

SIDWELL

MAGAZINE FALL/WINTER 2023

Friends

Home Again

For these alumni, teaching at Sidwell Friends has its own special rewards

MANOR HOUSE

PLUS

Eric Singletary '93
and **Logan West '01**
on coaching at
Sidwell Friends

The Advocate:
How **Lucy Owen '87**
helped make oral
contraception an over-
the-counter reality

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ON THE COVER

Marilena Siegel '14,
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Edith Zhang '81—
alumni and Lower
School teachers.

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From the Editor

SACHA ZIMMERMAN P '29

This issue puts a spotlight on the many alumni who now work at Sidwell Friends. In “Coming Home,” on page 40, we talk to several (but not all!) of the alumni who now teach in every division of the School. Some saw it as a goal from the start; others are surprised to be back; all, however, are glad they are. The Sidwell Friends podcast *Lives That Speak* also featured two alumni who are now coaches at Sidwell Friends. You can read an edited transcript of that conversation in “Home Court Advantage” on page 34. One theme that came through both pieces is the special nature of a school that attracts its own alumni to come back—a trait these alumni did not see at other schools. And they don’t just come back to teach: Sidwell Friends alumni have leadership roles in every corner of the School, from promoting service to advancing equity and diversity.

Speaking of returning to Sidwell Friends, this autumn’s Homecoming celebrations saw alumni cheer on the Quakers during a memorable, victorious, and rainy home football game. Luckily, hot apple cider in the Alumni Fan Zone and sweet treats for sale from student clubs gave the day a cozy vibe. (See “Homecoming Made a Splash,” on page 16.)

This autumn also saw Rubenstein Guest Artist Nekisha Durrett, a DC native, arrive on campus. Durrett’s work, which is on display in the Kogod Arts Center, pays particular attention to those who are often left behind by history. For example, *Magnolia*—one of the works in Kogod—highlights the names of Black women who died at the hand of police or while in police custody. Using the actual leaves of magnolia trees, she told students, was evocative of the song “Strange Fruit,” Billie Holiday’s haunting anthem about lynching. Durrett says this work makes her both an artist and an activist. (See “An Artist with History,” on page 22.)

Activism is certainly not new to Sidwell Friends, but every now and then something special happens to clarify that spirit. During the summer of 2023 the Food and Drug Administration approved the first-ever over-the-counter (OTC) oral contraceptive, Opill. Now women and girls across the nation can access the most effective OTC contraceptive available without the hurdles of appointments, doctors, prescriptions, insurance, travel, and other barriers. Opill didn’t appear overnight. It is the result of years of effort by people like Lucy Owen ’87, whose expertise and passion paved the way for approval. (See “Living Their Values: A Tenacious Advocate,” on page 30.) Look for Opill to hit shelves some time in 2024.



SIDWELL FRIENDS

ON CAMPUS



Toward Redemption, Joy, and Peace

We must stand between reality and possibility
amid the struggles that try to pull us apart.

BY BRYAN GARMAN

As we enter a season focused on redemption and peace, I am reminded of Friends' long commitment to nonviolence, a testimony Quaker writer and activist Parker Palmer describes beautifully: "To be in the world nonviolently means learning to hold the tension of opposites, trusting that the tension itself will pull our hearts and minds open to a third way of thinking and acting."

Whether caused by terrorism or the military response, the death and suffering witnessed in Israel and Gaza have pulled our hearts apart. In the Quaker tradition, Sidwell Friends asks students to reflect on the Peace Testimony, which implores us and all parties in this conflict to embrace George Fox's creed of living "in the virtue of that life and power that [takes] away the occasion of all wars." And so, we hope for an immediate end to the violence and hold the suffering, the captive, and the slain in the Light.

Hate crimes and bigotry have deepened our pain. Antisemitism, which was rising dangerously before the war, has spread virulently across college campuses, political demonstrations, and social media. Disillusioning responses from prestigious universities have generated justifiable questions and outrage. The pernicious presence of antisemitism has understandably caused fear in our Jewish community and beyond, resurrecting a long history of persecution, pogroms, and, for many, the Holocaust. The disturbing resurgence of this hatred requires our attention, vigilance, and action. We must prevent history from repeating itself, support Jewish friends, and speak against hate.

Anti-Palestinian bias and violence, as well as Islamophobia, demand equal concern and action. In November, a Vermont resident brazenly shot three 20-year-old alumni of Ramallah Friends School, from which, thanks to the vision and memory of former Sidwell Friends parent Sami Suleiman and family, we are privileged to host a

student each year. In this hateful act, the assailant targeted these college students because they spoke Arabic and wore keffiyeh scarves, symbols of their Palestinian identity. Hisham Awartani remains paralyzed from this crime, which has traumatized Ramallah Friends, the Palestinian community, and students, adults, and alumni at Sidwell Friends. We must stand against this injustice, support Muslim and Palestinian friends, and educate for peace.

Amid these circumstances, we are called to find a third way that avoids the dangers of moral absolutism without slipping into the pitfalls of relativism, and yet is wide enough to accommodate the multiple truths and histories our community holds. When Micah Hendler '07, a Jewish alumnus and musician-in-residence at Adas Israel Congregation, and his Palestinian colleague, Amer Abu Arqub, visited Sidwell Friends in early December, they provided a roadmap toward peace.

In 2012, Hendler founded the Jerusalem Youth Chorus (JYC), a group that assembles Israeli and Palestinian students who, through music, develop friendships, engage in dialogue, and imagine possibilities for building peace with justice. In October, JYC considered pausing its efforts, but students and parents beseeched them to continue.

Speaking to the Upper School, Hendler and Abu Arqub, JYC's executive director, conducted a master class in deep

"In this season of miracles, renewal, and resolutions, I hope we might follow our brave students, whose lights shine so brightly. I hope their radiance will illuminate your lives, and deliver redemption, joy, and peace to all who seek it."

listening. They instructed students to trade stories about a moment when they were uplifted in community. Each student was asked to listen empathetically to a partner, and then retell the partner's story in precise detail.

When Abu Arqub and Hendler debriefed the group, students shared compassionate and thoughtful insights, which Hendler distilled into three lyrics—"Listen to understand"; "I got to know my friends"; and "Talk to each other, not past each other"—each one sung by a third of the room. Community deepened as we sang and reminded ourselves to practice these simple but easily forgotten principles. Before the day ended, Abu Arqub and Hendler facilitated conversations between Jewish and Palestinian students who courageously volunteered to dialogue.

To witness the peace testimony, Palmer holds that we must have courage to stand in the liminal space "between reality and possibility." If we fail to stand in this gap, we remain blind to the third way, to building bridges that carry us incrementally closer to the ideal of peace with justice. Putting ourselves in this position requires us to hold uncomfortable tensions, perhaps even fear. But if we hold firm, we can together travel on the peaceful pilgrimage we all have a responsibility to make.

The road is long, and in January we will announce programs that will provide milestones for our ongoing trek. Hendler and Abu Arqub have only begun their journey with us, but by inviting our students to walk with them, they have already buoyed spirits and rediscovered hope. In this season of miracles, renewal, and resolutions, I hope we might follow our brave students, whose lights shine so brightly. I hope their radiance will illuminate your lives and deliver redemption, joy, and peace to all who seek it. ✨



Peace silk scarfs created by Lower School students lined the gymnasium in celebration of Diwali.

And We're Back

Sidwell Friends starts the year with diversity and celebration.

In September, Sidwell Friends' Back-to-School Picnic swept the community into the start of the academic year with games, contests, and fajitas—all to the sounds of the faculty jazz ensemble. Even Star Fox made an appearance to the delight of the youngest students. The enthusiastic vibe matched that of the first day of school, when the students arrived on campus with energy and excitement, high-fives and hugs. Seniors entered through a fringe of gold foil curtains before taking a selfie with Upper School Principal **Mamadou Guèye**, while



the youngest learners celebrated adventures to come with parents and new friends. The student body itself is more diverse than ever before: 59 percent are students of color. And 23 percent are on financial aid with an average grant of \$36,063. There are 1,143 kids enrolled at Sidwell Friends with an almost perfect 50/50 split between males and females—all of whom are from the District, Maryland, or Virginia—but for one: We've welcomed an exchange student from Ramallah this year. To look around at the picnic festivities was to see a kaleidoscope of Sidwell Friends swag and high spirits that give lie to the "back-to-school" routine. Here, each year marks the start of a new adventure.



Photos by Cameron Whitman

Tell Them a Story

A neuroscientist explains what brain science tells us about how students learn.

What do faculty and staff learn on a day dedicated to professional development? At Sidwell Friends, faculty and staff gathered in October for a keynote address from noted neuroscientist and educator **Jared Horvath**, who made the point that “learning is a choice.” And if that’s true, he asked, how can teachers get students to make the choice to learn? The answer lies in storytelling that better engages students in the topics at hand and gives them a sense of greater agency over their own education, said Horvath, who is the director of the Science of Learning Group in Melbourne, Australia. “Stories literally drive your perceptions, not the other way around,” said Horvath. Teachers should change their stories, boost engagement and debate among classmates, change the rules (ask students to critique concepts and explore their boundaries), and then give explicit feedback. Similarly, grades without context, all but ensures that the brain will dump information after a test. And Horvath posited that this has enormous implications for how students learn—are they being presented with rote facts or being told a story about the history of the world? The latter, he said, helps



Horvath speaks to faculty and staff.

create permanence in the memory. “The brain sees things as you think they should be, not necessarily the way they are,” said Horvath. “What are the stories you use to make sense of the world?”

Horvath’s themes carried over in breakout sessions with psychologist **Rebecca Resnick**, who talked about executive-functioning hacks and how to approach different learning styles. In other rooms, psychologist **Linda Fleming McGhee** explored the impact of stress on well-being and performance, and **Andrew Watson** broke down the brain science of attention and memory.

We All Shine On

Support builds for the campaign for a new Upper School, financial aid, and student experiences.

The Sidwell Friends *Together We Shine* campaign has now raised more than 90 percent of its \$152 million goal.

“We’re thrilled by the unprecedented support the School has received from alumni, current and former parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, and friends,” says Assistant Head of School for Advancement **Tara Arras**. “Though we still have a way to go to ensure the success of our efforts, I cannot say enough about the generosity of our community.”

Together We Shine is the largest fundraising campaign in the School’s 140-year history, and represents an unprecedented opportunity to transform the learning experience for generations to come. The campaign, which will conclude on June 30, 2024, will transform the DC campus, boost financial-aid resources, and support initiatives that deepen students’ ethical engagement with the world.



Rendering of the new Upper School entrance

The campaign’s most visible impact will be the creation of an Upton campus as the home for the new Upper School. Work on the renovation of the Upton building is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2024, with an opening anticipated in 2026.

Since July 2015, 6,150 members of the community have made a gift; 2,678 were first-time donors. Additionally, of the 27,712 contributions made, more than 21,000 were less than \$1,000.

To learn more about the campaign and how you can support the efforts, visit shine.sidwell.edu.



The view from Pendle Hill

The Pilgrim

Kindergarten teacher Denise Coffin travels to England—and back in time—to bring Quakerism alive in the classroom.

This past summer, Sidwell Friends kindergarten teacher **Denise Coffin** took her third Quaker pilgrimage with the Friends Council on Education (FCE). For seven days, 19 Friends and Quaker educators gathered in northwestern England (often called “1652 Country”) to explore Quakerism’s past—and how it relates to the present.

For the FCE, the idea of the trip is to give participants a broader sense of the Quaker faith and to meet British Quakers in Lancashire and the Lake District who help make the travelers’ exploration of Quaker history “vivid and exciting.” The trip also provides a sense of timelessness as pilgrims attend a Meeting for Worship where Quakerism founder George Fox once worshipped—in a meeting house that remains relatively untouched since 1695. In fact, 17th-century meeting houses are a primary feature of the pilgrimage, including one with a special area for pet dogs to wait while parishioners worshipped. Such landmarks were gripping, says Coffin: “Even the silence felt old.”



Coffin

For Coffin, the experience lent propinquity to the seminal Quaker characters of history. “I feel called to learn about those people and the events that led up to and played a large role in this story,” Coffin writes of early Quakerism in an article for FCE. “I make this trip so that I can take the story back and share it as a spark for my young learners and the part they’ll play in their own journeys.”

The group climbed Pendle Hill, where George Fox first had a vision of gathering people together from across the land. As Coffin writes:

For George Fox, this was a tough hike. He was drawn to Pendle Hill for some reason that we may speculate about but do not know the real reason why. He tells us that reaching the top is a bit of a transformative experience. He tells us that what he needs to do next is revealed to him on Pendle Hill. I feel similarly inspired. The beauty is remarkable, and the terrain is green brush and grass, rough stone paths, and the driest, dustiest dirt. ... I held a rock in my hand and noticed that it was jagged and dusty and warm. You can feel history here. For me, Pendle Hill was magical, the best way to launch our journey.

**“I MAKE THIS TRIP SO THAT I CAN
TAKE THE STORY BACK AND SHARE
IT AS A SPARK FOR MY YOUNG
LEARNERS AND THE PART THEY’LL
PLAY IN THEIR OWN JOURNEYS.”**

—DENISE COFFIN

They also visited Margaret Fell’s Swarthmoor Hall, one of the places where the earliest Quakers would meet and where Fox would later live after he wed Fell. Notably, the group also toured Lancaster Jail and Castle, where Fox was once jailed for being “politically dangerous.” Coffin caught a spark of that troublemaking spirit—which early Quakers were known for—and decided she’d like to make “good trouble again for the sake of today and the future.” She cites Quakerism’s intersection of joy, social justice, action, and community as vital concepts for today’s world. “I traveled to England in order to bring that back for my own community, for my students, and for myself,” she says. “So that I can reflect upon what that might look like for a group of elementary students at a Quaker school.”

George Fox famously noted that “church is in the people, not the buildings.” As Coffin became friends with her fellow travelers and guides, and as she reflected on the always evolving relationship between teachers and students, Fox’s emphasis on people resonated with her: “I feel a renewed call to Quaker education and to the identity of my school.”



Read Coffin’s full reflection on her experience at sidwell.pub/coffin



TOP: Brigflatts Meeting House built in 1675 **BOTTOM LEFT:** Firbank Fell, often referred to as Fox’s Pulpit **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Inside Brigflatts Meeting House

Photos by Denise Coffin

Saying Goodbye to Mamadou Guèye

Retiring, but not retired, the revered Upper School principal has big plans.

One of the School's most revered friends, Upper School Principal **Mamadou Guèye**, will retire from Sidwell Friends at the conclusion of the 2023/24 academic year. After 35 years in this community, he is planning to divide his time between the United States and Senegal, where he will reunite with his family, including his granddaughter, Brittany. In addition, he will develop and implement plans for opening a Center for African Studies and what he hopes will be the first Quaker elementary school in Senegal. As generations of students can attest, those who study under his leadership and tutelage will have a life-changing experience.

Guèye first came to Sidwell Friends as a French teacher and quickly established himself as a learned and dynamic instructor with high standards for scholarship. His capacious smile, palpable joy, and engaging intellect captivated students, who appreciated all aspects of his work, especially his commitment to equity and justice and his leadership of international trips. His goal is always to deepen understanding of and appreciation for both cultural differences and our shared humanity.

"I have never seen anyone teach this lesson with such passion, conviction, and success," says Head of School **Bryan Garman**. In recognition of his accomplishments, Mamadou held the Banks Family Endowed Faculty Chair, and earned the Goldberg Award for Teaching Excellence, the Goldman Family Sabbatical Award, and the University of Chicago Outstanding Teacher Award. After serving as a faculty member and head of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, Guèye assumed the Upper School academic deanship. In 2014, he was appointed interim Upper School principal and earned the full-time position after an international search. His tenure in that office is the longest and most successful in the School's history.

Under Mamadou's leadership, the Upper School designed and implemented a flexible, student-centered schedule and provided important co-curricular programming on a variety of mental health and relationship issues. A gregarious presence, Mamadou counseled students, faculty, and parents to focus on the journey rather than the destination, to be grateful for the many opportunities we have before us. His unmistakable savoir faire, willingness to engage in debate, and penchant to quote liberally from Camus, Sartre, Fanon, Senghor, Césaire, Condé, Thiongo, and Achebe delighted colleagues, who admire his intellect



Mamadou Guèye

and joie de vivre. "Mamadou is a gifted educator and dear colleague," says Garman. "I have been fortunate to be his friend and to learn from him for many years."

"I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYONE TEACH THIS LESSON WITH SUCH PASSION, CONVICTION, AND SUCCESS,"

—BRYAN GARMAN
HEAD OF SCHOOL

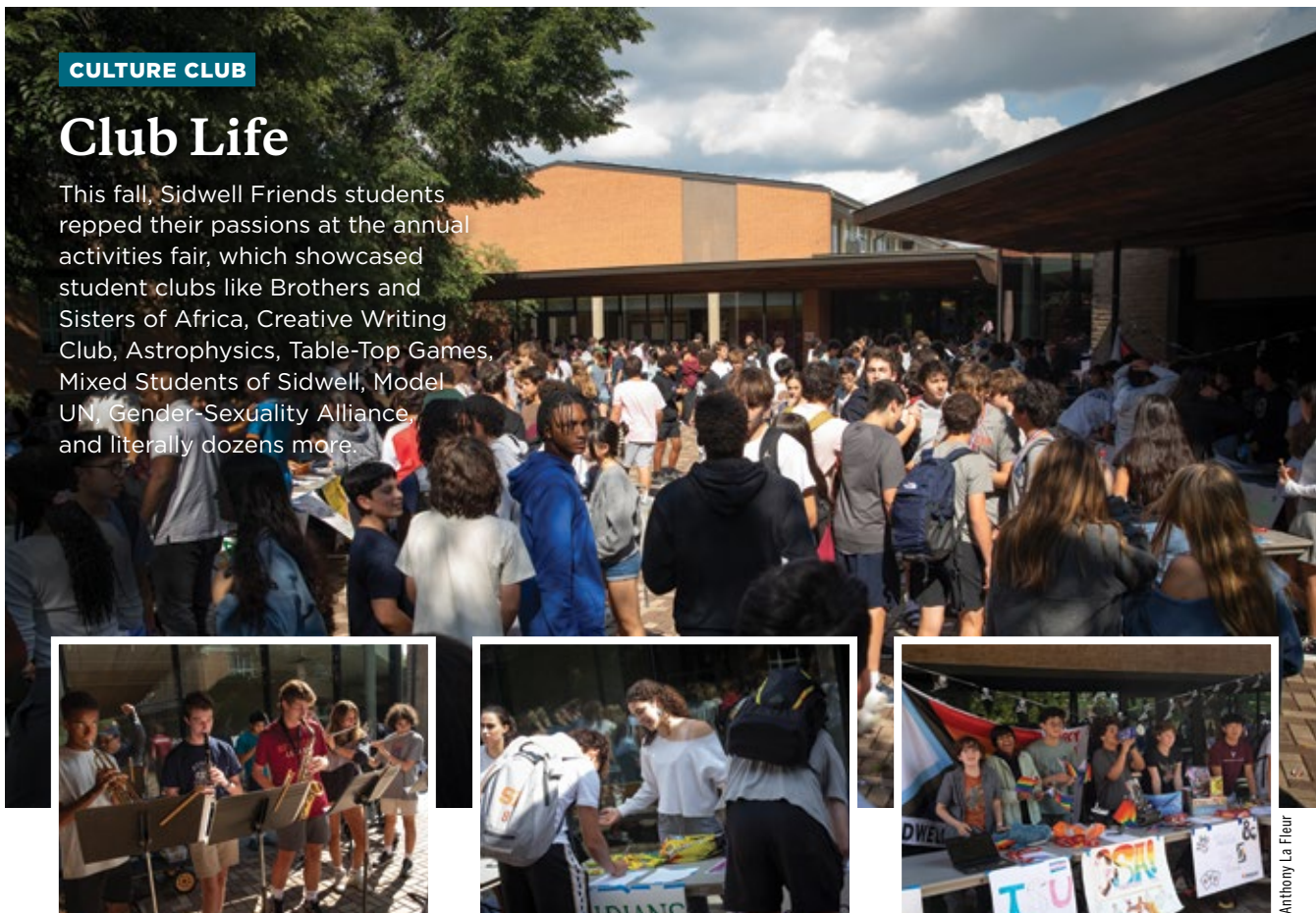
The School hired Carney Sandoe and Associates to conduct an international search for Guèye's successor. The finalists were identified and invited to campus to meet with faculty, staff, students, the Administrative Team, and representatives of the Board of Trustees and Parents Association. After such an exhaustive search, the School found its ideal candidate right at home: To the delight of the entire Upper School community, Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs **Robert Gross** will take on the principal role in July 2024.

There will be many opportunities to honor Guèye and (re)welcome Gross. For now, let's just congratulate both on reaching these important milestones.

CULTURE CLUB

Club Life

This fall, Sidwell Friends students repped their passions at the annual activities fair, which showcased student clubs like Brothers and Sisters of Africa, Creative Writing Club, Astrophysics, Table-Top Games, Mixed Students of Sidwell, Model UN, Gender-Sexuality Alliance, and literally dozens more.

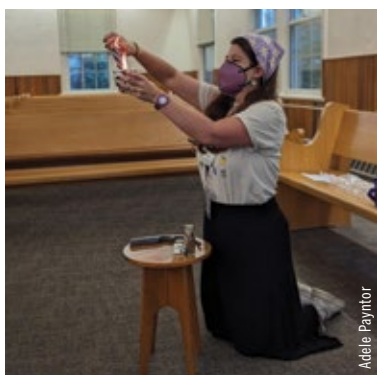


Anthony La Fleur

Pause and Reflect

A new group in the Lower School is practicing the Jewish tradition of Havdalah.

Just as school was getting underway this fall, so too was Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year—and with it, the launch of a new affinity group at the Lower School. Third grade teacher **Marilena Siegel** and pre-K teacher **Erin Weisman** have created space for Jewish friends—and anyone interested—to make Havdalah, a ritual that involves reflecting on the previous week and setting intentions for the week ahead. “We have found that Judaism and Quakerism go very well together,” says Siegel. “They have many overlapping values, including, an emphasis on service learning, honoring a diversity of voices and perspectives, and the practice of reflection.” When Lower School Principal **Adele Paynter** first approached Weisman and Siegel about the idea, they leapt at the chance. “We felt that this was a wonderful idea and one that was close to both of our hearts,” says Siegel. The pair also saw the Havdalah group as a chance to recognize the diversity of Sidwell Friends. “It is important to showcase as many of the identities that make up our school community as possible,” says Weisman. “We welcome all friends and families to participate in our weekly meetings, when we focus on the Jewish tradition of making Havdalah.” All Lower School friends and families are invited to participate in the weekly Havdalah meetings.



Adele Paynter



Adele Paynter

Havdalah at the Lower School

“How Ya Like Them Apples?”

The famed fruit took the spotlight at autumn’s lunch tables.

It wouldn’t be autumn without apples, and **Michael Ackerson**, the director of dining services at Sidwell Friends for Meriwether Godsey, is a big fan of the region’s rich diversity of the classic fruit. This fall, after a trip to Catoctin Mountain Orchard in Maryland, Ackerson brought hundreds of apples—10 varieties in all—back with him to share with students on both the DC and Bethesda campuses. “This is one of my favorite things I do each year,” Ackerson says. “I love exposing kids to the diversity of our local horticulture.” And, despite their academic reputation, these apples weren’t meant to be left on teachers’ desks; they were meant to be eaten—and judged. At every school Ackerson has worked at since 1994, he has hosted an Apple Palooza, offering students a “tasting menu” of apple slices—both so they can decide which variety to choose



Just a few of the apples students could choose from this fall

for themselves and to determine the most popular variety for that year. The favorite this year was Crimson Crisp, known for its firm, deep red-purple color and sweet-tart flavor. Still to be determined is whether they do in fact keep the doctor away.



Melanie Fields with students

A Life of Life Sciences

Two new funds honor the impact of Melanie Fields in the Upper School.

Upper School science teacher **Melanie Fields P '00, '05** touched the lives of countless students and colleagues during her 34 years at Sidwell Friends. Her death in February 2023, just two years after her retirement, brought forth an outpouring of tributes and remembrances from a community that continues to hold her in the Light. Now, two new endowed funds, established by

an anonymous donor, will serve as a permanent reminder of Fields’s teaching and friendship.

The Melanie C. Fields Professional Development Grant will fund a signature program in the Sidwell Friends Center for Teaching and Learning. Consistent with Fields’s work and spirit, this fund will enable teachers to develop meaningful programs that will transform and touch the greatest number of students. An annual grant will be awarded to an individual or team of faculty for a proposal that will enable teachers to deepen students’ understanding of and appreciation for the natural world; to provide off-campus and experiential learning opportunities, including community engagement and service projects; and to support students in designing, conducting, and presenting original research.

The second fund, the Melanie C. Fields Faculty Chair in Environmental and Life Sciences will support an Upper School teacher whose principal area of teaching and research focus on these disciplines. In appointing the chair, the School will seek candidates who demonstrate a deep commitment to experiential learning, facilitate independent student research, and convey to students a genuine interest in exploring and protecting the natural world.

To make a donation to either of these funds, go to sidwell.edu/melanie-fields.

A Spotlight on Sports

The School's new Athletics Feature Wall celebrates achievement, honors leadership, and inspires future athletes to shine.

Homecoming Weekend kicked off this year with a celebration of the rich legacy of sports at Sidwell Friends and a recognition of the installation of the Athletic Feature Wall in the David P. Pearson '52 Athletic Center. Completed in 2022 and formally opened on Homecoming Weekend 2023, the Sidwell Friends Athletics Feature Wall welcomes visitors to the Athletic Center and celebrates achievement with its striking design, historical photos, and engaging descriptions of 11 alumni who have excelled in the world of sports on and off the field:

Saddiq Bey '18
Atlanta Hawks, NBA

Nick Chanock '01
Sports Agent

Mali Friedman '98
Washington Commanders
Executive

Paul Goldstein '94
Coach and Former
Professional Tennis Player

Josh Hart '13
New York Knicks, NBA

Taylor Knibb '16
Olympic Triathlon Medalist

Jair Lynch '89
Olympic Gymnastics Medalist

Nana Meriwether '03
Former Professional
Volleyball Player

Ed Tapscott '71
Sports Executive and
Former Nba Head Coach

Cheryl Weaver '98
Former Women's National
Volleyball Team Player

Kara Wilson '12
Former Professional Soccer Player

Athletic Director **John Square**, who presented inscribed glass recognitions to the five featured alumni in attendance (and family members of the others), spoke to the gathered audience of more than 100 about the importance of values to the School's athletic program and the role sports plays in the growth of students.

The installation was made possible by the generous support of alumni and friends, most notably **David "Sandy" Pearson '52**, who championed the project from the beginning and who appreciates the role athletics plays in the life of the School today. "Athletics is really more a part of our lives than it was in my day," Pearson recalled in an interview. "Nobody was going to college because they were a great football player or got recruited for college because they were good at basketball. Now, that's not the case." These days, he noted, sports has become



John Square

"part of staying competitive with the real world. Athletics is another feature of Sidwell Friends, in addition to the academics and the great reputation it has."

The wall greets visitors as they walk down the stairs into the lobby of the athletic center. With its glass panels, central display case, and large monitor, it anchors the room and invites everyone who passes by to learn more about some of the student athletes who have graduated from the School.



Mali Friedman '98, Kara Wilson '12, John Square, Cheryl Weaver '98, Bryan Garman, Jair Lynch '89, Nana Meriwether '03

Day of the Dead Comes Alive

This year at the Lower School, Día de los Muertos has a distinctly Guatemalan take.

This year, instead of the traditional Día de los Muertos *offrenda*, an altar built to honor lost loved ones, the Lower School explored the same ritual through a Guatemalan lens. Every November, the Festival de Barriletes Gigantes—also called the Day of the Dead Giant Kite Festival—marks one of the oldest and most colorful holidays in Guatemala. The Guatemalans create massive, multi-story, vibrant kites out of paper, cloth, and bamboo to represent an ancient belief that flying enormous kites connects one to their ancestors. So, instead of an altar, the Lower School students created a stunning *barrilete* using tissue-paper and ribbons. The tradition is not about mourning loved ones so much as allowing people—especially children—to celebrate loved ones.

The *barrilete* project's origins started with a summer grant to reimagine Hispanic-Latinx Heritage Month. The efforts were led by Lower School Spanish teachers **Ángela Ballesteros Gómez** and **Luz Marina Cardozo Muñoz**, Lower School art teacher **Kristen Campbell**, and Supervía Endowed Faculty Chair for Spanish and Latin



The Lower School's *barrilete* hangs in the Groome multipurpose room

American Studies **Silvana Niazi** with significant input from the PA's Parents of Latin American Students. Using queries crafted by the Quaker Education clerks, teachers helped children see the connections between the Guatemalan *barrilete* tradition and the School's Quaker values. "Our *barrilete* includes the community's shared values, memories of loved ones, the Guatemalan flag, and butterfly depictions," says Niazi. "Butterflies typically symbolize the guiding of souls at this time of the year."

"By creating individual student art with messages in Spanish and English for the communal *barrilete* first, the students could explore expressions of reverence unique to Guatemala on their own," says Ballestreros Gómez. "Then the students

worked together, combining each individual message to create a single massive *barrilete*." Investigating these expressions of reverence allows the School to bring in different nations, cultures, and rituals from throughout the vast Latin American region. Students applied vocabulary, language, and artistic skills taught in the classroom to the project as a way of providing context and using their new knowledge. Some students decorated their *barrilete* with cempasúchil flowers (marigolds) and paper *quetzales* (quetzals) for good luck. "The students in art class were completely enthralled by the bold use of symmetrical shapes and colors in the *barriletes*!" says Campbell. "The idea that they could collaborate and replicate such an ambitious artistic tradition was seemingly unbelievable."

"The students loved dancing and learning traditional Guatemalan songs while making kites to honor their ancestors, loved ones, and pets," adds Cardozo Muñoz. "Many students also wrote messages for their loved ones on the tail of the communal *barrilete*, encompassing the children's hopes and dreams for a better world."



Paintings with a Point of View

The Upper School's fall play, *Museum*, is set on the final day of a group show of three fictional contemporary American artists being exhibited in a major museum of modern art. Over the course of one day, some 40 people walk through the show: art lovers, skeptics, foreigners, students, lost souls, fellow artists, and of course, museum guards. The play, which is both a comedy of absurdities and a parable of humanity, explores the movement and yearning of these people as they take in the art—and as the art takes in the people.



Photos by David Dowling



Photos by Anthony La Fleur

Coming to America

Meanwhile, Middle Schoolers staged *Voices of Freedom*, featuring an ensemble cast sharing the stories of immigrants to the United States across time. The voices reflect all of the challenges and risks that immigrants and refugees face in coming to America; they also reflect a sense of hope. The common thread is a search for a better life, freedom, and universality.

Homecoming Made a Splash

Not even a rainy day could damper the Quaker spirit this year.

Even when it pours, Sidwell Friends still shines. This year's homecoming football game saw the Quakers shut out their opponents, the Central Virginia Disciples, in a 42-to-0 rout in the drizzle and rain.

Head of School **Bryan Garman** kicked off the morning with a trove of current Sidwell Friends students and faculty to meet with prospective families for "A Look at Sidwell Friends Today." The event invited 4th grade and Middle School students to reflect on their Lower School ethical leadership capstone projects. Guests also heard from student athletes about the vision, purpose, and passion surrounding athletics at Sidwell Friends. And arts faculty explored teaching through theater and performances to foster community and teamwork.

Then it was time for fun and food as student athletes took to the fields and courts for field hockey, soccer, tennis, volleyball, and, of course, football, while student clubs took to a tent behind Zartman House to host contests, demonstrations, and food sales. There were fan favorites like the 8th grade bake sale; dishes from Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East provided by affinity clubs; chili dinners from girls' crew; and new treats including barbecue brisket. Lower Schoolers circulated through the crowds selling hot chocolate and cotton candy. Kids were also drawn to the Little Fox Zone, a place where the youngest family members could get their faces painted (foxes were a popular choice), tackle a craft project, or play a game.

The Alumni Fan Zone featured a covered patio where alumni could eat a hot meal prepared by the School's esteemed Meriwether Godsey cafeteria staff or have a hot apple cider while listening to tunes and watching the football team crush it. Alumni then closed out the day with drinks and fellowship across the street at City Ridge.





Photos by Damon Bowe Photography



Alanna Reeves '11, events and content manager at Sonny's Pizza, talks to guests before the lead sommelier guides guests through a wine tasting. AT RIGHT: Kylie Hiemstra '09, Sam Hart '09, Cory Andrews, Annelise Haskell '09, Philip Rihm '09

Food Service

The DC Regional Club and the School teamed up for a Sidwell Friends DC Food & Beverage Week.

Washington, DC, may have its own renowned summer and winter restaurant weeks, but this fall the city's epicurean scene saw the arrival of Sidwell Friends' DC Food & Beverage Week. A partnership between the School and the DC regional alumni club, the event, which ran from September 25 to October 1, showcased, celebrated, and supported local alumni and other community members who work in the world of food and drinks. The weeklong fest for foodies featured a wine tasting with the owners of Revaluation Vineyards, a pizza buffet at Sonny's Pizza, meetups at local farmers' markets, and more.

The week also provided an opportunity to learn more about service opportunities within the food and beverage industry itself. **Grace Kohn '18** works at Eat the Change, a local snack-food company that advocates for and prioritizes

ecologically responsible foods. "I believe what we eat is our single biggest environmental impact," says Kohn. "Eat the Change is not just a food and beverage company, but a call to action—because every bite and sip affects the planet."

Similarly, **Genevieve Fulco '94**, who aggregates local agricultural products for regional farmers' markets at Local Growers Alliance, places a strong emphasis on the connection between food and the environment. "The agricultural industry has tremendous impacts on the health of people and the planet," she says. "The fundamental values I learned

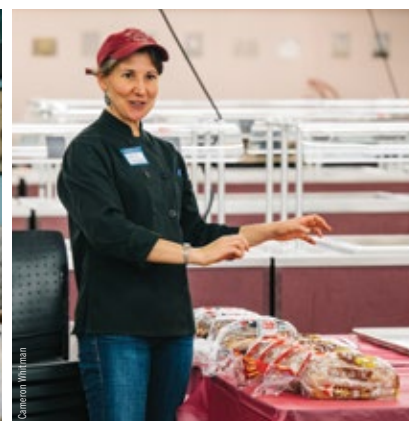
at Sidwell Friends guide me as I work to optimize both."

Kiah Gibian '08, meanwhile, started Our Time Kitchen after being "continually baffled by the challenges small minority food businesses faced in building and retaining equity in this industry." Gibian has opened a commercial shared kitchen that helps members eliminate some of the overhead in starting up a food business. Our Time Kitchen also offers several ways for members to generate revenue onsite, including a to-go window, a food truck, backyard event space, and a grab-and-go market. Plus, they teach classes, consult, and share resources. "I support a stage where small businesses can grow and shine," Gibian says. "I also get to experiment and get creative in self-expression with my own food events at the kitchen."

Rounding out Sidwell Friends DC Food & Beverage Week, Center for Ethical Leadership Coordinator **Alex McCoy '04** and **Julia Hastings-Black '00** capitalized on the foodie spirit of giving back by ending the event on the School's DC campus with a service opportunity. The pair hosted a food-based community-service social in the Upper School dining room, where participants prepared bagged lunches for Sidwell Friends partner La Casa.



LEFT: Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch P'13 of Revaluation Vineyards begins a wine tasting for those new to wine. RIGHT: Julia Hastings-Black '00 shares sandwich-making instructions before the community service social.





Triumphant Light

The all-School Diwali celebration was bigger than ever.

The School's second annual Diwali celebrations surpassed even the organizers' expectations, with nearly 250 people in attendance. Hosted by the Parents of Asian Students (PAS) affinity group, the main event, held Sunday, November 5, included meticulously crafted decorations, an array of food, student performances, and a master class in Bollywood Zumba. PAS Co-Clerks and leaders of the all-School Diwali project **Nitisha Kharbanda P '29** and **Hiral Shah P '31** worked with School partners; community organizations; and student, parent, and faculty groups across divisions to create a memorable day.

"Diwali holds a special place in my heart and is particularly cherished by my family," says Kharbanda. "What makes Diwali truly special is its essence of new beginnings and renewal. It marks a time for reflection, and an opportunity to connect with family and friends." Diwali, she says, symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness. It's a holiday that resonates with the School's Quaker values as well. "I really feel strongly about how spiritually interconnected Diwali and Quakerism are in letting the light lead and protect us," says Shah. "The history of Diwali is how light defeated the darkness that was enveloping the world. Quakerism lets the inner light shine and lets the light lead you to the best you can be."

Throughout the afternoon, the beats of the *dhol*, a double-sided drum, got everyone dancing. Students also performed specific dances that ranged

from classical to folk to Bollywood. Meanwhile, thanks to a collaboration between the PAS and the Upper School's photography club, student photographers captured the celebration through their lenses. Additionally, PAS partnered with the PA Arts Committee for a special installation of *diyas*—small candles that, when multiplied, create a stunning visual effect as the backdrop to the holiday. And it wouldn't be a Sidwell Friends event without service: The celebration doubled as a book drive for School partner Comfort Cases. The day ended with a live Diwali station making *pani puri*—a delicate, breaded sphere filled with tangy water—which was a hit among attendees.

In the days that followed, Diwali celebrations rippled through each division of the School. The Lower School held an assembly, a joint effort by PAS volunteers and teachers, featuring a welcome song, a Diwali film, a flash mob *bhangra* dance, a *dholi* (drummer), and videos of families sharing their unique Diwali celebrations. The Middle School's South Asian Student Association gave a presentation following its Meeting for Worship; while the Middle School administration organized a dance performance to present the colors of India. The Upper School's Asian and South Asian Student Associations held their own celebrations and were instrumental in creating awareness about the weekend event. And, with the help of Meriwether Godsey, the entire School was treated to an Indian lunch.

"By celebrating Diwali, we are embracing the diversity that defines us and creating lasting memories," says Kharbanda. "We look forward to continuing the tradition every year."



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QUESTIONS
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for
ADELE PAYNTER

Wonder, Wisdom, and Silliness

ADELE PAYNTER HAS SPENT A LOT OF TIME IN THE CLASSROOM TEACHING, mostly in North Carolina and at the nearby Sheridan School. Paynter has taught kindergarten, 1st grade, 4th grade, and 6th grade. She even taught “Health, Wellness, and Puberty” to 6th through 8th graders. But it is in her role as the principal—which she has been for six years now—of the Sidwell Friends Lower School that makes her such a fun and dynamic presence on campus. Paynter talked to *Sidwell Friends Magazine* about being an administrator, working with Lower Schoolers, and harboring a revelatory *Star Wars* secret.

1. What do you like about teaching at a Quaker School?

It changes you. Over the last six years, it has been super cool to see how Quakerism transforms you personally but also in terms of how you educate, how you teach, how you listen to others, how you lead. I have really enjoyed flexing new muscles and helping others adopt new mindsets and skills.

2. What do you like about being an administrator as opposed to teaching?

Oh, but I love teaching! Okay, I do also love leading the Lower School. I love that you have an opportunity to zoom out and get the 20,000-foot view and be able to see how different components of the School can work together to create something really beautiful. I love the fact that in this position I get to know a whole swath of families and kids and teachers and see how all the parts fit together, versus being more siloed. I learn a lot from my conversations with families, which really broadens my understanding of things.

I’m also interested and intrigued by how systems and institutions work, such as how the business side, guidance side, and admission side come together to support the academic mission of the School.

3. What do you like about working with the Lower School age group?

This age is known for teaching all of us habits of heart and mind. Little ones are so curious about the world; they are so open to new things. Other times, they are wildly wise: They say things and you’re just like, *Oh my gosh, how do you have that understanding?* They can be so funny, too. They’re at a silly age, and that combination of wonder, wisdom, and silliness is really beautiful. Plus, they love school, they love their teachers, and they love you. The joy they have when they come in is contagious. The best way to start your morning is watching these little ones tumble out of the car, because they are just so excited to get to school. They run in headfirst, and it’s just the best.

4. Are you looking forward to being on the DC campus one day?

Of course! There are going to be some really awesome opportunities for mentorship for our older kids. Our little ones adore the older kids. We had athletics teams come and talk with our kids, and the *Horizon* team met with our crew of our 3rd and 4th graders who started a newspaper. Just watching how excited the kids were that these older kids took them seriously, coached them, and gave them advice and mentorship was really special. It's hard on a dual-campus to have those opportunities for intersection. It can be so powerful for the older kids as well. One of the boys' basketball players who came by wrote a reflection about the best things that happened to him that year; he wrote about his time visiting the Lower School. There's so much that older kids, who can be under a lot of pressure, get out of little kids' enthusiasm for them and their excitement to know them.



5. You are famous for getting the entire Lower School to dress in *Star Wars* costumes for May the 4th. Obviously, you're a huge *Star Wars* fan. What is your favorite *Star Wars* movie?

We started doing May the 4th as a silly way to have fun during the pandemic, to bring in some light and joy. And it just resonated with so many friends, and they took it and ran with it! So, true confession: I'm not the biggest *Star Wars* fan. I've only seen the three originals, and I don't think I can pick one!

Modern Puberty

The authors of *This Is So Awkward* tackle the long arc of adolescence.

Raising kids, tweens, and teens in 2023 is challenging: There's the awkwardness of puberty combined with social media, social sensitivity, shifting friendships, sports specializations, and achievement pressures. That's why in November

the PA Parent Peer Group Committee hosted a book talk, signing, and discussion with pediatrician **Cara Natterson** and puberty educator **Vanessa Kroll Bennet** about their new book, *This Is So Awkward: Modern Puberty Explained*, moderated by *Washington Post* columnist **Phyllis Fagell P '20, '21, '26**, who is the author of *Middle School Superpowers: Raising Resilient Tweens in Turbulent Times*. This expert trio started by breaking down the science. It turns out, puberty has changed quite a bit over the last three decades. Where kids used to experience the onset of puberty around age 11, today it's more like ages 8 to 9 for girls and 9 to 10 for boys. What's more, scientists note that though puberty is starting earlier, it is not ending earlier. In fact, puberty can last more than a decade. Luckily, to make parenting through adolescence a bit easier, the panelists had a few tips, such as preview puberty for kids so they know what to expect, manage kids' access to technology, make sure they get lots of sleep, and embrace free play. They also reminded the audience that teenagers are awesome! Despite being a time of intense change, growth, and identity building, tweens and teens are often vulnerable, wise, and wickedly funny. Lean in: You just might discover a delightful human lurking beneath the surface.





Durrett

An Artist With History

Rubenstein Guest Artist Nekisha Durrett's work brings hidden stories to the fore.

Sidwell Friends School students are no strangers to the work of Washington, DC, artist **Nekisha Durrett**. Scores of them have studied her work since the installation of her public commission, *Air Shaft*, at the Phillips Collection in 2021. But even that experience couldn't compare to hearing her discuss her work in person when she came to campus in late November as the 2023 Daryl Reich Rubenstein Guest Artist.

"I am concerned with erasure," Durrett told one of her audiences during her stay. That erasure can mean the legacy of Black women or the displacement of a neighborhood. But it is always created with an eye toward the historical connections that too often remain unseen. In this way, Durrett said, her pieces are works of activism.

Take *Air Shaft*, for example. An assemblage of glass, light, color, and translucence, *Air Shaft* is a two-story, stained-glass-style installation, inspired by

a Jacob Lawrence painting of a Harlem tenement. For **Aaron Brophy**, Sidwell Friends Middle School art teacher and director of art exhibitions, having Durrett on hand was an opportunity for students to connect with an artist already on the syllabus.

Like a number of previous Rubenstein Guest Artists—including Henry Ossawa Tanner, James Turrell, Maya Lin, Kenzo Digital '98, and Sonya Clark '85—Durrett's work celebrates light, space, and empathy, the core components of Sidwell's Foundations Art Program. "It has been said that the study of art history is the history of light," says Brophy. "In Nekisha Durrett we have a contemporary Renaissance woman at the confluence of our past and our future."

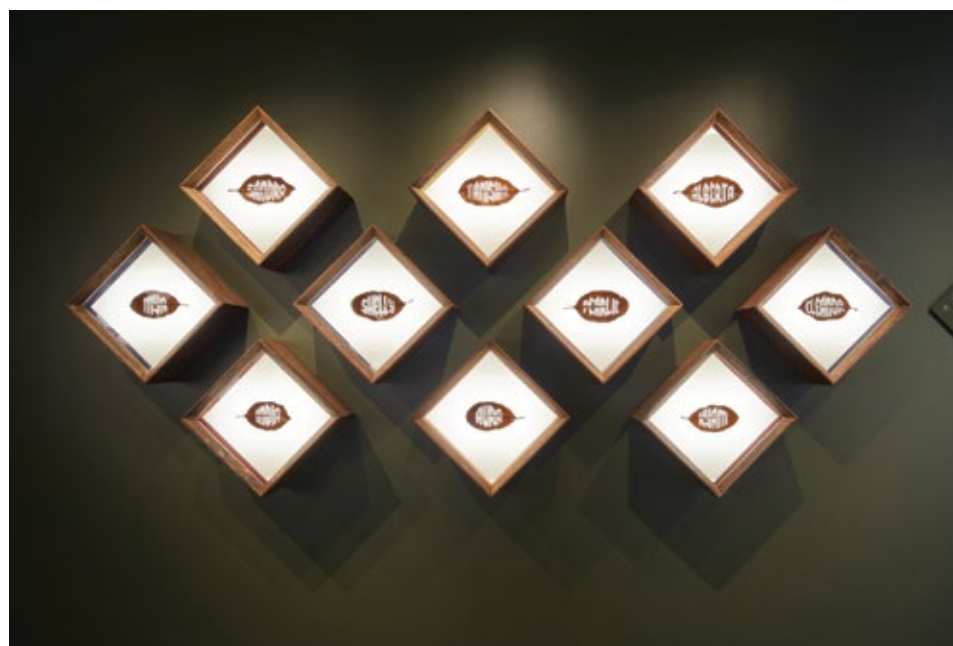
The "presence or absence of light," Durrett told the audience at the Rubenstein Guest Artist Lecture, holds great power. She described *Air Shaft* as a presence-of-light work that uses the natural environment (sunlight) to amplify color—turning Lawrence's painting of a tenement laundry line into "something sacred" and church-like. (See "Looking Glass," on page 74 for a student take on *Air*

Shaft.) In another work, *Frontier*, the absence of light is used to reimagine Harriet Tubman's legacy: An obsidian mirror is perfectly bisected with a thin line of white light to represent the invisible border between freedom and enslavement. "I wanted to make something that was specific to Harriet Tubman," Durrett said, explaining why creating a painting of Tubman's likeness wasn't enough for her. "I wanted to create a portrait of her mind."

A graduate of Washington's Duke Ellington School of the Arts and Cooper Union in New York City, Durrett creates both vast freestanding sculptures and intimate gallery installations. Her *Magnolia* installation, now on exhibit in the Kogod Arts Center at Sidwell Friends, uses the hearty, near-indestructible leaves of magnolia trees to showcase the names of Black women who died at the hands of police. Using shadow boxes, light shines through each woman's name, which Durrett hand stippled directly into the leaf. "Why just women?" she said. "Because usually I just hear the names of Black men when it comes to police violence. Again, it has to do with that sense of erasure. I wanted to lift these women's names into the conversation."

It was in front of these *Magnolia* pieces—in addition to a special presentation at an assembly for the students—that Durrett spoke to Middle and Upper Schoolers about her work and what inspires her. Durrett explained that history informs every aspect of her art and that there is freedom in upending expectations, as in *Frontier*, her "portrait" of Tubman.

"That freedom has shaped me as an artist," Durrett told students. "My body of work is so varied and so particular to what I want to say."



TOP: *Air Shaft*, 2021, Phillips Collection
CENTER: *Frontier*, 2023, Baltimore Museum of Art
LEFT & BELOW: *Magnolia*, 2021, now on display in the Kogod Arts Center



FALL FOR SPORTS

The season was marked by stand-out performances from girls' tennis and boys' soccer.

BY CALEB MORRIS

TENNIS

The autumn season was a spectacular one for girls' varsity tennis. With an unblemished 14-0 record, the team not only secured the Independent School League AA division regular season title, but it also clinched the championship banner in the league tournament. Currently, the team holds the No. 2 ranking among high school girls' teams in the nation, according to Universal Tennis.



Avni Damani '24

Joseph Moyes

CROSS COUNTRY

The Sidwell cross country boys' and girls' squads enjoyed an exciting championship season. Following their impressive performances in several multi-state races, both teams entered their league and state championships with confidence. At the Paul Short Invitational, the girls' team finished



Kai Schropfer '26

AJ D'Orta '27

Cow Royster



Harrison Keyser '25

Reggie Hildred

5th in a 38-team field, while the boys' team finished 10th. At the DC State Championships, the dynamic was reversed, with the boys finishing 5th in the 5,000-meter event and the girls coming in at 7th.

GOLF

In varsity golf, Sidwell Friends finished the season strong, with a 3rd place result in the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament in October.

FOOTBALL

The varsity football team ushered in a new era under the leadership of **Jamar Chichester '09**. It was a rebuilding year for the Quakers, who finished 5-3 playing a nonconference schedule. The highlight of the season was a 42-0 victory on Homecoming weekend.

SOCCER

The boys' varsity soccer team had an impressive run, remaining unbeaten for eight consecutive games. The team's standout victories against Maret and Georgetown Day were highlights of the season. The Quakers entered the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference with the highest number of goals in the league and won the conference championship with a 5-2 win over rival Potomac, one of the few teams that bested Sidwell Friends in the regular season.

Clayton Gary '25

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

The girls' varsity soccer team finished third in the Independent School League and made it to the semi-finals in the District of Columbia State Athletic Association playoffs, losing to eventual winner Georgetown Visitation.

FIELD HOCKEY

Anchored by a core of underclassman and led by seven seniors, the field hockey team finished the regular season 8th in the Independent School League. They competed in hard-fought games, including a 2-1 loss to undefeated league-winner Stone Ridge to start the season, and ended with a thrilling game against St. Stephen's and St. Agnes, scoring in the final two minutes to win the game. The team undeniably had a major year of growth and development that they hope to continue into next year.

VOLLEYBALL

With veteran leadership from eight seniors, the varsity volleyball team finished the regular season 6-8, but still ranked third in the Independent School League division. The ranking marked significant improvement from the 2022 season, despite some losses. Ultimately, the team fought a tough schedule and avenged last year's playoff defeat in a 3-2 win over Maret.



Kirie Frederick '24 and Elena Faz Garza '24

Alma Degener '24



Happy Birthday to Mr. Sidwell's School

A look at the School's anniversaries at 140 years old.

BY LOREN ITO HARDENBERGH

When the School was in its 25th year, Thomas Sidwell somewhat grandiosely stated: "It offers such opportunities as only an old established school can offer after years of striving." By the time Sidwell Friends School celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1933, he was worrying about the School even making it through the Great Depression, much less imagining the day it would be 140 years old. So, how did the Sidwell Friends community celebrate its 50th and its other milestone birthdays since?

1933 50th Anniversary

For its 50th anniversary, the School borrowed flags from embassies to represent the 24 nations its students had come from over the past half-century (see photo 2). One highlight of the 50th celebration endures to this day. The Alumni Association commissioned a portrait of Thomas Sidwell by Richard Meryman, the director of the Corcoran School of Art. The portrait has hung over at least three Upper School library fireplaces in the 90 years since its unveiling (see photo 1).

1958 75th Anniversary

At the School's 75th anniversary, an open house was held to showcase student work, including a science fair, Glee Club performance,

scenes from the Latin Club banquet, and art exhibits (see photo 3).

1963 80th Anniversary

Perhaps the adults yearned for a more festive event for the 80th anniversary, as a formal dinner for over 1,000 guests was held at the Shoreham Hotel in Woodley Park (now the Omni Shoreham Hotel). The occasion also served as a kick-off to the campaign to raise funds for the new brick Upper School building, which replaced the Sidwells' old wooden house that had been serving as the high school for decades (see photo 4).

1983 Centennial Anniversary

At 100 years old, Sidwell Friends had much to celebrate. A successful

building campaign, spearheaded by Helen Colson '53, led to construction of the Kogod Center for the Arts, the Wannan Gymnasium, and a new biology corridor for the Upper School, among other improvements.

Lower School students dressed in the fashions of 1883 and released balloons (see photo 5), while other students posed with their classes (see photos 7 and 8). Then, more than 2,000 members of the Sidwell Friends community joined in a centennial weekend celebration. Hanna Holburn Gray '46 gave a convocation speech, and the event featured both a choral performance arranged by Randolph Hostetler '81 and a centennial song composed by Carol Peck. Capping off the weekend were two 10-foot cakes (see photo 9) and evening fireworks. Upper School students even rocked the dining room until 1 a.m.

A lasting legacy of the centennial is the first published history of the School, written by two alumni, Mary Anne (Ginger) Garner MacKaye '51 and her husband, William R. MacKaye '51, who died in August (see photo 6). (See also "Mr. McKaye's Life," on page 50.) Building off historical research done by Henry Dater and Rod Cox, the MacKays interviewed dozens of community members and spent countless hours in the nascent School archives, organized by Carla Freeman '67. With the support of Helen Colson '53, Alan Dessoiff '53, and Betsy Paull '68, *Mr. Sidwell's School: A Centennial History, 1883-1983* was ready in time for the big event.

2008 125th Anniversary

By the time the School was ready to celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2008, enough had happened in the interim



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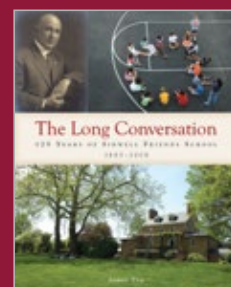
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that a second Sidwell Friends history was commissioned. James Zug (husband of former dean of students and new trustee Rebecca Zug) combed through the growing archives and conducted lengthy interviews to create a coffee table history, *The Long Conversation: 125 Years of Sidwell Friends School, 1883-2008*. An evening reception was held in a tent on the football field (see photos 10 and 11).

In 10 years, when the School celebrates its 150th anniversary, graduating seniors will have only known the Upton building as their high school, and parents will talk about how back in the day they used to drive to Bethesda every day for Lower School drop-off and pick-up. While plans have not yet begun for the sesquicentennial, we know that when the time comes, there will be much to celebrate! ✨

Get Yours Today!

Copies of *The Long Conversation* are still available at the Fox Den! Order in-person or online at sidwell.pub/foxden.



FRESH INK

fall/winter books

This season's reads look at theology, anthropology, ecology, herbology, and, well, magic.

Race to the Great Invention

Bronwen Butter Newcott '95

Foxhall Press

"There's nothing magical about the end of 6th grade until Tessa and her best friend Gus meet their mysterious neighbor Professor Henschworth. He gives them a magical spyglass called a vider, and an unexpected adventure begins. The vider shows them things are not as they seem; a brilliant Unseen world surrounds them—and it's in danger! If the Unseen disappears, their world will too. Only Tessa and Gus can prevent disaster, but sinister Shellstalkers spring up at every turn, and time is running out."



In the crystal air of highland Chiapas, she rediscovers old friends, Mayan-speakers and gringos alike, who are warmer to her than are her own skeptical offspring at home in Wilmette."

The Sacred Herbs of Yule and Christmas: Remedies, Recipes, Magic & Brews for the Winter Season

Ellen Evert Hopman '70

Destiny Books

"Ellen Evert Hopman shares folklore, recipes, rituals, and crafts to enliven your Yuletide observance. She explores the origins of the Christmas tree and Santa Claus as well as holiday Spirits and Yuletide animals. She explains how to perform Winter Solstice divinations and make traditional foods and drinks such as Elizabethan gingerbread cookies and Wassail. And she looks in depth at the medicinal and magical properties of the many herbs, barks, and berries associated with the Christmas and Yuletide season such as Frankincense and Myrrh, Cinnamon, Nutmeg, Hibiscus, Bayberry, and many more."

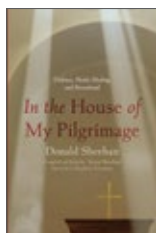


In the House of My Pilgrimage: Violence, Noetic Healing, and Personhood

Donald Sheehan, compiled and edited by Xenia Sheehan '58

Wipf and Stock Publishers, Resource Publications

"In the House of My Pilgrimage encompasses a wide territory: spiritual, lyric, scholarly, usually all at once. At best, what we can take from engaging these essays is a way of falling into the heart to embrace, suffer, and, in Christ, transfigure the world's 'ruining oppositions.' In doing so, we fulfill what St. Maximus the Confessor saw as our human calling to unify the polarities embedded in God's creation and thus make, not only ourselves, but all Creation whole."



Coastal Management Revisited: Navigating Towards Sustainable Human-Nature Relations

Bernhard Glaeser '59 and Marion Glaser

Cambridge Scholars Publishing

"This book presents an overview and historic perspectives of a novel scientific field coming of age today: coastal and ocean management. It covers diverse and changing issues, ranging from conflict resolution to governance and ethical-political imperatives, natural disasters and climate change, culminating in coastal and ocean typologies, the basis for a future theory of coasts and oceans. ... The authors address challenges to society related to global change issues that have been generated by human activity in both temperate and tropical regions."

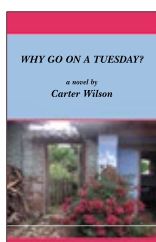


Why Go on a Tuesday?

Carter Wilson '59

Bankilal Books

"Prominent anthropologist Maryanne Fort sets out to revisit the Mexican village where she and her husband first began fieldwork 40 years ago."



WINTER *with* FRIENDS

Spend time in your city with Sidwell Friends as we celebrate the season together! Connect with friends and learn how our School and community are leading in the Light with the landmark campaign, *Together We Shine*.

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SIDWELL
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In a world often mired in darkness and division, our students embody the principles of enlightenment and leadership.

The Sidwell Friends Fund enables us to create meaningful experiences, from engaging extracurricular activities to transformative educational opportunities.

Your participation is important, and
every gift makes a difference.

Make your 2023
gift today at
sidwell.edu/give.





Lucy Owen '87

A Tenacious Advocate

In July 2023, the FDA approved the first over-the-counter oral contraceptive in the United States. **Lucy Owen '87** navigated the long road to get there.

On May 9, 1960, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a prescription oral contraceptive—the pill—for the first time. Sixty-three years to the day later, May 9, 2023, the pharmaceutical company HRA Pharma made its case to the FDA for an over-the-counter (OTC) oral contraceptive—Opill. The FDA Advisory Committee members unanimously supported the move, and Opill was officially approved in July 2023 as the first-ever OTC oral contraceptive.

Why did it take 63 years for oral contraception to move from prescription status to OTC? It wasn't for lack of trying: Reproductive health specialists and advocates, scientists, grassroots movements, and nonprofits had been steadfast in attempting to move the needle on the issue for decades. Some had been involved in the push for OTC oral contraception since the 1960s; others got on board more recently. For Lucy Owen '87 (P '21, '22, '25), president of the healthcare consultancy Pinney Associates in Bethesda, her official role in this massive project began eight years ago, when HRA Pharma hired her to navigate the company through the regulatory process. But her engagement on the issue started long before that.

"When I graduated from Sidwell, everybody I knew imagined that they would be involved in advocacy and policy making of some kind," Owen says. "Changing the world was definitely a very simple and natural direction to take. Some of that was generational, and some of it was definitely Sidwell sending people out into the world who wanted to make it a better place."

Owen attended the University of Michigan, where she studied history. She was interested in reproductive health, though not from a scientific perspective, but she found meaning in volunteering at a home for pre-teen and teenage girls with babies. "I was partnered with a 12-year-old girl who had a 1-year-old baby," Owen says. "That had a profound, profound impact on me." Owen went on to do postgraduate work at Oxford University, where she studied the history of medicine and further pursued her interest in public health.

That soon led Owen to Pinney Associates, where over the last 25 years she has developed a vital specialty: helping companies gain OTC approval for prescription medications, or "OTC switch." At Pinney, Owen has tackled "Rx-to-OTC" approval for all manner of complicated and politically charged products. One of the signature wins

was working to gain FDA approval for OTC sales of the emergency contraceptive Plan B for those 18 and over in 2006, and approval with no age restriction in 2013.

If it seems surprising that FDA would switch the controversial Plan B (often called the morning-after pill) a full decade before switching the comparatively less controversial Opill, Owen has a theory about that. “My belief is that Plan B came first because you take it just once,” she says. “The sooner you take it after unprotected sex, the more effective it is in preventing pregnancy. So, there was a very compelling case to be made to FDA that it was really important for this emergency contraception to be available over the counter because the delay caused by having to find a doctor, get in touch with that doctor, and then have a medical appointment could render it ineffective.”

Non-emergency oral contraception, on the other hand, must be taken daily. “I think FDA was very concerned that women can’t be trusted to take a single pill a day,” Owen says. “One of the things we had to demonstrate, through a very large trial, is that women can take one pill a day. What is so ridiculous about that is, when you’re prescribed an oral contraceptive, you’re handed a prescription and then you don’t see the doctor again—so women are already taking a pill a day on their own. It was very paternalistic.”

Another groundbreaking switch Owen’s consultancy worked on was for nicotine-replacement products such as Nicorette and Nicoderm, which help people quit smoking. Tobacco-control advocates were, and remain, split between those who see nicotine abstinence as the only option and those who support tobacco harm reduction. Originally, FDA leadership strongly opposed the switch because the replacement products still



Changing the world was definitely a very simple and natural direction to take. Some of that was generational, and some of it was definitely Sidwell sending people out into the world who wanted to make it a better place.”

contained nicotine. Importantly though, they did not contain the cancer-causing substances or carbon monoxide found in cigarettes. As Owen and her colleagues argued, “If we cannot get the 20 percent of Americans who still smoke to quit completely, we should at least be giving them safer ways to get their nicotine.” Ultimately, that proved convincing, and the availability of OTC nicotine-replacement products has had a major impact on public health: One study found that nicotine-replacement therapies can prevent tens of thousands of premature deaths from lung cancer and heart disease.

Proving that women can take a daily pill (whether from a doctor or a store) and demonstrating that use of nicotine without tobacco is a net win are the kind of challenges Owen thrives on. Whatever skepticism or opposition stands in her way, Owen believes that facts will win out in the

end. “My job is to anticipate all of the issues that FDA and other key stakeholders are going to raise and then figure out how to address every one of those issues compellingly and with the best available science,” Owen says. “My focus is on providing FDA with the data that will reassure them that the benefits of putting this product in the hands of the American consumer will outweigh the risks.”

Owen and her firm’s work on tricky—but public health-focused—OTC switches like Plan B and nicotine-replacement products have given her a reputation of being able to handle both the science and any thorny political considerations at play. It’s also why a small pharmaceutical company out of Paris, France, HRA Pharma, reached out to her firm when it decided to develop an OTC oral contraceptive. “When I started working 25 years ago, there were multiple big pharmaceutical companies who were interested in doing this—but not interested enough,” Owen says. “They were too scared to do it. The greatest phone call I ever got was from HRA Pharma asking if we would be willing to work with them to try and make it a reality.”

Owen says the win took eight years. “Most companies who have a product are trying to extend the life cycle of that product with an OTC switch,” she says. “But this company said, ‘We want to do this even though we don’t have a product.’ They were willing to do whatever it took starting from absolute scratch.” HRA Pharma had passion, but also experience in reproductive health, both with emergency contraception and mifepristone (which when used together with misoprostol is used to end a pregnancy). Now they were intent on approval for an OTC oral contraceptive.

But it wasn’t easy. “FDA put up every barrier you can imagine,” says Owen, “and every time, we said,



Owen

‘That’s okay. Let’s fix it. We’ll go out and collect more data.’ A lot of companies get scared away during that process, but we had the fire in the belly to get this done, and HRA was willing to do whatever it took.”

Ultimately HRA Pharma, which was acquired by Perrigo Pharmaceutical Company in 2022, acquired a pill with a single hormone: a progestin. Unlike most other birth-control pills, which contain both estrogen and progestin, this progestin-only “mini-pill” has almost no contraindications, making it an ideal candidate for OTC use. In addition, the pill is safe if inadvertently taken by women who are pregnant or don’t know they are pregnant. In fact, there are many conditions in pregnancy in which women are prescribed progestin.

Once Opill becomes available for purchase in 2024, Owen believes it will improve the lives of millions of women. At the FDA Advisory Committee meeting to consider

Opill in May, Helene Guillard, who leads the OTC switch efforts at HRA Pharma/Perrigo, noted that “even women who want children at some point in their life spend most of their productive years trying to avoid pregnancy.”

Moreover, of the approximately 6 million pregnancies in the United States every year, nearly half are unintended despite the wide availability of a variety of contraceptive methods. Among adolescents and teens, an alarming 72 percent are unintended. “These unintended pregnancies occur in women of all ages, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds,” said Guillard. “In the United States, half of all women will have had an unintended pregnancy by age 45.” And unintended pregnancies are associated with all kinds of societal harms, like lower educational attainment, lower incomes, higher prematurity rates, and greater infant mortality.

“Women in the U.S. face unnecessary burdens in accessing effective contraception, and unfortunately the nonprescription options are limited to the least-effective methods, such as condoms or withdrawal,” Guillard said. “Opill is a more effective option than all current non-prescription methods. ... Unfortunately, women currently face barriers to initiating and refilling the most effective methods since they are only available by prescription.” Those barriers include a lack of privacy, access to insurance and doctors, time and travel for an appointment, and dozens more hurdles—all of which are particularly difficult for the youngest and most vulnerable girls and women.

Now, with Opill set to hit the U.S. market in early 2024, the gratification of shepherding the first-ever OTC oral contraceptive through the FDA is tempered by the reality that it is now time for others to carry the project forward into the marketplace.

“The hope is that it will have a major impact on public health,” she says. “The reproductive health community and the reproductive justice community and all the advocates who have taken this journey with us would like the product to be free, as would I.” Of course, there are dozens of factors that go into pricing decisions and insurance coverage. And much has been invested to get the drug to this point. Still, Owen hopes the launch of the product in the United States will at least spark a discussion about making Opill available to the most in need and medically underserved.

“Hopefully,” she says, “we’re going to see it at a very affordable cost—and on lots and lots and lots of shelves.” ✨

Know someone who is living their values? Email suggestions to magazine@sidwell.edu.

A photograph of three people, two women and one man, smiling and posing in front of a large, ornate portrait of an older man in a suit. The woman on the left is wearing a dark blue sweater and grey pants. The man in the center is wearing a blue shirt, a floral tie, and glasses. The woman on the right is wearing a red and white checkered shirt and blue jeans. The portrait in the background is of an older man with glasses, wearing a dark suit and tie, sitting at a desk.

Coming Home

The journey back to Sidwell Friends gives new perspective to these alumni faculty.

BY SACHA ZIMMERMAN
PHOTOS BY DAMON BOWE



Sometimes life really does come full circle. Sidwell Friends has 151 full-

time faculty members across the three divisions, and they bring a dizzying array of backgrounds, experiences, and academic interests to the School. But some teachers have a special connection—as alumni. And for each of them, the return journey was a unique one. Some thought they would never end up back at Sidwell Friends. Others saw it as a goal. Some are lifers; some attended only briefly. Some graduated a generation ago; some are only recently out of college. Almost all describe working at the School as a “dream job.” *Sidwell Friends Magazine* talked to several of the teachers about how they ended up becoming Quakers fans all over again—and what that experience is like today.



Lee

“The School has definitely changed over the years, but at this point, it just feels like home.”

—DOMINIC LEE '00

Dominic Lee '00

Upper School Math

Dominic Lee '00 knew he wanted to teach at Sidwell Friends nearly 25 years ago—during his junior year at the Upper School. That was the year he met math teacher Daniel Rubenstein. “He changed the way I thought about math,” Lee says. “He cared about my development as a math student. Honestly, ever since my junior year of high school, I was trying to come back to Sidwell. He inspired me to teach here.”

By 2012, after getting his bachelor's from Bates College, working at the Smithsonian, and teaching at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, Lee was teaching Upper School math at Sidwell Friends. “I try to mimic the good teachers I've had,” he says. Those good teachers include former environmental science teacher Paula Wang, former English and Spanish teacher Erika Berry, former history teacher James Senger, and of course, former math teacher Dan Rubenstein. “Mr. Rubenstein was obviously the most influential for me,” Lee says. A few of his former teachers were still at Sidwell Friends when Lee joined the faculty. “So, the teachers here kind of got to know me as a student,” he says, “before they got to know me as a teacher.”

A few of his contemporaries are at Sidwell Friends, too, including Director of Equity, Justice, and Community Natalie Randolph '98, who was two years ahead of Lee. “Natalie Randolph was the superstar,” he says, “*the* athlete to look up to when I was a student. She was so accomplished and cool. Just her vibe was something to strive for when I was a kid.”

Lee is just as effusive over his fellow colleagues. “I love my department,” Lee says. “My department is legitimately amazing.” As are the kids: “My favorite thing is just talking with kids, seeing their development, seeing them mature over the years, seeing how they change and work through difficulties and overcome challenges.” His work with kids isn't limited to the classroom: Lee is the coach of the golf team—which he really loves.

Lee says the student body at the School has changed a lot over the years. “It is much, much more diverse,” he says, adding that a lot of people don't appreciate that. “The perception is different from the reality,” he says. “If you look at the School in 1994 versus now, it is much more diverse in every respect.” That difference only enhances Lee's feelings about Sidwell Friends. “The School has definitely changed over the years,” he says, “but at this point, it just feels like home.”

Marilena Siegel '14

3rd Grade

Marilena Siegel '14 has fond memories from her short time at Sidwell Friends. But pre-K, kindergarten, and 1st grade, the three years Siegel spent at Sidwell Friends, were upended by a diagnosis of dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and dyslexia. “The best gift that Sidwell gave me,” Siegel says, “was the opportunity to go to a school that was a better fit for me and the right environment for me.”

But Siegel's connection to Sidwell Friends wouldn't end at 1st grade—she just didn't know it yet. Siegel got the early childhood education bug as a Hebrew school teacher while getting her undergraduate degree at Davidson College. Next, she did master's degrees in special and general education at Relay Graduate School of Education in New York before starting to teach at a charter school in Brooklyn. That is when Sidwell Friends came back on the scene.

Siegel's sister was also in early childhood education—as a student. Nora '31 and Siegel may have a 17-year age gap, but the affection between the sisters is strong. So, Siegel started traveling to DC more, and while she was in town, she also popped into Nora's Sidwell Friends classroom. “I loved what I was experiencing coming to visit my sister and seeing her classroom,” Siegel says. Looking at the School through adult eyes (and those of a teacher) made an impact on her.

“I really enjoy the social-emotional aspect of teaching,” Siegel says. And at the Lower School, she saw children wrestling with how to live their Quaker values with integrity while creating meaningful friendships. “It's not always an easy space to navigate,” she says. “There's a lot of vulnerability.” She says the experience showed her how Sidwell Friends had evolved as an institution, including by fully embracing social-emotional learning.

Before long, she reached out and introduced herself to Lower School Principal Adele Paynter. When a position for 3rd grade—Siegel's preferred class—became available for the 2022/23 academic year,

it felt like serendipity. “It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” she says. “It was a no-brainer!”

In her first year at Sidwell Friends, Siegel taught 3rd grade across the hall from her little sister's 4th grade classroom. “Seeing the diversity in the students and their educational needs and being able to support them and offer my perspective is amazing,” Siegel says. “I don't ever pretend to have every answer. I just say, ‘That is a challenge. Let's try to figure out some options.’”

Now Nora is in 5th grade in the Middle School, and Siegel is once more making a home in Washington. “It has all been wonderful and kind of full-circle for me,” she says. “The administration is so supportive. It has been very positive—like happy endings everywhere!”



Siegel

Jake Watson '18

Upper and Middle School Latin

"By the time I was a senior, I thought that teaching here would be a really cool thing to do," says Latin and classics teacher Jake Watson '18. "But I never thought it was possible or I thought, *Maybe later in life...* It was like a dream job." In fact, he thinks his high school self would be amazed that "later in life" turned out to be his first year out of Yale University in the fall of 2022. Now in his second year, he's the School's youngest faculty member.



Watson

"My teachers seemed so knowledgeable, organized, and leaps and bounds ahead of me," Watson says. "For me to reach that level after only four years of college seemed impossible. It was amazing to think about ever being a teacher here, so then when it happened, I was like, *Oh my god, that's happening now; I have to be that person!*"

A Sidwell Friends lifer, Watson started to learn Latin beginning in 7th grade and continued on throughout high school and college, where he majored in classics and studied ancient Greek in addition to Latin. After four years at Yale, Watson came right back to Sidwell Friends—with just a summer in between. "I felt so grateful and lucky that the opportunity was there," Watson says, "and that I had support from my colleagues."

Teaching classics and Latin anywhere else just wouldn't be the same. "I love the community here," he says. "And I know so many people—plenty of teachers who I knew when I was a student. It's really cool to be colleagues with them now." With such deep roots, Watson has thrown himself back into the community. He now teaches at both the Upper and Middle Schools, and he coaches field hockey and softball as well. Through sports, he gets to meet with kids regardless of their affinity for Latin. "I get to know a lot of different students," he says, "which is one of my favorite things about teaching here."

Now officially in the middle of his second year of teaching at Sidwell Friends, is it still the dream job he once imagined it would be? "I love the material I get to teach; it's really engaging," Watson says. "There is always something new that I want to try—teaching in a different way or finding something to improve upon. And there's always something fun happening at the School. There's nothing I'd rather be doing."

Edith Zhang '81 & Carson Miller '13

4th Grade

Edith Zhang '81 never thought she would wind up teaching at Sidwell Friends. "There's no question!" she says. "I had this whole other life planned out." Indeed, after graduating from Sidwell Friends, Zhang she majored in Chinese language and East Asian studies at Middlebury. She then moved to Hong Kong for a while, came back to the States for her MBA at the University of Virginia, and pursued the life she'd imagined back in high school.

Zhang got married, worked in business and marketing using her Chinese-language skills, and started a family. Naturally, she and her husband sent their kids to Sidwell Friends, which at the time had no Chinese program in the Lower School. It was when her son was in 4th grade that things began to change for Zhang. "I heard they were studying ancient China," she says. "So, I went in, and I said, 'How can you teach about ancient China but not even touch the language?' That's when the principal and teachers invited her to come in and teach it herself. The School paid for Zhang to spearhead some courses and teach language education part-time.

In the meantime, Zhang was beginning to reevaluate her life. "I still had those values from when I was at Sidwell," she says. "I felt really called to let my life speak—and I wasn't feeling that at all in business and marketing." So, when there was an opening for a Lower School teacher, Zhang went for it. "They took a chance on me," she says. "I ended up getting a master's in education from Johns Hopkins through Sidwell while I was teaching full-time with my kids there." Despite the hectic schedule, Zhang received a Sidwell Friends professional development grant and broke up the coursework for her degree into manageable parts. She says it was like the Quaker saying: "Proceed, and the way will open."



Zhang and Miller

"I felt really called to let my life speak—and I wasn't feeling that at all in business and marketing."

—EDITH ZHANG '81

“At Sidwell, everybody’s voice matters—people from different backgrounds and perspectives.”

—CARSON MILLER ’13

The degree “revolutionized how I felt about myself in the classroom,” she says. But, more importantly, reconnecting with Sidwell Friends values spoke to her desire to do something meaningful. “I always tell parents when they’re applying to Sidwell, ‘You need to really look into these Quaker values,’” she says. “Those values really need to be okay for you because they will go into your children, and they will become a part of who they are. The values are in everything.”

That is something Zhang has come to appreciate even more in the last year as she has started team teaching with another alum, Carson Miller ’13. Despite graduating more than 30 years apart, the pair have a common language. “There’s a shared understanding that just makes the classroom different,” says Zhang. “Carson’s a million years younger than me, and yet we have the same passion underneath about why we teach.”

Miller agrees. “I love the idea that you can create this space where kindness is so important and everybody feels valued and safe,” she says. “It gives you a lot of hope about the world and the people in it.” Miller didn’t know what she would become after high school. “It’s actually not so much that I wanted to be a teacher and work at Sidwell,” she says. “It was more like, when I decided that I wanted to be a teacher, I immediately thought of Sidwell.” So, when she graduated from American University, she then pursued a master’s in education, also at American.

Miller has always loved working with and connecting with kids. “I just really like that I can use that feeling to make an impact,” she says. “At Sidwell, everybody’s voice matters—people from different backgrounds and perspectives.” Plus, Quaker values gave Miller a template—both for how to look at the world and how to teach.

Zhang and Miller each put a premium on Sidwell’s commitment to an interesting curriculum as well as social-emotional learning. “I feel so lucky to be in a place where everyone is so supportive,” says Zhang. “And to be teaching at Sidwell with someone from Sidwell—it’s amazing and so unexpected.”

There’s No Place Like Sidwell

The eight teachers covered in these pages are just a few of the alumni who work at the School—here are the rest.

Badia AlBanna ’92
7/8 Science Teacher

Clare Beeny ’96
2nd Grade Teacher

Jamar Chichester ’09
Interim Head Football Coach

Alex McCoy ’04
Center for Ethical Leadership Coordinator, Community Engagement Coordinator

Susannah Parker ’04
All-School Registrar

Jasmin Perrier ’18
Auxiliary Programs

Natalie Randolph ’98
Director of Equity, Justice & Community

Savanna Richie ’12
Upper School Library Assistant

Eric Singletary ’93
Head Coach and Physical Education Teacher

Camila Villanueva ’03
Upper School Spanish Teacher

Kathi Webb ’76
Director of Parent Relations

Logan West ’01
Head Coach and Physical Education Teacher

Dolores Hamilton '90

Upper School Math

When Dolores Hamilton '90 graduated from Sidwell Friends, she had an inkling that it might be cool to work at the School, but she wasn't planning on being a teacher, and even if she were, she suspected openings would be few and far between because "nobody leaves!"

She wasn't far off. After studying math at Syracuse University, Hamilton reached out to the Black Student Fund, the DC equity organization that, among other goals, aims to increase racial diversity in area independent schools. "I had no idea what to do with a math degree that didn't require me to sit by myself and be antisocial and just work with numbers all day," Hamilton says. "That was when the presidents of the Black Student Fund said, 'You need to teach, and you need to get back into the independent schools.'" She jumped on the idea and soon became a math teacher, and ultimately department chair, at the National Cathedral School (NCS). She immediately loved being in the classroom and remained at NCS for 26 years.

Still, she kept her eye on her alma mater, teaching summer school at Sidwell Friends for a few years and staying in touch with people at the School. During the pandemic, Hamilton left NCS and moved to rural Virginia. But as the world got back to normal, "That's when I thought, *I want to get my foot in the door teaching at Sidwell*," Hamilton recalls. She sent Upper School Principal Mamadou Guèye a joking text saying, "I'm coming back to DC, I need job—ha ha." Then Guèye quickly picked up the phone and called her. "He said, 'There's an opening that's meant to be,'" Hamilton remembers. She is now entering her third year as a teacher at Sidwell Friends.

She says the School's warm, welcoming vibe is much the same as it was in her high school days. "The kids especially are as welcoming as they were when I came in the 10th grade," Hamilton says. "Starting at



Hamilton

Sidwell as a sophomore, I didn't come in with a batch of 20 other kids, but in every class, everyone was just open and inclusive. I find that same behavior now in my classes. The students work collaboratively and consistently elevate each other." It's a trait she finds in the faculty, too. "My math colleagues," she says, "are some of the best, talented, and welcoming people on the planet."

Something else she particularly appreciates about Sidwell Friends is the School's ability to get the most out of students by playing to their passions. "Whether your interests lie in arts, sports, chess, robotics—we got you!" she says. For Hamilton, doing well in school meant being able to play sports. She even broke her own older sister's 100-meter dash track record—though she too was surpassed not long after. "I just give kudos to all my coaches and the Athletic Department," she says. "They dangle the carrot that gives you the incentive to do everything else."

Cecilia Laguarda '13

Upper School Science

“Senior year, the alumni office had us do a time-capsule,” says Upper School science teacher Cecilia Laguarda '13. “One of the questions on the time capsule form was, ‘Where do you think you’ll be in five years?’ And I wrote, ‘Teaching.’ Then I promptly forgot all about it.” For the first couple years of her college career at Harvard University, Laguarda says, education was not on her mind as a field to go into. She didn’t even remember writing “teaching” down on the time-capsule form. But she did ultimately pursue a master’s in education, also at Harvard, before moving to Colorado to teach.

“I went back to Sidwell for my fifth Reunion, which was at the end of my first year of teaching,” she says, “and I opened up the form and saw that I had in fact predicted I would be teaching, which was a real surprise to me.”



Laguarda

Laguarda also never imagined teaching at Sidwell Friends—even once she was a teacher. Though the idea appealed to her, like Dolores Hamilton, she never really believed an opening would become available. But then, four years after she began teaching, Darby Thompson, the director of Upper School Technology and Computer Science at Sidwell Friends, got involved. Thompson, who knew Laguarda was teaching science, approached Laguarda’s youngest sister, who was a senior in the Upper School at the time, and said, “Can you forward this position to Cecilia?”

Laguarda had been teaching in a public-charter Middle School in Colorado and was already casting about for options—particularly at the high school level. “I figured, this is kind of a dream job opening,” she says, “let me apply and see what happens.” What happened is that Upper School Principal Mamadou Guèye hired her. Now, Laguarda says, “Darby and Mamadou argue a little bit about who deserves the credit for bringing me back to Sidwell!”

Laguarda teaches biology and physics at the Upper School, where her colleagues were a big draw for her in coming back to Sidwell Friends. “The Science Department was thinking so deeply about how best to teach science,” she says. “I knew I wanted to join a group of people who were thinking really critically about how to teach science. I really, really admire my colleagues a lot.”

Though a lot of the teachers who were at the School when Laguarda was a student have moved on, Laguarda’s physics teacher Julie Langenbrunner is still at the Upper School. “I like to joke that if I ever mess up anything with physics, it’s all Julie’s fault,” she says. “We all know who taught me physics!”

Laguarda, who was classmates with Lower School teacher Carson Miller '13, likes getting to know her colleagues as an adult. She says that one thing that didn’t exist at her previous teaching job was seeing alumni of the school coming back to teach. “That’s something that’s very special that I think is not true of a lot of schools,” she says. “Having alumni teach at the School is wonderful. I have friends who teach all over the country and to have this many alumni at a school is really special.” ✨

REUNION



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MAY 3-4, 2024

Mark your calendar to join us on campus for Reunion Weekend
for all alumni in classes ending in 4 and 9.

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are available at
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HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

Eric Singletary '93 and **Logan West '01**
on sports as a sanctuary, culture as
a philosophy, and kids as the heartbeat
behind everything they do.

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





Centre on Williams

Head of School Bryan Garman, the host of *Lives That Speak*, the podcast of Sidwell Friends, spoke to two alumni coaches: head basketball coach **Eric Singletary '93** and head tennis coach **Logan West '01**. Both were multi-sport athletes during their time at Sidwell Friends, and both found their passion for coaching once they returned.

BRYAN GARMAN: I have great admiration for both of you in how you coach, how you lead your teams, and the culture you set for your teams. Take us back to what you got out of your Sidwell Friends experience and how the athletic program contributed to that.

LOGAN WEST: Athletics and academics at Sidwell Friends really challenges you and teaches you management skills. Sidwell prepared me very well to go on to play college tennis at Dartmouth and to be a student athlete in that setting. The coaches and mentors we had here taught me a lot of grit and didn't just prepare me physically, but mentally. I also wrestled, and if I could handle getting out there on the mat and challenging myself in that

fashion, the tennis match was going to be easy. Having that confidence and that presence when you walk on the court, knowing that I've been through the fire and I believe that I've been through more than my opponent, and I'm ready to outlast them and do whatever it takes, is so important.

ERIC SINGLETARY: I grew up in a tough neighborhood here as a native Washingtonian; coming to Sidwell Friends as a new student in 9th grade wasn't easy. Sports was tremendous for me to be able to get a peer group right away as I transitioned into a brand-new community academically and socially. There were so many different—not obstacles, but opportunities—and they were all new. Playing sports and being a talented athlete in basketball,

baseball, and football immediately allowed me to be friends with older guys who could show me the ropes of the School. That was more important than the sport itself. The sport was a place of refuge from challenges that I had academically. I always say that Sidwell Friends taught me that I was truly tougher than I thought I was. I was able to master time management and self-advocacy, or to ask for help, which is one of the things that boys in general struggle with and Black boys in particular struggle even more with. Once I mastered those skills, I was able to maneuver at Sidwell in a very positive way. But I wouldn't have been able to do that if I didn't have the sense of belonging through sports.

BG: Tell us about your experiences at college and how you ended up coming back here.

ES: I was completely prepared for college. I went to Rice. I always say that college was easier than Sidwell, and I certainly had to work hard there, but I was prepared to do it. My experience there totally was manifested by all the challenges and obstacles that I overcame here when I was at Sidwell Friends.

LW: To echo that, I always tell the students that I thought the transition from 8th to 9th grade at Sidwell Friends was harder than the transition from Sidwell to Dartmouth.

ES: When you're a young athlete, you want to be a pro. I was fortunate enough to play a little bit of professional basketball in Europe—Portugal and



West

Cory Royster

BG: How do you describe our kids and what makes them so much fun to work with?

AT THE END OF THE DAY, WE ARE CREATING EXPERIENCES FOR OUR STUDENT ATHLETES TO BE ABLE TO THRIVE, TO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP SKILLS THAT THEY'LL TAKE BEYOND THE COURTS AND THE PLAYING FIELDS WHEN THEY LEAVE HERE, AND RELATIONSHIPS THAT WILL LAST HOPEFULLY FOR A LIFETIME."

FALL/WINTER 2023 | SIDWELL FRIENDS MAGAZINE



LW: There's just an excitement and joy that they come to the courts with, and Eric touched on it with when he talked about sports being a refuge. I always thought of the tennis court as my sanctuary, so no matter how much work I had, tests I had coming up, or anything that was going on in my personal life, I always felt that when I walked onto the court, all of that melted away and I had one hour, hour and a half, two hours to just enjoy hitting tennis balls. The kids, when they come to the tennis court or the basketball court or into the wrestling room, you see that exuberance and that joy to compete and to learn. There's a concept I read about called the Beginner's Creed, which as adults we lose a lot, but the kids still have it. It's when you embrace the wonder and the joy of learning something new. The older we get, the more we are afraid of trying because we're expected to know everything already. And if we make a mistake, then we're going to be judged,

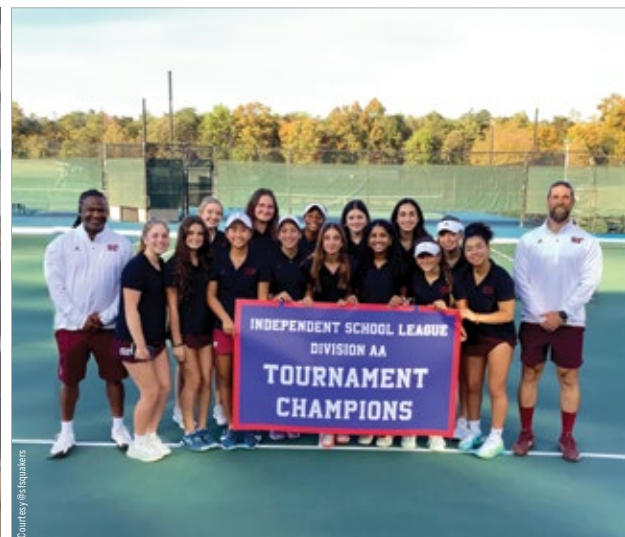
whereas a lot of these kids will just jump in and do it.

ES: I agree. The kids' openness, their ability to transform the information that we give is great. Given the brightness and curiosity of our students and how they're challenged academically, and as an extremely diverse community, that's all part of our strength. That plays out on the courts and the fields. I'm always amazed by them. Logan and I talk about it all the time. How are they so good? How are they so able to do so many things, like play on a sport, be in the play, play an instrument, do well in school, community service, just be involved in different political movements or whatever they're doing? They just do it all. I'm always thinking that's the uniqueness of our school, and I'm always celebrating that we're at a small, private, independent school with the strongest admission process. All these things that you would think might

speak against us being highly competitive. So, that's credit to the kids. I mean, obviously we have some wonderful coaches here, wonderful teachers. But at the end of the day, the heartbeat of the School is driven through the students' ability to do it all.

BG: I've heard you both speak about this a lot: Culture matters. What does that look like and how important is that to the success that you've had?

LW: The success of our programs is only possible with a strong foundation of culture. To speak to my sport, in an individual sport, players are used to going to tournaments and being on an island. It's all about them. They have their own individual rankings. It's important for us to create an environment where they buy into a team-first culture where it doesn't matter if you're playing number-one singles or number-three doubles. Each one of those



LEFT: Singletary and the boys basketball team after winning the 2023 DCSAA Boys AA Championship in March. **RIGHT:** West and the girl's tennis team after winning the 2023 ISL Division AA Finals Tournament in October.

“ WE DON'T HAVE A GOOD CULTURE BECAUSE WE WIN. WE WIN BECAUSE WE HAVE A GOOD CULTURE.”

—ERIC SINGLETARY '93

matches counts the same to the team outcome. So, we're going to push each other as hard as we can in practice, and the more we can get quality reps and push each other to be better, those rising tides are going to raise all ships.

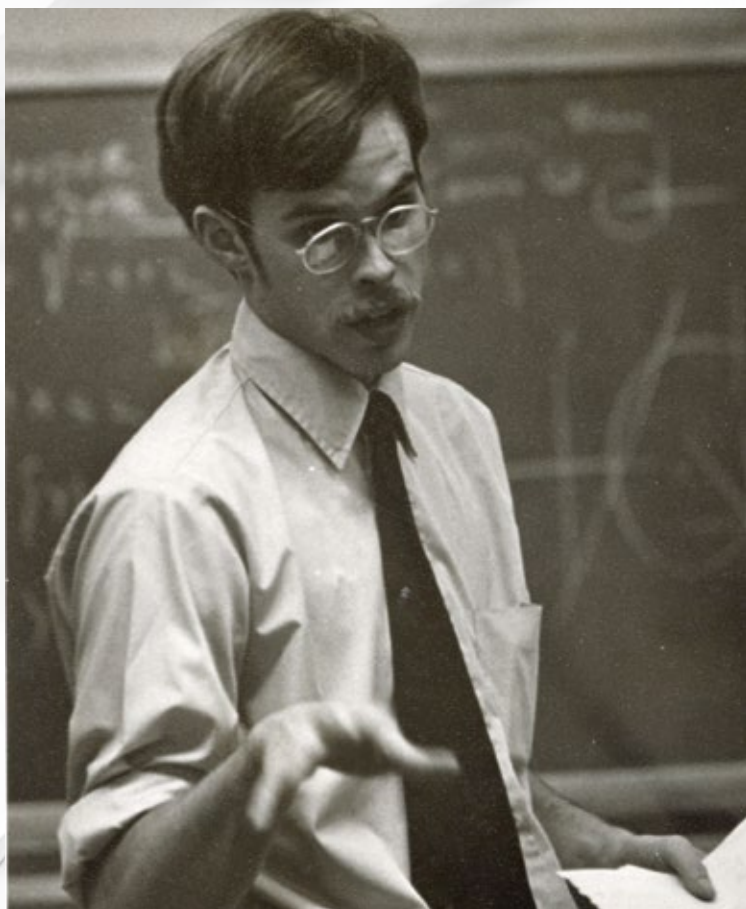
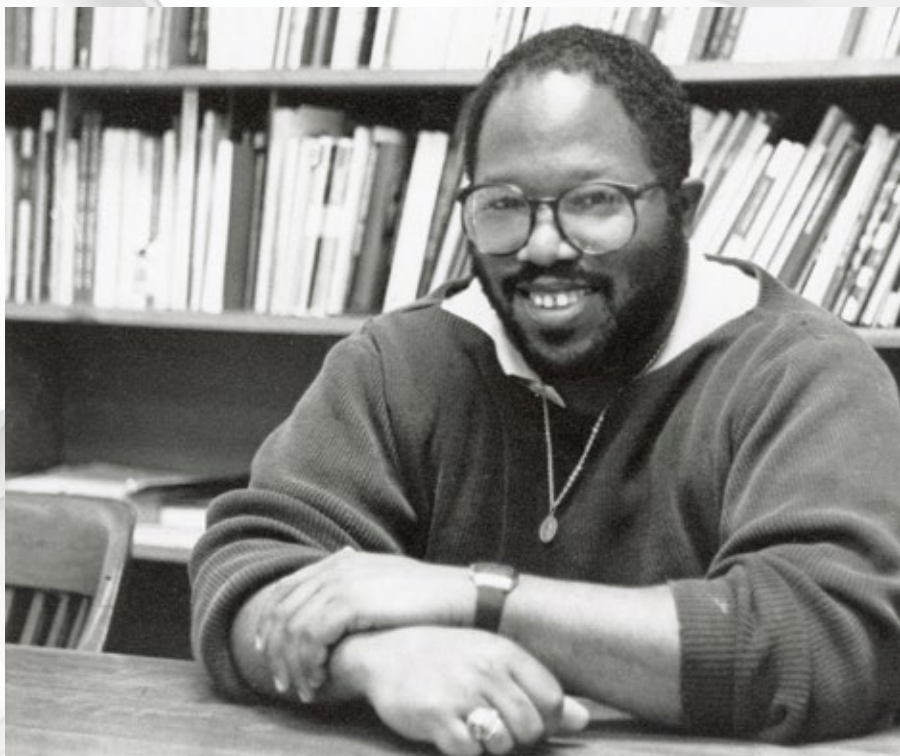
You want to have that environment where the students feel like they're part of a family. And that takes time to build. One of the proudest moments I've had—beyond winning banners or national rankings for our programs or players that have gone on to college—was when the girls' team was fighting to stay in the upper division of the Independent School League (ISL), and we had just lost a tough match against Flint Hill to be eliminated in the ISL tournament. We sat down in a circle together after the match to debrief, and we had several seniors. This was their last high school tennis match, and a lot of girls were in tears, but every one of them talked about what

they were going to remember about Sidwell tennis and how this team felt like a family. That meant more to me than anything else because it meant that they had gotten a tremendous experience and they had built relationships with their teammates that were going to last beyond their time on the courts and beyond their time at Sidwell. Yes, we're coaches and we teach the fundamentals, but at the end of the day, we are creating experiences for our student athletes to be able to thrive, to be able to develop skills that they'll take beyond the courts and the playing fields when they leave here, and relationships that will last hopefully for a lifetime.

BG: And that's a hallmark of Sidwell Friends, right? I mean, you're both alumni, you can speak to the deep friendships that you carry with you.

ES: Hundred percent. I want to give a lot of credit to you, Bryan, and the leadership of the School, because a place like Sidwell Friends can certainly just hold on to traditions to make ourselves feel good. But when it comes to culture, the culture is only allowed to change when the culture above it changes. Sidwell has changed in some really positive ways. It continues to evolve, and I always say that culture is very fragile. It's ripping at the threads every day. You have to work really hard to maintain it every day. It has to be that important to you. I always tell people: “We don't have a good culture because we win. We win because we have a good culture.” And when we win, I win twice: once as a coach and once as an alum. ✨

Stay updated on all our Sidwell teams by following [@SFSQuakers](#) on Instagram, and by visiting sidwell.edu/athletics.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Peggy Luthringer '55, Lower School teacher; **Chris Kirby '79**, Upper School history teacher; **Peter Donovan '66**, Upper School architecture teacher, with wife Claudia, daughter Kristin, and Mousse, the family dog (As an aside, Carl Wilbur '64 and Ellis Turner are in the back corner under the porch!) **BOTTOM:** Carl Wilbur '64, Upper School Latin teacher; Michele Tucker Jeffery '68, Lower School teacher and assistant admissions director; Lonnie Edmonson '67, Middle School history teacher



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.

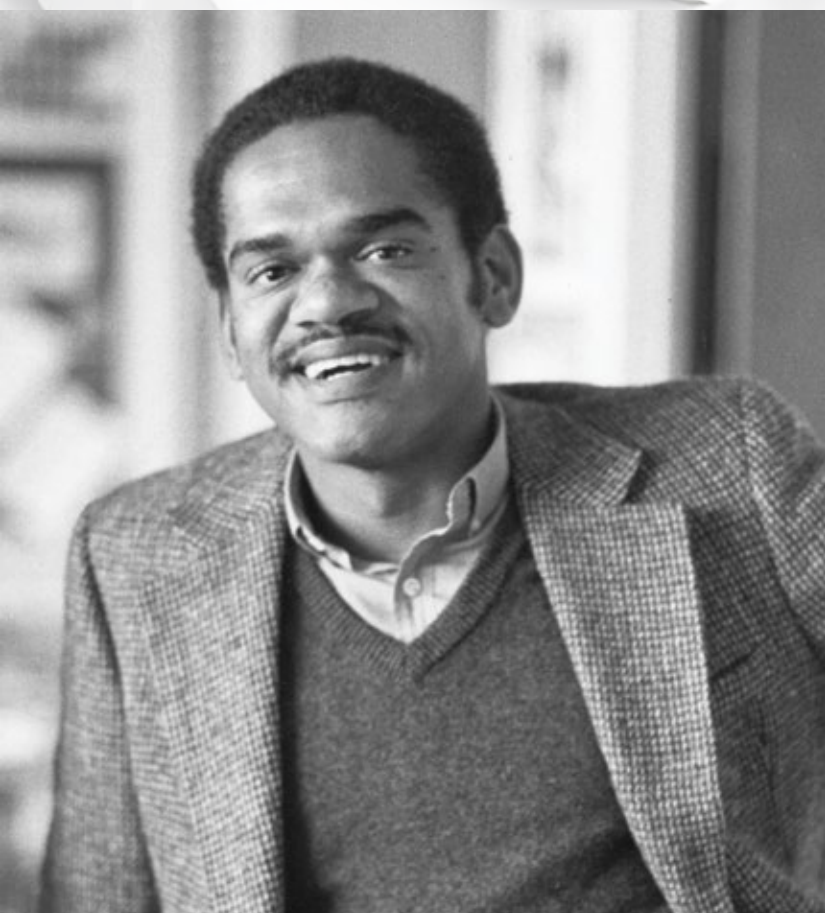


Photo: Courtesy Sidwell Friends School Archives

1950

TOBY RILEY

toby.riley@gmail.com

ANN TYLER FATHY: “This February, I took a 35-day round-trip cruise from San Diego to the Hawaiian Islands and French Polynesia. As usual, I enjoyed being at sea again. I would love to travel more, but age has finally taken away the energy I need to do that. So, I’m learning how to adjust to a life of reading and writing. I remain curious about the world and engaged in California politics that address the need for housing and action addressing climate change. Fortunately, most of my friends are younger and I am able to socialize with them. I keep up with Sidwell Friends happenings, but the East Coast seems so far away, particularly after living in San Diego since 1969.”

1951

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

1952

JANE KUSHNER PAPISH

janepapish@gmail.com

CARL BERGER is still practicing psychiatry in Philadelphia. He and his wife have moved to a condo and his daughter is living in his old house. He sends his best to his classmates.

DORIS KIRSCHBAUM EISEN is living in Canada and says she is doing okay. Her husband died a year and half ago. Like all of us, she is coping with getting older, but says she is hanging on.

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.

JANE KUSHNER PAPISH is fine and living in New York City. She is still riding her three-wheel bike all over the city and swimming. She says she feels old and tired trying to do it but persists. Send news by email or call her at 240-441-5155; She’d love to talk to you.

THOR THORS has been married for 65 years and they are doing well in New York City. They also have a small house in Connecticut, where Thor does a lot of gardening. He is also an advisor to the Icelandic government. He and his wife have

SPOTLIGHT

Mr. MacKaye’s Life

William R. MacKaye ’51 (1934-2023) literally wrote the book on Sidwell Friends.



MacKaye

William “Bill” MacKaye ’51 died on August 21, 2023. He joined Sidwell Friends in 1945, serving as co-editor of *The Quarterly* during his senior year, and he also enjoyed drama and current events as a student. “He is very literary,” wrote a classmate, “and actually enjoys writing those innumerable essays for English.”

It is perhaps no surprise that MacKaye went on to a career in journalism after graduating from Harvard University and spending a year as a seminarian. Early on, he covered the Kennedy assassination while on assignment in Dallas. He returned to DC in 1966, where he wrote and edited for *The Washington Post* for two decades. He was also a freelance writer and founding editor of *In Trust*, an organization dedicated to good

governance in theological schools. MacKaye maintained a lifelong commitment to the intersections of his faith and social justice, demonstrated in part by his chairmanship of the Washington Free Clinic, an outgrowth of his more than 60-year affiliation with St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church.



MacKaye and **Mary Anne “Ginger” Garner ’51** were married for 48 years, from 1956 until her death in 2004. They spent a year and a half researching Sidwell Friends history and interviewing members of the School community in preparation for co-writing *Mr. Sidwell’s School: A Centennial History, 1883-1983*. (See “Happy Birthday to Mr. Sidwell’s School,” on page 26.) Together, Bill and Ginger MacKaye had five children, one of whom is married to the Sidwell Friends’ Upper School photography teacher, Lely Constantinople, who captured this portrait of her beloved father-in-law. Lely and her family enjoyed Sunday dinners with MacKaye, during which they spoke about their ties to Sidwell Friends, including his recent trip to California for the memorial service for photographer **Julian Wasser ’51**. We hold the MacKaye family in the Light.

three grown children, and he loves to walk around New York. He says hello to all.

MARY METZEL POPPER lives in Virginia and has seven kids—seven! When the last started kindergarten and the older went to college, her husband suggested that she go to law school—which she did at Fordham. Her kids are all over the world, but they come home sometimes!

1953

GLORIA GIRTON

ggat58b@orange.fr

GLORIA GIRTON: “I had a visit from **Meg Yoklavich Guilhermier '77**, who found me through this magazine and came to Avignon from the Lot in southwest France. I am still wandering about—soon to be in Naples and Rome again. Naples is a grand city but it, like Marseille, suffers from an undeserved bad reputation.”

HANK HOLMES: “I didn’t actually graduate from Friends; my brother, **Stacy**, graduated in 1952. Dad was tired of his job at CIA. So, everyone was headed north. My senior year at Andover was a culture shock. I always missed the warmth back at Sidwell Friends: dear Pop Wannan, my fatherly coach of soccer and tennis, and Mr. K. My Thai wife and I have moved from California back to Bangkok, where senior life is cheaper!”

1954

Join us at
REUNION

RICHARD NICKLAS

richanicklas@gmail.com

1955

NANCY ABOLIN HARDIN

nahardin@aol.com

FROM THE CLASS REP:

“Our very tall, taciturn classmate **William G. Kerr** passed away on July 4, in his home state of Oklahoma, where he and his late wife, Joffa, had returned



LEFT: William Kerr '55 and his wife, Joffa **RIGHT: Elk sculpture** at the National Museum of Wildlife Art, which **William Kerr '55** co-founded in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.



after a long sojourn in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. While living there, they led a group of friends in creating the National Museum of Wildlife Art 35 years ago. The museum contained all kinds of depictions of wildlife and art from Bill’s personal collection. Situated on a slope overlooking the National Elk Refuge, the building itself is a work of art that blends unobtrusively into the landscape. Rather than the political career one might have expected from the son of Robert S. Kerr—in his time a prominent Democratic senator and also governor of Oklahoma—this extraordinary, and only, official wildlife art museum in the United States will surely be Bill’s long-lasting legacy.” (See photos above.)

ANN WINKELMAN BROWN: “You can find me in three places throughout the year: Washington (April, May, June, September, and October), Martha’s Vineyard (July and August), and in Florida the rest of the time. It’s a tough life but someone has to do it. I stay very active in many organizations: A Wider Circle in Washington; The Lord’s Place, Palm Beach Dramaworks, and the West Palm Beach Library Foundation in Florida; and a few in Martha’s Vineyard, too. They keep my life busy and meaningful. I stay politically active (guess which party?) especially in Florida, which really needs help. Check out Florida’s new Democratic chairman, Nikki Fried. I’m working with her, and she is our great hope. I funded a wonderful program at the Lower School at Sidwell Friends, which was shared at Homecoming Weekend. Love to you all.” (See photo at right.)

ELAINE FOGEL PARKS: “At this stage of life, there is not much to report, which is good news. We are snowbirds, living seven months in Florida and five months in Annapolis. I spend my time playing golf, painting, reading, and spending a lot of time with my children and grandchildren. Both Bob and I are well, and we celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary this past June. In this day and age, that alone is an accomplishment. I hope this finds my classmates well and happy.”

ELEANOR JUDD QUINN: “I had a delightful phone conversation with **Nancy Abolin Hardin** recently, catching up on classmates and events. Although we are on opposite sides of the continent (California and Connecticut), it was wonderful to have such vivid memories of our times at Friends. I was very sad to hear from her of **Bill Kerr’s** death. I have a deep appreciation for him and for his rich life after Friends. Thank you, Nancy, for keeping us in touch through our Class Notes.”



Ann Winkelman Brown '55 and her partner, Dr. Ted Poritz

KEEP IN TOUCH!

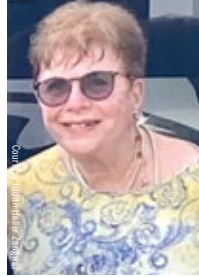
Go to sidwell.edu/classnotes and let us know what you've been up to.

ROBERT BRESLER: "This past summer, my wife, Lin, and I went on a group trip to England, Wales, and Scotland. Probably it will be my final trip abroad. My impressions were mixed. I found London's people more diverse, friendly, and welcoming compared with past visits. The standoffishness in past visits was gone. On the other hand, the pace was almost frantic, the number of other tourists had multiplied, and the dress was informal to the point of slovenliness. The English countryside held its promise. In traveling from Wales to Yorkshire to the Lake District, I found it more beautiful and charming than I knew from the movies and television. As Shakespeare wrote, 'This blessed plot, this other Eden,' which I thought was not far off. I don't expect the world to stand still to preserve my memories. Just as London has changed, so has Washington. And yet, like the English countryside, there is Rock Creek Park and, at Sidwell Friends, the Zartman House. Some things do remain." (See photo below.)



LEFT: Robert Bresler '55 with his wife, Lin

JUDITH HELLER ZANGWILL: "This was my year for traveling. I let all my friends know I was willing to go anywhere, and soon I was busy planning with several good companions. In the past 12 months, I have been to Israel, the Caribbean, London, Dublin, an Atlantic Ocean crossing, Genoa, Milan, New Haven, and Chicago. Next week, I am heading for another two weeks in Italy: the Amalfi Coast and Tuscany. And for Thanksgiving, I will spend time in Washington, DC. When I am not traveling, I enjoy my big house in Venice, Florida, where I can just relax around the pool with my housemates and friends." (See photo below.)



Judith Heller Zangwill '55

LOCHI GUNARATNA: "In 2020, the Inter-Academy Partnership (IAP), the apex body of a global network of science academics, invited their affiliated Academies to identify globally important subjects requiring urgent scientific attention. Sri Lanka's National Academy of Sciences submitted my proposal on 'Urbanization in the Low & Middle Countries,' which was accepted. The IAP then invited their global affiliates to

select, based on geography and gender, a working group of 18 subject-expert members, which I chaired. After two years of collaborative work accomplished electronically, the finalized policy statement was endorsed by a substantial majority, and I presented it internationally online from the IAP's headquarters in Trieste, Italy, on October 5, 2022. The IAP is now promoting the statement among regional and international development agencies and also national governments." (See photo above.)



Lochi Gunaratna '55

TOM SIMONS: "I'm still doing odd jobs around Harvard, trying to follow Ukraine, and still publishing (this year on the late Cold War and Soviet collapse). My wife, Peggy, and I are still traveling. A high point was spring in Andalucía (see photo on previous page, which shows me caught by a lion—aka old age—in the Alhambra in Granada). Next big stop: Christmas/New Year in Sicily with kids and grandkids to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary."

1956

CHARLIE HOLLAND
sshink9@gmail.com

BILL CUSHARD: "I have retired from medical practice, from skiing, and from sailing. I do medico-legal consulting, genealogy research, engage in personal fitness, and now I have the joy of reading the classics—previously impossible due to keeping up with advances in medicine. My wife and I still live in northern California. No Nobel Prizes, but we do have four sons and nine grandchildren, which make an integrated family in spite of their out-of-state locations. I wish all our classmates continued health and happiness."



Courtesy Tom Simons

1957

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

1958

ROBERT MYERS

dr.rbmyers@gmail.com

PEGGY PABST BATTIN

battin@utah.edu

FROM THE NEW CLASS REPS:

There's been a changing of the guard from Craig Morgan to Robert Myers and Peggy Pabst Battin. hopefully two can do nearly as well as Craig did alone. our class continues to be quite close knit and in touch. hearing from other '58ers is what we used to call in the hippie 1960s a real "upper."

CAROL WOOD SHEEHAN (aka Xenia, her baptismal name in the Eastern Orthodox Church) has just compiled and published her fourth book of her late husband Donald Sheehan's copious notes, diaries, finished, and unfinished essays, etc. Its title is *In the House of My Pilgrimage: Violence, Noetic Healing, and Personhood*. The book's overarching theme is the conversion of personal pain, even ruin, into a profound relationship with Christ, and through Him, with others, often through the medium of literature, especially poetry. The title is from Don's translation of LXX Psalm 118[119]:54, published in 2013 as *The Psalms of David*: "Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage." Carol writes in her introduction: "I believe the writings in this book offer us an image of the God-seeking rhythm and grace required for the effort of living—perhaps it would not be amiss actually to call the collection a dance, as antinomy is a dance. Don's dance, and in a small way mine, through him—or his through me?—with God. For in His Dance, to use C.S. Lewis's words, 'all the patterns [are] linked and looped together by the unions of a kneeling with a sceptered love.'" (See "Fresh Ink," on page 28.)

STEVE STOVALL, probably our class's oldest competitive distance runner, is retiring from racing just before turning

83. "I take it too seriously, and it stresses me too much. But the body is still willing, so I'll continue running for fitness and peace of mind."

CAROL SIAS DOUGLAS is living in Navin, Manitoba, Canada, not far from Winnipeg. He hasn't been threatened by the wildfires, but the smoke has been fearsome.

PEGGY PABST BATTIN is bringing out a new book, expected in late May 2024 by MIT Press, titled *Sex and the Planet: What Opt-In Reproduction Could Do for the Globe* (Basic Bioethics). At issue is what the world would be like if all adults chose to use long acting, reversible contraception (LARC) and to reverse it only for wanted pregnancies. They would thus avoid unintended ones, which are the case nearly half the time in today's world. The advent and widespread use of LARC would allocate the responsibility for conception and child-raising evenly across men and women, rather than excessively burdening women as is the case now. Many of the world's most vexing and seemingly intractable issues begin with sex—abortion, adolescent pregnancy, high-risk pregnancy, sexual violence, and population growth and decline. In *Sex and the Planet* Peggy offers an optimistic picture of how we might solve these problems. The book pays particular attention to LARC male contraception and the asymmetry of female and male reproductive control, a topic largely left out of discussions of reproductive health. Peggy takes a global view (India plays a significant role) that considers a possible—even plausible—reproductive future.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Keep your eyes open for a Conversation with Friends event featuring Peggy and her forthcoming book in April.

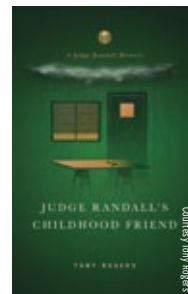
ANNETTE EISENBERG STIEFBOLD:

"In July, my husband, Ed Bell, and I enjoyed our fifth cruise on the Canal du Midi in France. With Ed as captain and I as first mate, we piloted our rented 30-foot motorboat through challenging locks as well as pretty villages and countryside. A highlight was a visit to a small

museum in the oyster- and mussel-raising town of Bouzigues. We then flew to Norway for a delightful week of hiking along fjords and visiting with Ed's daughter and her family, who live in a small town on the North Sea."

TONY ROGERS:

"The newest *Judge Randall* mystery is now available. George Holland, Jim's childhood friend, shows up unannounced after 50 years. At first, Jim is delighted to see George but the delight doesn't last long. *Judge Randall's Childhood Friend* is available on Amazon and at most local bookstores."



1959



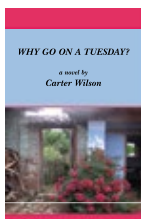
CLARK GRIFFITH

cggpa@ccgpa.com

JOAN ZWEBEN: "Thanks to Clark's persistence, a group of our Sidwell Friends classmates meet on Zoom on the last Sunday of the month. All members of the Class of 1959 are welcome. The link goes out again within days of the call. Our topics range widely, from travel adventures to changes in living circumstances to practical information on how to address health concerns. We talk some about current events, treading carefully around political minefields. **Carter Wilson's** new book, *Why Go on a Tuesday* (available on Amazon), is out, and many of our classmates have eagerly ordered it. As for me, I have been mostly retired, except for teaching on Zoom one day a week at UCSF/San Francisco VA Medical Center. I enjoy a great community, with family and long-term friends living nearby. Many of my favorite restaurants and shops remain closed, which saddens me. I hope to stay in my home, with its backyard deer, great views, and proximity to local shopping."

CLARK GRIFFITH: “The big news that everyone seems to be talking about is Carter’s new book. I asked Carter what it was about, so he sent me a hint and told me it was available on Amazon and elsewhere. Here’s the hint: *‘It is dangerous traveling back,’* says poet Pablo Neruda, *‘because suddenly the past becomes a prison.’* But when prominent anthropologist Maryanne Fort revisits the southern Mexican highlands where she and her late husband began fieldwork 40 years ago, a sense of regeneration and the joy of reconciliation begin to flow in on her.” I’ll get the rest from Amazon. By the way, Carter has **Susie Fickel Kroeger**, **Sue Peterson Huguely**, **Doug White**, and now me telling folks to buy it. I did. Our most prolific author is **Keen Berger**, whose wonderful book on childhood development is very famous, and my daughter, Natalie, is using it to raise my grandson, George, in Bethesda near Westmoreland Circle. As for me, I had a summer at the Mayo Clinic, which is 86 miles from my front door. That’s an hour and 15 minutes in my Audi. I was treated for NPH (normal pressure hydrocephalus). The hole in my head that **Clark Taylor** surmised was there in the 7th grade is in fact there.”

CARTER WILSON: “I’m happy about the publication of my fifth novel, *Why Go on a Tuesday?* this fall.” (See “Fresh Ink,” on page 28.)

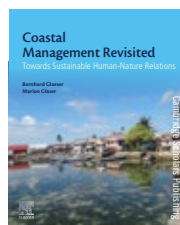


BERNHARD GLAESER: “This spring, I published the book *Coastal Management Revisited. Navigating towards Sustainable Human-Nature Relations* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing). The book covers 25 years of me and co-author Marion Glaser’s sustainability research on oceans, coasts, and islands in tropical and temperate climate zones. Changing perspectives include conflict resolution and governance, ethics and policies, natural disasters (Hurricane Katrina), and climate change, eventually drafting coastal and ocean typologies as decision support for sustainable coastal and ocean management. (See “Fresh Ink,” on page 28.) As every year, I spent the summer with Heide, my wife, in Woods



Bernard Glaeser '59 and Matt Walton '59 with more recent alumni at the Boston Sidwell Summer with Friends event.

Hole, Massachusetts, where we enjoyed the beach, gardening, a few lectures and concerts, the Woods Hole Film Festival, and two blue moons. **Matt Walton** and I drove to Boston to join a Sidwell Summer with Friends event on July 19 (See photo above.) We enjoyed lively conversations and learned that Sidwell still offers a great math college course on logic, Boolean algebra etc. In 1959, we had been the guinea pigs and loved it. This fall, back in Berlin, Heide and I watched a beautiful performance of Bertolt Brecht’s songs and poems covering all stages of his life, including California where he wasn’t so happy, after all.”



The cover of *Coastal Management Revisited*, co-authored by **Bernhard Glaeser '59**, features Lumu-Lumu Island, Indonesia.event.

1960

JODY HUTCHINSON
mjodyh@yahoo.com

1961

BUNNY ROSENFELD
bunnyrosenfeld4200@icloud.com

ALAN ECKERT: “My beloved wife of 51 years, Linda St. Germain, died on May 8 of complications from Alzheimer’s disease in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her family and friends celebrated her life on June 8 in Santa Fe, and on July 8 in northern Virginia. An obituary was published in *The Washington Post*: [sidwell.pub/linda.](https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/2019/07/08/sidwell-pub/linda/)”

1962

CHETT BREED
cbreed@truman.edu

1963

MARGO LEE HOFELDT
margo10022@aol.com

MARGO LEE HOFELDT: “The summer seemed to fly by in the blink of an eye, and we seemed to spend almost two

weeks of it on I-95! The first trip was to hastily get our house in Connecticut ready for family visitors. Some came for three days, some came for four days, and some were there for three weeks. At one point, we had four dogs staying with us, and one night we had 13 for dinner! But fun was had by all. We even celebrated our little granddaughter's second birthday during the month that we were there. Then it was I-95 to Miami for a few weeks to catch up. I actually went to see the Barbie movie with some of my garden club friends, and we all dressed in hot pink, of course. Then I-95 back to Connecticut for the month of August, including our annual trip to Boston/New Hampshire. As usual, I saw my friends, I saw lots of theater in New York City, and we had more visitors. September in Miami has been a whirlwind with barely a day that hasn't had some meeting or social activity on the calendar. Now we're back on I-95 to Connecticut for three weeks, including the *Wine Spectator* New York Wine Experience Weekend."

1964



LOUISE BERRY STRAIT
lbstrait@gmail.com

BONNIE EISENBERG: "I just returned from a visit with my sister, **Annette Eisenberg Stiefbold '58**. She and her husband, Ed Bell, live in Rossmoor, an active adult community in Walnut Creek, California, east of San Francisco. The topography is so different from the mid-Atlantic area where I live: beige and green hills, hearty bushes, pine trees (of course, I have those, too), and an occasional cactus. It rained a week before my visit, but they still could use more rain. It was great to go hiking and boating and to spend time with Annette and Ed."

1965

KEN LESURE
ken.lesure@gmail.com

DAVID (CHUCK) BRESLER: "After living in southern California for over 55 years, my wife and I have recently moved to Lutherville Timonium, Maryland, to be closer to some of our kids, who are still breeding. So far, our six kids have provided seven grandchildren with two more on the way, and we are having great fun making a grandparents' house here where they can visit and play. We may be getting older, but we are still highly functional."

TODD PARNELL: "As retired president of Drury University, one of the oldest institutions in the Missouri Ozarks, I helped lead the university's 150th. anniversary celebration on September 25. My wife, Betty, and I remain happily retired in Springfield, Missouri, within a 15-minute drive from our children and four delightful grandchildren."

KEN LESURE: "Rumors of my resignation or dismissal as class agent are false. Thanks to a recent note in this magazine from **Louise Berry Strait '64**, I have hosted monthly class meetings on Zoom for the past year or so. We have enjoyed sharing memories of our years at Friends, as well as our current news and 'organ recitals' as we face the challenges of septuagenarian life. **To my classmates, please join us each third Saturday of the month, 4-5:30 p.m. EST.** In August of this year, I visited Camp Shohola in the Poconos, not far from my home near the beautiful Delaware Water Gap. Since the 1940s, many Friends alumni have attended this picturesque boys' summer camp still owned by the family of the late Frank Barger, former Middle School principal and head of school. Besides myself, several members of our class are Shohola alumni, including **Tom Rhodes, Jim Glassman, Dick Gralla, Jack Reeside, and Terry Rice.**"

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.

1966

CHRIS DEMATATIS
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FROM THE CLASS REP:

Sidwell's Class of 1966 held its 57th Reunion during the School's Reunion Weekend this past June, gathering at the home of **Pete Donovan** and his wife, Claudia, for an evening of good food and drink and even better conversations. Classmates traveled from as far as Oklahoma (**Kiki Brown Oehlert**), North Carolina (**Diane Council Sweeney** and **Anne Edelbut Hendrix**), Maine (**Ned Beach**), Massachusetts (**Nancy Demuth Thompson**), and New Jersey (**Roseanne Hiatt Harris**) to attend. They were warmly welcomed by those who had made the trip from their homes in the DC metropolitan area (**Jim Berguson, Amy Donovan, Suzy Ornstein Fleming**, myself, **Don Ackad, Kathy Paull Brown, John Clifford, Rex Brown, and Peggy McCurley Gilliam**).

Under a glorious blue sky that slowly gave way to a soft golden sunset, everyone lingered outside as they savored the opportunity to enjoy the company of friendships that have lasted for more than 60 and, in a few cases, 70 years. Having reached a time in our lives when being told that you "look great" is accepted as a heartfelt compliment, the conversations turned to matters of families, travel, memories from back in the day, and, only briefly, politics.

Kathy, as usual, was the organizing force who managed to turn out such a wonderful group for an off-year reunion. Her follow up email to the entire class about the mini-reunion prompted responses from a number of those who could not attend but sent their best wishes and promises to be there for our 60th. Pete and Claudia's house feels like home for most of us who have gathered there for reunions over these many years. Their dog, Sunny, is the laid-back pet we all wished we could have taken home with us. Wade Sovonick once again proved himself to be a master of the grill. Diane's

daughter, Leigh Teague, became our unofficial photographer when the rest of us were preoccupied with eating and laughing. Anne made sure that we each knew who everyone was with special name tags and provided the perfect dessert to finish off the evening: rum buns from O'Donnell's Market in Potomac!

Kathy, Roseanne, Kiki, **Nancy McJennett**, and **Betsy Paull '68** continue to make a tireless effort to get out the progressive vote. Their group, The Power Pens, have sent out tens of thousands of missives over the past couple of years. Anyone interested in joining them should write to Kathy (kbrown5001@verizon.net). —Chris Dematatis

CHRIS DEMATATIS dropped in to have lunch with **Nancy Demuth Thompson** and Wade Thompson at their lovely home in Lexington, Massachusetts, on his flight to Maine. It was the first leg of a four-week long, 7,500-mile journey during which he flew his plane from Virginia to Maine to Oregon to California and Washington before heading back east. He visited with both his sisters (Maine and California), attended a land conservation conference in Portland (Oregon), and stopped along the way in both directions to hike in a number of national parks he had not previously visited. (See photo above.)



Chris Dematatis '66 with his plane

RHODA HIGSAW BUSH and **BRUCE BUSH**: “Our grandson and first grandchild was born in February to our daughter, **Sarah Bush Hechler '08**. We bought a small bungalow house nearby them in Ypsilanti, Michigan, so we are traveling between there and our primary home in Frederick, Maryland, in order to be part of our grandson's life. We enjoyed a wonderful three-week trip to France in May as well as summer weeks at our cabin by the lake in northern Michigan. Bruce continues to use his Spanish, interpreting for a mobile medical unit in Frederick as well as the Frederick County Public Schools.”

LISABETH FOUNTAIN CRAWFORD:

“At the beginning of COVID, we moved from Miami, Florida, to DeFuniak Springs, Florida. DeFuniak Springs is a small town in the Florida Panhandle northeast of Elgin Air Force Base. Beautiful area with tons of critters, including deer, bear, coyote, fox, and many more. We love it here. Our daughter, Sam, and her two sons moved with us. Loving retirement and time to read and crochet.”

1967

STEVE BATZELL

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Members of the Class of 1966 gathered for a mini 57th reunion.

CHRISTOPHER KNOWLES writes: "I'm currently working on my 25th novel to be published. For quite a while the Chinese have employed the 'Belt' of their 'Belt and Road Initiative' (BRI) to transport their consumer goods to market in Southern and Northern Europe. It goes by way of the South China Sea, the Strait of Malacca, the Indian Ocean, and the Suez Canal. But recently, an internet cable was laid along that route from Australia to Oman. It was secretly fitted with sensors to detect marine traffic above. The United States military has, for quite a while, had a facility on the island of Diego Garcia just off that route that was built on land in what is referred to as the British Indian Ocean Territory. Destroyers, submarines, and P-3 Orion aircraft are known to be patrolling that route and turning back Chinese cargo vessels carrying consumer goods to Europe. The Chinese are planning a military response and the United States has got to come up with a plan to defeat that response. The American military is working on an initiative that is also the subject of my latest novel, *Poseidon's Trident: The Atlantis Connection*."



TONY FARRELL and his wife, Kathy, were part of a 16-person team from Berkeley Tennis Club to play at the All-England Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon, shortly after their major tournament ended. In 2021, he served as president of Berkeley Tennis Club and gave the All-England Lawn Tennis Club a gift commemorating the 1938 championships when three of Wimbledon's four singles finalists were members of "our little California club." (See photo above.)

ARNE PAULSON and his wife, Sara, are moving on with their second collaborative 3-D mosaic sculpture, a giant multi-colored gecko. (See photos above.)

1968

ROLLIE FRYE

rolliefrye@gmail.com



TOP: Tony Farrell '67 competes on Court 17 at Wimbledon, in the shadow of Centre Court, a memorable once-in-a-lifetime experience. **TOP RIGHT:** Arne Paulson '67 and his wife, Sara, create mosaic sculptures. **RIGHT:** A mosaic sculpture by Arne Paulson '67 and Sara

HUGH BEACH: "I can report our recent three-week stay in India to participate in our second daughter's marriage there to a young Tamil."

LYNN JOHNSON MCCOWN: "Betsy Paull, Kay Burgunder Stevens, and I celebrated a beautiful last day of September with a wonderful al fresco lunch together. All three of us are still happy and healthy. Greetings to you and the rest of the class." (See photo on next page.)

LYN SPENCER HORTON: "In August, I was interviewed for *The Artful Mind*, a popular regional magazine on the arts in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. The interview was thorough, covering the influences throughout my life as an artist and discussions of particular pieces that the editor selected from studying my website. The interview began with my introductory statement: *The value of my life can be measured in terms of how my son has become the talented adult that he is, how the art I have made has evolved, and how close the friends I keep are. I have endowed my work with the importance of caring for a second child. It deserves atten-*



tion every day, either in thinking about it or in actively making it. The work began seriously as conceptual art and maintained that basis even though it changed form to become more visual than not. Whenever I feel anxious at all about what I am doing, I think of age 41-year-old Sol LeWitt's words in a letter to a younger, disquieted close artist friend, Eva Hesse: 'JUST DO.' The interview ended with a question about future plans. I replied: *I would rather refrain from looking too far into the future. I have so much present tense to take care of. I will, however, be creating an installation at Installation Space, on Eagle Street in North Adams for the four weekends in November.*" (See photo on next page.)

PHIL TERZIAN: “Busily retired in northern Virginia, thankfully minus the daily expedition in and out of the District. Writing (when asked) for *The Wall Street Journal*, *Claremont Review of Books*, *New York Post*, *The Spectator*, etc., and occasional TV/radio turns. I travel here and abroad. Still running with the Wolver Beagles in Middleburg and playing arthritic piano (jazz, mostly). My wife, also retired in theory, is organizing the 50th reunion of her 1974 Williams class. Trauma-surgeon son, singer-songwriter daughter, awaiting (as of this writing) third grandchild. Some orthopedic/retinal surgery but biggest problems are (a) search for occasions to wear a closetful of redundant suits and jackets and (b) gradual dispersal of my 6,000-volume library. Still enjoy recounting the story of my expulsion from Sidwell Friends by Mr. Katzenbach for (as he told my mortified parents) not being ‘college material.’”

1969

Join us at
REUNION

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WILLIE ALLEN-FAIELLA: “After 22 years as the rector of St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Coconut Grove (Miami), Florida, I retired in March 2023. I served two other parishes in Virginia and Pennsylvania for a total of 36 years of active ministry. We recently celebrated the marriage of our son, Kit, and Paige (née Craig); the couple lives and works in DC. We will continue living in Miami for the time being but ultimately plan to move back to the Northeast.”

MARIAN GREELY: “Darrell Olson and I are still in Charleston, South Carolina. I’m in my 15th year of teaching water aerobics. I still work for the city of Charleston’s tennis center. I captain and play for the U.S. Tennis Association. Who would have thought I’d end up being sporty? I majored in history! The only traveling I’ve done is to see my grandbaby, Sidney. My son Chapman and his wife, Rebecca, finally made me a grandmother. The good/bad news is they live in Oxford, United Kingdom. Not around



TOP: Lynn McCown '68, Betsy Paull '68, Kay Stevens '68 **LEFT:** Lyn Horton '68 in her studio on the cover of *The Artful Mind*, September 2023 **RIGHT:** Marian Greely '69 is a grandmother.

the corner but a wonderful place to visit. David Knott, my other son, and his wife, Lauren Smalley, live in Charlotte, North Carolina. They have chosen to give me grand-chickens, dogs, and cats. Fun to visit but hard to read to. All in all, I’m happy and healthy, most important.” (See photo above.)

1970

MARGARET WEAVER STEEL
mwkrull@me.com

CHRIS TUFTY: “Still living the dream in Los Angeles! We just bought a 1913 Craftsman house one and a half blocks from the beach in Long Beach, California. It’s also just one block from shops

and restaurants, which is exactly what my wife, Margot, and I were looking for—as climbing up and down the steps to our current 1911 Craftsman home was soon to become increasingly difficult.” (See photo on next page.)

CATHY MORENO BODINE: “I am now living in Billings, Montana, near my daughter’s family. I drive my grandsons to school every morning and pick them up after school. It keeps me busy, along with a Zumba gold class. I will try to join some other things as time goes by. I am curious about how the winter here will be. My new address is: 430 Clark Ave., Billings, MT 59101.”

PALMER FORET: “Mari and I had a fall vacation in Portugal and had a wonderful time learning about the country’s history, visiting museums, and of course drinking wine and port! More exciting, however, is the news that our son, Derek, is engaged to a brilliant young woman, Emily Davis. They are both in the same Ph.D. program (political philosophy/theory) at the University of Texas, Austin, and will be married in 2025. I am still lawyer-ing (albeit part-time), fighting for justice for the injured. I’m looking forward to more travel as I continue to wind down my practice. By this time next year, we hopefully will have visited Montreal and London, taken a cruise on the Rhine, and enjoyed a safari in Botswana and South Africa—and whatever else Mari dreams up.” (See photo below.)

BETSY GLASSMAN: “I am pursuing music in retirement, playing guitar, alto flute, and singing. I completed a demo single of my original song, ‘Mr. Over There,’ and am peddling it around. I plan to digitize my originals, in the closet for decades, over the winter. I’m playing with three different groups, including the all-girl Ukeladies, with an exciting VFW gig upcoming. I’m enjoying the big-time music scene and hope to send links out when my videos are posted—in the works! In August, I was together with brothers **Peter Glassman ’67** and **Jim Glassman ’65** as well as their families, including **Beth Ourisman Glassman ’74**, for the wedding of **Benjamin Glassman ’11** to Georgia Russell, held in the historic Jaffrey Meetinghouse in New Hampshire.” (See photo below.)

ELLEN HOPMAN: “I had another book published this year, *The Sacred Herbs of Yule and Christmas: Remedies, Magic & Brews for the Winter Season* (Destiny Books/Inner Traditions). (See “Fresh Ink,” on page 28.) Other than that, I went to New Orleans in August (do not recommend!) to speak at a conference. It was 105 degrees every day. I did manage a bit of tourist cheer—a graveyard tour in an air-conditioned bus and dinner on a riverboat. Also, I was invited to two private house parties, which is apparently a thing in NOLA. I also spoke at the Midwest Women’s Herbal Conference in Wisconsin. As usual, I have another book coming out next spring. Stay tuned.”

MARGARET WEAVER STEEL: “I am enjoying serving on the board of the Williamsburg Regional Library, which just won the distinction of Best Library in Virginia. It’s also in the top 5 percent of libraries in the United States! Griff and I just returned from a bike trip in southwestern Virginia on the Virginia Creepers trail. I love my e-bike!”

1971

BRIAN STEINBACH
brian.steinbach@verizon.net

DOROTHY DAVIS announced that her film about her father, *Photos by Griff Davis*, won Best Documentary Short at the Studio City International film and TV Festival in Los Angeles. This happened on his 100th birthday, September 12.

JO ANN ROSENFELD had a letter published in *The New York Times Magazine* in June discussing the reasons for physician burnout, including her own, and particularly for those, like her, in family practice. Jo Ann has practiced in Maryland, Virginia, and most recently part-time in a private practice in a small town in California.

DOUG COLE has formed a new band in the East Bay, Cole and the Gang, that includes his son Andre on drums. Their music ranges from blues through funk, R&B, Motown, and other rock and soul. Their first gig was November 12.

JANET GALLIHER WALKER is spending time this fall in Japan as “nanny” to her two young grandsons there.

DAVID BRADLEY reports that he still has one remaining company that he barely manages and holds several board positions. His main activity is research on the lives of 20-somethings (the age cohort that he mostly has employed over the years) and the large decisions they face in work and romance. He intends to write a book. Meanwhile, he has married off two sons and celebrated his 70th birthday in the Philippines.

GISELLE DONNELLY’s follow up to *Empire Imagined*, titled *The Fourth Kingdom*, is about to be published.

ELIZABETH SCHEUER and **PETER JOSEPH** celebrated the birth of another grandchild. This was the first of her youngest daughter, who lives in Seattle.



LEFT: Chris Tufty '70 has a new retirement home at the beach. **CENTER:** Palmer Foret '70 and his wife in Portugal **RIGHT:** Betsy Glassman '70

JOHN EMORY is busy composing and singing songs and poetry, playing tennis, and upgrading his recording equipment.

DANA SACK is an avid sailboat racer. He has ratcheted back this year and has been enjoying sailing with family and friends while still working.

MARY REYNER continues to enjoy volunteering at the National Arboretum Youth Garden and Hillwood as well as gardening at her community vegetable plot and home garden. She also still loves potting and teaching wheel-thrown pottery and watching her students develop their skills.

BRIAN STEINBACH has enjoyed pulling ivy at Hillwood one day each week as well as gardening, transferring reel-to-reel tape to CDs, and reading Giselle's book.

1972

JOYCE JACOBSON BRASTED

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DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS:

Class Rep. Joyce Jacobson Brasted forwarded the following note without a name, which led your humble editor to believe it was Brasted's note. In fact, it was Neil Wetzel's, though in true Sidwellian symmetry, Brasted, like Wetzel, ran a bed-and-breakfast for many years!

NEIL WETZEL: "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 had a few Sidwell Friends classmates or alumni stay (one even accidentally: **Horace Dawson!**) or stop by for a visit. **Mark Domincovich** and Lynda Domincovich stopped by in 2019 and last summer. I hope to see more friends before we retire in the next few years!"

1973

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SKIP KELLY: "The fabulous concert venue that I manage in downtown Bethes-

da has recently changed its name and rebranded as 'Bethesda Theater' with more music, comedy, dining, and more. I welcome Class of '73 alumni to come for any show and just ask for Skip!"

JEFFREY MUMFORD: "I am delighted to announce the release of *echoing depths* on the Albany Records label. It contains three concertos (cello, piano, and violin, respectively) performed by a stellar group of ensembles and soloists, including the Detroit Symphony, Chicago's Ensemble Dal Niente, and the Chicago Composers' Orchestra. Soloists are Christine Lamprea (cello), Winston Choi (piano), and Christine Wu (violin). Conductors are Kazem Abdullah (Detroit Symphony) Michael Lewanski (Ensemble Dal Niente), and Allen Tinkham (Chicago Composers' Orchestra). This is the culmination of five years' work. In addition, I recently received commissions from the Koussevitzky Foundation in the Library of Congress for a concerto for two violins and string orchestra for the String Orchestra of New York City and a commission for a new work from Chamber Music America, for the DC-based Balance Campaign ensemble. Presently, I am at work on a harp concerto for Anne-Sophie Bertrand, harpist with the Frankfurt Radio Symphony and a frequent guest with many orchestras throughout Europe. My wife, Donna Coleman, continues to exhibit her work throughout Ohio and elsewhere, and our daughter, Blythe, is living in Atlanta working for a nonprofit that engages with historically black colleges and universities on issues of sustainability." (See photo below.)



The new album from Jeffrey Mumford '73.

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1974



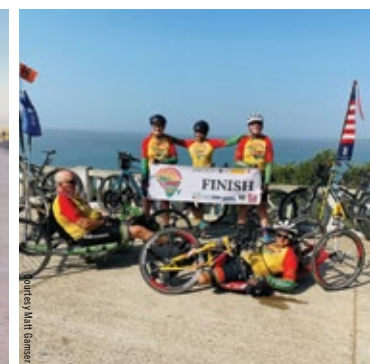
PAUL MARKUN

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CAMILA BRYCE-LAPORTE is the curator of a new exhibition at City Lore Gallery in Manhattan: "The Calling: The Transformative Power of African American Doll and Puppet Making." The exhibition opened on October 6 and will run through March 3, 2024. Attending the opening with Camila were her spouse and classmate, **Henry Morris Jr.**; classmate **Matt Gamser** and his spouse, Anka Zaremba; and Camila's brother, **Robertino Bryce-Laporte '75**. More information is available at sidwell.pub/calling. (See photo on next page)

STEPHEN CHANOCK was selected by the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) as one of its 2023 Fellows. The mission of the AACR is to recognize and honor distinguished scientists who have made a significant contribution to the fight against cancer. Chanock is the director of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute. He was selected by AACR for "directly enhancing our understanding of the association between inherited genetic variants and cancer risks." The Class of '74 congratulates Stephen on achieving this honor.

MATT GAMSER cycled across Africa from the Atlantic Ocean at Swakopmund, Namibia, to the Indian Ocean in Maputo, Mozambique this past May-June. This more than 2,300-kilometer journey through Botswana, South Africa, and Eswatini would have been just one more cross-Africa odyssey, were it not for the presence of two "paracy-



LEFT: Road to Reunion: 1974 classmates **Rob Nooter**, **Betsy Karasik**, **Peter Rashish**, and **Leslie Wolf-Creutzfeldt** enjoyed a mini-reunion in Dupont Circle in September. Leslie says, "It was great to catch up, share memories and exchange ideas with forever friends." (**Barky Jones** couldn't join the group because he was moving to Maine.) **TOP RIGHT:** **Camila Bryce-Laporte '74**, **Matt Gamser '74**, **Robertino Bryce-Laporte '75**, **Henry Morris Jr. '74** **CENTER:** **Matt Gamser '74** desert-cycles with his team in Namibia. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** **Matt Gamser '74** and his team finish their 2,300-kilometer journey in Maputo, Mozambique.

clists" on the team. These two rode the entire journey with their hands, as they were confined to wheelchairs when not on their cycles. Along the way, the core team of five people (two paracyclists, two two-wheeler cyclists, and one media specialist/part-time two-wheeler cyclist) connected with disabled-persons groups and cycling clubs from the five countries. The objective was to show that being disabled shouldn't mean being excluded from sports and other recreational activities. The bonds formed between the "able" and "disabled" cyclists across southern Africa already have resulted in new initiatives, including bringing the first three-wheel paracycles into Eswatini and Mozambique. Much more detail about the journey can be found in the Facebook and

Instagram records of Bidii Yetu 2023 (*bidii yetu* means "our resilience") or at bidiiyetu-nolimits.org. (See photos above.)

1975

ALAN DRUMMER

alandrummer@hotmail.com

NICOLE FALL: "I have 'retired' from teaching art (does one ever, really?) at the college and arts high school levels as well as administering community arts programming for Baltimore Clayworks in Baltimore. My spouse, Blake Conroy, and I have continued to make and exhibit our art, currently at Massoni Art Gallery in Chestertown, Maryland.

We also make public art for schools and recreation centers in Baltimore and DC. We work with the students to design the final work, which is then constructed in aluminum or welded steel. It has been great connecting with **Alexa Fraser**, since I'm in DC more often these days." (See photo below.)

1976

MARY ANN MCGRAIL

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BESTY ZEIDMAN

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Aluminum window grilles for the Boys and Girls Club at Brooklyn O'Malley, Maryland, created by **Nicole Fall '75** and her husband, Blake Conroy, based on designs from student drawings.

1977

ADAM STERN

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MEG YOKLAVICH GUILHERMIER:

"During the pandemic, with strict lockdowns in France, I read the summer 2021 issue of Sidwell Friends Magazine cover to cover. I noticed that the class note from **Gloria Girton '53** was sent from France. I sent her an email to say bonjour and to introduce myself. We finally had a chance to meet in person. We had great fun, laughing a lot about our various escapades and crossed paths. I hope to make it an annual event. Here we are in her lovely city of Avignon, with our respective rescue dogs, Rupert and Rarou." (See photo at right.)

KATIE DAVIS: "I just launched a podcast: *Lanier: Stories of the Block that Raised Me* (sidwell.pub/porchtales). I've always looked out my front door and collected snippets of stories. Sidwell Friends was a place for all of us. If I keep going, I'll do an episode about 9th grade!"

BRIAN MUYS: "We have been enjoying time with our new grandson. Between visits home, we celebrated Siobhan's birthday with a bucket-list cross-country train trip and tour of British Columbia, from hiking in Jasper and Banff National Parks to Vancouver's Chinatown and High Tea in Victoria." (See photo on next page.)

JULIE SCHNELL TURNER enjoyed a brief visit with **Bill Hyun** in San Francisco in October. (See photo on next page.)

1978

PETER MACDONALD

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CHERYL BASCOMB: "I had a great dinner—thanks to the Sidwell Friends Alumni office and **Mike Gonnerman '61** (Dartmouth '65)—with current Dartmouth students and local alumni. (There are only two of us who are also Sidwell Friends alumni.) It was fun, and we talked about many things, including

how our Quaker education manifested in our lives after Sidwell Friends. One of the students is a first-year and her favorite co-curricular activity is axe-throwing. Scared of her!"

DAVID GARRITY: "After selling my apartment in New York City earlier this year, I have joined **Cheryl Bascomb** as a New Hampshire resident, but not in Hanover as my home is in North Conway at the foot of Cranmore Mountain. I'm enjoying skiing in the winter and hiking/biking the rest of the year in and around the White Mountains. Looking forward to voting in the February 2024 presidential primary and expect to receive much campaign junk mail before then. In other news of note, in July my partner Tammy Kahn and I married in Rockport, Massachusetts. It was a small outdoor ceremony overlooking a lake with the ocean in the distance. Tammy's son, James, was best man and my friend Steven Monroe Smith served as the solemnizer. Afterwards, we all went surfing to celebrate the occasion. In closing, if anyone wants a place to visit and go skiing this winter, please get in touch."

LEONORA ROTH SAMUEL: "I've become a grandmother. This isn't affecting my day-to-day life much, because my daughter, the new mother, doesn't live close by. But it's exciting to see the next generation going through the same rites of passage that we faced, although they're making different choices from the ones we made. And they're sending us wonderful photos. I have just heard the news that Mamadou Guéye is planning to depart from Sidwell Friends School at the end of this academic year. I only encountered his teaching once, at a 'master class' during a Reunion visit. The topic was language and identity. He taught the soul as well as the mind. I wish him success in the new project on which he's embarking. Finally, my heart is hurting; I know others are also hurting, on account of the outbreak of violence in Israel/ Palestine and the many bereavements and the fear experienced by family members of people who were taken hostage or missing or dangerously wounded. This has also sensitized me a bit to the suffering experienced by people

across the world who are caught up in conflict." (See photo on next page.)

DAVID STERN: "I stepped down as executive director of Equal Justice Works in October 2022 after 30 years. I committed to at least one year of adventure before considering another gig. I have taken three bike trips, four ski trips, and visited Rwanda, Tanzania, Vietnam, Cambodia, Morocco, Turkey, Mexico, and Honduras, in addition to our annual five-week family vacation in Acadia, Maine. I am heading to Antarctica in November. I still have tons of energy and passion for travel and social justice and will think about what's next in 2024."

NED SHERBURNE: "I am still filling my time with gainful employment as the U.S. Department of Justice liaison to FEMA for Stafford Act disaster activities, which keeps me rather busy during hurricane season. I have slightly more than 30 years of federal service after starting with local government. I also serve as the volunteer chief of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad where I have been a member for many years. My wife is a recently retired Montgomery County Public Schools principal, and we live in Bethesda. Retirement and traveling to places I have not been to yet is in the future, but I am not quite ready to set a date although living with a retiree makes me consider it every day!"



Gloria Girton '53 and Meg Yoklavich Guilhermier '77



LEFT: Brian Muys '77 and his wife, Siobhan CENTER: Julie Schnell Turner '77, Bill Hyun '77 RIGHT: Leonora Samuel '78 with her new grandchild



BRANDEL FRANCE DE BRAVO: “My poetry collection, *Locomotive Cathedral*, was chosen in a contest for publication by the University of Nebraska. It is my second full-length poetry book and will come out in early 2025. I hope to do some readings in DC and elsewhere that year and would love to see some classmates at them.”

1979

Join us at
REUNION

KEENE TAYLOR

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TED LEWIS

bethesdated@gmail.com

KEENE TAYLOR JR.: “I’m still enjoying the real estate business here in DC. My wife, Martina, retired after several decades at NIH and is enjoying more free time plus volunteer work. Our son, Talbot, graduated from Boston University in May of ’22 with a degree in computer engineering and is currently working for

a defense contractor here in Washington. We are hoping to boost our travel in the coming years, and we started that off with a visit to San Francisco and Sonoma wine country this past May. While there, we had a fabulous visit with **Matt Berler** and his wife, Amy, who are doing great out there on the left coast. I also caught up with **David Parks** on his recent visit to see his folks in Annapolis.” (See photo on next page.)

BEN MITCHELL: “I have been living my retired life doing volunteer work on several political campaigns promoting responsible government, parental rights, and individual freedoms in Loudon County and Virginia. I am also working with the Medical Reserve Corp, as well as with the Land Trust of Virginia as an election officer. You will find me cycling the asphalt and gravel roads of Loudon County and driving high-horsepower cars on the road and track. Cheers!”

LIBBY FROST PIERSON: “I returned home to DC just before the pandemic hit after an international career in the art world curating exhibitions and as the director of galleries in New York, London, Paris, and Rome. To say it has been a culture shock is not to understate it by half, but I am slowly finding my way, merging my experience as an activist and cultural diplomat with my

passion for using the arts as a powerful tool for connection and change, now with a new office in the Palisades. Come and visit!”

1980

WILLIAM RICE

williamrice63@gmail.com

WILL MCMILLAN: “Hi, classmates! I just finished reading the summer Sidwell Friends Magazine and am very happy that the arts continue to be an important part of the Sidwell Friends School experience. As some may remember, I left Sidwell Friends after 4th grade because I was cast as a standby in a new musical that was previewing at the recently completed Kennedy Center. This past February, I was honored to perform in four sold-out 50th anniversary performances by the original cast of *Pippin* at 54 Below in NYC. It was a very dream-like experience! I continue to live in the Boston area and have been releasing songs—both originals and covers—to digital-streaming platforms since COVID entered our lives (and reminded me that tempus does indeed fugit!). Although my total number of streams overall is quite modest, the algorithms at Spotify (in particular) have been blessing my latest recordings with

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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



Ben Mitchell '79, Andrew Bergen '79, and Keene Taylor '79 enjoyed catching up at a Cleveland Park sports bar to watch the first Monday Night Football game of the season (sorry, Aaron Rogers fans).

increased exposure. If you are curious, you can search for “Will McMillan featuring Doug Hammer” to hear what I’ve been up to. And I continue to feel deeply grateful to Lower School teacher Maybelle Imhoff, whose love of music continues to ripple through my life.”

WILLIAM RICE: “By the time this message reaches print, I should be well into my fourth year (fifth, save for the pandemic) of tutoring reading to young students in DC public and charter schools. The kids are bright and inspiring, the program well-conceived, and my fellow tutors dedicated. One disheartening phenomenon is the usually unspoken but sometimes overt struggle between the school staff and the separate tutoring program. It seems a great shame that kids can lose reading-skills reinforcement because a teacher feels some sort of competition with the tutors and won’t consistently let students leave her classroom for the extra help. Internal politics aside, I continue to be struck by how sharp all the kids are and to reflect on how slight the connection can be between intelligence and scholastic success or failure. I often feel inclined to apologize for the inconsistencies and flat-out inanities of the English language and to officially relieve my personable charges from having to learn the parts that are hard. But that would

be contrary to company policy (and I suppose common sense), and so I go on with the program, hoping that I’m a welcoming ambassador from the world of reading.”

1981

ANDREW SZANTON
aszanton@rcn.com



LEFT: Molly Montgomery '81 and her new grandson, Henry **TOP RIGHT: Entertainment Nation**, a permanent exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History co-designed by **Molly Montgomery '81** **BOTTOM RIGHT: Entertainment Nation** explores the history of pop culture.

GAIL GAULDIN MARTIN: “I enjoyed catching up with **Pete Wrampelmeier** in Virginia recently, on the way back from celebrating my dad’s 88th birthday! While continuing to enjoy the quiet of the country, we are starting the downsizing process (such fun!) with plans to move south in a couple of years. On a random note, if anyone enjoys Tic Tacs but has no use for the empty containers, I’d be glad to take them off your hands to store/organize my seeds!”

MOLLY MONTGOMERY: “I became a grandmother to my beloved little grandson, Henry Warren Robinson, born in December. Also in December, *Entertainment Nation*, a permanent exhibit I and my colleagues at Reich & Petch designed, opened at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Hope you all get a chance to see it. Hoping everyone is doing okay. I must say turning 60 did not feel so great, though I am happy to be here!” (See photos on next page.)

ANDREW SZANTON: “I am still living in Newton, Massachusetts, still trying to apply the Quaker tradition and values of my maternal ancestors to the complex, war-torn world of today. I am still helping people to write books, espe-





Courtesy: Charlie Watts



Courtesy: Frances Barbour

LEFT: Charlie Watts '81 has a new grandson, Saul
RIGHT: Frances Barbour Melbostad '84

cially memoirs, and I would like to help anyone either from a Sidwell family or outside who might need a writer or editor. Feel free to contact me if you feel like talking about the past, present, or future. My two children are grown, and my wife and I can offer you a warm cup of tea, a walk or drive to sites of historic interest, and a guest room."

CHARLIE WATTS: "I am extremely delighted to report that our daughter, Isabel, who is a nurse practitioner at a community clinic in Canaan, New Hampshire, and her husband, Jake, a newly minted attorney and public defender in Laconia, New Hampshire, welcomed their first child on March 22. Everyone, including us first-time grandparents, seems to be loving the experience! Saul Haynes Watts and his parents live about 90 minutes from us, so we've had the luxury of lots of time with him this summer. Our youngest, Isaac, lives in Somerville, Massachusetts, and recently began work as a studio manager (woodshop, sculpture) at Mass College of Art. And our oldest, Sam, is in his third year at New England School of Acupuncture in Worcester, Massachusetts. Holly and I still live in Free-

dom, New Hampshire, having survived several years of building construction/renovation, much of which has been in service of evolving our place (High Meadow Farm) into a space for contemplative small-group retreats. I continue my attempts to write fiction and am hugely grateful for the time in which to do it. I have also developed an awesome collection of rejections! Please stop by if you find yourself in the vicinity of the Mount Washington valley." (See photo above.)

1982

JONATHAN LEVINE
 jlevine@sgtlaw.com

1983

LINDA GAUS
 gaushaus1965@verizon.net

ANNE POPKIN: "Recent years have been filled with many new things for me. First, I just got married in mid-October. He is a wonderful guy who I characterize as a Californian with European sensibilities; so, he can understand this East Coast-raised San Franciscan. One thing we share is a love of travel, which has meant we have done wonderful trips combining business and pleasure. I recently visited the Arctic Circle in Greenland as I am now doing environmental

finance. My sister and I built a home in Chatham on Cape Cod, where my family and cousins have gone for generations. And lastly, in memory of our mother, my sisters and I donated all the remaining books, letters, and memorabilia from our great-grandfather to the university named for him and to the Supreme Court; all the materials are now on exhibit. Please visit if you are in San Francisco as it would be great to see people."

1984



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 Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

FRANCES BARBOUR MELBOSTAD is in her 18th year teaching cycling (now including e-bikes) in the Bay Area, and she celebrated her 10th anniversary locally administering the DoS Au Pair Exchange Program for Cultural Homestay International (chinet.org/au-pair). Also, since 2008 and thanks to Sidwell Friends' excellent faculty and pedagogy, Barbour's husband, Bill Melbostad, benefits from her expert report-editing/proofing for his condition and value surveys (worldwidema-rinesurveys.com) on high-end sailing and motor yachts, an enterprise that recently sent them to Bellingham, Washington, where, of course, Frances demoed a zippy e-bike to tour the Pacific Northwest! (See photo above.)

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TOP LEFT: "You can't get new old friends!" Members of the Class of '85 gathered once again in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, for an annual weekend of par 3 golf and low-stakes poker. Left to right: **Brooke Sheehan, Charlie Davis, Jon Goldberg, Bill Adams, Sani Eldarwish, Mark Colodny, Bill McConagha, Phil London.** Not pictured: **Tony Silard** (who called in from Italy). Up next, the Class of '85 gathered ahead of the Re-Reunion to make up for the one lost to the pandemic in 2020. **TOP RIGHT:** **Bill Strathmann, Hilary Dayton, Phil London** **BOTTOM LEFT:** **Brian McKaig, Phoebe Stein, Jennifer Fuhrman LaPlume** **BOTTOM CENTER:** **Bart Bickel, Lisa Bulman Mullen, Jesse Levine** **BOTTOM RIGHT:** **David Schrag, Mary Dixon Raibman**

1985

HILARY DAYTON
hcdayton@gmail.com

HILARY DAYTON: "In June, as many members of the stellar Class of 1985 as Hilary could possibly corral—yes, corral—gathered at **Lisa Bulman Mullen's** Maryland home to celebrate the simple but real joy of togetherness. With so much still to say and laugh about, and so much shared understanding and love, comes the remarkable realization that it will always be this way. That same weekend, classmates attended a Re-Reunion on campus, which included a Meeting for Worship, a campus tour, dinner, and an after-party organized by class members at Millie's Spring Valley. The warm-up

band was inspired. Next up, the main act: Reunion 2025, during which time Hilary will clasp—yes, clasp—her hands together in joy at the sheer accomplishment of seeing every single one of her classmates assembled in alphabetical order, not unlike *The Sound of Music*, starting with A for AL." (See photos above.)

JESSICA SELIN-WILLIAMS: "It has been quite the year: I just retired, we moved locally as my husband can't manage steps any longer, my mother passed away, my younger daughter starts boarding school this fall, and my older daughter is applying to college. I'm hoping for a quieter year next year!"

WENDY TODARO THANASSI: "It has been a looong time, so I thought I'd say hi! Basic updates: I live near Palo

Alto, California, and near **Nicole Janin Sheehan**; I am an M.D. and a professor at Stanford; I have three kids (one at Bowdoin with architecture dreams, one at Colorado College studying environmental science, and one finished with a bachelor's and master's from Tulane who is now working in education technology). My husband is also an E.R. M.D. who bikes, hikes, and surfs like a good Californian. I'll be leaving Stanford soon, for (hopefully) greener work pastures (but not put-out-to-pasture). Let me know if you're in the Bay Area sometime!"

1986

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

1987

TIP COFFIN

tip@teamcoffin.com

1988

LOUISE ANDREWS

louiseandrews@me.com

1989



ELIZABETH WYATT

ebwyatt@aol.com

MARA BRALOVE and **Rachel Rodin Wolman '90** met for dinner in August in beautiful Aspen, Colorado. This has become an annual summer tradition with their husbands and kids, too. (See photo below.)

STEVE PIERSON has launched a campaign for California State Assembly in the San Fernando Valley district, which he has called home for the past 30 years. Steve previously worked as a small business owner in the entertainment industry and is a SAG-AFTRA Union member. He started organizing in his community after the 2016 election with the grassroots organization Swing Left and as an elected delegate and chair of the California Democratic Party's Organizing Committee. He's already received broad support for his campaign from folks like former Senator Barbara Boxer, labor and civil rights leader Do-

lores Huerta, organizations like Women's March LA, and many others. Find out more about Steve's campaign at piersonforca.com. (See photo below.)

1990

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

META PUTTKAMMER VALENTIC: "Jean Chiang, Toni Hick, Amy McKee, and I held a mini-reunion this September in Boulder, Colorado. We hiked, ate, hiked some more, and caught up on each other's lives. It was a perfect weekend to celebrate being friends for 30+ years!" (See photo below.)

1991

TIM HANRAHAN

tim.hanrahan@gmail.com

1992

EMILY PASTER

emily.paster@gmail.com

CORY HARTQUIST writes (or is it AI?): "In the heart of Hot Springs, Arkansas, on April 15, Cory Hartquist and Katie McFarlin exchanged vows in a picturesque garden. Their love story had begun in this charming town, making it the perfect place for their wedding. Surrounded by friends and family, including best man **Malcolm Logan**, maid of

honor **Colin Findlay**, and college buddies **Sanjay Advani**, **David Vine**, **Michael Robbins**, and **Dan Hirsch**, the couple looked radiant. The ceremony was filled with heartfelt vows, and there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd. Following the ceremony, the reception at the Hot Springs Country Club was a night to remember. The ballroom, adorned with white roses, set the stage for dancing and celebration. Toasts were raised, filled with stories of the couple's journey, adventures, and unwavering love. Amid laughter and music, Cory and Katie shared their first dance as a married couple, and their love was palpable. As the clock struck midnight, they departed under a shower of sparklers, ready to embark on their life together, carrying cherished memories from their unforgettable Hot Springs wedding. (See photo on next page.)

SUTTON STOKES: "I still—STILL—live in Elkins, West Virginia, with my wife, Amy, and our two children, Coen (14) and Maya (11). We moved here in 2010, and by now it seems that I am making something of a career of working for this 7,000-resident city's government: city clerk 2012-2016, public information officer 2020-2023 (an interesting role during a pandemic), and—since March 2023—city clerk once again and for the foreseeable future. In Elkins, which has no city manager, the city clerk is an appointed administrative position in which I have the opportunity to pitch in on almost everything the city government does, so each day is different and



LEFT: Mara Bralove '89, Rachel Rodin Wolman '90 **CENTER:** Steve Pierson '89 launched his campaign for California State Assembly. **RIGHT:** Jean Chiang '90, Toni Hick '90, Amy McKee '90, Meta Valentia '90



LEFT: Malcolm Logan '92, Sanjay Advani '92, Colin Findlay '92, Cory Hartquist '92, Michael Robbins '92, Dan Hirsch '92, David Vine '91 at Cory's April wedding to Katie McFarlin
RIGHT: Ivan Petrovitch '94, his wife, Sonia, and sons, Zander (13) and Axel (10), at Delicate Arch in Arches National Park, Utah



interesting. For a long time, I thought of myself as a big-city fish out of water here, but in the last year or so I can say I have really come to appreciate the slow pace, small scale, strong sense of community, and natural beauty of this area—not to mention the low cost of living. The town itself has some interesting development projects in the works, and did you know there's a popular program that will pay remote workers to move here? If you're ever passing through, make sure to get in touch."

1993

CASEY COLEMAN HASSENSTEIN
caseycoleman30@hotmail.com

DIANA ZUMAS lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with her husband, Casey, and 6-month-old border collie, Dolly. Zumas and her husband have a psychotherapy private practice called Alder and Oak Counseling. Among other modalities, Zumas studies and practices psychodrama, which is an experiential therapy that blends action and theater into therapy. She enjoys spending time with **Elizabeth (Ivy) Ross** who also lives in Santa Fe. This summer, Zumas was delighted to see **Lindsay Davison** and her amazing family as they were pass-

ing through the Southwest. Last February, Zumas also greatly enjoyed a visit with dear friends who traveled to New Mexico: **Anne Hall**, **Julia Davis**, and **Patricia Cogley**.

1994



BETSY STOEL
estoel@gmail.com

IVAN PETROVITCH and his family have moved to Park City, Utah. They are enjoying mountain biking and hiking, and they look forward to the upcoming ski season. (See photo above.)

1995

MARI PALMER MCDONALD
mari.mcdonald@gmail.com

BRONWEN MOYER NEWCOTT: "I live in southern California with my husband, Ben, and our kids, Silas (17), Eden (15), and Maeve (11). Last spring, I published my debut children's novel, *Race to the Great Invention*—available online at Politics and Prose and on Amazon. (See "Fresh Ink," on page 28.) It has been such fun bringing it into the world!" (See photo on next page.)

1996

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

1997

ELLEN CORNELIUS ERICSON
eccornie@gmail.com

VANYA FRANCIS: "It has been 26 years since I was a student at Sidwell Friends, and the memories are still strong! My journey post-graduation led me to the transformative power of yoga, especially for expecting mothers. This passion birthed my business, *Cherished Life*, offering prenatal yoga, birth doula support, and educational trainings. I've been teaching yoga for over a decade, including as the Yoga and Meditation Professor at Spelman College and as a co-founder of a yoga studio. Throughout my offerings, I aim to cultivate a space of ease, ownership, and joy throughout pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum. Having personally experienced the benefits of yoga during my pregnancies, I recognized its power to prepare individuals physically, mentally, and emotionally for childbirth. I live in Atlanta, Georgia, and am a loving mother to two vibrant children, who fuel my commitment to serving my community with care, kindness, and love. (And who keep



LEFT: Eli Moyer '99, Bronwen Moyer Newcott '95, Max Moyer '97, and Kaia Joye Moyer Wesolowski '03 celebrate Newcott's new book. **RIGHT:** Vanya Francis '97 stands with her parents, Belinda and Ira Francis, at her daughter Taraja's Sweet 16 celebration in August.



me always on my toes and smiling!) As I look toward the future, I plan to focus on growth, expansion of our services, and traveling opportunities to train other yoga instructors and birth professionals. Cheers to our shared memories and the impactful journeys we are creating!" (See photo above)

1998

NOAH FEINSTONE

nfeinstone@gmail.com

1999



LEMA KIKUCHI

lema.kikuchi@gmail.com

FLETCHER DURANT is leaving his tenured position at the University of Florida to start a new job at the National Archives and Records Administration. After more than 18 years living around the country, he is looking forward to returning to the DMV with his family and reconnecting with the community.

2000

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

2001

ELIZA ORLINS

eorlins@gmail.com

MARCIE BERRY LENAGHAN: "I have been with Engaging Networks for two and a half years and was recently promoted to director of client and partner experience. Engaging Networks is a suite of world-class online fundraising and advocacy tools that help nonprofits maximize their impact. I live in Bel Air, Maryland with my husband and two kids. This summer, we spent a week up on Martha's Vineyard visiting with my dad—aka Grandy, aka former Middle School principal Andrew Berry."

BESSY GUEVARA: It's baby number two for the Guevara Mejia family! Bessy Guevara and her wife Yenis Mejia welcomed their second daughter, Ava, in June. Her older sister, Alina, loves to hold and play with "her baby." (See photo at right.)

2002

CAMILO ACOSTA

cbacosta@gmail.com

NINA TANDON KARIMIAN and her husband, Amir, are delighted to welcome their son, Rumi Tandon Karimian, to their family. Rumi is excited to announce he is running for public office on a platform of milk and swaddles for all. He feels there are enough crybabies among the adults in government—it is time for an actual baby! He will be honored to represent the baby lobby and, in particular, Sidwell Friends alumni babies. (See photo on next page.)



Bessy Guevara '01 and her wife welcomed Ava Celeste Guevara Mejia to the family, and sister, Alina Isabel Guevara Mejia, is thrilled.



LEFT: Rumi Tandon Karimian is filling in his parents, **Nina Tandon Karimian '02** and Amir, on his plans to advocate for Sidwell Friends alumni babies. **RIGHT:** Little Amal is the star of *Little Shoes, Big Journeys*, directed by **Emma Jaster '03**.

2003

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

EMMA JASTER recently directed *Little Shoes, Big Journeys*, a live performance in which Little Amal, a 12-foot puppet depicting a Syrian refugee child, marched to the Capitol, where she was greeted by congressional Representatives Debbie Dingell and Jamaal Bowman. Sidwell Friends parent and grandparent **Glenn Pearson P '01, '04, GP '37** played piano for Broadway star Felicia Curry to sing for Little Amal—now an international phenom—at Freedom Plaza. What's more, **Matt Pearson '01** led the chorus at the Capitol, and **Jamie Sandel '13** took the photographs! The event was organized by the Laboratory for Global Performance and Politics, where Jaster is associate director, and the Collaborative on Global Children's Issues at Georgetown University. Learn more at sidwell.pub/amal. (See photo above)

2004



ZEESHAN ALEEM

zeeshanaleem2@gmail.com

SARAH WAXMAN: “My wife, Britt, and I have some happy news. In May, we moved to the Mount Pleasant neighborhood, across the street from several friends from Sidwell, and welcomed our first child, Zahava Eva Binler Waxman. ‘Zahava,’ meaning ‘gold’ in Hebrew, is named for my grandparents, the Goldbergs, we call her ‘Zavi’ and hope to introduce her to the larger Sidwell community.” (See photo on next page.)

2005

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

2006

JOHN SANDERS

jsanders36@gmail.com

2007

ALEX AKMAN

Akman.alex@gmail.com

ETHAN WHITMORE graduated in May from Georgetown Law's J.D. Evening Program (see photo on next page), which he completed while working at the National Farmers Union. In October, he began working at Steptoe & Johnson LLP's DC office. The Whitmore family resides in the Kent neighborhood of Washington, DC.

2008

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

JEFF SCHOLL relocated to Toronto, Canada, at the start of 2023 to be closer to family in the hometown of his spouse, Jess. He became a permanent resident of Canada and recently got a new job in the Office of Student Recruitment at the University of Toronto, continuing his career in higher-education administration. The Scholls' son, Daniel, just turned 2 years old and is loving life in the big city.

2009



JAMES “AJ” PARKS

jhpiv13@gmail.com

ANNIE DINEEN

formally launched her pet care and home concierge service, Fetch & Favor, this summer, providing boutique, personalized service to families in the DC area.



CHRIS WILLIAMS recently got married and is still in California, where he has been living for the past eight years.

2010

KAI ZHENG

kaihuazheng@yahoo.com

MARISA REPKA: “I got married in September to Robert Little, a non-Sidwell-lifer, but we don’t hold that against him! **Hannah Bristol** and **Mary Bryan** surprised me with a banner, and in the end, we had 10 of us from the class of 2010 there in Albuquerque, New Mexico.” (See photo at right.)

2011

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.



Members of the Class of 2010 celebrated Marisa Repka's marriage to Robert Little: **Grant Wong** (kneeling in front) and from left to right: **Alexander Ordoobadi**, **Hannah Bristol**, **Michael Marks**, **Varun Rajagopalan**, **Saam Aghevli**, **Robert Little**, **Kyle Wilson**, **Marisa Repka**, **Mary Bryan**, **Natalie Foster**

2012

SALENA HESS

salenahess@outlook.com

JOHN VERGHESE

jjv2116@columbia.edu

2013

CECILIA LAGUARDA

xenia.cecilia.laguarda@gmail.com

GRANT MULITZ was married to Emma Etherington at the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens in New York City on September 8, 2023. The wedding party included **Harry Eldridge**, **Benjamin Richer**, **Samuel Gondelman**, and Best Man **Jamie Sandel**. Many other beloved Sidwell Friends classmates were also in attendance. (See photos on next page.)



LEFT: Sarah Waxman '04 and her wife have a new baby, Zahava Eva Binler Waxman. **RIGHT:** Ethan Whitmore '07 celebrates with his wife, Jessica, and 2.5-year-old son, Clark, on graduation day at Georgetown University Law Center.



2014

**AVIKAR GOVIL**

avikar.govil@gmail.com

2015

EMILY MILLER

emillerusa@gmail.com

2016

TALHA JILANI

jilani-talha@live.com



LEFT: The Groom's Party. From left to right: **Harry Eldridge '13**, **Sam Gondelman '13**, **Benjamin Richer '13**, **Emma Etherington**, **Grant Mulitz '13**, **Jamie Sandel '13**, **Eric Manning**, **Sumner Hearth** **RIGHT:** Back row: **Harry Eldridge '13**, **Benjamin Richer '13**, **Cecelia Auerswald '13**, **Cecilia Laguarda '13**, **Emily Zinger '13**, **Robert Wallace '13**, **Samuel Gondelman '13**, **Jonathan Gerstell '13**. Front row: **Meera Muñoz-Pandaya '13**, **Grant Mulitz '13**, **Sarah Lake '13**, **Jamie Sandel '13**

2017

MILAN VIVANCO
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2018

BROOKE HARRINGTON
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2019



SOPHIE PEIKEN
speikin2019@gmail.com

2020

TUNDAA DORJNAMJIM
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SOPHIE SMALLS
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2021

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

2022

RASHI GUPTA
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2023

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

IN MEMORIAM

“Know one
another in that
which is *eternal*.”

—GEORGE FOX

Tom Pearson '44
August 20, 2023

William MacKaye '51
August 21, 2023

William Hoffman '54
May 6, 2023

Carol Anne Phifer Plante '54
April 14, 2023

William G. Kerr '55
July 4, 2023

Albert Weldon Jr. '57
August 21, 2023

Lea Jablonsky Uhre '64
September 16, 2023

Robert Castro '65
August 27, 2023

Sally Rudney '77
September 19, 2023

Jaime Carillo '94
October 26, 2023

Alexa Kuuskraa '96
March 13, 2023

Words with Friends: Thanks to All

ACROSS

- 1 Spellbound
- 5 Something run in the game show "The Weakest Link"
- 10 The thing here
- 14 "The Most ____" (limited edition cookie type that can go in either blank)
- 15 Major artery
- 16 Stinky
- 17 "Ach, enough with the people in uniform?"
- 19 Gourmet Italian coffee
- 20 Panko-breaded chicken dish
- 21 States
- 22 Applaud
- 23 Brewery kiln
- 25 Wink that ends up being kinda sus?
- 27 "Everybody affiliated with the tax-collecting branch of the government needs to leave?"
- 30 Wows
- 32 Title for Vernon Wormer in a National Lampoon movie
- 33 Canyon response
- 35 How some learn new songs
- 39 Polish off
- 40 Gross-out vidoes?
- 42 Initialism for the milieu of the "Avengers" movies, among others
- 43 Sing the bridge of "Hollaback Girl," perhaps
- 45 Gambler's calculation
- 46 Offensive line
- 47 Keyes and King
- 49 Being able to stay home from school and watch TV all day?
- 51 Good name for a dog's lunchbox?
- 54 Draft rating
- 55 ____ mater
- 56 First name at SpaceX
- 59 Bewildered
- 63 Lightning, for one
- 64 Celebrate an autumn holiday... and a hint to the theme of this puzzle
- 66 Baby's bed
- 67 Revise
- 68 Arrow groove
- 69 Barcelona greeting
- 70 Places to feed the ducklings
- 71 Uncommon bills



Puzzle by Aimee Lucido

DOWN

- 1 Castle in a corner
- 2 "Game of Thrones" sister
- 3 Nuisance
- 4 "Can we joke about this yet?"
- 5 Rogue
- 6 Lift up
- 7 Region
- 8 Words accompanying a fakemodest shoulder brush
- 9 Capital of the Bahamas
- 10 "You got me there!"
- 11 Oscar winner Berry
- 12 Dental filling
- 13 Video chat
- 18 Lihue feast
- 24 Wallow in one's feelings
- 26 Org where the Storm may beat the Sky
- 27 "Et tu" day
- 28 Harvest
- 29 Totally fill
- 30 Loses a fur coat?
- 31 Last name of a Sondheim barber
- 34 "Lez go!"
- 36 Key of Haydn's Symphony No. 29
- 37 Prefix for some yoga classes
- 38 Programming language developed by Yukihiro "Matz" Matsumoto
- 40 Scat legend Fitzgerald
- 41 Has office hours
- 44 Film named for a Ritchie Valens song
- 46 As plain as the nose on your face
- 48 Generational disparity
- 50 Jacob's first wife
- 51 "Look at me do this headstand!"
- 52 Last Olds
- 53 App some use as a to-do list
- 54 Without stop
- 57 Conveyance rented before a big dance
- 58 Appliance that may have a proofing drawer
- 60 Winter flakes
- 61 Kitchen gadget brand
- 62 Doesn't just assume
- 65 NFL six-pointers



Looking Glass

Known as America's first museum of modern art, the Phillips Collection in Dupont Circle has long championed local talent with bold, contemporary commissions. That is how, in 2021, the Phillips came to commission DC-based artist Nekisha Durrett to create a site-specific piece in celebration of the museum's centennial anniversary. With *Airshaft*, Durrett designed a tunnel of light and color in the Phillips' skywalk. Part art-deco, part cathedral, the trompe-l'oeil stained glass created what the museum called "a sacred space."

Durrett, now the Rubenstein guest artist at Sidwell Friends, is inspiring this year's Middle School students to recreate that effect in two dimensions. Above, Maisy Morowitz '27 used pastels on black paper to emulate Durrett. The dark background allows Morowitz's windows to take on a kind of glow as though there were a light behind them. "I thought it would be fun and challenging to try and draw multiple windows from the side perspective," says Morowitz. That perspective leads the viewer through architecture of the hall while still maintaining the windows as the primary focus. "I'm in a semester of painting right now, and I've been enjoying learning techniques using acrylic paint," says Morowitz. "No matter what I decide to do in the future, I will definitely continue to make art."

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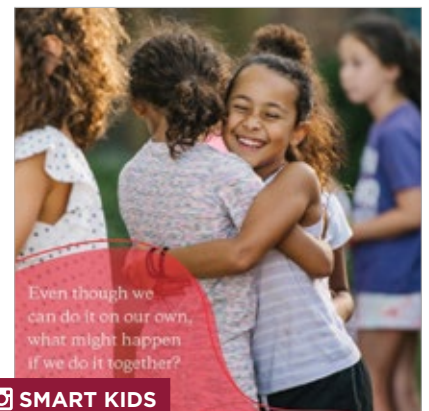
BRYAN SELFIE

It wasn't the Oscars, but the excitement was real! Faculty and staff joined Head of School Bryan Garman to start off the school year. "What a group!!! Here's to a great year!"



SNACKTACULAR

This fall, we highlighted service: "So great you all are making snack bags for Martha's Table. Wherever you go in your lives, there will always be a need to help others."



SMART KIDS

Wisdom is not reserved for the old. Kindergarteners posed a profound query: "Even though we can do it on our own, what might happen if we do it together?" The possibilities are endless.



MAMADOU LOVE

Many accolades on the announcement of Mamadou's retirement: "That's the man right there!" and "The best teacher. Mr. Guèye changed my life for the better."



HIGH FIVE

Sidwell Friends' Back-to-School Picnic swept the community into the start of the academic year with games, contests, fajitas, and football.



HOME FIELD

Student athletes gathered with their younger Lower School fans during a rainy Homecoming weekend. #GoQuakers #CultureWins