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MAGAZINE SUMMER 2024

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PLUS

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is back in college—to
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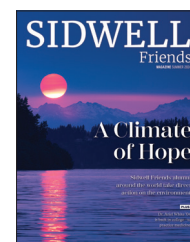
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ON THE COVER

Ryan Dicks '94 of AirWaterLand photography captures a sunset in Washington state—where he is also a sustainable resources administrator.

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From the Editor

SACHA ZIMMERMAN P '29

Each spring brings a certain amount of wistfulness to Sidwell Friends. First the 4th graders make the leap to Middle School, then the 8th graders transition to Upper School, and finally the seniors stand under the wisteria behind Zartman House for the last time as Sidwell Friends students. At Commencement, they are suddenly Sidwell Friends alumni (read more about end-of-year ceremonies on page 6). After spending the majority of their lives in grade school, the Class of 2024 looked utterly jubilant in June—though families, teachers, and staff seemed almost caught off guard: How did they grow up so fast?

Luckily the promise of these young people is legion. As the feature “Senior Project or Second Career” demonstrates, the talent among the class is evident (page 44). In just a quick snapshot of senior projects, we encounter an engagement with civil discourse that is made for this national moment; a chemistry breakthrough that will no doubt soon be published; and a deep dive into the world of race cars—and race. (At the end of the day, fast cars are still just really cool.)

What’s more, as Sidwell Friends alumni routinely prove, the drive these graduates demonstrate now will only grow with time. Dr. Ariel White ’04, featured in “Living Their Values,” has devoted her career to the unique health care needs of youth and young adults (see page 48). In “Friends of the Earth,” writer Sala Levin chronicles the efforts of six alumni who have their sights firmly set on addressing the global challenge of our time: the climate crisis (page 30). They are educating, experimenting, and innovating around the world—from a cloud forest in Costa Rica to the Chesapeake Bay.

And to Boston, Massachusetts, where 2024 Commencement speaker Kelsey Wirth ’87 launched Mothers Out Front, an environmental movement designed to take direct action in this existential fight. “We understand the urgent need to transform how we live on this planet,” she told the graduates. “And we know that if we get it right, in creating a more livable planet, we can create a more equitable and just world.”

Creating a better, more just world is not just a platitude. At Sidwell Friends, it is baked into the culture. A look back at decades of Commencement addresses in this issue’s Archivist reveals calls for peace in the face of war, equal rights in the face of racism and sexism, and scholarship in the face of ignorance (page 26).

So, for those who worry about the state of the world, take heart: A new class of Sidwell Friends graduates has just been added to the mix.



Check out this video to catch a glimpse of Commencement festivities!

ON CAMPUS





“We Are a Better School Because You Have Been Here”

The Head of School commemorates the Class of 2024.

BY BRYAN GARMAN

Friends, you have done a remarkable job of leading the School during a difficult time. Even within the privileged confines of Wisconsin Avenue, we have felt acutely the complicated forces that shape our world. Our political differences, our collective inability to find common ground, are plainly displayed on college campuses, across continents, and in the courts.

Our world has felt especially chaotic and unkind during your high school years, which on a global scale have been fractious and destructive and stressful. And yet, while the world has been turning and burning, something remarkable, something sacred has happened at Sidwell Friends. A kind, caring, and thoughtful group of young people—the Class of 2024—has demonstrated tremendous capacity to learn, grow, and lead.

Our presence here today reminds me that this ceremony consecrates a shared learning and social experience grounded in the love you have for one another and your families. It celebrates a shared ethos based in our School’s long-standing tradition, one that has been strengthened immeasurably by your presence.

Thank you for what you have given to one another and to Sidwell Friends. We are a better school because you have been here. And we have deep love and respect for each one of you.

In spite of the trials the world has witnessed, you have allowed love and respect to flourish in your midst. You have embraced what one Friends educator describes as the “peculiar nature of a Quaker school,” an institution that seeks always “to educate for goodness.” After the manner of Friends, we have tried to teach you, and you have in turn taught us, to develop and live according to conscience. You live with and share your goodness. And as you leave, your awareness of this peculiarity will likely deepen.

As you grow in years and experience, as you invariably reflect on your time here, I hope three components of our peculiar nature will remain integral to your conscience and consciousness.

First, regardless of your religious affiliation or lack thereof, never stop believing that there is “that of God in everyone.” This tenet inspires compassion, stymies mistrust, and

“After the manner of Friends, we have tried to teach you, and you have in turn taught us, to develop and live according to conscience. You live with and share your goodness.”



Photos by Cameron Whitman

inoculates against hatred. When you find yourself beginning to draw distinctions about or dismissing another human being or group, challenge yourselves with the advice of William Penn. The founder of the first Quaker school in the United States wrote: “a measure of divine light is in every transgressor, even at the instant of his committing the vilest sin, yet it consents not to it, but stands as a witness against the unrighteous soul.” This advice is perhaps the most difficult Penn offers. I am sometimes

challenged to believe it. His words nevertheless invite us to expand radically our thinking about humanity and the possibility of redemption. They lead us to wonder how our world might change if we all demonstrated the depth of grace and forgiveness for which he calls.

Penn points us to a second peculiarity of our ethos, one that you have fully embraced. Learn from and listen deeply to others, especially to those with whom you disagree. You have learned to think critically, creatively, and compassionately. Continue to approach conversations with humility, openness, and empathy, adopting a posture that seeks both to understand and to be understood. Be engaged and attentive listeners who seek to discern truths deeper than words might convey. Use silence to gather your thoughts and reflect upon what you hear, but avoid silencing those with opposing perspectives. Understand that complex moral and political issues often have competing and in some cases irreconcilable truths. Strive to discern nuance, tolerate ambiguity, accept uncertainty, and coexist and collaborate with those who have opposing worldviews.

Coexistence and collaboration bring us to a third essential component of our ethos: peacemaking. “The peace testimony is a tough demand that we should not automatically accept the categories, definitions and priorities of the world,” wrote London Meeting of Friends in 1993. In both faith and practice, the Meeting understood that making peace is much more challenging than waging war.

Sidwell Friends wants our students to think deeply, even counter-culturally, and to act on their conscience. We want you to do so not in accordance with a narrow political agenda but in service to our common humanity. In this time of intense conflict, Class of 2024, you have helped us build a peaceable village at Sidwell Friends. You have done so because you have cared about each other and the community, and you have treated both, even in the face of disagreement, with respect and forbearance. This behavior has sadly become strange in our society. I ask you to hold on to this strangeness. Doing so will distinguish your spiritual and intellectual lives, for Quakerism shapes not simply your values but the depth and clarity and creativity with which you think. This weirdness will inspire you to build inclusive coalitions, to make new discoveries, to engage conflict authentically and productively. It will enable you, as it did today’s commencement speaker, to search for complex and novel solutions, to open the path to human wholeness and progress and justice. It will give you the tools to share your goodness far and wide.

Embrace this framework. Cultivate it in others. Walk gently and bravely and purposefully over the world. ✨

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

Students and families celebrated the 136th Commencement and the Lower and Middle Schools' moving up ceremonies.

The Class of 2024 processed through campus for the final time this June, under bright blue skies and with a world of possibilities ahead of them.

"What kind of a world do you want to be part of?" Commencement speaker **Kelsey Wirth '87** asked the class. The co-founder of Align Technology and, more recently, the founder and head of the global climate nonprofit Mothers Out Front, Wirth encouraged the graduates to ponder the future they wanted to see. "What choices will you make over the course of your lives to help create that future?"

The day also marked the last Commencement for retiring Upper School Principal **Mamadou Guèye**, whom Head of School **Bryan Garman** called "the Mountain" and the "Prince of Joy." "Walk gently and bravely and purposefully over the world," Garman told the class. "Follow the example your unforgettable principal and my dear friend, Mamadou Guèye, has provided: Live with joy and passion, lead with love and kindness."



1 LIFER GRADUATES (Sidwell students since pre-K or kindergarten) **L-R: FRONT ROW:** Sama Jahmila AlBanna-Levy '24, Sune Hamparian '24, Olivia Dietrich '24, Molly Evans '24, Audrey Acres '24, Anya Kapoor '24, Divya Shastri '24, Alma Degener '24 **2ND ROW:** Laia Sarukhan '24, Gabi Forrester '24, Simra Javaid '24, Keya Krishna '24, Jordan Mathewson '24, Sarah Keating '24, Maya Jones '24, Lux Winterhof '24, Severine Caldwell '24 **3RD ROW:** Parker Alexander '24, Zack Jewel '24, Richard Greenberg '24, Ronan Son '24, Sajjan Shah '24, Alexander Castel '24 **BACK ROW:** William Friedman '24, Jason Babcock '24, Kevyn Orr '24, Jack Witter '24, Quinn Patwardhan '24, George Bankoff '24, Galen Kabwe '24, Santiago Canencio '24

2 GRADUATES WITH ALUMNI PARENTS L-R: FRONT ROW: Badia AlBanna '92, Sama Jahmila AlBanna-Levy '24 **2ND ROW:** John Scott '24, Katy Scott '79, Michael Beveridge '82, Nick Beveridge '24 **BACK ROW:** Alexander Castel '24, Amanda Castel '91, Kiran Bishop '24, Bill Bishop '86, Ariel Bishop '24



The Class of 2024 weren't the only Sidwell Friends students moving on. The 4th graders (the Class of 2032) celebrated their move from Lower School to Middle School in a fun-filled ceremony. Lower School Principal **Adele Paynter** noted that it was a special 4th grade Stepping Up ceremony for her: Many of the rising Middle School students had started pre-K the same year she arrived as principal.



Then the 8th graders (the Class of 2028) happily marked their move from Middle School to Upper School. During their last moments in 8th grade, the students reflected on the rocky start to their Middle School careers, which began during the pandemic. But they persevered. As members of Teams Sky, Land, and Sea put it: "We mapped the world by hand, typed our own novels, and wrote our first research paper." Middle School Principal **Rachel Kane** commended their success, telling them: "There is value to knowing how to actively pursue achievement. There is also value in knowing how to create your own peace. And you have the capacity to do both."

Quoting poet and former Sidwell Friends trustee **Judy Brown P '04**, Garman told the 8th graders:

"Forget the future
And just soak up now ...
For the new
The yet to come
Let go of all of that
And sink into the harvest
That is in your hands."

It was a sentiment that would echo across the division-wide milestones, including when Wirth implored the Class of '24 to "squeeze as much as you can out of this next chapter of life."



Photos by Cameron Whitman

Tech Is Out. Outside Is In.

The Middle Schoolers detach from their screens for a day—and discover nature.

This April, the Middle School marked Earth Day with a special directive: Leave your tablets and laptops at home, eschew technology, and unplug. Device-Free Day was of course a green initiative; using less tech means using less grid energy—and it might even mean finding more tween human energy out in nature.

The day also dovetailed nicely with messages from groups like the Middle School's Equity, Justice, and Community Committee and the cross-divisional Mental Health Task Force, whose members aren't specifically focused on climate change but who encourage intentional breaks from social media. Perhaps the real surprise is that the idea for a Device-Free Day came from the Middle School Tech Committee.

"Though I am always using technology to enhance learning with students, I acknowledge that balanced and responsible use is an essential technology skill at the Middle School," says **Nate Green**, the Middle School's academic technology coordinator. "Device-Free Day gave us a good chance to evaluate how we are using technology and the trade-offs that come from that use of technology. It gave us a new perspective that will help us cultivate healthy habits."



Middle Schoolers take a break from devices.

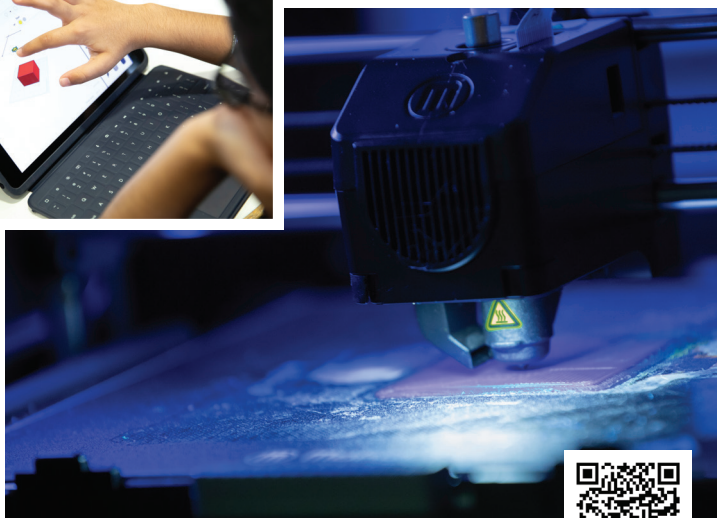


Photos by Anthony La Fleur

And though the students were pleased to return their devices the next day, the moment was still instructive. "You never know how much you use it until you don't have it," said one 7th grader at an off-the-record "download" about the day. "There was a stronger sense of community," added a 6th grader. And, according to a 5th grader, at least one notable phenomenon occurred: "People were literally touching grass."



Photos by Anthony La Fleur



The Lower School's 3D printer



The Long Reach of a Great Class Gift.

Last year's 4th grade class raised enough money to give a 3D printer to the Lower School as a class gift. This year's 4th grade class used that printer to design and print their own Lower School keepsakes. Just imagine what the next class gift might do!

Check out this video to see more!

Art in the Moment

Guatemalan *alfombras* create sacred ground.

This year, the Lower School put a special spotlight on Guatemala—part of an initiative to bring different nations, cultures, and rituals from throughout Latin America into the classroom. It's why this spring visitors to the Lower School were treated to an original work of art, an *alfombra*, or a sawdust carpet. Originally conceived to decorate the streets before religious processions, an *alfombra* can take a whole night to create only to be destroyed in moments as it is walked upon. With help from the Guatemalan Embassy, the Lower School invited artist **Ubaldo Lopez** and his assistant, **Carlos Lopez**, to create a bespoke *alfombra* just for Sidwell Friends. The results were vibrant, colorful panels that appeared to be as soft as they were ephemeral.



A Guatemalan *alfombra*

How to Build an E-Car from Scratch

It starts with a group of Upper Schoolers, an engineering challenge, and a grand prix event.

This spring, the Sidwell Electric Car Race Engineering Team (SECRET) entered the DC Electric Vehicle Grand Prix, an annual electric go-kart race at RFK stadium, after spending months in the bottom level of the Upper School garage building a car from scratch. Thanks to freshman **Ruhan Khanna '27**, it was the first time a Sidwell team has participated in the event since 2016. After scrolling on the School website's clubs page, Khanna discovered the dormant electric go-kart team, reached out to friends, and revived the group. "Some team members, including myself, have always been passionate about cars and motorsport," Khanna says. "That ignited the spark that got the club running."

The students asked Upper School physics and math teacher **Natalia Jasper**, who teaches the engineering elective at Sidwell Friends, and Middle School science teacher **Badia AlBanna '92, P '24** to act as

their advisers. They then went through the School's club-approval process. Once they received the green light, the students faced a new challenge: raising \$5,000 to buy the components needed to construct a entire car. The team held a fundraiser and secured corporate sponsors to reach their goal.

Then the actual build started. "Each stage of the project presented its own difficulties," says Khanna. "The electronics and wiring were especially challenging as all of the components were sensitive and a small mistake, such as a loose connection, could fry the main controller." Every task, however, engaged the team in new ways. "The project has interested many of us in engineering, computer science, and even finance," says Khanna.

Their efforts paid off: SECRET won the Grand Prix award for Best Use of 3D Printing. But even that couldn't compare with the feeling of "seeing the car drive for the first time." Now SECRET is ready to improve. "We want to refine the car for next year's race," says Khanna. The top DC teams from that competition will advance to an international race in Abu Dhabi, which gives the team something big to strive for.



The SECRET team and e-kart



Courtesy Ruhan Khanna



Cameron Whitman

Alumni of the Year

Meet the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients, who are tackling medicine, education, and climate.

ETHAN BROWN '89

Ethan Brown is the founder and CEO of Beyond Meat, a company dedicated to building meat directly from plants. Brown founded Beyond Meat in 2009 with a conviction that a change in the origin of the protein—from animals to plants—that humans place at the center of their plates could address health, climate, natural resources, and animal welfare in a unique and powerful way. The company's flagship product, the Beyond Burger, revolutionized the meat aisle by being the first plant-based burger to be sold alongside beef at major grocery chains. Beyond Meat has also partnered with restaurant chains including McDonald's, Pizza Hut, KFC, and Taco Bell. The company was named one of Newsweek's Most Trusted Brands in 2023, *Time*'s 100 Most Influential Companies in 2021, and a UN 2018 Champion of the Earth.

SEAN MCLEAN '89

Sean McLean is division chief of pediatric surgery and associate professor of surgery and pediatrics at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he is also medical/surgical director of the Pediatric Trauma Center and pediatric surgical director for the Extracorporeal Life Support/Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) program. McLean's clinical interests include the reconstruction of chest wall deformities, pediatric surgical oncology, care of congenital diaphragmatic hernia, ECMO, and fetal interventions. McLean performed North Carolina's first lung mass resection for a fetus on placental circulation, known as an EXIT procedure. He started at UNC in 2008 after becoming the first Black board-certified pediatric surgeon in North Carolina.

HOPE HARROD '94

Hope Harrod has been a 4th and 5th grade teacher in District of Columbia Public Schools for 22 years. In the 2012/13 school year, Harrod received DC Public Schools' highest teaching honors, the Excellence in Teaching Award and Teacher of the Year. She is a 1998 graduate of Kenyon College and has a master's degree in education from Boston College. Harrod currently serves on the boards of An Open Book Foundation and Live It Learn It, both nonprofits in DC. She is also a trustee at Kenyon College.

KIA MCLEAN WASHINGTON '94

Kia McLean Washington is a professor in the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at the University of Colorado-Anschutz Medical School. She serves as the director of research for the Division of Plastic Surgery and is a principal investigator. Her research interests include improving central and peripheral nerve regeneration after injury and Vascularized Composite Allotransplantation, in particular eye transplantation. In 2016, she received \$6 million from the U.S. Department of Defense, through the Joint Warfighter Medical Research Program, to continue her research exploring whole-eye transplantation as a viable treatment for vision loss. As vice chair of diversity and inclusion for the Department of Surgery, Washington also examines hiring practices, training, mentorship, and patient care.



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



“We’re Gonna Need a Bigger Tent.”

Upper School Principal Mamadou Guèye retires in style.

The celebration for Upper School Principal **Mamadou Guèye**’s retirement started out so big and with such a huge response, that Sidwell Friends had to put up the largest tent ever erected in the garden behind Zartman House. It was a fitting metaphor for the larger-than-life personality, whom Head of School **Bryan Garman** called an “immediate legend” and “transformative presence” who could “hold all the joys and the sorrows of the community at the same time.” For his part, Guèye told the more than 450 attendees that though his normal motto was “gratitude, generosity, and goodwill; tonight, it is gratitude, gratitude, and gratitude.”



Photos by Chris Ferenzi

Alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and family celebrate Mamadou Guèye’s three decades at Sidwell Friends.



Alumni return to campus to let their lives speak, and all three divisions celebrate Founder's Day.

Community in Action

Dr. Cornelia Griggs '01 led this year's Let Your Life Speak event as Founder's Day and a push for financial aid came together for one powerful day of sharing, giving, and fun.

When COVID-19 began tearing through emergency rooms across the nation, **Cornelia Griggs '01** was a pediatric surgery fellow in New York City. In her last year of a grueling nine-year medical education, Griggs's finish line began to recede from view. Instead of looking forward to commencement, she was on the front lines of something altogether new: A mysterious respiratory illness was flooding the hospital, medical supplies were disappearing from shelves, city morgues were getting overwhelmed, and Griggs felt certain that things were only going to get worse. Unfortunately, she was right.

"My mother once told me that the best way to get back at life is to write a great book," Griggs

told Upper Schoolers during her Let Your Life Speak keynote address at this year's Founder's Day celebration. And so, once the world began to return to a new normal and most of us began to emerge from lockdown, Griggs sat down to write. *The Sky Was Falling: A Young Surgeon's Story of Bravery, Survival, and Hope* came out this March and is already a national best-seller (see "Fresh Ink," on page 24).

Griggs told students she can trace her decision to become a doctor back to Sidwell Friends. The late Upper School science teacher Melanie Fields instilled in Griggs a love of biology. Fields also encouraged Griggs to volunteer as a candy striper, which provided her with an early peek into hospital work. Plus, the Quaker values she was immersed in at Sidwell Friends kept Griggs focused on a sense of purpose to create a better world. Griggs often sees the "worst of humanity" when patients enter the hospital as victims of gunshot wounds, drug abuse, and domestic violence. "But my deep sense of altruism," she said, "comes directly from Sidwell."



Photos by Cameron Whitman

In April, alumni like Griggs could be spotted everywhere on campus, sharing their own journeys from Sidwell Friends to their careers across an array of professions. This year, the Founder's Day Let Your Life Speak alumni included **Camille Collier '07**, Arizona State University assistant women's basketball coach; **Trevor Corson '87**, best-selling science writer and journalist; **Kibwe Chase-Marshall '97**, fashion design consultant and design director; **Lindsay Harris '96**, head of the Research and Scholars Center at the Smithsonian American Art Museum; **Frederica Helmiere '00**, director of psychedelic practitioner training at the Synthesis Institute; and **Nina Santiago '98**, senior attorney at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, among many others.

There was also a keynote speaker just for the Middle School. **Yasmina Ahdab '15**, a communications specialist at Johns Hopkins University's Planetary Health Alliance, told students, "Sidwell is where my love of conservation began." (See "A Climate of Hope," on page 30 to learn more about Ahdab's work.)

The Let Your Life Speak programming was followed by a Founder's Day celebration led by Head of School **Bryan Garman**, decked out as Thomas Sidwell (including knickers, faux mustache, and newsboy cap). Lower Schoolers arrived on the DC campus for the event and were paired with Middle School buddies for the day. After a sunny, outdoor Meeting for Worship, choruses from each division sang, and then it was off to a picnic and festival with hotdogs and hamburgers, popcorn and cotton candy, a bouncy house and games.

What's more, behind the scenes, the School was fundraising for financial aid with its Founder's Day for Scholars campaign. The team raised more than half a million dollars with over 300 donors to help ensure that income is not an obstacle to a Sidwell Friends education. It's an easy case to make when such dynamic alumni are on campus to inspire the next generation.

"Of any group I have been identified with," Griggs said at the end of her keynote address, "I am most proud of Sidwell Friends."

Sidwell Friends on the Hill

Student advocates learn the ins and outs of lobbying Congress. Now they're ready to make an impact.

For many people around the United States, “lobbying” connotes special interests and the disproportionate power of money in policymaking. But the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is determined to change that and to distill “lobbying” to its purest form: advocacy. Each year, FCNL invites young adults—mainly college students—from across the country to come to DC for a weekend program on lobbying skills, advocacy, and the logistics of making an impact on Capitol Hill. For **Sophie Cao '26**, it sounded like the perfect program for Sidwell Friends students and an opportunity to employ ethical leadership in the real world.

Cao single-handedly put together a critical mass of interested students, persuaded Upper School science teacher **Laura Barrosse-Antle** to chaperone, and convinced Center for Ethical Leadership Coordinator **Alex McCoy '04** to give the initiative the School's imprimatur as well as credit for community service hours. (Arguably, Cao already demonstrates impressive lobbying skills.)

One of just a few high schools participating in the program, Sidwell Friends sent six sophomores and one junior to the FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend 2024 in March. Each year, the FCNL chooses a piece of current legislation for the participants to study, hosts workshops about effective strategies, and then sends groups to meetings on Capitol Hill to actually lobby for change. For two days, delegations of young people from just about every state learned to infuse their asks with storytelling, personal appeals, data, and sound arguments.

This year, delegates advocated for S.1723/H.R. 7227: Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act, which will soon be up for a full Senate vote. The bill would establish a federal commission to conduct a full inquiry into the abusive and assimilative policies of U.S. Indian boarding schools, which separated Native children from their parents, among countless other horrors, for more than a century. “I found the story of the Native American boarding schools

inspiring and shocking,” says **Ethan Huang '26**. “It really is a hidden history,” Barrosse-Antle agrees. Though she expected to get some grading done in the lobby while the students made their cases, she found herself drawn into the various workshops and breakout sessions. “As an adult, I learned a lot about Indian boarding schools,” Barrosse-Antle says. “And it was just so cool to see our students sitting up front and tackling this topic and this project by themselves.”

Of course, the most exciting part of the process was heading to Capitol Hill to meet with Senate staffers. “We went to Congress prepared,” says Cao. “We had practiced and knew what we were doing.”

“The FCNL brand of lobbying—a story-based approach—is so effective,” **Eyob Sisay '26** explains. “Personal testimony creates a human-to-human connection.” The Sidwell Friends delegates came to understand that not only can anyone lobby; it is everyone's right to lobby.

A week after the conference, **Os-ewe Ogada '26** was still at it. “I just placed a call to [Representative Jamie] Raskin's office,” he says. “We can be in these places and in these rooms.”

So, what does a group of young lobbyists do next? First, start a lobbying chapter at Sidwell Friends. Then: “Empower other clubs and guide them through the process,” says Cao. In other words, these first-time lobbying delegates want to work with issue-oriented clubs at Sidwell Friends—such as the Friends Environmental Action Team, Gender-Sexuality Alliance, Autism Awareness Club, and Refugee Support and Awareness Club—to take their messages to Congress, too.

“It's politicians' job to listen to us,” says Cao. “It's the staffers job to listen.” And these kids are ready to be heard.



Washington's newest lobbyists are also Upper Schoolers.



ABOVE: The Newmyer Award winners
RIGHT: Ginger Newmyer presents an award.



Newmyer Award Winners

Service to the School is the focus of these annual honors.

Each year, the School celebrates six Sidwell Friends community members with the Newmyer Awards. The award goes to members of the community who have made the greatest contribution over a sustained period of time to the values of Sidwell Friends and the life of the School. The ceremony also includes the recognition of a young alumni's sustained commitment to volunteer service, and a contribution is made to a nonprofit organization of the recipient's choice.

NEWMYER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Elsa Walsh P '15
Marta Ferro '89
Joanna Wang P '22, '24
Veronica Valencia Sarukhan P '24, '27
Bill Bishop '86, P '24 and Carol Chow P '24

NEWMYER YOUNG ALUMNI WSERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Amelie "Amsie" Hecht '09

Rural Service

Upper Schoolers hit the road for a week of volunteer work in the mountains.

This June after school ended, a group of Sidwell Friends students from the Upper School went to work building and restoring homes in rural West Virginia. Big Creek People In Action, a nonprofit organization serving the community of McDowell County, West Virginia, focuses on education and literacy, leadership development, volunteer service, service learning, arts and culture, housing, recreation, and collaborative partnerships. The Sidwell Friends students are pitching in with Big Creek People In Action to build a porch on one house and a wheelchair ramp on another. They are earning community service hours by day and connecting over campfires by night.



Photos by Cate Woodward

No Time But Now

Reunion saw alumni return to campus for a weekend of celebration and remembrance.

Reunion Weekend at Sidwell Friends saw hundreds of alumni return to campus in May to reconnect and celebrate this spring. Alumni of all ages and graduation years attended special classes prepared just for them and taught by current faculty. The curriculum included: “Teaching the Constitution and Civics at Sidwell Friends,” “Forensic Science Elective: Skills, Science, and Society,” and “Metropolitan Policy and the DMV.”

Meanwhile, throughout the weekend, alumni gathered on campus and off for special events and receptions. One dinner celebration featured the presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Awards, the highest-attended on-campus portion of the weekend. Awards went to: **Ethan Brown '89, Hope Harrod '94, Sean McLean '89, and Kia McLean Washington '94.** (See page 10 for more on the awardees.)

This year marked the Class of 1974's 50th Reunion, which meant a visit from historian and Assistant Principal for Academic Affairs **Robbie Gross**. In what has become a favorite tradition, Gross headlined a special lunch for the '74 alumni and provided the class with a retrospective on their time at Sidwell Friends. Using archived issues of *Horizon*, yearbooks, and other materials, Gross rekindled memories and drew out stories from the alumni about everything from marching against the war in Vietnam to watching the Watergate trial on television during class.

Alumni from across generations came from around the country and around the world to reunite on campus, but no matter how new experiences and events have changed them or how many years have passed, the friendships forged at Sidwell Friends were so deep, it seemed as though no time had passed at all.



Photos by Cameron Whitman





All Talk

The School's Zoom discussion series, Conversation With Friends, saw members of the Sidwell Friends community tackle urban planning, screen time, and reproduction.

City Beautiful

BO KEMP '87

After a decade in finance with Morgan Stanley and TSG Capital, Bo Kemp '87 had a chance encounter with Cory Booker that completely refocused his career. Now Kemp is the CEO of the Southland Development Authority, a not-for-profit that oversees economic development for about 750,000 people in the south suburbs of Chicago.

Kemp's journey from finance entrepreneur to city-planning started in 2005, when Hurricane Katrina destroyed much of New Orleans. "By happenstance, one of my businesses got washed away with Katrina," Kemp said, "and that's what connected me to Cory Booker." At the time, now-Senator Cory Booker was running for mayor of Newark, New Jersey, and learning the lessons of various municipal failures in New Orleans. (Perhaps unsurprisingly, nearly 14 years later, Booker would sponsor the Small Business Disaster Relief Bill in the U.S. Senate.) Booker subsequently asked Kemp to lead his mayoral transition team and then to stay on as Newark's business administrator. Now, Kemp has a reputation for driving innovation in municipal utilities, public infrastructure, and economic development for legacy cities.

One of the things his traditional private equity and investment banking background did not prepare him for was the government's role in the lives of low-income and working-class residents. "When a tree

falls on your house, the first thing you do is pick up the phone and call someone to cut the tree down and you call your insurance company to get a claim," he said. "But when someone with lower social-economic status has a tree fall on their house, they call their councilperson; they call their mayor." He said those people deserve a functioning government; in fact, they are really the government's broadest constituency. People at the economic top can use money to resolve problems. On the other hand: "A simple tree falling for someone who's working class is the equivalent of Katrina or Superstorm Sandy for someone who's wealthy."

"Government is really about effectiveness not about efficiency," Kemp said. "I turned my attention to economic development because that's really the driver to generate the revenue to support everybody regardless of class."



To see previous Conversations with Friends, visit sidwell.pub/CWF.
Do you have a suggestion for a future Conversation with Friends event?
Email alumni@sidwell.edu.



Screen Shock

ANTHONY SILARD '85

Phones, laptops, televisions, tablets, watches, and other screens are capturing more and more of the world's attention every year, with new research showing that people on average spend seven hours a day on their screens. But for business leadership educator and coach Anthony Silard '85, that doesn't mean everyone is addicted to their screens. Though it does mean people's pre-technology addictions are more accessible than ever.

"I don't think we're addicted to the internet or to our screens," Silard said. "We're addicted to the same things we've always been addicted to: recognition, feeling competent, feeling worthy, feeling loved and admired and respected. The difference now is that this thing called the internet came along, it became mobile, and it accelerated our access to what we're addicted to while reducing any social costs." In his latest book, *Screened In: The Art of Living Free in the Digital Age*, Silard posits that these device-enabled addictions—from social-media pings to online gambling—have caused loneliness and anxiety to skyrocket. According to a pair of surveys conducted by Cigna Healthcare, 46 percent of Americans were lonely in 2018; that number jumped to 61 percent in January 2020—still pre-pandemic—leading U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy to label loneliness a national epidemic.

What's more, it's easy for people to hide how much time they are spending online feeding their addictions. Silard explained that gambling is an example of how what once was an activity is now totally passive. People used to have to go to a casino to place bets—which meant leaving home, thereby demonstrating to loved ones how much time gambling was eating up, and in turn triggering social costs and consequences that acted as a natural curb on the behavior. Now the casino is online, open around the clock, and easily disguised as work—just as a whole slew of new addictions, like obsessing over social media, are easily disguised. "In a virtual realm, we have lost a lot of our privacy because we are the product," Silard said. "But in the physical realm, no one knows what we're doing behind our screens, and in that way, we've never had this much privacy, and it's driving access to our addictions."

The solution, luckily, starts with simply understanding that this is happening. Every prompt to click and every urge to check is a response manufactured by those who profit from users' attention. Just remember, Silard said, that every moment you lose to the internet just means a programmer somewhere is "getting a promotion."



The Reproductive Opt-In Revolution

MARGARET PABST BATTIN '58



What if birth control for both sexes was so effective and long-lasting that all of human reproduction simply became a matter of choice? That is the primary question of the new book, *Sex and the Planet: What Opt-In Reproduction Could Do for the Globe*, by Margaret Pabst Battin '58 (see "Fresh Ink," on page 24). Battin is an American philosopher, medical ethicist, author, and a current distinguished professor of philosophy and adjunct professor of internal medicine at the University of Utah. She is also the author of more than a dozen books on applied ethics. Battin presented this question of opt-in reproduction as a thought experiment—one that is very much based in reality.

Currently, there are few long-term, reversible contraceptive (LARC) options. Birth control implants and non-hormonal intrauterine devices can last from five to 12 years for women. And a new hydrogel LARC for men, which can block the release of sperm into semen, is undergoing testing. For Battin, these innovations could mean the end is in sight for five major global problems: (1) population growth, (2) adolescent pregnancy, (3) high-risk pregnancy, (4) pregnancy after sexual violence, and (5) abortion. "Many of the world's most vexing and intractable issues begin with sex," Battin said.

By isolating sex as the animating act behind these issues, Battin said, it becomes easier to think about these enormous global problems all at once—and how to solve them. Imagine, she suggests, that every human is on a LARC, and both men and women had to proactively remove the LARC in order to opt in to having children. Imagine further that there are no costs or side effects—and no question that LARCs could be reversed seamlessly at any time by any individual.

Given that 45 percent of all pregnancies are unintended, universal LARC would address massive socioeconomic issues. Teen pregnancies could disappear. There would be no pregnancies from sexual violence or sex work. Population growth wouldn't spiral out of control, and fertility rates would decline. And the politically stratifying issue of abortion would be rendered moot: "93 percent of abortions would disappear," said Battin. "Think how that would change our public life."



The Smart School

IN THE TWO YEARS THAT CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER JAMES MASCIUCH HAS BEEN WORKING AT SIDWELL FRIENDS, the world has radically changed. We are living in a post-COVID society, where technology has made a quantum leap forward. We meet online, work and learn remotely, and treat laptops as both offices and schools. What's more, innovation is constantly shaping how people interact. Artificial intelligence (AI) exploded into the collective consciousness a year and a half ago, brimming with both the potential for discovery and chaos. But Sidwell Friends is prepared. With a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, a master's in information systems from Johns Hopkins, and 17 years of experience at St. Andrew's Episcopal School, most recently as the as the director of technology, Masciuch is an expert in the intersection of education and technology—and a very welcome addition to the c-suite.

1. How integral is technology to the School?

People take for granted the pervasiveness of technology in our lives—so much so that it becomes almost invisible. But there is always somebody behind the scenes connecting those dots and making it work, making sure things are secure and safe. Technology is one of those jobs where if it's working, it's invisible. That's what it should be; you don't want technology to be a roadblock. People probably would be surprised at how many systems we have to keep things running—from the smallest applications, like accessing a building and swiping a badge, to the technology we use in the classroom that's more forward-facing. Behind the scenes, there's a lot of risk-management, cybersecurity, and not-so-glamorous tasks. I still play a role in divisional technology and software packages, but I have a greater role in figuring out how our HVAC controls are going to connect to our network, contract review, and cybersecurity policies. Because of the

profile of the School as well as having an urban campus, security is vital.

2. How did the pandemic affect technology in schools?

The fact that Sidwell was able to pivot to the one-to-one device program so quickly and efficiently was phenomenal. A one-to-one device program is what every school should ultimately have—for equity, access, proper supervision, and software management. There's a flexibility we've inherited coming out of the pandemic when it comes to technology. The fact that teachers had to take a curriculum and pedagogy and deliver it in an online platform that was all new to them shows that we are a very resilient body. COVID increased the adoption of a lot of technology tools in the classroom that are very beneficial, opened up channels for communication around technology to our faculty in ways that didn't exist before, and gave people new technical skills.

3. Do the students ever give you new tech ideas?

It is more like we are constantly responding to them. Students have grown up with technology in a way that we adults have not. This has made them digital natives. Ultimately, the expectations they have from their native use of tech outside of school has forced us to respond to it in the classroom. When it comes to social media or gaming, they could run circles around me. But when it comes to being a responsible digital citizen...? Growing up with tech did not necessarily ingrain those skills in them. That's where we constantly step in to meet them where they are. It is amazing that Sidwell has academic technologists in each division; having that kind of tailored role per division and responsive to each age is a huge benefit. It's our job to help students navigate the tech and make sure they are being responsible when given all these very, very powerful tools.

4. Is there anything in your job that keeps you up at night?

The risk management piece. There are always risks that come with being such a notable school, and obviously cybersecurity is top of mind. We deal with that in many ways: through software, education, contract negotiation, hardware configurations, insurance. AI is certainly the next frontier for us all. When it comes to privacy policy, terms and conditions, and tailoring AI for education, the jury is still out. Mind you, it has only been about a year and a few months since there was the big AI announcement and the flood into the market. We're constantly seeing these evolutions. I just sent out an email to our faculty about an acceptable-use policy for artificial intelligence, because we don't know where these tools are going, and we need to make sure that we're using them in a responsible way. I'm a big proponent of their use, but my biggest fear is somebody unknowingly sharing confidential information. It's just the constant evolution and staying in touch with the tech.

5. How innovative and cutting edge should a school be?

Rapid innovation is a race to market and to monetization—often with little insight into the impact that it's going to have, especially in the classroom. That's why Sidwell Friends addressed first and foremost the integrity of our education through an academic policy and position statement around AI. Other schools have been way too finite, with guardrail policies that are going to need constant updating. Ours will go through an evolutionary process, too, but Sidwell has done an incredible job of leaving the School open to investigation and discovery, as well as discerning the best way forward. I am the last person who will ever adopt tech for the sake of it being tech. After 20 years in the educational technology field, I am also never one to tell a teacher what they should be doing in the classroom. I want to hear what your needs are, and if you're open to it, I can share some of my knowledge and we can find solutions together. But most importantly, there needs to be a reason or an outcome that we are looking for. Innovation needs to be purpose-driven. At Sidwell, we'll always be innovative, but we're not trying to blow up education; we're not disrupting. We are working with faculty and staff to identify their needs and then find a sustainable product that will hopefully create efficiencies and a better educational experience. At the heart of Sidwell Friends is our students, and that's what we're all here for.

SAVE THE DATE!

HOMECOMING WEEKEND OCT. 18-19, 2024

more info at:
sidwell.edu/homecoming

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SPRING SPORTS

SOAR

Sidwell Friends teams wrapped up the academic year with solid team and individual performances, including several conference and state championships.

TENNIS

The girls' tennis team finished another stellar year, claiming the District of Columbia State Athletic Association (DCSAA) Championship. The team ended the season with a perfect 14-0 record. **Sara Abouzeid '27** claimed the individual state title and Abouzeid and **Natatie McIntosh '27** teamed up to take the DCSAA doubles championship. **Molly Evans '24**, **Clara Zou '24**, McIntosh, and Abouzeid were honored with All-Independent School League (ISL) awards.

its third consecutive Mid-Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAC) title. During the season, the program also won the prestigious George C. Shafer Doubles Invitational in Philadelphia. Their season ended with a second place finish in the the DCSAA Tournament. The program, with an 18-1 overall season record, saw **Akshay Mirmira '27**, **Louis Anderson III '26**, **Boning Wang '27**, **Aneesh Mirmira '25**, **Rajan Khan '26**, and **Michael Yao '24** selected as All-MAC standouts.

LACROSSE

The girls' lacrosse team completed another strong season. With a 12-6 overall record, the team finished with a 5-1 ISL league record. **Avery Coleman '25** and **Sisi Kostorowski '26** were honored as All-ISL conference selections. Coleman scored the 200th goal of her career against Bullis School.

The boys' lacrosse team had a season filled with growth and development. **Richard Greenberg '24** and **Bryce Griffith '24** were recognized as All-MAC selections. The program had notable victories over Maret, Flint Hill, Legion Collegiate Academy, and Bishop Ireton.



SOFTBALL & BASEBALL

The softball team wrapped up the season with another ISL regular season championship—the team's second in a row—with a 9-4 record. The team capped off the year by defeating Georgetown Day to claim the ISL tournament championship title for the second year in a row.

Malika Hill '25 and **Elisa Tsao '26** were named All-ISL selections.

Will Pryce '24, **Porter Speece '26**, and **Eric Sun '24** led the way for the baseball team as they were selected as All-MAC players during another competitive season-long effort from the program.

GOLF

This spring, players finished the season at the DCSAA Golf Championships. **Claire Kinnier '26** finished in third place in the girls' individual competition, posting a score of 86.

CREW

The crew team completed another stellar season on the water. Sidwell's senior crew Varsity 8 advanced to the 18-boat semifinals

at the Statesbury Cup Regatta. This was the first Sidwell Varsity 8 to qualify for the semifinals in more than a decade. The team celebrated Senior Day with a best-ever three podium finishes at the Charlie Butt Regatta. The Varsity 8 won the blue-ribbon, beating Yorktown, McLean, and Madison high schools in the four-boat final. The second Varsity 8 placed third in their final, and the Novice 8 placed second.

TRACK & FIELD

The boys' track & field program completed a memorable season with a second-place finish at the MAC Track & Field Championships.

Easy Weissman '24 won both the 1,600- and 3,200-meter races, earning him All-MAC honors. Sidwell Friends also emerged as winners in the 4x400-meter relay race, with **Justin Yarborough '26**, **Osewe Ogada '26**, **Zachary Foxx '25**, and **Jacob Wise '27** competing. **Ian Condon '27** won the discus competition, and **Sebastian Wess '25** was victorious in the triple jump. At the DCSAA boys' Track & Field Championships,

Clayton Gary '25 set a school and DCSAA record in the long jump competition to take the title.

It was a significant season of growth for girls' track & field. Several members set personal records, helping the team finish seventh in the 14-team ISL championship meet.



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

FRESH INK

summer books

Medical dramas set the stage for this season of books, with a look back at COVID through the eyes of a surgeon, a deep dive into Philadelphia's 18th-century quarantine experiment, and a philosophical query about the benefits of opt-in reproduction. Plus, a book of poetry and prose centered on the appearances of Brood X, and a chronicle of the ancient wisdom of Celtic Druids.

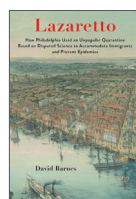


The Sky Was Falling: A Young Surgeon's Story of Bravery, Survival, and Hope

Cornelia Griggs '01

Gallery Books, 2024

"For many of us, the experience of the peak pandemic was eerily incongruous. We were sequestered in our quiet homes but reminded of the devastation by the never-ending ping of news alerts. Dr. Cornelia Griggs's experience was altogether different. A pediatric surgery fellow in New York City, she was entering the final victory lap at the end of nine grueling years of training. ... Then came COVID-19. Initially, Griggs encouraged her friends and family not to panic. However, as mysterious cases began showing up in the hospital, and then hospital supplies started disappearing from shelves, she couldn't hold back the feeling that this was going to be worse than she had thought. ... *The Sky Was Falling* is her day-to-day account of what most of us were grateful to only see in the news—the sharply increasing case numbers, the dwindling supply of respirators, the lack of clarity on how to treat this new disease."



Lazaretto: How Philadelphia Used an Unpopular Quarantine Based on Disputed Science to Accommodate Immigrants and Prevent Epidemics

David Barnes '80

Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023

"In the 1790s, four devastating yellow fever epidemics threatened the survival of Philadelphia, the nation's capital and largest city. In response, the city built a new quarantine station called the Lazaretto downriver from its port. From 1801 to 1895, a strict quarantine was enforced there to protect the city against yellow fever, cholera, typhus, and other diseases. At the time, the science behind quarantine was hotly contested, and the Board of Health in Philadelphia was plagued by internal conflicts and political resistance. In *Lazaretto*, David Barnes tells the story of how a blend of pragmatism, improvisation, and humane care succeeded in treating seemingly incurable diseases and preventing further outbreaks."



Sex and the Planet: What Opt-In Reproduction Could Do for the Globe

Margaret Pabst Battin '58

The MIT Press, 2024

"What would the world be like if all pregnancy was intended, not unintended as it is nearly half the time now? Considerably better, Margaret Pabst Battin suggests in *Sex and the Planet*, a provocative thought experiment with far-reaching real-world implications. Many of the world's most vexing and seemingly intractable issues begin with sex—when sperm meets egg, as Battin puts it—abortion, adolescent pregnancy, high-risk pregnancy, sexual violence, population growth and decline. Rethinking reproductive rights and exposing our many mistaken assumptions about sex, *Sex and the Planet* offers an optimistic picture of how we might solve these problems—by drastically curtailing unintended pregnancies using currently available methods."



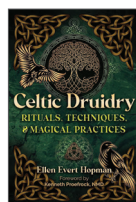
Year of the Cicada

Mei-Mei Holland '10

Jaded Ibis Press, LLC, 2023

"On the cusp of her thirtieth birthday, Mei-Mei returns to her hometown to find it swarmed by the mysterious 17-year cicada, which last appeared when she was twelve and on the edge of adolescence. The emergences of these biblical Mid-Atlantic insects intersect with Mei-Mei's

evolving understanding of an absent grandmother, a mixed-race heritage, and the long shadow of suicide, giving her the tools to connect these profound threads together. In poetry and lyric prose, *Year of the Cicada* delicately charts one woman's coming of age between two appearances of the heralding insect, through which the speaker navigates heavy silences, intimate moments, and the terror of uncertainty."



Celtic Druidry: Rituals, Techniques, and Magical Practices

Ellen Evert Hopman '70

Destiny Books, 2024

"In this authentic handbook for the Celtic Druid path, Ellen Evert Hopman shares lessons, rituals, and magical techniques drawn from the ancient wisdom teachings of the Celts as well as a modern Druid Order created by the leading minds of twentieth-century Celtic Reconstructionism. Hopman begins by exploring what we know about the original ancient Druids, citing Druid-contemporary sources such as Caesar and Diodorus Siculus as well as transcriptions of Druid oral teachings. She explains the basic tools and clothing of a Celtic Druid, including instructions for making the essential tools of the craft, such as the crane bag and the apple branch, the tool used to open a Druid rite. She explores meditation techniques based on ancient texts and discusses the Goddesses and Gods of the Celtic pantheon, Druidic cosmology, and the Druidic festivals that occur throughout the turning of the year."



Keepers of the Light

BY LOREN ITO HARDENBERGH P '29

Photos Courtesy Sidwell Friends Archives

Fifty years ago, journalist Alan Barth, speaking to the assembled class of 1974, imagined the graduates in the far distant year of 2024: “I was aghast when I thought that 50 years from now—who knows?—some of you may have entirely forgotten the identity of your Commencement speaker—and even the substance of what he had to say.” Commencement speakers throughout the history of Sidwell Friends have left an indelible mark on graduates and their families.

In the early years, Thomas Sidwell invited speakers who were prominent educational, political, or religious leaders. The first speaker (1892) was Charles de Garmo, the president of Quaker-founded Swarthmore College, and he was joined by numerous other college deans and presidents in the first decades of graduation ceremonies. Occasionally, Sidwell was able to secure renowned experts in other fields, such as Melvil Dewey (1899), creator of the Dewey Decimal System, and Alexander Graham Bell (1914), inventor of the telephone.

Undoubtedly the most momentous graduation in Thomas Sidwell's day was in 1907, when President Theodore Roosevelt spoke. TR's son, Archie, had been enrolled at the School for several years. Sidwell could not have been more excited to introduce the president: “I have felt that ... in bringing you together to hear him I would be rendering possibly the greatest service to education I have rendered in the twenty-four years of my connection with the school.” Accordingly, he went all out, inviting friends near and far, and commemorated the occasion by distributing booklets of Roosevelt's address.



President Theodore Roosevelt addresses Sidwell Friends graduates at the Eye Street Meeting House in 1907.

“You should make it your object to be the right kind of boys at home, so that your families will feel a genuine regret, instead of a sense of relief, when you stay away.”

—PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT, 1907





“I understand from School officials that there are about 97 of you. ... The School official also says that you, the graduates, are ‘spirited.’ I have no doubt about that. But I certainly hope you are more spirited than others might think you are.”

—BOB WOODWARD, 1977

History has not forgotten this speech: An excerpt of it is literally etched in stone on one of the markers at the memorial on Roosevelt Island in the Potomac River. The top of the granite marker titled “Youth” includes a line he gave that day: “I want to see you game, boys; I want to see you brave and manly, and I also want to see you gentle and tender.”

As a co-ed school from its opening in 1883, it is unclear what the female half of the graduating class made of this address, titled “The American Boy.” Even President Roosevelt’s ad-libbed opening remarks were directed only at the male students. “Yes, I think I have met at least some of you boys,” he playfully said to a row of students. “I believe it was you to whom I gave permission last fall to play football on the White House lot. I believe in play, and a certain amount of noise, but if I remember correctly there was a little too much noise at times.”

While President Roosevelt may have been focused on the males, decades later Thomas Sidwell extended a speaking invitation to a family friend of the Roosevelts—the first female congressional representative from Arizona, Democrat Isabella Greenway, and the School’s first woman Commencement

speaker. Unfortunately, Thomas Sidwell died just eight weeks before she gave her address. While speaking to the Class of 1936 of her own inspiring journey, Greenway also took the time to honor the recently departed headmaster: “I feel that every one of you, in a sense, has his very eternal life in your hands. You are the trustees of the time he spent in building up this great institution of learning, standing for all that is best, and standing, most of all, for the three characteristics that are the greatest in the world—simplicity, sincerity, and friendliness.”

During the decades following Sidwell’s death, the School continued to invite leading Quaker speakers, as well as occasional politicians and journalists. A tradition of asking the parent of a senior also took root. In 1968, the School had originally asked senior parent and State Department official Eugene Rostow to speak, but due to his involvement in Vietnam policy and his vigorous defense of the Vietnam War, he was disinvited, and another senior parent, DC Council Chairman John W. Hechinger, was asked to take his place. It was less than two months since riots had decimated parts of DC following Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination, and Hechinger called on the assembled families to “stop hiding behind the

shrubby of suburbia or the cities’ outlying pleasant areas, for you must make a complete turn in your attitudes and values and actively involve yourselves in the rebuilding and revitalization of the core city.”

Less than 10 years later, with Watergate having dominated the students’ young lives, the Class of 1977 invited journalist Bob Woodward to be their speaker. In no uncertain terms, he reminded them of their lives of relative comfort and ease, and of the need to challenge the status quo: “Don’t get so wrapped up in your successes as defined by the Establishment that you wind up failing.” Headmaster Bob Smith later wrote in a letter to Woodward about the event: “As one faculty member said, ‘I’ve been telling them some of those things for years—the difference is they *listened* to Bob Woodward.’” (He spoke again in 2015, along with his wife, journalist Elsa Walsh, as parents of a graduating senior.)

A few years later, Alex Haley, the uncle of a member of the Class of 1980, spoke about the transformative power of education. Just after *Roots* and its mini-series adaptation captivated millions of Americans, Haley’s words rang out behind Zartman House. He told the story of how the gift of a stranger who paid for a year of his father’s



“I remember very distinctly, after I had done enough research about the period of slavery in this country, I really would have the instinct that every time I came upon the mention of Quakers, I always felt like standing up and cheering because I knew that what they were going to do was something courageous—indeed, beyond courageous—in the time. The people who took the most unpopular of stands at the greatest of costs to themselves, even endangering their own lives to state very explicitly what they did *not* believe in and what they *did* believe in.”

—ALEX HALEY, 1980

college expenses had changed his whole family’s life trajectory. With that act of kindness, his father, long expected to be a Tennessee sharecropper like his siblings, went on to earn a graduate degree from Cornell. That stranger, Haley shared, “was a Quaker. And I was just so moved, knowing that that man had that spirit in him, that is epitomized by Sidwell here.”

Reflecting on the impact of this serendipitous gift on his own life, Haley went on, “If one is fortunate enough to emerge into society as one of the people who is in a position in one or another way to help other people, then one has a mandate to realize that there is no investment on Earth, as rich in possible dividend, as investment in another human being.”

These impactful speeches, unfortunately, were not distributed in print form as Thomas Sidwell had done when President Roosevelt was the commencement speaker. That changed in 1992, when Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children’s Defense Fund, was selected as the speaker the year her youngest son graduated, and her powerful remarks were printed

into a booklet. Edelman shared lessons that she had written in a letter to her three sons.

“Lesson one,” she told the graduates, “There is no free lunch. Don’t feel entitled to anything you don’t sweat and struggle for.” She advised: “Never work just for money. Money won’t save your soul or build a decent family or help you sleep at night.” And in a lesson that perhaps resonated especially deeply at a Quaker school, “Learn to be quiet enough to hear the sound of the genuine within yourself so that you can hear it in other people.”

Five years later, President Bill Clinton, also the parent of a graduate, was asked to speak. Clinton reflected that after the traditional Meeting for Worship with the Class of 1997 and their families earlier that week, he “left wishing that Congress was in the control of the Quakers.”

His advice to the graduates: “Be humble and proud. Be of service. Be optimistic and grateful. Be brave, and dream your dreams.” Former Vice President Al Gore would take the podium a few years

later to address the class of 2001 when his son graduated. Less than six months after giving his historic concession speech, Gore told the graduating class: “Everyone faces adversity. It’s the way you react to it that will set you apart.” A little over a decade later, another vice president spoke at a Sidwell Friends Commencement. A dedicated grandparent, then-Vice President Joe Biden, gave the address in 2012, the year his eldest granddaughter graduated. He declared: “There’s nothing in the world you are inheriting that is needed more than the ability and the willingness to recognize that people pursue truth in different ways.”

In recent years, the School has asked alumni to speak to the newest Sidwell Friends graduates. In fact, this year, Commencement speaker Kelsey Wirth ’87 (see page 6), is both an alum as well as the daughter of a past Commencement speaker. At Kelsey Wirth’s graduation in 1987, her father, Senator Tim Wirth observed, “Commencement speakers represent a secular priesthood in America. ... We’re not just the keepers of the light—we’re the ones who are supposed to switch the light on.” ✨



“Listen for the sound of the genuine within yourself. ... There are so many noises and competing demands in our lives, that many of us never find out who we are.”

—MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN, 1992

“Though we raised you for this moment of departure and we are very proud of you, a part of us longs to hold you once more as we did when you could barely walk, to read to you one more time *Good Night Moon* or *Curious George* or *The Little Engine That Could*.”

—PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON, 1997



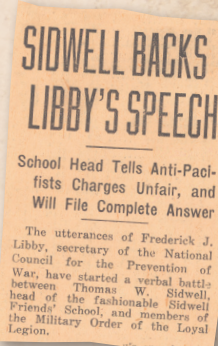
100 Years Ago: Peace on Trial

The Commencement speaker exactly 100 years ago drew widespread attention that called into question a person's right to uphold the peace testimony at a time of political turbulence. In 1924, Frederick J. Libby, a member of the Eye Street Meeting and the executive secretary of the National Council for the Prevention of War, gave a speech titled “Patriotism and World Peace.” To those assembled, who had just lived through the Great War, he said: “It is in the periods between wars that nations become great. ... Show your patriotism by your prevention of war.” He entreated the graduates: “No nation can win another war. All must lose. ... You must solve this problem—How can war be averted?”

The speech attracted the attention of parents as well as the wider community. One parent, a colonel and an attorney, argued that Libby was “unpatriotic and inimical to the interests and welfare of our country” and immediately withdrew his child from the School. Indeed, with the first Red Scare raging in the early 1920s, peace activists were targeted throughout the country. A months-long battle among the local American Legion, citizens' associations, and other local organizations ensued, with many arguing that Libby should be banned from speaking to students in the District.

“I am glad to have information on any subject that may lead to a better understanding among people and nations, and to a peaceful solution of their difficulties,” Sidwell wrote to the angry parent. “I am as much interested in the views of people who may differ from me as with those who agree.” To that end, he offered the Eye Street Meeting House for a public meeting with Libby. Sidwell heard from leaders across the city, including J. Stanley Durkee, then-president of Howard University, who wrote of Libby: “I believe in him, I believe in his principles. ... God will demand of us all that we meet life not by killing each other, but by strengthening each other.”

As the controversy raged on, Sidwell felt called to prepare a statement: “It is my belief after a good deal of investigation that Fredrick J. Libby is not the man his enemies would have us believe him. I am convinced that he is misrepresented and maligned and largely so because of his effectiveness as a worker for world peace.” Toward the end of that year, Sidwell presented Libby's Sidwell Friends Commencement speech at a DC Board of Education hearing in an effort to defend Libby's right to speak. The board could not be swayed, and in the waning days of 1924, Libby was banned from ever speaking at any public school in Washington.





The Poas volcano, one of Costa Rica's active volcanoes, was erupting almost the whole time Giacomo Delgado '15 was there in 2024.



Friends of the Earth

Across the planet, Sidwell Friends alumni are tackling environmental crises. Here is how some of them are making a difference.

BY SALA LEVIN

From the eroding shores of the Chesapeake Bay to the misty forests of the Pacific Northwest to the rural communities of sub-Saharan Africa, determined Sidwell Friends alumni across generations are carving out their own niches in the fight against climate change. Some are tracking the vibrancy of wildlife in Costa Rica, or teaching students how pollution is muddying the waters of their local estuary, or making environmental financing more accessible. All are making a difference. Here are a few of their stories.

Giacomo Dalgado



Giacomo Delgado

The Sounds of Biodiversity

During days when he hiked through one of Costa Rica's mountainous cloud forests at sunrise, where vast blankets of fog rolled through the thin air, Giacomo Delgado '15 sometimes came across just the spot where he might catch a glimpse of the sun's rays breaking through the clouds to illuminate sections of the valley below. Or, after painstakingly making his way through the country's dense forests, he would happen upon a pack of foraging wild pigs, called peccaries, who would pause, look at him momentarily, and then return to their meal.

"Those kinds of unpredictable, magical, natural moments really kept me going in what was a pretty long and excruciating field season," recalls Delgado.

As a doctoral student at the Swiss university ETH Zurich, Delgado spent several months in Costa Rica in 2022 and 2024 placing, tracking, and retrieving microphones in 600 locations throughout five of the

country's many microclimates. With the collected recordings, Delgado was able to analyze the quantity and diversity of wildlife in Costa Rica to determine that a government program fighting deforestation has largely succeeded.

"By empowering local communities, redistributing wealth, and lowering inequality, we can achieve the restoration and conservation of ecosystems that have traditionally suffered," Delgado says.

Today, Delgado's research in ETH Zurich's Crowther Lab traces the impact of Costa Rica's Payment for Environmental Services program (PES), which launched in 1996 and pays private citizens who own forested land to conserve their property using sustainable management techniques. The initiative is an effort to combat both deforestation—which ran rampant in Costa Rica during the 1970s and '80s—and the poverty that many people living in rural areas experience.



LEFT: Giacomo Delgado '15 places microphones in Santa Rosa National Park, one of the largest dry forest parks in Costa Rica. **CENTER:** Remnant forests have survived on the steepest parts of Costa Rica's mountains and hills, while the more accessible slopes have been converted to agriculture. **RIGHT:** Scattered among Costa Rica's protected areas are some massive "grandmother" trees, hundreds and hundreds of years old.

Delgado decided to find out whether the payments are working by using the tools of an emerging field known as ecoacoustics. Listening to the natural world can reveal how vibrant any given area might be: Is the soundscape full of varied noises, or are there only a few scarce sounds? How loud are the surroundings? Is the sound frequency changing often, or hardly ever?

The answers to these questions—and more—can tell researchers whether an area's wildlife is thriving or struggling. A busy soundscape with lots of frequency changes is likely inhabited by a range of animals making all sorts of noises, whereas a recording that lacks diversity of pitch is probably not home to a jumble of species living side by side.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, Delgado hiked more than 500 miles across Costa Rica, placing microphones in the country's microclimates, which include moist and dry tropical forests as well as high mountain cloud forests. Each microphone remained in a site for roughly a week, recording at least 120 hours to capture the full variability of a setting. Delgado estimates he has collected 12 years' worth of audio, which he runs through software that analyzes its acoustic properties.

The results, says Delgado, show that Costa Rica's PES program has succeeded, helping wildlife rebound to pre-deforestation levels.

"When you allow local stewards of biodiversity to have livelihoods that are not based on destruction and extraction but rather on traditional modes of harmony and coexistence, what we see is that nature is unstoppable," Delgado says. "It comes back, it flourishes, and it spreads everywhere."



Costa Rica has an abundance of freshwater and, unlike most of their neighbors, most residents can drink directly out of their taps, thanks in no small part to the Payment for Ecosystem Service program.



The Perfect Classroom for Chesapeake Bay Ecology

From the bluff overlooking the Chesapeake Bay, Jim Stone '75 would ask his students to imagine they were in the same spot hundreds of years earlier. Back then, he'd say, the water was so clear that a person could see clams, oysters, and crabs 20 feet below the surface. The trees were so plentiful that a squirrel could travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River without ever touching the ground—just scurrying from tree branch to tree branch.

Since Stone started coming to Echo Hill Outdoor School (EHOS) on Maryland's Eastern Shore in the 1960s, he's seen plenty of changes. As a captain at EHOS, Stone, who retired in January, led students on expeditions that combined ecology, history, and nautical know-how.

"It's the perfect classroom," he says. "It's got a mile of private sandy beach, and there's no development around it."

Echo Hill is deeply connected to Sidwell Friends. It was officially founded in 1972 by Peter Rice Jr. '63 and his father, former Lower School Principal Peter Rice Sr. Stone first visited the site as a 3rd grader, when Rice Sr. "came and squeezed me on the shoulder in class and said, 'James, you should go to camp.'"

At Echo Hill, Stone learned to swim, sail, and water ski. He returned every summer throughout high school and interned there while a senior at Sidwell Friends. After majoring in environmental studies

at Springfield College, Stone worked in Sidwell's environmental and outdoor education program before returning to Echo Hill.

"Echo Hill is so fortunate to have a 200-acre freshwater swamp that we use as a lab as well as the bay," says Stone. "There are plenty of woods. It was a great environment to get you interested in the environment."

In his class on bay studies, Stone, who holds a U.S. Coast Guard captain's license, would take groups of students out on the Chesapeake, where they'd discuss the challenges facing America's largest estuary. "We'd talk about runoff from farms and how the water's salinity is changing what life can live in the bay," he says. The groups caught eels and crabs, and Stone taught his students how to identify males and females.

Stone has watched the Chesapeake as its health has ebbed and flowed over the decades. When he was young, Stone remembers, seaweed growing on the bay's floor would reach six feet tall. As pollutants and farm runoff clogged the Chesapeake, sunlight struggled to permeate the water's surface, killing off the underwater vegetation—and endangering the aquatic animals that feed on it.



A freshwater swamp at Echo Hill



Stone

Now, Stone says, there are signs of improvement in the bay's overall health. An increase in oyster farming has boosted the population of the mollusks, which naturally filter the bay's water. Plus, state regulation has reduced agricultural runoff, clearing up the Chesapeake's waters.

Though he's retired from Echo Hill, Stone stays connected to his beloved Eastern Shore through the Inn at Mitchell House, the bed and breakfast he's owned with his wife for 38 years. "We're probably the oldest innkeepers in the U.S.," says Stone.



Yasmina Ahdab '15 photographed this male lion in Zululand, South Africa.

Yasmina Ahdab

A Science Translator for Conservation and Planetary Health

In her work as a communications specialist at Johns Hopkins University's Planetary Health Alliance, Yasmina Ahdab '15 aims to bring together a range of communities—policymakers, researchers, private citizens, and scientists—to collaborate on solutions that address the spectrum of factors that contribute to the well-being of the natural and human world.

“Our main goal is to understand how human activity is affecting the environment, what changes are emerging from that, and how that’s affecting human health and the health of other living beings on the planet,” she says.

Ahdab says her interest in the environment stems from her time at Sidwell Friends, remembering

lessons from the Middle School’s wetlands. “We would look for salamanders or vulnerable species and understand why they were important to ecosystems, and how human behavior was impacting these species,” she says.

In college at New York University, Ahdab developed her own major: wildlife biology, conservation, and visual media. Then, in 2018, she went into the field.

Ahdab was riding in the back of a pickup truck through the nature reserves of South Africa’s rural Zululand region, when she spotted a pride of at least 10 lions nearby. An amateur wildlife photographer, Ahdab lifted her camera to capture the moment.

A juvenile male member of the pride took a special interest in Ahdab. “He was sitting there calmly, and he and I were just staring at each other,” she says. The cat let Ahdab take a few photos before he decided he was sick of the paparazzi. “All of a sudden, he started walking toward me, and then running,” says Ahdab—who remained safe as the pickup truck sped away.

Ahdab was in South Africa studying conservation and wildlife biology, and she knew that this was odd behavior for a lion. “I was very confused by this,” she says. “I wanted to understand why this had happened.” Ahdab soon learned that a tuberculosis flareup among wildlife had killed many of the animals that typically made up a lion’s diet, leaving the predator desperate for prey—and leading to increased attacks on humans in the local reserves.

The experience proved to be a formative moment for Ahdab, spurring her interest in understanding how disparate environmental patterns converge. She went on to earn a master’s degree in ecology, evolution, and conservation research at Imperial College London, studying how human-created environmental patterns were affecting mating and breeding behavior among seabird species in Portugal and Cape Verde in West Africa.

After earning her master’s degree, Ahdab decided that she wanted to pursue scientific communications. “We have so many solutions to a lot of the issues we talk about, but we’re not collaborating, or people are not aware of the research that’s going on,” she says. She earned a second master’s degree in communications at Hopkins, where she first connected with the Planetary Health Alliance.

“We want to take on the most holistic approach possible,” Ahdab says. “The way the climate is shifting is going to affect how many natural disasters there are. It might induce drought in places. We’re trying to think as holistically as possible about how all of these planetary systems are playing with each other and the role of human action within that.”



TOP: Ahdab (far left) trail-building in Southwestern Virginia with AmeriCorps.
MIDDLE: Ahdab photographed this baby macaque in Cayo Santiago, Puerto Rico.
BOTTOM: Ahdab seen photographing a flycatcher in the Galápagos Islands.



Below Mt. Rainier, two humpback whales cross Puget Sound in mid-summer.

Sustainable Infrastructure in Pierce County

Growing up, Ryan Dicks '94 would spend summers escaping from the soggy humidity of Washington, DC, in Washington state, visiting family members who lived there. He'd fish and crab along the banks of the Olympic Peninsula's Hood Canal, wander through lush forests, and generally learn to love the natural world around him.

Today, as the sustainable resources administrator for Washington's Pierce County, he's giving back to the state that turned him into an environmentalist.

"I was the first sustainability manager in the county at a time when a lot of folks in Pierce County didn't

really understand what the word meant," he says. "A lot of it was us making it up as we went, but as we've gotten further into it, it's much clearer today what changes need to be made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

After graduating from Georgetown University, Dicks worked in land conservation, arranging the purchase of more than 100,000 acres of forest land in Washington state for preservation. At the same time, he was growing more interested in sustainability practices, installing solar panels for his house and converting his home's reliance on natural gas to electricity.



Dicks on his boat on Puget Sound

“I’m passionate about the subject,” Dicks says, “so people could always tell that I cared in my own life.”

In 2009, his passion crossed into his professional life as well: He became the first sustainability manager ever in Pierce County, which is home to Tacoma and is the state’s second-most populous county. In his role, he advocates for policies that encourage sustainability practices, oversees green building construction, and pushes to get more electric vehicle chargers installed throughout the county. He also handles the county’s solid-waste division and natural resource issues like agriculture, community gardens, and water quality.

“I used to staff a one-person shop, and now we have 22 employees,” Dicks says. “It shows that priorities have changed.”

Dicks also stays connected to nature through his near-daily boating trips on Tacoma’s waterways, where he pursues his primary hobby: wildlife photography. In 2019, Dicks started taking photos, mostly of seals and birds. The next year, just a mile from his home, he spotted a family of orca whales in Puget Sound and started clicking away. “I wanted to show my community that these amazing apex predators live in and around the city of Tacoma,” Dicks says.

Since then, he has shot orcas breaching in front of Tacoma Dome, a major sports and entertainment venue, as well as Seattle’s Space Needle. His photos have been featured in news outlets and on the city of Tacoma’s Instagram account, and he has started a small photography business called AirWaterLand. (Dicks also photographed the cover image of this issue of the magazine.)

“It’s been great to see the response and the uptick in whale watching from public parks in Tacoma and Puget Sound over the last couple of years,” Dicks says. “The public awareness is helping to push state and local governments to do more to protect the whales that live in Puget Sound.”



Five endangered orcas swim through Tacoma and past the Tacoma Dome.



Electricity for Communities Left in the Dark

For the 15 years that Willie Brent '83 lived in Beijing and Shanghai, he watched as China became a major economic player on the international stage. As a foreign correspondent for Agence France-Presse and later an entrepreneur in China's entertainment and media industry, he had a front-row seat to the country's exponential growth.

"I wanted to be part of that boom," he says, "but it was also really sobering because it was pretty clear that a billion-plus people industrializing and using the same development model that had been used in the West was not going to be a good recipe for the planet."

So, when Brent decided he was ready to leave the media industry behind for good, he knew that he wanted to transition into the world of

sustainability. He joined the global communications and public relations firm Weber Shandwick to focus on entertainment technology, but when that client fell through, Brent thought, "Well, I'm an entrepreneur—I'll pitch my chairman and CEO to start a cleantech practice under the firm."

Though he had no background in cleantech—that is, advancements related to renewable energy, recycling, green transportation, or any other reduction to the environmental harm of an existing technology—Brent "always had a mind-set that anything was possible," he says. "As a former journalist, I'm a pretty good researcher and gatherer of information, and I networked like crazy before I left China, and when I got back to the U.S., with people who are in that space."



Courtesy Willie Brent '83



Courtesy Willie Brent '83



Courtesy Willie Brent '83

PREVIOUS PAGE:

A Husk Power solar irrigation customer in India

ABOVE:

Brent at a mini-grid in Nigeria with a village chief in Kiguna, Nigeria

ABOVE RIGHT:

Brent and a colleague sit by a solar-powered rice-milling machine in Rukubi, Nigeria.

Brent did eventually develop the climate solutions, energy innovation, and cleantech practice at Weber Shandwick, which he ran for nearly 10 years. He then co-founded a nongovernmental organization called Power for All, which campaigns to end energy poverty in sub-Saharan Africa through access to distributed renewable electricity.

Now, Brent is chief marketing officer of Husk Power Systems, a company that builds mini-grids that run on solar energy and batteries. “We put up distribution poles and wires, we smart-meter and connect households and businesses in these communities that are off-grid,” says Brent. “They’ve never had electricity.” In fact, the people Husk serves have contributed the least to global emissions and yet are among the world’s most climate-vulnerable populations. So far, Brent estimates, Husk has built roughly 300 mini-grids with 20,000 electrical connections, bringing power to some 500,000 people, primarily across Africa and South Asia. What’s more, Husk has signed a UN compact to build 5,000 more mini-grids by the end of the decade.

Brent, who lives in Spain, is frequently in Husk’s countries of operations, like Nigeria, India, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to ensure maximum impact from access to electricity. In towns without power, doctors work in darkness, food spoils from sitting in the heat, and ear-splitting diesel generators spew out noxious emissions. “Fast forward to after you’ve installed this mini-grid—it really is night and day,” says Brent. “You’ve got students who are studying with lighting. You’ve got health clinics that are able to deliver a baby in the middle of the night. The impact that you’re making on people’s lives is the most rewarding part for me.”



How to Finance Renewable Fuels

While working at the World Bank during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Alethea Dopart '07 began to feel overwhelmed by the scale of the problem she and her colleagues were facing: trying to make changes in health and education policies in the middle of a global pandemic.

"I wanted to take a step back and do something different," she says.

So, naturally, she turned to a much smaller-scale issue: climate change.

The challenge may still be vast, but Dopart has focused on a small but essential corner of it—the environmental commodities market. Through her role as senior director of strategic initiatives at Anew Climate, she works mainly in the transportation sector, helping clients meet the criterion for the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program through a combination of lower-carbon fuels, such as renewable natural gas, and credits that displace nonrenewable fuel.

"These government programs are quite complex, so we have an extensive implementation and operations team who support our clients in making sure they're meeting the requirements of the program," Dopart says. (The RFS mandates that transportation fuel sold in the United States contain a specific minimum volume of renewable fuels.)

Dopart's work, she says, gets her into the nitty-gritty of climate change policy, requiring her to bring a range of skills to bear to get to a practical solution. "It's a little bit of solving puzzles, it's some strategy work, and it's a lot of advocacy work and working

Anew Climate works with clients that turn waste into energy, like this biogas plant.



Courtesy Anew Climate

with government regulators,” she says. “Then there’s the commercial aspect. Having that mixed bag, there’s never a dull moment. It feels very tangible and impactful.”

Her drive to solve real-world problems started at Sidwell Friends. “Sidwell really imparted the belief and understanding that each of us as individuals is part of a community,” Dopart says, “and it’s our responsibility and privilege to give back to that community.”

Dopart has seen growing interest in the world of environmental commodity markets, driven by new laws such as the Inflation Reduction Act as well as by ever-more ambitious corporate goals for mitigating climate risks. Increased attention to these markets will eventually translate to increased trust in their effectiveness, she says.

“When you have markets that are new and developing, there are always going to be different iterations,” she says. “I see it as an opportunity to keep refining them.”

Dopart is also optimistic that business schools and other educational institutions will continue to strengthen their offerings in the field of environmental finance. “There isn’t really a robust academic tradition for any of this work,” she says. “I think there’s interest and appetite from students to have these programs, and also demand from companies like mine to have graduates who have an understanding academically of environmental commodities markets.” ✨



Dopart



Jordan Mathewson '24 peeks under the hood of an electric car.

Senior Project or New Career?

BY SACHA ZIMMERMAN

A budding chemist discovers a new way to process film. The founder of a new nonprofit promotes civil discourse. And an aspiring race-car driver and engineer launches a new motorsport media platform.

Every May before graduation, Sidwell Friends seniors embark on a Senior Project—a month-long endeavor in which the students pursue a topic of their choice, either individually or in groups. The results can be passion projects, service missions, experiments, and artistic pursuits—sometimes all of the above. The following are just three of the coolest Senior Projects from this year.



Portia Wiggins



Vroom

Jordan Mathewson '24

NASCAR? Formula One? Try Formula E. Electric vehicle (EV) racing is becoming more and more popular around the world and is changing the nature of how people think about cars. What's more, perhaps unburdened by an ingrained culture, EV motorsport is attracting a lot of women and people of color. Jordan Mathewson, who will enroll at Case Western this fall, is one example—and she is all in on both racing and building EVs. “I’m going to be studying mechanical engineering because I want to learn how to develop technology that gets tested in race cars and then put into mass-market vehicles,” she says, as though nothing could be more obvious. “So, for my project, I decided to interview race car drivers and review EV hybrids.”

For the past two years, Mathewson has been road racing in a grand touring (GT) class, which she describes as NASCAR on a winding track. She drives cars that anyone could buy today—but with

modifications made to bolster performance. “I’ve had a passion for cars since I was little,” she says. “I got the idea for this project about two years ago when I had COVID, and I watched a race for the very first time. I loved it, and then I went on track about two months later and I was hooked.”

For the project, Mathewson interviewed four professional drivers—all African American men—including Upper School Principal Mamadou Gueye’s son, Diamaan Gueye, who races on a Formula Drift crew in cars modified to perform long power slides (think *Fast and the Furious*—but legal!). She also interviewed 22-year-old phenom Rajah Caruth, an American professional stock car racing driver who competes full-time in the NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series. “Rajah has a really interesting story,” Mathewson says. “He’s from DC and since there are no tracks in the immediate area, he learned how to drive on a simulator, which is something that’s new to NASCAR. Now there are drivers learning how



Mathewson researches elite racing cars.

to drive on simulators before they learn how to drive on the track, and they end up being very successful.” Simulators are making racing accessible to more people in more places and are “definitely growing the sport.”

“When I started racing, I didn’t know any black female race car drivers,” says Mathewson. “That was part of why I really wanted to interview minority drivers and hear their perspectives.” All of Mathewson’s interviews are posted on her Instagram and YouTube pages under “Beyond Speed Limits with Jordan.” Mathewson’s favorite part of the project was doing EV reviews, which she also published online. “I was in about seven different cars; some I got to drive, some I didn’t,” she says. “I ended up posting a review of a McLaren and one was of a Mercedes.”

For Mathewson, the senior project and the Beyond Speed Limits with Jordan platform are just getting started. “Because I came up with this idea two years ago, I had done a lot of networking to get support for the idea,” she says. “I talked to different professors, company executives, and dealership reps, who were all willing to help. And I went to a lot of car meets.” There are still a lot of people left to interview—and a lot of cars to drive and review.

So, is she going to build cars, pit crew them, or race them? Probably a little of everything. “I definitely want to continue to do some racing in college,” she says. “Ohio has lots of tracks, so I’m really excited for that, and this summer I’m hoping to get on track as much as possible.”

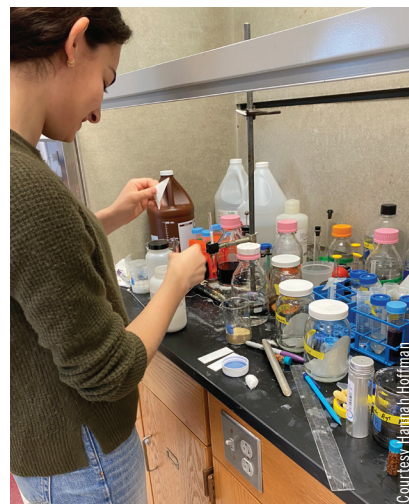
Photo Finish

Hannah Hoffman '24

This year, Hannah Hoffman's two favorite classes were organic chemistry and photography, but the connection between the two disciplines only became evident when she noticed something interesting: The chemical process involved in black-and-white film development reminded her of a worksheet she'd seen in chemistry about the properties of red cabbage. The chemical structures of different commercial photo developers looked a lot like the "cyanidins" found in red cabbage—or the pigments that give red cabbage its color.

It made her wonder: Could she develop black-and-white film with red cabbage? Her project adviser, Upper School chemistry teacher Isaac Miller, put her chances of doing so in one month at about 2 percent. Still, he urged Hoffman to try. "I spent the month designing experiments to test my theory—beyond just looking at the chemical structure," she says. With Upper School photography teacher Lely Constantinople's help, Hoffman studied film development. Then: "I created a model of the film-development reaction and also created a procedure to purify the cyanidin compound from red cabbage," says Hoffman, who bounced between the science lab and the photography lab throughout the project. "Then I used that purified compound to develop film." In short, she proved her theory: The same molecule that adds pigment to red cabbage can be used to develop black-and-white film.

Aesthetically, the discovery is exciting. "The red cabbage juice is yellow at the pH where it develops film," says Hoffman, "so it gives different, cool effects to the photo." The finding has practical applications



Hoffman

as well. "There's a lot of interest in alternative film developers because you can make them at home," she says. "Red cabbage juice is also cheaper and less toxic than commercial film development."

The process also yielded new avenues for exploration. For example, because the cabbage is a pH indicator and changes color at different pHs, Hoffman found it to be a useful way of quickly assessing changes in her developer solution. She also learned that when the cyanidin compound is dissolved in an organic solvent, like methanol or acetone, it converts to a form that's almost colorless. "I was trying to purify this bright pink sample, and I ended up collecting colorless fractions," she says. "I had to think about what was going on, and I ended up coming up with a mechanism that would explain the color change." It's an explanation she'd like another month to pursue—and one that hasn't been described in the scientific literature before.

Unsurprisingly, after discovering a new way to develop film and identifying new properties about a known molecule, Hoffman is looking to publish her findings. No doubt she'll have plenty of opportunities to fine-tune her work as a chemistry major at Haverford College this fall. "I am most proud that I was able to take this theory I made based on looking at a chemical structure and then follow it through," says Hoffman. "I had to learn all these new techniques I've never done before, as well as design and perform the experiments in order to test the theory. It actually ended up working out."



Courtesy Hannah Hoffman



Frederick takes civil discourse to the Lower School.

Table Talk

Kirie Frederick '24

In a nasty, divisive political climate that prizes insults and makes civil discourse all too rare, Kirie Frederick wanted to know if healthy conversations could be taught—and taught young. So, she created a curriculum—called “At Her Table” because “there’s a seat for everyone at the table”—to do just that. Then, she went to the Lower School and tried it out on 2nd and 4th graders.

Frederick remembers those ages well—and recalls being a “really outspoken kid” who didn’t hesitate to bring up controversial topics with her peers. “I’d be in 2nd grade and just talk to my friends about slavery,” she says. “But some adults didn’t really accept that or think I should be talking about these things at that age.” Frederick, however, understood instinctively that talking through difficult issues was vital. As a result, her senior project goal was to teach other kids how to “have healthy conversations without disrespecting other people,” she says. “I wanted to think through what is important in a conversation without necessarily being political.” So, rather than focus on tricky topics, Frederick instead focused on the act of conversing itself.

“What are opinions? What are facts? How do you build an opinion? How do you have a good conversation? How do you ask questions?” Frederick asks, describing some of the elements she went through with the Lower Schoolers before initiating “mini-conversations” about anodyne topics like the relative merits of chocolate versus vanilla ice cream. She also taught the kids about eye contact, active listening, body language, and tone of voice. The students started to raise their hands more, they attempted not to cross-talk, they identified poor language and off-putting tones, and they put themselves in one another’s shoes. “They got to the point where they were really showing off their skills,” says Frederick. “When we did the conversation portion, one of the students said, ‘I guess I can understand why you like chocolate ice cream even though I like vanilla.’ They were just trying really hard.”

The effort proved so successful that several Lower School teachers asked for copies of Frederick’s curriculum for future use. Now Frederick plans to register At Her Table as a nonprofit by September—so when she enters her freshman year at Columbia University, she can start to teach the neighborhood students in Harlem about civil discourse in her spare time. That is, when she’s not majoring in neuroscience and studying to become a surgeon. ✨

The Kids Are All Right

Dr. Ariel White '04 specializes in helping patients on the cusp of adulthood.

BY ELLEN RYAN

Kids today—they've changed. Gen Z and the teens who follow them are more open-minded and social than earlier generations, more gender-fluid, more tech savvy, and more prone to serious anxiety. They've likely been shamed or bullied online, they've spent years practicing active-shooter drills, and they face college admissions processes that are more competitive and ultimately more expensive than ever before. Yet, today's young people feel compelled to empathy, service, and activism like no generation in decades.

Physician Ariel White '04 knows all this. Wise enough to read between the lines that the youngest adults sometimes hide behind, the associate medical director at American University (AU) is still young enough to have won the confidence of students dealing with unplanned pregnancy, suicidal ideation, opioid addiction (she has a Drug Enforcement Administration waiver to prescribe the opiate treatment buprenorphine), and more.

Of course, she also deals with the more everyday reasons why college kids show up at the health clinic: They have migraines, flu, mononucleosis, a sprained wrist from a bike accident. But college students are forever new to the basics of adult life, whether it's managing insurance or navigating an ever-changing healthcare system—let alone understanding their own

bodies, emotions, relationships, and decision-making abilities. "Ariel has a gift for connecting with students quickly, and she really gets them," says AU Clinic Director David Reitman. "She has also brought a lot of innovations to the clinic."

White's attuned senses, for instance, led to AU's eating disorders program—part of American University's Center for Well-Being Programs and Psychological Services—which has quickly become a model for healthcare on other campuses. Soon after White started at AU in October 2022, an athlete came to see her about a seemingly unrelated matter. "Dr. White's antennae went up," says Associate Athletic Trainer Kari Fernandez. "She knew this athlete was suffering from an eating disorder."

Most college sports programs don't have a true plan of care for such cases, Fernandez explains. AU does, now, because White has compiled a team—including herself, a dietician, a mental health professional, the athletic training staff—to help each student create a plan for recovery and develop long-term healthy habits. Sending off one successful patient recently to study abroad made White emotional. For the student, a major trip like that "hadn't been an option before" treatment. These are complicated cases that can last for years, she says. Fernandez agrees and is grateful for the support: "By relying on Dr. White's expertise,

we can be a lot more confident that we're providing for the safety of our people first, and athletes second."

In another example, beginning in spring 2024, AU students received access to the semipermanent contraceptive Nexplanon. "Students are thrilled," Reitman says. "Without her, it wouldn't be happening." Previous efforts had run into insurance roadblocks, but White researched a path forward that no one else had yet found. Her determination was based on a belief that reproductive health is healthcare. "People use contraception for all kinds of reasons," she says, "not just to prevent pregnancy." For example, doctors prescribe birth control medications to treat endometriosis, cramps, acne, migraines, and ovarian cancer. The new offering at AU was one of several student suggestions, White says (along with more comfortable gowns for EKGs and less emphasis on weigh-ins).

White also introduced AU to trauma-informed-care concepts: "That's something she's changed about the way we do things at the health center," says Reitman. In cases where occasional patients—and patient behaviors—have been labeled "difficult," there has been a 21st-century movement to reframe the care approach, to de-escalate, and to realize that some patients may push back on requests or resist answering questions because of previous bad experiences.

Guest speakers on the topic and therapeutic debriefings have helped make the shift positive for staff.

“Instead of ‘What’s wrong with you?’ It’s more ‘What has happened to you?’” White explains. “Especially if kids are in a high-risk situation, we don’t want our work with them to contribute to their stress. We try to provide as much choice around interactions as possible.” For example, healthcare providers can allow room for timid patients to answer sensitive questions over time, or they can suggest that a nonessential test be handled later.

White has brought these lessons to Children’s National Hospital as well, where she spent a two-year fellowship before serving as adolescent medicine physician, devoting herself to teens who often were underserved or had complex medical needs. “She comes back several times a year to teach trainees and other providers on the college landscape about reproductive health rights and access, and eating disorders,” says Anisha Abraham, division chief of adolescent medicine at Children’s. “What is integral to working with young people is getting them to feel comfortable with you, getting them to open up and, in time, to trust enough to talk about challenging issues,” says Abraham. “She has that true passion to empower them and make sure they do well.”

White may be roughly twice her patients’ age, but she’s younger than their parents. She lives in DC’s Adams Morgan, knows the slang (pretty much), and taught herself custom cookie decoration during the pandemic. She had planned to remain at Children’s but saw the AU



White

opening as a “unique opportunity”—patients fresh from home, navigating healthcare on their own; foreign students new to entire medical concepts; and ultimately, young people all in the midst of developing their own psyches and identities. “It sounded really cool to help them learn to advocate for themselves in healthcare,” she says, “especially in the areas of reproductive health and gender-affirming care.”

After graduating from Elon University with a biology major, she attended the University of Maryland Medical School. Now, with board certifications in pediatrics and internal medicine and a zeal that dates to her Sidwell Friends days in Teens Against the Spread of AIDS, White is in an ideal position at American University to help guide patients into young adulthood—and student response shows that she does. Reitman marvels, “I’ve never seen a negative comment from a student.”

“There’s so much to be gained from the Sidwell Friends model of empathy and service and listening to others,” White, a Sidwell Friends lifer, says.

“

There’s so much to be gained from the Sidwell Friends model of empathy and service and listening to others.”

That background “is really valuable in navigating some of the complexities at work here. Being a physician, you have to be competent in science and also develop as a human being. After all, we’re here to help you become a happier, healthier person.” ✨

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



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.





FIFTEEN YEARS AGO

In 2006, the Bruce B. Stewart and Andra B. Jurist Middle School building was the first K-12 school in the world to achieve the highest Platinum rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. As part of Sidwell Friends' commitment to demonstrating and teaching environmental stewardship, the School offered green building tours to over 10,000 educators, students, architects, policymakers, and other visitors in the first years after it opened.

Since the Middle School was constructed, three other Sidwell buildings have been awarded LEED ratings: the Meeting House and Arts Center (Platinum), the Lower School Groome Building and Gym (Gold), and the Pearson Athletic Center (Gold). The new Upton Street property will also apply sustainable principles, including repurposing the building, using reclaimed materials, tapping renewable energy, and restoring some of the original ecosystem.

This year's 8th graders were so eager to educate others about the environment that they published a magazine featuring their projects on climate change.



KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

1950

TOBY RILEY

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ANN TYLER FATHY: "At the age of 91, I suddenly lost my physical mobility. It turned out that the cause was scoliosis, which had been diagnosed years ago but never bothered me until December 16, 2023. My younger friends came to my rescue and got me into an assisted-living facility, where I was able to get much of my strength back. The move also enabled me to sell my condo. In two weeks, I will be moving into a new 39-story apartment building four blocks from where I used to live in downtown San Diego. Then next January, if all goes well, I will take a 133-day Pole-to-Pole cruise. I have a new life and I plan to enjoy it."

1951

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

1952

JANE PAPISH

janepapish@gmail.com

1953

GLORIA GIRTON

ggat58b@orange.fr

GLORIA GIRTON: "I am still suffering from wanderlust and am busy thinking about my upcoming annual visit to Rome and Naples, a trip I missed last year as I was recovering from a broken hip. I have eight grandchildren, of whom four are the sons of my daughter, Marie Frohling."

HANK HOLMES: "My wife, Sao, and I have gone on a second 'retirement,' to a seaside town in Thailand, called HuaHin. The San Francisco area just got too expensive for us. It's pretty hot here as you can imagine, but there's lots of greenery, world class Thai food, and a whiff of the sea nearby. Playing lots of old standards on the piano to keep me and my friends out of trouble."

1954

RICHARD NICKLAS

rnicklas@mfa.gwu.edu

JANE HOUGH: "Sorry to miss this year's Reunion as we had too many things go-

ing on—graduations and weddings—all good things. All is well with us and in Easton. Best wishes to everyone."

1955

NANCY ABOLIN HARDIN

nahardin@aol.com

GEORGE ANTHONISEN: "*George R. Anthonisen: Meditations on the Human Condition* opened April 20, 2024, and runs through October 13, 2024. A comprehensive accompanying book with the same title may be ordered directly from Michener Art Museum Shop (215-340-9800, x 117), or from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Target, and many other sites, including your local bookstore. We are humbled and excited that my work is being shown (exhibited?) at the same time as *Monuments & Myths: The America of Sculptors Augustus Saint-Gaudens and Daniel Chester French*, which runs from June 29, 2024, to January 5, 2025." (See photo below.)

1956

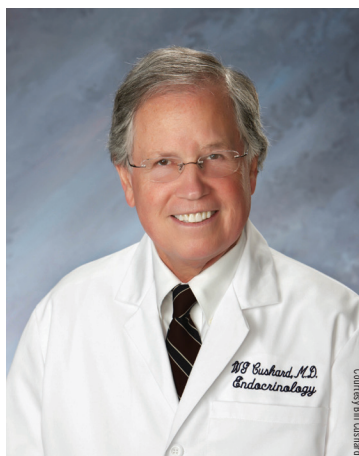
CHARLIE HOLLAND

sshrink9@gmail.com

BILL CUSHARD: "After Sidwell Friends, I had an extended period of education with college, medical school, residency, and fellowship training. I was an intern at a big city hospital and finished up at the hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Military service followed, and I



LEFT: Dan Bernstein '55, George Anthonisen '55, and Robert Bresler '55 at the opening of *George R. Anthonisen: Meditations on the Human Condition*.
CENTER: Bill Cushard '56 **RIGHT:** Bill Cushard '56 and his wife of 55 years



did not get married until age 29. We still live in Northern California and have four adult children and nine grandchildren. I worked until just before my 82nd birthday (June 2020) and have done medico-legal consulting since then. We are snow skiers, golfers, and sailors (blue water). I do read the newsie stuff about Sidwell Friends that comes my way and have interest in how my high school classmates have done. As a group, the accomplishments are *most impressive* although regretfully not all are still with us and others have dropped out of contact. I seem to have plenty of tread left on me and still look forward to a wish I learned at Friends: 'Health and Wealth and Time to Enjoy Them.' (See photos on previous page.)

ARTHUR HILDRETH: "Wesie and I are flying to Reno to see our first great-grandchild, a girl! We have three daughters, five granddaughters, and now one great-granddaughter. I guess you know who rules!"

CHARLIE HOLLAND reports from Cape Cod: "Peggy and I are the proud grandparents of yet two more grandchildren, courtesy of our son, Morgan, and his wife, Casey. Della just turned 2 years old, and Levy (pronounced like Chevy) is about 6 months old. They live in Shelburne, Vermont. That makes for nine grandchildren from four children. Not too bad! My oldest granddaughter, Sophie, is about to graduate from Endicott College with a degree in nursing. Her brother, Bennett, is finishing his first year at Brown University. It is their father who died of ALS a year ago. My oldest daughter, Sandy, recently closed her bakery/restaurant in Brunswick, Maine, after several decades. It is sobering to have one's child retire! Peggy was recently elected chairperson of the South Chatham Public Library, which is celebrating its 150th birthday. Lots of festivities. She is doing a superb job as chairperson. I am celebrating the arrival of early spring on Cape Cod as well as my early crop of both rhubarb and raspberries. And the birds are excited about my crop of blueberries!"

LINDA WILSON: "At a family gathering in June, I saw my two sons, four grandsons, and two great granddaughters.

The oldest grandson is with NCIS living in Bahrain, and he and his wife and the girls will be visiting for several weeks. I am really looking forward to it!"

DAVE WOOD reports that after living in a co-op home at The Highlands of Topsham, Maine (a retirement community where he and Paula moved 10 years ago), he has moved to an apartment in the Main Lodge to be closer to Paula, who has been in the community's memory care facility since mid-2023. He visits Paula daily and the two have dinner together. As a result of this situation, they haven't been able to visit either of their summer places in Maine for several years. Dave sings in the Highlands chorale, plays ping pong every week, and walks two or more miles every day.

1957

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

1958

ROBERT MYERS
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PEGGY PABST BATTIN
battin@utah.edu

MARGARET "PEGGY" PABST BATTIN is celebrating the publication of her new book *Sex and the Planet: What Opt-In Reproduction Could Do for the Globe*, now available from MIT Press. A back-cover endorsement by Jane O'Sullivan describes it as: "A brilliantly original perspective on reproductive freedom and all its social and environmental ramifications. ... It liberates us to explore the many impacts of unplanned pregnancy without the stigmas attached to contraception, abortion, or 'population control.' It reveals a much kinder world we can all help to bring about." (See "Fresh Ink," page TK.)

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Check out the Conversation with Friends event about *Sex and the Planet* with **Peggy Pabst Battin** and moderated by **Bob Myers**: sidwell.edu/cwf.

MARY LIB WAHRENBROCK HOINKES, recovering from a brief hospitalization, reports with glee that "my legs are working again!"

CRAIG MORGAN and Sing-huen write that they are "immensely grateful for the miracle of IVF. And even more so for the miracle of life. How one gets from an in-vitro-conceived and subsequently frozen, maybe 100-cell embryo to a perfectly formed darling grand-daughter in only nine months is completely beyond understanding. Sofia, born into our son Nathaniel's family, is now coming up on her first birthday, all giggly, super-social, and loving."

THATCHER MORSE is entering his fourth year in residence as house director of the University of Florida, Gainesville, chapter of Sigma Nu fraternity. He's about to have minor surgery to treat carpal tunnel issues in his right hand, and the main problem, he writes, is "that I can no longer hold a guitar/mando/banjo/bouzouki pick. I've been reduced to ring-finger strumming on my eight-string ukulele"—distress about to be cured.

STEVE STOVALL, our running classmate and irreverent humorist, writes from Thornton, Colorado, that "One woman driver ignored me at a stop sign and a woman in golf cart yelled at me to get off the street after almost hitting me as she rounded a curve. Is 83 too old to be flipping off people? I hope not!"

DOLLY BOWMAN TUCKER writes of big changes after the death of her husband, Gene Tucker, a retired Navy captain buried at Arlington with full military honors. "Beautiful ceremony!" she says. She is moving to Carlsbad, California, to be near her daughter.

BOB MYERS, who now lives on the other side of the world in Auckland, New Zealand, is writing a short memoir about growing up in Washington, DC, in a house on Western Avenue that straddled the MD/DC border, which ran through their front yard. There were advantages to this divided existence: "Initially, we had DC car license plates but switched to Maryland ones when my

father discovered that car insurance in Maryland was cheaper,” Bob writes, and they could choose between Lafayette School in the District and Chevy Chase Elementary School on Rosemary Street in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Read the memoir to find out which they picked—and lots of other details about growing up in the 1940s, where a kid could explore “the woods next to our house and the creek at the bottom of our lot—endless sources of fascination for us. The woods had bobwhite birds, which whistled ‘Bob White’ and would run away rapidly as you walked toward them. For them, flying was a last resort, only if they saw you as threatening. There were also rabbits, groundhog and skunk families, and black snakes, box turtles, and a lot of bugs and birds. Blue jays, cardinals, robins, red-headed woodpeckers, etc. were all doing their thing, which was mainly fighting each other for turf. Blue jay males, pretty as they are, were aggressive; they’d dive bomb your head if you got close to their nest.”

Class members who responded with additional accounts of growing up in Washington include **Melba McVey Carr**, **Stephen Baer**, **Joan Friedman Seymour**, and **John Coffman**, while **Craig Morgan** reflects for all: “How different our youth was from what appears to be the experience of youth today. It was a more trusting world, and our parents

gave us the freedom to explore it ourselves. Perhaps it was therefore easier for us to develop confidence in our ability to cope. Another aspect of this freedom was fewer organized youth sports, so that one improvised games, negotiated rules, helping to build a sense of fairness and compromise. Finally, our youth had a tangibility that is not as present today. Our play was physical, our toys were physical, our hobbies were physical, our relationships were always in-person physical relationships. Whereas now, things are getting a bit weird.”

1959

CLARK GRIFFITH
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1960

JODY HUTCHINSON
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1961

BUNNY ROSENFELD
bunnyrosenfeld4200@icloud.com

DAVID “CHUCK” BRESLER: “After spending over 50 years in California, mostly as a professor in the UCLA Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, I have moved back to Maryland, which is where I grew up. This is to be closer

to some of our six children and eight grandchildren, and we found a large house that can accommodate all of them.”

1962

CHETT BREED
chettbreed@gmail.com

CHETT BREED is recovering from retirement with a recent assignment at Maharishi International University, working on a dissertation committee with an Ethiopian student. He says: “Many of the mistakes of my professional career suddenly are relevant and cogent grounds for advising the scholar. Both in the direction of his research and in the uses he may be able to make of it going forward. Very satisfying to find that nothing lost is ever really wasted!” This reminds him of a line from Edmund Spenser’s *Faerie Queene*: “Nor is the earth the less, or loseth ought/For whatsoever from one place doth fall/is with the tide unto another brought.”

JUDY MCGREGOR CALDWELL writes: “I’m still happily in Vero Beach, Florida. My summer plans are to paint on an organic farm in upper Pennsylvania and on Monhegan Island, Maine. My daughter, Marcy, has a psychology degree and specializes in adults with ADHD. Her children, Quinn (6) and Davis (9), are soccer, squash, and tennis enthusiasts. My son, Carter, is director

Class of 1959

REUNION

>>>> Recap <<<<



BACK ROW: Sima Griffith, Ruth Dater, **Clark Griffith '59**, Sue Peterson Huguley '59, Tony Dater '59, Bud Miller, Penny Petkiewicz **FRONT ROW:** William Deutermann, Cynthia Johnson Deutermann '59, Geoff Huguley '58, Shirley Trew Miller '59, Steve Schreiber '59, David Woolpert '59

A small but spirited band of octogenarians showed up to represent the Class of 1959 at the Reunion. There was no shortage of memories, updates, opinions, and jokes. In addition to the cocktail party and the dinner, we had our own little lunch gathering at the Zartman House. At the luncheon we hosted a Zoom call, which brought us classmates from distant places, including California, France, and Germany. Thanks go to Kourtney Ginn from the Alumni Office and the rest of the School staff for making the Reunion such a special occasion.

—STEVE SCHREIBER '59

of Penn Medicine's venture capital. His oldest, Parker (12), is the pitcher on two traveling teams. Vivienne (9) and Charlotte (3) are a delight. Wonderful children and grandchildren. I am blessed to be their Gammy."

HELEN HAWES: "I have let go of being a practicing visual artist, giving up the studio, the materials, the gallery scene, the actual making with heart and hands, and selling of art. How I wondered could I be an artist who doesn't make art? And what, oh what, will fill the emptiness left behind? 'Let go,' my studio said, 'of the separation between Art and Life. Stop making Art. Let life make you into Art. Continue making the invisible visible but move to subtler and subtler realms. Trust in emergence, something will arise to fill the void.'" Helen is now teaching Tai Chi and Qi Gong. She has been practicing both for over 40 years and now finds herself teaching and learning an immense amount from her students and the Chi, which are her "new teachers. I am in love with this art form and have found the transition to be smooth and effortless." Helen adds that she has also begun playing the piano again, the first instrument in her life. "This musical transition has not been so easy!"

GLENN MCCLELLAND reports the McClellands' move to South Carolina from New Hampshire has gone well, ending up just outside Charleston to be near their oldest son, Will, who with his wife, Lauren, and two grandsons are only five minutes away. Glenn's wife, Ramona, is very much enjoying being a backup babysitter. Glenn seems to be recovering from a fall "but fortunately no bones were broken, and I am taking my exercise routine back a notch until I recover." Contact Glenn for advice re: walkers.

MARCIA ROSENBERG PRUZAN: "I was immensely proud to be present to watch my daughter, **Tracy Pruzan-Roy '92** give a Founder's Day Let Your Life Speak 2024 presentation to Sidwell Friends Upper Schoolers on life lessons she has acquired through her journey of climbing the corporate ladder and then abruptly changing careers. It was a special treat to be able to see my child in a



Tracy Pruzan-Roy '92, the daughter of Marcia Pruzan '62, gives a Founder's Day 2024 Let Your Life Speak presentation.

professional role—something most of us rarely have the chance to do—and to be back on campus on a beautiful spring day for inspiring speeches and beautiful musical performances by all ages of the Sidwell Friends community. The campus is, of course, unrecognizable to us lifers. I did amaze some younger staff by pointing out that my kindergarten class, known as Transition, was housed in Mr. Sidwell's stables!" (See photo above.)

JUDY MARKLEY WASTLER has had a brilliant recovery from hip replacement surgery and is celebrating by returning to Delta and flying up and down the Eastern seaboard. "Brilliant... and ecstatic!"

STEVE WOOLPERT continues to volunteer for the Citizens Climate Lobby, visiting local community college and high school classes to help students see which

policy interventions would be the most effective in limiting the effects of the climate crisis. He's also keeping a close eye on several disturbing cases before the Supreme Court. "Then, to restore my sense of well-being, I spend time tending to our flowers and meditating."

1963

MARGO LEE HOFELDT

margo10022@aol.com

ROSAURA EICHENBERG: "Rio Grande do Sul is still under water, but we will survive. My parents used to speak about the great flood in 1941. Imagine, we were not even born. I will be 79 next month—time flies on a jet. My life is a mess, but my head insists on being full of dreams. Shall I be able to visit Amherst one day? I love Emily Dickinson's poems. Guess who told me about this American poet? **John Lockwood**. Sidwell Friends dwells in my memories. I wish you a nice summer."

SYLVIA FUBINI: "Following in **Sandy Robertson's** footsteps, I got a puppy (cocker spaniel) last year. Training is not my strength, but Milo and I are slowly making progress. I don't think he is going to aspire to an advanced agility award or best-in-show, but he and I, along with my older Turkish street dog, Rumi, spend many hours along Bethesda's Crescent Trail. Hopefully, I will get a chance to meet up with **Pat Cross Bradley** and her dog entourage this summer. Otherwise, my oldest granddaughter is about to graduate from 8th grade and my youngest is almost 2. Time flies by."



TOP: Magnolia Blossom and Bud by Sharon Hinckley '63 **BOTTOM:** Glassware by Sharon Hinckley '63

SHARON HINCKLEY: “I am continuing to teach a couple of watercolor painting classes each week online via Zoom at San Diego College of Continuing Education. Here are a couple of paintings that I completed during recent classes (see photos on previous page). I am still so grateful for the training that I got from the Hogelands when I was at Sidwell Friends.”

MARGO LEE HOFELDT: “It’s all a blur! The last several months have been a whirlwind: convention, events, parties, and more. First of all, Garden Club. We had our annual Standard Flower Show, and the theme was “Blooming Desserts.” My “Table for Two” design received only third place (out of four), but the plant I showed for Horticulture got first place and a Grower’s Choice Award. The next thing was the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs Convention in Jacksonville, where I went with some of my Garden Club friends for five days. We had fun, we learned, and we got to know some of the ladies from other clubs around the state. About a year and a half ago, we founded the Miami Beach Orchid Society, and in May we sponsored an Orchids and Arts Festival. We had an official judging of people’s orchids, and there were wonderful orchid vendors, raffles, entertainment, food, drinks, and art. It was a lot of work but well worth it. I’m so grateful that I’ve been able to enjoy everything as my family members are all doing well. Our granddaughter will already be 3 in July! Plans for the summer are yet to be determined.”

JEANNE PERKINS HOFFERKAMP: “Well, spring has finally arrived in Chicago! All is good here. When you can say that the kids and grandkids are all ok that is really something! No plans for trips this summer. Steve is still having chemo every three weeks but is doing fine. He did play in his men’s nine-hole golf league on Monday. Hopefully golf for both of us this summer. Did not play at all last summer, but maybe it is like riding a bike... never forgetting. Wishing everyone a wonderful summer and above all good health.”

DIANA WILLIS ROTHMAN: “I was thrilled to see the last total eclipse of the sun visible in the United States in my lifetime appear from behind the clouds in Austin on April 8. Five days later, I flew to Ireland for the first time to visit the country where my grandmother was born in 1872. Even though I would love to hear and see the cicadas once again, I’m not flying east for them, and I don’t expect to be around in seventeen years!”

1964

LOUISE BERRY STRAIT

lbstrait@gmail.com

1965

KEN LESURE

ken.lesure@gmail.com

WOODY HALSEY: “The older I get, the more I appreciate the lessons learned and the friendships established at Sidwell Friends 60 years ago. Though my attendance is erratic, I really appreciate **Ken LeSure’s** efforts to keep our class connected via monthly Zoom meetings. It is inspiring to see what everyone is doing in retirement. I try to maintain cognitive function by remembering the birthdays of my eight grandchildren, by reading a French newspaper article

or two every morning, and by studying Italian. In May 2024, as my wife and I toured around northern Italy, we met the Italian teacher I’d known only online, at his apartment in Livorno. The conversation over lunch was a good language workout! My five daughters range in age from 22 to 45, my grandkids from 2 to 17. When the youngest daughters (twins finishing junior year in college) graduate in 2025, I hope my wife and I can spend more time at our house in Avignon, though she still works part-time in the Urgent Care Department at the Boston VA Hospitals and is starting work on another book.” (See photo below.)

MARY BETH WAITS: “This past January 27, my only son, Christopher Whigham, got married. It was a joyous occasion filled with love, laughter, and dancing.” (See photo below.)

1966

CHRIS DEMATATIS

cdematatis@aol.com

1967

STEVE BATZELL

swb.abacus@gmail.com



Simon Voorhees '14, Roland Spier '14, Maxim Baranov '14, Maia Berlow '14, Sonya Bessalel '14, Alison Steinbach '14, Emma Marshall '14



Class of 1964

REUNION

>>> Recap <<<

The highlight of Reunion 2024 for the Class of 1964 was our Saturday lunch gathering hosted by **Henry Masur** and Grace Masur, at their Bethesda home. A few of us braved the weather to attend on-campus events on Friday and Saturday, most memorably the presentations on Friday by Steve Steinbach and Bryan Garman, but nothing could compare with the beautiful setting and fabulous food that 20 classmates and spouses enjoyed. In addition to our hosts, in attendance were **Steve Aylor** and **Ursula Aylor**, **George Bernstein**, **Chris Brown**, **Marika Moore Cutler** and Barry Cutler, **Bonnie Eisenberg**, **Susie Grabill Hanson** and John Hanson, **Richard May** and **Julie May**, **Scot McCullough**, **Ray Murphy** and Jennifer Murphy, **Louise Berry Strait** and Glenn Strait, **Bobby Seitz Turnbull**, and **Doug Yriart**. Popular items in the buffet spread were crab cakes, couscous, and dessert pastries. The weather dictated that we be seated at a very long table indoors. This was a felicitous circumstance because, after hearing some welcoming remarks by Henry, everyone could share in reminiscences. What I saw and experienced was the importance of Sidwell Friends in forming the foundation of the successful careers and relationships of my classmates. I know that I'm not alone in that sentiment, nor in the desire to be together again in five years.

—LOUISE BERRY STRAIT '64



TOP: Scot McCullough '64, George Bernstein '64, Chris Brown '64 **MIDDLE:** The Class of 1964 lunches at the Masurs' Bethesda home. **BOTTOM:** Henry Masur '64 and Grace Masur

PHIL KHOURY recently hosted **Steve Batzell**, **Hans Carter**, and **Bob Kramer** at his home in the Berkshire Mountain region of Massachusetts. **Alex Scott** joined us for a long weekend replete with dining out, long walks, a jazz concert, and a trip to see new art exhibits at MASS MoCA. There was much joviality as stories were shared about family, careers, and personal changes. There were several rounds of 'where are they now' and 'can you remember when' inspired by our handy '67 yearbook. One overarching thought was readily shared: Getting older sneaks up on you; better to share with (SFS) friends." (See photo at right.)

1968

ROLLIE FRYE

rolliefrye@gmail.com

EVELYN BROWN: "After a year's delay due to a running injury, I finally ran an ultramarathon—50 kilometers, or 32 miles, on my feet for 10 hours. Then, I ran a second one a month later! I'm done with 50k races now and will concentrate on regular full and half marathons." (See photo on next page.)

DAVID THOMSON: "I continue to be involved in various volunteer opportunities: Teresa House hospice care, Habitat for Humanity, etc. And I continue to write; my most recent project is a historical novel about the Wadsworth family and the history of Geneseo, New York. I had another short story published, this time in an online forum, *The Braided Way*, which embraces the Quaker tradition of seeing every faith as a strand, braided into a larger whole of spiritual awareness. If anyone cares to spend a

few minutes reading, here's the link: braidedway.org/beneath-the-surface. Best wishes to all to continue your life's journey and keep moving forward."



Hans Carter '67, Alex Scott '67, Phil Khoury '67, Bob Kramer '67, Steve Batzell '67



LEFT: Evelyn Brown '68 crosses the finish line at the Zion Ultra Marathon Trail Race in Utah. **CENTER:** Gregory Jackson '69 and Charlotte Lane McGraw '69 hug at their 55th Reunion. **RIGHT:** Charlotte Lane McGraw '69 and Sally Pressinger Bosley '69 dance at their 55th Reunion.

1969

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

ANNETTE WEIR ELLIS: “Best wishes to everyone from the Class of 1969. Unfortunately, distance and timing prevented me from attending the May Reunion in Washington, DC. However, I did think of you all and reminisced a great deal about my wonderful Sidwell Friends days. My love of history started in Mr. LeSure’s class; my fascination with art began in Mr. and Mrs. Hogeland’s class; and my keenness for all sports, especially tennis and hockey, began at Sidwell Friends. Mr. Barber, all our teachers and fellow students were fabulous caring people who most definitely had a very positive

impact from my Middle School years until today. I value greatly the regular communication I have with my special friend, **Comfort Halsey**, after 60 years of friendship! For the past 47 years, I have lived in Auckland, New Zealand, with my husband, Kim. Children, grandchildren, and extended family keep us busy in retirement. We are patrons of Auckland Theatre and Writers Festival. Golf has taken the place of tennis; and in the winter, you’ll find us skiing with the grandchildren. *‘Eluceat Omnis Lux.’*” (See photo on next page.)

JIM HIGSAW: “I was interested to see that a baseball batting record I set in 1969 (six RBIs in one game) lasted 38 years! (See Sidwell Friends Baseball Records at sidwellfriends.com/baseball/records.php.)”

1970

MARGARET WEAVER STEEL
mwkrull@me.com

BETSY GLASSMAN has completed a music video for one of her original songs. You can view it on her Facebook page (facebook.com/betsy.glassman) and here: vimeo.com/918693204/918693204. She is now planning her next musical venture as a singer/songwriter. She also started an Instagram account [@askthefarmlady](https://askthefarmlady) to promote organic gardening and how to do it. Come on by!

KATHY KLEEMAN: “**Sandy Horowitz** and I slogged through pouring rain to gather at **Stephanie Fain Morrow**’s new home in Red Bank, New Jersey, for a smile-filled check-in and mini-reunion as Stephanie confronted a prolonged set of health issues.” (See photo on next page.)

MARGARET WEAVER STEEL: “In April, Griff and I went on a bike trip in Holland and Belgium through a company called Back Roads. We arrived in Amsterdam a few days early and enjoyed sight-seeing in this beautiful city. When we went to the designated location to meet up with the group we’d be riding with, there stood **Richard Murray** and his wife, Pat. Richard and I went all the way from K-12 together. What a wonderful surprise to reconnect with Richard on this fantastic trip. We saw lots of canals, windmills, and bicycles. The weather was chilly but dry, thank goodness! And we had plenty of Belgian chocolates and beer!” (See photo on next page.)

Pinot Memories

A new bottle of wine and a viticulture fellowship honor Dick Ward '68.

Dick Ward co-founded the Saintsbury Winery in California. This year, the winery announced the “second release of our Richard A. Ward Memorial Wine, an exceptional Pinot Noir bottling celebrating the life and legacy of Saintsbury co-founder, managing partner, husband, father, and friend Richard Ward.” After Ward’s passing in 2017, the winery also created “the Richard A. Ward Fellowship at the University of California, Davis, to support students pursuing their graduate degrees in viticulture and enology and furthering the industry we hold so dear. Our mission in this living tribute is to honor a larger-than-life character with exceptional intelligence, curiosity, and drive for excellence that we strive to pursue with every Saintsbury release.” Learn more about the fellowship—and the wine!—here: saintsbury.com/raw-memorial-wine.

1971

BRIAN STEINBACH

brian.steinbach@verizon.net

DOUG COLE is still working as a drama teacher and storyteller with kids and is enjoying working in several blues bands as a harmonica player (an instrument he took up in his Sidwell Friends years). His new band is called Cole and the Gang, featuring his son, Andre, on drums! (See photo below.)

JOHN EMORY: “My sister, **Kit Emory '74**, visited us in McLean, Virginia, after attending her 50th Sidwell Friends Reunion in May. Our class of 1971 continues to have monthly Zooms to stay in touch. She missed my son, Danny, who will be visiting us from Kyiv, Ukraine, later in May. Danny has been living/working in Kyiv for the past two years.”

ELIZABETH RHODES REICH reports that on March 12, 2024, **Bill Nye '73** was at Barrett, the Honors College at Arizona State University, as the holder of

the John J. Rhodes Chair in Public Policy and American Institutions. John J. Rhodes was a Member of Congress from Arizona from 1952 to 1982 and was House Minority Leader from 1974 to 1981. He was also the father of **Thomas Harvey Rhodes '65** and Elizabeth. (See photo below.)

1972

JOYCE JACOBSON

joyce@brastedhouse.com

1973

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

RICHARD FOLEY and Janice Foley became first-time grandparents on May 7, 2024. Newborn boy is William Rucker Marrin born to Paige Foley Marrin and David Marrin. (See photo below.)

BRIAN GLASSMAN: “What a pleasure to see classmates at our 50th Reunion in May 2023. The bonds between us

remain strong: 50 years was another opportunity to celebrate them! I’ve been extremely fortunate since stepping back from full-time teaching in 2020. As a professor emeritus, I’ve been able to teach the courses I most enjoy—particularly law and the arts and election law—more often. In addition, I’ve had the chance to make multiple presentations on these topics to the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, other organizations, and schools. Finally, I’ve returned to the classroom as a student, taking courses most recently in art history, drawing, and painting at my university. Sidwell Friends helped teach me that there is always more to learn. Look forward to seeing everyone at our next Reunion!” (See photo below.)

AMANDA HAHN: “Deciding we couldn’t wait another 50 years to be together after loving catching up at our Reunion last year, **Ann Dodge**, **Barbara Wampler**, and I traveled from Providence, Rhode Island, Bristol, Virginia, and London, England, respectively to meet in Savannah, Georgia. We shared memories of friends, teachers, and escapades from



TOP ROW, LEFT: Annette Weir Ellis '69 and her husband, Kim **CENTER, LEFT:** Sandy Horowitz '70, Stephanie Fain Morrow '70, Kathy Kleeman '70 **CENTER, RIGHT:** Margaret Weaver Steel '70 and Richard Murray '70 ran into each other in Amsterdam. Both were on the same bike trip across Holland and Belgium. **RIGHT:** Doug Cole '71 with his band, Cole and the Gang **BOTTOM ROW, LEFT:** Thomas Harvey Rhodes '65, Bill Nye '73, Elizabeth Rhodes Reich '71 **CENTER:** Richard Foley '73 has a grandchild, William Rucker Marrin, pictured her all new and healthy at Virginia Hospital Center. **RIGHT:** Bill Nye '73, Liza Donnelly '73, Brian Glassman '73, and Barclay Jones Kopchak '73 at their 50th Reunion luncheon at the home of Lydia Adelfio '73.

Class of 1974 REUNION

>>>> Recap <<<<

I woke up the next day after the party and was surprised not to find a few classmates asleep on a couch. Well, I guess we are finally past that stage!

It was a pleasure to see so many of our classmates here at our house and then a few more significant others, capped off by yet a few more friends at the Sidwell Friends tent dinner and dance party. It is remarkable how the class still looks young and healthy. The event was filled with stories of fun activities, families, and retirement issues; ways to overcome health challenges were also sprinkled through the various conversations. Some of us talked about gathering during 2026 to collectively celebrate our 70th birthdays, perhaps in a fun place like Annapolis or out in Virginia. So, we'll start thinking and planning such a birthday bash, exactly as we would like to do it!

Here at our house the following were sighted: **Leslie Wolf-Creuzfeldt, Betsy Karasik, Amy Wilkerson, Patty Eyster, Valerie Rumsfeld, Diana Reed, Susan Reed, Cathy Gotshall, Mary White, Jane Batzell, Sarah Challinor, Beth Ourisman, Laurie Kahn, Gracios Audette (+one), Kit Emory (+Andrew), Fraser Brewer, Susan Mudd, Susan Silverstein, Susan Hilton, Katie Norment, Susan Gorey, Charlie Turner, Jodie Demere Clements, Charlie Watkins (+Cheryl), Bill Grant, Matt Gamser, Wolf Chris Nordlinger, Scott Meza, Paul Schulman, Barky Jones (+Sarah), Rob Nooter (+Barbara), Marco Adelfio (+Lydia White Adelfio '73), Tony Fleming, Roger Lustig, Andrew Lazarus, David Pollak (+Emelia), Peter Rashish, Andy Bladon, Doug Sedon, Sonny Small, Stephen Chanock (+Lizette).** **Soye Kim '73** also joined.

On Zoom, several joined: **Chris Wagner, Karl Bostic, Rik Malone, Sigrid Rostad, Sage Givens,** and **Eleanor Howe.** At the Sidwell Friends Reunion tent, I saw **Donna DeMarco Sayad, Ronni Jolles, Henry Morris, Camilla Bryce-Laporte,** and others. So, 44 of us were in person and six more Zoomed in. Many others sent messages, so all in all, a great turnout!

—STEPHEN CHANOCK '74



TOP: The Class of 1974 celebrate their 50th Reunion.
MIDDLE: The Class of 1974 pose on the Zartman House stairs.
BOTTOM: Kit Emory '74, Doug Sedon '74, Cathy Stieff '74



LEFT: Ann Dodge '73, Barbara Wampler '73, Amanda Hahn '73 **CENTER:** Marianne Bernstein '74 **RIGHT:** Tony Fleming '74, Catherine Stieff Gotschall '74, Henry Morris '74, Susan Mudd '74, Matt Gamser '74

our time at Sidwell Friends and beyond, as well as great food, perfect weather, and a wonderful city. We're up for another trip. Anyone from the Class of 1973 want to join the next one?" (See photo above.)

1974

LESLIE WOLF-CREUTZFELDT

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PAUL MARKUN

pmarkun@gmail.com

MARIANNE BERNSTEIN has published a new artbook, *Theatre of the Everyday*, in collaboration with studio FM milano. It is an artist's book of photographs spanning 40 years exploring the poetics of everyday life. It can be ordered on the website: theatreoftheeveryday.com. (See photo above.)

KIT EMORY: "I thoroughly enjoyed our 50th Reunion—especially because I hadn't attended one since our 20th. What a joy it was to reconnect with so many I grew up with in various ways, to see how beautifully and gracefully everyone had aged over the years. I confess I was worried I wouldn't recognize my classmates, but lo and behold, almost everyone looked the same to my eyes! It was risky, but I am very grateful to all who welcomed my husband to many of the events. (He was the one no one could recognize!) The class for alumni on the Constitution made me long for required civics classes at all schools; it was wonderful and thought-provoking. I hope that Sidwell Friends makes this a priority in coming years. I also

truly loved sitting in on the 5th grade art class as we all made Picasso-esque self-portraits (eyes closed, pencil never leaving the page) alongside the personable and enthusiastic 10-year-old students. Above all, the party at the Chanocks' offered a great way to re-engage with many I hadn't seen in decades. And the dinner, awards ceremony, and shockingly good—if *loud!*—band afterward provided the perfect cap to a rewarding couple of days. There's nothing like Earth, Wind & Fire to bring on some serious boogie! And to **Amy Wilkinson**, **Matt Gamser**, **Donna DeMarco Sayad**, **Laurie Kahn**, **Stephen Chanock**, and the amazing **Leslie Wolf-Creutzfeldt**: Thank you for all you did to make this the joyful event that it was. I always felt somewhat outside of our class because I lived so far from the School that it was hard to socialize much. But this Reunion definitely reminded me that I was still a part of an incredibly special and cool group of people who had the good fortune to attend a remarkable institution. We were all so lucky to have this experience in our lives!"

MATTHEW GAMSER: "Five classmates seized the opportunity to take a refreshing hike along the DC-Maryland border. The hike took in Little Falls Park and the C&O Canal, including a nice view of Little Falls. **Tony Fleming** provided a fascinating talk on the geology of DC, a key transitional region." (See photo above.)

PETER RASHISH: "The band opening with Earth, Wind & Fire was a game changer—and confirmed that Reunion night was 'a good, good night.' We en-

joyed the time on and off the dance floor and look forward to reconnecting soon." (See photo below.)

AMY WILKINSON: "It was wonderful to reconnect with so many Sidwell Friends classmates. I enjoyed interacting with classmates as they sent me their responses to the 2024 Questionnaire and then talking with everyone at the Reunion events. In previous reunions, I attended only the Saturday night dinner. This year, I went to several events held on Friday. The campus is so different (although the facilities are amazing, I miss the campus as it was when we were at Sidwell Friends). I was impressed by the students in the 5th-grade Spanish class I went to. The students were eager to share their stories and knowledge of Spanish with us. The lunch at **Stephen Chanock's** and the Saturday night dinner were so much fun. I especially enjoyed dancing Saturday night. I'm struck by how so many of us have led lives of service and good and how kind we are. Like our yearbook says: 'We're good eggs, a little cracked, but good...'"



Henry Morris '74 and Camila Bryce-LePorte '74 cut a rug at the Reunion dance party.

LESLIE WOLF-CREUTZFELDT: “Robbie Gross, historian and assistant principal for academic affairs, provided the Class of 1974 with an engaging retrospective of their Sidwell Friends experience based on Sidwell archival records, including protests against the Vietnam War and watching the Watergate hearings on television during class. Our enduring focus on the environment seems to have been nurtured during senior projects where many classmates took the opportunity to camp outside. During the Reunion weekend, we resumed our ongoing conversations about family, friends, careers, and retirement as well as about climate change, student protests, and a search for peace solutions. *‘Plus ça change, plus c’est la même chose.’*”

1975

ALAN DRUMMER

alandrummer@hotmail.com

1976

MARY ANN MCGRAIL

mamcgrail@yahoo.com

BETSY ZEIDMAN

betsyzeidman@gmail.com

TOM WARNKE: “Coming up on 25 years in Long Beach, California, so I guess I have to concede I’m a Californian. Two kids: one a high school teacher in the Bronx; the other baking bread here in Long Beach. I’ve been married 41 years and still going strong. Working at Lambda Legal, director of media relations, fighting the good fight against myriad ill-intentioned state governors and legislators who seem to feel trans kids are fair game to target. Spending most of my time in and fighting Texas, but Oklahoma, Florida, Idaho, Montana, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, etc., etc., also demand our attention. Give me a shout if ever out this way.”

1977

ADAM STERN

adamstern@aol.com

1978

PETER MACDONALD

pmacdona@skidmore.edu

DEEDIE BOYLAN: “I traveled to DC to reunite with **Susie English** and **Zoe Carter**, who were invited to speak to Sidwell Friends students about their passions and life experiences. **Miriam ‘Chi-Chi’ Zimmerman** generously hosted a house concert by Zoe, with Susie on harmonies, that was attended by some of our classmates, including **Bing Shaw**, **Serrin Gant**, **Barbara Andrews**, and **Larry Ottinger**. It is always fun to catch up with classmates and a treat to see Zartman House covered with April wisteria.” (See photo at right.)

VERNON COWELL: “It just so happens today is my 64th birthday (May 17). Wew. Since the pandemic, I took up marathoning as a hobby. I completed the New York City Marathon last November and just finished the London Marathon a little over three weeks ago. My application was accepted for the Chicago Marathon this October. After over 20 (30 if you include the training) years as a surgeon, I am looking at retirement in less than two years. My fantastic wife, Rene, is still going strong as an allergist. My daughter, Victoria, will graduate from veterinary school in two weeks. My son is working hard as an analyst in Miami. Wishing everyone a strong finish!”

HILARY NELSON JACOBS: “In March, **Wendy Parks**, **Carlos Garcia** and his wife, Mimi, and I enjoyed catching up with each other for dinner before we went to hear the inimitable **Zoe Carter** play and sing at a Hollywood club!”

MARLI HEIMANN PASTERNAK: “I was happy to meet up with **Adam Farquhar** the first week of May. I had hoped to visit him in London, but when I was there, he was in the United States. Luckily, his trip was long enough that we could get together upon my return. It was wonderful to hear that he’s filling his retirement with all kinds of activities and enjoying his life. Even better is that he is now a first-time grandpa. Thanks, Adam, for reassuring



Susie English '78 and Zoe Carter '78

me as I approach my own retirement, that it can be a fun new chapter.”

REBECCA ROONEY: “Dear all! A few more years after those terribly awkward teenager years at Sidwell Friends (and countless bad choices), I took the path *most* traveled. I drove I-90 all the way west to Seattle, then stuck with the same employer for 40 years. Yay, government pension! I am heading for the finish line now, retiring in July. Still in love with the Pacific Northwest, hiking the Cascade and Olympic Mountains, and island hopping in Puget Sound; I am staying here for the summer. When the famous Seattle rain returns, I have been exploring Southern France and Corsica in the Mediterranean. My son (Where did those years go?! He is 39 years old this year!) lives in southern France and has dual citizenship, so I feel just a tiny bit less than full-on tourist there. The years of French at Sidwell Friends came in very handy. When I clean out my office and take a last look at that great view of Mt. Rainier, I promise myself a five-minute moment of silence (another excellent learning experience from Sidwell). Then, I am out the door and into this totally new—and last chapter—retirement! I hope you are all doing fabulously well in your lives.”

JONATHAN SOUTHARD: “After several decades in California, I am once again a Marylander, living now in the countryside near Middletown. Not playing soccer anymore but bicycling a lot. After 35 years as a software engineer, I am now on the faculty of the local community college teaching computer science. It is a delight to be working with young people who think they may want tech careers. I have two young people of my

own, college-age sons. It was wonderful to see so many classmates at the Reunion at Nicole's house last spring."

1979

TED LEWIS

bethesdated@gmail.com

KEENE TAYLOR

keene@tayloragostino.com

PATSY NEWELL: "I left Sidwell Friends in 9th grade—and ended up graduating from The George School. I moved out of DC to a farm in the far, far western reaches of Maryland 10 years ago. I spend my time nurturing the creatures and land that are in my care. Quakers appreciate simplicity. My life is simple."

1980

WILLIAM RICE

williamrice63@gmail.com

DAVID BARNES: "For 22 years, I have been in the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection (aka the Quaker City), where I teach the history of public health at the University of Pennsylvania. Last year, my way-too-long-in-gestation third book came out, titled *Lazaretto: How Philadelphia Used an Unpopular Quarantine Based on Disputed Science to Accommodate Immigrants and Prevent Epidemics* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023). (See "Fresh Ink," page TK.) I invite anyone who will be in or near Philadelphia and might be interested in a personalized tour

of the oldest quarantine station in the Western Hemisphere to contact me at dbarnes@upenn.edu. We also have a self-guided audio tour for smartphones available at www.Lazaretto.site. I'd love to see classmates!"

JENS GORNE: "Bobby Morris traveled from his home in Savannah to Stockholm in late April with a special gift for my partner of many years, Maria Eriksson, on the occasion of her 60th birthday. Bobby and I were able to keep the special presentation a secret until the night of the party, which helped to make the cross-continental drift a fitting tribute to an amazing mother, partner, friend, and collaborator. The painting, created by Bobby, is simply titled *Balberget*, depicting Maria's origins in northern Sweden." (See photos at right.)

LISA IANNUCCI: "I am still an academic librarian at Monmouth University, where I have a 10-minute commute and a 15-minute walk to the beach. Still doing some local music coverage and road-tripping when the mood strikes. Hope all are well!"

PATIENCE MOORE: "I was in Mr. Eldridge's class for 5th grade and Mr. Carmen's for 6th, but then my family moved in the middle of that year, sadly, away from beloved Sidwell Friends. I now live in Montclair, New Jersey; have raised two great young men; and work as a therapist with kids and adults by specializing in EMDR (eye movement desensitization and reprocessing) for trauma and other challenges. I write and paint and cycle and see great mov-



TOP: Bobby Morris '80 painted *Balberget*, named for the region of Sweden Maria Eriksson is from. **BOTTOM:** Artist Bobby Morris '80 and gift recipient Maria Eriksson—long-time partner of Jens Gorne—inspect his present of a painting Morris created for her.

ies and theater in my spare time. Looking forward to additional travels in the future. Tell me your best spots!"

WILL MCMILLAN: "My life continues very similarly to when I last shared an update: leading Music Together classes three mornings per week (with strong echoes of Mrs. Imhoff reverberating in my soul...), some gigs in the afternoons/



Members of the CClass of 1979 grab lunch before their 45th Reunion.

evenings, and releasing a new recording to streaming platforms every month or so. And lots of political postcard/letter-writing, plus monthly donations to get-out-the-vote organizations and key political campaigns. Deep breath in. Deep breath out.”

WILLIAM RICE: “Some of my classmates may recall that prior to my rather noisy return to the Sidwell Friends fold several years ago, I was missing in action for several decades. That absence was part of a larger detour from conventional life that I’ve tried to explore and explain in an unpublished memoir I’ve been chipping away at for a dozen years or so. It’s gone through several iterations—I took it through a memoir class—I’ve had loved ones and professional editors read and comment on it. It’s still not right and maybe never will be, though the process of writing it has been therapeutic. But I haven’t completely given up on its commercial potential. So this spring, I printed out some sample pages and took them to the annual Washington Writers Conference, which along with the typical workshops offers ‘speed-dating’ interviews with literary agents. I signed up for the maximum of three of these five-minute sessions and was encouraged by the response of my first two interlocutors. The odds are against it leading to a best-seller and movie adaptation, but it felt good to overcome my fears and plunge into a fairly nerve-wracking process. We’ll see what follows!”

1981

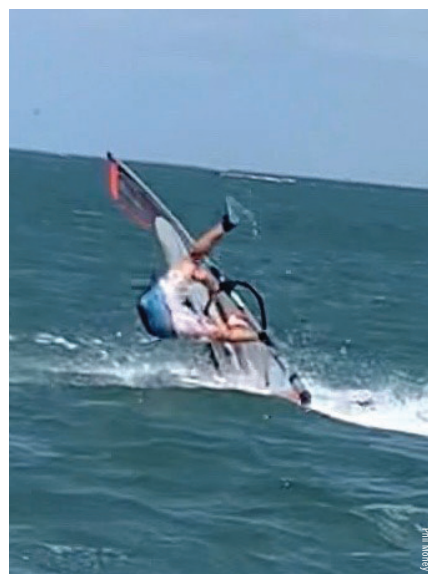
ANDREW SZANTON
aszanton@rcn.com

DANIEL ABRAMSON: “Some years ago, I moved jobs to Boston University to teach architectural history. Sidwell Friends and my classmates are still very much in my life and mind. I receive holiday updates from **Jane McPherson** in Georgia, have regular in-person visits with nearby **Andrew Szanton**, attended a **Doug Gansler** fundraiser in Boston, had the chance in Houston (while visiting our son) to see **Howard Epps** several

times, and have **Randy Hostetler** often in my thoughts. After all this time, the feelings and connections remain strong and deep.”

JOHN HYMAN, the CEO and founder of Rolling Acres Landscaping, reports: “All is great with the Hyman family. We have had two granddaughters: Berkley Rose, age 2, and Willa Elizabeth, age 2 months. These are the first girls in our family in 75 years. They are the daughters of our older son, Tucker, who runs my business day-to-day. My younger son, Montana, is working in the restaurant industry. I split my time between Rolling Acres Landscaping and our ranch, Bull Pasture Ranch in Highland County, Virginia. We are raising black angus and American longhorns all on horseback.”

RUTH RAINEY SHRUM: “I am retiring from teaching in June! It will be year 38 teaching math and working in the College Counseling Office. I will continue to tutor math and work with clients privately for the college process. I will have a new email, which I will share with the Alumni Office. I’m very excited to have the time to rediscover my interests. I will continue to live in my favorite spot, Sherwood Forest, Maryland. We spent our summers here when we were kids. I moved back and bought the house from my mom 20 years ago.”



Art Linde '82 splashes down in South Padre Island, Texas.

1982

JONATHAN LEVINE
jlevine@sgtlaw.com

ART LINDE: “Hi Friends! Retired in spring 2022 and now travel the country windsurfing and skiing. My Sidwell Friends teachers were right: Turns out, I am not a serious person—always playing, never doing my work. Park City in the winter (reach out, say hi!); South Padre, Hood River, Outer Banks, Cape Cod—chasing wind all summer. Hope all is well for everyone in the Class of '82.” (See photo below.)

1983

LINDA GAUS
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SHARON MEERS has been living the midlife mom version of the sitcom, *Silicon Valley*! Aspiring to the ‘let-your-life-speak’ Quaker mantra, she’s now happily working in women’s health supporting a team of physicians focused on women over 40. She co-founded a company called Midi Health, which was recently profiled in *The New York Times* after raising \$100 million to support 50-state growth. Sharon is very excited about the opportunity the company has to expand access to care and to support the health and productivity of midlife women.

RACHEL PASTAN: “It was such a delight to see so many of you at the 40th and hear about all the things you have all been doing. I’ve been doing things in the same general zone all these years—writing fiction, writing nonfiction, teaching writing, newspaper editing—and now I’m planning to move on to a new variation. With a partner, I’m hoping to open an independent bookstore in my suburban Philadelphia town sometime in 2025. Connecting books to people who might love them seems like more fun to me right now than trying to write another book myself—though I do have one I’m trying to finish. It’s about housing affordability and grief.”

Class of 1984 REUNION

>>> Recap <<<

Congratulations on a great 40th Reunion, Class of 1984! I know we usually aren't very active in these pages, but over two dozen of us showed up Reunion weekend with what felt, to me, like especially open hearts. Whether we've stayed in touch over the past four decades or not, we could recall each other's homes, ask after parents and siblings, or connect over school memories from when we were children in the 1980s. That's no small thing given how much the world has changed and how much life we each have lived.

Thanks to the Reunion committee—**Frances Barbour, Leslie Riley, Amy Rubenstein, Becky Seashore May**—for all the arrangements. I'll note just a few highlights from Saturday, starting in the morning when a group—including **Emily Powell Boddy, R. Nicole Cordan, Margaret (Megan) Decker Malario, Liz Bernstein Norton, Jean Russo,** and I—helped fill backpacks to help a charity supporting children in foster care. The community service, and lots of chatting, took place in the Upper School cafeteria, which was shockingly unchanged, especially given how much the campus has been reconfigured and renovated.

A few more folks arrived for a wander-around and even more met for a boisterous lunch in a nearly unrecognizable area across the street from Sidwell Friends. (Wasn't there a Roy Rogers restaurant on that corner?) We were joined by **Alex Beers, William (Beau) Brashares, Tony Daniels, Ann Clark Espuelas, Jennie Ganz, Brian Hunter, Nickie Lambert, Kenneth Penland, Jonathan Weiss** along with Becky, Frances, Amy, and I'm sure others I'm accidentally forgetting. At least one game of *Name That Tune* was played.

The dinner dance (we danced!) behind Zartman House and after-party that night folded in still more:

Corky Bohan, Anne Crowley, William Dunning, Francis Hodsoll, Fred Malek, Mary Jane Namian, Louisa Popkin, Jeff Rigby, Sarah Szanton, Jeff Williams, and **Sarah Williams.**

People traveled for this Reunion from the Pacific Northwest, Colorado, up and down the East Coast, and all over the DC area, bringing updates on families, careers, hobbies, and at least a few grandchildren. We shared our "third chapter" plans, hard-won accomplishments at work, new projects, also setbacks, health challenges, and stories of the various twists and turns we've all encountered along the way. I hope you add things from the weekend I missed and share any other updates, here in these pages and, maybe, at the next Reunion.

—PATRICIA WILLENS '84

Members of the Class of 1984 tear it up on the dance floor at their 40th Reunion.



1984

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

1987

TIP COFFIN
tip@teamcoffin.com

MARIE (PIPO) BUI: “My husband, Sebastian, and I recently moved to Tübingen, Germany, and are enjoying life in this bucolic medieval university town! Let us know if you are ever in the area.”

1985

HILARY DAYTON
hcdayton@gmail.com

1988

LOUISE ANDREWS
louiseandrews@me.com

1990

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

1986

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

1989

ELIZABETH WYATT
ebwyatt@aol.com

E. CHRISTA FARMER married John Refior under the care of the Westbury Friends Meeting, in the Meetinghouse, on June 25, 2022. **Felicity Boyd Enders '90** attended with her family and led guests in singing “Simple Gifts.” **Eliza**

Class of 1989 REUNION >>> Recap <<<



The Class of 1989 celebrates their 35th Reunion.

The Class of 1989 came together several times over the weekend. Most attendees were local (**Robert Hickey, Rennie Anderson, Mara Bralove, Katie Craig Bocock, Leigh Lambert, Erin Sheehy, Aaron Lloyd, John Salzberg, John Mathews, MJ Berman, Amy Dine, Monique Anderson-Walker, Charlie Emmons, and Mary Quillian**), but we had a few come from out of town (shout out to **Marta Ferro, Rich Levy, Steve Krause, Meredith Godley, Natasha Sinel Cohen, Ethan Brown, and Sean McLean** for traveling to the Reunion!). A few of us connected for a drink on a chilly Friday evening

on campus. MJ hosted most of us for a cozy lunch at his house in DC on Saturday. But the main event was toasting Sean and Ethan—who were each awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award that evening—on a rockin’ Saturday night behind Zartman House. The lively band that followed the awards was a perfect cap to a weekend filled with positive vibes, warm connections, and upbeat celebration.

**—AMY DINE '89, ROBERT HICKEY '89,
AND MARY QUILLIAN '89**



LEFT: E. Christa Farmer '90 and John Refior **CENTER:** The class of '92 showed up in force at Mamadou Guèye's retirement bash! **BEN FITZPATRICK '92, AARON KRAMER '92, NIKE KASSIM '92, MOYO MYERS '92, and JEFF SPIVACK '92** celebrate Guèye's 35 years at Sidwell Friends. **RIGHT:** Jeff Spivack '92 celebrates a half-century with his children, Sacha, Justin, and Lise, and his partner, Anne-Laure.

King '90 attended via Zoom with her husband, David. **Matt Farmer '93** also attended with his family. "Lovely messages given by our family and friends buoy us still!" (See photo above.)

1991

TIM HANRAHAN
tim.hanrahan@gmail.com

1992

EMILY PASTER
emily.paster@gmail.com

JEFF SPIVACK, who has been living in Nantes, France, for the past 20 years, will be spending three months in Washington, DC, with his partner Anne-Laure and their three kids this spring. The kids will spend two months immersed in local English-language schools, a first for them, while Jeff and Anne-Laure work from "home." They plan to finish off the adventure with a three-week West Coast trip, seeing the major sights, before heading back to France to finish off the summer. (See photo above.)

1993

CASEY COLMAN HASSENSTEIN
caseycoleman30@hotmail.com

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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

1994

BETSY STOEL
estoel@gmail.com

Reunion Recap on next page.

RYAN DICKS and his family live in Tacoma, Washington, where he serves as the sustainability manager for Pierce County. Ryan has started a small photography business: airwaterland.com. The website features Ryan's photos of Puget Sound whales and wildlife. (See photo below.)

1995

MARY PALMER MCDONALD
mari.mcdonald@gmail.com

1996

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

1997

ELLEN CORNELIUS ERICSON
eccornie@gmail.com

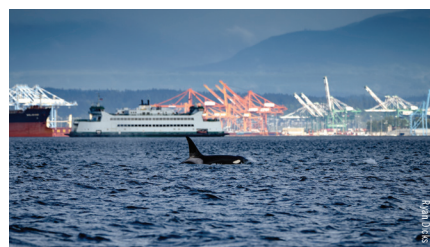
MADELEINE BOTTRILL MCKINNON: "After over a decade living in California, my family and I returned to Australia in late 2023. I continue to work in philanthropy focused on grantmaking to environmental issues, climate action, and First Nations communities. We're excited for our two boys to grow up near the rainforest and ocean in subtropical Brisbane."

1998

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

MATT BLONG: "Just over a year ago I founded Charting Transcendence Inc., a contemporary fine art advisory firm, after two previous careers in diplomacy and international business. Apparently, this experience has instilled in me a talent for identifying undervalued artists and contextualizing art in a way that speaks deeply to people. I'm based in Miami with frequent travel to New York and elsewhere for art fairs and exhibitions. I'd be delighted to work with any Sidwell Friends alumni who are interested in collecting contemporary art."

PHIL SELDEN was appointed as the first assistant U.S. attorney for the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland. In this role, Selden is the second-highest-ranking federal prosecutor in Maryland, helps manage 220 Department of Justice employees, and manages the investigation and litigation of all criminal and civil cases brought on behalf of the United States. As an assistant U.S. attorney, Phil has served as a first chair in more than 20 jury trials. He has prosecuted a wide variety of cases,



Ryan Dicks '94 captures an orca in Tacoma, Washington.

Class of 1994 REUNION

>>>> Recap <<<<

The Class of 1994 regrouped over Reunion weekend to reconnect, reflect, and celebrate two classmates, **Hope Harrod** and **Kia McLean Washington**, who were honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award. Between our Friday night gathering behind Zartman and our Saturday Maker's Union lunch and evening celebration—not to mention a late-night, post-event house party—we caught up on all things, including kids and careers. We also congratulated each other on aging gracefully, still feeling young at heart, and on our ability to bring it on the dance floor without a single pulled muscle between us. Our celebration also included honoring and remembering our classmate **Jaime Carillo** who passed away last fall. We remembered his indelible spirit, incredible talent in theater and the arts, and unmistakable laugh as we exchanged stories and laughs of our own in his memory. What was most rewarding was to see just how much we still care, love, and invest in one another. Perhaps this was most telling in the fact that folks traveled from all over—from New York, to North Carolina, to Chicago, to California, to Washington State, and even to New Zealand—to be together. By weekend's end, we were grounded once again in our gratitude for our unique Sidwell Friends experience and appreciation for how each of us brought richness to that experience and the depth of our bond, which remains strong even after three decades removed from our graduation day. Needless to say, we all look forward to the 35th Reunion!

—DAVID POLMER '94



TOP: Rebecca Williamson '94 and Brett Daikin '94 at their 30th Reunion.
MIDDLE: Members of the Class of 1994 celebrate their 30th Reunion.
BOTTOM: Jojo Blaxall Longnecker '94, Ryan Dicks '94, and Stephanie Gross Julian '94 recreate their walk down the stairs of Zartman House at their 30th Reunion.

including public corruption, white-collar crime, national security, cybercrime, and violent crime. His work has been recognized by the Social Security Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and in 2020 he was named the Homeland Security Investigations Prosecutor of the Year for his efforts in prosecuting domestic and international corruption. Before joining the Department of Justice, Selden worked at Arnold & Porter LLP and with at-risk youth at the Philadelphia Family Court. He received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown



First Assistant United States Attorney **Phil Selden '98**

University, his master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and his law degree from Columbia Law School. Selden has taught as an adjunct faculty member at Harvard Law School and the Howard University School of Law. (See photo at left.)

1999

LEMA KIKUCHI

lema.kikuchi@gmail.com

WEI KE: “We are moving from New York back to DC in August this year! Theo and Ethan will be 5 and 2 respectively by the time we move. Looking forward to reconnecting with friends and the Sidwell Friends community!” (See photo on right.)

DAVID KIRK: “I recently moved to Madrid, Spain, and would love to connect with any nearby alumni. Please feel free to reach out at dcask1@gmail.com.”

ELI MOYER currently makes his home in Tbilisi, Georgia (the country), where last year he and his wife, Hollie, together founded the Caucasus Culture Exchange. This NGO supports the dozens of peoples of the Caucasus mountains through arts and cultural engagement. They feature local artists in their gallery, offer a studio to record and produce audio and video, host a maker’s space, and support mothers through a women’s health group—all greatly helped by the in-house coffee shop. Eli has worked with peoples of the Caucasus for the



LEFT: Theo and Ethan, the sons of **Wei Ke '99**, play under the cherry blossoms. **RIGHT:** **Eli Moyer '99** and family at Birtvisi Canyon, outside Tbilisi, Georgia: Eli, Hollie, Elodie, Jesh, Ryken, Arthur, and Aurora

past eight years through documentary film, ethno-arts workshops, and for a four-year run with a niche (but within that niche massively popular) podcast, *CaucasTalk*. Besides facilitating and celebrating local arts, he loves to write on his typewriter, compose, rock climb, and enjoy the endless energy and creativity of his five children: Jesh (13) speed cubes, Ryken (10) dresses like a

1980s street fighter, Aurora (8) takes her dolls up trees, Arthur (6) marches unflappably through busy bazaars, and Elodie (3) prefers cuddling with the dog. In April, Eli and Hollie celebrated 16 years of marriage. The Moyers will be visiting the DC area in July 2024. (See photo above.)

Party like it's 1999! The Class of 1999 had a family-friendly version of our namesake gathering style, and it was great to meet with old friends and many new family members during Reunion Weekend. A lot of us joined locally, but some traveled far for the weekend (New York, Texas, Spain), and it was a treat to see everyone. Many of us kicked off the weekend with the class cocktails on Friday. Afterward, we wanted to keep the party going, so went to one of our favorite old haunts, Cactus Cantina! (We did the same at our 20th Reunion, so perhaps we can now call this a tradition?) Another highlight of the weekend was our class gathering on the rainy Saturday, when we scrapped our plans to meet at Turtle Park and had some bagels and coffee indoors at the Athletic Center. We did not anticipate how much the '99 kids would enjoy running around the indoor track! A special shout-out to 5-year-old Pari Bhattacharya for completing five miles (counted every lap with us along the way), while the grown-ups sat around in amazement. On Saturday evening, some of us attended Meeting for Worship, remembered our friends who are no longer with us, and reflected on how we celebrate individuality and community.



Fletcher Durant '99, Radhika Bhattacharya '99 and Paul Karner

Our final event was the Reunion Dinner, where we enjoyed learning about the Distinguished Alumni and felt inspired by the community that we continue to be a part of and grow with, even after 25 years. We look forward to the 30th and beyond!

**—LEMA KIKUCHI '99 AND
RADHIKA BHATTACHARYA '99**

Class of 1999
REUNION
>>>> Recap <<<<

2000

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

2001

ELIZA ORLINS
eorlins@gmail.com

2002

CAMILO ACOSTA
cbacosta@gmail.com

ETHAN HEARD: “Emma Jaster ’03 and Matt Pearson ’01 performed with their son, Ellis, in Christmas Revels this past December. I cheered them on! I will be directing a newly revised version of the satirical musical *Soft Power* by Jeanine Tesori and David Henry Hwang at Signature Theatre in August-September.” (See photo below.)

2003

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

NAABIA OFOSU-AMAAH and **Alex Thorpe ’03** ran into each other at GreenBiz 24 in Phoenix, Arizona, an annual event for sustainable business leaders. (See photo below.)

2004

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

2005

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

2006

JOHN SANDERS
jsanders36@gmail.com

JEENA SAUNDERS: “Lucas and I welcomed our daughter, Eleanor, the morning of November 11, 2023! All three of us are healthy and happily living in Takoma Park.”

2007

ALEX AKMAN
Akman.alex@gmail.com

OTIS PITNEY: “I moved back to DC in 2018 as I was scouting other cities, looking for a place to root. DC snuck up on me, and now I think I’ll be here for the long haul! I’ve been involved in a lot of activism here the last six years, working in local politics as well as a couple years in farming. Still playing lots of soccer, and a couple years ago I started coaching Cardozo High School girls, and now boys. Last year, 2023, was one of the highest highs and lowest lows: I dealt with a crushing depression amid a couple life transitions and then last summer met the love of my life and got engaged this past New Year’s. After feeling like life would be easier if I wasn’t here, I’m now so grateful for every day and wanting to live a thousand lifetimes. Doing a lot of City Council advo-



Tyler Brockington and Otis Pitney '07

cacy these days and looking to connect with people from different backgrounds and to build community through activism and through sports!”

2008

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

2009

JAMES PARKS
jhpiv13@gmail.com

2010

KAI ZHENG
kaihuazheng@yahoo.com

2011

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



LEFT: Matt Pearson ’01, Emma Jaster ’03, and their son, Ellis, with Ethan Heard ’02 **CENTER:** Naabia Ofosu-Amaah ’03 and Alex Thorpe ’03 at GreenBiz 24 **RIGHT:** The Class of 2004 celebrate their 20th Reunion.

Class of 2009

REUNION

>>> Recap <<<

The Class of 2009 Reunion weekend was an absolute blast! It provided the perfect opportunity to reconnect with each other and with Sidwell Friends.

Here's a glimpse into the incredible moments we shared: The class cocktails, preceded by inspiring talks from Brian Garman and Mr. Steinbach, were a highlight. Despite the chilly weather, we gathered under heat lamps, exchanging hugs and stories with old and new friends. El Techo was buzzing with laughter and good vibes late into the night, creating new memories for all. We came together as friends in a Meeting for Sharing, where we held dear friend **Robby Carpenter** in our thoughts before the larger Meeting for Worship. It was a touching display of our class's unwavering support for one another. The Reunion dinner was nothing short of magical. With three tables and delicious food, we dined and danced the night away. From the live band to the dance floor activities, every moment was filled with joy and camaraderie. In all, we laughed, we cried, and we hugged, reminding us of the special connections we share. We appreciated both the excitement of seeing people we knew were attending and the unexpected joy of reconnecting with people we hadn't anticipated being there. Seeing everyone was truly awesome, and we eagerly anticipate what the next Reunion in 2029 will bring. Here's to another 15 years of cherished memories and lifelong friendships!

—AJ PARKS '09



TOP: The Class of 2009 celebrates their 15th Reunion. **CENTER:** Annelise Haskell '09, Allie Morris '09, Marielle Young '09 **BOTTOM:** Ritika Philips, Ben Schlanger '09, Katy Naples-Mitchell, Reuben Hendler '09

2012

SALENA HESS

salenahess@outlook.com

JOHN VERGHESE

jjv2116@columbia.edu

2013

CECILIA LAGUARDA

xenia.cecilia.laguarda@gmail.com

2014

AVIKAR GOVIL

avikar.govil@gmail.com

Reunion Recap on next page.

2015

EMILY MILLER

emillerusa@gmail.com

MEGAN CHICHESTER WELD married Casey Weld on April 20, in Los Angeles, California. The couple met at Occidental College in 2016. The wedding was a lovely final send-off from the West Coast, as Megan and Casey prepare to move back to DC in July to be closer to family. As a tribute to her Quaker education, a moment of silence was held during the ceremony to reflect on the commitment they were making before family and friends and to hold loved ones not physically present in the Light. Megan looks forward to reconnecting with old friends in the area and introducing Casey to more of

the Sidwell Friends community. (See photos on next page.)

2016

TALHA JILANI

jilani-talha@live.com

2017

MILAN VIVANCO

vivancomilan@gmail.com

2018

BROOKE HARRINGTON

brooke.leahy.harrington@gmail.com



FAR LEFT: Casey Weld and Megan Chichester Weld '15 **CENTER LEFT:** BACK ROW: Helena Hanson '15, Ben Magliato '15, Hana Geadah '15, Spenser Hyun '17, Izzy Hyun '15, Mark Chichester '18 FRONT ROW: Casey Weld, Megan Chichester Weld '15, Jamar Chichester '09 **CENTER RIGHT:** Mark Chichester '18, Megan Chichester Weld '15, Jamar Chichester '09 **FAR RIGHT:** Hana Geadah '15, Helena Hanson '15, Ben Magliato '15, Megan Chichester Weld '15, Izzy Hyun '15

2019

SOPHIE PEIKIN

Speikin2019@gmail.com

2021

SAM BJARNSONSAM

bjarnason21@gmail.com

2023

Want to be a class representative?

Contact alumni@sidwell.edu.

2020

TUNDAA DORJNAMJIMT

dorjnamjim20@gmail.com

SOPHIE SMALL

sophieannsmall0@gmail.com

2022

RASHI GUPTA

rashigupta704@yahoo.com

KEEP IN TOUCH!

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



Simon Voorhees '14, Roland Spier '14, Maxim Baranov '14, Maia Berlow '14, Sonya Bessalel '14, Alison Steinbach '14, Emma Marshall '14

Members of the Class of 2014 had a fantastic time gathering, celebrating, and reminiscing at various places during Reunion weekend! The weekend kicked off Friday evening with talks from our former teachers, followed by a class cocktails gathering by the upper turf field. It was a great opportunity to catch up and share memories, and we also got to walk around inside the Upper School building and gym. We were shocked by how similar everything looked and the all too familiar smells! The fun continued with a walk down to Cleveland Park for a hangout at Atomic Billiards.

Class of 2014 REUNION >>>> Recap <<<<

Our group spent the evening enjoying each other's company and playing spirited rounds of billiards and Taboo. Midday Saturday, we reunited at Midlands Beer Garden for more time together as a class. At outside picnic tables, we enjoyed snacks and drinks, stories from our years at Sidwell Friends, updates on our lives today, and apparently the paths of our lives to come after tarot card readings from a multi-talented classmate! The venue had a hat-decorating station to get in the spirit for the Kentucky Derby, which was taking place that evening, and we had a fun time bedazzling sun hats with flowers and ribbons; some of us felt transported back to the joyful days of Lower School art class. We spent the rest of the afternoon hanging out together, and then returned to campus for Meeting for Worship and the evening dinner and celebration. We had a great night chatting and dancing to cap off a lovely Reunion weekend. We were missing our classmates who couldn't make it, and send a big hello and well wishes to all. Can't wait for our 15th Reunion!

**—ALISON STEINBACH '14 AND
RILEY WOODWELL '14**

IN MEMORIAM

Sarah Wheeler
Harkness-Nelson '56
February 21, 2024

James B. McCurley '60
May 27, 2024

Howard Pancoast '61
March 15, 2024

María Helena Perenya
Malagón '62
March 22, 2024

Mark Orsamus "Bud"
Davis III '62
March 15, 2024

Mary Lee Plumb-Mentjes '67
March 4, 2024

Duplain Gant II '76
December 3, 2023

Bennie Williams '76
March 13, 2024

Robert Carpenter-Israel '09
April 6, 2024

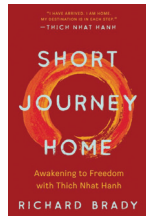
Peggy Kane, Faculty
July 7, 2024

"Know one another in
that which is *eternal*."

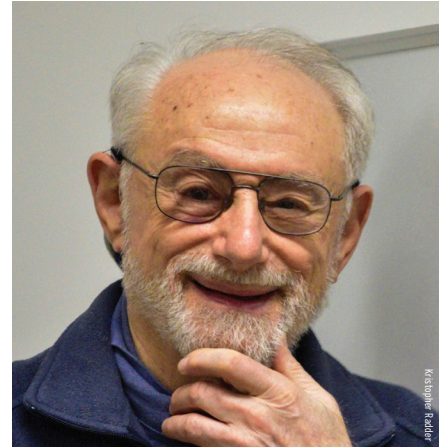
—GEORGE FOX

RETIRED/FORMER FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

RICHARD BRADY (Upper School math teacher, 1973-2007) plans to return to DC the week of September 16, 2024, to launch his second book, *Short Journey Home: Awakening to Freedom with Thich Nhat Hanh*, at People's Book in Takoma Park. Visit www.shortjourneyhome.com to learn more about the book and to contact Richard.



Short Journey Home: Awakening to Freedom with Thich Nhat Hanh presents a powerful story of transformation, rooted in the author's long-term and life-changing practice with Thich Nhat Hanh. Richard Brady guides us through his life experiences and lessons learned, offering strikingly deep and sincere accounts of his time spent with Thich Nhat Hanh and with senior monastics, his successes and difficulties with sangha-building, practicing with family, working with death, and sharing the practice with others. Brady skillfully



Richard Brady

grounds his stories in direct teachings offered by Thich Nhat Hanh, and he organizes these stories according to some of Thich Nhat Hanh's most powerful lessons on topics like impermanence and interbeing. By taking these teachings to heart, practicing with them diligently, and sharing the results, Brady acts as our spiritual companion, demonstrating how the Plum Village path of practice can lead us to peace, freedom, and awakening in this present moment.

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Words with Friends: Green

ACROSS

- 1 Holy title in Tibet
- 5 Driver in Hollywood
- 9 Egyptian serpents
- 13 "Yesterday!"
- 14 Jazzy Jones
- 16 Couple's karaoke selection
- 17 Fortune cookie slip printed on verdant paper?
- 19 Sole
- 20 Travel stop
- 21 Ingredient in traditional pretzel recipes
- 22 Male in a flock
- 24 "Do you finally get it?"
- 25 Hawaii's "Garden Isle"
- 27 "I have all the time in the world!"
- 29 Stipulation written in emerald ink?
- 34 Laugh, cry, or shout, say
- 35 Sketchy stranger, slangily
- 36 Like Aesop's tortoise
- 39 Environmentally friendly, or a word that could describe the answers to 17, 29, 47, and 63 Across
- 42 Contents of some pens
- 43 One who moves around a lot
- 45 Symbol on a Pink Floyd album cover
- 47 Tree limbs that match their leaves?
- 51 Be really sore
- 52 Speak at length
- 55 Private convos
- 57 Part of a 56-Down can... or a word written on one
- 58 Site of the 2016 Olympics, briefly
- 60 Hasty escape
- 61 More than drizzle
- 63 Flame that might blend in with unripe bananas?
- 66 Ingredient in some soaps
- 67 Prone to breaking
- 68 Put into a pot
- 69 Shelter by a campfire
- 70 World's rarest goose
- 71 Reason for students to cram



Puzzle by Aimee Lucido

DOWN

- 1 Vision-improving surgery
- 2 Child's pose, e.g.
- 3 Large wine bottle or ice cream treat
- 4 King Kong, for one
- 5 "The Martian" author Weir
- 6 Creature sacred to Aphrodite
- 7 Reporter Shapiro
- 8 World leader whose last name sounds like a cookie
- 9 Kerfuffle
- 10 Grumpy's partner in a romance trope
- 11 Brazilian soccer great
- 12 Eye affliction
- 15 Picked up
- 18 Classic dress style
- 23 "Studies in the Sierra" author
- 26 Transmission medium
- 27 Reporter's purchase
- 28 Betray nervousness, in a way
- 30 Attach to a post online
- 31 "Bad Moon Rising" band, initially
- 32 Word with number or duck
- 33 Undesirable pitch results
- 36 ____-Caps (candy)
- 37 Online abbreviation rarely taken literally
- 38 Lie by ____
- 40 Directional suffix
- 41 Actor Cage, casually
- 44 Bit of specific info
- 46 "Rats!"
- 48 "Scrubs" actor Zach
- 49 Having renewed energy
- 50 Cleansing solution
- 53 Pastries that are often sweet, in spite of their name
- 54 "Nice to ____ you!" (Zoom call pleasantries)
- 55 "Tarnation!"
- 56 Like all students at Atlanta's Morehouse College
- 58 Strap attached to a horse's bit
- 59 Popular vacation destination
- 62 Acquire
- 64 Issa of "American Fiction"
- 65 It's marbled in a steak

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

Counting Stars

In densely populated cities like Washington, DC, it can be difficult to star gaze. The insistence of artificial light across the metro area dilutes the high-contrast blacks and whites of the night sky. For **Paige Brown '24**, the “lack of star visibility” due to light pollution is a drawback of urban life. So, during an Advanced Ceramics assignment to create a collection or grouping of similar objects this spring, Brown had a celestial idea. “This hanging installation is supposed to represent stars in the sky,” she says. “Each is a different height and size, and they each vary in color in order to express the individuality and uniqueness of each star.” The effect is mesmerizing. The ceramic “stars” define the piece, but it is the play of light on the strings they dangle from that is the real surprise. The strings are like the stellar trails of shooting stars or the after images of a super nova, giving Brown’s work movement and a sense of something otherworldly.



Sidwell Friends

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Washington, DC 20016-2999

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📷 NO WATER? NO PROBLEM

A DC boil-water advisory didn't stop the @meriwethergodsey team, who did the math, bought 100 gals of water, slow-cooked pork, et voila: hot lunch. "MVPs of the school. 🥰👏"



📷 A CLASS GIFT WITH REACH

The 4th graders used a 3D printer, a gift from the previous class, to make keepsakes. "It makes my heart smile seeing the 4th graders integrate tech in such a monumental way 🥰"



📷 2024 CLASS PHOTO

Congratulations, Class of 2024! We will miss seeing you on campus—but can't wait to see where you'll go. "CONGRATULATIONS 🎓 to you All!! 🥳🥳🥳"



📷 RAINBOW PRIDE

The Lower School celebrated LGBTQ+ Pride Month with joy, community, and color. "Lovely celebration. Well done." 🌈



📷 CATHEDRAL CHORUS

Sidwell Friends' Full Chorus performed at the National Cathedral, a beautiful and acoustically dynamic space. 🥰🥰🥰 "This is amazing! 🥰" "Awesome. What an honor."



📷 FROM NW TO THE NFL

Walter Rouse '19 was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings. "Such exciting news!! 🔥" "Outstanding!!!" 🥳🥳🥳 "Congratulations!!!" 🔥 "legend"

STAY FRIENDS!



@sidwellfriends