

SIDWELL

MAGAZINE SUMMER 2023

Friends

All the School's a Stage

We celebrate the creative forces that make Sidwell Friends truly come alive.

PLUS

Barton Rubenstein '81
on sculpture, science, and permanence

Ava Coleman '11
on writing, comedy, and television



It's our turn to light the way forward.

In a world of worthy, urgent causes—where so much work needs to be done—Sidwell Friends School is committed to preparing a new generation of students with the knowledge, the courage, the conviction, and the relationships necessary to create the change we all need.

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AND TAKE ACTION.**



SIDWELL FRIENDS MAGAZINE

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ON THE COVER

Owen Wilson-Black '25
performing in
Urinetown. Photo by
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From the Editor

SACHA ZIMMERMAN P '29

If you have never seen live theater at Sidwell Friends, do yourself a favor and start attending performances. Whether it's a choral concert, a drama, or the annual Black Student Union show, the arts allow students to express themselves and what's important to them (see "All the School's a Stage," on page 30). The arts are also central to a Quaker education, which is why in this issue, we are honoring all types of creative forces at Sidwell Friends, starting with a peek back at historical performances on campus in *The Archivist* (see "Leading in the Limelight," on page 28).

We also looked beyond campus, as a vast number of Sidwell Friends alumni work in the arts—two of whom are highlighted in these pages. **Barton Rubenstein '81** is a master sculptor with pieces erected around the world. He is also a scientist who understands how the brain interprets visual language. But it wasn't until he melded his skills with environmentalism that he discovered his purpose. Now, he's letting his life speak: His passion for saving the planet has resulted in a global effort to use art for tangible, legislative change on the climate crisis (see "In Perpetuity," on page 44).

Then there's **Ava Coleman '11**, a writer on the Emmy Award-winning television show *Abbott Elementary*, which has launched more than a few memes, ignited a wave of support for public education across the United States, and resurrected the joys of the situational comedy. Coleman joined Head of School **Bryan Garman** to discuss all of it—including why her name will be familiar to *Abbott* fans—in an episode of *Lives That Speak*, the Sidwell Friends School podcast (see "Funny Girl," on page 52).

Speaking of Sidwell Friends alumni, careful readers of this magazine will notice a few changes to its organization. Instead of sequestering our graduates in a section at the back of the magazine, alumni stories and events will be sprinkled throughout each issue, and Class Notes will feature more essays and spotlights in addition to its personal updates (which we *love*—keep sending them in!). The Sidwell Friends community after all is a single community—comprising parents, students, teachers, alumni, and more—united by a deep connection to the School.

As always, there's so much more to discover, including a celebration of the Class of 2023; a special tribute to Carlos Castellanos, a 40-plus-year member of the School's Facilities team; and a look at the Distinguished Alumni Award winners. Of course, if you're still craving the arts, there's always the devilishly tricky puzzle by **Aimee Lucido**—lately found creating puzzles for *The New Yorker* (see "Show Swappers," on page 87).



Check out our
year-in-review video,
"A Year of Inspiration."
sidwell.pub/22-23



ON CAMPUS



Carry Goodness into the World

In his 2023 Commencement address, the head of school asked the graduating class to “walk in the light of love.”

BY BRYAN GARMAN

CLASS OF 2023, WE HAVE BEEN PROUD TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A QUAKER EDUCATION.

And as you head into our turbulent world, I hope you will carry the spirit of Friends with you.

As you do, it’s helpful to remember that Quakerism emerged during a moment of political discord and social upheaval, a time not unlike our own. So persecuted were Friends, so uncertain the future, that the English Quaker Edward Burrough exorted: “Behold, Oh Nation! Great Trouble is upon thee, and the Men that should Rule thee ... they do not walk in the Way of thy Peace, neither do they bring healing to thee.”

Friends believed healing would take place through a non-violent “Lamb’s War,” the spoils of which would be, in the words of another Friend, a “new heaven, a new earth, a new heart and mind, a new law, a new [humanity], a newness of spirit.”

We too find trouble upon us, embattled by fundamentalist expressions of partisanship, historic injustices, existential crises, and wanton gun violence. We seem to be suspended in paralysis, unable to unite around simple principles of humanity, which, due to our own ingenuity, seem increasingly threatened by the ability of artificial intelligence to pose as ersatz humans. We have inched palpably closer to engineering ourselves into obsolescence.

We have reason to worry but not to despair. We have faced existential dread before and have circumvented, with no small measure of luck and hard work, previous doomsday forecasts. So your fate is not sealed, seniors, but changing it will take some effort. Commencement is a beginning not an end, and, like early Friends, you have an opportunity to rethink your place in the world and perhaps to remake the world itself.

Activist adrienne maree brown offers inspiring advice on how to create the world anew, imploring us to address our most intractable challenges with humility and grace. To reshape our thinking, brown argues that we must unlearn what she identifies as “the most egregious thing we [have been] taught”; a lesson that, in her words, teaches us that “we should just be really good at what’s already possible” and “leave the impossible alone.” We can no longer afford to tether ourselves to the familiar and convenient. As brown acutely observes, our Lamb’s War is an “imagination battle,” a struggle to revivify our energies, to rethink what is possible, to build a more just and peaceful society, to reclaim the sanctity of the individual.

In attempting to create peace and justice, Quakers have long worked in the impossible and the imaginary, offering critical and creative ways to re-envision the world. Friends encouraged radical yet disciplined thinking, and taught their followers to rely on original insights, tested by the wisdom

“We know your voices will continue to resonate and speak truth for years to come.”

of community and grounded in fact, to inspire meaningful change. This concept was central to George Fox’s vision. “You will say, Christ saith this, and the apostles say [that],” he preached. “But what canst thou say?” What canst thou say? With this question, Fox placed responsibility for faith and practice firmly in the hearts and minds of his followers. How does God, how does goodness, manifest itself in you? How will you carry goodness into the world?

These queries, and the inherent regard for human dignity they embody, are critically important when we seem to have become inured to the loss of human lives and our humanity is being outsourced. As graduates of a Friends school, you understand that you must use the power of individual voice to disrupt all forces that dehumanize. Our faculty have asked you to speak for yourselves, to formulate your own opinions, to take control of your education, to make an impact on your communities. You have been taught that your voice matters, that you can and must speak your truth, that, to paraphrase a poet with Quaker roots, you should dismiss all that insults your soul. You have learned that individuals matter. Kindness matters. Justice matters. Action matters.

Most importantly, you have learned, through hard lessons from which I wish you had been spared, not to turn away from the impossible, even when faced with the unspeakable. I am thinking, of course, of the moment when we lost our dear friend, **Mikey Wood ’23**. When great trouble fell upon our community and the Wood family, you did exactly what Mikey’s mother, Jennifer, expected and appreciated: You showed up for one another. You cared for one another. You healed one another.

We will not forget the power of your example, which you beautifully demonstrated again at last Friday’s tree planting. You are all children of the Light, and when we soon share a moment of silence at this ceremony, I ask you to hold Mikey in the collective brilliance you reflect. You are brilliant because you understand that love matters most.

And when you leave campus today, I hope you will continue to walk in the Light of love. What canst thou say, Class of 2023? You have said so much so beautifully already. And we know your voices will continue to resonate and speak truth for years to come. ✨





CLASS ACTS

The Next, Best Generation

Students across divisions moved up to new grades—and the seniors said goodbye.

“The world needs this generation,” author and journalist **Anand Giridharadas '99** told graduates and families in his Commencement address in June. Pointing to the centrality of youth activism in the fights against climate change, gun violence, and racial injustice, he urged: “Now you get to rewrite the rules and reject old dogmas. Consider this an invitation to a thrilling project.”

“NOW YOU GET TO REWRITE THE RULES AND REJECT OLD DOGMAS. CONSIDER THIS AN INVITATION TO A THRILLING PROJECT.”

This group of senior students, whom Head of School **Bryan Garman** called “angelic troublemakers,” are graduating from Upper School and heading for new adventures, ready to take on their lives as adults. As they do so, Giridharadas entreated them to reclaim the narrative of America. “You can be clear-eyed about the country’s flaws and still see the country’s promise,” he said. “Love America enough to make it better.”



The Class of 2023 weren't the only Sidwell Friends students moving on. The 4th graders (the Class of 2031) are moving from Lower School to Middle School, and the 8th graders (the Class of 2027) are moving from Middle School to Upper School. Both achievements were also celebrated with special ceremonies last week. The 4th graders presented their class gift: 3D printer filament and a donation to Rock Creek Conservancy. The 8th graders, meanwhile, used their class gift to make a donation to St. Jude's Children's Hospital and buy extra outdoor seating for the Fox Den café.

Paraphrasing poet John O'Donohue, Garman told the 8th graders: "Though your destination is not yet clear, you can trust the promise of this opening." It was a sentiment that would echo across these division-wide milestones. The idea of a new start was especially poignant as each of these students recently endured a year of Zoom learning, hundreds of nasal swabs, masking, and social distancing. One Middle Schooler even said she now recognized the privilege she and her friends have to be able to go to school and swore she would no longer take it for granted. And a Lower Schooler called the day everyone returned to school after COVID, "the best day of our lives!" But last week, with everyone together in person—hugging and laughing and celebrating—it all felt refreshingly normal.

The bittersweetness that comes from watching the Class of 2023 leave the School was evident in dewy eyes across campus. As Lower School Principal Adele Paynter said, quoting A.A. Milne: "How lucky we are to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

**“THOUGH YOUR
DESTINATION IS NOT
YET CLEAR, YOU CAN
TRUST THE PROMISE
OF THIS OPENING.”**





The Lower School chess club competes.

GOOD SPORTS

Check Mates

For Sidwell Friends students across divisions, chess is the gambit.

This year, Sidwell Friends School won the 2023 District of Columbia State Athletic Association Chess State Championship, bringing home a new banner and a whole lot of pride for the School. “It was such an impressive result,” says **Isaac Miller**, the faculty adviser for the Upper School chess team. “And not only that, but it was an entirely student-run effort. They organized themselves into a team, handled all the logistics on their own, and then played some terrific chess.”

Chess is nothing if not strategic, requiring forethought and a strong endgame. Which is why it is so cool that in addition to the Upper Schoolers, the Lower and Middle Schoolers (often recognizable for their spontaneity and whimsy) are darn good at it, too.

Like a foreign language, learning chess early helps cement the skill in children’s developing brains. The game is also known to improve concentration, problem-solving skills, creative thinking, and memory. Perhaps this is why, when **Robynn Nichols ’00, P’ 34, P’ 32**, put out a call to Lower

School families to start a chess club outside of school, more than 60 families responded.

With the support of **Charlie Edelman**, the Special Programs After Regular Classes (SPARC) chess teacher for the Lower and Middle Schools, the School’s two youngest divisions have jumped right into the region’s chess scene. Just one month after Nichols started the club, a group of Sidwell Friends students attended the three-day, K-12 National Championship in National Harbor. Then they kept going to one tournament after another, racking up awards.

One tournament was particularly special: the 1st Annual Kenneth Clayton Memorial Chess Championship at Dunbar High School in DC. Playing chess there was especially meaningful for Nichols and her children, **Ruby ’34** and **Maxwell ’32**, as it was held in honor of Nichols’s uncle, Kenneth Clayton, one of the nation’s all-time great chess masters and just the fourth African American to earn the title of National Master. Now, 60 years after Clayton won the 1963 U.S. Amateur Championship, Ruby and Maxwell successfully competed at their trailblazing great-uncle’s namesake tournament.

So, if the Game of Kings is as confusing to you as the twisty narratives of *Game of Thrones*, don’t worry about it. The kids have it covered.



KIDS 'N PLAY

The Force Is Strong With Lower Schoolers

The youngest Sidwell Friends students went all out in celebration of *Star Wars* Day on May 4. All were encouraged to reject the dark side and let their inner Light shine. May the 4th Be With You!



Photos by Anthony La Fleur

CLASS ACTS

All the Light We Can See

The Middle School's long-running Minimester program gets students out of the classroom and into the world.

For more than 40 years, the Middle School has run an immersive, four-day experiential-learning program—affectionately called the Minimester—featuring local initiatives run by teachers, apprenticeships with professionals in the community, internships with Sidwell Friends staff, and trips to explore special regions and topics. All the options allow students to take a deep dive into a unique topic or culture.

This year, “A Taste of China” allowed students to tour the Chinese Embassy, visit the National Museum of Asian Art, tour DC’s Chinatown, learn calligraphy, make Peking opera masks, cook authentic Chinese food, and watch popular Chinese movies and television shows. “Barrios Latinos” let students explore all the rich Latino cultures in our own backyard in DC, including the new National Museum of the American Latino and the chance to sample the cuisines of Mexico and El Salvador. “Go Green” focused on environmental service learning with visits to local gardens and museums to learn about sustainability, composting,

and environmental stewardship. And “Go Wild” offered kids the chance to learn more about animal welfare, from working with service animals and police dogs to visiting shelters and the National Zoo. And those were just a few of the local options students had this year.

For one lucky group of 7th and 8th graders, an immersive arts Minimester meant a trip to New York City, where Middle School Assistant Principal **Tray White**, art and drama teacher **Eliza Bright**, and theater teacher **Gary Tiller** went out on the town with 19 Sidwell Friends students. In four jam-packed days, the group saw *Funny Girl* and *Wicked*; visited *Air*, the massive art installation of alum **Kenzo Digital '98** at Summit One Vanderbilt; hit the Broadway Museum to learn about the history of New York’s iconic theater scene; and visited the Flatiron building, the High Line, Times Square, Rockefeller Plaza, and Chelsea Market.

“It was an authentic and an immersive experience for all involved,” says Bright. “They experienced a special time in their lives: a time of being culturally enriched while having a chance to feel so connected to their friends, to laugh with them, to enjoy the city together with them, to enjoy the culture, and to bond like never before. The care and love they showed for each other was beautiful to see. It was evident how much they appreciate each other’s friendships and the opportunities they are given at our School. The trip will always be a beautiful memory from their Middle School days.”

“IT WAS EVIDENT HOW MUCH THEY APPRECIATE EACH OTHER’S FRIENDSHIPS AND THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY ARE GIVEN AT OUR SCHOOL.”

**—ELIZA BRIGHT
MIDDLE SCHOOL
ART AND DRAMA TEACHER**



Students head to New York for Minimester, while others check out local fauna in Florida.

Middle School Principal **Rachel Kane** shares that enthusiasm. “The Minimester program provides an opportunity for experiential learning that enables students and teachers who would normally not work together to relate in a meaningful way,” says Kane. “And Minimester gives students an opportunity to explore an area of particular interest to them that they might never get exposure to otherwise.”

It also exposes the teachers to new insights. For Bright, the views of New York City at night had particular resonance: “The city shone like a diamond, with all the lights twinkling everywhere, just like our students’ inner lights.”

JUST CAUSES

Character Act

In April, the Lower School Literacy Festival threw a party for all books and book lovers that included book swaps and donations, book talks and readings, and even students and faculty dressing as their favorite characters from literature.



IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Carlos Castellanos

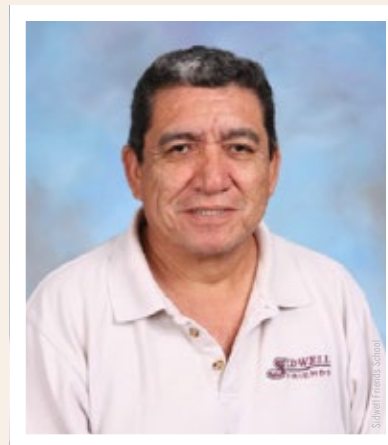
The longtime friend of the School worked in Facilities at Sidwell Friends for 43 years.

Carlos Castellanos left his mark on Sidwell Friends. It wasn't just that he had an unparalleled work ethic or that he was friendly (though both are true); Castellanos was a true member of the Sidwell Friends community. In fact, the Class of 1995 dedicated their yearbook to him as someone "who matters most to Sidwell Friends" (see below). He was beloved by students, faculty, staff, and families. "He was truly one of the kindest, most thoughtful people I have known, and his service to the School was exemplary," says Head of School Bryan Garman. "He loved the community deeply and dearly, and his openness made it easy to love him back. It was impossible to have an encounter with Carlos and not feel better about the world."

Carlos emigrated from Guatemala in the late 1970s and soon after began his career at Sidwell Friends. Despite not speaking the language, Castellanos so ingratiated himself to the students that one devoted his entire senior project to the task of teaching Castellanos English. It worked. And in return, Castellanos spoke to students studying Spanish in his mother tongue, allowing them to practice their conversational skills.

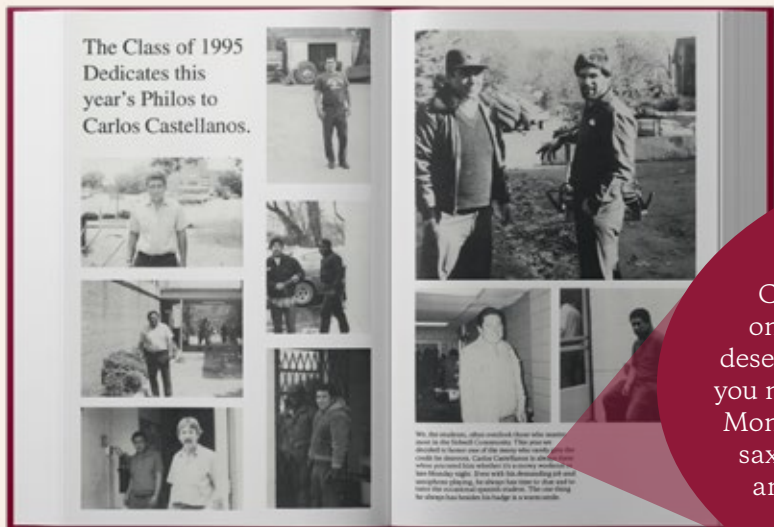
"Two seemingly contrasting but equally important characteristics undergirded Carlos's unparalleled work ethic: a palpable confidence, grounded in his immense physical strength, that no job was too big; and a profound humility, rooted in a sense of service, that no

job was too small," Garman says. "In every action, Carlos conveyed dignity and decency, courage and compassion, demonstrating that these traits are not mutually exclusive, but mutually reinforcing."



Castellanos was genuinely interested in everyone in the Sidwell Friends community. When Castellanos retired, longtime Lower School teacher Carol Borut, wrote, "He knew the faculty, students, and parents by name, and they knew and appreciated him." What's more, his jack-of-all-trades skill set extended far beyond the Facilities team. As Borut put it: "The day he was invited to visit and play his saxophone for the kindergarten class won him a group of new friends and respect for his patience, humor, and diverse talents."

Castellanos died after a long battle with cancer, which placed him in Howard University Hospital shortly after his retirement in 2020. With the support of the Sidwell Friends community, he returned to his native Guatemala City, where his daughter cared for him in his final days. Please hold Castellanos in the Light. His legacy will be felt at Sidwell Friends for years to come.



"We, the students, often overlook those who matter most in the Sidwell Community. This year we decided to honor one of the many who rarely gets the credit he deserves. Carlos Castellanos is always there when you need him whether it's a snowy weekend or late Monday night. Even with his demanding job and saxophone playing, he always has time to chat and to tutor the occasional Spanish student. **The one thing he always has besides his badge is a warm smile.**"

SPECIAL TOPICS

American Girl

Sidwell Friends grandparent and Holocaust survivor Marion Ein Lewin recounts her journey of survival.

In April, to mark the start of Passover and the commemoration of Holocaust Remembrance Day, 7th and 8th graders held a special Meeting for Worship with Holocaust survivor and Sidwell Friends grandparent **Marion Ein Lewin GP '27,'28,'33**.

In 1938, at age 4, Lewin (née Hess) and her twin brother, Steven Hess, were ripped from their home in Amsterdam, along with their parents, and shipped to Bergen-Belsen with thousands of other Jews. Today, the Hess twins are the last and only surviving twins of the Holocaust. "Why did I survive?" Lewin asked, noting that so many deserving people did not. "How do you describe a miracle? It is impossible."

Lewin recalled how she and her brother developed survival techniques, like making up games with lice or holding food in their mouths as long as possible to



Lewin speaks to Middle Schoolers.

fend off hunger. Lewin credits their tenacity to the fortitude of their parents, who were with them every step of the way.

Lewin also described her journey to America, and what it was like to see the Statue of Liberty for the first time. Still, Lewin was quick to point out that far too many Americans are forgetting the Holocaust, noting that 60 percent of young people between 15 and 32 do not even know what Auschwitz is. "Never be indifferent," she warned.

Lewin has always insisted her experience does not define her. "I don't only want to be known as a Holocaust survivor," she once told her mother. "I want to be known as an American girl."

*This September, look for a new book about the twins: **Inseparable: The Hess Twins' Holocaust Journey through Bergen-Belsen to America.***



STATE OF THE ARTS

Senior Moment

During Senior Celebration, parents dusted off their theater skills to write, produce, and put on a show for the graduating class—and roast them in the process.



CLASS ACTS

China on the Potomac

Sidwell Friends earns national accolades for its Chinese Studies Program.

This April, the National Chinese Language Teacher Association (CLTA), an organization devoted to the study of Chinese language, culture, and pedagogy, lauded Sidwell Friends at its annual conference. The *CLTA Journal* editorial board awarded the School and its teachers “Distinguished K-12 Chinese Program in the United States.” This honor is only given to a small number of schools across the country and is based on the strength of the



Two of the School's Chinese teachers, Yuan Angel and Fei Reed, alongside Middle School Principal Rachel Kane, show off the new award.

“IT’S WONDERFUL TO SEE STUDENTS BROADEN THEIR WORLDVIEW BY LEARNING AND EXPERIENCING THE CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE IN A FUN AND ENGAGED WAY.”

—FEI REED
MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHINESE TEACHER

curriculum, student achievement, community engagement, and the experience and quality of the teaching staff across divisions.

As if to prove the point, junior **Max Snow '24** also earned recognition from the CLTA just one month later. Snow’s writing went up against hundreds of other Chinese-language students, and his in-class essay will be included in this year’s *Selection of American K-12 Outstanding Chinese Works*. “It was a very competitive process because the committee received countless submissions from K-12 Chinese programs in the United States,” says Upper School Chinese teacher **Qihui Tang**. What’s more, 8th grader **Gardiner Dietrich '27** took third place nationally in the 2023 National Chinese Speech Contest

sponsored by the American Academy of International Culture and Education and the CLTA. This year’s theme was “How My World is Changed Because of Chinese.”

“Our teachers are second to none,” says Chinese Studies Chair **John Flower** of the many achievements in his department. For the teachers, the “Distinguished K-12 Chinese Program in the United States” award is just icing on the cake. “The icing is meaningless without the cake,” says Middle School Chinese teacher **Fei Reed**. “The cake is the work we do in and outside the classroom every day. It’s wonderful to see students broaden their worldview by learning and experiencing the Chinese language and culture in a fun and engaged way.”



CLASS ACTS

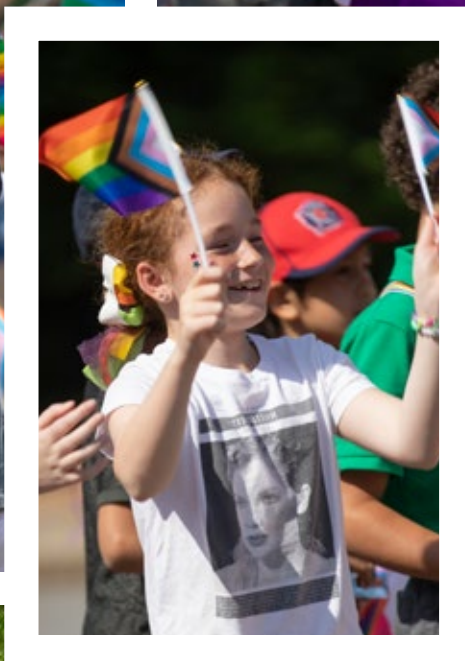
Holy Guacamole!

Middle School Spanish students ushered in *la primavera* with a Cinco de Mayo contest for the ages. The Great Guacamole Competition saw friends go *mano a mano*, whipping avocados into submission before diving in with tortilla chips.

CULTURE CLUB

Rainbow Brigade!

The Lower School celebrated LGBTQ Pride Month with joy, community, and color.



Photos by Anthony LaFour



SPECIAL TOPICS

Voices Carry

Let Your Life Speak, Founder’s Day, and a push for financial aid came together for one powerful day of sharing, giving, and fun.

“This life would have been inconceivable to me when I was at Sidwell,” said **Micah Hendler ’07**, the founder and artistic director of the Jerusalem Youth Chorus, during his Let Your Life Speak keynote address to Upper Schoolers. As a student at Sidwell Friends, Hendler had a difficult time socially, but says that “singing was a lifeline.” Now he leads one of the most talked-about choral groups in the world, The Jerusalem Youth Chorus, which has been featured on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, in *The New York Times*, and on PBS for its unique mission to create a safe space for Arab and Israeli youth in East and West Jerusalem to come together in dialogue and song.

Each Founder’s Day at Sidwell Friends kicks off with alumni returning to campus to talk about their career paths and to offer advice to Upper Schoolers. This

year, Let Your Life Speak alumni included **Asha-Kai Grant ’12**, a producer at *Saturday Night Live*; actor **Chris Stevens ’13**, who is currently performing on Broadway in *Leopoldstadt*; **Amanda Castel ’91**, a professor of epidemiology at the George Washington University Milken School of Public Health; **Benjamin Charo ’14**, the program coordinator for the Coral Reef Alliance; and **Hannah Bristol ’10**, a senior advisor in the Office of Public Engagement at the White House, among many others.

There was also a keynote speaker just for the Middle School. **Naabia Ofosu-Amaah ’03**, the senior corporate engagement advisor on water and resilience at The Nature Conservancy, started off by asking the students to imagine where their water comes from. The answers were both organic (oceans, lakes, rain) and synthetic (pipes, faucets, stores), which also happen to be the two ends of the water cycle that Ofosu-Amaah works on around the world. She told the students she wants to create a world where a “diversity of life thrives and where people participate in conservation for the sake of nature” alone. Then she reminded the kids to take shorter showers and to turn off the faucet when brushing their teeth.



Photos by Cameron Whitman



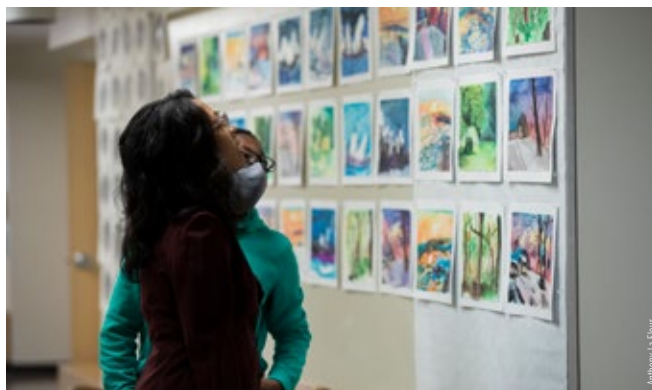
The Let Your Life Speak programming was followed by a Founder's Day celebration led by Head of School Bryan Garman in full Thomas Sidwell regalia (knickers, faux moustache, newsboy cap, and all). After a sunny, outdoor Meeting for Worship, choruses from each division sang, and then it was off to a picnic and festival, complete with hotdogs and hamburgers and games and prizes. What's more, behind the scenes, the School was fundraising for financial aid with its Founder's Day for Scholars campaign. The team raised more than \$690,000, exceeding all goals and helping to ensure that income is not an obstacle to a Sidwell Friends education.

It's an easy case to make when such dynamic alumni are on campus to inspire the next generation. "Be more local and more vocal," Hender told Upper Schoolers. He also asked them to take their senior projects seriously. Hender's senior project was an apprenticeship with DC's own Sweet Honey and the Rock, the activist a cappella group—it was also the first time he saw the power of song combined with a cause. "We need our collective voices," he said, "to move the needle."

STATE OF THE ARTS

Express Yourself

This spring, parents of 5th and 6th graders took a tour of the Middle School hallways and classrooms, where art exhibits and cultural heritage projects were on full display. The halls boasted watercolors, sketch work, and paper cutouts, among other mediums. The classes meanwhile saw 6th graders giving presentations about their own personal heritages—presentations that included oral histories, family artifacts, and creative expressions. As a bonus, each 6th graders' NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) novel was also on display in the classrooms. Soon, the books will hit the shelves of the Middle School library. "That way, when they're seniors," said 6th grade teacher **Joe Korth**, "they can come back, check out their books, and realize what a cool project it was." For the visiting parents, the project definitely already ranked as cool.



Anthony La Fleur



Anthony La Fleur



Photos by Cameron Whitman



KIDS 'N PLAY

Field of Dreams

The Lower Schoolers got a perfect, bright, sunshiny day for their annual Field Day games. The mini Olympiad had only one rule: Have fun.



SPECIAL TOPICS

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

This spring, Sidwell Friends welcomed every generation for a day of special assemblies, service projects, classroom time, and family fun.



Photos by Freed Photography





SPECIAL TOPICS

Alumni of the Year

Meet the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients, who are tackling civics, equity, medicine, and immigration.

STEVE GRIFFITH '63

Stephen Griffith is a graduate of Harvard College, the University of Oxford, and Stanford Law School. He practiced law for 37 years with the Stoel Rives law firm in Portland, Oregon, where he was a general trial lawyer. But then he traded the courtroom for the classroom as a volunteer adviser to high schools, colleges, and universities. He has taught history, government, and economics for 25 years at the high school, college, and graduate school levels in the United States and abroad. For Griffith, helping young adults develop the skills and courage to assume leadership roles is one of the most enriching opportunities in life.



ARNOLD RABSON '73

Arnold Rabson is a professor of pediatrics, pharmacology, pathology, and laboratory medicine at Rutgers University's Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. After completing his MD at Brown University, Rabson moved to Harvard Medical School, where he pursued residency training in anatomic pathology. His laboratory has discovered key cellular factors that regulate HIV expression and AIDS pathogenesis and showed that some of these factors are altered in human malignant lymphomas and prostate cancer. His lab also discovered new mechanisms for regulating diseases caused by second human retroviruses, and has identified new genes in embryonic development and human leukemias.



DAX-DEVLON ROSS '93

Dax-Devlon Ross is the author of six books and his journalism has been featured in *Time*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Nonprofit Quarterly*, *The Washington Post Magazine*, and other national publications. He won the National Association of Black Journalists' Investigative Reporting Award for his coverage of jury exclusion in North Carolina courts and is currently a Puffin Writing Fellow at Type Media Center. His most recent book, *Letters to My White Male Friends*, is a call to action and a reflection on race. Dax is now a founder and principal at the social impact consultancies Dax-Dev and Third Settlements, both of which focus on designing disruptive strategies to generate equity in work and education spaces.



MARGOT DANKNER '03

Margot Dankner is a policy analyst at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), where she serves as a subject-matter expert on humanitarian immigration benefits, with a focus on policy related to immigration relief for noncitizen children. Over the course of her career at USCIS, she has served as a lead drafter on several regulations and policy updates, including the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) proposed and final rules, the Special Immigrant Juvenile (SIJ) final rule, and the creation of a deferred-action policy for SIJ-classified youth, which allows certain noncitizen children whom a juvenile court has determined were abused, abandoned, or neglected to receive a work permit and deferral of deportation.



Scan the QR code to watch the tribute videos of the awardees, or visit sidwell.pub/DAA.



CULTURE CLUB

Mister Gadget

In May, artist and inventor **Ken Hakuta P '98,'00,'02** spoke to the Lower School in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander History Month. As a special treat, Hakuta also brought several of his “wacky wall-walker” toys to share with students.



CULTURE CLUB

Eid Saeed!

Sidwell Friends Muslim students and families, along with many friends, celebrated Ramadan with expressions of faith and an Iftar replete with traditional foods from across the Islamic world.



For The Record

SIDWELL'S NEW FOOTBALL COACH

Assistant Football Coach **Jamar Chichester '09** will be the new, interim head football coach at Sidwell Friends. Chichester is a former member of the Sidwell Friends football team, serving as captain his senior year. He attended Kenyon College, where he majored in American Studies and was a member of the football and track & field teams. Chichester worked in educational technology and government consulting before coaching the Woodridge Warriors Youth Organization in Northeast DC. At Sidwell Friends, he has worked with both offensive and defensive squads, served as defensive coordinator and defensive backs coach, and has also been an assistant coach for the track and field team.

SINGLETARY IS SINGLED OUT

Sidwell Friends School's **Eric Singletary '93** won Boys Basketball Coach of the Year from the Pigskin Club of Washington, which held its Spring Sports Awards Luncheon in May to celebrate some of the National Capital Region's best student athletes and coaches. ESPN's **Christy Winter-Scott** presented this year's awards.

NEWMYER AWARD WINNERS

Each year, the School celebrates six Sidwell Friends community members with the Newmyer Awards. The award recognizes extraordinary volunteerism and commitment to service within the Sidwell Friends community. The 2023 Newmyer Award Honorees were **Meg Flax P'11,'13,'17**; **Marika Cutler Meyer '94, P'28,'31**; **Tara Primis P'18,'20,'23**; **Priscilla Muntemba Taylor P'20,'23**; and **Lisa Ward P'23,'20,'16**. The Newmyer Young Alumni Service Award Honoree was **Audrey Boochever '09**.



McCann McClelland

AT YOUR SERVICE

All the Extras

AUXILIARY PROGRAMS AT SIDWELL FRIENDS ENCOMPASSES A DIZZYING ARRAY OF ACTIVITIES, educational opportunities, and revenue-generating initiatives ranging from Extended Day, to early morning care, from the Special Programs After Regular Classes (SPARC) enrichment program to the Fox Den store and café. And, of course, it includes a wide range of summer camp offerings. For Karen McCann McClelland, the director of Auxiliary Programs at Sidwell Friends, it has also been a part of the last 25 years of her life—each day of which she has approached with joy and creativity.

1. What role does Auxiliary Programs play in the School's operations?

We have a three-prong mission. One, we want to extend the School's academic mission and provide excellent, enriching opportunities for kids to take risks and grow. That's first and foremost—extend the School outside of the classroom. Two, another piece of our mission is to provide employment. That has shifted over the 25 years I've been here. We want to employ our coaches, our teachers, our current students, and our young alums as much as possible—and we do that through camp and other activities. Three, we provide non-tuition revenue to the School, which is very important here, as it is for other schools, which are looking to create new revenue streams beyond tuition and fundraising. Pre-pandemic, our net contribution accounted for as much as 5 or 6 percent of the operating budget. The School relies on that; it relies on us bringing in a nice piece of revenue that we can use however we need to—whether that's for faculty and staff compensation or keeping tuition down. We provide great programs, we provide employment opportunities, and we contribute to the operating budget.

2. How did COVID impact your group's work?

COVID emerged in March 2020, and so our activities that summer were greatly impacted. Whatever we could do online we did. But you can't hold a tennis camp online. And the Fox Den was mostly closed, so that affected us as well. By the summer of 2021, we were able to plan for some in-person activities, but there was masking and social-distancing and the groups were smaller. It was only last summer that it felt like a return to normal, or at least semi-normal. This summer it seems like we're fully back to normal. This academic school year looked pretty much like a typical school year. We had Extended Day as normal. Full SPARC enrichment workshops as normal. Just to have the regularly scheduled programming back was amazing. And parents were



for KAREN McCANN McCLELLAND



Anthony La Fleur

ready for it. In particular, there's a thirst and a hunger for Extended Day. Kids and parents love having opportunities to stay after school, to be able to socialize with friends, and play on the playground.

3. What are the long-term effects of COVID, even extending to online programming?

I don't think people have an appetite at all for on-line. They really want social interaction. On the other hand, more parents have flexibility for work and are working at home, so we're not seeing as many people saying they need camp for their childcare. But they do want enriching activities for their children, specialized activities like cooking, robotics, dance, and other fun things. It's the same with Extended Day. Parents are enrolling because they want to see their children have that social time and the extra time on the playground and being able to spend time with classmates. We're also seeing that work flexibility come into play when people are picking up their children. They don't seem to need to wait until 6 o'clock to pick up every day like they used to. Our success is really finding ways to engage parent interest in social-emotional learning and the soft skills that kids learn in afterschool settings.

4. What is your favorite part of your job?

I love the diversity in everything I get to do and my team gets to do. We've got one of the biggest teams at any independent school, which is really fun. Each

day, I never know if I'm coming in and doing program development, or doing HR, or I have to put my marketing hat on, or I'm working on a social media campaign. I really love the diversity of what we do, and I have a strong passion for the fact that the programs we provide make a difference in our students' lives and they make a difference in our parents' lives. So, it's fun to be able to go into the Fox Den and say hi to people there or just jump behind the counter to help with the Middle School rush. It's not an ordinary office job at all. I love being at a school where it's mission-driven all the time. Everything we do is in support of the children and the people in our community.

5. What is your all-time favorite camp offering?

Currently, I love the Summer Equity and Justice Institute, which emerged from our strategic plan in 2019. The goal is to encourage more hands-on learning with a focus on social impact. We've been doing the institute for three years, with one-week summer workshops for high schoolers and middle schoolers—some of them run by current teachers. It builds on Quaker philosophy and experiential learning. But we've also got robotics and design and fabulous writing workshops and personal finance and sewing. So it's impossible to pick just one!



Carleton Williams

GOOD SPORTS

SPRING FEVER

This season's athletic highlights include new honors and achievements across sports.

BY CALEB MORRIS

Following on the success of a number of fall and winter sports teams, this spring saw Sidwell Friends student-athletes win conference and state championship banners in several sports and strong individual and team results across the board. Some highlights from the field, course, court, water, and track:



GOLF

The golf team recently competed in the DCSAA (District of Columbia State Athletic Association) Championship Tournament at the historic Langston Golf Course. **Sophie Ochiai '26** and **Claire Kinnier '26** finished in a tie for third place in the girls' competition, earning each a spot on the podium. **Andrew Ludwin '23** tied for fifth place in the boys' competition.

For all news and up-to-date information, you can find more at sidwell.edu/athletics and on Twitter and Instagram by following [@SFSQuakers!](https://twitter.com/SFSQuakers)

TENNIS

The girls' tennis team crushed it at the DCSAA tournament, emerging as champions. Meanwhile, **Clara Zou '24** won the girls' singles title, and she and teammate **Daria Ghassemi '25** were runners-up in the girls' doubles competition. On the boys' tennis side, the team earned a fourth straight MAC (Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference) regular season and tournament championship. Propelled from early season success and their annual Florida spring break trip, the boys' team also earned victories at the George C. Shafer tournament in Philadelphia.

LACROSSE

The girls' lacrosse team had numerous victories and an impressive season. Highlight wins included St. Catherine's (United Kingdom), Maret, Madeira, and St. Petersburg Catholic (Florida). The boys' lacrosse team also had a strong season with commendable performances on the field. Notable wins included Flint Hill, Maret, and the Friends School of Baltimore.



2023 ATHLETIC AWARDS

TRACK & FIELD

The boys' and girls' track and field teams displayed solid performances throughout the season and attained many personal records. The girls' team took second place at the ISL Championship Meet. **Ava Gregory '26** finished second in the long jump; the 4x800 team of **Isabel Limao '25**, **Jasmine Singh '25**, **Lily Palmerino '24**, and **Mila Maltby '24** took first place; and **Easy Weissman '24** took fourth place at the MAC Championships in the 1,600 and 3,200 events.



THE UNSUNG HERO AWARD

Ethan Walker '23
Ava Gregory '23

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



CREW

The crew team has been making waves this season with numerous victories. **Sidney Ford '23**, **Alma Bielenberg '25**, **Sophia Stylianos '25**, **Lia Nathan '25**, and **Lia Donley '25** rowed to a first-place finish in the Women's Varsity Four at the Ryz Obuchowicz Regatta. Not to be outdone, the freshmen five, **Emi Nyhan '26**, **Amelia Vaughn '26**, **Eppie Hughes Jennett '26**, **Maggie McDonald '26**, and **Luca Kountoupes '26**, won the Virginia State Rowing Championships.

SOFTBALL & BASEBALL

The softball team swung their way to victory at the ISL (Independent School League) tournament, claiming the championship title. Signature wins this season included games against Jackson-Reed, Bullis, and Holy Child. The baseball team vied for the MAC title in the regular season and in the MAC tournament. While they fell short of claiming the championship, they still had big wins against St. Albans, Jackson-Reed, Maret, and Potomac.



THE WANNAN AND FINE AWARDS

Cameron Gillus '23
Jadyn Donovan '23

This honor acknowledges a senior male and female athlete who, by consensus of the Athletic Department, deserve recognition for their leadership, dedication, sportsmanship, broad participation, and involvement in all aspects of School life.



THE TYLER CHRISTIAN RUSCH '04 AWARD

Chali Taylor '23
Helen Primis '23

This honor commends a senior male and female athlete who have significantly enriched the Sidwell Friends Athletics Department with motivational leadership, participation, dedication to enthusiasm, and all-out effort. This award is named in memory of former student Tyler Rusch '04.







A photograph of a man and several children performing on a stage. The man, on the left, is wearing a light-colored hoodie and dark pants, with his arms raised. The children are also performing, with some having their arms raised. The stage is lit with blue and purple lights, and there are spotlights in the background. The text "All the School's a Stage" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, serif font.

All the School's a Stage



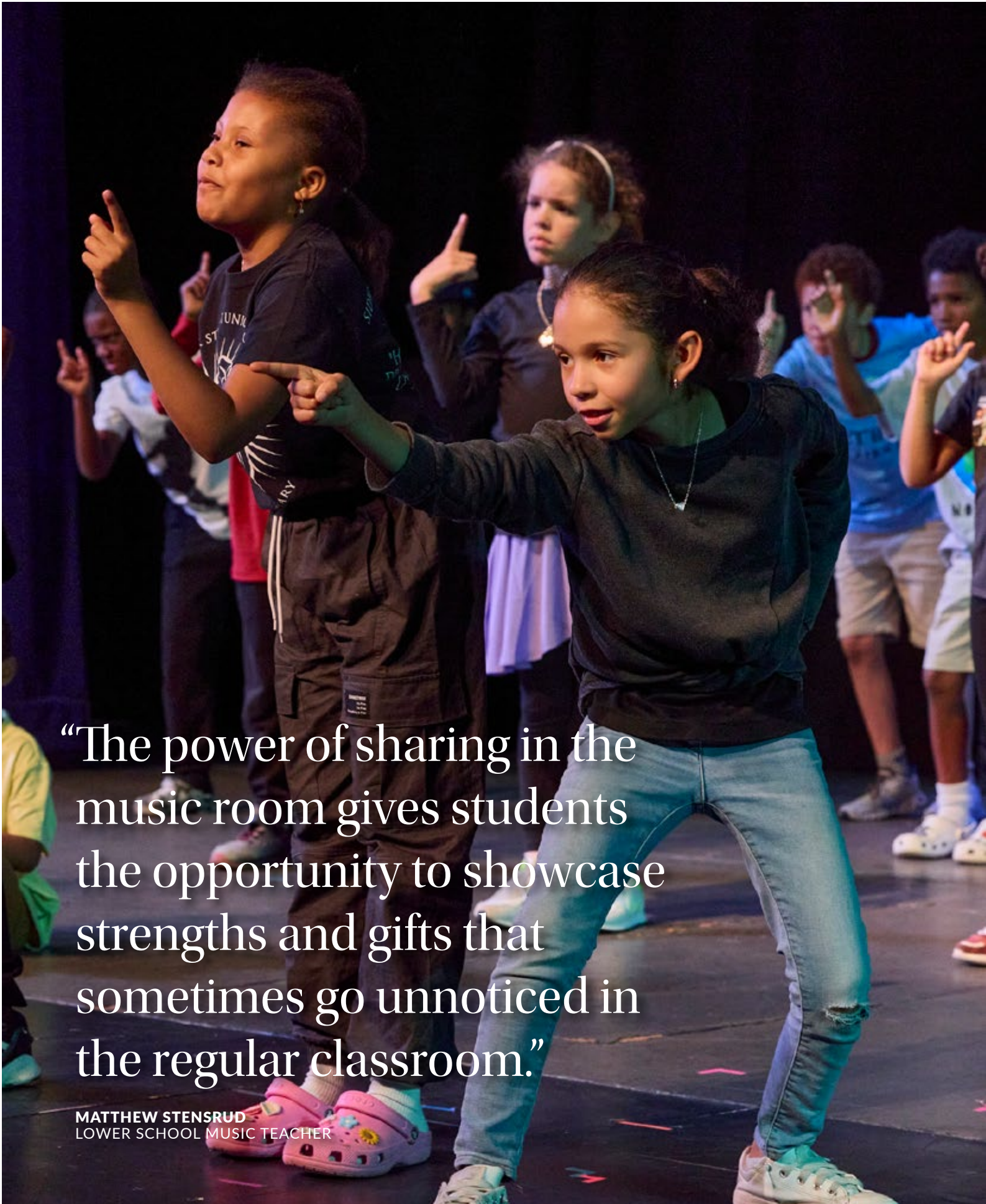
Daniel Orrey

It was another spirited and inspiring year for the performing arts at Sidwell Friends. Brave, risk-taking, and joyous students from every division embraced their creative sides and discovered something new about themselves.





Cameron Whitman



“The power of sharing in the music room gives students the opportunity to showcase strengths and gifts that sometimes go unnoticed in the regular classroom.”

MATTHEW STENSRUD
LOWER SCHOOL MUSIC TEACHER



David Cozy



Fred Photography



Meghan Leavitt



Fred Photography

Students from every division have been turning in performances that celebrate their talents and ingenuity. The performing arts are of course an outlet for expression, but they are also a way for students to discover unique parts of themselves and to find their own voices.

“The power of sharing student learning in the music room—whether informally for classmates and families or in a more formal concert or performance—gives students the opportunity to showcase strengths and gifts that sometimes go unnoticed in the regular classroom,” says Matthew Stensrud, the Lower School music teacher. “Plus, the earlier we create comfort and ease in speaking, dancing, singing, and playing in front of others, the more likely that will translate to public speaking and presenting as adults.”

› All the School's a Stage

That idea of using the arts to bolster critical skills that will translate to the real world is something Middle School drama teacher Gary Tiller also cultivates. “Especially in our technology-driven world where more and more people are so connected to their devices, we currently see an alarming disconnect with human interaction,” Tiller says. “We need theater more than ever to provide us with opportunities for thought, reflection, and communication—with ourselves, each other, and our audience.”





“We need theater more than ever to provide us with opportunities for thought, reflection, and communication—with ourselves, each other, and our audience.”

GARY TILLER
MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA TEACHER

› All the School's a Stage

Sentell Harper, the Upper School theater arts teacher, echos that sentiment. “By engaging in these disciplines, students not only develop essential life skills but also cultivate a deep appreciation for the arts,” says Harper. “The transformative power of theater equips students with the tools they need to thrive on and off the stage.”

Connection and working together are vitally important. “The performing arts at Sidwell Friends are grounded in the idea of community and teamwork,” says Sarah Markovits, the Upper School choral director. “Ensembles in music and theater require deep concentration and active listening skills that are cultivated through individual and group practice.” That spirit of community can translate to innovation. “Students often write the dialogue, choreograph the dances, and explore and improvise their own instrumental parts,” says Stensrud.

“The performing arts at Sidwell Friends are grounded in the idea of community and teamwork.”

SARAH MARKOVITS
UPPER SCHOOL CHORAL DIRECTOR





Cameron Johnson



Cameron Whittman



Cameron Whittman



Fred Photography





Cameron Whisman

“At Sidwell, the performing arts program allows students to come as they are and be themselves.”

SENTELL HARPER
UPPER SCHOOL THEATER ARTS TEACHER

The arts also provide students with opportunities to feel safe enough to fail, test new techniques, and try again. “Watching our students in auditions, rehearsals, and performances, I am consistently struck by how willing they are to experiment and explore,” says Markovits. “That speaks to how supported the students feel in the performing arts spaces at Sidwell Friends.” Harper agrees: “At Sidwell, the performing arts program allows students to come as they are and be themselves. We create a space for students to take big risks on stage.”



Cameron Whisman

The arts give students something else, too: **a chance to know themselves.**





Cameron Whittman



David Cozy



Freed Photography



Jason W. Thomas

“No matter a student’s own preference,” says Stensrud, “whether it be stage management, dancing, instruments, speaking, singing, visual art, or more, each student finds their own way to let their Light shine.” ✨





In Perpetuity

BY SACHA ZIMMERMAN

Why artist, scientist, and environmental activist Barton Rubenstein '81 is on a quest for permanence.

The “Mother Earth” sculpture is five meters tall and weighs 800 pounds. But when you encounter it walking along the Georgetown waterfront, it seems weightless—an elegant metallic ribbon unfurling ahead of you. Somehow the wind appears to ripple against the sculpture’s impregnable brushed stainless-steel surface. Then you turn a corner and come at the piece from a slightly different angle, and it comes to you: The ribbon coheres into the outline of a face. The sculpture is actually a portrait.



“Mother Earth” is also a deeply personal piece for artist Barton Rubenstein '81. Rubenstein and his family launched their own nonprofit, the Mother Earth Project, in 2015 to combat climate change—and one of the many ways they do that is through art. Now there are “Mother Earth” sculptures in six more countries (Argentina, Cameroon, China, Germany, India, and Israel). Ultimately, Rubenstein would like to give one of the sculptures to all 175 nations that signed the 2015 Paris Climate Accords. Also known as the Symbol of Sustainability, the work acts as an international clarion call for the planet, recognizing countries that have submitted their environment-saving actions and timelines to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change—and incentivizing other countries to do so as well.

But there is also a secret behind the sculpture that is less well-known: “Mother Earth” is a tribute to Rubenstein’s own mother, Daryl Reich Rubenstein. It is her face in the portrait.

Discovery and Loss

Art has always been a part of Rubenstein's world. While he was a Lower School student, one of his works even made it into the Sidwell Friends calendar. "My art teacher loved what I was doing, and she actually submitted it for the school calendar, which was a big deal at the time," he says. "That was my first adrenaline rush being an artist."

Rubenstein's father taught him how to use tools and work with his hands. His mother, a curator at the Smithsonian, took him to museums. "My family spent tons of dinner conversations talking about art and architecture," he says. Rubenstein took art classes throughout his high school years, but he also excelled at math and science, which he calls "the language of nature." Still, academic distinction does not mean high school was easy.

"I was in the Upper School when my mother was suffering from cancer," Rubenstein says. "She finally succumbed to it when I was a senior." She was just 43 years old. "It felt like my world was spiraling out of control," he says. "That period of time set the stage for my own life. I was saddened by her unfulfilled dreams." In the wake of her death, the family established the Daryl Reich Rubenstein Guest Artist program at Sidwell Friends to keep her passion for the arts alive; since then, the School has hosted more than 30 guest artists.

The loss transformed Rubenstein's understanding of the world. "I was petrified that I might share that same fate," he says—petrified but also determined. "I started down a path of just trying to focus on as many accomplishments and great adventures as I could for the fear that my tomorrow wouldn't come."

Rubenstein studied physics at Haverford College before embarking on a PhD in neuroscience at the renowned Weizmann Institute in Israel. "I was interested in artificial intelligence and robotics," he says, but the universe intervened. "Instead, I got pulled into a laboratory that was focused on solving the problem of how the brain figures out vision and recognizing objects." The "problem" was actually a 30-year-old scientific dilemma: How does the human visual system effortlessly discriminate between different types of textures, such as tree bark (or, say, metallic art). Rubenstein's research focused on the visual brain, and he was published in *Science* and other peer-reviewed journals.

With six years at Weizmann and a PhD under his belt, Rubenstein returned to Washington to start a postdoc at the National Institutes of Health. MRI imaging had advanced rapidly and, with it, the ability to study the brain in new ways. "That research was about to explode," Rubenstein says. "I was entering a new field where I could do my visual experiments with human observers and watch how the brain and what part of the brain was actually activated during that experiment."



"Tower"

“I started down a path of just trying to focus on as many accomplishments and great adventures as I could for the fear that my tomorrow wouldn’t come.”

But the need to create art never abated, and even as he racked up scientific accomplishments, there was time for another adventure. So he deferred his postdoc. “I never intended to leave science,” he recalls. “I just wanted to take a year off.” He started by attending a course in welding at the Corcoran School of the Arts and Design. “I had done all different types of art, like lithography, clay, etching, woodblock, and charcoals,” he says. “But I never really felt like, ‘Wow this is my medium.’” Then came stainless steel and bronze. He describes his love of metals as a desire for permanence—contrasting it to the frustration of making something great out of snow only to watch it melt. But the permanence of metal also spoke to the part of him that lost his mother at age 18. Metalwork, of course, is as close to permanent as it gets. “Suddenly it came to me,” he says, “the idea of making sculpture was the confluence of all my interests.”

“I already felt accomplished as a scientist,” he says. Now that desire for accomplishment and adventure merged into a singular pursuit: art. He never looked back.



Reflections of You

The “Mother Earth” sculpture was originally commissioned for placement outside of the National Portrait Gallery. Instead, the museum preferred the idea of using a smaller version of the piece for its biennial Portrait of a Nation Award Gala, which honor individuals who have made transformative contributions to the United States. In 2022, for example, José Andrés, Ava DuVernay, Anthony Fauci, and Venus and Serena Williams took home the award. At first, Rubenstein was disappointed that the piece wouldn’t be placed in front of the museum. “Then I realized I would have this ongoing relationship with the National Portrait Gallery that would lead into perpetuity,” he says. “And my mother’s profile is the one that would symbolize that honor. That was one of the most emotional moments of my life.”

This spring, Rubenstein published a book that honors his mother.

Powered by Grief chronicles

Rubenstein’s lifelong struggle with loss as well as his journey to reach his full potential. “Being able to share one’s grief is a difficult thing to do,” says Rubenstein. His book

shows people how he managed it. “Though grief will never disappear,” he says, “you can live a parallel life of pain and possibility.” For Rubenstein, the pain informed the possibility. “The book is about all the decades that followed her death and how I live my life as a reflection of that period.”



The Science of Art

Rubenstein's work is like an extension of nature. It rises out of the earth, glinting in the sun, in shapes that are familiar and yet still abstractions: One may evoke birds, another blades of grass. And often, his work is not static. Rubenstein uses the elements to engender movement and depth.

"I create water- and wind-kinetic sculpture," he says. "That by itself is a major scientific and engineering endeavor." Water is an incredibly fickle and complicated medium to work with. "I do a lot of thought experiments, imagining experiments and then seeing the outcome in your mind." He ponders how water might move in a given scenario, what the effect of wind on steel might be, how to maintain the sculptures, and even where leaves would get stuck. It's that kind of practiced knowledge that has led him to be a consultant on a lot of public art installations. He has worked with designers on the National Mall to avert "splashing all over the place" at the American Indian Museum and to tweak flows at the FDR Memorial.

It's the same with wind. Rubenstein can create works that move in the slightest breeze but that don't get tossed about during big gusts. Take "Carpe Diem," the sculpture that sits on the Sidwell Friends campus outside the Upper School and Kogod Arts Center. "It moves even when you don't feel the wind on your face," he says proudly. "That's the ultimate. It gives me a really good feeling that I've actually engineered it so well that it doesn't need any wind to move." ("Carpe Diem" was also Rubenstein's motto when he left Sidwell Friends.)

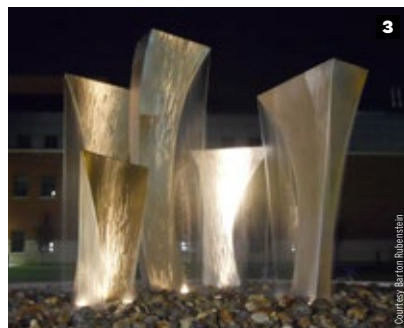
With both water and wind, Rubenstein does a lot of math, especially geometry. He also designs all of his sculptures using computer-aided design, which helps him predict how water and wind will affect a given piece. There's no doubt his facility with math and engineering is indispensable to his art. Rubenstein is one of few artists around the world who regularly create sculptures that incorporate water. "My background in science has given me a unique niche in the art world," he says.



Courtesy Barton Rubenstein

1

The niche was still something he had to work hard to get right. In the beginning, there was a lot of experimentation (both in his mind and in the studio). “All of my sculptures are one of a kind,” Rubenstein says. “At first, I had to create them and just hope that they worked.” In fact, one of his first sculptures—one that took six months to make—wasn’t very kinetic. “I brought it outside the studio and discovered that it barely moved in the wind,” he says. “I remember being extremely disappointed.” But serendipity intervened: A client asked him for a sculpture for her blustery beach house—something that wouldn’t move too much. “She didn’t want the thing going crazy,” he says. “She just wanted little, gentle movements, back and forth.” His sculpture was perfect for her. “That’s the universe giving you a nudge in the right direction.”



Courtesy Barton Rubenstein

3



Cameron Whelan

2

1. The 30-foot-high “Skybound” is presently on loan from the Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park to the Cincinnati Art Museum in Ohio.
2. “Synergy” is a 12-foot by 30-foot diameter water sculpture at the University of Connecticut’s Waterbury campus.
3. After losing his mother to cancer as a senior at Sidwell Friends, Rubenstein chose a new motto for his life, “Carpe Diem,” which is the title of the sculpture that now graces the central courtyard of the School.

Anthony LaFlair



1. A community grasps a parachute in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
2. Activists carried over 80 parachutes at the World Climate Strike in DC in 2019.
3. "Mother Earth" was installed at the Boya Academy in Guilin, China, in 2020.
4. Mother Earth Project (MEP) ambassador Juan David Amaya helped create six Mother Earth Murals across Colombia. The artist is his art teacher, John Henry, 2022.
5. MEP ambassador Anush Paliwal helped create a Mother Earth Mural in Jaipur, India. Artists: Manisha Arya, Anju Khattar, and Smriti Sood, 2022.
6. MEP's Ari Rubenstein with the 100-foot-diameter parachute that was held by hundreds of activists at the 2019 Climate Strike.
7. Thousands of parachutes have been used in climate strikes worldwide.



Photos Courtesy Barton Rubenstein

The Art of Science

In 2006, Rubenstein attended a luncheon with former Vice President Al Gore, who at the time was about to release his groundbreaking documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Gore's message—and his detailed grasp of climate science—resonated with Rubenstein. He immediately jumped up and asked what he could do to help. Gore's response? "Get involved."

It was an inflection point. For the next nine years, Rubenstein and his family threw themselves into environmentalism. They actively recycled, installed LED lights, composted, used solar energy, and even became vegetarians. But it wasn't quite enough, Rubenstein thought, to really answer Gore's call to action. "I realized I needed to transition from using my art to enrich communities to using my art to empower communities," Rubenstein says. "That was a big moment." So, in 2015, the Rubensteins formalized the idea and launched the Mother Earth Project, a nonprofit devoted to raising awareness of the climate emergency and demanding better climate laws.

The Mother Earth Project has several core initiatives. The Parachutes for the Planet program, inspired by the AIDS Memorial Quilt, helps people, communities, and schools around the world create tapestries on parachute fabric that include a message about climate change. "Parachutes are a metaphor for bringing the planet back to a safe place," Rubenstein says. At the 2019 Global Climate Strike on the Mall, the Mother Earth Project brought a 100-foot-diameter parachute along with other parachutes flown in from all over the world. (Rubenstein's son, Ari '21, spoke at the event as a student activist.) So far, the project has inspired more than 4,000 bespoke parachutes in more than 80 countries.

Next, the Mother Earth Project helps communities and schools worldwide create murals that act as a constant visual reminder of the need for a more sustainable future. And, finally, there are the "Mother Earth" sculptures, the Symbols of Sustainability, that are being given to signatories of the UN's Paris Agreement—a major undertaking that involves unraveling layers of bureaucracy around public art

"I realized I needed to transition from using my art to enrich communities to using my art to *empower* communities."

in various countries, and then the work of physically erecting the sculptures. But the effort is worth it: Once the sculptures and murals are complete, the sites become important gathering points for activists.

In a world where mothers can die young and where the life of the planet itself is at stake, the Mother Earth Project and Barton Rubenstein reach for the everlasting. "Having lost my mom, I always need things to have a sense of permanence," he says. "I create this art and I feel great gratitude that it is not going to disappear. His climate activism, too, represents equal doses of humility and of hope. "I want to create a world for my children that, hopefully, will be a little bit similar to the one I grew up in." ✨



Rubenstein with "Awakening," a 9-foot-high wind kinetic sculpture of a humpback whale.

FUNNY GIRL

Ava Coleman '11 on writing for *Abbott Elementary*, learning from Tina Fey, and putting aside her boy-band dreams.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANTHONY LAFLEUR

Find the latest episodes of *Lives That Speak*, including this interview, at Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube, or by visiting sidwell.pub/LTS.





ON THE SPRING EPISODE OF *LIVES THAT SPEAK*, THE SIDWELL FRIENDS PODCAST, HEAD OF SCHOOL BRYAN GARMAN SAT DOWN WITH AVA COLEMAN '11,

the former executive story editor and current writer for *Abbott Elementary*. The wildly popular ABC sit-com about an underfunded, predominantly Black Philadelphia school has won a slew of awards, including three Golden Globes, two Emmy Awards, and four Television Critics Association Awards. The show's blend of empathy and humor have struck a chord with viewers and struck a blow for public education. During the podcast, Coleman discussed her quick rise in the entertainment industry, why she loves coming-of-age stories, and why the principal on *Abbott* is also named Ava Coleman.*

BRYAN GARMAN: What makes your work meaningful to you?

AVA COLEMAN: I am trying to figure out life through the stories that I tell. That's what we do as writers. If you have a good outlook on life and just even a tiny bit of hope, that's usually pretty contagious. Everything I write about is something that I'm confused about and I need help parsing. So, I'm taking all the things that happened to me at Sidwell, things in college, things in the workforce, and I'm plugging that into everything I work on. As a writer, you have so much time to empathize and to imagine how people feel, and that helps you in the real world understand why things shake out the way they do.

BG: What did you do at USC that prepared you for what you're doing now?

AC: It's interesting, I was on a totally different path. A big part of my personality at Sidwell was that I wanted to manage boy bands. That was my very narrow dream, very specific. It came from being a fangirl. I was a massive fan of these pop-punk bands like Justin Bieber and the Jonas Brothers. I wanted to create bands like that and bring them to girls like me.

**The podcast was recorded on April 17, before the start of the Hollywood writers' strike.*

I became obsessed with [noted music executive] Scooter Braun in high school. I found him through being a Bieber fan and being a fan of the rapper Asher Roth. I ended up meeting Scooter while I was still in high school at Sidwell, and he told me, "You're a kid, but if you ever grow up and move to LA, you should apply for an internship." So that's what got me to apply to USC. That's what got me to LA. And by the end of my freshman year, I started working for him basically full-time throughout school while majoring in communications. So, screenwriting was not on the radar at all. And I went through a whole seven-year career that actually started at Sidwell with my senior project at 9:30 Club.

BG: How did you make the transition to writing?

AC: I spent about seven years working on Scooter Braun projects and did all the different roles at that company. While I was an executive assistant and still a senior at USC, I came up with the idea for the Bieber Comedy Central Roast, which was a way for the world to be reintroduced to Justin Bieber, but also to show him being able to poke fun at his past and take responsibility. Through that process, my boss let me be involved on all the calls, listen in, and help pick the people who would roast and be roasted. That was my first inkling, in 2015, that I might

prefer the comedy, the writing, and the television aspect of this industry. But I was already starting to get my own clients as a manager. I wasn't quite sure how to detangle myself from the music industry. So, I just kept going for four more years. Then, in 2019, my cousin Cara turned 30 and threw herself a birthday roast. She asked me to write and perform a five-minute set. I wrote it and had the most fun I'd had in years. I performed—and I killed! I quit my music job the next month to focus on writing full-time.

BG: What does the process of writing for television look like?

AC: We're led by Quinta Brunson, and we have two showrunners. They will guide us on all the planning and logistics and what we need to get done.

“In some ways I feel like a very old soul. In other ways I feel like I haven’t changed at all since I was at Sidwell.”



We can come in with just the creative ideas, just the spit-balling. We call it “blue-skying” at the beginning of the season, when we just are throwing ideas out there. And if it sticks, then we double down on that idea, see if we can put it into beats, into a three-act structure. Is there enough in this idea or problem to fill out an episode? But we also talk about it from the angle of: *What does this character know? What do we want them to learn? Where do we think they should go?*

We treat these characters like real people, and they feel very real to us. Each episode and each topic comes about a little bit differently, but we always start from that very human place of what’s real—and then, how can we make it a little silly? My personal favorite part of the process is thinking about voice

and character development. That’s the part that comes naturally to me.

BG: What is it that you like about the character Barbara?

AC: I love Barbara because she’s lived a lot of life. She’s very comfortable with who she is, but she’s pushed by the young people around her to re-examine that. She’s very stubborn in a lot of ways. But she’s actually a lot more open than it seems at first glance. And she does learn a lot. She does admit to her mistakes, though it takes some time. It’s very interesting for me to write for someone of her generation, because that’s my parents’ generation. So, there are a lot of things that I work out through the character of Barbara. There’s so many differences between them and my generation—how we

handle emotional issues. It’s been really fun to step into those shoes, because in some ways I feel like a very old soul. In other ways I feel like I haven’t changed at all since I was at Sidwell.

BG: The relationship between Barbara and Janine is very sweet. How did you conceive the arc of that relationship?

AC: It’s a very real thing that a lot of us have felt; that is, you have these members of your family who are not related to you by blood. You meet them in many different ways and places. Oftentimes, it’s not a perfect relationship. That’s what pulls me in toward Janine and Barbara so much: They do butt heads a lot, but they care about each other. You don’t really butt heads with people like that when you don’t care about



them; that's part of the bond. You can only get annoyed with someone that much when you love them, and you really want to see them do better. So that relationship has taken a lot of different turns, but the truth of it is that they are there for each other and they need each other.

BG: An interesting episode on *Abbott Elementary* is when Jacob teaches Black history. How did that come about?

AC: It's about the intention behind what you're doing. Jacob's intentions are very good. So, to the naked eye, it's interesting to see a white teacher teach a room full of Black students about their history, but that's the reality of the situation. He's their teacher. That's what they need to learn. It was really interesting to show his self-awareness about it. He knows who he is. He knows that it's kind of funny that he's the one teaching them this, but he also takes that responsibility very seriously and is a good teacher. We're also able to show he's a very funny character, and he takes a lot of jokes at his expense.

But what we do know about him and what that episode was able to remind our audience of is that he's really good at this and that the school's very lucky to have him. So, the parents can have some misconceptions, but the truth is he's making a difference.

BG: How does the principal end up being named "Ava Coleman"?

AC: It's a coincidence! I knew Quinta socially before the show, but not super well. Well enough that the name "Ava Coleman" sounded like a good name to her. Then when I ended up going out for the job, I'm reading the script at 6 a.m. and almost spit my coffee out, because I'm like, *Okay, that's not just my first or just my last name. That's the whole thing.* It ended up being very silly and funny, especially when I joined.

BG: What do you make of Ava?

AC: She's very real. I love writing for her because I get to share these parts of myself that I would maybe keep a little quieter. I get to put those words in her mouth. And I love how Janelle James

plays her. She's definitely a complicated figure. She brings a lot of chaos but also joy to the school through her antics. I tend to root for her. She's a really important presence.

BG: Why do you think this show is resonating so deeply with people right now?

AC: I joined in the second season, so I watched it as a fan. I felt how grounded it was. That's part of what attracted me to it: It's silly, but it's real. It's heartwarming, but it's not spoon-fed to you. Lessons are learned. I love lessons. I love people hopefully being able to walk away having learned something or felt a new feeling or put the pieces to some puzzle together. But it's always a fine line. You never want to be too heavy-handed with that. But *Abbott* is also funny, and people want to laugh. It's a wide-ranging level of comedy and humor and different types of jokes. There are jokes in there for my mom, there are jokes in there for me, and there are jokes in there hopefully for Sidwell students.

BG: What are the lessons you want to convey through the show?

AC: The main thing that we've done, and that Quinta's done so well, is show how important teachers are. That's been really amazing for me to be a part of. Some of the writers have parents who were teachers or still are teachers, but where I'm coming from is: I was a student. So, it's realizing, in retrospect, how important those figures are and how much they deserve. Obviously, they deserve to be paid and to live comfortably, but also that these are not your parents, but they do a lot of parenting. They're incredibly important figures with rich inner lives. They bring a lot of stuff to school with them and still do their jobs. That's the big lesson that we carry through every episode, and that's part of the show's DNA.

“ Teachers are incredibly important figures with rich inner lives. They bring a lot of stuff to school with them and still do their jobs. That’s the big lesson that we carry through every episode, and that’s part of the show’s DNA.”

BG: Do you see dark humor as different from the type of humor you’re providing at *Abbott Elementary*, which is a kind of feel-good humor.

AC: We actually can veer into that lane on *Abbott* as well. The way that we talk about certain teachers who aren’t good, or the teachers who aren’t putting their best foot forward. We can do a bit of satire as well. But yes, there’s comedy that’s supposed to make you feel good, and there’s comedy that’s supposed to make you think. I don’t ever try to figure out what kind of comedy I’m writing when I’m writing it. If it’s the right fit for what we’re working on, then we keep it in. If not, we take it out.

BG: You’ve also done some work with Tina Fey.

AC: I learned so much from her. I worked on *Girls5eva* for the first two seasons. That was my first job in a

like I was thrown into the deep end, but with very supportive people. I just learned how to really, really write precisely and write funny. I’ve taken those lessons with me over to *Abbott*.

BG: What other projects might be on the horizon for you? What are you thinking about?

AC: I’m really interested in movies. I like the fact that they have endings, unlike shows, which you kind of have to think about very far into the future. I’ve written a project that’s based on my time at Sidwell—not necessarily about the academic part of Sidwell, but very much based on how I felt as a teenager. I’m

really interested in investigating those adolescent feelings, and anything coming-of-age is very interesting to me. There are characters from my time at Sidwell that I haven’t seen since I’ve been here, but are still very relevant to my life because of what we experienced together and what they taught me. I’m very interested in those teen comedies that make funny situations out of growing pains. I enjoyed high school a lot. I like

going back. I like thinking about it. I also love romantic comedies. I’m working on some stuff in that arena that tries to answer a lot of questions about what it’s like being an almost 30-year-old woman at this time in the world.

BG: What would you tell your 18-year-old self?

AC: I would remind my 18-year-old self that life is not a race. I would say, “Definitely take time to be a kid.” I started working at the end of my freshman year of college and spending a lot more time there than at school. Especially coming out of a place like Sidwell where success is a given, that’s just what you’re supposed to aim for. You try to rush toward that. I would tell myself: “It’ll come. It’ll happen on its own time. Don’t force it. You don’t have to compete with other people. It’s really your life and you’re in control.” That would’ve been a really good lesson.

BG: Do you have any dreams you plan to pursue other than screenwriting?

AC: I guess my dream would be to be open to anything and go whatever ways life takes me. I like being flexible. Switching careers in my mid-20s taught me that you can change your life whenever you want. ✨



writer’s room. I learned everything there. I learned how to be in a room. I learned how to contribute. I learned when to speak up, when to listen. But the main thing I learned was how to write jokes from some of the best in the business. And the way that team writes jokes is fast and furious. Every line is funny on their shows. I had to learn how to write as funny as possible. I got the crash course in comedy writing at a very, very high level. It was

FRESH INK

summer books

This season's reads take us to Africa, modern America, and back to school.

Sidwell Friends Mighty, Mighty Quakers

By John A. Simon, former Sidwell Friends School head varsity football coach



Courtesy John Simon

"I've heard it said that as head varsity football coach you never forget your first team. That statement is true as I can still recall the names of players that comprised my first team as head varsity coach in 1997. And I remember vividly our first game as well, as that year we played some really rough teams despite the fact that we were an independent

team. The players on my first team as head varsity coach meant a lot to me, particularly the juniors and seniors, because I had coached them on JV. These were the same players who along with some of their parents spoke on my behalf when I applied for and was selected as head varsity coach. I am truly grateful to these players and their parents for supporting me and helping me achieve my dream. Of all the kids I coached at Sidwell, most of these kids kept in contact with me and came by the school from time to time to visit me.

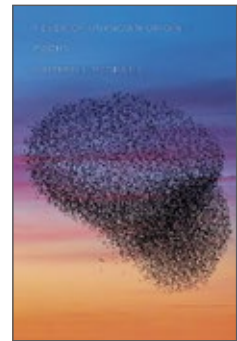
So it was these group of players who comprised my first team in 1997 and who in the fall of 2000 started us on a six year winning streak of MAC championships. Sidwell, known for its academics, [did not] recruit for either football or baseball. So it was truly amazing to watch a group of kids, some of whom had limited football playing experience or had never played the sport, excel at the game and play on such a long winning streak. What these players lacked in playing experience, they made up in their love of the sport as well as their desire to play football and take home a win."

Fever of Unknown Origin: Poems

By Campbell McGrath '80

Knopf

"*Fever of Unknown Origin* opens at a remote crossroads, where the speaker considers the intersection of history, beauty, and destruction: 'the past / is paper / and the present, a match.' What follows is an urgent tour of landscapes—environmental, political, and personal—that reframes our perception of modern America and leads the reader into 'An empire of rags and photons' where we must look to the past to clarify our futures."

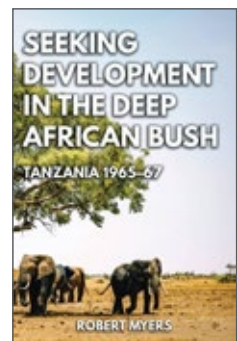


Courtesy Knopf

Seeking Development in the Deep African Bush: Tanzania 1965-67

By Robert Myers '58

"JFK proclaimed the 1960s to be Africa's years. Newly independent African countries were attempting to establish unique identities through 'nation building.' Most adopted African socialism to supposedly foster evenly distributed economic development. How was this to be accomplished in countries that were long on animals, stunning scenery and exotic tribal customs, but short on industrialization? The author was a researcher and a tourist who learned Swahili and then studied but also participated in the development of the deep Tanzanian bush. This story intermixes economics, anthropology and politics with stories of coming eyeball to eyeball with a leopard and using flaming newspaper on the end of sticks to scare off an elephant.



Courtesy Robert Myers



Goodwin Library 1973

CLASS NOTES

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

1943

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

In Memoriam:

Ruth Snow McKinney '43
February 27, 2023

1944

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

In Memoriam:

Peter Marcuse '44
March 4, 2022

1949

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

In Memoriam:

Charlotte Emerson Walhay '49
July 28, 2022
William Monroe III '49
February 14, 2023

1950

TOBY RILEY
toby.riley@gmail.com

SALLY ROSENTHAL BRODY displayed her New Work oil painting this March at the Atlantic Gallery in New York City. Still travels (Madrid, Mexico) and walks a lot. (See photo above.)

CHUCK BROWN still lives in Arizona, where he's captain of his active Bocce team. This Mother's Day, he traveled to Washington, DC, for reunions with his son and brother's kids.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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



LEFT: Sally Rosenthal Brody '50 exhibited *New Work* at the Atlantic Gallery in New York.



RIGHT: George Satterthwaite '53, Head of School Bryan Garman, and **Helen Austern Colson '53** at the Alumni Reunion in May.

WALLY CHRISTMAS sings with a Welsh Choir, which recently visited Wales, England. He experienced a stroke and a hip replacement, but is now alive and kicking.

BETS CHAPMAN HOOSS enjoys bird-watching and other wildlife (e.g., coyotes). She still drives, but not much. In good health.

TOBY RILEY continues to solve crossword puzzles. Attended his brother-in-law, Bud McFarlane's, burial with full military honors. Continues to update contact directories for his extended Riley family and his Quaker Meeting.

JOANNE GILBERT SCHWARTZBERG is still working full time in research and communicates with colleagues. She still lives in her house of 50 years, and reads silly stuff and some medical journals.

ANNE BUMSTEAD "BUMPY" ZABRISKIE, with failing eyes and ears, lives in an assisted-living facility. She enjoys physical fitness and other local activities.

In Memoriam:

Catherine Winslow Priest '50
September 3, 2022

1951

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

In Memoriam:

Robert Flory '51
February 7, 2019

1952

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

In Memoriam:

May Defandorf Dasch '52
December 22, 2022

1953

GLORIA GIRTON
ggat58b@orange.fr

GEORGE SATTERTHWAITE writes that he certainly enjoyed his 70th Reunion with **Helen Austern Colson** as the only attendees from his class. "Great to be back on campus and see all the changes taking place and such memories evoked from my days here." His retired life consists of keeping in touch with his family of seven children, 13 grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren! And he has two family weddings scheduled for the summer of 2024. "All in good health and prosperous. What a blessing!"

1954

RICHARD NICKLAS
rnicklas@mfa.gwu.edu

In Memoriam:

Carol Anne Phifer Plante '54
April 14, 2023

William Hoffman '54
May 6, 2023

1955

NANCY ABOLIN HARDIN
nahardin@aol.com

1956

CHARLIE HOLLAND
sshriink9@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In the last issue of the magazine, we displayed a photo of **Neil Stull '56** that misspelled his last name. We regret the error.

DAVID BRADFORD: “The major change in our life is the decision to move to a retirement community next year. This has been a difficult decision because we love Berkeley, the Bay Area, and especially the house we have lived in for 26 years. But it is getting to be a bit much for us to take care of—especially with my diminishing eyesight. Also, we need to think of the future when we will need more care. The move will be to Redman, Washington, just east of Seattle, where our son and family live. We also will be only an hour and a half from our daughter and family. This year will be spent decluttering and making all the preparations to move. All the while managing the feelings that go with this. I am still working although at a greatly reduced rate. Giving a few talks but mostly developing a program that implements my most recent book, *Connect: Building Exceptional Relationships with Family, Friends, and Colleagues*. I need some intellectual activity to feel fully alive. Thankfully, all sorts of technology exist to enable me.”

NANCY DESSOFF COLODNY: “**Betsy Gibb Cox** and I recently met halfway between our home in Naples, Florida, and Betsy’s in Ft. Myers, Florida, for lunch and a long delayed catchup. We mostly spent the time comparing notes on hurricane damage. Betsy was fortunate that she had previously sold her home on Sanibel Island and was safely situated in a wonderful senior living community, Shell Point. While there was significant damage there, the residents were well cared for. Betsy looked terrific and

was the same fun, lively, and interesting person she was at Sidwell Friends. Ed and I lost our car in a seven-foot flood in our building garage, and we also had our building shut down for two months while elevators and electrical repairs were made. Fortunately, we were still in Bethesda when the storm hit.”

TOM CURTIS: “All goes well in the Curtis household, off in Wisconsin. Spring has finally begun to arrive in this Northern climate. It’s a joy to see the flowers and trees all blooming after a cold winter! Our health is as good as could be expected, perhaps better. I continue to paint portraits in oils, professionally. At present, I’m working on one of the Milwaukee Shriner Potentate, which is fun. Here is a photo of the most recent double portrait that I completed several months ago (see photo below). Our youngest daughter, Anna, is turning out to be an excellent artist herself, which is a joy to see. She just returned to Wisconsin after a three-year stay in New Orleans, which afforded many an opportunity to draw pictures of a curious and intriguing nature.”

GEORGE DEWEY: “I have lived in Leesburg, Virginia, for 10 years, and before that, I lived in Alexandria, Virginia, and after graduate school, I lived in Argentina for years. I have a daughter and three sons and five grandchildren. My sister, **Dana Dewey Woody '54**, lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. I look forward to seeing 1956 graduates of Sidwell.”

JULIE VAN BROTT HARRIS: “My husband, Tom, of 63 years is 90 and has advancing dementia. It colors every hour of every day. But it does not negate the lovely times we have with our small family all here in Portland. And Tom is still the teacher, reminding us of Plato’s wise words and quizzing our granddaughter about her Latin. Each day has sweet moments, and we are thankful for overall good health. I do delight being in touch with **Marny McCune Concha** and recently being back in touch with **Linda Radue Wilson**.”

CHARLIE HOLLAND: “Reporting from Chatham, Cape Cod, that all is well. Thanks to a total of six vaccinations each, Peggy and I have managed to totally avoid COVID-19 (knock on wood). We are expecting our ninth grandchild, by our youngest son, next fall right around the time that number two grandson is getting married. And number one grandson just got engaged. Our youngest grandson will be going to Brown next fall, joining his cousin who will be a sophomore. All four of my children are now in New England, so we are frequently on the road to Maine and Vermont. Have been in touch with **John Deutch** and **Pat Lyon Deutch**, **Art Hildreth**, and **Marny McCune Concha**. Peggy and I are happily consumed with gardening—me with blueberries, raspberries, and rhubarb and Peggy with both vegetables and flowers. Our quarter acre is very full. And we feel very fortunate to be able to eat our meals looking at the ocean! Hopefully you are enjoying retirement as much as we are.”

LINDA KAPLAN: “All is okay here—that is, as well as can be expected at this point in life! No Sidwell news from me except that I keep in close touch with **Nancy Dessoff Colodny**. Be well everyone!”



A recent portrait by **Tom Curtis '56**

Class of 1958
REUNION
>>> Recap <<<



We had a great turnout, especially when one considers the health problems many of us 82-year-olds face in trying to travel and considering that COVID still lingers. Thirteen classmates showed up in person. Adding in classmates who could only join us via Zoom, we had 19 of the 36 Sidwell Friends 1958 graduates who are still with us. Then add in seven spouses, for a grand total of 26.

The Class Cocktail Hour on Friday (which many of us made into a dinner!) was just a warm-up. The highlight was our Saturday Class Lunch at Maggiano's Restaurant, in which we went around the room for each of us to say how we think we have changed since graduation. We followed up by swapping ideas on how to handle the years ahead.

A close second to the joy of our Class Lunch was the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, where one of the awardees—**Steve Griffith '63**—introduced himself to us as our late classmate **Julia Griffith Abernethy's** younger brother. We immediately bonded. Steve was eager to know more about Julia's experiences with our class, and we were eager to know more about Julia's life after Friends. (See our class news.) The evening ended with some of us responding to the dance music. May we never be too old to have some fun!

—CRAIG MORGAN

1958

CRAIG MORGAN
craigmorgan@gmail.com

FROM THE CLASS REP:

In our class email, we remembered films of our youth—27 of them—and remembered them quite well, especially with **STEVE STOVALL's** help. Movies were such a key part of our lives then, and such a minor part of our lives now. But, not to worry, we still enjoy the oldies, replaying them in our heads.

But one such film, Disney's 1958 documentary *White Wilderness*, was not so pleasant to recall when **JOAN FRIEDMAN SEYMOUR** pointed out that the scene of lemmings supposedly committing mass suicide by jumping off a cliff was in fact staged, with off-camera staff members stampeding the lemmings to their death. This was yet another reminder that the 1950s were not so innocent. Yet in the world of casual metaphor, lemming mass suicide lives on.

On another one of our class Zooms, **ANNETTE EISENBERG STIEFBOLD** asked us what we do to fight aging. **DAVID PRICE** responded that he takes his cue from Clint Eastwood: "Don't let the old man in." Craig Morgan says he tries to remain useful and tries to keep mentally active by improving his Cantonese. Annette says she does the same with French and Spanish. **JOHN COX** stays active by volunteering as a chaplain in the very same rehabilitation center where he recovered from two strokes. **THATCHER MORSE** and his wife, Pat, are keeping busy hosting an Afghan refugee family, including a 2-month-old infant.

News of the sensational success experienced by Sidwell's current basketball teams at the national level brought back memories of a sensational success of our own. In our senior year, with **STEPHEN BAER** as our ace pitcher and **JOHN WILNER** our star shortstop, we won Sidwell's first Baseball IAC Championship, defeating both St. Albans and Landon, which at that time were the IAC powerhouses.

BOB MYERS has now come out with a second book, *Seeking Development in the Deep African Bush: Tanzania 1965-1967*, hot off the press (see "Fresh Ink," on page 62). It covers the period in his life when—on a Ford Foundation Grant—he was researching his dissertation in developmental economics, while at the same time working part-time for the Tanzanian government. The Class Rep can report that like Bob's first book—on hitchhiking—this one is also filled with adventure. But it is also chock-full of policy analysis and experience-based wisdom, launching a career at the World Bank focused on economic development in Africa.

STEVE STOVALL writes: "I have become a professional distance runner. Recently, I won a six pack of beer for coming in first in a four-kilometer race among three over 80 runners in the race. No longer an amateur."

We have learned more of **Julia Griffith Abernethy's** tragic yet inspiring life—a race against time. Julia contracted type-1 diabetes at age 3,

lowering her life expectancy to a mere 25 years. From then on, she took an insulin shot every day. While a freshman at Smith College, Julia was introduced by her piano teacher to the love of her life, David Abernethy, then a junior at Harvard. Three years later, despite Julia's protests that a short marriage would be unfair to him, David insisted that they marry. Upon getting married, they wanted children, despite the risks. Julia gave cesarean birth at eight months to Bruce when Julia was 22, and to Brad at seven months when Julia was 24. Bruce was small and Brad was tiny, but both have grown to be healthy, very accomplished adults, with families of their own. Julia beat the actuarial odds. With improved medical care, and with a kidney donation from Steve, Julia survived until

age 37. The last years were especially tough, but she lived for David, Bruce, and Brad. Afterwards, David remarried, yet remains a close part of the Griffith family. At Friends, we knew Julia had diabetes and lived with quiet resolve. However, we had no idea about the cloud she knew was hanging over her head, perhaps because of the sunlight in her soul.

1959

CLARK GRIFFITH
ccgpa@ccgpa.com

DAVE WOOLPERT: "Penny and I are back to going out to movies and friends' homes and not masking when we shop or go to the doctor's office,

and it's very refreshing and feels like a vacation. I've been able to avoid getting COVID, and my massive leg injury a year ago now only hurts when I walk downstairs or stand up. I did some cross-country and downhill skiing this winter, and heavy yardwork and biking are now my best exercises. Our youngest daughter, who moved to Baltimore with her fiancé, has been promoted to a major management position with the Friends Committee on National Legislation in DC. They are getting married in August (it will be my first chance to dance with her!). Our other daughter, who has lived in France for 10 years, is participating in a regional dance contest with her high-energy dance group and will introduce us to her Tunisian boyfriend at the Baltimore wedding."

SPOTLIGHT

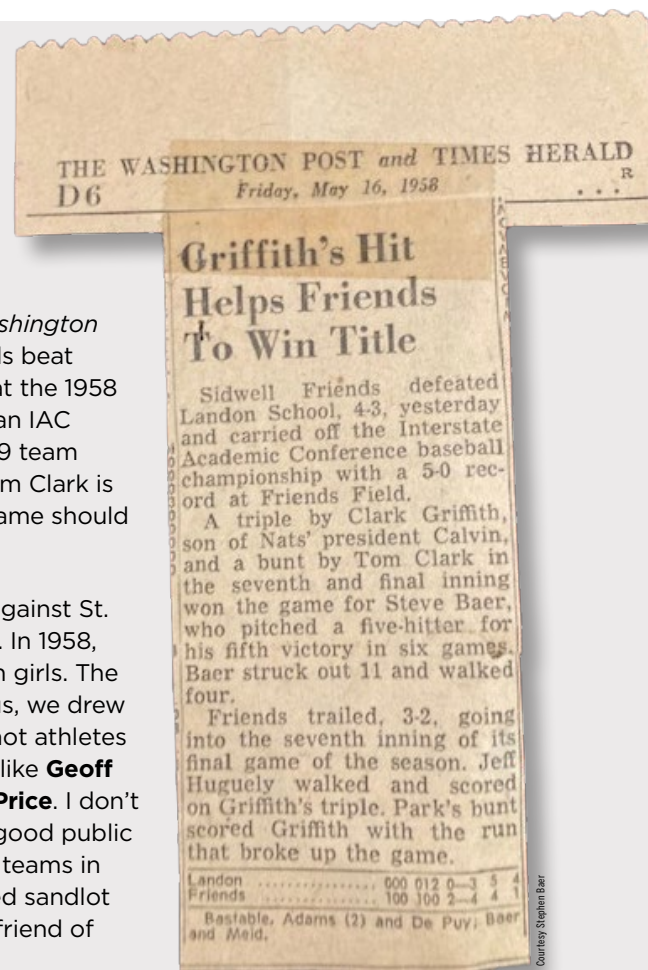
Boys of Summer

Remembering the great 1958 and 1959 Sidwell Friends baseball seasons.

The class of 1958 is celebrating its 65th anniversary this year, the class of 1959 will celebrate next year. This brief article from *The Washington Post* was clipped out by my father the morning after Sidwell Friends beat Landon for the 1958 IAC baseball championship. You may know that the 1958 Sidwell Friends baseball team was the very first boys' team to win an IAC championship in a major sport in the history of the School. The 1959 team repeated. (*The Post* report contains two errors: The reference to Tom Clark is incorrect. Park is Tom's correct surname. Similarly, Huguely's first name should be spelled Geoff. No matter.)

It was always difficult for Sidwell Friends to successfully compete against St. Albans, Landon, and the other boys-only schools in the conference. In 1958, there were only about 200 students in the high school, half of them girls. The freshmen and most sophomores were on our JV baseball team; thus, we drew from only about 60 boys for the varsity team. Many of them were not athletes or interested in playing. We were lucky to have really good players like **Geoff Huguely, Thomas Park, John Wilner, Clark Griffith '59, and David Price**. I don't remember our final win/loss record in 1958, but we did beat some good public high school teams and would have beaten Wilson—one of the best teams in the city at that time—except for an untimely error. Clark and I played sandlot ball in the summers. Buzzy Bastable, Landon's pitcher was a good friend of mine. We ended up together as SAE fraternity brothers at GWU.

—STEPHEN BAER '58



A *Washington Post* article from 1958 describes Sidwell Friends win over Landon for the 1958 IAC baseball championship.



LEFT, CENTER: "Serious Whimsy" by Judy Caldwell '62 RIGHT: Peter Enemark '62 stands in front of two Joan Mitchell works in Paris.

CLARK GRIFFITH: "As for me, my younger daughter is being married on July 1 in Minneapolis.

My elder daughter gave birth to my grandson, George, in November. They live in Bethesda just east of Westmoreland Circle, and the father is senior counsel for U.S. Representative **Daniel S. Goldman '94**, a Sidwell Friends grad himself, so they are thinking that this kid needs to go to Sidwell Friends School! I'm eager to tell him how we pummeled St. Albans and won the IAC baseball championship two years in a row, so I'm all for it."

1960

JODY HUTCHINSON
mjodyh@yahoo.com

1961

LINDA DEMING RATCLIFF
ldratcliff@comcast.net

LOFTUS BECKER: "I've retired to Manhattan, 10 minutes away from the New York Symphony, the Metropolitan Opera, and two other concert halls. We hear lots of music and see quite a few plays (never musicals). I'm definitely getting older, walking almost everywhere with a cane, but still enjoy walking around. I'm delighted to be in New York."

1962

CHETT BREED
cbreed@truman.edu

JUDY MARKLEY WASTLER
judywastler@gmail.com

JUDY CALDWELL was juried into the Vero Beach Museum of Art's "Treasure Coast Creates" exhibition, from May 20 to September 3, 2023, for her work "serious whimsy." (See photo on next page.)

PETER ENEMARK and MEME LUND

ENEMARK: "In December 2022, Meme got an email from La Fondation Louis Vuitton announcing a 'Claude Monet-Joan Mitchell, Dialogue.' She turned to her husband, Peter, and said, 'Do you want to go?' Peter said, 'Sure.' And so, they went to Paris in January. Most of us know about Claude Monet's *Water Lilies*, but many of us—including Peter—are less familiar with Joan Mitchell's enormous abstract expressionist works, many of them over six feet by 12 feet. When you see a room full of Mitchell's paintings, it is an almost overwhelming experience. Peter and Meme were both overwhelmed. They went back to the exhibit a second time, and they also went to the Musée de l'Orangerie, the Musée d'Orsay, the Musée Picasso Paris, and the Centre Pompidou. They had dinner with Meme's great niece and great nephew who live in Paris. Then they flew back home to California." (See photo above.)

JUDY MARKLEY WASTLER: "In February I went with a sorority sister to Italy, where we spent an exciting 10 days. She was first-generation American, and I remember going to visit her home in north Miami (we were at the University of Miami) and loving to listen to her parents' Italian accents. Her mom would tell us, "Mangia!" And that's exactly what we did while in Rome and Florence! (In her mother's memory, of course!)"

1963

MARGO LEE HOFELDT
margo10022@aol.com

KATHY ANDERSON: "I am now in Ohio on the shores of Lake Erie for the summer. Today, I will be planting my gutters with lots of flowers. Fun!"

ROSAURA EICHENBERG: "Dear classmates: Our world is more insane than Alice's Wonderland, but we must not give up—it is time to go on fighting for freedom. You, Americans, are great warriors for freedom. Cheers! Zaura (from Brasil)"

MARGO LEE HOFELDT: "I just looked at my calendar for the last three months to remind myself what I've been doing in order to share it with you, and OMG, every day has something written on it. Lunches, dinners, Board meetings for three different groups (Miami Beach Garden Club,

Miami Beach Botanical Garden, Miami Beach Orchid Society), house and garden tours, theater, etc., and I went to the first course in a series for Gardening School. Our Garden Club had its annual Standard Flower Show, and I entered a Tray Design. There were four entries in my group, and someone had to come in fourth (guess who?), but I learned and I agree with what the Judges said (my design was too small). Next year maybe a Blue Ribbon! Five of us from our Garden Club went to the Florida Federation of Garden Club's Convention in Kissimmee, Florida, which was a fun girls' get-away all about garden clubs. Then I enjoyed our 60th Class Reunion! It was a wonderful, small gathering and we all had a good time—only wish more of you had been there! Next on the agenda is getting ready for about three months in Connecticut.”

ALISON FEISS KRIVISKEY: “I was sorry to miss our class Reunion but am glad to see that some were there to catch up on life. We still live in western Massachusetts in the lovely Connecticut River Valley. Recently, we moved to a retirement community in Easthampton, exactly 1.3 miles from our former Northampton home where we lived for 17 years. This area is great for retirees because we have five colleges within a seven-mile radius, the closest being Smith College (my alma mater). Across the river are Amherst, Mount Holyoke and Hampshire Colleges, and the flagship campus of the University of Massachusetts. Many of our neighbors are retired academics, and it makes for an interesting and lively community. Best of all, one of our grandsons is at UMass, so we have contact with young people there. Bruce and I stay very busy with our hobbies and community commitments. I love to grow

things, so I grow orchids, which give us joy year round. Also, I have a flower garden to keep me busy in the good weather. In that garden, I am focusing on raising native plants to support pollinators, provide habitat for monarch butterflies, and attract hummingbirds. It has been very successful, and neighbors like to visit my garden when they are out for walks. I like giving back to my community in this way. I still volunteer at the Smith College Botanic Garden and even donated an orchid (a species they did not have) to their orchid collection. We continue to enjoy the activities provided here, such as having seasonal subscriptions to theater series, going to concerts at the colleges and in town, and much more. Even though the aging process is not kind, we continue to stay happily occupied. We love visitors, so remember us when you come to New England.”

Class of 1963
REUNION
>>> Recap <<<

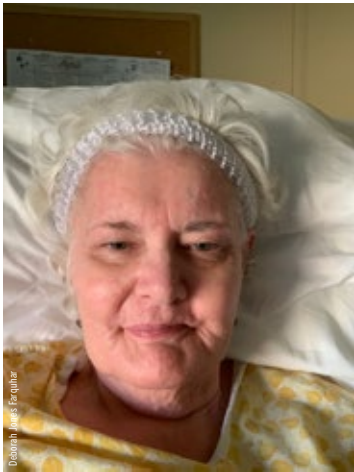


Kathy Anderson, John Luykx, and **Sylvia Fubini.** There was a lot of chatting, which continued the next day at a beautiful lunch at the home of Sylvia Fubini.

Then, Saturday evening in the fabulous school gym (not like the one we remember!) was the All Alumni Reunion Dinner and presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Awards. Our very own Steve Griffith was one of the four award recipients, which made it especially significant for us. They showed a very impressive video about the accomplishments of each of the alumni being honored, which made us very proud of Steve and all that he has done since we were students together. Congratulations, Steve! It was truly a lovely evening and the end of a wonderful Reunion. Heartfelt thanks to our esteemed Class Reunion Planning Committee: John Luykx, Sylvia Fubini, Kathy Anderson, and **Pat Cross Bradley** for all they did. We had a great time, and it would only have been better if we could have shared it with more of our classmates. Let's aim for a big Reunion get-together in 2028!

—MARGO LEE HOFELDT

It was a little chilly in May in DC, but things warmed up considerably when members of the Class of 1963 got together on Friday evening for the first event of the Sidwell Friends School Reunion Weekend. Eleven of us gathered at a cocktail reception outside in the School courtyard to greet each other and catch up. We all came from near and far: **Sharon Smull Hinckley**, her husband, and **Diana Willis Rothman** from California; **Steve Griffith** from Oregon; **Ellen Rockwell Galland** and **George Galland** from Illinois; **David MacLean** from Rhode Island; **Dan Smith** from California and Maryland; **Margo Lee Hofeldt** and her husband from Florida; and locally



LEFT: Deborah Jones Farquhar '64 CENTER: Louise Berry Strait '64 with her son, Graeson, and his wife, Ashley RIGHT: Bob Kramer '67 attends a Temptations concert.

ROBERT ZWEBEN: “I would have been at our class Reunion if my wife, Elaine, and I were not attending a wedding in Jaffa, Israel. In Tel Aviv, as I write this class note, I regret not seeing those who attended, especially at Sylvia’s house. As life goes on, I cherish the memories of knowing my Sidwell classmates. Maybe I will join those who attend our next Reunion. Until then, be well and safe.”

1964

LOUISE BERRY STRAIT
lbstrait@gmail.com

DEBORAH JONES FARQUHAR: “At the end of May, I will have been in the hospital or rehab facilities going on a year working towards being able to stand and walk. Wishing you all well and hoping you are all well.” (See photo above.)

LOUISE BERRY STRAIT: “My husband, Glenn, and I are delighted to welcome a new member to our family with the recent marriage of our youngest son, Graeson, to Ashley Lowe. We are fortunate that they live nearby, in Columbia Heights. Graeson is a supervisor for Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance, and Ashley is a digital media specialist for Booz Allen Hamilton. The photo was taken on Mother’s Day 2023, just after their return from their honeymoon in Vietnam.” (See photo above.)

1965

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

In Memoriam:

Liddell Madden '65
February 27, 2023

1966

CHRIS DEMATIS
cdematatis@aol.com

1967

STEVE BATZELL
swb.abacus@gmail.com

CHRIS KNOWLES has a new book: “*Welcome Home, Comrade*, was motivated by the disclosure of the United Work Front Department, also known as the Fuzhou Police, working out of an office in Chinatown at 107 Broadway in New York City. Their purported mission is helping Chinese immigrants with work papers, driver’s licenses, etc. However, they work under the auspices of the Chinese Communist Party. They oversee Chinese graduate students who work on the theft of intellectual property from the Defense Advanced



Research Project Agency (DARPA) operations, military intelligence, and the coercion of anti-Communist Chinese expatriates to return to China under threat of retaliation to their families. Both are very real and are being addressed by Congress. It is a truly intimidating phenomenon.”

BOB KRAMER attended a benefit concert in April for the Carter Barron Amphitheater at the Howard Theater with the Temptations, including the founder and only surviving original member, Otis Williams. He writes: “They performed a 75-minute, nonstop, high-energy show, and Otis sang, danced, and did all the moves at 81! Brought back great memories of going to shows at the Howard in high school and dancing in the aisles with **Phil Khoury, Alex Scott, Bob Lewis, Steve Batzell**, and other '67 classmates. Shuttered and neglected in the early 1980s, the Howard theater underwent a \$25 million restoration and renovation about 10 years ago and looks great.” (See photo above.)

TOM MEARS writes: “*Kia Ora* from Waiheke Island in New Zealand. Ursula and I are enjoying a twice postponed visit with our older daughter, Janine, who has been living here for several years. We have enjoyed spectacular scenery as we toured the South Island and took boat trips on Doubtful Sound and Milford Sound. We have been on a number of day hikes all over the south. We went whale watching in Kaikoura,

and enjoyed a 15-minute encounter with an 18-meter sperm whale. He seemed unperturbed by our presence but kept one enormous eye on us. We also saw literally hundreds of dolphins playing, splashing, and fishing quite close to shore. Just south of Kaikoura, a recent earthquake radically changed the coastline. Newly formed tidal ponds among the rubble now serve as a nursery for baby seals. We saw several mother seals nursing pups while dozens of other pups frolicked, seemingly unsupervised, in the predator-free pools. I feel there are not enough superlatives to describe the scenery, landscapes, forest, foliage, etc. It is also gratifying to witness the strong commitment to preserving this extraordinary environment. During the sightseeing, we managed to enjoy several wine tastings around Marlborough and here on Waiheke. Great memories, and we are loving all our time with Janine. We are headed back to Virginia next week but are already plotting a return visit.”

BOBBY MILLS notes: “I welcomed my second granddaughter into this crazy world on May 11 in Houston. I helped my daughter, Courtney, and her amazing husband, Brian, to get ready for the big day by watching my 4-year-old granddaughter (and future astronaut, I am sure of it) waiting for her little sister to come home. Still spending a lot of time working to pursue grants and other funding for Defiance College in Ohio on whose Board of Trustees I serve with pride. Its president is a former colleague of mine at Daemen College near Buffalo, New York, and is a great leader and role model for a lot of kids in rural Ohio. So fun. Hope all is well with all members of the Class of 1967.”

ARNE PAULSON: “We still have our house in DC and go back there every couple of weeks for appointments, social engagements, etc., but we are spending 90 percent of our time out on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, where we bought a getaway on the Choptank 25 years ago. It is not as exciting as being in Washington but makes up for it in terms of natural beauty and serenity. And nearby Easton does offer a theater

with musical and comedy acts, good restaurants, an art museum, several private galleries, and more. Anyway, it is enough entertainment for us. We have also been blessed with three grandchildren and spend part of our time visiting two of them in Milton, Massachusetts, and one of them in San Francisco. I find myself wondering why our children seem to have deliberately moved so far away from us, but I know the answer since my wife, Sara, and I did the same thing, spending four and a half years in Geneva, Switzerland, and three years in Paris, France. I have not had close contact with most of our classmates, but we do socialize from time to time with **Ruth Yackee Handelsman** and husband, Steve. I keep in some (rather irregular) contact with **Ted Abraham**, we visited **John Henry** in New Zealand several years ago, and my longtime friend **Tad Bejnar** is due to visit us today, after having driven cross-country from New Mexico. On top of that, Sara and I are due to celebrate our 50th anniversary next month—wish us well.

LOUISE THORSON: “After many years of traveling out of the country, this spring my husband and I did a ‘Charles Kuralt’ through parts of Mississippi and Louisiana. What fun and how educational it was! We met a woman who was involved with the Choctaw Nation school system (the largest indigenous American school system in the country), a cotton plantation owner whose land has been in cotton since before the Civil War and has dedicated some of the property to tell the horrifying story of the slaves (even gave us the chance to hand pick some cotton), a woman who was the general manager (and fabulous cook) and had worked for over 50 years at a bed-and-breakfast who regaled us with stories of the ghosts of people who had lived there in the mid-1800s, local folks who were volunteers at a saw mill museum (think southern pine), Acadian musicians who sang in old French, bayou families who gave boat tours (alligators and wild pigs, oh my), and the owners of an antebellum home that had been in the family since before the Civil War (now for sale). And many more! We enjoyed ourselves so much

that we are planning future U.S. road trips to southern states in the spring when we New Englanders are desperate for warm weather and flowers.”

1968

ROLLIE FRYE

rolliefrye@gmail.com

EV BROWN is recuperating from surgery to repair a detached hamstring and hopes to return to her running soon.

CATHERINE O’NEILL GRACE: “I’m doing well, still working full time at the Wellesley alumni magazine with no plans to stop anytime soon. Hoping to finish up my memoir about growing up in India soon.”

MARK KONTOS: “My career as a retiree ended after two years in epic failure when Radio Free Europe (remember them?!) called and asked me to be their CFO.”

DAVID MANN could not attend the Reunion because he and his wife Bonnie “were in Lisbon listening to jazz at Rocco’s in the Ivens Hotel in Lisbon.” He was sorry for the conflict with our 55th and said they’d be sure to be at our 60th.

DAVID NICHOLSON: “Late last year, I learned that my story, ‘That’s Why Darkies Were Born’—a satirical look at movies and literature featuring characters like Jim (*Huckleberry Finn*) and Mammy (*Gone With the Wind*) that tells us what Mark Twain and Margaret Mitchell left out—received a Special Mention in the 2023 Pushcart Prize Anthology. In May, my book *Flying Home: Seven Stories of the Secret City*, was included in a list of 1,001 books in a Los Angeles Times piece about books that show us “where to find the real America.” And, finally, my book about my family, *The Garretts of Columbia: A Black South Carolina Family from Slavery to the Dawn of Integration*, is forthcoming early next year from the University of South Carolina Press. Stay tuned!”

Class of 1968
REUNION
 >>> Recap <<<



The Class of 1968's 55th Reunion was a gathering of 14 classmates plus two spouses/partners. The hearty crew included **Nonie England Akman, Jane Eskew Blong, Kay Burgunder Stevens, Hugh Beach, Kate Waits, Betsy Paull** and Brian Yates, **John Ross** and Joan Ross, **Lynn Johnson McCown, Owen Kelly, Laurie Price, Craig Eifler, Askold Boretsky, John Denegre, and Rollie Frye.** We were joined via a Zoom call by 10 more classmates: **David Nicholson, Janne Freeman Heifetz, Ev Brown, Alexander Gaguine, Kit Hadsel Huffman, Lyn Horton, Peter Walker, Harvey LeSure, Marnie Sheahan Paulus, and Merle Ladd Silverman.** Betsy and Brian deserve a huge round of applause for planning and executing the Zoom call.

A full rendering of our classmates' news would take up half of this magazine, so I'll relate just a few highlights from some of the actual and virtual attendees. Askold has become quite the gardener. Kate is living in Ohio with husband Marty, is a very active walker, and travels a fair amount to explore new and significant places around the country. She also knits and crochets extensively, and has started a business on Etsy to sell her creations. Jane still plays serious tennis but has downshifted to avoid a lot of unpleasant women on the high end of the competitive circuit. Nonie continues her work with Montgomery Hospice, counseling and supporting people facing end-of-life issues. Craig is still a serious inquirer into Judaism and the Wisdom Traditions.

Lynn and her husband, Tom, get to DC regularly to see family

and friends and to enjoy shows at Arena Stage and the Kennedy Center. Betsy continues to do volunteer work and has also gotten more seriously into dancing; she and Brian were showing us their steps Saturday night at the alumni dinner dance. Laurie is still very much into serious hiking and backpacking in the Sierras. Marnie now lives with her husband in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. John and Joan Ross now live in Florida but are regularly back in the DC area at the home they maintain in Maryland. Kay is recovering from major back surgery and joined us for her first post-surgical socializing. Kay's son, **Chris Stevens '13**, is currently performing on Broadway.

Hugh returns from Sweden a couple of times yearly to check in on his mother and to see Sidwell classmates. (See Hugh's sidebar.) Owen is enjoying the music scene in Nashville and also shared with us his thoughts on the Tennessee political scene. (It turns out that Owen's father was the executive officer on the submarine USS Triton in the late 1950s and early 1960s—who knew?!) My apologies for leaving out news from so many other classmates.

—ROLLIE FRYE



Members of the Class of 1968 celebrate their Reunion and Zoom with those who couldn't attend.

DAVID THOMSON, although planning to attend the Reunion, had to change his plans to be in DC when he learned that he would be receiving the York-Leicester Senior Citizen of the Year designation for community service and various forms of volunteer work, and that May 6 would be the award ceremony. David has worked and volunteered for many years in service to his community. He continues to enjoy golf and play in a summer league.

1970

MARGARET WEAVER STEEL
mwkrull@me.com

1971

MARY REYNER
mary.reyner@gmail.com

DEBBIE MANN: “The return to Maine is fully underway, especially young people who are finding a way to make a good living here, working remotely or locally. Our doctor daughter will be returning here, after a few years of adventures in Alaska, to work with her soon-to-be husband as hospitalists at Maine Medical Center. There are lots of start-ups, outdoor ventures, or other progressive endeavors perking up here that give me hope that this next generation will be up to the task of turning our national ship around. I cannot attend our Reunion, due to a long-scheduled environmental conference, but best wishes to everyone! I will miss being part of the candid conversations among such accomplished people.”

1972

JOYCE JACOBSON
joyce@brastedhouse.com

JOYCE JACOBSON: “We’re still running our bed and breakfast in southern Maine (Inn at Tanglewood Hall)—now in our 18th year! Over the years we’ve

SPOTLIGHT

An Undeserved Victory

He won more by luck than smarts and has never felt right about it since.

A memory from the Class of 1968 has haunted me with a bad conscience. It demands to be told if some of us have forgotten. Of course, we did not consider ourselves the Class of 1968 since it happened in the last year of Middle School. Nonetheless, we were essentially the same group of kids. Mr. LeSure was our American history teacher, and toward the end of the school year, he, understandably, sought means to inspire our learning of essential facts, like the capital city for each state and important dates.

I do not recall if it was a recurring event, but one day, he announced that he would host a history competition in the auditorium. Our two homeroom classes were to be pitted against each other, with each class represented by a team of four members. The classes were told to elect the team members who might serve them best, and although I never considered myself much of a history buff, I was appointed to the Gray team. The Red team, I soon discovered, would feature Kathy (now Kate) Waits, and with that—as indicated by many commiserating pats on the shoulder from both classes—our fate was sealed. Kathy was stellar, and when it came to history and awareness of social issues, could go far beyond the trivia of mere dates. She ran circles around the rest of us. We worked in teams and were allowed to use digital calculators, but for clarity, only one student spokesperson from each team was to give its final result. Kathy was immediately endowed as Red spokesperson, and I was made to accept (with trepidation) the corresponding position for the Grays.

I can’t remember all of the questions thrown our way by Mr. LeSure, but we were soon off and running at a swift pace: What year was the Declaration of Independence signed? Add the date the British burned the Capitol. Subtract the number of presidents before Andrew Jackson. Add the year for the Battle of Shiloh. Divide by two—etc., etc. The pace was unrelenting. I realize today that I never did and still don’t know more than a few of the correct answers, and with only one slip, even if correct in all other instances, our final answer would be hopelessly skewed. It did not take more than a few minutes before all of us on the Gray team had put down our pens, turned off our calculators, and sat with our heads in our hands. Worst of all, I glanced to the side to see Kathy furiously punching her calculator keys and keeping pace with Mr. LeSure.

Finally, to draw to a close and put the Gray team out of its misery, Mr. LeSure said: “You must never give up. Now comes the last question, so listen carefully. The one who stands up first with the right answer wins. Multiply the number you currently have with the number of times William Jennings Bryan was president of the United States.” Wait a second, I said to myself. Bryan was never elected president of the United States, although he certainly tried. I heard Kathy groan, “Hey, that’s not fair.” And I knew she knew. But as she put down her pen, turned her calculator off, and shoved her chair back to rise, I was already on my feet. “Zero,” I said. “Bryan was never a president, and zero times anything is always zero.” The Grays had won, but it was an undeserved victory. Kathy deserves that crown for her good-natured smarts. This memory has weighed upon my soul, foolishly and tarnished by time perhaps, but I feel better by telling it.

—HUGH BEACH



LEFT: Neal Wetzel '72, Mark Dominovich '72, and Mark's wife, Lynda, in Southern Maine, where Joyce Jacobson '72 owns a BNB



CENTER: Brian Muys '77 and his wife, Siobhan, hike part of the Appalachian Trail. **RIGHT:** Jeannine Perrot '77 visits Stonehenge.



had a few Sidwell Friends classmates or alumni stay (one even accidentally: Dawson!) or stop by for a visit. But this picture is nearly the only proof I have—Mark Dominovich and Lynda Dominovich in 2019 at the Nubble Lighthouse (just three miles away)—although they also stopped by last summer. I hope to see more before we retire in the next few years!” (See photo above.)

MARK DOMINOVICH lost his mother, Faye Dominovich, this year: “She was 96 years old and worked as the Middle School secretary and bookkeeper in Zartman House between 1965 and about 1975. I was so lucky to have my mother for so long. It is hard to get used to her not being there for a phone call.” Joyce Jacobson writes: “So many of us remembered her fondly for her loving and caring nature. We were lucky to have his mom as another guiding influence in our lives.”

1973

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

1974

LESLIE WOLF-CREUTZFELDT
lcreutzfeldt@yahoo.com

CHARLES TURNER: “I retired in 2022 after a busy and rewarding 44-year engineering career, in which I was involved in the design, manufacture,

operation, and maintenance of various systems/products encompassing four different industries. I originally thought retirement would be time to relax and enjoy my leisure, but my activity load has only seemed to increase. With four grandchildren, 11 nieces/nephews, existing hobbies, new hobbies, recreational travel, hosting family/friends in Rehoboth Beach, and staying healthy/fit, there is only a limited amount of down time. I do believe it is important to continue learning and developing skills each day, so there are more experiences to follow. Looking forward to the 50th Reunion.”

1975

ALAN DRUMMER
alandrummer@hotmail.com

1976

BETSY ZEIDMAN
betsyzeidman@gmail.com

1977

ADAM STERN
adamcstern@aol.com

The Class of 1977 gathered to remember and celebrate the life of **Helen MacIsaac** at the Sidwell Friends Meeting House on April 15. Thanks to the MacIsaac family, Helen’s friends, and Sidwell for creating such a meaningful

experience for all of us. In attendance were: **Liz Barnes, Eric Beatty, Monty Brower, Stephen Clark, Tricia Crocker, Katie Davis, Glyde Hart, Adam Kolker, Price Lowenstein, Charles Meade, Afroze Mohammed, Phillip Proctor, John Scheuer, Jane Smedley, Geoff Smith, Adam Stern, Becky Howard Whitmore, Karin Wilkinson, and Julie Wolf.**

BRIAN MUYS writes: “Siobhan and I are thrilled to be new grandparents of Graham Davis Darby, whom we’ve visited frequently since his early arrival just before the holidays. Since then, we celebrated our anniversary with a visit to north Georgia to hike a portion of the Appalachian and Benton MacKaye Trails to the AT’s southern terminus on Springer Mountain. I recently caught up with **Alex Camacho** and **John Ross.**” (See photo above.)

JEANNINE PERROT writes: “The COVID-19 pandemic put a two-year hold on a trip to London and southwest England, which I happily did in May. I had a wonderful time and the weather cooperated, although it was cooler than my normal Houston springtime temps. The English countryside is so lush and green and not obscured by sprawling development or billboard signs. Verdant fields with dazzling expanses of brilliant yellow rapeseed flowers throughout the landscape were a joy to see. London delighted with a play at the Globe Theatre (which brought back memories of Mrs. Banks’ 10th grade English class). There were also hikes

Class of 1973

REUNION

>>> Recap <<<<



You are amazing: 53 of you came to the Reunion! Many with spouses in tow. For those who were not here, we had in person: **Leslie Adams, Liz Ingram Allen, Bill Altman, Steve Bernheim, Rickey Blanco, Ron Bubes, Lee Burgunder, Jerry Caplin, Mary Challinor, Erin Lanagan Chervin, Ben Davis, Steve Dickey, Ann Dodge, Liza Donnelly, Richard Foley, Brian Glassman, Jim Gordon, Amanda Hahn Griffiths, Sam Guckenheimer, John Halla, Sarah Hartman, Steve Heimann, Stephan Henriquez, Pam Miller Himmelrich, Oakley Hoerth, Marnie Imhoff, Barney Jones, Mary Lou Kelley, Regina Dessoiff Kessler, Robert Kessler, Susie Ketcham, Soye Kim, Barclay Jones-Kopchak, Duncan Krieger, Bill Nye, John Pyburn, Arnold Rabson, Geoff Reed, Paul Ottenstein, Courtney Clark Pastrick, Don Russell, Susie Sivard, Mike Schulman, Aprille Kniep Sherman, Cindy Meyer Truitt, Barbara Wampler Walling, Skip West, Janice Volker Zima, and Lydia White Adelfio**, along with more than a dozen spouses at my house, and **Steve Bernheim, Richard Foley, and Skip Kelly** joined us at Sidwell Friends. Folks came from Hawaii, Alaska, England, Washington, California, Colorado, Ohio, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Arizona, Louisiana, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Virginia, Maryland, and DC.

We had another batch of folks who wanted to come but couldn't for various reasons, such as work, travel, health, distance, COVID, and even conflict with a PhD dissertation. We missed those

of you who couldn't make it, as we had a grand time. A huge thanks to each of you for making the effort to come and be together. Special thanks to Richard Foley for supplying tables, chairs, utensils, and plates and for his input to get this organized; Rob Miller for holding onto our Class of 1973 banner for a couple of decades, Liz Ingram Allan for the sweet desserts, paper goods, and a great deal of setup, cleanup, and collaboration; Ron Bubes and Jim Gordon for the beer; Aprille Kniep and Erin Lanagan Chervin for ice pickup and delivery; Regina Dessoiff Kessler for setup and underwriting a good portion of the party at my house; and Geoff Reed for providing the camera and professional expertise to help us get a group of 49 into one photo (with a bit of assistance from Marco.) Also, a big congratulations to Mary Challinor for hearing of the birth of her grandchild while she was with us in my backyard.

You are an interesting, varied, accomplished, fascinating, energetic, lovely group that have followed very different journeys, yet we emanated from the same school. What fun to get a small taste of what makes each of you tick and to see that you have found it in your hearts to come together and rekindle friendships (and meet folks you never overlapped with or didn't really know at the time as well as some terrific spouses) and brave the adventure of being together again. I hope you all thought it worthwhile, as I certainly did.

—LYDIA WHITE ADELFFIO

up the Glastonbury Tor and through the Avalon Marshes, visits to the sacred White and Chalice Springs and the Abbey, walking over the cantilevered bridge at Tintagel to King Arthur's castle, discovering the Stannon Stone Circle in the middle of the Cornwall countryside, and then on to Avebury and Stonehenge, relaxing in the Cross Bath Spa before touring The Roman Baths and more. It was a great trip." (See photo on page 70.)

BETH RUBENSTEIN continues to live in San Francisco and works in public policy for city government. She writes: "Though I still have Washington in my heart, I'm a Californian, too, and can't

resist a beautiful hike in Marin or the East Bay to witness this year's super bloom or see a bobcat and salamander on the trail. We go to the beach often with our dog, Moose, but beach here isn't Rehoboth! It's cold, moody, and often foggy—but expansive, gorgeous, and calming. I've been happy to be in touch with **Julie Wolf**, **Susan Bernstein**, and **Linda Sheffield**, and it was great to hang out with Jonathan Wilens and **Adam Stern** in San Francisco recently and share stories. I continue to be moved and warmed by the incredible people in the Class of 1977. I send lots of love to **Helen MacIsaac's** family: Helen had a very special sparkle and generosity. We will all miss her, and her memory is a blessing to all."

1978

PETER MACDONALD
pmacdona@skidmore.edu

BROOKE LEA and **ERIC BERGER** met unexpectedly at a poster presentation in April for graduating psychology seniors at Bethel University in Arden Hills, Minnesota. Brooke is a psychology professor at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Eric's daughter, who is majoring in psychology at Macalester, was one of the presenters. Eric is a resident of Minneapolis. Brooke and Eric send their greetings and best wishes to all their classmates and friends from Sidwell.

Class of 1978
REUNION
>>> Recap <<<<

It can certainly be said that a good time was had by all who attended the Class of '78 Reunion at the home of **Nicole Alfandre Halbreiner** on May 6. Many thanks to Nicole, **Bill Peyser**, **Marli**

Heimann Pasternak, and **Jodi Cafritz** for their efforts to track people down and organize such a great afternoon!

It was a wonderful turnout, including some classmates we had not seen for several *decades*, like **Jonathan Southard** who recently moved back to Maryland from California, and **Paul Condrell** who spent most of the last 30 years living in China, and is now back in the United States living in Chicago. Others came from all over the country: **Andrea Muffy Johnson Razzaghi** and **Hilary Nelson Jacobs** from California, **Cheryl Bascomb** from New Hampshire, **Missy Holbrook** from Cambridge, Massachusetts, **Chris Kramer** from Charlottesville, Virginia, and **Peggy Mason** from Chicago (special thanks to Peggy and her mom for hosting a delightful brunch on Sunday!). And, of course, there was a big contingent from the DC area. Why do we not see each other more often? Once again, we have all proven to be a warm, inspirational, kind, and fun group of folks.

Each time we are all together at these events, it is interesting to see where we are in our lives. For many years, it was the beginnings of careers, then for some it was marriage, and then it was



parenting kids. A bit of a change in focus this time around, with conversations about already-happened or soon-to-be retirements. Those who are already retired seem to be enjoying the new activities they have time for, and some others are eagerly anticipating the opportunity to branch out in new directions.

We heard from many of you who could not attend this year that you will definitely be at the 50th, so we are holding you to that! Over 70 classmates attended our 40th, so we have a record to beat (and don't think Jodi won't track you down)! Here's to the passage of time. We hope you all keep in touch and come to DC for our 50th!

—BILL PEYSER, JODI CAFRITZ, MARLI HEIMANN PASTERNAK, AND NICOLE HALBREINER

ZOE CARTER: “Not much has changed on my end since my last submission. I’m still living and playing music in Berkeley, California. I’m putting the final touches on a new album, working title *Before the Machine*, about missing life and the quality of time before we all had our heads attached to our computers and iPhones all day. Not a preachy song, I promise, but more about the melancholy I feel at how much technology has taken from us. And, of course, here comes AI... On another note, I just spent five fabulous days with **Susan English**. She came to California for a visit, hot off a successful show of her paintings in Houston, Texas. For anyone who hasn’t seen her work, check out her website: susanenglish.us. Her work is STUNNING—and the world has definitely figured that out. She has representation in three galleries, and her work is flying off the walls. In family news, my youngest daughter, Mira, just completed a Fulbright in Norway and is starting a PhD program in anthropology at Brown this fall. My oldest daughter, Anna, is a writer and editor and lives in nearby Bolinas. My partner, Mark Schapiro, is an environmental journalist and will be teaching at Bennington College this fall. In fact, I’ll be looking to book gigs on the East Coast, so shoot me any suggestions you have for venues near you—or better yet, organize a house concert. Have guitar and will travel! And if you’re in New York City on September 28, I’ll be playing at the Rockwood Music Hall so come on by. (Not to shamelessly plug myself, but if you have any desire to stay updated with gigs, you can follow me on BandsInTown at sidwell.pub/zoe and/or find me on Spotify. Making music my full-time gig is still pretty new and, like all artists, I struggle to find and expand my audience.) And Larry, good for you for all the much-needed work you and your wife are doing! See note from Larry Ottinger below.] It sounds both important for the world and meaningful for the two of you. And I am so sorry to hear about your mother. I loved the way you described her. All best to everyone. Be well and stay safe.”



LEFT: Hilary Kacser '78 RIGHT: Jay Howard, Bill Peyser, Peter Beverage, and Brooke Lea from the Class of 1978 had their own mini-reunion in Tennessee over Memorial Day weekend.



HILARY KACSER: “Reunion 2023 was awesome! Huge thanks to all who made it possible. Can’t wait to see each other in five years, if not sooner—before we turn 70 (OMG, Peter)! Remember back when the Friday night Zartman welcome gathering (which is no more) invited folks from adjoining year classes? From the class right below ours, **Eliza Newlin Carney '79**, has started a great organization, The Civic Circle, a nonprofit that brings democracy and civic learning alive for young children with music and drama shared in performances and after-school programs (theciviccircle.org). So many talented fellow alumni we have, including extremely accomplished filmmakers, so with some hubris I share a short 2022 documentary, *Warm Healing Waters*, which was instrumental in gaining much-needed services for one DC community (warmhealingwaters.wordpress.com). On Monday, May 22, I gratefully joined ExPats Theatre as they received the John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company at the Helen Hayes Awards. I appear with expatstheatre.com in *Scorched* by Wajdi Mouawad at Atlas Performing Arts Center, September 22 through October 15, 2023.” (See photo above.)

LARRY OTTINGER: “Sorry to miss Reunion events, got COVID and then a Paxlovid rebound (don’t take Paxlovid unless you really need it). Our son, Jake, graduated Franklin & Marshall and currently works with pre-k kids and lives with friends here in the DMV. Our daughter, Celia, is going to

be a senior at Brandeis and had a great time in a DIS semester program in Copenhagen and is studying psychology and education. My mother passed sadly just shy of her 92nd birthday with her characteristic elegance, wit, and strong political and social values. I was lucky to live close by to be there with and for her. My wife, Cinthia, is leading efforts on nonprofit data and transparency for better grantmaking, law enforcement against sham nonprofits, and other uses. I’m still trying to support enough organizers to mobilize the silent majority of Americans to protect democracy, economic justice, and the climate for future generations. In New York, my father is still at it. Best to all.”

DAVE SHAW: “It amazes me that it has been so long since high school. My wife, Annette, and I have lived in West Chester, Pennsylvania, for almost 40 years now and will be married 30 years next March. We have both worked for the Pharma industry for over 40 years and still do. Our son graduated from DeSales University two years ago with a film production degree. He has purchased a large format printing franchise that is booming. He also became engaged to his college sweetheart, a wonderful young woman. Hope to hear more from the class. And of course, if anyone has printing needs, please contact me.”

In Memoriam:

David McCandlish '78
February 18, 2022

1979

TED LEWIS

bethesdated@gmail.com

1980

WILLIAM RICE

williamrice63@gmail.com

ALICE COOGAN: “I became a grandmother in January and am overjoyed.”

MICHAEL HELLER: “I’m spending the summer in London where my wife, Debora, is shooting the second season of *The Diplomat*, a show on Netflix she created, writes, executive produces, and show-runs. After that, I have one more year as vice dean at Columbia Law School, and then I can (thankfully) go back to my regular professor life. My most recent book *Mine!* is now in paperback. For info: minethebook.com. My kids are in high school with the usual delights and complexities that entails. Happy to meet up with Sidwell friends if you’re in London or New York.”

LOUISA SCHNEIBERG HOLMAN: “I am still working away as the executive director of The Defiant Requiem Foundation, trying to educate the world about the insidious threat of the rise of anti-Semitism and all forms of hate and violence. In our own small way, we do our part using the foundation’s artistic performances, documentary films, and curriculum materials to remember the past, educate the present, and inspire the future. I just returned from Berlin, Germany, in early May after bringing our concert performance of *Hours of Freedom* to the Pierre Boulez Hall at the invitation of Claudia Roth, the German culture minister. It was an enormously moving and gratifying experience. I am still playing tennis and now pickleball, too (who isn’t?). I celebrated my 60th birthday last September with a family trip to Hawaii, which was wonderful. Steve and I will be married 39 years in June. Not bad! Warm regards to all.”

LISA IANNUCCI: “I’m still at the Jersey Shore, still live near **Andrea Meaney Donohue** but unfortunately rarely see her, and am still an academic librarian at Monmouth University. I’m continuing to prefer the slower pace of life here at this stage of the game, and am enjoying reconnecting with Sidwell Friends folks on social media.”

WILLIAM RICE: “Transit—buses, subways, trolleys, water taxis, gondolas—any public conveyance that moves passengers on a fixed route has long been a passion of mine. In January, I decided to make my obsession official by forming a MeetUp group, Transit Enthusiast of DC. Surprisingly diverse in its membership by race, gender, age, and otherwise (wouldn’t you expect just old white guys?), we embarked on multiple adventures in the first half of the year: taking Metro’s newly opened Silver line to farthest Northern Virginia; racing the H Street streetcar against the Metrobus that covers the same route (the bus won); transferring from the MARC train to Metrorail in New Carrollton; and welcoming back the Yellow line after an eight-month maintenance closure by riding it to the end of the line (we were on TV for that one!). Transit fascination is a typical trait of the neurodivergent, and there’s no shortage of those types (including the convener) in our group. But transit also appeals to those concerned about the environment, physical fitness, and better urban communities. I’m proud to be offering a forum in which all those interests can thrive and interact—and invite any interested local SFSers to join us!”

1981

ANDREW SZANTON

aszanton@rcn.com

KEITH HUNTER: “I remain very busy running a small computer services business focused on associations and other not-for-profits in Fairfax, Virginia. I am happily married since 1989 and the proud father of a son, 32, and daughter, 28, who just graduated from the Shenandoah University Performing Arts Leadership and Management master’s program. I’m taking a moment during a calm and beautiful Monday following Mother’s Day (spent with mom, 88) before the start of a remote work week from our occasional Rehoboth residence, shortly after President Biden’s spectacularly helicoptered exit, to send well wishes and best regards to friends.”

ANNE MINITER MCKAY: “I have become a grandma! So thrilled. I am also in the last year of finishing my Ph.D. in counseling as part of a final cap on being in the profession as a psychotherapist for over 20 years. I’m looking forward to teaching at the university level where I can share with newbies coming into the field. I am appreciating anyone else who’s ever done a dissertation—it’s definitely time intensive and I look forward to being done! I see Ruth Rainey fairly frequently in Sherwood. She is a gem, as always. Also, I recently caught up with Adam Bernstein. So nice to connect with old friends. I send my best to everyone in the class and look forward to a reunion at someone’s house



LEFT: Liz Champlin and Laura Diamond reunited with Ruth Rainey Shrum at her home in Annapolis, Maryland, in April 2023. **RIGHT:** Anne Minitier McKay '81, with her grandson, Kenny, and husband, Bruce

here in DC soon in the coming years. Everyone, take care!" (See photo on previous page.)

SUSAN POVICH: "Cheers from Brooklyn, New York. Big year this year, as my son graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and my daughter is graduating from high school and off to Tulane. My husband and I are still operating our restaurants, Red Hook Lobster Pound in Brooklyn and Urbanspace Vanderbilt in midtown, as well as two beach concessions in Rockaway Beach. We would love to see any classmates at any of our locations. We spend quite a bit of time in Jobos Beach, Puerto Rico. If any classmates are in PR, we would love to hear from you!"

DAVID WEINBERG: "Among my multitude of science pursuits, I am having particular fun with studying the origin of the elements, jumping my way around the periodic table as now astronomical observations make it possible to trace the history of one entry or another. In May, I was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, which is one of the most gratifying 'lifetime achievement' recognitions for a U.S. scientist. Last October, I joined in the 50th anniversary of the first college ultimate frisbee match (Princeton-Rutgers, just like football); sadly, my knees and hamstrings aren't really up to the challenge anymore, so my day of play took a month of recovery! My jazz-drummer daughter, Ellie, just finished her third year at Oberlin Conservatory, which is close enough to Columbus that we can make it to a few concerts each year. It's been great to learn jazz through her."

PETER WRAMPMEIER: "2022 was a busy year as my family worked to get our family home of 50 years sold after the passing of my dad (many thanks to those who reached out in support). I spent the fall commuting between Richmond and DC, but fortunately had time to meet up with **Elizabeth Champlin** for lunch at Bread & Chocolate and then visit All Saints Church in Chevy Chase, the church in which we were raised along with classmates **Kate Irvin** and **Edith Furber Zhang**." (See photos above.)



Peter Wrampelmeier '81 and Elizabeth Champlin '81 catch up.



1982

JONATHAN LEVINE
jlevine@sgtlaw.com

LILLI BILTCHIK GARCIA is happily living in Italy with her husband and two daughters.

1983

LINDA GAUS
gaushaus1965@verizon.net

EDITOR'S NOTE:

See Reunion Recap on the next page.

1985

HILARY DAYTON
hcdayton@gmail.com

NICOLE JANIN SHEEHAN: "Almost an empty-nester! Three out of our four children are now either in or have completed college, with only one more (a junior in high school) at home! Our eldest works as a software engineer in Boston, our second eldest works as a therapist in Boulder, Colorado, and our only daughter just completed her first year at Wake Forest University in North Carolina. I've been keeping very busy with my nonprofit work, largely focused on education, access to outdoor recreation in national parks, and environmental

conservation. We split our time (partially now, and more so once our youngest is in college) between Silicon Valley and Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Sidwell, my "true North" as I have called it, still holds a place dear in my heart. I recently joined the alumni committee for the capital campaign, which will build out the new Upper School campus and unify all three campuses (Lower, Middle, and Upper) at one site. Let me know if your travels bring you near either of my areas, as I would love to connect!"

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Learn more about the "Together We Shine" campaign at shine.sidwell.edu.

1986

LAURA LONDON
lauramlondon@yahoo.com

1987

TIP COFFIN
tip@teamcoffin.com

1988

LOUISE ANDREWS
louiseandrews@me.com

EDITOR'S NOTE:

See Reunion Recap on page 77.

Class of 1983
REUNION
 >>>> Recap <<<<



Hey Marge, have the cows come home yet? (If not, there may still be people hanging out at Bennett and Danielle's house!)

On Saturday May 6, the Class of 1983 had a most fabulous 40th Reunion at the home of our classmates **Bennett Goldberg** and **Danielle Ellis**. The party began at 1 p.m. and lasted into the early hours of Sunday morning, way past bedtime for many of us, but with 63 (!) classmates and a few brave plus-ones in attendance, there was a lot of socializing to be done. Aside from the fact that this was quite a party by any standard, with great food, music, and company, what was amazing to many of us was the connection we still feel to one another. Forty years ago (and many more for some of us), we were all in the same boat at the same time, we shared many formative experiences, and this was an opportunity to celebrate and renew that connection. Time was also spent remembering our classmate **Lloyd Webber**, who sadly passed away in 2020. Several members shared memories of Lloyd, followed by what was a very poignant minute of silence.

Attendees included everyone from "I've been to every Reunion" to "I've never been to a Reunion" and many people in between. And we're an extremely varied group; we have become doctors, lawyers, teachers, financial advisors, real estate moguls, executives of many kinds, government employees, IT and data science experts, museum curators, artists, writers, psychologists, and social workers, and there is even a priest among us. I'm sure I've forgotten at least a few professions, but the common thread that seems to unite many of us is a real dedication to making the world a better place, a very Sidwellian sentiment.

I think one of our classmates summed all of this up best. She wrote: "I can only begin to imagine all we have contributed to the world personally and professionally, the weddings, the divorces,

and more weddings. All the diapers we've changed, the parents we've buried, all the music lessons we've driven our kids to, and the performances and athletic events we've attended. The medical scares we've had, the cars we've owned and where we went in them, and the houses we've owned and the memories we made living there, the daycare centers and colleges we picked with care and caution—and sticker shock. The big career moves and accepting some of life's little disappointments. You name it: just life stuff. It is amazing, humbling to know people over this much of our lives, and to have them know you, because there are core things about you that do not change. We have now not only known each other, but at least by sight, we knew many of each other's parents, and we have met or known some of each other's kids—many of whom are now no longer kids! Whether or not we were super close friends, it's a small class, and we were all linked in some way. We all knew each other. The world was really different in 1983, and we have in common that we witnessed all of that, we lived through all of that."

The "electronic guest book" that many people obligingly filled out at Bennett and Danielle's house mirrors these sentiments many times over; in the end, it contained far more information than I can share here, but it indicates just how deep these feelings run. If you are a classmate interested in viewing the electronic guest book, or perhaps even in adding an entry to it yourself (for we would love to hear from people who were not able to make the reunion), please drop me a line at linda@maddocstranslation.com, and I will arrange access.

Once again, huge thanks to Bennett and Danielle, the Class of 1983 Reunion Committee, and everyone else who lent a hand (looking at you, **Lee Babcock!**).

—LINDA GAUS

Class of 1988

REUNION

>>> Recap <<<<

35 for '88: Triple the Fun

For the first time in memory if not history, Sidwell's Reunion Weekend did not feature the traditional Saturday night "class party." And yet members of the Class of 1988 who were in DC for the weekend had more opportunities to gather and catch up with each other than at any time since our senior spring 35 years ago. Props galore to our incredible hosts and the first-timers, Reunion regulars, spouses, and everyone else who made it, with extra credit to Sidwell's dedicated alumni team and the unbeatable spring weather.

Festivities kicked off Friday evening, May 5, with class cocktails in the Sledge Garden behind the Upper School, looking almost unchanged since our day. Thereafter until the wee hours, we enjoyed the hospitality and backyard of **Geoff Jones** and his wife, Kathryn, whose 3-year-old twins managed to angelically (atypically?) remain asleep for the duration. Saturday's centerpiece was hanging out poolside—no actual bathing suits were seen—chez **Vince Cohen** and his wife, Lisa. Their teenagers, Vincent "Vinnie" Cohen III '26 and Laila Cohen '28, made short cameo appearances and pretended to enjoy the stories that were shared about their school from 35 years ago. Along with the kind of casual conversation you can only really have with long-ago classmates, a highlight was gawking at Sidwell memorabilia busted out from yours truly's attic: old *Horizons*, the class directory, a poetry anthology from Mrs. Parker's 4th grade class, and a Middle School yearbook (lots of braces-filled smiles).

On campus, meanwhile, there were tours and talks, Frisbee on the upper field and hoops in the gym, a reflective Meeting for Worship, and a Saturday evening gala dinner that attracted only a light showing from the Class of '88. Fortunately, the fun was not over, thanks to a late-breaking Sunday brunch organized by **Rachel Stern Davis** and her husband, Derek, at her childhood home in Cleveland Park and graciously hosted by her mother, Jinny. Old photos, fresh bagels, and more talk with old friends was the perfect way to round out the weekend.

Winning the award for attending from afar was, once again, **Everett Hutt**, who tore himself away from his Paris wine cellar to jet in for the occasion.



Runner-up was **Jamie Wager**, who insisted the Hollywood writers' strike was purely coincidental to his travel schedule. Honorable mention goes to road warrior **Andy Carroll**, in DC for a rare interval amid wrangling war letters from U.S. troops and rallying American support for Ukraine. Visiting from down-ish South was **Margaret Tenille Myers**, employment lawyer extraordinaire in Nashville, and **Mark Wilson**, eminent historian of the U.S. military-industrial complex in Charlotte.

Only two classmates made the short trek down from New York: **Nica Strunk**, the lawyer to see if you have a property dispute in the Hamptons, and aforementioned **Rachel Davis**, whose artistic team produces 700 (!) shows in a year at an iconic venue in the Big Apple. But there was a four-strong cohort from New Jersey: baseball enthusiast and Kennebunkport visitor **Meredith Ashley**; avid runner and camper **Catherine Oliver Weimer**; Army outfitter **Mary Fairbairn Morgan**, telling it like it is and cracking us all up; and business strategist **Mai Abe**, whose son is following in his mother's footsteps by going to Japan for college after high school graduation.

Unsurprisingly, the largest contingent was from in and around the District, Maryland, and Virginia, aka the DMV. Deep breath now: **Louise Andrews**, deploying that smile daily as a movement and acting teacher; **Doug Bradshaw**, revamping his incredible women's history musical *Nineteen* in the post-pandemic era and streaming up a storm; legal maestro and generous two-time Reunion party host **Vo Cohen**; mountain biker and pro bono Sidwell lawyer **Chris Davies**; longtime locals **Mary Stuart**, **Scott Gregory** and **Karena Levy**; and **Brian Fox**, **Geoff Jones**, **Cathy Lee**, **Kathy Appelbaum Lowy**, and **Max Maccoby**, all transplants back to DC in recent-ish years after decades away (in the Bay Area, Wall Street, Scandinavia/Korea, Florida,

Continued on next page >

Class of 1988
REUNION

>>> Recap <<<<
(continued)



and Chicago, respectively). Another breath: **Stan Sinkford**, medical administrator and ER doctor; **Kristen Walton Wade**, teaching the Tudors to a next and often first generation of college students on the Eastern Shore; a sage **Greg Watson**, fighting for truth, justice, and medical

malpractice claims in Maryland; **Jeremy Weinberg**, going on two decades as a happy federal lawyer/bureaucrat; and educator **Matthew Wheelock**, who had pioneered teaching over Zoom well before the pandemic struck and the rest of us had ever heard the word “asynchronous.”

All in all, it was a blast of a weekend for the 20-something 50-somethings there, along with a smattering of noble spouses. The rest of you missed out and were missed (although many were represented, for better or for worse, by your 7th-grade selves in that old yearbook). Like Everett’s wine, reunions only get better with age—plan now to be at our 40th in May 2028. Hope to see everyone then!

—JEREMY WEINBERG

1989

ELIZABETH WYATT
ebwyatt@aol.com

1990

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

KIRSTEN OLSEN ANDERSEN: “My husband and I have been living back in Maryland for the past seven years, after 20 years in Los Angeles. I am working for Montgomery County in their Department of Health and Human Services as the administrator for programs that help meet the youth mental health crisis through therapy, case management, and youth development services for thousands of students and families in Montgomery County schools. For fun, I am working with our youth group at church and get to go on a one-week camping trip with them in June.”

KATJA LAMIA: “In the fall of 2021, I took on a new role as associate dean of the Ph.D. program at Scripps Research in La Jolla, California, where I also run a research lab studying circadian biology and the impacts of circadian disruption on health and disease. I enjoyed celebrating **Alexandra Schaffer Ryan**’s birthday with her on a recent weekend visit to Los Angeles.”

SAM RIGBY: “I am back teaching at a DC charter school called BASIS DC, down by the FBI building—teaching 5th graders physical geography and 12th graders an advanced class called “Natural Disasters.” So, I get to nerd out about rocks a lot, which is nice. I’ve been in McLean, Virginia, for about six years, and still haven’t fully gotten used to being on the wrong side of the Potomac.”

1992

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

EMILY PASTER: “For spring break, my husband, our 16-year-old son, Jamie, and I traveled with another family to Portugal. We absolutely loved

everything about this Iberian country, but one of the highlights was seeing **Maia Horta** and her family who live in Lisbon. Maia, who is a registered tour guide when she is not busy painting, toured us around the neighborhood of Belém—where her grandparents used to operate a newspaper kiosk—on one morning and introduced us to her favorite pastry. A few days later, we met up with Maia, her husband, Tomas, and her daughters, Isabel and Evie, for a seaside lunch. It truly made our trip that much more special to spend time with Maia and her delightful family.” (See photo on next page.)

VANESSA WRUBLE: “Taking a hiatus from political activism, I’ve recently opened an art and animal sanctuary called Kaleidoscope Desert (@kaleidoscopedesert) in the Morongo Valley near Joshua Tree, California, where we currently host over 100 rescued and rehomed animals, including mini-horses, mini-cows, emus, goats, pigs, peacocks, a giant sulcata tortoise, many dogs, a turkey, and plenty of chickens, ducks, guinea pigs, and guinea hens. They roam among the guests, who stay in our four themed guesthouses, an Antique Barn, an Art Deco Guesthouse, a Star

1991

TIM HANRAHAN
tim.hanrahan@gmail.com

Tower, and a Floating Container. Everyone is invited to our magic portal (kaleidoscopedesert.com)!" (See photo on right.)

1994

BETSY STOEL
estoel@gmail.com

NOAH BICKART has recently been named inaugural Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Chair in Jewish Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at John Carroll University outside of Cleveland, Ohio, where he teaches midwestern Catholics how to read New Testament and Quran. His exceedingly boring monograph, *The Scholastic Culture of the Babylonian Talmud*, was published late last year.

1995

MARI PALMER
mari.mcdonald@gmail.com

GREG ZUMAS: "I live in Los Angeles with my wife and three kids, ages 2, 4, and 6, who along with my dog, Sonny, keep us very busy. I'm lucky to spend a lot of time with my close friends

Gareth Schweitzer, Doug Thornell, and the three brothers **Jon Bernthal, Tom Bernthal '91,** and **Nick Bernthal '98."**

1996

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

LINDSAY HARRIS: "After many years in Rome, my family and I are moving back to DC. I'll be starting a new job as head of the Research and Scholars' Center at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. If anyone finds themselves in the museum's galleries, or just wants to say hello, I'd be delighted to reconnect!"

In Memoriam:

Alexa Kuuskraa '96
March 13, 2023

1997

ELLEN CORNELIUS ERICSON
eccornie@gmail.com

KIBWE CHASE-MARSHALL lives and works in downtown Los Angeles, California, where he and a colleague have partnered to launch **LANCE PIERRES**, a collection of elevated,



LEFT: Maia Horta '92 and Emily Paster '92 **CENTER:** A matriarch emu. Later (her brother, born first, is named Early), strolls through the main courtyard toward the Star Tower and the Antique Barn at Kaleidoscope Desert, the new animal sanctuary opened by Vanessa Wruble '92.



Members of the Class of 1993 celebrate their 30th Reunion.

essential accessories. Their design philosophy hinges on fewer cuts, fewer seams, less unnecessary hardware, more intentional details, more meticulous selection of materials, and greater attention to timely/timeless taste. They operate independently and engage equitably with local vendors, caring just as much about how LP makes as what LP makes. You can view and shop the collection at lancepierrez.com. (See photo on next page.)

MAX MOYER and Sara Moyer celebrated the high school graduation of their daughter, Ella Blue, and her upcoming

launch to Savannah College of Art and Design to pursue her artistic endeavors. (See photo on next page.)

1998

NOAH FEINSTONE
nfeinstone@gmail.com

2000

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

ELIZA MCCOY: “I’d love to offer a note of gratitude to my classmates as my oldest daughter, **Gabriela ’28**, a rising 8th grader, recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of her brain tumor surgery by pitching a full game of softball for the mighty Quakers! I am grateful for all of the support and love we’ve felt from near and far. All of this while I transitioned to a new industry, driving anti-human trafficking efforts in the hospitality sector as vice president of prevention and awareness at the AHLA Foundation. Looking forward to connecting at a reunion do-over!”

Class of 1998
REUNION
>>> Recap <<<



Over 30 of us from the Class of '98 gathered at different times and places both on and off campus throughout Reunion weekend! Classmates came from the area and from further away: California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wyoming. We owe special thanks to **Noah Feinstone** and Laurie Feinstone for hosting us at their home on Friday night, and to **Kristin Turza Campbell** and the Turza family for hosting us for lunch at Congressional on Saturday. Many of us attended the on-campus dinner on Saturday night, and were inspired by the lives and accomplishments of the Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Our class rarely misses an opportunity to gather at Cactus Cantina, so many



of us wrapped up Reunion by closing down the restaurant on Saturday night. It was wonderful to see everyone, to catch up, and to continue celebrating happy news like recent moves and expanding families. Much may have happened in the last 25 years, but one thing that remains the same is the warmth and welcome of the Class of '98. Can't wait for our 30th!

**—NINA SANTIAGO, JARED HENDRICKS,
AND NOAH FEINSTONE**

SPOTLIGHT

“He Was Magical”

Andrés Felipe Vergara '98 (1980-2022) is remembered by his family.

Andrés Felipe Vergara was magical. He seemed to come from another world—a kinder one, a wiser one, an ancient one. His soul and smile were magnetic, and he connected with people with an honesty and love that disarmed and enveloped. Empathic and just, quick to laugh and quick to forgive, playful and joyful, he cultivated deep friendships, and deep love.

Born in Brazil to Colombian parents, Andrés was bilingual and multicultural, with an ability to see the world through multiple points of view. His insatiable curiosity led him to dive deeply into intellectual pursuits (ranging from chess, to literature, to spiritual traditions), Chinese medicine, and spiritual practices (a life-long meditator and an ordained Taoist priest). But most of all, he was an extraordinarily loving and generous friend, son, brother, husband, and father, always lifting those around him. His greatest love and achievement is Gabriel, his beautiful son with his wife, Michele, to whom he was wholly and happily dedicated. Andrés was an immensely loving father, making his son the most nutritious, home-made meals, teaching him to ride bikes and do Qi Gong, and reveling in the daily wonder of what he called the most noble job there is: parent. As a son, Andrés would often put his arms around his own parents and say, “Love you infinity!” He was the best brother in the universe; he captained a marvelous childhood with his little sister, always including her in all his games and friendships, always creating adventures to share (often involving frogs).

All that he did, he did deeply. He did not engage in small talk. When he met someone, he would ask them something like, “What makes you happy?” He did not care for conventions, or about being cool. He was a naturalist, a saxophone player, and an adventurer. He was brave. In Beijing (in the early 1990s, when there were no Westerners, and people stopped him in the street to touch his eyelashes), he hopped on a local bike and took off exploring. In the Amazon rainforest as a 9-year-old, he held a caiman in his hands (by the jaws, in just the right spot, so that it was immobilized). As a brand new 5th grader at Sidwell, he gave a talk to the whole Middle School at assembly about our family’s adventure to the Amazon. He had the courage to live an authentic life, not guided by norms or expectation, but by love and truth. He pursued Chinese medicine to help others, using ancient, holistic practices. He earned two master’s degrees (in acupuncture and in medical Xi Gong), his license in acupuncture, studied in China, and received a Diplomate in Oriental Medicine, the highest level of achievement in Chinese medicine. But no degree can impart the humanity, love, and care that he brought to his work.

It is an immense loss for us, for the world, and there will always be a hole in our hearts and in our family. To those who knew him, we ask you this: Let Andrés continue to inspire you to lead purposeful, intentional, brave lives, never caught in drudgery or convention.

And finally, to Ran Ran, up in the stars: We love you infinity.

—SINTANA VERGARA '00, ISABEL VERGARA P '98, '00, AND WALTER VERGARA P '98, '00

2001

ELIZA ORLINS
eorlins@gmail.com

2002

CAMILO ACOSTA
cbacosta@gmail.com

2003

NAABIA OFOSU-AMAAH
n.ofosuamaah@gmail.com

KATIE MATHEWS
katiecmathews@gmail.com



LEFT: Kibwe Chase-Marshall '97 has a new essential accessories business in LA called Lance Pierres with some seriously sweet handbags. RIGHT: Max Moyer '97 and his wife, Sara Moyer, celebrate the high school graduation of their daughter, Ella Blue.



Members of the Class of 2003 celebrate their 20th Reunion.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

months with Owen before returning to teaching part-time in the fall.” (See photo below.)

SHAW MCKEAN has teamed up with **Evan Brown '13** to build *folsom*, a social app designed to promote authentic human-to-human connection and bonding. We took separate paths to *folsom*, but very quickly uncovered a shared desire to normalize vulnerability and help people express themselves. And while our early careers took different shapes, it's not hard to draw a connection between our Quaker meeting experiences and what we hope *folsom* might become. Sign-up to learn more about what we're building at folsomfeelings.com.

2004

CAT DAWSON
catvdawson@gmail.com

2007

ALEX AKMAN
Akman.alex@gmail.com

2005

RANDA TAWIL
randa.may.tawil@gmail.com

2008

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

2009

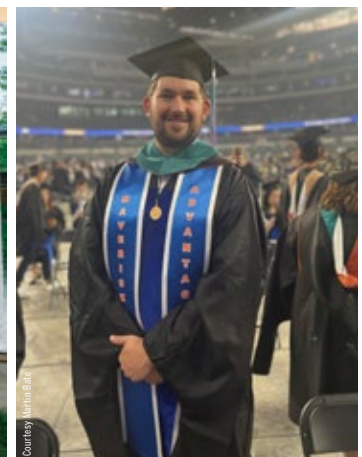
JAMES PARKS
jhpiv13@gmail.com

2006

JOHN SANDERS
jsanders36@gmail.com

SARAH BUSH HECHLER: “Jeff and I are thrilled to announce the arrival in February of our son, Owen James Hechler. Parenthood is a lot of work, of course, but quite wonderful. We still live in Ypsilanti, Michigan. I am currently taking the semester off from my work as a high school social studies teacher in order to have a solid six

MARTIN BATE: “I'm happy to let y'all know that this month I completed my master's in city and regional planning at the University of Texas at Arlington at Globe Life Field—the same place the Rangers thrill (or more accurately, disappoint) us baseball fans!” (See photo below.)



LEFT: Sarah Bush Hechler '08, Jeff Hechler, Owen Hechler **CENTER:** Members of the Class of 2008 celebrate their 15th Reunion. **RIGHT:** Martin Bate '09 gets his master's in city and regional planning at the University of Texas at Arlington.



LEFT: (L-R) Pablo Rojas '07, Sonia Wahi '09, Razia Hamid '09 and her fiancé, Vince, Rachel Max '09, Peri Tenenbaum '09, and Brooke Baldinger '09 celebrate Hamid's engagement.



RIGHT: A.J. Parks '09 captures sunset on the East River with the Medrano-Parks-Valdivieso family.

RAZIA HAMID: “My partner, Vince, and I celebrated our engagement with a great crew of Sidwell friends in March at BierWax Queens in New York City.” (See photo above.)

A.J. PARKS: “I organized a birthday dinner cruise for my grandfather-in-law for his 80th birthday! We got the whole family together with four generations on a beautiful sunset overlooking the city. Although he and his wife have lived in Brooklyn since 1979, they had not yet seen the city from this angle. All family members have been living in the New Jersey/New York region, and my wife and I wanted to make this end-of-spring birthday special. Everyone had a great night, and we all got to spend time together for the first time since the pandemic started. Cheers to everyone making it on the boat in a New York minute.” (See photo on left.)

2010

KAI ZHENG

kaihuazheng@yahoo.com

JERRY WERTHEIM reports that eight members of the Class of 2010 and their partners met up for a ski trip in Salt Lake City, Utah, in February where they spent five days in an AirBnB together. **Ian Steckler** led the cooking of some delicious meals supported by everyone else in the house. Everyone's competitive sides came out over a

variety of games, fueled by drinks and many years of friendship and historical shenanigans. (See photo below.)

2011

KIKI OCHIENG

akinyi.ochieng@gmail.com

CAROLYN PEYSER: “I loved celebrating my favorite neighbors, **Amir Nasr** and Shoshana Nasr, at their wedding in Baltimore in May! I've lived in Baltimore for the past five years and manage print and

audio marketing campaigns for Hims and Hers. My husband is now a tenure track assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins, and we're looking forward to staying in the DC/Baltimore area long term!” (See photo on next page.)

2012

SALENA HESS

salenahess@outlook.com

JOHN VERGHESE

jjv2116@columbia.edu



LEFT: Several members of the Class of 2010 and their partners hitting the slopes in Utah: **Matt Bovbjerg** (far left), **Ian Steckler** (third from left), **Jerry Wertheim** (fourth from left), **Mary Bryan** (front right), **Grant Wong** (fourth from right), **John Allman** (third from right), **Nick Jones** (2second from right), **Peter Suyderhoud** (far right)



LEFT: Nick Fernandez '11 wed Cydney Hargis at Savage River Lodge in Frostburg, Maryland, this April. Alex Fernandez '08, Sam Stevens '11, Mark Ossolinski '11, officiant Chris Borges '11, Nick Fernandez '11, Cate Livingston Fernandez '76, Rick Livingston '76, Ben Stevens '13, Chris Stevens '13 **CENTER:** Amir Nasr '11, his wife, Shoshana Nasr, Carolyn Peyser '11, and her husband, Mark Meiselbach **RIGHT:** Madeleine Moran Mackin '14 on her wedding day, with bridesmaids Sonya Bessalel '14 and Kay Garlick-Ott '14

2013

CECILIA LAGUARDA

xenia.cecilia.laguarda@gmail.com

2014

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

MADELEINE MORAN MACKIN: “Six years and a day after our first date at Lawrence University, I married my love, Elliot Mackin. Our wedding was celebrated at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, on a lovely, misty day. My best friends

from Sidwell Friends, Sonya Bessalel and Kay Garlick-Ott, stood alongside me as bridesmaids. As our marriage was blessed, Elliot and I could feel that we were surrounded by so much love. It was truly a perfect day.” (See photo above.)

2015

EMILY MILLER

emillerusa@gmail.com

In Memoriam:

Cana Anduze '15

February 26, 2023

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.

2017

MILAN VIVANCO

vivancomilan@gmail.com

2018

BROOKE HARRINGTON

bharrington22@amherst.edu

2019

SOPHIE PEIKEN

speikin2019@gmail.com

2020

TUNDAA DORJNAMJIM

tdorjnamjim20@gmail.com

SOPHIE SMALL

sophieannsmall0@gmail.com

2022

RASHI GUPTA

rashigupta704@yahoo.com



Members of the Class of 2013 celebrate their 10th Reunion.



Members of the Class of 2018 celebrate their 5th Reunion.

Save the Date!

REUNION



N

MAY 3-4, 2024

for Classes ending in 4 and 9

Join us on campus for Reunion Weekend May 3-4, 2024. We look forward to reminiscing about your time as a student, sharing the life of the School today, and envisioning the future of Sidwell Friends together. Stay tuned for more details this fall!

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.

Please visit plannedgiving.sidwell.edu and consult your financial advisors about tax and other considerations. For more information, contact Amanda Meter, Senior Director of Individual Giving at (202) 537-8448 or metera@sidwell.edu.





Words with Friends: Show Swappers

ACROSS

- 1 Congest
- 6 Clothing company founded by Daymond John
- 10 Aimed for, as an electoral position
- 13 Type of protein-building acid
- 14 Sportscaster Rich
- 15 Possible sleepless night
- 16 Times when you should NOT go to Blockbuster?
- 18 ___ crit (college class)
- 19 Give a down payment?
- 20 Between ports
- 22 Big party
- 24 Slink or prow!?
- 28 Commentary pieces in the paper
- 30 Transcendentalist poet who went by Waldo
- 31 "Beyond the Story: 10-Year Record of ___" (upcoming book release)
- 32 Classic dramatic cry
- 36 Architect Saarinen
- 37 Convention center attraction, or (when read another way) what you have to do to arrive at each of this puzzle's theme answers
- 39 Without
- 42 Gripe about
- 43 Make a silly face
- 46 Part of many a blended family
- 48 Catherine of "Home Alone"
- 50 What a nepo baby might sleep in?
- 54 Homers, often?
- 55 Telenovela, e.g.
- 56 Month with no federal holidays
- 58 Philharmonic sect.
- 59 Stylist's concern?
- 64 Safari runner?
- 65 Jet's sister publication
- 66 Big name in riding mowers
- 67 Mimic
- 68 Periods of time longer than eras
- 69 From years past

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13						14					15		
16					17	18					18		
		19							20	21			
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	55						56			57			
58				59	60	61						62	63
64				65						66			
67				68						69			

Puzzle by Aimee Lucido

DOWN

- 1 Stick with a syringe
- 2 Reddit Q&A
- 3 Torsos
- 4 Like emails with a bold subject line, in Gmail
- 5 Double dactyl, for one
- 6 Name meaning "faithful"
- 7 Home of D.C. and S.F.
- 8 Queen ___ ("Renaissance" artist's nickname)
- 9 Treacherous
- 10 Drop, like a new book
- 11 Style of sunglasses worn by Biden
- 12 Pickleball barrier
- 14 "At Last" singer James
- 17 This minute
- 21 Use an Allen wrench on, say
- 22 Lump
- 23 Fitting
- 25 Kutcher's character on "That '70s Show"
- 26 City that lends itself to Warren Buffett's nickname
- 27 ___-cone
- 29 Bygone geopolitical abbr.
- 33 Small drum
- 34 It might make you swole?
- 35 Apollo craft, for short
- 37 Uber-competitive
- 38 "To See the Sky" artist
- 39 Univ. research grantor
- 40 Idling
- 41 It's often missing in a non-apology
- 43 Restaurant boss
- 44 Link letters
- 45 Propane, for one
- 47 "Over It" singer Katharine
- 49 Hiker's stopover
- 51 Does sock repair
- 52 Ricky's wife
- 53 Sense of self-worth
- 57 Reverse
- 58 "Chandelier" singer
- 60 Blood grouping system, for short
- 61 Charged atom
- 62 Bauxite or hematite
- 63 "When They See Us" actor Cariou

Outfoxed? Find the solution at sidwell.edu/wordswithfriends.

A photograph of three Black women standing on a stage, holding hands in a line. They are dressed in black t-shirts and black pants. The woman in the center is looking upwards with her mouth slightly open. The woman on the left is looking towards the center, and the woman on the right is looking towards the center. The lighting is a deep blue, creating a dramatic and somber atmosphere. The background is dark, and the floor appears to be a stage floor.

Feels Right

THE ANNUAL BLACK STUDENT UNION PRODUCTION HARNESSSES SATIRE TO MAKE A POINT.

This spring, the Black Student Union performed their annual student-written production—one of the most anticipated events on campus each year. This year, the show was titled *How Does This Make You Feel?* Held in the Caplin Theater, the performance featured students from all three divisions of Sidwell Friends in a satirical play about the experiences of African American students during the school day. This year's show was inspired by George C. Wolfe's play *The Colored Museum*, which premiered in 1986 at the Crossroads Theatre Company. Back then, *The New York Times* review noted: "The shackles of the past have been defied by Mr. Wolfe's fearless humor, and it's a most liberating revolt." *How Does This Make You Feel?* similarly used satire to draw attention to Black life at Sidwell Friends—and it was just as brave and funny.

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Anthony La Fleur

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📷 MAY THE 4TH

All were encouraged to let their Light shine on Star Wars Day. Comments included “❤️❤️❤️🙌” and “So fun!🥰”



📷 CREWS CONTROL

A video showcasing an early morning crew practice earned comments like, “Let’s go!!” “Awesome job @sfsrowers! And amazing video,” and “Gosh this is so cool”



📷 AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

Artist and inventor Ken Hakuta P '98, '00, '02 joined the Lower School for AAPI Heritage Month. Comments included “I remember him on Saturday morning children’s shows!!”



📷 2023 CLASS PHOTO

The newest alumni already have fans: “CONGRATS to the CLASS of 2023!! Enjoy your Next Journey towards Changing the World!!!! 💖” “The best!!!”



📷 WE HAVE PRIDE

The Lower School celebrates LGBTQ Pride Month with joy, community, and color. “One of the reasons I 🌈 Sidwell Friends. 🥰”



📷 BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPS—AGAIN

The boys’ and girls’ basketball teams won their brackets, “bringing the Quakers two more titles and putting an exclamation point on a remarkable two-year stretch.”