

# SIDWELL

MAGAZINE FALL 2022

## Friends

### HOME AWAY FROM HOME

How one teacher brought  
a little bit of China to  
West Virginia.

#### SUMMER STORIES

What are the Upper  
Schoolers up to in the  
off season?

#### PLUS:

Baltimore city police officer  
**Randolph Brett Perrin II '11**  
puts service over self.





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

## Together We Shine

LEARN MORE ABOUT SIDWELL FRIENDS' MOST AMBITIOUS CAMPAIGN AND HOW WE CAN LIGHT THE WAY FORWARD FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.  
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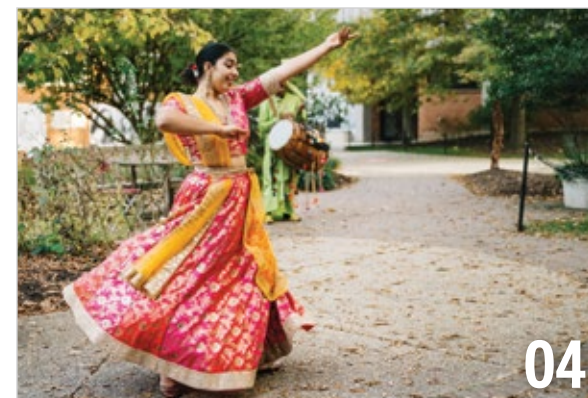
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**On the Cover**  
John Flower  
(playing bass)  
and friends at the  
China Folk House.  
Photo by Cameron  
Whitman.

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# On Making Peace

We are not simply imparting knowledge or preparing students for the next level of study. Together, we play for much bigger stakes.

BY BRYAN GARMAN

Recently, I received an email from a kind and thoughtful mother I will call Barbara. She wrote because she was struggling to help her daughter make sense of our violent world and asked, “What do we tell our children?” Less present than I should have been, I dashed off a response that offered little guidance. I shared the advice I give to my own children. I remarked on her daughter’s positivity and resilience. And as I hit the send button, I knew that Barbara deserved better. She was asking how she could keep hope alive.

The impact that violence and a slew of other crises around the world have had on the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual lives of our students is palpable. Like many of us who are parents, Barbara was searching for companionship on a lonely and arduous journey. Speaking to her condition, Jamieson Webster assessed the toll that this trek is exacting on the teen spirit. “Teenagers Are Telling Us That Something Is Wrong With America,” screamed Webster’s op-ed in *The New York Times*. “I find myself trying to allay teenagers’ inner voices, slow down their rush to action, give room to their anxiety,” Webster, a therapist, writes. Then comes this painful question: “But don’t we live in a country full of aggressive, blaming speech, a preference for quick solutions, and the reduction of real impasses to superficial actionable items, disavowing anxiety while sowing confusion?”

At a recent Middle School Meeting for Worship, I reflected on Barbara’s email and gained insight from an energetic 5th-grader who shared an especially poignant message. The world, Everley ’30 precociously observed, is filled with noise, so much so that it is tempting to retreat from it. She reminded us, however, that we have a responsibility to engage “with reality,” and implied through her irrepressible delivery that we have an obligation to shape that reality in a life-affirming manner. No matter how many Meetings for Worship I attend,

I am both awed and moved when children stand before their peers to share their truths. Meeting instills an unshakable self-confidence that our students carry throughout their lives.

Everley’s hopeful message inspired me to rethink the response I wrote to Barbara—and to appreciate anew the lofty aspirations we have at Sidwell Friends. If I were writing today, I would tell Barbara, as Everley told her classmates, that yes, we live in a troubled world, but we have the power to change it. We must teach our children that what they say and do matters.

I would tell Barbara that Sidwell Friends is far from perfect, but we have values and practices in place to imagine alternatives to violence and heal the malaise that Webster describes. I would tell her that together we seek to provide students with time to reflect, that we value peace rather than aggression, that we reward those who offer reasoned and creative solutions.

I would tell Barbara that this work has a deep impact on our alumni. I would channel a conversation with Ann Brashares ’85, the author of *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*. Ann remembers that the Peace Testimony—which

her generation directed toward South African apartheid and the Cold War—profoundly shaped her spiritual and intellectual development. She recalled a poster that asked, “What If They Gave a War and Nobody Came?” This simple statement revealed the poverty of the conventional imagination and loosened her teenage mind from its limits.

If I were responding to Barbara today, I would reiterate Ann’s assertion that the Peace Testimony provides the distinctive intellectual foundation for our students. A commitment to peace requires them to think differently and deeply; it creates a mindset that, with careful and engaged guidance from our faculty, enables them to reframe problems and imagine fresh solutions. Making peace is the most urgent task we

“The act of making peace calls us to summon our every talent and direct our full energy toward the most elusive of goals.”



Lower School students and families at the first all-School Meeting for Worship

have, and yet it is so excruciatingly difficult that few people devote their lives to it. Still, as a 3rd grade teacher’s bulletin board read during the pandemic, we must reassure our students that they “are made to do hard things.”

Making peace requires resourceful, critical, and disciplined thinkers; it necessitates deep knowledge of history and culture; it depends upon the ethical application of and discovery in the sciences; it demands cross-cultural communication and artistic creativity; it requires the determination and resilience we ask of our athletes. The act of making peace calls us to summon our every talent and direct our full energy toward the most elusive of goals. It teaches the skills and humility that are necessary for success.

I would tell Barbara that the Peace Testimony opens possibilities for self-discovery, self-care, and self-realization; that it provides the opportunity for students to express their fears in the safety of community; that it enables them to establish an inner peace that is necessary to navigating our noisy world.

I would tell Barbara that when the world renders us speechless, we can locate hope in Sidwell Friends. Our traditions of consensus, community, and continuing revelation shape and distinguish our students. Essential to this process, our teachers ceaselessly inspire with their expertise and commitment. We are not simply imparting knowledge or preparing students for the next level of study. Together, we play for much bigger stakes.

Over Homecoming weekend in October, Sidwell Friends announced the public launch of its fundraising campaign, **Together We Shine**. Together, our community has raised more than \$118 million toward our \$152 million goal—a figure that is nearly three times greater than our last and largest campaign. (See “Together We Shine,” on page 22 to learn more about the campaign and its impact.)

Our community understands that Sidwell Friends must provide opportunities for intellectual and moral growth that are commensurate with the talents of our students and the complexity of the problems they are called to solve. That is how we create and sustain hope.

I want to thank this community for its generosity and everyone who has been part of this historic campaign already. We will—we must—succeed. Quaker education is too important to the future of our students and the world for us to fail. What would we say to our children if we squandered this opportunity? I look forward to joining together with you so that this school continues to be a beacon of hope, so that our students—past, present, and future—grow to be as bright and brilliant as they can be. ✨

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Bryan Garman, the author of the article.



A young girl with dark skin and braided hair is shown in profile, blowing a large, clear bubble. She is holding a red wand with yellow rings. The bubble is large and reflects the surrounding environment. In the background, other people are visible, but they are out of focus. The scene is outdoors on a grassy area.

# ON CAMPUS



KIDS 'N PLAY

## Let Them Eat Popsicles!

Sidwell Friends parents, students, teachers, and friends came together on a warm and sunny September day for a back-to-school picnic that featured a bouncy house, arts and crafts, games, and burgers and hotdogs.



Photos by Cameron Whitman

JUST CAUSES

## Take the LEAD

Howard University and Sidwell Friends explore race and equity in education.

In a highly interconnected world, future leaders will need a deep understanding and appreciation of cultural difference. This means society, and educators in particular, must nurture ethical leaders who embrace discussions of race and equity—and who do not retreat into ideological comfort zones. This was the thesis behind this summer's Leadership in Equity, Action, and Discourse (LEAD) Conference—the latest feature of a partnership between Sidwell Friends School and Howard University that focuses on elevating conversations about race and equity in education.

For keynote speaker, activist, and Smith College professor **Loretta J. Ross**, that means changing how we educate children and recognizing that “many Black people haven’t healed from the trauma of white supremacy.” Ross had to confront her own anger when working with ex-Klansmen (whom she called the “boys in the hoods”) in the 1990s. “When people give up hate, you have to be there for them when they do,” she explained. These men “were in pain—but they landed on the wrong reason for that

pain. So, if a Black woman can’t hate the Klan, the list of people to hate gets pretty short.” Ross understands that these insights were formative for her and that other people haven’t had the same experiences. “It’s a journey, not an event,” she said. “I really do see the necessity of organizing white people against white supremacy. If white supremacy could have been defeated by its victims, it would have been long gone. It’s going to take all of us.”

The LEAD Conference, held on the Wisconsin Avenue campus, brought together collegiate, public, charter, and independent school educators as well as workforce leaders from

around the Washington metro area to explore race, equity, and justice in school communities. The two-day event featured experts like Ross, as well as author and Alexandria City Public Schools Superintendent Dr. **Gregory Hutchings Jr.**, equity instructional specialist **Daryl Howard**, race-in-education expert and Howard University Professor **Shannon R. Waite**, and journalist and Howard University Professor **Stacey Patton**, among others.

Head of School **Bryan Garman** noted that the Sidwell Friends–Howard University partnership has “truly met the mission of LEAD, by calling on schools to create more equitable educational environments.” For, that is precisely the aim: “Hosting this conference not only aligns with our commitment to equity and justice,” says **Natalie Randolph '98**, the Equity, Justice, and Community director at Sidwell Friends, “it is part of our goal to lift up ethical leadership.”



Sidwell Friends' Equity, Justice, and Community team: EJC Coordinator **Alexandra McCoy '04**, EJC Director **Natalie Randolph '98**, Howard University Fellow Khiana Clemons



Dax-Devlon Ross '93, Loretta J. Ross

# LEAD



CULTURE CLUB

# China By Way of DC

Students leave the classroom for a weekend of real-world experiences.

Studying a language in the absence of context is a missed opportunity. That’s why the Chinese Studies program at Sidwell Friends embraces enrichment activities outside of school. Immersing students in Chinese culture helps them better understand China’s place on the world stage and how China’s vast history informs its culture today.

This semester saw two great examples of Sidwell Friends’ deep connection to Chinese culture and experience. The Chinese Embassy hosted Sidwell Friends School families by special invitation for a mid-Autumn Moon Festival celebration. Nearly 200 4th–8th grade Sidwell Friends Chinese students and their families joined Chinese Ambassador **Qin Gang** as they took in the Embassy’s architecture and artwork.

**Ginger Dietrich P’26,’24** initiated this special event after meeting with Minister Counselor of Education **Xinyu Yang**. “I was excited about this unique opportunity because cultural exchange is very important for our students growing up in a global community,” says Dietrich. “This event was the perfect path forward to a better understanding of

Chinese culture and arts. I was so pleased Sidwell was very receptive to making this invitation available to our students and families.”

The Embassy provided those families with many traditional Chinese activities, such as calligraphy, brush pen painting, the Chinese yoyo, paper cutting, tea tasting, and how to use chopsticks. There were also performances of Chinese music, dances, and Tai chi. “Students were highly engaged, and having a great time,” says Middle School Chinese teacher **Fei Xiong Reed**. “The highlight was the mooncake making and eating. Everybody took home the mooncakes they made!”

Ambassador Qin Gang noted the importance of the moon in Chinese culture in a speech to all the Sidwell Friends families; “As a very famous Chinese saying goes: ‘The moon represents my heart.’ From the bottom of my heart, I wish all of you over the moon! I wish young students shoot for the moon and much success.” The 8th grade students even analyzed the poem “Quiet Night Thought” (静夜思) in preparation for the event. The poem, written by one of the great Chinese poets, Li Bai (李白) from the Tang Dynasty, is traditionally performed at the Mid-Autumn Festival. Fittingly, two students, **Gardiner Dietrich ’27** and **Jake Snow ’27**, recited “Quiet Night Thought” at the event.

Then, Sidwell Friends hosted the Harvest Moon Youth Talent Festival—a partnership with the Chinese American Museum in DC, the Howard County Chinese School, and the Chinese American Organization of the Greater DC Area—which was open to students from middle and high schools across the DC area. The festival showcased a variety of gifted Chinese-American performers, including **Sean Guo ’28**, who played a piece of classical music on the flute.

“The event was marvelous, with an amazing group of talented young people performing,” says Upper School Chinese teacher **John Flower**, whom the Chinese ambassador praised at the embassy visit the previous day. (See “China Folk House,” on page 38.) In addition to the flute, participants played a wide variety of classical and popular music on piano, violin, and traditional Chinese instruments. “The program also included wonderful dance performances reflecting the cultural diversity within China,” says Flower. “The Harvest Moon Youth Talent Festival was a great example of how Sidwell Friends’ Chinese Studies program partners with the Chinese-American community in a way that enriches the cultural life of the School and the diversity of experiences for our students and families.”



Performers at the Harvest Moon Youth Talent Festival

SPECIAL TOPICS

# Flying Lessons

In an age of anxiety, teachers and staff learn how to embrace struggle—not avoid it.

“The kids are not okay,” said **Jonathan Dalton**, the founder of the Center for Anxiety and Behavioral Change, during one of two presentations to Sidwell Friends faculty, staff, and families this fall. “When you have children with intelligence, creativity, and compassion, the universe throws in anxiety for free.”

Indeed, rates of mental health crises among kids—from reports of clinical anxiety to suicide, suicidal attempts, and suicidal ideation—are at all-time highs, particularly among sexual minorities. Students are feeling more anxious now than they did during the Great Depression and World War II. And though the reasons are complex (everything from illicit

substances to social media plays a role), Dalton said a huge number of kids are operating under the “illusion of a narrow path to success”—that is, the idea that one must achieve specific accomplishments at specific moments or else face certain failure. It’s what he calls the “cult of competitive suffering.”

But there is good news, too: Anxiety is among the most treatable of all mental health ailments. In fact, Dalton says, he doesn’t even treat anxiety per se: He treats anxiety avoidance. “When we avoid anxiety, we fire our mind’s best teacher,” he said. Resilience comes from learning how to do the hard things, not avoiding them. That’s why it is critical for parents and teachers to



Dalton

reinforce effort over outcome. “Making an effort and struggling,” Dalton said, “is pregnant with meaning and purpose.”

To that end, helping students adapt and find creative solutions to anxiety—without avoiding it—is key. Large eagles on flimsy branches are not scared, Dalton said. Not because the birds think nothing bad will happen, or a storm will never come, or the branch will never break. They are not scared because they know when something bad does happen, they can fly. That’s why we have to teach our kids not to avoid the branch but to learn to fly.

JUST CAUSES

# Pinwheels for Peace

The Lower School puts its spin on an art installation.



Anthony LaFour



Lower School pinwheels

In 2005, a pair of Florida art teachers created the Pinwheels for Peace art installation project in honor of International Peace Day. Since then, schools and organizations around the world have followed the initiative’s simple template and created millions and millions of pinwheels. It’s a natural fit for Sidwell Friends. “Peace being one of our many Quaker testimonies, we want to highlight ways that we can bring more peace or individually demonstrate peace in our Lower School community,” says **Kristen Campbell**, the Lower School art teacher. “One way to do that is to create community art that brings all of the students’ ideas to life. Students were invited to design bold, colorful

designs on one side of their pinwheels and write thoughts and wishes on what peace means to them on the other.” Sidwell Friends 2nd graders understood the appeal of the pinwheel instinctively. Some took the metaphor to heart: “I like the pinwheels because they just make me feel peaceful,” said **Tycho ’33**. Others were more abstract: “I like them because they represent containing yourself and a reminder to be kinder,” said **Robert ’33**. And some were, well, literal: “I like the pinwheels because they can spin,” said **Milo ’33**. For Campbell, the project allows her to “add an extra spark of color, creativity, and positive intentions out to the world and within our Lower School community.”





Amika Bibolov '27, Sydney Seay-Lee '28, Sasha Schooling '27, Fei Xiong Reed, Louie Merriam '27, Olivia Bianchi Alves '27

AT YOUR SERVICE

## Full Circle

**How one parent went from chaperone to CEO and taught an important life lesson about making a difference.**

Ten years ago, **Amy Javaid P'24,'27** accompanied her 6-year-old daughter as a parent chaperone on a Sidwell Friends class volunteer trip to A Wider Circle, a nonprofit devoted to ending poverty. "I remember leaving that day feeling a shared sense of values," she recalls. Today, Javaid is the organization's CEO, and this fall, she was honored with the Junior League of Washington's Mary Harriman Community Leader Award for her work with the group, which continues to be an integral part of the service curriculum at Sidwell Friends.

The journey from chaperone to CEO didn't begin right away, however. Four years after that visit, as political tensions in the United States ratcheted up to new extremes in the wake of the 2016 election, Javaid's then-Middle School daughter, **Simra Javaid '24**, threw her arms up in disgust and said, "No one can do anything to make the world a better place."

Javaid knew she had to prove her daughter wrong—and not with a long talk. "I had to prove her wrong through action," says Javaid, who, before starting a family, had a long career in international aid, working with highly vulnerable populations around the world, including those living with AIDS, suffering from domestic violence, and experiencing food scarcity.

Javaid soon started volunteering regularly at A Wider Circle, and the shared values grew deeper. Before long, she was coordinating the Middle School's monthly Sidwell Friends trips. Then she developed a workforce-development program at the nonprofit. And that's when things really took off: She expanded A Wider Circle's initiatives, did grant-writing for the group, became vice president of programming, senior vice president of development, and held a host of other positions over five years, including interim director, before being offered the job of CEO in 2021. "I didn't come to A Wider Circle with any intention of

making it a career," says Javaid. "I didn't intend to expand my repertoire, but opportunities kept coming my way."

Over the summer, Simra, now a junior in the Upper School, did all of her Sidwell Friends service hours at A Wider Circle. "Her pride in her contribution was evident," says Javaid, who credits the School with introducing her to the organization she now leads: "It has been formative for me and for my family."

Now, a new crop of 7th and 8th grade students have started working with the organization. "Service helps students perceive larger connections," says Middle School teacher and advisor **Fei Reed**, who regularly accompanies her students to A Wider Circle. "They develop an awareness of and connection to the DC-area community." For their part, Reed's students wrote reflections about their experiences: "The most compelling part was knowing our hard work would help people who need it most"; "I loved being able to see the kids take stuff with joy"; "I will remember the joy of helping people for years to come."



KIDS 'N PLAY

## Trick or Treat

Mavericks, zombies, Storm Troopers, inflatables, princesses, plushies, and pirates all made appearances on campus this Halloween.



JUST CAUSES

Sidwell Proud

The PA Pride Committee and friends turned out to Walk to End HIV for the District’s Whitman-Walker Clinic. Way to go!



CULTURE CLUB

Gone But Not Forgotten

Día de los Muertos invites children to celebrate lives well-lived.

Every year on November 1, the Sidwell Friends community honors Día de los Muertos, Day of the Dead, with community *ofrendas*—altars where students and staff can make offerings to celebrate the lives of those they’ve lost, from ancient ancestors to grandparents to pets. At the Lower School in particular, Día de los Muertos weaves together a community experience that includes interfaith dialogue, Meeting for Worship, art, music, cultural studies, and Spanish-language.



honor and celebrate our collective ancestors (and yes, that may include our goldfish!).”

“Our Lower School students have been hard at work learning about the significance of Día de los Muertos in countries across the Americas,” says Lower School Principal **Adele Paynter**. “They have also been working in Spanish and art classes to bring the *ofrenda* to life to



Community *ofrenda* at the Lower School

Leading the way was PLAS (Parents of Latin American Students), who helped organize volunteers and coordinate submissions to the *ofrenda*. They also participated in a special community Meeting for Worship in which children and adults were encouraged to bring in a photo, drawing, or small memento of someone they wished to honor.

Día de los Muertos wrapped up with a celebration hosted by Lower School Spanish teachers **Ángela Ballesteros Gomez** and **Luz Marina Cardozo Munoz** that included movie-style snacks (and *pan de muerto*) and a screening of *Coco*, the Oscar-winning film about the Day of the Dead.

CLASS ACTS

Feed the Sharks

Upper School entrepreneurs pitch their businesses to real experts.

At Homecoming, 20 enterprising Upper Schoolers—some in small groups, others flying solo—brought their business chops to Sidwell Friends for a *Shark Tank*–style pitch session. And just as in the reality show, the sharks were actual entrepreneurs and finance professionals—in this case all members of the Sidwell Friends community.

The teens pitched their products and services with slide decks, short films, and prepared remarks before an audience of more than 200 parents, faculty, staff, and fellow students. There was an app, Breadcrumbs, to help lost senior citizens find their way home; a pre-regulated digital currency, Standard & Rates, with stable rates; a networking app, Ciné, for creative types to connect; a news site, Marketism, about sustainable investing practices; a financial literacy app, Urn, designed to address the wealth gap and expand markets among young people of color; and a peer-to-peer initiative, Refugee Support and Awareness, that creates interaction opportunities for refugees in the United States and American teens.



Carroll, Beck, Shaw, Sam Strickberger, Max Strickberger

After each presentation, the sharks—managing Partner and Co-Founder of Hudson River Trading, LLC, **Jason Carroll '96**; IntraFi Network Co-Founder and CEO **Mark Jacobsen P'24;27**, Bluemercury Founder and former CEO **Marla Beck P'21;23;25**, AltFinance CEO **Marcus Shaw '95**, and IF Ventures Co-Founders **Max and Sam Strickberger '17**—grilled the students on their plans. How would they reach their audience, how would

they produce revenue, and what need were they addressing? Some sharks gave advice, some gave critiques, and some gave contact information for industry professionals who could help the students take the next steps. Ultimately, whether any of the ideas turns out to change the world or launch a billion-dollar company was beside the point; experience was the goal and, on that front, all of the students got all they could ask for.



LEFT: Upper School entrepreneurs make their case. RIGHT: Upper Schoolers watch the sharks.





5  
QUESTIONS  
for  
JOHN SQUARE

CLASS ACTS

ALL IN

**BEFORE JOINING SIDWELL FRIENDS THIS SUMMER**, the David A. Pearson '52 Director of Athletics John Square was the senior associate athletics director at the George Washington University. He also served on the NCAA Strategic Vision and Planning Committee, chaired the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics' Return on Inclusion initiative, and has a longstanding relationship with the Disney Institute and their work on leadership. Previously, he coached at a private high school in Florida, was an adjunct professor of business at Miami-Dade College, and played football for the University of Miami, where he received his undergraduate degree in sports administration with a minor in business.

1. What was your own athletic background like?

In elementary school, I started running track. I had long legs, and I could run like the wind. In our neighborhood in Houston, Texas, we played sports until the streetlights came on. I wasn't the best athlete: I had this big head, skinny body, I didn't fit the uniform. I remember this one incident: I was in 7th grade basketball, and we went 33 and 1. We lost to the A1 team, and I felt we lost because I couldn't guard the guy I was supposed to. He was bigger than me, stronger. So, I worked my tail off. I didn't care about any of the games we won. It was all about that one game we lost, like, *We're not losing that game again*. Sure enough, we played that team again and we destroyed it.

Then there was football, and again, in the 7th grade, I was not good. I remember getting hit and seeing Tweety birds! (I actually got my arm caught between two helmets and broke my wrist in 7th grade; I mean, it was a mess!) But our coach had us work out, and I took it very seriously. I started lifting weights and feeling strong. Then something changed. I began to build this confidence. Then I began to notice my teammates: *Oh this guy, he can run; this other guy, he knows the game, he's a leader*. I learned to capitalize on the team, and we went undefeated. We won the city championship. Still, my parents said, so long as I was in athletics, my academics had to be a high priority. So, I played football, basketball, ran track, and ended up graduating in the top 10 percent of my class.

2. Why did you choose the University of Miami?

The Texans were not happy! I was the number-one linebacker coming out of high school, and they do not like you to leave. I wanted to see if I could uphold the values I was taught in a new place. My uncle told me, "You gotta get away, because sometimes the community around you can consume you, and you won't be able to have your own identity." So that's what I did. I chose Miami because I could be in small classes in a school where people really cared about one another. Miami helped me become a young man ready for life. And the Miami football team—we were good. We probably had 40 people get drafted to the NFL. In that competitive environment, I learned so much. I always go 100 percent. I never slack off.



3. Why did you start Sidwell Athletics Show, your new YouTube program?

We are working to build equity among all the sports at Sidwell Friends. We want to make everybody feel seen. The show is designed to give updates as well as highlight some of the unique things our student athletes do, whether it's in a class, on the field, or out in the world. We want people to know that we are more than just a school: we're a community.

4. What do you like about working with younger kids instead of college students?

In college, when you get there, you are already a lot of who you are going to be. I have the most fun coaching elementary, middle, and high school kids, because there are multiple ages where you can really impress on them how to be a good human. You can still teach them how to take care of themselves, how to be the best version of themselves—that's what I enjoy. I love being around student athletes, seeing them practice, go through various struggles, and then find a way to be successful in an academically rigorous and athletically competitive environment. That's what I enjoy the most: Building relationships as a sports supervisor for a lot of different teams is awesome. Just seeing the students all day—whether it's at lunch, competing, or practicing—seeing the smiles and the joy they have being amongst each other is amazing.

5. You are a very joyful, upbeat person yourself. Have you always been this way?

Every day, we get an opportunity to either add value or take it away. You either add positive light or you take it away. I never want to be the person that takes it away. You have to be able to do perspective-taking. If it takes five minutes in the car to center yourself, then that's what you have to do, because you don't want anything to impact your ability to help these students become the best versions of themselves. I've been doing that with the department and the student athletes. I'm trying to get to know them and their families, what they like, what they don't like. When you do that, you start to build relationships and trust, and that allows you to help them succeed.

GOOD SPORTS

The Sport of Life

Student athletes demonstrate the value of leadership across disciplines.

"Research shows that companies want to hire people with athletic backgrounds," **John Square**, the David Pearson '52 athletic director, told a standing-room-only crowd during Homecoming. He went on to describe how sports helps teach how to handle pressure, manage time, work with others toward a group goal, reach deep when the situation calls for it.

Those benefits drive Square's passion for the Sidwell Friends Sports Leadership Academy, a special two-year program that student athletes apply for to hone their skills as leaders—on and off the field. "I'm looking at this now in the context of sports," said **Kevyn Orr '24**, a football player, "but how can I redirect it for leadership in the workplace?"

The academy, which currently is open to 50 Upper School students, also allows athletes across sports, class years, and genders to come together for a common purpose; that means athletes who may never encounter one another in a game can still bond as Sidwell Friends scholar athletes. "Hard work and working well together applies to everything," said Square, adding that he expects Sports Leadership Academy members to "be in the front row and leading projects" in their academic courses as well.

**Andrew Ludwin '23** candidly discussed how he learned the hard way that leadership decisions aren't always easy to navigate. As captain of the golf team, Ludwin described for the audience how he struggled to decide whether to participate in a private tournament he had qualified for or lead his Quakers team in a different competition on the same day. He chose the former, only to regret it later. "I learned that was a bad decision," he said, to understanding smiles around the room. "Sometimes you need to be tested in the real world."





GOOD SPORTS

# TEAM FIRST

Sidwell Friends athletes show their spirit on the field and with one another.

BY CALEB MORRIS

Over Thanksgiving break, I read *The Score Takes Care of Itself* by hall-of-fame NFL Coach **Bill Walsh**. In the book, Coach Walsh explains: “Even when you have an organization brimming with talent, victory is not always under your control. There is no guarantee, no ultimate formula for success. It all comes down to intelligently and relentlessly seeking solutions that will increase your chance of prevailing. When you do that, the score will take care of itself.” Sidwell Friends athletes, too, relentlessly seek a solution to increase their chances of prevailing on the field and in the game of life—and the results take care of themselves.

Girls’ tennis capped an undefeated season by going 15–0 and secured their third consecutive Independent School League (ISL) AA banner with a signature win over rivals Holton-Arms in the ISL Championship Match! “The thing about this team I am the proudest of is not their impressive

on-the-court achievements,” says Coach **Logan West**. “It is their chemistry, positive energy, and the team-first culture they have bought into.” Congratulations to **Alice Xu ’23** on signing her National Letter of Intent to continue her academic and athletic career at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign next fall. Xu, **Clara Zou ’24**, **Molly Evans ’24**, and **Elie Ravitz-Basser ’24** were All-ISL.

Golf was in the swing of things at the Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAC) Championships this fall. The Quakers finished fourth in the team standings. **Andrew Ludwin ’23** finished in a tie for MAC Champion while also securing his place as an All-MAC

selection. “The young team has a good cadre of underclassmen, boys, and girls,” says Coach **Jon Mormino**, “who will grow into a conference-champion caliber team in the coming years.”

Volleyball jumped into action with the first-year Head Coach **Myles Teasley**. While varsity volleyball did not achieve everything it wanted this season, the evidence of the team’s improvement is legion. “With a tough schedule and winning hard-fought games on the road, varsity volleyball drastically outperformed its W-L record!” says Coach Teasley. “Having built the culture, we look

forward to showing how #culturewins next season.” **Isabel Gurney ’23** was selected All-ISL.

Kicking off the season, the varsity football team, under Head Coach **Donald Davis**, fought to a 5–5 finish with a signature win over Clarkstown North in an exciting homecoming game. “Our team earned a second consecutive playoff berth this season,” says Coach Davis, “and we enjoyed several individual moments, including an exciting 46–30 Homecoming win on the field and a successful initiative to raise awareness and funds for childhood cancer off the field.” **Chali Taylor ’23**, **Ethan Walker ’23**, and **Sam Greenspan ’24** were selected as All-MAC.

Boys’ cross country made significant strides this fall: 39 runners, including 17 9th graders, competed hard all season, culminating in a third place finish at the MAC Championship. **Jaden Singh ’23** and **John McMurray ’25** were named All-MAC, while **Easy Weissman ’24** was second-team All-DCSAA (District of Columbia State Athletic Association).

It was a developmental year for girls’ cross country. The team was led by **Isabel Limao ’25** (All-ISL and first-team All-DCSAA) and **Maddie Davant ’26** (second-team All-DCSAA).

Field hockey worked hard to improve their technical and tactical skills with first-year Head Coach **Janessa Pope**. “The girls made significant gains in their ability to play an entire team passing approach with structure and organized defense,” says Coach Pope. **Mackenzie Tyson ’23** was selected as All-ISL.

Boys’ soccer was back in action this fall with another first-year Head Coach, **Ibrahim Toure**. “I’m proud of the boys’ effort this season,” says Coach Toure. “We had some incredible moments. Although we wanted to win more games, the experiences will prepare us to be more competitive next year.” **Dylan Williams ’24** and **Santi Canencio ’24** were selected as All-MAC.

Girls’ varsity soccer, a young team, had a strong postseason run. Their efforts came up just short of achieving a fourth consecutive ISL banner and a fifth consecutive appearance in the DCSAA championship game. The team was the ISL tournament runner-up with signature wins against Maret in the first round of the ISL tournament. **Mila Maltby ’24** and **Viv Chaudhry ’24** were selected All-ISL.

This fall, victory was always up for grabs. From our first-year head coaches to our seasoned vets, we relentlessly pursued solutions to success. In-game tactical changes and well-thought-out practice plans helped our teams achieve more this season than wins and losses. The score took care of itself. #GoQuakers

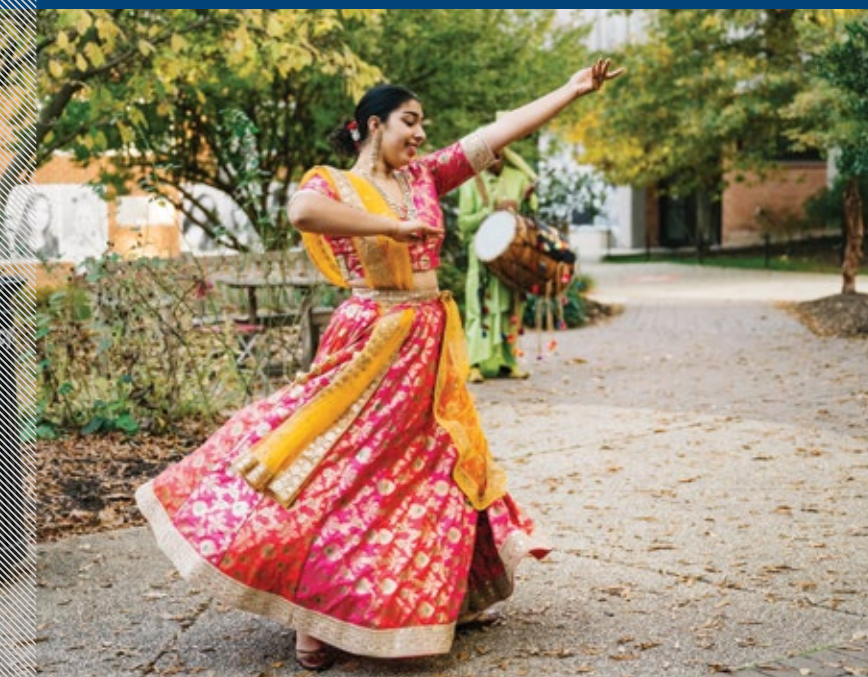
For all news and up-to-date information, you can find more at [sidwell.edu/athletics](https://sidwell.edu/athletics) and on Twitter and Instagram by following @SFSQuakers! #GoQuakers



## CULTURE CLUB

## An Abundance of Light

The Parents of Asian Students' first all-School Diwali picnic twinkled to life as families lit diyas to celebrate the festival of lights. Diwali is celebrated by billions of people throughout India and across the world, including by many Sidwell Friends families.



Photos by Cameron Whitman

## STATE OF THE ARTS

## Into the Infinite

This year's Rubenstein Guest Artist **Kenzo Digital '98** has altered the New York skyline with an immersive experience that will challenge your sense of the physical world.

While New York and the rest of the country were on lockdown in 2020, artist **Kenzo Hakuta Digital '98** and a team of engineers and construction workers crept through a mostly deserted Midtown Manhattan and began to erect one of the most evocative and innovative art installations on the planet. That's not hyperbole: With 25,000 square feet of mirrors 93 floors above the streets in the tallest commercial building in New York, Digital's *Air*, which opened one year ago, now attracts more than 7,000 visitors a day.

"*Air* is a story that you are the protagonist of," Digital said at Sidwell Friends' annual Daryl Reich Rubenstein Guest Artist Lecture. "It makes you question your reality; it forces you to restabilize your equilibrium." The top three floors of the skyscraper SUMMIT One Vanderbilt invite visitors to step into a series of mind-bending spaces that are constantly changing based on the weather and time of day. It is like a massive kaleidoscope that, depending on where you aim it, can be covered in the soft yellow and pink pastels of morning light, the deep grays and blues of the city, or the ink blacks and rainbow neon colors of night in New York. Whatever time of day, though, the space creates its own futuristic city inside a city, where a multiverse of New Yorks connect and build on each other.

As Middle School art teacher and Rubenstein Guest Artist curator **Aaron Brophy** put it: "For any other artist, this would be their magnum opus; but Kenzo is just getting started." Indeed, at just 43, Digital is already in talks to create similar spaces around the world in cities like London, Tokyo, and Shanghai.

The Sidwell Friends alum grew up as a graffiti artist in DC, prowling the city streets at night and then passing his own work on the way to school the next morning. (He called graffiti a "mythology" of tags and aliases.) While in Upper School, Digital apprenticed under Sidwell Friends teacher and artist **Lee Stovall**, who taught Digital about printmaking and who was recently the subject of a retrospective at the Phillips Collection in DC. His work can also be seen on campus. Digital was further influenced by his great-uncle, the renowned Nam June Paik, an experimental artist who embraced technology as a medium and who was himself recently the subject of a retrospective at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Paik is also a feature at Sidwell Friends: Digital's father, **Ken Hakuta P'98;00;02**, donated some of Paik's work to the School, including the *Lodish Robot* in the Kogod Arts Center, and students study his work as part of the curriculum.

The effect of both of these artists on Digital is profound. Based on a recurring dream Digital describes having had for 25 years, *Air* features both the hyper-modern zeal of Paik and the carved overlapping shapes of a Stovall woodblock print. At the lecture, Digital showed a print he made under Stovall's tutelage in his first attempt to record his recurring dream through art. The black-on-silver image captured the arced circles and refracted cut-glass shapes of *Air* decades before the exhibit came to life.

There are quantum levels of meta-meanings in everything Digital does. His recurring dream now manifests in visitors to *Air* as they start to dream about their own experiences there. There are illusions of time: Did Digital dream *Air* into being or did he see it in the future? And, of course, there are the reflections of reflections of reflections throughout *Air* that make the tangible all but impossible to discern.

What is tangible is the exhibit, which is now permanent, making the possible experiences available in *Air* quite literally endless.



Air





CLASS ACTS

## A Novel Idea

**Can Middle and Upper Schoolers write a book in one month?  
Can faculty and staff?**

November is National Novel Writing Month, or “NaNoWriMo,” as it is affectionately known by writers around the world. NaNoWriMo is also a nonprofit that provides tools, structure, community, and encouragement throughout this marathon of a month. And for Sidwell Friends 6th graders, NaNoWriMo is a launch pad for each to write their own short novel.

“The word-count goal for the adult program is 50,000 words, but we use the Young Writers Program, which allows students to set reasonable-but-challenging individual word-count goals,” says 6th grade teacher **Becky Farnum**. “NaNoWriMo takes a lot of hard work, but that only deepens the students’ investment in the writing process. Many feel more self-confident at the end and are proud to show off their own novel.”

It may seem like a daunting task, but the students were well-prepared. “NaNoWriMo allows students to examine real-word authors and their habits of writing,” says Farnum. “We spend October planning and learning about characters, plot, conflict, and different elements of novel-writing.

In addition, the experience of taking on this ambitious project helps students develop skills of breaking things down into smaller and more achievable steps. Students get to be unlimited in their creativity.” For some, that was the best part. “I love all kinds of writing,” says **Theo Scoblic ’29**, “but with creative writing, you can just let your imagination go.”

The Middle Schoolers aren’t the only ones getting in on the act. Upper School writing support teacher and academic mentor **Marina Ruben** ran a voluntary NaNoWriMo program throughout the month for interested students, faculty, and staff. In addition to creating a spreadsheet for participants to keep track of their word counts and goals—complete with stickers and badges for milestones, such as “Weekend Warrior!” and “750 words!”—Ruben also joined writers every day in the library during lunch for communal writing sessions.

**Gillian Vaswani ’26** was one of those writers. Vaswani says she loves working on her short story every day at lunch because it has been motivating and



**National  
Novel  
Writing  
Month**

allowed her to get to know other students who also share a passion for writing. Ruben feels the same way. “While I love engaging with students about their academic work in my normal Sidwell role, NaNoWriMo is a chance to see what students—and faculty!—do with their self-directed creative energy,” she says. “The students inspire me with their willingness to carve out time to join a writing community. I also appreciate the chance to write alongside our NaNoWriMo’ers—their clicking keyboards motivate me to keep my own writing process moving!”

Upper Schoolers and staff are on their own now that November is over. But over in the 6th grade, the young writers still have a mission: They will now turn into editors and then publishers until each one has a physical book to show off. “All the years I have done this, each novel is unique to each student,” says Farnum. “Students get to tell their own story and are rewarded by their own hard work to persevere through self-doubt.”



STATE OF THE ARTS

## Clued In

**Upper Schoolers. In the theater. With a script.**

This November, Upper School students delighted audiences with a beloved mystery, performing the play *Clue* in the Caplin Theater. Inspired by the classic Hasbro board game and based on the iconic 1985 Paramount movie, *Clue* begins at a remote mansion, as six mysterious guests assemble for an unusual dinner party—where murder and blackmail are on the menu. When their host, the cryptic Mr. Boddy, turns up dead, all the dinner guests become suspects. Led by Wadsworth (the butler), the guests—Miss Scarlett, Professor Plum, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock, and Colonel Mustard—race to find the killer as the body count stacks up.



“It’s iconic,” says **Sentell Harper**, the Upper School theater arts teacher. “The board game and the movie have become a part of our culture. I always loved the movie because of the amazing actors who brought the board game to life in a comedic way.” Comic luminaries like Madeline Kahn, Tim Curry, Michael McKean, Christopher Lloyd, and Lesley Ann Warren starred in the original film, which was both a success in the 1980s and a cult classic ever since. “I love directing comedies because they bring me joy,” says Harper. “The students have so much fun doing silly things. Also, comedies allow young actors to play around in a different way than they may do on a sports team. When I watch the actors in this show, they lose inhibitions, and they don’t compete with each other. It’s just fun, and that is the goal I want for all the shows.”

The play was also popular among the students, who came out in such force for auditions that it “was easy to double cast the eight leading roles to give everyone an opportunity,” says Harper. “Plus, with the production opening right around flu and cold season, having two casts meant having an

understudy ready to jump in just in case a cast member got sick.” As a result, the double casts rotated performances, something Wadsworth would no doubt find suspicious: “The double negative has led to proof-positive!”





# Together We Shine

## JUST CAUSES

## Together We Shine

The School launches a historic campaign to light the way forward.

Homecoming Weekend at Sidwell Friends School always brings alumni, students, and families together to enjoy an array of athletic events and social gatherings. But this year it also marks a historic moment in the School's history: the public launch of a \$152 million fundraising campaign called **Together We Shine**.

The campaign is the largest ever for Sidwell Friends, and thanks to the generosity of its donors, the School already has raised more than \$118 million—nearly 80 percent of its goal. The campaign will end on June 30, 2024. Roughly two-thirds of the money raised during the campaign will fund the renovation of its Upton Street property into a new Upper School, which Sidwell Friends expects to open in the fall of 2026. The School purchased the property, a former nursing home, in 2015 after the company that owned it decided to transition its business to

become a provider of in-home hospice care. Opening a new Upper School will enable Sidwell Friends to consolidate all its programs on its Wisconsin Avenue campus later in the decade.

Head of School **Bryan Garman**, in an email to faculty and staff, noted that the campaign has had a significant impact even before the official launch. "Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have benefited greatly from this campaign already," he wrote. "We have endowed two faculty chairs and are close to funding a third. The directorship in Equity, Justice, and Community has also been endowed, and we have begun programming through the Center for Ethical Leadership. The \$20 million we have raised for the endowment is restricted largely to support faculty salaries and financial aid."

As outlined on a new campaign website, the campaign will focus on

three thematic pillars that will help to define the School's future: Reimagining the Future of Learning, Welcoming a Wider Community, and Building a More Ethical World. Reimagining the Future of Learning centers on the many benefits the environmentally responsible, renovated Upper School will bring, including new science labs, an enlarged robotics center, more classrooms, open areas to foster collaborative learning, and outdoor spaces for students and faculty to gather and observe nature.

The Upper School also will be the home of the new Center for Teaching and Learning, which will be a focal point for faculty to share best practices and study new pedagogies. Welcoming a Wider Community will strengthen the School's endowment to ensure that a Sidwell Friends education is financially accessible to students from across the region without regard for their ability to pay. It also supports the addition of three endowed chairs—in Spanish and Latin American Studies, African and African American Studies, and Asian American Studies—to ensure that teachers with deep expertise in these fields are a permanent part of the faculty.

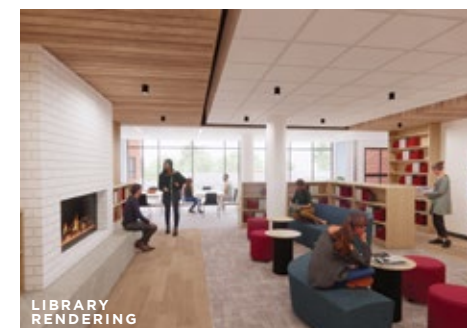
"WE HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPACT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF STUDENTS AND FACULTY. I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL THAT SIDWELL FRIENDS SHAPED MY LIFE IN COUNTLESS WAYS, AND WE NOW HAVE A ROLE IN ENSURING THAT LEGACY OF LEARNING, FRIENDSHIP, AND ACTION CONTINUES."  
—DAVID MILNER '86

Building a More Ethical World is guided by Thomas Sidwell's vision to educate each child to think independently and act ethically. The Center for Ethical Leadership will help students frame and explore ethics in the Quaker tradition, facilitate conversations that connect academic study to social challenges and opportunities, and encourage leadership through new programs. The School's partnership with Howard University has already led to the creation of this year's inaugural LEAD (Leadership in Equity, Action, and Discourse) Conference that brought together educators to discuss issues of race, equity, education, and workforce preparation.

"This campaign is a historic first step to unifying our campus and transforming the way our students learn and faculty teach," said **David Milner '86**, a

co-clerk of the campaign. "We have a unique opportunity to impact future generations of students and faculty. I am eternally grateful that Sidwell Friends shaped my life in countless ways, and we now have a role in ensuring that legacy of learning, friendship, and action continues."

Over the next year, the School will host gatherings in major cities across the country where alumni can come together to reconnect and to hear more about the campaign and its goals. "As the only Quaker school in our nation's capital, it's important that we continue to invest in our campus, programs, and community," said **Charis Menschel Drant P'25,'27,'29**, a co-clerk for the campaign. "We are contributing now so future generations will continue to grow and thrive in an ever-changing and challenging world."





## THE ARCHIVIST

# A Century of Classes

In 1922, Sidwell Friends' new location on Wisconsin Avenue opened its doors to Lower Schoolers.

BY LOREN ITO HARDENBERGH

**THIS FALL, THE SCHOOL IS TAKING A MAJOR STEP** toward campus reunification as it launches a campaign to renovate the Upton Street property (see "Together We Shine," on page 22). As it happens, fall 2022 also marks the 100-year anniversary of the first Sidwell Friends classes ever held on the Wisconsin Avenue campus.

As many Sidwellians know, the School was founded in 1883 in the back of a Quaker meetinghouse on Eye Street between 18th and 19th Streets NW, but by the early 1910s, the downtown location was increasingly surrounded by office buildings. The School was outgrowing space for academic classes as well as the athletics and arts programs that Thomas Sidwell envisioned for his students.

In 1910, Thomas and his wife, Frances, purchased a building and land from the Washington School for Boys, a boarding school on Wisconsin Avenue that had fallen on hard times. At first, they focused on developing the sorely needed athletic facilities—a running track, a baseball diamond, a football gridiron, a playground, and tennis courts. Soon after, an amphitheater was built into the hillside, near where the Stewart Middle School now sits. Making the most of the new outdoor spaces, the Sidwells hosted students for picnics and camping trips. Within a few years, the Sidwells moved their residence to the second floor of the main building, leaving behind their home on 21st Street. They lived at 3901 Wisconsin Avenue NW for the rest of their lives.



**ABOVE:** The open space on the Wisconsin Avenue campus allowed for picnics.  
**BELOW:** A school bus transported students to the "Suburban School."

In the next decade, many District residents joined the Sidwells in moving away from downtown and into new neighborhoods, such as Cleveland Park, Friendship Heights, and Chevy Chase. The streetcar lines made it easier to get downtown, and demand for schools in the "streetcar suburbs" grew. Thomas had built a structure on the "suburban" property in 1919, known as the Wilson Building because it was constructed from wood originally used by Woodrow Wilson as bleachers to view the DC troops returning from World War I. The building held after-school activities, such as carpentry, sewing, and dance. Three years later, with his mind on the changes in the surrounding neighborhoods, Thomas Sidwell renovated the Wilson building, making it suitable for elementary instruction.

In September 1922, letters went out to parents of 1st through 4th graders asking if they would like to give the new "Primary country school" a try, noting that "outdoor life will be emphasized." Due to strikes and other circumstances, the opening was delayed, but on November 3, 1922, Frances Sidwell and a few students left the Eye Street campus via school bus, stopping along the way at Dupont Circle and the Connecticut Avenue Bridge to pick up additional Lower Schoolers before arriving at 3901 Wisconsin Avenue.

In addition to three classrooms, the building included three sun porches that could be closed in during the winter. The lower level contained a kitchen and dining room. Hot lunch was \$100 a year, and students could opt for hot cocoa at five cents a cup, or soup for ten cents a bowl. But it was the bucolic surroundings that most excited Thomas Sidwell. "Part of the year classes will be conducted out of doors under the trees in sight of the birds and flowers," he wrote. "And when snow comes the children will have a safe coasting place down the slopes of the outdoor theater."

He added: "For children living in apartment houses, with no place to play except the dangerously congested streets of the city, it will combine thorough instruction with an unusual amount of healthful outdoor life. Its elevation of four hundred feet places it far above the city with its heat and humidity, and at all times insures a more bracing atmosphere, more spacious grounds, and more opportunity for Nature Study than can be provided in the city proper."

The "Suburban School," as it became known, was a hit, and parents clamored for the School to add grades as their children began to age out of the Wisconsin Avenue campus. An additional building was later added, then 5th and 6th grade moved to the first floor of the Sidwells' home. After Thomas Sidwell died in 1936, the "City School" downtown was sold to Doctors Hospital, and for the next few decades, all three divisions found their home on the DC campus. Today, a century after Lower Schoolers first arrived, we take the first step toward bringing them back to Wisconsin Avenue with the new campaign to reunify the campus.



**TOP:** Children went sledding on the Wisconsin Avenue campus with the Washington Home visible behind the trees to the north.  
**CENTER:** The playground is just one of the perks of attending a "Primary country school."  
**BOTTOM:** A second grade class in the newly renovated Wilson building.





# Summer Stories

For these Sidwell Friends students, time away from School was anything but a vacation.  
BY SACHA ZIMMERMAN

june

july

august

BIG PLAN

Bonjour





Each year, rising juniors and seniors at the Upper School face the age-old choice: What should I do this summer? Some need to save for college, others want to explore potential careers, some are driven by a cause. For the five students featured on the following pages, last summer offered opportunities to help children, learn new skills, pursue big dreams, and literally to soar to new heights.

# At the Movies

Sometimes, all it takes is one class to spark a life's ambition. For McKenzie Manley '24, that class was taught by Lely Constantinople. "She helped me realize that I really enjoy photography and film," says Manley. "The entirety of my sophomore year, we were studying different artists and their impact on the world. I realized that I wanted to do something like that, too."

Manley began to look at art and film with a more critical eye. She recognized the emotional weight that shows like HBO's *Euphoria* had on her, and Manley decided she also wanted to "make that impact on someone." Some research and an application led her to the UCLA Film and Television Summer Institute, an intensive two-week production workshop designed for high school juniors and seniors.



\*



ABOVE  
Manley behind  
the camera

LEFT  
Manley at UCLA



"On a daily basis, it was: Go to class, have a couple of lectures, then we'd do some hands-on work," Manley says. The goal of the program is for the students to work on two different original films in two different roles, such as cinematographer, director, writer editor, or producer. "The first week, we learned about filmmakers, their decisions, and cinematography," she says. "Then, we were producing and making our own films. We started making shot lists and got really intense with how we wanted each shot to look and the way it's set up." Once the vision for the movie was created, it was time to film.

For one project, Manley acted as the cinematographer on a film another student in the program wrote—a mockumentary that Manley describes as *The Office* meets the reality show *Too Hot to Handle*. The film featured professional actors from UCLA. But while the director worked with the actors, Manley concentrated on the visuals: "I was really focusing on the shot list, the image of the film, and how we wanted it to be portrayed." Finally, the group turned to editing—"a lot of editing"—before wrapping up their projects.

When not at UCLA this summer, Manley volunteered at Jill's House, a nonprofit in Vienna, Virginia, that provides short-term respite care for families raising kids with intellectual disabilities. Parents get a day or two to recharge, and their kids get a camp-like atmosphere with fun activities tailored to their abilities. "It helps children with learning and development disabilities whose needs can't be met at traditional summer camps," says Manley. "A lot of them are nonverbal, and it's really hard to connect when you can't communicate well. And because it's hard to connect, it's so much more



“Everyone has their different perspectives and experiences, and we were all working really hard together for two straight weeks, so we built some pretty close bonds.”

meaningful when you do. But just seeing them happy and thriving in a place that was made for them—because the world isn't—is special.”

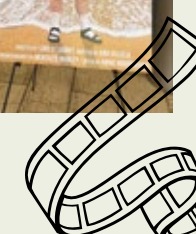
For Manley, connecting with the kids at Jill's House and connecting with her fellow students at UCLA were the best parts of her summer. "I met all kinds of new people from all over," she says of her friends at UCLA. "Everyone has their different perspectives and experiences, and we were all working really hard together for two straight weeks, so we built some pretty close bonds."

At the end of her two weeks at UCLA, Manley's parents came to an official screening for the students' films—an event that encapsulated "the entire learning experience," Manley says. "Going from an idea to the preproduction stages, to the production stage, to the shooting day, then editing, and then finally watching it." With a photography class at Sidwell Friends as a kind of analog inspiration, Manley went on to learn cutting-edge film techniques and ultimately produced her own film. "I'm so happy that I took Ms. Constantinople's class," Manley says. "She exposed me to a whole new world."

"I think sometimes people don't want to try new things because they're scared of the outcome or that they might not be immediately good at it," Manley says. "But everyone has something they can add or share. If you put yourself out there and try new things, it might turn out really nicely."



+





# La Vie en Français

The saying good things come to those who wait is something Bobbie Pesner '23 well understands. Last spring, as she contemplated the end of her School Year Abroad experience in the Brittany region of northwest France, Pesner decided she wasn't done with her French immersion experience. Taking the initiative, she cold-called the spokesperson at the French Embassy in Washington to inquire about a summer internship. And then the wait began as she lived out the school year with her host family in Rennes, Brittany's largest city.

"Between having my classes in French and my host family speaking only in French, I picked up the language really, really fast," says Pesner, who has enjoyed a linguistic journey few can match. She grew up learning Hebrew at Jewish Day School, taking a little Mandarin Chinese in an after-school program, and then joining a Spanish class when she started at Sidwell Friends in 6th grade. It was at the end of that 6th grade year, when teachers from the School's French and Latin departments came to speak to students about their new language options in 7th grade, that Pesner considered French. "I had not made up my mind about any language



at all," she recalls. "I just remember talking to one of the 7th and 8th grade French teachers, and I just loved her. She explained how the curriculum is involved with learning about French culture, and she totally just convinced me to start taking French."

Four years of French later, she was living in France. But when the year was wrapping up, she still hadn't heard back from the embassy in DC, and summer was fast approaching. "I was really, really interested

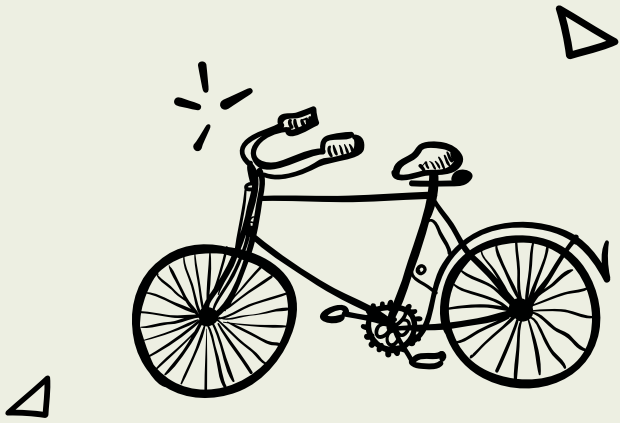


LEFT  
Pesner with her host family in France

in pursuing the French that I picked up and taking it back home and doing something with it," says Pesner. "I just wanted to keep up my language ability." So, she took a job in Bethesda at Fresh Baguette, a bakery that prides itself on both French technique and special French equipment. "Fresh Baguette has a lot of French customers," Pesner says. "I didn't really know this community existed in DC before taking this job. We live in such an international city."

Meanwhile, Pesner's request to intern at the French Embassy finally worked its way through the bureaucracy there. The embassy spokesperson, Pascal Confavreux, offered her an internship in the communications department doing social-media outreach. "I interviewed with them in French," says Pesner. After getting her security clearance, she finally started work in August. With just a few weeks before the start of school at Sidwell Friends, it wasn't a long internship, but it was an incredible experience. "I learned a lot, and I was speaking French every day," she says.

"I was really, really interested in pursuing the French that I picked up and taking it back home and doing something with it."



ABOVE  
Pesner at Fresh Baguette

Pesner's favorite embassy memories include being able to have authentic French moments with her coworkers. "The culture there was inviting and very culturally French," she says. "The food was super good, and lunch time was very long. I was eating with other people who worked in the embassy and so I got to learn about people's lives." Ultimately, Confavreux asked her to consider applying for one of the college internships at the embassy next summer. Longer term, Pesner hopes to make French part of her higher-education plan—maybe a French major, maybe another year abroad.



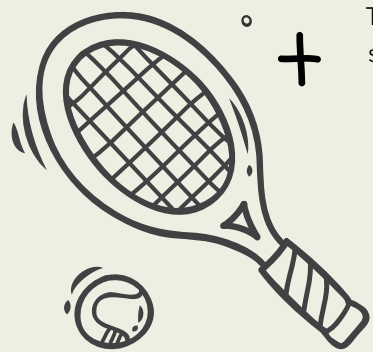
# Happy Camper



Sidwell Summer, run by the School's Auxiliary Programs department, provides incredible camp choices every year. There's woodworking, debate, STEM skills, a Summer Equity and Justice Institute, arts, fashion, and a lot of sports. This past summer, Sidwell Summer offered more than 60 different summer programs and hosted more than 1,700 campers from around the Capital region, across the country, and even around the world. But most campers will agree, it's the counselors who really make each summer a blast.

"Sidwell Summer prides itself on a great staff," says Elizabeth Mayer, the director of Summer Programs at Sidwell Friends. "You see it first thing in the morning during carpool, in the middle of the day in the classroom or on the field, and at the end of the day when campers are still having fun in Extended Day."

For counselor Chali Taylor '23, working for Sidwell Summer is a family tradition. His older brother, Chilamo Taylor '20, spent several years entertaining campers himself before recommending Chali for the job. "My brother had a super good relationship with everyone around him," says Chali Taylor. "I saw what camp was like. I saw that he was working with kids and coming on campus every day, and everything is super accessible. So, then I got into it as well."



Taylor has now spent the last two summers helping campers nail down their tennis skills and "just keeping it fun and entertaining." That's something he excels at. "Chali's personality is perfect for camp—he is fun!" says Mayer. "He would be on the court playing with campers and be having a good time



ABOVE  
Taylor with campers

right alongside them. Chali's comfort with Sidwell as he engages with campers helps guide parents and helps them interact with other staff."

That comfort with the campus translated into comfort with the campers. "My favorite part about being a counselor was engaging with the kids," says Taylor. "Just talking to them and letting them go on and on about whatever they were doing over the summer and interacting with them. I especially liked being able to work with kids from all different ages this summer." One group stood out, however. "The youngest age was the best one," he says. "I found they actually listened more than the older kids!"

Taylor's favorite memory from this past summer was a small moment. "This one girl got her glasses broken—someone had accidentally snapped them—and I promised I'd get her another pair," he says. "I went to the Sidwell Summer office and got them." The Auxiliary Programs department has all kinds of Sidwell Friends merch—including brand-new Star Fox sunglasses. "She

loved them," says Chali. "It was the happiest thing I've ever seen! She ran around playing all day long. That was the best."

Mayer isn't surprised. "A great camp counselor can think quickly on their feet, likes to have fun, and is willing to try new things," she says. "No two days at camp are the same and we need staff like Chali, who can adapt and enjoy what each day brings!"

The camp schedule also gave Taylor some flexibility. Before and after the summer term, he was able to make several college visits. (He'll be saving most of the money he earned this summer for college.) But before college, there's still another summer. "I would love to come back as a counselor," Taylor says, "and I hope the kids would love to have me back."



## Real Life at Work

The Dehejia Fellows Internship Program allows students to test out possible career tracks over the summer while gaining valuable experience.

For many Sidwell Friends students, summer is a time to acquire practical work experience and even to try on a career for size. The School's Dehejia Fellows Internship Program allows them to do just that, providing rising seniors with the chance to intern at local nonprofits, businesses, and think tanks, where they can gain valuable professional experience while exploring topics of interest.

The fellowship began with Anindya Dehejia '78, who interned at the National Institutes of Health while still a student at Sidwell Friends. As a result, "a whole world opened up for him," says his father, Mak Dehejia. After graduating from Yale, Anindya became a groundbreaking molecular geneticist, helping to map the first part of the human genome. Then in 2001, Anindya tragically passed away from brain cancer.

At the time, the Dehejia family established the Anindya Dehejia '78 Fellows Fund to celebrate his spirit of inquiry, curiosity, and vigor. "Anindya's internships were the beginning of his life's work," says Vidisha Dehejia Patel '81, Anindya's sister. Today, as a psychotherapist who sees many adolescent patients, she feels strongly about helping young people explore different professional paths early on. "They feel so much pressure to choose what they want to do," she says. "Yet they have so little understanding of what their options really are."

This year, a new crop of 33 rising seniors had the chance to see those options up close. They included Mackenzie Tyson '23, who worked at DC Retina, a medical group specializing in retina surgery; Catie O'Shea '23, who worked at Community Power, a national solar and energy storage developer; Sofia Flores '23, who worked at Infosense Group, a Georgetown University artificial intelligence research group; Nico Rodriguez '23, who worked at



Vidisha Dehejia Patel '81 and Mak Dehejia with the 2022 Dehejia Fellows at a luncheon to reflect on the recipients' internships.

Amazon; and Julian Yarborough '23, who worked at *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

When Vidisha Dehejia Patel and Mak Dehejia had lunch with the 2022 fellows this summer, "the room was full and the energy was incredible," says Vidisha. The program, which started with a just handful of interns nearly 20 years ago, has grown into a vibrant program spanning the region. "The interns talked about days on the job when they were thrilled, and others when they were angry or felt like they knew nothing," Vidisha says. "I was excited to hear students express their true feelings about the internship experience. Rather than just commenting on what went well, they recognized the ups and downs and were willing to share about them, which I found insightful." She sees internships at this stage of a student's life as invaluable, giving them the chance to explore a variety of paths that may or may not be in their comfort zone while assessing what resonates with them.

The Dehejia Fellows Program will now be part of the new Center for Ethical Leadership. Mak sees the program's new home as fitting. "To develop ethical leadership, students need more than intellectual ability," he says. "They need experiences that allow them to cultivate and apply people skills."



# Taking Flight

"I have always liked heights and I also always wanted to see the world," says Chris Ballinger '23. "That's what pilots do." And it is what Ballinger really wanted to do this summer. Now he is Sidwell Friends' very own 17-year-old licensed pilot and one of the youngest Black pilots in the nation.

He started by applying to a three-week program with the Aim High Fly Academy. But the people at Aim High, perhaps sensing Ballinger's seriousness of purpose, actually referred him to a more rigorous program: the Air Force Junior ROTC Flight Academy, a selective, tuition-free, eight-week program held at universities around the country. Intended to inspire high schoolers toward aviation careers, the ROTC scholarship is a partnership between the aerospace industry and the Air Force meant to address the national pilot shortage. The next thing he knew, Ballinger was accepted out of thousands of applicants as a cadet and was on his way to Walla Walla University in Washington state.



As soon as he was on the ground, Ballinger was right back up in the air. In order to get the flight hours necessary for his license, the new cadet would practice and take instruction six full days a week for two months. Prior to arriving, Ballinger's experience in the cockpit consisted of some flights in small planes with someone else at the controls. Now he was preparing for a solo flight and his certification.

"Being able to fly every single day, week after week, was probably my favorite part of the summer," Ballinger says. "I was able to fly six out of seven days. It was amazing being in that environment, where I was able to wake up and have my whole life, my whole world be about flying. I wasn't worried about much else besides getting my job done and becoming a pilot."

Ballinger says the only time he was ever a little frightened was his first time behind the controls. "You do get that first initial fear—I'm up in the air piloting a plane!—but it didn't last long for me, because I felt so comfortable," he says. Perhaps even more comfortable than in a car, because the program gave him so much knowledge about the plane itself and how the systems work. "When I'm driving, I don't know every single



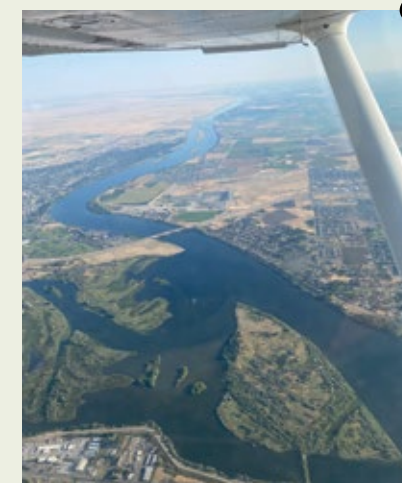
"It was amazing being in that environment, where I was able to wake up and have my whole life, my whole world be about flying."



thing about the car," he says. "But with the plane, the more you know about it, the more comfortable you feel. That helps you prevent any accidents from happening and learn how to help yourself in case of an emergency."

His ultimate moment was the solo flight. He prepared by creating his own flight plan, which routed him to another airport. "I didn't have anyone else to rely on," he says. "I had to put my skills to the test."

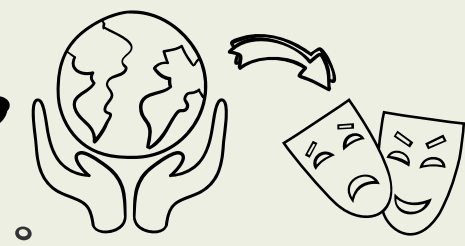
By the end of the eight weeks, Ballinger passed all of the tests and requirements—55 hours of airtime—to get his single-engine license. It's a small step toward the minimum 1,500 hours needed to qualify for a commercial license, but—no surprise—Ballinger is unphased. He intends to get a lot of that flight time in during college, where he plans on pursuing military aviation—he hopes at the Naval Academy in Annapolis.



ABOVE  
Ballinger's photos from a summer in flight



# Climate Change, a Drama



Elson Bankoff '23 is a leader in the grassroots environmental-justice movement Fridays for Future, and she is the co-editor-in-chief of *Ecosystemic*, an international student-run journal. In her sophomore year, Bankoff started researching climate legislation—and why Congress routinely shuts it down. That's also when she started writing: "I wanted to do something with the theme of passivity," she says, "and if the bells would ring"—that is, if society would sound the alarm on a looming crisis it had mostly neglected. "I used my own experience growing up in DC and having been around all these insane levels of politicization of this crisis."

Bankoff's writing evolved along with her coursework at Sidwell Friends. "I was reading *Pride and Prejudice* and *Macbeth*," she says. "Then we had a poetry unit on Romanticism. Everything I was reading in the classroom was influencing what I was writing about." But the curricular influence didn't stop in the English Department. "In Latin American history, we were learning about systems of power and exploitation," she says. "The themes and the discussions we had in those classes allowed for the sense of critical thinking that helped me develop the plot, the characters, and my language."

Things took a turn when Bankoff asked a Fridays for Future friend named Anna, a young Brooklyn activist, to read Bankoff's finished play, *If The Bells Would Ring*, a two-act political drama. The reaction was immediate: "We are producing this," Anna announced. That was last spring.



ABOVE  
Bankoff with cast and crew of *If The Bells Would Ring*



From that point on, Bankoff knew what she would be doing over the summer. Soon she and Anna were cold-calling hundreds of theaters throughout the Northeast. They advertised for actors on Backstage.com. "It was just two of us—16 and 17—doing this out of our rooms," recalls Bankoff. At one point, Bankoff decided that meeting strangers over Zoom required an adult presence. Another connection at Fridays for Future introduced her to a producer, someone who had organized events for climate organizations and who had produced several TED Talks. That's when the project got technical. They had to find sound and lighting designers, cast actors, make everyone a contract, and get insurance. On her 18th birthday, Bankoff even started an LLC to protect the production legally. The play's new producer also pointed them to The Tank, an off-off-Broadway venue that acts as a kind of creative incubator and is free to use except for a stipend the theater takes out of box office revenue.

Soon the play had a tribe of people behind it—including those with budget, production, costume, web, and marketing experience—most of whom pitched in for free. The group applied for grants and received \$7,000 from Fridays for Future USA and Fridays for Future NYC. They also earned grants from New York Youth Climate Leaders (NY<sup>2</sup>CL), the Broadway Green Alliance, and *Ecosystemic*. "Our budget started growing," says Bankoff, "and we decided from day one that we were going to try and pay the actors as much as possible" after covering all the required costs.

Opening night was September 16 during Climate Week NYC. Bankoff was not only the play's author, but its director as well. Zachary Harvat, the School's English Department interim chair, and a large group of Sidwell Friends students took a bus to New York for the premiere. "I'm just so grateful that I'm in a community where, if you do something really cool, your friends and teachers are going to be so, so supportive of it," says Bankoff. The play, which featured a professional Broadway actor in the lead, ran for three nights. The actors even got paid. "It was really unlike



anything I've ever done," says Bankoff. "Every single person there wanted to be there and was passionate about the project."

For Bankoff, the force animating every aspect of the play is not the performing arts; it is first and foremost the climate crisis. "I keep learning these new skills while also being able to connect it back to the broader movement," says Bankoff. She notes that public policy, which she plans to study in college, and governing can make change at a powerful scale—but they aren't the only ways. "You can write, you can tell stories, you can do journalism like we do at *Ecosystemic*, you can organize protests with Fridays for Future," says Bankoff. "There are so many different mediums and so many things you can do—it's amazing." And, if you are Elson Bankoff, you can do them all. ✨



LEFT  
Bankoff

"I'm just so grateful that I'm in a community where, if you do something really cool, your friends and teachers are going to be so, so supportive of it."







# HOME AWAY FROM HOME

家外之家



# WHEN SIDWELL FRIENDS' JOHN FLOWER FOUND A HOUSE IN RURAL CHINA THAT WOULD SOON BE DEMOLISHED, HE HAD A WILD IDEA: MOVE IT TO THE HILLS OF APPALACHIA. NOW, THE CHINA FOLK HOUSE IS CONNECTING ONE MOUNTAIN CULTURE TO ANOTHER.

BY SALA LEVIN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAMERON WHITMAN

It was, John Flower freely concedes, an audacious idea. He would move a family home from the mountainous Chinese province of Yunnan and faithfully reconstruct it in rural West Virginia. "It would go from the Himalayas and the Mekong to the Blue Ridge and the Shenandoah," Flower says almost casually.

All Flower was proposing to do was to pry apart a house beam by beam, nail by nail, ship it, and rebuild it identically in a new country on another continent. It was a leap born of optimism. As he reflects on it today, more than five years later, Flower recalls a Chinese saying: "When the cart reaches the mountain, there must be a road."

The structure, now known as the China Folk House, has traveled countless roads, from its first home in a small southwestern Chinese village, Cizhong, to its current one in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, where it now stands as a symbol of cultural exchange.



Flower, a history teacher and the director of Sidwell's Chinese Studies program, along with his wife, Pam Leonard, and a small staff use the house and its campus as a place to teach Americans about Chinese culture, preserve folkways of rural communities in both Appalachia and China, and create opportunities for personal interaction between people of both nations.

The initiative has drawn attention from some of the highest echelons of diplomacy. Last June, Qin Gang, China's ambassador to the United States, visited the China Folk House, where he helped raise a timber frame for future bunkhouses and signed a wall with a Chinese message encouraging the continued architectural friendship that the house represents.

"You have to have people-to-people connection," Flower says. "It's when that goes away that I think things are in danger, because we only fear and hate what we don't understand."



In 2015, Flower was in his second year of taking Sidwell Friends students to Asia for a semester-long experience in rural China. They studied Chinese language, literature, history, art, and environmental science, and they wrote reports on the region's material culture that incorporated what they'd learned from the breadth of their studies.

The trip was made possible by Sidwell Friends' nearly 40-year-old Chinese Studies Program, the first of its kind in any DC-area school. Founded in 1983, the program was established in memory of John Zeidman '79, who died of viral encephalitis while studying in China as a Duke undergraduate. The program funds an alumni fellowship, a student-exchange program, student travel to China, and the annual John Fisher Zeidman Memorial Lecture, which invites scholars and dignitaries to talk about China and the U.S.

Their base in Yunnan Province, near China's borders with Vietnam, Laos, and Myanmar, is home to an unusual mix of cultures. The area, known as Three Parallel Rivers, named for the course of the Mekong, Yangtze, and Salween Rivers that run through it, is the central community of the roughly 1,000 Tibetan Catholics who are the legacy of 19th-century French missionaries. A number of other ethnic groups also live there, along with a more populous Buddhist community.

**"I SAID TO HIM, 'OH MAN, YOUR HOUSE IS BEAUTIFUL. AND IT'S A PITY THAT IT'S GOING TO BE FLOODED. I WISH I COULD JUST TAKE IT HOME WITH ME TO VIRGINIA.'" SAYS FLOWER. "AND ZHANG SAID, 'WELL, LET'S TRY TO DO THAT.'"**

Flower and Leonard took the students to a part of the Three Parallel Rivers that was several years away from being flooded by a new dam. "We went down to see what was going to be inundated," says Flower.

There, they ran across Zhang Jianhua, who invited him into his home. "I said to him, 'Oh man, your house is beautiful, and it's a pity that it's going to be flooded. I wish I could just take it home with me to Virginia,'" says Flower. "And Zhang said, 'Well, let's try to do that.'"

In fact, the house was fairly ordinary. It had been built by hand in 1989 using a very traditional design, without architectural flourishes. Flower relished its everyday quality, believing that its lack of specialness was precisely what made it a valuable window into daily Chinese life.





There was one intriguing aspect of the house: It was a metonym for the area's confluence of cultures. It was built by Bai people, an ethnic group renowned for their carpentry skills. But the leaders of Cizhong, the village, were Naxi, so the house had the deep upstairs porch often found in Naxi communities. Zhang also admired the Han habit of having a courtyard. Plus, a number of crosses throughout the house nodded to the family's Catholic faith.

Zhang, who owned a vineyard, would be compensated by the Chinese government for the new home he'd have to move into when the dam was built. He offered Flower the house for about \$5,000. Flower jumped.

In 2017, with the support of a Sidwell Friends venture grant, Flower began the arduous process of studying, disassembling, moving, and rebuilding the house. Flower recruited Steve Steinbach, Sidwell Friends' History Department chair, to come with him to China and help with the house; he also enlisted his friend, the Purcellville, Virginia-based guitar-maker Marty Fair, who Flower knew to be a master craftsman. Former students Nikhil Chaudhuri '15 and Alison Steinbach '14, Steve's daughter, also came along to help. Funding for the project came from a Sidwell Friends Venture Grant, grants from Stanford and Harvard, as well as from the Daofeng and Angela Foundation, and the Bedrock Foundation. (Now, the China Folk House is its own nonprofit.)

For several weeks, the team examined the house from the peak of its roof to its foundation, investigating joineries,

drawing maps of the floor plan and where each piece of furniture was placed, measuring the columns, posts, and beams. They created a comprehensive 3D model of the house, showing every structural element, wall, and joist.

After several weeks of preparation, Flower and his team, along with a group of local Bai carpenters, took the house apart piece by piece. For a week, they pried nails from every wood panel and plank, maneuvering the beams up and down stairs and through gaps in ceilings. "It was very harrowing," says Flower. Adding to the structural stresses were legal ones. The team was working with a hard deadline: In just about a year, the dam would be completed and the land would be underwater. A project this complex would usually take several years of planning and execution, but Flower and his group were pressed for time and had to handle some decisions on the fly.

Shortly after deconstruction began, the forestry bureau of Deqin County, Cizhong's home, decided that all wood—young or old, living or not—should stay within the county, denying Flower's team permission to export the house's materials. Flower's Chinese intermediary, Yang Wendou, eventually worked out a deal with the local governor: They would get a permit to move the wood from Deqin to Dali, a Chinese city about nine and a half hours away. From there, they could get a second permit to transport the house's pieces to Beijing, and from there, they could take it out of the country.

With that problem solved, the matter of moving the house began. The terrain was treacherous: craggy mountains, deep gorges carved by swift rivers, and narrow, don't-look-down roads. Logging trucks clambered up these roads, winding around curves and over bridges until they reached the house, where they were loaded up and sent back on their way.

Shipping from China to the United States took about two months at a cost of some \$40,000. Once it arrived in Virginia, it went to a storage unit in Winchester, Virginia, its temporary home until Flower could find it a permanent location.







With his tuft of brown hair, round glasses, and predilection for baggy cardigans, Flower strikes the classic professorial tone. Born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Flower first meaningfully encountered Chinese culture as an undergraduate at Haverford College, where he earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1982. "My introduction to the Chinese language," he says, "was reading the analytics of Confucius."

It was also the era of normalization of relations between China and the United States. New opportunities to visit began opening up.

After college, Flower worked as a stone mason, house painter, and bass-playing bluegrass musician. He also took classes in Chinese language at the University of Pennsylvania, where he met his now-wife, Pam Leonard. Soon, Flower began doctoral work in Chinese history at the University of Virginia and Leonard, went to Cambridge University, where she developed an interest in the role of

dairy goats in the agricultural economy of the Chinese countryside.

In 1991, Flower made his first visit to China, where he studied the poets and intellectuals of cosmopolitan Chengdu before meeting up with Leonard in the village of Cizhong. "It was so amazing to live in a village and get to understand the history that they had lived through," which had included the traumatic Great Chinese Famine that began in 1959, says Flower. Soon, his work began to focus more on the intersections between the perspectives of the villagers and the urbanites.

Flower began working at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1996, earning tenure before coming to Sidwell Friends in 2007, a move that brought Flower and Leonard closer to her family in her hometown of Washington, DC "I chose Sidwell because I thought I could have a bigger impact working with younger students in a more intimate educational environment, and because of the School's commitment to the Quaker values of simplicity, social justice, and peace witness," says Flower. "Those values were important to me personally as well as professionally: My family are Quaker—my direct ancestor was Enoch Flower, the first Quaker schoolmaster working for William Penn in Philadelphia—and I wanted my son to grow up in a caring community, a community to which I hoped I could make some meaningful contribution."

From the beginning, he focused on experiential learning, says Qihui Tang, a Sidwell Friends Upper School Chinese

**"THIS IS AN EXAMPLE OF  
A VERY CRAZY IDEA THAT  
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PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY."**

teacher. "He would give students artifacts and then have them go and do research and discover what those artifacts are," she says. "I'd have students coming to me, bringing me artifacts, asking for help."

Flower "is a pioneer in terms of his ideas about education," says Tang, a Sidwell Friends Upper School Chinese teacher. "He sees opportunities and potential before everyone else sees them." That experiential philosophy is key to the mission of China Folk House. Students from Sidwell Friends and other schools have been involved since its inception. They have volunteered to help with the construction, gone on site visits with teachers, and learned about sustainable building practices. Every summer, Flower hosts a two-week session called Camp Wholesome, where students learn Mandarin, work on building the China Folk House, and hike the nearby Appalachian Trail.

The site that Flower eventually found for the China Folk House has a sense of being preordained. After one potential spot fell through, one of Flower's acquaintances directed him and Leonard toward the Friends Wilderness Center.

The Quaker Friends Wilderness Center is a 1,400-acre wilderness preserve in the mountains of Harper's Ferry. Getting there entails a long drive up a gravel road, twisting and turning through the dense trees. At last, upon arriving at the peak, a small walking path takes visitors to the China Folk House campus, where they'll see the Zhang house, a courtyard with a decorative gate, the wood frame of a future bunkhouse, and a kitchen and winter room (a gathering space) under construction. There's a woodsy smell in the air, and just beyond the courtyard lies a small, sun-dappled pond.

It's the material culmination of an idea Flower never really knew for sure if he could pull







off. “We talk about taking risks, right?” says Flower. “This is an example of a very crazy idea that came to fruition purely through people helping people along the way.”

**I**n a clear October morning, under a bright blue sky and trees just beginning to tiptoe their way into autumn color, August Caldwell '17 shows a group of visitors the upstairs bedrooms of the China Folk House, each of which will eventually also take on a theme of some aspect of Chinese rural folk life. One will be about religion and rituals, one about agricultural policy, and the third on kinship and family ties. “The idea is to have a living museum where you can really experience what it’s like to live in a traditional Chinese farmhouse,” says Caldwell.

The group gathered here today is made up of friends of the China Folk House, mostly former campers at Camp Wholesome, but also local volunteers and a few curious neighbors. Bob and Bonnie Jacobs, from Clarke County, Virginia, have been watching the site’s progress on their periodic walks along the Appalachian Trail. “This is an important thing to have happening,” says Bonnie. “It’s kind of a spiritual journey, as well, to see this and be a part of it.”

Caldwell, who now works part-time at the China Folk House as program coordinator, feels the same draw to the project. After joining Flower on a trip to China while in Upper School, Caldwell was taken with the country’s cultures and the idea of the China Folk House. Now, she devotes much of her time to the long project of finishing the site’s construction and working toward bringing teachers and artisans here from China. Eventually, the team hopes to have weekend workshops on topics like Chinese medicine, botany, and wood carving. “This is really my favorite place in the world,” says Caldwell. “You just hear the frogs croaking, and it’s so, so relaxing.”

**“THE IDEA IS TO HAVE A LIVING MUSEUM WHERE YOU CAN REALLY EXPERIENCE WHAT IT’S LIKE TO LIVE IN A TRADITIONAL CHINESE FARMHOUSE.”**

AUGUST CALDWELL '17

Soon, the salty, meaty smell of Mongolian barbecue hits the crisp air; guests are beginning to congregate around the table of beef, pork, and mushrooms that Flower and Leonard have laid out, along with bowls of rice vinegar, soy sauce, ginger, sesame oil, and more, to encourage a marinating free-for-all. Flower hopes that in the future, bigger groups of Chinese and American people can come to the folk house for similar bread-breaking. “Kids need to meet kids from other countries,” he says, “and have a kind of, as they say in China, exchange of revolutionary experiences.” ✨





# Alumni Action

Dear Friends:

The fall season always brings a moment of reflection as we move into a time of change and a return to routine. And as we watch the changing colors of the leaves and their impermanence, I am reminded to focus on the present moment. This fall, as we began the 2022/23 school year and returned to many familiar traditions and activities, there have been many milestone opportunities to truly be present and enjoy the moment of togetherness.



Most notably this fall, we gathered on campus for Homecoming in October on a beautiful fall day in DC (see “Together at Home,” on page 50). Alumni, parents, student faculty, and staff joined together to energetically celebrate the strength of our community at many of our beloved traditional events like the Alumni Fan Zone, football game, student club fair, and Alumni Reception. The Homecoming schedule also included new events that featured students, including Arts in Action, Conversation with Coaches (see “The Sport of Life” on page 15), and the inaugural Sidwell Friends *Shark Tank*, which incorporated a panel of “sharks” from our alumni community, including **Jason Carroll '96**, **Marcus Shaw '95**, and **Max** and **Sam Strickberger '17** (see “Feed the Sharks,” on page 13). Homecoming was even more meaningful this year as we launched a landmark campaign, **Together We Shine**. As the largest campaign in the School’s history, the moment was historic and there was a feeling of gratitude and momentum as we joined together as a community to celebrate how far we have come in our efforts and to share excitement for the road ahead in realizing the vision for the School’s future.

This issue of the magazine invites us to explore faculty member John Flower’s work with students and the China Folk House (see “Home Away From Home,” on page 38) and to take a peek into how Upper Schoolers spent their summers (see “Summer Stories,” on page 26). These stories highlight the variety of interests our students and alumni pursue and the common thread of “letting their lives speak” that is woven throughout each of their paths. There are also, of course, Class Notes to peruse (see “Class Notes,” on page 57). These updates always remind me of the profound connections within our alumni network regardless of our class years, professions, or locations around the world. We are bonded through our values, friendships, joys and sorrows, and our appreciation for Sidwell Friends School.

I hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to connect with friends this holiday season as we host six Winter with Friends events across the country from December 1 to January 11. These events, which you may remember were previously called our Alumni Holiday Parties, are a wonderful way to celebrate the spirit of the season together. I hope you will join us!

I wish each of you a joyful close to 2022 and a hopeful start to 2023!

In friendship and with gratitude,

**Marika Cutler Meyer '94**  
Clerk, Friends Alumni Network Advisory Board

It may not have been the World Cup, but the annual Alumni Soccer Game was rife with intergenerational rivals, longtime friends, and a healthy competitive spirit!



# TOGETHER, AT HOME

The community gathers for games, food, fellowship, and a homecoming for the ages.

Hundreds of alumni, students, current families, grandparents, and more than a few prospective families filled the Sidwell Friends campus October 14 to 16 to celebrate a Homecoming Weekend as festive as the weather was beautiful. It was the largest campus event in more than two years.

The School's campus on Wisconsin Avenue was abuzz with upbeat energy and Quaker pride as a sea of maroon-and-gray t-shirts, sweatshirts, and pennants filled the walkways and bleachers. Throughout the games, student and parent clubs sold a wide range of food. Alumni reconnected over the weekend as well, both at the games—in a special Alumni Fan Zone—and at special evening events just for them.

The weekend also marked the public launch of a historic fundraising campaign, Together We Shine. The campaign, which began quietly in 2015, has raised \$118 million of its \$152 million goal, and will end on June 30, 2024. The campaign will fund the renovation of a new environmentally sustainable Upper School, bolster endowed financial aid resources, and create new programs and centers to benefit students and faculty.

The weekend kicked off on Friday with a series of all-community events. Before an audience of hundreds, Upper School entrepreneurs pitched six business plans for apps and services to a Shark Tank panel of alumni

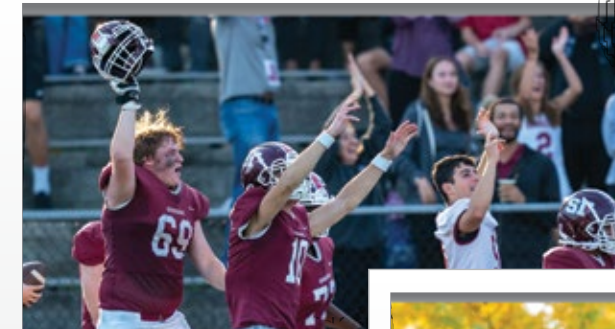
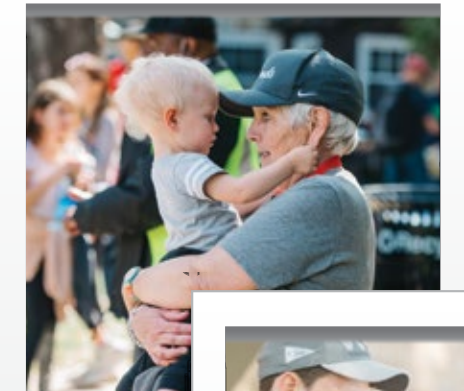


and parents with business experience. Following that, the action moved to the Arts Center for a cross-divisional song and dance performance, featuring a 4th grade chorus, a showcase from the Middle School drama program, and a concert from the Upper School jazz ensemble. Athletic Director John Square closed out the morning by introducing alumni, parents, and friends to the School's Sports Leadership Academy, which was represented by student athletes who discussed the role values play both on their teams and in their academic studies.

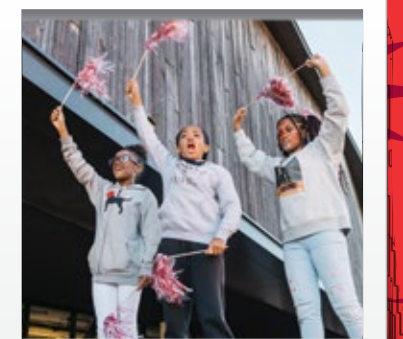
Saturday began with a presentation by Natalie Randolph '98, the director of Equity, Justice, and Community, and Robbie Gross, the Upper School dean of academic affairs. They described the importance of unique electives at Sidwell Friends, including the course they co-teach on metropolitan policy and urban planning in the DC metro area. Associate Head of School Min Kim then led a conversation with the inaugural endowed chairs in Spanish and Latin American Studies, Silvana Niazi, and African and African American Studies, Jewell Debnam, about the roles they play in the School's academic programs. Darby Thompson, the robotics coach and computer science head, along with several student members of the Robotics Club, introduced the audience to a robot named Ethan and explained the benefits of hands-on engineering and design.



Of course, the weekend was also a showcase for Sidwell's athletic teams. The Quakers had a strong weekend, with the varsity teams winning all but one contest over the two days, including girls tennis, field hockey, girls soccer, and football. During halftime of the football game, members of last year's girls and boys basketball teams received championship rings to commemorate their victories in the spring DC Class AA State Championship tournaments. As the Sidwell Friends teams played on the courts and fields, the youngest Quakers hung out with Star Fox in the Little Fox Zone, where face-painting, games, and sweet treats were on offer.



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# FRESH INK

winter reads



Authors explore genetics in fiction and nonfiction, the call to teach and the problem with educational systems, the personality of American power and the lack of power in the American personality, and more.

## In the Field: A Novel

Rachel Pastan '83

Delphinium  
August 10, 2021

"In 1920, having persuaded her resistant mother to send her to college, Kate Croft falls in love with science. Painfully rebuffed by a girl she longs for, and in flight from her own confusing sexuality, Kate finds refuge in the calm rationality of biology: its vision of a deeply interconnected world, and the promise that the new field of genetics can explain the way people are. But science, too, turns out to be marred by human weakness."



offset by a growing population. Then came a great shift: invention sprinted forward, doubling our technological capabilities each generation and utterly transforming the economy again and again. Our ancestors would have presumed we would have used such powers to build utopia. But it was not so. When 1870–2010 ended, the world instead saw global warming; economic depression, uncertainty, and inequality; and broad rejection of the status quo."

## Other People's Colleges: The Origins of American Higher Education Reform

Ethan Ris '01

Chicago University Press, June 27, 2022

"The reform impulse is baked into American higher education, the result of generations of elite reformers who have called for sweeping changes in the sector and raised existential questions about its sustainability. Today, another coalition of business leaders, philanthropists, and politicians is again demanding efficiency, accountability, and utility from American higher education. But top-down design is not destiny."



## Empire Imagined: The Personality of American Power

Giselle Frances  
Donnelly '71

State University of New York  
Press, August 1, 2022

"In *Empire Imagined*, Donnelly reveals the strategic unconscious of the American mind, one shaped by a global view, ideological motivation, and expansionist ambition. All this helped build the fear of strategic fragility and a belief that liberty would produce security. These traits still mark the American understanding of international politics and the balance of power. To imagine the American experiment's future, we must recall its original design and purpose."



## The Inn on Gooseneck Lane: A Novel

Debora Hirshberg  
Noone '69,  
writing as Delsora Lowe

Wild Rose Press, October 17, 2022

"In a small town where everyone knows your business and interfering relatives revive snicker-doodling, the lost art of matchmaking, Nat and Brad may not stand a chance. Can the two find enough heart to forgive and accept love again?"



## Slouching Toward Utopia: An Economic History of the Twentieth Century

J. Bradford DeLong '78

Basic Books, September 6, 2022

"Before 1870, humanity lived in dire poverty, with a slow crawl of invention



## The Scholastic Culture of Babylonian Talmud

Noah Bickart '94

Gorgias Press, October 4, 2022

Bickart "studies how and in what cultural context the Talmud began to take shape in the scholastic centers of rabbinic Babylonia. ... The study demonstrates increasing academization during the talmudic period, and supports a gradual model of the Talmud's redaction."



## Reimagining The Call to Teach: A Witness to Teachers and Teaching

David T. Hansen '71

Teachers College Press, May 14, 2021

"David Hansen revisits the idea of teaching as a calling in light of contemporary expectations in education. [This book] brings to life an ethical approach to teaching that is informed by an understanding of teaching's great purpose: to help the next generation forge a spirit of mutual care and concern while supporting each student's distinctive way of being in the world."



## The Patchwork Human: Two Billion Years of Evolution

Peter Luykx '55

McFarland, May 11, 2022

"Life began about four billion years ago on our planet. Like an old patchwork quilt, evolution stitched the human being together from parts of ancient species now long extinct. ... [This] book aims to explain some human traits and how we—as social, sexual, language-obsessed technological apes—evolved into our own modern species."





# True Detective

How working for the Baltimore city police allows  
Randolph Brett Perrin II '11 to live his values every day.

While studying for his criminal-justice degree from Bowie State University in Maryland, Randolph Brett Perrin II '11 watched as Baltimore erupted in riots. Freddie Gray, a young Black man, had died from a spinal-cord injury he received while in police custody, once again turning the nation's attention to issues of race, justice, and police brutality. "A lot of people from Baltimore end up going to Bowie State for college," says Perrin. "I was able to talk to a lot of them about their experiences with the police department, with the city, with other residents, and with violence." For Perrin, it was an inflection point: "That's when I decided I wanted to become a Baltimore police officer."

Though the riots focused Perrin on Baltimore specifically, working in the military or law enforcement has always been in his sights. His father was a cop in the NYPD for eight years and his grandfather was in the Army and the Air Force. "I come from a service background, putting yourself before others," Perrin says. "That type of work is going to take you far in life, and that's what I live by." So, after graduating college in 2016, he turned around and joined the Police Academy in 2017. "I was appointed the class commander, and I was top of my class," he says. "I had a different

perspective than a lot of other people there. When I went through the Academy, I had more experience and education." Indeed, after just two years on the street as a patrol officer, Perrin was promoted to the rank of detective in April 2021. "Since then, I've been part of a unit that investigates violent crimes—gun-trafficking, drug-trafficking—and the effects of that throughout the city," he says. "Our days are very action-packed."

“  
Sometimes your  
best force option  
is not your hands;  
it's not your weapon.  
It's your words.”

Perrin also notes that injecting more police of color into a city isn't a panacea. "It's more, Is this person going to be a



Perrin

good police officer?" he says. "Is this person from a city? Has this person experienced this type of diversity before? Can this potential police officer comprehend the communication styles that these individuals will have on the street? I'm not just talking about verbally; I'm talking about their body language. People make different types of moves in Baltimore city than in, say, York, Pennsylvania."

Making a difference often isn't just about stopping crime and arresting bad guys; it's about communicating with residents who don't trust the police. "We arrest people for large quantities of guns and drugs," he says, "and it's usually not those people that are questioning the police. They understand what they did. But a lot of times, it's the individuals who see the arrest who we have to talk to. They're on the sidewalk, they see it happening, they don't know what's going on, and they're freaked out—and rightfully so." Perrin says talking to those people about what is happening and why is vital. "Sometimes your best force option is not your hands; it's not your weapon. It's your words," he says. "It's really about transparency, and not being an absolute RoboCop all the time." In other words, being hard and cold may seem appropriate, but it dehumanizes you to the community. "Emotionally, that's not the best way to go," he says, "and it's not the best way to go in terms of

the citizens as well, because you can just be seen as unhuman."

The Sidwell Friends lifer says Quaker values are a critical part of his work. "Sidwell really helped me in what I'm doing now: Treat others the way you'd like to be treated," he says. "Learning to deal with people's differences and being accepting of that is paramount when dealing with communities that are underserved and underrepresented." His grandfather also taught him to "serve others before you serve yourself," Perrin says. "He allowed me to apply that to life, and I actually ended up getting a tattoo in honor of him and the work that I do on my right bicep. It says, 'Service Over Self,' as a reminder, so that if I ever forget why I'm doing something or who I'm doing it for, that reminds me."



Randolph Brett Perrin II



Randolph Brett Perrin II



## Thank you for believing in Sidwell Friends.

During the season of giving and gratitude, we are grateful for all the many ways our community partners with the School. We hope you will consider a gift to *The Sidwell Friends Fund* which supports the School's highest needs each year. Every gift matters and makes a meaningful impact on the school year.

**Ensure our bright future.**  
Make a gift to *The Sidwell Friends Fund*.

The  
**SIDWELL  
FRIENDS**  
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Know someone who is living their values?  
Email suggestions to [magazine@sidwell.edu](mailto:magazine@sidwell.edu).



# Founder's Day for Scholars

APRIL 18, 2023

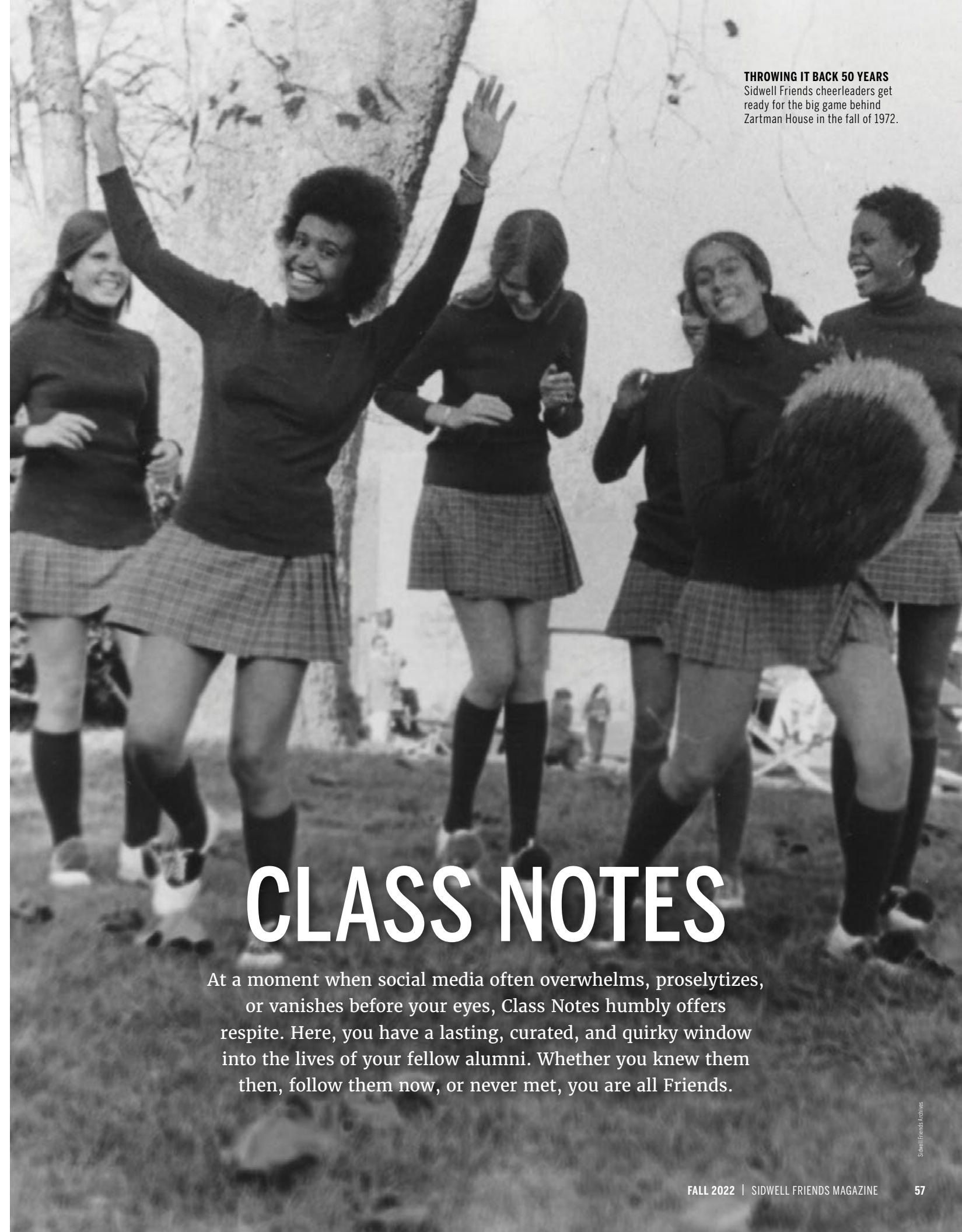
Please save the date for the evening of Tuesday, April 18  
when we will celebrate Founder's Day for Scholars!

Every year, the community comes together to support Financial Aid,  
and this year's fundraising efforts include an in-person special event  
to celebrate and raise important funds for this school priority.



*We hope to see you there!*

**THROWING IT BACK 50 YEARS**  
Sidwell Friends cheerleaders get  
ready for the big game behind  
Zartman House in the fall of 1972.



## CLASS NOTES

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



**KEEP IN TOUCH!**

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

## 1942

**Want to be a class representative?**

Contact [alumni@sidwell.edu](mailto:alumni@sidwell.edu).

**In Memoriam:**

**Ellis Manning Jr. '42**

August 12, 2022

## 1945

**Want to be a class representative?**

Contact [alumni@sidwell.edu](mailto:alumni@sidwell.edu).

**In Memoriam:**

**Ann Sylvester Collins '45**

January 19, 2022

## 1950

**TOBY RILEY**

[toby.riley@gmail.com](mailto:toby.riley@gmail.com)

## 1951

**Want to be a class representative?**

Contact [alumni@sidwell.edu](mailto:alumni@sidwell.edu).

**In Memoriam:**

**Robert Flory '51**

February 7, 2019

**Mary Alana Baker Ellis '51**

July 29, 2022

## 1952

**CAROL BLACK**

[carblack@comcast.net](mailto:carblack@comcast.net)

**In Memoriam:**

**Sheila Dixon Leeds '52**

July 28, 2022

## 1953

**GLORIA GIRTON**

[ggat58b@orange.fr](mailto:ggat58b@orange.fr)

## 1954

**RICHARD NICKLAS**

[rnicklas@mfa.gwu.edu](mailto:rnicklas@mfa.gwu.edu)

**In Memoriam:**

**William Parks '54**

August 22, 2022

## 1955

**NANCY ABOLIN HARDIN**

[nahardin@aol.com](mailto:nahardin@aol.com)

## 1956

**CHARLIE HOLLAND**

[sshrink9@gmail.com](mailto:sshrink9@gmail.com)

**DAVID BRADFORD:** “I am experiencing limited vision due to advanced glaucoma. I can no longer drive or read newspapers or books, and I have to sit on the sixth row at a play. On the other hand, it has made symphonies better since I am not distracted by the conductor or orchestra. Otherwise, I can manage. I can take care of myself, help with meals, shop, go for walks, and garden. Things just take a bit longer. Thank goodness for technology. Increase the font to 125 percent and the computer

is my friend, allowing me access to *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, and *The New Yorker*. There is a program that lets the computer speak to me. I have use of all the audiobooks in the Library of Congress, and my cell phone reads the menu when we go out. But it is a new journey and part of what I am learning is asking for help—from Eva and others, and that has been a challenge for someone who always valued independence. Also, it is a process of giving up things. Fortunately, we have done much international travel, but a somewhat blurry world doesn't make sightseeing that enjoyable. I no longer teach but am not retired. Giving talks and writing articles mainly on our book, *Connect: Building Exceptional Relationships*, that came out 18 months ago and is selling well both domestically and internationally (being translated into 14 languages). Two more books are being planned. One is my theory of teaching group process courses (like the one I developed at Stanford). The other is helping Eva write her family history. Her parents first escaped in 1939 after the Nazis marched into Czechoslovakia. They returned (now with Eva) after the war to see if any family survived and got caught in the Communist coup and had to escape again in 1948. A fascinating tale of ingenuity and courage.”

**CHARLIE HOLLAND:** “This year Peggy and I welcomed our eighth grandchild, Della Kingsley Holland, in Shelburne, Vermont, while also having our first grandchild wedding (Satchel and Monica) at Jay Peak, Vermont.”

## 1957

**Want to be a class representative?**

Contact [alumni@sidwell.edu](mailto:alumni@sidwell.edu).

**ANNE FORSYTHE BRIGGS:** “For the past few years, and especially during 2021, I have been a caregiver for my husband (of 60 years), Albert Briggs. Al died of Parkinson's disease on October 9, 2021. He was at home and our whole family was here. We married in June 1961, the weekend after my graduation from Radcliffe,

and immediately headed for California, where Al was in graduate school. In 1964, we entered the Peace Corps. We served for two and a half years in Malaysia, where he taught math and I worked as a librarian at a teacher-training college. In 1967, we returned to the States (taking six months to make the journey), and Al took a position in the math department at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, on the Eastern Shore. We have lived here ever since. Our sons were born in 1969 and 1973. In 1980, I was hired by the Kent County Public Library and became the director a few years later. Since my retirement in 2001, I have been leading a Buddhist meditation group (Insight Meditation Community of Chestertown), even managing to sustain the group with Zoom meetings during the pandemic. In addition to our two sons, Tony and Paul, we have a daughter-in-law, Jiwon Jun, and two grandsons, Evan and Jonah. This past June, I moved to Heron Point, a continuing-care retirement community in Chestertown.”

## 1958

**CRAIG MORGAN**

[craighmorgan@gmail.com](mailto:craighmorgan@gmail.com)

**REID CHAMBERS:** “Our friend and classmate **Chris Carpenter** passed away in late May from cancer. Chris joined our class at the beginning of sophomore year. He was a star on the varsity tennis team and was elected captain in his senior year. Throughout high school, Chris expressed an animated interest in current events and politics and worked with other students in his senior year to form a Sidwell Friends debate team that entered an interscholastic debate tournament in the spring of our senior year. Though novice debaters, they won half of their matches against generally more experienced teams.

**CRAIG MORGAN:** “Reading **Chris Carpenter's** obituary at *legacy.com*, one sees that Chris excelled in three areas. In his legal profession, he was an expert, leading not just the premier law

firm of Best, Best, and Kriegel for nine years, but also serving as a nationally recognized expert in the area of trusts and estates. At the same time, while earning money, he also excelled at giving it away—being very active on the boards of numerous charities. Finally, he excelled at just having fun, primarily through athletics—tennis, basketball, racquetball, bodyboarding, golf (five holes in one)—but also through travel, having visited all 50 states and many countries. He was predeceased in 2015 by his wife of 48 years, Molly West Carpenter. He is survived by his two daughters and two grandsons.”

**In Memoriam:**

**Christopher Carpenter '58**

May 29, 2022

## 1959

**CLARK GRIFFITH**

[ccgpa@ccgpa.com](mailto:ccgpa@ccgpa.com)

**THOMAS KNOX:** “This memorial (see photo on right) to **Judith Schreiber Knox** was dedicated September 11 in Simpson Garden Park, Bowling Green, Ohio, to honor her pioneering work in child sexual-abuse prevention and her dedicated defense of democracy and equality through the League of Women Voters. The sculpture is a working sundial that indicates time of day, the summer and winter solstices, and the vernal and autumnal equinoxes. It is listed on the registry of the North American Sundial Society. The project was funded by a diverse group of contributors, including family, friends, colleagues, League of Women Voters members, and Sidwell Friends classmates.”

**PAT ROBBINS:** “We live in Fayence, a village in the eastern Var, which is just inland from Nice. We've been here since May 1999.”

**FROM THE CLASS REP:**

Thanks, Pat. I take it you're near Nice and in the South of France, where i've visited and loved.



A memorial to **Judith Schreiber Knox '59** is also a working sundial.

**JOAN ZWEBEN:** “I am still living in Berkeley, trying to adapt to ever more difficult heat waves. My revised book is coming out in December: *Treating Alcohol and Drug Problems in Psychotherapy Practice* (2nd Edition; Guilford Press) by Arnold Washton and Joan Zweben.”

**FROM THE CLASS REP:**

Sounds like a real page-turner, Joan.

**DAVID WOOLPERT** in New Hampshire writes: “As an active guy who still hikes, skis, and swims between the wet boulders in the rivers here in New Hampshire, I am very pleased that my torn-off leg quad muscles have healed enough so that I now can start hiking and biking again. This has also allowed me and my wife to start splitting wood again from a professionally cut elm tree. We had a very nice visit this summer by **Cynthia Johnston Deutermann** and Bill Deutermann on their way back from a trip to Vermont. We'd love sharing our land and view of the Contoocook River with any of you who want to come here any season of the year. Penny and I will be visiting my daughter in Baltimore when we have our September class Zoom, and on a vacation to Texas on our October Zoom date (hopefully dropping by **Charlie Mallory's** home on the way), so I look forward to seeing you, Clark, and our other classmates in November. Namaste, Dave.”



## FROM THE CLASS REP:

Thanks for mentioning our Zoom meetings. This occurs the last Sunday of the month.

## 1960

**JODY HUTCHINSON**  
mjodyh@yahoo.com

## 1961

**LINDA DEMING RATCLIFF**  
ldratcliff@comcast.net

**CHARLES GIBSON:** “Younger daughter, Kate, has jolted me out of retirement. At her urging, we are doing a two-gender, two-generation podcast on the subject of books: *The Book Case with Kate and Charlie*, using that title you can find us, as we like to say, wherever free podcasts are sold. We’ve had great success booking authors—John Irving, Sue Miller, Anna Quindlen, Niall Williams (if you haven’t read his *This is Happiness*, you’re missing something great), Sidik Fofana, Jennifer Egan, Delia Ephron, Jenny Lawson, Hernan Diaz, and even Dr. Carla Hayden, the librarian of Congress. By the time anyone reads this, we’ll have had conversations with many more. It has proved to be a master class on writing. We post a new podcast every Thursday. At the end of each podcast, we have a short conversation with an independent bookstore owner, believing, as we do, in the criticality of independent bookstores. We invite suggestions of your favorite bookstore. Let us know at [thebookcase@surecan.tv](mailto:thebookcase@surecan.tv).

## In Memoriam:

**Petra Dub Subin ’61**  
September 25, 2022

## KEEP IN TOUCH!

Go to [sidwell.edu/classnotes](http://sidwell.edu/classnotes) and let us know what you’ve been up to.

## 1962

**CHETT BREED**  
cbreed@truman.edu

**CHETT BREED:** “Lots of delight this year. Me and some friends planted about 600 hardwood seeds and seedlings this spring on an acre left till now unplanted, of the 12 acres of Iowa we own. Next, I had the fun of beating the ’62 bushes for memorial notes, in preparation for our 60th Reunion for survivors. These both have been high points of the year. But first in January, with Suanna, I tried to fly to Colorado to visit our daughter and her husband, but a snowstorm canceled the flight. Then, together we traveled to DC in May, and to California in July to see our second son and his family. Then on to Springfield, Missouri, twice in spring and fall to see our youngest and his wife and two children there, and in early October to Ann Arbor, Michigan (by train, thanks, Henry!) to join another granddaughter for an András Schiff concert—and a breakfast in the resident college dining room! I also toured old haunts from doctoral work in the 1980s. Not such a delight: drought in Iowa and on the tree plantation, which has meant much hand-watering; a cardiac event for Suanna in California; a big bump in property taxes because of increased valuation of our home (that’s good/bad news). You win some, you nearly lose some. No losses yet though, just a whiff. Death and taxes...”

**PETER ENEMARK AND MEME LUND ENEMARK:** “2022 was a year of travel for us. We flew to Washington, DC, three times: first to sell our condominium; second to come to our 60th high school reunion; and third to attend a memorial service for our classmate, **Jan Bernhard Phalen**. We went to two weddings—a family wedding in Leesburg, Virginia, and Alexandra Ludovina’s (the daughter of **Mike Morse**’s sister, **Susan Morse ’64**) wedding in Carmel Valley, California. Our family in San Carlos, California—son David, daughter-in-law Minji, and our two grandsons, Luca and Nico—spent four months in Paris from May

through August. We joined them there for 10 days in June. Later in June, we visited our family in San Diego, California—son Daniel and daughter-in-law Claire. In September, we flew to Italy to visit a friend who lives in Cairo Montenotte, stopping first at Tavernola on Lake Como to celebrate Meme’s birthday. In October, we drove again to Carmel Valley to celebrate Peter’s birthday. Our lives are not as busy as they might seem to be. Like most of our classmates, we are retired. And we sleep late, try to take life easy, and enjoy each moment.”

## In Memoriam:

**Janice Bernhard Phalen ’62**  
June 26, 2022

## 1963

**MARGO LEE HOFELDT**  
margo10022@aol.com

**PATRICIA CROSS BRADLEY:** “At the risk of jinxing my good fortune, I am relieved to be one of the few people I know not to have contracted any of the COVID variants. After getting fully vaccinated and boosted, and feeling pretty confident, I launched forth with three, weeklong trips to the beach, and 10 days communing with bison and prairie dogs on the magnificent mixed grass prairies of South Dakota. My day-to-day life continues to be consumed with yet more agility accomplishments by my star cocker, Dot D Do Right. This past year, she competed at the AKC Agility Nationals and Invitationals in Ocala and Orlando, Florida, where she came within a quarter second of winning the Breed Medallion. Once again in June, we competed in the Westminster Kennel Club Agility Trial at the beautiful Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, New York. This time, we made it to the final round, finding ourselves running in the company of prominent U.S. and world team members. For the third consecutive year, my travels with Dot are filled with new adventures, new friends, ever-evolving new goals, and best of all promises of dreams come true.

As a bonus, **Bob Goldman** and **Lucy Hilmer** continue to be faithful members of Dottie’s fan club, and, whether I am at home or away, they never cease to entertain me with their hysterical repartee that picks up where we left off 59 years ago. Time seems to have stood still between us, and I am grateful for every fun-filled text or phone call!”

**GARTH DOCHERTY:** “Went to Scotland, to see two new nieces and nephews. Got to play golf on a highland course. Didn’t take my golf shoes, big mistake, played a terrible game—well that’s my excuse anyway. Is there anyone out there who has a 50 handicap? If so, please text me at **GD49Handicap#**. Enjoyed the Queen’s funeral on TV, was like a tour of Scotland.”

**MARGO LEE HOFELDT:** “It’s fall already (!), but you’d never know it here in Miami Beach. I’m looking out of my window at the beautiful water, boats, sky, and palm trees, and the only things that will change here are the number of activities on my calendar! I will miss the fall colors as we aren’t going up north in October as we usually do for the New York Wine Experience. We just got back from six fun-filled weeks in Connecticut. I had lunches and dinners with longtime friends I haven’t seen in quite a while. I saw three Broadway shows and visited some of my favorite places in New York City. We went to Boston and Portsmouth to see friends and family, and my husband entered one of his restored 1936 GMC pickup trucks in an antique car/truck show where he won Best in Show for GMC trucks. Our granddaughter is already 15 months old. Of course, we missed her taking her first steps and now she’s on the run. I’m always busy with the Garden Club and the Botanical Garden, and currently we’re establishing an Orchid Society. I’m really looking forward to it as I have a lot to learn about orchids!”

## 1964

**LOUISE BERRY STRAIT**  
lbstrait@gmail.com

## In Memoriam:

**Frank Price ’64**  
May 25, 2022

**Sandra Schinnerer Wolfe ’64**  
August 22, 2022

## 1965

**KEN LESURE**  
ken.lesure@gmail.com

**MALCOLM RUBEL:** “My wife, Deborah, and I spent the last year doing something different. We took our DeFever Trawler from Oriental, North Carolina, around the Great Loop ([greatloop.org](http://greatloop.org)). This involved going through the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays; to New York City, the Hudson River, the Erie Canal, and the Great Lakes; to Chicago, down the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, and up the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers; then down the Tenn-Tom Waterway to Mobile, Alabama, to the Florida Panhandle and Keys, and then back up the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to where we started. It was a 6,000-mile journey through the heartland of America at seven miles per hour. We are seriously thinking of going back and exploring more of the Western Rivers next year.” (See photo below.)

**PHILIP “FLIP” TODD:** “I am still working full time at the helm of Todd Communications, an Alaska book publishing

company. A significant part of my time is spent dealing with Asian suppliers, many in Hong Kong and China, and all the added issues as a result of COVID and other factors that make shipping across the Pacific especially expensive, slow, and unpredictable. Last month, after running the gauntlet of getting a container across the Pacific to Seattle, the container was ‘blocked in’ at the Port of Seattle for eight additional days, because they had so many containers there, they couldn’t get to ours to ship it on to Anchorage. Despite all the drought in the Lower 48, Anchorage and much of Alaska has been inundated with nearly daily rain since the first week of July, making it the wettest summer in the more than 50 years I have been living here. We would love to pass some of this liquid largesse on to the Colorado River basin, but haven’t figured out how to do it yet.”

**MARY BETH WAITS:** “As I approach my 75th birthday (November 2nd), my life is shifting into a new phase. This summer, my son, Christopher, became engaged to be married. His fiancée, Elise Allen, is a chemist who works for GlaxoSmithKline. This past March, they bought a townhouse in Odenton, Maryland (near Fort Meade). After five years working in the DC public schools, Christopher has taken a job teaching algebra 1 and II at Old Mill High School in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. His son (my only grandchild), Jordan, who is 19, is working at a daycare cen-



Malcolm Rubel '65 took his boat, Janthina, on a 6,000-mile voyage



ter in Georgetown and discovering the joys of teaching kids. When he arrives at work, they start yelling, ‘Mr. Jordan! Mr. Jordan!’ Jordan is hoping to start pursuing a college degree at either George Washington or American University. Meanwhile, I am planning to move out of my house in Silver Spring where I have lived since September of 1985. The prospect is *daunting*, but it is time. I am so over having to drag my laundry down and up two flights of stairs! I am wishing all my classmates of 1965 a happy 75th birthday and a healthy, invigorating 76th year.”

**KRISTIN MARIE WILSON:** “I retired in January 2022 after 16 years at Kaiser Permanente as an IT architect and after 40 years total in technology. Over the years, I worked on many significant projects, and I am particularly proud of my contribution to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which brought health care to millions. I continue to enjoy living in California and especially the cultural richness and diversity of Oakland, nearby Berkeley, and the Bay Area. Now I have the time to explore this beautiful state and ferret out those unique West Coast experiences. Lots of travels in the last year: Hawaii (Oahu, Kauai, and Big Island); Italy (Rome, Tuscany, Florence) with an add-on visit to my grandchildren in Paris; and Houston and New York City/New Jersey for more family visits. My sons and their families have found excellent opportunities for my five grandchildren in Houston and Paris—competitive charter schools (pre-med, English immersion, aeronautics!) and gymnas-

tics, in which my youngest seems to be demonstrating more athletic talent than any of her progenitors.”

## 1966

**CHRIS DEMATATIS**

cdematatis@aol.com

**HOYT HILSMAN:** “I continue to work in film and television—and recently completed a TV series pilot set in Hawaii. Also, I’m helping to coordinate Democratic campaigns in five congressional districts in Southern California. I resumed travel two months ago to Mexico and Canada. I survived a heat wave and am looking forward to the fall. Best wishes to all my Sidwell Friends classmates.”

### In Memoriam:

**Nancy Biemiller Boerup ’66**

January 6, 2022

## 1967

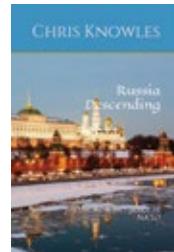
**STEVE BATZELL**

swb.abacus@gmail.com

**JONATHAN ALDERFER** sends news and an invitation: “I was only a student at Sidwell Friends for the last two years of Upper School, so you may have trouble remembering me. However, my daughter, Karly Alderfer ’08, attended Middle and Upper School until graduation and my

mother taught at the Lower School for many years. I worked for *National Geographic* as an editor, writer, and book illustrator when I lived in DC, but I moved to the mid-coast region of Maine seven years ago. I am having a show of my art at the Watergate Gallery in DC (2552 Virginia Ave. NW), including a selection of paintings, drawing, and prints done over four decades. Much of my work is devoted to birds and their habitats, and the show includes illustrations from the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, which I co-authored. The show opens on November 12 and runs until January 28. I will be at the opening on Saturday, November 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. Please drop by. I would love to get reacquainted with some of my Sidwell Friends classmates.” (See photos below.)

**CHRISTOPHER KNOWLES** has regained his muse: “I hit kind of a writer’s block at the beginning of 2022. Maybe it was my second case of COVID-19 (the first was in February 2020). But I finally got back at it. My 23rd published book is titled *Russia Descending: The Re-Emergence of NATO*. It came out in late August. Prompted by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and Sweden and Finland’s joining NATO, it brings the war to a conclusion. It’s in paperback and Kindle.”



**BOB KRAMER** writes: “This September, Nexus Insights, a think tank I founded in 2020 to advance the well-being of older adults through innovative models of housing, community, and health-care, released our first report. Titled *Where Am I, Where Do I Go: The Missing Entry Point to Long-Term Care Solutions for Older Adults and Their Caregivers*, the report highlights the lack of infrastructure to help guide older adults and their families to long-term care services, and it calls on industry and policymakers to create navigational hubs to help families understand their long-term care needs and select the best options for them. Older adults and their families enter a maze of twists and turns, dead



LEFT, CENTER: Arne Paulson ’67 and his wife, Sara, at the Arctic Circle in Iceland RIGHT: Rebecca Kelly ’69



ends, and wrong-way streets when a life crisis forces them to consider their care options. In many cases, they must make critical decisions about long-term care quickly, with scarce information or resources, let alone supportive guidance to assist them in their time of crisis. The report sets forth the need for navigational hubs, primary responsibilities, and criteria for their success. If interested, go to [nexusinsights.net/long-term-care-solutions](https://nexusinsights.net/long-term-care-solutions).”

**BOBBY MILLS** brings us up to date: “After working in higher education for two decades as a lobbyist and six years as senior adviser to the president at Daemen University near Buffalo, I have been elected to the Board of Trustees at a small liberal arts college in Ohio: Defiance College. I worked with the president when she and I were on the president’s cabinet at Daemen. Exciting new opportunity for me in higher education, which I love. Also, I helped our close family friends, Nicolas Deslauriers and family, move into their new home as he starts his next chapter in the NHL with the Philadelphia Flyers. It’s fun to see his career flourish. It reminded me that I never want to move again. Currently, I work as a majority judge at the election polls for in-person early voting at the primary and general elections in Delaware, which will keep me busy—I can never contribute enough time to our most important democratic right. Hope everyone in the class of 1967 is doing great.”

**ARNE PAULSON** shares photos from his trip to Iceland. (See photos above.)

## 1968

**ROLLIE FRYE**

rolliefrye@gmail.com

**DEBORAH HORNER CRAYDON:** “My Random House co-authored book, *Floral Acupuncture: Applying the Flower Essences of Dr. Bach to Acupuncture Sites*, has just been published in Chinese by Publishers Weekly.”



### In Memoriam:

**Keith Pyburn Jr. ’68**

June 3, 2022

**Michele Tucker Jeffery ’68**

June 20, 2022

## 1969

**Want to be a class representative?**

Contact [alumni@sidwell.edu](mailto:alumni@sidwell.edu).

**REBECCA KELLY:** “In the two and a half years since we departed from our loft/studio/home on Broadway in SoHo where we’d lived and worked in the dance world for 45-plus years, we are adjusting to snow country, animal neighbors, and short, intense summers.

Winters, if long, are beautiful in the Adirondacks. We are snug in the cabin we built starting in 1991, on 20 acres of woods and river. We call it ‘Clarion.’ COVID was the clock that said it was time to disband Rebecca Kelly Ballet (est. 1979). ‘Shattered Glass in SoHo as Looters Ransack Lower Manhattan’ read *The New York Times* headline June 1, our day of departure. My husband and fellow dancer, Craig, was diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2020. A few months later, our daughter, Hilary Brashear, moved from Philadelphia to Berkeley, California, where she is working in film editing and documentaries. After months of surgery, chemo, and radiation therapy, we journeyed back and forth to New York City to sift, divest, and move what remained of our belongings—the contents of our office, home, and dance studio since 1974, into our tiny upstate home. Luckily my foreign service childhood presented me with a lifelong aptitude for parting with ‘things.’” (See photo above.)

**DEBORA HIRSHBERG NOONE:** “I’m still hunkered down in coastal Maine. I can’t believe our 50th Reunion is already three years in the past. Looking forward to seeing all in 2024, if not sooner. Since retiring in 2016, I have become a full-time writer, under the pen name ‘Delsora Lowe.’ I have my eighth book up for preorder now—a holiday romance—*The Inn on Gooseneck Lane*. I started writing in 2002, during my stint as alumni director at Sidwell Friends and became a full-time writer



Illustrations by **Jonathan Alderfer ’67** are now on display at the Watergate Gallery.





LEFT: Dorie McCabe, Bob McCabe '70, Carol Sisco '70 RIGHT: Margaret Weaver Steel '70 married Griff Steel in July.



(2016) after working in college alumni and admissions at Unity. I'm a member of several romance-writing chapters in four states. Recently, I joined a community writing group—a fun way to branch out into other genres and non-fiction. If anyone is in Maine—holler. I'd love to get together."

**JIM LYONS:** "My youngest son, Greg, got married in August in Houston, Texas. It was a beautiful ceremony officiated by Greg's brother, Matthew. We were also able to visit the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. I'm still teaching history remotely for Austin Community College. We're doing well in our new home in the Pacific Northwest."

**CAROL SISCO:** Bob McCabe and his wife, Dorie, met Carol at the Annapolis Maritime Museum Beach Bash in September. Carol was named Philanthropist of the Year by the Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County. (See photo above.)

**MARGARET WEAVER STEEL:** Margaret joyfully married Griff Steel on July 30 in Williamsburg, Virginia. Wedding guests included Courtney Murchison '72, Chris Formant '70, Palmer Foret '70, and their spouses. The couple had two honeymoons: a hiking trip in the Canadian Rockies and a river cruise in Portugal. (See photo above.)

## 1971

**MARY REYNER**  
mary.reyner@gmail.com

**DOROTHY DAVIS:** "The September 2022 issue of The Foreign Service Journal focuses on U.S.-Africa relations. The article "Kennedy, Nixon and the Competition for Mr. Africa, 1952-1960," features my father's (Griff Davis) work, a photograph of the first meeting between then-Vice President Richard Nixon and Martin Luther King Jr., with Coretta Scott King and Patricia Nixon, at Ghana's independence celebration in Accra in March 1957. The photo includes a caption written by me. [sidwell.pub/kennedy-nixon](https://sidwell.pub/kennedy-nixon) In addition, my short documentary, Photos by Griff Davis, was screened at the 20th Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival on August 5 and at the inaugural Oak Park Black Film Festival on September 8 in Sacramento, California. Look for the G. Davis Impact Awards at [griffdavis.com](https://griffdavis.com). Griff Davis's photograph of legendary actor Canada Lee being interviewed by Langston Hughes backstage at the Apollo Theater will be permanently displayed in the new Museum of Broadway opening this fall in Times Square, New York City. As the UN Economic and Social Council designee of the Congressional Black Caucus Institute's Global African Diaspora Initiative, I joined the U.S. State Department and Howard University in developing a press conference on August 31 at the Foreign Press Club announcing the creation of the UN Permanent Forum of People of African Descent and the appointment of Howard University Professor of Law Justin Hansford as the U.S. independent expert on that forum. Speakers included: U.S. Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Congressman Gregory Meeks, the Honorable Desiree Cormier-Smith, and the inaugural Special Representative for Racial Equity and Justice of the State Department Justin Hansford. Congresswoman Barbara Lee provided a statement. August 31 was the second International Day for People of African Descent."

**GISELLE DONNELLY**, a senior fellow in Foreign and Defense Policy Studies at the American Enterprise Institute, has just published the first volume of *Empire Imagined: the Personality of American*

*Power*. As the publisher describes it: "The origins of the United States' distinct approach to war and military power are found in the colonial experience. ... In *Empire Imagined*, **Giselle Frances Donnelly** traces the development a maturing strategic consensus and the contingencies inevitable in international politics and offers a unique perspective for understanding the current debate about America's role in the world."

**DAVID BRADLEY:** "This last December, my family did the things that needed doing; on a cold Friday morning, we buried my mom, 100 years old; 99 of those years were exceptional, but by December 2021, it was time for her to be released. And that same night, the oldest of Katherine's and my three sons asked a young woman to marry him. To use the phrase of a friend, he had been 'thunderstruck' by love. We share his certainty. Katherine is board chair of the KIPP schools, the largest charter school nonprofit in the country. Largely, but not completely, we have exited owning media companies. Management has never been my gift. But, oh my, I found this as hard as it was worthwhile. So, I've started a quieter task. I've launched a study of the largest issues affecting 20-somethings—what to do with their lives and whom to be with. There are many of us working on the assignment. Soon, I may know at 69 what might have been helpful at 24." David added: "**Michele Thoren Bond** and her husband, Cliff, both U.S. ambassadors, have helped me anchor two dinners. I know these two certainties: Everyone in the State Department loves Michele, and she will hate coming across this paragraph in my update."

**MICHELE THOREN BOND** separately reports that her oldest daughter, Elizabeth, married a German in Berlin in July; also attending was her godmother, **Elizabeth Rhodes Reich**.

**DEBBIE MANN:** "This was the summer of weddings. My husband, Geoff, and I performed two of them and agreed that we should declare success and retire from that avocation immediately. All in all, we will be attending nine by

October. That, plus seeing many people we were unable to see during the pandemic (and Maine summers are always a draw), made us miss the pandemic in certain ways. Perhaps next year will be more balanced. Retirement seems busier than work life. I joined the Kezar Lake Watershed Board and am already mired in the controversies that surround access to limited resources and threats to water quality."

**JERRY CAVE:** "We love living in Beaufort, South Carolina. Dozens of friends and relatives have stayed overnight in our AirBNFree. Our grandchildren moved in for a month this summer. That was delightful and also frightful. People here ask if I am from the Deep South. I reply, 'No, but I got here as fast as I could.' I'm still working in my digital marketing agency. Newcomers who pop into the office ask my employees if today is Bring-Grandpa-to-Work Day."

**JOHN EMORY** has been songwriting now that he is retired: "I attended the second Spies, Lies, and Nukes conference in Tucson this past May, combining the trip with a visit to see my son and grandson in Palo Alto. During the trip, I finished the melody of my latest song, 'Can't Wait Until the Morning,' which I then wrote lyrics for and recorded. Sadly, my singing still sucks. I also completed lyrics for a parody of Dire Straits' 'Money for Nothing.'"

**DAVID HANSEN** is on sabbatical leave from Columbia Teachers College, where he normally is professor and director in the Program in Philosophy and Education, through August 2023. His most recent book is *Reimagining The Call to Teach: A Witness to Teachers and Teaching*, a sequel to his 1996 book, *The Call to Teach*.

### KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

**JULIA CHALLINOR:** "We moved back to the United States in 2018 after living in the Netherlands for 13 and a half years. We would have loved to stay and learned Dutch to keep our residency status, but a change in our tax profile with the Dutch meant we had to return. We landed in Santa Cruz, California, to be close to family in Oakland. We looked at San Francisco, where we had lived earlier, but didn't recognize it from 2004 when we had left, plus housing prices were truly, as we had heard, through the roof! Santa Cruz is an odd mix of aggressively retired folks (don't ask me about my work life), hardcore surfers (we don't need more surfers here, it's crowded enough), and dedicated environmentalists (lots of farm-to-table eating and fresh vegetables and options to eschew single-use plastic as a norm). We miss Europe in general with its less invasive media about U.S. politics. We are grateful we live by the sea with cooling fog in the morning and 'professionals' at saving water. The latter is ironic considering we moved from a country below sea level with lots and lots of water. I'm still working overseas in countries and regions with areas of significant disparity in health care access, but COVID put an end to travel for two years. Suddenly, it was possible to do consulting even in far distant lands, and WhatsApp has replaced email for communication. Most nurses caring for children with cancer in areas with dicey internet connections can receive documents and share communication widely through their cell phones. Sometimes I long for the days of faxes, since I now live under the tyranny of Zoomtopia." Julia added that she and her husband, Piet, went to Amsterdam for a wedding and "every adult in our family (except me) got COVID despite being fully vaccinated. It was awful. no one wears a mask in the Netherlands and their variant is a beast."

**ANN YOKLAVICH** took a long-anticipated trip to Alaska visiting relatives on Yukon Island, located off the shore of Kenai peninsula in outer Kachemak Bay. Side trips included going to Homer (eight miles away across the Cook Inlet), the Anchorage area, and Denali



National Park, where she was blessed with clear skies to see the mountain. She then went to Vancouver and the Puget Sound area, where she visited classmates **Ellie Wise Ausmus** in Victoria and **Janet Kailin** in Port Angeles, Washington.

**TOM PLUMB**, under the sponsorship of the Hands to Honduras, Inc. organization, recently helped three towns in Honduras build kindergarten schools thanks to contributions from **Ken McCauley**, Ken's husband, David Combs, and Ken's in-laws, who were all honored by having the schools named after them.

**CYNTHIA DODGE** recently officiated at the wedding of her son.

**DANA SACK** has also been officiating at weddings.

**DOUG COLE** went on a five-day retreat near Brisbane, Australia, in early September.

**ELIZABETH SCHEUER** reports that she and her husband, Peter, spent much of COVID time in their home in upstate New York. They are mostly living in the city now. Their oldest daughter came for about 10 days with her husband and their two little girls—the most recent born in July in Cambridge/Boston.

**MICHAEL WILLIAMS**: "This may well be my first contribution. After graduating from Sidwell Friends in '71, I spent a year at Clark before leaving the United States to study at Warwick University and live in the United Kingdom. Most of my working life was spent in and around the automotive industry, which will not be a surprise to many of my classmates. I retired at the end of 2020 following being furloughed. I'm married with one son and looking forward to a hip replacement in October. As I approach my 70th birthday and 30th AA birthday, life is good. When I reflect on my four Upper School years at Sidwell Friends, I acknowledge the integrity of the academic education, but I've come to appreciate above all the gift of critical thinking in all areas of my life. I

write this at a poignant time here in the United Kingdom as we remember our late Queen, a life well lived. And finally, many thanks to our class representatives and Zoom call hosts for enabling us to get together, have fun, and share news." Mike later added that he was on holiday in Norfolk (near Sandringham) when the news of the Queen's death broke, so they made a trip to lay some flowers at the gate along with many others. But like the rest of us, he watched the coverage on TV.

#### FROM THE CLASS REP:

The Class of '71 has been participating in monthly Zoom sessions hosted by, as **Julia Challinor** has noted, the "intrepid and patient **Ken McCauley**." It has been wonderful just to hear what folks are thinking and doing and are passionate about. Consider joining our zZooms and hear more about the great Class of '71.

## 1972

**JOYCE JACOBSON**  
joyce@brastedhouse.com

#### In Memoriam:

**Robert Reese '72**  
January 2022

## 1973

**APRILLE KNIEP SHERMAN**  
shermaner@msn.com

**REGINA DESSOFF KESSLER**  
reginadessler@gmail.com

**SKIP KELLY**: "As manager at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, I have been fortunate to see fellow classmates attending concerts at our venue, including **Michael Tapscott** and **Bill Nye**, who came with his wife, Liza, a few weeks before they married."

**JEFFREY MUMFORD**: "I am delighted to say that this past year has been particularly very productive! I recently completed a new work for string quartet for the celebrated JACK Quartet, commissioned by the Isabella Stuart Gardner Muse-

um in Boston, and I was just awarded a commission from the Kousevitzky Foundation in the Library of Congress, for a work for the String Orchestra of New York City. This past summer, I had works performed at four music festivals, including the Cheltenham Festival in Manchester, United Kingdom, and the Aava Festival in Finland. On October 6, 'brightness dispersed' for cello and string orchestra received its premiere by cellist Mariel Roberts and the String Orchestra of Brooklyn. Presently, I am at work on a piece for viola and harp for the young violist Jordan Bak and harpist Ashley Jackson. Also, I am putting together a new CD of recent concerti (piano, cello, and violin respectively) for a hopeful 2023/24 release on the Albany Records label, with cover artwork by my wife, Donna Coleman (who taught at Sidwell Friends in the 1990s). My wife has had her work exhibited in a number of shows this year. Our daughter, Blythe, is doing very well in her social justice and equity work in Atlanta."

## 1974

**LESLIE WOLF-CREUTZFELDT**  
lcreutzfeldt@yahoo.com

**PETER RASHISH** joined Class of '74 friends for a wonderful evening celebrating creativity. Peter explains: "I enjoyed delving into the DC art scene at the opening night of the 'Sky Studio' exhibition in June featuring works by Anka Zaremba, wife of **Matt Gamser**. The event was held at the Serpentine Dance Studio in Bethesda, run by **Donna Demarco**. **Bill Grant** was also there." (See photo below.)



Peter Rashish '74, Anka Zaremba, and Matt Gamser '74



LEFT: Stephen O'Neill '77 (Tokyo), Geoff Smith '77 (Boston), Stephen Clark '77 (Charlottesville), and Bill Hyun '77 (San Francisco) met for golf in Leesburg, Virginia in July. CENTER: Robert Hyman '77, Deb Atwood RIGHT: Adam Stern '77 testifies at a congressional hearing.



## 1975

**ALAN DRUMMER**  
alandrummer@hotmail.com

**ANN BIESTER DEANE**: "Having lived through the pandemic in New York City, we are back! Never bet against New York City! I am currently a residential real estate broker and while the market has stabilized here, I am quite busy. I spent some quality time with **Therese Rosenblatt** in Martha's Vineyard in August—a wonderful treat. If you haven't read Therese's book, *How Are You?*, I highly recommend it. There is hope in humanity. Two of my adult children live in DC, and my son attends Quaker meetings regularly."

## 1977

**ADAM STERN**  
adamcstern@aol.com

**CHARLES BECKJORD**: "I am living in southeast Minnesota, having retired from a law practice a few years ago. My wife, Nora, and I are living on a wooded six acres. I practice yoga and Buddhism, and I am about to write a book on the mind, how it helps and hinders us, and how various traditions have offered means to deal with it."

**ROBERT HYMAN** and wife, Deb Atwood, have sold their home in Washington, DC, and have moved to Bellingham, Washington, full time: "We do a bunch of summer crabbing, hiking in the mountains, and golf."

**KENNETH JOHNSON**: "I am still living and working in Port St. Lucie, Florida. The only things to report are that I have been blessed with two granddaughters, Theodora, age 1 (from my daughter, Mia) and Cora, age 3 months (from my daughter-in-law, Kate, and son, Michael). Life moves on!"

**BRIAN MUYS**: "In addition to serving as board vice chair for marketing of a local health and wellness nonprofit organization in Asheville, North Carolina, for the last 18 months, I have recently signed on as co-chair for the Carolina Mountain Club's Centennial Communications Committee and the Weaverville, North Carolina, Economic Development Advisory Board. On a more personal note, we recently learned that we will soon have both a new grandson and grandnephew just in time for Christmas! In the meantime, my wife, Siobhan, and I enjoyed a wonderful Mediterranean cruise and layover in Tuscany in October after postponing (like many of us) our original pre-COVID plans two years ago."

**ADAM STERN** testified at a congressional hearing in September on the role offshore wind can play in California's clean energy and climate future. Adam directs Offshore Wind California, a business trade group that represents more than 45 companies. (See photo above.)

## 1978

**PETER MACDONALD**  
pmacdona@skidmore.edu

**CHERYL BASCOMB**: "I ran in the New Hampshire Senior Games track meet this August after taking a few decades (and a new hip) off from sprinting. Managed to qualify for next year's Senior Games Nationals in the 200 and the 400 meters. Planning to start training more seriously for nationals in July 2023. What could possibly go wrong?"

**WILLIAM "DAVID" CORNWELL**: "We finally launched LIV Golf, a new professional golf league. I negotiated agreements for Dustin Johnson and Harold Varner III to join LIV Golf and served as an advisor to numerous other players, including Bubba Watson, Sergio Garcia, Martin Kaymer, Charl Schwarzel, and Louis Oosthuizen. Next year, LIV will introduce its team series with 12 teams. I will serve as team principal for Dustin Johnson's team, 4Aces."

**JAY HOWARD JR.** visited **Al Burke** in Pittsburgh and **Bill Peyser** in Bethesda in early May. (See photos on next page.)

**HILARY KACSER**: "Had such a fun time at Summer with Friends and look forward to seeing everybody at Homecoming in October! A highlight was meeting **Jake Watson '18**, who is in his first year back at Sidwell Friends as a Middle and Upper School Latin teacher. Jake is a former student of Carl Wilbur, and Jake and I enjoyed Movie Night. In case people don't yet know, the school has a new mascot. No longer the mighty Quakers, we are the Star Foxes, in honor of George Fox. (I think School colors might be morphing, too!) Nice to hang with the mascot. See you on campus! Peace, good health, and justice." (See photo on next page.)





LEFT: Al Burke '78, Jay Howard '78 CENTER: Bill Peyser '78, Jay Howard '78 RIGHT: Hilary Kacser '78



#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

We are still the Quakers! We just have a new mascot, Star Fox. It's a big tent.

**BROOKE LEA:** "Back in May, **Jay Howard** and **Al Burke** threatened to come visit me in Saint Paul, Minnesota, in August. They said they would drive (from Tennessee and Pittsburgh, respectively), and they wanted to go fishing. 'Great,' I thought. Followed quickly by: 'That'll never happen.' But it did happen. We had a wonderful weekend together (see pic of the three of us bombing down the Mighty Mississippi in my family's 48-year-old Boston Whaler). And we caught fish! Others interested in a visit to Minnesota should know that, in addition to some rivers you may have heard of, we're well-positioned in terms of lakes. Summer months recommended. All are welcome!" (See photo on next page.)

**BILL PEYSER:** "A few local classmates convened at my and Ann's house in Bethesda on September 4 to welcome **Bing Shaw** back to this area." (See photo on next page.)

**BING SHAW** unexpectedly ran into **Karin Froelicher Grimsted**: "Karin and I are both school-based speech-language pathologists; she is in Washington and I am back in Maryland after several years in Boston. Unbeknownst to me, we were both on a Zoom webinar when I suddenly got a message: 'Did you graduate from Sidwell Friends in 1978?' How lovely to reconnect with a classmate who also happens to work in the same field! Karin works with K-5 and I work with preschoolers with autism."

**MIRIAM ZIMMERMAN:** "It's taken me a year to bear sending in this news. File this under major life changes. My husband and filmmaking partner of 30-plus years, Steve York, died of a ruptured aortic aneurysm in August 2021. Here's the tribute I wrote for our company website, [sidwell.pub/york](http://sidwell.pub/york). As I step into the future without my beloved, I've turned a hobby into a small business. I grow and press flowers and turn them into whimsical designs that I sell as prints, cards, and printed onto dish towels, baby clothes, and more. The fabulous **Marli Heimann Pasternak** surprised me at my debut pop-up in May to support my efforts and shop. It was so great to see her! I'll be selling at the Reston, Virginia, craft market this fall. Come visit or check out my work at [artfromthegardenoriginals.com](http://artfromthegardenoriginals.com)."

## 1980

**WILLIAM RICE**  
williamrice63@gmail.com

**APRIL AGGER:** "Hello, classmates! I hope you are doing great. I'm about to embark on my third RV adventure with my boyfriend, Jeff Lortz. (He is not a Quaker.) Our first adventure took us to Arizona, Utah, New Mexico, and Nevada. Our second trip was in California where we explored Sonoma and Napa Valley, Lake Tahoe, and the northern coastline of California. California is so majestic! This time, we are staying local and cruising around Maine: Portland, Boothbay Harbor, and Bar Har-

bor. We are bringing our adorable but sometimes annoying bulldog pup, Mac. Has anyone else done any RV trips? In other news, I bought a small condo in Provincetown during COVID, and I have been renovating it ever since. Hopefully, it will be done by Thanksgiving! When I'm not on vacation or working on my P-Town place, you can find me in my 23rd year selling real estate for Compass—helping my friends/clients buy their dream homes and/or selling their homes for top dollar! If you ever need a good agent, I would be happy to try to connect you with one of my colleagues near where you live."

**NEPHELIE ANDONYADIS, ALEJANDRA BRONFMAN, RADHIKA RAJAGOPALAN HARIHARAN, MARYLAND PAO, and KERRY PELZMAN:** "A group of us opted to get off Zoom and meet up to celebrate 60 at the shore. Much grilling, some gin and tonics, and endless gabbing ensued. We raised a glass to the classmates who could not join us and reminisced about our days at Sidwell Friends—although lots of other updates were shared as well! (Kerry took a lot of photos in addition to mixing said libations!)" (See photo on next page.)

**PATIENCE MOORE:** "I live in Montclair, New Jersey, working happily as a therapist with kids, teens, and adults. Specialties include Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, EMDR, and supporting gender-nonconforming youth. My sons are in college at Penn and UC Berkely, allowing for fun visits. Free time is spent cycling, swimming, and pursuing the arts!"

**ROBERT MORRIS JR.:** "**Jens Gorne** and I organized a cross-continental Sidwell Friends reunion in the Baltic Sea, in Stockholm, and on the historic—and militarily strategic— island of Gotland. Captains Gorne and Morris shared nautical lore and dreams of future adventures on the (not so?) high seas. It has been almost two years since we worked together to import the classic Storebro Royal Cruiser 34 yacht from this maritime nation to my deep-south tropical lair and, before this trip, almost a half a century since having last seen each other (1976). Neither one of us had changed a bit... ." (See **Jens Gorne's** note below to continue the story.)

**JENS GORNE:** "...Well, one of us had. It was great fun, meeting an ol' SFser like **Bobby Morris** and showing off this world-class European capital built across 14 islands. What you call nautical dreams, I call business plans. I had to use every form of persuasion to keep Captain Morris from acquiring yet another cruiser—'Aye, sell the one you have first, Sir!'—as we identified multiple export targets throughout the 30,000-island archipelago. Welcome back at any time, Bobby; and by extension, ditto that to other vacation-aspiring or nautical-dreaming Class of '80 members (remember to tip the tour guide)."

**WILLIAM RICE:** "I was walking my dog on the edge of a neighborhood park early this summer when I saw two pairs of gray-haired men playing catch with baseballs and baseball gloves. An odd sight—I moved closer and confirmed my first impression. 'How do I join?'"

Connections were made and soon I was a regular. Here at last was the rejoinder to my oft-uttered complaint: 'Why after a certain age is it no longer possible to go out and play?' Oh, sure, as an older adult you can make golf dates and tennis dates and run marathons and do other official activities—but just play catch? I thought not, but I was happily wrong. Another pleasant surprise was that all these years after sitting forlornly on the bench or being screamed at by Phil Sandifer to 'Catch the fly ball!' I and my (admittedly older) new playmates all displayed approximately the same baseball skill. That newfound parity even extended to fielding ground balls and smacking the rawhide around the batting cages. I was finally just one of the guys. It's good to go out and play, whatever your age, skill, or infirmity. I hope to continue the practice indefinitely."

## 1981

**ANDREW SZANTON**  
aszanton@rcn.com

## 1982

**TED MORROW-SPITZER**  
tspitzer@marketventuresinc.com

## 1983

**LINDA GAUS**  
gaushaus1965@verizon.net



LEFT: Brooke Lea '78, Al Burke '78, Jay Howard '78 CENTER: From the Class of '78: Marli Heimann Pasternak, Barbara Andrews, Bing Shaw, Brandel France de Bravo, Krishnan Rajagopalan, Bill Peyser RIGHT: Nephelie Andonyadis, Alejandra Bronfman, Kerry Pelzman, Radhika Rajagopalan Hariharan, and Maryland Pao celebrate their 60th birthdays at the shore.



## 1984

SARAH WILLIAMS

sarah@propelcapital.org

ANN CLARK ESPUELAS

aespuelas08@gmail.com

LIZ BERNSTEIN NORTON

lizbnorton@gmail.com

## 1985

HILARY DAYTON

hcdayton@gmail.com



Class of '85 alumnae Lisa Bulman Mullen, Hilary Dayton, Mary Dixon Raibman, Meg Elliott Smith, Beth Ewing, Eleni Rossides (present but absent from photo)

On July 7, 2022, members of the Class of 1985 met in Washington, DC, for a joyous respite from the days of the pandemic. Among those gathered were **Hilary Dayton, David Schrag, Jesse Levine, Bill Adams, Bart Bickel, Phil London, Mary Dixon Raibman, Diana Lazarus, Lisa Bulman Mullen, and Meg Elliott Smith**. This bond that will always be celebrated with Friends, and also with absent ones. (See photos above.) Next, on August 23, 2022, and with the momentum in full swing, several ladies from the Class of 1985 met for dinner in DC. When world events interfere with a reunion, the Class of '85 steps up! (See photo above.) Finally, a third evening out among friends from '85 took place on August 26, 2022, and included David Schrag, Eric Hostetler, Bill Adams, Phil London, and Hilary Dayton. For all those who were absent, we certainly missed seeing you, but we're not finished yet!

**SONYA CLARK:** "Any of you good folks who are in or passing through the DMV, I hope you'll stop by the Smithsonian's



**TOP:** Members of the Class of 1985 this summer (left to right): Mary Dixon Raibman, Bill Adams, Phil London, Jesse Levine, Lisa Bulman Mullen, David Schrag, Bart Bickel, Hilary Dayton, Diana Lazarus, Meg Elliott Smith  
**BOTTOM LEFT:** Lisa Bulman Mullen '85, Bill Adams '85 **BOTTOM CENTER:** Jesse Levine '85, David Schrag '85  
**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Phil London '85, Meg Elliott Smith '85

Renwick Gallery (across the street from the White House). They recently acquired my hundred-fold replica, *Monumental*, of the Truce Flag that ended the Civil War. The inspiration, half of the original Confederate Truce Flag (a white dishcloth) used at Appomattox, is in the National Museum of American History. My artwork, *Monumental*, is 15 by 30 feet. It's up through March 2023. Check it out and let me know what you think." (See photo below.)



Sonya Clark '85 and Dr. Lonnie Bunch, director of the Smithsonian, at the opening of *Monumental*

**BRIAN MCKAIG**, now an empty-nester, has moved to Boston to lead enterprise communications for Boston Children's Hospital: "After 25 years in Milwaukee raising three kids, reporting in TV news, and leading corporate marketing/communications, I moved in August. It has been great connecting with **Susie Blake Murphy '86** and **David Schrag** in person. And of course, it was great to receive the supportive texts/calls assuring me I'm not crazy from **Bill Strathmann, Rachel Williams '86, Julia Kellison '86, Ann Clark Espuelas '84, Amanda Lehrer Nash, and Ana Gasteyer**. It takes a village."

**JENNIFER ZEIDMAN BLOCH:** "I was grateful to have the opportunity to meet **Minhua Zhang '01** in New York this summer. Minhua came from Shanghai to Sidwell Friends as part of the Zeidman Chinese Studies program for his senior year in high school—before heading to Harvard in 2001. We had a lovely time getting to know each other over breakfast at Google." (See photo on next page.)



**LEFT:** Minhua Zhang '01 and Jennifer Zeidman Bloch '85 **CENTER:** A new collection by Licity Collins '90 **RIGHT:** Alissa Goldman Ede '90 and Meta Puttkammer Valentie '90 at the Kensington Palace Café



## 1986

LAURA LONDON

lauramlondon@yahoo.com

**TOM RHOADS:** "After nearly 20 years in Maryland, my family and I pulled up stakes this summer and relocated back to Philadelphia, closer to my parents and to the friends we made while living there in the 1990s. Moving is hard in many ways—especially after so long in one place! But we like Philly, and we're gradually getting settled."

## 1987

TIP COFFIN

tip@teamcoffin.com

## 1988

LOUISE ANDREWS

louiseandrews@me.com

**SANDY CROCKETT** has been appointed general counsel of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District by the agency's Board of Directors. Crockett was appointed to serve as interim CEO for two and a half months after the retirement of the previous CEO and then moved over to general counsel on May 23. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is the regional agency that protects air quality, public health, and the global climate for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area.

## 1989

ELIZABETH WYATT

ebwyatt@aol.com

**MARIE "PIPO" BUI:** "I'm writing from Cyprus, where I'm enjoying early retirement. My husband, Sebastian, and I had an active 2022: We rebuilt our café in downtown Seattle following its destruction due to arson the previous year, sold the company and our house, and are in the process of moving to Europe. Our two young adult 'kids' are living in Seattle on their own, and considering coming across the pond soon. COVID was awful, but empty-nesting is working out nicely!"

## 1990

JUSTINE WRUBLE FAHEY

justinewfahey@gmail.com

**LICITY COLLINS:** "I am excited to announce a new release of spoken-word stories scored by several solo musicians to make a strange and beautiful dialogue of word and sound. *The Flower in the Mirror Was Dead* is out now. You can listen on my website [licitycollins.com](http://licitycollins.com) and on all streaming services. The collection is an inquiry into grief, love, loss, longing, frustration, neglect, sorrow, and misunderstanding. There is no false hope. It is deep with honesty, beauty, and discovery. It has sounds that range from bassoon to violin to electric guitar. Sounds from classical to jazz to punk rock. Musicians ranging from

Washington, DC, to California to Paris. I am thrilled to say that my Sidwell classmate **Amanda Huron** is featured playing drum metals on the second story, titled, "Rest." It was a dream come true to work with Amanda on this. She has been a hero of mine for a long time. We've known each other since 3rd grade at Sidwell Friends and our shared daily school-bus #3 rides home "across the park" to our real neighborhoods in DC. For the cover of this collection, I reached back into my time at Sidwell Friends and a drawing of mine that was published in *Quarterly* magazine when I was in 9th grade. It is such a clear cry of pain, yet even though it was so publicly shared, it went so unnoticed. It has been nagging at me ever since. It made an appearance in one of the stories, and I knew then it was the perfect cover for this collection. This work is special. It will have an important meaning to those who connect with it. Please listen. Also please join my community. And write me a note and let me know your experience." (See photo above.)

**META PUTTKAMMER VALENTIC:** "I broke COVID semi-isolation in a big way, attending the Queen's Jubilee in London this June. **Alissa Goldman Ede** and I reconnected and took a tour of Kensington Palace. We also had a lovely tea at the Kensington Palace Café. I'm writing my first novel set in a fictional British monarchy, and the trip was very helpful for research. And to reconnect with old friends!" (See photo above.)





**LEFT:** Mateo Love, **David Sabel '97**, Jordan Love, **Molly Whitehead Love '97**, and Alicia Love have afternoon tea in London. **CENTER:** Colin Montgomery '97 and his son, Henry, visit **Matt McCulloch '97**, **Jill Romansky McCulloch '97**, and their son, **Logan McCulloch '32**, this August. **RIGHT:** **Alison Friedman '98** at one of the Carolina Performing Arts' theaters at UNC-Chapel Hill



## 1991

**TIM HANRAHAN**

tim.hanrahan@gmail.com

**ALEXANDER "LEE" BOYLE:** "Alumni friends of **David Granger**—including myself, **Jon Bulman**, **Geoff Gross**, **Justin Murphy**, **Tim Hanrahan**, **Frank Hanrahan**, **Julio Corales**, and **Paul Thornell '90**—celebrated Dave's life and 50th birthday at a restaurant in DC in late July. I think everyone enjoyed sharing memories of our good friend, and we plan to continue this annual memorial gathering as we have since Dave passed in 2016."

**CHARLOTTE KAISER:** "After 13 years at the Nature Conservancy (more time than I spent even at Sidwell Friends!), I have left to join the Timberland Investment Group, a timber investment management company with a portfolio of sustainably managed working forests in the United States and Latin America. I'll be their new head of impact finance, managing partnerships with the Nature Conservancy and Conservation International and developing new strategies to increase the firm's positive impact on biodiversity and the climate. I'm working with a fantastic team at the leading edge of investing for climate and nature. Best of all, I get to stay in Missoula—come visit!"

## 1994

**BETSY STOEL**

estoel@gmail.com

**NOAH BICKART** was recently appointed the inaugural Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Chair in Jewish Studies at John Carroll University in University Heights, Ohio. His monograph, *The Scholastic Culture of Babylonian Talmud*, has just been published by Gorgias Press.

## 1997

**ELLEN CORNELIUS ERICSON**

eccornie@gmail.com

**LORY IVEY ALEXANDER** won the 2022 S&R Evermay Washington Award Fillmore Prize for Fine Art. Visit [loryivey.com](http://loryivey.com) for more information about her paintings, collage work, and social practice. She is also thrilled to share her partnership with the Conrad Hotels and Resorts to launch an art tour package here at the Conrad Washington. Finally, Lory is featured in Natasha Martin's anthology, *Black Powerful*, released in September 2022 by McSweeney's.

**MOLLY WHITEHEAD LOVE** and her family—Jordan, Alicia (14), and Mateo (11)—set off this summer on their first adventures since March 2020. They returned to the Isle of Skye, Scotland, and then visited **David Sabel**, his partner, Dan, and their dog, Marcel, at their home

in London. Molly is currently the coordinator and department chair of social emotional learning at the McLean School in Maryland. David currently runs his own production company, Sabel Productions, which has created a number of recent productions, including two on PBS's Great Performances: *Keeping Company* with Sondheim and *Romeo and Juliet*. (See photo above.)

**COLIN MONTGOMERY:** "Here is a picture from a brief get together that my son, Henry, and I were able to squeeze in with **Matt McCulloch**, **Jill Romansky McCulloch**, and their son, **Logan McCulloch '32**, this August. Nothing exceptional to report except our Manhattan-raised city-kid cannot believe the McCullochs are able to have their very own actual trampoline. Fun was had, pizza consumed." (See photo above.)

## 1998

**Want to be a class representative?**

Contact [alumni@sidwell.edu](mailto:alumni@sidwell.edu).

**ALISON FRIEDMAN:** "After 20 years in greater China, I've moved to North Carolina! In fall 2021, I became the new executive and artistic director of Carolina Performing Arts at UNC-Chapel Hill. We bring dance, theater, music, opera, comedy, and more from around the world to the Research Triangle. I'd love to (re)connect with Sidwell friends in the area. Carolina barbeque anyone?" (See photo above.)

## 1999

**Want to be a class representative?**

Contact [alumni@sidwell.edu](mailto:alumni@sidwell.edu).

**WEI KE:** "Jia, big brother Theo, and I are excited to welcome Ethan Jiaqing Ke to join our ever expanding family. Born on July 24 in New York City, Ethan measured 3.13 kilograms in weight and 49 centimeters in length. As of the time of writing this note, Ethan is happily climbing the growth curve." (See photo below)



Wei Ke '99 and family

## 2000

**Want to be a class representative?**

Contact [alumni@sidwell.edu](mailto:alumni@sidwell.edu).

In August 2022, a small group from the Class of 2000 and their families gathered in East Lyme, Connecticut, for a mini-Sidwell Friends reunion. **Brookes Gore '00** hosted a beautiful weekend at his home for friends to reconnect and reaffirm the bonds they made. (See photo above.)

**TREVA LINDSEY:** A small group of Sidwell alumni made their way to the Strand Bookstore in New York for the official book release of Treva B. Lindsey's most recent book, *America, Goddam: Violence, Black Women, and the Struggle for Justice*. It was a lovely evening attended by



Amir Jenkins '01, Rebeca Wolfe-Balbuena '00, Treva B. Lindsey '00, and Brookes Gore '00 celebrate Treva's book release.

**Amir Jenkins '01, Rebeca Wolfe-Balbuena '00, and Brookes Gore '00.** (See photo above.)

**SHIREEN TAWIL:** "My family and I moved to London in 2020 and are happily settled in the borough of Lewisham. I've gotten increasingly involved with Extinction Rebellion as a way to fight the climate and ecological emergency. I write for and coordinate Extinction Rebellion's *Global Blog* ([rebellion.global/news/#blog](https://rebellion.global/news/#blog)) and am a member of other XR groups. I help run our family business, HerbaFi (a medical cannabis dispensary in Silver Spring, Maryland) and volunteer by resettling refugee families

to Lewisham. My days are full, and I've got two lovely kids who keep me on my toes and inspired! Give me a shout if you pass through London!"

## 2001

**ELIZA ORLINS**

eorlins@gmail.com

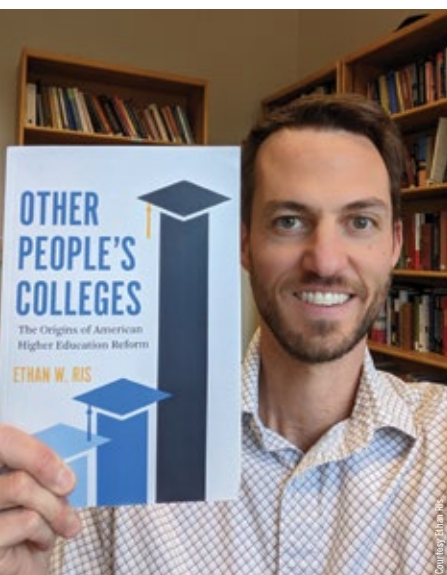
**LAUREN BROWNLEE:** "I recently moved back to DC to serve as associate general secretary for community and culture at the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). I would love to reconnect with friends in the area and to support anyone who wants to take action with FCNL!"

**ETHAN RIS:** "In June 2022, my first book was published by the University of Chicago Press. *Other People's Colleges* is a complete reinterpretation of higher education in the United States prior to World War II, focusing on how policy elites tried and (largely) failed to construct college access and reshape the form and function of undergraduate education." (See photo on next page.)

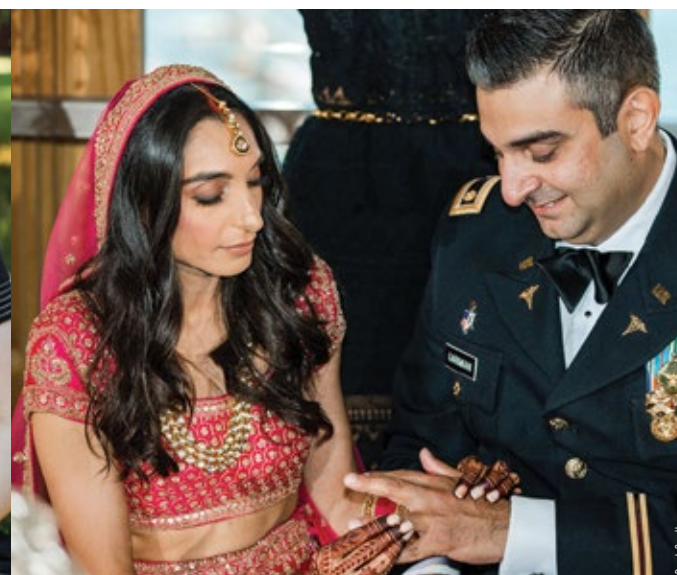


**Sara Madavo-Jean Jacques '00**, (with her husband, Michael, and sons, Nico and Noah), **Nyia Noel '00** (with her daughter, Dahlia), **Brookes Gore '00** (with his wife, Nicole, and daughter, Madison, and son, Grayson), **Rebeca Wolfe-Balbuena '00** (with her husband, Jose, and son, Lucas, and daughter, Luna), **Robynn Scott-Clayton Nichols '00** and **Jerome Nichols '00** (with son, Maxwell, and daughter, Ruby), **Shaba Lightfoot '00**, and **Treva Lindsey '00** came together for a truly memorable weekend in East Lyme, Connecticut.





**LEFT:** Ethan Ris '01 **CENTER:** Brett Sanet '01 with his wife, Alex, and children, Emmy and Win, at Isle of Palms, South Carolina **RIGHT:** Emma Wolman '01 with her husband, Ian Irvine, and new son, Jonas Irvine



**LEFT:** Nina Tandon Karimian '02 married Amir Karimian in August. **RIGHT:** Amy Rothschild '05, Hallie Trauger '06, Daria Kuznetsova '06, Jon Extein '06, Sam Feldman '06, Cantwell Muckenfuss '06, Marshall Strother '06, Michael Leibenluft '06, Gio Russonello '06, Meredith Case '06, Nora Dankner '06, and Adam Umbach

**BRENT SANET:** “My wife, Alex, and I welcomed our son, Edwin (“Win”) Lee Sanet, to our family on July 8, 2022. Win loves the beach, his BabyBjorn, and his older sister, Emmy (2)—who is thrilled to have a baby brother to play with. We are living near Davidson College outside of Charlotte, North Carolina, and look forward to meeting up with other Sidwell Friends alumni in the area.” (See photo above.)

**EMMA WOLMAN:** “Hello classmates! My husband, Ian, and I had a baby we named Jonas in February 2022, and we haven’t slept since. I have worked at Nike for several years managing the brand’s marketing archives from its headquarters outside of Portland, Oregon. Would love to see any former classmates if anyone passes through the Pacific Northwest!” (See photo above.)

**NINA TANDON KARIMIAN** married Amir Karimian, a craft brewery owner, army officer, and doctor (in that order, he would tell you), on August 13, 2022, at an African American history museum and park on the Baltimore harbor. It was the second happiest day of their lives—the day after, dawning with the realization that they were done planning the wedding, being the happiest. Nina’s older brother, **Nick Tandon '00**, and his wife, Neha, hosted a night before reception at the Baltimore Museum of Art. The newlyweds relocated this summer for a two-year stay in San Diego, where Nina works as in-house counsel and ponders whether there are, in fact, any local meteorologists or simply computers with copy/paste functions issuing the Groundhog Day-esque daily forecast. (See photo on next page.)

She recently visited with **Michael Leibenluft '06** in Brooklyn while in town for the opening of *Remember This, The Lesson of Jan Karski*, off Broadway, for which Jaster served as movement director. In April 2023, Jaster will be directing Heartbeat Opera’s *Lady M*, a new adaptation by long-time collaborator, **Ethan Heard '02**, whom she is thrilled to welcome back to DC! She lives in Wheaton, Maryland, with **Matt Pearson '01**—one with no sails, and one with no rudder. Their child, Ellis, is 7.

## 2004

**ZEESHAN ALEEM**  
zeeshanaleem2@gmail.com

**JULIA ROWNY:** “I just started year 13 of teaching, making it through remote and hybrid learning (mostly) unscathed! After two years at a boarding school, I returned to the day-school life. I’m now at Boston University Academy, a high school within BU, and I live in Salem, Massachusetts. Outside of work, I started commentating for video game tournaments and charity speed-running marathons on Twitch, and I dream about talking about video games for a living.”

**CHRISTOPHER SANDERS:** “Hi Friends! I recently left the Federal Public Defender in Seattle and joined the Pacifica Law

## 2002

**CAMILO ACOSTA**  
cbacosta@gmail.com

**ETHAN HEARD:** “I moved back to DC and began work as associate artistic director of Signature Theatre in Arlington. I’m directing two shows this season: Ana Nogueira’s new comedy *Which Way to the Stage* (December/January) and Sondheim’s *Pacific Overtures* (March/April).”

## 2003

**NAABIA OFOSU-AMAAH**  
n.ofosuamaah@gmail.com

**KATIE MATHEWS**  
katiecmathews@gmail.com

**EMMA JASTER** is teaching movement at Shakespeare Theater Company’s Academy of Classical Acting and at Georgetown University, where she often cross-paths with **Brittany Toscano-Gore**.

## 2006

**JOHN SANDERS**  
jsanders36@gmail.com

Group, also in Seattle, where I represent and advise cities, businesses, and nonprofits on complex litigation and public policy matters. Feel free to reach out if you are in town at **chris.michael.sanders@gmail.com**.”

## 2005

**RANDA TAWIL**  
randa.may.tawil@gmail.com

**NASSER MUHAMMAD**  
nasser.muhammad.1@gmail.com

**JONI MILLER** is running a conservation landscaping business, Native Roots Landscaping, with her husband, Thomas Schneider, that focuses on the installation and maintenance of native plants and environmentally beneficial landscapes. They have a son, Archie, who is 2 and a half years old (a COVID baby!) and who just started preschool—and hopes to go to Sidwell one day! (See photo on bottom left.)

**MICHAEL LEIBENLUFT** and Jason Glick were married on September 17. (See photo above.)

## 2007

**ALEX AKMAN**  
akman.alex@gmail.com

**GEORGIA KOCH BERNSTEIN** and her husband, Mike Bernstein, welcomed Dahlia Joy Bernstein to the world on August 4 at 11:01 a.m.: “We feel so lucky and grateful to be her parents, and to have such a wonderful community of family and friends to welcome her into.” (See photo below.)

## 2008

**DELANEY KEMPNER**  
dckempner@gmail.com



**LEFT:** Archie Schneider, Joni Miller '06, Thomas Schneider **RIGHT:** Dahlia, daughter of Georgia Koch Bernstein '07, at 6 weeks old





# Help Us Light The Way Forward



## PLANNED GIVING *at* SIDWELL FRIENDS SCHOOL

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

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

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

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

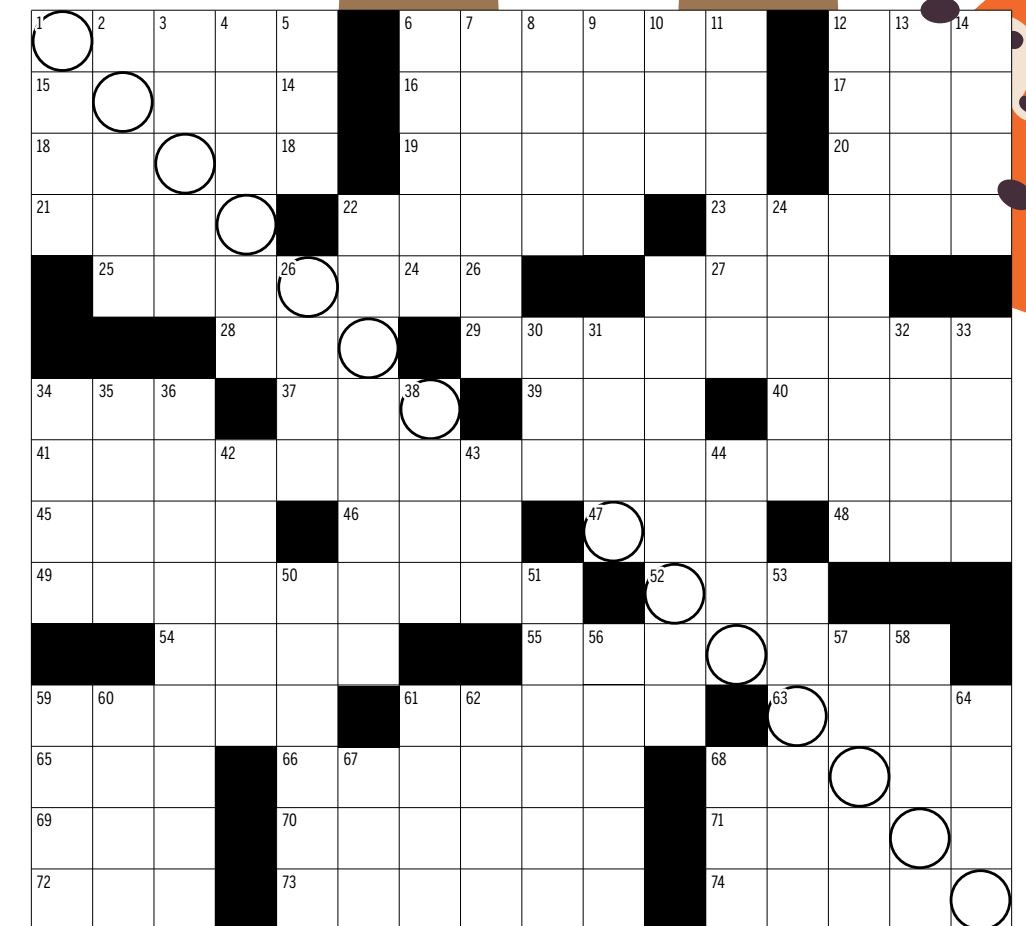
Please visit [plannedgiving.sidwell.edu](https://plannedgiving.sidwell.edu) and consult your financial advisors about tax and other considerations. For more information, contact Tara Arras, Assistant Head of School for Advancement at (202) 537-8117 or [arrast@sidwell.edu](mailto:arrast@sidwell.edu).



## Words with Friends: Great Wall of China

### ACROSS

- 1 Play groups
- 6 Hostile feeling
- 12 AAA service
- 15 "Yes indeed!"
- 16 Parmesan alternative
- 17 Before, poetically
- 18 Actress Knightley of "Anna Karenina"
- 19 Creature that, according to legend, helped lay out the path of 41-Across
- 20 Meadowland
- 21 Make, as a living
- 22 Attend the tenyear anniversary, say
- 23 First "fully synthetic" fiber created by DuPont
- 25 Keeps contained
- 27 Dates casually
- 28 Line of work: Abbr.
- 29 Those with a certain advantage, in sports
- 34 The Cardinals, on scoreboards
- 37 "I suppose you're right!"
- 39 Brynner of "The King and I"
- 40 Razor cut
- 41 Series of fortifications that stretches from the Liaodong to the Lop Lake, and can also be found, literally in the circled letters of this puzzle
- 45 Frog's uptight pal in a children's classic
- 46 Haiti's \_\_\_\_ de la Tortue
- 47 Big A.T.M. maker
- 48 The pleats on a chef's hat are said to represent the number of ways to cook this
- 49 Exploding star
- 52 Former sponsor of the Volksparkstadion
- 54 Abscond
- 55 Slice of the pie?
- 59 Trims
- 61 Iconic feature of 41-Across that some people use to exit
- 63 Chocolate Swiss roll snack whose name is reminiscent of the brand that produces it
- 65 In the past
- 66 Plain homes?
- 68 Unadorned font
- 69 Cello tuner



Puzzle by Aimee Lucido

- 70 Keeper of the World Heritage Site list, upon which 41-Across can be found
- 71 Jules who wrote "Journey to the Center of the Earth"
- 72 Jenny, for one
- 73 Wildcats and Cougars play in it
- 74 Person of the Year Thunberg

### DOWN

- 1 Juice veggie, informally
- 2 In front
- 3 English county
- 4 Ask, as for help
- 5 Syllable in barber shop quartet songs
- 6 Fictional forest whose name is one letter shy of another place where you might find flowers
- 7 "Take your time!"
- 8 Supermodel from Somalia
- 9 Dungeons & Dragons class
- 10 "I'm about to win!" call in a card game
- 11 Literally, "little song"
- 12 Perjures oneself, perhaps
- 13 Cookie whose name is rumored to derive from the French word meaning "gold"
- 14 Help to withdraw
- 22 Agkud or sato
- 24 "Oof!"
- 26 Cube of zwei
- 27 What getting a facial is an example of
- 30 Popeye's Olive \_\_\_\_
- 31 Subatomic particle that sounds like a Greek letter
- 32 Dynasty credited with the majority of the construction of the 41-Across
- 33 How a male deer goes to a party?
- 34 Some NCOs
- 35 Pants, slangily
- 36 Jumps (over)
- 38 Nimbus, in art
- 42 One-named "Hello" singer
- 43 Potok's "My Name is Asher \_\_\_\_"
- 44 Shoe that sells Jibbitz charms
- 50 "Get some sleep!"
- 51 Each
- 53 "The Elements" singer Tom
- 56 Pelé's first name
- 57 Black, in Bordeaux
- 58 U follower
- 59 Letter before Quebec
- 60 Tenderizes a steak, in a way
- 61 Blueprint detail
- 62 For fear that
- 64 Olive genus
- 67 Disney doe
- 68 It's mean?: Abbr.





## Folk Wisdom

**A nondigital camera, several rolls of black-and-white film, and one timeless house.**

John Flower's China Folk House attracts visitors interested in history, architecture, and culture. It also attracts photographers. Carissa Qin '24 made her way out to Harper's Ferry, Virginia, in October for a reunion with friends who participated in China Folk House programming last summer—and it felt like the perfect moment to bring along her film camera:

"My favorite thing about film, in general and especially with this roll, is the moment when you

finally see the images after you develop it. I usually develop my black-and-white film at school during lunch, and it was really nice to finally see all the pictures and fun memories from that day like two weeks later on a random Wednesday. In general, I use black-and-white film because it's more forgiving and it's better for the environment—but also because it gives the pictures a more authentic and folksier feel. To be honest, it's quite fitting for the Folk House."

NEW PRODUCTS ADDED!

## THE FOX DEN



## SHOW YOUR QUAKER PRIDE

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



Shop today at **sidwell.pub/foxden**.

The prices are so good, it's crazy—crazy like a fox!



# Sidwell Friends

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## POSITIVE LOCKER SIGNS

An optimistic start to the year from the Quaker Life Committee & Random Acts of Kindness Club.



## TWICE THE TOUCHDOWN

Natalie Randolph '98 and Coach Gainey win DC Diva awards: "This is amazing!! Congrats you two 🍷" and "Legendary!! 🍷"



## FEEL GOOD FRIDAY

A roundup of thumbs-up photographs from around campus garners the most likes of the fall: 253!



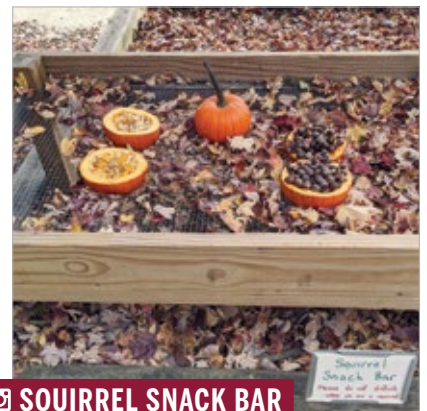
## SIDWELL PROUD

The PA Pride Committee Walks to End HIV to much applause: "As an alum and board member of @whitman-walker thank you thank you thank you!!"



## DIWALI PICNIC

A collection of photos from the PAS Diwali picnic sparked in our feed, with 218 likes and a "🍷🍷" in the comments.



## SQUIRREL SNACK BAR

A Lower School science experiment makes for a fun social post and a clever re-use of old pumpkins: "Please do not disturb, unless you are a squirrel!"