



Students head down to the basement of 1809 Eye Street for lunch in the School’s first dining room.



From 1938 to 1964, students ate in the white brick building that served as the Middle School and the Goodwin Library.



By the early 1960s, the School had once again outgrown the existing buildings, and in 1964, when a new Upper School building was erected, almost the entire bottom floor was dedicated to a new lunchroom and kitchen. The new dining area was a third larger than the old one, and the School now had a true commercial kitchen. (In fact, the kitchen was even featured in PEPCO's magazine, *Pepconian*.) Perhaps what students and kitchen staff alike appreciated the most was that, for the first time in School history, the cafeteria would be air-conditioned.

The new larger lunchroom was designed to hold 400 people so the entire Upper School could eat together. (This year, over 500 Upper School students are enrolled.) While the occasional student grumbled that a buffet line would be better, the School continued to serve lunch family-style for the next few decades. According to the student newspaper in 1969, "The idea of trays and other cafeteria-induced inconveniences turn most Friends students off. 'Heck, who wants to stand in line for two hours?' is a typical comment." Simple hot meals, such as roast beef, ham, beef stew, and cornbread continued to fill lunch plates table by table.



Charlie Wannan '37



Students enjoy lunch in the dining room in the Upper School building in 1978.

Many would argue that 1974 was an unfortunate turning point in the history of lunch at Sidwell Friends; that was the year the lunch program was turned over to the immediately unpopular ARA (Aramark). The students revolted, demanding meetings with the ARA representative, complaining to the administration, and issuing polls: 90 percent of respondents felt the School should drop ARA. When asked about portion size, they said, "The food was so poor no one would want seconds." Reportedly, ARA even dared to adulterate the beloved "Charlie's Special," attempting to make it not with fresh ingredients but with canned cubed chicken.

The lunchroom that once seemed spacious began to feel noisy and crowded as the School grew. Dedication of the Crane Room next to the dining room as a place for clubs to meet during lunch alleviated the pressure a little. It also helped that a lot of Upper School students gave up on school lunch altogether and went off campus to Armand's, a.k.a. Frisco's, or Roy Rogers (and later, McDonald's). By the 1990s, family-style dining only remained in the Lower School (and does to this day).

The 1990s ushered in the low-fat food trend, and students complained about the sometimes greasy and fried hot foods on offer. They grew weary of chicken nuggets, Salisbury steak, and tuna casserole, and yearned for more vegetarian options and healthier fare. The salad bar became an area of renewed focus, with the food-service director even boasting that "the 48-item salad bar is the largest in the Washington area." But it wasn't until the School doubled down on its environmental stewardship focus in the mid-2000s under Head of School Bruce Stewart that lunch truly became one of Sidwell Friends' hallmarks. The School hired a creative and skilled chef, Rebecca Cunningham, and transitioned to a smaller, regional catering company with a commitment to sustainable dining (see "Eat Your Heart Out," on page 24). Now every day is delicious.



Courtesy Sidwell Friends Archives

A Sidwell Friends crest-embellished plate

WHERE'S "CHARLIE'S SPECIAL" NOW?

No single dish in the history of Sidwell Friends inspires more nostalgia than Charlie's Special, a chicken-and-rice dish named for Charlie Wannan '37, who coached and taught at Sidwell Friends from the 1940s to the 1970s. For years after Charlie's death, "Famous Charlie's Special over Steamed Rice" continued to appear on the lunch menu. Several alumni have requested the recipe over the years, insisting it was published by **Horizon** in the mid-1970s. The Archivist has tried repeatedly to track it down without success. Do you have a copy in your personal archives? You'll win a Fox Den gift certificate and the admiration of thousands of your Sidwell Friends peers if you share it: magazine@sidwell.edu.

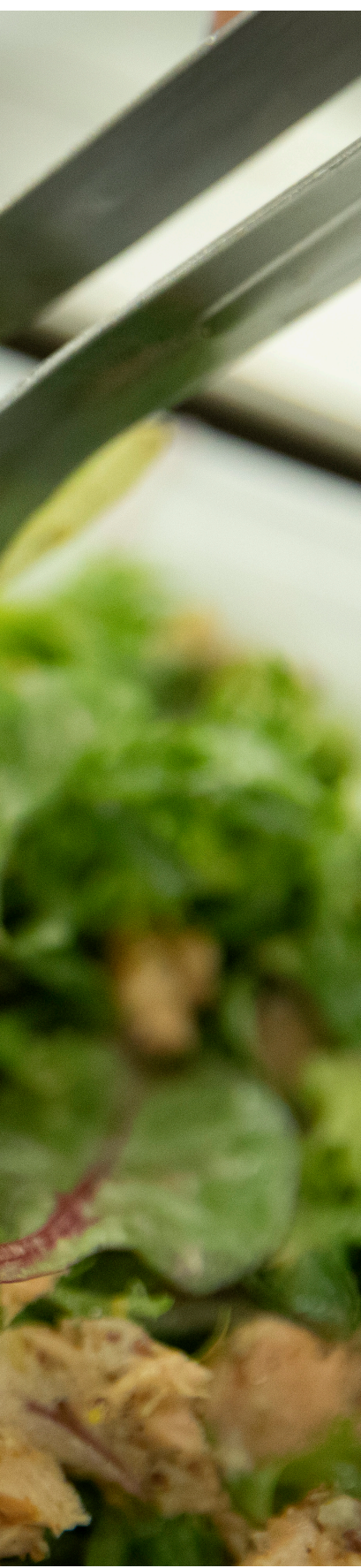


EAT YOUR HEART OUT

**The Sidwell Friends cafeteria experience
goes way beyond “just lunch.”**

BY ZEESHAN ALEEM '04

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAMERON WHITMAN AND ANTHONY LAFLEUR



The following food is on my plate: tender Thai-style ground beef and basil, sesame-ginger eggplant, sautéed snap peas, and fluffy jasmine rice, topped with scallions, crispy onions, lime wedges, and tamari sauce.

No, I'm not sitting in a hot new Thai restaurant on 14th Street. I'm sitting in my old high school cafeteria.

It's difficult to overstate how bewildering it is to eat in Sidwell Friends' cafeteria today, an experience I had the pleasure of partaking in during a visit to campus on a crisp afternoon in February. Back in my day, it was a place for serving bland rations. Since then, it has transformed into a culinary wonder world, whipping up healthy, delicious, and downright exciting dishes every day.

While my memories of Sidwell Friends are fond, my memories of its cafeteria are not. The staff was always professional, courteous, and warm. But the food, prepared under the direction of the catering behemoth Aramark, left much to

be desired. I recall soggy pasta, rice that tasted like cardboard, under-salted meat, and a sad, solitary salad bar. I was even a little skeeved out by crowd favorites like pizza and chicken patties, which felt oddly dehydrated and questionably heated.

I surveyed several students in my class year (2004) and a few years below, and their feelings were similar. A few alumni mentioned being unsettled by the cold frittatas—one said he was moved to write a haunting poem about them for English class. One alum told me that she subsisted entirely on peanut butter and honey sandwiches from the sandwich bar because she was never interested in the hot fare from



Lower School students enjoy lunch family-style; a student loads up his plate; a Middle Schooler gives an enthusiastic thumbs up.

the kitchen. Another former Sidwellian described being so traumatized by the tater tots that he could never eat them again.

I never necessarily minded it much. Teenagers are famously ravenous and will eat anything you place in front of them. Unappealing school lunches are a classic rite of passage and a staple of American pop culture. And having transferred into Sidwell Friends in 5th grade from Landon, where the food was excellent when I attended, I convinced myself that Sidwell's merely serviceable cafeteria food was due to its Quaker emphasis on simplicity.

But things have changed. A lot. In the summer of 2007, Sidwell Friends changed its caterer from Aramark to Meriwether Godsey. Meriwether Godsey was a far smaller, more attentive company, and it revolutionized Sidwell's standard cafeteria fare almost overnight. The cafeteria now operates under the direction of multiple culinary-school-trained chefs and serves gourmet-style food that's fresh, mostly made from scratch, and locally sourced when possible. It places tremendous emphasis on variety, whether through its three fully loaded salad bars, its vegetarian-and vegan-friendly alternatives to its main dishes, or a regular rotation of cuisines from around the world.

The result is that the cafeteria has become another source of renown for Sidwell Friends that almost rivals the reputation of its education. In 2014, *HuffPost* described it as the "best school lunch in America." "Cuisines you'd never dream of show up on the menu here, such as an entire lunch of Brazilian delicacies like feijoada, caldo verde soup, all-natural chicken with coconut milk, and mango and pineapple with lime and mint," *Huffpost* gushed. News of the quality of the food has traveled so far that it has even been a lightning rod for media hit jobs ("The School Lunches Malia and Sasha Eat vs. The Crap Michelle Obama Has Foisted on America," read one 2014 screed from *The Daily Caller*.)

Remarkably, dining has become part of Sidwell's educational experience—yet another way the School can help raise a cohort of kids to be more conscientious citizens.



The lunches are so exquisite now that teachers are known to take photos of them and brag to their teacher friends about them. The quality of lunches is touted as a real perk for becoming an employee at the School. One current sophomore even told me that the reputation of the cafeteria factored into his decision to come to Sidwell Friends. He apparently found out that the food was extraordinary from his fellow students at Green Acres before he even stepped foot on Sidwell's campus; when I asked how they knew, he said he no idea, but that the Sidwell Friends cafeteria had taken on mythic status.

As I wandered the cafeteria speaking to students and catching up with faculty, I was initially filled with envy for the quality of the food the kids all got to devour.

They don't know how good they have it! I lamented. I even found my inner-monologue sounding like a much older person than I am: *These kids are missing out on an important character-building exercise*, I grumpily told myself.

But that moment quickly passed. It is always a good thing to eat well. By which I mean: eating healthily, eating with joy, eating with attention to where the food came from and how it affects the world. On all scores, Sidwell Friends students are eating well in their cafeteria. Remarkably, dining has become part of Sidwell's educational experience—yet another way the School can help raise a cohort of kids to be more conscientious citizens.



Butter chicken is served with basmati rice, Indian salad, and naan.



Chef Jenise McRae

In 2005, Richard Swindell, the director of business operations at Sidwell Friends, noticed a strange problem in the mornings. He found that he was experiencing pain in his feet when he woke up, making it painful to walk. Eventually, it occurred to him that his toes were curling up tightly while he slept. It was a stress reaction—and a huge part of that stress was tied to the predicament that he was facing with Sidwell’s cafeteria.

Dealing with Aramark was a vexing problem. Their attitude toward food wasn’t really a match for Sidwell’s values, and dealing with their management was tricky. Swindell felt that Aramark was a mega-corporation that wasn’t taking a tiny client like Sidwell Friends seriously enough and that it was more preoccupied with bigger clients like universities and stadiums. “We weren’t happy,” Swindell told me. “They didn’t really care.”

Swindell had a vision for how dining services at Sidwell Friends should look: healthy, filled with variety, and fast. (Swindell says that he doesn’t want students in line for more than four minutes, as they need to get in and out of the cafeteria fast between classes.) He also wanted food made from scratch and as locally sourced as possible, so that the food would support the community,

involve less transportation, and affect the environment less. He decided to switch catering services in 2007, and Meriwether Godsey turned out to be an excellent fit.

“It’s about the food being really good, so that when they’re there, they don’t even notice it and they’re having fun with their friends and they’re eating well. Because it’s one of the calm times during the day.”

There were immediate signs that the students liked it. Prior to the transition to Meriwether Godsey, there had been Upper School and Middle School student-run food committees that would meet with Swindell and the food-services manager to discuss menus, food

quality, and other issues as they arose. After the transition, those committees quickly folded in a matter of months. They no longer had anything to ask for.

“It’s not about making the food the center of their attention,” said Swindell. “It’s about the food being really good, so that when they’re there, they don’t even notice it and they’re having fun with their friends and they’re eating well. Because it’s one of the calm times during the day.”

“What I want is silent perfection,” he added with a laugh, “which is a very Quakerly thing.”

That doesn’t mean that the dining services are above constructive criticism. There’s a place in the dining hall where students can submit comments. Sometimes they make requests: The cafeteria team rolled out a new Ethiopian menu one day in response to student feedback. Other times, as happened recently, the kids had... thoughts. Several students pointed out that a chicken dish was too salty. Swindell ran the feedback by the kitchen, and the cooks revisited the recipe and agreed. “Students have sway,” he noted. “They don’t have say.” Students can give feedback, but the adults are running the show, making sure that the meals are balanced and healthy. And that operation is run with great care and passion.

Every day, Michael Ackerson, the director of dining services at Sidwell Friends for Meriwether Godsey, wakes up at 4 a.m. By 6:30, he's on campus for the start of the cafeteria workday. He holds a meeting with his staff in which they go over the day's agenda. The morning typically entails preparing for the meal of the day and preparing what's needed in advance to make sure the next day's meal is ready on time. The first batch of kids come in starting at 10:50 a.m. Then students come in waves for the next couple of periods. By the end of the day, the kitchen has served over 1,000 meals.

When I stopped in at 9 a.m. to meet Ackerson, the kitchen was buzzing. Cooks were stirring huge batches of beef and peas, chopping up fruit for the salad bar, and starting to prepare the next day's dishes. The salad bar was being stocked, and I discovered in my first pang of envy that there was one whole cart devoted just to yogurt. The cooking operation runs in a kitchen with two big steel counter surfaces, a pantry, two walk-in coolers, and a bunch of gargantuan cooking tools that defy my vocabulary; it was somehow much smaller than I thought it would be, considering the huge number of meals prepared every day. And yet it all felt very comfortably sized.

Ackerson is fond of pointing out all the small details that make Sidwell's cafeteria such a stand-out experience. He explained that the granola at the yogurt bar is made in-house, which allows them to make it healthier by controlling the amount of molasses in it, and allows them to avoid nut-allergy concerns. He suggested trying the strawberry/dragon-fruit tea, which was astonishingly good. (He said he hoped to help foster in the students an appreciation for drinks with less sugar, which makes the drinks more cost-effective, and hews closer to a European sensibility toward more lightly sweetened beverages.) He was also eager to point out how Sidwell composts its food waste, which is both better for the environment and helps teach the students about how to be better stewards of the environment themselves.

Ackerson has taken naturally to working at Sidwell Friends in part because of the way he grew up. "My parents were organic gardenin', hot-pot cookin', yogurt makin', tie-dye makin' parents," he said. "They weren't



Director of Dining Services Michael Ackerson

necessarily hippies, but they were of that generation." He grew up in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where his mother worked in academia. He even attended a Quaker school, Carolina Friends. At one point, he was interested in pursuing medicine, but when he attended Tulane University in New Orleans, he fell in love with food and the hospitality industry. While he worked in hotels briefly, Ackerson found he preferred working in schools because he liked the K-12 age group and feeling like he's part of a community, one that goes beyond just a job.

Before joining Sidwell under Meriwether Godsey, Ackerson worked at Sandy Springs Friends School in Maryland. He loved working there and found the job fulfilling. When people asked him if he'd ever leave, he said he only imagined one other place that might attract him: Sidwell Friends. When the opportunity arose, he couldn't pass it up. "I just feel like I get the Quaker values," he said. "I get everything about what the School wants to be and is, and I think that makes it easier to do my job."

Ackerson said that the level of culinary excellence at Sidwell Friends has been unique. "I've been doing this for 30 years, and I will say that this is the first place where I've had teachers take pictures of what they're having for lunch and brag to their colleagues."

Ackerson beamed with pride as he noted that other schools in the area have picked up Meriwether Godsey after Sidwell Friends' new cafeteria reputation spread. Private schools in the area like Bullis, Georgetown Day, and Potomac all sought out the catering company after observing the success of their partnership with Sidwell Friends.

Part of what makes the Meriwether Godsey model unique among catering companies is its emphasis on a strong executive chef and strong food director. The executive chef is culinary-trained and can help set forth a clear vision for what the food-preparation process should look like. At Sidwell Friends, that chef is Sameena Khanna.

Khanna told me that the cafeteria seeks to balance kid-centric meals with adult-centric meals—and often uses the salad bars to help balance things out in case adults or kids are particularly likely to be uninterested in the main dish. Part of that is because it seems only reasonable that the hundreds of adults who eat in the cafeteria have some food that suits their palate. But it's also about teaching the kids to open up their minds.

"We're exposing the kids," she said. "We want to try and teach them that there are different types of foods in different parts of the world. Because once they leave Sidwell, they can't eat chicken tenders and pizza for the rest of their life."

"We want to try and teach them that there are different types of foods in different parts of the world."

Khanna tries to encourage a collaborative and warm atmosphere in the kitchen. The cooks will call on each other to taste-test foods as they make them. They've also been allowed to pitch—

and name—their own recipes: "Miriam's chicken tortilla soup" has been a hit. On certain days, the cafeteria has also featured whole menus from staff members' homelands, like El Salvador.

LUNCH LINES

In a typical month
Sidwell Friends uses:

3,200 LBS
of chicken



3,400 LBS
of cooked rice

(jasmine, basmati, Japanese sticky, and long grain)

The School uses:

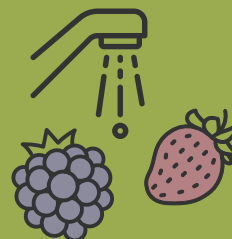
12,000
apples per month
6,000 of those are local



100–200 LBS
vegetables a day

The School washes, chops, cleans, and dices

500 LBS
fruit per week





Executive Chef Sameena Khanna

Khanna encourages her colleagues to think about the work as more than just throwing food into a pot. “I try to instill in them that we should cook the way we cook at home: with care,” she said. “We’re here more than we are at home; we’re essentially seeing each other and these kids more than we see our own family. We should be cooking for them, like they are our family. So it’s just, you know, putting in that TLC.”

Khanna explained that her team doesn’t just focus on cooking with care, but also disposing with care. Food that’s left over is repurposed when it’s possible to do

so while maintaining quality—leftover ground beef from nacho day can easily make for a side dish of chili the next day—and food that can’t be reused is either composted or donated. Sidwell Friends works with Food Rescue DC as its donation partner.

Meriwether Godsey’s careful use of resources is also at the heart of how they offer their food at a competitive price point. As Ackerson explained to me, the “fresh-local-scratch” ethos is not just healthier and better for the environment—it’s also less expensive. It saves money to make regular offerings like soup and granola in the kitchen; whipping up food in-house makes it easier to select items carefully and prep cheaper food at scale. And when the price of food has spiked at various points in recent years due to supply-chain issues and inflation, Ackerson has used the mix of the menu to save money strategically. For example, when the price of avocados surged, he focused on rotating in more salads that didn’t rely on the fruit.



Sidwell Friends sources local and organic wherever possible.



Chef Claudia Villibord



All of the students I spoke to, across Middle School and Upper School, seemed to delight in the quality of the food in the cafeteria. Sure, kids will eat pretty much anything, but that doesn't mean they don't have preferences, or that they don't notice and learn from the unique kind of culinary experiences that the cafeteria now offers. They like the classics, like hot dogs and meatballs, but they also like the foods they might otherwise not find in a standard cafeteria, like Thai-style beef or kimchi. (The fully stocked salad bar seems to be a crowd favorite as well.)

The Lower School menu operates under the same menu program as the Middle and Upper School, but it has a different feel. The students are served family-style. And since the customers are younger, their tastes skew simpler: less tolerant of spiciness and more fond of the classics, like spaghetti, pizza, and mac and cheese. But that doesn't mean they never try anything else: Peruvian chicken with green sauce was a recent hit at the Lower School cafeteria.

A lot of the students across divisions just seemed to appreciate the sheer variety on offer and alternative options. "I have a lot of allergies and I know a lot of people who are gluten-free, but they can make a lot of special meals," Ariana Tavakkoli '29, a friendly 6th grader, told me. "And they also have a lot of options at the salad bar." She also noted that the cafeteria struck a vital balance between "healthy and yummy."

At one point I ran into Rosa Lopez—a veteran of the Sidwell Friends kitchen who I recognized from my days back in high school. As we caught up, Lopez was quick to rave about how things had changed over the years. How the food had become fresher and tastier and more diverse. I asked her about what it was like eating lunch in the old cafeteria vs. the new one. Before she found it to be a bit of a chore. Now she looked forward to it.

During my day on campus, I was converted from shock to appreciation. Over the course of my meal and my conversations, and at an all-School Meeting for Worship after everyone had eaten, I reflected on how food has an awesome power to connect us—to our bodies and to our communities. Just because we suffered back in my day doesn't mean anybody else should. These kids just don't know how good they have it. ✨

ARUGULA, FENNEL & PARMESAN SALAD

SIDWELL
FAVORITE

WITH LEMON VINAIGRETTE

INGREDIENTS

for salad:

- 7 ounces (about 7 packed cups) arugula, washed and dried
- 1 small fennel bulb, shaved on a mandolin or thinly sliced
- 1 ½ cup shaved parmesan cheese

for vinaigrette:

- ¼ cup whole peeled shallots
- ¼ cup fresh squeezed lemon juice (juice of a small lemon)
- 1 oz white wine vinegar
- ½ teaspoon sea salt
- 1 oz whole peeled chopped garlic
- 1 cup extra virgin olive oil

PREPARATION

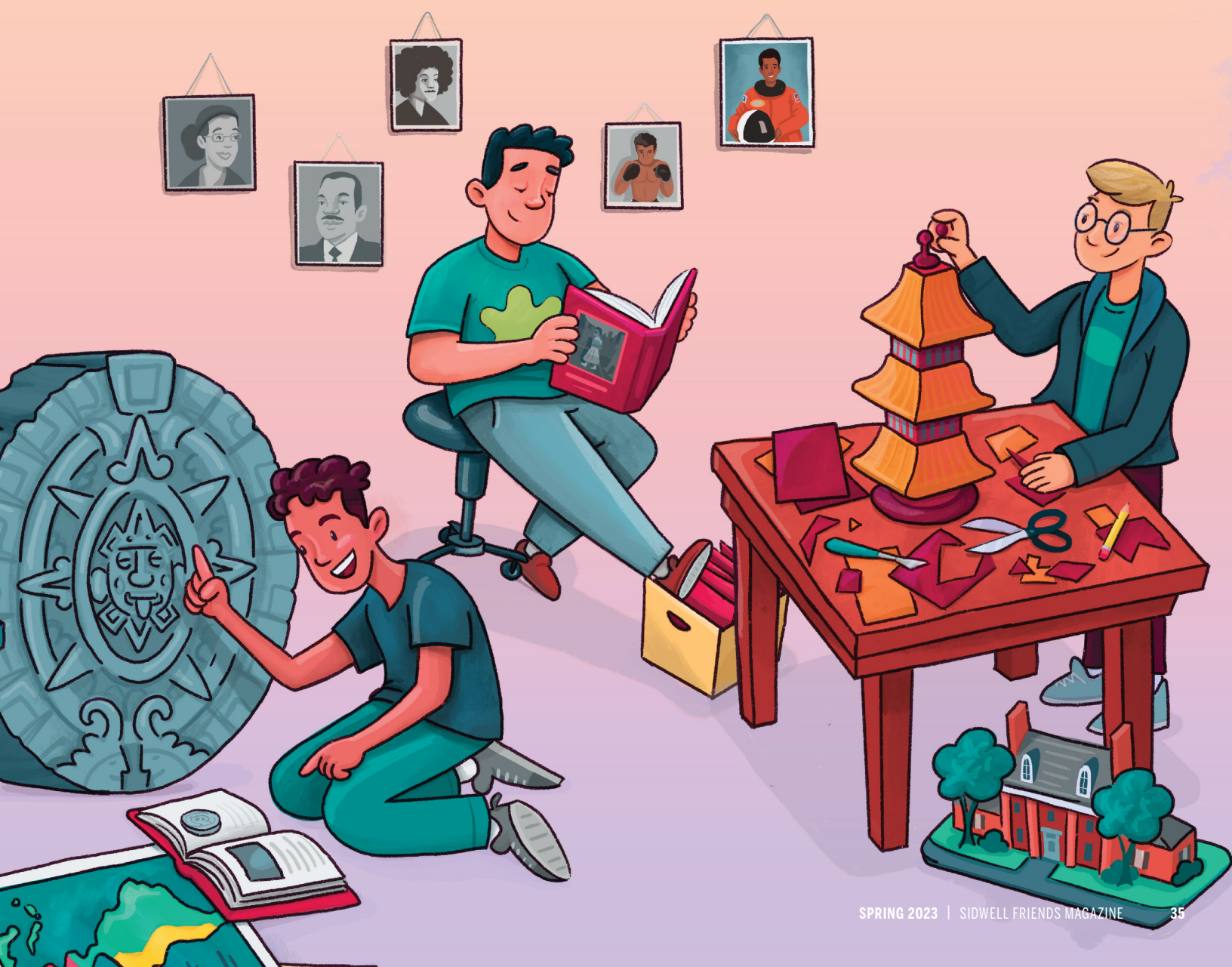
1. Combine shallots, lemon juice, vinegar, salt, and garlic in a food processor.
2. Pulse until finely chopped.
3. Allow to macerate for 20–30 minutes.
4. Slowly add extra virgin olive oil by drizzling and whisking to form the vinaigrette.
5. Toss arugula, fennel, and parmesan with dressing.
6. **Enjoy!**

The Elective Imagination



An expanding array of elective courses at Sidwell Friends allows students to explore their emerging interests, take a deep dive into an advanced subject, and broaden their academic perspective even before they leave Upper School.

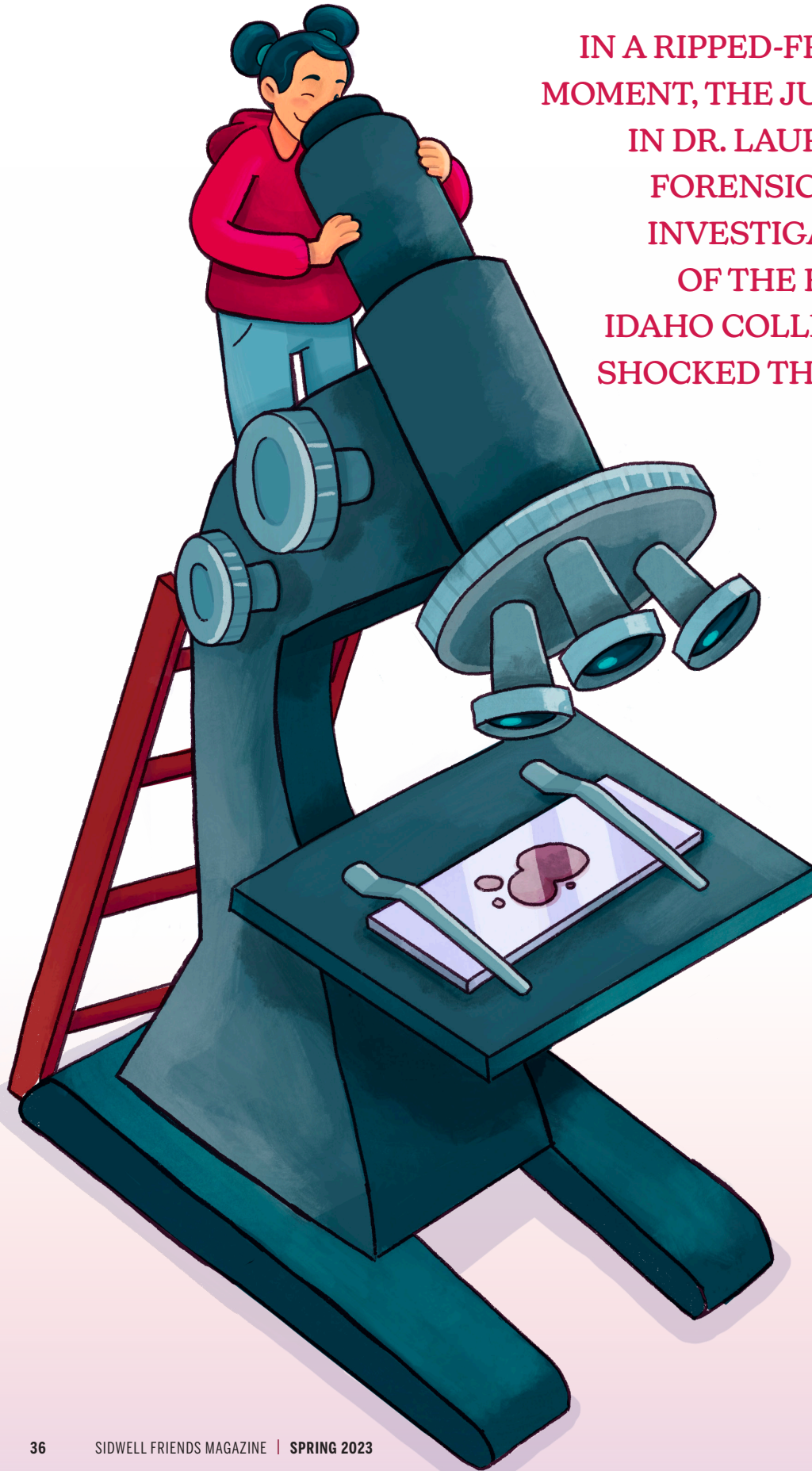
BY SACHA ZIMMERMAN | ILLUSTRATIONS BY DOUG FUCHS



IN A RIPPED-FROM-THE-HEADLINES
MOMENT, THE JUNIORS AND SENIORS
IN DR. LAURA BAROSSE-ANTLE'S
FORENSIC SCIENCE CLASS ARE
INVESTIGATING THE MURDERS
OF THE FOUR UNIVERSITY OF
IDAHO COLLEGE STUDENTS THAT
SHOCKED THE NATION LAST FALL.

In a presentation before the class, a group of three students explains how cellphone mapping not only placed the suspect outside the victims' house on the night of the murders, but it also put him there over the course of weeks as he apparently cased out the house more than a dozen times.

After the presentation, the class starts throwing out ideas for further avenues of research: Are there similar unsolved crimes in locations where the suspect has lived over the years? Can cellphone mapping show analogous stalking behavior elsewhere? Can authorities test for blood on the murder weapon outside of the victim pool in Idaho? Meanwhile, other students ominously note that the suspect was bullied as a youth and was even studying criminal justice, causing Barosse-Antle to warn the students to check their assumptions: "Just because someone is bullied or studying criminology does not make them a serial killer," she says before reminding the class, "You're studying criminology after all. It's not a cause-and-effect situation."



The Upper School at Sidwell Friends is a virtual laboratory in educational innovation, where faculty can use their expertise to teach even the most established subjects in new ways in elective classes that build on methodical, traditional coursework in science, history, languages, literature, and more. In Forensic Science, for example, Barosse-Antle, a PhD in chemistry, teaches DNA analysis, spectroscopy, and microscopy using real-world scenarios. In other words, she's not just teaching a science survey course; she's teaching kids to think and work like real scientists.

For those students who opt in to Barosse-Antle's course and other electives, they experience an early introduction to a level of conceptual and analytic precision and intellectual freedom more often encountered in college. And for teachers, electives are an opportunity to go beyond the pedagogical confines of standard advanced courses. At Sidwell Friends, faculty have long voiced their support for coursework that reflects the School's educational philosophy and rigor. "My overall level of excitement about innovative elective courses is high," says Barosse-Antle. "We are definitely, objectively trading up."

Inventive classes mean that students who might otherwise have taken, say, a broad survey course in a given subject to prepare for a standardized Advance Placement test might instead take a more focused and nuanced course, such as Modern American Popular Culture, Topics in Art History, Women's and Gender Studies, History of Science and



Laura Barosse-Antle

Technology, or Modern China Through Film—in other words, the kind of courses they will actually be taking in college. Of course, once a student has reached that elective level, they have already made it through years of thorough and broad coursework. That's why, for seniors, electives are a way to drill down on topics that have particularly captured their imaginations.

"It's exciting to be able to go into an advanced class where the teacher is free to really take a deeper dive into something that they're interested in," says Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs Robert Gross. Looking at secondary education in the United States, how many courses are actually taught by PhDs and other subject-matter experts? Across the spectrum of American high schools, that number would be vanishingly few. But at Sidwell Friends, it's not uncommon.

In large part, it was this reasoning that drove Sidwell Friends to decide in 2018 to phase out Advance Placement (AP) courses from the School's curriculum. Run by the College Board, a nonprofit in New York City, the APs were designed as a way for high school students across the country to experience and showcase advanced coursework in a variety of subjects. But as Upper School Principal Mamadou Guèye notes, the appeal of AP courses and exams at Sidwell Friends had been fading even before the 2018 announcement.

In recent years, many independent schools have reached the same conclusion as Sidwell Friends and opted to develop their own alternatives to the AP curriculum. For Sidwell Friends, the 2023/24 school year will be the first with no AP-designated courses, though students can still continue to take the AP exams, and Sidwell Friends will remain a testing site for the APs. In many cases, Sidwell Friends students have traditionally taken AP exams in various subjects even without having taken an AP class.

"It's exciting to be able to go into an advanced class where the teacher is free to really take a deeper dive into something that they're interested in,"

—ROBERT GROSS | ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



Robert Gross

The contrast to the standard AP course is evident in classrooms all around the Upper School, as one can see in classes like Women's and Gender Studies: An Interdisciplinary Introduction, where Jewell Debnam, the chair of African and African American Studies at Sidwell Friends, and her class are exploring writers like Roxanne Gay, Ida B. Wells, bell hooks, and Alice Walker. After one student examines language from the Combahee River Collective Statement of 1977, another student notes the dramatic contrast between the collective—a Black, feminist, lesbian, socialist organization active in Boston in the 1970s—and the plight of the “invisible Black woman, always on the periphery in the Civil Rights and feminist movements.” Debnam, who has deep expertise in gender studies and a PhD in history, runs the class like a college seminar, with intense textual readings and group discussions.



Jewell Debnam

Similarly, one would be hard-pressed to distinguish Steve Steinbach's Perspectives on American Government from a university course. There, 14 students

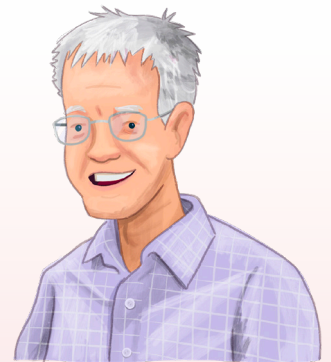
are contemplating the challenges of free speech and the constitutionality of limiting it. Some agree that schools and libraries have special obligations to youth and must ensure that children are not exposed to material that is too mature or violent for them. But who acts on those obligations? “Librarians should have a set of heuristics,” says one senior in the class. “Merit and quality could weed out the bad.” But what is bad? Are librarians and administrators obliged to protect minority rights? Should there always be sections with, say, LGBTQ literature so that schools and libraries don't make queer youth feel erased? What if the minority isn't queer but racist? Should their preferred literature be protected? What if incendiary material is vital to scholarly work?

While the kids wrestle with “curation versus banning,” Steinbach ups the stakes. “What about video games?” he asks before showing still photos from violent—and yet wildly common—video games. A tacit groan is felt as the students attempt to justify their own impressive gaming habits while

also trying to shield much younger children from the same content.

Is there a difference between a book you can close and shocking images that require mere milliseconds to affect an underage viewer? Is it constitutional to put ratings on books and video games? Where is the Supreme Court on such matters? (Spoiler alert: All over the place!)

The Sidwell Friends History Department decided years before the rest of the School that it would lean into qualitative excellence in its courses, including Steinbach's, and eschew the AP standard version. That doesn't mean kids don't take AP history



Steve Steinbach

exams; they do—with success. “Learning about the history of the Supreme Court is learning U.S. history,” Steinbach says after class. “I'm not teaching to a test, but any student who takes history classes at Sidwell Friends is going to be more than prepared for college and advanced coursework.”



“As an independent school, our courses should be designed by people—our teachers—who have our School’s mission and our students specifically in mind, rather than courses that are externally defined.”



Christopher Ritacco

—CHRISTOPHER RITACCO

PHYSICS TEACHER AND UPPER SCHOOL
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Physics teacher and Upper School Science Department Chair Christopher Ritacco agrees: “I think offering courses that serve our students as best as possible and where we’re able to get into the level of depth that we want to in these advanced-level courses is fantastic,” he says. “As an independent school, our courses should be designed by people—our teachers—who have our School’s mission and our students specifically in mind, rather than courses that are externally defined.” Ritacco is also quick to mention that senior science electives are options that come well after a strenuous grounding in all the basic sciences.



Qihui Tang

In Chinese teacher Qihui Tang’s Advanced Chinese Seminar class, there are just three students—but, Tang says, all of them are truly fluent in Chinese. For these students, taking a class on China that just so happens to be in the language rather than a class about the language itself is incredibly valuable. “They’ve advanced beyond the traditional language studies and offerings,” Tang says. “That means, without this seminar class, they wouldn’t be able to use their skills while at school.” This again is where independent schools have a pioneering edge. Rather than watching as students who have reached fluency leave

language studies (maybe with the faint hope that the students will pick the language up again in college), Sidwell Friends gives fluent speakers an opportunity to move to that next level of study as soon as they need to.

Tang’s small seminar means that her students can dive into ancient and modern Chinese literature, history, art, politics, and more to create a massive portfolio of work that reflects, yes, their language skills, but also their deep knowledge of China and the norms of Chinese education. For example, the seminar students practice traditional calligraphy (something Tang herself spent a part of each school day doing as a child in China). The practice isn’t just about developing a cool graphic talent; it’s about understanding character work and vocabulary at an in-depth level. It’s also a skill that even someone who grew up in China could spend the rest of their life perfecting. For Tang’s Sidwell Friends students, the seminar is an undeniable opportunity to pursue an avenue of study that traditional school language programs cannot offer.





Camila Villanueva

“We try to form connections while realizing that you don’t have to be part of a specific community to see yourself in one, because intersection matters.”

—CAMILA VILLANUEVA '03 | SPANISH TEACHER

It is also an opportunity that extends across all languages at Sidwell Friends. “The idea is that seminars teach you something in Spanish instead of just learning the language,” says Spanish teacher Camila Villanueva '03. “There are no grammar units, but you’re learning literature or cultural identity.” The topic depends both on student interest and the teachers’ own specialties. For her part, Villanueva teaches *Le Nuovo*, which means the new generation. “It focuses on cultural identity in the United States in the context of personal narrative,” Villanueva says. “The units are structured around the racial ethnicity groups that you’ll see on the U.S. census. Then for each one, we’ll get historical context and ask the students where they see themselves in this story and where they do not.

We try to form connections while realizing that you don’t have to be part of

a specific community to see yourself in one, because intersection matters.” It’s part sociology, part political science, and 100 percent an immersive Spanish-language environment.

Building on a comprehensive scaffolding of coursework across subject matters means that senior students can begin to specialize in an almost mind-blowing array of interests: particle physics, advanced statistics, literature from the French diaspora, neuroscience, and much more.

“Who brought in animal hair?” asks Barosse-Antle as the Forensic Science class transitions away from making the case against the suspect in the Idaho murders to a lesson on hair and fiber analysis. Students begin offering up little baggies of dog and cat hair from home as Barosse-Antle makes a list on the white board of the various dog breeds (Australian Shephard, Labrador, mutt, etc.) and one cat breed (Western domestic cat) that they’ve collected. (“I have a turtle,” says one student from the back, and the class momentarily loses it.) Next, each student heads to a microscope and begins to detail the varied hair traits of their pets. Specifically, they are measuring medullas, the innermost layer of the hair shaft and a key difference between animal and human hair. Using the “Medullary Index,” the young scientists create a short profile of each animal hair and then trade papers with one another in what can only be deemed a peer-review process.



In addition to far-away crimes that receive national attention, Barosse-Antle is also keen to make her class more directly relevant to the District, Maryland, and Virginia (DMV). “Did you know that the DC Department of Forensic Sciences hasn’t had accreditation for the last year and a half?” she asks. It turns out that the department lost its national accreditation over concerns about the accuracy of its evidentiary analysis. In the meantime, the department has had to outsource a large portion of its work, including DNA and ballistics analysis, to federal laboratories at great cost to the city. Enter Sidwell Friends’ Metropolitan Policy and the DMV class, an elective run by Gross and Director of Equity, Justice, and Community Natalie Randolph ’98. This course examines the key challenges facing major U.S. urban areas and encourages students to work in partnership with local organizations to solve problems across the DMV.

Recently, that included a close look at the Restoring Trust and Credibility to Forensic Sciences Act, which is currently compelling the local government to strengthen the DC Department of Forensic Sciences’ internal oversight board and restructure itself as an independent agency—removing it from the direct control of the mayor. For the students in both the DMV and forensics classes at Sidwell Friends, the act has been a crucial policy point in their studies, as it could ensure both cost savings and responsiveness for the

city. In addition to the expense, outsourcing to federal crime labs—who are often examining terrorist threats and mass-casualty crimes—has meant watching DC’s evidentiary needs fall to the bottom of the priority list.

Barosse-Antle is also excited about the act’s passage as it bodes well for even more meaningful field trips going forward. Her forensics class has been able to visit the Department of Forensic Sciences (soon to be renamed the Forensic Science and Public Health Laboratory as part of the act), where they have met with working chemists, college-level interns from George Washington University, and crime-scene investigators. Barosse-Antle has also used her forensics class to educate students about racial justice and how evidence may be viewed differently among prosecutors and defense attorneys. This cross application of topics like science, social policy, and politics give electives a special interdisciplinary feel.

“To me, this is first and foremost why electives are so exciting,” says Gross. “The teachers have designed the courses themselves, so they also bring their own creativity and enthusiasm for it to class.” Guèye agrees: “The primary driver of electives is: ‘What are going to be the best courses for our students in terms of the depth of their learning, the quality of their experience, and the intellectual engagement?’ That’s the North Star.” ✨

“The primary driver of electives is:
‘What are going to be the best courses
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of their learning, the quality of their
experience, and the intellectual
engagement?’”

—MAMADOU GUÈYE | UPPER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



Mamadou Guèye

PARADISE NOT YET FOUND

Economist **J. Bradford DeLong '78**
on the 20th century's startling
successes—and unfulfilled promise.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
BRITTANY HOSEA-SMALL





Brad DeLong '78, the author of the recent *Slouching Towards Utopia* (Basic Books, 2022), is an economics historian, a professor of economics, and an associate director of the Blum Center at the University of California, Berkeley. He is also the author of the popular Substack *Brad DeLong's Grasping Reality*. DeLong sat down with Head of School Bryan Garman on the *Lives That Speak* podcast to discuss John Maynard Keynes, Twitter, a new New Deal, and more.



BRYAN GARMAN: Were there people at Sidwell Friends who left an impact on you?

BRAD DELONG: Major teachers who really stand out are the very impressive battery of math and science teachers at the Upper School. I'm most grateful to Florence Fasanelli, because the School let her take four of us and run a second-year calculus seminar in our senior year, rather than make us go off and do something else since we'd run our way through the normal math curriculum. It turned out that was a great help to me in life, to have had a second year of calculus in high school, and Sidwell was willing to pony up the resources to do it.

BG: From Sidwell Friends, you head off to Harvard, where you do three degrees.

BD: I graduated with a bachelor's degree in June 1982 when the unemployment rate was 11 percent. I thought, *This is not a job market I want to try to get a job in. I want to stay in school.* So, I got a master's degree in economics and then a Ph.D. in economics. That then led to a lectureship at MIT, an assistant professorship at Boston University, an assistant professorship at Harvard, and then a full professorship at Berkeley. The only time I ever ventured out of academia was

three years working for the Treasury Department somewhere in the middle. You could say I took a look at the job market in 1982 and decided never to leave education.

BG: Talk about your work at Treasury during the Clinton administration?

BD: Back then, Congress had put itself under a set of rules whereby nothing could be proposed unless it reduced the deficit. That meant everything proposed had to have a substantial tax component in it, which meant Treasury had to work on it, which meant the treasury secretary basically decided whether it got out the door. Because staff time was limited, the secretary had people work only on things he thought would be actually good policies with a high chance of congressional passage. I was in the Department of Economic Policy, and we kept being thrown questions from the secretary: "Is this actually a good idea for the country?"

We wound up doing not just Treasury business but poking our noses into the business of every single other thing the government was doing. We had to come up very quickly with a recommendation as to how good a policy would be for the

country, and thus how high up on the priority list it should be. I worked on the 1993 deficit-reduction package, the North American Free Trade Agreement, the assault-weapons ban. And I spent a lot of time watching the Federal Reserve, trying to understand what it was doing, and then communicating that to the rest of the administration.

The late 1990s were the best time for America since the early post-World War II decades in terms of economic growth and real wage increases. We did a considerable part of that through our policies. We were greatly aided by the fact that our policies happened to affect the economy just at the moment when an additional boost to investment in America triggered the dot-com boom. That is, we happened to shift America toward investing in its future at exactly the right moment, when the benefits of doing so were extremely high.

BG: What about the current administration in terms of the economy?

BD: Joe Biden has been an enormously effective president and has managed to do something like six years' worth of Congress's normal work in two, which is a remarkable accomplishment given

how bitter partisan divisions have become and how much Republicans still seem to be following the Newt Gingrich playbook—that their job is to make the president of the other party appear a failure no matter what. Now, post-midterms, there will likely be very little public business getting done; there will be a lot of posturing and a lot of screeching. That really is too bad because we do face extremely large challenges.

BG: What are those challenges?

BD: The most important is global warming. It's much, much cheaper to minimize it now and move extremely rapidly away from fossil fuels into renewables and closed-cycle fuels. Much cheaper to do it now than to deal with the consequences come 50 or 75 years from now when we exceed a 3 percent rise in temperatures Fahrenheit. That's extremely important. Consider that this year, the monsoon was 300 miles off of where it's supposed to be, which means that Pakistan went underwater and the Yangtze River was some 16 feet lower than it's supposed to be. There are three and a half billion people who live in the six Great River Valleys of Asia, plus the monsoon regions where they need snowfall on the Tibetan plateau and the other high plateaus of Asia. Monsoons need to be in the right place, at the right time, at the right strength, at the right temperature. Billions of people do not have the wealth to move to Vancouver and find new jobs in case the monsoon fails. That is challenge number one for humanity.

BG: Where do you see leadership in that regard right now?

BD: In the book, I flirt with the idea that much of what is good in the second half of the long 20th century, we owe to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The political, economic, sociological order we got after World War II was the fruit of that empirical and progressive spirit of FDR: We're going to try everything and reinforce what succeeds. And it worked, and

it worked quite well. During the Great Depression, every other place else in the world, but for Sweden and Norway, saw politics swing hard right. Authoritarians became interested in more unequal income distributions and in focusing people's attention on their enemies outside their country or internal enemies and ethnic minorities, like Jews. But had FDR not been there, well, it's a world in which fascism doesn't end in 1945, but instead is dominant as a reaction to a Great Depression. The world we have without FDR, would by now be a much worse world than the one we have.

BG: Are we entering a reactionary fascist mode again?

BD: Ezra Klein has this great worry that the shift to a communications infrastructure of video and attention-getting is betraying us, because it means you gain attention and mind-share only by first declaring, "These are my enemies." That's how to get noticed. I agree. The communications infrastructure we really need is a very different one—one that

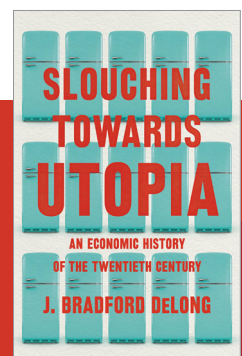
allows for more thoughtful discussion, compromise, and empathy rather than assigning people to the role of enemies. If you start out by saying, "These are my enemies," things are likely to go rapidly downhill. It is very unsettling. But we can see this in macro and in micro. Look at the way the new executives of Twitter have started by denouncing the "Blue Check Elite," when the Blue Check Elite are people who have shown themselves willing to actually pay money for Twitter, as opposed to everyone else who's simply riding along for free. It's a very strange thing to do, promptly saying that those who are contributing money and resources to the company are the enemies.

You don't have to be incredibly insightful to think this really can't go well. Twitter is supposed to be a corporation that runs a productive enterprise, that finds customers and provides them with things they want, producing the infrastructure and the kind of website dialogue they value. If you view the people who you're trying to enter into a win-win economic

THE THESIS

"Material prosperity is unevenly distributed around the globe to a gross, even criminal extent, and material wealth does not make people happy in a world where politicians and others prosper mightily from finding new ways to keep people unhappy. The history of the long 20th century cannot be told as a triumphal gallop or a march or even a walk of progress along the road that brings us closer to a utopia. It is rather, a slouch at best."

—J. BRADFORD DELONG '78 from *Slouching Towards Utopia*



exchange with as your enemies, you're not going to get anywhere. It's a very strange situation, and this apparent self-destruction by Twitter's executive team of the loyalty of its primary customers only reinforces that.

BG: In your conclusion, there's a quote from Keynes: "We lack more than usual, a coherent scheme of progress, a tangible ideal." We need a new grand narrative. What is it?

BD: I'll give you the same answer Keynes did: that he really did not know. He had ideas, which he then developed over the next 15 years. But as I say in the end of the book, the move was not so much with the head as with experience, feedback, and then recalibration. It was like FDR's declaration that what we need most is bold experimentation. People thought very hard about what the new subset of social and political and economic arrangements should be, but it was FDR who said, "Let's try everything." If you could get into his office with a half-plausible story, you would have an agency in a week. But then he also reinforced success and pruned apparent failures very quickly. Now, we need a similar bold experimentation. It would be really nice if it took the collected form of a New Deal. But if it doesn't, we're going to have to look for examples of things working all over the place for the next 10 years.

“
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”

BG: One of my favorite sentences from the book is, "The shotgun marriage of Friedrich von Hayek to Karl Polanyi, blessed by John Maynard Keynes, that helped raise the post-World War II North Atlantic developmental social democracy was as good as we have so far gotten. But it failed its own sustainability test."

BD: It did. In the 1970s, people reacted against that, and you moved to what we now call "neoliberalism," to ideas much more connected with Margaret

Thatcher and Ronald Reagan: that the country needed to be more unequal because the job creators needed to be richer so they'd be incentivized to do more work rather than spend their time engaging in tax evasion, and that too many people were figuring out how to featherbed their way through society and were consuming more than they produced. It ascended from there to the idea that, if you can't make it yourself in the market, you don't deserve to be rich, happy, or prosperous at all. It was a return to Andrew Carnegie: The law of competition is hard, but it is necessary for the progress of technology. Except that in the neoliberal era, there seemed to be some who thought income inequality was not a bug, but a feature.

BG: Our students are worried about what their place will be in the new economy. Can you give them hope?

BD: Learn how to interface with and understand the technologies that are emerging; that has always been a wonderful thing to do in terms of making yourself useful for humanity during your career. And if you make yourself useful to humanity, then you'll be able to decide what form you want that utility to take, and within reason, what your standard of living will be. Also, always be curious. Old routines, old practices, old jobs are going to change over the next 30 years. So, the broader and the more liberally you can be educated, the better positioned you will be to actually be useful. You have a brain, which is an absolutely wonderful thing. And, after however many years at Sidwell, an enormous amount of society's resources have gone into helping you be smart and think smart for the benefit of humanity. Treasure that and try to make it a brain that can continue to learn new things and that can actually try, look, assess, evaluate, and try again. ✨

Looking for a new Substack? Check out Brad De Long's *Grasping Reality* at braddelong.substack.com. It's a mash-up of economic history, economics, political economy, finance, and forecasting: "Here to try to make you (and me) smarter in a world with many increasingly deep and complicated troubles."



And, of course, keep an ear to the ground for the latest episodes of *Lives That Speak*, featuring in-depth interviews with Sidwell Friends alumni, at Apple Music, Spotify, or by visiting sidwell.pub/LTS.

L-R: Laura McGiffert Slover '86, Victoria Sams '86, Laura London '86, Scott Oswald '86, Vo Cohen '88, Lisa Cohen

ALUMNI ACTION

Guilford Queen '72

Camron Whittman

WINTER *with* FRIENDS

Friends gathered both near and far in Washington, DC, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York City, Seattle, and Boston to celebrate the season together!



★
SEATTLE

L-R: Liz Kellison '83, Brent Bishop '84, Bruce Gray '82, Melissa Aron '85, Maggie Dorr '08, Catherine Yochum '11, Andrea Levin '11, Fred Rose, Juan Jewell, Susan Cozzens



★
SAN FRANCISCO

L-R: Robert Goodman '18, Wrayzene Willoughby '18, Taylor Alexander '18



★
SAN FRANCISCO

L-R: Jayon Wang '09, Grant Wong '10



★
LOS ANGELES

L-R: Laura Dine Million '91



★
LOS ANGELES

L-R: Brennan Shanks '09, Julia Kennedy '09, Bardia Aghdaey '09



L-R: Ella Meyer '18, Darst King, Patrick McKee '03, Kim McKee, Samuel Rabinowitz '17



L-R: Chandler Willett '93, Denele Willett



L-R: Sandy Pearson '52, Jason Carroll '96, Cat Dawson '04



L-R: Morgan Dunstan '15, Molly Niu



L-R: Bobby Gottfried '03, Neville Waters '75



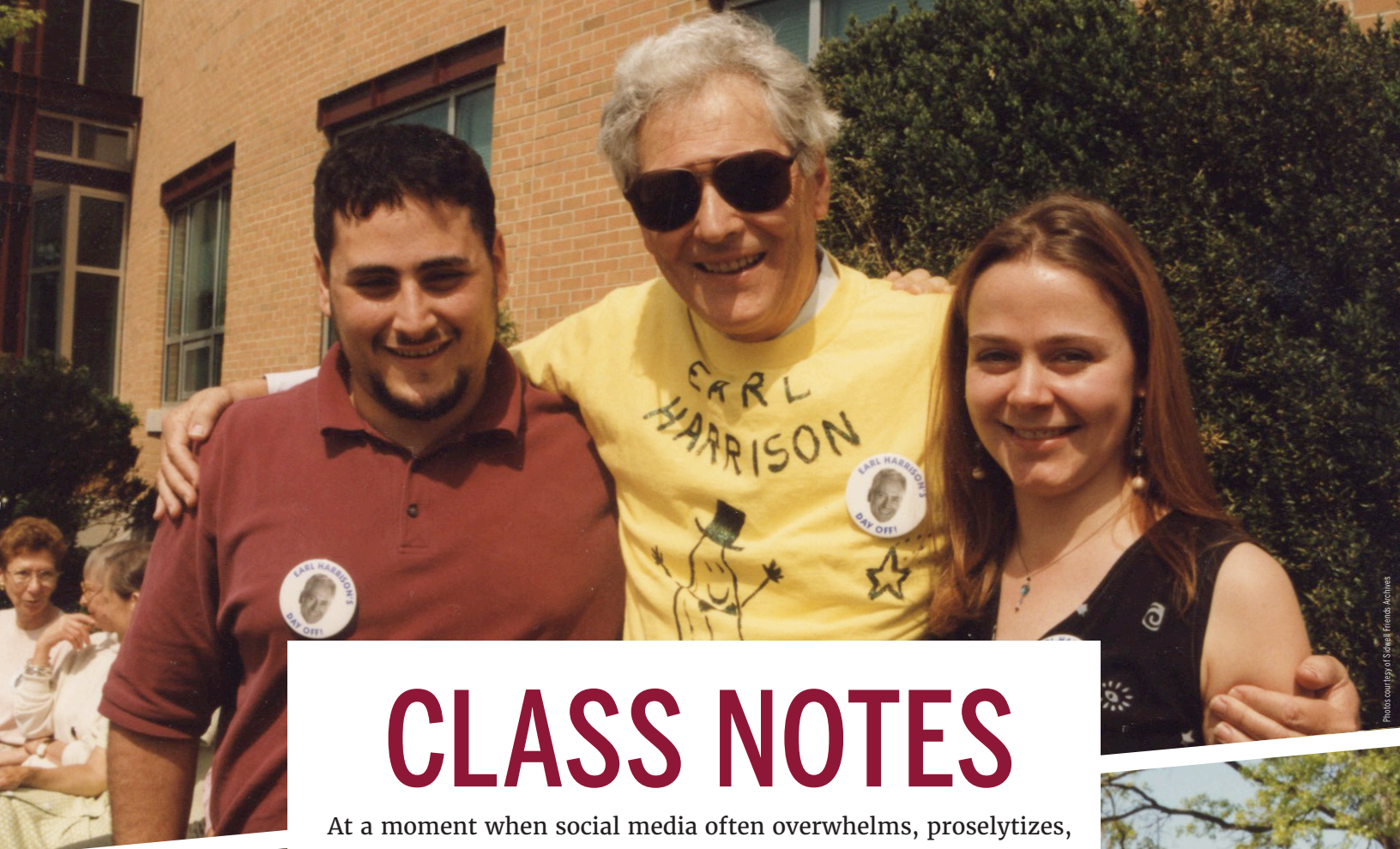
L-R: Matthew Repka '07, Sean Heaton '07, Teddy Parker '07, Mamadou Guèye, Tundaa Dorjnamjim '20



FOUNDER'S DAY 25 YEARS AGO

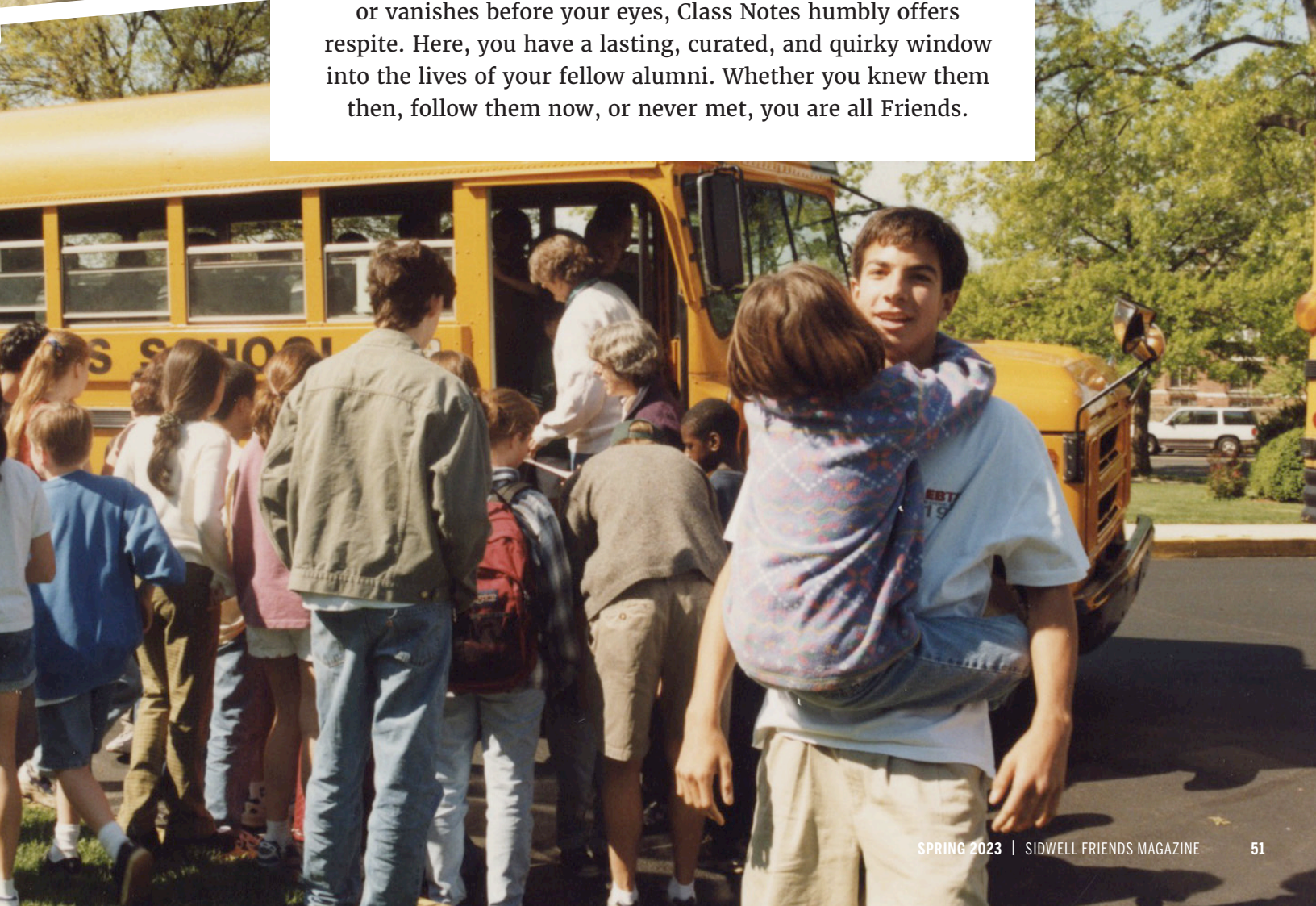
In honor of Earl Harrison's retirement after 20 years as head of school, this special Founder's Day, held on April 21, 1998, was billed as "Earl Harrison's Day Off."





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.



1946

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

In Memoriam:

William Balderston III '46
October 23, 2022

1947

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

BOB ASHTON: "I'm still doing fine and ensconced in Portland, Maine. Frequent occurrences remind me of Sidwell Friends, like references to a novel I was forced to read. So glad it was part of my education. Discussions of historical validity; was our discussion of racial history adequate? I'm not at all sure. The habit of learning continues. With athletics limited, the mind can still wander. Would love to hear from... anyone!"

1949

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

CHUCK WILSON reports that he is lately out of the hospital and recovering from a knee infection. Otherwise, all is well, but he is missing Helen terribly.

1951

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

In Memoriam:

William Anderson '51
December 24, 2022

Julian Wasser '51
February 8, 2023

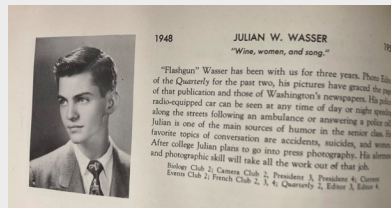
SPOTLIGHT:
The Eye on LA

Iconic photographer Julian Wasser '51 made every viewer feel like they were in the room.

A decade before Julian Wasser '51 became famous for chronicling the Los Angeles art scene and counterculture in the 1960s and 1970s, he was a senior known as "Flashgun" at Sidwell Friends School. Already committed to becoming a professional photographer and photo-journalist, Wasser was the photo editor of *The Quarterly*, then the all-School news magazine. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, he also claims to have snuck out at night as a teenager to take newsy photos around DC—photos that would get published in *The Washington Post*. As a result, Wasser's own father was convinced there must be yet another "Julian Wasser" in the District.



Wasser



Julian Wasser '51

and the Civil Rights movement around LA and the country. Wasser famously captured Robert F. Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel just before he was shot, and Roman Polanski personally asked Wasser to document the site of the Manson murders, which claimed the life of Polanski's pregnant wife, Sharon Tate.

In more recent years, Wasser's work was featured at The Getty in the museum's inaugural launch of its new series, *Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945–1980*. And, of course, you can still find an incredible trove of photos on julianwasser.com.

1950

TOBY RILEY
tobyrileyq@gmail.com

1952

CAROL BLACK
carblack@comcast.net

1953



GLORIA GIRTON
ggat58b@orange.fr

GLORIA GIRTON: "I was back in Naples and Rome in the fall; I am still suffering from wanderlust. Here in Avignon, I am busy enhancing my reputation as a good cook and a mediocre pianist. I have decided to resurrect my Latin, for I have found a wonderful bookstore by Les Arènes in Arles that specializes in



Julian Wasser '51 captured seniors Nancy Sessions '56 and Neil Studd '56 watching the athletic field construction at Sidwell Friends from the back porch of Zartman House on April 9, 1956.

the classics, one of two in France—the other is in Paris. We are in the middle of gigantic protests against the government's idea of raising the retirement age from 62 to 64. Strikes and discontentment. The government can override the assembly by invoking 49.3, a rule that allows laws to pass when the assembly can agree on nothing. I don't know if that is democratic, but it does allow change. The French say that France is ungovernable."

HENRY HOLMES: "As some of you may remember, my brother, **Stacy Holmes '52**, and I used to sing for assemblies when some invited dignitary did not show up. (One of his songs was called "Why Can't They Make Better-Tasting Green Stamps?") I still play guitar and piano at various retirement homes in my California community. It's a chance to play and sing stuff they learned from their parents, going up to the 1960s.

Just for fun, if you want to join me, I would be tickled to play (or send) a song to you, my dear classmates from '52 and '53. Seriously! My email is henry.hankholmes@gmail.com. You got nothing to lose, and I promise to give you a free (worth every penny) song from my piano at home. How unusual. How fun!"

CYNTHIA "NONI" BALDWIN ROBERTSON died on October 9, 2022, in Columbus, Indiana. She was born July 21, 1935, in Washington, DC, to the late Roger Lee and Alys O'Neil Baldwin. She was the youngest of four sisters, **Filis Baldwin Coit '44**, **Beverly Baldwin '45**, and **Alice "Nancy" Baldwin Cedarquist '50**, all who graduated from Sidwell Friends School. Cynthia was a 1957 graduate of Denison University, where she met her future husband, Edwin Robertson. Upon graduation from Denison, she relocated to Indianapolis and married. Cynthia

and Ed's marriage of nearly 52 years ended upon his death in 2010. Cynthia and her husband raised two daughters, Rebecca Moore and Pamela Robertson. Cynthia supported her community without need for recognition. She co-taught a class of special-education students, served as a parole officer for the state of Indiana, mentored juvenile inmates at the Indiana Girls School, and was a Guardian Ad Litem volunteer. In addition, she was an early member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, a volunteer and executive officer with the Indianapolis Museum of Art's Alliance, and a member of the Trailing Arbutus Garden Club and the Indiana chapter of Questers. Cynthia completed a master's degree in English at Butler University. Cynthia is survived by her daughters and their spouses, six grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Cynthia's daughter Becca Moore shares: "Our mother shared many fond memories of



LEFT: On a trip to France last May, **Nancy Hardin '55** visited the St. Remy-de-Provence asylum where Van Gogh lived and painted. **CENTER:** **John Gardiner '55**
RIGHT: **Gerald Morgan '55** and granddaughter Sophia stand on the Oregon Coast after returning from a fishing trip on the Rogue River.

her childhood in the Washington, DC, area, including living in Chevy Chase and her time at Sidwell Friends, which greatly impacted her life.”

In Memoriam:

Cynthia Baldwin Robertson '53
October 9, 2022

1954

RICHARD NICKLAS
rnicklas@mfa.gwu.edu

MARGARET ROBISON ESPINOLA: “I finally took the plunge in June of 2022 and moved to a life-care community in South Setauket, Long Island, called Jefferson’s Ferry. I chose Long Island to be closer to my children, who live in Brooklyn and Centerport, New York. Leaving my Massachusetts home after 53 years was difficult, but I am very much enjoying my life here: The ease of seeing family and the stimulation of meeting new people and trying new activities, all the while freed from home maintenance, many daily chores, and the guilt I felt thinking about passing along the downsizing to my heirs. Try it, you might like it too!”

In Memoriam:

Dana Davis Houghton '54
October 17, 2022

1955

NANCY ABOLIN HARDIN
nancyhardin@gmail.com

FROM THE CLASS REP:

ALLEN KLEIN died in New York on November 30, 2022, with his wife, Nicki, and children, Gillian and Ben, by his side. Allen was an elegant gentleman and a gifted architect, with inimitable style.

GEORGE ANTHONISEN: “Ellen and I are busy preparing for an exhibition of my work at the James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, from April 20 to October 13, 2024.”

ROBERT BRESLER: “Last year the magazine with which I was associated for 48 years as national affairs editor and contributor, *USA Today: Magazine of the American Scene*, ceased publication. It was another sad chapter in the decline of print journalism, which had been an important part of my academic career. I owe a debt to the late Rod Cox. In 9th grade history, Mr. Cox assigned us a journalist or a journal of opinion to follow and write what we had learned. He introduced us to the world of thoughtful but differing views and helped us to be comfortable with controversy. The experience shaped my life.”

ANN WINKELMAN BROWN: “I spend the winter in Florida and am very active in Democratic politics there, especially for Senate candidate Val Demings. The Democrats were unsuccessful in every respect! I am on a lot of boards, including the Lord’s Place, the West Palm Beach Library Foundation, and Palm Beach Dramaworks. I live with a new man, Dr. Ted Poritz, since my husband died three years ago. So, I am a busy 85-year-old with fond memories of Sidwell Friends.”

JOHN GARDINER: “I’ll be publishing a new collection of ten short stories in the coming year. Title: *Survival*. I’m also having them recorded for audio distribution. My new website is johnrolfegardiner.net.
(See photo above.)

KAMALA LOCHENA GUNARATNA: “Shanta and I traveled to Bali early in 2023 when I gave one of the keynote addresses at a Southeast Asia Conference, a meeting of regional professors of medicine organized with the indirect support of the American Medical Association. The topic was the work I’ve done regarding the transmission of communicable diseases resulting from urbanization in the low- and middle-income countries. Shanta and I visited our daughter and son-in-law in California for several months in the spring.”

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Go to sidwell.edu/classnotes and let us know what you've been up to. Don't see your class year? Contact alumni@sidwell.edu to become a class representative.

GERALD MORGAN: "I still live in Oregon, on the McKenzie River, where my house is one of the few not destroyed by recent wildfires. This autumn, I got some replanting done so that there might be some new trees for the future on my property to accompany the black dead trunks of the old Doug firs, who enjoyed long careers but suffered a quick and violent death on September 6, 2020. I can still see and hear and read and drive and reason and fish. And that is what I mostly do. I have been able to take grandchildren on great wilderness-area fly-fishing trips in Idaho and Oregon this year and last. This March I will go on my 18th bone-fishing trip in the Bahamas. My trips no longer include any vigorous hiking as in prior years, for yes, that is now in the past. I'm so grateful I've been able to see so many beautiful parts of nature in my life, and especially in the last 20 years." (See photo on previous page.)

WARREN OLNEY: "The Olney Historical Society near Cambridge, England, was delighted meet and greet me since nobody named 'Olney' has ever lived there, and visitors with the name are rare." (See photo on right.)

THOMAS SIMONS: "My wife, Peggy, and I visited the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in North Philadelphia: Glory to Ukraine! Part of a depleted travel schedule with a big centerpiece, a bucket-list June trip with Peggy and her sister to their mother's home region in southwestern Indiana, also depleted but still alive! High point the (fried pigs') Testicle Festival on Courthouse Square. Next: Andalucia in May-June." (See photo on right.)

In Memoriam:

Allen Klein '55
November 30, 2022

1956

CHARLIE HOLLAND
sshrink9@gmail.com

MARNY MCCUNE CONCHA reports from Dallas, Texas, on her family and her travels. All three of her children and her grandchildren live close to her and are doing well. Marny and her two daughters recently sailed down the Rhine River on a Viking long boat, and then she and one of her daughters went on to visit Basel and Bern, and then on to Geneva, where she lived for four years. One of her daughters is an attorney in Texas married to an attorney. In her spare time, Marny has been visiting family in North Carolina and South Carolina. So much for retirement!



ABOVE: Warren Olney '55 at the Olney Historical Society near Cambridge, England **BELOW:** Tom Simons '55 and Peggy Simons in front of the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral in North Philadelphia

BETSY GIBB COX reported that she has returned to her retirement community in Sanibel, Florida, from her summer place in Center Harbor, New Hampshire. But that was just prior to Sanibel being hit by a very destructive hurricane. This reporter immediately contacted her, and she assured me that her community was spared. Good news.

ARTHUR HILDRETH writes: "My wife, Louise, and I are both in good health and spending much of our time with children and grandchildren. I have been doing part-time work as medical director of the Maryland Physicians Health Program. It is a privilege to be able to responsibly help health care providers who have been impaired due to substance abuse, medical, and psychiatric problems and give back to a profession that has given so much to me."

STAN JOHNSON reports, through his law firm in Washington, DC, that he retired from active practice this past June. Enjoy!

KAI RASMUSSEN reports that he continues to work at Intelsat, but has plans to retire at some point yet to be determined. He and Susan have a weekend-getaway spot on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

CHARLIE HOLLAND: "I continue to enjoy retirement in Chatham on Cape Cod. With all our children now living in New England, Peggy and I do a lot of traveling. Our oldest son and his family just moved from Fort Worth, Texas, to Portland, Maine, but he will commute to and from Fort Worth for a year or two, where he is a law professor. Our youngest son recently had his first child, our eighth grandchild, just before one of our grandsons got married. Life seems to be moving quickly. In retirement, I am doing very little and loving it. Lots of reading and walking, and driving to various spots on Cape Cod and in New England. We have children in Maine and Vermont, so we travel those roads frequently. Peggy and I do have a cruise to the western Caribbean planned for March. And Peggy and I had a wonderful luncheon with Pat Lyon and **John Deutch** at their summer home here on Cape Cod. We caught up on each other's

families and solved all of the country's problems. Their summer home is right on the National Seashore."

1957

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

RUTH REYNOLDS ROBINSON: "I am so thoroughly enjoying retirement. I have been traveling many places, including Sweden, Iceland, and all the way up the coast of Canada to Cape Spear Light-house in Newfoundland. Presently, I am in Alaska and have enjoyed experiencing the Aurora. I am blessed with six wonderful children and nine grandchildren who are between the ages of 6 and 27." (See photo above.)

JACK TOTTLE: "My wife, Lin, and I live happily in retirement on Hawaii's Big Island. I've enjoyed making contact from time to time with a few Class of '57 folks: **Dick Stowe**, **Bob (Rob) Crossman**, **(Emily) Anne Forsythe Briggs**, **Jo Anne Radue Burns**, and **Earle (Wes) Richardson**. I recently read two good books by subsequent Sidwell Friends graduates: *How To Be Black* by **Baratunde Thurston '95** and *Letters To My White Male Friends* by **Dax-Devlon Ross '93**, both of whom include insightful comments on their valuable experiences with a Sidwell Friends education. It's too bad that Friends and comparable schools—despite progressive outlooks in various regards—were not admitting highly motivated Black children like Thurston and Ross at the high school level in the 1950s. What lessons our class could have learned from their perspectives! In October, Lin and I traveled to Johnson City, Tennessee, where I received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from East Tennessee State University at which, in 1982, I founded what would become the nation's first four-year university program in Bluegrass, Old Time and Roots Music Studies. A former student of mine, country music superstar Kenny Chesney, received an Honorary Doctorate at the same ceremony." (See photo above.)



LEFT: Ruth Reynolds Robinson '57 and children RIGHT: Jack Tottle '57 with his former student, Kenny Chesney



In Memoriam:

Josephine Bachman Roskin '57

September 23, 2022

1958



CRAIG MORGAN

craigmorgan@gmail.com

THE CLASS REP'S REPORT:

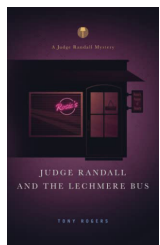
CRAIG MORGAN: "This past year, we lost **Alice Marshall Martin**: Alice was always very quiet, understated, talented, and kind. In her spare moments, we would see her create stunning sketches of horses—or of us. She designed and painted sets for our School productions and designed our yearbook cover. Her artwork won the city-wide Scholastic Art Contest. And to boot, she was also an outstanding poet, each issue of our *Quarterly* magazine featured her poetry as well as her art. From Sidwell Friends, she went to Bard, where she loved doing landscapes of the Hudson Valley. Upon graduation, she went to Yale School of Art, and afterward returned to Washington to teach art in the Middle School. It was then that she met her husband, Percy Martin, who was teaching art at Duke Ellington, and who soon thereafter started an illustrious 30-year career teaching high school art at Sidwell Friends. They raised two children, Chris and Diane, and have a granddaughter by Diane and her husband, Mark. All the while, Alice continued to paint, and under the influence of Percy, branched out to master etching and printing as well. Displayed at Washington-area art shows, her works were highly valued. But tragically, she succumbed to COVID.

And this past year we also lost **Ann (Penny) McIntire Cockrell**. Like Alice, Penny joined us in 8th grade and was quiet, warm, and bright. She went on to Duke, where she majored in history, and upon graduation, switched to Johns Hopkins to earn a master's in education. Then followed a 42-year career teaching high school, the last 19 years being at Walt Whitman. In 2005, she retired to a house in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, designed for her by her niece, Jenny Mott (daughter of **Josie McIntire Mott '61** and **Adam Mott**). She became a beloved parishioner at Binkley Baptist Church and spent countless hours in its immigrant sponsorship program helping Montagnard and Karen refugees settle in North Carolina. Throughout her life she loved nature—hiking in the woods, listening to rain, watching sunrises, gardening, and caring for birds, cats, dogs, and especially horses. Over the course of her life, by her own count, she owned over 50 horses and ponies, and early in her career, she interweaved teaching with running a riding school. However, above all, she was a devoted mother and super-grandma to her three daughters and nine grandchildren.

On our Zooms and in our class group email, leading up to the 2022 election, we had some heated debate, but kept civil. On election morning, **Mary Lib Wahrenbrock Hoinkes** remarked: "I am so comforted to find such a wonderful sense of commonality among us. We share so much in our analysis of the problems confronting the country, indeed the world, and our condemnation of negativism, violence, and misinformation. I find myself strengthened by the expressions of optimism that, after what may be some rough spots ahead, sanity,

compromise, and morality will prevail. I only hope that we live long enough to see some of our hopes fulfilled. Let us hope that good folk are elected today. The Congress does need improving.” On another Zoom, where once again we expressed gratitude toward our English teachers for teaching us to write, Mary Lib remembered the physical part: “Mrs. Gosnell teaching us cursive, in particular, how to write the perfect ‘a’.” We expressed dismay that in many schools cursive is no longer taught. Indeed, one of us has teenage grandchildren who cannot even read cursive, How does one sign a document? And in our latest Zoom, we agreed that it was amazing we could get together like this. **Helene Rosenfeld Feldman** and **Annette Eisenberg Stiefbold** said it helped that our class was so small, that large public high school classes of 300 to 500 show no such cohesion. This led **John Cox** to wonder how the doubling of class size at Friends has affected cohesion.”

TONY ROGERS: “The fifth and sixth books of the *Judge Randall* series are now available on Amazon and in your local bookstore. The fifth, *Judge Randall and the Lechmere Bus*, involves a murder with a most unlikely killer; the sixth, *Judge Randall At The Long Gone*, serves as a prequel to the series. It takes place after Jim Randall retires as a judge but before he stumbles into his second career as an amateur detective. Once again, I thank **Joan Seymour** for her invaluable copy-editing skills.”



PEGGY PABST BATTIN is putting final touches on a book she has been working on for many years, being published by MIT Press. It's a thought experiment about what the world would be like if females and males both had free, long-acting, “forgettable,” and reversible contraception. And so, both parties always had to make a positive, “opt-in” choice if they wanted to have a child.

CAROL WOOD SHEEHAN caused the class rep to perk his ears upon hearing that her son, Benedict Sheehan, is doing

well. Researching this matter on the web, it appears Benedict gets the “Off-The-Beaten-Path Award.” As a choir director and choral composer at Saint Tikhon's Monastery and Seminary in Pennsylvania (Eastern Orthodox), he has been nominated twice for a Grammy Award and has received the American Award. Benedict also composed a version of Dickens's *Christmas Carol*, which had its debut this past Christmas in London, sung by the BBC Singers. Again, off-the-beaten track, Benedict and his wife, Talia—also a professional musician—have seven daughters, ages 5 to 21, and they all sing. Carol herself is finishing up her fourth book of deceased husband Don Sheehan's writings and is about to send it to an interested publisher. Her Orthodox (baptismal, and publishing) name is Xenia Sheehan, after St. Xenia of Petersburg.

GEOFF HUGUELY made a discovery while reading a newsletter from the University of North Carolina's Business School. An article praised to the sky Cal Atwood, the schools' former MBA director of admissions and informal guidance counselor. The article led off, “Everyone needs a Cal Atwood in their life.” Geoff determined that, yes, this is the Cal Atwood who taught us freshman English and was an assistant coach for our basketball and baseball teams. Further research determined that Atwood was also a published poet and had served as president of the North Carolina Poetry Society and later the Georgia State Poetry Society. In addition, he had also fought in the Battle of Iwo Jima, where, having dropped out of high school to join the war effort, he was wounded, and almost everyone else in his company of 140 Marines was either wounded or killed.

STEVE BAER: “For those who did not attend the burial of Air Force Major **Adam Mott**, you missed one of our country's most impressive ceremonies. **Geoff Huguely**, **Sue Huguely '59**, Judy and I, and **Craig Morgan** did. At Christmas, I laid a wreath on his gravesite, as did legions of others to graves at Arlington. I will every year. He was my dear friend. It's my honor to honor him.”

In Memoriam:

Alice Marshall Martin '58

Ann (Penny) McIntire Cockrell '58
September 22, 2022

1959

CLARK GRIFFITH

cggpa@ccgpa.com



Mary Salkever '59 and her husband, David

MARY ROSEN SALKEVER: “My husband, David, and I spent 50 years in Baltimore, where he was a professor of health economics at John's Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and I was the director of Learning Independence Through Computers, a nonprofit technology center for adults and children with disabilities. A year ago, we moved to Newbridge on the Charles, a continuing care community outside of Boston, where we live near our twin daughters. We enjoy volunteering for groups that support Democratic political candidates, playing bluegrass and folk music, and attending concerts and lectures. Our latest addition to the family is Molly, a toy Bernadoodle. We'd enjoy connecting with Sidwell Friends grads in the Boston area who enjoy playing bluegrass, folk, and Old Time music.” (See photo above.)

In Memoriam:

Carolyn Murphy Ahern '59

January 23, 2023

David Prentice '59

February 2023

1960

JODY HUTCHINSON
mjodyh@yahoo.com

1961

LINDA DEMING RATCLIFF
ldratcliff@comcast.net

LOFTUS “MIKE” BECKER: “I’ve been retired since 2018, living with my wife, Sandra, in a lovely apartment, minutes from the Metropolitan Opera, New York Philharmonic, and ballet—and with a gorgeous view of the Hudson river. Another advantage is that it’s quite close to a lot of bus lines. We prefer buses to subways when we aren’t in a rush. We see a fair number of Met Opera performances (I’m hoping to go to several of the Lohengrins, which I’ve only seen once) and a modest number of ballets and New York Philharmonic performances. We also see a fair amount of theater (plays not musicals, mostly). At my age I’ve pretty much stopped fancy cooking, though I do enjoy eating what other people cook. I’d love to hear from classmates in the city.”

In Memoriam:

Petra Dub Subin ’61
September 25, 2022

1962

CHETT BREED
cbreed@truman.edu

JILL ROBINSON GRUBB: “How are people speaking truth to power and having success? Who is growing oak trees? How is one grandchild the hope of the future? All of our/your grandkids are the hope of the future. Have the younger ones speak up with real questions. My grandsons and I are gathering acorns and will distribute what grows for planting. All are open to good experiences and curious and not afraid to speak up and be kind.”

SPOTLIGHT:
“It’s Been a Dream”

A look back at a high school romance after 60 years apart.

Gael Brown was a student at Sidwell Friends since 6th grade when **Chett Breed** joined the Class of ’62 in 1958. They sat side-by-side for homeroom (Breed, Brown) for several years without any mutual interest. Senior year, they discovered they shared fourth-year French with Madame Porte, with whom Gael had traveled through France as a rising junior—Madame was also the teacher who had embraced Chett in his sophomore year as she demonstrated the use of the second-person personal pronoun to the class: “*J’embrasse Charles. Charles, je t’embrasse.*” (Madame Porte blushed vividly, as did Chett.) So, it was no wonder they were cast in a closet drama version of Rostand’s *Cyrano de Bergerac* as the leading lady and her lover for the French Club banquet.

They occasionally followed the submarine races along the Potomac and once impersonated (older) French students visiting America, in order to enjoy wine with their meal at a swank restaurant doubtless closed down, for serving minors. That’s where the relationship ended, at Sidwell Friends with graduation, except for a momentary rendezvous in 1965: Gael was close to finishing at Earlham, Chett about to return to Amherst after three years’ absence.

They both married well.

Their 60th Reunion surprised them both, perhaps, with the ease of familiarity—a familiarity that prompted Chett to remark to Gael as he left the final morning’s breakfast, “It’s been a dream,” without quite knowing what he himself meant, and Gael to reply, “It’s been a dream.” They don’t know what either meant but are content with the memories.

—Chett Breed

PETER ENEMARK AND MEME ENEMARK give a gallery tour: “Meme and I went to Washington, DC, in January. We had dinner with classmates **Bill** and **Tracy Moroney**; we had dinner with **Jerry** and **Marcia Pruzan**; and we had dinner with other friends and family. We went to the Vermeer show, the Carpaccio show, as well as the *Black Artists of the American South* show, all at the National Gallery of Art. We also went to the *Italian Impressionist in Paris* (Giuseppe De Nittis) show at the Phillips Collection. And in February we went to the *Monet-Mitchell* show at the Louis Vuitton Foundation.”

JUDY MARKLEY WASTLER reports: “I’m up late tonight because I just got back from Italy (and have been out to dinner). I forgot to mention that recovery from hip-replacement surgery is wonderful! I’m doing a lot of walking and working

out so I can go back to work as a flight attendant with Delta Airlines in March or April.”

FROM THE CLASS REP:

Judy intends to give **Marcia Rosenberg Pruzan** a run for the honor of being the last class member to retire... But are there others still in the running?

1963



MARGO LEE HOFELDT
margo10022@aol.com

PETER BURLING: “A year ago my brother, **Phil Burling ’60**, turned 80, and his family and mine traveled to DC for the first time together to see Washington as we knew it in the 1950s. We traveled to the houses we lived in around George-

town, and visited the cabin property my Grandfather Burling had in Virginia (now the Scott's Run County Park). We showed our children and his grandchildren as much as we could in three days, and had a great time doing it. Of course, Sidwell Friends was a major subject of curiosity, and both of us told tales of the School and our classmates up until our departure for the north in 1959. It struck me as sad that there are only three classmates I've managed to stay in contact with: **Margo Lee Hofeldt**, **Rob Brown**, and **Steve Griffith**. So, for all the rest of you, I wish you the best. Hope you're well. I have been married for 53 years to Jean, the first woman to become a judge in New Hampshire, and I have spent 30 years in public life up in the Granite State. Both of us are now retired and wintering in South Florida. Health issues crop up constantly, but we're here. That's what matters."

MARGO LEE HOFELDT: "Here we are loving beautiful Miami and time is flying—maybe it's because I'm so busy. All of a sudden, it was the holidays, which we enjoyed with family and friends. It was our granddaughter Charlie Ann's first real Christmas (she was 16 months old at the time), and like all babies her age, it was about taking off the wrapping more than what was inside. She is adorable, and we have such fun every time we are with her. Fortunately, she lives downstairs in our apartment building. The New Year is off and running. I sit on the boards of the Miami Beach Botanical Garden and the Miami Beach Garden Club, both of which have so much going on. We are planning the annual garden tour for the Botanical Garden, and the Garden Club is planning its annual Standard Flower Show. As you can imagine, I'm going to a lot of meetings! Besides that, there is the Miami Beach Orchid Society and other social events, as well as other house/garden tours, art shows, and the South Beach Wine & Food Festival just around the corner. So, that's what winter looks like down South. I can't wait to see everyone at our Reunion in May."

JEANNE PERKINS HOFFERKAMP: "Not much new. Winter has so far been good to us,

unlike other parts of the country. We are very content to just hang out around here with our families. My girls live in the Milwaukee area, and Steve's son and daughter live very close to us. His granddaughter is now 13 months old and is an absolute joy! My grands are 20, 18, and 9! Fun to have a little one around. Hope everyone is well. Looking forward to the Reunion."

JOHN BRALOVE: "Hurricane Ian did not treat us well. Our Sanibel house suffered \$300,000 worth of damage, most of which will be covered by insurance. Renovation has been slow, in part due to the permitting process for a new roof. In our neighborhood, of the approximately 75 houses that need new roofs or substantial repairs, only one appears to have been worked on. I was able to rescue most of our orchids by moving them inside before we evacuated to Ft. Lauderdale the day before the storm hit. We are in temporary housing, a two-bedroom, two-bathroom pool home at the Colonial Country Club, about 45 minutes from Sanibel. Not too bad for refugees. We are very comfortable and back playing tennis at the club. Nevertheless, we are anxious to get back to Sanibel and hope to be back in by April 1."

1964

LOUISE BERRY STRAIT
lbstrait@gmail.com

SUSAN MORSE: "Thanks to alumni who expressed concern that we Californians survived the rains and floods, and didn't slide into the sea. We did have power outages, four trees down on my road, and oodles of rain. Fortunately, a lot of people have chainsaws, so now, roads are clear and firewood is abundant. Monterey did not become an island, although it has done so once before. I want to thank **Louise Berry Strait** for her efforts to keep our monthly class Zoom meetings functioning. They are well-facilitated, interesting, and begin and end on time. We have an average of about a dozen participants each month.

We share general topics, memories, news, and information updates. We do have a lot in common, which shouldn't be surprising, but often is! I have appreciated the empathy in the bad/sad times (the loss of my husband in 2021), and the shared joy of the good times (my daughter's wedding in 2022). I know we all appreciate Louise, our fearless class rep. for taking the time to keep communication flowing."

BOBBY SEITZ TURNBULL: "After several years of staying home, we attended three family gatherings in the last few months. We drove to the Outer Banks in September for the wedding of one of our great nieces and stayed in a rental house with other family members. In October, we drove to Nashville to visit Don's sister and some of her family. In January, I flew to Nashville for a weekend-long, females-only baby shower for one of our nieces. There were 18 of us staying in a rental house. After not seeing folks for so long, it has been wonderful to get together again."

LEA JABLONSKY UHRE reports that classmate **Lisa Freeman** has a thriving art practice in Santa Fe, New Mexico, that can be appreciated via her website *Beauty by Discovery* at lisafreemanart.com.

DOUG YRIART: "Hi all, the second half of 2022 was a busy time for me. My No. 3 son got married in Nashville in September, bringing together family from the far corners of the United States and even France. Thanksgiving took me to Virginia to visit my two sons and four grandsons there. I had the opportunity to watch my No. 3 grandson wrestle at a high school tournament. His brother, No. 2 grandson, is a freshman wrestler at West Virginia University. Christmas saw a return to Nashville to spend time with my son's family, No. 5 grandson and my only granddaughter. Nashville was hit by a cold snap. When I got up on the morning of December 23, the temperature was -1 degree, and there was about an inch of snow, which paralyzes Nashville. The temperature in Nashville was considerably colder than at my home in the Berkshires. The icing

on the trip was getting caught up in the Southwest Airlines debacle on the way home. I ended up with a five-and-a-half-hour layover at BWI, but my checked luggage arrived at Albany at the same time I did. So, 2022 actually ended on a high note!”

In Memoriam:

Norman Elrod '64
October 22, 2022

Margaret Wilner Hut '64
December 3, 2022

Sandra Schinnerer Wolfe '64
August 22, 2022

1965

KEN LESURE
ken.lesure@gmail.com

KEN LESURE: “Thanks to a recent Class Note in the magazine from the Class of '64, we celebrated 75th birthdays during Zoom meetings on October 16 and November 13, in which about a third of the class who are on the School's email list attended one or both meetings. We hope that more classmates will join our monthly Zoom conversations to share memories, current doings, and more. Future meeting details are forthcoming in the magazine when we reach a consensus on a regular monthly day and time.”

MARY BETH WAITS: “I have finally moved out of the house that I lived in for the past 37 years into an apartment in Silver Spring, Maryland. I could not believe the amount of *stuff* (much of which I hadn't looked at in decades) that I had to sort through and mostly just throw away. I am excited to be starting a new adventure at 75 years old! Who knows

what the next years will bring? Wishing all my 1965 classmates a happy, rewarding 2023.

1966

CHRIS DEMATATIS
cdematatis@aol.com

KATHY PAULL BROWN, ROSEANNE HIATT HARRIS, NANCY MCJENNETT, KIKI BROWN OEHLERT, and Betsy Paull '68 are part of a group that writes postcards to increase progressive-voter electoral participation. Last year, their group sent out over 21,000 postcards and letters across the country. Their work contributed to victories in all of the Pennsylvania and Nevada congressional districts to which they wrote, as well as to senatorial elections in Pennsylvania, Nevada, Arizona, and Georgia. The Power Pens encourage all interested members of the Sidwell Friends community to join them. Simply contact Kathy at kbrown5001@verizon.net.

1967

STEVE BATZELL
swb.abacus@gmail.com

STEVE BATZELL notes: “My wife, Soon Young, and I have had a wonderful 10 months with family events and travel. Last June, my son, Nicholas, received his master's degree in art from the Tufts Museum of Fine Arts School in Boston and is developing his sculpture portfolio. Being an artist is a challenge that he thankfully attacks with passion. My sisters **Anne Batzell '70** and **Jane Batzell '74** and their respective families joined us in the festive celebration my daughter, Jessica, who was married in Chatham, Massachusetts. Also, in 2022, we three siblings and families connected for events in Maine, Cleveland, and France. Soon Young and I topped off a good year with ten sun-suffused September days in Tours and Paris. It was a magical and a rejuvenating trip after our COVID lockdown years.” (See photo above.)



Steve Batzell '67 and his wife, Soon Young, in Paris

MILDRED “MILLY” BUDNY reports from Princeton, New Jersey, that, besides cultivating her garden and tending to her working library, she continues to research medieval and early modern books, writes about them, and cultivates the activities and publications of the small nonprofit educational organization that she helped to found decades ago (in preparation for its anniversary year in 2024). Since 2020, responding to the widespread changes in habits for forms of in-person scholarly gatherings, the activities for the organization have focused on online seminars, workshops, interviews, and symposia, dedicated to various subjects and interests relating to the history and transmission of books in many forms. New habits take shape, with a sense of renewal and purpose.

FROM THE CLASS REP.:

Explorations in my own library include a look at some surviving textbooks, notes, student essays, and other souvenirs from our high school years at Sidwell Friends School. What fun it is to revisit them, as tokens from our past! Best wishes, Milly.

JEFF COHEN drops a note from Florida: “Beth and I are in Boca Raton until June with an Iceland trip planned at the end of May. Always busy with lots of grandchildren as well as our five children and their spouses. Still developing historic mills into affordable housing in the Berkshires, in Lee and Adams. We're planning to be in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, from June into October.”

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

TONY FARRELL: “Our lengthy bathroom remodel tracked right along with the pandemic, beginning early in 2020 and lasting some 18 months. Happy to say it looks fantastic, mainly because of its glorious Fireclay Tile, from the Bay Area company led by **Eric Edelson '97**, whom I met at a Sidwell Friends dinner in San Francisco. And this June, I attended my 50th + 1 Harvard college reunion. Checking into the hotel, the first Sidwell/Harvard classmate I ran into was **Bob Kramer**, and we stuck together for most of the events. Our infamous college class was tarred as Harvard’s “Worst Class Ever” by then-President Nathan Pusey, mainly because of strikes against the war. But all seemed forgotten at the opening reception. I had written the current president, Larry Bacow (formerly the president of Tufts), asking to meet him because I was Harvard’s last student head of Navy ROTC before it was tossed off campus; and because, in 1963, I had attended the last summer of Camp MacJannet on Lake Annecy, a site later gifted to Tufts as their French overseas campus. Bacow graced our reception with his presence, and he sought me out! We had a pleasant conversation and, two days later, he announced he was quitting...”

CHERYL DODDY HOWARD: “Jeff and I welcomed our second grandchild, Henry V, in April 2022. We call him ‘Five’! He is a wonderful, happy baby who joined us in Naxos, Greece, over the summer with his Mom (Joy) and Dad (Henry IV) for a wonderful family vacation.” (See photo above.)



LEFT: Jeff Howard and Cheryl Doddy Howard '67 with their new grandchild, “Five” **RIGHT:** Evelyn Brown '68



In Memoriam:

K. William Harter '67
2022

1968 REUNION year

ROLLIE FRYE
rolliefrye@gmail.com

EVELYN BROWN: “I may have to miss our 55th. I detached a hamstring tendon in a race in September and definitely need surgery to fix the problem. I’m looking at a late-March surgery date, but with six to eight weeks of non-weight-bearing on crutches, I’m not sure I’d be comfortable flying, even first class, or sitting for the presentations and dinners. All is yet to be determined, and I need some more in-depth talks

with my doctor and surgeon. Meanwhile, this is a shot from the last big race I ran, The Revel Big Cottonwood half marathon in Salt Lake City in early September, two weeks before the injury (see photo above). It’s probably the last race finish photo I’ll have for at least a year. One more note to my classmates: Please change my email to n6wee.pvt@gmail.com.”

1969

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

WILLIE ALLEN-FAIELLA retired from St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, Miami, on March 5, having served 22 years as rector. She and her husband, Chris, plan to travel, celebrate their son’s wedding in September, and, eventually, return to the DC area. (See photo left.)

MICHAEL CAPLIN: “George Cohen, Wayne Jonas, and I traveled to Havana in January as part of a people-to-people cultural outreach program. We had a grand old time making new friends and celebrating what all people have in common: a love of music, dance, and laughter; respect for individual dignity; and good rum.” (See photo left.)



LEFT: Willie Allen-Faiella '69 on a cruise to Alaska in 2022, with son, Kit; daughter, Sophia; husband, Chris; and Kit's fiancé Paige Craig. **RIGHT:** George Cohen '69, Wayne Jonas '69, and Michael Caplin '69





The Class of 1970 threw itself a 70th birthday party!

ANNA "LIFFEY" THORPE: "After 25 years at Earlham College teaching classics, I moved to Maine with my husband, Peter Suber, who taught philosophy and legal studies. I taught high school students at a small town academy in Blue Hill for another 18 years, and Peter commuted to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he directed the Office for Scholarly Communication at Harvard. Our older daughter, Molly, lives in Athens with her husband, Ektor, a lawyer. Molly is a calligrapher and lettering artist. Younger daughter, Lilian, a photomontage artist, lives in Portland, Maine. She is also the owner and director of Nancy Margolis Gallery, formerly of New York City and now, since COVID, entirely online. I have wonderful and indelible memories of Sidwell Friends, although I left after 5th grade (not my choice!). Living in Maine is a gift. Best wishes to all my former classmates!"

1970

MARGARET WEAVER STEEL
mwkrull@me.com

THE CLASS OF 1970: Having missed out on an in-person 50th Reunion due to the pandemic, the Class of 1970 threw

itself a 70th birthday party on October 15, 2022, and it was a spectacular event. (See photo above.) It was held at the home of **Alan Bubes** and his wife, Nancy Bubes, on the waterfront in Georgetown, where we had the opportunity to celebrate the common bonds from our years together at Sidwell Friends and our long-term friendships. Our former history teacher and cross-country coach, Larry Turner was an honored guest. **Chris Tufty** reminded us that Larry's nickname was "Toots Turner."



LEFT: Anne Batzell '70, Stephen Batzell '67, Jane Batzell '74 **RIGHT:** Kathy Kleeman '70 and her husband, Joe Melton, walk along one of the hanging bridges in the rainforest in Costa Rica near the Arenal Volcano.

And, of course, another favorite teacher, David Miller, was in attendance. Because it was Homecoming weekend, many classmates had the opportunity to visit the School, hear updates on what's going on there, and see the Upton Street site that will become the new Upper School. —**Margaret Weaver Steel**

KATHY KLEEMAN: "After postponing the trip in 2022 because of COVID, Joe and I traveled in January 2023 to Costa Rica and Panama, joining one of those tours about which many of you have learned of from your college alumni association. One joy of such trips is having lecturers from the participating universities; their talks are so compelling that, even on vacation, pretty much everyone attends. We had speakers from the University of Chicago, Yale, Harvard, Duke, and Northwestern, and everyone was fascinating and entertaining. Over about 10 days (including a pre-cruise stay on land in Costa Rica), we visited coffee and chocolate producers in Costa Rica, walked through rain and cloud forests with extraordinarily knowledgeable guides who easily spotted all kinds of wildlife, and transited the Panama Canal. Entirely apart from being somewhere warm in January, it was delightful to see places so different from what we know (although their white-tailed deer look pretty much like ours, if



smaller) and to meet many interesting people from the participating universities aboard *Le Bellot*, our small, very French cruise ship.” (See photo below.)

JIM LYONS: “My big news is the marriage of my younger son, Greg, to Xingya Wang. They were both Ph.D. students at Rice University when they met. Greg stopped at his master’s and is now working as a programmer. Xingya is about two years away from her degree. My other son, Matthew, is not doing

so much music right now, despite his doctorate in the field, and is becoming a computer programmer also! Both sons seem to be following in their dad’s footsteps. My wife, Madeleine, is continuing with her art and is showing at some local galleries here in Bellingham, Washington. She is getting increasingly serious about her work. I’m just chugging along, taking a course a semester at Western Washington University. Still running, though it’s a lot more like jogging nowadays.”

1971

MARY REYNER

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1972

JOYCE JACOBSON

joyce@brastedhouse.com

SPOTLIGHT:

A Half-Century of School

Michael Tapscott '73 retires and reflects on a life that was jumpstarted at Sidwell Friends.

One of the best decisions I ever made was to stay in school, literally—for 49 years. After graduating from Sidwell Friends in May 1973 and getting settled as a first year at Tufts University in August 1973, every remaining day of my life was spent “cleaved to a university campus” until July 1, 2022. (Gallaudet during the summers. Tufts until 1984. Admissions and NCAA compliance at American University until 1990. Admissions and minority student affairs at George Mason until 2000. Admissions and student affairs at Regent until 2003. Multicultural affairs/diversity and inclusion at George Washington until last year.) After nearly 50 years inside higher education, any success that found me came from my parents, siblings, friends, students, colleagues, faculty, and the Sidwell experience.

In retrospect, I wish I was a better student while growing up. However, despite my regrets at this stage of life, I am thankful for people like: Llewellyn Lord for helping me after I foolishly turned down the first offer of admission; John Arnold who provided firm but caring discipline through Middle School; inspiring teachers/administrators/coaches like Yondorf, Chamberlain, Lang, Williams, Angiel, Sandifer, and Spiridopoulos; all of my 1973 classmates; and most important of all, Headmaster Robert L. Smith, who always found the time to check in, comfort, and affirm students like me to ensure we felt seen, heard, and valued. When the most challenging of high school issues arose, his leadership was transformational. Never again did I feel like just another athletic kid from Northeast DC.

Last April, the Alumni Office invited me to participate in “Let Your Life Speak” on Founder’s Day. Sharing a little bit of one’s life story with today’s Sidwell Friends students is eye opening and uplifting. The students were appreciative, asked really good questions, were active listeners, laughed respectfully at my awful jokes, and



Michael Tapscott '73 shares GW Multicultural Center traditions with the first years in the University Yard while his son gets in on the action as DJ.

laughed freely at the good ones. Which reminds me of another life regret: my delay in giving back to Sidwell Friends in appreciation for what it gave to me. The next time you have the opportunity to “Let your Life Speak,” support a campus-driven service event or give a little of your fiscal success monthly or annually, please do. Demonstrations of gratitude benefit everyone; a rising tide lifts all boats. Plus, you get to see old friends again! Talking with **Liza Donnelly, Greg Jackson, Kathy Bostic**, and others reminded me how proud I am to be a Sidwell alum, and how fortunate I was to hang out with these accomplished folks while growing up.

All those years of “staying in school” taught me many things, gave me incredible experiences, and connected me with unbelievably talented young people. I never made a lot of money but, if friendships and experiences held a monetary value, I am the richest man in the world. After six months retired, my heart still aches for my students, friends, and the cultural education work we were blessed to do. However, all of this is to say thank you Sidwell Friends, for strengthening my body, mind, and spirit.

—Michael Tapscott

1973

REUNION
Year

APRILLE KNIEP SHERMAN

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REGINA DESOFF KESSLER

reginadessler@gmail.com

JEFFREY MUMFORD was featured at DC's Touchstone Gallery as part of a large exhibition, *Sequence*. Artist Gregory Little created an animation, *Echoes*, to be used as a graphic score with the Miles Gilbert Trio, featuring Mumford. (See photo below.)

1974

LESLIE WOLF-CREUTZFELDT

lcreutzfeldt@yahoo.com

DONNA DE MARCO: "In addition to running the Serpentine Dance Studios, I am currently working with the owner of Bacchus Restaurant in Bethesda to offer a belly-dance show there every Friday and Saturday night. It gives my students a place to perform and diners something exciting to watch. The restaurant has been open 40 years, and this is the first time they are offering a show. We are trying to bring more life to downtown Bethesda. Sidwell alumni are cordially invited for a fun evening!" (See photo below.)

MATT GAMSER: "My wife, Anka Zaremba, and I were able to reunite with Hong Kong-based son, Marius Gamser, when Matt's SME Finance Forum held its an-



LEFT: Camila Bryce-Laporte '74, Anka Zaremba and Matt Gamser '74. **RIGHT:** Matt Gamser '74 and Anka Zaremba in Cambodia with son, Marius Gamser

nual global meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The city was unrecognizable from our last time there in 2012, when we were based in Hong Kong for the International Finance Corporation. Skyscrapers had replaced French-style villas—but still plenty of local charm left. We are also very glad that we keep in touch with several classmates, including **Henry Morris** and **Camila Bryce-Laporte**." (See photos above.)

BETH OURISMAN GLASSMAN has launched a new podcast, *It Happened to Me: A Rare Disease and Medical Challenges Podcast*. In one of the first episodes, Beth shares the story of her journey with glaucoma and low vision: "I am passionate about empowering women to make the best health care decisions for themselves and their families. Having experienced health challenges, myself, I believe that the power of connection and sharing one's own story is instrumental to the healing process." As co-host of the podcast, Beth interviews guests who have experienced similar struggles and reveals how to overcome and



cope with some of the most difficult health challenges. Check out Beth's podcast website, ithappenedtomepod.com. Questions/inquiries can be sent to ithappenedtomepod@gmail.com. Listen on Apple Podcasts: sidwell.pub/it-happened."

1975

ALAN DRUMMER

alandrummer@hotmail.com

1976

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

JONATHAN HAMILTON: "Retired after decades in APS and nursing home social work in Virginia, Louisiana, and Philadelphia. Making pots, playing with our grandson, growing a garden." (See photo below.)



LEFT: Jeffrey Mumford '73 with the Miles Gilbert Trio **CENTER:** Serpentine Dance, run by Donna de Marco '74, is teaming up with Bacchus Restaurant in Bethesda for live programming. **RIGHT:** Jonathan Hamilton '76 has a sweet home in West Virginia.

1977

ADAM STERN

adamcstern@aol.com

In Memoriam:

Helen MacIsaac '77

December 11, 2022

1978



PETER MACDONALD

pmacdona@skidmore.edu

CHERYL BASCOMB: “Still enjoying heading up Alumni Relations at Dartmouth College. Still playing hockey (more slowly) and living in relatively rural New Hampshire. I’m training for the National Senior Games Track & Field event in July in Pittsburgh, having qualified in the 200 and the 400 by either beating or outlasting my age group opponents in a seniors track meet this summer. At this age, what I do doesn’t resemble sprinting—it looks more like hurrying.”

DEEDIE FINNEY BOYLAN: “Still happily retired but chose not to let my LCSW license expire. Saw **Susie English** in New York City, who has had a terrifically successful year showing and selling her paintings from Maine, to Texas, to California. I am also in touch with **Elizabeth Frost Pierson '79**. I am very proud of our daughter’s master’s degree in mental health counseling from Lesley University and her work in community mental health in Leominster, Massachusetts. Our son is a control-systems engineer in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Oh, and *Mad Honey*, Jenny Boylan’s latest novel, which she co-wrote with Jodi Picoult, has been on *The New York Times* bestseller list for the last 15 weeks!”

CHRIS KRAMER: “**Bill Peyser**, **Krishnan Rajagopalan**, myself, and **Larry Ottinger** attended the wedding of **Varun Rajagopalan '10** last July in Tysons Corner. A great time was had by all!” (See photo above.)



LEFT: Bill Peyser '78, Krishnan Rajagopalan '78, Chris Kramer '78, and Larry Ottinger '78 at the wedding of Varun Rajagopalan '10 **CENTER:** Chris Vanocur '78 in South Africa, where locals refer to this type of picture as an “Elphie.” **RIGHT:** Hunter McLeod-Taylor, the granddaughter of Florida State Representative Katherine Waldron '78

**KEEP IN TOUCH!**

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

LARRY OTTINGER: “My mother, Dr. Betty Ann Ottinger, passed on recently after a full life as a social worker, pioneering psychotherapist, environmental foundation leader fighting climate change, and tremendous mother and friend. I’m lucky to have lived close by to talk, laugh, and be there for her. Cinthia and I also were privileged to be at the wedding of **Krishnan Rajagopalan** and Sumi’s son, **Varun Rajagopalan '10**, as he found his Nisha. **Bill Peyser** and **Chris Kramer** from our class were among those joining in the celebration. (See photo above.) My boss and I worked to build the Crisis Charitable Commitment (charitablecommitment.org) to get wealthier Americans to give more toward multiple crises highlighted by the pandemic, and we gave more to try to save our threatened democracy. The group I started that now called Advance Maryland celebrated its fifth year contributing to an increased minimum wage, a new paid family and medical leave policy, and abortion-access legislation for low-income and rural Marylanders as well as out-of-state patients. Let’s carry on the work together!”

CHRIS VANOCUR fulfilled a lifelong goal in January, and made it to his seventh continent, South Africa. (See photo above.)

KATHERINE MCGRAIL WALDRON: “It has been a whirlwind year or two for me. My daughter, **Mary Kate Waldron '05**, and her wife, Taylor McLeod, welcomed our first grandchild in February 2021. Hunter McLeod-Taylor is a real joy. She is going through her artistic phase and enjoys painting anywhere and on anything. I also spent a lot of 2022 on the campaign trail in Florida. After being port commissioner in Palm Beach County for six years, I was encouraged to run for state representative. While it was a rough night in Florida for the Dems, I was able to win my seat in District 93 (Wellington) on November 8. My sister **Mary Ann McGrail '76** and daughter attended my swearing-in ceremony in Tallahassee, while the rest of my family watched via livestream. I have been spending quite a bit of time in Tallahassee. I had dinner with **Sally Donnelly** and **Doug Gansler '80** early last year, and I received many nice donations to my campaign from my classmates. Thank you!” (See photo above.)

TONY WILNER: “I retired from the federal government (U.S. Department of Defense) after 35 years in 2020. I’ve enjoyed hearing about everyone else and look forward to our Reunion in May. I attended the 40th Reunion in 2018 and enjoyed it very much.”

1980

WILLIAM RICE

williamrice63@gmail.com

ANNE HALEY: “I am now in my 22nd year as a Los Angeles city attorney. I still manage outside counsel, as my primary responsibility, but have also, since its creation in 2021, acted as co-general counsel to the city’s Reparations Advisory Commission. Interesting stuff. All that said, I am looking forward to retirement (can you believe we’re old enough?) in the next couple of years. And what then? Planning to jump into my writing with both feet. And hands. And heart. I enjoy singing (tenor) in my church choir and am still fully ‘employed’ as wife to Wren and mother to Evan (29), Morgan (25), and Brandon (22). I miss DC (and all of you) and hope to spend more time there in the coming years. Looking forward to our 45th! Go, Quakers!”

CAMPBELL MCGRATH: “My twelfth book of poetry, *Fever of Unknown Origin*, will be published by Knopf in May.”

FROM THE CLASS REP.:

Below, Cynthia Kelly offered this free-verse poem in response to the standard solicitation of a class note of no more than 200 words:

CYNTHIA KELLY:

200 words!

I can’t think of more than these eight.
I was in remedial math, and very well
may not have counted the above words
correctly.
(But now, I must be closer to 20.)

EVE POLLAK: “It’s been six years since I turned my life upside down, leaving my husband of 30 years. And after two years of construction, my partner, Kate, and I have moved into our home in rural Colorado just outside Boulder. It’s been a *huge project*, but in the end, it’s amazing to be living in a house that we designed. We have lots of birds, occasional visits from a bobcat mama and her kits, hooting owls, and howling coyotes at night. My biggest goal for the New Year is prioritizing piano and voice improv-

sation, and song-writing. I continue to do MovingVoice work: therapy to help clients overcome blocks to the voice. I’m finally doing in-person work again, in the new studio, as well as continuing on Zoom. I take great pleasure in Cole, my 23-year-old son, who is finishing up a master’s in industrial design and engineering at Brown and the Rhode Island School of Design. My folks are 93 and 94, still living on Newark St., where I grew up and walked to Sidwell Friends for eight years. I’m grateful to have moved through a period of grief and upheaval and to be steady on my feet again. All the best to everyone!”

KERRY PELZMAN: “After five years working at USAID/Washington, I’m headed out in March to serve as mission director for USAID/Cambodia. During the pandemic, both my personal and diplomatic passports expired, my husband and I bought and furnished our dream home, and Patrick retired from USAID’s Foreign Service in November—so there are a few hurdles to get through between now and then! Vague memories of **Campbell McGrath** representing Kampuchea at Model UN aside, it’s an exciting assignment—I look forward to sharing more in future issues or on future Zoom reunions!”

STEPHANIE KLINE DESJARDINS: “I think turning 60 had some profound effects on me—one being that I no longer care what others think of me (hence causing me to send somewhat frivolous news compared with the amazing things many of my classmates have accomplished), and two being that I have a renewed interest (after many years) in doing a craft project again! This is evidenced by the gingerbread house, which was actually pretty hard, but fun!” (See photo below.)



Stephanie Desjardins '80 beside her handsome (and undoubtedly delicious) gingerbread creation.

TOM MACISAAC: “My older sister **Helen MacIsaac '77**, who many may remember was a senior when we were freshman, died on December 11, 2022, after a long battle with cancer. She was 63. Interestingly, some of her closest friends from Sidwell Friends, including **Roger Pollak '77** and **Becky Howard Whitmore '77**, who were especially supportive of her through her illness, also have siblings in our class. A full obituary was published in *The East Hampton Star* in January. My sister **Laura MacIsaac '81**, brother **Joe MacIsaac** (St. Albans '79), and I will miss our big sister very much.”

WILLIAM RICE: “By the time you read this, Cathy and I will be in harried possession of a new home. The month leading up to the closing was filled—as I imagine it is for all house purchasers—with increasingly insistent emails from brokers and lenders demanding electronic signatures, wired money, or some combination of the two. The house, which seemed as spacious as Montana on first viewing, mysteriously shrank on my second inspection, which came hours after the deadline passed for retrieving our hefty earnest-money deposit. There followed many days of panic, self-recrimination, and a tacit appeal to the competent authorities to forbid me from making any further substantial or expensive decisions. But Cathy, who had originally suffered a similar bout of purchase anxiety, kept peeking through the windows and eventually decided the place ‘felt right’ to her. Which means it feels right to me. For you postal-zone hobbyists out there: Our new zip code is that of my childhood (our Bethesda home shared a DC code in those simpler times). And since we’ve crept about a block closer to Sidwell Friends, here’s an early invitation to gather on our ample front porch as part of our 45th Reunion!”

1981

ANDREW SZANTON

aszanton@rcn.com

1982

TED MORROW-SPITZER

tspitzer@marketventuresinc.com

ELIZABETH "LILLI" BILTCHIK GARCIA: "I am married to man from Chile (I think Alice Dater would be happy), and we have two daughters both living in the UK. Our permanent address is in Piemonte, Italy, where we moved to almost six years ago from Sausalito California. We live on a farm with a menagerie of animals (one hour south of Milano). Please get in touch if you are ever in the area."

1983

REUNION
year

LINDA GAUS

gaushaus1965@verizon.net

MATT BIRENBAUM: "Our DC Class of '83 crew gathered for our first in-person holiday dinner since the onset of the pandemic. It was wonderful as always, and we are all looking forward to our 40th reunion this May!" (See photo below.)

1984

SARAH WILLIAMS

sarah@propelcapital.org

ANN CLARK ESPUELAS

aespuelas08@gmail.com

LIZ BERNSTEIN NORTON

lizbnorton@gmail.com

1985

HILARY DAYTON

hcdayton@gmail.com

JEN FUHRMAN LAPLUME: "I ran into Billy Adams—twice!—at Ikea in Boston in September 2022! It was apartment move-in weekend for both our daughters in Boston!" (See photo on right.)

1986

LAURA LONDON

lauramlondon@yahoo.com



Jen Fuhrman LaPlume '85 and Billy Adams '85 have a serendipitous meeting at Ikea.

1987

TIP COFFIN

tip@teamcoffin.com

ANDY KAUFMAN: "Things are going well up here in Maine. I'm now a deputy regional coordinator (New England) for Project Healing Waters as well as the director of Military and First Responder Programs for an equine nonprofit. Bottom line: I'm continuing to pay it forward and continuing my mission. One of my daughters is completing her dental hygienist course and the other is still working at Virginia Common-



From left to right, Margaret Miniter Paulson '83 and Peter Paulsen, Clarence Norment IV '83 and Leigh Norment, David Weigert '83 and Allison Inglesby, Michael Fitzpatrick '83 and Miriam Gonzalez, Lee Babcock '83 and Marty Babcock, Matt Birenbaum '83 and Ilona Birenbaum, and Sanjaya Krishna '83 and Jess Cowan



LEFT: Andrew Kaufmann '87 hanging out with horse Tripp. **CENTER:** Ryan Golden '90, Justin Gray '92, Frank Hanrahan '91, and Andrew Emmett '97 all watching their daughters play on same U-11 soccer team in November 2022. **RIGHT:** Tijan Watt '94, Brett Dakin '94, Nate Heller '94

wealth University. My son, his wife, and daughter moved back to Fort Rucker, Alabama, and my wife is still teaching up here in Lamoine. Offer is always open: If you're up this way and need a place to hang out, drop a line. I'm also a registered Maine guide, so if you want to do some fishing let me know." (See photo above.)

1988 REUNION year

LOUISE ANDREWS
louiseandrews@me.com

1989

ELIZABETH WYATT
ebwyatt@aol.com

In Memoriam:

Susannah Maud Gries '89
September 4, 2019

Carole Jones '89
December 26, 2022

1990

JUSTINE WRUBLE FAHEY
justinewfahey@gmail.com

1991

TIM HANRAHAN
tim.hanrahan@gmail.com

1994

BETSY STOEL
estoel@gmail.com

BRETT DAKIN visited **Nate Heller** in Dakar, Senegal, where they were able to meet up with classmate and fellow Dakar resident **Tijan Watt**. (See photo above.)

1995

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

EMILY POWERS: "Since 2018, I've been living in Austerlitz, New York, with my husband, Josh, and our son, Zev (7). When we first moved up here, I worked as an assistant United States attorney at the Department of Justice (DOJ) in Albany; about seven months ago, I began serving as a trial attorney with DOJ's Consumer Protection Branch, where I investigate and prosecute complex, organized, international financial fraud/money-laundering cases (romance scams, family-in-need schemes, business email compromises, COVID fraud, etc.). Amazingly, they let

me work remotely from our 58-acre farmhouse (although I do get down to DC from time to time to visit the office and the family). So, I'm feeling pretty darn lucky these days: I get to do work I love in a place I love, with no commute and plenty of gardening in the warm months! Josh started a company last year that does invasive plant control and otherwise he spends most of his time working on the old house and splitting firewood. Zev is an awesome and hilarious 2nd grader. He recently started taking drum and piano lessons, causing me to dust off the old instrument collection. I think we might start a band..." (See photo below.)



Emily Powers '95 with son, Zev, and husband, Josh

1997

ELLEN CORNELIUS ERICSON
eccornie@gmail.com

1998



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Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

In Memoriam:

Andres Vergara '98
June 2022

1999

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Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

KIM R. FORD: "I am so excited to announce that I welcomed a baby girl in July (born in June), and we finalized our forever family in February. Her name is Kenzie Dietra Sage Ford (Dietra after my mom and Sage to honor her birth mother's wishes). She has an amazing village who have loved on her since she came into my life, including many Sidwell Friends alums. Thanks for all the love and support SFS Fam!" (See photo below.)



2000

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MASON BERRY: "Hi everyone! I hope you are all doing well in the new year! I recently took command of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Six out in San Diego, and I'm currently deployed with the USS Nimitz Strike Group in the South China Sea. I am loving my new job and the leadership challenges it brings. My wife, Jess, and I also love our fun, but often chaotic, life in California with our three boys, Shaler (6), Caden (4), and Beau (2). Jess just started working for ecoSPIRITS as their North American sales director and is doing the hard work of being a single working mommy while I am away. She and I are linking up in Singapore for my first port call on this deployment! My best to all of you!" (See photo below.)

NICK FRIEDMAN and **OMAR SOLIMAN** recently co-executive produced the first movie ever made based on Jeff Bezos and the founding of Amazon, titled *Bezos: The Beginning*. Nick also acted in the movie (his scripted acting debut) playing the role of Shel Kaphan, Bezos's first employee at Amazon. As entrepreneurs, this was an opportunity to share one of the greatest business success stories ever. The duo learned a

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lot and had a great experience making this movie with Marcus Lemonis (of CNBC's *The Profit*), Armando Gutierrez (of Netflix's *Little Mermaid* and owner of the Tampa Yankees), Kevin Sorbo (of *Hercules*), Emilio Estefen (music producer), Jorge Masvidal (UFC champion), Eliana Ghen (TikTok star), and many more. The movie was released January 24 on Apple TV, Amazon Instant Video, and several other video-on-demand platforms. The trailer and movie link can be found at sidwell.pub/bezos or on Instagram: [@bezos_movie](https://www.instagram.com/bezos_movie). (See photo below.)

2001

ELIZA ORLINS
eorlins@gmail.com

2002

CAMILO ACOSTA
cbacosta@gmail.com



LEFT: Kim R. Ford '99 with new baby, Kenzie Dietra Sage Ford, on finalization day **CENTER:** Nick Friedman '00 appearing as Shel Kaphan in the new movie, *Bezos: The Beginning* **RIGHT:** Mason Berry '00, his wife, Jessica, and their three boys pose at Berry's change-of-command ceremony in San Diego three days before deploying to the South China Sea.



LEFT: Modi Oyewole '05 in an editorial shoot for SOMEWHERE® DC **CENTER:** Charlotte Lipschitz '06 married Ben Wilson last July at her parents' home in Boothbay Harbor, Maine; classmate Caitlin Jones '06 officiated the ceremony. **RIGHT:** Nicholas Morin '11 and his wife, Chantee Morin, welcomed their second child, Nathaniel "Nate" James Morin, to the world.

2003



NAABIA OFOSU-AMAAH

n.ofosuamaah@gmail.com

KATIE MATHEWS

katiecmathews@gmail.com

2004

ZEESHAN ALEEM

zeeshanaleem2@gmail.com

2005

RANDA TAWIL

randa.may.tawil@gmail.com

NASSER MUHAMMAD

nasser.muhammad.1@gmail.com

MODELE "MODI" OYEWOLE has recently joined iconic hip-hop label Def Jam Recordings as vice president of creative, experiential, and content development in their newly relocated Los Angeles offices. Additionally, he has ventured into the TV and film space, currently producing his first short film. Lastly, he has joined DC's groundbreaking fashion hub and community café, SOMEWHERE®, as an investor, leveraging his experience and network to help them continue to innovate and grow. (See photo above.)

2006

JOHN SANDERS

jsanders36@gmail.com

CHARLOTTE LIPSCHITZ: "Ben Wilson and I got married this past July and were lucky enough to have **Caitlin Jones** officiate our ceremony. Ben and I are living in Providence, Rhode Island, where he works as a silversmith for Tiffany & Co. and I am a practicing architect. In the past few years, I have been focused on designing education spaces, particularly centered around project-based learning and makerspaces, as well as completing a number of residential projects throughout New England. I'm looking to grow my practice in the coming years and excited to take on new work!" (See photo above.)

NICHOLAS MORIN and his wife, Chantée Morin, welcomed their second child, Nathaniel "Nate" James Morin on August 29, 2022. Madeline "Maddie" loves being a big sister to her baby brother! (See photo above.)

2007

ALEX AKMAN

Akman.alex@gmail.com

LUMAY WANG MURPHY: "I am overjoyed to share that Maven Mei was born on Oc-

tober 12, 2022, and big brother, Wilde, has been very accepting. Their cousin, Maya, was born about a week earlier, so congratulations to my brother, **Jayon Wang '09**, are in order. I'm currently learning how to cross-country ski and finding new ways of staying active during the winter. Professionally, I am honored to serve another term on the Ocean Foundation's Board, as the organization continues to grow and expand programs globally. If anyone travels through Bozeman, Montana, please let me know!"

DOUG PROCTOR and Katie White are happily situated a block from Cheesman Park in Denver, Colorado. Katie is continuing her art practice, and Doug is building a healthcare-payments software company with a bunch of friends and former Palantir colleagues: "Drop a note if you're coming through Denver!"

CHRIS WESTLEY: "After a five-year stint in New Orleans, I had the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica and the Patagonia region of Argentina and Chile. I was lucky enough to be in Buenos Aires when Argentina won the semi-final of the World Cup. I returned to DC for the New Year and joined Internal Medicine Colleagues downtown. We are a small, independent private practice with a focus on personalized care and spending time with our patients. I am excited about practicing medicine in DC, being closer to family, and re-engaging with the Sidwell Friends community."

2008

REUNION
year

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

2009

JAMES PARKS

jhpiv13@gmail.com

2010

KAI ZHENG

kaihuazheng@yahoo.com

2011

KIKI OCHIENG SAGOE-MOSES

akinyi.ochieng@gmail.com

ALEXA CERF: "I got married to Adam Fry this past August on Lake Champlain in upstate New York. Sidwell Friends alumni in attendance included **Cleo Abram** (who was a bridesmaid), **Jesse Pollak**, and **Finn Stern**. We were married by Rev. David Ware, an Episcopalian priest (and neighbor) who taught English at Sidwell Friends in the 1990s! Adam and

I live in San Francisco (literally across the street from **Josh Tobin '09**) and very much enjoy whenever we run into Sidwell Friends alums!" (See photo below.)

WILL DONIGER: "In May 2022, I celebrated the completion of my dissertation in the field of materials science and engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. I moved to Chicago, where I research technologies for the next generation of nuclear power at Argonne National Laboratory." (See photo below.)

PATRICIA SOLLEVELD: "About 10 years (!) after our last visit, **Matthew Malone**, who currently lives in Dublin, came to visit me in Boston this fall. Matthew was recently named as one of *The Irish Times*' 50 People to Watch in 2023 for his work as an actor, and I will be leaving a career in clinical research to begin medical school this summer. Please feel free to reach out if you're ever in the Boston-area!" (See photo below.)

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Eric Anderson '12 married Léa Momméja in France.

2012

SALENA HESS

salenahess@outlook.com

JOHN VERGHESE

jjv2116@columbia.edu

ERIC ANDERSON, a physics Ph.D. graduate student at the University of Washington, married Léa Momméja on August 13, 2022, at her family home in Normandy, France. The wedding party included **Laura Anderson '15**, **Mark Anderson '21**, **Matthew Kim '12**, and **Chitti Raju '12**. (See photo above.)



LEFT: Jesse Pollak '11, Cleo Abram '11, Alexa Cerf '11, Finn Stern '11, David Ware, and Ware's daughter, Helena Ware '18 **CENTER:** William Doniger '11 with mother, Lisa; father, David; sisters, Perrin Doniger '01 and Cynthia Doniger '04; partner, Leah; Aunt Linda, and Ph.D. advisor, Kumar **RIGHT:** Patricia Solleveld '11, Matthew Malone '11



Harry Eldridge '13, Jonathan Gerstell '13, Jade Wong-Baxter '13, Benjamin Richer '13, Sam Gondelman '13, Grant Mulitz '13, Kyhl Stephen, Emily Zinger '13, Meera Muñoz Pandya '13, Ron Wolfe '87, Josh Zinger '16, Natalie Plotkin '14, Nina Moiseiwitsch '13

2013 REUNION year

CECILIA LAGUARDA
 xenia.cecilia.laguarda@gmail.com

EMILY ZINGER and Kyhl Stephen were married last September in Madison, Virginia. Many Sidwell Friends classmates were present to celebrate, including Groomsman **Josh Zinger '16**, Bridesmaid **Natalie Plotkin '14**, and Maid of Honor **Nina Moiseiwitsch '13**. (See photo above.)

2015

EMILY MILLER
 emillerusa@gmail.com

2016

TALHA JILANI
 jilani-talha@live.com

2017

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LUCAS DE CARVALHO: "I remain in the United Kingdom. I completed my master's degree in management at the University of St. Andrews. I am now studying for another master's degree, this one in Latin American Studies at the University of Oxford. I think that going to Sidwell Friends gave me the con-

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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fidence necessary to go abroad for my studies. I remain uncertain as to whether I will return to the United States. I visited campus over the summer before moving to Oxford. I felt grateful that I was able to meet with many of my old teachers and more so for having been their student."

SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL SUMMER — with — FRIENDS

Join us for Summer with Friends events in cities across the country! Learn more at sidwell.edu/summerwithfriends.



ALUMNI LACROSSE GAME Saturday, June 3

Join fellow alumni for the first ever Alumni Lacrosse Games vs. the boys' and girls' varsity teams! More info: sidwell.edu/alumni-lacrosse-game

ALUMNI SOCCER GAME Saturday, August 26

More info to come soon!

SAVE
THE
DATE



Help Us Light The Way Forward



PLANNED GIVING *at* SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL

The future of Sidwell Friends School rests on the generosity of its community today, tomorrow, and well into the future. Many of the School's most impactful gifts come about through thoughtful Planned Giving discussions that inspire an individual or a family to leave a legacy that lights the way for new generations of students.

Planned Gifts can take many forms including a qualified charitable distribution from your retirement account, establishing a charitable gift annuity, or naming Sidwell Friends School as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

We hope you will share your planned gift intentions with us and join others as members of The Thomas and Frances Sidwell Society, which recognizes individuals who have named Sidwell Friends School in their estate plans.

We invite you to learn more about how you can provide for Sidwell Friends.

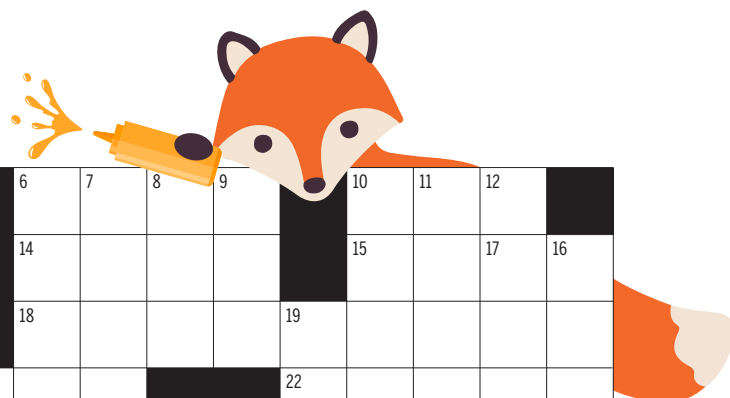
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Please visit plannedgiving.sidwell.edu and consult your financial advisors about tax and other considerations. For more information, contact Tara Arras, Assistant Head of School for Advancement at (202) 537-8117 or arrast@sidwell.edu.



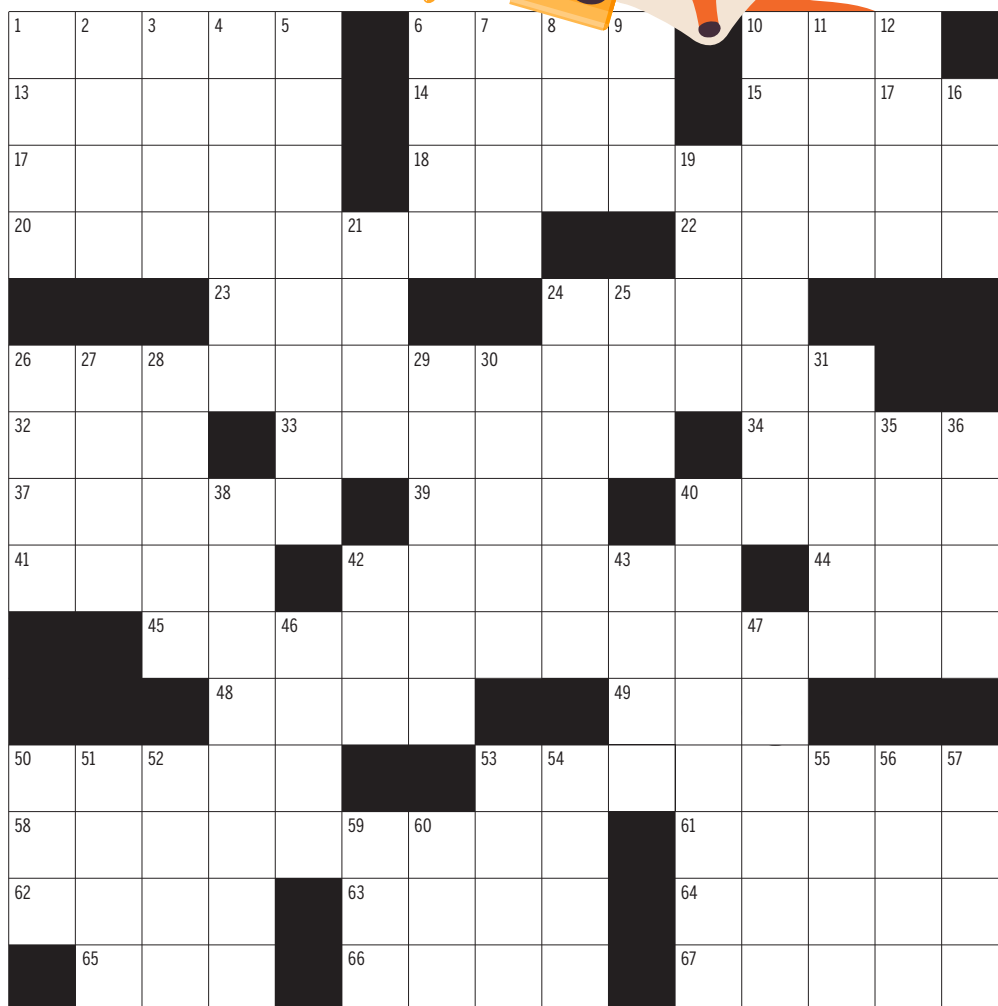


Words with Friends: Food Fight



ACROSS

- 1** Grade booster
6 One-to-one's counterpart in mathematics
10 Yellow, black or chocolate pooch
13 Treble symbol
14 "High" time
15 Fivers
17 Loud, as a crowd
18 Wound one might find at a 58-Across
20 Connecticut city that's the hometown of Charles Goodyear
22 It's a numbers game?
23 Long or Vardalos of Hollywood
24 Asian nurse
26 Carnage one might find at a 58-Across
32 Alley-____(highlight reel play)
33 Look that way
34 "American Pie" actress Suvari
37 Midsection
39 "I'm good, thanks"
40 Type of tree on Lebanon's flag
41 Email clutter
42 Turned a maxi into a mini, perhaps
44 Rainbow's path
45 Jab one might find at a 58-Across
48 Freezing
49 Feverish, say
50 2007 Michael Moore movie
53 Calming medication
58 Words shouted right before havoc is wreaked on a cafeteria
61 "Oof..."
62 Hoops org. for Diamond DeShields
63 Actor Guinness
64 "Nice to ____ you!" (common virtual greeting)
65 Flow back
66 Trevor of "The Daily Show"
67 Speaks hoarsely



Puzzle by Aimee Lucido

DOWN

- 1** Novelist Jennifer who wrote "The Candy House"
2 Field measure
3 Adjective to describe a sloth
4 "Um... I don't think that's right"
5 "Sorry, it's true..."
6 Start of many a fairy tale
7 Adjective, e.g., amusingly
8 Nursery figure
9 Peace activist Yoko
10 Puccini opera that opens on Christmas Eve
11 Provide a false alibi for, say
12 Vegetable whose name is apt for this puzzle's theme
16 Bay Area airport code
19 Auto race signal
21 Bouquet holder
24 Cause of wheezing
25 High-collared jacket
26 Twitter hijackers
27 What you're out of when you're confused
28 "Beloved" actress Winfrey
29 Work that starts "I sing of arms and the man"
30 Savory quality
31 Kia Rio, e.g.
35 DEA agent
36 Sly, in a way
38 Squarely
40 Bit of outdated tech
42 Shakespearean prince
43 "The Walking Dead" role
46 "Welcome home!" in dog
47 Final syllable
50 Appropriate to read at the office, colloquially
51 "Fever Pitch" actress Skye
52 Baseball's "Georgia Peach"
53 ____ butter (moisturizing ingredient)
54 Impress deeply
55 Mike and ____ (some jelly beans, informally)
56 Show for which Julia Louis-Dreyfus won six consecutive Emmys
57 Rough amts.
59 Actor McKellen
60 Day-____ (paint company)



What Dreams May Come

Sidwell Friends Guest Artist and alum Kenzo Digital '98 created *Air* at Summit, One Vanderbilt, in New York City after years of experiencing the same dream over and over. The dream featured geometric shapes that repeated and reflected in on themselves—themes Digital expanded on in *Air* with infinite spans of shapes shifting across acres of mirrors and glass at the pinnacle of a skyscraper in downtown Manhattan. For Aaron Brophy, Middle School art teacher and director of art exhibitions at Sidwell Friends, *Air* provided an opportunity to challenge students to interpret Digital's massive work in just two dimensions.

It was a challenge Sienna Morigi '28 took to heart with her *Air*-inspired piece above. "This world that he had created would be a challenge to put down on paper with just the same effect as his space," she says. "Since his idea came from a recurring dream, I thought that making the artwork look like

a geometric scene might help recreate it." Morigi says executing the assignment was surprisingly relaxing (a sentiment shared by many visitors to *Air* itself). "Each day, I would be excited to come down to the art room and work on my piece," she says. "It was just that one moment in my day when I got to take a second and really focus on something else."

"Art is something where I can create anything I want and be expressive with it," Morigi says. "Whenever I have free time, I spend that time sketching in my sketchbook; it gives me a chance to use my imagination to create something I have been thinking about." Her thoughts on art echo Digital's own. After all, he started having his recurring dream while he was a student at Sidwell Friends; and like Morigi, he sketched his ideas in a notebook. Indeed, Digital's first attempt at bringing his dream to life also happened in an art room at Sidwell Friends.

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THE FOX DEN



Anthony La Fleur

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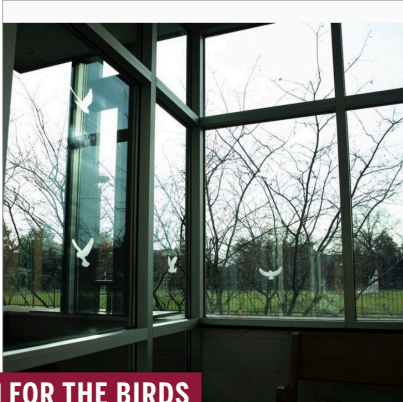
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Product group from well-managed
forests, controlled sources and
recycled wood or fiber
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© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council



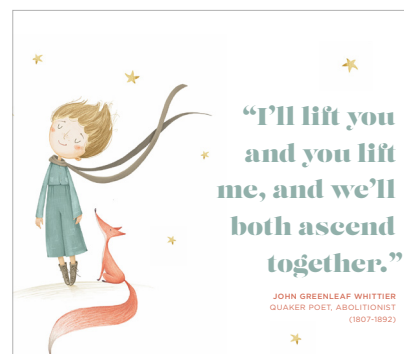
A WIDER CIRCLE

A post on the chaperone-to-CEO journey of Amy Javaid P '24, '27 resonated: "Javaid exemplifies 'Let your life speak'" and "A powerhouse of goodness, energy, and ingenuity!"



FOR THE BIRDS

A post about the bird decals on the Upper School library windows won over readers: "Wow, so cool!" and "What a great project that worked!" 🌟



JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER
QUAKER POET, ABOLITIONIST
(1807-1892)

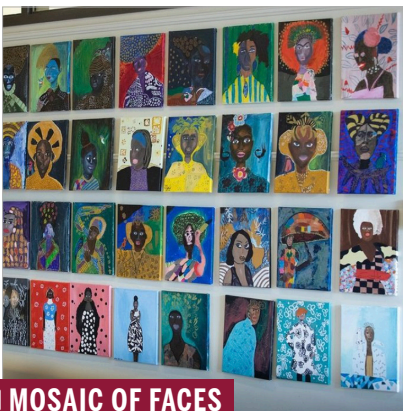
HAPPY NEW YEAR

A sweet sentiment launched the beginning of the year.



PROUD VALENTINE'S

Our card-making PA Pride Committee inspired this comment: "I'm so proud of all Sidwell does for folks." And the post was re-shared by NAIS.



MOSAIC OF FACES

The 5th grade Black History Month art project was both eye-catching and motivating: "That's very inspiring! #KeepInspiring"



FAVORITE THING ABOUT SIDWELL

This student-led post featured the Fox Den, with the comment: "Love the Fox Den! Cozy and comfortable for work and socializing."