

The Magazine of Friends' Central School

Quaker Works

15:2 Spring 2024



THE AUDRIE GARDHAM ULMER '37
CENTER FOR INNOVATION & DESIGN

UPPER SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM
Professional Writers Come to Campus

NOTES FROM FRIENDS
Alumni/ae News & Updates



ON THE COVER

Nature Nursery students exploring the Lower School campus woods with Teacher Meredith Woods in the fall

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Quaker Works

The Magazine of Friends' Central School

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We welcome any comments, letters, photographs, and suggestions for future issues. Please send all to communications@friendscentral.org.

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The Upper School spring musical *Ride the Cyclone* was a hit. See *FCS on the Stage* on page 8 for more performance news.

FEATURES

- 12** From Carnegie Hall to Shallcross Hall:
Upper School Chorus Takes the Stage
- 22** Upper School Symposium Brings
Professional Writers to Campus
- 24** The Audrie Gardham Ulmer '37
Center for Innovation and Design
Opening Fall 2024

DEPARTMENTS

- 2** Opening Comments
Letter from the Head of School
- 4** Campus Log
- 14** Visitors to Campus
- 16** Athletic News
- 28** Notes from Friends

Letter from the Head of School



Dear Friends,

Spring is a time of change and renewal in nature and here at our own beloved School, as our campuses start to blossom and our seniors in the Class of 2024 complete their classes and move into Senior Project, preparing for the many celebrations ahead of them and discovering where the next step of their academic journeys will lead. I watch them mature into wonderful young adults, and the speed that time passes takes my breath away!

In this spring 2024 issue of *Quaker Works*, we take a look back on the fall and winter of the 2023-2024 school year and the many academic, artistic, and athletic triumphs. Among other events, read about the Upper School English department's writing symposium in October and the Upper School chorus trip to New York in November to perform a world premiere at Carnegie Hall.

In every recent *Quaker Works* Athletic News section (*page 16*), Avery Lewis '24 has been featured, and this issue is no exception. A nationally ranking track and field star with 2024 Olympics promise, Avery continues to make the news, breaking her own state records and more! With great pride, we watch her continue to go further and we wish her – and all of our rising graduates – the very best in the future.

I am also pleased to report excellent progress on the second – and final – stage of the construction of the Audrie Gardham Ulmer '37 Center for Innovation and Design (*see page 24*). We look forward to its opening at the start of the new school year.

In "Notes from Friends," beginning on page 28, we hear from many of our alums, with updates on their lives and careers. We encourage you all to stay in touch; we love to know what you're up to!

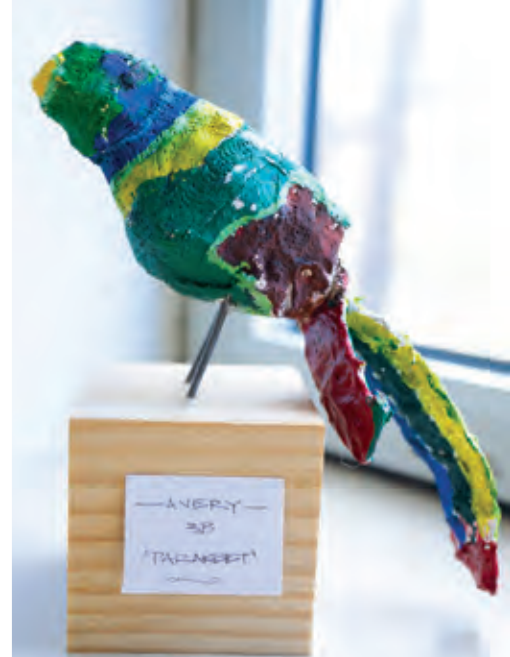
In these challenging times – both internationally and closer to home – our focus is on our students. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to showcase their achievements, along with the updates and successes of our alum community.

I look forward to welcoming many of you – alums and other community members – to campus to celebrate Alumni/ae Weekend 2024 and Commencement 2024.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Beth Davis Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Beth" being the most prominent.

Beth Davis Johnson '77
Head of School



In December, the Lower School walls were covered in fabulous artwork and projects, many relating to the fall theme of *Another Time, Another Place*. Pictured clockwise from top left are first grade layered dash paintings inspired by artist Sheree Smith; third grade paper-mâché birds of the national parks; Nursery fairy wings created from salt and watercolor paintings; the vibrant Kindergarten dragon study display; and fourth grade collages inspired by wildlife of Jamestown.

Campus Log

A snapshot of some of the many activities, competitions, and achievements of fall 2023 and spring 2024 • Visit friendscentral.org for more news



Community members at the Parents of Students of Color (PSOC) Welcome Gathering in October



LAUNCHING THIS YEAR'S TESTIMONY OF SIMPLICITY

In September, the first Lower School assembly of the 2023-2024 year was hosted by the Lower School Religious Life Committee who planned a beautiful morning of community activities to introduce students to this year's testimony of Simplicity. At the assembly, the community watched a wonderful video of students narrating this year's all-school book, *Hurry Up* – a nice way to emphasize the not-so-simple testimony of Simplicity. Following the assembly, students in all grades went off to design their testimony rocks which illustrated their wish or intention for the year.



At Lower School, on the first day of school, students and faculty alike arrived well dressed and ready for the 2023-2024 school year.



GRADE 6 PRESENT BOOK REPORTS IN STYLE OF TALK SHOW

Katrina Colli's sixth grade English class (pictured above) produced book reports for their summer-reading book. In September, they presented their reports in the style of a talk show. The students interviewed each other and asked about highlights, characters they enjoyed, and connections they made.



The third-annual Community Celebration in early October was a great way to kick off the 2023-2024 school year!



Upper School International students celebrated Mid-Autumn Festival 2023 on September 29 with fellowship and food.



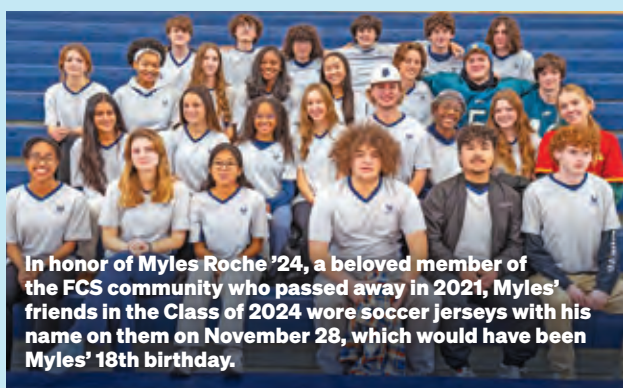
The entire ninth grade, along with their advisors and grade 11 peer mentors, spent three days at Pinemere Camp in September.



In October, Middle School students visited their Kindergarten B buddies to help make play-doh dragons that lit up using Squishy Circuits.



In December, Upper School Tree Club planted carex (a small grass) on the hillside above the wall on City Avenue. They removed some non-native plants and added this native that should thrive and improve the esthetics.



In honor of Myles Roche '24, a beloved member of the FCS community who passed away in 2021, Myles' friends in the Class of 2024 wore soccer jerseys with his name on them on November 28, which would have been Myles' 18th birthday.



Nursery A studied bears during February and connected with students in 3B, who had studied the brown bears of Katmai National Park this fall. Together, they made bear puppets, learned about hibernation, and voted on their favorite bear from Katmai Brooks River!



In February, fifth graders were proud to demonstrate their creations at the Superhero Robotics Fair. They invited their families and students in other grades to visit the Fair and admire their work.



In late January, several Upper School international students visited Kindergarten B to talk about Lunar New Year. The Kindergarteners shared what they had already learned and constructed paper dragons, assisted by their Upper School friends.

UPPER SCHOOL SPANISH EXCHANGE



The visiting Spanish exchange students exploring the City Avenue campus in September



FCS students at La Academia Preuniversitaria on their first day of school in Spain in March

In September, Spanish exchange students from our partner school in Seville, La Academia Preuniversitaria (La Preu), came to Philadelphia to live with FCS Spanish students for three weeks. In March, the FCS students – accompanied by faculty chaperones Cristina Pérez and Alejandra Socorro – traveled to Spain for their own eight-day exchange visit packed with excursions in Seville and day trips to Córdoba and Granada. The FCS students were hosted by local Spanish families, many of whom spoke little to no English.

UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE CELEBRATES MILESTONES IN THEIR STUDY OF BIODIVERSITY ON CITY AVENUE



A red-headed bush cricket (*Phyllolampus pulchellus*) in the leaves just beyond the City Avenue track



A small native bee in the genus *Ceratina* on a blue mist flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*)

This school year, the Upper School science department has celebrated several significant milestones in their ongoing biodiversity inventory work.

The department began using the species mapping app iNaturalist in May 2021 as a means of documenting species on Friends' Central's City Avenue campus. In just over two years, students and teachers have learned an enormous amount about the native inhabitants of our campus. On September 25, 2023, they hit the 1000 observations mark with the addition of a dark red native cuckoo bee discovered while planting asters. This March, they surpassed the 600 unique species count, with particular attention being given to native pollinators.

Upper School students and teachers have now documented 60 different species of bees on the campus, 69 species of moths and butterflies, and over 94 different fungal species including mushrooms and lichens. They have recorded 40 bird species, and the numbers of all species are continuing to grow as they keep looking ever more closely at the remarkable diversity of natural life right here on the City Avenue campus. QW

The Friends' Central City Avenue species list with observations and photos can be found on iNaturalist at bit.ly/FCSiNat. The FCS Science department invites everyone in the community to keep their eyes out for interesting things to add to our records. The iNat app is free to download and images can be uploaded directly from your phone!



Seventh grade students at the annual Echo Hill Outdoor School class trip in September



Several students who identify as Hispanic or Latinx presented to the entire Middle School during Hispanic Heritage Month in October. They shared a bit about their own heritage, favorite traditions, and celebrations.



The entire 11th grade and advisors went on a hike in the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in November. Photo by Andrew Yu '25



In December, Alejandra Socorro's Upper School Spanish History & Culture class took a Flamenco class with Elba Hevia y Vaca, artistic director and founder of Pasión y Arte in Overbrook.



Tasting "Stone Soup" at the 2023 Lower School Harvest Fest in October



The beautiful "Peace Quilt" created by Middle School Service-Thru-ART students in October



In November, eighth grade French students recreated a French marketplace, pretending to sell a few items from each store and offering some real samples of chocolate, pastry, sandwiches, and flowers.



During an afternoon in February, Middle School students participated in a range of "Winter Wonderland" community activities, including making gingerbread houses.



FIRST GRADE MISSION TO THE MOON

In December, as part of the Lower School fall theme *Another Time, Another Place*, first grade embarked on a *Mission to the Moon* project that had the young astronauts-in-training exploring outer space and our solar system. They pondered questions such as, "Why do humans explore?" and "What can we learn from space?" As part of their studies, they went on a field trip to the Franklin Institute Planetarium. The project culminated in the construction of a cardboard geodesic dome planetarium. They completed a prototype dome before building the larger dome. In January, the students presented their space discoveries in their Planetarium Reveal.



Sixth grade Quaker School Life students explored the Quaker community-held testimonies and used the CID to build their own Community Testimony physical representation in November.

UPPER SCHOOL ESPORTS ACCOLADES

In October, Friends' Central Upper School's newly formed Esports team won their debut Rocket League match against Strath Haven High School 3-0. Congratulations to seniors Maxwell Grear, Dallas Wolfson, and Finn Hilliard on winning the match and to senior captains Lyle Goldader and Theo Strauss for assembling the team. FCS competes in the Rocket League and Super Smash Bros. divisions in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Esports Association.

PHILLY VARSITY MATH LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

Since September, a group of 12-15 Upper School students have been competing in online Math contests against 12 Philly-area schools. In December, seven of those students competed in the Philly Varsity Math League Tournament at George School. The team completed five rounds of contests, which included both individual and group rounds. They finished with a record of 2-3. The students that traveled to George School were (pictured below from left) Ari Barak '27, Frances Adams '27, Abbi Greenberg '27, Justin Chen '26, Gemma Chiang '27, Bowen Xu '26, and Lister Li '26.



AMERICAN INVITATION MATH EXAM SUCCESSES

In January, Rita Tang '25 and Jack Barsotti '24 both qualified to take the American Invitational Math Exam (AIME) based on their performance on the American Mathematics Contest 12 (AMC 12), which they took earlier this school year. The AIME is a three-hour test that was administered at FCS to determine their nationwide ranking. Last year, Jack earned a perfect score on the PA Math League Contest, and FCS finished first in the county.

FCS AT 40TH ANNUAL IVY LEAGUE MODEL UN

In January, Friends' Central's Model United Nations team participated in the 40th annual Ivy League Model United Nations Conference. The FCS delegates acquitted themselves well at the multi-day event. Earlier this year, the cohort participated in the QMUNC conference in New Jersey. FCS team members garnered accolades, including Beatriz Lara '26 who won *Best Delegate: G20 Summit*, Sam Oliver '24 who won *Best Delegate: Titanic Senate Inquiry*, William Liao '25 who won *Outstanding Delegate: 1978 Iranian Revolution*, and Zubin Fiorillo '24 who received *Outstanding Delegate: Space Race*. The club has been ably led this year by Jack Barsotti '24 and Sam Oliver '24.

ORAL PROFICIENCY CONTEST PRIZES

Every year, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School hosts the James J. Doyle Oral Proficiency Contest. This competition is open to all schools in Montgomery County, and, this February, around 100 area students competed in the five languages offered (French, Spanish, German, Chinese, and Japanese). Congratulations to (pictured below, from left) Maya Brothers '26 on her silver medal in Spanish III, Silas Costa '27 on his gold medal in French III, and Christopher Samuel '26 for a silver medal in French IV!





FCS on the Stage

This fall and winter, we saw outstanding performances across all divisions.

Congratulations to the actors, singers, musicians, and tech crews on their resounding successes!

(Left, from top) the Middle School musical in November, *The Little Mermaid Jr.*; the Upper School play in October, *Peter and the Starcatcher*; the Upper School musical in March, *Ride the Cyclone*

In December (at right, from top) the Kindergarten-Grade 2 Winter Showcase; families taking self-guided hallway tours of student art at the Grades 3-5 Winter Concert; performers at the Grades 3-5 Winter Concert; chorus members at the Middle School Winter Concert; orchestra performing at the Upper School Winter Concert



ETHAN JIH-COOK '23 IN THE NATIONAL BROADWAY TOUR OF MEAN GIRLS

It was an exciting evening for many FCS community members who were thrilled to see Ethan Jih-Cook '23 perform in the national tour of *Mean Girls* at Kimmel Cultural Campus in October. Ethan had a starring role as Damian.

UPPER SCHOOLER VISIONARIES OF THE YEAR

Tika Nasta '27 and Finn Neely '26 participated in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's (LLS) 2024 Greater Philadelphia Student Visionaries of the Year campaign. Students participating in this annual leadership and fundraising challenge were nominated by a school administrator or teacher for their amazing leadership and passion to find a cure for blood cancers and for their involvement in the community. Student Visionaries of the Year is a national seven-week challenge through which high school student leaders raise funds and awareness to help create a world without blood cancers. This year's campaign began on January 25 and culminated in the Grand Finale Celebration on March 14. Tika and Finn's team raised more than \$125,000 to support childhood blood cancer research. Congratulations to Tika and Finn!

SEVENTH GRADE IN AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE

In February, seventh grade health classes participated in the American Heart Association (AHA) Challenge. Every student decorated a heart sharing why they were jumping, swimming, walking, or shooting hoops to raise awareness for the AHA. Part of the challenge included education on the dangers of vaping, learning the signs and symptoms of a stroke, and hands-only CPR training. The ultimate objective was to raise donations for the AHA.



In February, the eighth grade held their annual Multilingual Superhero Fashion Show, presenting in costume and speaking in the world language they are studying.



Nursery B friends and their 4B book buddies enjoyed the warmth of the sun and their time together in the Lower School Fairy Forest on an unseasonably warm February day.

CAMPUS LOG



Lower School Pumpkin Fair 2023 in October was a hit!



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT LEADERS' BLACK HISTORY MONTH PRESENTATION

In February, the Middle School had a special student presentation on Black History Month led by the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity) student leaders. The assembly included a Black History Month trivia game for students. The following week, the JEDI leaders presented on Lunar New Year.



Many fabulous costumes were on display at the Lower School's Halloween 2023 Parade.



Middle School students enjoyed their own Halloween celebrations, including a costume contest.



EIGHTH GRADERS' PLAYS SELECTED FOR SPRING PERFORMANCE

In February, five eighth grade students had the plays they wrote in seventh grade chosen to be performed at this April's Middle School *Playwrights in Progress* production, which they will help direct. Several Upper School students – former *Playwrights in Progress* winners – helped choose this year's winning plays. This year's winners (pictured above from left) are Jordan, Teddy, Jane, Helina, and Aulani!



In February, to celebrate the Lunar New Year and welcome in the Year of the Dragon, Nursery students went on a dragon dance through Lower School, accompanied by teachers and parent volunteers, wishing everyone a "Happy New Year" and making plenty of joyful noise with the noisemakers they'd created in their classrooms.



KA HARLEM RENAISSANCE ASSEMBLY

In March, the Upper School was treated to a delightful assembly with a fabulous performance about the Harlem Renaissance by Kindergarten A which included classic songs by Duke Ellington ("Take the A Train") and Ella Fitzgerald. They recited poems by Langston Hughes and others. They were accompanied by the Upper School Jazz Ensemble and special guest vocalist Kristen Johnson Reid '03.

PHILADELPHIA CLASSICAL SOCIETY AWARDS



Two FCS Latin students won Best in Show in their respective categories at the Philadelphia Classical Society's Latin Week art contest in February. Chiara Del Testa '25 won for her original watercolor *Aeneas and Family Fleeing Troy* (above, left). Sasha Giuntoli '25 won for her crochet version of the famous Roman mosaic *Cave Canem* (*Beware the Dog!*).



FCS AT DECA ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

In February, a group of Upper School students (pictured above) attended the DECA State Conference and Championships, along with over 3300 students from all over Pennsylvania. Alana Laver '26, Silas Costa '27, and Rishi Amaravadi '26 brought home awards in the *Job Interview*, *Principles of Marketing*, and *Principles of Hospitality and Tourism* categories respectively. In addition to his award-winning performance, Silas qualified to compete in the 2024 DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) Competition.



Jack Barsotti '24 (left) and Oliver Angert '24 were named finalists for the National Merit Scholarship Program in February. Congratulations to both!



FCS student and faculty attendees about to head off to the Middle School Diversity Conference

MIDDLE SCHOOLERS AT DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

Several FCS Middle School students attended a Middle School Diversity Conference in February at The Haverford School. At the conference, over 200 students from multiple schools discussed topics around this year's theme, "The Masks We Wear." Students participated in small group discussions, submitted poems to a poetry contest, and enjoyed hearing from Keynote Speaker Dr. Mykee Fowlin, a psychologist, performer, and poet. Congratulations to Charlotte Dunne '28, who won honorable mention at the conference for poetry!



In January – accompanied by faculty advisors Libby Fifer '09, Noah Marks, and Nora Swift – students JT Lovett '25, Grace Kenworthy '25, Solomon Stern '26, Noah Perot '26, Margot Groundwater '26, and Duncan McLuckie '25 attended the three-day Quaker Youth Leadership Conference.



In January, students in Lori Reed's Middle school drama elective class visited Lower School to put on a play, *Aesop's Fables*, just for the third grade! The Lower Schoolers were inspired and had lots of questions about acting, Middle School electives, and what it's like to be an FCS Middle Schooler!



Middle Schoolers engaging in a weekly service project in February



The Faculty Play is a much-loved annual Lower School tradition. This year, the play was performed in January to a rapt audience of Lower School students.



The Lower School celebrated the 100th day of school on February 28, with many students dressed as centenarians to mark the occasion!

FROM CARNEGIE HALL TO SHALLCROSS HALL: UPPER SCHOOL CHORUS TAKES THE STAGE



The Upper School Chorus, led by Michele Zuckman, performing at the FCS Winter Concert 2023



Members of the US Chorus at the Carnegie Hall performance

Friends' Central's Upper School chorus rang in the 2023 holiday season with world premieres at Carnegie Hall and in Friends' Central's own Shallcross Hall.

In November, nine Upper School students traveled to New York City to come together with choruses from around the world and perform *Twilight Mass*, a world premiere by Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo. Led by FCS Vocal Music Teacher Michele Zuckman, the students were participating in a three-day choral festival sponsored by Distinguished Concerts International New York (DCINY). Having rehearsed the piece on campus in the fall, the FCS students met up with more than 200 members of other national and international choruses with whom they would be singing. They spent the first two days rehearsing four hours a day together at different venues in Manhattan. On the afternoon of November 13, they had a dress rehearsal with a professional orchestra. In the evening, the 230-voice chorus premiered *Twilight Mass* in Carnegie Hall with the composer at the piano.

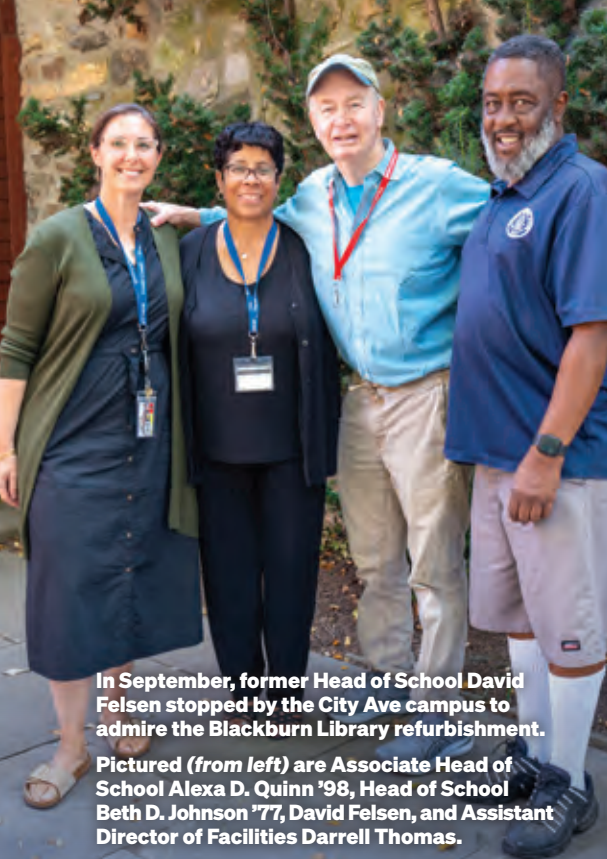
Michele has led DCINY-supported trips ever since she came to Friends' Central in 2011. This is her fifth trip, and her first one since 2018. Each trip is an opportunity for FCS students to sing on one of the world's most important stages, performing with vocal groups from around the US and other countries. Pictures from past DCINY events on Michele's classroom wall give a sense of how wonderful these events are for students.

Michele had been planning to go with students to New York as part of the DCINY's programming back in March of 2020, when they were preparing to perform a piece by Ola Gjeilo. Unfortunately, that trip had to be canceled due to COVID-19. Choral performances sponsored by DCINY resumed this fall, and Michele's students finally had the chance to perform an Ola Gjeilo piece. The group – when they were not rehearsing or performing – had some time to explore New York City and also caught the Broadway production of *Hadestown*.

"Looking out and seeing so many people was surreal and a once-in-a-lifetime feeling," shared Upper School Chorus member Aderyn Baker '24. "It was definitely something I'll remember and cherish forever."

In December, the Upper School Chorus once again took the stage for the Winter Concert in Shallcross Hall. As part of the concert, they premiered a piece by Philadelphia-based composer Suzzette Ortiz. Titled "Bomba Holande," it is a lively three-part work in Spanish and English featuring piano and percussion and celebrating the traditional Afro-Puerto Rican "bomba" dance rhythm. The Upper School Chorus was one of 11 choral ensembles to commission the work through the national choral organization Chorus America, which had chosen Suzzette Ortiz as one of their 2022 Commission Consortium Composers. A longtime friend of the Puerto Rican composer, Michele recommended Suzzette as a visitor to Cristina Pérez's Latino Immigrant Experience class last year. This year, with the help of an FCS Authentic Engagement Grant that Michele and Cristina received, Suzzette spent time with both the Upper School Chorus and Cristina's Latino Immigrant Experience class, which focuses on the experiences of Latinos in the United States. Having recently finished a unit on Puerto Rico, the students and Suzzette had a conversation entirely in Spanish about Suzzette's experiences, her family, and the status of Puerto Rico as a territory of the US. For Michele's Upper School Chorus, Suzzette held a singing workshop for the students. The two groups – US Chorus and Spanish class – came together at the US Winter Concert, with the Spanish students contributing percussion to Suzzette's piece.

"Suzzette is a dynamic and engaging educator," Michele said. "I was thrilled that students in both the arts and world language programs had the opportunity to work with her. She and I are both students of Bobby McFerrin's Circlesongs workshops, so it was a special treat to have Suzzette lead a circlesong with the US Chorus during her visit." **QW**



In September, former Head of School David Felsen stopped by the City Ave campus to admire the Blackburn Library refurbishment.

Pictured (from left) are Associate Head of School Alexa D. Quinn '98, Head of School Beth D. Johnson '77, David Felsen, and Assistant Director of Facilities Darrell Thomas.

MEET FRIENDS' CENTRAL'S NEW DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI/AE RELATIONS YASMINE FILLMORE

Friends' Central is pleased to welcome Yasmine Fillmore who joined us in February. Yasmine brings with her a passion for independent schools and a wealth of experience in advancement and event planning. After working at NYU School of Law as an Associate Director of Major Events and Operations, Yasmine led the Alumni/ae Program at Ethical Culture Fieldston School in New York City, which was also her alma mater.

"In the short time I have been at Friends' Central," Yasmine shared, "I have already come to learn how special the people are here. The generations-long friendships, familial connections, and deep affinity everyone has for FCS and each other is evident, and those bonds serve as a testament to the community of which I now count myself lucky to be a member. In the coming days, months, and years, I look forward to getting to know each of you. I couldn't be happier to be a new friend at FCS!"

Yasmine Fillmore



ULMER FAMILY LIGHT LAB SEW & SERVICE EVENT

Lower School teachers and administrators joined together in September in the Fabrication Studio of the Ulmer Family Light Lab for their first training event of the year. Experienced and beginner sewers used sewing machines to construct fleece rescue pouches for baby animals. The cozy pouches were donated to the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education.

FACULTY & STAFF

ALICE McBEE ON PUBLIC RADIO

FCS fourth grade teacher Alice McBee and her mother-in-law, Diane, were interviewed by New Hampshire Public Radio for a piece about New Hampshire's iconic loons. Their voices made it into the final story, which aired on NHPR on September 13.

To listen to the interview, visit bit.ly/FCS-NHPR

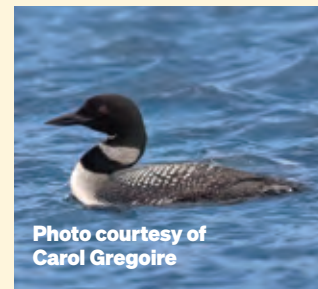
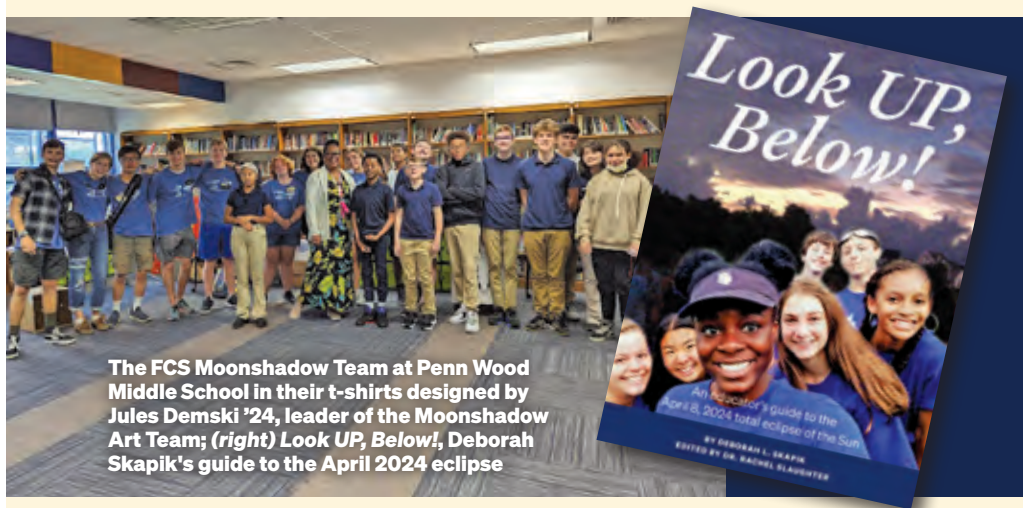


Photo courtesy of Carol Gregoire



The FCS Moonshadow Team at Penn Wood Middle School in their t-shirts designed by Jules Demski '24, leader of the Moonshadow Art Team; (right) *Look UP, Below!*, Deborah Skapik's guide to the April 2024 eclipse

PREPARING FOR THE APRIL 2024 ECLIPSE WITH DEBORAH SKAPIK AND THE FCS MOONSHADOW TEAM

Upper School physics teacher and NASA Partner Eclipse Ambassador Deborah Skapik presented at the American Astronomical Society's Solar Eclipse Planning Workshop in September. Deborah's presentation was titled "Educating the Educators," and she referenced her book *Look UP, Below! An Educator's Guide to the April 2024 Solar Eclipse*.

This winter, *Look UP, Below!* was recommended by *Sky and Telescope* magazine in their *Eclipse 2024* guide. As a result, Deborah was in demand with many requests to give pre-eclipse presentations. Among other events, she held six presentations at local libraries in February and March. The Upper School Moonshadow Team assisted at several of them.

In September, eight members of the Moonshadow Team themselves ran an eclipse literacy workshop for several Penn Wood Middle School students. The FCS students presented a slideshow and led hands-on demos demonstrating the Earth-Moon-Sun scale, the tilted Moon's orbit, and Moon phases. Mentored by Deborah, the Moonshadow Team have given other similar presentations in the area since September in preparation for the April solar eclipse. They have also assisted Deborah at her presentations.

Deborah and the Moonshadow Team were featured on 6ABC Action News and elsewhere. They traveled to Vermont for the eclipse on April 8. We look forward to hearing all about it!

VISITORS TO CAMPUS

AUTHOR LISA GRAFF

In September, author Lisa Graff visited Lower School students in grades 3-5 to talk about her new book, *Rewind*. She is the critically acclaimed and award-winning author of, among other books, *Far Away*, *The Great Treehouse War*, and *A Tangle of Knots*, long-listed for the National Book Award in 2013.



SPANISH PROFESSOR LINA MARTÍNEZ HERNANDEZ

In November, Lina Martínez Hernández, Assistant Professor of Spanish at Haverford College visited Cristina Pérez's Upper School Latino Immigrant Experience class to talk, in Spanish, about the migrants that have been arriving by bus in Philadelphia.

DISTINGUISHED VISITING JUSTICE LEADERS ANDREW NADKARNI '13 & DR. NALINI NADKARNI

In October, Friends' Central was thrilled to welcome Andrew Nadkarni '13 back to campus with his aunt, Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, as our 2023-2024 Distinguished Visiting Justice Leaders. Nalini, Professor Emeritus of Biology at the University of Utah, studies the biota that live in rainforest canopies and documents the numerous critical ecological roles they play in tropical and temperate forests. Andrew is a queer multiracial filmmaker based in Brooklyn, NY. His award-winning directorial debut documentary, *Between Earth & Sky*, highlights Nalini's personal journey along with her groundbreaking treetop research. After meeting with students during the school day on both campuses, Andrew and Nalini screened *Between Earth & Sky* at a lecture open to the public, and they spoke about their collaboration, fielding questions from the audience.



SONDRA ROSENBERG '97 AND CARRIE BLACKER P'19

In November, artists Sondra Rosenberg and former FCS Trustee and parent Carrie Blacker visited Laurie Novo's ninth grade English students as part of the class's study of how art can make us see otherwise unseen or inconvenient truths and serve as a means of social justice resistance. Carrie uses fabric to create portraits of those who are overlooked in society. Sondra is an art therapist and has recently worked with the Souls Shot project, where the friends and family of people who have died by gun violence partner with an artist to create a portrait. Both artists shared their work and spoke about their inspiration.



YALE SPIZZWINKS

The Spizzwinks, an a cappella singing group from Yale University, performed for Middle and Upper School students in Shimada in October. Founded in 1913, the Spizzwinks are the oldest undergraduate a cappella group in the United States.

AUTHOR PHYLLIS FAGELL

Phyllis Fagell, author of the books *Middle School Matters* and *Middle School Superpowers - Raising Resilient Tweens in Turbulent Times*, visited FCS in January for a special workshop for Middle School parents and caregivers and for Middle School teachers.



COMPOSER SUZZETTE ORTIZ

In November, Composer Suzette Ortiz visited the Upper School to hold a singing workshop with Upper School Chorus (above left) and visit Cristina Pérez's Latino Immigrant Experience class (above right) as part of the class unit on Puerto Rico to share her perspectives in Spanish as a Puerto Rican.



AUTHOR KATHERINE LOCKE

In November, Katherine Locke, author of the nonfiction book, *Gender Rebels: 30 Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender Expansive Heroes Past and Present*, visited the Middle School and spoke with students at a highly engaging assembly.



AUTHOR BESS KALB

In February, Bess Kalb, Emmy-nominated comedy writer and bestselling author of *Nobody Will Tell You This but Me*, visited students in Kindergarden-grade 2 for an interactive reading of her new picture book, *Buffalo Fluffalo*.



AUTHOR COURTNEY MITCHELL '04

Courtney Mitchell '04 visited Laura Novo's Upper School Writers' Workshop and English Seminar: *Classic Women* in March to talk about her experience as a writer; most notably of a series of Jane Austen fan fiction under the pen name Nay Mitch.



HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR RUTH KAPP HARTZ

In January, tenth grade history students attended a presentation by Holocaust survivor Ruth Kapp Hartz. Ruth moved to the US and was a teacher at the Springside School (now Springside Chestnut Hill Academy) for over 25 years. Ruth's experience as a child during WWII is recounted in the book *Your Name Is Renée: Ruth Kapp Hartz's Story as a Hidden Child in Nazi-Occupied France*, by Stacy Cretzmeyer.



ARTIST DEIRDRE MURPHY

In January, artist and former FCS Upper School art teacher Deirdre Murphy visited Upper School fine arts classes to present her artwork and hold workshops with the students.

Athletic News



Photo credit: Patty Morgan

QUIN STOVALL '24, JADE NICHOLS '26, NEENAH TRUSTY '27, & JAYA ADAMS '27: FASTEST HIGH SCHOOL RELAY TEAM IN THE USA

Congratulations to Phoenix runners Quin Stovall '24, Jade Nichols '26, Neenah Trusty '27, and Jaya Adams '27 (pictured above left) on being the fastest foursome in the country in the Sprint Medley Relay in Indoor Track! Over the winter break, they broke the Holiday Festival meet record and set the fastest high school time in the United States by running 4:12.17. The team went on to finish second at the Nike Indoor Nationals. At the season end, they ranked first in Pennsylvania and ninth in the country.

GIRLS' INDOOR TRACK & FIELD WINS PTFCA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

FCS girls' indoor track & field (pictured above right) won the 2024 Pennsylvania Track and Field Coaches Association (PTFCA) State Championship in February. The Phoenix fought hard, with a strong opening leg by Neenah Trusty '27, Quin Stovall '24 and Jade Nichols '26 running legs two and three, and Avery Lewis '24 completing the final leg, to finish second in the relay event. Their relay time of 3:54.14 ranked them third overall in PA, set an FCS record, and earned eight more points for a total 38 points, winning them the Championship. In addition to her great showing in the 4x400M relay, Avery finished first place in the 60M, 200M, and the long jump to become a three-time PTFCA State Champion in those events.



Nick Mattioni '25 was selected for the 2023 All Main Line boys' soccer first team. The junior defender was considered the backbone of the Phoenix defense. Nick was recognized for his strength in the air, distribution skill, and smart play in addition to his four goals in the 2023 season.



Congratulations to Theo Dankoff '24 who went undefeated in FSL wrestling last season!

Avery Lewis '24: An FCS Legend from Pre-K to

As Avery Lewis looks ahead to college and beyond, we take a look back at her FCS career and her accomplishments.

A student at FCS since Pre-Kindergarten, Avery Lewis '24 ran her first formal race at the age of six, competing with eight-year-olds in a 100-meter dash. She handily won that race, launching her exceptional athletic career.

From first to seventh grade, Avery competed for Infinity Track Club (ITC) – guided by FCS track coach Brandon Shell (parent of Imani Shell '12 and Inara Shell '21) and – where she began her record-breaking triumphs. During her time with ITC, she became the fastest eight-year-old in the country, running the 55-meter dash in 7.8 seconds at the Colgate Women's Games.

"I coach high school girls. If she were on my team right now, she'd be the fastest runner. So that's how good she is," said Brandon of Avery at the time.

As a Varsity athlete at FCS, Avery has continued to break records and garner national recognition. In February 2024 alone, she accrued some major accomplishments. Avery surpassed her own Pennsylvania state indoor long jump record by three and a half inches at the PTFCA Indoor Track Carnival, claiming a new PA state record with a mark of 21 feet, 6 inches. The performance marked her second mark over 21 feet and moved her up to No. 4 all-time. She also finished first place in the 60M, 200M, and the long jump to become a three-time PTFCA State Champion and helped the FCS girls' indoor track and field team win the PTFCA State Championship. Her time for the 60M dash (7.26) became the U.S. No. 3 time, and she posted a U.S. No. 8 time of 23.73 in the 200M.





**November collegiate signings
(from left) Clara, Chloe, Maria,
Michael, Pablo, and Matt**

COLLEGIATE SIGNINGS

Congratulations to the following student-athletes signed their NLI and made the commitment to play at the collegiate level:

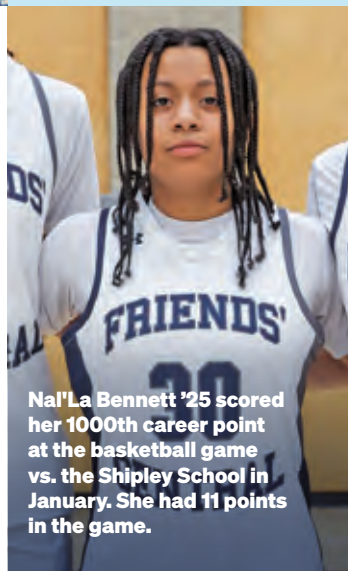
- Clara Behling '24: Tufts University (Swimming)
- Chloe English '24: University of Vermont (Swimming)
- Matt Hamilton '24: Davidson College (Baseball)
- Avery Lewis '24: University of Southern California (Track & Field)
- Michael McGarry '24: Stevenson University (Baseball)
- Maria Morsa '24: Stevenson University (Softball)
- Pablo Spielman-Rodriguez '24: Middlebury College (Baseball)
- Quin Stovall '24: University of Pennsylvania (Track & Field)

FCS GIRLS' AND BOYS' BASKETBALL BOTH MADE IT TO FSL CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the first time since 2016, Friends' Central girls' and boys' Varsity basketball teams both made it through to the FSL Championships. The girls took on Westtown and the boys played the Academy of the New Church. Congratulations to both teams on a great season!

BOYS' AND GIRLS' SWIMMING FINISHED SECOND IN FSL CHAMPIONSHIPS

FCS Varsity boys' and girls' swimming teams finished second against George School in the FSL Championships. The boys set two new team records: Finn Hilliard '24 broke his 100 fly record, and Oskar Bauridel '26 won and broke his record in the 100 breast. The girls won eight out of 11 events and set many personal records and four new team records, including Clara Behling '24 in 200 free and 100 back. Clara Behling '24, Chloe English '24, Evie Watkins '26, and Penelope English '26 set an FSL record in the 200 free relay.



Nal'La Bennett '25 scored her 1000th career point at the basketball game vs. the Shipley School in January. She had 11 points in the game.



Logyn Greer '25 scored her 1000th career point at the PAISAA semifinals vs. Germantown Academy in February, helping the Phoenix through to the Championships.

#1 Girls' Track & Field Athlete in the Country

Even as her time at FCS draws to a close, Avery continues to make the news. Recently, at the Nike Indoor Nationals, she competed against other top track athletes in the country. Avery raced hard, becoming the national champion in the girls' 60M with a time of 7.3104, outpacing her opponent by .0004 of a second.

FCS and athletics are very much a part of Avery's family. Her mother, LaeDoan, a beloved FCS second grade teacher, was herself a track athlete throughout school. Avery's older brother, TJ, graduated from FCS in 2021 and was a dedicated student-athlete in his own right, competing in Varsity basketball and track. LaeDoan and Terrence, Avery's father, still coach Avery to this day.

Avery currently ranks as the number one girls' track and field athlete in the United States. In December, Avery signed her letter of intent to compete at the University of Southern California. We wish her all the very best in the future, and we are so proud that she is part of the FCS community.

(Bottom, from left) Avery at the Colgate Games, aged 8; running with the Infinity Track Club at NE High School; Avery in third grade; with Coach Brandon Shell at the Colgate Women's Games in 2017; Avery in 10th grade; Penn Relays long jump champion with a leap of 19-10.25 in April 2022 at Franklin Field; at the 2023 PTFCA State Championship (Penn State) pictured winning 200M; at the Nike Indoor Nationals in New York in 2024; Avery's graduation portrait this year





**PHL17 STUDENT-ATHLETE
OF THE WEEK
MICAELA BAILEY '27**

Micaela Bailey '27 was named PHL17 Student Athlete of the Week for the week of November 13, 2023. Micaela swims with PDR Swimming, where she spends six days a week in the pool. James Ellis, head coach and founder of PDR Swimming, praised her as, "a very talented young woman ... she's tenacious." Micaela is a leader in the PDR program and, said Coach Ellis, "a great teammate ... someone you can depend upon." Since coming to FCS this September as a ninth grader, Micaela has branched out and joined the FCS cross country team. As a swimmer, she helped the Phoenix finish second in the FSL Championships.

*Excerpted from a PHL17 segment
by Kelsey Fabian*



**STUDENT-ATHLETE
OF THE WEEK
EVAN BOYER, JR. '25**

Evan Boyer Jr. '25 was named PHL17 Student Athlete of the Week for the week of December 6, 2023. A point guard for Phoenix boys' basketball, Evan is a key player on the court. His coach Devin Coleman '11 shared that Evan is skilled at "making his teammates better, whether it's passing the ball, motivating guys, or getting guys on the right spots on the court. Everything he does has an impact on us. ... As soon as the whistle blows, he turns it on and he's ready to go." A basketball player since aged four, Evan calls the sport "his life" and hopes to play in college and professionally or work in sports medicine.

*Excerpted from a PHL17 segment
by Kelsey Fabian*



**MAIN LINE GIRLS
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
KAIYA RAIN TUCKER '25**

Kaiya Rain Tucker '25 was Main Line Girls Athlete of the Week for the week of December 18, 2023. The 6-foot-1 junior forward has been a key factor in the girls' basketball team's performance. This recent season, Kaiya averaged 10 points, 8 rebounds, and 2 blocks. Last winter, she averaged nine rebounds and 9.6 points per game and received All-Main Line and All-Friends Schools League girls' basketball honors. "Kaiya is every coach's dream player," said FCS girls' basketball head coach Vinny Simpson. "She's a leader on and off the court, a great teammate, and is the hardest-working kid I've coached so far in my short career."

*Excerpted from a Mainline Times &
Suburban article by Bruce Adams*

**FRIENDS SCHOOLS
ALL-LEAGUE HONORS**

Congratulations to the student-athletes, who earned Friends Schools League honors during the fall and winter seasons. All-League and Honorable-Mention squads are selected in each sport at the end of each season by the coaches of that sport. In selecting players to the All-League or Honorable-Mention squads, sportsmanship is as important as athletic prowess.

FRIENDS SCHOOLS LEAGUE FIRST TEAM ALL-LEAGUE WINNERS:

Cross Country:
Quin Stovall '24, Duncan McLuckie '25

Boys' Soccer:
Nick Mattioni '25, Mason McCrea '24

Girls' Tennis:
Savina Copas '24, Margot Groundwater '26,
Maddy Jackson '26, Kiki Troilo '28

Girls' Basketball:
Nal'La Bennett '25, Logyn Greer '25
Kaiya Rain Tucker '25, Saniyah Washington '25

Boys' Basketball:
Muhsin Muhammad '24, Fazl Oshodi '24

Girls' Swimming:
Clara Behling '24, Chloe English '24,
Penelope English '26, Evie Watkins '26

Boys' Swimming:
Oskar Bauriedel '26, Finn Hilliard '24

Wrestling:
Theo Dankoff '24, Noah Porter '24

FRIENDS SCHOOLS LEAGUE HONORABLE MENTION ALL-LEAGUE WINNERS:

Cross Country:
Neenah Trusty '27, Silas Costa '27, Theo Strauss '24

Field Hockey: Sophia Bozzone '26

Girls' Soccer: Shea Ryan '24

Boys' Soccer: Mico Carpinello '25, Ezra Drakes-Grant '26

Boys' Basketball: Patrese Feamster '27

Girls' Swimming: An Huynh '24

Boys' Swimming: Ben Hilliard '27

Wrestling:
Roma LoGiurato '25, Ian McLuckie '25

Alumni/ae Athletes in the News

FCS Lower School students joined the FCS Varsity cheerleading team to cheer on the Varsity boys' basketball team as they played Friends Select School in a matchup dubbed "The Battle of the Birds." Phoenix Phans in attendance helped the Phoenix triumph over FSS 62 to 59!



MAIN LINE BOYS ATHLETE OF THE WEEK MUHSIN MUHAMMAD '24

Muhsin Muhammad '24 (pictured above at left) was named Main Line Boys Athlete of the Week for the week of December 25, 2023. The 6-foot-4 senior combo guard has played a key role in the fast start of the Phoenix boys' basketball team this past season. He averaged 16.6 points, 7.3 rebounds, 2.1 assists, 2.0 steals, and one blocked shot per contest. He has also played for the East Coast Cyclones AAU club basketball team and, last spring, earned first-team All-Friends Schools League honors in track (he competed in the 400, 800, and high jump).

Excerpted from a Mainline Times & Suburban article by Bruce Adams

MUHSIN MUHAMMAD '24 & PHOENIX BASKETBALL FEATURED IN CITY OF BASKETBALL LOVE

Muhsin Muhammad '24 and Phoenix boys' basketball were also featured in an article by *City of Basketball Love* in January titled, "Muhammad shines as Friends' Central picks up another big win." In the article, Phoenix coach Devin Coleman '11 (pictured above at right), himself a former FCS star shared how Muhsin has been a steady contributor to the Phoenix's success. "Muhsin's also a track star in jumping and running events. He's so talented; he can do anything he wants," Devin said. "His track background gives him great leaping ability. His ticket to college is anything he decides. I think his focus is basketball, but he can stand out in anything he puts his mind to."

Coach Devin was part of the FCS team along with Amile Jefferson '12 and Malique Killing '11, when they won a Friend' Schools League championship in 2011. In his first season as head coach of the Phoenix, Devin emphasizes teamwork, and patience. "We're working hard and have a lot of older guys who have been taking to coaching and they are ready to make some noise," Devin said. "People who know me know that I'm never satisfied. I want more. I see more with this group."

Excerpted from the City of Basketball Love article by Joseph Santoliquito

In a ceremony in December that included friends, family, and former teammates, FCS celebrated the jersey retirement of **MIKE COOK '02**. Mike was recognized for his many contributions to Friends' Central on and off the court. For more on Mike's jersey retirement, see page 32.

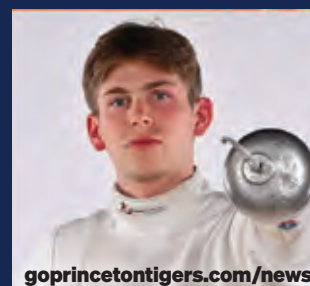


GABRIELLE WILKINSON '18 will be inducted into the PA High School Track and Field Hall of Fame this May. Gabrielle attended the University of Florida where she continued to excel as a middle and long-distance runner. After graduating from Florida, she signed with Atlanta Track Club Elite, a professional running group to continue her training in the 800M.

BLAKE ROSHKOFF '20 and squash partner Rachel Mashek won the national collegiate squash mixed doubles on March 10 for the third year in a row. Both are students at Brown University. The championship was held at the Arlen Specter U.S. Squash Center where Blake had played as an FCS student. In this year's tournament, the duo won every single game.

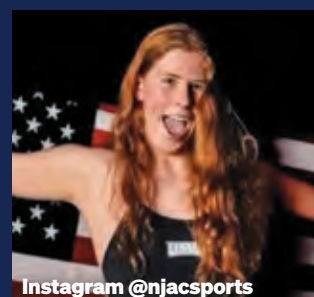


Photo courtesy of Marjorie Roshkoff



In March, **TRISTAN SZAPARY '20** won his second consecutive NCAA Mid-Atlantic/South Regional title in men's épée. Tristan competes for Princeton University where he is a senior. His performance in the regional competition clinched him a spot in the NCAA Fencing championships to be held in Columbus, Ohio in March.

AMANDA SHEWARD '21 represented the United States as a swimmer at the Parapan American Games in Santiago, Chile, in November. Amanda raced in the Women's 100-meter backstroke S6 classification, taking fifth place with a time of 1:46.50. Her coach at University of Mary Washington, Justin Anderson, shared, "Amanda is an incredibly consistent and hard-working athlete. ... This is her first time making an international meet roster for Team USA, and it is a huge accomplishment for her."



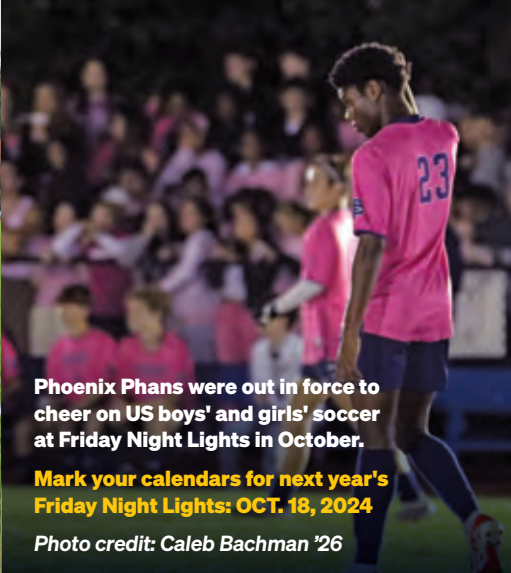
Instagram @njacsports

CAMPUS LOG: ATHLETIC NEWS



MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY AT THE GFS INVITATIONAL

In October, the Middle School cross country team competed in the GFS Invitational against 429 runners in a 1.8K race. Leah Van Dyke '29 finished as the second fastest girl and 12th place in the combined race with a time of 12:12.20. Ayla Cromedy '30 finished third among the girls and 18th place with a time of 12:23.50. The team finished 10th overall with the girls' team placing second.



Phoenix Phans were out in force to cheer on US boys' and girls' soccer at Friday Night Lights in October.

Mark your calendars for next year's Friday Night Lights: OCT. 18, 2024

Photo credit: Caleb Bachman '26



Zoe Nesbitt '28 raced in the 206 class of the NYS Championship in October at the Oakland Valley Race Park.



MIDDLE SCHOOL FAMILY GAME DAY

In October, the Middle School hosted the annual Family Game Day to bring their fall season to a close. Parents and caregivers were invited to join their student-athletes on the field!



In the fall, a number of FCS alumni soccer players tested their skills against current FCS athletes at the Alumni Soccer Game.



YOUR PA TAXES CAN PROVIDE A LIFE-CHANGING SCHOLARSHIP

SUPPORT SCHOLARSHIPS AT FCS AND RECEIVE A 90% CREDIT AGAINST YOUR PA TAX LIABILITY

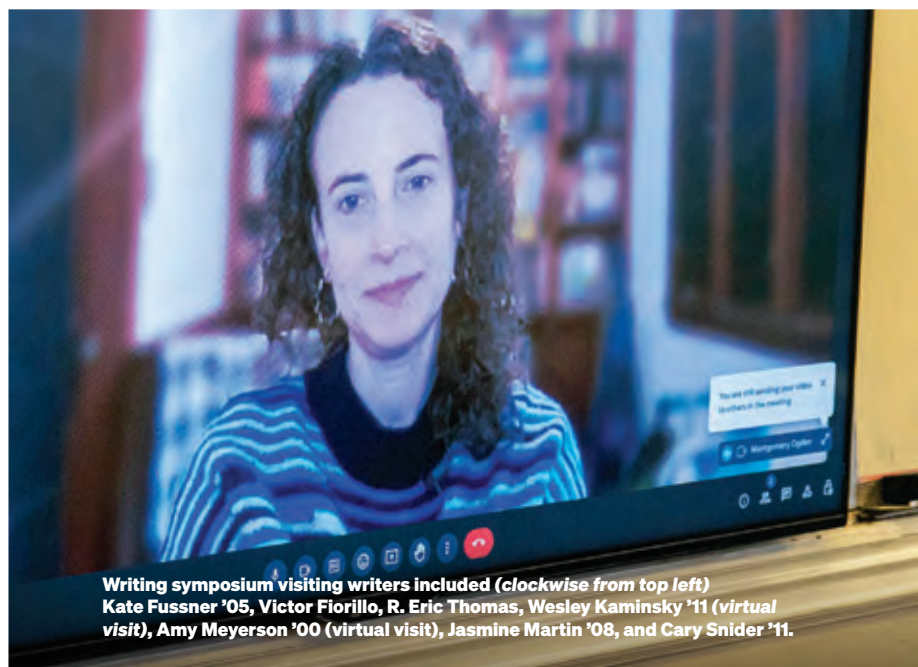
Through Pennsylvania's tax credit program, individuals and businesses can make a donation supporting tuition assistance for FCS students and receive 90% of the contribution back as a dollar-for-dollar reduction of your 2024 PA state tax liability.

To see if you qualify, or to learn more about how you can support tuition assistance for FCS while receiving credits for up to 90% of your PA tax liability, contact:

Colette Kleitz
Chief Advancement Officer
ckleitz@friendscentral.org
610-645-5076

An EXAMPLE of how a gift to FCS using the Friends Collaborative program works:

PA State Income Tax Rate	3.07%
PA Taxable Income	\$293,160
PA State Income Tax Owed	\$9,000
Your Gift Amount (\$3,000 Minimum)	\$10,000
Receive 90% PA State Tax Credit	\$9,000
Estimated Federal Charitable Deduction	\$330
Total Cost to Make a \$10,000 Gift	\$670



Writing symposium visiting writers included (clockwise from top left) Kate Fussner '05, Victor Fiorillo, R. Eric Thomas, Wesley Kaminsky '11 (virtual visit), Amy Meyerson '00 (virtual visit), Jasmine Martin '08, and Cary Snider '11.

Upper School Symposium Brings Professional Writers to Campus

In October, the Upper School English department held a writing symposium that brought a range of professional writers to campus to share their experiences with students. The event began with a morning assembly and keynote address by R. Eric Thomas, playwright, screenwriter, and national bestselling author of the essay collection, *Here For It, or, How to Save Your Soul in America*.

In the afternoon, the students took part in small workshops and interactive interviews with a range of illustrious visitors that included many Friends' Central alums and some current and former FCS parents. Workshop sessions included *Adapting Fairy Tales* with Kate Fussner '05, whose debut novel, *The Song of Us*, was published in 2023; *Personal Writing* with Jenny Laden, visual artist and author of the recently published visual novel, *This Terrible True Thing*; *Screenwriting for Television* with R. Eric Thomas; and *Hooking the Reader* led by Cary Snider '11, FCS Donor Relations Manager and published writer.

The interview sessions were led by students, who, in true FCS style, were vocal participants in lively Q&As with guest writers including Amy Meyerson '00, best selling author of *The Bookshop of Yesteryears*, *The Imperfects*, and *The Love Scribe*; Leah Franqui '05, whose novels include *America for Beginners* and *Mother Land*; Jasmine Martin '08, co-author of *New York Times* bestseller *The Upcycled Self*; sports journalist Ben Kenney '17; Wesley Kaminsky '11, Producer at Fox Sports in LA; Neal Bascomb, *New York Times* bestselling author of a number of non-fiction narratives including *Faster*, *The Escape Artists*, and *The Winter Fortress*; Victor Fiorillo, award-winning *Philadelphia Magazine* journalist; and Terence Culleton, former Bucks County Poet Laureate.

In her workshop, Kate Fussner led students through a discussion about the retelling of classic stories and fairy tales and which boundaries, themes, identities, and more can be explored when writers play with the concept of retelling. She asked the students to reflect on how we “determine the core of an original story, and how [we] honor the core while still retaining the vision of the new writer's story.” Students then worked to put their own spin on “Little Red Riding Hood,” playing with setting, character, and genre. “It was

truly incredible to see students take the same story and turn it on its head in so many ways!” Kate shared.

The number of published authors at the symposium who were also alums of the School attests to Friends' Central as a place that fosters creativity in writing and that teaches its students to value their own voices. “My life as a professional author is largely due to the incredible teachers I had at FCS,” shared Kate Fussner. “As a writer, I was nurtured and gently pushed to expand my authentic perspective and my professional writing skills. In all of my FCS English classes, I was given a wide range of assignments that made me grow academically and creatively. And, more than anything, I was given the opportunity to take risks when thinking through literature, a skill that served me so well in college and beyond. I am forever grateful for the creative and professional care my writing was given as a student at FCS.”

“My life as a professional author is largely due to the incredible teachers I had at FCS.”

KATE FUSSNER '05

The Upper School's fall writing symposium was a wonderful opportunity to build on the School's tradition of bringing distinguished visiting guests, artists, and thought leaders to campus. It also offered students a way of thinking about writing as a practice with a wide range of professional possibilities and applications.

“It was so gratifying to work with the team of a dozen students who volunteered to serve as hosts to the visiting writers!” shared FCS Upper School English Department Chair Monty Ogden. “They researched and drafted introductory remarks for their assigned writers, collaborated on interview questions, role-played interviews with each other to get practice with the form, and on the day of the event itself, represented the School with dazzling professionalism. As you might expect, many of them are aspiring storytellers, and so they in turn were delighted to have had such access to our guests.” QW

The Audrie Gardham Ulmer '37 Center for Innovation and Design



(Clockwise from top left) exterior of the old Rex Gym, exterior and interior renderings of the Audrie Gardham Ulmer '37 Center for Innovation and Design, work beginning on Phase I of the CID in 2022

Friends' Central is pleased to announce the official naming of the **Audrie Gardham Ulmer '37 Center for Innovation and Design**.

Eighty-seven years after her graduation from Friends' Central, Audrie Gardham Ulmer '37 is being honored by the School and by her son, Rich Ulmer, Class of 1960. Rich is the catalyst and leading donor for the project to transform the beloved 1920s Rex Gymnasium into a state-of-the-art facility for STEAM education on Friends' Central's City Avenue campus. Construction is currently underway, and the official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place in fall 2024.

With approximately 6,800 square feet of space for programming, the two-floor facility will have specialized spaces including a fabrication studio, a green room, a design studio, a robotics room, and even an outdoor classroom. From courses like Design Thinking: Concept to Creation, 3D Fabrication, and Introduction to Computer Hardware, to programs like Competitive Robotics and design challenges on the local and national levels, students will have ample opportunities for guided instruction from teachers, for hands-on learning, and for creation.



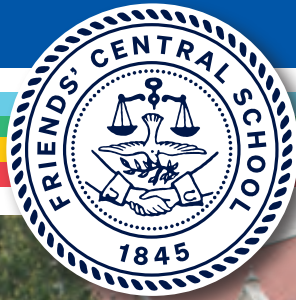
The Audrie Gardham Ulmer '37 Center for Innovation and Design under construction in March
For more photos of the project, visit bit.ly/AUCID24



Friends' Central School Alumni/ae Weekend

Celebrating the Reunion Classes of:

1954 • 1959 • 1964 • 1969 • 1974 • 1979 • 1984 • 1989 • 1994 • 1999 • 2004 • 2009 • 2014 • 2019



It's time to gather with Friends



May 3-4, 2024



For more information or to register online, scan the QR code
or visit friendscentral.org/alumnae/weekend

Friday, May 3

8:30 am-12:10 pm

Upper School Classes

Attend a class with students taught by an Upper School teacher
(Full schedule available online)

UPPER SCHOOL CLASSROOMS



10:30-11:30 am

Faculty Coffee and Conversation

Connect with former and current faculty to reminisce about your time at FCS and learn more about the FCS of today

MAIN BUILDING, OPA ROOM

12:50-1:35 pm

Networking Luncheon with FCS Students

Join fellow alumni/ae to network and reconnect, while sharing your professional experiences and expertise with current students

SHALLCROSS HALL, PHOENIX ROOM

1:50 pm

Basketball Celebration Assembly

Celebrate with FCS as we retire the jerseys of outstanding alumni/ae athletes Latifah McMullin '99 and Mustafa Shakur '03

SHIMADA ATHLETIC CENTER

Saturday, May 4

9:00 am

Alumni/ae Weekend Check-in Opens

Breakfast reception

FELSEN COMMON

Archives Display Opens

MAIN BUILDING, OPA

9:00-10:00 am

School Tour with FCS Historian Grant Calder

Learn about FCS history during a campus tour with Upper School history teacher Grant Calder

MAIN BUILDING, FOYER

Boys' Varsity Tennis - Intrasquad Match

ULMER FAMILY TENNIS COMPLEX

10:00- 10:45 am

Meeting for Worship

Introduction by Head of School Beth Davis Johnson '77

SHALLCROSS HALL, MEETING ROOM

11:00-11:30 am

Distinguished Alumni/ae Awards

SHALLCROSS HALL, MEETING ROOM

Congratulations to this year's Distinguished Alumni/ae Awards recipients!



Judy Kirk Meyer '74 for her many years of service to FCS and her family's commitment to Quaker education



Lisa Kay Solomon '89 for her outstanding accomplishments in furthering the fields of design and civic leadership, helping more leaders think expansively about how to shape more positive futures in times of increasing uncertainty

12:00 pm

Luncheons and Class Photos

Classes of 1950 to 1973 and the 50th Reunion Class of 1974

SHALLCROSS HALL

Classes of 1975-2019

FELSEN COMMON

12:00 pm (continued)

Spring Festival

FCS family-focused fun with music, balloon art, face painting, and more

FELSEN COMMON

School Tour

Tour the City Avenue campus with a current student

REGISTRATION TENT

Girls' Varsity Lacrosse vs. Chichester High School

MIDDLE OF THE TRACK

12:00-2:00 pm

The Audrey Gardham Ulmer '37 Center for Innovation and Design Sneak Peak

Come see the construction of our new Audrey Gardham Ulmer '37 Center for Innovation and Design and hear more about the space from the Center's Co-Director CJ Keller

CID BUILDING

1:00 pm

Moonshadow Experience Student Presentation

Hear from science teacher and NASA Eclipse Ambassador Deborah Skapik and the FCS student Moonshadow Team about their yearlong efforts around the April solar eclipse

LOCATION: FCC

School Tour

Tour the City Avenue campus with a current student

REGISTRATION TENT

Alumni/ae of Color Gathering with PSOC

Join Parents of Students of Color (PSOC) for connection, conversation, and an afternoon treat

MAIN BUILDING TERRACE

2:00 pm

FCS Earthquakers Robotics Team Demonstration

With the help of professional FCS STEAM mentors, students design, build, and program a robot for competition against other teams. Come see the award-winning Earthquakers and their designs in action during this special Alumni/ae Weekend demonstration

FCC OPEN LOBBY

Evening

Individual Class Parties

Schedule available online

NOTES FROM FRIENDS

SHARE YOUR ALUMNI/AE NEWS

Friends' Central School encourages all alumni/ae to share news in the "Notes from Friends" section of *Quaker Works*. Send us your photos! To contribute, email communications@friendscentral.org (All alumni/ae notes are edited for length, grammar, and content.)

1947

Brigitte Solmitz Alexander writes, "I'm well and reminded of FCS daily as I view the fish tanks under the care of Ted Farraday at Kendal. The son of our biology teacher Clayton Farraday, Ted has his father's interests in living creatures and more. I'm also in touch with **Joyce Boardman Kurr**. Who else of '47 is in their mid-90's?"

1948

Nancy Warwick Tarlton reports, "My husband and I have lived here [Rhode Island] since 1969, and our children live nearby. I would like to know if I have any classmates whom I can contact in my area." If you are interested in connecting with Nancy please reach out to the alumni/ae office at alumni@friendscentral.org; we would be happy to assist!

1954

Clarke Dunham notes that he recently retired from a 60-year career in Broadway and International Opera Design. Among his many Honors are two of Broadway's Tony Nominations, a Jefferson Award (the Chicago "Tony"), as well as many other Theatrical Industry Honors. His notable Operatic successes include Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, and The Chicago Lyric Opera's *Madama Butterfly*, both directed by the legendary Harold Prince, with whom Clarke designed

many other productions, including Clarke's Tony-nominated productions of *Grind* and *End of the World*, as well as many more. Clarke's many Dunham Studios display successes include his 20-year-long New York City Holiday Season model train success "The Station At Citicorp Center." He and his wife, Barbara, live in Pottersville in New York's Adirondack Mountains.

1957

Dick Klein came out with a third edition of his Thompson Reuters trial practice book for lawyers, *Trial Communication Skills*. The book was written with Julius Fast, the author of the first *Body Language* book, and the new edition covers communicating in AI, remote communication, communicating with different cultures, communicating across generations, and more. His son, **Geoffrey Klein '90**, also published a book in 2024 called *The Content Beast*, discussing marketing using stories and visual communication.

1959

Dave Branning shares "The great Class of '59 is getting ready for our 65th reunion weekend with a terrific turnout. Several returning alums haven't been seen in many years, so we look forward to sharing the "remember-when" stories all over again. **Lenny Sylk** is graciously hosting us Friday night, and the festivities at FCS on Saturday will bring more of our great alumni/ae together. Saturday night, **Tim Patterson** is hosting a class dinner at Aronimink Golf Club, and we all say our goodbyes at the Patterson home for brunch on Sunday morning. A full weekend of laughs and sharing."

Dick Graves writes that he and his wife, Catharine, "are still vertical and able to travel!"

1961

Allen Reishtein shares the sad news that his sister **Deborah A. Shore** died on February 4, 2024. She was in the Class of 1963.

1962

Susan Perilstein Hering reports, "After John passed away (December 2023), my children wanted me to move near one of them. In August 2023 I moved to Atlanta, Georgia to a building that is very beautiful and is a retirement home. I am two miles away from my daughter. Her brothers live all over, [living in] Chicago, Fitchburg



Geoffrey Klein '90 (left) and Dick Klein '57
with their respective recent publications.

The Cal 40 sailboat, Illusion, belonging to Sally Lindsay Honey '62 at the start of the Newport-Bermuda Race 2022



Sally Lindsay Honey with her new puppy, Scout

Wisconsin, and Denver Colorado. I am still adjusting. Believe it or not, I have never lived alone or out of the area where I lived my whole life. If anyone is visiting this area, I would love to see you." Susan can be reached at sphcon@me.com.

Sally Price Honey writes, "The last two years have been dominated by sailing successes and a transition to a cruising power boat. In the summer of 2022, we won the Newport-Bermuda Race overall in our 60-year-old Cal 40 sailboat, which was a huge accomplishment due to Stan's perfect navigation through the Gulf Stream and the excellence of our crew of three additional top sailors. We then sold the boat to our nephew and bought a 48' power boat which we plan to cruise to Alaska and then do the Great Loop from the Great Lakes, down the Mississippi, up the East Coast, and back to the Great Lakes. Separately, I was honored to be inducted into the National Sailing Hall of Fame last fall, joining 100 other sailors including Stan, who was inducted in 2012. Additionally, I continue my volunteer work with World Sailing, as the Chair of the Special Regulations Subcommittee, and my work with US Sailing, New York Yacht Club, and St. Francis Yacht Club. Oh yes, and we now have a seven-month-old German shepherd puppy to add to our activities. Lots going on in my 'retirement!' With huge appreciation for my years at FCS!"

Dennis Linnehan is an avid hiker and photographer and a graduate of the New York Institute of Photography. For 32 years, Dennis worked for the Eastman Kodak company and, as a member of the Kodak Travel Club, presented four major shows featuring his travel-og images. He has produced eight photography books. Dennis is the author, photographer, and designer of the following books: *Adirondack Splendor*, *The Finger Lakes: Nature's Beauty*, *New York State Splendor*, *Adirondack Dawn*, *Yellowstone & Grand Teton Splendor*, *Zion National Park Splendor*, *Yellowstone and Grand Teton Splendor – New Edition*, and *Utah Splendor*. *Utah Splendor* features 200 stunning photos of the Beehive State. His eighth photography book displays inspiring images of Utah national parks, Utah state parks, views of majestic mountains and dramatic waterfall scenery near Provo and Salt Lake City, and extraordinary wilderness in mesmerizing light. Dennis has photographed Utah for over 20 years, usually near sunrise or sunset. His photos also include scenes of Mount Nebo and Mirror Lake Scenic Byway in early fall with a touch of snow. Near Salt Lake City, Dennis has photographed the Red Butte Garden formal gardens in their breathtaking beauty. From iconic rock formations, fins, pinnacles, crimson-colored hoodoos, canyons, domes, natural

sandstone arches, and rivers flowing through steep red cliffs, *Utah Splendor* will transport you to this enchanting landscape through Dennis Linnehan's unique perspective.

Dennis Linnehan '62 at Devils Garden Hike



Den Linnehan on a "fin" Arches NP

Lofty Lake Loop Trail



Lofty Lake loop trail

Utah Splendor by Dennis Linnehan



UTAH Splendor

BLACKBURN SOCIETY PROFILE:

Bill Bower

In 1972, Bill Bower began working as a fourth grade teacher at Friends' Central and impacted the lives of students, parents, and fellow faculty members for 40 years. Bill continues his legacy as a donor and member of the Blackburn Society.



Bill and his wife, Bambi Dudley

What do you love about Friends' Central?

"The associations that I was fortunate enough to make in 40 years are the greatest gifts that anyone could have ever given me. If I had a job in the world of finance – if I had made millions of dollars – it wouldn't measure up to my experiences at Friends' Central.

"Friends' Central is a place full of quality people. When I think about my life, I realize I am very lucky that I was around good people constantly. Even as the characters changed and the decades went by, no matter what, there were always wonderful students, parents, teachers, and administrators."



In 1987, Bill's fourth grade students (Class of 1995) posed in front of a model Spirit of St. Louis they built in their classroom.

What is your favorite FCS memory?

"Out of many wonderful memories, rehearsing and performing the faculty musicals, including *Guys and Dolls*, *Oh What a Lovely War*, *The Desert Song*, and *Once Upon a Mattress*."

Why do you give to FCS?

"The experiences I had at Friends' Central were priceless. They formed me as a person, reinforced my values, and gave me a wealth of self-esteem. I give to a number of organizations, but Friends' Central has always been a constant for me. Finally, after I retired and assessed my finances, I was able to fully understand that I could make a greater commitment to the School by leaving money to the School after I'm gone. I feel completely honored to have a chance to do that."

What would you say to encourage others to give to FCS?

"Friends' Central is a place that truly lives up to its creed. It works with everyone, honors your background, and is very sensitive to the needs of students, parents, and faculty. I can't think of any other organizations that would be more worthy of a donation than Friends' Central."

The Blackburn Society

Gifts to the Blackburn Society follow in the spirit of Eliza E. Blackburn '22, the beloved faculty member who left her estate in the care of the Board of Trustees and enabled the purchase of the Lower School Campus in 1990. The Blackburn Society recognizes friends who have made the thoughtful decision of including FCS in their estate plans.

If you are interested in learning more about the Blackburn Society and leaving a legacy at FCS, contact Colette Kleitz, Chief Advancement Officer, at ckleitz@friendscentral.org or 610-645-5076.



(From left) Eliza, daughter of Judy Kirk Meyer '74; Eliza's husband, Cole Schindler; Judy's grandchild Malin; Judy; Judy's husband, Bill; Judy's grandchild Waylon; Judy's son, Andrew Hanson; Andrew's fiancée, Monica Perla

Judy Kirk Meyer and husband, Bill

1964

Suzanne Bohrer Ashley wrote, "It will be great to see Friends' Central School in May. I am really looking forward to catching up since our 50th, which seems just like yesterday. It is so hard to believe it has been 60 years since we graduated. The many classmates I have heard from are all looking forward to having a very memorable time walking down this memory lane with old friends or are sad if they are unable to make the trip."

1969

Bob Gassel remembers, "My experience extends back to 1965, when I started at Friends' Central School in ninth grade. Mr. Farraday, Mr. Worth, Mr. Cederstrom, Mr. Ely – such great teachers. I also served on the Board of Trustees for 20 years, the last four as Clerk. Both our kids [**Brooke Gassel '99** and **Bruno Vogrig '16**] were FCS lifers and benefited greatly academically and socially."

I am still working full-time and traveling to Italy to visit my wife's family as often as possible. I can't wait to see everyone again at Alumni/ae Weekend."

Carl J. Parris remembers, "Treating Hans Fickenscher for a sinus infection with acupuncture needles in front of his class after I returned from a trip to China in 1972. My wife and I are both retired with four grandchildren. I am active doing sea kayaking, competitive softball, tennis, working locally

with immigrants, lake monitoring/preservation and raising money for anti-venom kits for an indigenous group that I have visited multiple times in the Brazilian Amazon."

Daniel Sears writes that he retired from John Bartram High school in 2017 and continues to work as a substitute teacher there.

Fumi Tsukahara remembers, "When my grandfather was retiring, he took a trip around the world where he had served as a Japanese diplomat. His son [my father] had a daughter, [Fumi] attending FCS, and my grandfather met with the headmaster. They agreed that it's a good experience for me to attend the school. I was sent to live with my uncle and attended FCS without much knowledge of English coming from Japan. I enjoyed playing tennis, the cello in the school orchestra until summer. I was then able to attend classes from September! It sure was a great experience. Currently, I'm helping non-Japanese speaking people here in Tokyo. I'm invited to attend the 50th anniversary of Expo '74 in Spokane, Washington from May 1 to 18. So sorry to miss the FCS Reunion."

1974

Frank M. Ludwig notes that he was an "Exchange student from Kurt-Huber-Gymnasium, Gräfelting (Germany) in the year 1973/74 (11th grade). Enjoyed Shakespeare/English class with teacher Mr. Shakespeare!" He shares, "I have worked with German railroads most of my professional

life and will retire in April 2024." His last visit to Philadelphia was in April 2023.

Judy Kirk Meyer recalls, "There were so many special times that were shared with classmates. One that definitely stands out in our senior year was when the Varsity basketball team won the championship game. There was such excitement, spirit, and support generated in the senior class and throughout the Upper School. We were all there to see them WIN."

"Currently, my husband, Bill, and I are living in Austin, Texas during the winter months and Philadelphia during the summer. We have two adorable grandchildren who we spend a lot of time with playing, exploring, reading, and laughing. They make every day interesting and fun. We continue to travel to various countries and states to see as much as we can while we're healthy. Each day is a gift."

Hilary Whiteway Cummings writes, "It was September 1962 when I came to Friends' Central in first grade. Little did that young girl know then the impact the school would have on her. The amazing education, the friends, the family – my mother was the secretary to the Headmaster, my brother, [**Eric Whiteway**] graduated in 1966 – the memories. So many besties who were rivals the next week and besties again the following. So many boys I had crushes on (I will never tell!). The plays I was in (this I was good at) and the sports I played (this I was not). And the education! There was French and Russian and Shakespeare, but there was also the foundation of values, beliefs, and experiences I gained at FCS that make me

Mike Cook '02 Jersey Retirement



At the jersey retirement ceremony, Mike Cook and his family celebrate (left), and Mike addresses the audience as his mother proudly looks on.

On December 8, 2023, Friends' Central retired the jersey of **Mike Cook '02**, number 23. Mike entered FCS as a ninth grader in 1998 and led an incredible turnaround in the basketball program. The Phoenix were 6-10 before Mike arrived, and by the time Mike graduated in 2002, the Phoenix were 22-3. Mike led Friends' Central to two Friends Schools League titles, averaging 22 points, seven rebounds, and three assists per game. He was named league Player of the Year in his senior year, earning All-State and All-Area Honorable Mention. Mike finished his career as a top 30 player in the country and a McDonald's All American nominee. He scored an incredible 1800 points in his career and remains the FCS boys' basketball all-time leading scorer.

Mike's college career took him to East Carolina State. In his sophomore year, he averaged 15 points per game. He transferred to the University of Pittsburgh, where he averaged in double figures in both his junior and senior years. Mike helped the Panthers win the Big East title in 2008. Following his graduation from Pitt, he played in the NBA D-League before embarking on a professional basketball career overseas in Poland, the UK, China, Qatar, Iceland, and Serbia.

Mike continued his positive impact on the FCS community as a member of the FCS Admissions Team and a basketball coach.

"Michael, Mike, or Cookie – as many fondly remember him – was the epitome of a young, talented athlete. His infectious smile, combined with an intense competitive edge, set him apart. His exceptional prowess on the court was a sight to behold; he effortlessly weaved through defenses with amazing ball handling, lightning speed, executing jaw-dropping drives to the basket that led to dynamic dunks and and-ones. Mike showcased an unmatched shooting range that made every game a spectacle. I remember the loud crowds overflowing out the door of the Linton Gym. Beyond his athletic abilities, Mike's commitment to winning exemplified true leadership. His contributions to the Friends' Central community, from his playing days to his coaching endeavors, have left an enduring impact on teammates, coaches, and all who came in contact with him."

- Excerpted from the speech by Mike's former FCS coach **Bob Folwell '80** at the ceremony

who I am today. Mom and my brother Eric are long gone, as are some of my classmates, but I have so many relationships that live deep in my heart. Congratulations to the Class of 1974!"

1976

John K. Runnette, Jr. notes that he retired in 2020 and has moved to Old Bennington, VT where he is living closer to his 90-year old father who is in the end stage of life. John stays busy remodeling homes and planting formal gardens, a hobby he has come to enjoy.

1979

Bradley M. Campbell shares, "Katherine and I moved to Boston more than eight years ago when I became president of the Conservation Law Foundation, and both the urgency of the climate crisis and my satisfaction being in this work have only grown since then. I was recently awarded the Alan E. Lewis Moral Courage in Leadership Award (October 2023) by the Alnoba Foundation.

Insights from **Juan Jewell** and **Andy Hess** regularly influence my thinking on politics and social justice; the appreciation for literature instilled in me by Clint Ely persists to this day; and Bob Hallet's introducing our sixth-grade class to Echo Hill Outdoor School led to me teaching there for years and chairing the EHOS Board of Directors for decades."

Amy Cohen notes, "I am grateful for how welcoming and inclusive everyone at FCS was when I joined the community as a sophomore."

Carol Rubin Fishman reports that she is teaching three-year-olds at Media-Providence Friends School. Her daughter, **Rachel Fishman '11**, is engaged to an FCS grad **Oliver Backes '08**.

Audrey B. Hunter Johnson writes, "We homeschooled our three children through high school graduation. They are all college graduates. I serve as a Homeschool Evaluator and consultant. I teach science classes on Out-school, a virtual platform for any student anywhere. I also serve as a private tutor.

Sixth grade was my first year [at FCS]. Middle school with Mrs. Adams. Ninth grade Biology dissections with Mr. Farraday. Choir with Mr. Davis. I was given the opportunity with a few other students to participate in a musical at the Academy of Music!"

Heather Korostoff Murray recalls, "Hilarity and companionship in the girls' locker room."

1987

Paul Paz y Miño shares, "this past October, I fulfilled a lifelong dream that began at FCS to meet Peter Gabriel and thank him for the influence he had on directing me towards a career of working for human rights. Fellow Class of '87 friend **Seth Lundy** and I attended the Gabriel show in Philly."

1989

Erica M. Angert notes, "I have so many fond memories - from class trips to the Poconos, Echo Hill, and Model UN to fun class assignments like photographing birds in my backyard. I could never forget my K-12 years!

My son, **Oliver Angert '24**, is graduating from Friends' Central this year and I couldn't be happier with the educational and developmental experience that Friends' Central has provided!"

2024 Distinguished Alumna Judy Kirk Meyer '74

Judy Kirk Meyer '74 will be recognized as a Friends' Central School Distinguished Alumna at Alumni/ae Weekend 2024 in honor of her many years of service to the School and her family's commitment to Quaker education.

Judy earned a BS in Food Marketing from St. Joseph's University, and she began her career in sales. Her interest in healthcare and innovative technology ultimately led her to a 30-year career in medical device sales, during which she won sales rep of the year and region of the year multiple times; she also received the The Jeff Pierce Award in 2013.

Judy's family maintains strong ties with FCS. Her brother, **David Kirk '69**, is a member of the alumni community, and her father, David Kirk, served as an FCS faculty member for many years. His commitment to the students and faculty at FCS served as a guiding compass for Judy and her brother's personal and professional lives. Judy shares her life with her cherished husband, Bill; daughter, Eliza (named after Eliza Blackburn, an FCS teacher and very good friend of the Kirk family); son, Andrew; and grandchildren, Malin and Waylon.



2024 Distinguished Alumna Lisa Kay Solomon '89

Lisa Kay Solomon '89 will be recognized by Friends' Central School as a Distinguished Alumna at Alumni/ae Weekend 2024 for her outstanding accomplishments in furthering the fields of design and civic leadership, helping leaders think expansively about how to shape positive futures in times of increasing uncertainty.

Named to the Thinkers 50 Radar list in 2022 and one of ixDA's Women of Design 2020, her work blends imagination with possibility, building the capacity to take the long view when today's problems seem overwhelming. Lisa co-authored the bestselling books *Moments of Impact that Accelerate Change* and *Design A Better Business*, which has been translated into over a dozen languages. Lisa created the popular LinkedIn Learning Courses *Leading Like a Futurist* and *Redesigning How We Work for 2021*, and she has written extensively on helping leaders productively navigate ambiguity through teachable and learnable practices.

Currently a Designer in Residence at the Stanford d. school, Lisa focuses on bridging the disciplines of futures and design thinking, creating experiences like "Inventing the Future" and "The Future's Happening" to help students learn and practice the skills they don't yet know they need. Lisa's brother, **Stephen Kay '87**, is also a member of the FCS alumni/ae community

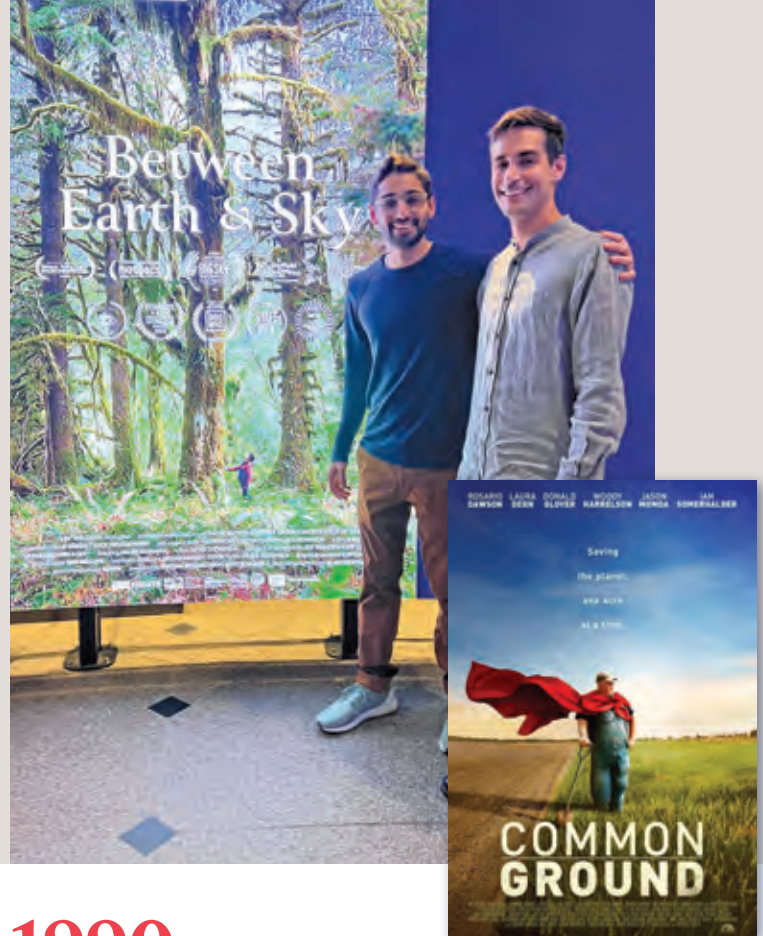


FCS Alums in LA

Andrew Nadkarni '13 (at left) and **Jacob Snider '09** connected at The Crescent Theatre in LA on November 29, 2023 for an FYC Oscar-Eligible Screening Hosted by Holly Shorts. Andrew's documentary *Between Earth & Sky* made the Oscar shortlist for Best Documentary Short Film, while Jacob's music for the documentary *Common Ground* earned him Oscar consideration for Best Original Score at the 96th Academy Awards.

Andrew and his aunt Dr. Nalini Nadkarni were Friends' Central's 2023-2024 Distinguished Visiting Justice Leaders. Read more about their October visit to FCS and community lecture on page 14.

Common Ground, the documentary which featured Jacob Snider's music, was winner of the Human/Nature Award at the Tribeca Film Festival. The film explores how regenerative agriculture can help heal the soil, our health and the planet and features Laura Dern, Jason Momoa, Woody Harrelson, Ian Somerhalder, Donald Glover, Rosario Dawson, Mark Hyman, Gabe Brown, and many others.



James Christy shares, "I have so many memories. Unfortunately, those that come to mind are ones where my friends and I were being profoundly immature (that immaturity has stayed with me). I remain very grateful to FCS, particularly my experiences with the theater/music departments.

In 2022, I did a solo show in the Philly Fringe festival that featured some FCS stories. A bunch of old classmates came – good times. I've also made a feature film about parents raising a child with autism. The trailer and additional information can be found at www.love-andcommunication.com."

Anne Katzen Pennington recalls, "Shucking oysters in the boat at Wallops Island on a Middle School field trip; starting the mural club in Upper School and painting a mural with friends on the cafeteria wall; in Lower School, the magical countries in a made-up land – each homeroom represented an imaginary set of continents in an imaginary world with languages, governments – creativity was born there; and DEI meetings all the time. It took the world decades to catch up to this."

Lisa Kay Solomon shares, "Starting FCS as a new sophomore in high school changed the trajectory of my life. Special teachers like Gary Nicolai created learning environments that not only modeled deep care for the students but also helped us become capable critical thinkers and emerging citizens of the world."

Jen Van Denberg and her husband, Daniel, are, she shares, "Celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary and the start of our lives as empty-nesters." She recalls, "Homeroom with Doug Ross, and winning the Blue/Gray games with the Doug Addicts in 1983; Ray De Sabato's Study Skills class; our 1986 and 1988 Friends League field hockey championship wins over GFS; Model UN with Gary Niccoli; French AP with Madam Gowen-Tolcott's 'mixed salad' and 'Mignonne, allons voir si la rose'; English taught by John McCollum; Studio Art taught by Amy Cohen."

1990

Geoffrey Klein published *The Content Beast*, discussing marketing using stories and visual communication. His father **Dick Klein '57** also came out with a third edition of his Thompson Reuters trial practice book for lawyers, *Trial Communication Skills*, in 2024. The book was written with Julius Fast, the author of the first *Body Language* book and the new edition covers communicating in AI, remote communication, communicating with different cultures, communicating across generations, and more. See page 28 for a photo of Geoffrey and Dick Klein.

1991

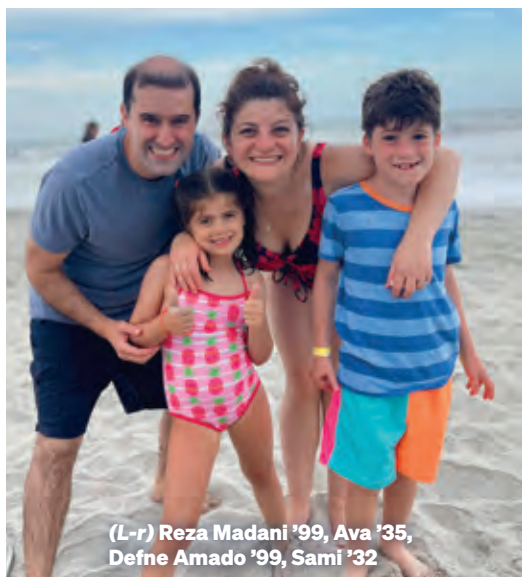
Krista Ruane writes "In 2024, two new projects of mine will be launched. *OMNIVORE* is an eight-part series where I served as a Consulting Producer and co-created and sold with Film 45 / Endeavor Content to Apple TV. I also co-authored and was Creative Director for Meateater Inc's newest cookbook, *The Meateater Outdoor Cookbook: Wild Game Recipes for the Grill, Smoker, Campstove, and Campfire* (Penguin Random House, April 2024) with NYT best selling author Steven Rinella. I continue to work in the food media space across film, television, and print media often, at the nexus of food, science and art."

1995

Suhaiba Neill notes, "I published my first book in October 2023 titled *Like A Girl: 22 Leadership Lessons for Women on the Rise!* FCS Head of School **Beth Davis Johnson '77** was kind enough to read it and provide a quote for the back. A good part of the story revolves around my time at FCS and the many lessons learned while there. You can find it on Amazon."

1998

Tom Robson shares that he married Brian Dallas Kocher in Lafayette, IN on June 3, 2023.



(L-r) Reza Madani '99, Ava '35, Defne Amado '99, Sami '32

1999

Callie Lytton Carroll remembers, "JV basketball freshman year and our Sofia Zaragocin/Sam Taylor/Callie Lytton Carroll trio that encouraged Coach Phil to propose to Wendy. I just heard they've been married 27 years!"

Lauren Collier notes, "As a lifer, I often think of FCS at different moments with different associations. Most recently, I was sharing my experience in the Friends' League basketball championship at Haverford College. Nothing felt better than running out in our Phoenix warm ups to the Jock Jams mix!"

Reza Madani and **Defne Amado** shared, "We met in Kindergarten at FCS, though Reza likes to tell people we didn't become romantically involved until first grade (it was actually 2012, but we were senior prom dates). Many FCS graduates attended our wedding including our sisters **Sheedeh Madani '05** and **Selin Amado '06**, and a source of ongoing joy is that our children, **Sami '32** and **Ava '35**, now count among their own closest friends the children of our 1999 classmates **Rachel Cohen, Emily Bosk, Margot Conrad, Calinda (Callie) Lytton Carroll, Elizabeth Hutchin - Bellur, Ben Fogel, Jenna Feldman, Elizabeth (Izzy) Grinspan, Janet Kang, and Sara Wasserman**, as well as Sheedeh's son Nico who will join the FCS Class of 2037 next year. We feel strongly that the combination of community, service, and academic rigor that marked our time at FCS prepared us for rewarding careers, Defne as a physician-sci-

entist in neurology/gene therapy and Reza as a pediatrician. More importantly, our time at FCS taught us that community, friendship, and family can be synonymous and are the cornerstones of a meaningful life. We are thrilled to watch our children develop their own community at FCS and beyond."

2002

David Gershkoff Slusky notes, "I was an FCS debate captain for three years in high school and so certainly make use of what I learned at FCS! I recently debated Kansas State Senator Beverly Gossage, Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare, on Medicaid Expansion. Kansas is one the last 10 states that have not expanded Medicaid to everyone 18-64 with income up to 138% of the federal poverty level, under the Affordable Care Act. I have also written extensively on this topic (*Impact of Medicaid Expansion on State Budgets and Mortality*, Econofact.org), and previously briefed Kansas Governor Laura Kelly and testified before the Kansas Senate regarding Health Economics Research Relevant to Senate Bill 252; and appeared on a panel with the then Kansas Secretary of Health &

Thank you to our 2024 Reunion Volunteers



50 Year Reunion Class
Hilary Whiteway Cummings '74

"The foundation of values, beliefs, and experiences I gained at FCS make me who I am today. Congratulations to the Class of 1974!"



25 Year Reunion Class
Reza Madani '99 and Defne Amado '99

"Our time at FCS taught us that community, friendship, and family can be synonymous and are the cornerstones of a meaningful life. We are thrilled to watch our children develop their own community at FCS and beyond."



10 Year Reunion Class
Jerome Allen '14

"My time at FCS helped shape me into the leader, learner, and friend I am today. I am proud of everything the Class of 2014 has and will accomplish!"



At Early Mountain Vineyards in Madison, VA at the May 2023 wedding of Sammy Dweck '07 with (from left) Sammy's husband, Nick; Deb Skapik (who officiated!); Sammy Dweck; Ben Loughin '07; and Megan Lee '09



In October 2023, FCS alums celebrated the marriage of Sonjay Singh '11 and Elisha Segrist at Abington Art Center's Alverthorpe Manor.

(From Left) David Weiss '11, Sasha Mitts '11, Christopher Speicher '11, Colin Roberts '14, Raaj Singh '13, Rishi Singh '18, Sonjay Singh '11, Cary Snider '11, DK Kurnick '11, Dan Segall '11, Douglas Roberts '11

Environment and then Senate Majority Leader Jim Denning (*Medicaid: Expansion vs Status Quo: What's the Price*, YouTube.com)."

2006

Albert Kleine notes, "I recently signed a book deal with Fox Chapel Publishing to write a forthcoming book on making wooden boxes. I have been woodworking as a side hobby ever since learning from Bob Emory at FCS back in 2004-2005. The book will be on shelves in spring 2025."

2008

Taylor Lee and her husband, Andy, are, she shares, "expecting our first daughter in March, and we are so excited to start this new adventure!"

2009

Pat DeSabato writes, "My daughter is almost two years old. This spring, I will (hopefully) graduate law school, (hopefully) pass the bar and begin working."

2019

Jacob Sklar writes, "In December of 2023, I finished up my Bachelor of Arts at Temple, and now I am off to backpack around Europe and Asia for two months."

IN MEMORIAM

Helene Neutze Alles '39

Lee Hamilton Bowie '51

Ellen Burr '46

Chantal C. Citot-Rocke '54

Wilfrid W. Coleman '64

James L. Dannenberg '43

Ruth Stubbs Denlinger '55

George C. Harkins '52

Paul T. Langerman '69

William J. Masser '54

Cookie Latshaw McCarthy '59

Arthur J. Parsons '58

Suzanne Munsell Prewitt '44

Heidi Pokras Saltalamacchia '82

Philip R. Schalow '74

Debbie Reishtein Shore '63

Nancy Gomersall Spatola '46

Harriet Best Sweeton '51

Robert Tamaccio '95

Chris Taylor '64

Allan B. Ziegler '70



Together, Let's Ask “What Matters?”



The Quaker testimony of **Simplicity** continues to be
at the center of the Friends' Central experience.

Every gift to our School helps us grow stronger together and demonstrates your
commitment to our mission and core values.

Amidst the distractions of daily life, we welcome simplicity into our lives and ask, together,

“What Matters?”

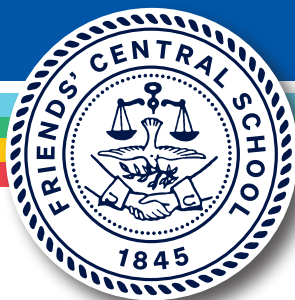
Join members of our community with a gift to the Friends' Central Fund,
in celebration of what matters most to you about FCS.





Friends' Central School
Communications Office
1101 City Avenue
Wynnewood, PA 19096-3418

Alumni/ae Weekend



All alumni/ae are invited to reconnect
with friends and the School.

Celebrating the Reunion Classes of:

1954 • 1959 • 1964 • 1969 • 1974 • 1979 • 1984 • 1989 • 1994 • 1999 • 2004 • 2009 • 2014 • 2019

May 3-4, 2024

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AND TO VIEW THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, SCAN HERE

